



Santa letters

Dear Kids: Please don't forget Santa. He wants to hear from you in time for the holidays. He's expecting so many letters that he has asked the Canton Observer to help.

Please send your letter and a photo of yourself to the editor at bkadrich@hometownlife.com. You can also mail them attention of Brad Kadrich, Canton Observer editor, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The Observer will publish letters and photos before the holidays. That means we need to receive your letter by noon, Friday, Dec. 14.

Board meets

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the board meeting room of the E.J. McClendon Educational Center to talk about the district's technology and capital improvement needs.

Board members recently began discussions about the possibility of seeking a bond issue of some \$100 million to deal with its needs in both areas.

Among things being considered to be obtained by the bond would be buses, technology and a solution to the problems at Central Middle School.

The E.J. McClendon Educational Center is located at 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth.

Pearl Harbor ceremony

President Franklin Roosevelt declared Dec. 7, 1941, a "day that will live in infamy."

On Friday, Dec. 7, local veterans try to make sure that day is not forgotten.

At 1 p.m., a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony takes place at Veterans Memorial Park, in front of Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth. The ceremony is a cooperative venture of the local veterans military organizations representing Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton. They are the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 528 and American Legion Post No. 391.

Wreaths will be laid and Taps played as a special tribute to those men and women who made the supreme sacrifice and died at Pearl Harbor.

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CANTON OBSERVER

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Canton taps new safety director

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton Police Lt. Todd Mutchler, a decorated leader whose efforts to battle hate crimes garnered an international award, achieved a career landmark after being chosen as Canton's new public safety director.

Supervisor Phil LaJoy confirmed his selection of Mutchler, a seasoned officer of 24 years whose promotion is expected to receive formal approval as early as Tuesday by the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

"I think he's the right candidate," LaJoy said.



Mutchler

Mutchler assumes his new role after retiring Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek ends his 25-year Canton career on Dec. 30.

"I'm excited about this opportunity," Mutchler said. "I'm ready for the challenge. I feel like I've had wonderful mentors to help me prepare for this opportunity. I'm really looking forward to working with the residents, elected officials, other directors and the men and women of what I think

is the greatest public safety department in the state of Michigan."

Mutchler pledged to continue making Canton "a great place to work, live, play and do business."

Nemecek applauded LaJoy's selection of Mutchler among three internal candidates and indicated he is confident in Mutchler's abilities.

"I'm extremely happy with the choice," Nemecek said. "Todd is a great guy who I've worked with my whole career. He started as a patrol officer and has taken advantage of every opportunity to develop himself further. He has been given an opportunity

to run this public safety department, and I think he's going to do a fantastic job."

Mutchler was named Canton Police Officer of the Year in 1997 and earned the department's Leadership Award last spring. He initiated a Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition that two years ago won a major civil rights award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Mutchler formed the proactive coalition as Canton has drawn an increasingly diverse population. He pooled resources with

Please see DIRECTOR, A2

Keeping tabs

Eight-year collection goes to charity

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton resident Allan Levy has spent eight years collecting 108,870 aluminum can pull tabs.

But who's counting? He is.

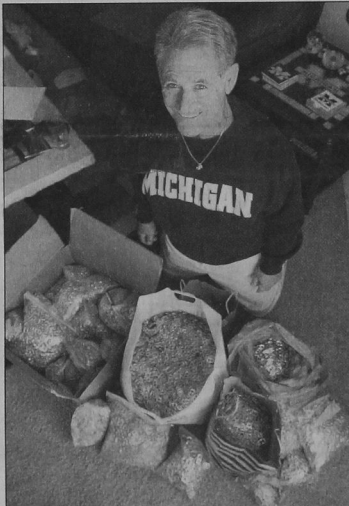
Levy, a University of Michigan alumnus, started his collection for charity, and he chose to try to help U-M beat rival Ohio State as the two schools battled to collect the most pull tabs before Saturday's football game in Columbus.

It's a friendly competition benefiting Ronald McDonald Houses in Ann Arbor and Columbus, and Levy was planning to drop off his pull tabs in maize and blue country by Saturday's deadline.

Not only do the Ronald McDonald Houses collect and cash in the scrap pull tabs, but Coca-Cola Co., has pledged to donate \$1,000 to the charity house that draws the largest collection.

"I like contributing to good causes," Levy said.

Levy has been collecting pull tabs from pop, tea, soup and beer cans — any cans, really — and he's had help from sources such as softball and baseball teams he's involved with in the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Allan Levy (above) says he spent eight years collecting 108,870 aluminum can pull tabs, and turned them in this weekend to benefit Ronald McDonald Houses. Levy has stored his collection in boxes and plastic bags (top), and it's not the first time he has collected pull tabs for charity.

Please see TABS, A2

Leaders eye cost-sharing partnerships

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

They've dropped their Big 4 moniker and gone with Exploring Collaboration Opportunities, but officials from Canton, Westland, Livonia and Dearborn say their goal remains the same as they seek ways to pool their resources amid hopes of cutting costs and increasing revenues.

The latest mid-November session in Livonia involved Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, Westland Mayor William Wild and Dearborn Mayor Jack O'Reilly exploring the potential for sharing services, making joint purchases or sharing equipment, developing marketing strategies and pooling resources for training, among other efforts.

The top leaders, joined by other municipal officials, continue to seek ways they can save money and become more efficient, though they say job elimination isn't the goal. LaJoy said it's possible the efforts could position the communities to get a larger share of state-shared revenue.

LaJoy led a group during the latest session that explored efforts such as pooling resources to train managers and employees in areas such as customer service, resolving conflicts and supervisory training. Rather than all four communities spending their money separately for training, LaJoy said, it's possible they could collectively send fewer people for training — and those trainees could bring their new expertise back to local municipalities.

Please see PARTNERSHIPS, A3

Canton shoppers grab Black Friday bargains

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Some stores — can you say IKEA? — don't need to run big discounts to attract Black Friday shopping crowds, while smaller, more home-grown businesses like Canton's Showroom of Elegance use them to attract business.

Whatever method they used, businesses around Canton were booming Friday as shoppers took advantage of whatever sales were available during the traditional post-Thanksgiving boom.

At Showroom of Elegance, management decided to take a different tack this year, adding a Black Friday sale to its offerings. It was a departure from what store manager Bill Daniels said is the store's normal practice. And, he said, it worked.

"(Black Friday) isn't usually that much busier for us, but this year we decided to create some business," Daniels said.

"We've been very busy."

It was also very busy at IKEA, not surprisingly, though store officials there said it wasn't necessarily because of Black Friday. Store manager Anton Van-Dongen said the store is busy pretty much every day.

"It has been more or less like every other day," said Van-Dongen, who said the store didn't really offer much in the way of Black Friday specials. "Our parking lot is always full."

The Swedish retailer, which opened in Canton in June 2006, routinely draws shoppers not only from this area, but from all over Michigan and other states.

Jodie Reinbolt, who lives in Tiffin, Ohio, made the two-hour drive to Canton rather than making a three-hour trip to the IKEA near Cincinnati. She made the drive to get something her daughter said she'd wanted.

"I didn't want to shop on Black Friday,

Please see BLACK FRIDAY, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Beth Stipanovich heads to her car with a lead that includes 6-month-old son Evan and 5-year-old niece Annie Matzo. They were shopping at Kohl's in New Towne Plaza on Ford Road.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Calesta Hergert window shops at New Towne Plaza in Canton. The San Anselmo, Calif., resident is visiting her mom, Lee Drake, who lives at Walton Wood in Canton.

BLACK FRIDAY

Continued from page A1

but this was my only day off," Reinbolt said. "I was so overwhelmed (by the size of the store). I saw all these things and couldn't get my mind around it all."

Susan Turner of Wayne also wanted to avoid the

crowds Black Friday — "It's too commercialized," she said — but found a coupon for Michael's crafts store. "I don't do any of that Black Friday stuff," Turner said. "But I had a good coupon, so it was worth it."

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DIRECTOR

Continued from page A1

groups such as the Council on American Islamic Relations, the NAACP's western Wayne County branch, the gay-rights Equality Michigan group, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, the American Indian Family Services and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, among others.

"Todd has tremendous leadership skills, and he thinks analytically," Nemecek said. "He's not afraid to get in there to look and see what's best for the department."

Mutchler received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University, where he also earned his master's degree in interdisciplinary technology. He attended the School of Police Staff and Command at EMU.

Mutchler began his Canton career as a patrol officer and also worked as a mountain bike officer. He became involved as a SWAT team leader and served as a western Wayne County instructor. As a sergeant, he formerly served as supervisor of the Canton Police Department's detective bureau.

More recently, he was instrumental in ushering in a high-tech, interactive training simulator system that uses over 500 crime-scene scenarios to strengthen police skills in use-of-force options ranging from talking a suspect out of an intense situation to last-resort shooting to kill. Authorities expect to have the system operating early next year.

Mutchler and wife Kay have three children: Amanda, 22, Alex, 19, and Aaron, 13.

In his new job, Mutchler assumes leadership of a quasi-consolidated public safety department that has 86 sworn police officers and 62 firefighter paramedics, among other employees.

His appointment comes as the department is witnessing turnover. Nemecek plans to retire Dec. 30, and former Fire Chief Tim Dunn retired in early November — replaced by new Chief Joshua Meier.

Mutchler, Nemecek and others plan to work together through the next few weeks toward what they predict will be a seamless transition.

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Police Lt. Todd Mutchler, who won a Leadership Award earlier this year, is in line to replace Public Safety Director Pat Nemecek when the latter retires at the end of the year.

TABS

Continued from page A1

Detroit area and around the country.

"I've even forged relationships with opponents," said Levy, who played baseball when he attended U-M.

Levy also has received help from airline flight attendants and groups

such as the U-M Club of Ann Arbor. He's a member of the club's Board of Governors.

Levy has stored his collection in boxes and plastic bags, and it's not the first time he has collected pull tabs for charity. This time, however, he and others are helping Ronald McDonald Houses provide housing for families whose children are being treated at places such as U-M's Mott Children's Hospital.

According to the Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House, families need help with housing for time periods ranging from two weeks to a year or longer. Levy has long had a charitable heart, and he has more time now that he has retired from Macomb Community College, where he taught speech, English and business management. He also was the college's director of public relations and publications. Levy plans to continue

collecting his can pull tabs for charity, and he's asking for help from others.

Joe Alli, owner of the Auto-lab of Canton South, said he will use his business as a drop-off point for the pull tabs.

"We'll see if we can help him," Alli said.

His business is located at 44744 Michigan Ave., between Canton Center and Sheldon.

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The Canton Township Board of Trustees — (back, from left) Trustee Steven Sneiderman, Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, trustees John Anthony and Pat Williams and Clerk Terry Bennett and (front) Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Trustee Tom Yack.

New board gets down to business

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

As their families and political supporters looked on and snapped pictures, the newly elected Canton Township Board of Trustees took the oath of office Tuesday evening as 35th District Judge Michael Gerou, presiding over the ceremony, made a pledge of his own.

"I'm going to try to make this as painless as getting married," Gerou said.

With that, he led a swearing-in ceremony for part-time Trustees John Anthony, Steven Sneiderman, Pat Williams and Tom Yack and three

full-time officials: Clerk Terry Bennett, Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin and Supervisor Phil LaJoy.

"We have a great opportunity as a team to work together," LaJoy said.

"We're committed to that as a team, and I'm looking forward to getting started."

LaJoy, McLaughlin, Anthony and Williams are starting their second four-year terms in their current positions. Bennett is nearing her 18th year as clerk. Yack is returning after departing four years ago after a 20-year run as supervisor, and Sneiderman, the board's lone Democrat, is starting his first trustee term after earlier serving

on the Plymouth-Canton school board.

"I view myself as part of the team," said Sneiderman, who replaces former Trustee Syed Taj as the board's lone Democrat. "I'm glad to take over where Dr. Taj left off."

Taj leaves after serving an unsuccessful bid for the 11th District U.S. House seat.

Sneiderman said most local issues — financial challenges, roads, residential and commercial development — are non-partisan. Still, he said he may occasionally have a difference of opinion with his Republican colleagues as state-level issues arise. "I think it's important to

have someone from both (political) parties on the board," Sneiderman said. LaJoy, McLaughlin and Bennett had been unopposed in the Nov. 6 election. Bennett, whose office oversaw three elections since early August, said it felt "fabulous" to continue serving as clerk. "I greatly enjoy serving the people of Canton Township," she said.

LaJoy already has established goals such as tackling financial challenges and keeping Canton services intact.

"I just feel real good about the next four years," he said.

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PARTNERSHIPS

Continued from page A1

Buying in

"In all four communities, we haven't done as much training as we would like to do" because of budget cuts, LaJoy said, and sharing resources could help.

The effort could help in areas such as water billing and employees who deal over the counter with customers, LaJoy said. Eventually, he said, communities beyond Canton, Livonia, Dearborn and Westland might want to "buy in" to the program. "It could even be a revenue source."

Officials said the goal hasn't been to eliminate jobs — but to share resources.

During the latest meeting, each community leader chaired a committee. Kirksey led a group that discussed the operations of the eight golf courses in the four communities.

The committee found that the communities probably could not lend primary equipment for maintenance or operations because all the facilities would need them at the same time during golf season, Kirksey said.

"They looked at ways to do some regional marketing, for someone who wanted to rent a golf course, and talked about creating a website," Kirksey said.

Conversely, if someone in another community wanted to use a course in their hometown and it wasn't available, they could check the availability of another commu-

nity's facilities, Kirksey said. "The idea is what goes around would come around," he said.

Finding ways

The committee also discussed creating a package to allow customers to purchase a pass to play the eight golf courses at a discounted price that could be sold to the entire customer base of the eight courses.

Dearborn Mayor Jack O'Reilly led an information technology committee. That group discussed shared services and equipment purchases.

The Department of Public Works/Department of Public Services committee, chaired by Westland Mayor William Wild, looked at capital improvement plans and joint purchases.

Department officials from each community have looked at conducting joint bids in the past and sharing large equipment. The group decided there was no advantage to duplicating these efforts as pricing is competitive using the current methods.

The committee identified joint bidding opportunities, including street sweeping, concrete patching and sewer lining. The communities decided to review current contracts and check their expiration dates to align future joint bidding opportunities.

Major capital purchases/projects will continue to be examined for opportunities of joint purchasing, bidding and/or contracting.

Staff Writer Ken Abramczyk contributed to this story.

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Students at Achieve Charter Academy collected \$500 and then hand-tied blankets for long-term patients at U-M Mott Children's Hospital.

Students donate blankets to hospital

Students at Canton Charter Academy raised \$500 to make hand-tied blankets for patients at The University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Eighth-grade students in Yamamah Sawalha's community service class asked all K-8 students to donate a dollar for the project. For every dollar donated, the students placed a yellow block letter M on a blue bulletin board. The plan paid off, and they exceeded their donation goal.

"I thought this project was a great success," said student Jacob Grunberg. "The first week of donations started slow, but then everybody was encouraged to put even more effort into the project and it took off."

The students needed to

work fast to hand-tie 55 blankets so they would be ready for an assembly with a representative from C.S. Mott Children's Hospital on Friday, Nov. 16. The representative talked to the students about the hospital and thanked them for their generosity.

"It made me feel good about myself to be making blankets for sick children," student Elizabeth Cofran said.

Sawalha said she was proud of how her students handled this project from start to finish.

"I am so pleased with my class for coming up with an idea from scratch, putting it into place, sticking with it, and ultimately prevailing," Sawalha said. The blankets will be given to long-term patients at the hospital.

'Bucket brigade' sends relief to Sandy victims

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

What started as a sense that "We want to do something to help" idea turned into a whirlwind relief project that wound up being a hugely successful effort to help the victims of Superstorm Sandy that devastated the east coast earlier this month.

The idea started with three women from Plymouth's First United Methodist Church and quickly mushroomed into a community-wide effort to get cleaning supplies to Sandy victims through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

When it was all said and done, some 500 buckets filled with cleaning supplies were on their way to a Pennsylvania distribution center and then on to the East Coast.

"There were thousands of donations," said Renee McKarge, one of the women who helped organize the drive. "This community deserves a massive thank you."

More than 8,000 items were collected — largely through school collection drives at various Plymouth-Canton Community Schools spearheaded by the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's National Honor Society — including a variety of cleaning supplies such as scrub brushes, soaps, detergents, gloves and others.

They were packed into buckets and shipped off, courtesy of MSA Delivery Services of Canton, which provided the shipping to Pennsylvania. MS's generosity was matched by others, including various groups and organizations. The building used for the local collection was donated by Esco Development Company, the owner of



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some 8,000 items were donated to help fill nearly 500 buckets for Hurricane Sandy relief.

which handed McKarge the key and allowed her to use it as necessary.

"All in all, it was a community based, community-wide effort," McKarge said. "All these major things we needed to make it happen, people volunteered and said 'yes, we'll do that for you.' The schools jumped right in. It was amazing when it started coming in."

UMCOR was very specific about what needed to go into the baskets, so notes of encouragement were not allowed. However, students at least one elementary school found a way around that.

"It was so cute," McKarge said. "They used markers or whatever they could find and wrote messages on the scrub brushes like 'hang in there!' It was adorable."

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Abby McKarge and friends loaded up a truck with buckets of cleaning supplies headed to the East Coast to help with the cleanup from Hurricane Sandy.

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To My "Guardian Angel" Jonah,

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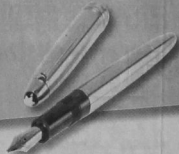
Jonah, I am humbled and I am overwhelmed! I thank you so much for all that you have done. I wanted to make sure you would be proud of me! I worked hard in Therapy. Thank you for helping me through my healing process, with my nursing care, medicine, feeding, physical therapy, occupational therapy and administrative needs. I want you to know that from my heart, you have done so much for me! I'm succeeding in my goal of healing in my total hip replacement. I also want you to know while I was at Westland Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre, so many people were so kind and caring. It was a wonderful place to go to heal and recuperate from an injury.

The administrative office, doctors, nursing, CNAs, therapy department, kitchen and staff, maintenance, grounds keeper, etc... everyone was so kind and helpful. Mr. Jonah, you have a wonderful establishment and a great staff of people working for you! They care about the people they care for. You are a wonderful man, with a heart of gold and a soul that will be rewarded over and over! Each day I thank God that he has his Earth Angels here on earth looking out for those who are in need. I am overwhelmed and thankful for all that you have done for me. A friend forever in my heart!

Always and forever,

Darlene Woodard

P.S. My "Earth Angel" will always be in my prayers! I'm walking better each day.



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"Around Town" 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.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 in Plymouth MI has Jazz @ The Elks in a beautiful club setting on the last Tuesday of every month. The Nov. 27 event features the Terry Lower Trio with Russ Miller. Russ is an Assistant Professor in the Music Department at Wayne State University and has played with several famous jazz artists. Russ plays Alto Sax and Flute. Terry will be on Keyboard, Jim Ryan on Drums, and Ray Tini on Bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or email pymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

MUSEUM CRAFT BAZAAR

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum.

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold its annual juried Craft Bazaar and Open House. The Craft Bazaar is free and open to the public and will feature many crafts, such as knit, ceramic, jewelry, and recycled art. Stop by our bake sale and try our yummy treats and refreshments. Santa will be here all day selling the whole family! Visitors are also welcome to explore the Museum's special exhibit for free that day.

The Plymouth Historical Museum will be holding its Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 1, as well as need donations of baked goods. Cookies, cakes, candy, breads, pies, sweet rolls, and bars are all welcome—as are any specialties you like to bring. Please bundle your cookies or bars in packages of 6 or 12. Remember, festive holiday treats sell best. Please either label your treats (examples: Brownies with nuts or Santa's Favorite Sugar Cookies), or leave a note attached. Labels will be available in the kitchen. Please drop your goodies off in the kitchen on Friday, November 30, between 1 and 4 p.m.

Contact: Please call Heidi Nielson,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tree time

Pat VanDusen of the Plymouth Community United Way, decorates their tree in Kellogg Park. Betty Nolan and Stephanie Driver, also with United Way, worked with Pat.

(734) 455-8940, if you have any questions.

COLORING CONTEST

Date/Time: Now through Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 8:30-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Location: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, 40875 Plymouth Road.

Details: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet will be holding a coloring contest. The age groups are 0-3, 4-6 and 7-9. The winner from each age group will be awarded a \$50 Toys R US gift card. One entry permitted per child. While you are here, take a picture with Nick from the Chevrolet commercials.

Contact: Call 734-453-4600 for more information.

HOLIDAY ART FAIR

Date/Time: Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Connection Church in Canton

Details: Connection Church in Canton hosts a Holiday Art Fair. If you have a craft and are interest-

ed in renting a table (\$35 & \$25).

Contact: For more information please email Katy at cholidayart-fair@gmail.com.

FARRAND FAIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Nov. 29, 4-8 p.m.

Location: Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar Lane, Plymouth

Details: Farrand Elementary hosts its fifth annual Craft & Vendor Fair. Find that last minute gift, or something unique and special for someone on your holiday shopping list. Admission is free. Raffle items, jewelry, candles, health & wellness, skin care, hair accessories and much, much more. Need a little bit of extra cash to shop? South Lyon Jewelers will be there paying you cash for your gold. Go through your jewelry boxes and find broken or unwanted gold to sell at this event. Babysitting will be provided from 4-6 p.m. in the school media center. Children will have the opportunity to watch a movie and make a craft.

BLOOD DRIVES

Date/Time: Thursday, Nov. 29, 1:30-7:15 p.m.

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon in Plymouth

Details: The American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Plymouth. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: To make an appt for any of these drives, call Diane at (313) 549-7052 or email diane.risko@redcross.org.

MIXED MUSINGS

Date/Time: Through November

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Peggy Kerwan will kick off the 2012-2013 solo exhibit season with her exhibit titled "mixed musings." Her colorful artworks will be displayed for the month of November in the main gallery. Admission is free and open to the public. An artist reception takes place Saturday, Nov. 17, from 2-4

p.m. Meet the artist, supporters, and members of the PCAC. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Contact: Call (734) 416-4278 or visit www.plymoutharts.com for more information.

WCGH REUNION

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11

Location: Café Marquette in the William D. Ford Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Wayne County General Hospital employees will gather for their 28th annual holiday reunion. A luncheon buffet will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$16 and includes beverage, dessert and tip. You can pay at the door.

Contact: For more information contact Jay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or e-mail chknit@wideopenwest.com, Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or e-mail ingrish316@global.net or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or e-mail pibboto@aol.com.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

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

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's 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 stetkops@gmail.com, or visit www.stetkops.org.

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'Motor City Shakedown' author to speak at Madonna

Two-time Michigan Notable Author D. E. Johnson will present his book *Motor City Shakedown* at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Madonna University Library, as part of the school's "Meet the Author" series.

Set in Detroit in 1911, *Motor City Shakedown* is a tale involving crime, mystery, and history. The sequel to Johnson's first Michigan Notable Book, *The Detroit Electric Scheme*, this novel follows protagonist Will Anderson as he deals with the murder of his best friend; placing him in the center of Detroit's criminal world of corrup-

tion and mobsters.

Johnson, a graduate of Central Michigan University, has been writing fiction for the majority of his life, but he didn't publish his first novel until 2010. His books have been recognized by the Library of Michigan, Booklist, and the House of Crime and Mystery.

The third and most recent book of the series is also earning positive reviews. *Detroit Breakdown* takes the characters to the Eloise Insane Asylum located near Detroit.

Contact the Madonna Library at (734) 432-5703 or visit <http://library.madonna.edu/> for more information.

Living trust spells out specifics on asset allocation

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I read your column a few weeks ago about estate planning and how to treat children with different economic backgrounds. I am a widower and my children do not need my money. What I would like to do is to set up a fund that would be used by friends who aren't as fortunate. I figure they can use the money and then when they die, whatever is left can go to charity or to my kids. Can you tell me if what I want to do is legal and what I need to accomplish what I want? I have a simple will and I assume I would have to amend it to reflect these changes.

A: What you want to do is admirable and legal.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

The fact that you want to help your friends who are not as fortunate as you is a very nice thing to do.

However, there are some things that you would have to do to accomplish your goal.

I recommend that you have a living trust drafted. In your situation, the benefit of a living trust is that you would not need court supervision with regards to the maintenance and distribution of money to your

friends. If all you had was a will, the Probate Court would retain jurisdiction over your assets until the money was distributed to a charity. This would mean that your trustees would have to report to the court every year and incur significant costs until final distribution of your assets.

I believe the more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the easier things are. That is why I recommend a living trust.

Within your living trust one key question is who do you want to be the trustees? They would be the individuals who would manage the money within the trust and supervise its distribution. You have a number of different options to consider. You can name family and friends or a professional (an attorney or even a bank).

You can also have a combination of a family member and a bank to serve as co-trustees. In that regard, in order to have a checks and balances system, my recommendation would be that you have at least two

trustees.

One thing to consider is how the money is going to be distributed. You want to help your friends but you have to have some sort of methodology to monitor the distributions. If you said that the trustee should pay whenever a friend has a request, then you may run into the situation where some of your friends are abusing the trust. If distributions are based on need, you must establish some rules for the trustee to follow.

One last thing to decide is which one of your friends the trust is meant to benefit. If you say any, that could cause all sorts of problems. Identify the trustee to follow.

When it comes to estate planning, no one should tell you what you should do with your money. You worked hard for it and you're entitled to do with it as you choose. The key is to make sure that you leave the proper instructions as to how to follow out your final wishes.

One last issue that deals with what you plan to

Please see BLOOM, A10



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Final destination

Nazi boxcar will be used to teach the horrors of the Holocaust

By Joanne Maliszewski
Observer Staff Writer

The morning after Henrietta and Rachel's family had their first Passover seder in the Warsaw Ghetto, Nazi soldiers came, gathered hundreds of Jews and put them into a railroad boxcar headed for the concentration camps.

It took the sisters and their family: Sara, mother; Israel, father; and two brothers, Reuben and Herschel, one week to reach Majdanek, an extermination camp near Lublin, Poland.

When the train finally reached its destination, Nazi soldiers made their selections. The men and women were separated. They never again saw their father or brothers. Their mother was pulled out of the group of women. Rachel and Henrietta last saw her waiting in a grassy area. "Little did we know that she would be put in the gas chamber," Rachel Schwartz said. "Never did we think we would never see her again."

Gallery dedication

The sisters, Rachel Schwartz and Henrietta Weisberg, told their story at the Nov. 20 dedication of The Henrietta and Alvin Weisberg Gallery at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

The newly constructed addition to the center houses an authentic World War II Nazi boxcar, the type used to transport the sisters and their family to the concentration and extermination camps



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
After the dedication of a new gallery at the Holocaust Memorial Center people gathered around the boxcar and talked.

in 1943-45.

"This exhibit brings back many painful memories," Schwartz said, choking back tears as she spoke of her family and the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews and others in Europe.

The boxcar is set against a brick backdrop resembling the Hanoverscher Bahnhof (Hanover Railroad Station), complete with cobblestone floor, reminiscent of the Warsaw Ghetto.

The Hanover station was a major Nazi deportation center for Jews and gypsies, both consid-

ered enemies of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

The boxcar is of a size that could hold 40 soldiers or eight war horses, said Stephen Goldman, center executive director. Boxcars of this type were retired in the 1970s without much thought about the role they played in the Third Reich's Final Solution. "The precious cargo carried and forgotten are now remembered," Goldman added.

Sacred task

Alvin and Henrietta Weisberg of Bloomfield Hills were contacted when Goldman learned

of the boxcar's availability. "They found it, called and said, 'We need help,'" Henrietta Weisberg said, as the dedication began. "It was our pleasure to do this."

Alvin and Henrietta donated the funds to build the gallery addition and to bring the boxcar from Germany to Farmington Hills. When the addition neared completion, the heavy boxcar was lifted by a crane and positioned in the gallery. The new gallery was completed within 90 days by Neumann Architects.

"We have the sacred task of teaching thousands the lessons of the Holocaust," said Laurie Weisberg, Alvin and Henrietta's daughter-in-law who serves as a docent at the center. "Most decent-led groups, such as school kids, without exception are fascinated by this important artifact."

Laurie Weisberg spoke of her in-laws, their gen-

erosity to the center and how the exhibit sets the journey for visitors as they learn about "the unimaginable fear and cruelty of the Holocaust."

Three journeys

After sisters Rachel and Henrietta lost their family at the Majdanek extermination camp, they were later transported in a box car again to another camp where they were assigned to work in a munitions factory.

Though hard labor, Rachel said, the assignment saved their lives because they were given more food and water than had they been sent to another camp. Yet while there, the sisters witnessed the deaths of 25 other prisoners.

In the summer of 1944 as Russian soldiers drew closer, the sisters boarded another box car for their third trip. This time, they were sent to Buchenwald. But again the

Russians were drawing near, and camp leaders forced the sisters and other prisoners on a "terrible march" for three weeks without food.

One morning as they slept near the Elba River, Rachel said, they could again hear Russian voices. The soldiers at last arrived and freed them. "They were very good to us."

As the sisters received standing ovations, Henrietta told guests that she can't believe that 70 years have passed. Though she said she "prefers to look at my future, not my past," Henrietta added: "I can honestly say I believe in miracles. I can't imagine how Rachel and I survived the horrors known as the Holocaust."

Bradley Schaffer, the Weisbergs' grandson, assured his family he would continue to tell the stories of the Holocaust. "I will be my grandmother's voice."

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BLOOM

Continued from page A6

do with the money after your friends are no longer around. You mentioned at that point you will either leave it to your kids or to a charity. If you decide to leave it to a charity, then you need to be sure that whoever drafts your trust disinherit your children. This will prevent potential legal issues. You can also state in the document the reasons why you're choos-

ing not to leave something to your children, but you don't have to. Furthermore, it's up to you whether you tell your children before your death what you are doing. This is always a touchy issue and you probably are the best to judge what makes sense in your individual situation. In today's ever-changing world, when it comes to passing money upon death, just about anything and everything goes. The key is to always make sure your final wishes

are properly documented. Unless you dot the i's and cross the t's, you may find that a good portion of your money doesn't go where you want it to go, but rather, to legal fees, and that is something that everyone should try to avoid. Good luck. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Bloom to respond to your questions, please e-mail him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



Raymond Rolak and Wally Triplett will speak about some special Detroit sports moments and historical memories on Tuesday Nov. 27, at the William P. Faust Public Library.

NFL's Triplett will talk football at Westland Library

Longtime Detroit resident Wally Triplett, 86, has a special place in football history. Triplett was the first African American to be drafted and sign with an NFL team in 1949. Triplett will be speaking at the William P. Faust Public Library at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27. Veteran sports broadcaster Raymond Rolak will introduce Triplett and address perseverance in sports. Rolak also

will share some Wayne State University sports history and some humorous anecdotes from the new All-Hawaii full length comedy, *Get a Job*, in which he was an associate producer. Triplett, a 1948 graduate of Penn State, will reminisce about his life journey and football experiences. The evening will also include accounts of some of the rich athletic history of Detroit. Most fascinat-

ing will be some never before heard narratives by Triplett regarding Paul Robeson and Jackie Robinson. This special event is sponsored by the Friends of the Westland Library and is free. Pre-registration is required. Call (734) 326-6123 or go online to www.westland.lib.mi.us. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 16123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road, Westland.

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Charter Township of Plymouth Notice of Budget Public Hearing December 11, 2012

The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year of 2013 at the Charter Township of Plymouth offices located at 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 on December 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

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

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

Published: November 23 & 29, 2012

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

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Local Horologist Repairs Hard-to-Fix Timepieces

Miller has over 28 years experience with watches and timepieces, and received his degree in horology at Houston Technical College before relocating to southeast Michigan. Over his expansive career, Miller has seen his share of unique cases. "One of the most interesting cases I worked on was an English Grandfather clock from the 1590's. The owner wanted it restored to working order, and rewired for battery operation," said Miller. "Another difficult request was hand-cutting a triangular crystal for a special-edition Masonic pocketwatch by Rolex," Miller continued. There's good reason over 172 jewelers in the area rely on Triple Crown and Miller for those hard-to-fix assignments. "I enjoy the challenge of restoring unique timepieces to their original functioning state. It is as much an artform as it is pure mechanics, and it is extremely rewarding to see these old pieces correctly keeping time again." Triple Crown is located at 1940 E. Maple Rd. (at John R.) in Troy. In addition to repairing watches, straps, batteries and winding boxes, Triple Crown has a large amount of battery operated and wind up pocket watches. For more information, stop by Triple Crown at 1940 E. Maple (15 Mile) just west of John R., visit www.triplecrownwatchcompany.com or give them a call at 248-585-2777. They will make sure you stay on time in 2012!

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Shoppers make time to send holiday cheer to troops

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Michael Wisniewski Jr. had a heartfelt message for U.S. troops serving in harm's way. He thanked them for their courage and bravery.

The Romulus resident was among shoppers who stopped to sign a holiday card that will be sent to the troops.

"I hope other people come and do this, our troops need more of this," said Wisniewski, who was at Westland Shopping Center Friday with his daughter, Kati Wisniewski. "My stepson is in the Army. He went to Virginia Tech for two years to study diplomacy. He's been to Moscow four times and will go to Russia four times. He's a translator and will go over to Russia. He's an awesome young man, I'm very proud of him."

This is the sixth year the Westland Jaycees have had Cards for Troops tables at the mall on Black Friday, offering shoppers a chance to send a message of support on cards they pro-



Katie Neu of Westland, fills out a holiday card for the troops being collected by the Westland Jaycees.

vide. Initially, the effort spanned two days, but over the years, the Jaycees pared the time down to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

"It's a good time to get shoppers," said Debi Goetz, who is chairing the project. "Ninety percent of the shoppers have been receptive. We're hoping to get around 1,500 cards, that's a good number."

The Jaycees were working in shifts to keep the table manned on the busiest shopping day of the

holiday season. On their table was candy for those who sign cards, donated by Paul Visingard of Vizzy's Pizza Palace.

"He has a cousin who's on his seventh tour," said Goetz.

The Jaycees also were collecting donations to the cost of shipping care packages to the troops. Goetz uses donations to buy travel-size toiletries to send to the troops. Last year, the Jaycees were able to send four box-

es overseas, and in July received a thank you card from the Kandahar USO. The note was framed and sitting in a place of honor

on the table.

"People actually have been very generous with their donations," said Goetz. "We're hoping we can send more things this year."

The Jaycees also will be collecting items to send with their care package. On their list of needed items are:

- Phone cards, the No. 1 most-requested item so they can phone loved ones.
- Visa and MasterCard gift cards, the No. 2 most-requested item. It gives them maximum flexibility in spending.
- Wet Wipes, individually wrapped in foil packets (not gel bottles).
- Lip balm, floss, toothbrushes and disposable razors — men's and women's.
- Breath mints, candy

and gum.

Cards and personal care items also can be dropped off at Men on the Move, 39101 Webb Drive, Westland.

The Cards for Troops tables were set outside the inside entrance to Kohl's the busiest store at the mall, and a steady stream of shoppers going in and out stopped to sign cards. Among them were Terri Staton of Redford, Brittany and Sherri Bell of Garden City and Brian Gerhardt of Redford.

"I told them, 'You guys and gals rock,' and wished them a merry Christmas and happy New Year," said Gerhardt. "This is my first time doing this. I'm glad I did."

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Services remember loved ones who have passed

Families who have lost loved ones to honor and remember them at services of remembrance at the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Garden City and Livonia Saturday, and Sunday, Dec. 1-2.

This is the 22nd year R.G. and G.R. Harris has held a service of remembrance. At the services, family members will be invited to place an angel with their loved one's

name on a tree where it will remain until after January 1, 2013. A popular Children's Table is available for the kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings. Helpful thoughts on getting through the holidays after a loss will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are read.

Refreshments and fellowship will be indoors following the service.

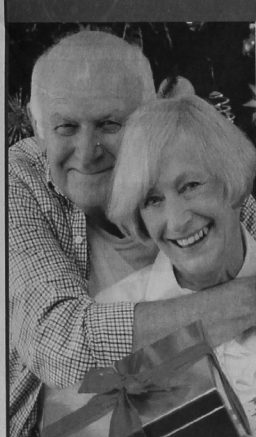
The service at the R.G.

and G.R. Harris Funeral Home-Livonia Chapel will be 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. The chapel is at 15451 Farmington Road, just north of Five Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-6720.

The service at the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home-Garden City Chapel will be 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. The chapel is at 31551 Ford Road, just west of Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 425-9200.

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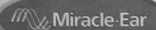
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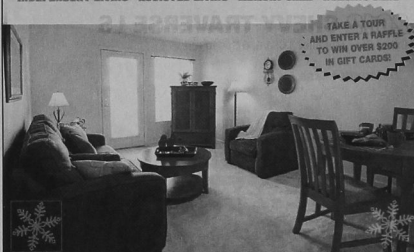
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4/25/2012/000001

Family tradition continues with election of Kevin Cox

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Kevin Cox remembers sitting down at dinners at 5:30 p.m. every night with his parents John and Rita Cox and brothers Sean and Mike at their home in Redford.

Dad played "devil's advocate" during discussions about that day's events and what was happening in the outside world, Kevin said.

"Dad was big on history and current events and very interested in politics, and he would lead us into dinner table discussions," Kevin said. "We were all curious about the world around us. The politics and law melded together."

That curiosity and eventual pursuit of a law

career has evolved into Kevin Cox's successful election onto the Wayne County Third Circuit Court bench, as he finished third Nov. 6. Kevin is the third Cox brother to win elective office, and the second to win a judge's seat.

Kevin, 53, is the older brother of Mike Cox, former state attorney general, and younger brother of Sean Cox, a federal judge in southeast Michigan who lives in Canton.

Mike Cox, 50, won election to two terms as attorney general in 2002 and 2006 and placed third in the Republican gubernatorial primary in 2010. Today Mike runs his own law firm in Livonia. Mike is married to Laura Cox, who is a Wayne County commissioner represent-



The patriarch, John Cox, with sons Mike, Kevin and Sean Cox. Sean lives in Canton.

ing Livonia.

U.S. District Judge Sean Cox, 55, who is seated in the court's Eastern District of Michigan, also served as a circuit judge in Wayne County, winning elections to circuit court in 1996, 1998 and 2004. He was appointed to U.S. District Court in 2006.

Kevin and Mike reside in Livonia; Sean lives in Canton. Their parents told the boys about their maternal grandfather, Anthony McQuane, a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. McQuane was jailed in 1916 and a second time in 1919 as Irish nationalists fought for independence. Stories about their grandfather from their parents and the importance of freedom, individual rights and political activism weren't lost on the grandson.

Mike said his father, a Korean war veteran, did not go to college, but was well-read and constantly kept up with current events. "He'd read a lot of books and newspapers and he'd love to argue," Mike said. "Politics and law always came up."

Sean said his father often spoke about the Korean War. "He challenged us," Sean said. "He knew European history and the history of Ireland."

Mike said that upbringing also led him to his career goal: He always wanted to be a prosecutor. Mike was the deputy chief of the homicide unit in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Sean echoed that the talks and their own family history influenced their future careers in public service, but added: "I don't know how all three of us ended up in law."

"All of us have a desire to make society better," Sean said. "Public service is a good way to do it."

Winning a court seat

Kevin attributes his election win earlier this month to the work he put into his campaign over the past six months, meeting with various organizations to get his name out, he said.

Cox holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. He is married to Elizabeth Cox. The couple has four children: Kiefer, 23, Kasey, 20, Jack, 17, and Brian, 14. Kevin is active in the St. Edith Parent Association, St. Edith CYO Athletics Board of Directors, Catholic Central Dad's Club and fundraisers for the Salvation Army, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

As an assistant attorney general in the labor division of the office of Attorney General Bill Schuette since 2010, Cox represented the state of Michigan in state courts and administrative hearings. "I've been an active trial lawyer for almost 28 years," Kevin said. He points to his experience in hundreds of courtrooms to prepare him for the seat.

Kevin has tried more than 30 complex civil jury trials for clients and tried cases to verdict in eight Michigan counties. Prior to practicing as an assistant attorney general,

Kevin was in private practice for 25 years. His practice was composed of injury litigation throughout the state.

Kevin owned and managed a law firm of 12 attorneys and more than 20 employees for several years. Although 75 percent of his cases were in Wayne County, he has litigated cases in more than 40 counties in Michigan resulting in several successful jury verdicts and hundreds of settlements.

Will tradition continue?

Kevin sees the same interest in politics and law with at least two of his children. Kiefer is a first-year student at Wayne State Law School. Kasey is a senior at the University of Michigan studying international relations.

Kevin said he will work hard to bring himself up to speed, whether he is a judge in the family division or the criminal division of the court. "There will be subtleties," he said. "There will be procedural things that will be new to me. I will work as hard as I can to be very good as a criminal judge or a family judge."

His brothers in the legal field are proud of him. "He worked really hard and ran an excellent campaign," Sean said. "He campaigned very efficiently, sending smart, targeted mailings."

Mike said voters chose a judge who is "highly skilled" with 27 years experience. "I know he'll do a great job," Mike said. "I'm very proud that the voters selected someone who is highly qualified and brings his skills and experience to the bench."



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Author adds twist to Girls Night Out book signing

Dana Corbit has made a habit of using her annual book signing as an excuse for a Girls' Night Out with friends. But this year, the Novi author has added a twist to her 5th annual Girls' Night Out Book Signing by inviting New York Times best-selling romance author Ruth Ryan Langan to be her special guest.



Corbit



Langan

of 15 books in the inspirational romance market. "Sharing this year's event with her is a small way for me to say thank you for her kindness." During the book signing, Corbit will promote her 2012 releases, "A Hickory Ridge Christmas" and "Christmas in the Air," both from Harlequin Love Inspired. Langan will sign copies of her recent releases, "Quinn," from Grand Central Publishing; and "J.D. Robb's The Unquiet."

Of course, the Girls' Night Out event has always been about more than just books. Corbit, known locally by her married name Dana Nussio, originally suggested the event in 2008 as a night out with her girlfriends. The event remains a chance for guests to take a break from the busyness of the Christmas season by relaxing with their own friends while sipping hot chocolate, espresso or decaf lattes. Adding to the fun of the evening, Lisa Erickson, one of Corbit's friends and a Silpada Jewelry representative, brings a display of her shiny things for guests to try on and add to their holiday wish lists.

Corbit enjoys hosting the signing at the local Biggby Coffee franchise so she can support the local business, which supports her writing career by regularly stocking her books. Literacy is a corporate initiative of Biggby Coffee, headquartered in Lansing,

CoreFit Fitness owner and personal trainer Rod Dowdell (Trainer Rod) is going to attempt a staggering endurance-fundraising Extreme Train-A-Thon Fitness Challenge at his studio in Novi to benefit homeless families at the Wayne County Family Center.

Beginning at 6 a.m. Dec. 9, Trainer Rod will endure the seven days of training, with the last 48 hours to be continuous without rest, training between 90-100 clients nonstop. All proceeds from the sessions will go directly towards buying gifts and fulfilling the wish list for homeless children at the Wayne



Dowdell

children as he can on Christmas day.

The Wayne County Family Center program matches needy families with "services, providing transitional shelter for homeless families." They welcome two-parent families, single mothers or fathers with children and pregnant women. They also offer assistance with services to help people

JOIN IN

You can participate in Trainer Rod's Extreme Train-A-Thon Fitness Challenge to benefit Wayne County Family Center by signing up for an hour-long training session between Dec. 9-16 for \$60. All proceeds will go toward buying holiday gifts for the kids at the center. Call Trainer Rod today at (248) 943-7179, or email him at trainerrod@corefitness.com to reserve your spot or a spot for someone else. Visit corefitness.com for more information.

after they leave the shelter.

Trainer Rod grew up in an environment where there were no positive associations with this time of the year and he did not receive anything for the holidays.

"This personal pain

and disconnection with the holidays is something that I do not want any child to have to experience," he said. "So I'm on a mission to change the lives of as many children and families as I can with the talents and skills I have developed as a personal trainer."

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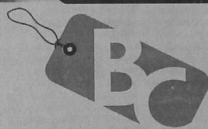


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SPORTS

Spartans look good with 3-0 hockey record

Stevenson trounces Churchill, remains on early-season tear

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson's hockey team doesn't want to get ahead of itself, but the Spartans are looking very formidable during the early going of the 2012-13 season.

That was no more evident than Wednesday night at Edgar Arena as Stevenson skated to an impressive 9-2 win over rival Livonia Churchill in a Kensington Conference crossover.

"It was a night where a lot of bounces went our way and a night where a lot of things went our way," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team is 3-0 overall and has outscored its first three opponents by an aggregate of 22-4. "It was a good night for us."

Junior forward Dominic Lutz enjoyed a five-point night with three goals and two assists. Junior linemate Tyler Irvine and senior forward Blake Battjes each added two goals and two assists.

Lutz scored just 16 seconds into the first period from Devin Kelly, who finished the game with two assists.

"We came with a lot of energy," said Mitchell, whose team led 3-0 after one period. "This is a group that has been working extremely hard. And so far, practices have been outstanding. Our work ethic in practice has carried over to the games and it's nice to see."

Freshman Ben Kowalske and

Please see SPARTANS, B5



North Farmington-Harrison junior Stephen Coulter advances the puck as Farmington senior Marc Nahat gives chase.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Flyers zip past Falcons

North-Harrison dominates pre-Thanksgiving game

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

City rivals North Farmington-Harrison and Farmington have played some exciting, nailbiting hockey games in their annual Thanksgiving Eve series, but the 2012 event was not one of the classics.

In one of the more one-sided meetings, the unified Flyers outshot the Falcons, 48-17, and skated away with a 3-0 victory Wednesday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

"Our guys did a great job," North-Harrison coach Ken Anderson said. "We knew we had to move our feet constantly against these guys, and we were able to do it. We were able to control the play because of it."

Senior defenseman Reece Burnett figured in all three goals, assisting on the first by senior Eamon Devlin and scoring the last two with help from senior Eric Stanis and juniors Stephen Coulter and Kyle Witherspoon. A scoreless first period was clean and even until the Falcons took the first penalty with 1:03 remaining. With 57 seconds left on the power play to start the second period, Devlin scored a half minute into it.



Senior Reece Burnett scored two goals and had one assist.

Farmington goalie John Lethem left the goal crease to play the puck, but he didn't get a handle on it and it slid behind him. He couldn't recover in time to stop Devlin from tapping the puck into the open net. "It's a tough goal to give up," Falcons coach Mark Vellucci said. "I know he feels bad about it, but those things happen. We have to keep his spirits up, because we're going to need

him for the long haul."

The Flyers (2-1) were on the power play again later in the second period when Burnett whipped a slapshot from the point that hit a player and bounced into the net to make it 2-0.

"He's our captain; he leads us on the ice and off the ice," Anderson said. "Tonight was a big game and he stepped up. He, Stanis, (senior TJ) Zak and Devlin needed to step up and they did it."

Early in the third period (13:31), Burnett took a centering feed from Stanis, quickly moved the puck to his right and slipped it behind Lethem for the third goal.

He drew an unsportsmanlike penalty following the play and put Farmington (0-3) on the power play for the next minute. The Falcons took four more penalties and gave North-Harrison an almost continuous power play for the duration of the game.

There was no more scoring, but the Flyers might've had twice as many goals as they did. "I told my guys that," Anderson said. "We thought we outplayed them enough. But that's what happens in a rivalry game. You have to keep working hard."

Please see FLYERS, B4

Naubert gets WHAC award

Madonna University junior point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball Player of the Week (ending Nov. 19) after averaging 29 points, 6.5 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 1.5 steals as the Crusaders went 1-1.

Naubert scored a career-high 31 points in a 100-81 setback Nov. 14 at Goshen (Ind.). College and followed with a 27-point, eight-rebound effort in a 75-61 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph Nov. 17 at home over No. 25-ranked Indiana Tech.

Kubicki, Boes finish season

Madonna University had two representatives in the NIAA Men's and Women's National Cross Country Championships Nov. 17 at the Fort Vancouver (Wash.) Historical Site.

Sophomore Bianca Kubicki (Canton), making her second straight appearance, finished 84th among 320 runners with a 5,000-meter time of 19 minutes, 17 seconds on a soggy course following two days of heavy rains. She was only three seconds off last year's time.

Meanwhile, MU senior Tim Boes (Westland John Glenn) made program history when he became the first Crusader to compete in the NIAAs finishing 115th among a field of 309 in 26:16 (8,000 meters). He broke the 8K school record twice this season.

Boes, majoring in social work, along with women's runner Kayla Daugherty (Brighton), a journalism and public relations major, were also named as 2012 Daktronics NIAA Scholar-Athlete team for carrying a 3.5 or better grade-point average.

Clinic topic is baseball

The Warriors Baseball Club of Michigan invites all school and summer baseball coaches to attend the first Metropolitan Detroit Baseball Coaches Clinic and Vendor Show at Farmington High School from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8.

The event will feature presentations by the head baseball coaches from several state universities.

More than 25 vendors also are expected to participate. The cost is \$50. Participants who pre-register will be eligible for numerous door prizes. For additional information or to pre-register for the clinic, please contact the Warriors Baseball Club of Michigan at (248) 842-7044 or WarriorHQ@aol.com.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Stevenson's Tyler Irvine (9) and Churchill's Tommy Carey (22) battle for possession of the puck in Wednesday's game at Edgar Arena.

Wildcats rout rival Chiefs in 9-0 romp

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

At the annual "Toys for Tots" game hosted by Canton, it was the Plymouth Wildcats opening up a box — filled with goals.

Behind five power play goals, the Wildcats romped Wednesday night to a 9-0 victory in a KLA South Division boys hockey game halted after two periods due to the eight-goal mercy rule. The game was played at Arctic Edge Arena.

"It's extremely discouraging," Canton coach Jeremy Majszak said. "You should step up for a game like this and we didn't."

He pointed to a lack of team play, particularly after the Wildcats

jumped in front at 4:04 of the first period on an even-strength goal by senior forward Jordan Lepetone on assists from junior forward Connor Browne and senior defenseman Dean Gunther.

"We're just not playing with a lot of heart right now," Majszak said about his 0-2 team. "We're running around; that's all there is to it."

"We're not playing team hockey. That's what we play, that's what we stress every year and this group's not getting it yet."

Lepetone (two goals), Browne (two assists) and Gunther (two goals, two assists) were among seven Plymouth players to chalk up multiple points.

Please see WILDCATS, B5



Vying for the puck during Wednesday night's contest at Arctic Edge are Plymouth's Joe Burke (No. 19) and Canton's Matt Cox (No. 16).

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Chargers roast Monarchs in pre-holiday victory

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

The Crestwood/Garden City Unified hockey team's game Wednesday night against Allen Park Cabrini had all the ingredients of a Thanksgiving leftovers sandwich for the Chargers.

The middle period was a turkey, but the first and third were as sweet as corn bread.

After bolting to a 4-0 advantage after the opening 17 minutes, the Chargers overcame a Monarch surge to ultimately knock the stuffing out of their hosts, 8-3.

The first-year contingent improved to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the Southeastern Hockey League's Gold Division. Cabrini slipped to 0-2 and 0-1, respectively.

Despite the one-sided final result, the Chargers' performance gave head coach Steve Popp a slight case of indigestion.

"Even though we got off to a quick start, and it looked good on the score-



PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT

Crestwood/Garden City Unified defenseman Jimmy Stevenson clears the puck during the second period of Wednesday night's 8-3 victory over Allen Park Cabrini.

board, I thought we struggled," Popp said. "I didn't think we played well at all as a team. Talent-wise, we're much more advanced than (Cabrini), but we didn't play like it."

"We weathered the storm, though, and did enough at the end to win. Since it was the first league game for us, it was an important win."

The Chargers' first two goals were delivered by Garden City students. Johnny Segasser, a sophomore forward who one-timed the puck in the net from the door step just 68 seconds into the contest, and Scott Bleim, who flipped home rebound four minutes later after Matt Sandburg's shot was stopped by Cabrini fresh-



Crestwood/Garden City Unified forward Johnny Segasser stretches for the puck during the second period of Wednesday night's 8-3 victory over Allen Park Cabrini.

man goalie Justin Varhol. Crestwood/GC upped its lead to 4-0 thanks to goals from Jacob Noel (from Corey Hahn) and Justin Sims (from Matt Kirunchyk and Segasser), but the hosts stormed back with two quick goals from Alis Solis and Shel-don Varhol early in the second period — forcing Popp to call a tempo-changing timeout.

"I told them they needed to pick up the intensity," Popp said, recounting his message during the time-

out. "We were hesitant going into the corners for the puck. We needed to step it up, and to the guys' credit, we did."

Chargers goalie Chris Greco — who turned in a spectacular effort — stemmed the Monarchs' momentum midway through the second period with back-to-back stellar saves within a 20-second span.

Crestwood/GC expanded its advantage to 5-2 with 13:31 left in the game, when Kirunchyk

tipped in Steve Bennett's initial effort.

The Monarchs drew to within 5-3 with 11:47 left when Christopher Sukek ripped a shot through Greco's five-hole, but the Chargers turned on the after-burners down the stretch, scoring on goals by Bennett, Bleim and Joey Testane.

"I thought Steve Bennett played really well on defense for us," Popp said. "And Johnny Segasser was tough all the way around."

Pats notch first win of the season vs. Kettering

Seniors Elijah Grimm and Adam Stadler each had four-point nights to lead Livonia Franklin to a 6-2 boys hockey win Wednesday over visiting Waterford Kettering in a game played at Edgar Arena.

Grimm finished with a hat trick and one assist, while Stadler assisted on four goals as the Patriots, who unloaded for 39 shots on goal, evened their record at 1-1 overall.

Senior captain Mike Diaz scored the first two goals as the Patriots led 2-0 after one period.

Sophomore Justin Makowski also added a goal for the Patriots, while Corey Ferri-er chipped in with three assists and Josh Dudek finished with one.

Franklin sophomore goaltender Matt Monendo stopped 13-of-15 shots.

Kettering (0-3) got second-period goals from Kyle Soncrainte and Christian Ketterben, but still trailed 5-2.

"It was great to get our first win, but I understand Kettering was short-handed and missing some key players," Frank-

lin first-year coach Dennis Gagnon said. "I was proud of the effort. We've got a lot of learn, but we're excited to move forward."

STEVENSON 6, G.P. SOUTH 1: Junior Dominic Lutz and senior Travis Harvey each tallied a pair of goals Friday as Livonia Stevenson (4-0) downed Grosse Pointe South (1-2) in the first round of the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Thanksgiving Tournament.

One of Lutz's goals was short-handed. He also drew an assist as Stevenson outshot the Blue Devils,

38-19. Austin Stevens and Tyler Irvine had the other goals for the Spartans, who led 2-0 after one period and 3-0 after 34 minutes.

Andrew Bigham scored in the final period for South to spoil the shutout bid by Stevenson senior goalie Connor Humitz, who made 18 saves.

The Spartans will face the host Cranes, a 3-1 winner Friday over Grosse Pointe North, in the title game beginning at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Cranbrook.

NOV 13, SALEM 2: The visiting Rocks (0-1, 0-1) fell short in a comeback

bid Wednesday night at Novi (1-2, 1-0) in the KLAAC Central Division opener for both teams.

Novi led 2-0 after one period and 2-1 after two, following Salem's goal by first-year sophomore Noah Willer (assisted by Justin Katsulski and Colin Pietron).

Willer collected a stretch pass to the middle and broke in on Novi goalkeeper Pat Carney for the marker.

In the third, the Rocks scored on a power play goal by first-year sophomore Noah Saad (from Alek Zultowski and Jake Sealy). Salem peppered Car-

ney trying for the equalizer but could not convert. The goalie stopped 28-of-30 shots.

"While we are not happy with the end result, we played a solid game and controlled the game for long stretches," Salem head coach Ryan Ossensmacker said.

CHELSEA 7, CANTON 2: On Nov. 16, the visiting Chiefs were defeated in their regular season opener.

Scoring single goals for Canton were Brad Ceci and Christian Flack. Jacob Dugan and Justin Kolbicz divided the goalkeeping duties.

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Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys with 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 Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske 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.

Bieske 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 1-800-531-3530 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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PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HUNTINGTON

-Ovesea senior soccer team a 'first-class' class of players

FIRST TEAM

Bobby Budlong, Canton: The senior co-captain returned after missing the 2011 state championship season due to knee surgery and had a huge season. Budlong scored 14 goals and added 20 assists to spark the Chiefs to a 16-4-2 record including a 10-0-0 mark in the KLAAS South Division. That performance landed him a spot on both the Michigan High School Coaches Association's "Dream Team" and first team. His all-around efforts also earned him all-KLAAS, all-district and all-region honors. "Bobby has been a true gift to the Canton High School soccer program," coach George Tomasso said. "He has led our team off the field for four years. Bobby is a player that will never be replaced in any program."

Dan Ovesea, Canton: Having scored the goal that won the D1 championship in 2011, Ovesea entered this season with a lofty standard to live up to and he didn't disappoint — despite the Chiefs losing in the district semifinals to KLAAS champion Salem. Ovesea tallied 19 goals and 12 assists to team up with Budlong for a potent offense. The four-year varsity starter finished with 84 career goals and the co-captain was rewarded by being named to the all-conference, all-district and all-region squads as well as to the MHSAA first all-state team.

"Danny is a goal-scoring legend in the Canton soccer program," Tomasso said. "His 84 career goals speak loud and clear. He showed how special of a player he is by scoring a goal in the (2011) district final, regional final and (by scoring) the game-winning goal in the state championship game."

Chandler Olah, Plymouth: The senior forward and co-captain was a force all over the pitch as Plymouth won the first D1 district championship in its history.

Olah tallied 22 goals and 13 assists for the top-10 Wildcats, who upset No. 3-ranked Salem 1-0 in the district final. His quick end-to-end play helped edge Evonia Churchill in a district game.

For his efforts, Olah was selected to the all-district and all-region teams as well as earning a spot on the MHSAA all-state second team. "Chandler was a great team player and he did whatever the team needed him to do," coach Jeff Ne-nich said. "That includes scoring a hat trick in the 3-2 district victory over Churchill in the first round of the districts, or defending all game as he did in the district finals."

John D'Agostino, Stevenson: The senior defender and forward served as the Spartans' captain where he had 11 goals and eight assists en route to all-KLAAS and Division 1 first-team, all-state honors. D'Agostino is undecided about his college choice.

"John is an impact player at whatever position we played him at," coach Ken Shingledecker said. "We got into a rhythm of him scoring the goals to lead us the lead, and then moving him to the back to help preserve the lead."

"I have never been around a player that can change a game with one opportunity like him. His explosiveness and speed are a joy to watch. For as an excellent player as he is, he is an even better teammate and person."

Luke Hazen, Salem: A senior co-captain for the KLAAS Central Division, Kensington Conference and association champion Rocks, Hazen had a major role in the team's success — crucial to the team's overall 16-3-4 record.

He was named to the all-KLAAS, all-district, all-region and MHSAA all-state (second team) squads as a show of recognition for his consistency and excellence.

"Luke was responsible

2012 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Bobby Budlong, Sr., MF, Canton
Dan Ovesea, Sr., F, Canton
Chandler Olah, Sr., F, Plymouth
John D'Agostino, Sr., D, Liv. Stevenson
Luke Hazen, Sr., D, Salem
Collin Hewett, Jr., GK, Salem
Donald Payne, Sr., MF, Farmington
Kyle Kamsnan, Sr., MF, N. Farmington
Lual Fakhoury, Sr., MF, Farm. Harrison
Alex Isaevski, Sr., MF, John Glenn
Tyler Fosdick, Sr., MF, Salem
Ma Sambou Jatta, Sr., D, Clarenceville
Tom O'Brien, Sr., D, Liv. Stevenson
Matt Wisniewski, Sr., GK, Garden City
Connor Shennan, Sr., D, Canton

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ed McCarthy, Salem

SECOND TEAM

Ronnie Basin, Sr., MF, N. Farmington
Michael Murphy, Sr., MF, Liv. Churchill
Colton Robison, Sr., GK, Liv. Churchill
Bobby Mason, Sr., F, John Glenn
Ernie Babon, Sr., F, Liv. Westland
Connor Cole, Jr., MF, Salem
Griffin Parks, Jr., F, Canton
Lucas Albrecht, Soph., F, Ply. Christian
Lewis Ellis, Sr., F, Redford Union
Hayden Steinman, Jr., D, Liv. Franklin
Tom O'Brien, Sr., D, Liv. Stevenson
Joe Trombley, Sr., MF, Farmington
Josh Brunett, Jr., D, Farm. Harrison
Viet Nguyen, Jr., D, MF, Plymouth
Jeff Osterstrom, Jr., MF, Redford Union
Christian Strombaugh, Sr., MF, Garden City
Martin Ballan, Sr., F, Wayne

HONORABLE MENTION

Redford Union: Joe Griffin, Nate Longman, Justin Ruffner, Ryan Ruffner, Garden City: Toyosi Kuforiji, Matt Castaneda; **John Glenn:** Tyler Simpson, Ryan McCarthy, Carlos Santiago, David Wayne, Zak Hamden, Stevenson: Ben Stromberg, Billy Werthman, Zack Verant, Ryan Schifano, Brian Smith; **Franklin:** Matt Freed, Nick O'Brien, Jordan Bickham; **Churchill:** Nathan Bradford, Brian Cavichio, Matt Koepke, Tim DeYoung, Andrew Smutek; **Lutheran Westland:** Walter Gebarski, Jordan Williams; **Huron Valley Lutheran:** Justin Oreski, Mike Phillips; **Evan Gregg:** David Vanderkerckhove, Ian Banker, Cameron Fyffe, Matthias Hoffman; **Canton:** Scott Pivowar, Nick Tomei, Ian Wingate, Cody Widlak, Jack Zemanski; **Salem:** Chris Dieker, Brady Cole, Grant McKinney, Andriy Pelekh; **Plymouth:** Vikas Kannegatti, Jeff Pattison, Do-Hyung Kim, Toshi Phillips; **St. Mary's:** Mario Gruczyński; **PCA:** Jacob Bailey, Matt Read, Jayme Putney, Adam Powulis; **Farmington:** Brandon Schulz, Alex Arlini, Don Clark, Alexander Budd, Sam Fleck; **N. Farmington:** Will Clapham, Christian Beckwith, Matt Diekmann, Nate Bur, Zach Lummey; **Harrison:** Brenden Tatomir, Moosa Zaatari, Emil Hennies.

for taking nearly all of our defensive re-starts," coach Ed McCarthy said. "He is one of the top passing defenders in the state and has outstanding vision."

Collin Hewett, Salem: One would be hard-pressed to find a high school goalkeeper with as much range and athletic ability as Hewett, who seemed to be everywhere when the Rocks needed a goal to keep to the successful ride that went all the way to the heartbeating, 1-0 district final loss in penalty kicks to Plymouth in the 3-2 district victory over Churchill in the first round of the districts, or defending all game as he did in the district finals.

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"Luke was responsible

late-season improvement. He did a great job of organizing our team, and he was a terrific captain. Lual's influence on his teammates was invaluable."

Alex Isaevski, John Glenn: The senior midfielder helped propel Glenn to its best season ever, finishing with 25 goals and 14 assists on his way to all-KLAAS and all-district honors. Isaevski was also a "Ma-porn" athlete, serving as Glenn's kicker and punter in football.

"Alex is very fast and technically skilled," coach Brian Torkelson said. "Alex is a playmaker. He is able to create offense from center midfield as well as outside fullback. He's an ambidextrous shooter and dribbler. His high work rate and terrific fitness make him a complete player."

Tyler Fosdick, Salem: The senior co-captain gave all he had on the pitch and more to provide essential leadership and clutch playmaking for the KLAAS champion Rocks.

"Tyler is an excellent defensive midfielder," McCarthy said. "He is good in the air and is one of our conference's top players at helping keep possession."

Ma Sambou Jatta, Clarenceville: The five-foot-3 senior played every position except goalkeeper, leading the Trojans with 11 goals and five assists. Jatta's primary position was sweeper.

"Ma Sambou is a fierce competitor," coach Trevor Johnson said. "Even in games that we were on the wrong end, coaches would praise him, both with no issues. I have a hard time believing that any

late-season improvement. He did a great job of organizing our team, and he was a terrific captain. Lual's influence on his teammates was invaluable."

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Bobby Budlong Canton



Dan Ovesea Canton



Chandler Olah Plymouth



John D'Agostino Stevenson



Luke Hazen Salem



Collin Hewett Salem



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Lual Fakhoury Harrison



Alex Isaevski John Glenn



Tyler Fosdick Salem



Ma Sambou Jatta Clarenceville



Dominic Sabatini Stevenson



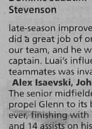
Matt Wisniewski Garden City



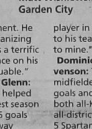
Connor Shennan Canton



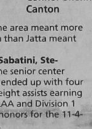
Ed McCarthy Salem coach



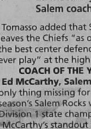
Dominic Sabatini Stevenson



Matt Wisniewski Garden City



Connor Shennan Canton



Ed McCarthy Salem coach

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Nov. 26
N. Farm. at Lakeland, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 27
HVL at Macomb, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 28
L. at Greenwood, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 29
Southfield at Garden City, 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 30
Rd at Garden City, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 1
Edford at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 2
Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 3
Farmington at Harrison, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 4
Franklin vs. County, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 5
Franklin vs. Howell

Inter-City at Cville, 7 p.m.

N. Farm. at Avondale, 7 p.m.

Salem at F.M. Mercy, 7 p.m.

Farmington at Now, 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 30
Franklin at Garden City, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 1
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Sunday, Nov. 2
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Saturday, Nov. 22
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Franklin vs. Howell

Wednesday, Dec. 10
Franklin vs. Howell

Thursday, Dec. 11
Franklin vs. Howell

Friday, Dec.

Area women will try to win another title for Lakers

Grand Valley to play UC San Diego in NCAA soccer semi

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Forgive Alyssa Mira for being a little greedy. The senior midfielder for Grand Valley State University women's soccer team has played on two NCAA Division II national championship teams and is going for number three when the 20-1-3 Lakers travel Thursday to Evans, Ga., to face UC San Diego in the semifinals.

The Livonia Churchill grad also has company when it comes to national titles in Kayla Kimble, a junior defender from Livonia Stevenson who was a member of last year's national runner-up squad and the 2010 championship team as a freshman.

Mira, the team leader in assists (9), never lost a match on her home field during her four-year career as the Lakers are 49-0-3, a streak which currently ranks second all-time among NCAA Division II women's soccer teams.

That, however, appeared to be in jeopardy last week when Grand Valley needed two overtimes and a shootout following a 2-2 draw with Minnesota State in a national quarterfinal.

The Lakers, who squandered a 2-0 lead during the last 10 minutes of regulation, won 5-4 on penalty kicks to stay alive in

the tournament.

"That was probably one of the most emotional games I've ever played," said Mira, who logged all 110 minutes. "When we gave up two goals at the end I still had complete faith that we could still pull it off. When we went to the shootout, I said, 'This is it, this is the last game on this field.' I had confidence in our shooters and our goalie. I was so happy I won that last game on that field."

Ironically, it was a little less fresh from Livonia Ladywood who factored heavily in the final outcome.

Kelly Capoccia, a native of Farmington Hills who appeared in just 11 games and has seen only 128 minutes action all season, came in cold off the bench score in the sixth round of the shootout, which ultimately set up Taylor Callen's game-winning PK to make it 5-4. "We've been taking penalty kicks every single practice," Capoccia said. "I didn't know until five minutes before the second overtime was over. I was pretty shocked. That was my first one. I was nervous, but I just knew I needed to stay calm, relaxed and composed. I put it in the lower right side of the net."

And Mira was one of the first to congratulate her. "I told Kelly after the

game of how proud I was of her," the senior physical therapy major said. "It's not about minutes for her. She was able to sit through that whole game and still have the composure to bury a PK at the end when the team needed her."

Mira recently earned her second straight All-Region nod, while helping GVSU record 18 shutouts. She was also named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2011, while also earning a spot on the Daktronics All-American third-team.

"She's (Mira) been a great example of somebody who puts everything she has into it as a student and an athlete balancing that with the same amount of energy, success and care," Grand Valley coach Dave Dilanni said. "She's kind of a lead by example, the harder we worked, the better the outcome. I think we're growing as a team and working good, so hopefully we'll pull together for the national championship."

Despite playing in 21 games, Kimble was plagued during her freshman year with compartment syndrome, which required postseason surgery.

This season she's battled dislocated tendons in her ankles, which will also require postseason



Kayla Kimble



Alyssa Mira



Kelly Capoccia

consummate teammate." After winning its eighth straight GLIAC crown, Grand Valley ousted University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 2-0, and Rockhurst (Mo.), 3-1, to reach the Elite Eight.

Kimble has started 15 of 17 Lakers' games this season and played all 110 minutes in the victory over Minnesota State.

Like Mira, Kimble earned both All-GLIAC and All-Midwest Region honors this season.

"I think that we've gotten better as the season has gone on," Kimble said. "We're growing together as a team. It just shows that on Sunday, the harder we worked, the better the outcome. I think we're growing as a team and working good, so hopefully we'll pull together for the national championship."

Meanwhile, Dilanni said he wasn't afraid to throw Capoccia into the fire at critical time.

"Not everybody has that comfort level to be able to handle that pressure," the 10th-year Grand Valley coach said. "We asked her and she said she wanted to be part of it and give her the opportunity 10 minutes to warm up after the (sec-

ond) overtime was over.

"Obviously give credit to one of her club coaches Eric Scott, who is a Livonia guy and done a great job with her mentally, in terms of being mentally strong and giving her the nuances of the game of soccer. She has a high soccer I.Q., so I give her confidence doing that. She's not afraid of the moment and that's a lot of respect she's garnered from her teammates."

Kimble also admired Capoccia's mental toughness.

"That was really great for her to come in and kick one for the team," the junior business and marketing major said. "I was the next one to shoot, so I was a little nervous."

Capoccia, a former All-Stater from Ladywood, has remained patient throughout the process.

"It's been kind of up-and-down," the freshman business major said. "I've learned a lot throughout the whole first season. I came in with high expectations."

As far Mira, she likes the team's chemistry heading into the Final Four. "We all work for each other," she said. "We all know what the main goal is. As much as it's about the team and stuff, we have everyone working to keep our senior class going. We've had set goals from the beginning of the season and we've knocked off every one of them. To win a national championship is our last one."

FLYERS

Continued from page B1

which we did, and we came out on top. "The team play was there. Everyone worked

together. We worked hard in the defensive zone and moved out from there into the offensive zone. We created chances together, and it was a nice team victory."

North-Harrison senior goalie Hunter Myers got

the shootout. He was tested by Farmington's Nick Gensheimer, Nick Heffron and others, but not near as much as Lethe-mon was by the Flyers. Vellucci said the Falcons will go back to the draw-

ing board and, hopefully, have a different outcome when the teams play again on Saturday, Dec. 22.

"I think we'll be a better team by then," he said. "We had a big crowd tonight, and it was just a little disappointing. We had 12 returning guys, and I thought that experience would have factored in.

"We told the guys, 'We need to look in the mirror and regroup. We have to keep going back to the basics and fundamentals.' One of the boys said, 'Coach, we're not executing.' Executing means passing, shooting, skating, and we're just not doing that on all cylinders right now. "We changed the lines

around a little to try to get a different look. With (Cooper) McLean, Heffron and Gensheimer out there, they had a bunch of chances. We had a couple breakaways and didn't get a shot off. That's the way it went tonight. We didn't get the breaks, and we didn't make the breaks either."

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WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

All told, 11 skaters picked up at least one point.

Golden touch

"It's not the way these games usually go," said Plymouth coach Gerry Vento, whose team is off to a 4-0 start. "It's just that everything we touched seemed to turn to gold today."

"Sometimes you're on the right end of those games and sometimes you're on the wrong end. We'll take it and move forward to the next game."

Vento hopes the team saved something for that one, a game at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28 at Arctic Edge against defending state champion and still-streaking Brighton.

The Chiefs completed fairly well for the first half of the opening stanza before two Plymouth power play goals within 1:24 opened up a 3-0 lead.

With 7:13 left, junior forward Mike Schultz (one goal, three assists) walked out of the left corner and threaded a pass in front to senior forward Nick Schultz (two goals, one assist), who one-timed the puck past Canton starting goalie Justin Kolbicz.

Plymouth's third goal of the period was scored by senior forward Joe Burke (two goals), who sent a knuckling wrist shot from the right circle inside the left post.

The Wildcats added to the lead at 49 seconds of the second. Gunther skated the length of the ice down the left wing and centered a pass to Burke for the slam dunk.

With 14:32 remaining in the period, a shorthanded marker padded the edge to 5-0. The Schultz brothers teamed up again, with Nick Schultz finishing the scoring play.

"They (Mike and Nick Schultz) definitely seem to have a chemistry," Vento said. "Our power

play was clicking today. The way they happy with the way things worked out."

That goal marked the end of the night for Kolbicz, with senior Jacob Dugan taking over.

"I thought Justin played really well," Majszak stressed. "The only reason I pulled him is I'm not going to let him get shelled if the team in front of him doesn't want to play."

However, Dugan also found himself in a tough spot as the Wildcats scored four times (three with the extra man) over the final 10:41 to widen the gap to mercy-rule proportions.

The first two goals Dugan allowed were collected by Gunther followed by single tallies by Lopetrone and Mike Schultz. Senior forward Spencer Godin earned his second help of the night on the Lopetrone goal.

Cool and calm

At the other end, Plym-

outh sophomore netminder Jared Maddock was a cool commander. He handled everything that came his way with confidence.

"He did what he had to do," Vento said. "He was pretty calm before the game and I think it showed on the ice."

When the game was 1-0, Maddock turned aside a backhand by Canton forward Colin Smith.

Late in the second, he made back-to-back stops against senior forward Charlie Steslick to keep his shutout going.

For the Chiefs, the best part of the night was hosting the annual game to collect new toys for those in need.

Those who brought toys (to be donated through Toys for Tots) received discount coupons for an oil change at Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth (co-sponsor of the event).

There also was a raffle and Dick Scott's hosted a "Score-0" where fans took a shot from center ice at a 2013 Dodge.

the KLAAs South Division.

"We had some mental lapses out there," Reynolds said. "I think defensively we're more ready to be stronger. It's going to be an ongoing process for us this year. We have a schedule this year that consists of a lot of tough teams. The schedule is built for a good playoff run. We're going to take it one game at a time and we're going to continue to improve defensive and continue make those mental notes against these good teams. We'll come back and be more ready for these guys in January."

Meanwhile, Stevenson was flying up and down the ice with reckless abandon. The Spartans had a pair of power play goals and he more ready to get short-handed as well.

"The line of Lutz, Irvine and Devin Kelly — was very good for us," Mitchell said. "They seemed to click together. This was kind of a run-and-gun game and we definitely had breakdowns, and Connor Hunitz (26 saves) came up big for us. It's nice to have a senior goalie between the pipes who has been there before."

The Kensington Conference crossover win puts the Spartans 1-0 in the KLAAs Central.

"We still have a long way to go and a tough road ahead of us, but I like where we're at and I like the point of the season," Mitchell said. "But we have a big Thanksgiving tournament coming up at Cranbrook with Grosse Pointe South on Friday night, then either Cranbrook or Grosse Pointe North (Saturday). We have a long way to go, and a lot of good hockey, and a lot to improve upon for sure."

Carroll (25-9).

The top two teams in each pool advance to the single elimination round of play that begins on Friday.

Madonna is 26-23 in its 12 appearances in the NAIA Nationals and is making its first championship appearance since 2008.

S'craft guard duo powers by Edison

The one-two punch of Richmond Jackson and Jonathan Campbell proved to be too much Tuesday as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team downed Edison Community College, 89-77, in Piqua, Ohio.

Jackson, a sophomore forward, poured in a game-high 29 points hitting 11-of-22 shots from the floor along with 6-of-9 free throws. He also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Campbell, a first-year guard from Livonia Stevenson, added 24 points hitting 4-of-7 from three-point range and 10-of-12 foul shots.

Center Terrance Coles also posted a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Zinoviy Pelekch came off the bench to score 10 points and dish out four assists.

The victorious Ocelots, who led 34-33 at the half, improved to 3-2 overall.

Edison (2-1) got 10 points from guard Jordan Taylor, while Brandon Ervin posted a double-

double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. The Chargers also got 15 points from Eric Beckstedt.

MADONNA 92, MARYGROVE 42: Eleven of 12 players scored Tuesday night as host Madonna University (5-1, 2-0) romped to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph over Marygrove College (0-6, 0-2).

Junior guard Travis Schuba paced a balanced MU scoring attack with 15 points, while Zach Wedesky came off the bench to add 13.

Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson), Fred Williams and Zak Lewis chipped in with 10 apiece for the Crusaders, who led 45-23 at the half.

MU shot 56.7 percent from the field (34-for-60), including 14-of-25 from three-point range (14-of-25).

Marygrove got 10 points off the bench from Diante Taylor.

The Mustangs shot only 17-of-64 from the field (26.6 percent).

SPARTANS

Continued from page B1

sophomore Alex Hunt each added a goal for the Spartans, who led 6-2 after two periods.

Both Churchill goals came in the second period by junior defenseman Drew Pushies, the first from Tommy Carey and the second from Matt Sinclair and Nick Misaki.

"These games are always emotional games," Churchill first-year coach Jason Reynolds said. "And you always want to try and put your best foot forward in an emotional game like this."

"Obviously we had an unfortunate 15 seconds when they jumped on us early, and I think from there we got a little too wrapped up in the emotion of the game. That

led to some poor penalties on our part. And give Stevenson credit, they're always prepared with a potent power play. They've got a lot of great offensive talent on their team. They came ready to capitalize on the mental breakdowns that we had."

Churchill started Alec Calvaruso in goal. The freshman faced 34 Stevenson shots.

"I'm trying to prepare this guy for the future," Reynolds said. "There were a couple of instances there where we thought maybe we could pull him out and give him a little bit of relief, but then on the other hand, we as a team fully need to do more than what we're doing. I certainly couldn't put it all on his shoulders."

The loss dropped the Chargers to 0-2 and 0-1 in

Madonna spikers to meet top-10 foes

The Madonna University women's volleyball team will face a pair of top-10 ranked teams when they jumped on us early, and I think from there we got a little too wrapped up in the emotion of the game. That

Columbia College (Mo.) and No. 10-ranked Oklahoma Baptist, along with Carroll College (Mont.).

Madonna comes in ranked 15th overall following Nov. 17 at home over St. Xavier (Ill.) in the NAIA opening round after claiming both the Wolver-

ine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships.

Beginning at 4:15 p.m. (CST) Tuesday, the Crusaders face Oklahoma Baptist (32-4) before taking on Columbia (37-1) at 2 p.m. Wednesday before wrapping up pool play at 2 p.m. Thursday against

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Seasonal tradition

Couple decorates, bakes for Christmas House Walk

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Every ornament, every Christmas headdress, every handmade keepsake in Mike and Jane Cuba's house tells a story.

From the early 19th-century New Year postcards that Jane inherited from her grandmother, to the handmade clothespin figures hanging on the hibiscus plant, the cherished family treasures all commemorate events, individuals and places close to their hearts.

"I could give you stories about everything in the house," said Jane, a retired teacher who taught second grade in Southfield.

"She's got an ornament that's a piece of cardboard with a rubber band on the back," added Mike, a retired Detroit high school chemistry teacher. "We hang that sucker up every year."

The simple cardboard



Homemade ornaments from a friend refer to their major addition built on their home. Jane Cuba holds the roll of blueprints and Mike Cuba holds a tumbling stack of bricks.

creation—a gift from a second grader long ago—and dozens of other ornaments will hang from the branches of a freshly-cut Christmas tree in the couple's family room when guests visit during the 24th annual Livonia Christmas House Walk, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

The Cuba residence is one of five houses that will be decorated for the holidays and open to ticket-holders. Jane likes to keep the decorations simple

and traditional in the 1938 colonial. Roping of artificial greens with lights and bows along the stairway bannister, a mirror and other locations throughout the first floor. Antique postcards that were sent to Jane's grandmother from 1908-1903, along with Santa figures and stockings decorate the fireplace mantel. Holiday art hangs on the walls and Christmas cactus blooms in a sun room.

"If people are coming for cutting edge ideas, this is



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike and Jane Cuba, reflected in the hallway mirror. Jane places fresh greens arrangements, like the one on the table, throughout the house during the Christmas season.

the wrong house," Jane noted. "It's very traditional. There will be fresh greens, picked from the backyard. I'll have out 10 arrangements. I'll have poinsettias."

Tasty twist

When she agreed to par-

ticipate in the Christmas Walk, Jane told its organizers that the couple would decorate the house as they normally do for Christmas. "Nothing more. Nothing else."

But because they participated in the 2007 Walk, just

five years ago, the couple wanted to add a new, special twist—without going overboard on decorations.

"To make it a little different for people who have been here, we and some

Please see TRADITION, B7

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jane Cuba knits Christmas presents at the kitchen table.

TRADITION

Continued from page B6

friends will be baking cookies non-stop," Jane said.

Visitors will get a chance to taste a cookie or two as they walk through the kitchen, which was part of a major addition, along with a family room and master bedroom suite in 2006.

The Cubas will use recipes from the new Angela Hospice cookbook *Where the Butter Flies*, which Mike compiled for the organization. (See the Thursday, Nov. 29 food page in the *Observer* for recipes and a story about the book).

Volunteering together

Both Mike and Jane are long-time volunteers for Angela Hospice. She knits lap blankets and visits with patients in their homes. He crochets lap blankets and pitches in with cooking and special projects, such as the cookbook.

Jane began volunteering for Angela Hospice 18 years ago, after her father died.

"They were there for my family," she said. "I said, I'll do it (volunteer) for a year, give back. Well, 18 years later."

Angela Hospice cookbooks will be available for purchase at their home during the Christmas Walk.

Although only the main floor will be decorated for Christmas, visitors will be allowed to see the upstairs master bedroom, which was part of the 2006 addition, and check out Mike's basement level "man cave," where he builds the model airplanes that he flies with Detroit Aero Modelers.

Along with the wood skeleton of an airplane that's under construction, visitors may notice a "magic mirror," a dove on a string and a sign for "Ruby's Place" in Mike's work room. All are props that have been used by Spotlight on Youth, Spotlight Players or Still Got It



Mrs. Brown sits on a holiday table runner in Mike and Jane Cuba's family room.

24TH ANNUAL LIVONIA CHRISTMAS HOUSE WALK

What: Presented by the Friends of Greenmead to benefit Greenmead Historical Park.

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1

Details: Walk through five private homes, all decorated for the holidays, in Livonia. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served on event day at the Quaker House at Greenmead.

Admission: Tickets are \$9 before the walk and \$10 the day of the walk. Buy tickets at all three Livonia libraries, at the Quaker House at Greenmead, located at Newburgh and Eight Mile, and weekdays at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive.

Contact: (248) 477-7375

Players in Canton.

"I like building. I build plastic models. I build wood models. If someone says 'I need a left-handed framat for a play, I'll try to come up with something,'" he said.

Both he and Jane are active in Spotlight Players. Mike, who regularly acts, directs and helps backstage, will direct dinner theater, *The Reunion* at Hippie High, in early

2013. Jane also acts and helps behind the scenes.

Look for handmade Christmas ornaments on their tree that commemorate Mike's role as Scrooge and their many years as "big head" and character marchers in the America's Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit.

For more information about the Livonia Christmas House Walk, call (248) 477-7375.

Furnace requirements could be costly

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

I would like to know how many organizations there are that control and set policies on energy consumption in this country. I think every person should be singled out and how much money directed to each specific group should be identified.

I want to know because I'm tired of not knowing who is responsible for the thousands of dollars that cost Americans right out of their pockets for the new ideas that come out of Washington. Who is it that has the right to dictate to homeowners that



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

you can no longer purchase an 80 percent furnace and must install the 90 percent-plus as a replacement?

Under mandate of law, the heating company of your choice will no longer be able to sell them. Many consumers will be shocked at the increase in price for having a new furnace installed.

The law goes into effect in the early months of 2013 and it reminds me of when the Energy Department got involved with the toilet issue that turned out to be one big mess. Don't get me wrong, I believe in saving the planet, recycling and all the other things that can be called normal, but I'm strictly against the rip-offs that get mixed into the methods of getting things done. Let me give you just a few examples of how change which caused some very adverse expense results.

In 1982 the manufacturers of gas ranges had to change the method of ignition on their stoves. They had to go from a pilot light to an electronic ignition system. The old system worked great but it wasted gas which we had plenty of and still have an abundance to feed us for the next 200 years. This move had to cost the manufacturers many millions of dollars in new design. It didn't take very long for them to get a return on investment. The igniters were just a pure piece of junk back then and many range owners had to buy a new one every year at a cost of near \$100. It was several years before the igni-

er was perfected to withstand some longevity.

Furnace changes

The same picture is true of furnaces. Most people who purchased a new furnace 20 years ago with the new ignition system had to replace several igniters during the first few years of operation. I know, I've replaced five of them in my furnace, which is still operating like a champ. But now comes the big decision I have to make along with several million other homeowners. I simply don't want to replace my furnace at this time. My old one works great and I might get another 10 years out of it. If I do decide to replace it now, I don't want one of the higher efficiency units. I don't believe that the extra expense of installation and extra cost is feasible to recover in my remaining years. It just doesn't work for me and I'm not alone.

To sum it up, I either purchase an 80 percent furnace now or I wait until my current one goes bad down the road and I buy what is available and the 90 percent furnace is shoved down my throat.

Costly changes

Now let's say that I am really concerned about energy savings and have the new energy-saving furnace installed now. I figure that I might save a lot of money compared to what it will cost me a few years from now. Keep in mind that it is not just the extra cost for the product but the additional amount of money I'm going to spend to have holes drilled through the side of my house for the new venting requirements on this new furnace. Thank God I don't live in the center unit of a condominium or I'd be spending more for venting than I would for the furnace. I think I spent \$1,400 for a furnace 17 years ago and today it would cost around \$3,000. I expect that next year it would cost around \$5,000 and who knows what the price will be in the next few years.

I would like to know who the people are that have never held a screwdriver and make these decisions for me. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appld@twm1.com.

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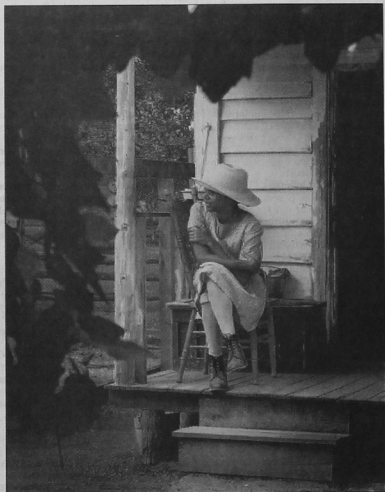
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Best of Show



Allen Brooks, a photographer from Livonia, recently won the top award at the Pontiac Creative Arts Center Photography Exhibition. The piece, "Waiting for Moses," will be on display through Jan. 10, 2013 at the Center, 47 Williams, Pontiac.

Shop crafts at museum, with dog rescue coming weekend as yule nears

Mark your calendars for the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual juried Craft Bazaar and Open House on Saturday, Dec. 1, and Better Life Canine Center's Santa Paws Winter Bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 2.

The Museum craft show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. is free and open to the public. It will feature crafts, such as knit, ceramic, jewelry, and recycled art. Santa will be on hand during the event and visitors may explore the Museum's special exhibit for free that day.

A bake sale also is planned in conjunction with the craft show. The Museum needs donations of baked goods, including cookies, cakes, candy, breads, pies, sweet rolls and bars. Cookies and bars should be bundled in packages of

6 or 12. Label treats and drop off the goodies at the Museum kitchen from 1-4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main, Plymouth. Questions? Call Heidi Nielson at (734) 455-8940.

The Santa Paws event will run 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2 at Healthy Paws Veterinary Medical Center, 38150 Ford Road, Westland.

Vendors will sell handmade ornaments, jewelry, knitted items, dog collars, hair bows and more.

The event will include a refreshment station, "Smooch a Pooch Booth," Photos with Santa for kids and dogs and raffles. Admission is \$2 per person or \$6 per family. For more information, visit Better Life Canine Center on Facebook.



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

Ron Bucker (left) of Sterling Heights is Sunshine (left) and O.K. Ron Kwiatkowski of Plymouth is O.K.

Hob Nobble Gobble draws together parade supporters for fun

By Julie Yolles
Social Scene Columnist

There was quite a festive, colorful group gathered at the 50-year line at Ford Field Friday, Nov. 16. There was just one Detroit Lion — Roary the Mascot — but hundreds of children, several Computware Elves, unicorns, marching bands, dancers and a whole lot of clownin' goin' on. The 23rd Annual Hob Nobble Gobble brought nearly 2,000 supporters to the "D." The event, along with the Distinguished Clown Corps (DCC) and the Big Heads Corps, help raise needed funds to produce America's Thanksgiving Parade which just celebrated its 86th year Thursday, Nov. 22.

"The Parade is integral to our city and brings tremendous goodwill," said Eric Larson, incoming chair for the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, and a Bloomfield Hills resident. "Continuing the cycle is so important for our legacy."

Larson ought to know. His kids are third-generation Distinguished Clowns. Following in the clown-shoes of his parents, Larson has been a member of the Distinguished Clown Corps for 15 years. This Thanksgiving parade marked the first year that Larson's wife, Kathy, and their daughter Makenzie planned to be Clowns together. Their daughter, Paige, celebrated her third year in the Parade.



Christina Brenner (left) of Westland is an instructor at Tina Marie School of Dance. Two of her dancers, Caitlin Kurmas of Shelby and Alix Deloof of Warren, performed at the Hob Nobble Gobble and on the Art Van float at the Thanksgiving Day Parade.

For consideration of coverage in this column, please send event happenings, including invitations and press kits, to Julie Yolles, Social Scene columnist, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 371 Greenwood, Birmingham, MI 48009. Contact her at jyolles@comcast.net or (248) 642-9465.

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Jan Krist will sing at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia. Audience members may bring diapers to the concert for donation to the Detroit Area Diaper Bank.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Greens sale

The Dearborn Heights Garden Club will sell fresh wreaths, swags, centerpiece, wreath stands, hanging baskets, baked goods and more, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 6-7, at the Canfield Center, 1801 N. Beech Daly, south of Ford Road, Dearborn Heights. The annual fundraiser benefits scholarships for students who plan to study horticulture-related subjects in college. For more information, call Robert Cairns at (313) 278-2337.

Hill and Dale Garden Club

Sally Oullette will guide participants in making their own wreath centerpiece, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13 at the Spicer House, located in Heritage Park, off Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Visit hillanddalegc.org for more information.

Plymouth Nursery

• Santa will be on hand 10 a.m.-2 p.m. weekends through Dec. 9 at Plymouth Nursery, 9900 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Customers can pose for a free photo with Santa, visit a petting farm, campfire and enjoy refreshments. A percentage of proceeds from the sale of fresh-cut trees and wreaths will benefit the Make A Wish Foundation.

• Girls Night Out will run 6-8 p.m. Nov. 30. The first 50 women will receive a free goody bag. The event will include vendors, door prizes, sales and fun. Call (734) 453-5500 for more information.

English Gardens

The store is accepting donations to provide fresh-cut Christmas trees to U.S. troops and military families. For each \$30 donation, English Gardens will give one tree to a military base in the US or overseas.

• A fundraiser for THAW, the Heat & Warmth Fund, will run 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 at the Royal Oak store and will include demonstrations in LED holiday lighting, decorating tips, visits with Santa, family and pet photos with Santa, live music, pizza, hot chocolate and cookies. Tickets are \$15 per family (maximum six individuals) in advance and \$20 at the door. Each family will receive a \$10 English Gardens coupon. All ticket sale proceeds will benefit THAW. Get tickets in advance at www.englishgardens.com.

• Make a Christmas floral arrangement at a "Make It and Take It Workshop" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13 at stores in Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

Tell us about your Christmas traditions

Got a favorite Christmas tradition? Maybe it's an annual caroling party or ethnic-inspired Christmas Eve supper, ornament-making with the kids or a cookie exchange with the neighbors. Perhaps you assist at a soup kitchen on Christmas day or volunteer at an animal shelter, head north to hit the slopes or south to bask in the sun. Whatever your holiday tradition is, we'd love to find out more.

Send us a few paragraphs about your Christmas tradition — include a photo if you'd like — and tell us why it's a mainstay in your holiday celebrating. We'll share it with readers in an upcoming *Observer* edition.

Include your name, phone number, e-mail, and city of residence. E-mailed photos should be jpg attachments. E-mail to Sharon Dargay by Friday, Dec. 14, at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail them to her at 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7850



FIBROMYALGIA IN FALL

Lupus worsens in the summer and improves in the winter; psoriatic arthritis does the opposite.

Fibromyalgia also changes with the seasons. Fibromyalgia flares in the transition from winter to spring and it expresses the same feature in the change from summer to fall. What is unusual is that the change from fall to winter does not cause a similar flare in joint and muscle pain.

It is important for people with fibromyalgia to understand that weather change that others consider fine is likely a bad turn of events for them. That others are looking forward to the morning, when the person with fibromyalgia feels dread, make someone with fibromyalgia feel only more alienated from friends and family. Furthermore, the worsening of pain brings up the question for more medication or raises the issue that the current regimen of medication and exercise is inadequate.

However, physicians know from experience that the worsening is temporary, the end is in sight even when the greater pain comes on. The best medical advice the patient receives is to wait out the present flare.

Why the change in seasons exerts a bad effect in fibromyalgia is unclear. Going from warm weather of summer to the cool of autumn could make it more difficult for muscles to relax their stiffness. But the transition from autumn to winter does not yield the same result. Why the change from winter's cold to spring's warmth causes a problem has no explanation.

What patients with fibromyalgia should remember is to brace themselves for a temporary worsening in fall, but realize it will pass.

METROPARK CALENDAR

General: 2011 annual parking and boat launch permits are available at the park office. Vehicle entry permits are \$25; senior citizen \$15. Boat launching permits are \$30; senior citizen \$15. The HCMA and Oakland County Parks permits, valid within both park systems, are \$48. Daily entry fee is \$5.

Kensington

Note: For information for registration, call the Kensington Park office at (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178. The Nature Center office phone number is (248) 685-0603. Pre-registration required for programs and a \$2 fee per person unless stated otherwise. Park hours 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Nature Center

Brownies Try-It - Hiker: Saturday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. All requirements for this badge will be met during this indoor/outdoor program. Fee: \$5 per Scout.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Guide to Employment

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

Help Wanted - General

BRANCH MANAGER

Robertson Heating Supply Company, Livonia, an aggressive & growing 78 yr. old wholesale distributor of HVAC and plumbing products, is seeking for a career-minded person with 2+ years of prior industry, computer and personnel management experience. Responsibilities will include managing an inside sales center, pulling customer orders, maintaining inventory and managing outside sales personnel. Position offers great pay, complete benefits, including medical insurance, profit sharing, 401K plan and job security. Drug screenings required. To apply forward complete resume with salary history and requirements to: jdobson@robertson.com or Don Lertley, VP Branch Operations, Robertson Heating Supply, PO Box 2462, Alliance, OH 44601

CAREGIVER

For autistic boy in Farmington Hills. Alternates, weekends. \$8.50/hr. (248) 636-2461

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Good for anyone that can't get out to work. Work from home! Pick-up/drop-off for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri 9-5: 734-728-4372 or email rlm@workfromhome.com

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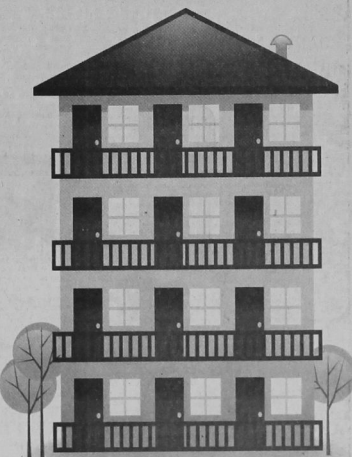
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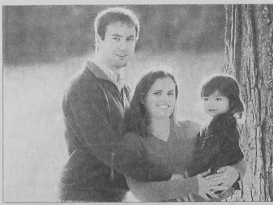


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Michael Symanow, Melissa King, and their daughter, Elizabeth King

King-Symanow

Melissa Ashley King and Michael Charles Symanow announce their engagement.

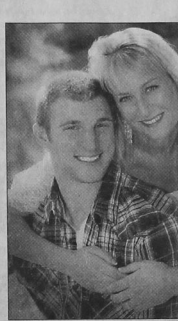
The bride-to-be, daughter of Duane David King of Westland and Heidi Lynn Taylor of Ypsilanti, is a legal assistant at West & Hurley Attorneys and Counselors at Law, in Springfield, Ohio.

Her fiancé, son of David and Carolyn Symanow of Plymouth, is employed by the Department of Defense in Dayton, Ohio.

An April 2013 wedding is planned at Church of the Divine Child, Dearborn.

View Online
www.hometowntwifeline.com

Milestones



Hamilton-Boyko

Kayla Ann Hamilton and N. Andrew Boyko announce their engagement.

The couple met during their first year at Cornerstone University.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Orville and Pamela Hamilton of Decatur, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor of science degree in exercise science. She is employed as a certified wellness specialist at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo.

Her fiancé, son of Nicholas and Cathleen Boyko of Farmington Hills, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor of business administration degree. He is employed in sales and marketing at Plastipak, in Plymouth.

An April 2013 wedding is planned in Decatur.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • eobits@hometowntwifeline.com

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

CRAMER, MELVIN A.

Age 87, of Livonia, November 2, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Marjorie. Loving father of Melvin H. (Mary Lou), Frank (Janette) & Paul (Judy). Great-grandfather of Stephen, Mark, Jennifer & Ryan. Dear grandfather of Allison, Stephanie, James & Emily. Memorial service will be held on Sat. Dec. 1st Visitation with family at 9:00 a.m. until mass, 10:00 a.m., at St. Genevieve-St. Maurice Catholic Church, Livonia.

DEO, THELLEN

Born June 1, 1923, 89 years old, passed away at Garden City Hospital on October 26, 2012. Preceded in death by husband, Edwin Deo, a builder in the City of Wayne. Cremation by the funeral home, Wayne, Michigan. No services were held.



DICKS, PAUL M.

62 of Farmington Hills, November 20, 2012. Paul was survived by his beloved daughter, Melany (Wallie) Newsted, his cherished grandchildren, Carlos, Madison, Rodney and Joseph, his father, Richard (Lillian), his siblings, Leonard (Clarie) Dicks and Loretta Tackett, and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Florence (Ida) (1909) and his brother, Marvin (1907). Paul's family will receive guests on Tuesday, November 27th, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Herney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, 23720 Farmington Rd., (b/w. 910 Mile Rd., N. of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial tributes suggested to the charity of the donor's choice. Eulogy-sundquist.com

DIVEN, JEAN D.

Age 90, passed away November 22, 2012 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on June 18, 1922 in Flint, daughter of the late Ernest and Mary Potter. Prior to moving to South Lyon in 1989, Jean resided in Redford Township for many years. She is survived by her loving children: Paul (Jan), Carl (Carol), Jane, Keith (Cindy), Kurt (Julie) and Pat (Brad). Paul is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and many loving friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles in 1987. Visitation was held on Sunday, November 25 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon, MI. Funeral Mass celebrated on Monday, November 26 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

DOMINICK, JOSEPHINE

Age 88, November 18, 2012. Beloved mother of Patricia (Bill) Jordan, Marlene (Bob) Smith, Sandy (Dave) Woodruff, Kathy (Steve) Kent, and Cheryl Roberts. Loving Grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of 11. She was deeply loved and will be dearly missed. Visitation Friday 2-8 p.m. with a 7pm Rosary. Burial services Saturday 10 am at the John N. Santeo & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (Between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to Angela Hospice.

KIELING, PATRICIA

A long-time resident of Livonia died on November 15, 2012 at the age of 46. Pat is the loving wife of Max and the beloved mother of Melan Elizabeth, Mikala Elayne and Madison Emma. She is also survived by her parents Donald and Emma, brother Donald Jr., sister Cassandra and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Friends may visit Pat's family during a visitation in her home on Friday November 23, 2012 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile in Livonia, Michigan 48152. Visitation from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the afternoon, then 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. that same evening. Her funeral ceremony will be on Saturday November 24, 2012 at 11 am at the funeral home with visitation starting at 10 am. Harry J. Will is located on the north side of W. Six Mile Road, east of I-275 and Newburgh Road. Pat's family asks that attendees of her visitation and funeral service wear something with pink on it. Her family kindly suggests that memorials be made in her honor to the Michigan Cancer Research Fund. For more information, or to share a memory with Pat's family, please visit: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

McKEEHAN, LOWELL G.

Age 84, of Livonia, passed away November 20, 2012. He was born July 10, 1928, in Rockhills, Whitley County, KY. Husband of Mary M. McKeehan, beloved father of Brenda (Harold) Todd, Donald McKeehan, Dennis (Donna) McKeehan, and was preceded by his young son, Raymond Ray McKeehan in 2004. Survived by sisters Lesley and Joann, and brother Chattanooga, TN, Wilma (Harold) Faulkner of Williamsburg, KY, and Jo Ann Jones - dec'd. McCormick of Hendersonville, TN. Predeceased by brother William "Bill" McKeehan (Freddie Mac - dec'd) and sister, also survived by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Mr. McKeehan proudly served his country in the Korean War and received the Purple Heart military award for injuries sustained. He was a lifelong member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Masons. His very active D.A.V. affiliation included serving as the Michigan State Commander in 1992-1993, National Executive Committee member for the 10th District in Michigan 1994-1996, and as a National Service Officer. Mr. McKeehan also served as a Board Member on the Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund for several years, was commissioned an honorary Kentucky Colonel by the Governor and Secretary of State of Kentucky, and also enjoyed membership with the Kentucky and Michigan chapters of the American Legion, a fraternal organization for many many years. Memorial service to be held Sunday, 11-25-2012 at 1:00 P.M. at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 114 Hall, 39005 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Internet to be private for family members, at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI at a later date. Family requests all donations please be made to D.A.V. Chapter 114, 39005 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

WILKIE, DAVID SEATIER

Age 66, November 18, 2012. Beloved husband of Linda Lorraine (David) Seatiier, David was a member of Patricia (Bill) Jordan, Marlene (Bob) Smith, Sandy (Dave) Woodruff, Kathy (Steve) Kent, and Cheryl Roberts. Loving Grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of 11. She was deeply loved and will be dearly missed. Visitation Friday 2-8 p.m. with a 7pm Rosary. Burial services Saturday 10 am at the John N. Santeo & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (Between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to Angela Hospice.



FLETCHER D. Jr.

Born June 26, 1908, died November 16, 2012, age 104. Formerly of Philadelphia. A graduate of Philadelphia Textile College and employee of Collins & Aikman for 24 years. He was a textile engineer for General Motors, Stirling Division. He served as a U.S. Army Captain in WW II and was a member of the Birmingham Masons, Lodge 444. F. & A.M., former treasurer of the Birmingham Senior Men's Club and an Elder at First Presbyterian Church-Birmingham. Beloved husband of the late Bernice L. for 62 years. Father of Richard L. and Shirley E. Grandfather of Hannah D. A Memorial Service was held on Friday, November 23 at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at: DesmondFuneralHome.com



WERTH, PHYLLIS A.

November 22, 2012. Age 54 lost her seven year battle with cancer. Loving care giver to her brother Christopher. Loving sister to Susan (Norman), Pauline (Bedwell) (David), Paul Jr., John (Nancy), Jerry (Tammy) Loving Aunt to David (Bedwell) (April), Megan, Samantha, Jessica, Ashley Bedwell, Tyler, Brandon, Kaitlyn and Paul III. Great Aunt of Clare (Bedwell) Preceded in death by her loving parents Paul and Dorothy, and her nephew Nicholas. Phyllis was a devoted Vice President Banking Center Manager at Comerica Bank for 38 years. Visitation Sunday 2-5 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 4601 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (b/wn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In-state Monday 10:00 AM until the Funeral Mass at 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 W. Territorial Rd., Plymouth (at Beck) Entombment at Riverside Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Services to Enhance Potential, Northwest Unit (S.T.E.P.), 32229 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

In Memoriam

LOU ANN (GISNER) BOUCHIE

Daughter of Marie and Marie Gison. Born on July 6, 1937 and passed away on August 10, 2012 in her home on Pine Island Road, St. James City, Florida. Leaving behind her son, Russell, and two grandsons, two sisters. There will be a memorial on December 2, 2012 at Calvary Baptist Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Those who wish to make more information call 734-674-8666, her sister Alice.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometowntwifeline.com.

November

CONCERT:
Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25
Location: Zion Lutheran Church, located at Woodward Ave., and Albany, south of Nine Mile, in Ferndale
Details: Twelfth Night Singers, an a cappella choral group, will present its Christmas concert. The singers, under the direction of Mimi Gass, will perform secular and sacred works, including several celebrating the joy and cheer of the Christmas season. A free will offering will be taken. The group, now numbering 39 voices, was founded in 1980. Members perform in Renaissance costume at churches, for service agencies and institutions
Contact: (248) 544-4631

December

ADVENT SERVICES
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12, and 19
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: The meditation theme is the beginnings of the Gospel of St. Matthew, St. Luke and Revelation
Contact: (734) 968-3523
CONCERT
Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 9
Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia
Details: 31st annual concert featuring the St. Aidan Adult and Children's Choirs, and the St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble. Minimum donation is \$5, along with two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go toward food baskets for the needy
Contact: (734) 425-5950

CONCERT
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon, Canton
Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for seniors and students, 12 and over, free for children under 12
Contact: www.detroitluthersingers.com
CONCERT
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8
Location: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Birmingham
Details: Bernard Woma Ensemble performs on African percussion instruments, bridging Western orchestral music with the rhythms of African dance. Admission is a suggested donation of \$20 and will include the concert, followed by desserts, wine and conversation with the performers
Contact: (248) 647-2380

CONCERT
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8
Location: Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for seniors and students, 12 and over, free for children under 12
Contact: www.detroitluthersingers.com
CONCERT
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9
Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Jan Krist will perform. The church is partnering with the Detroit Area Diaper Bank for the performance and is encouraging guests to bring infant or adult diapers to the concert for donation to the Bank. Admission is a suggested \$10 donation at the door.
Contact: (734) 425-2800; www.trinity-churchoflivonia.org

COOKIE WALK
Time/Date: Doors open at 10 a.m. with an early bird sale starting at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 15
Location: St. Anthony Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, between Joy and Ann Arbor Rd., Livonia
Details: 6th annual cookie walk will offer cookies at \$7.50 per pound, along with other baked goods. Early bird admission is \$2

Contact: (734) 427-2290
GRIEF SUPPORT
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3
Location: Room C-319 of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, just west of Haggerty, in Northville; park in the "C" parking lot
Details: "Hope for the Holidays" seminar for adults who are grieving and for those who would like to help them. The seminar will include a "Time of Remembrance" candle lighting ceremony
Contact: New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115
GRIEF WORKSHOP
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Dec. 14 and 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Dec. 15
Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Details: "Grieving with Great Hope" workshop. Speakers will include the Rev. John Riccardo, as well as John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization. Registration forms are online at www.goodmourningministry.net or at OLCG.
Contact: (734) 453-0326; olcgparish.net

WIDOWED FRIENDS
Time/Date: 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. dinner, Wednesday, Dec. 12
Location: Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 W. Seven Mile, three blocks west of Inkster Road, Livonia
Details: Cost is \$15 and includes buffet, beverage dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for car games and conversation until 9:30 p.m. Reservations by Dec. 5
Contact: Call Cookie at (248) 357-2183

Ongoing

CLASSES/STUDY
Mentor Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Covey Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491
New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sunday
Location: 42200 Tully, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615
Nicole's Revival
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 29540 Grand River, west of Beech Dale, Redford
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 Dale, 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 adult and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of the Gospel of St. Luke. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation
Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livonistmichael.org
Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920
CLOTHING BANK
Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m. second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480; visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

With bells on

Ladywood students run, walk for Arthritis Foundation

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer



Ladywood team members include Tracey Mocon, (left, back row), the school's principal, and Sabine Hutter, a junior, Brigid Jacob, (left front row) a junior, and Sarah Wojnarowski, a senior.

Ladywood High School students will be out in force Saturday, Dec. 1 for the Arthritis Foundation's annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis in Northville.

"It's a holiday tradition at our school," said Tracey Mocon, principal. "When you're walking, everywhere you look there's a Ladywood. They are out there raising awareness for a great cause."

Mocon, a 1993 Ladywood graduate, recruited students for a run/walk team eight years ago, when she was an English teacher at the school. Both of her parents have arthritis. Her mother has rheumatoid arthritis and her father suffers from osteoarthritis.

"We had a smaller group that first year—40-45. But it has become a tradition and we've just continued to grow. These are wonderful young ladies. They really care, they give back and they live out the Pelican core values," she said.

Ladywood is an all-girl, Catholic college-preparatory high school in Livonia,

founded by the Pelican Sisters. The Jingle Bell Run/Walk is just one of a myriad ways that Ladywood students, following the Pelican tradition of Christian service, give back to the community.

Parents, friends and family join the student walkers and runners, making the Ladywood team the biggest and most supportive contingent in the Northville event. The group has raised approximately \$4,500 annually and often draws more than 100 participants.

Festive event

Students wear their Ladywood T-shirts, varsity jackets and sweat shirts and sometimes dress in holiday costume as Santas, elves and gift boxes. For the event.

JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK

What: A festive 5k run or walk to raise funds for the Arthritis Foundation and awareness of arthritis

When: 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1

Where: Northville Downs Race Track, 301 S. Center, Northville

Details: Early registration is \$30. It's \$35 the day of the event

Contact: Download a registration form from www.arthritis.org and click on the Northville walk

Everyone dons jingle bells.

Brigid Jacob, 16, of Livonia, wore jingle bells around her ankles and dressed in layers for her first Jingle Bell walk/run last year. The Ladywood junior said she "ended up loving" the event and now helps recruit other students to participate.

"It's a great cause and it's fun to have everyone

together and just hanging out," she said. "I feel like everyone is more aware now. You see people come together and you see how many people are affected by it (arthritis)."

No cure

According to the Arthritis Foundation, the disease is the leading cause of disability in the United States, striking one in

five adults. In Michigan, it affects more than 2.5 million adults and 10,300 children.

Osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis, is a progressive degenerative joint disease characterized by the breakdown of joint cartilage. Risk factors include being overweight, having a history of joint injury and age. It affects nearly 27 million Americans, most over the age of 45.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic disease characterized by the inflammation of the membrane lining the joint, which causes pain, stiffness, warmth, swelling and sometimes severe joint damage. It also causes inflammation throughout the body and affects the heart and other organs. An estimated 1.5 million individuals have rheumatoid arthritis in the United States.

Arthritis consists of more than 100 different diseases or conditions that destroy joints, bones, muscles, cartilage and other connective tissues, making physical movement painful and difficult. There is no cure.

Mocon said her parents feel the painful symptoms of the disease "every day."

"But if you didn't know them, you'd never know it because they continue living life and they are very active," Mocon said. "They have a very positive outlook."

She said her parents also draw inspiration from the Ladywood Jingle Bell team.

To participate in a Jingle Bell walk, Dec. 1 in Northville or Dec. 15 in Bloomfield Hills, visit www.arthritis.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

November

ALZHEIMER'S AND ZUMBA

In observance of National Alzheimer's Month, Lenore Wengert will sponsor a ZUMBA event, 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, at World of Pole, 32669 Warren Road, Suite 6, Garden City, to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. The cost is \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door. For more information contact Wengert at (734) 765-5448 or Patty at the World of Pole at (734) 306-0909.

LUPUS SUPPORT

The Lupus Alliance of Michigan will hold a support group meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Meetings are free and designed to assist people with lupus and their family and friends to get connected with one another, and to get a better understanding of this disease and how to fight it. For more information visit www.milupus.org or call (800) 705-6677.

December

NEUROPATHY SUPPORT

The Southeast Michigan Neuropathy Support Group's next meeting is 7 p.m. Dec. 18, at the Civic Park Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. The group meets the third Tuesday of the month. The group is aimed at individuals with any kind of neuropathy. Questions? Call Len McCulloch at (248) 474-2763 ext. 22.

THYROID CANCER

Thyroid Cancer Support meets monthly and is free for all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family and friends. Its next meeting is 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 1641 Charlevoix Drive, Troy. For more information, contact Gwynne at (248) 515-0348. Or visit Thyra.org

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Factors to Consider Before Accepting a Job Offer

Content provided by OfficeTeam

Searching for a job is hard work. Scanning help-wanted listings, researching companies, sending out customized cover letters and résumés and attending interviews can be tiring and time-consuming. If you're like most job seekers, you're excited — or at least relieved — when your efforts result in an employment offer.

In some cases, a pressing need for a paycheck may outweigh any potential drawbacks to a new role, especially given the uncertain economy and rising prices for gas and food. But if you are in a position to be selective, you must consider every angle before rushing to accept a prospective employer's offer. After all, a new full-time job usually isn't a short-term affair. Following are some guidelines to help you determine whether to accept a job offer or wait for a better opportunity:

Scrutinize the job description

Carefully reviewing the job requirements, key tasks and responsibilities, as well as whom you will report to, may be the single most important step in accepting an offer from a potential employer. Ask yourself these questions:

- Will you enjoy the day-to-day duties of the position?
- Will you be challenged?

• Is the level of responsibility appropriate considering your experience?

• Are you willing to make any required lifestyle changes (e.g., travel, longer commute, rigid work hours) that may affect your quality of life?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, accepting the position might not be in your best interest. While some negative factors can be overlooked — a slightly lower starting salary than you prefer, for instance — fundamental problems with the job itself are a definite deal-breaker.

Evaluate the company

The work environment affects how you feel on a daily basis, so make sure it's one you feel comfortable in. If, for example, you strongly prefer a conservative corporate culture with set hours and established processes, you probably won't be happy in an informal atmosphere with a "fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants" business approach.

Also consider the work styles of your future boss and co-workers. If you sense that you and your potential colleagues have conflicting styles or personalities, tread carefully. While differences in character and opinion can result in better group dynamics, frequent disagreements often lead to unproductive and unhappy work teams.



Review the compensation package

How does the salary compare to what you made in your last position or what others in your specialty and with the same skills earn? Take a look at the benefits package, too. How generous are the perks? Keep in mind that attractive benefits can sometimes outweigh superior compensation.

Or perhaps you're offered a job that requires you to work long hours but offers the option to telecommute. Being able to work from home several days a week may give you the time you need to attend to personal obligations and compensate for the rigid work schedule. Additionally, if an offer meets most of your requirements but doesn't include a benefit that's

important to you — such as tuition reimbursement for a professional certification you seek — it doesn't hurt to ask if that perk can be included in your employment agreement.

Ask about opportunities for growth

There's nothing worse for your career than getting stuck in a dead-end job. While a so-so role may be fine in the short term, holding a position that does not allow for advancement for an extended period of time can take a toll on your health and happiness.

Try to get a realistic idea of the growth opportunities available within the company. For example, have people who held the job before you moved up with the firm? Where did your prospective manager start out? If

the answers to such questions don't seem to support a policy of promoting from within, you may want to continue your job search.

Careful consideration of the issues discussed above will help you decide whether to accept, reject or negotiate a better offer. If, after evaluating each of these points, you are still unsure which way to swing, go with your gut. If your intuition tells you that something is a little off, conduct some additional research or ask more questions of the hiring manager before making your decision. Moving into a new role is a big step, and you want to enter the arrangement knowing all the facts. With a thoughtful analysis of the pros and cons, you'll be able to make the best decision for your career.

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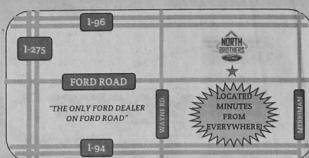
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