

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, B5

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CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

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MDOT done

Michigan Department of Transportation officials announced most of the MDOT Metro Region's 2012 road work is complete, including a \$27.7 million investment to repair 34 bridges along I-275 between Hannan and Six Mile roads.

The I-275 work included resurfacing the freeway between Ecorse and Ford roads.

"MDOT thanks all motorists for their patience during this past construction season, especially those who were inconvenienced daily by the I-275 bridge reconstruction," MDOT Metro Region Engineer Tony Kratofil said. "Infrastructure improvements are necessary for enhanced quality of life for our residents and assist in providing a stable economic base for growth and job retention."

During 2012, the Metro Region invested approximately \$124 million in pavement repairs and roughly \$55 million to upgrade bridges to good condition.

Holiday hours

Residents with business to conduct at Canton Township Hall next week will have to wait until Wednesday.

The township hall building will be closed Dec. 24-25 for the Christmas holiday. It will reopen for normal business hours at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26. Township hall will follow the same schedule the following week for New Year's.

The Canton Public Library will be closed Dec. 23-25 for the holiday and will reopen from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26. It will also follow the same schedule for the New Year's holiday.

Canton's trash and recycling pickup will be delayed two days during the Christmas and New Year's holiday weeks. Canton Waste Recycling will not pick up garbage Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Rather than the usual Monday through Thursday service, trash instead will be picked up Wednesday through Saturday—a two-day delay for all customers. CWR also will not be making its rounds New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Trash and recycling service that week also will be Wednesday through Saturday, marking a two-day delay for customers.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Pat Kubert has a home full of Christmas trees. She said like her father before her, Christmas is her favorite holiday.

Holiday hoopla
Christmas spirit alive in Canton home

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Pat Kubert comes by her love of the Christmas holiday honestly, having watched her own father celebrate it so zealously her whole life.

Kubert, who has lived in her Kings Mill Drive home for some 19 years, is showing her love of the season in a big way. She has decorated eight Christmas trees (down from as many as 11 in past years) and decorations, pillows and other Christmas doodads abound. Even her dining room table is set holiday-style.

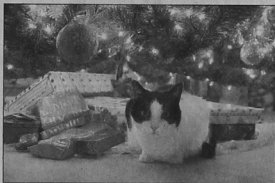
There's a simple reason for all the holiday hurrah:

"Santa comes to my house," Kubert said with a smile.

Love of the season was evident in the young Kubert's home, with her father's passion for the season.

"My father's favorite holiday was Christmas," she said. "He was just so in tune with it. I always remembered how much he loved Christmas."

And Kubert has carried that on. She always made sure her home was decorated, but when she moved into the spacious Kings Mill Drive home in Canton nearly two decades ago, she finally



Oscar the cat sits under the living room tree, one of eight trees Pat Kubert decorated in her Canton home this year.

had the space to go wild.

But "wild" is in the eye of the beholder. This year, Kubert has decorated eight different Christmas trees (and that doesn't count the one in her yard). Most of them are themed trees, some simple (silver or white), some more complicated (the one in her office has a Dr. Seuss theme).

Light 'em up

There are lights and other decorations everywhere as Kubert waits for Santa. Her daughter, Terra Kubert-Uren, said it's always been that way.

"It was fun," said Kubert-Uren, who now teaches first-graders at a school in Phoenix, Ariz., where she lives with her husband Greg. "The house was always so decorated. When we got the (Canton) house, there was more room for more trees. It really got you into the Christmas mood, the Christmas spirit."

The decorating isn't the only tradition Kubert follows. For years, she read the children's book *The Polar Express* to her children. The book still sits on a shelf during the year in Kubert's home. She said she "might" give it to Terra if she has children of her own. Until then, they'll continue reading it as long as her children — Terra and Greg — will let her.

"The bell keeps ringing for those who believe," she said of the book. "I read it to (Terra and Greg) last year. I don't know if they'll let me read it this year. I think they're kind of getting over it."

But Terra said she'll be happy to hear the story — again.

Twinkle, twinkle

"We've been reading that book for so long, it's kind of a tradition," she said. "It doesn't matter

Please see **HOOPLA**, A2

Enrollment could drive bond query

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Facing potentially declining middle school enrollment and a deadline for making a decision about how best to deal with it, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education this week continued to wrestle with details of a potential bond request.

And after voters turned down similar bond requests in 2006 and 2007, the board wants to include as much public input as possible this time around. That's why residents are likely to see a survey sometime around mid-January, asking them what they could support in any possible bond action.

A key component could be what the public wants to do about Central Middle School, which most observers say is no longer a viable educational facility. In a voice poll at Tuesday's board meeting, all seven trustees agreed it's time to get students out of Central Middle School.

Administrators, working with the polling firm Epic/MRA, will do a 400-call survey, likely in mid-January, to try to get a handle on what the community would support.

With board members in agreement, the deci-

sion comes down to two choices: Adding on at the district's other middle schools, or building a new one on district-owned property at Canton Center Road and Cherry Hill.

"It's time to move from Central," board Treasurer Barry Simescu said. "I haven't made up my mind which option, but the time has come to move out of Central."

Where they are

If they decide to build a new middle school in Canton, board members might have enrollment projections on which to base their decision. Based on figures compiled by assistant superintendent for facilities Phil Freeman, a whopping 73 percent of all middle school students live in Canton, including 44 percent who live between Joy Road and Cherry Hill.

Residency numbers at some of the individual schools are even more striking. For instance, 62 percent of the students at Central, located in the heart of downtown Plymouth, come from Canton. Pioneer Middle School, where Freeman used to be the principal, gets 90 percent of its students from Canton.

At East Middle School,

Please see **BOND**, A2

McNamara 'proud' of representing Canton

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Singling out roads, parks and children as his priorities, Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara reflects fondly on the six years he has represented Canton.

McNamara's 11th District loses Canton at year's end following population shifts that prompted a redrawing of district boundaries. A political realist, McNama-

mara, D-Van Buren Township, moved from Canton earlier this year to stay within the Democratic-leaning 11th District.

McNamara appears bittersweet discussing his departure, though he said he is eager to tackle infrastructure issues in his newly redrawn district.

"I was proud to see the name Canton after my name," he said. "It's

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kevin McNamara served six years as Canton's representative to the Wayne County Commission.

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CANTON

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one of the foremost places to live in America, and I was very proud to live here."

McNamara returned to the Panera Bread in Canton to discuss his six-year stint here. He paused as he looked out the window toward Ford Road, a bustling shopping district that's so busy many motorists try to avoid it. "I actually miss Ford Road," McNamara said with a laugh.

His new district encompasses the cities of Wayne, Belleville, Romulus and south Westland and the townships of Van Buren, Sumpter and Huron. He said retaining a Wayne County Commissioner seat in Canton "would have been tough going forward, with Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township now forming the Republican-leaning 10th District, represented since January by GOP Commissioner-elect Shannon Price.

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, lauded the job McNamara has done. She said she turned to him when her constituents had questions about county roads and other county issues.



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kevin McNamara says he misses Ford Road.

"I think Kevin has done a great job," Slavens said. "He will still be in part of my district, and I look forward to continuing to work with him. If I've had issues (involving the county), I've been able to call Kevin right away, and he has been able to call me (with Lansing issues). It's been a great relationship between the two of us."

Though Republican Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and McNamara are on opposite sides of the political fence, LaJoy had kind words of McNamara. "He has given of his time, and I think he did what in his heart was the right thing to do," LaJoy said, adding later, "I wish him the very best. I appreciate Kevin's efforts and

his time trying to move Canton forward."

McNamara is the son of the late Ed McNamara, a political icon who served as longtime Wayne County executive and Livonia mayor. The younger McNamara served five years as a Schoolcraft College trustee before he was elected to the Wayne County Commission.

McNamara said he learned from his father the importance of helping people.

"If you can fix somebody's sewer or pothole — those are the things that matter," he said.

"Those are the things that make my job fun," McNamara said he and others lobbied to get Canton road projects moved higher on a priority list with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and Lansing.

"We had 90,000 people traveling down two-lane, blacktop roads that were falling apart," he said. "Canton was all about roads, parks and kids. That was primarily where I put all my efforts."

Price and others have long said Canton should get a larger share of county parks dollars.

However, McNamara said he had some successes by securing money for

projects such as Canton's dog park and the Flodin Park splash playground.

To support children's services, McNamara said he has fought to support Canton-based Growth Works. Moreover, he said he formed — and chairs — the county commission's Youth Services Committee, where he said he has battled for issues affecting at-risk children. He also serves on the Public Services and Ways and Means committees.

One of McNamara's regrets has been that Cherry Hill Road still hasn't been widened. He said he still believes the project is needed.

"It has become the bypass for Ford Road," he said.

Looking ahead, he already has targeted certain priorities for his newly redrawn district, saying "the biggest problems are sewers and infrastructure."

McNamara also has been appointed by the county commission to serve on the Wayne County Airport Authority Board. He has pledged to try to help the airport to become a greater force in the area's economic development.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A tree stands in a corner near the kitchen. It's one of eight.

HOOPLA

Continued from page A1

how old you are, if you believe in Christmas, the book kind of gives you that Christmas feeling."

Kubert will host Christmas dinner Tuesday, as she almost always does. Immediate family will be there, and so will other visitors who might otherwise go without.

"Anyone who doesn't have a place to go is welcome," Kubert said. "I hate the idea of someone

not having a place to go at Christmas."

Kubert said the thing she loves about Christmas is the joy it puts on people's faces.

"To see the twinkle and the smiles on people's faces... fireworks are great, but Christmas lights are better," she said. "When something puts a twinkle in someone's eye, what's better than that?"

"People think I'm nuts," she added, laughing, "but I'm really not."

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A mantle full of Santas sits over the fireplace.

BOND

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on Lilley Road north of Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township, 88 percent of the students are Canton residents.

"East gets students from below the Cherry Hill line," Freeman said. "That becomes a big travel for students coming from that area."

The fly in the ointment appears to be enrollment and location. Most estimates show Plymouth-

Canton losing some 800 students by the 2017-18 school year.

Resident input

Trustee Mike Maloney said those numbers should give board members pause before agreeing to build a new school.

"We need more of an opportunity to tell us what they want," Maloney said. "I think people are going to ask, with declining enrollment why are you building a new middle school? I don't think

there's a good answer for that. We really need to do something about Central, whether it's fix it or close it."

Administrators say it would take some \$26 million to upgrade Central, and even that much money, they say, won't make it equitable with the district's other middle schools. Plus, they'd need to find somewhere to put Central's 850 students for the two years they'd spend upgrading Central. Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Hughes said his

administration thinks that's simply too much money to spend upgrading Central when it doesn't really solve the issue.

"Our recommendation is the \$26 or \$27 million it would take is prohibitive, and that left us with (the other) two options," Hughes said. "(Renovating Central) doesn't really solve the issue of equity, and our priority at this time is equity."

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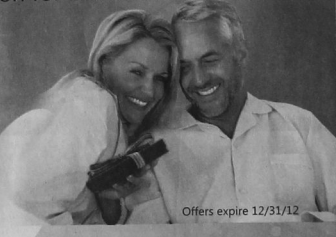
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Strike up the band



The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band pulled in a host of honors this year, including a state championship and a berth in the Grand National finals in Indianapolis. They got another one Tuesday as the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education honored them for their success this season. Accepting the accolades from board trustee Mark Horvath (right) are Director of Bands David Armbruster and band members Sarah Wohl, Shelby Torok and Katie Nymborg.

Donations brighten holidays for needy

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Plymouth Community United Way is able to brighten the holidays of low-income families and individuals in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County with gifts of food, toys and warm winter items.

The stuffed animals, toy trucks, nonperishable items, hats, gloves, and scarves were donated by local residents, businesses, service clubs, and Smith Elementary during drives and special events including the Teddy Bear Toss.

Together with the Plymouth Whalers, Plymouth Community United Way netted 1,274 teddy bears when fans threw the stuffed animals onto the ice at the annual event in Compuware Arena Dec. 1. The grand total topped

the 800 cuddly animals collected for needy children in 2011.

A joint effort by the Society of Plastic Engineers and the Michigan Association of United Ways resulted in 15,000 toy trucks, 304 of which went to Plymouth Community United Way in time for gift giving. The rest were given to United Ways throughout Michigan. LyondellBasell donated 12,000 pounds of plastic, American Plastic Toys a week's worth of production time to make the blue and pink trucks.

Food drives by Smith Elementary, Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, Federal Mogul, Comcast, and other local businesses are helping to replenish the dwindling shelves of local food pantries

including The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps and St. Mary's Outreach Center in Wayne.

The winter months are especially difficult for low-income and homeless families and individuals. Plymouth Community United Way's annual Hats for the Homeless provide hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens to keep them warm. So far, 728 purchased and handmade items have been donated by the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, PCEP National Honor Society, Plymouth Community Council on Aging, and members of the community.

Plymouth Community United Way is still accepting hats, scarves and gloves as well as food donations. To help, call (734) 453-6879.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS



Golf greatness

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education recently honored the Plymouth High School Girls' Golf Team for winning the school's first state championship in any sport. The girls captured the state championship earlier this year. Honored were former coach Chris Moore, current assistant coach Jody Wolf and the rest of the Wildcat golf squad. Helping honor them were Plymouth High School Principal Cheri Steckel and board trustee Sheila Paton.

Tutor opportunities

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park offers a variety of tutoring opportunities for P-CEP students to access. One of these programs is the P-CEP Writing Centers. Students who are accepted into the Honors Composition and Writing course serve as writing tutors for P-CEP students, helping them with editing, proofreading, brainstorming and revising papers.

P-CEP Writing Centers provide thousands of students with the writing skills and lessons necessary for success in high school.

Tutors who work in Writing Centers work to ensure that their fellow students are not only getting their papers proofread, but also are learning the skills necessary to improve their writing. Aside from the tutoring aspect, Honors Composition and Writing students also work on independent research papers and creative writing.

P-CEP students who want help with essays and papers can visit the Writing Centers for assistance in the Honors Writing Centers, log onto E-Park and visit the Writing Centers Page. Tutoring sessions are on an appointment basis only, and last 15 minutes each. Students are encouraged to bring their lunch, as well as their essays to Writing Center.

New Morning open house

Jan. 14 marks the start of Open House Week at New Morning School, where classrooms are a place for children to thrive.

New Morning teachers create an open environment where students are encouraged to explore, question and discover new ideas. They personalize learning strategies to each child to help them stay engaged and motivated. Developmental and cognitive research drive the school's teaching philosophy.

Register by contacting Joan Barrett at (734) 420-3331 or joan@newmorningschool.com.

Goddard honor

Carl Pittner of The Goddard School, located at 6697 N. Canton Center Road, joined more than 400 Goddard School franchisees at the 2012 Goddard School National Franchise Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to discuss the latest innovations and advancements for providing the highest quality, play-based educational childcare programs in a technology-driven age.

A highlight of the gathering was the award ceremony, where Pittner received recognition for five years of business.

"It was exciting to be recognized at this year's convention. For the past 25 years, The Goddard School has nurtured children into respectful, confident and joyful learners, and we are focused on raising the bar even higher over the next 25 years," said Pittner. "I am proud to ensure that children have fun while learning the skills they need for long-term success in school and in life."

To learn more about The Goddard School, call Pittner at (734) 454-4737 or visit www.goddardschool.com.

Achieve named NHA's top school

Achieve Charter Academy earned the coveted School of the Year Eagle Award from National Heritage Academies, a national charter school management company. The school also won four additional Eagle Awards. The awards are designed to recognize high performing schools in a number of categories. This is the 12th year NHA honored its top performing schools with Eagle Awards.

NHA evaluates schools for an Eagle Award through eight categories, including: Employee Engagement, Parent Satisfaction, Enrollment and Attrition, State Accountability, Academic Growth, Taking Flight, Soaring to New Heights, and School of the Year.

The School of the Year Award means Achieve Charter Academy has outstanding academic performance and strong performance in other critical success factors.



Achieve Charter Academy in Canton was named National Heritage Academies' top school for 2012.

The school also earned Eagle Awards for Academic Growth, State Accountability, Employee Engagement, and Parent Satisfaction; the most awards earned by any other NHA school.

"These awards come with hard work, dedica-

tion, and commitment as we work together with parents, staff, and students to excel to new levels and focus on our goals ahead," said Principal Jennifer Conley.

NHA's system of schools is designed to eliminate achievement

gaps and provide school choice to families, with the objective of preparing children for success in high school, college, and beyond.

For the 2012-13 school year, NHA is serving nearly 48,000 students in 74 schools in nine states.

MILITARY NEWS

Ironman tourney

Air Force Lt. Col. Douglas T. Soho competed in the Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Las Vegas, Nev. Soho placed 654th out of the more than 1,800 world's best triathletes. Soho finished 80th out of 200-plus qualifiers in his age group, 40 to 44, one of the largest age groups in the race.

Soho is the chief of wing standardization and evaluation assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. The lieutenant colonel has served in the military for 21 years.

Soho is the son of Nancy Soho of Northville. He graduated in 1987 from Salem High School and received a bachelor of science in 1991 from the United States Air Force Academy, Air Force Academy, Colo. He also earned a master of arts in 1995 from Webster University, St. Louis, Mo.

Promotion Christopher A. Blossom has been promoted to the rank of sergeant first class in the U.S. Army. Blossom is a saxophonist assigned to the United States Army Field Band at Fort George G. Meade, Md. The new sergeant first class has served in the military for eight years.

He is the son of David and Rebecca Blossom of Canton and Doris

Allen of Livonia. His wife, Anne, is the daughter of Raymond and Margaret Perron of Starbird Corner Road, Bowdoin, Maine.

Blossom graduated in 1997 from Canton High School and received a Bachelor of Music in 2002 from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. He also earned a Master of Music in 2004 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Basic training grads

Air Force Airman Paige C. Bauer graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Bauer is the daughter of Kathleen Bauer of Livonia, and the granddaughter of Len Koelzer of Canton. She is a 2010 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Scott A. Harrington graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Harrington earned distinction as an honor graduate.

He is the son of Kathleen Harrington of Albia, Iowa, and grandson of Alberta Karil of Canton.

Course graduation

Army Sgt. Erik A. Nelsen has graduated from the H-8 Tracked Vehicle Recovery Specialist Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

Nelsen acquired the necessary training and knowledge to perform recovery operations with an M88A1/A2 tracked recovery vehicle. The course included field and classroom training in the proper use of tools, equipment, technical data, and applicable references needed to determine recovery methods, locate recovery sites, operate tactical communications equipment, and maintain recovery vehicle armament systems.

Nelsen is the son of Keith E. Nelsen of Canton, and a 2002 graduate of Salem High School in Canton.



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Canton family's tree dedicated to slain Sandy Hook children

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Don, Lauren and Cherie Lucas certainly weren't alone in their horror as the tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., unfolded last week, nor were they alone in their urge to do something — anything — to help.

After talking it over as a family, the Lucases decided on an appropriate response.

And now there's a Christmas tree standing outside their Canton home, decorated with ornaments made by pretty much anyone who wanted to help support the families of the victims in the Newtown tragedy.

"The people back there to pay their respects and to add an ornament to the tree. The tree will be up through the holidays.

Everybody is grieving this, and I think it's a good place for somebody to come to pay their respects who can't go out to Connecticut."

The family made the tree available Wednesday night, and made the announcement in an email blast. By the end of



Some 30 people stopped by the Lucas home in Canton to place an ornament on a Christmas tree the family established to show support for the victims of the rampage at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

the evening, more than 30 people had stopped by to pay their respects and add an ornament to the tree. The tree will be up through the holidays.

All the family asks is that donors place the ornament and say a silent prayer or meditation for the victims, friends, families, police and medical responders.

"I felt like we needed to do something, but I didn't know what to do, and this is what we decid-

ed," Lucas said. "We all watched in horror at the tragedy. Things like this aren't supposed to happen, especially to innocent children."

When the tree comes down, the Lucases will donate the ornaments to The Compassionate Friends of Western Wayne County, the Livonia-based support group for people who've lost children to sudden death.

The group helped the Lucases when they lost a

child, a circumstance that gave the family a special understanding of what the Connecticut families might be going through.

"I know personally it's one of the worst things that can happen to a parent," Lucas said. "I think this is the one thing that really shocked the whole nation. It was the brutality of the incident and the innocence of the kids. (As parents) you're sending them to school and you're thinking they're



MEMORIAL TREE We remember Sandy Hook

The Lucas family of Canton wanted to do something to show support for the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting.

going to be safe. They're excited to go, and their whole future is in front of them."

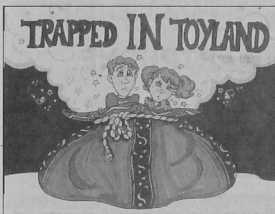
Lucas said she isn't sure how the survivors and families will deal with everything, but she's sure she wanted to help. She just hopes it's enough.

"The ramifications to the kids who are left behind,

who witnessed all of that... Emotionally I don't know how they're going to handle all of that."

Donors can place an ornament on the tree on the front lawn of the Lucas home at 7409 Derby in Canton.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899



"Trapped in Toyland" is Canton author Brian Webster's third book.

Author's third book a holiday adventure

Readers who've ever wondered what's in Santa's bag get a chance to find out by catching Brian Webster's third book, "Trapped in Toyland."

"Trapped in Toyland" is a magical story about a boy and his younger sister who fall into Santa's bag and must escape before the evil action figure, Dr. Grumpkin, turns them into toys.

Like Webster's other books, "Snowville" and "Santa, Eli," "Trapped in Toyland" is dedicated to the author's children, from whom he draws inspiration for many of his stories.

Webster lives with his

wife, Cathy, in Canton. He is a former Detroit Public School teacher, and Cathy is currently a second grade teacher at Tonda Elementary in Canton. Their blended family includes five adult children and one grandchild.

The picture book is brightly illustrated by Megan D. Wellman, who lives with her husband and daughter, Kylee, in the Michigan area.

"Trapped in Toyland" is appropriate for readers 4- to 10-years-old and sells for \$12. It is available by emailing the author at ideaworks247@hotmail.com.

OCC, Schoolcraft among international winners

Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College are among the winners in the 23rd International Culinary Art Exhibition - "The Culinary Olympics" in Germany in October.

The American Culinary Federation's Michigan Chefs De Cuisine Association announced that the Michigan Culinary Olympic Team (MCOT) returned home with more medals than any other state in the United States.

This year's award-winning team included Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland Community College (gold and bronze medal winner) and Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, Schoolcraft College (bronze medal winner).

Held in Erfurt, Germany, the Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA) in October featured more than 1,600 talented chefs from more than 50 countries to showcase their respective culinary skills and innovation in a competitive format.

Approximately 25,000 people attended the competition. The world-class event is similar to the traditional athletic Olympics. Every four years, the IKA serves as the sin-



The 2012 Michigan Culinary Olympic Team members from left to right: John Miller, executive chef, Chartwells at Oakland University; Deni Smiljanovski, Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland Community College; Brian Beland, executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit; Steve Valenti; Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, Schoolcraft College; and Gabriel Vera, executive chef, Lena & Habana restaurants in Ann Arbor. From left bottom: Karen Hoffman; Randy Smith, manager of the 2012 MCOT and the executive chef of the Walnut Creek Country Club; and Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club.

gle most elite competitive culinary event globally. This culinary Mecca highlights the best in both professional and student culinary teams from around the world to compete for Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals in multiple categories.

Overall, the 2012 MCOT, sponsored by the ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine (MCCA), brought home three gold medals, one silver medal and three bronze medals from this year's competition.

This year's competition resulted in Michigan winning more medals than any other state.

"Our mission was simple," said Randy Smith, manager of the 2012 MCOT and executive chef of the Walnut Creek Country Club. "We represented the Detroit metro area, Michigan and the entire United States on an international stage, using products grown, raised, processed and manufactured in our Great Lakes state, emphasizing that

Michigan is home to some of the greatest products and chefs in the world."

In addition to Ganhs and Loving, this year's award-winning team included Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club (silver medal winner), John Miller, executive chef, Chartwells at Oakland University (gold medal winner), and Brian Beland, executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit (gold medal winner).

Michigan is home to nearly 1,000 American Culinary Federation members statewide and has had great success in previous World Culinary Olympics winning 12 gold, nine silver and six bronze medals in international competitions over the last 25 years.

The ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine hosted several fundraisers these past two years to help raise money for the MCOT to send the team, supplies and equipment to the competition. Through these fundraising efforts and also through contributions of many local businesses MCOT was able to raise nearly \$60,000.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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 1-800-331-3520 for a consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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turn to the experts

Area children benefit from generosity of O&E readers

Families throughout the *Observer & Eccentric* area donated hundreds of toys to help brighten Christmas for area youngsters.

The second annual O&E Media Toy Drive was a success and "a gift of love from the community," said Choyo Jordan, marketing manager of O&E Media and coordinator of the toy drive.

Youngsters at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford Township and Orchard's Children's Services received the toys earlier this month.

"The holiday season is a special time of year for children. For the children we serve, Christmas can be a sad depressing experience. We thank you for bringing hope to vulnerable children that otherwise fall through the cracks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated," said Shai A. James-Boyd, director of development and marketing at Methodist Children's Home Society.

Janice Berry, director of community rela-

tions for Orchard's Children's Services in Southfield, echoed the message of thanks to all families who donated to the O&E Media Toy Drive.

"Orchard's Children's Services would like to thank all of the generous donors who donated gifts. Our children will receive more toys as a result of your generosity. We are forever grateful."

"On behalf of the O&E staff, thank you for helping spread hope and joy to a child this holiday season," added Jordan. "Our wish is that every child both near and far feel the gift of love from family and a community," said Jordan, adding "We would like to give a special thanks to the The Birmingham Community House and Southfield Chamber of Commerce for helping to collect gifts.

Toys were collected at O&E offices in South Lyon and Plymouth Township and in Birmingham at The Birmingham Community House and Southfield Chamber of Commerce.

Inheritance: Distribute estate as you see fit

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I need help with an estate planning issue. I am a widower with two daughters. One of my daughters has done quite well for herself and doesn't need my money. The other one is constantly struggling to make ends meet. I have loaned her money which I know I'll never get back, but that's okay. Part of me wants to leave the great bulk of my estate to daughter number two because she needs the money. However, I'm not sure this is the right thing to do. Why should I penalize daughter number one for her success? I'm also concerned that if I do leave the bulk of my estate to daughter number two, she will just blow the money. The attorney that I've used in the past knows both of my daughters and I'm not sure he can give me an impartial opinion. What do you think I should do?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: The issue of treating children differently in an estate is one that occurs frequently. Generally,

the reason is exactly as you stated in your letter and that is that one child has done financially better than the other. There are, however, other situations that lead parents to treat their children differently. For example, I recently worked on a trust where the father, who was a widower, felt that one daughter was more helpful to him and, thus, he felt she was entitled to more. The bottom line is there are lots of situations where parents do not treat their children equally.

In the estates that I've been involved with that have unequal distributions, the parents almost always ask me if I think it is fair. My answer is, fairness has nothing to do with it. The money you have as an inheritance is your money and you are free to dispose of it in any way that you wish. Fairness doesn't enter into the equation.

Think about when your children were growing up. If one child needed braces and the other didn't, did you spend more money on the child that didn't need the braces to compensate for the fact that the other child needed braces? In most situations, the answer would be no. You treated each child fairly according to their individual needs. It is the same thing with an inheritance.

In the letter you mentioned that you do not

want to punish your daughter who has been more financially successful. My answer is that whatever way you're headed, you're not punishing her because it is not her money. It is your money to do with as you choose, in whatever way you think is right.

Putting an explanation in your estate plan can help smooth any hard feelings. In addition, in some situations it is appropriate to talk with your beneficiaries before your death so you can explain what you are doing. The bottom line, it is your money and you're entitled to do with it as you choose.

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.

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Hospice Foundation seeks end-of-year donations

The Arbor Hospice Foundation is encouraging supporters to make an end-of-year contribution that will benefit Arbor Hospice patients and their families receiving services in southeast Michigan.

This year, officials say, The Arbor Hospice Foundation will spend:

- \$550,000 on care for patients who don't have insur-

ance or whose care is not fully covered by their insurance reimbursement.

- \$320,000 to provide grief support services to families following the death of a loved one.

• More than \$200,000 in support of pediatric hospice patients and their families.

- \$100,000 for complementary therapies, including pet,

music and massage therapy.

"When insurance policies, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements don't cover all the services patients and families need, The Arbor Hospice Foundation raises additional funds to cover this shortfall," said Heidi Grix, executive director of The Arbor Hospice Foundation. "We ask those considering a contribution to do

so before the end of the year to help Arbor Hospice continue providing the dignified, comfortable and peaceful end-of-life services our patients deserve."

The Arbor Hospice Foundation is seeking donations for four key areas of programs and services:

- Uncompensated and Charity Care - Arbor Hospice

serves more than 250 people every day in their own homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, or The Residence of Arbor Hospice where the cost for care is often not fully covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance reimbursement.

- Complementary Therapies

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HOSPICE

Continued from page A8

Arbor Hospice offers a wide range of therapies designed to provide comfort to patients and control symptoms wherever they call "home." These include music, art, massage and pet therapies.

• Pediatric Hospice Services – Due to higher medication costs, specially-sized medical equipment and families'

emotional needs, pediatric hospice service is more expensive than for adults.

• Grief Support Services – Medicare-certified hospices, like Arbor Hospice, are required to provide grief support services to family members for 13 months following the death of a loved one.

To make a tax deductible contribution or for more information, please visit www.arborhospice.org or call (734) 794-5338.

CFCU extends 'Warming Hearts' effort

Michigan residents will continue to have the chance to assist Community Financial Credit Union "Warming Hearts & Homes" through the end of the year, the credit union announced today.

Launched on Dec. 3, people are invited to use cell phone technology and social media to help make

a difference for people in need this winter.

The program encourages people to:

- Like Community Financial on Facebook at www.LikeCFCU.org
- Tweet Community Financial using "#CFCU-Warms" or
- Text "CFCUwarms" to 70 000 on their cell phone.

For each Like, Tweet or Text, Community Financial will donate \$25 to the non-profits, up to \$10,000 each.

Community Financial has earmarked \$30,000 to contribute to local non-profit organizations through the campaign – and there is still money left to donate.

"The response from the community has been outstanding, but we still have some funds remaining to support these amazing charities and we encourage everyone to help us give it away," said Bill Lawton, Community Financial president/CEO.

For more information on Warming Hearts & Homes, please visit www.cfcu.org.



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AT-DECEMBER12



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AT-DECEMBER12-PDF



The Senior Alliance has a stable of more than 300 volunteers, about 100 of whom help TSA get its Holiday Meals program rolling.

Alliance, volunteers feed home-bound seniors

By Brad Kadrach
Observer Staff Writer

Janice Newton remembers the senior citizen who was disappointed because accepting a Thanksgiving invitation to her brother's house meant she couldn't get her home-delivered meal from The Senior Alliance, and she chuckles.

Because the woman was having dinner at her brother's, and because TSA's program is for home-bound seniors, the woman had to miss out on her meal that year.

But this year, over the Christmas holiday, more than 1,000 seniors won't be so disappointed. TSA's annual Holiday Meals program, which reaches out to home-bound seniors to make sure they have a nice, hot Christmas meal, is expected to top last year's 943 servings.

"Each year the need seems to be going up," said Newton, program specialist for Wayne-based The Senior Alliance. "With the economy, more people are hungry."

The Senior Alliance Holiday Meals program was created to provide hot, delivered meals to home-bound seniors four holidays out of the year, including Christmas.

The Holiday Meals program is financed entirely through private donations, as well as various fundraising activities,

HELPING OUR SENIORS

What: The Senior Alliance
Where: Offices at 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne
Who: Provides services to western Wayne County, including the communities of Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Livonia, Redford and Northville.

Why: TSA's mission is to help older adults remain as independent as possible within their community, including home-delivered meals, holiday meals to homes-bound seniors, care management, information and assistance, along with other crucial wellness and life-supporting services.

Contact: For more information, call (800) 815-1112.

such as Holiday Card Program, Bank Day and The Senior Alliance's annual Golf Classic.

The traditional Meals on Wheels program doesn't deliver holidays or weekends, and The Senior Alliance staffers wanted to make sure seniors were fed on those days as well.

Thus, the Holiday Meals program was born. "We came up with a program that is strictly paid for by applying for grants from various companies," said Heather Pinaige, TSA's resource development director. "This program uses strictly grants, donations and volunteers."

According to Newton, meals for the program are prepared at several venues: Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Park Restaurants in Lincoln Park and Wyandotte Hospital. Newton said each site puts its own spe-

cial twist on the menu, but the meals are basically traditional holiday fare.

"At Thanksgiving it's turkey, at Christmas it's usually ham," Newton said. "Each site might have a different element, but it's basically what you'd expect to find."

TSA staffs the program almost exclusively from its file of nearly 300 volunteers who help throughout the year. According to Newton, about 100 of those volunteers handle the Holiday Meals program, and they're glad to do it.

"Sometimes volunteers hang around to pick up extra routes that might be uncovered for one reason or another," Newton said. "Some complain if I don't give them enough people. There's no way we could do this program without them. They are the backbone."

Home-bound seniors are eligible for the program, which serves meals Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and — new this year — Labor Day. Pinaige said the program fed some 4,000 seniors last year in the 34 communities TSA serves. Even with that client list, TSA staffers know they're helping only a small portion of seniors who could use it.

"There are a lot of people who don't even know about the program, so we try to target more people using fliers at stores, churches, etc.," Newton said. "Even if we do more than 1,000, I don't think it's a drop in the bucket of the number of seniors who are home alone. I get a lot of calls from people who know someone who doesn't have anyone, and they want them to have a good meal. That's a good thing."

Pinaige, who's been with the program for about 18 months, said every dollar raised goes right back into the program.

"It's good to know people are actually benefiting from this program," she said.

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Jews, Muslims support Christian neighbors

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Volunteering on Christmas day brings a double reward for Nancy Welber-Barr of West Bloomfield.

Not only is she receiving the joy of giving back on Mitzvah Day, a community-wide day of volunteering, she also receives the gift of giving a real bonus.

"It's a show of goodwill and it is also builds cooperation between the faiths," said Canton resident Muzammil Ahmed, the chairman of volunteers for the Michigan Muslim Community Council.

Working together across differing religious boundaries illustrates that "we can appreciate each other's religions while still maintaining our own identity," the Canton resident added. The establishment of Mitzvah Day originated from the command from God to help your neighbor and not to turn your back on the needy, said Micki Grossman of Farmington Hills, a longtime Mitzvah Day volunteer.

She said the idea of Mitzvah refers to Jewish religious obligation to do any good deed. "It is our religious duty. It is a command that we live with and this is a great chance for the Jewish community to do good things and make a visible community effort in and around Detroit," Grossman said.



Abdullah Haydar, his wife Samah from Canton (right), along with friends (from left) Summayah Ahmed, Zayd Ahmed, Zaakir Hamzavi collect bags of toys they are getting ready to deliver.

Although Mitzvah Day is especially true in other regions across the United States, Grossman believes that the idea of a community-wide Mitzvah day might well have had its origins right here in Michigan's Oakland County.

"If we didn't start it, we sure were darn close," Grossman said.

Volunteers respond to more than 800 local residents will participate this year and help more than 40 different charities throughout the area, said Farmington Hills resident Janet Berman, co-chair of this year's event along with Hy Safaran.

Volunteers will donate their time to assist with activities ranging from delivering Meals on Wheels to serving food at homeless shelters to helping out at animal shelters, she said.

While Berman is eager to provide assistance to others on Mitzvah Day, it is the opportunity to work alongside those of different faiths that she finds most rewarding.

"I remember when I was volunteering a couple of years ago at an interfaith site and some of the Muslim women came up to me and they were interested in learning more about the Jewish tradition. It was such a beautiful experience. Something really stuck me then about the power of working together. I thought, 'look what we have here.' It may be just a little tiny thing but it is a step in the right direction," Berman said.

"The opportunity to work alongside others of different faiths for a

common goal is very fulfilling, especially when children can see it. It instills a certain feeling inside that is heard to describe," she said.

It is the same feeling that 18-year-old Sarah Waqhar of Canton gets when she volunteers at the event.

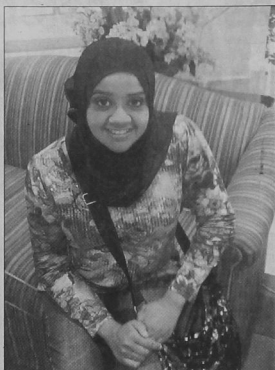
Waqhar, a freshman at Eastern Michigan University, said she actively volunteers for a variety of community efforts because she feels strongly about giving back to her community. "Volunteering on Mitzvah Day gives me a

unique opportunity to meet people of different religions and bring smiles to their faces," Waqhar said.

Working together, she said, breaks down any preconceived notions that people of different backgrounds cannot get along.

"We live in America and we're made up of so many different religions. The idea that we cannot come together and work alongside each other—we're proving that wrong," she said.

"When you set out to help someone, you don't ask them about their



Sarah Waqhar, 18, of Canton is a freshman at Eastern Michigan University. She volunteers for a variety of community efforts because she feels strongly about giving back to her community. "Volunteering on Mitzvah Day gives me a unique opportunity to meet people of different religions and bring smiles to their faces," Waqhar said.

background or their faith and beliefs. You see a need and you fill it."

It is important as an American to be respectful of one another's religion, she said.

"We are still one community as a whole," she added.

Ahmed said that Mitz-

vah Day is an event that he and his family look forward to all year long.

"This is such a great event. No matter what your religion is, there is a festive air in December. Whether or not you celebrate Christmas it is hard not to get caught up in the holiday spirit," he said.

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Christmas in a small-town way

By Cindy Gray
Guest Columnist

I was Christmas time 1966, and a little girl was dropped off in downtown Plymouth to shop by herself.

Town, to her little mind, was a big deal, and a time when safety didn't seem like such an issue. So she opened the shiny glass doors that led into the big store on Main Street —

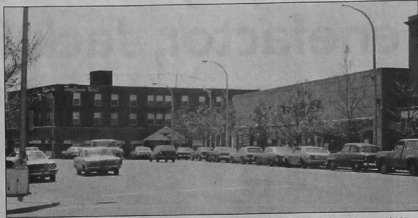
the S.S. Kresge Five and Dime. Across the creaky wooden floors she walked, wide-eyed with wonder at all the notions and goods for sale, looking for the perfect Christmas gift for her mom. The little girl's pocketbook was filled with nearly four dollars.

She smelled a delicious scent as she meandered past the soda fountain lined with people sitting on shiny, chrome stools with red seats, drinking Coca Cola, milk shakes, and munching on delicious cooked fries and burgers. The store buzzed with activity and the crisp excitement of Christmas.

It was then she saw it: a pretty little box containing bubble bath, and a champagne bottle with foil at the neck. The bottle was nestled between two champagne glasses, and each glass held two perfect plastic orchids, purple ones. "Beautiful," she murmured. "The perfect gift for my mom."

Precious cargo
To the checkout counter she went, where a lady with a turquoise smock waited. The little girl proudly paid the lady for the bubble bath, and smiled. She had 37 cents left. "Enough to buy candy for a whole month," she thought. Then, she went to meet her mom outside, in the rear of the Kresge store. Through the shiny glass doors she went. Then she stopped. She eyed the huge, wide wooden stairway that led down to the parking lot.

Cautiously, her small hand took hold of the big wooden handrail, and she began to make her way down the steps, placing each little foot carefully down, step by step. Then it happened, her worst



The author said she remembers Christmas in a "simpler" Plymouth of the 1950s and '60s.

feared. Down she tumbled. Down, down, down, one hard step after another, until she landed at the bottom of the tall stairs. The little girl heard the crash of broken glass. She smelled the sweet scent of bubble bath.

With tears in her eyes, one hand bleeding, she lifted herself from the floor. She knew she had broken her precious cargo — she had broken her mother's Christmas present. Liquid seeped into paper as the contents filled the bag, and sadness filled her heart. Broken glass and bubbles sparkled and twinkled upon the floor.

The little girl did not know what to do, she had broken her mother's Christmas gift, and she'd made an awful mess. Her heart sank as she heard the doors above her open. Then out came a lady in a turquoise smock, the Kresge lady she had paid just minutes before. With a sweep of her hand, the Kresge lady scooped the little girl up from the floor and silently she placed the mess into a bag. The lady wiped tears from the little girl's cheek and said, "You squal here, I'll be right back." She thought about running, but she had been told to wait, and she knew her mom was outside, waiting for her to come out with her package.

Simpler times
The little girl heard the door open again, and the click of heels on the big wooden stairway. She looked way up to the top of the mountainous stairway. And down the steps the lady came, carrying a box filled with sweet bubble bath in a champagne bottle with two champagne glasses, and two perfect plastic orchids, purple ones. "Merry Christmas, hon-

ey," the lady said as she placed the precious cargo in a bag, and put it into the girl's trembling little hands. And a Merry Christmas it was indeed, in a small town kind of way.

Back in those days, Kresge's was the main store in town. Agnew Jewelry was next door, followed by Wiltsie's and the bank. Things seemed a bit simpler back then. Plymouth wasn't so 'upscale' and people weren't trying so hard to 'downsize.' Back then, most of us didn't think to act globally, and we sure didn't need to be told to 'act locally.' We just did it.

There is no better time than now to simplify our holidays, and be grateful for our blessings. At a time when so many across the world have suffered war-torn lives and natural catastrophes, this holiday season is a particularly powerful time to appreciate our blessings. It's a time when most people want to spend less time shopping and more time with family, friends and loved ones.

I went to downtown Plymouth recently and walked around. I couldn't help but look at Main Street, and think about all the changes that have taken place. Amazingly, Wiltsie's is still there, and even Pete's Shoe Repair has survived the years. The Mayflower Hotel is gone, but luckily the Penn Theater has had it by a group of dedicated volunteers and locals — for a tooling it sat like for a long overlooking Kellogg Park.

Special gift
The retail space that once was S.S. Kresge is now filled with fancy Italian 'eateries' and galleries. The walkway

between the stores is still there, leading to the same parking lot, now multi-story. And strangely enough, the stairway that led from Kresge's to the parking lot is still there, too. I don't know if "they" made it smaller, or if I just got bigger, but it seemed smaller to me, less daunting than my memory would allow. Funny, how as a child things can seem so large, yet years later, through the eyes of an adult, the same things don't look so big anymore.

I stood there looking at the stairway, the shiny glass doors, and the wooden handrail. I walked inside and thought about Christmas, and the kindness of strangers that often comes along at a time when you really need a hand. I thought about the joy of giving a special gift to someone you love. After all, that's what Christmas is really all about.

As I turned and began to walk away, sunlight from the west shone in through the window, and it caught a tiny piece of glass lying on the floor. For a brief moment it sparkled and it twinkled, and I remembered the story of that little girl who fell down those stairs, and broke her mommy's Christmas present. How could I forget? That little girl was me.

Cindy Gray was born and raised in Plymouth, Michigan; she is an author, handwriting analyst and Yoga teacher, proprietor of CGS Magical Mist. She can be reached at (734) 266-2734; email at info@cindygray.biz; website www.cindygray.biz.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disagree with headline

I would like to disagree with the premise of your headline in the Dec. 16 *Observer* about the objections of the Plymouth police chief and Dr. Hughes to the logic in relaxed gun laws being considered by the Legislature and the governor. Plymouth Township has a very professional police department. As far as its response to any mass shootings, one must consider that in the past cases, like the terrible shooting in Connecticut and the movie shooting in Colorado, by the time the police arrived (very quickly as reported) all the victims had already been shot.

It only takes a few minutes to kill a large number of people who are unarmed. Note that in all cases that we have been discussing the victims have been in "Gun Free Zones." This means that those citizens with concealed carry permits were not allowed to carry a handgun in those areas. That did not stop the shooter from causing the mass loss of life in each case.

Had the hero principal at the Connecticut school been carrying a gun and able to stop the killer, she may not have died in vain trying to tackle him. Allowing select concealed carry citizens with specialized training to carry guns in "Gun Free Zones" may prevent such tragedies in the future.

Larry Schultz
Plymouth

Failed coup d'etat

In Brad Kadidhi's column "Legislators did disservice to local voters," Dec. 13, he talks about the "desecration of the political process" by lame-duck Republicans who rushed through right-to-work legislation without much debate. To me, real desecration of the political process is what Proposal 2 was all about.

The brazen and yes, arrogant attempt by the unions to enshrine their rights in our state constitution would have negated the will of the people and their representatives in Lansing in any past and future dealings regarding union issues.

Bob King, the president of the UAW, was warned by Gov. Snyder not to go forward with Proposal 2 because the union power grab would not be in the best interest of the state and its residents. He went ahead anyway knowing full well that if Proposal 2 failed, there would be repercussions in the form of legislative actions to prevent the unions from ever attempting such a coup d'etat again.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

Law fails smell test

I would like to comment on the article in Sunday's paper (*Observer*, Dec. 16) written by Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Rep. Kurt Heise.

They defend their actions in passing the right-to-work (for less money) law by saying it is fair for unions and the members. Folks, when pawns of the rich tell you something is for your own good, you can bet they are about to get the shaft. The same old crap, trust us to treat you fairly, just as we have throughout history.

When they write about the state losing jobs, the unions had no say in that. It was their corporate benefactors who didn't, and don't, want to pay a livable wage. So they closed factories here and now pay \$3 an hour in China or, thanks to NAFTA, south of the border.

Finally, according to Gov. Snyder and these two fine gentlemen, it is perfectly reasonable that, even though you benefit from something, you should not be required to pay for it. I believe that is the same argument anti-tax protesters have been using for years and we know how that has turned out for them.

Nothing about this law passes the smell test and hopefully will be struck down in the courts. If not, we can always look forward to 2014.

James Huddleston
Canton

CITY OF GARDEN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 111 Middlebelt Road from C-1 Local Business District to C-3 General Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Published: December 23, 2012

AD 10/12/12/000

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234



A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

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Published: Sunday, December 23, 2012

AD 10/12/12/000



CITY OF GARDEN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 30759 Ford Road from C-2 Community Business District to C-3 General Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Published: December 23, 2012

AT9792430 3x3



CITY OF GARDEN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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Published: December 23, 2012

AT9792320 3x4

Burger carnival pays tribute to long-time benefactor, Jack Russo

A familiar face was missing from the festivities at the staff and students of Burger School for Students with Autism gathered last week to take a trip down Route 66 at their annual Winter Carnival.

The event has been made possible annually through the support of businessman Jack Russo, his family and friend Larry Berman. This year, however, the carnival was on a different meaning for students who sang a special song at a ceremony to honor of Mr. Russo who passed away on Oct. 21.

"This day has always been so dear to Jack Russo's heart," said teacher Colleen Polin who helps plan the event. "For 20 years, Jack and Noella Russo and their family have been actively supporting Burger School. Their desire to make a difference has had a positive impact on the lives of our students."

Students "visited" eight state along Route 66. They were able to dig for treasure in the Mojave Desert, search for aliens in Roswell, New Mexico, walk the wooden pier in California, eat a "Chicago Dog" at the hot dog stand and sample a variety of soft drinks from along Route 66.

They also listened to vintage songs from the juke box, received a banana from the Harley Riders, rested at a Camp Grounds, got a photo from Hollywood, California, and visited with Santa Claus during the event.

The Russo family has designated funds each year for winter and spring carnival events, sharing in the staff's desire to help create special memories for students that will last a lifetime, Polin said.

"They share in the vision for creating a brighter future for children and young adults with this severe life-long disability," she said.

"They recognize the continuing challenge for all of us here at Burger School as we strive to provide meaningful educational activities for students with such a wide range of abilities and unique needs."

Mr. Russo got his start in business on the east side of Detroit where his passion for the trucking industry first took root in the 1970s. Not long after, he was the owner of Alco Express transporting steel throughout Michigan where he and his family built a company.

He also worked alongside other business leaders, city officials, automotive suppliers and rail road providers to construct Wayne Industries in Wayne into the leading distribution warehouse dedicated to the steel industry.

His philanthropic endeavors took shape over many years donating time, money and resources to Detroit area churches, families in need, his own employees and to the Burger School in Garden City for children and families afflicted with autism.

A simple trip to his barber more than 20 years ago led to his involvement with the Burger School where he helped raise funds for a playscape, basketball court, reflective garden, science room and a host of other amenities that otherwise wouldn't have been possible without the Russo family's support and guidance.

The Noella and Jack Russo Family Foundation has been set up to continue his mission of Burger School and students with autism. More information is available online at www.njrfoundation.org.

"We are keenly aware of the economic issues that are impacting education and we are extremely grateful to this family for their love and support," Polin said.

— By Sue Mason



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus wore some cool shades to meet with Burger students Kaled Okdie and Drake Willis of Garden City. Garden City school board member Darlene Jablonowski did a reprise of her role as Christmas Carol.



The staff and students of Burger School for Students with Autism honored the family of the late Jack Russo. On hand for the annual Winter Carnival were daughter-in-law Kim Russo of Plymouth, granddaughter Chloe Russo, daughter-in-law Melissa Russo, son Sal Russo, daughter Justine Russo daughter, his wife Noella Russo, grandson Christopher Burcham, granddaughter Lauren McIntosh, grandson Nick Russo, son-in-law Mike McIntosh, granddaughter Ryan Russo and daughter Lisa Russo.



Daniel Zagon reaches out to the animals at the petting zoo.



Evan Boehringer of Garden City and Jonathan Tharp of Canton take a break from the festivities to make Christmas cards.

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THE DILEMMA OF BACK PAIN

Almost everyone will experience back pain in their lifetime. One would think that physicians faced with such a common problem would have an approach at their fingertips for diagnosis, treatment and questions patients might ask. Such is not the case.

The fact is that in over 90% of back pain cases, the physician has no diagnosis. Treatment decisions hardly fare better. Why is that so?

First, the back is a complicated piece of anatomy. Back musculature is arrayed in both layers and weaves. The intertwined muscles are difficult to identify even with MRI, which is the best imaging available. Physicians have no way to accurately identify the presence of strains or tears in the dorsal flexors or rotators of the back.

Second, changes brought by aging mean that the structure of the back changes and episodes of pain or difficulty arising from a chair will occur on the basis of age related loss of lumbar flexibility and load accommodation. Physicians have difficulty separating these changes from pain resulting from injury or inflammation.

Physicians have a problem in prescribing therapy because few studies provide guidelines for when to start with pain medication and let time resolve the pain or under what circumstances is physical therapy the best initial course.

The question of when to use epidural injections remains unanswered though this procedure enjoys a popularity. Finally, the place for surgery and which procedure to use from a myriad of alternatives, is a matter of debate.

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Organizations offer advice to help people get through the holidays

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The holiday season is a time of nostalgia and family gatherings, a time for fond memories and making new ones. For many people, however, this time of year can be difficult for those very reasons because they are reminded of loved ones lost.

The death of a family member or friend can be even more difficult during the holidays. Laughter may trigger a memory, a plate of food or even a particular movie can make a person remember a moment from the past.

Grief is difficult during the holidays, especially when the spirit of the season is jovial and filled with parties, gifts and fun.

Things aren't hopeless though. There are helpful methods a person can use to get through the grieving and experience the happiness of the holiday season again.

"Be gentle with yourself and remember your own well being," said Donna Hogan, whose husband passed away 13 years ago and who now volunteers with New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville.

She said it was very painful at first, but after she was connected with New Hope she began to feel a more positive outlook. For her the opportunity to connect with people in similar situations was a big step.

"It's important to surround yourself with people who are supportive," she said. "During the hol-

idays it can be difficult, but listen to your heart and do what's comfortable for you."

She said each holiday season she honors her husband's memory by lighting a candle or hanging a wreath in remembrance.

"Do something to honor them," she said as a helpful tip in coping with grief.

On Dec. 7, New Hope held its holiday party and it was a time for friends and supporters of the center to have some fun, and also remember their loved ones.

For Birmingham resident Alan Walthall, a New Hope member, the holidays always present moments of grief. He has lost multiple people in his life, including his wife. "People are different in

coping and overcoming grief. I pushed myself, but some don't and shouldn't. So it's important to listen to oneself," he said.

Both Hogan and Walthall were remarried after meeting their husband and wife through New Hope.

A community resource for grieving people is Compassionate Care Hospice in Canton. There Ann Christensen is the bereavement coordinator and works with helping people deal with grief. She said the holidays can be a tough time, but they can also be a helpful distraction.

"The anticipation can be the hardest part of the season," she said. "Especially if one is still in the active phase of grieving and there's a lot of anxiety. But

there are ways people can work through this."

She said planning ahead as to where and how you will spend your time during the holidays is important. In addition, if need be don't worry about letting yourself scale back on activities or parties if you want to. But if you feel like making plans, get help from supportive family or friends.

"Creating a memory is a great way to make the holidays new again," Christensen said. "And it can be done through a way to remember that loved one."

She said making an ornament with a photo of that person or it making their favorite food dish are two ways to remember and honor.

New Hope Director Cathy Clough said if a

person is grieving then he or she doesn't have to ignore those feelings. The same goes for those around that person. She said many times those who have lost a loved one want to remember or speak about them, so it's alright to tell stories and memories.

"Plan ahead, be around supporters and find a way to remember," she said of working through holiday grief.

To find out more about these local support resources go to New Hope's web site at <http://www.newhopecenter.net> or call Compassionate Care at (734) 983-9050. Both have support groups and resources to address any situation.

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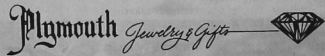
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Support groups help families with members in prison

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Dealing with the death of a loved one is extremely hard during the holidays as memories of happy times flood back during gatherings with friends and family and empty chairs serve as a constant reminder of loss.

The painful feelings are just as strong for those dealing with another type of loss: families with loved ones behind bars within the prison system.

Those feelings are often intensified during the holiday season as families left behind also struggle silently with the shame of their loved one's crime, often making the feelings of grief even harder to bear.

"It is very similar to the feelings of a loss from death. However, it is even more painful because on top of the grief, you also have humiliation and embarrassment to go along with it," said Bonnie Hilberer, founder of Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a Westland-based support group for adults with incarcerated loved ones.

Hilberer understands these feelings well. She started the group in 2008 after her son-in-law's father was convicted of murder, devastating not only the family of the victim, but Hilberer's family as well.

"The trauma for my son-in-law and daughter



Group members meet bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland with Bonnie Hilberer (center).

ter was overwhelming. I searched for some type of support group that could provide an outlet for his emotions and could not find anything. There are groups out there for the children of prisoners, but really nothing to help the adults who are hurting as well. So I decided I had to start one myself in order to help him," she said.

Grief support is model

Hilberer had prior experience working with grief support groups following the loss of her own husband to a heart attack after 24½ years of marriage, and used

these as a model for her own group, which meets bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland.

"When I contacted the state prison board and asked for sources for support, they sent me back a letter with three words: seek private counseling. There are help groups for smokers, drinkers and overeaters; but where does a family go for help when they have a loved one sent to prison? I knew I had to find a way to help the families through this trauma because it is not their fault and they are suffering, too," she said.

No doubt there was need for such as support group — a 2010 study by the Pew Research Trust indicated that there were 2.3 million Americans behind bars, equaling more than one in 100 adults with numbers expected to rise.

"Now we have a wonderful network of people who can help each other and help provide resources," she added.

The group was readying for their December Christmas potluck, an annual event to provide a lighter, festive mood during a tough time.

"We try and make our Christmas gathering a little more upbeat because there is no way to make the pain go away completely," she said.

"When someone goes to prison, their loved ones are left behind and it is the same grief — the same feelings of loss — but no one ever acknowledges it; no one ever says to them, 'I'm sorry for your loss.' It is almost like you are guilty by association," Hilberer said.

Forgotten ones

"The holidays are made harder by that fact that you suffer these emotions alone. The families left behind are the forgotten ones," she said.

It is a sentiment shared by Ora Williams of Detroit, president of Mothers of Inmates, a support group serving residents throughout the area, including Southfield.

"Having a loved one in prison is like a dirty little secret and you bear the pain alone — it's not something that you share with others, because of the stigma. Christmas is particularly difficult because you are not only lonely from missing the person in prison, you are also lonely because there is no one you can share your feelings with," said Williams.

Williams speaks from experience — she herself joined the group nine years ago when her own son was incarcerated. Now that her son has been released from prison, she remains committed to the group in an effort to give back to others.

The group held its sixth annual party for children of inmates on Dec. 15 at Fellowship Chapel Church in Detroit. Their "Angel Tree" party served more than 200 area children with parents currently in the prison system with the help of 100 additional volunteers.

The party featured a magic show, face painting and a light lunch. Williams said, as well as the distribution of books, stuffed toys and hats and mittens. The children received a gift from their incarcerated parent, made possible through the generous donations of individuals and charitable organizations alike.

"Having a loved one in jail affects children tremendously. For some children, the present they receive at Christmas is the only connection with their loved one. Even if they are too young to understand exactly where their special person is or what they did, they are never too young to understand that someone that they love very much is now gone. That is why this is so important," Williams said.

"When someone is sentenced to prison, the surviving family members receive the same sentence. We live by the Serenity Prayer. We can't fix it and make everything perfect but we can help try and heal a broken heart," she said, "Especially during the holidays."

Both of these nonprofit groups are welcoming new members and/or contributions. If you are interested in contacting Help 4 Healing Hearts, contact Bonnie Hilberer at (734) 646-2237 or at prettymonarch@comcast.net. If you are interested in contacting Ora Williams, call her at (313) 531-2025.



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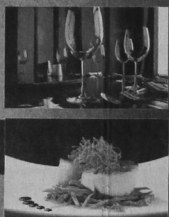
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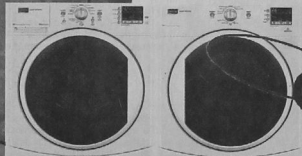
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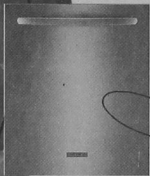
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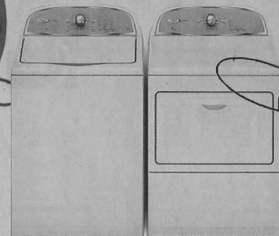
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BILL BRESSLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Stevenson's Dante Seychel battles South Lyon Unified's Corey Robinson for possession of the puck Friday night at Joe Louis Arena.

SLU goalie bounces Spartan icers

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Corey Robertson had a little extra bounce in his step Friday night on the Joe Louis Arena ice surface.

The junior figured in all four goals and goaltender Aaron Callan stopped 41 of 44 shots to lead South Lyon Unified to an upset 4-3 victory over state-ranked Livonia Stevenson in what was a substitute for the cancelled Winter Classic at Comerica Park.

South Lyon Unified ironically looked anything but a sub-500 team.

The Lions, now 4-7-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the KLA's Central Division, led all the way taking a 2-0 first period lead on goals by Cam Thomas (from Robertson at 2:49) and Robertson (from Grant Braackevelt at 9:46).

Stevenson (8-1-2, 4-1-1) cut the deficit to 2-1 on Dominic Lutz's goal from Tyler Irvine and Josh Demonie at 2:43 of the second. But Robertson took advantage of a Spartan turnover and scored unassisted with only 14.6 seconds to go in the period to give the Lions a two-goal cushion again.

"I knew we were playing at Joe Louis and a lot of people would be watching, so you've got to give a little extra effort," Robertson said. "I thought the boards were more lively, so you had to be prepared to stop and start each way wherever it would go. "The key to success was probably striking first and getting the first goal. That kind of puts them on their heels at the beginning, and then just keep it going."

At 1:05 of the third period, Stevenson's Dante Seychel scored on a shot from the blueline with Michael Sinclair and Ryan Frazer assisting to make it 3-2.

The Lions, however, answered at 3:53 on a power play goal by Alex Hudgens (from Robertson and Cory Haas) for a 4-2 lead.

And although Travis Harvey's short back-hander from Alex Hunt made it a one-goal deficit again at 7:36, South Lyon was able to hang on for the win.

"It wasn't a bad game, it was a competitive game," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Hats off to them. They (South Lyon) played hard. We had our chances." And the play of Callan certainly was a deciding factor as well.

"He played super, especially the second period," South Lyon coach Bill McCreary said of his net-minder. "We were down quite a bit and I think he kicked out 23-of-24 shots. He had a great second."

Stevenson goaltender Connor Humitz made 18 saves in the loss. "The first period we started off slow," Mitchell said. "The second period - by our accounts - we had 23 shots and only put one in the back of the net. I think we outplayed them that second period, and we're still down two, and that was kind of the ballgame right there."

"But I give our kids credit. We didn't quit. But hats off to South Lyon. They didn't quit and got the job done."

Although the loss was damaging in the standings, knocking Stevenson

Please see HOCKEY, B4

Chargers' pressure squeezes Thurston

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's full-court pressing girls basketball team was about as hospitable as the Grinch during Thursday night's non-conference matchup against visiting Redford Thurston.

For much of the night, the Chargers' defense inflicted misery on the Eagles, forcing 31 turnovers while securing a 46-35 victory.

Churchill improved to 4-1, while Thurston dropped to 2-6. The contest was the final action for both teams until after the holidays.

"I thought at times tonight we played well defensively," Churchill coach Matt McGowan said. "We're still forcing things a little bit too much on our press, we're still reaching and fouling too much. We need to put some pressure on the other team's offense and let them make mistakes."

Senior guard Sydney Anderson was in the middle of the mix for the Chargers, finishing with 12 points, 10 rebounds and five steals.

"Sydney is a really good player and she's going to have a big year," McGowan said. "Whatever she does on the court, others follow. I thought Julia Szuba and Natalie Spala played well tonight, too."

Despite their abundance of turnovers and an 8-for-38 shooting night from the floor, the Eagles stayed within striking distance most of the game thanks to their relentless hustle and frequent trips to the free-throw line. Thurston, which forced the Chargers into 25 turnovers, trailed just 19-14 at the half after senior guard

Please see CHARGERS, B3



ED WRIGHT PHOTO

Livonia Churchill's Sydney Anderson drives to basket against Redford Thurston's Braelyn Brown during Thursday night's game.

Canton, Plymouth wrestlers roll on

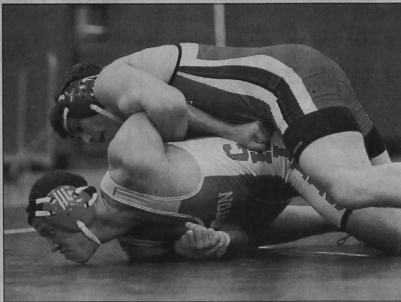
By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Opponents might be hoping the holiday break slows down Canton and Plymouth, which continued to roll with two wins each at Wednesday's Salem Quad Meet.

Both teams preceded the quad meet by finishing in the top three at the recent Wayne County Wrestling Championships.

Canton improved to 8-3 overall, posting a 51-27 win over Salem and a 35-20 triumph over Novi. Plymouth (8-1) also defeated Novi and Salem, by scores of 42-23 and 43-36, respectively.

"Novi's a little tougher, but we wrestled well



BRIAN QUINTO

Battling it out Wednesday in their bout at 189 are Salem's Mitchell Gross (top) and Canton's Jevon Hill.

Please see WRESTLE, B3

Farmington's Wilson starts in Pizza Bowl

Jason Wilson of Farmington Hills will start at cornerback for the Central Michigan (6-6) football team Wednesday night when it plays West-ern Kentucky (7-5) in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl at Ford Field.

The game begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be televised nationally by ESPN.

Wilson, a true sophomore from Farmington High School, went to CMU as a wide receiver, but he was moved to defense because of his ability to make a play, accord-

ing to Farmington coach John Bechtel.

The 6-foot, 174-pound Wilson is considered a shutdown corner at CMU, and his pass-catching skills translate well to defense, he said.


Wilson has two interceptions, returning one 55 yards for a touchdown against Michigan State, and seven pass breakups. He is fourth on the team in tackles with 48, including 28 solos.

As a true freshman in 2011, Wilson played in all 12 games and caught a pass (nine total) in six.

In his final two years at Farmington, the two-time, All-Observer player had 71 receptions for 1,163 yards and 10 touchdowns.




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Chargers battle past Novi, 5-2

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill didn't have it's 'A' game going in Wednesday night's boys hockey encounter at Edgar Arena with visiting Novi.

But the Chargers probably graded out with a 'B,' and that was good enough for a 5-2 victory over the Wildcats.

"This is a game where we really had to battle to win," said Churchill first-year coach Jason Reynolds, whose team was outshot 34-26. "Novi really came to play. We were lucky that we got on the board early and able to get a substantial lead. They (Novi) certainly weren't willing to give up early in the game."

Luke Bageris scored unassisted just 1:45 into the first period to stake Novi to a 1-0 advantage.

But the Chargers responded with four straight goals before the period ended to take a 4-1 advantage.

All four Churchill goals were even strength with Riley Brown notching the first two at 3:17 (from Nick Misiak) and at 7:12 (from Drew Puishes).

Luke Otto then scored at 9:34 from Tommy Carey and Matt Sinclair tallied another at 12:07.

With just 21 seconds left in the second, Novi's Chris Kennedy scored from Jacob Lynch and Carl Farao to cut the deficit to 4-2.

But Churchill freshman goaltender Alec Calvaruso, who made 32 saves, stood tall in the final period and Misiak's empty netter from Brown and Misiak ended the suspense with only 1:34 remaining.

With the victory, Churchill improves to 5-4 overall and 3-2 in the KLAAs South Division.

The Wildcats, who got 22 saves from netminder Patrick Carney, slipped to 2-4-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the KLAAs Central.

"I think we can improve upon our effort that we made in the second period," Reynolds said. "I think we had more energy in the third. We were lucky the bounces went our way. It wasn't our best effort, but it's nice to get the win."



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Churchill's Dylan Smith (10) and Tommy Carey (22) take control along the boards in Wednesday's Kensington Conference crossover against Novi at Edgar Arena.

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Thurston matmen learning quickly



Redford Thurston's Daniell May (left) and Charnice Lang double-team Livonia Churchill's Nafale Spala.

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Redford Thurston's wrestling renaissance is quickly building momentum.

In their first year on the mats in more than a decade, the Eagles have won three of their first four dual meets and earned a second-place finish in a junior varsity division of last weekend's Wayne County Wrestling Championships.

"As coaches, we've learned quickly that this is a group of guys that doesn't like to lose," Thurston head coach Matt Bishop said. "They're wrestling with an aggressiveness and tenacity that's hard to teach. You can condition them and teach them technique all day long, but it's the chip they have that is going to make the difference."

Thurston has something to show for it. "Bishop said, 'But the bottom line is that winning and working hard is part of their character.'"

Bishop said he has seen progress in his lineup "from bottom to top." Four Eagles advanced to the championship round in the Wayne County tournament, including Andrew Tuomi-Galindez, who placed first at 103 pounds. Juniors Anthony Allen

(215) and Melvin Ivey (285) placed second in their respective weight classes, along with freshmen Corey Evans, who was defeated by Tuomi-Galindez in the title match.

Bishop praised the leadership exhibited by his trio of junior captains: Ivey, Allen and Rob Seton.

On Wednesday at Dearborn Divine Child, the Eagles nipped Wayne Haven, 40-39, on criteria points before outlasting the host Falcons, 48-36.

"It was a fun and exciting night for our team," said Bishop, who was impressed by the effort of several wrestlers, including 135-pounder Daquan Conner.

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WRESTLE

Continued from page 81

against both teams," Canton head coach Cory Mancuso said. "We're wrestling well right now. Every Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said the victories Wednesday were a good way to close out the pre-holiday portion of the schedule.

"It's good to end on a high note, against our conference opponents," Guernsey said. "The way the KJAA schedule worked out this year works out really nice, to see the conference before we go to break to know what we need to work on."

Even with the wins, Guernsey said "there's still room for improvement and we got to work on a few different things."

Top performers for both teams padded their impressive individual records.

On a roll

For the Chiefs, Alec Pantaleo, Richard DeMarois and Ben Griffin each added two more wins and remain undefeated.

"They always set the tone," Mancuso said. "We know when they go out there that they're either going to get a tech fall or a pin for us." Guernsey said Mo Youssef (13-0), Alec Breckenridge (13-0), Tyler Berry and Jon Conn (both 12-1) each earned victories against Livonia and Novi.

"They're our leaders," the coach said.

Although the injury-depleted Rooks came up short in each dual meet, head coach Pete Israel still saw some positives.

"Alex Arble went 2-0, he bounced back from a great showing at Wayne County," Israel said. "The Gross brothers (Tyler and Michael) did good ... Tony Agostino went

2-0, he's looking really good.

"Our upper weights are doing pretty good. Tyler Moore won against Plymouth. He's our heavyweight and that's a tough weight class to be a freshman in."

All of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park squads are gearing up for much-anticipated post-holiday tournaments. On Saturday, Dec. 29, will be the Salem Elks Tournament and a 10-team tournament hosted by Canton. Plymouth is slated to wrestle Friday, Dec. 28, at the Yeti Classic in Milford, with the Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Invite Jan. 5.

"It's going to be really tough," Mancuso said about the Canton-hosted meet. "Defending state champion Hudson is going to be there. Bright will be there. There'll be 10 teams total and all are pretty tough. It's going to be a battle."

Likewise, the Salem Elks invite "should be really good competition," Israel said.

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CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

Daniell May drained a triple from the left wing as the buzzer sounded.

The Eagles attacked the basket with a vengeance, which resulted in 28 free-throw attempts, 18 of them successful.

Senior forward Arielle Paris enjoyed a splendid night, scoring 16 points to go with eight rebounds and two steals. May also sparked, netting 11 points and five steals.

"Obviously, their press bothered us tonight and the turnovers hurt, but overall I thought our girls played really well," said Thurston coach Bob Ostrowski. "I thought we played as a team tonight and we're really starting to come together. I'm looking forward to the rest of the season."

"Ari did what she always does, gave 125 percent. That's what she does in games and in practices. She's not only a

good athlete, she's a good leader."

Thurston led 4-2 with a minute left before Churchill turned the tables with a quarter-closing 7-0 run.

Szuba's steal-and-layup sequence with 55 seconds left in the first half widened the hosts' lead to 19-11 before May countered at the other end with her dramatic try.

The Chargers were never really threatened in the second half after sophomore Hannah Pummil banked in back-to-back inside shots to push the hosts' lead to 23-14.

Churchill's biggest lead came with 4:37 to play, when Spala converted a fast-break layup.

Spala finished with 10 points and four rebounds, while Pummil and Szuba contributed six points each. The Chargers sputtered at the charity stripe, making just 9-of-22 attempts.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 27
11:30 p.m. vs. **Traverse City** (at Franklin)
Richard vs. Lakeland, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Salem at Chelsea Invite, 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28
6 p.m. vs. Detroit Henry Ford, 6 p.m. at Ypsilanti High Sch. (Northville Inv., 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.)
Genoa at East Kentwood, 6 p.m.
(Northville Holiday Tournament)
Cville vs. Wat. Mott, 7 p.m.
Nile vs. Farmington, 7 p.m.
Salem at Chelsea Invite, TBD
Saturday, Dec. 29
Northville Tourney, 3 & 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 27
11:30 p.m. vs. **Traverse City** (at Detroit Country Day)
N. Farm. vs. Lakes, 12:40 p.m.
Glen. vs. G.P. South, 7:30 p.m.
Jenny vs. Toledo Rogers, 9 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28
(M.C. Roundball Classic at Detroit Country Day)
1. North (Joe Paris, Nick Leshok, Danny McNece, Matt Morgott), 1:44; 05; 3. North (Josh Hammarren, Keith Ericson, Barry Zeltzer, Rob Chapek), 1:51; 23; 200 free; Zach Chen (T), 1:49; 2; 2. Jake Wasko, 1:50; 18; 3. Brady Clarke, 1:55; 9; 4. Ericshen, 1:57; 27; 200 IM; 1. Leshok, 2:00; 4; 2. Joe Paris, 2:22; 12; 50 free; 1. Morgott, 2:37; 3; 2. Zeltzer, 24; 6; 5. Chapek, 25; 0; 2. David Thiede (T), 1:79; 10; 2. Nick Nader, 16; 15; 5. Jon Mittelburg, 10; 50; 100 free; 1. McNece, 54; 3. Ericshen, 1:01; 26; 100 free; 1. Wasko, 50; 20; 2. Clarke, 51; 70; 3. Morgott, 53; 37; 50 free; 1. Ericshen, 5:12; 74; 2. McNece, 5:25; 200 free relay; 1. North (Morgott, Clarke, Zeltzer, Wasko), 1:34; 31; 100 back: 1. Zach Chen (T), 54; 97; 2. McNece, 59; 18; 3. Paris, 1:01; 27; 5. Hammarren, 1:05; 19; 100 free relay; 1. Leshok, 1:02; 11; 4. Chapek, 1:11; 53; 400 free relay: 1. North (Clarke, Wasko, McNece, Leshok), 3:24; 83.
Northville dual record: 1-1

Harrison vs. Consortium, 4 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 27-29
Traverse City Tournament, TBD
Milford Vets vs. Challenge, 9 a.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Friday, Dec. 28
Milford Vets Challenge, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
Ionia Invitational, 9 a.m.
Salem Elks Varsity Tourney, 9 a.m.
Salem JV Invitational, 9 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Sunday, Dec. 30
MU at Roosevelt (H), 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Friday, Dec. 29
MU at Ave Maria (Fla.), 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
MU vs. Auburn-Montgomery at Ave Maria (Fla.), 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 30
MU vs. Virginia-Lynchburg at Ave Maria (Fla.), 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 27
Saginaw vs. Wy. Whalers at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28
Saginaw vs. Wy. Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

103 pounds: Azmi Alzandani (Obn.) won by 1:12; double victory over Matt Spala, 3-1.
125 pounds: Shane Martin (Cville) pinned Josh Biets, 1:13; Bryce Cozart (Cville) won by 1:35; Mikey Wever (Cville) vs. Mohamad Alasadi, 1:35; 140: Joey Walker (Cville) p. Mohamad Ghamblough, 0:48; 145: Cameron Efyfe (Cville) p. Khalil Bahadri, 0:58; 150: Michael Slagle (Cville) p. Waheed Alyan, 1:14; 160: Aaron Bibak (Cville), p. Mahdi Al-Hassan, 3:36; 171: James Shane Martin (Cville) pinned James Ascott, 9:18; Gjergji Nikkollaj (Cville) p. Grise Ahmad, 1:55; 285: Aaron Ferrer (Cville) vs. (Obn.) 1:55; 285: Hassan Bazzi (Obn.) dec. Ryan Groves, 6:44 (overtime).

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 51 ROMULUS SUMMIT 21
DEARBORN 19
103 pounds: double victory: 112: Gagner (RS) won by 1:19; Mayers (LO) won by 1:25; Shane Martin (Cville) pinned McGlynn, 1:04; 130: Bryce Cozart (Cville) p. Patrick, 3:14; 135: Mikey Wever (Cville) won by 1:40; Joey Walker (Cville) won by 1:45; Cameron Shoun Lopes, 1:27; 145: Ken Roman, 6:16; 152: Domonic Slagle (Cville) won by 1:60; T.J. Barnes (RS) dec. Aaron Bibak, 8:6 (OT); 171: Carter (RS) p. James Ascott, 0:21; 189: Chris Edwards (Cville) won by 2:15; Ryan Groves (Cville) won by 2:15; 285: Rodrigo Ferrer (Cville) won by 2:15.

200 free relay: 1. Lake Ontario, 2:50; 2. Farmington-Harrison (Hazeltine, Spellman, Balk, Rome-ro), 3:17; 3. Salem (Hazeltine, Spellman, Balk, Rome-ro), 3:14; 4. Toledo Rogers, 3:15; 5. Franksin, 5:40; 500 free: Diener (LO), 4:59; 59; 2. Weerasinghe, 6:09; 94; 5. Jacob Roche, 6:26; 37.
175 dual record: 1. Lake Ontario, 1:39; 32; 2. Farmington-Harrison (Hazeltine, Spellman, Balk, Rome-ro), 1:41; 72; 100 back: 1. Seeds (LO), 58; 88; 2. Franklin, 1:10; 4; 4. Justin Woodcock, 1:13; 53; 100 breast: 1. Nowicki (LO), 1:01; 59; 3. Cole, 1:11; 86; 4. Balk, 1:15; 39; 400 free relay: 1. Farmington-Harrison (Hoelscher, Spellman, Balk, Rome-ro, Hazeltine), 3:48; 10; 3. Farmington-Harrison (Franklin, Dillon Koch, Weerasinghe, Woodcock), 4:13; 96; 175 dual record: 0-3.

Dec. 19 at Stevenson
103 pounds: Jack Delack (WM) won by 1:12; Domonic Sanders (Novi) pinned Travis Starr, 3:38; 119: Tim Way (WM) p. Cody Sickett, 2:31; 125: Tyler Mulligan (WM) won by technical fall over Jake Race, 24; 10; 130: Derek Pomeroy (WM) p. Nathan Kurt, 0:30; 135: Michael Nicholson (WM) p. Derek Allen, 1:24; 140: Marcus Jordan (WM) won by 1:45; Kevin Marz (WM) p. Chase Diez, 1:29; 152: Tim McPhee (LS) dec. Austin Heinonen, 4:2; 160: James Hecht (WM) p. Nick Decko, 2:20; 171: Samuel Enkanem (WM) p. Austin Norman, 3:08; 189: Lucas Hofbauer (WM) won by major dec over Travis Tank, 17:5; 215: Tyler Castells (WM) dec. James Donahue, 9:27; 285: Aaron Ferrer (WM) p. Johnathan Dixon, 3:08.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 67 LIVONIA 26
103 pounds: Jack Delack (WM) pinned Jack Osterwind, 1:29; 112: Max Lytwin (LS) p. Domonic Sanders, 5:58; 119: Tyler Mulligan (WM) p. Taylor Droste, 5:13; 125: Tim Way (WM) won by 1:36; Derek Pomeroy (WM) won by major decision over Trevor Demers, 12-3; 135: Michael Nicholson (WM) p. Sandro Lytvyn, 1:14; 140: Marcus Jordan (WM) p. Shoun Lopes, 1:27; 145: Ken Marz (WM) p. Tyler Statham, 0:38; 152: Austin Heinonen (WM) vs. Alex Boka, 1:50; 160: Connor Vaughan (LS) p. James Hieltness, 5:16; 171: Samuel Enkanem (WM) won by 1:50; 189: Lucas Hofbauer (WM) dec. Jacob Kelly, 8-4; 215: Tyler Castells (WM) p. Matt Spohr, 1:49; 285: Aaron Ferrer (WM) p. Ryan Eddings, 0:29.

Dual meet records: Wayne, 5 overall; Stevenson, 2 overall.

SALEM QUAD MEET Dec. 19 at Salem CANTON 52
189 pounds: Mitchell Ross (Salem) pinned Jensen Hill, 4:37; 215: John Agostini (S) won by decision over Allan Beckman, 9; 3: 285: Ken Wooley (Canton) p. Tyler Moore, 1:36; 103 pounds: Harrison Samoy (C) won by tech fall over Andrew Lindsay, 15-0; 112: Alec Arble (S) p. Ryan Ayley, 1:18; 119: Richard DeMarois (C) p. Greg Shaver, 2:22; 125: Charlie Woody (S) p. Sammy Baraka, 1:54; 130: Ben Griffin (C) won by 1:35; Ryan Sieglar (C tech fall Caleb McCabe, 18-2; 140: Marc Przybyk (C) won by 1:45; Ty Justice (C) p. Jake Lusk, 1:58; 152: Jacob Johnson (C) p. Hamad Abud, 2:35; 160: Alec Pantaleo (C) p. James Uphaw, 1:55; 171: Tyler Gross (S) p. Dylan DeGroot, 1:37.

PLYMOUTH 43 SALEM 36
215 pounds: John Agostini (Salem) pinned Ronnie Dancer, 0:51; 285: Tyler Moore (S) p. Adam Dulong, 3:45; 103: Colin Reed (Plymouth) p. Andrew Lindsay, 1:49; 112: Mohamad Youssef (P) won by 1:19; Alec Arble (S) p. Dylan Dwyet, 3:07; 125: Austin Currier (P) p. Charlie Woody, 2:41; 130: Trey Berry (P) won by 1:30; Spencer Schiffer (P) dec. Caleb McCabe, 12-8; 140: Jon Conn (P) p. Jake Judge, 0:33; 145: Alec Breckenridge (P) won by 1:52; Terek Tamimi (P) dec. Hamad Abud, 18-10; 160: James Uphaw (S) p. Jeff Motes, 5:02; 171: Tyler Gross (S) won by 1:89; Mitchell Gross (S) won by 1:89.

CANTON 45 NOVI 20

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

N. FARMINGTON 85 TROY 81
Dec. 20 at N. Farmington
200-yard medley relay: 1. North (Joe Paris, Nick Leshok, Danny McNece, Matt Morgott), 1:44; 05; 3. North (Josh Hammarren, Keith Ericson, Barry Zeltzer, Rob Chapek), 1:51; 23; 200 free: Zach Chen (T), 1:49; 2; 2. Jake Wasko, 1:50; 18; 3. Brady Clarke, 1:55; 9; 4. Ericshen, 1:57; 27; 200 IM: 1. Leshok, 2:00; 4; 2. Joe Paris, 2:22; 12; 50 free: 1. Morgott, 2:37; 3; 2. Zeltzer, 24; 6; 5. Chapek, 25; 0; 2. David Thiede (T), 1:79; 10; 2. Nick Nader, 16; 15; 5. Jon Mittelburg, 10; 50; 100 free: 1. McNece, 54; 3. Ericshen, 1:01; 26; 100 free: 1. Wasko, 50; 20; 2. Clarke, 51; 70; 3. Morgott, 53; 37; 50 free: 1. Ericshen, 5:12; 74; 2. McNece, 5:25; 200 free relay: 1. North (Morgott, Clarke, Zeltzer, Wasko), 1:34; 31; 100 back: 1. Zach Chen (T), 54; 97; 2. McNece, 59; 18; 3. Paris, 1:01; 27; 5. Hammarren, 1:05; 19; 100 free relay: 1. Leshok, 1:02; 11; 4. Chapek, 1:11; 53; 400 free relay: 1. North (Clarke, Wasko, McNece, Leshok), 3:24; 83.
Northville dual record: 1-1

LAKE ORION 127 HARRISON-FARM 59
Dec. 20 at Lake Orion
200-yard medley relay: 1. Lake

SALEM 125 PLYMOUTH 60
Dec. 20 at Salem
200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Charles Liu, Turner Soltnerman, Danny Lynch, Jason Banasene), 1:47; 18; 2. Plymouth (Keegan Kendall, Garrett Beuzer, Cameron Eads, Alec Hofbauer, Ryan Sieglar), 1:58; 3. Salem (Brendan Wellman, Smaran Bhaktawara, Colin Urbaczewski, Kenny McManimon), 1:54; 80; 200 free: 1. Jason Zhang (S), 1:50; 47; 2. Matt Parriz (S), 1:57; 3; 3. Beaupear (P), 1:59; 54; 4. Urbaczewski (S), 2:14; 18; 5. Kendall (P), 2:20; 30 (IM); 1. Liu (S), 2:09; 90; 2. Soltnerman (S), 2:10; 27; 3. Nick Wever (P), 2:19; 39; 4. Patrick Casey (S), 2:19; 45; 5. Bronson Knowles (P), 2:35; 04; 500 free: 1. Banasene (S), 2:44; 23; 2. Matt Parriz (S), 2:48; 5; 3. Beaupear (S), 2:48; 2; 4. Wilson (P), 2:49; 5; 5. Stevenson (S), 2:53; 63.
100-yard freestyle: Connor McManimon (P), 187; 20 points; 2. Zach Banasene (S), 93; 30; 3. Michael Faltz (S), 77; 70; 100 fly: 1. Earis (P), 59; 48; 2. Lynch (S), 1:02; 06; 3. Bhaktawara (S), 1:02; 28; 4. Cameron Eads (S), 1:06; 97; 5. Anketh Vial (P), 1:07; 15; 100 breast: 1. Parriz (S), 52; 71; 2. Banasene (S), 54; 18; 3. Nick Wever (P), 55; 26; 4. Benjamin Yang (P), 55; 84; 5. McManimon (S), 56; 24; 500 free: 1. Beaupear (P), 2:15; 26; 2. Stevenson (S), 2:15; 26.

Salem's Jason Zhang powers through the water en route to a first-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle Thursday against Plymouth. The host Rocks were victorious, 125-60.

2. Brian Kuang (S), 5:23; 97; 3. Gregory Payne (S), 5:48; 38; 4. Bhaktawara (S), 6:03; 84; 5. Keegan (P), 6:20; 92; 200 free relay: 1. Salem (Zhang Banasene, Parriz, McManimon), 1:35; 08; 2. Plymouth (Yang, Beaupear, Weber, Wilson), 1:40; 85; 3. Salem (Urbaczewski, Matthew Ross, Casey, Payne), 1:46; 80; 100 back: 1. Zhang (S), 57; 57; 2. Earis (P), 58; 9; 3. Yang (P), 1:01; 24; 4. Kuang (S), 1:01; 98; 5. Wellman

(S), 1:05; 36; 100 breast: 1. Soltnerman (S), 1:04; 86; 2. Liu (S), 1:06; 59; 3. Matthew Chin (S), 1:20; 85; 4. Knowles (P), 1:21; 01; 5. Gunnar Savalos (P), 1:23; 56; 400 free relay: 1. Salem (Zhang, Parriz, Liu, Soltnerman), 3:11; 30; 2. Plymouth (Yang, Weber, Wilson, Earis), 3:43; 06; 3. Salem (Zhang, Lynch, Wellman, Kuang), 3:45; 86; Salem dual record, 1-0; Plymouth dual record, 0-1.

Canton knows Mercy

Former cheerleaders' franks

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

Canton capitalized on a solid second quarter Thursday to hand host Farmington Hills Mercy its first loss in girls basketball, 43-36.

The Chiefs trailed by one, 9-8, at the end of the first quarter, but they outscored the Marlins in the second, 13-2.

"We had a real poor second quarter at both ends," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "Offensively, I just think we were not running our offense. We were standing around too much. Defensively, we were a step slow throughout."

"In the second quarter, it became a half-court game. That's something Canton is very, very good at traditionally, and the Chiefs were again tonight."

"They were playing a good, half-court game. We had a foul, and we helped them a bit by standing around too much. In the half court, they did a nice job of running their offense."

"They got to the free throw line 15 times (and made nine) in the first half to our four. Obviously, they were attacking the basket and getting to the free throw line."

Canton head coach Brian Samulski praised his team's defense, led by Rachel Winters, who held guard Candice Leatherwood to eight points.

"Overall, it was just an outstanding win for the girls," Samulski said. "They should really be proud of what they accomplished tonight."

"Mercy is a top-10 team in the state, and I thought the girls came out and really played well. It was an outstanding team effort."

The Marlins (5-1), who were scoreless in the second quarter until the final minute, got within six points in the fourth and outscored the Chiefs (4-2) in the second half.

Howe's big night leads Farmington victory

Senior guard Aaron Howell scored a school-record 34 points to help host Farmington get its first victory in girls basketball Wednesday night.

Howell, who recently committed to Michigan for track and field, also had 14 rebounds, six assists and seven steals as the Falcons routed winless Troy Athens, 69-28.

Kevin Peurach had a second double-double for the Falcons, who are 1-6 overall and 1-4 in the OAA White Division, with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Farmington's Mya Douse netted a dozen points and reached five rebounds; she and Peurach each dished three assists, too.

Shannon Seeger made four steals, Maddy Trevisan and Douse two apiece. Tyler Bland scored her first varsity basket.

"It was a great game; the girls played extremely hard," Falcons coach Dave Browne said. "It's the first game we really played with our speed. We used our athleticism for the first time this season, and that's something we're going to need."

Farmington led 20-7 after one quarter and 42-13 at halftime.

Laura Genereau scored nine points and had four Hill eight for the Red Hawks (0-7-5).

N. FARMINGTON 57, FARMINGTON 50: The visiting Raiders (4-3) led at halftime Friday, 23-9, and outshot a second-half comeback by the Falcons (1-7).

Kaitlyn Kendall led a trio of North players in double figures with 17 points. Bri Duroguch had 14, Logan Carter 12 and Jessica Caruthers nine.

Farmington's Aaron Howell tossed in a game-high 34 points, scoring 13 of them with Mya Douse 10. Howell and Peurach also had 10 rebounds apiece.

The Raiders were 11-of-17 shooting free throws and the Falcons 4-of-10.

"I thought Farmington played really well in the second half," North coach Tim Calloway said. "They're tough to play against. They crash the boards and Howell is such a good player. I thought we stuck together, got some stops when we needed and shot the ball fairly decent. Overall, I was pleased with the win."

"They put good pressure on us in the first half," Farmington coach Dave Browne said. "I thought we did a good job in the second half of flipping that around and dictating play a little more. We did a great job of fighting back. We need to do a better job of playing a complete game."

FRANKLIN 47, WAYNE 33: Senior guard Franklin 47, Wayne 33 in a game-high 25 points as Livonia Franklin (4-2, 1-0) opened KLAAS South Division play Thursday with a victory at Wayne Memorial (1-5, 0-1).

Natalie Desautel added nine points for the Patriots, who jumped out to a 16-5 first-quarter lead.

Abby Bland led the Zebras with 17 points, while Honia Williams contributed six.

"We're not missing those 5-to-10 foot shots away from the basket," Franklin first-year coach Jim Milcan said. "But we played good defense. We played a 3-2 (zone) and a 2-3 and it worked out for us."

Franklin was 9-of-14 from the foul line, while Wayne was 3-of-7.

HARRISON 61, GROVES 21: The Hawks (6-1, 4-1) led to their sixth victory Thursday behind a 23-point performance by freshman Amber Stephens, who also had six steals and five rebounds in the OAA White Division game.

Katie Conrad, Marissa Cotton and Kristen Nelson had eight points apiece, Asia Campbell and Kyia Roland added five each.

Conrad led on the boards with six rebounds. Nelson, who collected seven assists, and Nelson made four steals apiece.

25-22.

"We made a bit of a run because we hit some shots and turned them over a few times, but we couldn't make the shot that would have gotten us over the hump," Morris said. "We missed five free throws in the fourth quarter."

Board work

Paige Aresco scored 11 points and Taylor Hunley 10 for the Chiefs, who were 15-of-23 at the foul line overall. Allanna Brown added seven points and Rachel Winters six.

Samulski said Aresco (six rebounds), Hunley (14 rebounds) and Brown (six rebounds) "did a great job on the boards. I thought we got some big minutes from Shan (Shannon Perry) and Kels (Kelsey McDougall) tonight, too."

Allie Gorcyca and Taylor Jones scored 10 points apiece for the Marlins, who made 10 of 21 free throws. Sam Batey and Candice Leatherwood finished with eight each.

"Our effort was good," Morris said. "It was that we didn't play well enough. I give Canton a lot of credit. I saw them two weeks ago against Marquette. They played much better tonight, so I give them credit for getting better."

"For us, it's a bit of a hiccup, but it's a long season. We have good kids who are going to come back ready to work and use the time over Christmas break to get better."

According to Samulski, solid team defense is something he always preaches. The Chiefs are listening.

"Defensively, I thought we were very solid," Samulski said. "Rach (Winters) and Nat (freshman Natalie Winters) did an outstanding job on their lead guards, holding them to eight and zero points."

Tim Smith contributed to this story.

Hogans nets 37 in north win

By Dan O'Meara

Observer Staff Writer

You can pick your sports cliché to describe the superb performance by North Farmington's Caleb Hogans on the basketball court Friday night.

He was in a zone, a groove. He had the right shooting touch; he had the Midas touch. Any one will do; they all apply.

Hogans was 8-of-12 shooting three-point field goals and scored a career-high 37 points as the Raiders charged past host Farmington, 78-37.

"It seemed the basket was as big as it needed to be for him tonight," North coach Todd Negoshian said. "I thought our kids did a really good job of finding him on sets, setting screens for him and getting him the ball when he needed it."

"He did a great job. He didn't really force any shots tonight. He just let it all come to him."

North (3-2) seemed to struggle early with Farmington's 2-3 zone, but Hogans got them going in the second quarter with 13 points. He had one three and scored mostly on drives to the basket.

It was still a ballgame at halftime with the Raiders leading 23-17, but that changed quickly in the third quarter.

North made its first four shots of the second half, and all of them were three pointers by Hogans, who made five and had 15 points in the quarter.

He made threes as he was falling backward with someone guarding him, and he ended the period with an awkward, off-balance three as he was going out of bounds.

By Tim Smith

Observer Staff Writer

All it took was one bad period for Salem to get in too deep against Plymouth Friday night at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Plymouth scored three unanswered goals in the first period and held on for a 3-2 win in the KLAAS South Division varsity boys hockey game Wednesday night.

"I think our first year we were bad," Salem head coach Ryan Ossennmacher said. "After that it's a 1-0 game for us."

According to Wildcats' head coach Gerry Vento, whose team improved to 9-1-1 and 5-1-1 in the KLAAS South, "we had a great start. We were moving our feet and getting pucks deep. ... But give credit to Salem. They made some adjustments and made it tough on us."

Plymouth outshot the Rocks 16-1 in the first period, with the only Salem shot (by Alek Zaitovskis) tricking past Wildcats' goalie Eric deWilde 33 seconds after four minutes into the game.

The Wildcats then skated circles around the Rocks for the rest of the frame and went up 3-1 on two goals by Mike Schultz and one by Joe Burke. Schultz poked in the rebound of Josh Smith's shot for his second goal, which led up as the game-winner.

They could have had an even bigger lead after the first if not for one extra shot by Salem goalie Anthony Veresan, who finished with 31 saves on 43 shots.

"He played well," Ossennmacher said. "They were digging in front, there were rebounds. He wasn't getting beat clean on shots."

Seahorn rallies to win Chiefs

For more than three quarters Friday night, Canton's varsity boys basketball game gave undefeated Birmingham Seahorn all it could handle.

The host Chiefs went up 34-27 after three frames on the strength of a 14-2 edge in the third.

But the Maples flipped a switch when the game got to the fourth, outscoring Canton 21-13 to put a 50-47 non-conference victory.

Seahorn shot the lights out, connecting on 51 percent of the floor (18-35) while the Chiefs struggled, making just 35 percent of their shots (20-56).

Canton dropped to 2-3 with the loss while Seahorn improved to 2-0.

Top scorers for the Chiefs were Jordan Nobles and Josh Mayberry, with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Davon Taylor had a solid game with eight points, six steals and a team-leading 10 rebounds. Greg Williams tallied seven points, three rebounds and two assists.

Scoring 16 points to pace Seahorn to the comeback win was Paris Bass with Carl Marbeck and Brett Houghton each adding 10.

HARRISON 60, W.L. NORTHERN 54: The Hawks (6-1, 4-1) led to their sixth victory Thursday behind a 23-point performance by freshman Amber Stephens, who also had six steals and five rebounds in the OAA White Division game.

Katie Conrad, Marissa Cotton and Kristen Nelson had eight points apiece, Asia Campbell and Kyia Roland added five each.

Conrad led on the boards with six rebounds. Nelson, who collected seven assists, and Nelson made four steals apiece.

"He hadn't shot the ball well yet this year," Negoshian said. "He really put some time in it in the last week and a half. He's done a lot of extra shooting."

"Thankfully, it paid off for him tonight in a big way. He was in a zone; he was feeling it."

Hogans wasn't the only one making threes. Six-foot-6 Jeron Rogers threw down two threes in the quarter and three overall, finishing with 13 points.

The Raiders made 10 of 12 fields goals in the third period and 17 of 26 in the fourth. They shot 53 percent overall (25-of-47) and made 89 percent of their free throws (16-of-18).

"We shot 11 percent in the Rochester game," Negoshian said. "In the first few games, our youth really showed. We picked a good night (cross-town rivalry game) to come out of our shell and shoot the ball well against Farmington High."

"I thought we were due for a game. I never thought it would be to this level, but our kids have worked hard in the gym, shooting the ball. It's nice to see it really pay off for those guys."

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HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

son two points behind first place Brighton in the KLAAS Central race, the opportunity to play at an NHL venue was priceless.

"We definitely want to thank the Red Wings organization, the Ilitch family and Adam Dubois for having us down here," Mitchell said. "It was definitely a great experience for our kids and program."

"Obviously we wanted the outcome

to be different. It's tough in the standings because we split with them (South Lyon). We have to win what's in front of us and take it one game at a time."

Meanwhile, McCreary, a former NHL player himself, was pleased to take part in such a game.

"It's wonderful to be here and excited by every one who was excited for the Wings. I was a bit disappointed it was cancelled, but this was a great time," the South Lyon coach said.

"It's wonderful to be here and excited by every one who was excited for the Wings. I was a bit disappointed it was cancelled, but this was a great time," the South Lyon coach said.

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Christmas traditions make holiday memories

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

When I was a kid, the Christmas season wasn't complete until my family turned on one of my favorite holiday traditions: the neon sign.

The Christmas tree could be up, with cookie baking and shopping in full swing, but it didn't feel like Christmas time until Dad, a former neon sign-maker, installed his hand-made creation on the front of our bungalow.

While everyone else in the neighborhood wrapped their shrubs in strings of twinkling lights, we wished passersby a "Seasons Greetings" in bright red script, with two glowing yellow candles and bright green holly leaves.

I loved flicking the switch that caused our porch and snow-covered grass to glow in holiday colors. I loved the sign because it was my family's unique signature tradition. During my college years, Dad grew tired of hanging its hand-bent and hand-blown glass pieces in cold winter weather. The sign was retired to the rafters in the garage and the family tradition went with it.

Today, my parents light up their shrubs with LED lights that glow as bright as the neon sign once did, but aren't as special. The sign was trashed after a piece broke during Spring cleaning one year. It's an heirloom gone and a tradition I'll likely never revive in my own home. But I did take a cue from Dad's artistry to create my own traditions. I love making items—everything from etched glassware to knitted scarves—in lieu of greeting cards for immediate family members.

The "grab bag of gifts," a collection of goofy garage sale items—my favorite was the glowing electric logs made by a Boy Scout troop—kids' toys, along with a few genuinely nice presents, greets anyone who visits my home in December.

Christmas traditions are those "must do" activities that we love to do every year. Read on for a sampling of other, unique traditions submitted by local residents. Enjoy!

Dogs visit Santa, adoptable cats wear holiday best

Every year we take the "girls" to get their pictures taken with Santa. I started taking the girls because I figured after everything they put me through, they can be dressed-up and humiliated for a few minutes, one day a year. I've also photographed my dogs so much, that going to another place to have a photo taken is not a big deal. In fact Sunny knows the sound of me taking the lens cap off the camera and gets excited.

They actually really like going because there's always a ton of people and other animals in the store. And that's part of the other reason I enjoy taking them—breaking down that pitbull stereotype. In fact, this year there was a lady we kept running in to, despite her attempts to stay away. She kept saying how "serious" my dogs looked. She happened to be behind us in line and kept her distance while trying to be friendly. As the cashier was ringing up our stuff, about a half dozen kids appeared out of nowhere, and my dogs went into fits of licking. The kids were at the perfect lick-level for both my dogs and everyone enjoyed the interaction. As we were leaving the lady said, "those seem like nice



Cheyenne, (left) 7, a pit-Lab mix, and Sunny, 5, a pit-beagle mix, meet Santa Claus at PetSmart in Livonia. Visiting Santa is a Christmas tradition for the "girls" who live in Garden City with Jennifer Fritz, vice president of New Beginnings Animal Rescue, and her husband, Chris Trevarthen.

dogs." It wasn't much, but I knew we had changed her mind, even if it's just a bit.

Holiday cats

We started dressing up cats at New Beginnings Animal Rescue because it's funny. Cats just have this "way" about them. They seem so uninterested and nonchalant about everything, so a little dress-up seemed appropriate. I don't want to brag, but we've kind of become experts in the art of cat-dressing-up-and-photographing—and yes, it is an art. I think it also helps show that our cats are really cool! I mean, if they tolerate having their picture taken while wear-

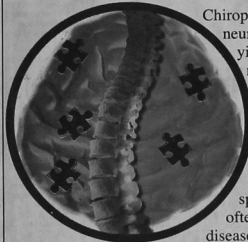


"Mint Julep" tries her best to imitate a reindeer. Dressing up adoptable cats is a part of a Christmas tradition at New Beginnings Animal Rescue (nbarnichigan.org), where Jennifer Fritz of Garden City has taken cat photography to a new level.

Please see FRITZ, B6

JAMES R. MULDOON, B.S., D.C.

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FRITZ

Continued from page B5

ing a reindeer hat, they're obviously, well-socialized cats. People really respond to it, and the photos get passed around the internet. We always have a big spike in adoptions after the photos, so while the cats aren't particularly thrilled about the experience, if it helps get them into a home it's worth it.

— From Jennifer Fritz is vice president of New Beginnings Animal Rescue. She and her husband live in Garden City with their two pitbull mixes, Sunny and Cheyenne.



Making holiday gifts is a long-standing tradition in Marti Bush's family. The Redford resident's daughter, Meagan Bush, was 3 when she wore this hat and sweater made by her great-grandmother, Jane Anne Billings.

Family makes Christmas gifts

Our family has a long-standing Christmas tradition of making something for family members. The gifts range from baked items, wood working items, coupons for housecleaning help or free baby sitting so family members can enjoy a night out, and hand-knitted items.

— From Marti Bush, a knitting teacher and Redford resident



Cathy Zotos



The late Evangelos Zotos



The late Connie Zotos

Season stirs bittersweet memories, strong traditions

My father and sister were killed by a drunk driver in 1979, leaving my mother and I. Every Christmas season, my family would go to our church and put baskets together

for the needy. We would then deliver them. The expressions on the faces of the less fortunate when we gave them a beautiful basket was priceless. Our Christmas tradition always was and continues to be that we have our Christmas cards done and mailed, Christmas tree up and Christmas decorations/lights up by Thanksgiving each and

Please see ZOTOS, B8

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Family party at the tree farm

Every year, for more than 30 years, the Vincent Clan — extended family, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first and second cousins — meet at Arend Tree Farm outside Chelsea to cut trees for Christmas.

We always tailgate, bringing donuts, bagels, hot chocolate, and coffee. Then we head to the fields. Some years, as in this photo from 2011 it was sunny, but cold. Other years, it's rained or snowed. No matter the weather, the tradition continues. Some have opted for artificial trees, but come out for the fun.

The kids and grown-up kids look forward to this tradition, most often we head to someone's house after tree cutting and celebrate family birthdays.

— From Kay Vincent Mosher and Kim Letasz, both of Canton



The Vincent clan gathers to cut Christmas trees and tailgate during annual visits to Arend Tree Farm near Chelsea.



Bobbi Oestreicher of Canton cherishes this creche, which shows her grandchildren as they dressed to act out the Nativity, a family tradition for many years. The grandchildren now are teens and young adults, but the family's fourth generation will act out the drama this year.

'Jesus Box' and Nativity play delight grandparents

Our family has two favorite Christmas traditions. One was that we had a box decorated in Christmas paper with a slot in the top. We called this the "Jesus Box." Each of our three children's families would save money all year to place in the Jesus box before we opened our gifts. Having the very young grandchildren putting in their own money was heartwarming. As a family we voted on a place where we would give these funds.

For many years at our family Christmas our seven grandchildren acted out the story of Jesus' birth with a play. In the picture, (see accompanying photo) the baby Jesus is now 15, the lamb 18, the angel 19, the shepherd and wise man 23, and Mary and Joseph are 24 years old. For our 50th anniversary, our children gave us this creche with the grandchildren's pictures. As great-grandparents to four little ones, we hugged each other with happiness when our children asked us if they could begin doing the dramas again this year with our 4th generation.

— From Bobbi Oestreicher of Canton, who is married to Dick Oestreicher



Decorating with Christmas villages is a tradition at Leo Weber's home in Livonia.

Family decorates with Christmas villages

At our home every year, we do a lot of decorating — some outside, but much more indoors. Just about every corner of the house has something. A stand-out item worth mention is our little village collections, little towns of people and houses which exhibit a colorful, varied, eclectic and whimsical quality. It would take you an hour to really look them over thoroughly. There are two towns — a 19th Century town on a coffee table, and a modern city on a corner table.

— From Leo Weber of Livonia



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Air duct scam gains national attention

By Joe Gagnon
Guest columnist

The column I wrote which appeared here on Dec. 9 was only chapter one of the stories about Dr. Sase, a senior citizen who spent \$600 to have his air ducts cleaned. This is chapter two and it really gets into the deceit created by a scam outfit which I have yet to find.

My good friend Kurt who owns the best air duct cleaning company, inspected the job that the scammer did on the air ducts in the home of the doctor. I henceforth will call the dirty, rip-off, no good, no- of-a-pup company that was out there, a scammer, and that is putting it mildly.

First of all, the moths flying around the house had nothing to do with the cleaning of the ducts. Kurt reported that a large bag of peanuts was the cause of the moth problem. Kurt took many pictures with his special camera which travels inside the duct work and has proven that the scammer did not clean the complete inside of the homes air ducts. He cleaned a one foot area where he cut holes in the basement ducts. By the way, you must be licensed

by the State of Michigan to legally cut holes in the vent lines of a home. This scammer left 99 percent of the air ducts filled with lint, dust, dirt, etc., and the pictures really show how dirty these ducts are.

The doctor described to Kurt what equipment the scammer used. It appears that he may have been a standard Hoover vacuum cleaner. The cost of equipment to properly clean air ducts is usually around \$100,000 and unless Hoover has had a recent huge price increase in their products, the scammer should be slammed. So far in this investigation, we know that the scammer did not do the job of cleaning the air ducts. He did the job for \$600 but wanted \$800 and was kind enough to give the doctor a discount. He did not leave the doctor an invoice for the work that was done and that is illegal. He had the doctor write a check for \$600 and make it out

to an individual name. We now have that name and a police lieutenant is working on finding that individual. At this point I have to use a line that is popular in politics these days. "Because this is a continuing investigation I can't comment any further." Let me assure that there will be a chapter three coming up.

Offering help

So far, The National Air Duct Cleaners Association has contacted me and wants to assist me in any way it can. I am keeping the organization aware of what its leveraging and will use its leverage at the appropriate time.

I also have been contacted by a millionaire in California who is a known consumer advocate and he wants to lend his assistance. Locally, the television stations must not seem to think this is an educational story because you haven't seen it on the tube.

I did receive an e-mail from Tom in Livonia who writes: I have noticed that since I turned 65 and retired, I have been inundated with calls trying to sell me air duct cleaning, credit card consolidation, roofing, insulation, etc., and yet I am

on the "Do Not Call" list which doesn't seem to mean anything. It got so bad that I had to upgrade my phone service to get caller ID so I don't pick up the phone when these people are calling. Most have their numbers blocked or it comes up "unknown" which tells me not to pick up the phone.

Tom goes on to write that the "Nigerian scams" are the worst. People call to see if they are real and if they should send thousands of dollars to get their inheritance. The saddest thing is when people do send the money, which is their savings, and want to know how to get it back, it is gone.

It's too bad that seniors or their families couldn't work with banks to put a limit on the amount of money that can go out of an account without a co-signer or reviewer: The strong message coming from this column is to always be aware whether you are a senior or not. Buyer Beware. 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 appl@twm1.r.com

Joe Gagnon



Appliance Doctor



Sharon Raskin of Farmington Hills (left), Inika Williams of West Bloomfield and Terri Fuller of Bloomfield Hills (top) at Lisa Rosenberg's (right) Closet NY Holiday Party. Rosenberg owns the West Bloomfield store.

Shopping benefits children's camp

By Julie Yolles
Social scene columnist

Sharon Raskin of Farmington Hills and other patrons of Closet NY in West Bloomfield shopped for a good cause Thursday, Dec. 20 while at the store's holiday party.



Social Scene

Closet NY, owned by Lisa Rosenberg, generously donated a portion of proceeds to North Star Reach, a camp for kids with serious health challenges located in Pinckney. North Star Reach is a provisional member of the SeriousFun Children's Network of camps started by Paul Newman and is targeted to open by 2015. All of the kids and their families will attend camp for free.

North Star Reach is 40 percent into a \$26 million capital campaign. Donations from the Closet NY holiday event will go towards the building of the camp.

For more information, visit www.northstarreach.org. For the very, very, very last-minute shoppers, Closet NY will be open until 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Christmas Day, Tues. Dec. 25. Closet NY is located at 6889 Orchard Lake Road in the Boardwalk.

Group offers divorce support

Schoolcraft College's Transition Center Divorce Support Group plans a variety of discussion topics for its winter-spring program.

The group meets 7-9 p.m. twice monthly for discussion and to hear guest speakers at the McDowell Center, room 225, on the Livonia Campus, 18600 Haggerty, located between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Group discussions, facilitated by Diane Hartman of Heron Ridge Associates, PLLC, are set for Jan. 8, 2013, Feb. 12, 2013, March 12, 2013, and April 9, 2013. Attorney

Patricia A. Kasody will be available at each session to answer questions in a private setting on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Other programs are:
• Jan. 22, 2013 — Laura Reyes Koppack, attorney with Creighton, McLean & Shea, will present an overview of the divorce process, including information on property settlements, custody, child support, visitation, and spousal support.
• Feb. 26, 2013 — Nina Dodge Abrams, of Abrams Law Firm, PLLC, will present an overview of the divorce process.
• March 26, 2013 —

Mariann DeFlon, PhD, of Heron Ridge Associates, PLLC, will discuss preparing for and coping with loss as it relates to divorce.

• April 23, 2013 — David W. Roessler, CDFP, of Divorce Solutions, LLC, and Vicky McClelland, CDFP, will discuss the financial aspects of divorce and how to plan for your financial future

after divorce.

The Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no fee to attend the group and registration is not required.

For more information, e-mail transitions@schoolcraft.edu or call (734) 462-4443.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargatzis at sdargatz@hometownlife.com.

Stoneyly search

Friends of the Rouge (FTR) seeks volunteers to help with the 12th annual search for stonies on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013. Finding a stoneyly living in the river is a good indication that the river is healthy because these small insects require cold, clean water. Last year, 73 volunteers found these "nuggets of gold" at 14 of 32 sites. This year's search will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-DeARBorn. No searching is done in DeARBorn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team leaders go in the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank. Children five and older are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult; groups of up to 6 people can be accommodated. Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 11, 2013

Master Gardener

MSU Extension is accepting applications for the next Master Gardener classes. Beginning in January 2013, this 12-week course teaches the student basic horticultural principles and environmentally-sound gardening practices. Course topics include introduction and volunteerism, plant science, soils for plant growth, flower gardening, woody ornamentals, turf/lawn care, vegetable culture, small fruit culture, tree fruit culture, plant health care, indoor plants and household pests. Cost is \$30, along with a \$25 registration fee. For more information and/or to download application visit: <http://www.mgwwc.org/Pages/MSUEExtensionOffice.aspx> or call Anita Callender at (734) 729-3632 Ext. 103.

Livonia Garden Club

Vince Kogo, an urban chicken farmer, will talk about raising chickens. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information visit www.orgsites.com/mlivoniagardenclub/

In Memory Of Jerry H. Maxwell Passed 10/29/2011

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Like a song that remains in the heart when the music is playing no more, like a fragrance that stays in the air where a flower has blossomed before, like a star that continues to glow long after the breaking of dawn, the ones we love loved remain with us still, and the beautiful memories go on. Love you and miss you so much! Dad, Mom, Chris, Jenny, Sue, Jess and Marty

In Loving Memory Of TRACEY MARIE MIRTI SEPTE 15, 1964 - June 2, 2007

You touch the hearts of all who knew you and left your footprints where you walked. We love and miss you very much especially during your birthday and holidays. - Mom, Dad, Bobby, Kelly, Dan, Jesse, Jacob and McKenzie

In Loving Memory

..... at the Holidays

In Loving Memory Of Charles J. McPhee

October 3, 1940 - October 3, 2010

My Dearest Chuck,

The third Christmas holiday season without you is fast approaching. It is difficult to believe that the time has passed so quickly yet, not a day goes by that I don't miss and think of you. The precious time we spent together will be embedded in my heart and soul forever. Thanks for being the loving, kind, generous and loyal husband that you were. You taught me many things over the years, but the most important lesson was that time is the most precious commodity that one can give of themselves. Thanks for all the wonderful and loving memories we shared as, they will be with me always.

Love, Mary

ZOTOS

Continued from page B6

every year. The lights would always be turned on the day after Thanksgiving because that is the

Greek Orthodox Theotokos (Virgin Mary) day to begin the celebration of the upcoming birth of Christ.

— From Rev. Dr. Gregory E. Zotos DD, PhD of Livonia

Milestones

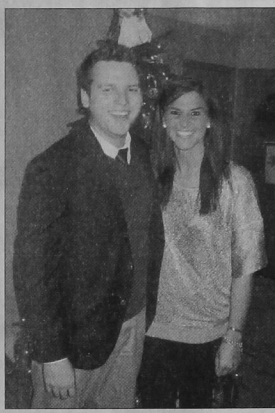
Couple becomes engaged over Livonia, Detroit

Jonathan Aaron Braue knows how to sweep a woman off her feet and make her heart soar. On Nov. 4, when he asked Katherine Leigh Emig to marry him, he made sure she'd never forget the epic proposal. He took her on a sky-high journey that recounted all of the "firsts" in their 2 1/2-year relationship. "My fiancé works for Dan Gilbert, chairman of Quicken Loans and owner of the Cleveland Browns, directly at Quicken Loans and he told me we were going to take some footage of Detroit for Dan," said Emig, in an e-mail to the *Observer*.

Bre, son of Susan Keller of Royal Oak and Craig Braue of Grandby, Colo., promised the task would take only an hour, but Emig, who hates surprises, demanded to know more. She said Braue admitted the videotaping involved a helicopter flight.

"I hate flying so I was incredibly nervous," said Emig, daughter of John Emig of Farmington Hills and the late Elaine Emig. "The whole time I thought that we were getting video footage for Dan, I literally had no idea what he was about to do. When the pilot said he was asking the pilot to fly over some places. Little did I know that all of these places were significant places that meant something in our relationship."

The helicopter flew over the old Quicken Loans office in Livonia



Jonathan Braue and Katherine Emig

where Emig and Braue first met; over downtown Royal Oak where they first kissed and had their first dinner-movie date; and above downtown Detroit, where both work and hope to reside in the future.

"On our way back to where we took off, the pilot turned off his headphones and my fiancé proposed right over downtown Detroit." It was absolutely incredible and a complete surprise to me even though my family and his family knew

about it for months."

Their families were waiting to celebrate with them when they landed.

Emig, a graduate of Valparaiso University in Indiana with a BSBA degree in marketing, is employed by Title Source in downtown Detroit.

Braue graduated from Wayne State University with a B.A. degree in psychology.

A September 2013 wedding is planned in downtown Detroit.

—by Sharon Dargatz

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargatz at sdargatz@hometownlife.com.

December

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. Sundays through Dec. 23

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inlander Road, Livonia

Details: Rev. Paul Stunkel will focus on "Why? Shepherds and Wise Men," Dec. 16; and "Why? Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Family, and featuring a live Nativity." Dec. 23

Contact: (734) 422-1470

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 23

Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield

Details: Annual Christmas pageant will include the Christmas story, special music and the Praise Dance Team. Light refreshments will be served after the service

Contact: (248) 569-2972 or e-mail firstbaptist@fbc-detroit.org

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, 5 p.m. 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, and 2 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: Dec. 23 service includes a children's Christmas play. The early service on Christmas Eve is designed for families with young children. The Festival Worship and Candlelight service is at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will include music by the Chancel Choir and the orchestra. The late evening service, Lessons, Carols and Candlelight, will include ensembles, solos and the orchestra. Rev. Paul Perez will give the message

Contact: (734) 422-0149

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24 and 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 25

Location: Saint John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Christmas Eve music starts at 8:30 a.m. followed by Solemn High Mass. Low Mass with Sermon on Christmas day

Contact: (734) 721-5023

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: Hope Lutheran Church, 28860 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: Christmas Eve services

Contact: (734) 427-3660

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inlander Road, Livonia

Details: The early service is designed for

children. The two later services will include candlelight and communion. Children may wear their pajamas to the 8 p.m. family service

Contact: (734) 422-1470

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24, 10 a.m. Dec. 25 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: The early service on Christmas Eve is the family worship service; the later gathering is the traditional candlelight carol service. Christmas day service will feature ringing of the bells. The New Year's Eve service will include communion

Contact: (248) 553-3380

January

DIVORCE, GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 3, 2013

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: Two new support groups, "Through the Fire" an eight-week divorce recovery group, and "Hope for Tomorrow" an eight-week grief support class, are offered. Both of these programs have been developed and will be led by the Rev. John Straub and his wife, Suzanne, who have more than 10 years teaching experience. Pre-registration deadline is Dec. 16

Contact: (248) 553-3380

GREEN FILM SERIES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17

Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham

Details: PRIs John Hockenberry goes inside the organizations that fought the scientific establishment to show the direction of the climate debate. Film is followed by a discussion with Kathryn L. Savoie, PhD, an authorized presenter of the Climate Reality Project, trained directly by former vice president Al Gore. Free admission. Sponsored by the church's Green Ministry

Contact: www.cbccuc.org

SPECIAL SERVICE

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6

Location: Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: In the midst of dealing with the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, economic hardships, a broken relationship, or a grim medical prognosis, the holiday season can be filled with sadness, rather than joy. When the hustle and bustle of Christmas is through, January can feel bleak. "Light in Our Darkness," will be an evening of prayer and song. Participants may acknowledge the births in their lives and pray for God's light to enter into their darkness.

Contact: (248) 553-7170

Cordner-Neese

Rod Cordner, a 50-year resident of Garden City, and Maria Neese of Romulus, were married Dec. 7, 2012 at the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, in Detroit.

The couple plans to make their home in Garden City.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4966 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

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

FEGAN, MAUREEN ANNE

Age 80, December 20, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Jack Fegan. Loving mother of Lynn (Mike) Smith, Kathleen (Darel) Stevens, Daniel Fegan and Kelly (Mike) Adams. Dear grandmother of Adam, Kellan, Colin, Ian, Liam, Beck and Chad. Great-grandmother of Ken, Futral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harrington Rd., Livonia Monday 10 A.M. Visitation Sunday 2-8 P.M. Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association. Please share a memory at: www.rgrharr.com

NEWTON, ALICE C.

Of Birmingham, MI died December 20, age 79. Alice was a daughter of the late J. Vernon and Caroline Newton. As a recipient of a Ford Scholarship she received her Bachelor and Master degree from the University of Michigan majoring in education. She was a reading specialist for the Birmingham schools retiring in 1996. She is survived by three brothers: Cleon (Sarah) of Saline, Walter (John decessed) of St. Louis, MO, Elvin (Sue decessed) of Ft. Wayne, IN; two sisters: Ila (Kenneth decessed) Poach of Kalamazoo and Cecilia (Ronald) Grabowski of Northville. Her nieces and two nephews. At her recent cremation has taken place and there will be no service.

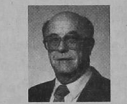
BALMER, JAMES G.

Bloomfield Hills, MI. Died peacefully December 13th with family at his side. Born July 29, 1922, he was the son of James G. Balmer, Sr. and Grace Cuddy Balmer of Pittsburgh, PA. He graduated from Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon University) with a BA in industrial design. He served proudly in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines and Japan during WWII. He worked as lead designer for automotive icon Harley Earl at General Motors. In the mid-1950's he co-founded Armstrong Balmer & Associates, an internationally-recognized industrial design firm in Michigan. Among his many accomplishments, he had numerous design patents, including the 1959 original design of the Xerox 914, the first plain paper copier in the world. He was the recipient of a number of professional awards, but he considered his family his greatest accomplishment. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Janet Quiring (John), James Balmer III (Marla) and Lindsay Hinz (Randy), beloved grandchildren Carrie, Allison, Adam, Nick, Gretchen, Grace, Benjamin, Clara, Millory and Jamie, and ten great-grandchildren. He instilled in his children a creative spirit and an ambition to do good. A military graveside service will be held at 11:00am, Friday, December 21st at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. Memorial contributions can be made to the Varsity Club, 5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 445 Los Angeles, CA 90036 <http://www.usavnet.org>

The family is being served by Gonnine Runciman at HomeCare Homes, East Lansing, Michigan. On line condolences may be made at www.greataffair.com

HEALY, JOHN ROBERT "BOB"

Age 87, December 13, 2012. Loving father of Susan Healy Zitterman, Jerry Zitterman, Michael Healy (Mary), Mary H. Healy, Carole Ann Healy, Beth Leonard (and the late Frank). Dear grandfather of Tony, Matthew, Ryan, Kaitlin, Dawn and Daniel. Uncle to Kirby and Jerry. Will also be missed by a friend Miriam Schmitz. Visitation was Sunday 3-8 pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. Funeral was Monday at St. Genevieve Catholic Church Livonia. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorial contributions appreciated to University of Detroit Mercy College of Engineering.



DONALD COLVIN

A WWII decorated war veteran, 87, of Livonia, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 14, 2012. Don is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Marilyn, as well as his four children: Alison (Cary) Wilson, Janet (Robert) Finley, Robert Pollock and William (Barbara) Pollock. He is also survived by his 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Visitation on Wednesday, December 26, beginning at 10:00am until the 11:00am Funeral Service at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, Michigan 48152. Interment: Glen Eden Cemetery Memorial Lanehead to follow at Ward Church. For more information please visit www.harrywillfuneralhome.com

JOHNSON, Rosemary Renauer

Age 58, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at The Kansas City Hospice House, in the arms of her husband Arne. She was born in Plymouth, MI. She was a resident of Overland Park, KS and former resident of Sant Cruz, CA. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz and earned her Masters degree from John F. Kennedy University, Santa Cruz, CA, with a degree in psychology. She was preceded in death by her father Joseph C. Renauer, her best friend by her mother Rosalene Renauer, husband, Arne, her daughter, Monica, her son-in-law Michael and grandson Colin. She is also survived by her sisters Norlene, Mary Ann and her brothers Joe and Albin, her beloved nieces and nephews: Lindsey, David, Katie, Hayley, Christine, Daniel, Laura, Zoe, Lia, Rachel and Jonathan. Each one was so very special to her. Rosemary's generosity and kind heart were an inspiration to her family and many friends. She lived her life with love and integrity. She enjoyed hiking the mountains of California and even dabbled at skydiving at one time. A memorial and celebration of her life will be held this coming Spring.

Funeral Home & Crematory

913-631-5566

LAUDICINA, VITINA

Age 96, of Dearborn, died Dec. 18, 2012. Visitation 12/26, 5-8 at Casterline Funeral Home of Northville. Online condolences: www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

PROCTOR, MICHAEL KENNETH

Of Livonia, age 81, July 29, 1931 - December 15, 2012. Loving husband of Maryann. Dear father of Wayne, Greg, Frank (the late Jimmy), Bob, Stacy, Grandfather of Mya and Collette. Memorial mass at 10am, Saturday, December 22 at St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI



WESTCOTT WILLIAM JOHN, DVM

December 10, 2012, age 93, of Bingham Farms. Longtime veterinarian in the Detroit area and the first veterinarian in the country to establish a 24 hour care service. Beloved husband of Jean (nee Farwell) for 68 years. Dear father of David (Deborah), Larry (Vicky) and Betty Coles (Peter). Loving grandfather of Gregory, Jennifer, Lindsay, Allison, Megan, Stephen, and Michelle. Loving great-grandchildren: Jennifer, Memorial service Saturday 11am at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Memorial tributes to the Kirk in the Hills Endowment Fund or MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. View obituary and share memories at: desmondfuneralhome.com

WILD, MICHAEL

December 15, 2012, age 99. Beloved husband of the late Stella. Loving father of Charleen Hebel (the late Thomas). Devoted grandfather of Charlotte Smith, Christine Smith and Michelle Wilkie (David) and great-grandfather of Garrett, Quinn, Ava, Courtney and Cody. Services have been held. Memorial tributes to Walsh College.

A.J. Desmond & Sons

242-89-6000

View obituary and share memories at: desmondfuneralhome.com

CAKIC, AMY L.

Age 46, of Livonia, MI. Passed away December 13, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Michael, and her two children, Matthew and Taylor. Burial will be held at the Holy Trinity Cemetery, 10000 W. 12 Mile, Livonia, MI. www.thayer.org

Series focuses on dementia

One step for health: Say no to soft drinks

By Sandy Baumann
 Guest columnist

Dementia is a devastating part of aging, both for the person with dementia and their families.

There are so many questions and possibilities; it's difficult to know what the right decisions are, or how to cope.

To help navigate these troubled times, Botsford Commons Senior Community in Farmington Hills plans to offer a monthly series on the topic as part of its "Botsford University Education Program for Families."

The series, "Developing Meaningful Connections with People Experiencing Dementia," will start Tuesday, Jan. 8 and will be held the second Tuesday of every month. Sessions will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Chapel on the Botsford Commons campus, 21440 Archwood Circle, located between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Roads, north of Eight Mile, south of M-5 and Grand River Ave.

Planned topics include: introducing Alzheimer's and related dementias, understanding brain changes, respecting the humanity of the person, adapting methods of com-

munication, approach to activities of daily living, and understanding challenging behaviors. The series periodically will feature guest speakers.

After the informational part of the evening, guests may stay for Botsford Commons' Alzheimer's Support Group.

The sessions are free of charge. For more information call (248) 426-6902.

The Alzheimer's Association, Senior Helpers and Botsford Commons also offer a call-in support group that is held on the first Tuesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. Moderated by experts from Senior Helpers and Botsford Commons, the program is free, but callers must register in order to receive a dial-in number for each session. The "lunch hour" time frame is intended to make the conference calls convenient for working caregivers. A different topic is covered each month, with time for questions and answers, as well. To RSVP for the call-in group, call (248) 865-1000 or visit alzdisain@seniorhelpers.com.

If you could make just one New Year's Day that would decrease your weight without dieting, improve your sleep, lower your risk for high blood pressure, and save you money, would you be interested?



Sandy Baumann

There really is such a resolution: eliminate soft drinks, especially cola drinks.

According to Beverage Digest, the average American drank an average of 714 eight-ounce servings (almost 89 gallons) of carbonated soft drinks in 2011. By eliminating three 12-ounce cans of sugary soda per week, you could lose 7 pounds in a year without dieting. A preschool teacher said she lost over 20 pounds when she quit her daily 20-ounce soft drink. As a result, she also had more money to spend on food.

There are several health benefits of reducing soft drinks:

Better dental health

According to the Michigan Dental Association, the combination of acid and sugar in soft drinks weakens tooth enamel and leads to decay, cavities, and even tooth loss. By eliminating soft drinks, you will preserve your teeth and reduce your risk for gum disease.

Less bone loss

Soft drinks that contain phosphoric acid, especially cola drinks,

can cause bone loss.

A Tufts University study of several thousand participants found that women who regularly drink three or more cola soft drinks per day had almost 4 percent lower bone mineral density in the hip. Caffeine in soft drinks may increase risk for hip fracture. In a study of more than 30,000 women, those who consumed the most caffeine had three times greater risk for hip fracture than those who consumed little caffeine. Men also are at risk. A 65-year-old man in my bones class was diagnosed with osteoporosis after a life-long love soft drink habit.

Better sleep

Caffeine is found in cola soft drinks and in others such as Mountain Dew. Since your body takes three to 10 hours to eliminate one half of the caffeine you ingest, the cola you drink with dinner may be one reason you have difficulty sleeping. If you have insomnia, a great first step is to eliminate caffeinated beverages.

According to holistic physician Dr. David Williams, soft drinks increase risk for acid reflux and heartburn. Carbonation expands the stomach. The resulting pressure can force stomach acid back into the esophagus, causing pain at night. He also indicates that drinking carbonated beverages increases wakening with night heartburn.

Reduced risk for diabetes, high blood pressure

A study reported by WebMD compared nurses who drank cola beverages to those who drank very little. One can of cola daily increased their risk for high blood pressure by 13 percent; two to three cans by 24 percent; and four or more cans by 28 percent. Most soft drinks now contain high-fructose corn syrup. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* indicates this sweetener may produce high levels of insulin, impaired glucose tolerance, elevated triglycerides, and increased blood pressure, thus raising the risk for diabetes and heart disease.

Beware of diet soft drinks

Soft drinks that are artificially sweetened definitely should be eliminated. When the body tastes something very sweet, even from artificial sweeteners, it may release large amounts of insulin, leading to low blood sugar and more hunger. By eliminating diet soft drinks you gain better control of your appetite. Here are other side effects of artificial sweeteners:

- Aspartame (Equal, Nutrasweet) — Increased risk for Alzheimer's, hearing loss, Parkinson's, head-

aches, seizures, panic attacks, memory loss, migraines, anxiety, insomnia, depression. Source: *Excitotoxins: The Taste that Kills* by Dr. Susan Blyskal.

- Sucralose (Splenda) — Hindered thyroid function; panic attacks; mental or emotional breakdown; trouble concentrating; feeling depressed or moody; allergic reactions in the skin and throat; bladder, stomach and intestinal pain; diarrhea and constipation; headaches; numbness and stroke-like symptoms. Source: *Sweet Deception* by Dr. Joseph Mercola.

When you resolve to eliminate soft drinks, wear yourself out slowly over a few weeks. You will avoid withdrawal symptoms such as headaches and uneasiness. Hopefully, you soon will enjoy the many health benefits of quitting these unhealthy drinks.

Sandy Baumann, M.S. in biochemistry, is a Farmington-based health speaker and author of *Feed Your Brain Naturally: Good News for High Blood Pressure, Feed Your Brain for Memory, Control Food Cravings and Wellness Superheroes: CoQ10, Omega-3 Oils, Magnesium, Vitamin D*. To find out more about Baumann's books, and her presentations on such topics as memory, high blood pressure, bone loss and control for food cravings, call her at (248) 474-1974 or visit her website, www.FeedYourBrain.org.

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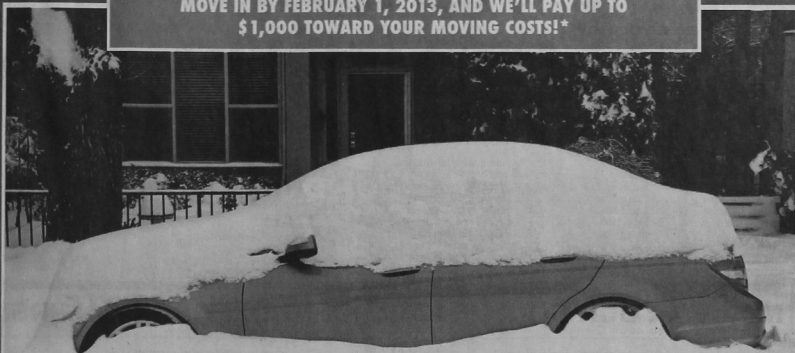
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Your Résumé: The Key to Getting an Interview

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We've all been through it.

The waiting — endless waiting — for the phone to ring with the hope that, maybe, just maybe, one of the résumés you sent out this week will get through to the right person... And he'll like what he sees.

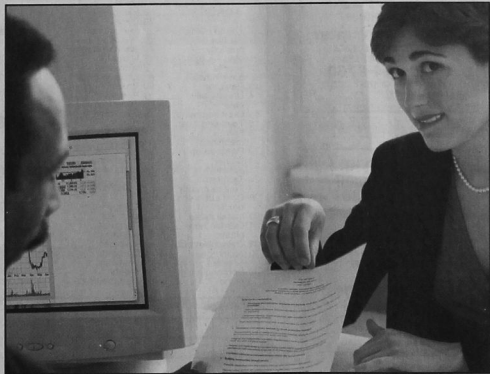
There are things you can do to land that all important first interview. Brad Turkin, executive vice president of staffing company Comforce Corporation, says, "As the old saying goes, you only have one chance to make a good first impression. And the résumé is it," he notes. Here are his tips for creating a phone-ringing résumé:

Know your strengths.

"The first thing you should do," Turkin says, "is some serious soul-searching. Know the kind of job — and company — that you want. Know your strengths... and acknowledge your weaknesses."

Show your value.

Fill your résumé with facts that jump out at the recruiter. "Avoid empty boasts that can't be quantified," Turkin notes. He prefers a chronological résumé with bullet points that highlight previous results and successes. "You can't just say that you were the best salesman the company had," he says. "That means nothing to a prospective employer. You've got to show how you've contributed to a com-



pany's bottom line and how you've added value."

Be truthful.

Falsehoods get discovered, he says. You should always use your actual dates of employment — listing the month and year is sufficient.

Be choosy.

"Don't send your résumé blindly to every company out there," Turkin advises. Do your homework and decide who you want to target. Look into a company's history and its goals for the future, and how it plans to accomplish them.

Be the solution.

"Try to find out where the

company's 'pain' is... and then you'll know how to position yourself as a solution," Turkin notes. "Show how you can add value to their company by showing some awareness of their business and their marketplace. If you can position yourself as a possible solution to their problems, you've got a very big lead."

Upgrade and update.

A résumé is like a living, breathing document, according to Turkin, because it should get to the heart of what you can do for a company. You should be constantly updating it.

Keep it brief.

Don't make your résumé into

a novel. One to two pages are best. Three pages max (and that's only if you've got pretty much a lifetime of experience).

Check for typos again and again and again!

Remember that some words can be misspelled even if they pass through your computer's spell check.

With a solid résumé, you improve your chances of being selected for the next phase, the "preliminary screening" or phone contact. This is a real opportunity to sell yourself on a more personal level and lock in an actual interview. Since the call can come at anytime, Turkin advises candidates to be ready beforehand by prac-

ticing what you might say in a calm and confident voice. Turkin also emphasizes keeping everything positive. And don't let a past firing color your attitude. "Good people get terminated, too... And there are ways to address it so that you don't come off as negative."

Nine Tips for your Résumé

- Formatting is important find one that best suits your needs.
• Use correct spelling, appropriate grammar, no missing words, and no typing mistakes
• Make sure your contact information is correct and where you will be available 24/7
• Write and customize an 'objective' for each job and employer.
• Former employer listings should clearly indicate the company name, your position, and the dates you worked.
• For each employer, include a list of "key contributions" or "key achievements." Also highlight key measurable achievements and successes.
• List education statements. State dates of attendance, majors, minors, and degrees.
• Include a section that lists awards and other recognition.
• Include a personal section that highlights accomplishments, and anything else that will raise the value of you, as a potential employee, in the eyes of the employer.

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- Unnaturally pale
- Orbit segments
- Towering over
- Farm machines
- Psychoped up
- Caviar, actually
- Tax-form ID
- Pleaze gratty
- Cold sufferers' boxful
- Install cable
- Garden hose plastic
- Ostrichlike bird
- Alpine gear (2 wds.)
- Boutonnieres' place

DOWN

- Fleetwood —
- Geol. formations
- Paraffin-based
- Bank examiner
- Carpet leftovers
- Longish skirt
- Vexation
- Forest browsers
- Sandwich cookie
- Freight unit
- Heavy hydrogen discoverer
- Suit piece
- Lumpy fruit
- Old harp
- Porpoise relative
- Autocrat
- Serpent Hercules
- Heidge shrubs

7 Putter's org.
8 Exit
9 Offshoot of a branch
10 Fiasco
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17 Groupies
19 Festive night
20 Little Rover
23 Cotton gin name
25 Skipper's OK
26 RCA products
27 Strike leader
28 Job-ad letters
29 Folk-song mule
31 Muscic used in push-ups
32 Hymn finale
35 "Kubla Khan" locale
36 Soho co.
37 "I, Robot" locale
39 Ruffled
40 Court order
41 Prefix for dynamic
42 Comic-book heroes (typ.)
43 Fits to —
44 Run out of energy
45 Ben Jonson works
46 Type of squad
48 Hide — hair

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6	7	1	8					
3		6				2	7	
4		3	5	8				
7		1	4		6	5		
5	2						9	
	8	4	2	7	5	3		
	4	8	6		1			
	9				6			

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DRAFTY SLEEK
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FREEZING SNOWFLAKES
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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2	1	4	6	9	8	7	5	3
5	6	7	2	7	8	9	1	
6	6	7	9	8	1	2	1	5
9	9	2	7	6	1	4	2	8
1	4	8	2	5	6	9	6	7
2	1	8	7	9	5	6	6	
7	6	6	4	2	1	8	9	
9	8	9	6	1	6	4	7	2

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

It's definitely not too soon for auto manufacturers to think Super Bowl



By Dale Buss

Now that the calendar is nearly turning to January, news about 2013 Super Bowl auto advertisers — first-timers and returning brands — is flowing heavily. Here's a look at some of the latest:

Fiat: The re-invading Italian brand made a surprise splash in this year's Super Bowl with its "Seduction" spot, previously seen in Italy, starring supermodel Catrìnel Menghia. She returns in one of a handful of new Fiat commercials that CMO Olivier Francois showed at the Los Angeles Auto Show last week as potential spots that the brand will show during its Super Bowl commitment.

The new seductive spot starring Menghia is on behalf of a new convertible Fiat 500 Abarth Cabrio. It depicts a scorpion making its way up the back of the bikini-clad model and then using its pincers to make a strategic snip. "Small, wicked ... and now topless," the ad says.

The four other ads show off various versions of the growing Fiat 500 family in the U.S. But who believes any of them has a chance of beating Menghia and the scorpion into the Super Bowl?

Mercedes-Benz: The German luxury brand plans to use the Big Game as a big stage for a big bit of repositioning of the brand. Slated to appear during the fourth quarter, Mercedes-Benz will introduce its CLA class, a highly stylized four-door coupe that will launch at a significantly lower price point than the brand has gotten American consumers

accustomed to, in a 60-second spot.

"There are a lot of people out there who just automatically put Mercedes-Benz in an out-of-reach category," Steve Cannon, president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz USA, and its former CMO, told Advertising Age. Focusing on a less-expensive CLA is "the kind of wake-up call opportunity — with a mass audience — that we're going to use the Super Bowl to communicate."

Befitting the big occasion, Mercedes-Benz plans to use big celebrities including bikini model Kate Upton (who, not that viewers will care, can't drive) and rapper Usher. "Celebrity plays with the young audience," Cannon explained. After sitting out the 2012 Super Bowl, Mercedes-Benz is back in for another reason: Its name is on the Superdome in New Orleans, site of the game, as the venue sponsor. The brand also has embraced New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. There are "a lot of dots that we'll try to connect," Cannon promised.

Lincoln: NBC Late night host Jimmy Fallon is crowdsourcing material for a

Ford TV commercial for its relaunched Lincoln brand. Ideas are being gathered in real time via tweets using the #steerthe-script hashtag. Lincoln already has reintroduced itself as the "Lincoln Motor Company" and begun using President Lincoln in a new ad campaign tied to attempts to revive the brand.

Audi: The Volkswagen-owned luxury brand plans to show one 60-second spot during the Super Bowl, its sixth consecutive year as a Super Bowl advertiser.

GM: The company hasn't made it's a good bet to include at least two vehicles in its advertising that day: the new Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck, GM's most crucial new model in some time, and the upcoming new Chevrolet Corvette, its most exciting new vehicle in some time. Last year, GM picked on Ford F-150 in a Chevy truck commercial that, interestingly enough, was one of the first efforts by a major advertiser to spoof the Mayan 2012 Armageddon theme.

Hyundai: The brand bought two 30-second spots in the 2012 Super Bowl and plans to return in February. With what,



GM is likely to make room in its Super Bowl ads for the important new 2014 Chevrolet Silverado.

is the question. It's possible that Hyundai may use the occasion to shore up its battered reputation in the wake of its admission of inflating mileage figures for some of its models. In 2009, Hyundai used the Super Bowl to launch its Assurance incentive campaign, an industry first in which the brand promised to pick up car payments for customers who subsequently lost their jobs.

Kia: In previous Super Bowl ads, Kia has displayed a fun brand personality via ads including hamsters for the Soul and stuffed animals for Sorrento. Will the Hyundai sibling brand take the same tack this time around — or respond somehow to concerns about its own mileage-inflation infractions a la Hyundai?

Volkswagen: The brand has effectively used recent Super Bowl spots to preview important new models, the U.S.-built Passat and the restyled new Beetle. Without a similar important launch in the pipeline anytime soon, the brand may pivot to making some sort of statement about its broadening importance in the U.S. market and its fast growth.



Chevy created a lot of buzz with this apocalypse-themed ad in the 2012 Super Bowl that mocked Ford.

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EPA with 1.6 L estimated 22 city / 33 hwy mpg



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MSRP \$25,885

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13 at this price, 388 available

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EPA with 3.5 L estimated 17 city / 24 hwy mpg



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3 at this price, 109 available

24 month lease

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

\$1000 DOWN

\$252*

\$1447 due at signing.

SIGN AND DRIVE

\$312*

\$0 due at signing.

NEW 2013 Ford Edge SEL

EPA with 3.5 L estimated 19 city / 27 hwy mpg



Buy for \$25,989+

MSRP \$35,885

Featuring: Leather, Power Liftgate, SYNC with My Ford

3 at this price, 164 available

24 month lease

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

\$1000 DOWN

\$252*

\$1447 due at signing.

SIGN AND DRIVE

\$312*

\$0 due at signing.

NEW 2013 Ford Focus SE

EPA with 2.0 L estimated 27 city / 38 hwy mpg



Buy for \$15,220+

MSRP \$20,585

Featuring: SYNC with My Ford, Power Windows, Automatic, All Weather Floor Mats, Heated Seats

3 at this price, 173 available

24 month lease

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

\$1000 DOWN

\$155*

\$1293 due at signing.

SIGN AND DRIVE

\$208*

\$0 due at signing.

NEW 2013 Ford F150 Supercab 4X4 STX

EPA with 5.0 L V8 estimated 14 city / 19 hwy mpg



Buy for \$25,853+

MSRP \$41,515

Featuring: 5.0 V8, Power Windows, Locks, Cruise Control.

3 at this price, 164 available

24 month lease

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