

CHECK OUT OUR GUIDE TO THE PERFECT TREE
SEE CLASSIFIED PAGE B7

LOOKING FOR FEATHERED FRIENDS
COMMUNITY LIFE, B5



HOLIDAY MASHUP: SCROOGE VS ALIENS
USA WEEKEND



Holiday need

The Plymouth Salvation Army, which serves Canton, Plymouth, Belleville and Northville, is running short on food to feed the needy during its Christmas service period.

Salvation Army officials say they still need some 350 turkeys and/or hams to be able to meet the growing need of people in need of help this holiday season.

Turkeys and hams can be dropped off at the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps, located on Main Street just south of Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

For more information, call the Salvation Army at (734) 453-5464.



Chris Prince won \$75,000 in a Fantasy Football Championship.

Poker prowess

Chris Prince, a postal worker from Canton, won the biggest prize in daily fantasy sports history by placing first in the FanDuel Fantasy Football Championship. Prince pocketed \$75,000 from FanDuel by defeating 11 other finalists in a one-day fantasy football contest Dec. 11 in Las Vegas.

Prince, 34, who has been playing daily fantasy sports on FanDuel.com for two years now, was the last to qualify for the Championship final and is still overwhelmed by the result.

"It feels truly amazing. I'm still in shock, to be honest. I can't even express how excited I was when I realized it was finally over. All the time and energy put into daily fantasy has now paid off tenfold," Prince said. "It was the best 10 bucks I ever spent!"

Unfortunately, Prince was unable to attend the Las Vegas live final of the Championship as his wife was about to give birth — and his daughter was born the very next day.

Magic show

Las Vegas magician and Michigan native Aaron Radatz returns to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton Friday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m.

Radatz presents his one-man show of magic and comedy with a holiday flavor that is geared to entertain the entire family. Performing at this venue has become a holiday tradition for Radatz.

Tickets range from \$17 to \$22 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5300.

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CANTON OBSERVER

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Title town



Coach George Tomasso and members of his boys soccer state champion Canton Chiefs were honored Tuesday by the Board of Education. The Chiefs beat Grand Haven, 1-0, to capture their second title (the first came in 1994, when Tomasso played for the team). In addition to going 24-1-2, the Chiefs put together a cumulative grade-point average of 3.34, with one 4.0 and six other players scoring at least a 3.8.

Group effort tackles huge holiday need

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

While it might take a village to raise a child, local charitable and civic organizations are finding out it takes a collaborative effort to make sure needy children and families can have what everyone wants this time of year.

A merry Christmas. And, where once the groups may have gone their separate ways to provide it, in the current struggling economy, they're making more of a collaborative effort to serve the need.

The groups include the Plymouth Salvation Army, both Plymouth and Canton Goodfellows, the Canton Community Foundation, the Plymouth Community United Way and a variety of local churches and other organizations. The idea: Cover as many of the needy families, without duplicating effort, as possible.

"We're working together to make sure kids have a good Christmas," said Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries for the Salvation Army, which serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville. "With the many, many community groups working together, we can cov-

er a lot more of the need." With the Salvation Army working as a sort of clearinghouse, groups are comparing the lists of people asking for help at any given time. Aren said a review of the lists found at least three dozen families on the lists of multiple organizations.

By applying the talents of each group to a widening list of families and children, more good is being done. And the list, more frequently than ever, includes families that might not meet the textbook definition of poor.

"We're supporting struggling families, not just the poor," said Dave Corliss of the Plymouth Goodfellows. "You're talking about a much larger number there."

The need is there. Corliss said the Plymouth Goodfellows are helping more than 100 families and between 200-300 children. According to Aren, the Salvation Army's numbers are at nearly 500 families and more than 1,000 children. And in Canton, the Canton Goodfellows effort takes up nearly the entire lower level of Canton Township Hall.

"The collaborative effort allows us to make sure we're not duplicating effort and no one is left out," said the Canton

Goodfellows' Nancy Spencer. "Pooling knowledge is very beneficial."

The groups are getting some help. While the Canton Goodfellows set a record with slightly more than \$10,000 with their annual newspaper drive this year, the Plymouth Goodfellows sale tracked well compared to last year (\$4,200) this year. The mail-in donations for Plymouth, he said, are tracking better than last year's \$42,000.

He said people still donate because they trust where the money is going. "Groups trust that we're handling the money properly," Corliss said. "We're very careful of that sense of trust."

Aren said groups are seeing repeat need, with some families needing help more than once during the year. And organizers said it's not just those below the poverty line. The list includes the unemployed, the underemployed and the uninsured.

And even with all the help, they know they probably aren't reaching everyone who needs it.

"That's the thing that keeps us up at night," Corliss said. "It's the people we missed."

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District takes cell phones off the hook

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

High school students in the Plymouth-Canton school district will be able to use cell phones starting with the second semester under a pilot program approved Tuesday by the district's Board of Education.

District policy strictly prohibits the use of cell phones during school hours, but students under the new pilot program will now be able to use them in hallways, cafeterias and, at teachers' discretion, as learning tools in classrooms.

The pilot program starts with the beginning of the second semester, Jan. 30. Until then, current policy applies. The new policy was instituted after Supt. Jeremy Hughes talked with a variety of neighboring school districts and got advice from NEO-LA, the policy consulting firm used by many school districts. According to NEO-LA, school districts have used two options for cell phone use: Option A, which Plymouth-Canton currently uses and is much stricter; and Option B, which is the option Plymouth-Canton will be using under its pilot program.

Hughes told Board of Education members at Tuesday's meeting NEO-LA reports between 80 and 90 percent of schools in Michigan use Option B.

The new option will allow students to use cell phones in hallways during passing/travel time, and in cafeterias at lunchtime. However, cell phone use will still be restricted at assemblies, in classrooms where the regular teacher isn't available, and in locker rooms and restrooms.

"(The district) recognizes electronic devices can be valuable tools for staff and students," Hughes wrote in a memo to board members. "The intent is to allow usage of electronic devices for educational, time management and communications purposes, while also providing opportunities to educate stakeholders on appropriate use of electronic devices in an educational setting."

Not surprisingly, students appeared to like the change.

"It's a good idea," Salem High School senior Eric Duprey said. "There have been times when we've wanted to look something up and couldn't. It should help."

Some students felt the new policy will also help reduce the number of students risking the penalty for violating the current policy.

"People are using them anyway, so now they won't get in trouble for it," said Salem High School junior Julie Patterson. "It could cause problems if (administrators) are too lenient, but as long as kids are being responsible, it shouldn't cause problems."

Please see PHONES, A6

Man arrested in township on child pornography charges

A 24-year-old man accused of illegally sharing child pornography online — considered by authorities to be the largest and most active trader in the country using peer-to-peer software — was arrested in Plymouth Township, the Wayne County Sheriff's Offices said Friday.

Tavis Greene of Monroe was arrested Dec. 11 on 12 felony counts related to possession and distribution of child pornography. He was arrested Dec. 9 at a friend's home in Plymouth Township.



Greene

— on a computer belonging to Greene.

Greene's case was forwarded to the Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in April from the Colorado Inter-

net Crimes Against Children Task Force. At training on peer-to-peer software in May, officers began comparing notes with other investigators throughout the country on someone from Michigan who appeared to be engaging in illegal file-sharing activities. A detective on the Colorado task force was able to gain access to the password-protected folder that contained child pornography and determined it belonged to Greene.

"Tracking this individual was our highest priority because the

next level of offense is physically abusing a child and we can't let that happen," county Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon said in the release. "Thanks to the expansive network of web investigators we're putting these individuals on notice—you can't hide behind technology."

Authorities said Greene's computer appears to contain thousands of images. Greene posted a \$100,000 cash bond and is due back in 35th District Court on Monday for a preliminary hearing.



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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

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, including 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.

DRUM CLASSES

Date/Time: Wednesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 1, 5-6:30 p.m.

Location: Artico House, adjacent to the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 724 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Join instructor and professional drummer Pat Paul Sorise at the Plymouth Community Arts Council for a new series of Drum Classes in the New Year. First will be Beginner Drum Set 100 (5-5:45 p.m. for ages 7 to adult), which will introduce students to holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, how to count and play quarter and eighth notes and introduce/play the drum set. For the advanced and experienced drummer the PCAC will open a new section of Advanced Drum Set 200 (ages 7 to adult, 5:45-6:30 p.m.). This class will identify drums/cymbals, wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns.



JULIE YOLLES

Cattle Baron's Ball

From Just Baked in Canton, (left) Jamie Lullove and Just Baked Founder Pam Turkin. Turkin donated her delicious creations to the 1,200 people that attended the Cattle Baron's Ball at Joe Louis Arena. Over \$1.4 million was raised, more than \$300,000 from live auction alone.

Contact: To learn about other great opportunities at the PCAC or a complete list of classes offered visit www.plymoutharts.com or stop in the PCAC at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth, or call (734) 416-4278.

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 discussions.

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

DAY CAMP

Date/Time: Jan. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to noon

Location: Praise Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial in Plymouth

Details: Parents looking for a fun event for kids over the holiday break can join Bilingual Fun. Kids will have fun learning Spanish through holiday themed interactive games, crafts, music, snacks and more! New and returning students welcome.

Contact: (734) 748-3898, e-mail info@bilinguafun.com or visit www.bilinguafun.com

HEALING HEARTS

Date/Time: Second and fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland

Details: Grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system. Hope 4 Healing Hearts, Inc., provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Individuals share ideas, resources and experiences that are helpful to one another.

Contact: For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237, bonnie@hope4healinghearts.com or visit www.hope4healinghearts.com.

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Study helps point the way for facility use

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

After more than 2,800 responses to an on-line survey, consulting with a variety of parent and school advisory groups, and even a town-hall style forum designed to draw public input, Platte Moran CRESA is moving toward completing the task for which it was hired.

CRESA, the outside consultant hired by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education to conduct a facilities survey aimed at studying how best to uti-

lize its facilities, is now in the process of formulating the recommendations it will make to the board in the next few weeks.

Of the 2,800 responses to the survey, conducted using the school district's website, nearly 1,800 were parents in the district, and another 700 were employees.

Highlights of the study:

- Asked what their preference would be if the district had to operate fewer buildings as a means of balancing the budget, some 55 percent said they'd prefer to see a scrutiny of the entire

K-12 structure, while 38 percent said to operate fewer elementary schools.

Right now, the district's 15 elementary schools have some 336 classrooms and use a combined 860,000 square feet of educational space.

- A combined 78 percent agreed or strongly agreed with the idea of closing a building if it means better programs for the district's students.

- Some 64 percent would support restructuring grade levels into separate buildings. One idea floated was moving ele-

mentary to K-4, establishing upper (5-6) elementary schools and leaving 7th- and 8th-graders in middle schools.

- Some 62 percent said they'd support closing Central Middle School as part of any restructuring plan. Willis noted one oddity about that statistic.

"Only 26 percent support closing Central when you pull Central Middle School respondents out of the study," he said.

- Some 78 percent would support a capital bond project or sinking fund to help reduce general fund dollars used for maintaining and updating P-CCS schools.

"We're in the process of putting together some projections we can present in January," CRESA's Paul Willis told board members at their meeting Tuesday.

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Salem High School media center volunteer Holly Pudney (center) accepts her VIP award from school board Treasurer Judy Mardigian (left) and media center staffer Mary McCarthy.

Media volunteer accepts VIP honor

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Holly Pudney is in the media center at Salem High School so often, it'd be easy to confuse her for a regular staffer.

She's not, though, which makes her work there so much more impressive, enough to convince Mary McCarthy, who actually is the staffer there, to nominate Pudney, a parent volunteer, for a Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Volunteer in Public Schools award.

Pudney, a longtime volunteer who also serves on many parent committees and even helps recruit parent volunteers, accepted the award at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting.

"Holly has gone way above and beyond any volunteer I've ever met," McCarthy told board members Tuesday. Holly is wonderful with all the children. They're very fortunate to have her there. The kids are so much richer for hav-

ing Holly in the district. Students and staff are blessed."

Board of Education treasurer Judy Mardigian noted the cuts to the district's media centers the board has had to make in recent years, and said volunteer efforts are highly important in keeping those centers running.

But even Mardigian expressed surprise — and admiration — for Pudney's efforts.

"I was wowed because you're a parent who does everything," Mardigian said. "We're challenged to fund the media centers, and parent volunteers make all the difference in the world."

Pudney accepted the plaudits, but said it was her that should be thanking everyone else.

"I've gotten more than I could ever give," Pudney said of her volunteer efforts. "I'm so grateful to be able to do this."

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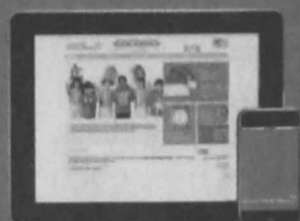
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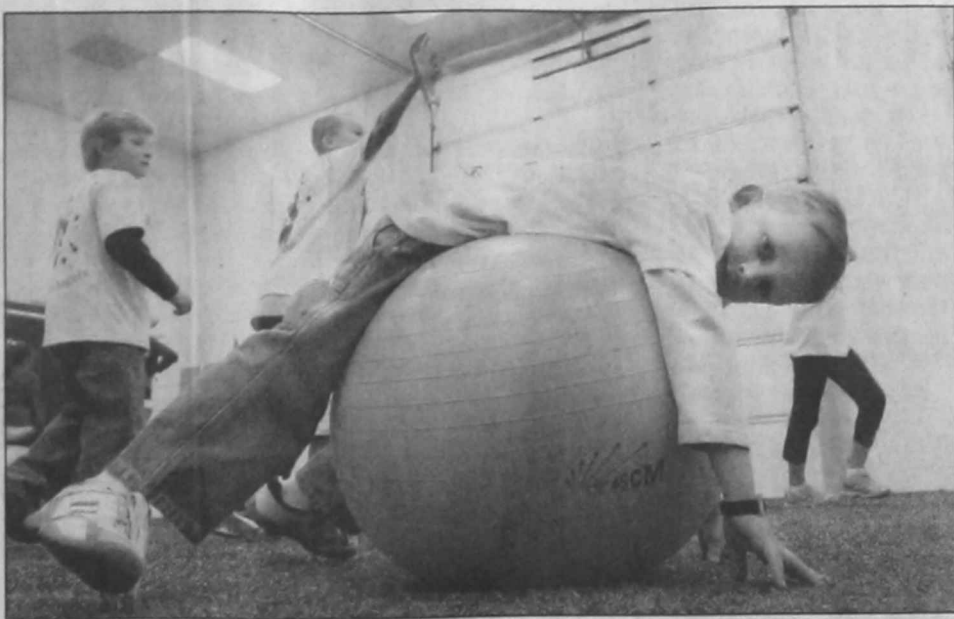


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Steven Conrad is just rolling along.

Kids, athletes team up for 'Angels' event

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Balance balls became dodgeballs, athletes were transformed into angels and 30 area children who might otherwise not have had much of a Christmas were treated to play time, a meal and a shopping spree on Tuesday.

Barwis Methods Training Center, a fitness center in Plymouth Township run by a former University of Michigan strength and conditioning coach and frequented by college and professional athletes, hosted the fifth annual Athletic Angels holiday event Tuesday. Children, referred by the Goodfellows, romped in the large workout space, ate box lunches from Mr. Spot's in Ann Arbor and were bused to a local Meijer to shop with their "angels," some of whom were athletes who train at



Steven Conrad and Brianna Kleenbrook.

the center. "Every year I try to return something to the kids who have less than we do," said Mike Barwis, who owns the gym with several partners. "The most rewarding time of the year every year was being able to have that function for the kids." Barwis began the Athletic Angels Foundation while he was the strength coach at West

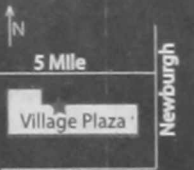
Virginia University, where he worked for 14 years before moving to U-M. He left U-M with the departure of Wolverines football coach Rich Rodriguez a year ago and opened Barwis Methods last spring. Barwis said he reaches out to athletes he's trained over the years for donations to stage

Please see 'ANGELS,' A6

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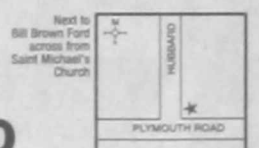
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'ANGELS'

Continued from page A5

the event. A host of local businesses also chipped in, and the Novi Public Schools provided a school bus and a driver to chauffeur the children to the Meijer store in Canton. "We've got a pretty big base that we can dig from, and those athletes are always willing to give back and donate some-

thing even if they can't be here," he said.

Tuesday's event began with play time at Barwis; the children took the large inflated stability balls that athletes use to hone their balance and threw them around as dodgeballs.

"They went crazy. They liked to play in here," Barwis said. "It turned into a giant dodgeball session."

"I could tell that the kids had a really good time," said Victoria Wel-

don, who attends a morning fitness class at Barwis and helped secure donations of food and supplies for the event.

Weldon said she was touched by the community's willingness to help. "It was awe-inspiring to me," she said.

The shopping trip to Meijer provided the children with toys for Christmas but also with clothing and winter outerwear they might otherwise go with-

out — and they were just as excited to get the clothing as a toy, Barwis said.

"We want to make sure the kids' welfare is taken care of first," he said.

"The kids wouldn't clamor to just get toys and fun stuff," said Weldon, who accompanied the shoppers. "They needed winter items."

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PHONES

Continued from page A1

That was the cautionary note being sounded by Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Principal Bill Zolkowski, who wanted to make that point perfectly clear.

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W-W on target with revenue, spending for 2012-13

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools will take in more revenue in fiscal 2011-12 and spend more, but the bottom line that was projected when its budget was adopted in June will remain virtually unchanged.

"The bottom line adjustment is about the same," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services. "There's a \$137,000 difference from the originally budget and that's fairly small." Six months into the budget year, Martin is projecting that the district

will now receive \$109 million in revenue and spend \$112.7 million. The district will use a portion of its \$12.7 million fund equity to cover the revenue shortfall, leaving it with an \$8.7 million surplus. Helping the bottom line on the revenue side was a carryover of \$1.4 million in at-risk funding from

last year, a better than expected Medicaid reimbursement of \$430,000 and in larger than expected shared time enrollment and state school aid for the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. The district has agreements with several school districts to provide vocational educa-

tion at the center, which Martin called a "lighthouse type of program." The increased use by other districts is bringing in an additional \$250,000 this year. On the expenditure side, the instruction increased from \$63.7 million to \$66.3 million, due in part to changes in its basic pro-

gram and additional costs related to salary and benefits and final personnel placement. The changes include \$700,000 related to a 4 percent step increase in salaries and salaries related to the negotiated class overload size. The district had projected a zero increase in step increase.

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Community turns out for Wayne High Holiday Night



Santa Claus poses for a photo with 2-year-old Marley Yun. He stayed at the high school until almost 9 p.m., visiting with youngsters.

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Janet Tomlinson thinks a miracle similar to the loaves and fishes story in the Bible might have happened at Wayne Memorial High School at its Holiday Night for the Community.

With 900 people showing up the first year and 700 the next year, they decide to plan for a crowd of 850. When the evening was done this year, at least 1,380 parents and children had enjoyed a spaghetti dinner prepared by the culinary arts students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

"Chef Tony (Paquette) and the students made spaghetti, salad and bread sticks, and everyone ate," said Tomlinson



Brandon Tomblin directs Wayne Memorial's Vocal Dimensions which performed carols for the dinner guests in the high school cafeteria.

who heads up the Upward Bound program at the high school. "I don't know what he did but it was like the loaves and fishes."

Families throughout the Wayne-Westland Community Schools were invited to the Dec. 2 event

that included the dinner, a visit with Santa for the youngsters, a chance to make ornaments, decorate cookies and write letters to Santa, have fun in inflatables and even visit a Secret Santa Shop.

The crowd was so large that they ran out ornaments to make so they used decorated Cutie oranges with cloves and called them orange-aments, Tomlinson said.

The event was the third such one the staff have stage since school started in September. It hosted Wayne Pride Night, its annual open house in September and did a Spooktacular in October. Both were well-attended, but nothing beat the crowds that flowed through the doors for the Holiday Night.

"It was the best, really extraordinary and a true community event," said Tomlinson. "It was just wonderful. These expe-

riences speak to who we are at Wayne Memorial."

Planning for the event began last summer. The event was made possible through sponsorships and donations, like the 1,000 cookies, frosting and sprinkles provided by School Superintendent Greg Baracy, which Tomlinson calls the "Cookie Monster," and \$1,000 from the Wayne High staff. One hundred Wayne High students volunteered to help with the setup and teardown, while 50 teachers were also involved.

"One of our counselors' husband plays the keyboard and he performed, teacher Erica Hannah and her husband did the photography," said Tomlinson, whose husband Roger did a reprise as Santa Claus, sitting in his chair and listening to youngsters well after the party ended at 8 p.m.

"Charles Stanley, one of our longtime substitutes, was the DJ at the North Pole and the folks in transportation let us use their professional costumes. There were gingerbread men, a snowman, Christmas tree and elves.

The gymnasium was transformed into the North Pole and that's where youngsters played with Legos, enjoyed the bouncers and visited with Santa. At the opposite end of the building, a room had been set aside for Wii Dance Revolution to holiday songs.

According to Tomlinson there was a lot of energy and electricity because of the people who came to the school.

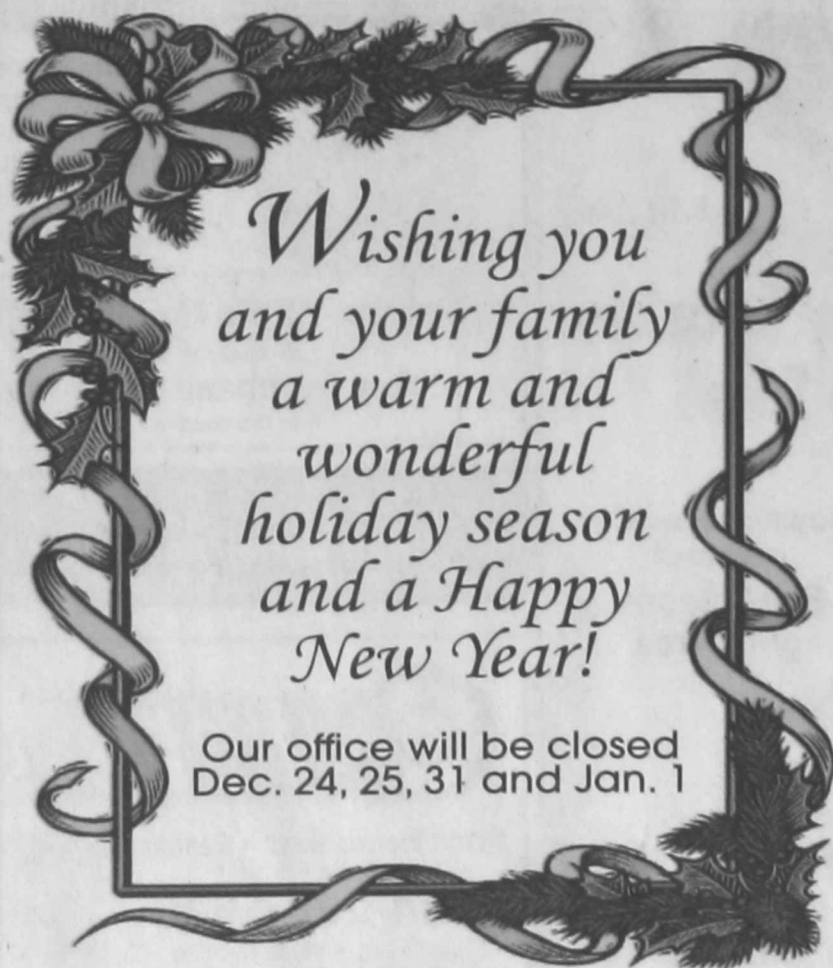
"I'm glad the community wanted to be here, I'm glad they were comfortable with being here," she said. "When the kids walk in the door for Wayne Pride or for something like this, they realize this is a good place where they want to be."



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Cookie exchanges enrich holidays, friendships

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Amy Werthman, a busy mother of four, had just moved into her Livonia home in the middle of a cold winter and was looking for a way to get to know her neighbors.

Beth Cooley and Tracey Jewell, both of Plymouth, were also new to their neighborhoods and seeking opportunities to build new friendships with the people living around them.

And Canton resident Tana Bridge was simply looking for the chance to celebrate holiday traditions and rituals with old friends.

Surprisingly, these four women found what they were looking for and much more in the time-honored tradition of a holiday cookie exchange.

"It gives you a chance to really connect with your friends and what better way to connect than over a tray of cookies?" said Bridge, an associate professor at Eastern Michigan University. "It is also a great way to launch the holiday season."

For Bridge, what began as a simple holiday gathering of friends, neighbors and co-workers has now taken on a deeper significance.

Meaningful tradition

"This is a tradition that has developed over time. What started out as friends and neighbors getting together now becomes a meaningful part of the holiday," she said, adding that one cookie exchange group in dates back more than 15 years.

"We're an amazingly eclectic group. It's all about great conversation



Denell Bruyere selects cookies.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and celebrating connections," she said.

Cooley, who has been hosting a neighborhood cookie exchange for her neighbors for the past eight years, agrees. "It's really about fellowship," she said. "Community is very important to me. I'd do anything it takes to bring neighbors together; I love it."

The concept of the cookie exchange is centered around the swapping of holiday goodies. Everyone brings a pre-determined amount of cookies to share as well as an empty tray on which to collect the treats others have prepared.

"The main idea is to catch up and also get to try some new treats. The cookies are helpful to have on hand for holiday entertaining and taking to different functions although we usually eat them right away," Cooley said. "I think half the tray is gone that first night. We take the tray of cookies, put on a good movie and snuggle up and before you know it, they

are gone."

Exchange history

Cookie exchanges trace their origins as far back as the 1880s and began as a way for women to socialize with others in their community, according to Robin Olson, cookie exchange "expert" and author of *The Cookie Party Cookbook*. As women sought an opportunity to be social and share favorite recipes, their popularity grew. In fact, there are now both books and blogs offering tips on the subject.

In many circles, cookie

exchanges have become a much-anticipated holiday event with both formal and informal settings. Bridge said she has even participated in cookie exchanges with a purpose.

"I have been to some built around a specific event like a fundraiser; you bring the cookies as well as a donation to Toys for Tots or some other charity," she said.

Cooley said that while she has experienced both, her gathering is more easy-going and relaxed. "Too many rules takes the fun out of it for me,"



Cookies of all flavors and styles are exchanged by the neighbors.

she said, "I just want people to come and have fun." Jewell also prefers an informal gathering, focusing on the opportunity to build deeper relationships with her neighbors, "beyond just a hello in the street," she said.

"It is important to me to live in a caring community and meet my neighbors," said Jewell.

Jewell believes that most people are more comfortable in an informal setting. She said she tries to eliminate as many rules as possible, even encouraging people too busy to bake to bring store-bought goodies. "For me, it is more about getting to know people than the cookies. I just try to keep it simple," she said.

Like simpler times

Werthman, too, concentrates on the social aspects of the cookie

exchange.

"I appreciate meeting my neighbors. It is so important to know your neighbors so you can take care of each other. It is even more important because of the way we live now: you pull into the garage; close the door and you never see anyone," she said. "This forces me to get out and meet people."

She said she began hosting cookie exchanges in an effort to "slow things down a bit."

"Christmas is so commercialized. Cookie exchanges go way back to simpler times, to my parents' and grandparents' time," she said, adding that she invites guests to share the stories and traditions behind their recipes.

"I love to hear it when someone says, 'This is what my grandmother made ... and then begin sharing their traditions,'" Werthman said.

The cookie exchange itself is a tradition worth passing down, says Bridge, who notes that her daughter, Kayla, a college freshman, is looking forward to the opportunity to reunite with friends from high school by hosting her own cookie exchange.

"Things are ever-changing. It's a great way to celebrate friendships," she said.

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Youth go on shopping spree for vets' families

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Members of the Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission stepped up again Tuesday to help the children of area military veterans.

Commission members visited Genuine Toy Co., on Forest in downtown Plymouth, for a shopping spree that left them with armsful of toys. The goodies will be distributed, through the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, to the families of area veterans who are experiencing hard times at the holidays.

"The kids that we have are the best of the best," said City Commissioner Ed Hingelberg, the City Commission's liaison to the PCYAC. The youth commission had raised money for the spree — more than \$1,800 — through various fund-



Members of the Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission with many of the toys they collected at Genuine Toy to help the children of area veterans.

raisers, such as selling bottled water during Kellogg Park concerts, and individual donations. Former Mayor Phil Pursell, the owner of Main Street Auto Wash, personally chipped in \$251, Hingelberg said.

The PCYAC is made up of students in grades seven through 11 who take on service projects and consult local officials on issues of interest to young people. This was the second year for the group's Christmas present proj-

ect for veterans and their families; Genuine Toy owners Charles and Elle Dare offered youth commission members a discount for the event.

Gary Kubik, post advocate and lounge manager at VFW Post 6695, said



John Halpin (left), 17, and 16-year-old Jeff Pattison, both of Plymouth Township, shop for toys. Both are members of the Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission.

all the toys will go to families in the area, including at least two in Plymouth and Plymouth Township. "We try to keep them all local," Kubik said.

Some toys in projects of this kind are sent to children at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, and toys from last year's PCYAC shopping spree ended up there, but Kubik said the need at home is so great

this year there won't be any extras.

"We've gotten a lot more need locally than we've ever had," he said.

Hingelberg called the event a "perfect storm" that combined charitable outreach with support for a local independent business. "It's the holidays at its very very best," he said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
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Three county detention workers win state awards

Three employees of the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility in Detroit have won awards for meritorious service in 2011 from the Michigan Juvenile

Detention Association. Brian Plowden of Redford Township was honored as a Child Care Worker of the Year. Support Worker of the Year awards went to nurse Cleofas Anasco of Dearborn and Latonya Hardy of Westland.

Plowden, a juvenile detention specialist, joined Wayne County in 1990. A trainer for staff in the area of the control room operator, Plowden is updating a training manual for workers in the area. "Mr. Plowden is the first juvenile detention specialist the residents encounter," said Leonard Dixon, executive director of the juvenile detention facility. "He is always professional and goes to extra

lengths to explain procedures to juveniles, who are sometimes anxious about this experience."

Anasco has helped diagnose major illness in newly admitted patients as a member of the health services department. She has been a Wayne County employee since 1990.

"Nurse Anasco is persistent and communicates well with physicians, co-workers, the nursing supervisor and others to ensure residents receive the best care," Dixon said.

Hardy has managed the female youth at the detention facility. Since joining the social service staff two years ago, she has learned the rules of the facility and the state

guidelines mandated to operate a child caring institution.

Said Dixon: "Hardy is a self-directed employee. She approaches each daily task as a goal to be accomplished."

"We're proud of our Wayne County employees," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "Our three award winners are great examples of employees who take pride in what they do for the public. They consistently provide quality services, often times under trying circumstances."

The employees received their awards at the annual Michigan Juvenile Detention Conference, held in Roscommon.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2012 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- Application 1483 (Tabled from 10/6/11), 15175 Sheldon RD, C-2 zoning district: the applicant is requesting six window sign variances and two interpretations:
 - Total surface area and an interpretation of total window coverage definition.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

Publish: December 18, 2011

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Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

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

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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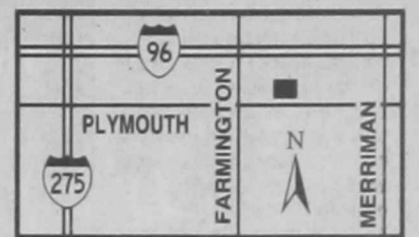
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Diversified portfolio is best way to minimize risks

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Q: Dear Rick: I've been retired for a couple of years and because of some bad investments, I decided to go back to work. I'll be working part time and will make enough money to help me cover my living expenses. Last year I had to begin taking money out of my IRA because I turned 70½. I also took money out this year. Since I am going back to work and won't need the money from my IRA, am I still required to take a distribution? Currently, in my IRA I have about \$100,000. I am an aggressive investor and I have the money divided as follows:

- 50 percent — Emerging Market Funds
- 40 percent — U.S. Small Cap Fund
- 10 percent — High Yield Corporate Bond

I originally had a lot more in my IRA, however, some of my investments did not pan out and that's why my portfolio is about a quarter of what it was a few years ago. I realize I should make some changes and become more conservative. I'm hoping you can help me with the portfolio allocation.

A: Unfortunately, when it comes to required minimum distributions from IRAs, there are no exceptions. When you turn 70½, and every year thereafter, you must take a distribution. It does not matter if you need the money or not, you are still required to take your minimum distribution. Of course, that doesn't mean you have to spend the money, but it does mean you have to pay the tax on the money. Therefore, once you have withdrawn the money from the IRA,

you can turn around and reinvest that money outside of a retirement vehicle. In your situation, that is a strategy that makes the most sense.

As to your portfolio, I agree that a reallocation is required. The fact that you have 50 percent of your money in emerging markets is, as far as I'm concerned, irresponsible. Emerging markets are important places to invest, however, no matter how aggressive of an investor you are, 50 percent is just too much. Don't forget that emerging markets are new economies and subject to an inordinate amount of volatility.

In addition, I also believe that a 40-percent allocation to U.S. small companies is also too speculative. In your situation, the way I would reallocate the portfolio is to initially start with an allocation between stocks and bonds. The allocation I suggest is 65/35 with 65 percent in equity and 35 percent in bonds. I recognize that this is a much more conservative allocation than you had in the past and that bonds aren't paying high rates of return right now. However, it is important to remember that you're not just investing for today, you're also investing for tomorrow. You need a well-balanced and diversified portfolio, some-

thing that you did not have in the past.

Of the 65 percent that is in equities, I would allocate the money as follows:

- 5 percent — Emerging Markets
- 5 percent — Small Company International
- 10 percent — Large Company International
- 30 percent — Large Company U.S.
- 10 percent — Small Company U.S.
- 5 percent — Real Estate
- 10 percent — International Bonds
- 15 percent — High Grade Corporate Bonds
- 10 percent — U.S. Treasuries

I believe this portfolio would be more balanced and would certainly do a better job of managing risk. In this economic environment, managing risk is something that every investor needs to be concerned with. One of the best ways to manage risk is to have a balanced and diversified portfolio. Investors that are not balanced and diversified are taking unnecessary risks and that can cause problems in today's environment.

As we enter the new year, it is a great time for everyone to re-examine their portfolio and look for ways to better manage risk. It would be nice if we could eliminate risk, but we can't. However, we can manage it. 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.

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Rob Lester slides an engagement ring on the finger of Stefanie Redding after proposing to her in front of Santa Claus at Westland Shopping Center Sunday.

Marriage proposal comes with picture with Santa

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Stefanie Redding wasn't that keen about a visit with Santa. And she was sure when her boyfriend led her past the children waiting in line to see him, their parents were going to kill him.

But they ended up applauding after Lester surprised her with a ring and a request to marry him.

"I had an idea he might when he told me to keep the day open," said the Westland resident. "I had a hunch that's why I started throwing a fit, and when he got down on his knee I thought, 'Oh, God, it's coming.'"

"I was shaking really bad, and when she didn't answer right away, I really started shaking," he said. "She was like a deer in headlights."

The Belleville resident got the idea of proposing when he tried to book a dinner reservation at Antonio's but found out there would be a delay because of a lunch with Santa. The idea hit him to propose with Santa there, but when he couldn't get in on Santa's visit at the restaurant, he decided to see if he could catch the Big Man at Westland Shopping Center where mall management was more than happy to make it happen.

"We were so excited," said Patrick Derrig, the mall's marketing manager. "It was so nice to be a part of something special like this."

Lester brought the ring and Redding to the mall. She insisted she didn't want to see Santa, but he was persistent, leading her past the youngsters because they had a "Fast Pass."

"It took a lot of persuading," said Lester. "She kept saying, 'I'm not going to do this.'"

While he pretended to try to reach his friend Patrick on his cell phone at worker took the ring he was holding behind his back and gave it to Santa.

"I wanted to buy a shirt and change and he said no," Redding said. "I texted a friend and she wanted to know if he was going to propose. I told her we were going to see Santa."

The couple met recently through a mutual friend and hadn't been seeing each other very long.

They're not sure when they will marry. Lester said it will be spontaneous. She wants a formal wedding, but they may do "the Vegas thing" first.

And their engagement photo? A picture with Santa.

smason@hometownlife.com
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Keep children safe this holiday season

Family gatherings, special traditions, delicious treats. The holiday season may be the most wonderful time of the year, especially for kids. Unfortunately, for emergency room doctors, it's also one of the busiest.

Trauma and Injury Prevention Experts at the DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan are offer tips to protect little ones from some common holiday dangers, so families can enjoy a season that's happy and healthy.

In keeping children holiday safe consider:

Decorations

- Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Jerusalem cherry plants and others can pose potential poisoning risks. Symptoms can include rash, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Call the National Poison Center at (800) 222-1222, if you suspect poisoning.
- "Bubble lights" contain

methylene chlorides can be poisonous, if a child drinks the fluid from more than one light (even if labeled nontoxic).

• Snow sprays may be harmful, if the aerosol propellants are used improperly.

• Small tree ornaments, light bulbs, icicles, tinsel, small toys and common holiday foods, such as peanuts or popcorn, pose a potential holiday choking hazards, if swallowed by small children, as these items may block the airway.

• Holiday tree needles, angel hair (made from finely spun glass) and ornament hangers can cause potential cuts, skin irritation or eye damage

Holiday feast

- Minimize potential food poisoning by practicing by washing hands, utensils, dishes, and anything else that comes in contact with raw meat,

including poultry and fish, and raw eggs before and after use. Store leftovers properly and heat them thoroughly before serving.

• Alcohol poisoning - Remove all empty and partially empty cups out of reach of children. Remember, children become "drunk" much more quickly than adults, so even small amounts of alcohol can be dangerous.

Holiday trees

• Keep your live tree secured in a sturdy stand so that it doesn't tip over and keep it away from all heat sources, such as electrical outlets, radiators and portable space heaters. Replenish water receptacle regularly to keep tree from drying out.

• Be sure your artificial tree is labeled "fire-retardant."

• Unplug all lights, both indoor and outdoor, and

extinguish all candles every night before you go to bed.

• Avoid using real candles on a tree and keep them away from windowsills and mantles. Never leave the room with single candles or menorah candles burning.

• Use only flame-retardant decorations when decking your halls.

Fire-free holiday

• Don't overload indoor or outdoor electrical outlets.

• Have your fireplace inspected before you light your first fire of the season, and never burn paper or pine boughs, since those materials can float out of the chimney and ignite a nearby home.

• Practice fire safety. Have a family emergency plan in the event of a fire.

• Check smoke detectors before you put up your holiday decorations.



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Families socialize as they enter the Four Seasons dining room where tables are covered with festive green and red tablecloths. "It's great they do this for the residents so they aren't feeling lonely," said Carol Gannaway, party guest. "It's nice to see everybody together and happy," said Nancy Boland of Livonia. "It's great. It's fun," said Pat Lyden, RN, Four Seasons' Administrator. "It's an opportunity for families and residents to be together for the holidays."

PHOTO ABOVE: L to R: Bob Anderson, June Daly, Bob Anderson Jr., Cheni Hartman, Debra Anderson, Jim Hartman, Derek Anderson, Janis Boyless; seated front: Barbara Anderson, Four Seasons resident

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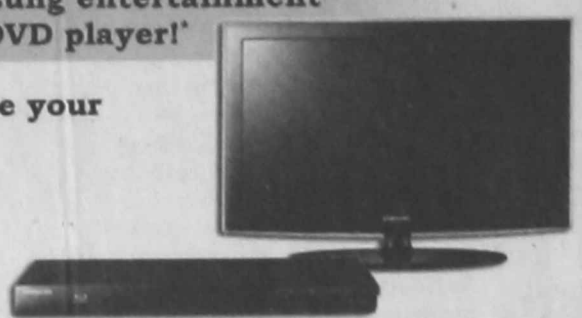


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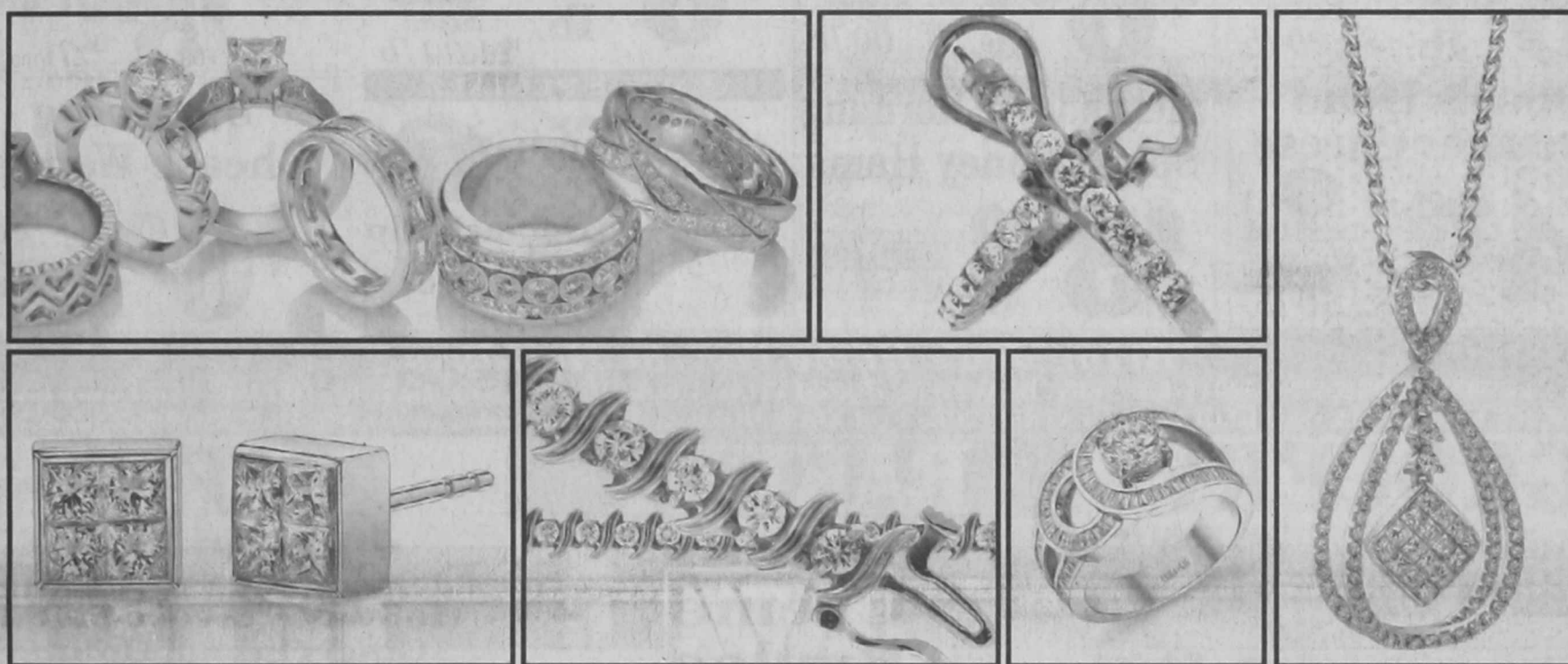
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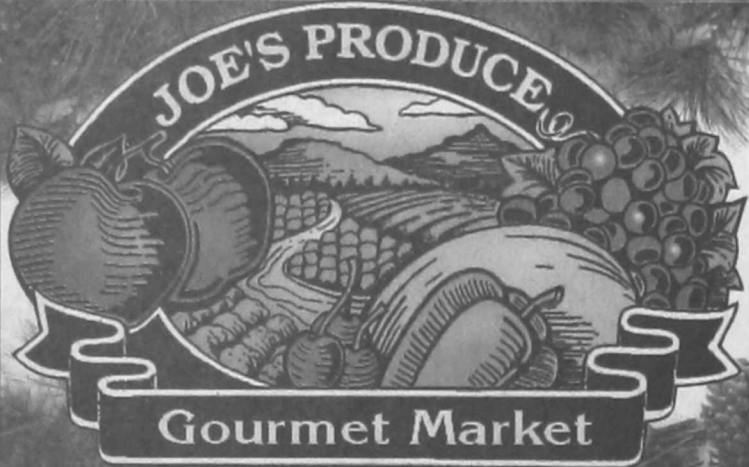
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Rocks rally to nip 'Cats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

After falling into a huge early hole Friday night, host Salem stormed back to defeat Plymouth 48-44 in a KLAAs crossover varsity boys basketball game.

The Wildcats broke out to a 19-5 lead late in the opening quarter, which ended with Salem's Cameron Werner hitting a putback at the horn.

Perhaps that bucket sparked the Rocks, who outscored Plymouth 14-6 in the second to cut the deficit to 25-21 at halftime.

Salem (2-0) really dominated the third, with a 12-4 edge finally putting the Rocks in the lead.

A trey by Grant Bettner from beyond the top of the arc with 3:30 to go in the third made it a 29-27 Salem lead and the Rocks never trailed after that — although the Wildcats (1-2) pulled even several times down the stretch.

"Plymouth came out with fire in their eyes," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "They did a great job and knocked down some great shots down early."

"But my bench did a nice job for us in the first half, they got us back into the game and gave us a chance in the second half. I was proud of the way we played."

Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup liked how his team continued to battle after giving up the big early lead.

"We poured it all out, we did all we could," Soukup said. "Tonight, it wasn't good enough."

He said he hopes the team uses the experience "as a stepping stone instead of a stumbling block. That would be key for us as we go forward."

In the closing minutes, the Rocks stayed in front thanks to layups by Josh Peterson and Bettner. Those buckets offset a triple by Plymouth junior forward Brendan Swanson, which tied the contest at 41-41.

Salem junior guard Kevin Mack made a key defensive play with 13 seconds left. After hitting his first

Please see RALLY, B2



RENA LAVERTY

When Scott Wedgewood (right) isn't in the net for the Plymouth Whalers, he's providing tips and encouragement for young backup Matt Mahalak (left).

Net-working

Wedgewood keeps learning, plugging away on road to NHL

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Scott Wedgewood had just struggled, giving up five goals.

His teammates on the Plymouth Whalers scored seven, so the goalie could manage a smile or two in the locker room at Compuware Arena.

But the 2010 draft pick of the National Hockey League's New Jersey Devils didn't waste any time getting busy to be sharper next time out.

Sitting next to him and talking about the Dec. 3 game against Guelph was Stan Matwijiw, the Whalers' outstanding goaltending coach.

Matwijiw had spent the previous two hours scribbling down notes and observations gleaned during the contest and

wanted to share those with "Wedgie," in his fourth year with the OHL team.

"Me and Stan kind of talked a little bit, just get back to basics," the 19-year-old from Brantford, Ontario, said. "Just about things I've been working on the past three years, four years coming into this year, like tracking the puck and getting set early."

"Checking off who's coming, who's on the rush, things like that."

Communication helps

Wedgewood and Matwijiw talk regularly, after games good or bad.

He listens closely, because his dream is to join a growing list of Whalers goalies who have graduated to the NHL.

The list includes, among others, Robert Esche, Jason Bacashihua of Garden City, Justin Peters and now Matt Hackett (now up with Minnesota).

"There's a lot of them that came out of here," he said. "It speaks for this organization, it's not just us. It's the team that's in front of us."

"We always have a good team every year and make the playoffs every year."

And Wedgewood (3.08, 13-5-3 in 21 games) knows he must bust his tail even more than ever to keep that run of success alive — and to lead by example for young backup goalie Matt Mahalak (Monroe).

"We just bounce things off

Please see WEDGEWOOD, B4

Rocks, 'Cats helping needy

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Hockey players are used to shifts, jumping over the boards for 45-60 seconds at a time to help their linemates and their team succeed.

For three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys hockey teams, various projects and philanthropic efforts during the holiday season might prove to be their most important shifts of all.

As detailed in Thursday's *Observer*, the Canton icers donated gifts to the Toys for Tots program and soon will dole out meals at Gleaners Food Bank.

On Thursday night, Salem's hockey squad volunteered at the Open Door Ministry on S. Lilly Road in Canton and delivered canned goods delivered at the Nov. 26 game against Canton at Plymouth Cultural Center. About 200 cans were donated.

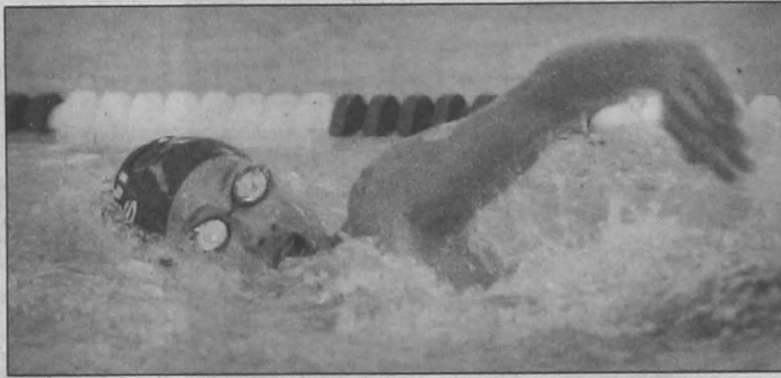
"The boys volunteered at the ministry (for two hours) assisting them in the organizing, preparing and distribution of food to and for the community," reported Salem hockey parent Lisa McGee.

Her son, Mark McGee, is one of four senior players who also shopped for a family being

Please see HOCKEY, B4



Salem varsity boys hockey players spent two hours Thursday night helping out at the Open Door Ministry in Canton.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jason Zhang is back to lead Salem. He is the lone returnee from the Rocks' 400 freestyle relay which won an all-state award last season.

Boys swim teams ready to jump in

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

A fab five of returning state qualifiers will pace the 2011-12 Salem varsity boys swimming and diving team.

Veteran head coach Chuck Olson said the Rocks "are working hard to prepare" for the season, with 46 members indicating plenty of competition throughout the lineup.

SWIM PREVIEW

Senior co-captains Nick Griwicki (diving) and Jeremy Wellman (butterfly, backstroke) are two of those five who qualified for the Division 1 state meet.

Others in that core group are juniors Jason Zhang (backstroke, freestyle), Turner Soltzman (breaststroke) and Jerry

Please see SWIMMING, B3

Canton boys prevail

Host Canton improved to 4-0 with Friday's 40-38 victory over Northville in a KLAAs crossover varsity boys basketball matchup.

Chiefs head coach Jimmy Reddy credited the win to an outstanding second half.

"We were down 10 at half (27-17) and were up two going into the fourth," Reddy said. "Defensively, we really stepped up and gave a great effort."

Josh Mayberry (six points) knocked down two free throws with nine seconds left for the margin of victory.

"That's the second straight week he has made big-time free throws for us at the end of the game," Reddy said.

Senior forwards Paul Baumgart (15 points, seven rebounds) and Terrell Sewell (nine points, 10 boards) again were stellar for the Chiefs.

Big victory for Eagles

Plymouth Christian Academy senior forward Eric Jipping scored 23 points and pulled down 15 rebounds Friday night to lift the Eagles boys basketball team to a 57-54 win over Genesee Christian.

Drew Ibach chipped in with eight points and seven rebounds for PCA (2-1).

Chiefs win big, 36-18

Also Friday night, Canton's varsity girls basketball team parlayed 11 points and four steals by Robyn Mack and solid defense into a 36-18 victory over host Northville.

Scoring eight each for Canton (4-0) was Rachel Winters with Paige Aresco (seven points) and Megan Smith (five points) chipping in. Leading in rebounds with eight was Kiara Schneider.

The game started slowly, with Canton only leading 2-1 after the first. But a 15-4 outburst in the second broke it open.

"Defensively the girls were very good," Chiefs head coach Brian Samulski said. "To hold a team like Northville to 18 is an awesome effort."

Canton will host Salem 6 p.m. Wednesday in the first half of a Chiefs-Rocks twinbill. The boys teams will follow with the second game.

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RALLY
Continued from page B1

free throw to make it 46-44, he missed his second try. But Mack scrambled into the corner after the loose ball and came away with it, getting fouled again. He sank two more free throws to close out the win.

Although Brodie said it was nice to rally for the win against a Park rival, the best part of the night was watching all of his players work together to pull it off.

"You need all 12, 13 players on the squad to do that," he said, "and I think that was more important for us tonight than it was coming back like we did."

Salem's top scorers were Markus Olind (10 points), Mack (nine points) and Cameron Werner (eight points).

Pacing the Wildcats were Jake Divens and



Vying for a rebound Friday night are Salem's Cameron Werner (No. 22), Josh Peterson (No. 44) and Plymouth's Jalen Eason (No. 15).

Josh Priebe, with eight points each. Adding seven was Swanson.

(GIRLS) PLYMOUTH 37, SALEM 29: In the opening half of Friday's Salem-Plymouth basketball twinbill, the Wildcats won 37-29.

Plymouth broke a 12-12 halftime tie in the third and closed out the KLAAC crossover win with a strong defensive fourth, only giving up five points.

Sparking the late rally with pressure defense and a couple of key buckets was Kylie Robb (11 points), with Alyssa Dillon (seven points), Chyna Williams (seven points) and Jada Woody (six rebounds) also helping the cause.

Wildcats head coach Bob de Bear also credited contributions from Kate Watson on defense and Lexie McGhee, for a clutch triple.

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Kristin Malcolm (front, left) is all smiles after signing her national letter of intent to play college volleyball at Hillsdale College. Next to the senior middle hitter is Plymouth Christian coach Kelly Blackney. In the back row are parents Greg and Annie Malcolm.

Hillsdale inks PCA's Malcolm

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Christian Academy's Kristin Malcolm will have the chance to take her outstanding volleyball talents to the next level as she has signed a letter of intent to play at Hillsdale College. On hand to help Kristin celebrate her signing day were parents Annie and Greg Malcolm and PCA head volleyball coach Kelly Blackney. Over the past two years, the Eagles reached the Class D finals and quarterfinals. Kristin, who carries a 4.0 grade-point average, is interested in studying

medicine at Hillsdale, an independent liberal arts college with an enrollment of 1,400 students. Hillsdale is a Division II school in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. "I couldn't be happier," she said. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to play on such a great team. I'm also very excited to play for such wonderful coaches." She added that Hillsdale proved to be the best fit for her not only because of volleyball, "but (the college) is very strong academically as well. I'm incredibly thankful that I get to continue playing the sport I

love after high school." When Malcolm, a 6-0 middle hitter and all-state performer in Class D for the Eagles, reaches Hillsdale she'll join another stellar squad. Hillsdale's volleyball team just finished their best season in program history, going 31-3, winning another GLIAC title and making it all the way to the NCAA Division II National Semifinals. The head coach of the Chargers is Chris Gravel, who has amassed over 300 wins in 16 seasons at the helm.

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'Cats have talent, potential

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The future appears bright for Plymouth's girls gymnastics team entering the 2011-12 season.

Spearheading the Wildcats are 2011 state qualifiers and co-captains Reagan Engstrom and Jane McCurry, along with co-captains Sarah Uhlian and Alisha Punjabi.

"They take an active role in working with the team and encourage our beginners," said Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey, about her quartet of captains. "This is our largest team ever, supporting 14 all-arounders and 12 outstanding individual eventers."

With numbers and the talent level continuing to grow, Yockey is optimistic the Wildcats will improve on their 2010-11 record of 2-2 in the KLAAs Kensington Division. That growth should be evident 6:30 p.m. Monday, when the Wildcats open their home schedule against Grosse Pointe United.

Two of those all-arounders are Engstrom and McCurry. Engstrom, a senior, qualified for the Division 2 state meet and



Engstrom

placed in a tie for 18th in the balance beam (8.750) while junior McCurry

was a state qualifier in floor exercise.

"We expect dynamic performances from state qualifiers Jane McCurry on floor, with her multi-salto passes and Reagan Engstrom's powerful, twisting vault," Yockey noted.

McCurry also is Plymouth's record holder on floor exercise with a mark of 9.3, and she will be backed by sophomore Kennedy Lewis, whose "difficult tumbling passes make her a regional contender" in that event.

Fresh potential

Engstrom gives the Wildcats a known quantity on vault, but the team will be bolstered by sophomore Katie Solanga, who brings a strong, round-off back salto vault and swinging bar routine.

Leading the way on beam will be junior Uhlian and sophomore Brenna Connelly, who can wade through difficult

GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

routines and score big, the coach continued.

Seniors Gina Annamaria and Kate Kwak provide "excellent support on vault and beam" while senior Punjabi will contribute as an all-arounder.

Plymouth's depth in those two events has the potential of being the envy of other KLAAs teams.

Yockey said incoming freshmen Molly McSween, Kayla Janevski and Meagan McKeenan are "showing strong vaulting and bar routines. I expect steadily stronger performances all season as we introduce more advanced skills into their performance."

Helping in that regard will be returning assistant coach Shawdi Dasger.

"Her experience in coaching and team dynamics as well as bubbly enthusiasm rubs off on all the gymnasts," Yockey said.

Following Monday's meet, the Wildcats will not return to action until facing Livonia Blue on Thursday, Jan. 5.

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Saberettes kick it



Plymouth High School's varsity pom pon team last month took first place at the Mid-American Dance and High Kick Championship at Eastern Michigan University. The energetic Saberettes took first for their high kick routine to 'Proud Mary' and also earned first for a hip hop routine with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. Members of the varsity Saberettes include as follows: (front row, from left) Leah Sheffield, Lauren Shawvery, Taylor Turk, Alexa Rosochacki, Caitrin Engstrom, Callie Lehr, Paige Wright, Emma Buchele and Abby Dilaha; (middle row, from left) Lauren Turner, Christina Dreyer, Holin Pardikes, Jen Sochocki, Joslyn Covault, Brittany Guajardo, April Krupinski, Kayla Kreger and Jessie Hackman; (back row, from left) Stephanie Hall, Victoria Chapman, Rachel O'Neill, Kellie Connelly, Katie Justice, Jessica Swartz, Elizabeth Gugliemi, Megan Pahl, Natalie Puckett, Rachael Currier, coach Kyra Boprie and coach Maria Hernandez.

SWIMMING

Continued from page B1

Bai (freestyle, butterfly). Zhang not only qualified in the 100 backstroke, he was part of Salem's 400 freestyle relay team which finished seventh (3:14.24) to earn an all-state award. He is the lone returnee from that relay, with Matt Collingwood, Max Mills and Adam Seroka having graduated. Olson, meanwhile, is counting on several others for the Rocks to have success in the KLAAs Central Division (the team went 3-1 overall and 2-1 in the Central last year). Those include: seniors,

Calvin Kahler (breaststroke), Alex Smith (freestyle), Patrick Huls (butterfly, backstroke), William Long (freestyle, butterfly); juniors Samaran Bhaktawara (breaststroke, IM) and sophomores Charlie Dillon (diving), Robert Basanese (freestyle) and Matt Pairitz (freestyle). Adding depth will be 17 freshman swimmers and divers, Olson noted. **PLYMOUTH:** Likewise, a solid nucleus is back to help Plymouth look to move up in the KLAAs South Division. The Wildcats finished 3-1 in the South, good for third place in a division won by campus rival Canton. Head coach Doug

Schade listed four returning athletes who will hopefully spark a successful season. Leading the Wildcats will be senior Adam Lianos (50, 100 free) and juniors Cameron Earls (100 fly, 100 back), Nick Weber (200 IM, 500 free) and Connor McManus (diving). Although both Salem and Plymouth are opening the season by competing in tournaments such as Friday's Rock Kilgore Invite (results not available as of press time), those squads won't begin KLAAs competition until January.

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'Cats pounce at quad meet

Plymouth proved to be rude guests at South Lyon Wednesday, easily defeating the host Lions and South Lyon East in a non-conference quad meet. The Wildcats knocked off South Lyon 57-18 in their first matchup. After trading pins at 125 and heavyweight Plymouth took the lead after the 103 pound contest

and never looked back. In one of the tougher back and forth matches of the night sophomore Brandon Davis was able to outlast South Lyon's Luke Shepperd at 145 securing the fall at 5:44. Chase Kallil (125) also won 6-3 in a hard-fought match against Jared Davidson. Davis and Kallil also were victorious in the

Wildcats' 84-0 romp over South Lyon East, finishing 2-0 for the night. But also winning both of their bouts were Adam Dulong, Mohammed Youssef, Trey Berry, Jon Conn, Hussein Youssef, Caton Hacker, Prince Pamimi, and Matt Walsh. Finishing 1-0 for the night were Brandon Harris and Matt Ayoub.



Celebrating last month's Super Bowl win is the Canton Lions 11U freshman youth football team. The squad of players ages 10-11 defeated the Plymouth Steelers to finish 10-0 for the year.

PHOTOS BY HEATHER SONNTAG

Young Lions drove to perfect year

Before the Canton Lions 11U freshman youth football team began the 2011 WSJFL season, head coach Darrell Harding and his staff decided to focus on one goal: to help kids improve daily. It worked to 10-0 perfection. "As a result of great preseason preparation and continued in-season improvement," noted Harding, the Lions went 8-0 in the regular season. The 10- and 11-year-olds continued with two more wins in the postseason, including a 25-8 victory against the Plymouth Steelers in the Super Bowl. "We had a great season and a lot of hard work and the payoff was beautiful," Harding said. He heaped praise on his staff for their help. Those contributors were as fol-



With blocking protection from Luke Nader (No. 56) and Matthew Kight (No. 6), Canton Lions freshman quarterback Preston Pierce launches a pass during the Super Bowl.

lows: offensive coordinator, Walter Reynolds; defensive coordinator, Calvin Brown; lineman coach, Ken Arnold; skill position coaches, Kirby Easley, Otis Dewberry, Jerome Nichols; sideline coaches, Robert Nader and John Abughannum. Harding gave a special thanks to parent Robin Dewberry. "Robin did a great job with organizing events and keeping everyone updated with any changes throughout the season."

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Dragons win tourney



The Canton-based St. John Neumann Dragons varsity boys No. 1 basketball team went 3-0 on their way to winning the St. Genevieve Catholic Youth Organization Thanksgiving Tournament. The Dragons beat Marist Academy, St. Patrick of Brighton and host St. Genevieve in the championship game. In the title tilt, the Dragons raced out to a 28-10 halftime lead and never trailed. St. John's Kenny Topolovec was named to the all-tournament team. Pictured are as follows: (front row, from left), Jacob Donnelly, Aaron Kosmyna, Trevor Nowaske, Cody Zidzik, Evan Voyles and Jace Kochan; (back row, from left) head coach Mike Marek, Trevor Molenda, Pete Carravallah, Kenny Topolovec, Matt Hughes and assistant coach Jim Nowaske.

WEDGEWOOD

Continued from page B1

each other," Wedgewood said. "We just make ourselves better and we look out for each other." But the goalie tandem still needs encouragement and direction. After all, these are guys not even 20 years old yet. It helps that those post-game pep talks from Matwijiw aren't one-timers. "Every game he's here, we have a close relationship, me, him and Matt, we work well together," Wedgewood added. "He writes down things he sees and what things we could be working on, we go over goals and give ourselves different options and work on things in practice trying to make ourselves better. "He's done a great job with both of us and I owe a lot to him for my career."

Keep grinding One of the recurring themes is not to become complacent. "Coming here the fourth year, it's hard to stay on your hard work ethic," Wedgewood said. "It's your fourth year and things might get a little bit easier. "The thing I had to learn and have learned is you got to work even harder to make yourself better." The undeniable work



Always square to the puck and ready for what comes his way is Plymouth Whalers goalie Scott Wedgewood, a 2010 draft pick of the NHL's New Jersey Devils.

ethic and determination to improve is definitely paying off.

Besides being a New Jersey draft pick, Wedgewood found up last week he made the Canadian team for the International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championships (Dec. 26 through Jan. 5).

When he returns, besides having more hockey experiences to share with Mahalak, it will be time to continue backstopping the Whalers to another playoff spot.

He'll do it one shot at a time, one period at a time, one game at a time.

And the quest to get an NHL contract won't be a distraction.

"I'm not really in a rush to do anything," he emphasized. "Things will work itself out. You just got to play the game."

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Plymouth gives state-ranked Spartans fits

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

BOYS HOCKEY

Livonia Stevenson's hockey team found out Wednesday night that "gimmies" are far and few between when it comes to the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

The state-ranked Spartans improved to 7-1 overall and 3-1 in the KLAA's Central Division with a hard-fought 4-3 conference crossover triumph over Plymouth in a game played at Edgar Arena.

Despite a six-day layoff, Stevenson built a 4-2 lead

after two periods before hanging on for the victory.

Plymouth, now 3-5 overall and 3-4 in the KLAA South Division, made things interesting when Michael Schultz scored from Jeremy Cigile just 5:50 into the final period to cut the deficit to 4-3.

"It was one of our better efforts, first through third (periods)," Plymouth first-year coach Gerry Vento said. "We had a couple of periods where we kind of sat back and it cost us, but in the end I thought it was

one of our best games of the season."

Stevenson bolted out to a 2-0 lead in the opening period on goals by Nate Sink and J.D. Byrne, but Plymouth's Sean Smiatacz cut the deficit to 2-1 at 14:12 of the same period on a power play from Dean Gunther and Mitch Claggett.

After Stevenson padded the lead to 4-1, Claggett answered with the Wildcats' second power play goal of the night from Matt Goertz and Smiatacz at 14:52.

Plymouth kept coming in

the third on Schultz's goal to cut the margin to one, but Stevenson junior goalie Connor Humitz stood strong the rest of the way to preserve the win.

SOUTH LYON 5, CANTON 3: The host Chiefs lost this KLAA crossover varsity boys hockey game played Wednesday night at Arctic Edge Arena. Scoring for Canton (5-2-0 overall) were senior Derek Voigt (unassisted), senior Shawn May (from senior Duggan Taylor) and sophomore Collin Smith (from senior Brandon Grillo).

The Lions (6-4-1) outshot Canton by a 28-23 margin, with the final goal being scored into an empty net. Making 23 stops for the Chiefs was senior goalie Spencer Craig.

Early blitz lifts PCS to 6-2 triumph over Regina

A four-goal first period and four assists by Jackie Lough propelled the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team to a 6-2 victory Tuesday night over Regina.

The win improved the Penguins record to 4-1 overall and 4-0 in Division 2 of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson said the contest at Arctic Edge Arena turned a bit too chippy late

in the second period with plenty of penalties by both teams.

That physical play resulted in an injured Penguin, however.

Starting and winning goalie Becky Lough was crushed into after making a save and had to leave with a concussion. She will likely miss 7-10 days. Finishing the game was Kaitlyn Allard.

Tallying markers for PCS in the first period were Jenna Carter, Elizabeth

O'Donohue, Mariah Tucker and Jackie Lough as the Penguins built a 4-1 lead.

Setting up two of those goals were Carter and Lough, with single assists by Beth Johnson and CeCe Hitch.

Tucker tallied her second marker of the game in the second period to make it 5-1, with Lough again drawing the helper.

After Regina made it 5-2 in the third, Johnson finished the scoring on a goal with assists by Lough and

Emily Bullock.

"Although we finished with a 6-2 win, we feel like we didn't play our game," Johnson said. "(It) felt like our flaws really stuck out this game which gives us a long list of things we need to work on before we will be able to compete with the Division 1 teams."

There will be plenty of practice time to do just that, with the next game not until Jan. 10 against Cranbrook Kingswood at Arctic Edge.

Salem stymies Wildcats in tough Park matchup

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

For the second straight Friday, Salem's varsity boys hockey team grinded out a hard-fought victory.

This time, at Plymouth Cultural Center, senior forward Austin Sartorius's goal broke a 1-1 tie in the second period and the Rocks tacked on two shorthanded empty netters in the final minute (by senior Mark McGee and sophomore Jake Sealy) to knock off Plymouth 4-1 in a KLAA South Division matchup.

Salem sophomore goalie Parker Godfrey shut the door in the closing minutes as the Wildcats pressed on the power play.

"It was a total team effort," Rocks

head coach Ryan Ossennmacher said. "We had guys step up, ... Parker stepped up in net."

"We talked a lot about courage before the game, who had the courage to put their bodies in front of pucks, the courage to win battles and every one of our guys tonight did that."

On the winning goal, which came right after the Rocks killed off a penalty, Sealy sent an outlet pass into the neutral zone and Sartorius took it from there — beating Plymouth senior goalie Rich Guglielmi on a partial breakaway.

That goal came shortly after the Wildcats (3-6-0-0) tied the game on a tally by sophomore forward Michael Schultz, from senior linemates Zach

Gambrell and sophomore Conor Browne.

Salem (2-2-0-1) opened the scoring in the first, with junior defenseman Evan Patton ripping a shot past Guglielmi. Assisting was junior forward Jake Fedel.

"Obviously, 4-1's not indicative of the play," Ossennmacher said. "It was 2-1, which is basically what I think every Park game has finished. We lost to Canton 2-1 and I think they (Wildcats) lost 2-1 to Canton, too. It shows how close all three teams are."

On Dec. 9, Salem blanked Northville 2-0 to break into the win column. "It's two good games in a row where we really brought the type of game we need to compete."

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

"adopted" through Volunteers of America for the holidays.

Joining him were Michael Manser, Austin Sartorius and Kyle Eggenberger.

The four players took money donated by each member of the team and

went out to buy a grocery card, household items, clothes and toys.

Not to be overlooked is Plymouth's hockey team.

On Dec. 22, the Wildcats will participate with the PBJ (Peanut Butter and Jelly) Outreach, folding and sorting clothes for Detroit's homeless.

And in early November, the team did a "rake and run" with The United Way

to assist senior citizens in the Plymouth community who couldn't physically do the work.

"I have always been a big believer in making the players aware of what is going on in their community and surrounding areas," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said.

"It is common for teenagers to become wrapped up in their own lives and not

realize that they are part of a bigger picture and that we all have a responsibility to help each other."

It goes without saying that Vento's words don't apply to the Park's hockey players — who collectively grip those responsibilities as well as the composites they use on the ice.

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Audubon volunteers look for feathered friends

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Richard Jensen will count birds Sunday, Dec. 18.

It's a pre-Christmas tradition that the Farmington Hills man has maintained for 38 years.

"We start at five in the morning. We play a tape of owl sounds and owls respond," Jensen said. "Sometimes you can make out their shadows. Sometimes if you have a flashlight, you can just (shine) it quickly over the birds."

Jensen always brings along a flashlight for his pre-dawn ritual in northwest Oakland County the Sunday before Christmas. After sun-up, binoculars come in handy as he and count partner, Dorothy McLeer, an interpretive naturalist for University of Michigan-Dearborn, spend the next nine

to 10 hours sighting birds, listening for their sounds and counting the different species they see along roads, in fields and wooded areas west of Pontiac airport.

"I've had the same area since the 70s," said Jensen, who searches for birds in "section four" of a circle of land that's 15 miles in diameter. Volunteers with the Detroit Audubon Society, including Jensen, divvy up the territory into one-mile sections for the group's annual Christmas Bird Count. The Count, which collects data on numbers of birds and species, is part of the National Audubon Society's 112-year-old Christmas Bird Count, that runs from Dec. 14-Jan. 5, 2012 this season. During the three-week period, local Audubon chapters in North America choose one day to brave the elements and

collect data, which scientists use to look at trends in bird population and migration.

Tim Nowicki of Livonia leads the Detroit Count, which takes place in northwest Oakland County the Sunday before Christmas.

Nowicki, who works as a naturalist at Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston, joined the Christmas Count as a teenager, while growing up in Dearborn.

"My parents would drop me off at Cranbrook (in Bloomfield Hills) and I would go out with a gentleman who surveyed section nine of the Count," said Nowicki, who also bird-watched while in college. "When I got back from college I got the same section I had when I was a teenager."

Revealing numbers
 As Count leader,

Nowicki collects results from Jensen and other section volunteers. He summarizes the work and submits it to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

"A lot of information is used to compare populations. We learn where birds overwinter, what species might be declining," Nowicki said. "There have been some remarkable shifts, in that years ago the house sparrow was commonly counted and it has dropped in numbers. Tree sparrows used to be commonly counted but because of changes in habitat and because of development they've dropped in high ranking status."

Volunteers used to see kestrels on every Count, but in recent years they've seen them less frequently.

Ducks and other water fowl, owls, mourning doves and many birds

seen at backyard feeders, such as cardinals, chickadees and blue jays are commonly seen during the Christmas Bird Count.

Volunteers try not to identify the same birds twice, but with common species there's no way they can be certain, Nowicki said.

Occasionally they sight a bird that's rarely seen during the Christmas Count.

"House wrens have been seen on occasion. Usually they are in southern states by now," said Nowicki, who recalls seeing a "cool" rough legged hawk during a previous Count. "You never know for sure what you'll see."

Hooked on birds

Jensen became interested in bird-watching and counting after seeing a king rail at his first Christmas Count in Kalamazoo while visiting

in-laws. His father-in-law was treasurer of the Michigan Audubon Society and an avid bird-watcher.

"That's probably the only time a king rail has been seen on the Christmas Count in Michigan," Jensen said, recalling the event in 1972.

"I studied the field guides and got hooked. It's like a competition with yourself — it's a lot like golf. You're competing with yourself to see how many birds you can identify without checking the field guide. Or how many you can identify by their song."

Although the Detroit count has ended, there's still time to get involved with the Christmas Bird Count in southeastern Michigan. Both Jensen and Nowicki said participants should wear boots

Please see FRIENDS, B6

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ZOO ANIMALS CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS

Detroit Zoo animals will get their holiday presents right on time for Hanukkah and just a few days early for Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Naughty or nice, the animals will receive environmental enrichment in the form of treat-filled piñatas, wrapped like holiday presents in traditional colors of the three holidays, on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

The festively decorated packages and other enrichment treats will be prepared and placed in the animals' habitats to stimulate natural behaviors such as foraging and stalking.

- Here's the enrichment schedule:
• 10:30 a.m. - Tigers and meat-filled piñatas
• 11 a.m. - Snow monkeys and holiday goodies.
• 11:30 a.m. - Bear-den bears and produce-filled piñatas

- Noon - Wolverines and meat- and bone-filled piñatas
• 12:30 p.m. - Polar bears and ice treats, along with a fish-filled piñata
• 1 p.m. - otters and ice treats

The holiday treats are among the many forms of environmental enrichment used daily at the Detroit Zoo to make the animals' habitats more dynamic and engaging.

The Detroit Zoo is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, except Christmas and New Year's Day, at 10 Mile and Woodward, just off the I-696 expressway. Admission is \$12 for adults, 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens, 62 and older, and \$8 for children, 2-14; free for children under 2. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org.

Hungarian group offering scholarships

The Hungarian Arts Club will present the works of its scholarship winner and introduce girls of Hungarian descent to society at its annual debutante ball, Feb. 4, 2012, at the Dearborn Inn.

The organization, founded in 1958, awards a scholarship each year to a student of Hungarian descent who is enrolled in a fine arts college level program in dance, music, painting, sculpture, drama, theater or photography. Scholarships of up to \$2,000 are available.

The winner will perform or display their art at the White Rose Ball,

a formal, black-tie ball with traditional ballroom dancing. At the ball, debutantes and their escorts will perform the Palotas, a traditional dance of the Hungarian royal court. Each debutante will be introduced to the Hungarian community.

The Hungarian Arts Club has awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarships to students of Hungarian descent. It also has donated to the community to bring Hungarian culture to others. Funds were donated to establish the Hungarian Room at Alex Manoogian Hall at Wayne State University and to Michigan State

University to acquire an antique cymbalom—a traditional Hungarian instrument. A bust of Franc List, sculpted by a Hungarian artist, was donated to Ford Auditorium during a reception to honor Antal Dorati, then the director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The Hungarian Arts Club also has been a strong supporter of other Hungarian cultural clubs and organizations. Not only was it one of the founding members of the Hungarian-American Cultural Center, but it also provided financial support to Dancers Hungaria, a group dedicat-

ed to the preservation of Hungarian folk dancing. The Club also has sponsored numerous activities at the Holy Cross Hungarian Church Festival.

Other efforts to bring Hungarian culture to the metro area have included hosting a Hungarian exhibit at Oakland University and a month-long Hungarian artifact display at the Livonia Library.

For more information about membership, tickets, scholarships, or participation in the Ball as a debutante or escort, call Linda Enyedy at (248) 352-0927 or Jana Johnson at (734) 459-5253.

Drum classes return to Plymouth arts center

Professional drummer and instructor Pat Paul Sorise will teach two series of classes beginning in January 2012 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, (PCAC).

Lessons for beginner and advanced drummers will be held at the Artsco House, adjacent to the PCAC building at 724 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Beginner Drum Set 100, ages 7 to adult, will cover holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, and how to count and play quarter and eighth notes. It will introduce the drum set. Classes will run 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 1. The

new Advanced Drum Set 200, for ages 7 to adult will run 5:45-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 1 and will identify drums/cymbals, wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns. Students also will learn about counting, measures, time signatures, different tempos and will get a chance to play a full drum set.

Prices are \$64 for members and \$74 for a nonmembers for each four-class series. No drumming experience is necessary. All skill levels can participate.

Sorise studied at East Detroit Conservatory under Ray Parker. He continued to drum through junior and high school and then

attended Eastern Michigan University playing with various bands. He has been teaching privately for over 25 years and taught classes at Apollo Music in Ann Arbor, Drum Shop in Dearborn, and East Detroit Conservatory. Pat also plays in the band All Directions, which performs at concerts, clubs and private parties. All Directions has recorded two CDs.

To learn about other opportunities at the PCAC or for a complete list of classes, visit www.plymoutharts.com, stop in the PCAC, or call (734) 416-4278.

Arthritis Today

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



WHEN GOUT IS IN DOUBT

The public may believe that a pain in the foot is gout. Physicians are taught that in the foot, gout can be everywhere, but what is anywhere in the foot is not necessarily gout.

Making a distinction between what is gout and what is not becomes important as other conditions that look and act like gout require treatments different from what treats gout.

These other conditions are pseudogout and hydroxy apatite crystalline arthropathy. These two conditions share common characteristics with gout that make them difficult to distinguish from gout. Both gout, pseudogout and hydroxy apatite come on suddenly, usually at night or on awakening in the morning, commonly involve the great toe, and if not treated, resolve in 4-5 days.

The only way that a physician can make a certain diagnosis between these three conditions is to see the crystals of each in a specimen of synovial fluid obtained when the patient has an acute attack of joint pain and swelling. Often the opportunity to obtain fluid for analysis occurs rarely making it difficult to make a firm diagnosis.

Making the correct diagnosis is important because the physician can treat gout with colchicine, allopurinol or Uloric. Pseudogout will respond at times to colchicine, but never to allopurinol or Uloric, and hydroxyapatite will only respond to steroids and never to colchicine, allopurinol or Uloric.

Making a correct diagnosis is of particular importance, because once on allopurinol or Uloric a person must take that medicine every day for the rest of his or her life.

FRIENDS

Continued from page 85

and dress for the weather.

"We've had years where it was snowing so hard, you couldn't see. Then you'd be lucky if you stepped on a bird," Jensen said.

Sign up

The Rockwood count is Monday, Dec. 26. E-mail Tom Carpenter at Tcarpen1980@yahoo.com

Join a Detroit River count with Jim Fowler on Jan. 1, 2012. E-mail to jafowl@comcast.net.



JOHN MEYLAND

Ducks are a common sight on the Audubon's Christmas Bird Count.

Rockwood Christmas Bird Count If you're interested in counting birds, but want a more limited time frame and locale, consider

joining the Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday-Monday, Feb. 17-20, 2012. The count is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada.

Participants of all ages count birds anywhere for as little as 15 minutes a day during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time and report their findings to the Great Backyard Bird Count Web site. Check it out at www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

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Holiday gathering

Milena Cankovic of Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters welcomes Ivory Williams, storyteller, to the group's Christmas party. Williams was the guest speaker at the organization's holiday dinner party on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at One Under Bar and Grill in Livonia. The Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters, a group dedicated to developing public speaking and leadership skills, meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile.

Practice moves to new location in Livonia

Dr. Rita Sabbagh, Obstetrics & Gynecology, has opened a new office, Ladies Health Place, at 19924 Farmington Road in Livonia. Sabbagh specializes in obstetrics, high-risk pregnancy, adolescent gynecology, menopause and more. The Northville resident received her medical degree from Aleppo University, Aleppo, Syria, and was chief resident of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the North Oakland Medical Center, Pontiac. She is a dip-

lomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and member of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and American Medical Association. Ladies Health Place is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through December. Starting next month, hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Friday. For more information, call (248) 442-2222.



Sabbagh

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Join us for a night of good friends & good shooting

NO alcohol to ruin your morning!

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Non-member.....\$60
Member.....\$50
Couple.....\$110

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Livonia, MI 48150
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2011 CHRISTMAS TREE GUIDE

Find your perfect tree by visiting one of these fine businesses!

U-CUT-FIR, PINE and SPRUCE
Open 7 days, 10AM 'til DUSK
CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY

HOLTZ CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION

9381 Day Road near Maybee, MI
734-587-3155

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

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3ft-12ft Trees:

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10045 Six Mile (6 Mile & Chubb Rd)
248-767-4447



Christmas Worship Directory

Christmas Eve, December 24
Candlelight, Carols & Celebrated Message
 Family Service: 7 PM
Children's Program
 Traditional: 11 PM
Chancel Choir
Christmas Day, December 25
 Service: 10 AM




FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 26425 Wellington Road, Franklin, MI
 (248) 626-6606 www.franklinchurch.us



Covenant Community Church
 25800 Student - Redford, MI 48239 - 313-535-3100
 (1 block north of Five Mile on Beech Daly)
 www.covenantredford.com

Christmas Service Schedule
 Saturday, December 24, 2011 - 6 pm
 Sunday, December 25, 2011 - 11 am




Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia
 734.464.0211 www.holytrinitylivonia.org

Christmas Eve
 5:00 pm Family Worship with Holy Communion
 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
 10:30 pm Festival Prelude of Christmas Music
 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10:00 am Holy Communion

Founded in Faith • Grounded in Scripture
 Surrounded by Grace
 Celebrating a 50 Year Faith Journey



Farmington First United Methodist Church
 33112 Grand River, Farmington 48336
 Just east of Farmington Rd.

Christmas Eve Children's Play at 4:30pm, FREE
Silent Mice, Holy Mice
 Traditional service at 10:00 p.m.
 Christmas Day - Service at 10 am



God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it
 www.farmingtonfumc.org




WARD CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
 4:00 PM
 5:30 PM
 7:00 PM

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 www.wardchurch.org


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St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)
 17810 Farmington Road - Livonia, Michigan
 734-261-1360 - website: stpaulslivonia.org



Christmas Worship at St. Paul's
 Christmas Eve Worship.....6:30 p.m.
 Christmas Day Worship.....10:00 a.m.
 New Year's Eve.....6:30 p.m.

Come and worship with us!




ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
 EPISCOPAL ANGLICAN

Please join us in celebrating Christ!
Christmas Eve — Saturday, December 24th
 The Vigil Mass of the Nativity (Family) — 6:00 pm
 The Solemn High Mass of the Nativity — 10:00 pm

Christmas Day — Sunday, December 25th
 The High Mass of Christmass Day — 10:30 am

New Year's Eve — Saturday, December 31st — 4:30 pm
New Year's Day — Sunday, January 1st — 10:30 am

555 S. Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan
 www.stjohnschurchwestland.com • (734) 721-5023

Swingin Christmas Eve

Big Band Express Orchestra
 4 & 7.00 pm
 Childcare provided infant to 6 yrs

Candlelight Service
 11.00 pm
 Hors d'oeuvres & desserts served
 prior to the programs

Christmas Day Service
 11.00 am



10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd Plymouth www.trinitycpc.org



ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 ~Christmas Eve Services~
 Saturday, December 24, 2011

5:00 p.m. - Family Service
 Featuring Children's Choir and Youth Handbells
 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service
 Featuring Adult Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir

~Christmas Morning Worship~ 10:30 am
 Rev. Steve Clark, Pastor
 Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Pastor

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, USA
 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago • Livonia, MI 48150
 734.422.0494
 www.rosedalegardens.org
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DECEMBER 24

ANN ARBOR-SALINE 5:00P	PLYMOUTH 1:00P • 3:00P 5:00P • 11:00P	BRIGHTON-HOWELL 5:00P
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For more information, visit NorthRidgeChurch.com.

Christmas at the Kirk

December 18
 4:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 AM Young Family Service Ms. Kelly Boubel Shriver	8:30 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard
4:00 PM Family Service Rev. William Adams III	11:00 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard
6:00 PM Family Service Rev. Carol Tate	



Kirk in the Hills
 1340 West Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302
 (248) 626-2515 kirkinthehills.org

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. 18-31

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, pancakes, 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

SOUP & SCRIPTURE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper, followed by service at 7 p.m. Dec. 21

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road,

Livonia

Details: Hearty soup and bread supper followed by Advent service

Contact: (734) 427-2290

Jan. 1-11,
2012

CATHOLIC PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: "Catholics Returning Home," is a six-week series of meetings designed to answer questions and provide a forum for non-practicing Catholics who might be interested in discussing a possible return to the church. Each session will be facilitated by former lapsed Catholics in a very casual, non-threatening environment, with plenty of opportunities for practical and open questions, answers, conversation, and

discussion

Contact: (734) 261-1455, ext. 207

NEW SERVICE

Time/Date: 10:10 a.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 8, 2012

Location: Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road in Plymouth

Details: A new 55-minute contemporary worship service called Impact will feature a praise band, lots of upbeat music and a powerful message in a relaxed atmosphere. Child care will be offered

Contact: (734) 453-5280

THESIS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 2, 2012

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>

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

Faith Bible Church

Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8

Location: 34541 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: "Four Views of the End Times" adult study

Also ongoing: "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September, is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hangups and habits of the past.

Contact: (734) 464-7990

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m.,

Monday-Friday

Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer

Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday.

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of Letter to the Hebrews. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200 or www.livoniastmichael.org

Christmas Worship Directory

Celebrate Christmas!
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Rd, Livonia
(Just north of I-96)

Christmas Eve:
7pm Family Service
11pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day:
10am Worship
(734) 522-6830
www.christoursavior.org

HOLY CROSS
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Traditional
Christmas Eve Worship
Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion
4:30* 7:30 and 11 pm
*For families with young children
All are Welcome
<http://holycrosslivonia.org>

30650 6 Mile Rd., Livonia
(1/2 Mile West of Middlebelt)
734-427-1414 • WELCOME VISITORS



Christ the King Lutheran Church
www.ChristTheKingLivonia.com
9300 Farmington Road - Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 421-0749
The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion
5:30 & 11:00 pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield
(248) 569-2972 www.fbc-detroit.org

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE
December 18th - Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant
Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day
11:00 a.m. Worship

St. John's Episcopal Church
Where you will experience the joyful love of Christ
Christmas Services • Dec. 24

4:00 pm Family service with Holy Eucharist and Pageant
10:30 pm Carols and Anthems
11:00 pm Traditional Holy Eucharist with Adult Choir & Organ

574 S. Sheldon Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-0190
www.stjohnsplymouth.org

Celebrate Christmas at St. James!
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 4:00 PM
Caroling, Caroling: An Alfred Burt Family Christmas
CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY DECEMBER 24
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Christmas Pageant
10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & choral service • *Music at 9:30 p.m.*
CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY DECEMBER 25
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

355 W. Maple 248.644.0820
stjamesbirmingham.org
The Reverend Robert L. Hart

St. James
Episcopal Church
The Heart of Birmingham

North Congregational Church
36520 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI
248-848-1750 northcongregationalchurch.org

Sunday, December 18, 2011 10:30 a.m.
Worship, Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 24, 2011
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
7:30 P.M. — "The Light of All People"

Rev. Mary E. Biedron, Senior Minister

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Tridentine Latin Rite Mass 734-462-3200
38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154
One quarter mile West of Newburgh Road

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Confessions	11:00-11:50 pm
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
	Morning Mass	10:00 am
	Confessions	9:30 am

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Drive
Between 5 & 6 Mile Roads
734-421-8451

Christmas Eve Candlelight
10:30 P.M.

Christmas Day
10:30 a.m.

Come home this Christmas
A warm welcome awaits you

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor
Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 p.m. Children/Family Friendly Service
7:00 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight
11:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols, Candlelight & Holy Communion

December 25 we will have a Family Worship Service for all ages at 10:00 a.m.

Resurrection Parish
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187
734-451-0444
www.resurrectionparish.net

Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Masses—4:30 PM (Church); 4:30 PM (All Saints Catholic School Gym); 10:00 PM (Church)

Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day—10:30 AM

Saturday, December 31st: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God—4:30 PM

Sunday, January 1st: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God—8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH!

First United Methodist Church of Birmingham
Christmas Worship

Contemporary Christmas Eve
Friday, December 23
7:00 pm in the Christian Life Center

Christmas Eve, December 24

2:00 p.m. Traditional sanctuary service
4:00 p.m. A worship service for children younger than five years old and their families
5:30 p.m. A Family worship time led by children in first through fifth grades
7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Traditional Services

Christmas Day
December 25
10:00 AM only in the Sanctuary
Family Worship

1589 West Maple Road
Birmingham, MI
(248) 646-1200
www.fumcbirmingham.org

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



CURRY, MATHILDE H.
"HILDE"

Of Farmington Hills, Passed away on December 9, 2011 at Livonia Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Livonia. Mathilde was born December 4, 1925 in Augsburg, Germany. She was trained as a childrens nurse and took great pride in her ability to care for children. She married William G. Curry "Bill", a United States Army Sergeant, in Germany on February 14, 1953. They made their home in the United States, living in Detroit, then later in Southfield. Hilde became an American Citizen in 1960. Bill preceded her in death on October 17, 1991. Hilde touched the lives of many families as she baby-sat for their children. She was a positive and loving influence to these children, now adults. Hilde is survived by her nieces and nephews in Germany, many dear friends and her church family at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 11 Mile Rd. (E. of Middlebelt Rd.), Farmington Hills. Memorials suggested to Nardin Park United Methodist Church. Arrangements entrusted to the Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. (248-474-5200) heeneey-sundquist.com



DELY, JOHN E.

Age 56 December 14, 2011 of Westland. Beloved son of the late Steven Dely and Patricia (Harold) Diegel. Loving brother of Kathleen (Greg) Jalynski, Michael Dely, Constance (Mike) Harris, Karen (Ron) DeBus, Patricia (Tim) Gohl, Marie Bennett, Susan (John) Evans, Bonnie Miller, Sandra (Wade) Bemis and Vicki (Gary) Mize. Also leaves many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sun 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd (btwn Ford and Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service Mon 10 AM at the funeral home. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia. Memorials to the American Lung Association would be appreciated. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



FIDGE, WEYONA LEE
"PINKY"

Of Manchester, MI, age 76, passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Chelsea Retirement Community. She was born on October 13, 1935 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Doc and Lee (Rosentrater) Higgins. On September 17, 1955 she married Thomas J. Fidge, Jr. and he survives. Lee had lived in the area since 1985, coming from Plymouth. She had been a Plymouth Township Trustee, worked on the Rouge River Clean-Up Project, and was involved with local politics. She also had worked at the Manchester Gravel Pit, was a member of the Garden Club, had a cooking page in the Manchester Enterprise ("Thyme in the Kitchen"), and "raised cattle." In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children: Lawrence (Pamela) Fidge of Westland, Jeffrey (Deb) Fidge of Northville, and LesLee (David) Turner of Dexter; three grandchildren; and a half-sister, Kathleen Laderman of Florida. She was preceded in death by her parents. Funeral Services will be held Monday, December 19, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. from the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea with Rev. Kathy Schell officiating. Burial will follow at Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Humane Society of Huron Valley.



KRUEGER, JR.
CHARLES CHRISTIAN

Age 80, known to all as "Charley" passed away on December 2, 2011. He was born September 17, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Charles C. and Gertrude W. Krueger (nee Klotz). He graduated from Redford High School in 1949 and in 1953 from Michigan State University in East Lansing. He is survived by his wife Carolyn M. Krueger (nee Hill) whom he married on September 6, 1952. He is also survived by sons Charles W. and Robert C. (Lee Ann Overhiser) and daughter Karen M. (John) Zimmerman (nee Krueger). He had four cherished grandchildren Cody Krueger, Carolyn, Elizabeth and Jack Zimmerman. Mr. Krueger was Vice President of Engineering at McIntosh Division of Masco Industries. He retired following 34 years of service. Formerly he had been with General Motors. Charley was a member of Fellowship Presbyterian Church of Livonia, a First Lieutenant of the U.S. Air Force, the Society of Automotive Engineers, Redford Metropolitan Lodge #152 F&AM, Moslem Shriners, Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the MSU Alumni Association. His hobby was woodworking and many family members and friends have the projects he made with loving care. His Memorial Service was held Wednesday, December 7 at Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Livonia with Reverend Dr. James N. McGuire officiating. Interment at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. Memorial donations may be made to Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 16360 Hubbard Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Share memories with Charley's family at: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

ROWE, GEORGE H.

Age 77 of Plymouth, passed away suddenly August 20, 2011. Beloved husband of Shirley. Loving father of Darrell (Heidi), Denise, and Doug (Kami). Dear brother of Joyce Steward. Proud grandfather of Brendon, Liesel, Nicholas, Karla, Ryan, Jenine, Bridgette, Andrew and the late Mathew; and great-grandfather of Brendon, Karsin, Braylon, and Arleigh. Also leaves Dutchess faithful companion of twelve years. Retired from General Motors after 23 years of service as a process engineer. A memorial gathering will be held Wednesday at 4 PM until the 7:00 PM Memorial Service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Memorials contributions may be made to American Heart and Stroke Association and the American Brittany Rescue. To share a memory please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



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 was held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel Thursday. Funeral Service was Friday at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia. Memorial Contributions may be made to Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 150 Bingham Farms, MI 48025. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com



SPRINGER, ANN L.

December 13, 2011, age 71. Life long resident of Plymouth. Graduated from Plymouth High school, Class of 1958. Received her Bachelor and Master degrees from the University of Michigan. Worked as a librarian both for the Plymouth Library and for Pfizer Corporation in Ann Arbor from where she retired. Survived by her husband William and her two daughters from a previous marriage (Horvath), Carol (William) Gardner and Lynn (Christopher Allan) Horvath. Grandmother of Alex, Zoe and Jay. Sister of Jean (William) Weber, Jim (Cathy) Cooper and Susan (Brian) Howe. A private family memorial service is planned. Contributions suggested to the Friends of the Plymouth Library or Arbor Hospice. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.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 at Glen Eden Cemetery. Donations to Michigan Humane Society or Wounded Warriors Project appreciated. Condolences to StepFunerals.com

THOMAS, RUTH H.

Age 92, of South Lyon, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2011. She was born April 17, 1919 in Pittsburgh, PA to Frank and Ida (nee Smith) Manns. Ruth was united in marriage to John G. Thomas on July 26, 1941, and they spent 70 loving years together until his death in October. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Pittsburgh and began her teaching career with High School English. She continued teaching throughout her life moving from High School to Elementary School and ending her career with Preschool. Finding the greatest joy in the early education of children, she founded Farmington Presbyterian Preschool; where she also served as the Director. Ruth was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington and Chapter 221 of the Eastern Star. She was a wonderful mother, who was very loving and kind; she always cared more about others than herself. Ruth enjoyed cooking and baking, and was known for her delicious cherry pie and fudge. She also enjoyed sewing and doing a variety of crafts. Ruth is survived by her adoring children, Susan (Donald) Lyons, David (Kathy) Thomas, and Nancy (Scott) Kistler; her grandchildren, Michael Lyons, Gethin (Amanda) Thomas, Boo Hee Thomas, and Margred Thomas; and her great granddaughter, Zoe Kelly. She was also loved by many nieces and nephews. Ruth was preceded in death by her beloved husband John G. Thomas, her parents, and her sister Edna Sweeney. A memorial service will be held at a later date, where she will be laid to rest with her husband at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 or Farmington Presbyterian Preschool, 26165 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. of South Lyon.

LARABELL, JAMES L.

Age 58 of Westland. Father of Jennine. Brother of Phyllis, David, Chuck, Russell, Paul, Mike, Gerald and Patricia. Memorial Gathering Monday 9:30-11am. Service 11am at funeral home. Arrangements by Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, Livonia.



METZLER, DOROTHY

December 11, 2011, Age 92. Wife of the late Paul D. Loving mother of Robert P. and Patricia Houtteman (Dennis). Dear grandmother of Steve Houtteman (Pamela). Great-grandmother of Mason and Owen. Services have been held. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 362-2500. Memorial tributes to 1st United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009-1297. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

MEYER, JAMES FREDERICK

Age 77, December 14, 2011, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Meredith. Loving father of Michael, John, Daniel, Sharon Droste, David, Timothy, Andrew and Christian. Dear brother of George, Virginia and Donna Jean. Grandfather of 22. A Funeral Service was held at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, December 17, 2011. Jim was a Sgt in the US Marine Corp serving in the Korean Conflict. He was a member of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church since 1973. His family suggests donations to either the Marine Corp. League or Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Share a memory at www.rggharris.com

Milestones



Ronald and Margaret Swick cut an anniversary cake together.

50th wedding anniversary

Ronald and Margaret (Mault) Swick of Westland marked their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 25. The couple married in 1961 at Sheldon Methodist Church in Canton.



Ronald and Margaret Swick of Westland

The couple met and grew up in Canton, where Margaret attended Sheldon school and graduated in 1961 from Wayne High School. Ronald went to Truesdell school and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1961. They moved to Westland in 1973 and are still in the same house. Ronald retired from Cadillac Livonia after 38 years. Margaret was a homemaker but also worked a few part-time jobs over the years. They have a daughter, Terri Brusseau, also in Westland.

Ronald enjoys bowling with his grandsons. He and Margaret like to watch them compete in high school and league bowling. Ronald also has collected three classic cars and enjoys going to car shows during the summer. Margaret enjoys crocheting baby hats for preemies at local hospitals. She donates them through the senior center in Westland. The couple has raised many orphaned litters of kittens, bottle feeding them day and until they are big enough to go to good homes. The kitties they have kept all have slight disabilities. They are Missy, Topsy and Miracle, all names appropriate for their conditions and circumstances. Margaret's anniversary present was a new puppy, a Chihuahua named Paco. They also have a dog named Shorty. The couple celebrated their landmark anniversary by buying themselves a new car.

Ballesteros-Brown

Nelly Adriana Ballesteros and Andrew Frank Brown announce their engagement. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Elizabeth and Manuel Ballesteros of Ypsilanti. She graduated Dec. 17 in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and plans to work for Tenneco in Monroe. Her fiancé, son of Patrick and Jane Brown of Farmington, earned his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 2006 from Michigan State University and graduated from Farmington High School in 2003. He is employed by Toyota. A September 2012 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington.



igan State University and graduated from Farmington High School in 2003. He is employed by Toyota. A September 2012 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington.

Rutkowski-LaBean

Kellee Renee La Bean and Joseph J. Rutkowski were married Nov. 11, 2011 in Plymouth. Timothy James La Bean officiated. The bride, daughter of Arnold and Sandra La Bean of Westland, earned a bachelor's degree in education from Wayne State University and is employed as a substitute teacher. The groom, son of Phillip and Linda Rutkowski of Port Austin, earned a BA in criminal justice from Madonna University and is a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. The bride's attendants were Tamara Lazette and Kimberlee Coughlin, both matrons of honor, and bridesmaids LeeAnn Rut-



kowski and Sara Michael. The best man was DJ Mitchell. Groomsmen were Greg Parker, Chris Siller and Timothy La Bean. A Reception at Bona Banquets in Westland followed the ceremony. The couple took a honeymoon trip to Puerto Rico. They reside in Garden City.

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Consumer website lists chemicals in children's toys

Parents can check the amount of BPA — bisphenol A, the same toxic chemical already banned in plastic baby bottles and sippy cups — in 650 brand name toys on HealthyStuff.org, a Michigan-based Web site.

The information comes from a report based on industry data. It names toys that contain BPA, a toxic hormone-disrupting chemical, and it reveals a toxic ingredient, nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) in 300 household paints, as well as several cleaners, wood finishes and home maintenance products.

Studies have shown that BPA and NPEs (nonylphenol ethoxylates) mimic the sex hormone estrogen. BPA harms brain development, behavior and the prostate gland, among other adverse health effects. NPEs are highly toxic to aquatic life, degrade into a long-lived chemical that builds up in the food chain, and may harm reproduction and development in humans.

"Poison in Paint, Toxics in Toys," was released by the Environmental Health Strategy Center in Maine and summarizes the first chemical use reports submitted by product manufacturers under a new state chemical safety law passed in Maine. Similar state laws go into effect in Washington and California next year. Coinciding with the report's release, Senator Rebekah Warren, D-Ann



Arbor, introduced the Safe Children's Products Act, legislation similar to Maine's law that provides information to the public on chemical ingredients in children's products.

"This report illustrates the important role states have in providing chemical safety data in the absence of federal reform," said Rebecca Meuninck, who co-released the report. She also serves as environmental health campaign director for the Ecology Center — the organization that created

HealthyStuff.org — and Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health.

"Michigan families deserve the same protections as families in Maine, so we applaud Senator Warren's introduction of the Safe Children's Products Act."

The Safe Children's Products Act would require the state to create a list of chemicals of concern in children's products, based on sound science and require toy importers and large manufacturers to disclose the

presence of chemicals of greatest concern in their children's products.

To read the lists of toys containing BPA and household products with NPEs, visit www.healthystuff.org.

The Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health is a coalition of Michigan health professional, health-affected, and environmental organizations dedicated to changing policies and practices that expose children to environmental toxicants.

Mammogram service offers risk assessment

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia is offering a new mammography service, MammoPlus, that includes a digital mammogram and a lifetime risk assessment for breast cancer.

"We want to provide our patients with a bigger picture than simply traditional breast cancer screening," stated Medical Oncologist Dr. Ramesh Mohindra, a medical oncologist and medical director of Breast Health Services at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. "Regular mammograms are essential in the fight against breast cancer... a digital mammogram can detect breast cancer up to two years before the patient even experiences symptoms and this risk assessment provides an even more complete evaluation. The sooner breast cancer is discovered, or the threat of it, the better the chance of beating it."

With MammoPlus, each patient is offered the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Risk Assessment as part of their standard mammography service.

"This tool helps us gather information about the patient's personal health and breast history that assist us in determining if she may be at increased risk for developing breast cancer," stated Diagnostic Services Director Mary Tocco, St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

If the patient's risk score requires further review, she and her referring physician are alerted and within 48 hours she receives a call to discuss MammoPlus results. An appointment can be scheduled at that time for more in-depth assessment, followed by an interview with the hospital's high risk coordinator. An analysis report is prepared based on the patient's answers to questions about her personal life and family risk.

There is no additional cost for MammoPlus. For more information, call the hospital at (734) 655-4216.



Mohindra

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Guest speaker Kevin Moore, OTR, MSA, WCC
Thursday, January 19, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.
Location: Bailey Center in Westland
- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**
Guest speaker David Mendelson, MD
Thursday, January 26, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD
Thursday, February 2, 6 p.m.
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **"Stay Awake" Series: Insomnia and Sleep Hygiene**
Guest speaker Punitha Vijayakumar, MD
Neurologist and Board Certified Sleep Specialist
Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-4640 to register or for more information.
- **Let's Talk: Heart Health**
Guest speaker, an expert in Cardiology
Wednesday, February 15, 6 p.m.
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Thursday, Dec. 22 @ 5 pm
Friday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm
Friday, Dec. 23 @ 4 pm
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Classified Display Ads
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Deadline
Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon
Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon
Tuesday, Dec. 27 @ 4 pm
Edition of Sunday, Jan. 1st
Auto & Real Estate Display Ads
Classified Display Ads
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Deadline
Thursday, Dec. 29 @ 5 pm
Friday, Dec. 30 @ 3 pm
Friday, Dec. 30 @ 4 pm
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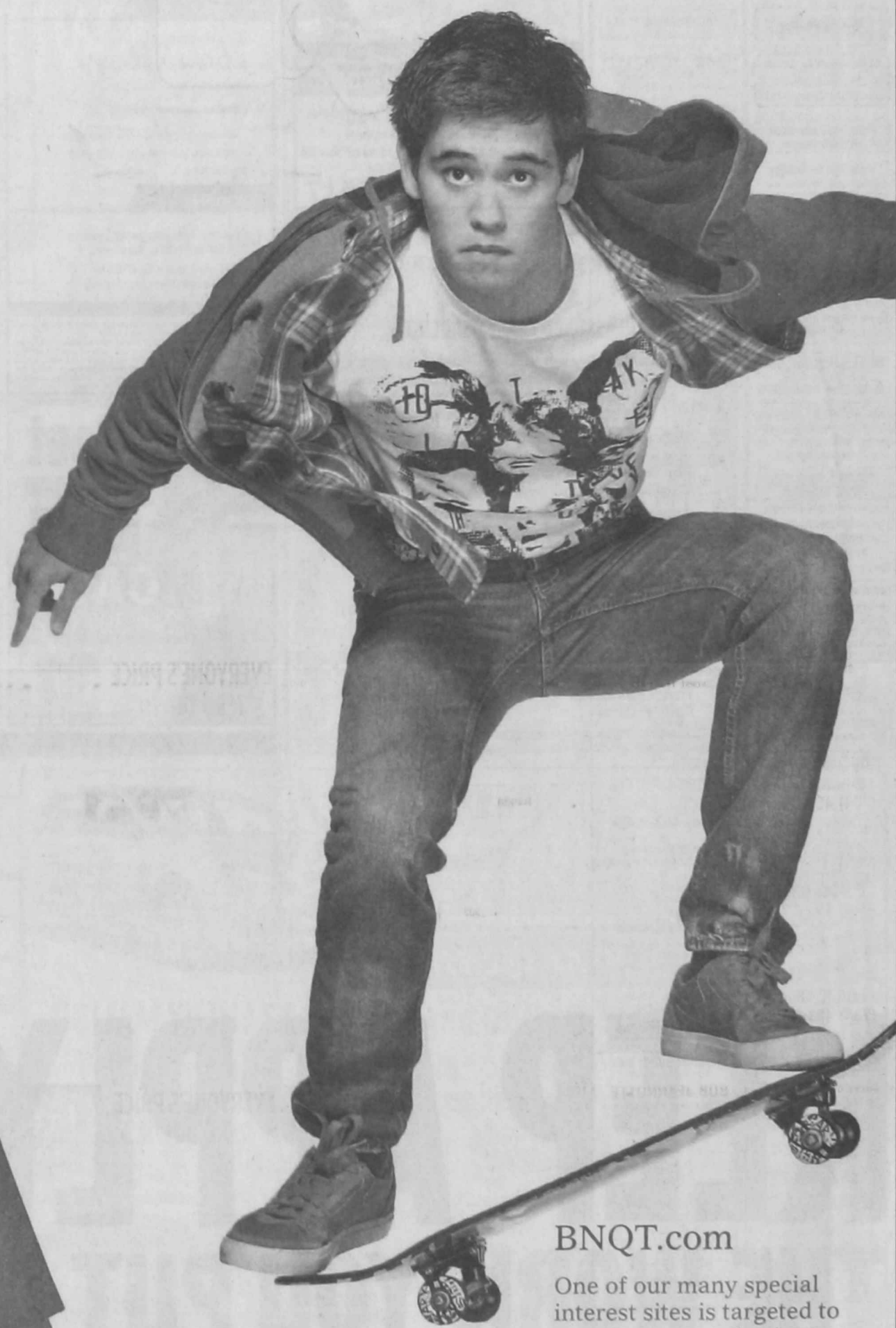
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2012 CHEVY MALIBU LEASE FOR \$179³⁹ MO OR LESS SIGN & DRIVE BUY FOR \$18,669 OR LESS 2012 CHEVY IMPALA LEASE FOR \$297³⁹ MO OR LESS SIGN & DRIVE GREAT SAVINGS ZERO DOWN BUY FOR \$19,546 OR LESS EVERYONE'S PRICE ZERO DOWN

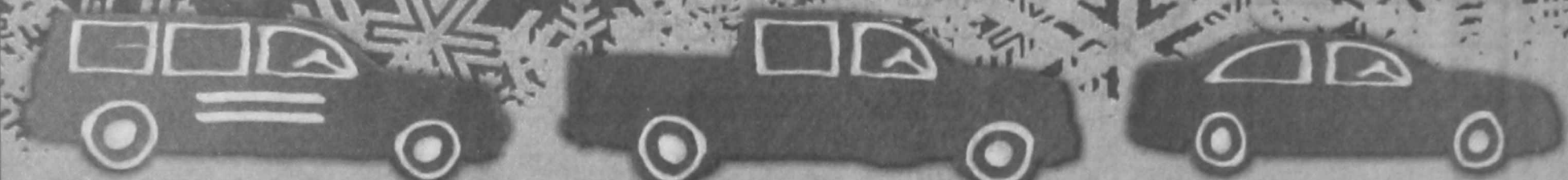
2012 CHEVY SILVERADO EXTENDED CAB 4X4 LEASE FOR \$234³⁹ MO OR LESS SIGN & DRIVE BUY FOR \$26,249 OR LESS PAY ONLY \$299 PER MO OR LESS EVERYONE'S PRICE ZERO DOWN BUY FOR \$29,999 OR LESS

NO PAYMENTS-120 DAYS WITH PURCHASE Lou LaRiche CHEVROLET

40875 PLYMOUTH RD. 3.5 MILES NORTH OF IKEA AT HAGGERTY & PLYMOUTH ROADS 1.866.385.8000 OPEN SATURDAY SALES & SERVICE MONDAY & THURSDAY 8:30AM-9PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 8:30AM-6PM SATURDAY 9AM-3PM ON THE WEB WWW.SWITCHTOLARICHE.COM

MALIBU-Lease plus tax, 6% license & documentation fees, 39 mo., 10,000 miles per year, with approved credit. 800+ credit score and current non-GM lease in household. No first payment-No security deposit required. Stock #K24322. EQUINOX-Lease plus tax, 6% license & documentation fees, 39 mo., 10,000 miles per year, with approved credit. 800+ credit score and current non-GM lease in household. No first payment-No security deposit required. Stock #271167. CRUZE-Lease plus tax, 6% license & documentation fees, 36 mo., 10,000 miles per year, with approved credit. 800+ credit score and current non-GM lease in household. No first payment-No security deposit required. Stock #242116. IMPALA-Lease plus tax, 6% license & documentation fees, 39 mo., 10,000 miles per year, with approved credit and GM Employee/qualified family member purchase authorization. First payment \$204. Security deposit \$225. Total due \$619 at inception. Stock #204234. TRVERSE-Lease plus tax, 6% license & documentation fees, 36 mo., 10,000 miles per year, with approved credit. 800+ credit score and current non-GM lease in household. No first payment-No security deposit required. Stock #277060. SILVERADO 4X4-Lease plus tax, 6% license & documentation fees, 36 mo., 10,000 miles per year, with approved credit and non-GM lease in household. No security deposit required. 1st payment, \$299 due at signing. Everyone's price plus tax, lic. doc. 6% rebate & non-GM lease incentive. 2 at this price. No payment 120 days excluding Camera, toll, non EXT Cab Colorado, Non Impala LS models. 60 mo. only. Sign & Drive lease offer includes No money down-No security deposit and No 1st Payment, tax & fees due at delivery. All prices net rebates & non-GM lease offers plus tax, lic. doc & title fees - with approved credit. Offers expire 12-21-11. Offer subject to prior sale.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS - YEAR END CELEBRATION



NEW 2012 Ford Fusion SEL

EPA estimated 23 city / 33 hwy mpg
Loaded, Leather, Moonroof



Buy for **\$20,359+**
MSRP \$28,985

Featuring: Sync, Automatic, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Keyless Entry, Satellite Radio, BLIS, Rearview Camera, Reverse Sensing.
40 at this price - 350 available

27 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN **SIGN & DRIVE**
\$187* **\$235***
\$1319 due at signing \$0 due at signing

NEW 2012 Ford Escape Limited

EPA estimated 21 city / 28 hwy mpg
Sun & Sync Package



27 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN **SIGN & DRIVE**
\$182* **\$232***
\$1388 due at signing \$0 due at signing

Buy for **\$21,913+**
MSRP \$29,740

Featuring: 302A Package, Chrome Wheels, Luxury Package, Moonroof, Premium Sound.
20 at this price - 373 available

NEW 2012 Ford Edge SE

EPA estimated 19 city / 26 hwy mpg



Buy for **\$21,277+**
MSRP \$28,835

Featuring: Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, Power Windows, Seats, Locks.
5 at this price - 127 available

27 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN **SIGN & DRIVE**
\$237* **\$289***
\$1401 due at signing \$0 due at signing

NEW 2012 Ford Focus SE

EPA estimated 28 city / 38 hwy mpg
Sport Package



27 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN **SIGN & DRIVE**
\$181* **\$228***
\$1267 due at signing \$0 due at signing

Buy for **\$17,742+**
MSRP \$22,375

Featuring: Automatic, Cruise Control, Rear Spoiler, Power Windows.
4 at this price - 100 available

NEW 2012 Ford Explorer XLT

EPA estimated 17 city / 23 hwy mpg



Buy for **\$29,754+**
MSRP \$29,740

Featuring: Leather, Power Liftgate, Sync, My Ford Touch, Premium Audio, Rearview Camera, Heated Seats.
3 at this price - 90 available

27 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN **SIGN & DRIVE**
\$317* **\$370***
\$1426 due at signing \$0 due at signing

NEW 2011 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 XLT

EPA estimated 15 city / 21 hwy mpg



27 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN **SIGN & DRIVE**
\$270* **\$322***
\$1422 due at signing \$0 due at signing

Buy for **\$27,084+**
MSRP 40,120

Featuring: Ecoboost 3.5 L V6 Engine, XLT Convenience Package, Keyless Entry, Trailer Tow, XLT Chrome Pkg., Limited Slip.
3 At This Price - 132 Available.

NEW 2012 Ford Fiesta SE

EPA estimated 29 city / 38 hwy mpg



Buy for **\$15,373+**
MSRP \$18,530

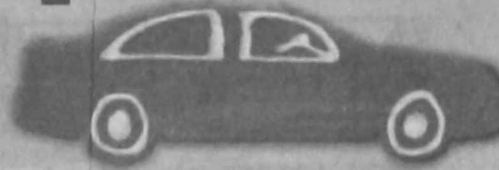
Featuring: Sport Appearance Pkg., SYNC and Sound, Automatic, Ambient Lighting, Satellite Radio, Heated Seats, Keyless Entry Key Pad.
3 at this price - 36 available

27 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN **SIGN & DRIVE**
\$186* **\$223***
\$1257 due at signing \$0 due at signing

\$750



...Visit our showroom today and receive \$750 extra dealer cash for your trade-in.

One per customer. Trade-in must be 2000 model year or newer and must be drivable.



Congratulations to all Ford Employees on a job well done and well deserved profit sharing.

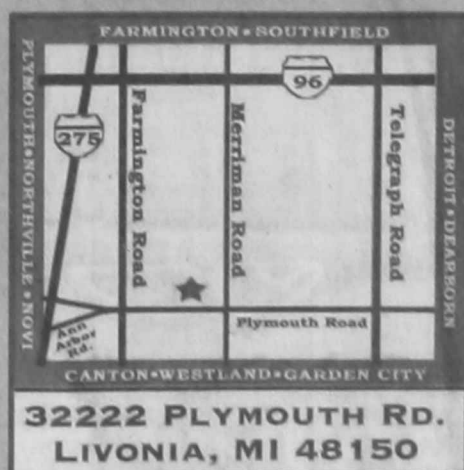
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Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9 AM to 6 PM



All payments and prices are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying, non A/Z planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To your price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. All offers expire 1/3/12.