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#### Service program

Kristen Cadieux, daughter of Tom and Susan Cadieux of Canton, recently began a 10-month term of service in the National Civilian Community Corps, an AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps NCCC is a



Cadieux

service program that supports disaster relief, the ment,

residential

national

infrastructure improvement, energy conservation, and urban and rural development.

Cadieux will be responsible for completing a series of six- to eight-week-long service projects as part of a 10- to 12-person team. Her first service project ends Friday; she'll break for the winter holidays and begin a new project in a new location in January.

#### Santa letters

Time is running out for youngsters to get their letters to Santa printed in the Observer.

While Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus, he always makes time to read letters from children.

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa, Santa Claus has given the Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 22, issue.

Letters should be e-mailed to bkadrich@ hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a JPEG photo of your child, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Friday.

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# Canton OKs five-year rec plan

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

With the state of the economy not improving much, Canton Township officials have no plans for any capital improvements in their recreation plan for 2012.

That doesn't mean they can't dream a little, and be ready in case money falls from the sky or the grant process - to take advantage of any opportunities that might arise.

That's what Tuesday night's public hearing on the township's five-year Leisure Services Master Plan was all about - being

"We understand our township resources," said Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz, the township's director of leisure services. "Items (in the plan) aren't budgeted, and wouldn't necessarily be approved. (But) we don't want to lose sight of the plan. If dollars become available, we want to be ready to capture them."

The five-year plan, which covers 2011-16, is a required step, by the Michigan Department of

Natural Resources, if the township wishes to apply for, and secure, grants for services, such as parks, trails, etc. It must be updated every five years, with a 30-day window prior to approval for the public to provide input.

That public input process ended with Tuesday's public hearing just before the Canton Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adopt the plan.

The five-year plan includes a variety of items, mostly building improvements and maintenance, park improvements and golf course improvements.

The biggest item on the wish list, which isn't even listed under a particular year but instead is under "future" hopes, is develop-ment of the 134-acre Patriot Park parcel, at Ford and Ridge roads, the township bought in 1997.

Bilbrey-Honsowetz said original plans called for amenities such as a dog park and splash pads at the site. While that site has never been developed, splash pads have now been

Please see PLAN, A6



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Debbie and Ralph Hodges of Canton attended Sunday's Compassionate Friends vigil in honor of their niece, Shelby Gunn of Westland, killed by a drunken driver in August 2010.

# inil chines lin children lost too soon

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

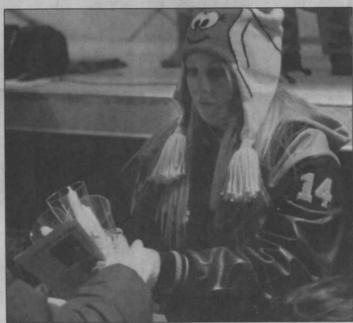
When Shelby Gunn's name was read during the Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park, it shot through Ralph Hodges' heart like an arrow.

Hodges winced, and his gaze dropped to the ground as he wiped the tears from them, the name-reading a sharp reminder of the niece he lost when she was killed by a drunken driver on I-275 in Canton 16 months ago.

Hodges was at the annual candlelight vigil, sponsored by the Livonia chapter of the Compassionate Friends, along with his wife and Shelby's aunt, Debbie Hodges.

'She left us far, far too early ... This is a way we can express our feelings," Debbie Hodges said. "I think (Gunn) would be proud to know we've kept her in our hearts and in our thoughts. If it was one of us, Shelby would be out here doing the same thing.

The vigil drew hundreds



Alyssa Odor hands out candles to people arriving in Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the Compassionate Friends candle lighting.

of people to Kellogg Park, all mourning a friend, family member or loved one in one way or another. Hundreds of candles were lit in honor of children lost too soon.

Gunn's name was one of more than 700 read by Compassionate Friends Gail Lafferty and Pat O'Donnell. Lafferty, a Livonia resident who lost her 18-year-old son, Max, in a 1995 car accident, said the 700-plus names read were the most in the event's 15-year history.

Please see VIGIL, A4

### Schools chief receives high marks in review

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

It wasn't unanimous on all counts, but the midyear review for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes came as close as it could to being a love-fest Tuesday.

The district's Board of Education rated Hughes on eight different goals, and the superintendent, hired earlier this year on an interim basis, met or exceeded the goals in seven of the eight categories.

"Overall, the board is pleased with the work of Dr. Hughes and the professionalism he brought to the position," said board Vice President Dianne Gonzalez, who chaired the superintendent evaluation

In addition to the board review, a survey oncerning Hughes' leadership performance was sent to staff, who responded to the survey anonymously. More than 60 staffers responded, and an overwhelming majority of them gave Hughes high marks for his leadership skills.

The results of the staff survey were just as pleasant for Hughes to hear as the results of his official evaluation.

"I think it's an affirmation of what we're trying to accomplish," Hughes said of the staff survey. "I was very pleased by that."

Not unexpectedly, the board gave Hughes equally high marks in most areas. Some of the highlights:

• Complete the budget — All board members felt he met or exceeded expectations, saying the superintendent "exhibited great leadership" through the budget

• Fill executive-level vacancies -Hughes had several key positions to fill on his administrative team, and he got them all filled before the school year started.

· Develop new central office administrators into a unified leadership team - The board felt Hughes "met" expec-

Please see REVIEW, A2



Dr. Jeremy Hughes listens with school board Treasurer Judy Mardigian during the Board of Education's review of Hughes's performance.

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#### REVIEW

Continued from page A1

tations in this area and said his team "appears to be working together well and meshing into a team." Some board members expressed disappointment in the lack of restructuring in the finance department.

 Develop the process to examine and, if necessary, recommend realignment of school boundaries - Board members felt he exceeded or met expectations, calling the hiring of Plante Moran CRESA to do a facilities study "an excellent choice.'

· Strengthen the administrative structure of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, which houses the district's three high schools — One of two areas where some board members (actual voting tallies weren't available) felt Hughes failed to meet expectations. Some board members would like "more of a sense of urgency" in dealing with recent behavioral issues, such as the "grinding" issue at a recent homecoming dance.

Hughes was generally pleased with the results of his first evaluation.

"It was pretty positive," Hughes said. "There are some things I obviously have to work on, but I was expecting that. I was especially pleased with the response from the

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

# Plymouth, Canton groups get credit union donations

As part of its "Season of Giving" program, Community Financial Credit Union announced donations to a number of nonprofit organizations in the Plymouth and Canton communities recently.

On Monday, Community Financial announced a donation to the Plymouth Community Foundation, followed by donations to the Plymouth-Canton Schools Educational Excellence Foundation and Canton Community Foundation Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

"We are blessed to have such strong business partners like Community Financial, who continue to invest in our future by investing in education," said Carole Kody, Educational Excellence Foundation executive director.

LOCAL NEWS

The Plymouth and Canton community foundations received \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively. Both work to enrich their communities by using funds to support programs and those in need in their areas, CFCU offi-

The Educational Excellence Foundation, which received \$6,000, uses funding to enhance both teaching and learning across the school district.

Community Financial announced it will be donating \$50,000 during its "Season of Giving" program, from Dec. 5 to Dec. 23, to support non-profit organizations in areas the credit union serves - Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Gaylord, Hillman and Lewiston.

Groups receiving gifts

so far include Gaylord, Hillman, Atlanta, Jo-Berg and Lewiston schools, Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan and Otsego County Community Foundation. Community Financial is announcing donations each business day on Facebook and Twitter.

To follow along and find out which organizations receive gifts, please join us on Facebook at www. Facebook.com/CommunityFinancial or Twitter at www.twitter.com/CFCreditUnion.

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

#### **GRIEF SUPPORT SEMINAR**

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to noon

**Location:** Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley in

**Details:** Compassionate Care Hospice is conducting a grief support workshop, "The Art of Journal Writing: How to put your grief down on paper through poetry, stories and more."

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writing techniques. Participants are encouraged to bring anything previously written to share with the group. A light breakfast will be provided as well as all necessary materials. The program is free of charge and is open to any adult grieving the loss of a loved

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050. or e-mail achristensen@ cchnet.net.

#### TIME MACHINE

Date/Time: Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Details: Celebrate the past and toast the future when veteran rockers, "Time Machine," will ring in 2012. Make this New Year's celebration one to remember as you take a journey back through classic rock history with covers from your favorite bands, includ-



Time Machine has the New Year's Eve gig at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

ing the Stones, Beatles, Bob Seger, Alice Cooper, Bad Company, Fleetwood Mac, Kid Rock and Van Morrison. The \$45 ticket includes a strolling buffet, two sets of classic rock music on stage, desserts, favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

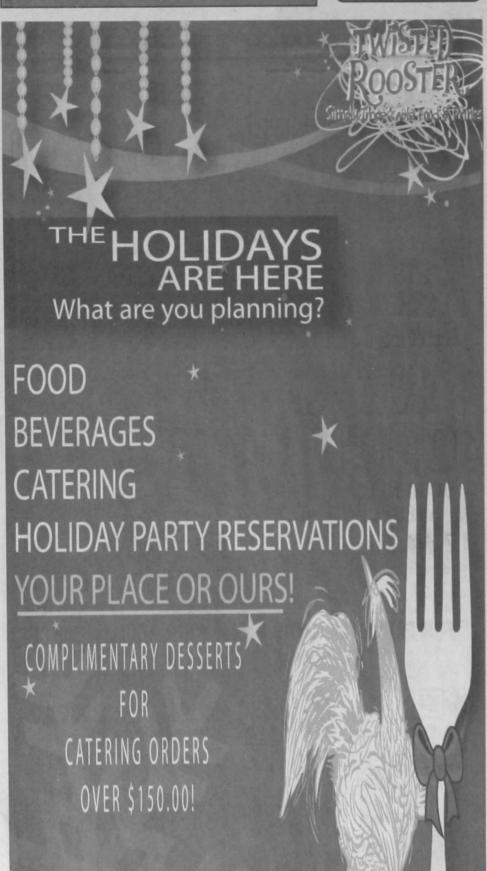
Contact: (734) 394-5300 or visit www.CantonVillageTheater.org.

#### MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m. Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discus-

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www.stekmops.org



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### Man wounded in apartment confrontation

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

A 31-year-old male was shot around 4:15 a.m. Tuesday after Canton Police responded to a call about a possibly suicidal man at the Stony Brook apartment complex on Joy Road near I-275.

Police got the call from the man's mother, who said he may be suicidal. According to Canton Public Safety Director Pat Nemecek, when police arrived, they found a second-floor apartment on fire. Officials are unclear how the fire started, but according to Nemecek. when officers entered the apartment to try to help any occupants, the subject jumped out the second-floor window.

According to Nemecek, a confrontation ensued during which gunshots were fired and the man was struck once. While the investigation is still on-going and full details weren't yet available, Nemecek said the suspect made "an aggressive, offensive move" toward Canton officers, who fired, striking the man once in the side.

Per department policy, the case is being investigated by the Michigan State Police, who will decide what, if any, charges will be filed against the man. MSP officials were unavailable for comment.

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**Peeping Tom** 

A Canton woman called police to her Brookepark apartment complex Dec. 6 after a neighbor sent her a text telling her a man was outside her apartment looking into the window.

Witnesses told Canton Police the same man had been seen lurking outside the complex earlier the same day.

The victim's boyfriend told police he went outside to investigate, and saw what he described as a male "of Indian descent" standing outside the complex. As the boyfriend stared at the suspect, the suspect began moving away from the com-

The suspect was described as being between 5-feet-8 and 5-feet 10 and in his mid-20s.

#### **Retail fraud**

Officials at the Walmart on Michigan Ave., called police Friday to report they'd apprehended someone in the attempted theft of a bluetooth device for a video

CANTON CRIME WATCH

game system. The loss prevention officer told Canton Police she saw the suspect walking through several departments. He had gathered several items and lined them around the outside of his shopping cart, she told police, leaving an opening in the middle of the cart, which is where he'd placed the bluetooth.

She told police she observed the suspect move into the automotive department, where he removed the bluetooth from its packaging and placed it on top of his coat, which he had draped across an infant seat attached to the shopping cart.

The suspect then moved through the checkout lines and paid for the other items in his cart, but not for the bluetooth device. She told police the suspect was then approached after leaving the store with the merchandise.

#### Scare tactics

A Canton woman who lives on Old Michigan Ave., told police a man

had threatened to have her beat-

The victim said the man, a friend with whom she'd had no prior dating relationship, had sent her

numerous text messages, including one in which she said the suspect told her, "I have people who could beat you up.

The victim told police the man was a drug dealer and that she had told him they could no longer be friends.

She said she did not want to prosecute the man. She did, however, say she'd obtain a personal protection order against him.

#### Fraudulent charge

A man told police someone had apparently used his Michigan First Credit Union account to make a fraudulent purchase.

The victim told police he noticed the bogus charge on his credit union statement. He said he immediately notified the credit union.

The fraudulent \$60 purchase was made at a retailer in Brighton.



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#### VIGIL

Continued from page A1

"Christmas is hard on parents who've lost their children," Lafferty said. "It helps me get through the holidays. It's a very special night."

Kassi Gilbert of Canton attended Sunday's vigil nursing perhaps the freshest pain. Her 14year-old daughter, Abigail Giamporcaro, died suddenly Sept. 29. Gilbert said her counselor referred her to the Compassionate Friends organization, and she read about the vigil on the group's website.

Gilbert said Abigail was "very energetic, full of bounce and spirit," with "some attitude" not uncommon in teenagers. "It was really hard to

hear her name," said Gilbert, choking back tears. "This is something you have to do to acknowledge she was here, and she was important. It helps us remember her and affirm how much we love her, and that that will continue, even though she's not here."

It was the second year attending the vigil for Teri Gunn, Shelby's mother, a Westland resident who attended her first Compassionate Friends vigil last year just months after her daughter's tragic death.

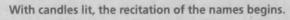
She said this year's event was a bit tougher to take.

"I think last year I was pretty numb," Gunn said. "The numbness has worn off."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





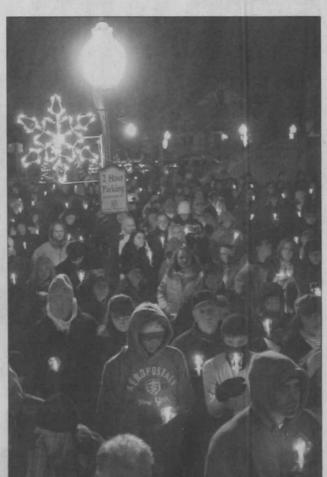
More than 700 names are read during the vigil.



Interpreter Jamie Fidler of Livonia signs the song "Calling All Angels," by Train.



Stephanie Cloutier and Tim White are remembering Stephanie's daughter Mason Ellery Cloutier. They are from Whitmore Lake.



Kellogg Park glows in Compassionate Friends candle light, with hundreds turning out.

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Employees at Plymouth-based Optrex America used a variety of fundraisers to raise more than \$3,100 for the Plymouth Salvation Army.

### Local firm exceeds donation expectation

By Brad Kadrich

Observer Staff Writer

Talk about exceeding expectations.

Plymouth-based Optrex America has been doing fundraising for the Salvation Army, and had hoped to raise some \$600 using a variety of fundraisers.

But when all was said and done, Optrex had done far better than anyone dreamed, raising more than \$3,100, most of it in a 10-day span toward the end of the fundraising period.

"All of these funds were the direct result of activities within our organization," said Michele Marsh, the director of administration for Optrex. "In essence, it

was the employees donating."

The company divided its employees into six groups, then challenged each group to raise \$100. Employees organized a chili lunch, an ice cream social, had fruit delivered daily, customized orders of coffee, tea or hot chocolate delivered, a gift card raffle, lottery ticket basket raffle, a bake sale, a waffle and quiche breakfast, a Wii competition, Santa grams, chair massages, taco sale, pic-

wine-and-cheese party. It's a departure from the company's typical donation, for which a box would be set out and items collected to be donated to the Salva-

tures with Santa and a

tion Army. Marsh said the same people would donate every year. This year, she pointed out, there was 100 percent participation in the pro-

"This exercise has been a win-win for everyone," Marsh said. "Employees have bonded and teambuilding and cooperation were the result and the big winner is the Salvation Army."

The company, which has been in Plymouth 30 years and also has offices in California and Georgia, also donated a day of bell-ringing outside Busch's market for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899

# W-W seeks renewal of sinking fund tax

By Sue Mason Observer Staff Writer

There will be more than a list of Republican presidential candidates on the Feb. 28 election ballot. The Wayne-Westland school board Monday evening approved a request for a 10-year renewal of its sinking fund millage.

"This is an opportunity to ask residents to allow us to continue to fix the immediate needs of our buildings," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "This is a great investment in our children and community. It's a great investment in our school buildings.'

The district will seek approval of a .9922-mill tax levy, which would raise approximately \$1.93 million the first year and an estimated \$19.1 million over 10 years, according the Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services.

The sinking fund would take care of major repairs and additions, it would take care of the needs we have in the district. There's always needs in a school district with as many buildings as we have."

The millage would replace a sinking fund levy approved by voters in 2003. The last time taxes can be collected for that levy will be July 2012. The new tax, if approved, would be levied in 2013 and run through 2022.

Martin stressed that the tax is not a new tax nor is it an increase. The levy

represents a tax of .9922 cents for every \$1,000 of taxable value. It would cost the average homeowner \$40 a year. And the .9922 mill is less than the original 1-mill request approved in 2003.

The money from the existing levy has been used to build a second gymnasium at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High schools, create bus loops, expand parking lots and add on media centers at the elementary schools, including three done this year at Elliott, Wildwood and Hamilton.

The resolution needs to be filed with the elections coordinator by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, to appear on the February special election ballot.

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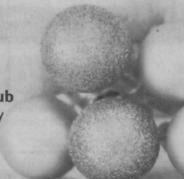
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A GREAT SHOPPING PLACE

# Canton church hopes to inspire with live nativity program

By Jill Halpin Correspondent

In what is becoming a tradition for some local families, a Canton Township church is inviting the community to experience the true story of Christmas in the form of a real live nativity, complete with living portrayals of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus and much

more. Friendship Church, a local congregation of the United Methodist Church, will recreate the story of the birth of Jesus when it presents its annual Living Nativity from 4:30-8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 1240 N. Beck, Canton.

"We are taking people on a journey back 2,000 years, trying to bring the focus back to what Christmas is really about," said Scott Petersen, pastor of spiritual formation at the church.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 15, 2011

"There is so much commercialization in today's world; we sometimes lose the meaning in all of it. We want to help people connect back to what it really is all about," he

This is the 10th year the church has held the living nativity in some form, and the event grew even larger with last year's move to its new Beck Road location with almost 400 people attending, Petersen said.

Larger crowd

Church members said they are expecting an even larger crowd this

"We are preparing for

at least 700 people this year," said church member Michelle Ramey of Canton. "We are hearing a lot about people's friends, neighbors and co-workers both locally and distantly saying they are planning to return again. We've had a lot of great feedback about it.'

The free activity features a 10-minute guided walking tour through woods on the church grounds to stations where actors and animals reenact the miracle of Christ's birth in an effort to give meaning to something people usually just read about and "bring back the awe and wonder of Christmas," Peters-

Petersen said cows, sheep and goats from Real Life Farm in Canton will stand alongside as actors from within the congregation deliver first-person accounts from four different scenes depicting Jesus's birth. The scenes include "Shepherds and Angels in the Fields," "King Herod's Palace," "The Wise Men," "The Nativity" and a reflection of Jesus's death and resurrection.

At the close of each narrative, contemplative questions are posed to the audience in an effort to give visitors something to reflect upon, Petersen said, adding that the living nativity offers something for everyone, he added. "For adults, it's a great opportunity to refocus and realize that not be everything that culture is telling us it is and for children it's important to see and hear the real Christmas story and see it come alive in front of them," he said.

#### Labor of love

The event is a labor of love for church members with more than 100 people volunteering their

Friendship Church of Canton will recreate the story of the birth of Jesus when it presents its annual Living Nativity Sunday, Dec. 18, at 1240 N. Beck Road in Canton. Sheep and goats from Real Life Farm in Canton will stand alongside as actors from within the congregation deliver first person accounts from four different scenes depicting Jesus's birth including 'Shepherds and Angels in the Fields' and 'The Nativity.'

time in some form, he

"We have people constructing sets, writing scripts, making costumes and working as parking lot attendants," he said. A refreshment team will also provide snacks inside the church for attendees following the event.

Experiencing the Living Nativity underscores the true meaning of the holiday for Kathy Haar of Howell.

"It's very moving ... it brings it back to where it all started and you feel like you are right there," Haar said. "It's so beautiful. It is what Christmas is really supposed to be about: a new beginning,"

she said. The event is free; however, the church will have the Salvation Army's signature Red Kettle available for anyone wishing to make a donation.

## **Holiday Open House!**

Friday & Saturday December 16th & 17th Only

Celebrate the holidays with us!

- 39¢ Bagels!
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Continued from page A1

established at both Flodin Park and the Summit on the Park.

The township also this year opened its first dog

While little public comment is generally offered at the public hearings, Leisure Services staffers have solicited public input as part of a study to accompany the master plan. It includes some interesting statistics. According to the study:

• Some 91 percent of households have used a Leisure Services facility in the last year.

 Some 36 percent have participated in Leisure Services recreational programs, higher than the national mark of 32 percent.

• Some 43 percent have used a Leisure Services facility for indoor or outdoor recreation and sports activities. Other facilities used include school district facilities (38 percent), state parks (32 percent) and Wayne County parks (29 percent).

The biggest reason

cited for residents not using a Leisure Services facility or program: cost. Some 21 percent said the fees are too high.

That kind of public input is key to maintaining what Canton officials believe is a strong Leisure Services program.

"It can either clarify or identify what residents are looking for, what their needs and desires are," Bilbrey-Honsowetz said. 'That's why we're here to serve our residents."

bkadrich@homnetownlife.com (313) 222-8899

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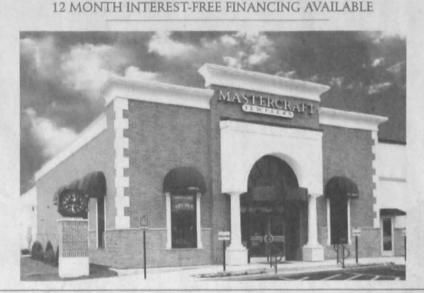
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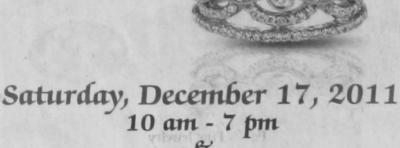
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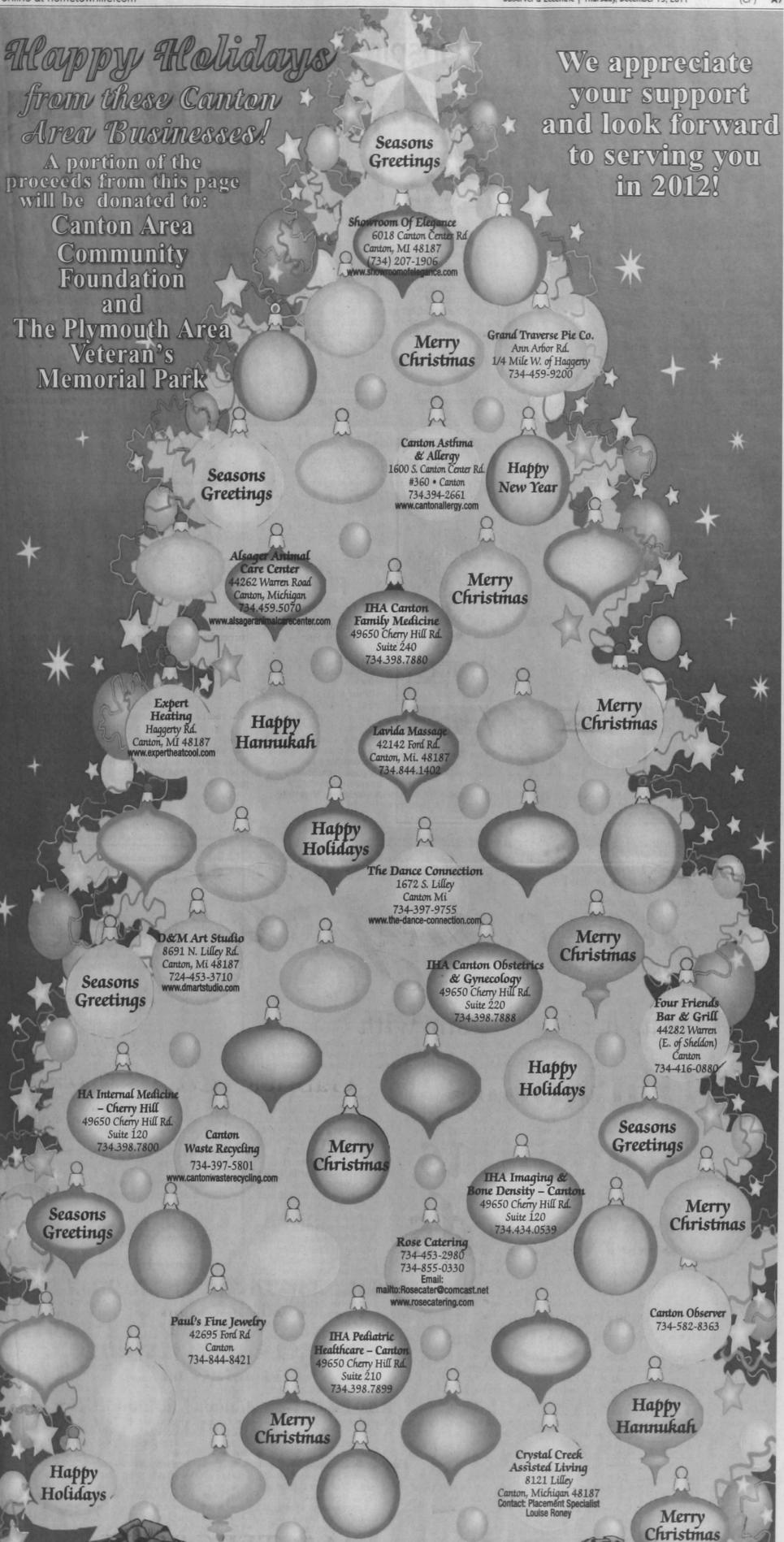
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STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Henri, and Henri's jewelry.

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related gifts. This custom

your pet's portrait. Jill can

or you can bring your own

photo. Photo jewelry can

be ordered up to Dec. 17

for Christmas delivery.

make your pet's portrait

photo jewelry features

Jill Andra Young's Penni-

# Pets are the cat's meow at the holidays

By Joanne Maliszewski

Correspondent

magine your pet dog or cat scribbling a holiday wish list. Surely, squeaky toys and delicious treats would top the list. But some area pet businesses are taking holiday wishes a step further with luxurious and upscale gifts for the furry members of your family.

There's no wonder that pet products put retailers on the map, especially during the holidays. Today, more than 85 million households own 164.6 million dogs and cats. And that's not including reptiles, birds, horses and fish, according to the American Pet Products Association.

"People take care of their pets regularly,' said Terri Bennett, longtime owner of Specialty Pets on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. "At Christmas, friends and relatives jump in. I think pets have become more important to people as economic times have gotten tough-

National sales attest to that. In 2010, pet owners spent \$48.3 billion. This year, the American Pet Products Association estimates that at least \$50.8 billion will be spent on all types of products that ensure the health, safety, comfort and enjoyment of pets. Pet retailers aren't much different than any other type of retailer. They count on the winter holidays to boost sales.

All about comfort

There's no doubt that pet owners make like Santa at the holidays and spend somewhat unabashedly for their furry family members. It's all about comfort. For example, Bennett sees families spending as much as \$500 on quality cat furniture, including multi-tiered scratching posts, some with tree houses nestled at the top, while others are tall enough to be skyscrapers in the cat world.

And for families who keep track of feral cats, the Backdoor Friends Cat Shoppe in Farmington Hills has outdoor heated beds and homes. "There is hope for the outdoor kitties," said owner Anne Klein, adding that the number of abandoned cats has increased as families have lost their jobs and in some cases, their homes.

Dogs don't fare too badly themselves when it comes to gifts of furniture. Families are buying quality beds including chaise lounges, sofas, loveseats, self-warming loungers, beds with feather tops, air beds and travel beds, special orthopedic beds for their senior dogs.

#### Pet attire

Sweaters, coats, leashes and collars — all that can be customized with the pet's name - are big at Celebrity Pets, an upscale pet attire shop in Northville. "We have them in all types of materials including wool and fleece. Some coats have legs while others cover the chest of your pet, which is very important in cold weather," said Ann Sakuta, manager of the Northville store. Celebrity Pets is also at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Don't forget the Muttluks boots for a cold and snowy day or sunglasses and ski glasses for the winter sun. "People are becoming more discriminating with quality. Quality comes first. Customers ask first about the safe-



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anne Klein shows a feather cat toy in The Cat Shoppe. Backdoor Friends is a no-kill rescue and is part of the shop and luxury boarding facility.



Have a fine photographic portrait made of your pet in time for Christmas. Jill Andra Young can book your sitting as late as Dec. 23 for delivery on Dec. 24.

ty of the product," Bennett said.

#### Treats, toys and memories

The owners of Specialty Pets, Celebrity Pets and Backyard Friends see an increase in the demand for quality treats preferably made in Michigan, or at least in America. Popular Three Dog Bakery in Plymouth is known for its fresh-baked dog treats made of natural wheat products, frosted with yogurt, and with-

out refined sugar. "We use honey and molasses to sweeten," said bakery owner Gary Atkinson. At Three Dog Bakery, dogs are welcome to join their owners who on average spend \$15 to \$20 on individual treats, as well as holiday tins filled with

delicious pet goodies. Like kids, pets are surely waiting for the toys that Santa will bring. How about a tiger mobile that you can hang from a door for your cats? The mobile rotates round and round. "It mimics exercise," Klein said. "It is designed to catch their interest.' Neko Flies is another new toy for cats that includes a wand with various attachments, including realistic looking bugs of all kinds. "It is a great wand toy," Klein added "And it is really sturdy.'

Klein also specializes in out-of-the-ordinary catnip toys; some look like bananas and cigars. You can also buy pillows with eaude-catnip. In addition to all sorts of extraordinary catnip toys for the feline group and squeaky and pull toys for the canines, retailers, such as Specialty Pets, also feature interactive toys, known as "home alone" toys that allow the pet prolonged play to

reach a hidden treat. "Overall, customers are looking for treats with a purpose. There are new ones coming on the market every day," Bennett

Pet owners and friends



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ana Sakuta, manager of downtown Northville's Celebrity Pets, says that one of the hottest gift items this holiday season are these "Roxy and Rose's" all-natural baked dog

and families of pet owners use the holidays as good time to immortalize their furry friends. Well-known pet photographer Jill Andra Young, in Plymouth, can attest to that. More than two months ago, Young began photographing families and their pets for holiday cards, portraits, even key chains, holiday ornaments, jewelry and magnets. Young's pet photographs are of archival quality that can endure the strain of time for at least 100 years.

Pet photographs are great gifts from friends and relatives. "Their loved ones understand how much they love their pet," Young said. "People are ecstatic when they receive these gifts."

#### Loving care

December is also the time when pet owners want their pets clean and groomed ready for the holidays. Doggy Do's Pet Grooming in New Hudson and Aussie Pet Mobile specialize in sprucing up your pet in time for holiday guests.

The schedule at Doggy Do's is fast filling up, but owners Joyce and Kenneth Somero will be open on Christmas Eve to accommodate all of the requests. If your pet is a large pooch or a breed. such as one of the doodles, Doggy Do's is the right place. The Someros specialize in hand scissor cuts that allow a good trim and style for longer hair. When all is done, you pup will be topped off with a fancy bow or a colorful bandana, and freshened with a cologne sold in New York, Paris and London.

The Aussie Pet Mobile, which travels from Farmington Hills south through western Wayne County, comes to you to pamper, bathe and groom your pet. "We can meet them wherever they need us to be,'

said owner Arlene Dalida. Pampering includes a 'pawdicure," as well as de-shedding for cats, and a 15-step spa bath that includes a massage followed by hand drying with a brush. "It's a different experience. It's a luxury experience. Everyone wants their pets to look their best for the holidays," said Dalida, adding that gift certificates are available for humans, as well as coupons online at www.petgroommetroitdetroit.com for special pet

facial treatments. That panie of what to do with your pet as your schedule gets busier, or if you leave town is a constant worry for pet owners during the holidays. That's when Cheryl Hixson of Check on the Dog LLC and Backdoor Friends Cat pet owners a number



Dear Santa:

Hi. We are eagerly awaiting your arrival at our house this year. Me — the dog — and my feline friends are beyond excited and have tried really hard not to destroy any of the holiday decorations.

We were just talking the other day how you had a tight squeeze coming down our chimney last year. But that's why we ate your cookies and drank the milk that was left for you. We thought we would help you stay healthy! If it makes you feel any better, I did get blamed for all the cookie crumbs on the

Speaking for all of my canine and feline buddies, I have to say sometimes we feel a little left out when you visit. It's great that you think of our human family. The kids always have a really long list that is fun to yank on and tear up a bit. But, we would be very happy if you could consider us — the

pets in our human families' lives this year. For starters, us dogs and cats are really hoping for two very important gifts that you can share around the world. Here they are:

Gift No. 1: Please make sure that all the pets that need good homes get them. We know a whole lot of very lonely pets and other outdoor-kind-of-animals that don't have very good lives. I, for one, would give up a chewy bone every week if you could make

Gift No. 2: Please put a giant lump of coal in the stockings of all the people around the world who neglect, hurt or even do worse things to pets. It's just not fair. Us fourlegged creatures have lots of feelings, just like humans. All we really want is to be safe, healthy, cared for and loved. Is that too much to ask?

Now, me and my furry friends wouldn't mind if you might throw in a few toys for us. The cats like that catnip stuff and I like a good squeaky toy and cookies. Oh, hold on ... the cats are hissing because I didn't include a new soft and stuffy bed for them. Well, while we are going on ... I could use a new winter jacket and a good sturdy leash because I walk faster than anyone in this

Well, I think that's it. Have a good holiday. And please don't forget us. Happy sleigh travels.

Signed, Leo and my feline friends — Sweet Pea,

Hotel can come in handy. Hixson is a professional pet sitter who visits your house according to your needs to let your pooch out, feed and walk him

Benjamin and Princess

and her, and who leaves a daily sheet of the visit on your kitchen counter ready for you to come home. Cats are included. She will make sure they are doing fine, have water and food, and some hugs. "I take care of anything that has four legs,

fur and a bladder.' Licensed, bonded and insured Hixson takes pet sitting a step further. If you want, she will photograph your pets and send the photo immediately to your cell phone or computer with a date and time stamp so you can see

your pet. The cat hotel at Backdoor Friends offers

of choices: the Victorian Parlor, providing cats with a birds-eye view of the retail area; the Presidential Suite, which offers two rooms to relax and dine; and the Senior Resort that boasts a ramp leading to sleeping quar-

The importance of pets has grown over the decades, creating a perfect opening for pet product retailers, whether big box stores or small independent shops. The billions of dollars spent on pets doesn't surprise photographer Young in the least. She opened her studio in 1989 just as the role of family dogs and cats

began to change. "It's amazing how everyone understands the bond. They have everything for pets now. It's kind of fabulous!" Young

#### (313) 222-8899 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

#### CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

#### Chamber closed

The Canton Chamber of Commerce office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, through Monday, Jan. 2. The chamber office will re-open Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 8 a.m.

#### **Get connected**

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is beginning to form Connection

The Connection Groups will be a business networking/referral group(s) made up of chamber members and consist of between 15-20 professionals with only one industry being represented per

Applications are now being accepted. You can get the application via the chamber's website, cantonchamber.com/chamberconnectapp.pdf, and once an application is completed, you can give it to Jana for the Membership Committee to review.

#### Chamber luncheon

The monthly Canton Chamber of Commerce luncheon, with the theme,



#### **New location**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held recently by Planet Fitness to announce their new location. Planet Fitness is located at 6463 N. Canton Center Road in Canton. Attending this event were customers, employees, Canton Chamber of Commerce members and local residents.

"Who's Who and What Can I Do?" takes place Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., at the Summit on the Park.

Members are being encouraged to bring a non-member to the luncheon, with the thought, "Help us help you in growing our chamber." Attendees can find out about the chamber and how to get involved, plus

watch as the 2012 Canton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is installed.

Cost for the luncheon, sponsored by Alphagraphics and Bovitz, C.P.A., PC, is \$25 (advanced member registration), and reservations are required. For more information and to RSVP, call the chamber at (734) 453-4040.

#### CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### **Grand opening**

North Canton Orthodontics, under the direction of Dr. Nicole D. Teifer, DDS,

hosts its grand opening Monday, Dec. 19. The office, which features beautiful and modern orthodontic space with child and adult treatment areas, is located at

44633 Joy Road, Suite 300, in Canton. For more information, call (734) 454-

#### **New location**

Canton Computer has moved to its new location at 6130 W. Canton Center Road, which was previously the Mathison Hardware store.

Canton Computers started in 1987 out of owner Dave Wisniewski's home. In 1995, the store decided to open a retail location. Today, Canton Computers has grown to three locations in Canton, Livonia, and Redford.

Canton Computers sells new and refurbished computers at great prices. Holiday store hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. through 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. through 4 p.m., and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.., or visit Canton computers.com.

#### **Diabetes fundraiser**

Throughout December, Cellular & More, a Verizon Wireless premium retailer, will be donating a portion of their sales to the Detroit Moose charity hockey game benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International.

lars throughout December," Cellular & More Owner Robert Emery said. "It's important to give back to our communities, especially during the season on giving."

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club, a division of Hockey North America, will be playing the Detroit Red Wings Alumni team Jan. 7 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. All proceeds raised will be directly donated to the JDRFI. At last year's game, the Detroit Moose raised \$16,250 in donations for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

"We're very happy to have Cellular & More's support to help benefit this great cause," Detroit Moose Captain Derek Fowler said. "This year we're hoping to raise even more money.'

Tickets and additional information about the Detroit Moose vs. Detroit Red Wings Alumni are available at www. detroitmoose.org.

#### Food drive

This year, one in 10 Michigan residents will rely on a food bank to feed their family and nearly one in four children will be at risk for hunger. To assist local food banks in their efforts to provide critical support to families in need, Two Men and a Truck locations throughout the state have partnered with local schools, such as Achieve Charter Academy, Canton Charter Academy and South Canton Scholars Charter Academy, to collect food during the Food Bank Council of Michigan's

# Internet purchases are subject to state sales tax

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By Rick Bloom **Guest Columnist** 

was having a discussion recently with a group of friends and we started talking about the Internet and how much it has changed our society. One friend mentioned how much he buys on the Internet and how great it is that you don't have to pay sales tax. Another friend stated that he didn't think that was fair, particularly to retailers who have to compete with stores on the Internet. As the discussion went on, I chimed in because I thought it was about time that I set them both straight.

They both were under the misconception that when you buy items on the Internet you do not have to pay tax on those items. That is not the case in Michigan and, in fact, in most states around the

There's a myth that exists in our country that when you buy things on the Internet you don't have to pay taxes on those purchases. In fact, the law is that you are required to pay the taxes and surprisingly, that has been the law in Michigan for over 70 years. Where the confusion comes in is the way in which the taxes are collected. When you go to a retailer here in Michigan and you buy a pair of pants at the store, in addition to the price of the merchandise, the retailer automatically adds 6 percent as a sales tax. That sales tax is then



**Money Matters** 

Rick Bloom

has some sort of physical presence here in Michigan, they are not required to collect the sales tax. That doesn't mean that you and I don't have to pay the tax; all it means is that the retailer is not required to collect it. In other words, it's up to us to voluntarily pay those taxes to the state.

When you purchase something through the Internet or through a catalog and they do not charge you sales tax, then you are obligated to pay the Michigan Use Tax. The Michigan Use Tax was enacted in 1937 and even though the Internet was not around back then, this law covers those purchases. As mentioned earlier, that law basically states that when you purchase something out-of-state and the retailer does not charge you a sales tax, then it is your obligation to pay the Michigan sales tax. In fact, since 1999 Michigan has put a line item on Michigan tax form 1040 for those taxes. You can either keep records of your actual purchases or you can use a tax table. Either way, you are liable for the tax.

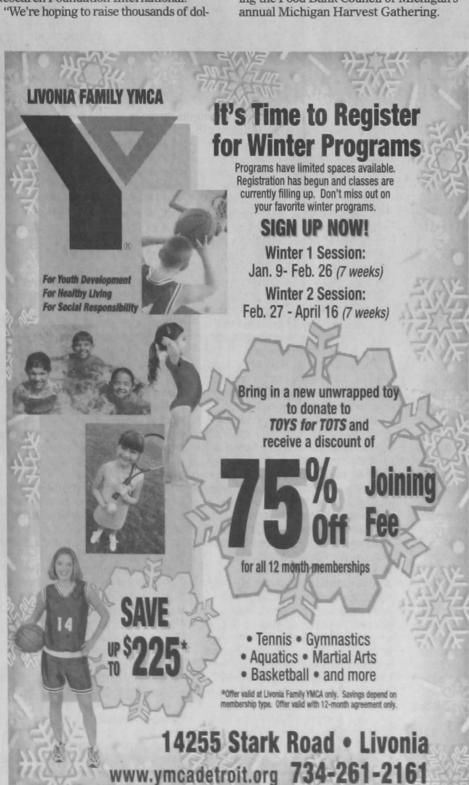
Where most people

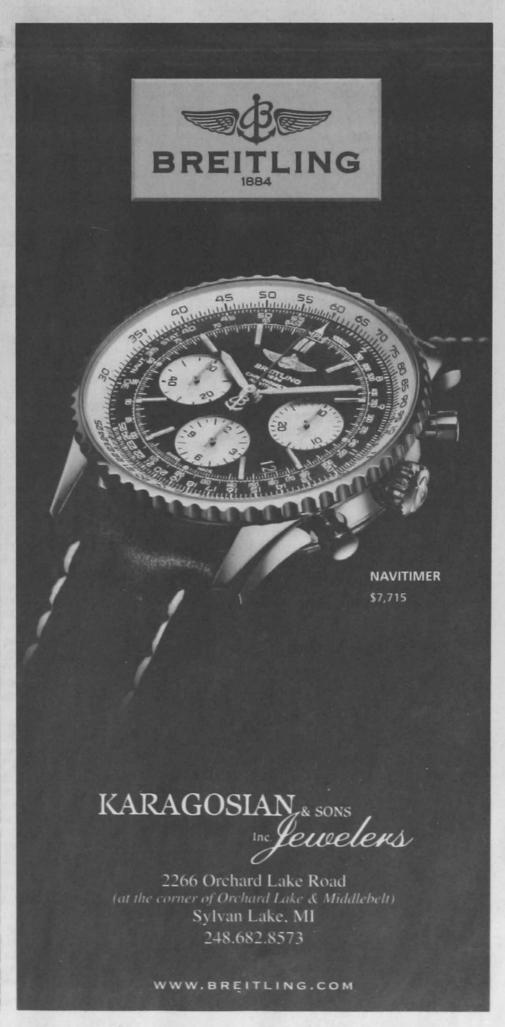
get confused is that they assume that since online retailers don't have to collect the tax that the tax is not due. The collection of the tax has nothing to do with whether we are liable to pay it. In fact, when you think about it, most of our tax laws are self-enforcing. After all, you don't have to prove you've made a charitable contribution unless you're audited and a great majority of people are never audited. The bottom line is that you and I, as Michigan residents, are required to pay the tax on our online and catalog purchases.

The question that most people have is if I don't pay the tax, what are my chances of getting caught? As far as I'm concerned. that is never the correct question. The correct question should always be what is my legal obligation as a citizen?

I know it is difficult to pay a tax that in reality most people don't pay. However, the standard shouldn't be what most people are doing; the standard should be what you are required to do. As good citizens, it is our obligation to follow the law and as painful as it is, when it comes to online or catalog purchases, taxes are owed. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@ hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.





#### **OUR VIEWS**



# **Priceless gift**

### Generosity of spirit is holiday lesson to learn

Before heading out to the malls and down city main streets to get those last-minute items for Christmas, parents ought to pause a moment to think about a particular gift their children can really use.

It's so small, it often gets overlooked. But it's also so big, that it won't fit under the tree.

For your children, however, it's so important that they will keep it for life. The gift is the generosity of spirit, a life skill that needs to be

For your children, however, it's so important that they will keep it for life. The gift is the generosity of spirit, a life skill that needs to be learned as a child. It is taught through example and experience.

learned as a child. It is taught through example and experi-

The visions of sugar plums children have these days are often expensive and But numerous. there is another side to giving, one that starts with caring and a clear-sighted understanding that, for some people, it takes more than sitting on Santa's lap to get basic neces-

The impact of the generosity of spirit has more outcomes than the best-stocked toy store. With a sensitive nature, our children are gifted as quick learners, hugging tightly that lesson for a lifetime

That truth is borne out by people who live and work in our communities. For instance, Salem High School junior Emma Barterian recently wrapped up her elementary school book drive, which collected more than 3,000 books for an elementary school in Redford. She's only one of countless teenagers helping out in the community.

That generous spirit can also be seen daily as volunteers ring the bell at Salvation Army red kettles at businesses around the community. It can be seen in the donations made to both the Plymouth and Canton Goodfellows, who between them are going to be able to help hundreds of needy families have a better Christmas this year. Rotarians, Lions and numerous other church and civic organizations are also doing their part.

For those gifted with a generous spirit, their gift of volunteering is priceless. They are ready, willing and able to step up and help. And the example they set is a gift that can last a lifetime when children are involved.

We urge people to take a moment out of their busy schedule to make a donation. But when you do, let your child do it. It's what Julie Baker of Plymouth did with her 3-yearold son, Max. This year, 3-year-old Max is ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

It is the questions that follow after a little one puts money in the red kettle that opens the door a lifelong lesson in giving.

It isn't shiny and bright, but the generosity of spirit is one gift continually found anew through compassion, but it must be acquired

Parents don't have to pay for it at the checkout, but our children are sure to treasure it always.



Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, **Executive Editor** 

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

#### **COMMUNITY VOICE**

#### What's the best Christmas gift you ever received?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"It was a handbag from my husband and children. My husband is not into fashion at all, so it was exciting that I got it."

Kim Price Canton



"My divorce papers from my second wife."

**Bob Fulcher** 



"A Christmas card from a lady friend in Utah."

Dwight C. Jackson



"An electric guitar." **Gerry Cousins** 

#### **LETTERS**

#### Front page news?

Regarding the front page story in the Dec. 8 Observer "Home Sweet Home": I have subscribed to your paper for many years (and will continue to). Generally I think you do a good job of covering the local community.

However, of this story I have to ask, "This is front page news?" I don't believe reporting the spending habits of the obviously ultra-affluent is something we really need to know about. I don't fault the Waddells, it is their money and they can spend it as they choose.

But when our region is still recovering from the recession, people are out of work, some children don't have enough to eat, food banks are busier than ever, is this type of spending really what we need to read about? I don't think your reporters would have to look too hard to find

more newsworthy subjects. Please revisit your journalism training to better understand the difference between the news section and the lifestyle section (where this story belongs).

> Nancy Levy Plymouth

#### Dinner thank-you

Three weeks ago, with faith in God's provision, I teamed up

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following for-

Web: www.hometownlife.com Mail: Letters to the Editor, Canton Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 Fax: (313) 223-3318 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edi-

with Susana and Elvis Mandelli from NorthRidge Church to provide, cook and serve a meal to 150 people on Dec. 10 in Detroit so that they could experience the love of God, and be fed both spiritually and physically with a good Christmas dinner.

We ended up serving 141 dinners at the meal, 43 take-outs, and donated enough food for approximately 80 people to have dinner to a local shelter in Detroit. Thank you to the following

people for their encouragement or donation to make this dinner possible:

Alice Reyes; Amy Hammye, Plymouth Township deputy treasurer; Ana Laura; Beth Reich; Bill Lawton, Community Financial Credit Union; Bill Zolkowski, principal, PCEP; Cheryl Wilmer; Cludia Devato & family; Dan Herriman, Herriman and Associates; Dave & Carol Bunch; Erick, Corey Cruz & family; Heath & Lisa Hensley; Jamie Aguirre; Jeff & Kathy Pumphrey; Joni Van Dyke, teacher, Salem High School; Justin Maldonado; Leah, Jeff White & family; Lisa Maloney & family; Mack Ave. Community Church; Michelle Lozier & family; Milena & Melanie Mandelli; Mike Kelley; Nancy & Richard Jowsey; Nancy Laws, assistant principal, Salem High School; Pam Heaton, North-Ridge Church; Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor; Red Olive Restaurant; Roger & Marjorie Moore; Ron Edwards, Plymouth Township treasurer; Sandy & Doug Patton; Steve Trosin; Ted & Diane Kloc; Teresa Somercik & family; Tiffani Moore & family; Toni Sheffield; Tony Bliss & family; Tony & Linda De-Fellice; Tonya & Gary Harbison.

> Zak Pumphrey Salem High School

#### **GUEST COLUMN**

## Race matters in Plymouth-Canton district

By George Belvitch **Guest Columnist** 

ace matters.

Those who profess to "color blindness," regardless of political ideology, believe paying less attention to race and racial identity is the proper response to racial inequity. "Color blindness" is often the cause of deep, systemic racism, including institutional racism. Downplaying the role of race and racism in the lives of the public will only impede the ability to respond to

those same people.

George Belvitch

The major problem with "color blindness" is that it ignores the different ways in which we experience the society around us. Race definitely mat-

ters Race matters to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district. Three years ago, district leaders began to look beyond diversity, and take a serious look at racial equity within the district. A series of experiences, including all-day workshops, seminars and small group discussions, challenged district leaders and teachers to expand their knowledge and capacity to focus on issues of educational equity.

As a result of this intensive work, there is now an established District Equity Leadership Team (DELT), and each educational site in the district now has an operational Building Equity Leadership Team (BELT).

The district now finds itself in a new place as it relates to race and racial equity. Administrators, teachers and soon all building staff are learning to work together to examine the intersections of race, teaching, learning and achievement. It has been difficult work, often requiring people to do a close examination of their personal beliefs. District employees are working on authentic school level change toward sustainable transformation of belief, expectations and practices while raising achievement levels of all students.

The 2011-12 school year focus will be on Collaborative Action Research for Equity (CARE). Elementary and secondary teachers will be engaged in the process of professional learning and classroom action research to discover, develop, document, deliver and disseminate culturally relevant learning and teaching practices. Powerful stuff!.

Student achievement data has clearly identified significant racial achievement disparities in the school district. The results of the 2010 Michigan Merit Exam (MME) clearly signaled an alarm. African-American males in the 11th grade scored 30 percentage points lower than the overall district score in reading. The score was almost identical for the MME math portion of the test. The graduation rate for African-American males in Plymouth-Canton must also become a priority for school district leaders. I strongly encourage district leaders and teachers to make these glaring disparities your priority.

I also challenge our district to implement the Educational Equity and Excellence Transformation Framework that was presented to the board June 28. This body of work included four initiatives that are the cornerstones for achieving racial equity - Leadership for Educational Excellence and Equity, Cultural Competence, Student-Centered Learning and Teaching and Family and Community Engagement.

I applaud the district for its courage in studying, exploring and conversing about racial disparity. They have examined, individually and collectively, their unconscious, often deeply held assumptions about race and school. They have explored and acknowledged how race impacts personal lives and how it operates within every school and classroom. And, the school district has taken an initial step in recognizing and acknowledging the attitudes, behaviors, structures, and systems that benefit white students, but work against black and brown students.

Race does matter. Only by being aware of that, and resolving to view individuals and communities as they really are which requires acknowledging their languages, cultures, traditions, and racialized experiences can we actually hope to build the kind of community that treats all persons fairly and equally.

George Belvitch is the retired director of elementary education for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. He can be reached via e-mail at belvitchgeorge@hotmail.com

## Limited Christmas activities returning to Three Cedars

By Diane Gale Andreassi Staff Writer

Christmas has returned to Three Cedars Farm in Salem Township.

Children are invited to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus Dec. 15-18. The hours are 4-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Bring a camera if you want pictures. The Three Cedars Country Store will be closed along with the Santa Land area that was used for Santa to greet young believers in years past.

Three Cedars owners
Gary and Sherry Whittaker will open their home
for children to visit with
Santa and Mrs. Claus and
have complimentary hot
chocolate and doughnuts.
There is no fee, but donations will be accepted for
Active Faith, an organization that helps the needy
in the South Lyon Com-



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three Cedars Farm owners Gary and Sherry Whittaker (on the right) listen to their attorney, Mark Mandell, during a Monday press conference, at which they announced Santa will be making a limited visit to the business. They are still trying to work out an agreement with Salem officials to reopen their Country Christmas Store and Santa Land next year.

munity Schools district.

The Country Christmas store was closed in the midst of zoning concerns and safety issues raised by Salem Township officials. In the past, Three Cedars sold Christmas trees, doughnuts, cider and holiday items in the

store. None of that will be offered this year.

Three Cedars visitors came out in full throng supporting Christmas happenings at the business, located at Six Mile and Curtis roads, after news got out that the popular holiday stop would

be closed.

In a message on the township website, officials addressed their concerns.

"Three Cedars Farm has grown quickly and immensely," according to the website. What was just a "farm and a home with a u-pick pumpkin farm with hayrides and a small candy store in 2004, has now expanded into a massive commercial business visited by thousands of customers and hundreds of vehicles every day with a sitdown doughnut shop, a huge gift store-souvenir shop selling hundreds of non-farm related items, a children's play area, a petting farm and an ATM machine, etc.'

What would have been permissible farm-related activity in 2004 has "grown into something much more, a large commercial business opera-

tion," the township website continues. "However, in spite of the business of Three Cedars Farm being well beyond what is permissible in an agricultural/residential zone, the township has once again been willing to work with Mr. Whittaker and Three Cedars Farm and has not told him he must shut down for Halloween or Christmas. So any news reports or communications accusing Salem Township of closing down Three Cedars Farm for Christmas are not only unfair, they are completely untrue."



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

Canton

prevail

gymnasts

Canton's girls gym-

nastics team started the

season strong Saturday,

Valley (130.28) and Vassar (122.14) in a tri-meet.

On vault, Erica Lucas

tallied a 9.35 to lead in

that category, followed

by Jocelyn Moraw (9.0) and Marina Milad (8.4).

er on uneven bars was

Melissa Green (8.675) with Moraw tallying an

8.5. Lucas was first for the Chiefs on balance

In floor exercise, Green (9.025), Moraw

(8.93), Nicole Lasecki

(8.825) and Milad (8.825)

had excellent routines.

beam, with her 9.0 score edging Moraw (8.8).

Canton's top perform-

with a tally of 136.21 points topping Huron

# Chiefs hang on, nip Marlins in OT

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Big-time colleges are interested in Farmington Hills Mercy sophomore guard Candice Leatherwood and she gave a pretty good reason why Tuesday at Canton.

Leatherwood rallied the Marlins from a 16-point second-half deficit by scoring 19 of her team's 31 points — scoring on a nifty, driving layup with 45 seconds left in regulation to finally put Mercy in front at 37-36.

But lurking for Canton's girls basketball team was sophomore guard Rachel Winters, who drained a big-time triple with six seconds to go in the fourth to make it 39-39 and force overtime.

The Chiefs collectively exhaled, then went on a 9-0 run in the four-minute extra stanza to earn an up-and-down 48-39 victory. Canton improved to 3-0 while Mercy fell to 3-1.

0 while Mercy fell to 3-1.

"What kind of got us back into the game was playing at a frenetic pace and getting them to throw the ball around," Mercy head coach Gary Morris said. "Unfortunately, we

left a good shooter open and she knocked down a big three."

Money ball

On that trey, Canton junior center Kiara Schneider passed the ball to Winters on the left flank and she made no mistake. Without that bucket, there wouldn't have been the chance for the Chiefs to win in OT.

"When you're an athlete and you're competing, people are going to make runs and you're going to get down," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "It's how you respond to those runs and people coming at you.

"To the kids' credit, I thought they responded really well. Rach hit a monster shot."

Canton senior point guard Robyn Mack (11 points, seven rebounds, four steals) was shaking her head about Leatherwood (19 points, six steals) following the nonconference game.

"I give Mercy credit, they're a really good team," Mack said. "Leatherwood, I can't believe she's a sophomore. I told her that on the court. I



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton senior guard Robyn Mack (No. 4) tries to maintain a step on Farmington Hills Mercy sophomore guard Candice Leatherwood (No. 21) during Tuesday's contest.

played her last year, she was good. She's even better this year."

The Chiefs started out strong, with Winters (10 points) starting regulation scoring just how she ended it by scoring from behind the three-point

It was 9-0 before Mercy finally scored, in the final minute of the first on a triple by sophomore

guard Allie Gorcyca.

Both teams struggled offensively in the second quarter, and the Chiefs

were up 16-5 before

Please see HOOPS, B3

## Rocks roll past 'Cats

In the first matchup of PCEP bowling teams, Salem got the better of Plymouth Monday at Town & Country Lanes. The Salem boys won 17-13 while the girls earned a 23-7 victory.

For the boys, Kevin Williams led the Rocks with a 225-279-504 series while Jimmy Bowling (238-205-443), freshman Nolan Rudis (225-214-439), captain David Nikkila (225-183-408) and co-captain Steven Cadwell (211) all had strong showings.

Plymouth's boys squad also had some good performances, with Eric Thompson (206-210-416), Evan Grimme (240), Brandon Congdon (220), Matt Bracey (219) and Robbie Korstjens (214) among them.

In the girls matchup, the Rocks were led by captain Kristin Larkins (213), Bridget Maul (193) and co-captain Rachel Amodio (172)

Last week, Salem's boys lost 21-9 to Walled Lake Central (Nikkila: 202-255-457) on Dec. 6 at Super Bowl in Canton and defeated Brighton 27-9 while the Salem girls lost 16-14 to Brighton.

As for the Wildcats, the boys won 21-9 over Walled Lake Northern (Thompson: 244-245-489) on Dec. 6 at Super Bowl.

# PCA can't get up to speed

By Tim Smith

From opening tip to final buzzer, Plymouth Christian Academy chased state-ranked Southfield Christian all over the gymnasium Monday night

at PCA.

"They were just a little bit
better at getting up and down
the floor today," lamented PCA
first-year head coach Dominique Washington, following
the Eagles-vs.-Eagles match-

The visitors were as deadly from long range as they were explosively quick, draining 12 treys en route to a 98-73 boys

basketball victory.
In the process, Southfield
Christian (2-0) showed why
they are ranked No. 4 in Class

D as well as probably the favorite in the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference.

"They capitalized on all our defensive breakdowns," Washington said. "The game could have been a lot closer, but when they broke down defensively we didn't capitalize.

"We missed a lot of short layups, a lot of bunnies. And they hit their threes every time we broke down defensively."

It sure seemed that way.
Nailing four triples each for
Southfield Christian were
senior guards Chris Dewberry (23 points) and Gavin Toma
(30 points, four rebounds, six
assists).

"We got some good shooters, that helps a lot," Southfield Christian head coach Josh Baker said. "But we rely on it too much and we got to get to the rim more."

Hanging tough

One player who had no trouble in that regard was PCA senior center Eric Jipping, who helped keep the home team hanging around into the third quarter. He scored 23 points and pulled down 17

rebounds.

"Jipping did a good job holding down the paint offensively," Washington said. "(Junior forward) Mick Noel (18 points, five assists, three steals) did a good job penetrating (the paint), but at times he shied away from it."

Early on, the host Eagles

Please see PCA, B3



Working to get a low-post basket for Plymouth Christian Monday night is junior forward Drew Ibach (No. 10).



The Canton Chiefs varsity boys hockey team, shown Saturday after the Toys for Tots game, is teaming up with Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth to make the holidays brighter for area children.

# Chiefs 'bring it' to brighten holidays

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Canton's varsity boys hockey team blanked the defending champs on Friday night, but won't let youngsters be shut out over the holidays.

After an impressive 2-0 victory over Division 1 defending champion Novi at Canton Arctic Ice, the Chiefs (5-1 overall, 4-0 in the KLAA) helped cram unopened toys into a Dick Scott Dodge van that was parked outside the arena doors.

Those packages, also brought to the game by Canton hockey families and fans, will soon be distributed by the Plymouth car dealership to Toys for Tots. From there, they'll be sent to

children.
The effort was part of

a partnership between the Chiefs and Dick Scott Dodge, which is located at Main Street and Ann Arbor Road.

"We wound up filling the whole back seat and throughout the whole van with toys," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said."... Not only did our players, parents and some of our

Please see TOYS, B2

#### **BOWLING PREVIEW**

# Park bowlers hit the lanes

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys and girls bowling teams are ready to roll — literally.

Coaches for the Canton, Plymouth and Salem programs are all enthusiastic about the 2011-12 season, which began last week.

A mixture of promising newcomers and solid returnees is why coaches are optimistic that their respective teams will be able to strike down opponents in the KLAA Central Division.

Following is a recap of what the season holds for the Chiefs, Wildcats and Rocks:

• CANTON: Last year, the Canton boys finished 8-7 overall and 5-7 in the Central while the girls finished 7-8 and 4-5.

Head coach Karl Brubaker welcomes Aaron Madsen and Brian Faust to the boys team, which lost Andrew Klein, Ross Terrasi, Casey Bindas and Ryan Washburn to graduation.

Back for another season are Kurt Kowalski, Alex Champagne and Gary



Sending the ball on its way during a 2010-11 match is Canton's Alex Champagne.

Barnett.

For the girls, the losses of Ashley Cade, Cheryl Cosby and Jackie Polaski will be offset by returnees Charlotte Zimmer and Brianna Bailey.

"This is going to be a interesting year for us with all new kids basically," Brubaker said. "The boys that are new are seasoned because they have bowled the youth travel league for the past few years.

"On the girls side we are looking to get better with a group of girls that all bowled JV last year."

Please see BOWLING, B3

### Canton gets started

After a season-opening 29-1 romp over
Walled Lake Western on
Dec. 6 at Super Bowl, the
Canton boys bowling
team was defeated 20-10
by Howell on Saturday.

Leading the Chiefs were Alex Champagne (278-165-443) and Gary Barnett (182-243-426). On Dec. 9, Canton lost 20-10 to Howell.

Canton's girls bowlers, meanwhile, lost 24-6 on Dec. 9 against the Highlanders.

#### Wolfpack tryouts

The Western Wayne Wolfpack will hold girls basketball tryouts for girls ages 11-13 (grades six-eight) from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tryouts will take place at the Canton High School gym and cost \$25. For more information, contact coaches Fred Thomann, (313) 929-0291, Bob de Bear, (734) 218-4478, or Brian Samulski, (734) 673-2555.

## Rocks get first victory Wildcats strong at

Observer Staff Writer

They say the first win's always the hardest to get.

Salem's varsity hockey team finally notched a 'W' with Friday's 2-0 victory at Northville in a KLAA crossover matchup.

Junior goalie George Veresan posted his first career shutout, stopping all 28 Mustangs shots he

The Rocks parlayed Veresan's goalkeeping and strong team defense into a win thanks to second-period goals by Mark McGee (on the power play, from Alek Zultowski and Kyle Eggenberger) and Jake Sealy (an unassisted shorthanded mark-

"This was our best defensive effort of the season," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "I'm very proud of the way our guys battled. We came into the game pretty banged up, especially on defense, and still found a way to win against a very good Northville

Veresan "was extremely aggressive and played

the puck very well, which really helps against a good skating team like Northville," Ossenmacher added.

The win improved Salem's record to 1-2-0-1 overall while Northville dropped to 5-2-1-0.

Salem and Plymouth square off 8:30 p.m. Friday at Plymouth Cultural Center in a KLAA South Division tilt.

**CLARKSTON 4, SALEM 3:** On Dec. 7, the Rocks fell despite goals by Austin Sartorius, Mark McGee and Jason Newel. Clarkston scored with 14 seconds left in the third period for the victory.

# Northville tourney

Plymouth's varsity wrestling team went 4-1 Saturday to finish second at the Todd Schoenhide Memorial Challenge tournament at Northville.

The tourney is named after a former Mustangs' wrestler and football player who was tragically killed by a drunk driver in 2005. Proceeds from the tournament go to a scholarship in his name.

The Wildcats started with a 65-18 win over Ann Arbor Skyline, followed by a closely contested matchup against the host Mustangs. A 9-0 win by Jon Conn clinched a 38-33 victory for Plymouth.

"It's always good to win a close hard meet that

#### PREP WRESTLING

comes down to the end like that," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey

Plymouth then cruised to a 50-19 win over Dearborn, highlighted by Said Youssef's comeback win at 140. The senior captain trailed early on, but then fought back for an 8-7 victory over Ali Saad.

After starting 3-0 for the day, the 'Cats fell 45-22 to Saline. But Plymouth rebounded for a 60-18 triumph over Dearborn Crestwood.

Wrestlers who went undefeated for at least three matches included. Trey Berry (3-0), Bren-

don Davis (3-0), Said Youssef (4-0), Chase Kallil (4-0), and Brandon Harris (5-0).

#### Setting record straight

Guernsey recently said he is hopeful that Said Youssef will be the first Plymouth High School wrestler to place (top-8) at the state meet, as the Wildcats have had an impressive list of state qualifiers in recent years.

The list of former qualifiers includes: Said Youssef and Alec Breckenridge, last season; Ali Youssef, Steve Korpus and Ben Kosmalski.

Continued from page B1

fans bring them, but the whole Novi team brought toys. Which was very, very classy.'

According to Majszak, the team also will go to Gleaners Food Bank over the holiday break to work for a half-day. Such efforts, he noted, underscore that the program prides itself on "being a lot more" than just hock-

ey.
"We're at that time of year, unfortunately, there's a lot of kids that can't get to experience Christmas like other people," he stressed. "It's really good to get them those toys and put a smile on some kid's face who might not have had one without that.'

The players get something special out of such endeavors, too.

'Not only are we learning things on the ice and about our team," Majszak noted, "but the boys learn some life experiences, learn things they can take with them beyond hockey."

Stalwart stopper

As for the shutout win



These gifts, collected Saturday at the Canton-Novi hockey game, eventually will find places under Christmas trees with help from Toys for Tots.

itself, Canton goalie Spencer Craig continued his sensational early season

play with 39 stops. "He's really playing at a whole other level right now," Majszak said. "He's focused and that's trickling down to the rest of the team.'

Taylor Baker gave him all the offensive help he needed when he scored in the first, with assists to Duggan Tear and Brandon Grillo.

"He's really coming on and proving to be an offensive threat the past week," said Majszak about Baker. "He scored three of the goals against Churchill (a 5-3 win on Dec. 7) and then he

scored the first goal on Friday night.'

Canton added a goal in the second when Grillo beat the Novi netminder on a play started by Zach Cox and Collin Smith. Both of the Chiefs goals came on the power play.

Next up for the Chiefs is their last game before the holiday break, 7 p.m. Friday against Woodhaven at the Ice Box.

The Plymouth and Salem hockey teams also are doing plenty of community service over the holidays. See

> tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

Sunday's Observer for more.

## Whalers buzz past Sting

Plymouth's depth prevailed Saturday night in the Whalers' 4-3 win over Sarnia at Compuware Arena.

It was the OHL club's fourth consecutive victory and 12th in 14 games to improve to 21-8-2-1, good for 45 points and first place in the West Division.

Garrett Meurs' goal at 10:27 of the second period snapped a 1-1 tie for Plymouth and the Whalers never look back from that point on, getting stronger as the game progressed.

Meurs scored his 14th and 15th goals of the season with other markers by Stefan Noesen (10) and J.T. Miller (13)

Stopping 32 of 33 shots



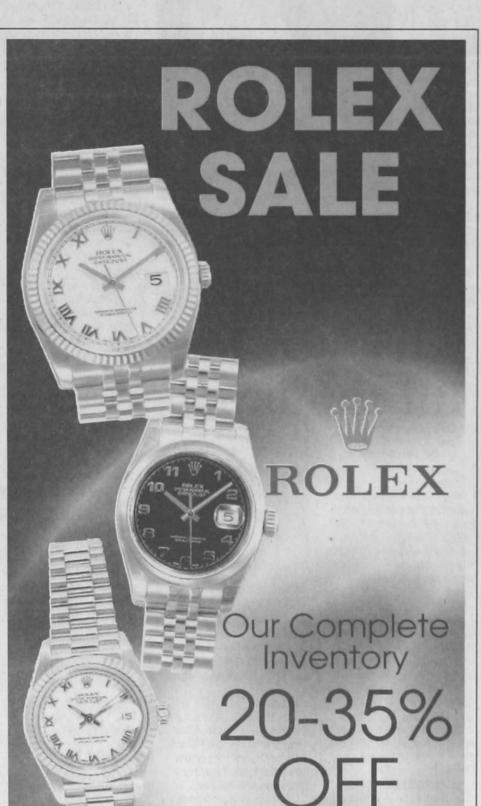
Stefan Noesen scores for the Plymouth Whalers Saturday night against Sarnia goalie Brandon Maxwell.

for the victory was goalkeeper Matt Mahalak, who improved to 8-3-0-0 for the season.

Plymouth finishes up the pre-Christmas portion of the schedule

next Friday in Oshawa and Saturday in Belleville

The Whalers next home game is a 2 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, Dec. 28 against London.



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# Chiefs tap out Maples 'Cats shut down Northville

Canton's varsity boys basketball team upped its record to 3-0 with Tuesday's 46-27 win at Birmingham Seaholm.

The Chiefs got out to a 10-4 lead after the first quarter, but the Maples closed the gap to 15-13 at halftime.

Canton stepped it up in the second half, however, outscoring Seaholm 13-6 and 18-8 in the third and fourth, respectively.

Leading the Chiefs with 22 points, eight rebounds and five blocks was forward Paul Baumgart.

Helping him in the paint was senior center Terrell Sewell, who

**PCA** 

Continued from page B1

were in lock-step with the

A 9-0 run by PCA in the

later stages of the first

17-13 advantage.

the left corner.

frame gave the Eagles a

Jipping's jumper and

two layups by Noel made

it 14-13 and then junior

guard Alexander Huber

hit a rainbow triple from

Huber (12 points,

five assists) connected

for another three a lit-

tle while later for a 22-

PCA would enjoy.

**Fast and furious** 

16 edge, the largest lead

But Southfield Chris-

tian answered thanks to a

trey by Toma and a buck-

et in the closing seconds

by senior guard Lindsey

Hunter III (21 points) to

make it a 22-21 contest

Southfield Christian put the pedal to the metal

even more in the second,

taking the lead for good

(28-26) when junior for-

ward Frank Holecek hit a

bank shot with under six

minutes to go in the half.

Soon the pace intensified, with defensive pres-

not only resulting in PCA

misses but several fast-

break buckets at the oth-

It was a 46-36 lead for

"When we finally start-

ed to get some stops, then

Continued from page B1

• PLYMOUTH: Also

girls teams.

pumped up to see what

the new season holds is

Tammy Thompson, coach

of the Wildcats' boys and

Last season, Plymouth's

while then

captur-

ing first

place at

regionals

and ninth

at states. The girls

went 9-5

and 7-6.

"I'm

looking

forward

son said.

"Plym-

boys finished 10-5 over-

all and 8-4 in the division

we could open it up a lit-

Southfield Christian at

sure by the road team

after one.

er end.

halftime.

visitors.

chipped in with 10 points and eight boards.

Junior guard Josh Mayberry also had eight rebounds, along with five points.

Canton's next test is 7 p.m. Friday at home against Northville.
CANTON 44, DEXTER

39: Josh Mayberry and Paul Baumgart scored 12 points each Friday night to lift visiting Canton to a 44-39 victory against Dexter Baumgart also led the Chiefs (2-0) with nine rebounds,

with Terrell Sewell adding seven points and six boards. "I loved the way our guys competed on the road versus a good team," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We played really well de-fensively. Miles Felton (three

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Eyeing the basket Monday** 

is Plymouth Christian senior

center Eric Jipping (No. 42),

while Southfield Christian's David Johnson tries to

tle bit," Baker said. "Then

That edge increased to

they had to play a little

stops and got the lead.'

71-53 after three quar-

ters, with Newberry and

Toma hitting two treys a

piece (each finished with

four triples for the night).

They were too wide

open, ... we weren't clos-

Washington emphasized.

"We were so busy watch-

ing the ball that some-

body on the back side's

thing we can improve

wide open and knocking

down threes. That's some-

More of the same high-

One basket away from

mark, a Southfield Chris-

tian player instead drib-

lighted the fourth quar-

ter, which ended merci-

hitting the 100-point

fully for PCA.

ing off fast enough,"

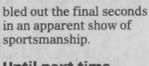
bit quicker when we got

deter the scoring bid.

steals) put great pressure on the ball and Kyle Adams (five points, four rebounds) shut down their best scorer. The Chiefs trailed 9-7 after

one quarter before surging ahead in the second. They outscored the Dreadnaughts 13-5 to build a 20-14 halftime lead and extended the edge to 32-22 after three. Reddy added that clutch free-throw shooting by Mayberry helped finish off Dexter. Canton led by three points with less than five seconds to go and Maybern went to the charity stripe shooting a one and one "and he calmly knocked down both of them to seal the

 Note: Sunday's Observer (Sidelines) incorrectly reported that Canton lost to



**Until next time** 

Still, Washington thought the opponent could have let up a little bit in the final minutes. For example, sophomore Leonard Crosby scored his second 3-ball of the minute remaining, open-

"They could have

'It just makes me a little more hungrier and my guys a little bit more hungrier for the next time we play them (Jan. 24) knowing they tried to embar-

Washington said his team would take the defeat as "a learning experience. You got to guard a little closer, close out a little better and understand who the

Other PCA players who chipped in offensively were sophomore forward-guard Daniel Jipping (eight points, six rebounds) and junior forward Drew Ibach (seven points, eight rebounds).

Freshman Bakari Evelyn tallied 10 points and five assists for Southfield

> tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

fourth quarter with just a. ing up a 98-71 lead.

backed down, they could have pulled off their full-court man-to-man defense," said Washington, a former star guard at Salem. "But that's basketball. It didn't rub me the wrong way.

rass us.'

shooters are.'

Christian.

Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team played excellent team defense Tuesday night in a 39-26 win over visiting Northville.

LOCAL SPORTS

The Wildcats led the KLAA crossover game 7-4 after the first quarter and 15-11 at halftime, but head coach Bob de Bear wanted his team to step it up in the rebounding department in the second half.

The message got through as Plymouth outboarded the Mustangs from that point on and wreaked havoc with a number of steals and blocks.

Plymouth tallied 15 steals, with four each by Chyna Williams and Kate Watson. Both players also had four points and five rebounds. Helping out with

strong play was forward Shelby Cheston (four points, five rebounds).

'Shelby Cheston had her best high school game yet," de Bear said. "She had two big blocks and a couple of key shots in the second half. We have asked her to play tough and that's what she did tonight."

Good ball movement out of the backcourt also helped the cause "and we ended up getting some easy looks."

Plymouth (3-2) broke the game open in the fourth, scoring often from the free-throw line during a 17-9 frame.

The team hit 14 of 20 from the charity stripe, with Jady Woody (10 points) going six-forsix and Kylie Robb (12

points) making all but one of eight attempts.

The top scorers for Northville (2-1) were Alex Moynes and Kendra Brenner, with sev-

en each. DIVINE CHILD 46, SA-**LEM 29:** The visiting Rocks got into trouble early on, turning the ball over and giving up 17 points in the first quarter of Tuesday's non-conference game. They were unable to

bounce back, although they did outscore Dearborn Divine Child by a 10-7 margin in the fourth. Salem was led by Bri Berberet (15 points, seven rebounds) and Katelynn Krause (four points, six

assists) Rosanna Reynolds scored 14 for Divine Child. Salem head coach Fred Thomann, whose team dropped to 0-3, said shooting struggles made it tough to chip away at the 17-8 deficit after the first. The Rocks made just 12 of 44

field-goal attempts.

### 'D' sparks Canton girls

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Canton's varsity girls basketball team is doing just fine testing the waters against some quality opponents, having knocked off both Saline and Bloomfield Hills Marian in week one of the 2011-12 season.

The latest victory was Friday's 41-32 road triumph against Marian, sparked by a defense that held the Mustangs to 10 points in the first half. Senior point guard Robyn Mack led the charge, with 16 points, three steals and five assists. "I thought Robyn was

outstanding," Chiefs head coach Brian Samulski said. "She really controlled the game and did everything to help get the

She wasn't alone, as Rachel Winters chipped in with five steals along with seven points. Taylor Hunley led Canton with eight rebounds while Kiara Schneider pulled down five boards to go with her seven points.

was Paige Aresco. The Chiefs (2-0) led 10-

5 after one quarter and

Contributing five points

bumped the lead up to 19-10 at the break and 35-21 after three.

To hold Marian to 10 points in the first half, I'd say is an outstanding team effort," Samulski said. "I thought the girls did a great job (closing off) the front, contesting every shot and blocking them out.

"Going to Marian and getting a win is always huge. I thought it was a great win and I'm proud of the girls and the way they played. They should feel good about what they accomplished in the first week.'

#### **HOOPS**

Continued from page B1

senior guard Sarah Benson (11 points) made a big steal, layup and foul shot with 20 seconds to play in the half.

That sliced Canton's lead to 16-8 at the intermission.

For the first part of the third quarter, the Chiefs looked primed to turn the game into a rout.

Mack and sophomore forward Paige Aresco (10 points) combined to score five points in a 10-second span early in the third and Schneider's high-glasser following a steal gave the Chiefs a commanding 24-8 lead with 5:45 left in the third.

But Mercy turned up the defensive heat with the Chiefs struggling against double coverage.

A bank shot and layup by Leatherwood within seconds helped Mercy get back to under 10 points (28-19) with one frame left.

Mercy's momentum carried over into the fourth, although a triple by Mack stopped the



Canton sophomore guard Rachel Winters (No. 10) puts up a shot during Tuesday's contest. Guarding her are Farmington Hills Mercy's Allie Gorcyca (No. 31) and Paige Roberts (No. 13).

bleeding and kept Canton up 34-26 midway through the stanza.

Energized

The Marlins then went on a 13-2 run to seize a one-point lead in the final minute. Leatherwood turned a pair of Canton turnovers into two layups and a tack-on foul shot.

Then after sophomore guard Sierra LaGrande missed a three-point try from the right flank, she drained one from the other side to make it a 36-35

Canton lead with 1:05 left. Canton coughed it up again, and Leatherwood breezed through the lane from the right side of the paint for a lead-changing bucket.

'Her energy at both ends I thought really helped us get back in the game," Morris said.

Unfortunately for the Marlins, Winters connected in her do-or-die moment and the Chiefs didn't let up after that.

Layups by Aresco and Schneider (13 points, six rebounds) in the first 1:15 of overtime put Canton in front 43-39 and Winters followed with a layup a

minute later. Mack sealed the victory with three free throws. Samulski wasn't sur-

prised that the Marlins bounced back from their slow start.

We knew it was going to be a battle, that it was going to be tough," Samulski said. "I kept telling the kids that they were going to make a run and they made a run.

'Gary's an outstanding coach, Mercy's a great program, so eventually you knew it was going to come. It was just a matter

of time."

#### NOTICE OF SALE **MAYFLOWER TOWING**

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction for cash to satisfy lien pursuant to F.S. 713.78 on December 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

> Mayflower Towing 5760 Belleville Rd Canton, MI 48188 734-397-3560

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Chevrolet V10 Suburban Chevrolet Lumina 1996 Cadillac Brougham 1990

1989 Chrysler New Yorker 2004 Mercury Sable LS

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1998 Pontiac Grand Prix

Publish: December 15, 2011

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#### PURCHASE OR LEASE OF

Michigan will accept sealed bids-up until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 21, 2011. The bid opening will be at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 21, 2011 for the

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth,

DIGITAL COPIER/PRINTERS

Specifications and bid documents are available at the City Hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: htt://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

> Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk City of Plymouth

Publish: December 15, 2011

#### who could contribute. outh girls is Caitlyn Webb, who placed sec-

to another great season," Thompouth has a Kristin Larkins lot of talent." Salem

Caitlyn Webb

Plymouth

Returnees sparking the boys to hopefully another big year are Rob Korstjens, Eric Thompson, Brandon Congdon, Evan Grimme, Ryan Riva and Matt Bracey.

Thompson lists Zach Behr, Eric Combee, Joe Langell, Jordan Orzech, Nathan Purcell and Burhan Yaish as others

Spearheading the Plymond at regionals. The oth-



bowling team is Rob Korstjens, shown in this file photo.

er regional performer, Mackenzie Carlson (eighth place), graduated.

The other returnee is Tiffani Patterson, with remaining roster members including Megan Blanck, Megan Brewer, Jenna Collins, Emily Fraser, Serena Oliver and Lauryn Vincent.

· SALEM: Although several key bowlers from last year's boys and girls teams graduated, head coach Kathie Hahn doesn't expect any dropoff thanks to an influx of freshmen to the ranks.

The Salem boys (8-7, 7-5 last season) will be sparked by returnees Kevin Williams, David Nikkila, Joe Mirsky and Steven Cadwell.

Newcomers who could help the cause include Nolan Rudis, Tyler Snyder and Tony Pryztulski. Back with the girls

squad (9-6, 7-5) are Kristin Larkins, Bridget Maul, Micaylin Peltz and Rachel Amodio.

Ford F150

some strong players, but

have gained some great

ninth graders who will

be strong leaders in the

Rocks' future."

1995 Saturn SL1 Ford Crown Victoria 1993 1997 Saturn SI 2006 MoPED

#### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@ hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

Dec. 15-21

**ADVENT SERVICES** 

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Dec. 21 Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills **Details:** Special worship

services

Contact: (248) 553-3380 **BREAKFAST** 

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All you can eat, pan-

cakes, French toast, sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk with appearance by Santa Claus; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: (734) 425-4421

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" Time/Date: 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 and 3:30 p.m. Satur-

day, Dec. 17

Location: Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, 8625 E. Jefferson Ave., in Detroit's Indian Village neighborhood.

**Details:** The Community Chorus of Detroit with the CCD Chamber Orchestra and soloists, and special guests, the Detroit Children's Choir's

Contact: www.communitychorusofdetroit.com

**SOUP & SCRIPTURE** 

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper, followed by service at 7 p.m.

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road,

Livonia Details: Hearty soup and bread supper followed by

Advent service Contact: (734) 427-2290

Dec. 22-28

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25 Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills Details: Family service at 5 p.m.; candlelight service at

7:30 p.m.

Contact: (248) 553-3380

Dec. 29-Jan. 4, 2012

THESIS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 2,

Location: Gesu Catholic Church, 17180 Oak Drive, Detroit

Details: Helen Marie Berg, senior at Catholic University, will present her thesis: "In Unity, There is Hope: A Story, of a Detroit Parish." She will tell the story of how Gesu Catholic Church and School has changed as Detroit has

changed. Contact: (313) 862-4400 or visit http://gesudetroit.org

# **Passages**

View Online

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



MARY LOU (DEACY)

Age 80, December 8, 2011. Born in Chicago, resident of Livonia for 44 years. Beloved wife of Bob. Loving mother of Bob (Sharon) & Jim (Lisa) Dolmetsch, Mary Jo (Mark) Westbrook, Patti (Rick) Galli. Dear grandmother of Edward, Kristin, Mike, Anthony, Sara, Gina, Jeanette, Jackie, Troy. Visitation at Harry J. Will in Livonia Sunday, December 11 from 2-9. Rosary at Monday, December 12 at 10:00am at St. Colette Church in



TUPAJ, STANLEY

Age 90. Beloved husband of Lottie. Dear father to Tom of Colorado, Patricia Robak, Laurie (Kerry) Banka, Gary (Teresa) of Virginia, and Carol Prokop. Proud grandfather of 7. Loving brother of Sophie (Don) Pfeiffer, Henry Tupaj and the late Mary Navin. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, 36100 5 Mile Rd., Chapel, 36100 5 Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan) Thursday 3-9pm with 7pm Military Honors and 7:30pm Rosary. Funeral Service Friday at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia. In-State 10am Mass 10:30am. Memorial Contributions may be made to Contributions may be made to Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 150

Bingham Farms, MI 48025. Please visit online guestbo fredwoodfuneralhome.com



WILSON, WILLIAM

Age 76. Beloved husband of Shirley (nee Davies). Devoted father of Michael (Shawn) Wilson, and Tracy (Marty) VanEe. Loving grandfather of Samantha, Nathan, Jacquelyn, Rachel, Carly, Isabella and Jack. Fond brother of Judy (Tom) Piccinin and the late Hugh Wilson Jr. Ford Motor Employee for over 33 years. Graduate of Tulelake High School, CA & Kent State University and a US Air Force Veteran. Visiting Thurs Dec. 15th 3-8 pm at Charles Step Funeral Home 18425 Beech Daly (Btw 6-7 Mile.) In State Friday 10:30 am until 11 am services at St. Paul Presbyterian Church Interment Glen Cemetery. Donations to Michigan Humane Society or Wounded Warriors Project appreciated. Humane Condolences to StepFunerals.com



YOUNG,

JERRY JOSEPH, SR., Of Gramps Wooden Toys in Farmington Hills, age 82, died December 8, 2011. Husband of

Lyla Young for 62 ½ years. Respected and loved father of Cindy (Robin) Priemer, Jerry (Debbie) Young, Jr., Pamela Schultes (deceased), Judy (Karl) Chimner, Craig (Sue) Young, Todd (Lisa) Young, Louise "Bunny" (Tom) Hozeska, and Jennifer (Jim) Young. Gramps to 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Brother of Susan, Joe, and David. The family would like to thank Jerry's longtime clients for their support through the years. Memorial visitation will be on Saturday, December 17, 2011, 11:30am until the time of the memorial service 1:00pm at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in is name to the American Diabetes Association. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of Jorrow.

# Party focuses on saint, holiday traditions

By Sharon Dargay **O&E Staff Writer** 

Forget the fur-lined red coat and Santa hat. Kindly old St. Nick - Santa Claus' predecessor - will be decked out in his authentic bishop's vestments and mitre when he greets youngsters Saturday. Dec. 17 at St. Thomas Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills.

"He'll tell the story of how he became a saint and how he has helpers called Santa Claus to give gifts in good cheer to everyone," said Richard Shebib, a board member of the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit, the group organizing the children's party.

The event, now in its second year, is open to the public. Shebib said the festivities last year drew both church members and non-Orthodox visitors.

Although Santa Claus images dom-

inate the holiday season, Shebib said most children are likely to be familiar with St. Nicholas. 'When I was a little boy we used to

call him (Santa) St. Nick. I think a lot of children's stories refer to Santa as St. Nick. The parents will know and children will be in tune to that.'

St. Nicholas was a Fourth Century bishop in what today is southern Turkey. He used his inheritance to do good works, according to the Web site Catholic.org. In one case, he paid the dowries of three poor sisters by throwing bags of gold into their home at night. Some stories say the bags fell into shoes drying by the fire, which led to the Christmas custom of hanging stockings or putting out shoes to receive gifts from the saint.



St. Nicholas will distribute candy coins and pose for photos with the children after talking about his origin at the par-

Young-

sters also

can pose with two live reindeer from noon-2 p.m. The event will run from 2-4 p.m. at the church, located at 29150 W.

This is an outreach program for the Council," said Shebib, adding that nurs-

ing home residents have been invited to attend each year. "It's also a community service for young teens to come in and help us out." Young adult members of Orthodox churches will be stationed around the

church hall and will explain various traditions of Christmas, such as trees, stars, angels, and wreaths. "We'll ask the children to go around the hall to each tradition and listen to the presentation. When they are done they will come to me and I give them a small gift," Shebib said.

Refreshments will be served and a service of Great Vespers will follow the party at 4 p.m.

For more information call Shebib at (248) 345-9346.

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Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. . Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire

Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia . South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided \* www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

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The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM

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10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom - Fellowship

Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister

# ENTERTAINMENT

# Clinics, concert offer 'All That Jazz' for young musicians

By Julie Brown and Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writers

Musicians of all ages can practice their jazz skills at a series of clinics offered by Schoolcraft College, Friday-Monday, Dec. 16-19.

Anyone simply interested in listening to the music and watching the musicians also may attend the free sessions, which will culminate in a concert by four college jazz groups on Monday.

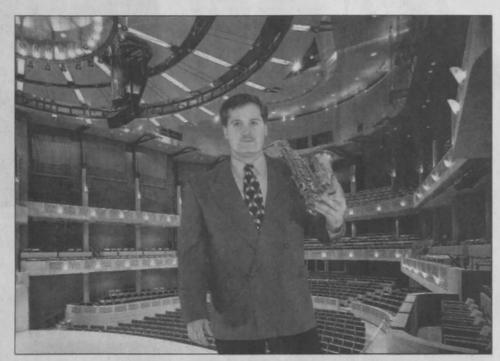
Riccardo Selva, director of jazz studies at Schoolcraft College since 2009, looks forward to bringing his former professor and mentor, Don Owens of Northwestern University, to the fourday event.

"He is just a wonderful teacher and musician," Selva said.

Last May, Schoolcraft's jazz program went to Northwestern as part of a Chicago tour. "All of the students really liked him. We're bringing him back in," said Selva, a Southgate resident.

The upcoming clinics evolved from a one-day event with guest jazz artist Wayne Bergeron last spring.

"That was in April and that was our first big guest artist. As a result, I applied for a grant and received funding from the Schoolcraft College Foundation for our current guest artist and four days as opposed to one," said Selva, adding that the spring clinic and



Riccardo Selva, director of jazz studies at Schoolcraft College looks forward to bringing his former professor, Don Owens to the four-day jazz event.



Don Owens Northwestern University faculty

concert
"attracted a lot of
people."
He
expects
the
upcoming series

ing series will draw organized student jazz groups,

individual musicians, as well as jazz lovers who simply want to attend the series to watch and hear the performances.

Involving youth

The program will feature an open rehearsal Sunday, Dec. 18, at



Schoolcraft College's Jazz Ensemble performs in Chicago, III., earlier this year.

Schoolcraft, located on Haggerty north of Six Mile in Livonia.

"We're really trying to spread the arts to the younger generation," Selva said. "There's nothing like participating in a musical group. We're trying to turn them on to

#### **JAZZ CLINICS**

Friday, Dec. 16: Peggy Babcock, Farmington Harrison High School Jazz Band director hosts a clinic, 3-6 p.m. at Farmington Harrison High School, 29995 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Owens will work with local high school jazz ensembles and visitors. Bring your own instruments. Saturday, Dec. 17: School, community groups and individuals can participate in a clinic from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Alexander Music Building at Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti. Bring your own instruments. Sunday, Dec. 18: The open rehearsal, with the Schoolcraft College Jazz Department and the Eastern Michigan University Jazz Ensemble, runs 3-6 p.m. in the DiPonio Room at Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center. Bring your own instruments to sit in with the college musicians. Monday: Dec. 19: A composers workshop runs 10:30 a.m.-noon, n the Presentation Room at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. Participants should bring their instruments and may bring their original compositions. Piano and drums will be provided. From 3:30-5 p.m., professional jazz musicians and professors talk about the specific roles of each player in both a jazz combo and jazz ensemble. They'll also present Ideas and strategies for improvisation. Participants with instruments will form a jazz combo and receive coaching. Piano and drums will be provided.

that. That should be really fun."

Selva has contacted Livonia schools and found interest among local educators in working with Owens. He sent out mailings to 57 high school music programs in the area.

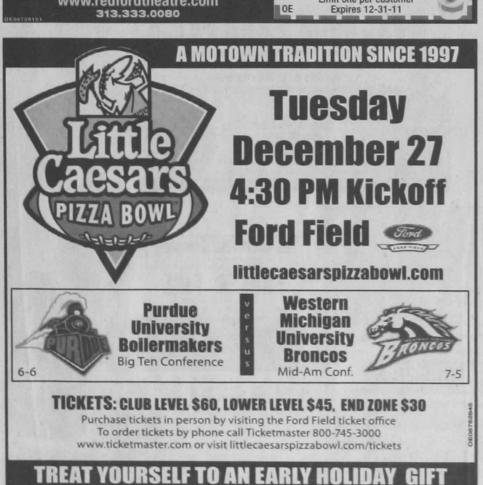
"I'm working heard to get kids to join us in the (Sunday) rehearsal. Experiencing some great music-making is unlike recorded music. It's an aesthetic experience unlike anything else."

Owens will premiere an original work, The Chicken Borman Shuffle, named for one of his grandkids, at the concert on Monday, Dec. 19. Performers will include the Eastern Michigan University Jazz Ensemble, Schoolcraft College's Jazz Ensemble and its Jazz Combo, along with a group consisting of Selva, his Schoolcraft colleague, Barton Polot, drummer Bill Cairo, bass player Paul Keller and Don Babcock of Eastern Michigan University.

"No one has heard that piece. I have the score and I'll be rehearsing it with some of my people," Selva said. "There are elements of contemporary music to the

Please see JAZZ, B7









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#### Art

#### ART & IDEAS

Time/Date: Through Dec. 24; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or by appointment Location: 15095 Northville Road, in Plymouth

Details: "Downtown Foot Art" includes works by the gallery's artist-in-residence, Shaqe Kalaj. She focused on historical buildings in downtown Plymouth for her series of works which she sketched and painted with her feet in the outdoors over the summer

Contact: (734) 420-0775

#### DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

**Details:** Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12, 2012 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8, 2012; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

18, 2012

#### NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Through Jan. 13, 2012

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details:** Call for entries to the 6th annual Member Exhibition that runs Feb. 3-18,

Contact: (248) 344-0497

#### PLYMOUTH COMMU-NITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Dec. 17 Location: 774 N. Sheldon. Plymouth

Details: Artist reception for exhibit that runs through Dec. 22, featuring works in colored pencil, ink, pastel and watercolor by members of Pam Grossmann's adult drop-in drawing classes. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Contact: (734) 416-4278

#### GET OUT!



The Wayne County Lightfest, featuring more than 45 animated displays, is open 7-10 p.m. daily through Dec. 31 along Hines Drive, in Westland. The attraction is closed Christmas Day.

#### Comedy

#### Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m.

Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomedy.net

#### JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

#### JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31; Charlie Wiener, Jan. 4-7, 2012; Dave Waite, Jan. 11-14, 2012; Norm Stultz, Jan. 18-21

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

#### MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Lars Callieou, Dec. 15-17; David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31 Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

#### Dance

#### MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Please see GET OUT!, B7

# 2011 CHRISTMAS TREE GUIDE Find your perfect tree by visiting one of these fine businesses!



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TREE PLANTATION

9381 Day Road near Maybee, MI
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Trees for higher ceilings
(up to 20 ft. tall)
SPECIALS
Directions: South on US-23 to exit 25.
Right on Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd., turn
left 3 miles to farm P. Holtz Est. 1947











Bring in your stand we will fresh cut, prune & fit your tree to your stand!

7300 N Wayne Rd • Westland N of Warren, next to McDonalds (734) 578-7038 Open 7-days a week



#### **GET OUT!**

Continued from page B6

#### Film

#### **PENN THEATRE**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Polar Express," \$3 Coming up: "Elf," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23; "The Big Year," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, 2012, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30; and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31; "Puss In Boots," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2012; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8, 2012; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012; all seats \$3

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

#### REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 17

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit Details: "It's a Wonderful Life," tickets \$4

Coming up: "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2012 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 7, 2012

Make your reservation today



Youth Choir members are Summer Edwards, (left) Satyam Joseph, Nora Wygant, and Corey Goines. All are from Farmington Hills. They and other members will perform Dec. 22 at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre.

Contact: (313) 537-2560

#### Museums

#### **CHARLES H. WRIGHT**

Contact: (313) 494-5800

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

Details: Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31 Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free

(248) 476-8385

#### CRANBROOK

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday-Sun-

Location: 39221 Woodward, **Bloomfield Hills** 

**Details:** Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain

Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

KELSEY MUSEUM OF AR-CHAEOLOGY

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday, through Dec. 18

Location: In the heart of the University of Michigan campus, 434 S. State, Ann Arbor

Details: "Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" will explore the story of a site excavation initiated by U of M in the 1920s and 1930s. It will illuminate the historical records of a single village community, located 80 kilometers southwest of Cairo in the Egyptian countryside, during Egypt's Greco-Roman period Contact: (734) 764-9304

JAZZ

Continued from page B5

piece, but there's also the blues shuffle, straight forward jazz-blues."

The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the DiPonio Room of the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. Tickets are available at www. scboxoffice.com and at the main bookstore. Cost is \$8 general admission; \$5 students and seniors; children under 12 will be admitted free.

#### Joining in

All of the clinics are open to the public. Musicians of all ages may bring their instruments. They'll form 'pick up" groups if they don't have their own jazz ensembles.

"There's nothing like making music with your friends," Selva said, who plays in a jazz ensemble with men in their 70s and 80s. Many of his fellow musicians have played an instrument for most of their lives.

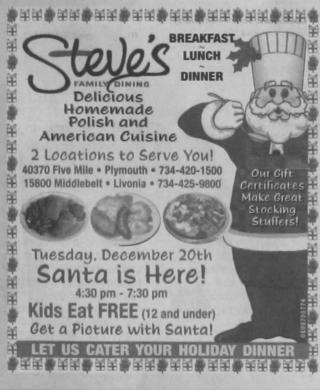
"The music is something very near and dear to them," he said. "They pass it on to their children. They love music and they sometimes play in groups together. It brings us all together, all ages, and it's something that enriches everybody's life."

> For more information, e-mail Selva at rselva@schoolcraft.edu.

#### New Year's Eve Celebration Monaghan Banquet Center 19801 Farmington Road • Livonia, MI 48152 **December 31, 2011** \$100 per couple **Entertainment by CCKing Productions** will start at 6pm Hors d'Oeuvres from 6 to 7 pm Dinner served from 7:00 to 8:30 pm Dress to Impress Pizza at 1:00am



Check out these local businesses. Many are offering great values and are ready to serve you...ENJOY!













Between Cherry Hill and Palmer 734-895-7111

#### (313) 222-8883 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Add this grab-and-go snack to holiday recipes

f you're planning a long day of holiday shopping, don't forget to slip a snack into your pocket or purse. Raisins are the perfect portable food to help you recharge as you negotiate the mall crowds.

This little fruit has big benefits that help to maintain a healthy lifestyle, according to the California Raisins Marketing Board. Raisins, which are dried grapes, are fat and cholesterol free, naturally low in sodium, packed with antioxidant protection for heart and colon health, a great addition to the day's total intake of dietary fiber and potassium, known to contain compounds that may inhibit growth of the bacteria associated with tooth and gum disease and an ideal source of all-natural energy.

Raisins rank among the top antioxidant foods, according to USDA government tests.

They're also a sweet addition to favorite foods - from beverages to treats. Try these recipes, courtesy of Sun-Maid, for your next holiday gathering:



Merry Munchies

#### Raisin Chocolate Fudge Makes 25 pieces

1½ cups sugar

- ½ cup light corn syrup
- & cup butter or margarine
- 12 large marshmallows or 1½ cups mini marshmallows
- 12-ounce package (2 cups) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cups coarsely chopped walnuts 1 cup Sun-Maid Natural Raisins

Butter an 8-inch square pan. In 2-1/4-quart saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup, milk and butter. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until butter melts and sugar is dissolved. Add marshmallows. Bring to a full boil, stirring constantly; boil 5 minutes. Remove from heat; add chocolate pieces and vanilla. Stir until chocolate is melted. Stir in walnuts and raisins; pour into buttered pan. Let stand until firm; cut into squares.



Raisin Chocolate Fudge

#### **Merry Munchies** Makes 3 dozen cookies

- & cup butter or margarine softened 1½ cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

1 package (1 cup) Sun-Maid Baking Raisins Heat oven to 350 F. Combine butter, brown sugar, egg and vanilla; beat until well blended. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add to butter mixture; mix well. Stir in walnuts and raisins. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheets. Bake at 350 F for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from cookie sheets; cool on wire racks.

#### **Baked Brie with Zesty**

Raisins Makes 24 servings

- 2 (4½ ounces each) wedges or rounds Brie cheese
- 2 tablespoons orange juice 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- & cup Sun-Maid Golden Raisins or Sun-Maid
- Natural Raisins
- 1 tablespoon packed brown sugar

2 tablespoons finely shredded orange peel Cut Brie wedges in half horizontally. Set aside. Heat juices just to boiling in a saucepan. Remove from heat. Stir in raisins. Cover and let stand 10 minutes. Drain. Stir in sugar and peel. Spoon half of mixture on bottom of Brie wedges, place wedge on top. Cover with remaining raisin mixture. Wrap individually and chill for a mini-

To serve, bake uncovered at 400 F for 8 to 10 minutes or until Brie is warm and slightly softened. Serve with crackers.

mum of 2 hours or up to 3 days.

#### **Hot Fruit Punch**

Makes about 1-4 gallons 1½ gallons water

- 7 to 8 sticks sugar cane (or 1 16-ounce can with syrup)
- 4 to 5 tamarind pods, husked and strings
  - 2 to 3 cinnamon sticks
  - 1 cup Sun-Maid Natural Raisins
- 1 cup Sun-Maid Pitted Prunes 3 to 4 apples cored and sliced
- 3 to 4 fresh or frozen guavas
- Granulated sugar to taste Brandy, optional

Heat water, sugar cane, tamarind and cinnamon sticks in a large pot. Boil uncovered for 6 to 7 minutes. If desired, use a slotted spoon to remove sugar canes and cinnamon sticks. Add raisins, prunes, apples, guavas and sugar to taste. Simmer until fruit is soft, approximately 5

to 10 minutes. Serve hot with brandy, if desired.

#### CITY BITES

#### Brunch anyone?

PLYMOUTH - Get prime rib, Eggs Benedict, Belgian waffles, smoked salmon, bacon, sausage, salads, desserts and more at Sean O'Callaghan's Holiday Brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$18.99 for adults and \$8.99 for children. Make reservations by calling (734) 459-6666. The restaurant is located at 821 Penniman.

#### **Tasty fundraiser**

PLYMOUTH - Selling lots of Grand Traverse Pie Company certificates was no pie-in-the-sky dream for the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC). The organization sold more than 200 certificates, each good for one nine-inch pie, earlier this fall to help fund its youth theater program, Plymouth Uptown Players, (PUPS). The group earned \$1,000 from the fundraiser, which will benefit PUPS' in project development and prop purchases. Learn more about PUPS at www. plymoutharts.com. For more about Grand Traverse Pie Company call (734) 459-9200.

#### **Apple honors**

SOUTH LYON - William Erwin and William Emery of Erwin Orchards & Cider Mill in South Lyon earned a fourth place — and honorable mention — for their apple cider at the 15th annual Michigan Apple Cider Contest, held earlier this month in Grand Rapids. The contest is cosponsored by the Michigan Apple Committee and Bob Tritton, a Michigan State University Extension District Fruit Educator.



#### **Red Kettles**

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN — Donate \$1 to The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit at Buddy's Pizza and you'll and receive a paper Red Kettle that can be signed and displayed in the store. The donation drive continues through Dec. 24 at all nine Buddy's locations. Local stores are at 31646 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills and 33605 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

## Celebrate breakfast with the crunch of almonds

Some things are just better together; milk and cookies, Bert and Ernie, and breakfast with almonds.

It's not surprising that breakfast - known as the most important meal of the day - is often skipped thanks in large part to chaotic mornings that leave little time for making nutritious meals.

But it's always good to remember why the most important meal of the day earned its reigning title.

Cynthia Sass, author of the New York Times Best Selling Book Cinch! Conquer Cravings, Drop Pounds and Lose Inches, is a great believer in the power of a nutritious breakfast.

"My first tip when counseling people is to get them started on breakfast. Something is better than nothing. People may think skipping breakfast means saving calories, but in fact it forces your body to work when it doesn't have fuel, which can result in a sluggish metabolism," Sass explains. "Even if you aren't hungry, train your body to eat something in the morning. People tend to eat fewer calories and make healthier choices throughout the day when they start

Sass's secret weapon for a breakfast packed with a whole lot of punch? Almonds.

The almond, in all of its versatile forms - whether whole, sliced, roasted, chopped, as almond butter or almond milk - often makes a daily appearance in Sass's morning menu.

Including almonds in your breakfast is the extra boost a bowl of cereal, cup of low-fat yogurt, or slice of whole wheat toast needs to go from good to even better.

A recent study published in the February 2011 issue of Nutrition & Metabolism by Dr. Mori, et al, found that eating a breakfast upgraded with almonds (a low glycemic index food) aided in stabilizing blood glucose levels for the better part of the day, while also keeping study participants satiated for a longer period of time. Read the article, "Acute and second-meal effects of almond form in impaired glucose tolerant adults: a randomized crossover trial" by Dr. Mori and her team, at www.nutritionandmetabolism.com/content/8/1/6.

In addition, the U.S. Dietary Guidelines recommend that the

majority of your fat intake come from unsaturated foods. One serving of almonds (28g) has 13 grams of fat and only 1gram of saturated fat, so almonds are a healthy snack you can eat worry free.

Here are some favorite almond breakfast ideas to help start the day right: · Top whole wheat toast with

almond butter and sliced bananas. · Add almonds to oatmeal with skim or low-fat milk topped with dried or fresh fruit.

· Sprinkle sliced almonds into your breakfast parfait layered with low-fat yogurt and fruit.

· Toss toasted, sliced almonds into scrambled eggs or a veggie omelet for an extra healthy boost.

· Dip half a banana into nonfat yogurt, then roll into chopped roasted almonds and oatmeal Wrap in parchment paper and freeze overnight.

· Smooth rich almond butter onto apple slices and enjoy.

For more breakfast recipe ideas, tips from registered dieticians and the latest almond research visit www.AlmondBoard.com.

- Courtesy of Family Features



Almonds added to cereal

#### FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Specialty: Helping seniors move to new quarters

By Nancy Austin Seniors Real Estate Specialist

specialize in helping seniors move. Usually that statement will evoke a surprised, questioning look. Most people don't realize there are Realtors who are dedicated to helping seniors

move.

If you

glance at



Nancy Austin

the foot of this column you will see I am a Seniors Real Senior Living Estate

Specialist. The designation is awarded by the National Association of Realtors.

Let me tell you a little bit

about it. Seniors Real Estate Specialists (SRES) are Realtors qualified to address the needs of home buyers and sellers age 50+. The SRES Council awards the designation to those members who have successfully completed its education

program. The Realtor has demonstrated the necessary knowledge and expertise to counsel clients age 50+ through major lifestyle transitions involved in relocating, or selling the family home or both. The SRES also receives regular updates and is prepared to offer the options and information needed in making

life-changing decisions. A network of SRES Realtors® now exists

and can be found in metro Detroit, in Michigan and in our 50 states. Most families find us through referrals from retirement communities, workshops, and word of mouth.

I have been an SRES, for approximately 15 years. I love it. It is my passion. I love helping the seniors and working with their families.

My interest in obtaining my designation began with my parents. During their later years, their concerns about their home centered around which updates were most important so the house would sell easily. Utilizing the expertise I have acquired over the years, I was able to advise them of the importance of the updated kitchen and bath, removing wallpaper, neutral paints, decluttering and maintaining pleasant landscaping. These are the kinds of things that affect the overall appeal to a potential buyer.

I also realized at the same time that other seniors were exposed to losing equity in their homes due to a lack of updating; or perhaps, not knowing which were the more valuable updates. I knew I could help minimize their loss as well as smoothing and de-stress the moving transition.

How does it all work? Say, for example, I visit your home and ascertain through our visit and conversation, that your



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A variety of senior housing options are available, including those owned by American

home needs some paint, new carpet or refinished hardwood floors. Additionally, since you have been in your home for the last 20-40 years or more, you have accumulated antiques, china, figurines, tools, vintage clothing, and years and years worth of National Geographic magazines. Maybe furniture needs to be repositioned to show off the space you are selling. I can advise you as to what is best for the appearance of your home. My consultations are complimentary. I can then refer you to my list of trusted contractors. If you engage any of these services, you would then pay whatever fee they charge. Or, of course, you are free to use your own plumber, electrician, painter or

We also recognize that many times the adult children, who could otherwise be helping, may live in other parts of the state or even in other states. I have worked with families who have adult children both locally and long distance keeping all abreast of the work being done. I work with compa-

organizer.

nies that, if you have no help (or even if you do), will help from organize the move to the actual move. There are dedicated employees within these companies that are so thorough that they make sure that in your new living quarters, your new bedroom is readied, including making your bed to insure a good night's sleep. They will also make sure your kitchen is usable when you wake up your first morning there. There are companies that will dispose of or move items to children's houses or will dispose of articles through consignment, estate sales, and donations.

We know and respect the seniors' various financial and legal positions. Should you need professional help in those areas, we have contacts which include financial planners and elder law attorneys.

We have a firm grasp on retirement living options such as retirement communities, assisted living, Alzheimer units, senior condo complexes and other living arrangements such as retrofitting a

house to enable a senior to age in place if so desired.

There are so many facets to helping seniors with the transition. In short, An SRES understands that this can be a stressful time for a family. An SRES works with seniors because he or she enjoys interacting with them. They enjoy helping others. They have respect for older individuals. They have an ability to listen and to ask the right questions. They like to sit and chat with the senior and the family. They enjoy learning about their life and ambitions. They are there to tailor the move to the senior's needs. They are patient and are prepared to take as long as the families deem necessary for this transition. An SRES is there for the senior. Short and simple. I think the best way to describe the help with the move is: if you need it, we can see to it that it will be accomplished.

Seniors Real Estate Specialist Nancy Austin may be reached at nancyaustin@ gmail.com or by calling her at (734) 718-8900.

\$125,000

\$72,000

\$80,000

\$41,000

\$165,000

### Food draws a crowd

By Robert Meisner **Guest Columnist** 

Q: We have a problem which I suspect is like many other associations in that our coowners are apathetic about attending meetings. Do you have any suggestions?

A: I have somewhat tongue in cheek told my association clients that there are two ways of getting co-owners at annual meetings. First, levy an additional or special assessment and, second, have an open bar. There is some truth to the latter in that I have seen situations where participation is



Robert Meisner

engendered by serving coffee and cake. It is also important to start the meeting with an explanation of what

is going to take place and what procedures you are going to follow. Another interesting idea is to schedule guest speakers; they could be local politicians or people of interest in your area. It could even be a fellow coowner who has expertise in an interesting subject that they want to share with the community and, finally, it is the need to participate in the democracy of your association which directly affects the way in which you live. That is, of course, the

Q: We have a unit owner in our condominium that has asked the association to be placed at the top of a rental waiting list as an accommodation for their daughter's handicap. They live in a second floor unit (no elevator) and it is difficult to carry her up the stairs. So far the unit owner says that installing a lift up the stairs is not possible. They want to move where there is better access for her and they say that they need to rent their existing unit sooner rather than later in order to afford the new home.

What do you think we have to do?

most important reason for

anyone to attend.

A: This is, indeed, a difficult question, but in a federal court case in the 2nd Circuit it was held that the Federal Fair Housing Act addresses accommodating handicaps, but not alleviating economic disadvantages with having a handicap. The court held that there is not an obligation under the FHAA to provide an accommodation to remedy economic status. Simply stated, the FHAA is intended to insure that a handicap person has an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a unit, but renting the unit isn't using or enjoying the unit. At best, it allows them to use and enjoy a different unit in a different property. They aren't asking for an accommodation to use a unit in the condominium. The association should be willing to let them install a lift or make other modifications to the building to accommodate them so they can use and enjoy their unit, but that should be enough. You are best advised, however, to retain an experienced condominium lawyer who can opine on the specific facts of your case.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates. com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

#### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 6-9, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

#### CANTON

44152 Arlington Kd
44042 Bannockburn D
41663 Bedford Dr
49068 Belfair Ct
1660 Bennington Ct
6845 Bridgemont Dr
655 Cherry Orchard R
44941 Coachman Ct
3903 Cornerstone Dr
6230 Cottonwood Dr
4031 Elizabeth Ave
42135 Fairview Dr
3998 Fieldview Dr
41447 Glade Rd
1749 Glenshire Dr
3088 Haverford Dr

\$128,000 \$142,000 \$47,000 \$400,000 \$50,000 \$272,000 \$125,000 \$126,000 \$105,000 \$675,000 \$125,000 \$199,000 \$100,000

\$160,000

\$344,000

45097 Horseshoe Cir 44700 Kirk Ct 48895 Manhattan Cir 45195 Middlebury Ln 1704 Orchard Dr 47584 Pembroke Dr 377 Queens Way 7734 S Royal Ct 1789 Stonebridge Way Ct 45165 Thornhill Rd 8127 Warfield St 1031 Wildwood Ln 42087 Woodcreek Ln 2133 Woodmont Dr W 2500 Woodmont Dr W 48922 Woodson Way **GARDEN CITY** 32139 Balmoral St

30944 Barton St 29688 James St 341 W Rose Ave LIVONIA

36725 Angeline Cir 15989 Blue Skies Dr 33998 Bretton Dr 29680 Clarita St 14320 Doris St

\$120,000 \$175,000 \$268,000 \$272,000 \$23,000 \$76,000 \$159,000 \$150,000 \$335,000 \$269,000 \$145,000

\$169,000 \$293,000 \$75,000 \$150,000 \$305,000 \$45,000 \$62,000 \$40,000 \$40,000

\$120,000 \$200,000 \$200,000 \$52,000 \$145,000

19626 Hardy St 32052 Joy Rd 18857 Lathers St 29260 Lyndon St 18916 Norwich Rd 16540 Riverside St 15145 Taylor Blvd 16237 Wayne Rd 28562 Wentworth St NORTHVILLE 16932 Algonquin Dr 16022 Brook Trout Ln 18190 Cascade Dr 16856 Dundalk Ct 705 Randolph St 715 Randolph St 18549 Steep Hollow Ct 39748 Village Run Dr **PLYMOUTH** 

18590 Gill Rd

764 Ann St 11846 Brownell Ave 8839 Cobblestone Cir 49559 Donovan Blvd 15214 Lakewood Dr 51191 Plymouth Lake Cir 11420 Spicer Dr

\$92,000 \$100,000 \$71,000 \$135,000 \$145,000 \$155,000 \$190,000 \$152,000 \$110,000 \$363,000 \$135,000 \$341,000

\$54,000 \$65,000 \$440,000 \$195,000 \$195,000 \$140,000 \$90,000

\$165,000

\$540,000

\$185,000

1165 W Ann Arbor Trl \$395,000 REDFORD 25950 Five Mile Rd \$205,000 12903 Beech Daly Rd \$48,000 14383 Fenton \$61,000 15087 Fenton \$75,000 \$42,000 15803 Fox 9648 Garfield \$60,000 9218 Louis \$49,000 11439 Seminole \$31,000 18457 Sumner 15425 Woodworth WESTLAND \$23,000 34130 Beechnut St \$50,000 33421 Fran Ct \$60,000 8039 Fremont St \$57,000 7912 Gary Ave 33530 Harvard Ave \$73,000 \$130,000 30340 Marshall Ct \$66,000 485 N Sybald St 34538 Nancy St \$72,000 \$75,000

2054 S Newburgh Rd

267 Summerfield Dr

30963 Windsor St

8335 Sanford Dr

14150 Terrace Ct

#### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

#### **BEVERLY HILLS** 16925 Birwood Ave \$127,000 19200 Devonshire St \$360,000

BIRMINGHAM	
812 Chapin Ave	\$470,000
1368 Cole St	\$94,000
685 Kennesaw St	\$450,000
351 Lake Park Dr	\$905,000
1245 S Bates St	\$290,000
411 S Old Woodwa	ard Ave
Unit	\$210,000
411 S Old Woodwa	ard Ave
Unit	\$140,000
100 Shirley Pd	\$225,000

1621 Torry St \$108,000 1347 Villa Rd 2236 W Lincoln St \$290,000 \$665,000 **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** 717 Browning Ct \$635,000 2802 Heathfield Rd \$218,000

3865 Oakhills Dr \$185,000 1768 Shaker Heights Dr \$265,000 2742 Turtle Bluff Dr \$199,000

4224 Wabeek Lake Dr S \$165,000 4755 Walnut Lake Rd

\$250,000 1515 Winthrop Rd \$20,000 BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

250 Billingsgate Ct \$75,000 1873 Chipping Way \$140,000 2171 Devonshire Rd \$100,000 1310 E Square Lake Rd \$230,000 \$171,000

5530 Farmers Ct 1207 Hidden Lake Dr \$1,310,000 3372 Indian Summer Dr

\$605,000 2617 Kopson Ct \$2 2895 Meadowood Ln \$220,000 \$1,398,000 3926 Oakland Dr \$1,400,000

3915 Orchard Hill Dr 3842 Wabeek Lake Dr E \$355,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP 2016 Alpha St \$58,000 2170 Applebrook Dr \$285,000 4660 Benstein Rd \$92,000 4070 Bluebird Dr \$27,000 4918 Driftwood Dr 7970 Flagstaff St \$270,000 \$485,000 5170 Joe Dr 3712 Loch Bend Dr \$345,000 6025 Lochmore Dr \$150,000

2574 Solace Dr 5662 Strawberry Cir \$383,000 FARMINGTON 32010 Grand River Ave \$19,000 32655 Meadowlark Ct

\$107,000 23800 Power Rd **FARMINGTON HILLS** 29463 Breezewood \$105,000 30041 Briarton St \$101,000

31118 Country Ridge Cir

30020 Eastfield St \$93,000 29264 Fieldstone \$228,000 29519 Fox Grove Rd \$173,000 28564 Golf Pointe Blvd

\$249,000 33453 Harlan Dr \$201,000 \$83,000 \$175,000 28300 N Skye Dr 21875 Parklane St 23045 Purdue Ave 29122 Raleigh Rd \$168,000 32360 Red Clover Rd

\$100,000 20865 Rensselaer St \$110,000 25580 Ridgewood Dr

\$199,000 21919 S Brandon St \$80,000 25576 Wessex St \$161 24740 Westmoreland Dr

\$87,000 30557 Woodstream Dr FRANKLIN

24770 Franklin Park Dr \$440,000 30714 Helmandale Dr MILFORD

2795 Rivendell

836 Chatham Dr \$200,000 1092 Eagle Nest Dr \$235,000 1464 Garden Rd \$91,000 2858 Honeywell Lake Rd \$405,000 1015 Pearson Dr

\$249,000 NOVI 44463 Bristol Cir \$313,000 20902 Chase Dr \$440,000

1312 Yosemite Valley Dr

\$535,000

22246 Chase Dr 29120 Eastman Trl \$300,000 25948 Island Lake Dr \$388,000

44891 Lafayette Dr \$280,000 51146 Mayfair Ter \$45,000 25675 Shoreline Dr \$995,000 22785 Summer Ln \$410,000 24178 Trafalgar Ct \$379,000 40644 Village Oaks \$204,000 45760 White Pines Dr \$325,000

SOUTH LYON 22365 Brookfield Dr \$165,000 23794 Copperwood Dr W \$50,000

1099 Gentry Dr 881 Hearthside St \$125,000 25785 McCrory Ln \$223,000 344 S Warren St \$68,000 54465 Villagewood Dr \$30,000

SOUTHFIELD 27308 Apple Blossom Ln \$103,000

27555 Arlington Ct \$142,000 26313 Franklin Pointe Dr \$30,000 25520 Grand Concourse St

\$119,000 28720 Inkster Rd \$80,000 17309 Jeanette St \$135,000 22500 Lucerne Dr \$33,000 20459 Mada Ave 27046 Selkirk St \$65,000 28046 Senator Cir \$139,000 16160 Sherfield Pl \$108,000 30216 Southfield Rd # A135

WHITE LAKE

10311 Cedar Point Dr \$300,000 10882 Hillway St 2103 Kingston St 9410 Leona St \$55,000 \$165,000

#### BRIEFS Career Seminar

#### Keller Williams

Realty will offer a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For information, contact: Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@ kw.com.

#### **Finance** Learn how to

finance purchase and rehab projects. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. Seminars 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

Help Wanted-General

apartments.com. HomeFinder

Homes

Hardwood, water-proofed basement, 2 car garage, huge lot, totally redone in 2006. Extremely clean. A steal at \$45,900! Contact Lain Hanna, Max Broock Realtors 248-953-5496

WESTLAND CO-OP HOUSING ready, asking \$38,000. Call: (734) 891-5688

**Manufactured Homes** 

Call Steve (734) 414-9760 доми раумени

We finance with approved isəmon banked owned on previously %05 of qu ave? Most homes have been rem

Recycle This Newspaper **Manufactured Homes** 

**CANTON HOMES** FOR SALE \$16,900

ments as low as \$629/mo. Includ surance, home payment and lot rent. sancing available. 3 bedroom/2 bath. deck, shed & appliances. .44.

SUN HOMES Academy/Westpoint ademywestpoint.com 1-888-658-5659 expires 12/31/11

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**OWN YOUR HOME** FOR AS LOW AS

\$9,900

2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH CARD UPON CLOSE! CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONI

**COLLEGE PARK ESTATES** 

CANTON, MI (888) 265-9858

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LIVONIA - Mid 5/Middlebelt 2 bdrm with laundry room in unit. \$666/mo. 50% Off 1st Month's Rent! Call: (248) 521-1978

LIVONIA MANOR: 2 bdrm appliances. Heat/Water incl Starting \$695/mo. 5 Mile & E/Middlebelt. 734-288-8430 LIVONIA: HEAT/WATER INCL!

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bdrms, bsmt, 2 car garage fireplace, pool/workout room. \$1250/mo. 734-216-1933

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2 car garage, newly decorated \$1500/mo. Call: 248-330-9262 COMMERCE TWP. Lovely

privelges, appli., fenced yard 248-568-6119 GARDEN CITY 1 Bdrms only \$579 2 Bdrms only \$619 ewly updated, Hurry-Limited supply! New Management

Bentley Square (734) 367-1087, EHO GARDEN CITY

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**Auction Sales** 

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Cabinetry/Formica \* TILE WORK \* Install yours from \$125 Bath grout from \$75

Caulking 734-469-0565

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Need to rent that house or apartment?

Place an ad with the

Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies

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NORTHVILLE, Downtown Sat. Dec. 17, 1-4. Antique furniture & more. Off 8 Mile PLYMOUTH - MOVING leautiful cream colored sec-onal sofa, custom red fabric chalf espresso wood arms, mahogany buffet, curio cabinet, dining room table/cane chairs w/custom felt pad, Tvs, tables, rugs, lamps, 2 rust/green Walker Buzenburg recliners, whicker 5 prices furniture set, lawn mower, 16 ft extension ladder, leaf blower, garden tools, office desk with hutch & glass doors,

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hutch & glass doors, antiques, more. Showing Fri, Sat & Sun, Dec 16-18th, Call for appt. 734-306-4935

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armoire and wine rack, excel-lent cond, \$425/best offer.

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Newer twin box spring \$25, Twin box & mattress \$35, large side by side fridge \$125, dehu-midfler \$45, large chest freez-er \$225, small upright freezer \$110, gas stove \$85, blue sofa bed \$45, 248-465-0262

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With 4 king chairs, almost

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BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR

SALE: Styling chairs, sham-poo bowls and chairs, recep-tion chairs, dryer chairs, pedi-cure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves,

chair mats, washer/dryer, cell-ing fan and misc. items. Cast only. Dec. 10, 3:30-8pm 8 Dec. 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey

Plymouth. (248) 459-9888

Video Games, Tapes, Movies

PAC MAN MACHINE Neve

been painted. Original condi-tion. Takes quarters, Exc

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Hometown

Weeklies

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The right

candidate!

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hometownlife.com

Antiques & Collectibles Daisy BB Guns; CollectibleToys; Household Items; Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks

**Estate Sales** 

734.451.7444

**Estate Sale** Filming for HGTV's Cash & Cari Season 3 GREAT FINDS incl.
Primitive Furniture,
tique Telescope & Morel

420 Morgan Circle Northville MI 48167 Dec 16-17th, 10-5pm 248.719.8332

GARDEN CITY ESTATE/ GARAGE SALE 2nd phase Garage and work shop. Tools, household, fish ing, jewelry, misc. Sat. 12/17 10-4pm. 32135 Leona Merriman & Cherry Hill.



Planning an Estate Sale? Let Cash and

Cari Help The hit HGTV series Cash and Carl is entering it third season and is lookin for Michigan-based estat sales, cool collections and dirty barns to be featured

in our upcoming seaso being filmed in the wint and spring of 2011/2012. Whether you're downsiz ating an estate, host Car cucksey and her team will

For more information, call Jesse at 416-531-2500, ext 531, or e-mail your name, city/state, contact informa-

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**Auction Sales** 

#### Ceramics & Works Of Art SAT. DECEMBER 17TH AT 10:00 A.M. Over 600 lots featuring two old collections including over 200

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lots of antique Jade, over 100 lots of antique Ivory, over 150 lots of Chinese porcelain, cloisonnè, - Ming to Qing bronzes, and many more items not listed. On line bidding is available at: www.liveauctioneers.com www.proxibid.com • http://www.auctionzip.com

You can visit us at our website to preview all lots at http://www.midwestauctioninc.com Phone and absentee bids are always welcome.

Any questions feel free to call us at 248-236-8100

hometownlife.com

#### OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN

#### CLASSIFIED EARLY DEADLINES

The Classified Department of the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies Newspapers will be closed Monday, December 26th & Monday, January 2nd, so our employees may observe the Holidays.

Edition of Sunday, Dec. 25th Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads Classified Liners

Edition of Thursday, Dec. 29th Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads Classified Liners

Edition of Sunday, Jan. 1st Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads Classified Liners

Edition of Thursday, Jan. 5th Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads Classified Liners

Deadline

Thursday, Dec. 22 @ 5 pm Friday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm Friday, Dec. 23 @ 4 pm

Deadline Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon

Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon Tuesday, Dec. 27 @ 4 pm

Deadline

Thursday, Dec. 29 @ 5 pm Friday, Dec. 30 @ 3 pm Friday, Dec. 30 @ 4 pm

Deadline Friday, Dec. 30 @ noon

Friday, Dec. 30 @ noon Tuesday, Jan. 3 @ 4 pm

**Christmas Trees** 

Mutch's Hidden Pines LLC 303 W. Newark Rd., Lapeer

(1/2 mile east of M-24) Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce •Cut your own & pre-cuts
•Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate & more! •Wagon Rides

.Visit with Santa

from 10am-4pm Sat. & Sun. only Free Shaking, Bailing and Drilling. **Business Hours** Friday, November 25, 9:00am-5:00pm. Friday's Dec. 2, 9, 16, 12:00pm-5:00pm. Saturday's & Sun's, Nov. 26-Dec. 18, 9:00am-5:00pm.

U-CUT-FIR, PINE & SPRUCE Open 7 days, 10AM 'til Dusk 10AM 'til Dusk
Closed Thanksgiving Day
HOLTZ CHRISTMAS TREE
PLANTATION
9381 Day Rd. near
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Trees for higher ceilings
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www.mutchs hiddenpines.com

Visa & MC a

SPECIALS
Directions: South on
US-23 to exit 25. Right on
Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd.,
turn left 3 miles to farm
P. Holtz Est. 1947.

TREE FARM

Large trees up to 19' our warm barn. Open Fri Sat. & Sun. 9am til Dark 3090 Dutcher Rd., Howell Take D-19 (at I-96, exi 137) South to Coon Lake Rd. West to Dutcher Rd.

For more into& a map. (517) 546-3890 Hospital/Medical Equipment

Aluminum Loading Ramps Handicapped & mobility, heavy duty & portable. For vans or RVs. 3 piece, One 6 ft & two 1 1/2 ft, with handles. Like new. \$295/best. 313-533-0098; 313-515-3330

CI PAT MACHINE-

the line. \$350, 734-449-7226 Lawn, Garden & Snow

SNOWBLOWER - ARIENS ST

724: 7 horse 8 & S, 24 Inch. portable cab, \$250. Calk (248) 891-8276 Miscellaneous For Sale

BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE: Styling chairs, sham-poo bowls and chairs, recep-tion chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations reception desk, glass shelves chair mats, washer/dryer, ceil ing fan and misc, items. Casi only. Dec. 10, 3:30-8pm & Dec. 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth. (248) 459-9888

248-348-7718

Must have a minimum of a Bachelor degree, 5+ years experience in development with fundraising, and/or grant writing skills grant writing skills required, proven track record of raising over \$3 million per year through direct mail, foundations, corporations and planned

> Microsoft Office Raiser's Edge required. Salary commensurate w/exp + excellent benefits.

Please send resume to: Attn: HR. CHM 2959 Martin Luther King Detroit, MI 48208. Fax: 319-463-222. Email: dherndon@ covenanthouse.org No phone calls please. Serious & qualified equiries only please. EOR

**Musical Instruments** 

PIANO- Gulbransen baby

grand plano cerca 1918, wal-nut stain, orgin, ivory keys. Exc cond\_/tone! Asking REGIONAL Elite \$2000. 248-626-3725 SERVICE

Open House

Candidates are asked to bring a printed copy of their application to the Open House. Regional Elite is an EOE

(734) 341-1629 Finance &

www.canton-mi.org

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All hands on manual labor position heavy lifting. Very fast paced environment in order to keep up with production quota.

MUST have manufacturing experience \$8.50/hr on lights.

HVAC COMPANY skills, able to talk to cus-tomers to generate leads in our Home Depot Stores. Flexible hrs, part time and full time gositions avail.

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Buckle up and prepare: Your career is about to take off! Regional Eite Aries Envices is a growing com-pany & currently has Part-time and Part-time flex Customer Service Agent openings at DTW- Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

When:December 15, 2011
Where: Mesaba Hangar
31515 Northline Rd.
(rwest of Middlebett Rd.,
last building on the left).
Time: 11:00am & 3:00pm
(open house begins
promptly at those times
with limited seating)
"business attire please"

MUST BE ABLE TO WORK IN A FAST PACE ATMOSPHERE. NO SLACKERS!!

Applications blvn 10:00 – 3:00 M-F 38025 Jaykay Dr, Romulus Off Cogswell blvn VanBorn and Ecorse NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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Please send resumes to: amy@cappyheating.com or fax at 734-484-0852



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Every Sun. 12-4 at Pets Supplies Plus, 43665 Ford

Rd., Canton. (734) 595-3646

KITTENS For Christmas:

12 weeks old, adorable need loving homes. 313-537-0685

Dogs

Awesome Selection of

Affordable Pups Ypsilanti and Wyandotte

734-487-0800

www.petcitypets.com

German Sheppard Pups

Ready for pickup- January

careerbuildercom

**Help Wanted-General** 

APPOINTMENT SETTER

Call Mon-Fri., 9-5pm. 734-728-4572 or email: phoneworkinfo@aol.com

**AUTO BODY** 

TECHNICIAN

Must be Certified

Call or email:

313-541-1800

CANVASSERS

WANTED

Base pay of \$10,00/hr Uncapped bonus potential A fun working environment Career advancement Paid Time Off " Co-Matching 401k Program"

Call (734) 462-6019

Minimum length of employ

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Come reserve your

CAT- Beautiful, loving, adult female indoor cat. Declawed loves attention. Looking for a good home. 248-486-4328 CAT- Super cute - young small playful & looking for good me. 248-486-4328 CAT/KITTEN ADOPTIONS

Customer Service Agent duties include loading/ unloading luggage, aircraft servicing. & bagoage handling in an outdoor environment as well as customer service, ticketing, & gate departure duties.

Candidates must be 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license with a good driving record, HS diploma or equivalent. Must be able to work varied schedules and be able to lift 35-70. Ibs repetitively. Preemployment criminal backedground check and drug test are required.

DIRECT CARE WORKER attitudes a must. Must have

**Budget Director** 

4:00pm 12/22/11 E.O.E.

SERTA MATTRESS Due to facility expansion and increased business, we have numerous DAY & NIGHT positions available in the below depts:

Answer to Previous Puzzle

OHS

BAT

DRENE PREEN DOG TWINE DOG COEN PEKE

BYGONE SPARSE OMOO HALL

BAA OWING MEW LIMIT GLOBE ICON STAYEDON LUNG EEL SEND

RRS

7-1 @ 2011 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS



Help Wanted-General

JOB OPENINGS

Starting Pay \$8.25/hr.
Raises, advancement..
Regular part-time work. EOE.
Apply for inventory at:
www.rgls.com

OFFICE CLEANERS NEEDED Mon-Fri. from 6pm-10pm. In the Livonia/ Farmington

PARKING ATTENDANTS \$9/hr, to start, Part time & ful time. Must have own transmiles a night. 248-682-1800

PROGRAMMER PROGRAMMER
Wanted for internal inventory and sales processing
software system. Exp. in
Business Basic or Cobol
would be a plus. We need
a reliable, hard working; self-starter for this permanent full time position with
an excellent benefit package. No travel is requiredfor this position located at
our main office in Livonia,
Michigan. Please fax your
resume and salary requirements to: (734) 452-3935

**TELEMARKETERS** No exp. nec. Good pay for good people. Call Sheri Mor Fri, 9-3pm. (248) 231-2102

#### TOOL AND DIE **MACHINISTS**

START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT AT THE PREMIER MACHINING FACILITY

SIGNING BONUS AVAILABLE AFTER 12 MONTHS EMPLOYMENT



Day Shift Available for the following positions: CNC Lathe CNC Mill

Positions include: CNC Lathe CNC Mill
Wire & Conventions
EDM
Surface ID & OD
Grinding

Apply in person between 8AM-4:30 PM at: Die-Namic Inc. 7555 Haggerty Rd. Belleville MI 48111 Or fax resumes to 734-710-3223 or email to sthomson@die-namic.com

EOE - M/F/D/V Help Wanted-Office Clerical

#### SUPPORT STAFF

2 openings for a Livonia based co, with salary & benefit packages. Must have the following skills and be strong in telephone answering, Microsoft office to include word and typing. Please forward resume to oeresume@hometownlife.com

**Help Wanted-Dental** 

#### DENTAL ASSISTANT

ASSISTANT
Premier Livonia Dental Office
is seeking a motivated and
dependable dental assistant
for a full time position.
Dental exp. is required. Must
possess strong listening,
computer and multi-tasking
skills. 5 day work week incl.
Tues evenings & Sat.
Fax resume:
734-462-6405 or email:
into@livoniadentistrypc.com

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Very well established family oriented, cosmetic dental practice in Birmingham seeking full time (35-40 hrs) dental assistant with some experience. Must have strong people skills, friendly, well-spoken, punctual, charismatic, organized & willing to learn & grow with us! Benefits avail.
Email resume to:
aneta8304@gmail.com **DENTAL ASSISTANT** 

Help Wanted-Medical

Full-Time in Troy. 3+ yrs exp in internal medicine. Must have exc. computer skills. 248-649-8060

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

practice in Con Fax resume: (248) 363-6202 MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

son to fill medical technician position. Part-time, possible full. No exp. preferred, we will train right person. perfect for HS grad! Send resume: PO Bax 530309, Livonia, MI 48152

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plass dispensing, exp. pre erred. Email resume to: eyecarehr@yahoo.com

PODIATRY ASSISTANT Exp. a must, part-time, flexi-ble hrs. for a multi-location Please call: 734-261-3400 Help Wanted-Medical **Help Wanted-Sales** 

Mature, experienced nurse needed for oncology clinic. Part time. Fax resume to

**SCRUB TECH &** 

MEDICAL ASST

Fax resume: 248-305-5880

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Attorneys/Legal Counseling

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CS&R 734-425-1074

DIVORCE

\$75.00

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hometownlife.com

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Deliver newspapers twice a week on Thursday and Saturday evening/Sunday morning in Plymouth/Canton area. Must have reliable transportation, car insurance and drivers license. Experience delivering newspapers helpful.

Call 734-582-8690

#### TOOL AND DIE **MACHINISTS**

Start the New Year Off Right! At the premier machining facility

> SIGNING BONUS AVAILABLE After 12 mo. employment



Day Shift Avail. for the following positions:

CNC Lathe & CNC Mill

Positions include:

CNC Lathe & CNC Mill Wire & Conventional EDM Surface ID & OD Grinding

A minimum of 5-7 years experience is required for all positions and must do own set-ups and control adjustments. We offer competitive wages and a full benefit package.

Apply in person between 8AM-4:30 PM at:

Die-Namic Inc. 7565 Haggerty Rd.

Belleville MI 48111 734-710-3223

or email to: sthomson@die-namic.com

EOE - M/F/D/V

#### TOOL AND DIE MACHINISTS

Start the New Year Off Right! At the premier machining facility

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Day Shift Avail. for the following positions:

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Die-Namic Inc.

7565 Haggerty Rd. Belleville MI 48111

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or email to:

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EOE - M/F/D/V

# Challenging fun for ALL ages

#### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Athena's sym-
- 4 Ernesto
- Guevara
- Hot soak Car that's seen
- better days
- 13 Leo mo. 14 Milan money,
- formerly
- 15 Luncheonette
- 16 Heavy fabrics 18 Allow
- 20 Offensively bold
- L-o-n-g time
- 22 Born as 23 Tribal emblem
- 26 Ranch work
- 30 Went jogging 31 London's Old
- 32 Debtor's note 33 Made a sound

- 36 Dirty 38 Go for the gold

- - Played loud 8 Non-soap
- aid 6 ld companion
  - opera

39 Protective shel-

43 Make trouble

46 Apollo's voyage 48 Pet name

50 "Mondo Cane"

52 Needleworker's supply

theme

51 Paintings

53 Parroted

DOWN

54 College maj. 55 Thing, in law

1 Physicist Georg

2 Exude mois-

40

- on (incited)

- ture Freeway strip 4 Rustic dwelling 5 Requiring first
  - trio 10 Leftovers dish
    - Thick soup 17 Ten-four buddy

9 Guadalajara

EDGE

TEND

APPETITE

19 PTA member 22 Toshiba com-23 Robert Morse

ELY

ABLE

BLEU

BEAR

- 24 Feedbag tidbit 25 Explosive ini-
- tials 26 Stashed away A crowd, for Caesar?
- 28 de guerre 29 Author de
- Maupassant Peace gesture 34 Tied the score 35 Eliminates
- 36 Opal or moonstone
- 37 High-pitched
- 39 Keno kin 40 Jane Austen heroine
- Gunk 42 Wound a matador
- 43 Fairway shout
- 44 Close 45 Weight rebate Broom rider 49 HMO staffers

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you sharpen your pencil and put vour sudoku savvy to the test!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles?

#### Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

#### Word Search — Winter Wonderland

E C D W Q S V C F Z A K W D ٧ D G Q A В Z Z X H X E N Н G S 0 Q C C V E K R Z E E E V H P D K 0 K N K G E Z C 0 U S L C 0 W W N E L D P R G A Q 0 C S C A R E 0 Y K X L ٧ E P F N Z Q C D Q P S D E G D S N 0 S A Ε S V Q E

ice

scarf

season

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE** 

freeze

gloves

hat

blizzard

coat

drift

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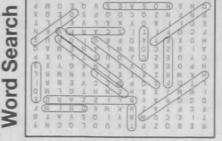
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