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COMMUNITY LIFE, C1

IKEA expansion begins on Canton site

Company says new jobs will come with addition

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

An expansion of Canton's already-massive IKEA store has begun, with company officials predicting the 44,000-square-foot addition should open next summer and potentially create new jobs.

"New job opportunities will exist as the business needs arise, as is always the case," company spokesman Joseph Roth said. "Long term, this project should result in more positions as sales continue to increase."

Construction crews have started building the addition to the west side of IKEA at Ford and Haggerty roads, a project adding nearly 15 percent more space to the 311,000-square-

foot home furnishings store.

Extended area

IKEA Canton manager Matt Hunsicker has said the store's success since opening in 2006 has ramped up efforts to extend the self-service furniture area "so it can hold more products and improve our customer shopping experience."

Roth said exterior construc-

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Work is progressing on IKEA Canton's 44,000-square-foot expansion.

Board delays middle school decision

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Concerned for the safety of students in a Canton subdivision and wondering if a better plan for dividing Allen Elementary School students can be found, the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education this week delayed acceptance of recommendations for new middle school boundaries.

The boundaries, being proposed by the district's boundary steering committee, were due to be approved by the board at a Wednesday meeting. But board members decided to postpone that action to give the committee a chance to study new factors.

Among them: Keeping the students in the Sunflower Subdivision together and safe and perhaps dividing students from Allen Elementary School to only two middle schools, rather than the three middle schools currently being recommended.

Under the plan as originally recommended by the committee, Allen students would be divided among three middle schools: West and East middle schools in Plymouth Township and Discovery Middle School in Canton.

According to Kurt Tyszkiewicz, the district's executive director for staffing, student services and policy who chairs the boundary steering committee, since only some 20 students were scheduled to go to West, redirecting them shouldn't be an issue.

"I think it will be an easy fix," Tyszkiewicz said. "It will only be a one-year problem and I think they could be absorbed into East."

The bigger issue, expressed by several board members, concerns students in Canton's Sunflower Subdivision, which Tyszkiewicz said is the district's largest. Surrounding Tonda Elementary School, the subdivision is bordered by Canton Center, Beck, Ford Road and Joy.

Tyszkiewicz said the concerns are twofold: Keeping some 125 students who live in the subdivision together - "They're such a tight group," Tyszkiewicz said - and safety

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At Showroom of Elegance in Canton, Assistant Manager Alyssa Chambo displays a Pandora Starlight gift set.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Local shopping focus of Small Business Saturday

Merchants hope to counter Black Friday

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Economic development leaders and small companies in the Plymouth-Canton area are urging holiday shoppers to think local this season,

saying money spent here supports the economy, creates jobs and spurs charitable investment.

And while local officials haven't formally organized a Small Business Saturday campaign, they say the fifth-year effort, largely pushed by American Express, marks a good starting point.

Small Business Saturday

promotes shopping the small mom-and-pop stores Saturday, Nov. 29 - one day after Black Friday and two days after Thanksgiving. American Express has even created a website, www.shopsmall.com, to help cardholders learn how they can get money back.

"I think it's a good idea," Canton Chamber of Com-

merce President Thomas Paden said. "Any time there's an idea that can bring more attention to shopping local and supporting local businesses, it's a good thing."

"It's really a wonderful program," said Teri Allen of Dearborn Jewelers in down-

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Body found in Garden City yard is Canton woman

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Garden City Police have identified the body of a woman found Tuesday morning in a backyard in the 31900 block of Alvin.

"The deceased is identified as Tina Crosson, 53, of Canton," Garden City Police Chief/City Manager Robert Muery said. "Her daughter lives in the 31700 block of

Alvin and mom was keeping an eye on the house while the daughter was out of town."

Muery said Wednesday afternoon that the autopsy revealed no signs of trauma and no evidence of assault. The medical examiner will not issue an opinion until toxicology results are back.

"Police investigators believe the very cold temperature played a key role in the death," Muery said. "Circum-

stances at her daughter's home suggest the dog might have gotten loose and she was pursuing him."

The police and fire departments responded to a call about 10 a.m. Tuesday from a resident in the 31900 block of Alvin, who reported seeing either a blow-up doll or a body in his backyard.

When first responders arrived, they discovered Crosson's body. At her side was a

small breed dog.

The dog was taken to Lucky Dog Luxury Daycare and Boarding in Garden City and scanned for a microchip. It did have a microchip which provided the name of the breeder.

Investigators were able to obtain additional information from the breeder.

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SHOPPING

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town Plymouth. "They're really trying to get across to the general public that it is important to shop at your small businesses."

However, Paden said, it's important for consumers to shop local year-round, not just during Small Business Saturday.

"That's what makes our community what it is," he said.

In downtown Plymouth, retailers are planning special holiday events for Thursday, Dec. 11, and Thursday, Dec. 18, to keep the shop-

ping focus local.

'Completes the circle'

Linda Robin, owner of Showroom of Elegance jewelry store in Canton, said she hopes residents seek out local retailers Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and other days during the holiday season and beyond.

"If people shop local," Robin said, "we have the dollars to put back into the community in various ways, whether it's donating to schools or hiring new people. It just completes the circle."

Robin said consumers are likely to find better customer service at local businesses than at large regional malls. She also

said parking is less of a hassle.

At Plymouth's Dearborn Jewelers, which has participated in Small Business Saturday every year since American Express launched the campaign, Allen said she finds holiday shoppers are more relaxed on the day after the Black Friday scramble at malls and big-box stores and want to shop locally.

American Express has a lot of good marketing materials and tips for Small Business Saturday that retailers should take advantage of, Allen said.

The www.shopsmall.com website has a feature for consumers that searches for businesses by com-

munity and maps each one with an address and phone number. The searches list hundreds of businesses in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton.

"Every little bit counts," Allen said. "As a specialty retailer, a smaller independent - anything that can get our name out there."

Canton has long had a Shop Canton campaign in hopes of keeping shopping dollars in the local community. One of the key players has been the Canton Downtown Development Authority.

Keeping connected

"Sometimes when you think big, you forget there are these people

who have small businesses who have amazing things to offer," DDA Coordinator Amy Colligan said. "I think it's important to patronize them. We want to have vibrant communities. When our local businesses are doing great, our schools, parks (and other amenities) do better. It makes Canton a destination place."

Colligan cited Green and Glamorous, an upscale resale boutique tucked in a shopping center southwest of Ford and Lilley, as a place that has much to offer, though it may not be in a prominent location like big box stores or have a corporate advertising budget.

"It's a real gem of the community," Colligan said.

Kristen Thomas, Canton economic development manager, said she is hopeful local shoppers remember small, local businesses as they spend their holiday dollars.

"You want to support your local economy and invest in your community. The best way to do that is to keep the dollars here," Thomas said. "The big box stores are good, but the personal touch you get with the mom-and-pop stores is important. And it keeps you connected to the community."

Staff writer Matt Jachman contributed to this story.

IKEA

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tion should be complete by spring, with the new section opening next summer on a site where

IKEA demolished the former ABC Warehouse store, which moved to the Ford-Morton Taylor intersection.

Roth said the "primary purpose" of the expansion is to create more space and increase

availability of the company's products. Canton is home to Michigan's only IKEA store and draws customers from neighboring states and Canada.

Roth declined to say how much of an investment the IKEA expansion means for the store, which has some 300 employees.

"As a privately held company," he said, "IKEA does not discuss finances publicly."

Growth plan

The area being expanded includes space where shoppers collect flat-packed furniture to

take home to assemble. The project also includes rearranging the customer service section and improving the home-delivery area.

IKEA's plans came with a \$250,000 gift as Canton inches toward improving traffic-snarled Ford Road. Long term, the Michigan Department of Transportation has said the stretch of Ford Road in Canton, which has some of the state's highest-crash intersections, could potentially be transformed into a boulevard.

Roth, meanwhile, has said IKEA's plans to ex-

"Long term, this project should result in more positions as sales continue to increase."

JOSEPH ROTH
IKEA spokesman

pand the Canton store is an indication it will remain the company's only Michigan store for the foreseeable future, calling it "a great location and a great community."

In other development across the street, Canton Marriott Hotels has con-

firmed it plans to build two new four-story hotels northeast of the Ford-Haggerty intersection after demolishing the aging America's Best Value Inn & Suites.

Officials say the new hotels, with a combined 178 rooms, could open by late next year. Mike Abdulnoor, regional manager for A&M Hospitality, has said the new hotels will complement two others already on the site.

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BOARD

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concerns about children trying to cross Canton Center Road. As currently recommended, Sunflower students would be divided between Discovery Middle School and Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth Township.

And even though the plan is to bus those students at the south end of the sub to Discovery, there's a fear among parents and board members that some students may try to walk and that

crossing Canton Center at Hanford isn't safe.

"There is high traffic there at the time middle school starts," Sunflower resident and parent Khalil Kandah said. "The intersection of Hanford and Canton Center Road is not suitable as a school crossing. We have many children who can see the school from their yard and may walk, especially if they miss the bus."

"It is not hard to improve this intersection to make it suitable for walkers, but we have no assurances this will happen after redistricting," Kandah added. "I am not

opposed to going to Discovery if this intersection is made safer."

Keeping the Sunflower students together may be possible, Tyszkiewicz said, but could make it more difficult to adhere to the priorities with which the committee was charged. Some of those include balanced capacity utilization, keeping the ideal middle school size around 750 students, careful consideration of high-needs populations and transportation costs.

Keeping the Sunflower students together, Tyszkiewicz noted, presents a challenge to the

committee.

"It creates a ripple effect into all the other schools," he said. "If you move a number of students into one school, you have to move a number to other schools. It would have to be balanced in order to meet as many of the priorities as we can."

The committee will provide its new recommendations Dec. 3, with a final vote on the recommendations expected Dec. 9.

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Township board recall appeals tossed out

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Three Plymouth Township officials lost their appeals of recall petitions against them Friday, clearing the way for proponents of a recall to start gathering voters' signatures on those petitions.

Judge Robert Colombo, in Wayne County Circuit Court, tossed out the appeals by Treasurer Ron Edwards, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustee Kay Arnold, saying they had been filed after 4:30 p.m. on the deadline day for appeals.

Appeals of recall petitions are due within 10 days of the petitions being approved by the Wayne County Elections Commission.

Sandra Groth, an organizer of the group pushing for a recall election against Edwards, Conzelman and Arnold, plus Supervisor Richard Reaume, said the group needs only to wait for the elections commission attorney to file some paperwork and can then begin collecting signatures. The petition drive will likely start after Thanksgiving, Groth said.

Reaume did not ap-

"I would rather pursue my legal remedies than vote in a way that I think would be financially devastating to the township."

NANCY CONZELMAN
Plymouth Township clerk

peal the recall petitions against him.

Recall proponents need nearly 3,200 township voters' signatures, per recall target, on the petitions in order to force an election, which would be held next May. The group has 60 days, once it begins gathering signatures, to come up with the totals.

Edwards, Arnold and Conzelman had based their appeals on the absence of a political party affiliation - Republican, in their case - on the recall petitions against them. Such a designation on the petitions is required by state law.

Conzelman said Friday that she plans to again raise that issue if and when recall petition signatures are filed. She links the recall for her non-support of creating a

taxing authority with the city of Plymouth in order to build and fund the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, or PARC, at Central Middle School in the city, which is to close as a school next year.

"I would rather pursue my legal remedies than vote in a way that I think would be financially devastating to the township," Conzelman said.

But resident Ken Garner, who filed the petition against Conzelman, said he is not part of the effort to re-purpose Central, but that he objected to Conzelman's vote in favor of not entering any authority agreements with the city of Plymouth until Nov. 20, 2016.

"PARC has nothing to do with this," Garner said Friday.

Also facing a possible recall election are Trustees Bob Doroshewitz, Mike Kelly and Chuck Curmi. Petitions against Kelly and Doroshewitz, filed by Reaume, have already been approved by the elections commission.

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Canton serves up pre-holiday market at Preservation Park

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Hundreds of visitors are expected, just four days before Thanksgiving, as Canton delivers its Harvest Market, the year's last hurrah for the Canton Farmers Market on the township's west side.

Harvest Market happens 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday as customers looking for Thanksgiving table items swarm the Cady-Boyer Barn, in Preservation Park on Ridge, north of Cherry Hill.

Market visitors are asked to consider bring-

ing socks that are being collected for local charities to help families in need.

» Items for sale include turkeys, honey, winter squash, potatoes, pie pumpkins, greens, garlic, kale, Brussels sprouts, jarred sauerkraut, onions, baked goods including vegan, gluten-free and sugar-free, granola, kettle corn, blended teas, toffee, dressings, sauces, mustards, marinades, apples, cider, jams, antibiotic-free meats, farm eggs, pasties, artisan cheese and bread.

» Vendors planning to attend include Agricola,

Bobilin Honey, Cakes by Penny, Cellar Door Soap, Classique Bakes and Gifts, Crunch Granola, Eileen's English Toffee, Farmington Soap Works, Good Times Kettle Corn, Grace Savory & Sweet, Intu Specialty Tea, Jen's Gourmet Dressings, JKM Soy Candles, Kapnick Orchards, Lula Bre's Sweet Eats, Par-ran's Greenhouse & Farm, Paw-la's Pantry, Prochaska Farm, Pure Pastures, Sansonetti Sauces, Steinhauser Farm, U.P. Pasties and Zingerman's Creamery.

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Canton historians host Christmas teas

It's like a scene from a favorite Christmas card.

Canton's historic Bartlett-Travis House, decorated with holiday finery circa 1900, is the gathering place for the Canton Historical Society's annual Christmas tea, CHS President Bill Tesen said.

The house is located in Preservation Park, 500

N. Ridge Road, north of Cherry Hill on Canton's west side.

The Christmas tea events are scheduled for 1 p.m. on two consecutive Saturdays, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13.

Guests can enjoy an assortment of teas, mini quiches, sandwiches and desserts prepared by Tea for Two.

Music for the Dec. 6 tea is provided by harpist Laurel Federbuch. The Dec. 13 tea features "Flute Sorbet" by Cathy Feldman-Ducan.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton. Each tea sessions is limited to 20 guests.



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- 5:30pm Joel Tacey "Let it Snow Santa Show"
- 6:00pm Santa arrives by Fire Truck and lighting of the holiday tree
- 6:30pm Santa's house officially opens for the season
- 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. Free admission to "Twas The Night Before Christmas" exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Children can also make crafts at "Santa's Workshop."

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- Sing along with the Plymouth Canton Educational Park strolling carolers every Friday evening and Saturday afternoon between Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Stroll the Walk of Trees or other life-size holiday decorations in the winter wonderland of Kellogg Park
- Visit "Twas The Night Before Christmas" at the Plymouth Historical Museum
- Visit Downtown shops and restaurants for holiday gifts
- For a complete listing of holiday events in Downtown Plymouth, visit downtownplymouth.org/holidayevents

Sponsored by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority and Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

STEM picks Gift of Life for fundraiser benefit

Canton teacher tell story of transplant

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

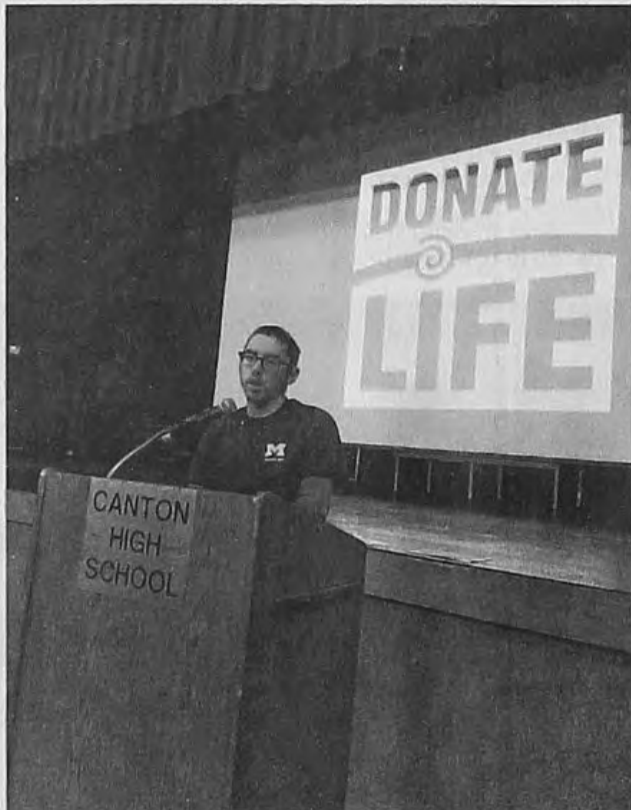
Evin Green wasn't feeling well that day in February 2013 but, having been born with cystic fibrosis, it was a feeling to which he was accustomed.

And with a winter break from school coming up, Green, a 10th-grade English teacher, figured he'd get the rest he needed and feel better when he got back to class.

He was wrong. By weekend's end, Green was in the hospital. By June, he was on the organ transplant list, needing a double-lung transplant. And some 14 months later, Green underwent a 16-hour surgery that likely saved his life.

"To get that call and to have a successful lung transplant, has literally given me a second chance at life," Green said.

As a result, students in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park STEM program have decided



English teacher Evin Green shares his Gift of Life story with students at Tuesday's assembly.

they want to help give that second chance to others. Many of them have had Green as a teacher and chose Gift of Life as the beneficiary of this year's STEM pro-

gram fundraiser. **Something meaningful** Money raised during the fundraising - which includes a jewelry trunk



Canton High School freshman Jack Perry (left) was impressed with the speech of English teacher Evin Green.

show and silent auction Dec. 9 - is in Green's honor and will go to the Gift of Life Tissue and Organ Donation.

Gift of Life was chosen from a list of suggestions that came from parents, friends, family and the public.

"The seniors voted to do something that was meaningful to them," said Danielle Ramos, the STEM faculty adviser. "They had Mr. Green and they took (his story) personally and decided this is what they wanted to do."

Green, who is still on medical leave and hopes to return to teaching in September, was back at Canton High School this week for an assembly designed to educate students on the benefits of Gift of Life.

As a transplant survivor and a beneficiary of the program, Green said he owed it to others like him to get the word out.

"The same kids I taught are in the audience," Green said. "It's important to talk to people who know you and who care about your

GIVING THE GIFT

What: Cookie Lee Jewelry Trunk Show and silent auction
Who: Plymouth-Canton STEM Academy students
When: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9
Where: Canton High School Cafeteria, 8415 Canton Center, Canton
Why: To benefit Gift of Life tissue and organ donation. Auction items include sporting event tickets, gift baskets, gift cards, services and more.
More info: Visit www.give2schools.org/

plight to motivate them to do this. I feel like I owe it to anyone in my situation to be able to talk to 500 kids about giving to Gift of Life."

Serious need

And there are a lot of them. According to Candy Desjarlais, a Gift of Life volunteer who donated a kidney to a family member, there are more than 3,400 patients waiting for an organ donation in Michigan alone, as of Nov. 1, 96 of whom - like Green was - are waiting for at least a single-lung transplant.

Desjarlais, whose O-positive blood type makes her a universal donor, donated a kidney six years ago to the wife of her brother-in-law. She said reaching audiences like the one to which Green spoke is critical.

"The kids are the catalyst to the future," Desjarlais said. "They think they're invincible. This helps them realize they're not going to be here forever. They need to think about helping others."

Green received his lungs in a 16-hour operation in August. When asked if he knew where his lungs came from, he told his audience all he'd been told was the lungs were "gently used." He also said lung recipients generally are of the same body type.

Since Green is of slight frame, he said, "there's a very great likelihood (the donor) was a teenager just like you."

The speech hit home for Canton High School freshman Jack Perry, whose mother was the recipient of a bilateral cornea transplant.

"Without Gift of Life, she wouldn't be able to see," said Perry, who recently took part in the Transplant Games and ran a 5K. "For her to still be able to take care of me is just a blessing."

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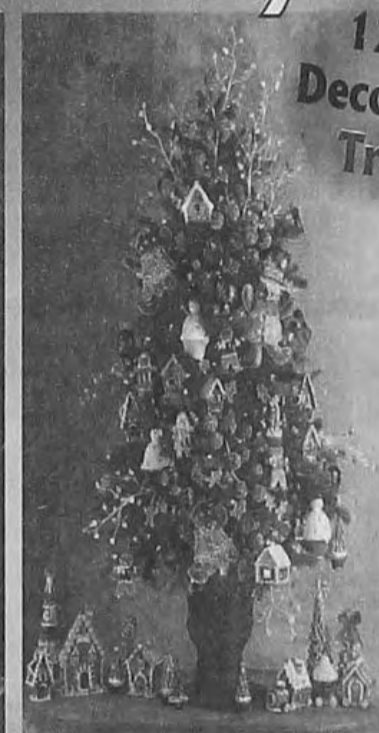
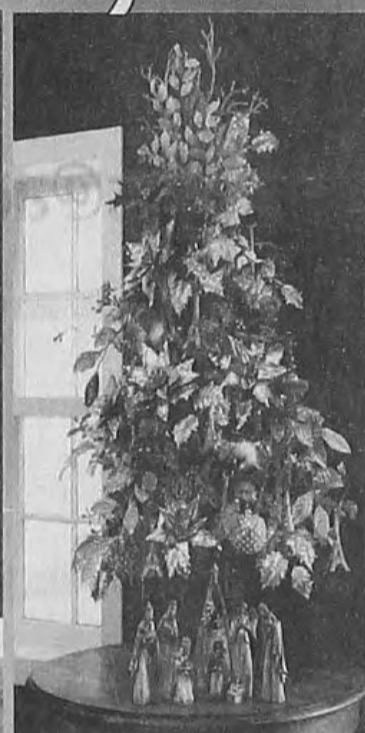
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Starbucks provides showcase for photos



SUE MASON
Among photographer Judith Sallador's students was Ta'varis Lumpkin of Wayne Memorial High School.



SUE MASON
Maria Mitter, who oversees the Wayne-Westland Bright Futures sites, talks with Sam Froomkin.



SUE MASON
Emma Grace and her father John check out the photographs of Francisco "Paco" Herrera of John Glenn High School.

Students proud to display their work

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Judith Sallador admits she had been in a rut for four months as a photographer until she met Maria Mitter, who recruited her to work with students in the Bright Futures programs at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools.

For eight weeks, Sallador worked with the students on the basics of photography – composition, light and details. Then she invited their families and the community Friday, Nov. 14, into the Starbucks on Warren Road in Westland for an art show.

"As I was setting up the show, people stopped, looked and wanted to know if they could buy pieces," Sallador told students who showed up for the show. "I'm a firm believer in the power of creativity and that you are all able to create. You were fearless, courageous and amazing."

"This is an awesome turnout," said Mitter, who oversees the Wayne-Westland Bright Futures program. She uses Starbucks as a place to meet people in the community. She talked with Sallador several times and asked her to explore the idea of getting involved in the after-school program.

Different subjects

Sallador worked with four students at Wayne Memorial and 11 at John Glenn for eight weeks. Using a Cannon Point and Shoot, the students used her instruction to create their own photos, which she framed and then hung on the walls at Starbucks.

The subject matter was as different as each student. Ta'varis Lumpkin photographed his fingertips and then played with the photo in the editing process.

"When I was editing it, I was messing around and found I could remove the color except for the bright areas," he said. "I got into this because I wanted to learn more about working with pictures. To me, this is a way for me to express myself in pictures. There was never a time when I thought I couldn't do this."

John Grace and his daughter Emma came to the show to support the budding photographers like Francisco "Paco" Herrera.

"I came to see what was going on. I was in photography in high school," Grace said. "They can do a lot more now than I could. We spent more time learning how to put the film in a black bag for developing. They just hook it up to a computer."

You had to look closely to find Asia Beatty in her photographs. In one photo, the top of her face was visible underneath an umbrella of fall leaves.

"I like the background of fall colors," she said. "A picture can tell people a lot. It expresses the world at that moment. Pictures are forever, moments are here and gone."

The Bright Futures program is available to students at the elementary, middle and high school levels in Wayne-Westland. Beatty has been trying to get into



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See PHOTOS, Page A7



SUE MASON

Asia Beatty of Wayne Memorial High School strikes a pose by a photograph of herself hidden in a collection of fall leaves.

PHOTOS

Continued from Page A6

the program for three years and finally did at Wayne Memorial, where Bright Futures is a drop-in program.

"I wanted the help with homework and to prepare for college," she said. "I've found I can express my talents in Bright Futures. I'm not afraid to be myself."

Created a stir

The photographs are hung on the walls throughout Starbucks and their arrival created a stir among patrons, according to Sallador.

Along with the photos are comments by the students. Teagan Berry from John Glenn wrote that "photography showed me that I can take more colorful photos and find better angles. I learned perspective, foreground, background and photo effects."

"It's been a joy to see



SUE MASON

The students' photographs included short descriptions about their work.

them grow over the eight weeks," Sallador said. "I watched them improve and become more confident. I saw the light bulb go off. They were fearless, courageous and did amazing things."

The photographs will stay up at Starbucks for a while "or until we do another project," said Sallador, whose involvement is expanding with

the addition of two more clubs in the Romulus and Ypsilanti Bright Futures programs.

"I think involvement will increase," Sallador said. "It doesn't really matter what you do, it's knowing how to use the equipment."

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Wayne RESA denies neighborhood's transfer

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

With their request denied by Wayne County RESA Board of Education and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools – and with Northville Public Schools voting to a tie on the issue – the Woodside Village neighborhood residents who want to leave Plymouth-Canton for Northville schools now have the opportunity to appeal the decision to the state school board.

The Northville school board Tuesday night deadlocked 3-3 on a resolution regarding the proposed property transfer for the school district switch request. On Wednesday morning, the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency voted to deny the request.

According to Michigan School Code, Wayne RESA had the power to grant

the switch, while Northville and Plymouth-Canton school boards were only asked by RESA for their position on the issue prior to the official vote.

According to Wayne RESA Superintendent Chris Wigent, the denial was “based on the legal factors that they were required to consider, as well as the results of the (Plymouth-Canton) Board of Education’s position of unanimously not supporting the request and the Northville Board of Education not taking a formal position on the request.”

Northville's position

In Northville, the school board meeting lasted until around 11 p.m. and ended with acting school board President Ken Roth, Secretary Cyndy Jankowski and Trustee Ann Kalass voting to oppose the transfer, while acting Vice President Scott Craig, Treasurer

er Matt Wilk and Trustee Adam Phelps expressed their support.

School board President Jim Mazurek was not at the meeting due to an emergency, but did have Roth read a statement from him stating his position, which was not in support of the request.

NPS administration recommended to the school board to not support the transfer prior to the vote.

“Given the elementary capacity considerations across the District, the messaging to the Northville community of the Boundary Adjustment, the opportunity for greater control of available space that could be exercised through limited Schools of Choice if necessary, as well as the potential impact on future property transfer requests and neighboring school districts, it is Administration’s recom-

mendation that it is not in the best interests of Northville Public Schools to act in support of the Property Transfer request,” the NPS statement read.

The Northville school board cited the projected enrollment study conducted by Plante Moran during the adjustment process as case for and against. Those in support said it was projected that the numbers would go down, so approving the transfer would have helped prevent budget issues that come with a decreasing enrollment.

Wilk said if enrollment does go down as projected, then the board will have to face making more cuts to balance the budget. He cited teacher layoffs and privatization in the past three years and said there isn’t much more that can be cut without drastically impacting the classrooms.

Phelps and Craig agreed with Wilk and said this addition would benefit the district. They cited the study projecting the district losing more than 200 students in the next three years, which could lead to a loss of around \$2 million in per-pupil funding from the state.

NPS currently gets nearly \$8,100 per student from the state.

Transfer request

Woodside Village is a 115-home neighborhood in Northville Township located on the west side of Haggerty Road, north of Five Mile Road. The neighborhood borders the Northville Public Schools’ boundary on its southeast corner and is adjacent to the current attendance areas for Winchester Elementary School, Meads Mill Middle School and Northville High School.

While taking the re-

spective school boards’ positions into consideration, Wigent said that there is a section in the School Code that states that in making a decision on a property transfer, an ISD/RESA “shall consider the welfare of the affected pupil, including, but not limited to, the length of the pupil’s commute to and from school, on a school bus or otherwise.”

Parents from that neighborhood formed a group to make the request, which they said they did because they feel more connected to Northville and view their location as more compatible with Northville schools.

“We have 10 days to appeal the decision to the state superintendent, which we intend to do,” Woodside spokesperson Jackie Cook said.

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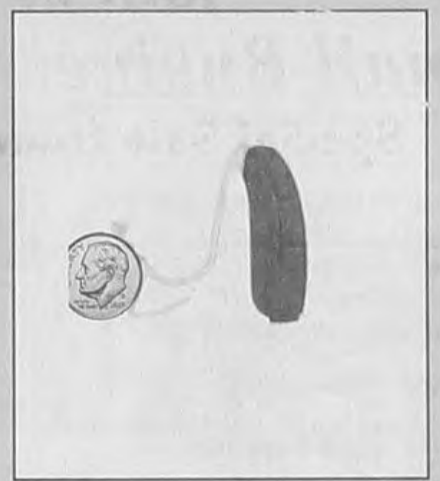
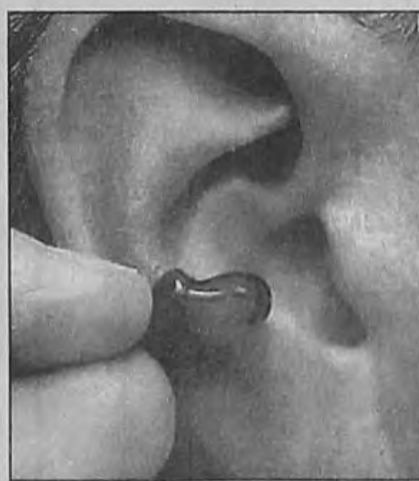
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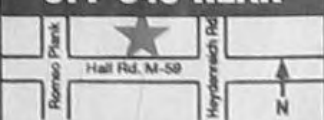
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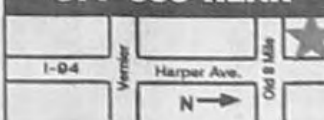
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Lightfest returns to Hines Park for 21st year



Fireworks illuminate the cold night and celebrate the opening of the 21st annual Wayne County Parks Lightfest.

It's a sure sign the holidays have arrived with the official opening of the Wayne County Parks Lightfest.

Families braved bitter cold temperatures and snow showers to watch as Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Santa flipped the switch, lighting up 4½ miles of Hines Drive from Merriman Hollow in Westland to Warrendale in Dearborn Heights.

The festivities included a performance by the Livonia Franklin High School chorus and a fireworks display. There was bonfire and doughnuts and hot chocolate to help chase the chill.

"The kickoff of Lightfest is one of our most anticipated events for people of all ages," Ficano said. "I encourage the public to experience Lightfest and all of our great family-oriented events offered by Wayne County Parks."

This is the 21st year for Lightfest, the Mid-



Santa Claus flips the switch to light up Lightfest.

west's largest and longest drive-through light show. It features more than 55 giant animated holiday-themed displays. This year, several new displays have been added and the entire light show has been converted to energy-efficient LED lights.

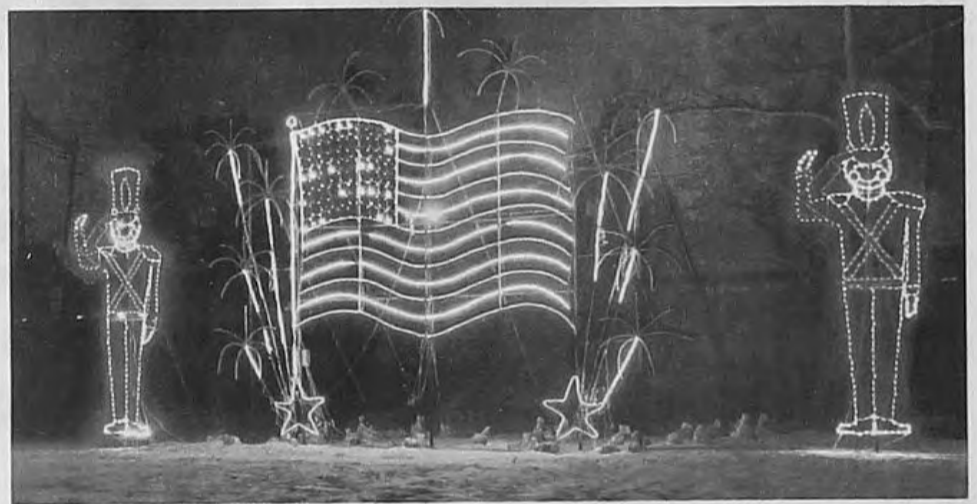
Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m.

Friday through Sunday. The display is closed Christmas Day. Cars can enter at 7651 Merriman Road, Westland, between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail. The entry cost is \$5 per car.

Youngsters also can visit Santa's Workshop at Warrendale Park at the end of the drive. Santa will be there from Nov. 26 through Dec. 23 to visit with children.

Wayne County Lightfest sponsors include Friends of Wayne County Parks, DTE Energy, ITC Holdings, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters, Zeal Credit Union, Entertainment Express Limousines, McDonald Modular Solutions Inc., Motor City Mountain Biking Association and Beatthe train.com.

More photos from Thursday evening's grand opening can be found online at hometownlife.com and in the Nov. 27 issue of the Observer.



There are many different themes in the 4½-mile light show.

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SEMCOG report paints stark picture of road conditions

Just how bad are roads in southeast Michigan? According to SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, they're not good at all.

Each year, as required by law, SEMCOG works with local road agencies to evaluate the condition of the major roads in the seven-county region. The preliminary results of this summer's work are in and they paint a stark picture.

Southeast Michigan has seen a staggering jump in the total miles of roads that should be repaired by completely tearing them up and rebuilding them from the ground up. Of the nearly 4,500 miles of major roads that were evaluated this summer, more than 1,900 miles need to be rebuilt, an increase of more than 500 miles compared to two years ago, when these same roads were last evaluated.

Another 1,900 miles are in need of preventive maintenance in order to keep them from also slipping into poor condition.

Only 650 miles – or 14 percent – are considered to be in good condition. "People may want to blame last winter's weather for the rapid deterioration of our roads," said Carmine Palombo, deputy executive director of SEMCOG. "However, the weather simply exposed the real problem. Our state has been dis-investing in roads for years.

"If the Senate funding proposal is enacted, we will begin to see the condition of our road system improve over time. Unfortunately, if major funding increases do not occur, the decline in the condition of our roadways will continue," she added.



FILE PHOTO

Of the nearly 4,500 miles of major roads in southeast Michigan, only 650 miles are considered to be in good condition

The SEMCOG region has nearly 29,000 miles of public roads. Of that total, approximately 8,000 miles are classified as "federal-aid eligible," which means a portion of the cost to repair them can be provided by the federal government. This includes all freeways, highways and many of the major streets motorists use every day.

Over the course of two years, a team of specially trained local, county and state employees evaluate the condition of all 8,000 miles of federal-aid eligible roads. This evaluation process has been in place since 2004; at that time, only 9 percent of the roads were considered to be in need of replacement.

While the evaluations include a detailed accounting of road conditions, results are reported in three simple categories. Roads rated as "good" have no significant issues related to their condition.

Roads in fair condition are beginning to show some wear and tear and require certain pre-

ventive maintenance in order to improve their condition and extend the useful life of the roadway. Preventive maintenance is relatively inexpensive and can usually delay the need for replacement by 10 to 15 years.

Roads in poor condition have moved beyond the point where preventive maintenance can be effective. The only option for these roads is complete reconstruction, which is much more costly.

The same roads that were evaluated in 2012 were also evaluated again in 2014. Below is the comparison of road conditions from those two years.

Good – in 2012, 16 percent or 721 miles were in good condition compared to 14 percent or 650 miles in 2014.

Fair – in 2012, 52 percent, or 2,328 miles, were in fair condition compared to 43 percent or 1,940 miles in 2014.

Poor – in 2012, 32 percent or 1,427 miles were in poor condition compared to 43 percent or 1,937 miles in 2014.

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Thanksgiving buffet benefits Wayne-Westland families



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shaun Taft of the Family Service Alliance fills her plate at the buffet.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chef Tony Paquette greets a friend who attended the buffet.

Annual meal raises funds to purchase food vouchers for needy families

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

If success can be measured in the amount of leftovers, than this year's Thanksgiving Feast at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center was a huge success.

Put on by Chef Anthony Paquette, his staff

and culinary arts students, the buffet brought together city and school officials and the public who enjoyed an early Thanksgiving dinner while helping the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center.

"It was a great turnout," Paquette said. "The need is always increasing, so this is great to see."

This is the seventh year Paquette has staged the event. Guests paid \$10 each, with the money going to purchase meal vouchers for hot Thanksgiving dinners for families in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The menu included eight 22- to 24-pound turkeys, three 20-pound hams, 200 pounds of potatoes, three full apple crisps made with 100 apples, 20 pies, six cheesecakes and 30 gallons of Chef Dave Hatten's always popular macaroni and cheese.

Old friends

"I'm really happy to see my old friends come back and visit," said Paquette, who met guests as they came in the door. "This is part of what we do."

Many of the guests have been coming since Paquette started the buffet as a way of helping out in the community. Douglas Smith of Wayne has been attending three or four years and always tries to make an effort to be there.

"I didn't know where

See BUFFET, Page A14

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BUFFET

Continued from Page A12

the money went until this year. I thought it went to culinary arts," he said. "Knowing makes this even better. You get a good meal and help a good cause."

Also a regular is Paul Motz, the director of Westland Youth Assistance.

"This is a nice community with a lot of great people," he said. "I see a lot of the city people here; it's nice to have them attend."

According to Resource Center Director Amanda Dybus, the need for assistance among residents in the school district continues to rise. With the help of Paquette and the Career Technical Center, the response from the community to that need continues to grow.

Need increasing

"This year the need is up, the number of people

calling for information about the center and its services is up," she said. "It's vital for us to be able to provide food vouchers and this is what we use to purchase them. Over the years, people have heard about this and it keeps expanding. Every year they come and it gets bigger and bigger."

"This is so we can continue to do a good job of caring for each other," she added.

For Paquette, the buffet is just one of many activities his students are involved in. Upcoming is preparing food for the Wayne Goodfellows dinner and food for the Festival of Trees in Dearborn.

"I've been nicknamed the wizard for that one," he said.

"We continue to stay busy. I have 100 kids enrolled and a lot want to learn to cook and be part of food service."

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Desmond Wheeler slices one of the three 20-pound hams cooked for the buffet.



The turkey is ready to be served.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 1

Wildcats eye banner season

After record season for team, Plymouth looks for first division title

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nick Brandon's first season as head coach of Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team was an unqualified success.

The Wildcats set a team mark for victories, going 18-5 (8-2 in the KLAA South Division) and reaching the district final before bowing out to Canton.

Now comes the encore season and Brandon and a strong group of returning players from last season now want to really get on the map — actually, on a banner in the gymnasium.

"Last year we got so close, with all the things we achieved," Brandon said during a practice last week. "We set a school record for wins, we played in our first district

championship.

"But the next step is to get our name on the banner in the Plymouth gym, which is pretty bare when it comes to girls basketball. It's time we take that next step. And I think the next step is a division title and that's what we really want this year."

Strangely enough, Brandon

See WILDCATS, Page B5



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

One of six key returnees for Plymouth is senior point guard Paige Slominski (right), shown from a 2013-14 contest.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem's Noah Willer (right) battles Trenton's Quinn Preston for a loose puck Wednesday night. The Rocks are sporting new uniforms this season.

ROCKS SHOW METTLE IN LOSS

Salem pushes defending D2 champ Trenton to the wire, drops opener 4-3

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It only was the season opener Wednesday night at Plymouth Cultural Center, but host Salem gave defending Division 2 champion Trenton a playoff-like tussle.

The Rocks came from behind to tie the non-league varsity boys hockey game 3-3 in the third period and subsequently killed off back-to-back major penalties.

But just when it looked as though Salem would nab an impressive point, the Trojans tallied the winning goal with 1:01 remaining when junior forward Griffin Sawyer chipped a rebound past Rocks senior goaltender Dillon Phillips for the 4-3 victory.

"I think we maybe learned that we can play with anybody," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "As a young team, you're never sure what you're going to get. Preseason, summer, all of that, you can't match the intensity or the crowds or any of that until you actually get out here."

"Some guys will step up and some guys will wilt. Today, I think we had a lot of guys step up."

Phillips was at the top of the list, making 41 saves — including 14 of 15 shots in the third period.

The goalie saved his best stops for the furious finish, when Trenton had an extended power play. The Trojans

See ROCKS, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

A Trenton player crashes into Salem goalie Dillon Phillips during Wednesday's season opener at Plymouth Cultural Center.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Speedy Penguins roll, 6-0

Six players score goals, Nowicki earns first shutout

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For the first half of Friday's varsity girls hockey game at Arctic Edge, Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins goalie Natalie Nowicki flexed her pads to stone Ann Arbor Pioneer.

And in the second half, PCS skaters flexed their speed and offensive skill as the host Penguins romped 6-0 over the Pioneers in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League contest.

"It's pretty awesome because it's my second game I've ever played goalie," said Nowicki, who never played the position until joining the Penguins this year. "I felt a lot more comfortable. I was having a lot of fun. I'm real happy right now."

Nowicki stopped all 21 shots she faced and was the beneficiary of a good bounce in the final minutes when the Pioneers pressed to get on the scoreboard.

She stopped Kathryn Wissman's shot, but the rebound got behind her

See PENGUINS, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

PCS's Brianna Waggoner (front) carries the puck Friday night.

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PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI LIVONIA



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Skating the puck up the ice Wednesday night is Salem senior defenseman and captain Noah Saad.

pucks deep, the discipline of outworking them (Trojans) on (their) power play was fantastic," Ossenmacher said, adding that improving the PK from last year is one of the team's objectives.

Salem's top scoring unit of senior forwards Noah Willer and Liam Walker and junior forward Evan Newel also was outstanding and scored two of the three goals.

Just 1:40 into the game, Willer received a pass in his wheelhouse from Newel and ripped the puck over the glove of Trenton senior goalie Jacob Seeley (24 saves).

"Our top line, I thought they did a good job in the first part of the game, kind of building confidence for the rest of the guys saying, 'Hey, we can play with this team,'" Ossenmacher said. "That first period went a long way in establishing that. For us to score right off the bat, that shot that (Willer) had, I don't think there's a goalie in the world that makes that save."

Ossenmacher also cited the way players in their first varsity action accounted for themselves.

"I thought our younger guys stepped in," he said. "They all played, for the most part, they all had to compete and they did a nice job."

Trenton answered Willer's goal nearly five minutes later when sophomore forward Brandon Morgan redirected a pass from Preston into the Salem net.

The Trojans took a 2-1 lead with about eight minutes to go in the opening period (Trenton outshot Salem 18-8 in that period). Junior forward Parker Dukus finished a cross-crease pass from Morgan.

Back and forth

Salem drew even at

2-2 on a power-play goal by junior forward Zach Goleniak early in the second period.

Newsom rushed up the left wing and threaded the puck in front to Goleniak, who went five-hole with the shot.

Before the period ended, Trenton regained the lead at 3-2 when junior forward Solomon Markus scored on a shorthanded break-away.

The Rocks hung tough from that point on and ultimately netted the equalizer on the power play with 10:34 left in the third.

Walker dished the puck from the left wing into the slot, where Newel snapped it between Seeley's pads. Also assisting was Saad.

Moments later, however, Trenton went on a five-minute power play. All told, the Rocks needed to kill off about eight consecutive minutes shorthanded and did so with a full team effort.

But just when it seemed as though Salem would grab a well-earned point for a tie, the Trojans kept the pressure on all around Phillips and garnered the winning goal.

Sawyer's winner was a close-in shot that sneaked inside the right post.

"Trenton's a good team. That's a good get for us to have them come up here and play us," Ossenmacher said. "I think the fans would walk away saying that was an just an entertaining hockey game."

"There was a lot of up and down action, a lot of physicality."

Salem will host Woodhaven at 8 p.m. Saturday at PCC and then host Canton at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29.

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ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

had a five-on-three advantage for a span of 2:12 with the game deadlocked at 3-3, but they could not solve Phillips.

A slap shot from the left point by Trenton senior forward Quinn Preston looked labeled for the top right corner. But Phillips confidently snagged the puck with his trapper.

"When you have a goalie that's a number one, you expect him to bail you out on occasion in a game," Ossenmacher said. "He's not going to make them all the

time, but that's why he's a number one. He can make those saves."

Stellar Salem PK

Also strong for Salem in the third was the penalty kill, led by senior defenseman and captain Noah Saad.

The Rocks dove, slid and did whatever they could to help kill off those penalties.

Saad blocked one shot. Junior defese-man Bailey Thompson dove headfirst to knock the puck into the neutral zone. Senior forward Zach Newsom's nifty poke check cleared the zone.

"That penalty kill today, guys selling out, blocking shots, getting

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Schoolcraft's Billy Werthman, shown from earlier this season, scored a goal at the NJCAA nationals Wednesday in Arizona. He is an alum of Livonia Stevenson.

COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER

Ocelots ousted at NJCAA nationals

Stevenson alum Werthman scores go-ahead goal, but Schoolcraft unable to hang on against Iowa Western

The defending national champion Iowa Western Community College men's soccer team defeated Schoolcraft College 3-2 Wednesday at the NJCAA Division I national tournament in Prescott Valley, Ariz.

The Rievers opened the scoring with just 36 seconds left in the first half, when Orlando Alvarado scored on a two-yard shot off a pass from Rafael Ferreira.

second half, when Jon Quintana scored his second goal of the tournament on a penalty shot at the 46:37 mark.

The Ocelots took the lead just 1:38 later, when Livonia Stevenson product Billy Werthman took a pass from Canton alum Nate Bergeson and scored on a 20-yard shot from the right-side end line.

Iowa Western tied the match at the 67:15 mark, when Nick Melville scored on a one-yard header on a pass from Yuri Domiciano.

win to advance, pulled the goalie, but Iowa Western scored into the empty net with just seven seconds left when John Blair hit Jarom Farnsworth. He then put it in the empty net from 35 yards out.

The Ocelots enjoyed an excellent year, winning the MCCA and Region XII regular season titles.

They won the NJCAA Region XII tournament as well and advanced to the NJCAA Division I national tournament for the first time since 2009.

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GIRLS HOCKEY PREVIEW

Ladywood icers off to hot start

By Brad Emons Staff Writer

On the heels of strong finish to end the 2013-14 season, along with some promising early season returns, Livonia Ladywood could become a key factor in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League race.

The Blazers started last year 0-8-1 before finishing with an 8-14-1 record that included a Catholic League title.

Ladywood's season ended with a heartbreaking 4-3 double-overtime setback to defending Michigan Metro Division 1 playoff champion Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett.

with a 2-0 start to the 2014-15 season.

The Blazers, under third-year coach Ron Predmesky, launched their season Tuesday with an 8-1 win against Detroit Country Day at Plymouth's Arctic Pond and followed Thursday with 6-3 triumph against host Grosse Pointe North at the Grosse Pointe Civic Rink.

"The game against Country Day it was a good game. A lot of girls got their feet wet," Ladywood third-year assistant coach Ethan Graham said.

positionally."

Center Katie Hayward picked up right where she left off from a year ago, when she was one of the leading point producers in the Michigan Metro as a freshman after scoring a team-best 36 goals to go along with 13 assists.

The sophomore center notched a hat trick in the win against Country Day.

Sydney Malek, a sophomore forward, also added two goals, while sophomore Cecilia Werner, a winger, added a goal and two assists. Both are returnees from a year ago.

Freshman center-winger Sydney Pilot also chipped in with a goal and assist, while junior newcomer Jill Jacobs, a defenseman, tallied the other Ladywood goal.

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WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

already is the dean of girls basketball coaches at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Kevin Palmer and Lindsay Klemmer are both starting their first full season as head coach at Canton and Salem, respectively.

But Brandon quickly has put an indelible stamp on the Plymouth program with his attention to detail and infectious energy.

Despite the loss to graduation of Kylie Robb, Jada Woody, Shelby Cheston and Brooke Senkbeil, the 2014-15 squad is primed to make its coach proud. Plymouth opens Monday, Dec. 1, against Salem.

"When you look at the four players that graduated, it's obvious we lost a lot of talent," Brandon said. "All four of them are playing college sports. What we need to make sure we do this season is make up for a loss of talent with a gain in cohesion.

"I think that's going to be easy in a lot of ways because our team this year, we have the luxury that every one of our players has played in our system."

Strong returnees

The Wildcats literally are all-in, too.

Brandon said he actually considers senior point guards Paige Sломinski and Courtney LaVallee, senior post players Leah Kliczinski and Patti Begoske, senior wing Kendall Rose and junior wing Cassidy Lewis a kind of "starting six" as the opening game draws near.

All six will start games at some point, depending on match-ups.

"I'm not real big on just having the same starting five all year," Brandon said. "I think it's clear that we have six players, our returning six players, are going to be a big part of what we do this year."

Sломinski, entering her third season on varsity, will be the team's "quarterback," Brandon noted.

"She's waited her turn," Brandon said. "Last year, she learned a lot playing behind Kylie Robb. Now it's her chance to take over the team. I have full confi-



Leah Kliczinski goes up for a shot during a game last season. She is one of the top returnees for the Plymouth varsity girls basketball team.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

dence in Paige. Her biggest asset is her ball handling and her quickness, which helps, because we're a running team.

"The tempo we can play at with Paige is one that's going to be fun to play and it's going to be fun to watch. What I want from Paige this year is to make good decisions and play fast, distribute the ball to our weapons that we have on offense."

Those weapons include sharp outside shooters such as Rose and to-the-rim players such as Kliczinski and

Begoske. "(Rose) demands the defense to come out and guard her," Brandon said. "We think that's going to create some opportunities inside and her ability to stretch a defense is huge for our offense."

"But I think Kendall has stepped up her overall game in this off-season. No longer is she just a pure 3-point shooter. ... Now she can put the ball on the court and get to the rim and finish. She's got a nose for loose balls and she's really solid in the rebounding game."

Kliczinski patiently

waited for minutes last season, behind post standout Cheston. She still made plenty of important contributions, including the ability to hit mid-range jumpers. This season, she is being counted on to dominate.

"Leah's really hungry this year," Brandon said. "She played behind Shelby Cheston the last two years and this is her moment to really shine and to really have ownership of the post position."

"It's an exciting season for Leah. I think she's more ready than she's ever been for a basketball season. She's had a

great preseason and we're looking for her to be dominant this year."

As for the other players in the top-six rotation, LaVallee has probably "taken a bigger jump than anybody else" in terms of increased playing time.

"This off-season was vital for Court," Brandon said. "Last year, she probably didn't get as many minutes as I would have liked because she was playing behind such talented players."

"She's a big part of that kind of hunger for these kids that didn't get as much of an opportunity last year, but this year get their chance to shine."

New challenge

Begoske is a sparkplug who gave the Wildcats a boost whenever she came off the bench last season. This year, she will have an expanded role.

"Patti is just so aggressive and I love bringing her off the bench because of the way that she can come in and have an instant impact on the game," Brandon said. "But she's also going to certainly have opportunities this year to start games."

"That will be a new challenge for Patti; she didn't start any games last year. I like her in both roles and it's because she has great desire to the ball and she has a pretty wide range of skills."

Also in the starting mix is Lewis, another talented, determined player.

"I think the biggest thing with Cass is she's gotten so much stronger this off-season, physically," Brandon said. "She's really dedicating herself to strength and conditioning work. And she's

really been focused on building her own individual skill."

"There tends to be a big jump between sophomore and junior year. I think Cass has taken that jump in a really successful way."

Brandon also has returning senior post player Nadia Lengel on the roster.

"She's a big part of our team, she's a good, vocal leader," Brandon said. "She does a nice job with our younger players, setting a good example."

"I have to give Nadia a lot of credit because her impact is really felt in practice and a lot of things behind the scenes."

Ready to help

Augmenting the seniors are junior point guards Hannah Badger and Maren Wisniewski, junior wings Bailey Brown and Jordyn Chouinard and junior post player Elise Wehmer.

"We're really excited about Hannah Badger," Brandon said. "The intensity that she plays on the defensive end ... she needs to expand her offensive skills a little bit to adjust to this level."

Wisniewski and Chouinard "just bring a lot of hard work to our team. Maren's one of the smartest kids in our whole program, a very smart player. Jordyn plays the game with great heart and is just an excellent teammate."

Brown is a "really talented athlete" with quickness and speed.

Wehmer is a scrappy player who "demanded that fourth post spot on our team. She has a great knack for rebounding and is a very fearless player."

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Chronic low back pain may start as sudden event, a turn or near fall, may initiate aching in the low back. The ache gradually worsens, but does not move either up the back or down the legs. The pain just stays. Staying for weeks is a given, remaining for years is a possibility.

A patient may not be happy with the physician's first response. The gold standard therapy for new onset low back pain is to do nothing. The medical literature shows that 85% of such back pain clears in 6 weeks. Thus, the recommended treatment is tell the patient to use a medication such as acetaminophen to ease the pain and come back for a re-evaluation in 6 weeks if the pain has not resolved.

Physicians are also trained to know when low back pain is an emergency; such instances are rare but compelling. If a person has back pain and a fever, back pain accompanied by leg weakness or foot drop, or the patient not only has pain but cannot urinate or control the bowels, the doctor knows that these findings require immediate care.

For the patient for whom a six week wait is appropriate, the regimen recommended emphasizes keeping the back from strain. Thus during this time, physical therapy orders are held in abeyance, but the individual should remain active with activities like walking, swimming if possible, and stationary biking.

If back pain patients follows such a program, it is rare that they will need to fill the 6 week appointment slot.

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Henry Ford Hospital patients gain privacy with gown redesign

SUBMITTED
Henry Ford Health System's new Model G patient gown snaps in the front and along the sleeves, and is closed in the back, with a fold-over access panel. There's even a pocket.



Here's a typical patient gown — tied at the neck and open from top to bottom in the back.

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The last thing Dale Milford needed to worry about was a backside "wardrobe malfunction" while hospitalized for a liver transplant last year.

"When you're not bed-bound, the first thing the doctor wants you to do is to walk around. If you have to get up and walk — just picture standing there with an IV pole in one hand and the other hand gripped around the backside.

"You don't get a sense of comfort. Those old gowns are so thin and drafty."

During his 40-day stay at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, the Farmington Hills man endured the typical tie-at-the-neck and open-in-the-back style hospital gown for a few weeks before testing the Model G, a new thicker, snap-in-the-front version, created by the hospital's Innovation Institute.

"They brought in this gown that opens in the front. It snaps. It has a much thicker weave and a more homey feeling. It gives you a greater sense of comfort," said Milford, who was among more than 500 patients to wear the gown in a clinical trial and give feedback.

"My gut reaction is why didn't somebody think of this before?"

Practical, private

Michael Forbes, who led the gown redesign project for two and a half years at the Innovation Institute, said the Model G gives doctors and nurses "uncompromised clinical access" to patients. With a fold-over access panel in the back and snap closures in the front and on the sleeves, there's no need to remove the gown for IVs and other medical lines. The patient gains more privacy because the back of the gown is closed.

Forbes, a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and the College for Creative Studies, (CCS) said fixing the backside of the gown was a priority for the design team.

He was a student in a CCS class that collaborated with the Institute, and offered ideas for improving items throughout the hospital. Forbes was hired by the Institute and a subsequent CCS class decided to focus on re-vamping hospital gowns.

"There is a lot that goes into development and one of the reasons the gown was chosen as a product to develop was because it was accessible and would be quick to (bring to) market," Forbes said. "Once we were able to get prototypes and do a clinical trial, we had to make

sure we had a manufacturer."

Ready next year

Detroit-based Carhartt is producing the gown and plans to have 35,000 garments ready for use in Henry Ford Health System's 28 medical centers and six hospitals by early spring 2015.

Forbes said he took "all sorts of feedback and suggestions" from patients during the clinical trial. The design evolved during the process.

"One of my pet peeves was the god-awful pattern," said Forbes, describing the old-style gowns. "I didn't like the colors and I thought they were depressing. I wanted to brighten things up."

Forbes also wore the gown, testing the way the fabric draped when he sat, stood and slept in it.

Milford, who is working toward becoming a church pastor and practicing to run half-marathons, gives a thumbs up to the new design.

"The first thing you

lose when you go into the hospital is a sense of privacy and right along with that, dignity," he said. "With this gown, you don't look like a fool. I can't help but think these have a therapeutic value as well."

"I give kudos to Henry Ford Hospital and the design team. It speaks to a sense of culture that the hospital is there not just to deal with an organ, but to take care of the whole person."



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BREAK BREAD

with neighbors at a local church on Thanksgiving Day



ILLUSTRATION BY RANDY MASTERS

Thanksgiving Day dinners at area churches bring community members together for food and camaraderie.

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia is gearing up for Thanksgiving day dinner in a big way — and you're invited to share its bounty.

"One hundred pounds of potatoes, 15 bags of fresh cranberries for homemade sauce, 5 pounds of brown sugar for the sweet potatoes, 50 pies, 400 dinner rolls, 20 pounds of salad," said Katy Fillion, describing the church's shopping list. "In terms of the menu, we keep it pretty traditional, although we have made a few changes this year," said Fillion, chair of the church missions committee, the group that oversees the annual community Thanksgiving Day meal. "We have swapped pre-made cranberry sauce for fresh cranberries. Homemade sauce will be made in house. We also previously had relish trays on the tables for appetizers — pickles, carrots, olives. This year we have swapped that item out and instead will have finger food snacks in the football lounge area — snack mix, peanuts, cheese crackers."

Newburg UMC will serve

its fourth annual free Thanksgiving day community dinner on Thursday, Nov. 27. Two seatings, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. are available at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail. It's open to all.

Fillion said the dinner drew 150-200 individuals its first year and 300 last year. She expects about 300 diners this year but "would love to have more than that ... the more the merrier."

Family day

"We invite guests to stay between seatings or come early for the second seating to enjoy America's favorite Thanksgiving entertainment — football. We will have a lounge area set up with couches to watch the game and card tables with snacks and activities. We also have a kids area with activities for kids of all ages to participate in."

Fillion said the church tries to improve the event each year and strives to make the gathering an "authentic family experience." She said some repeat guests dine at the first seating, socialize in the church lounge area and then eat "leftovers" at the second meal, just as a family might spend a Thanksgiving day at home.

"It's become a tradition. It feels like a family," she said.

This year participants, especially church members, may linger in the lounge after the second meal to catch *Jeopardy!* at 7 p.m. on WDIV. Michelle Chick, a church member, competed on the show and the broadcast of her appearance is slated for Thanksgiving evening.

In Redford

Our Lady of Loretto in Redford plans entertainment for its annual Thanksgiving day meal, too. A cantor from a neighboring church is set to sing during dinner, which is served 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, at the church, 17116 Olympia.

"It's for anyone that is disadvantaged in some way," said Karen McCuean, who, along with her husband, Don, created the event 14 years ago and has coordinated it ever since. "Some people can't afford to put on a Thanksgiving dinner. Some people are alone for the holidays. Some are handicapped. Some people have no where to go. Some can't prepare a nice dinner."

They all are welcome to dine at the church for free. McCuean bases the menu,

which mostly stays the same from year to year, on her own recipes.

"We put sausage in our stuffing and de creamed corn-cornbread, vegetable medley with Swiss cheese. We do eight items. I do a gourmet coleslaw that has apple, celery and cran-raisins. I make my own poppy seed dressing. And there's a pistachio salad, too."

St. Collette in Livonia donates pies from its Thanksgiving eve "Pie Fest." One of Don McCuean's friends, Nageeb Atisha, donates cases of sweet potatoes and other foods.

"People eat, have a good time and say thank you a lot," McCuean said, recalling the senior citizen who told her "I wouldn't have a Thanksgiving dinner if it weren't for you."

"It made me feel good," McCuean said.

Moving on

This year's gathering will be bittersweet for the McCueans, empty nesters who plan to move to the White Lake area next year. This will be their last Thanksgiving day meal at Our Lady of Loretto.

"I feel bad about it because my husband and I love doing it," she said. "But it's still go-

ing to go on. Someone has offered to take it over."

RSVP to volunteer or to dine at Our Lady of Loretto's Thanksgiving dinner by calling the church at 313-534-9000.

Register to volunteer or dine at Newburg UMC's dinner by calling 734-422-0149 or visit online at newburgumc.org.

Last year the Catholic Community of Divine Savior, St. Theodore and St. Damian churches brought desserts and volunteers to the dinner at Newburg UMC.

"Our Evangelization Committee wanted to reach out into the community and do something for Thanksgiving at our church. Then I remembered helping out at (Newburg) on Thanksgiving a few years ago," said Ann Schroeder, a member of Divine Savior. "So, instead of re-inventing the wheel, I decided to make a phone call...our relationship began."

The group will be back again this year.

Both McCuean and Fillion said registration is preferred, although walk-ins will be accepted.

"We want everyone who is able and willing to experience this event," Fillion said.

Send holiday greetings with cards that help charities

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With the holidays around the corner it's time to start chipping away at your annual greeting card list.

You can help nonprofit charities fund their programs and services, while sending seasonal wishes to family and friends.

Here's a sampling of holiday cards that help a cause, while sending a greeting:

» Forgotten Harvest

Matt LeBarre Illustration in Royal Oak designed the holiday cards, which include a new Detroit riverfront design and a "Michigan Love" theme. A snowflake pattern and Christmas tree design also are avail-

able. Each pack includes 20 cards and cost \$28, shipping included. A tribute card that can be included in the holiday card is available for a donation of \$5. Cards and tributes are available at www.forgottenharvest.org or by calling 248-864-7527. Allow five to seven days for shipping. Last year, holiday card proceeds helped Forgotten Harvest provide more than 150,000 meals to Metro Detroit residents in need. Forgotten Harvest collects surplus prepared and perishable food from 800

See CARDS, Page C4



Sale proceeds of this holiday card go to Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary's support of pediatric patients and their families.

Karmanos Institute scrapbooking group shares support

Patricia A. Ellis
Correspondent

Cancer can unite people in ways we never imagined. Just ask the participants of the Scrapbook Support Group at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute's Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center in Farmington Hills. Led by volunteer Carole Middleton of West Bloomfield, the group of scrapbookers gathers each week to express creativity with paper, glue, a few embellishments, treasured photos and a lot of memories. Even more importantly, they gather to support each other. Middleton, a retired teacher, lost her brother to non-Hodgkin's lym-

phoma when he was 50. She felt the need to do something to help herself and she also wanted to give back. When Karmanos Oncology Social Worker Kathleen Hardy reached out to her to facilitate the group, Middleton agreed to help. That was 11 years ago and she has been volunteering her time to teach scrapbooking at Karmanos ever since.

Many in the group, like Debra Ananda of Livonia, had never done scrapbooking before. Ananda had an extremely busy career as a mortgage broker. She was good at finances and even knew how to tile floors and do her own electrical work. She was on the go constantly. But



PATRICIA ELLIS

Debra Ananda holds her scrapbook titled *Cancer to Cards* as her mother Bernadine Tomasik proudly looks on. Ananda's scrapbook pays tribute to her medical team and her mom, who helped her through her cancer journey. Ananda now designs greeting cards and shares them with others.



PATRICIA ELLIS

Members of the Scrapbook Support Group gather each week at Karmanos Cancer Institute's Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center in Farmington Hills to document their cherished memories, celebrate their survivorship and express gratitude for being alive.



PATRICIA ELLIS

These are pages from Debra Ananda's scrapbook that pay tribute to her medical team for saving her life. For Ananda, documenting her experience was not only therapeutic; it made her appreciate all those who helped her survive stage 4 lung cancer.

joins the group and brings her knitting. "Everyone just pitches in and helps each other," Middleton said. "It's a wonderful group of caring people."

Funding source

The Scrapbook Support Group is made possible by contributions from the Janet Lynn Ripper Medical Oncology Fund, which has been supporting patients at the Karmanos Cancer Institute's Weisberg Treatment Center since 2002.

"We're so grateful for the public's support and especially for Jack Ripper and his family who created this fund in Janet Ripper's name to help cancer patients at Karmanos," said Hardy. "The Janet Ripper Fund helps provide financial assistance to our cancer patients who are struggling because of their inability to work due to their illness. The fund also allows a little extra to put toward art supplies for our Scrapbook and Art Support Groups, which continue to be a source of joy for our cancer patients."

Thanks to the generosity of the Ripper family and others who have contributed to the fund, since 2002, more than \$750,000 has been donated to help Karmanos patients. In addition, art and scrapbook supplies have been donated by the community.

As a way of showing their gratitude, participants in the support group created a scrapbook filled with special notes thanking the Ripper family for their continued generosity.

For more information on cancer services call 800-KARMANOS (800-527-6266) or visit www.karmanos.org.

Patricia Ellis is the director of media relations for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

that all came to an abrupt stop four years ago.

It was just before Thanksgiving and Ananda, who was 53 at the time, was experiencing terrible migraines. She went to her internist who sent her to the emergency room where she underwent tests. It was discovered that Ananda had brain swelling caused by a tumor. The tumor originated from her lung. She was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.

A life change

Once the swelling was reduced, Ananda was transported by ambulance to the Karmanos Cancer Institute on a Saturday and on Sunday Sandeep Mittal, M.D., FRCSC, neuro-oncologist, operated on her to successfully remove the brain tumor. Following her surgical care, Ananda continued her treatment under the care of thoracic oncologist Antoinette Wozniak, M.D., F.A.C.P., also at Karmanos.

"My whole life changed," said Ananda. "There wasn't much I could do for a few months after the surgery. I went from a constant on-the-go schedule to

pretty much nothing. Coping with that drastic change was not easy. I had to survive the disease and learn how to live my new normal life, which was anything but normal."

She underwent four rounds chemotherapy and seven weeks of radiation treatment. Her mother Bernadine Tomasik, also of Livonia, was with her every step of the way. She even attends the support group with her daughter.

Ananda got involved in the Scrapbook Support Group and learned that she could express herself by being creative. Ananda documented her entire cancer journey in a scrapbook, which features her medical team, nicely decorated pages and sayings of gratitude.

"For me, this is therapeutic. I'm so thankful for my entire medical team," she said. "Everyone at Karmanos has been so nice and they really provided me excellent care. I don't know where I would be without them or my loved ones who have been by my side through everything."

Strengthened bond

This Thanksgiving will mark Ananda's four

year anniversary as a cancer survivor.

"I recently mentioned to my mom that cancer may not have been such a bad thing since it made our bond even stronger. I've met some amazing people, including the other cancer survivors in the support group. It's like a spiritual experience. We create scrapbooks, we laugh a lot and we're there for each other."

Ananda added, "Cancer has changed me. I had to surrender my old life to discover my new life. I laugh a lot more now, forgive a lot easier and see the joy in the simplest things. I'm happy."

Ananda has completed her scrapbook and even made copies for her physicians. She now makes special greeting cards and gives them to others who need a little cheering up. Each one is thoughtfully and artistically made.

There are even survivors who come just to be surrounded by the camaraderie the group shares, like Mary Durham who is a leukemia survivor. Tomasik was knitting one day and taught Durham, who now

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Submitted
The Michigan Humane Society's holiday card helps make wishes come true for homeless animals.

CARDS

Continued from Page C1

sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to 280 emergency food providers in the Metro Detroit.

» **Children's Hospital of Michigan**

The Auxiliary's card, created by artwork contest winner, Kenise LaShawn Donaldson, features a mug of hot chocolate and cookies near a burning fireplace, with a glimpse of a holiday tree in the background. The inside of the card reads, "Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness." The holiday cards are \$20 for a pack of 20 cards. Cards may be imprinted with the sender's name for an additional cost. Gift cards also are available by making a donation to the Auxiliary. For a minimum donation of \$5 per card, the donor receives a special card acknowledging the

gift. Proceeds benefit children and their families that face health-related issues. Buy cards online at www.chmauxiliary.org or locally at Good Neighbors Family Pharmacy, 1956 Venoy, Westland; 734-722-8774.

» **Michigan Humane Society**

Help make wishes come true for homeless animals by sending out Michigan Humane Society (MHS) holiday cards featuring a photo of a puppy and two kittens that found homes through MHS. Each box includes 15 cards and 16 envelopes and costs \$12.95 plus tax. Order cards from the MHS Online Store at www.ShopMichiganHumane.org or call 800-866-9189, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Cards also are available at MHS animal adoption centers: 7401 Chrysler Drive in Detroit; 3600 W. Auburn Road in Rochester Hills; 900 N. Newburgh Road in Westland. Visit michiganhumane.org/holidaycards to see the photo shoot for the card. MHS's mission is to end companion animal homelessness, provide quality service and compassion to animals in its care and to be a leader in promot-



Submitted
This holiday card supports Big Family of Michigan and its work with children who are waiting to be adopted.

ing humane values.

» **Big Family of Michigan**

Big Family of Michigan is a nonprofit organization in SE Michigan serving the needs of children waiting to be adopted or who are victims of child abuse. Last summer the organization asked children in the foster care system to submit artwork reflecting a holiday message. Five pieces, including Christmas tree art and a "Holiday Happiness" theme, were selected for greeting cards and ceramic ornaments. A package of 20 cards — four of each design — costs \$15. Visit bigfamilyofmichigan.org for more information.

» **Make a Wish Foundation of Michigan**

Cards with artwork inspired by youngsters, are \$20 for a pack of 20. Animated ecards are \$5. To view and purchase cards visit michigan.wish.org. The organization grants wishes of children with life-threatening medical

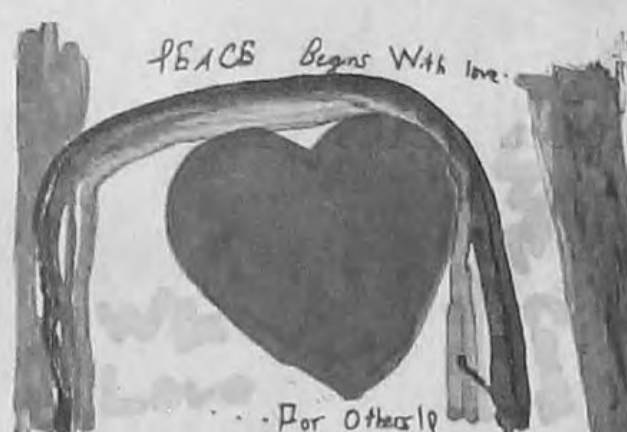
conditions.

» **Seedlings Braille Books for Children**

A child in the Livonia Public School's preschool program for students with visual impairments created the artwork — a Christmas tree with red and blue ornaments — for the organization's holiday card. It includes both a print and braille message, "Happy Holidays and Best Wishes!" Twelve cards and envelopes cost \$16. They're available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Seedlings' office, 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia. Shipping also is available. For more information, contact Seedlings at info@seedlings.org or call 734-427-8552 x301. Seedlings is dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality, low cost braille books for children.

» **American Diabetes Association**

Twelve different card styles, including Hanukkah and seasonal senti-



Submitted
One of five card designs offered by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit

ment as well as Christmas greetings, with art ranging from Americana snow scene, festive wreath to colorful ornaments, cost \$22-24 for 20 cards. Visit shopdiabetes.org. The organization's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of individuals affected by diabetes.

» **Capuchin Soup Kitchen**

Five styles including an angel, heart and peace theme cost \$10 for a pack of 10 cards. Suggested donation is \$18 for an assorted pack of 20 cards. See all card designs and order at cskdetroit.org. For optional order by mail, note card style, include shipping address and an additional \$1 per pack ordered and mail to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Atten: Stephanie Murray, 1820 Mount Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207. The Capuchin Soup Kitchen serves full-course meals, mostly to working families and seniors at its dining room on Conner in Detroit, and to the homeless and chronically poor at its site on Meldrum in Detroit. It also offers several other programs, including an urban farm, bakery and substance abuse services.

» **The American Heart Association**

Buy a set of 10 cards and envelopes for Christmas, Hanukkah or with a holiday theme for \$9.95 and personalize with a photograph. Available at shopheart.org. The organization devoted to fighting cardiovascular diseases and stroke by educating the public about the disease, advocating for changes to improve and protect community health and providing science-based treatment guidelines to healthcare professionals.

» **Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan**

Five different card designs, including a penguin in the snow, steaming hot cup of cocoa, holiday bells, Christmas tree, snowman and skaters, were created by children. Card packs are \$25 and include 20 cards and envelopes. An assorted pack is available. Visit leukemiamichigan.org to view designs and to order. The Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan's mission is to provide and promote compassionate, personalized support to adults and children in Michigan affected by leukemia, lymphoma and other related blood disorders.

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay

LET'S KEEP THANKSGIVING Happy

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Radio host/performer helps local actors hone audition skills



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST

What happens when Broadway-loving, multi-tasker, Farmington Hills resident Amy Lauter contacts Broadway-loving, multi-tasker, Sirius-XM radio host, composer, author and performer Seth Rudetsky? "Ahhh-mazing" things occur.

Lauter is the director of marketing at Farmington Players. She's also co-producing the comedy *Leading Ladies*, which opens Nov. 28-Dec. 20.

When Lauter found out Rudetsky was coming to town to perform his outstanding one-man show as a fundraiser for the Berman Center for Performing Arts in West Bloomfield, she contacted Rudetsky to see if he would conduct a master audition class at Farmington Players.

He said yes and for the 15 lucky talented, local singers who participated in the master class, the rest, as they say, should be history. Warner



JULIE YOLLES

Maryanna Lauter (center), a sixth grader at Warner Upper Elementary School in Farmington Hills, meets Seth Rudetsky at his master class at Farmington Players. Her mom, Amy Lauter (left) arranged for Rudetsky's visit.

Upper Elementary School sixth-grader Maryanna Lauter was the youngest to perform for Rudetsky. And she rocked it.

Rudetsky signed copies of his just-released book *Seth Rudetsky's Broadway Diary* and left the Farmington Players Theatre to play a concert with Tony

Award-winning legend Chita Rivera that night at the Berman Center.

Again, to quote Seth, "ahhh-mazing" weekend.

Order tickets for *Leading Ladies* at www.farmingtonplayers.org.

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or at 248-642-9465.

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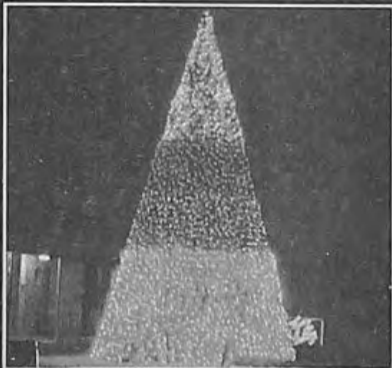
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2015 Lincoln MKC: Arrive in style

By Greg Mullin
and Cars.com Staff

Ford's premium brand is entering the luxury compact crossover fray with the 2015 Lincoln MKC.

For the folks at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn, the move is a game-changer.

"It's a unique vehicle to Lincoln," sales manager Steve Hunsinger said. "It's a brand-new product for us, which is fantastic. The '15 MKC is Lincoln's new flagship for a new style and a new product to expand the Lincoln lineup and target additional customers."

"With our location in the heart of Dearborn and in the heart of Ford country, it's great to have the Lincoln lineup available, not just to Ford employees or retirees, but to the Dearborn market itself and Detroit," Hunsinger said. "And with our ever-increasing product lineup, our store is going to expand and it's going to grow. It's just a matter of time — as our volume grows, our clientele list will grow."

"It's a great day for Jack Demmer Lincoln."

The 2015 Lincoln MKC aims to compete with established luxury compact crossovers like the Audi Q5, Acura RDX and Cadillac SRX and somewhat smaller, new premium entries like the upcoming Mercedes-Benz GLA. The MKC compares favorably, Hunsinger says.

"It's the lowest price of the class, but equipment-wise, it's right up against the toughest competition head to head," he said.

A wide selection of inventory is available now — customers don't have to wait to drive home the model they desire.

Coupled with the seal of approval from A-list movie star Matthew McConaughey — who's appearing in a series of sleek, memorable TV commercials — the 2015 Lincoln MKC is a brand on the rise.

"It shows Ford's commitment to Lincoln and the Lincoln brand with this new product," Hunsinger says. "And tied in with the new spokesperson for Lincoln, it really shows



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According to Jack Demmer Lincoln Sales Manager Steve Hunsinger, the MKC is the lowest priced vehicle of its class, but equipment-wise, is right up against the toughest competition.



FORD MOTOR CO.

The Lincoln MKC has a base price of \$33,995 for the front-wheel drive or \$36,490 for AWD.

"It's a nice feeling to know that we're not forgotten and we're expanding our product line to increase our clientele base."

Exterior

The MKC slots below the MKX in size and Lincoln stayed true to the concept car in styling the production version. The MKC retains the concept's prominent winged grille, sculpted body, menacing LED-accented headlamps and full-width LED tail lamps with wraparound lift gate.

Interior

Inside, a panoramic sunroof, leather seats with French stitching and real wood trim give the cabin an airy, upscale look. An 8-inch touch-screen that uses Ford's Sync with MyLincoln Touch is front and center. Unlike many vehicles that use Ford's troubled multimedia system, the MKC's panel also features buttons and knobs for controlling audio and climate functions — a welcome sight.

Connectivity is a highlight. With the MyLincoln Mobile app, drivers can start, lock, unlock and locate their MKC. They also can use the app to call roadside assistance and

check the vehicle's fuel level, tire pressure and battery charge.

Under the hood

Although the MKC shares a platform with the Ford Escape compact crossover, one of its powertrains is new. Under the hood is a turbocharged 2.3-liter EcoBoost four-cylinder. Lincoln says it's good for 275 horsepower; fuel-economy figures are not yet out. The standard engine, however, is the Escape's turbocharged 2.0-liter; it makes 240 horsepower in this application. Lincoln hasn't confirmed the MKC's transmission, but we expect it to use the Escape's six-speed automatic. One item carried over from the concept version is the push-button shifter instead of an actual mechanical shifter.

Front-wheel drive is standard; all-wheel drive is an option and includes a new continuously controlled damping system. Drivers can select from Sport, Comfort and normal drive modes, and Lincoln says CCD continually monitors the road and adjusts the suspension according to the mode selected.

Safety features

The MKC is loaded with safety options, including a blind spot warning system, collision warning with brake support, lane keeping system, cross-traffic alert and the class-exclusive park-out assist system. Rather than help guide the vehicle into parallel parking spots, the latter system helps steer the car out of a tight parking spot.

Value in its class

The MKC is a well-rounded luxury car with athletic looks and a driving experience to match, along with all the luxury goods buyers expect in the segment. Lincoln sold roughly 600 MKCs per month during its first two months on sale, May and June 2014. Cars.com's national inventory is quickly populating with MKCs and most run from \$40,000 to \$45,000, a price range in which the MKC should be a serious consideration.



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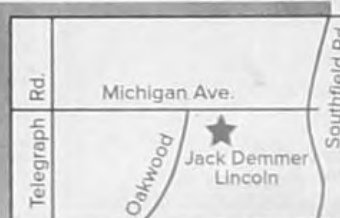
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How to: Escape an awkward networking conversation

By Debra Auerbach
CareerBuilder Writer

There's nothing worse than being stuck in an awkward conversation at a party with no escape. After several painful minutes of talking about the weather and the latest football game, you finally blurt out, "I have to go to the bathroom!" and quickly run away.

You can find yourself in the same situation at a networking event. Except at these, you have no choice but to act polite and professional, because important career relationships may be at stake. Conversations can hit just as much of a dead end, and without having a clear exit strategy, you may waste valuable networking time.

"The secret to exiting an awkward networking conversation is the same as the secret to getting out of anything you don't want to do: preparation," says Robby Slaughter, author of "The Unbeatable Recipe for Networking Events." Following this sage advice, here are some tactics for escaping those uncomfortable exchanges and coming out with your career connections intact.

The bait and switch

Want to get out of a conversation while still appearing helpful? Try handing the person off to someone else who is better suited to chat. "Use the downtime in the conversation to ask the person what they are hoping to get from the networking event, and facilitate an introduction to someone else who can help them," says Kristi Hedges, executive coach, leadership development consultant and author of "The Power of Presence." "For example, if they're looking for a job, introduce them to a recruiting friend or someone who has just found a job. When they are situated, you can warmly excuse

yourself in order to catch up with some other folks there."

The concerned conversationalist

When you've reached the point of no return in a networking conversation, make ending the conversation about the other person -- how you must be keeping him from other important people, places or events. But be sure to close with a clear parting statement so there's less of a chance for lingering.

Sheila C. Sheley, president of Sheley Marketing, suggests using one of these lines:

- "You probably want to find a seat before they start the presentation. I hope you enjoy it."
- "You should get in that line for the bar before it gets too long, and I should go return a call from my office. Nice chatting with you."
- "I'm sure there are other people here that you want to meet, so I'll let you continue your networking. Have a nice evening."

The open-ended closer

Another conundrum that comes along with networking is the inevitable exchange of business cards and the promise to keep in touch. But what if you don't really want to reconnect? "If the other person wants to continue talking later, but you aren't interested, sometimes you can respond as if you assume it is a general expression of interest and not a specific request," Sheley says. "You could respond with something like, 'Yes, it was nice talking to you, too. I'm sure we'll run into each other at another one of these events,' or 'Perhaps our paths will cross again soon and we can talk more about that.'"

The "It's not you, it's me" approach The risk you run with "the open-ended closer" is that you're still leaving the door slightly open for another conversation. If you want to slam it shut, try placing the blame on your schedule or current career situation.

Slaughter gives these two examples of how to be direct with your rejection:



- "I appreciate your offer to meet up for coffee. But I respect you and want to be honest: I already have a trusted partner who works in real estate to whom I send all of my referrals. I'm sure there's someone in your network who has total confidence in your professionalism and does the same for you."
- "I'd love to expand my network, but I am completely booked up right now with current projects and am not taking any new meetings for the next six months. If you'd like to reach out to me in six months, perhaps we can get a cup of coffee then."

The written rejection

Meghan Ely, networking event regular and owner of OFD Consulting, a niche marketing firm for the wedding industry, has had success with this trick: "If the person wants to continue the conversation at another time but I have no interest, I will still exchange cards if they insist but will ask them to contact me directly. If they do reach out, this gives me the

opportunity to be a bit more eloquent when it comes to my approach. With these scenarios, I would simply be polite but firm and say something along the lines of how I appreciate them reaching out, but I don't think my skill set/area of expertise, etc. would be of benefit to them."

The phone call fake out

This is likely a last-resort tactic, but if you've tried everything else and you still can't escape, you can always pull the fake phone call from a friend. "You can always recruit a confederate who knows that you are trying to escape a situation," Slaughter says. "They can call you on the phone and pull you into an 'important conversation.' Your ally can also rescue you directly: 'Mind if I borrow Fred for a minute? He's needed on the other side of the room.'"

Debra Auerbach is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



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Car Report

Toyota Throws Down for Hydrogen, Races EV Makers Like Tesla



By Dale Buss

Let the race to the future of automotive transportation begin! Each side -- all-electric vehicles like Teslas, versus hydrogen-fueled u p c o m i n g models -- is suspicious of the other and there are even aspersions, which makes the whole competition more fun. And the stakes couldn't be higher.

The gauntlet has been thrown by Toyota as it hypes and ramps up introduction of the hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered new car called Mirai -- Japanese for "future" -- that it unveiled this week at the Los Angeles auto show. Only a relative few will be available initially, and they're aimed mainly at California at first. Still, the move is nothing less than what Toyota called a "re-imaginat[ion] of the future

of mobility" akin to the big bet it placed on gas-electric hybrid early last decade, which gave us the Prius franchise.

Mirai will feature a fuel stack that fits under the front driver and passenger seats and provides up to 153 horsepower, accelerating from zero to 60 mph in nine seconds. And Mirai will be able to serve as a mobile power generator in case of emergency.

Able to get up to 300 miles on a tank of hydrogen that can be refilled in five minutes, Mirai represents "a turning point in automotive history," Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda said in a videotaped statement for the launch. "A turning point where people will embrace an environmentally friendly car that is a pleasure to drive."

Elaborated Toyota Chairman Takeshi Uchiyamada, according to Forbes.com: "Prius paved the way by demonstrating to mainstream buyers that the future in mobility

would include electric motors. The gas-electric hybrid technology in the first Prius blazed a new trail, that many critics said could not be blazed. The hydrogen fuel cell technology in the new Mirai will do the same."

Toyota's case is based on selling the new \$60,000 Mirai beginning next year initially in California, where strict emissions standards and associated financial credits have begun to encourage the technology over battery-powered electric cars. Toyota itself has soured on all-electric vehicles in the few years since it forged a partnership with Tesla to supply the battery packs for an EV version of the RAV4 SUV, which is being discontinued, and then tacked hard toward hydrogen vehicles.

Other automakers, including Hyundai and Chevrolet, also have been developing and demonstrating hydrogen-powered vehicles for years. Honda actually is probably furthest along after Toyota, though the company just said that it's pushing back the introduction of its own such model to 2016 or so because it needs all engineering hands on deck right now to deal with the fallout from the Takata air-bag debacle. Power-train supplier Bosch said fuel-cell vehicles will be commercially viable by 2025 in the US.

Among the other advantages of hydrogen is that it typically is produced by breaking down natural gas, which is increasingly abundant -- and cheap -- in the United States.



Will the new Toyota Mirai really bring the "future"?

And hydrogen power can be easily scaled up to larger vehicles, even semi-trucks, while larger battery-powered vehicles at some point don't make sense because they need ever-bigger, heavy batteries just to power them. It's the same problem that holds down the range of EVs.

But if you talk with Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Toyota's hydrogen-powered dream is actually a fantasy over what he calls "fools' cells." He has noted the fact that hydrocarbon emissions currently are created by producing hydrogen fuel (though the forces of hydrogen imagine a future where wind and solar power is used to produce hydrogen for fuel) and that the difficulty and cost of spreading an infrastructure of hydrogen supply and "hydrogen filling stations" across the United States would far outstrip the cost and challenge that he's currently addressing: establishing a critical mass of electric-car recharging

stations. Turning to hydrogen power, Musk and others argue, would simply replace one form of "range anxiety" for another, as hydrogen-powered vehicles could only be refilled at specific stations. EVs typically can be plugged in anywhere, though it can take several hours to recharge them depending on the current and equipment.

Despite its recent problems, it's difficult to short Toyota's bet on hydrogen in part because of other big wagers that it has won, including not only Prius but also its pioneering creation of Lexus, in the Eighties, which went on to dominate US luxury-car sales.

On the other hand, we all know that you don't want to bet against Elon Musk either. But that's sort of what Toyota did recently when it reduced its own minor stake in Tesla.



Toyota wants to replace EV plug-ins with this.

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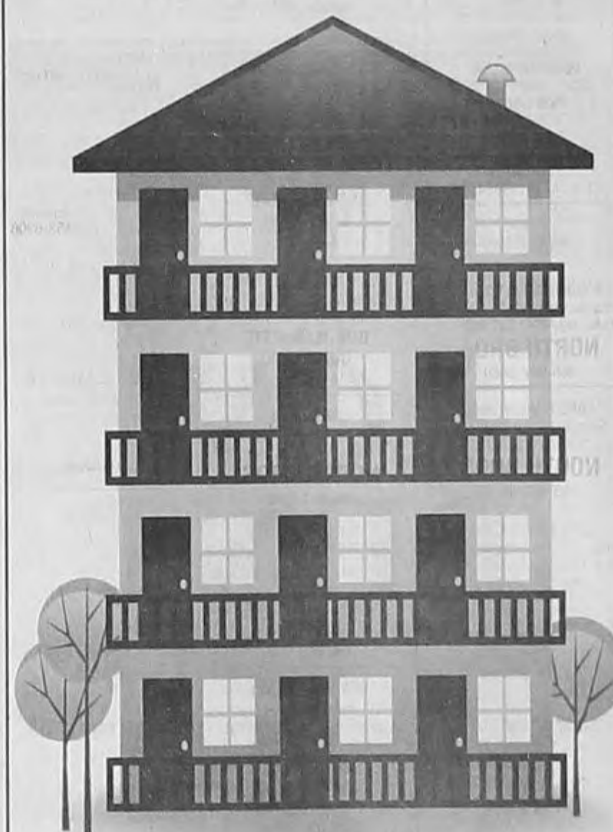
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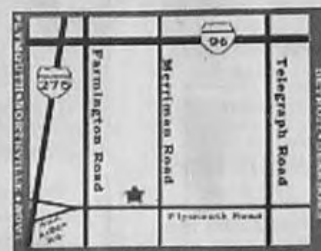
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