



'A Galaxy of Stars': Observer All-Area teams for fall prep sports inside today

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December 17, 2006

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Cops nab woman with fake AmEx certificates

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

A Canton Township woman who thought she would be making easy money for simply cashing checks for a man living abroad is instead facing prison time after being arrested for attempting to pass counterfeit certificates at a Plymouth bank.

According to Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll, 33-year-old Jodi Anne Nelson was mailed 11 American Express certificates worth \$500 apiece by a man she met on the Internet.

"She claimed to have gotten the checks from a man named Kelvin, a Nigerian living in Britain, who said he couldn't cash the checks where he lives," Carroll said. "She was supposed to cash them and send 90 percent back to him, and she could keep 10 percent (\$50)."

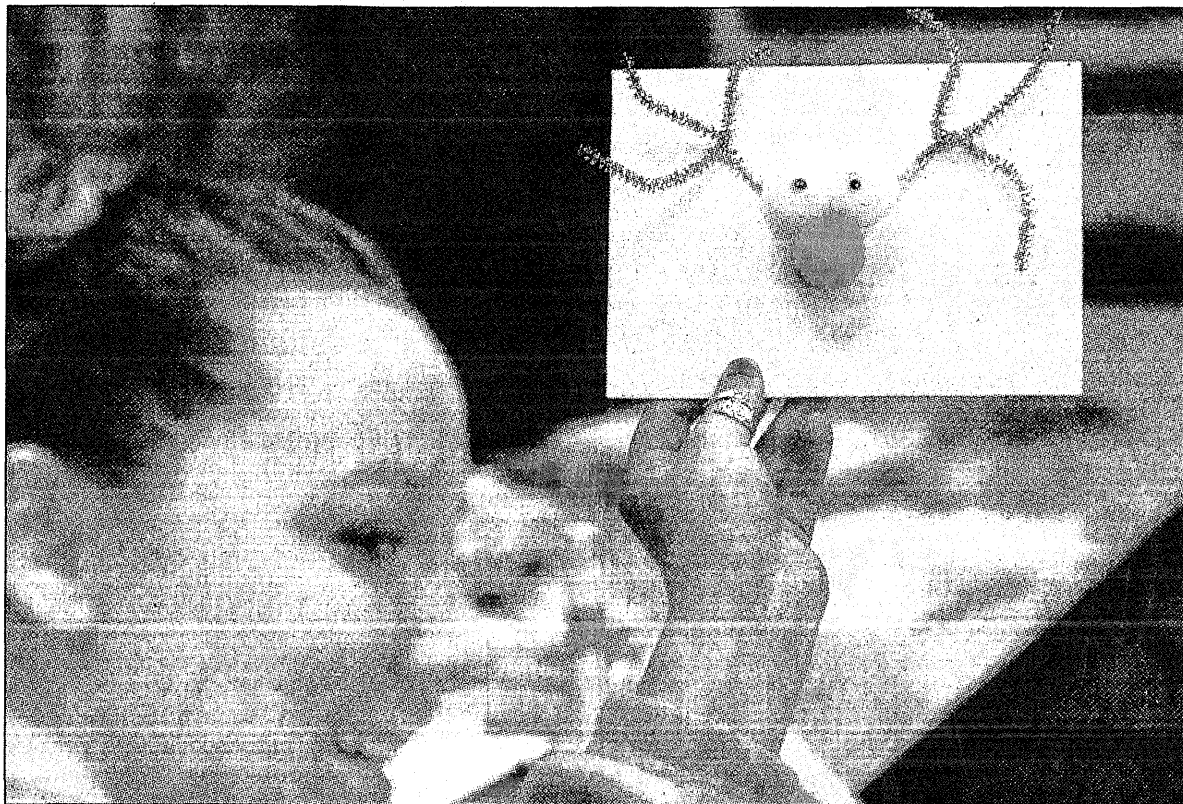
Carroll said Nelson first attempted to cash the checks at the Chase Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road, but couldn't because she didn't have a bank account.

"She went back the next day and opened an account, and attempted to cash the 11 checks," Carroll said. "The cashier couldn't get them to scan, and discovered American Express doesn't make \$500 gift checks."

Nelson has been charged with 11 counts of uttering and publishing, each with a maximum prison time of 14 years upon conviction. She is free on \$500 bond after being arraigned in 35th District Court by Magistrate Eric Colthurst.

Carroll said authorities also confiscated Nelson's computer and 1995 Saturn.

"This kind of crime is greed driven," Carroll said. "If you're going to set your morals aside for greed, then you're going to pay the price."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the cards Allison Kirby made for veterans at the VA Hospital had a Rudolph theme.

Card party

Students send veterans holiday greetings

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Daniel Corliss sat at his desk at Starkweather Education Center, glitter spilled all around him. The 19-year-old Plymouth Township student was trying to be meticulous in designing a candy cane on a homemade Christmas card.

"I'm a stickler for details," Corliss said. "There's glitter everywhere. I'll probably sneeze the stuff."

Corliss and fellow students from Kim Del Proposto's "Seminar" class weren't just coloring, cutting and pasting. They were learning how to give back to their community by making Christmas cards for veterans at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"When you're doing something (community service) because you're in trouble, there's no heart to it because you just want to get the job done and get in the hours," Corliss said. "When you're doing it because you want to, there's a little more meaning behind it."

That lesson fits with what Del Proposto wants her first-semester alternative high school students to learn.

"To look beyond yourself, that there are other people out there," Del Proposto said. "They can learn to give back to the community, not just take. There are things that don't cost a lot of money, that just come from your heart."

The five Seminar classes at Starkweather made 150 holiday cards, and planned to raise \$300 to purchase pre-packaged snacks for veterans.



Teacher Kim Del Proposto and student Brittany Calhoun discuss one of the holiday cards.

"It's great to give back to people who can't be with their families at Christmas," said Brett Valliquette, 17, who is staying with a Plymouth family while playing for the Plymouth Whalers hockey team. "It shows we care."

Beverly Lenesi, chief of voluntary and chaplain services for Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, said the 120 in-patient veterans — from World War II to the present — look forward to getting the cards and visitors during the holidays.

PLEASE SEE CARDS, A4

Ryan pact could add extra year

School board could eye search for successor

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

A contract extension is in the works for Plymouth-Canton Schools Supt. Jim Ryan that could keep him employed by the district until July 2008.

Discussions are under way on a contract that will keep Ryan as superintendent for up to a year past his current pact, which expires in July 2007.

"We haven't come to finalization on that," said Barry Simescu, Board of Education president. "There are still some issues to be worked out. That process will take place down the road, but not right now."

Simescu said the discussions have been on hold as the board and Ryan work to pass the \$62.1 million bond issue that will be presented to voters Feb. 27.

"The bond issue is taking a lot of our time," Simescu said. "If we can work out details, (then a new contract) is expected."

Ryan, who was deputy superintendent under Kathleen Booher, was named interim superintendent in July 2002 when Booher resigned. The Board of Education then named Ryan the district's CEO that December.

Ryan, who earns \$161,135 annually, said the contract extension would help in the transition to a new superintendent.

"I really believe this contract extension has to be connected to the search for the next superintendent," Ryan said. "A smooth transition is very important to this school district."

"I want to see how I can support the board in



Plymouth-Canton School Supt. Dr. Jim Ryan, here welcoming back teachers at the beginning of the year, could get a contract extension that would keep him in Plymouth-Canton until the end of the 2007-08 school year.

PLEASE SEE RYAN, A4

Not ready to retire - Realtor, community activist Cole slows down a bit

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

After 38 years in the real estate business, John Cole figured it was time to slow down, spend time with his family and get to his "honey do" list.

So the longtime Redford broker — well-known for his community activities, including leading the Livonia and Redford Toys for Tots drive for 10 years — closed his practice on Plymouth Road.

"I was looking for an opportunity to really back off and I did it for

me," said Cole, who lives with his wife in Plymouth Township. They have three married children, with five grandchildren, all within 10 minutes of their home.

That's not to say Cole is retired. He's now an associate broker with Century 21-Manuel on Schoolcraft in Livonia. "I don't think I'll ever retire," he admits, saying real estate is the "ultimate challenge."

So how did the mild-mannered fellow with the southern accent come to his profession?

Raised in Barbourville in southeastern Kentucky, Cole moved north for the opportunity. In a

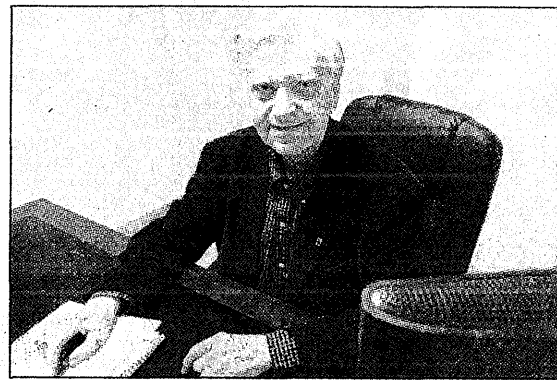
town of 3,500, he said, "The good jobs are pretty much locked up with relatives."

He worked at Burroughs Corp. for 15 years as a control supervisor in engineering, using his business degree from Andrew Jackson University, and then started to sell real estate part time. After three years, Cole took the brokers exam and opened one of what were then only two real estate offices in the township in 1971, he said. It was on Six Mile near Glenhurst Golf Course.

Eventually, the office grew to 28 independent contractor agents and

three staff. Along the way, he got involved in community service, first as a director and president of the Western Wayne County Board of Realtors, then in similar roles with the Redford Township Chamber of Commerce.

Cole and his longtime secretary, Tracey Toppa, were introduced to the Toys for Tots effort through an agent who was a U.S. Marine. It became a family effort and "we were like family in that office," Cole said. Everyone pitched in, with Toppa's energy leading the work



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Township resident John Cole in his office at Century 21 Manuel in Livonia.

PLEASE SEE COLE, A4

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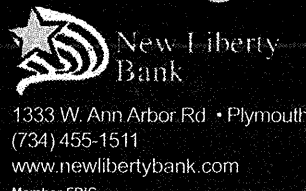
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Coming Thursday in Filter



Winter fun: Need to keep the in-laws entertained this holiday season? The next issue of Filter will list suggestions.

Entertainment books

■ The Plymouth Optimist Club is also selling the books, at their new fund-raising price of \$20. They can be picked up at Saxton's Garden Center on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

The book offers up to 50-percent savings on casual dining, fast food, fine dining, travel and hotels, entertainment and sports, and retail and services on everything from apparel to flowers.

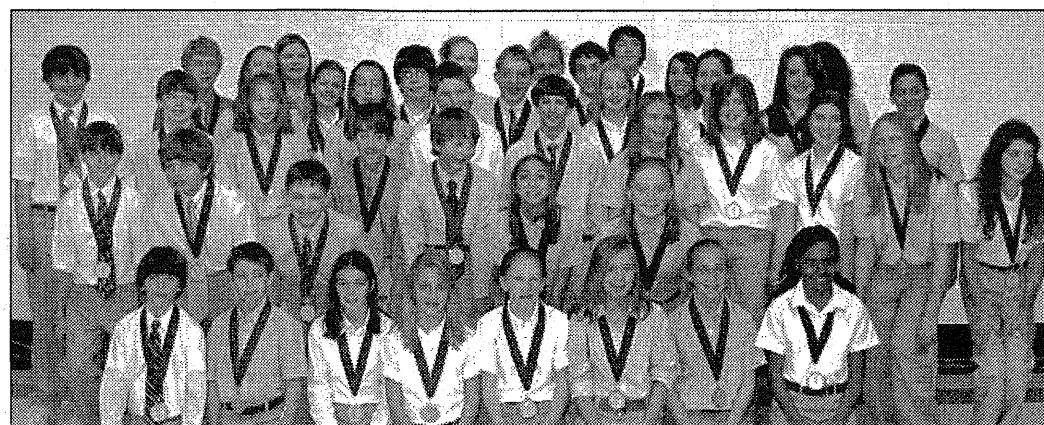
Proceeds benefit children's causes. For information, call (734) 453-8253.

■ The Beckridge Chorale (formerly the Plymouth Community Chorus) has the new 2007 Entertainment Books and is selling them to support their charitable and educational activities.

The book contains 2-for-1 and 50-percent-off deals for restaurants, entertainment, hotels, sporting events, plane fares, car rental, etc. Retail price is \$25; however, the chorale is offering them for \$20.

The books will be delivered, and can be ordered by calling Stanley Kovacheff, (734) 459-6829.

■ The Plymouth Symphony League is selling the 2007 Entertainment Book, offering



Distinguished students

All Saints Catholic School in Canton had 25 new students inducted into the National Junior Honor Society during a ceremony held at the school on Nov. 28. Each student met high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character. The National Junior Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for middle level students. Chapters exist in more than 60 percent of the nation's middle schools and millions of students have been selected for membership.

50-percent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts for many other services and events. Pick up your 2007 Entertainment Book at the Plymouth Symphony Office, located next to the Cozy Cafe in downtown Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, or call Mary Thomas at (734) 453-3016. The Entertainment Book offer is \$20 with all proceeds used to support the Plymouth Symphony and Orchestra Canton.

Hanukkah Party

The Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life hosts a

Hanukkah party 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at 42142 Logenberry Ridge N. in Novi. The event will feature the lighting of a seven-foot Menorah, a magic show, traditional latkes and Hanukkah crafts. Admission is free. For more information, call (248) 790-6075.

Council on Aging

■ The Plymouth Council on Aging hosts an interactive session, "Fighting the Blues - Tools for a Happier You!" on depression education, prevention and recovery 10:45-11:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at the

Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer in Plymouth.

Participants will receive tools and skills to help combat all levels of depression. The class is sponsored by Heartland Plymouth Court.

To register or for more information, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to register.

■ The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts "Life Line Screening, Tests That Can Help Save Your Life," Friday, Feb. 2, at the Plymouth Township Friendship Station. Appointments will begin at 9

a.m. and will include tests for Stroke Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening.

To register, call (800) 324-1851.

Me and My Shadow

New Morning School offers "Me & My Shadow" parent and young child classes, a fun, nurturing and educational introduction to preschool for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds and their parents.

Activities include music and finger-play, art and discovery projects, snack and story time, all centered around a learning theme. The class in January will explore the texture of your child's world. From slippery to scratchy, bumpy to smooth - in this class, we let our fingers delight in a hands-on tour of textures! Each class is packed with kid-powered learning and fun.

Parents can choose from two 10-week sessions 6-7:15 p.m. Mondays or 10-11:15 a.m. Saturdays. Classes begin Jan. 13. Cost is \$85 for the entire session.

To enroll, call (734) 420-3331, or download the registration form at www.newmorningschool.com/shadow.htm.

Sounds of the Season

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choirs will present their annual holiday concert "Sounds of the Season" 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 in the Salem High School Auditorium located at 46181 Joy in Canton.

Tickets (\$4 pre-sale and \$5 at the door) are currently on sale and may be purchased in the PCEP Choir Office (Room 1603 at Salem High School) during school hours. For more information visit the choir Web site at www.pcepchoirs.org or call (734) 416-7800.

"Sounds of the Season" will feature over 200 students who are members of the award-winning PCEP Choirs under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp. Students are in grades 9-12 and attend either Plymouth, Canton or Salem High Schools. The PCEP Choirs will be performing a wide variety of Christmas and Hanukkah favorites including

music from the film *The Polar Express*.

Head Start openings

Plymouth Canton Head Start, which is a free preschool program, is now enrolling children that are 3- and 4-year-olds. There are openings at all three locations, including on Sheldon Road at Michigan Avenue, the Full Gospel location on Palmer in Canton and one site in Plymouth. Children will be placed at the location that is closest to their home.

To enroll a child or for more information, call (734) 326-6271.

Toy drive

Mel Bobcean, owner of Mel's Golden Razor in downtown Plymouth, starts his 28th year collecting toys for children and families he helps during the Christmas holidays.

Bobcean's effort also includes collecting money for food boxes for needy families. The collection runs through Dec. 19.

Mel's Golden Razor is located at 595 Forest. For more information, call (734) 455-9057.

Northville Nite

Northville celebrates the 10th anniversary of Northville Nite 4:30-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, at Recreation Center at Hillside, 700 W. Baseline in Northville.

The event is open to people of all ages. Fee is \$2 for children 1-2 years old, \$10 for children 3-12 years old and \$5 for anyone 13 and older.

This year's event will include favorites like the Carnival Games, Coffee House and Band from Oak Pointe Church, Wood Crafts from Home Depot, Slot Car Racing, face-painting, Magician Dave Castle and huge inflatable games. There will also be new activities and performers such as a clown, palm readers and caricaturists.

Northville Rotary Club will be selling pizza, hot dogs, ice cream and beverages for an additional fee.

Tickets can be purchased at the parks and recreation office, 700 W. Baseline in Northville. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at (248) 349-0203.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:15

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13)
11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
APOLYPTO (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG)
11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)
4:10, 9:10
DEER THE HILLS (PG)
12:00, 2:05, 6:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:25

HAPPY FEET (PG)
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FRI/SAT LS 11:20

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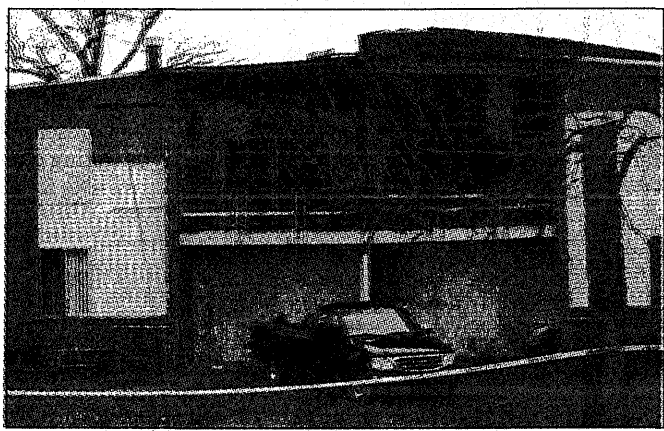
POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
The Plymouth Observer • Publication NO. USPS 436-360 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The fire destroyed a building at the Canton Crossing apartments complex on Joy Road east of I-275.

Blaze rips through area apartments

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Fire officials are still investigating the cause of a blaze Wednesday afternoon that damaged two residences at the Canton Crossing apartments.

No one was injured in the fire, which officials said started on a second-floor balcony.

"We still have a few more people to interview but at this point we believe it was an accident," said Canton Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher.

At the complex, located off of Joy Road near I-275, yellow tape surrounds the burned area of the building. At one end, windows have been shattered, a portion of the roof appears to have collapsed and the side-by-side balconies are charred.

When the fire department arrived at the scene, the build-

ing was already empty and they were forced to retreat from the inside because of the severity of the flames.

"We had 20 firefighters out there," Rorabacher said. "This one was difficult in that there was a lot of wind that afternoon."

Rorabacher estimated the blaze caused \$750,000 in structural damage and \$250,000 in personal loss.

"Any fire is a tragedy but it's especially bad this close to the holidays," he said, adding that he doesn't know if the apartment complex made housing arrangements for the victims.

Canton Crossing management declined to comment.

In addition to the two second-story units that had flame damage, the ground-level apartments suffered water damage and the entire building has smoke damage.

White House whirlwind

Educator flies through Washington, D.C., adventure

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

They say it's good to know people in high places.

It Valerie Swift, a counselor at West Middle School in Plymouth Township, who because of her "connections" received an opportunity to attend a Christmas open house at the White House Monday.

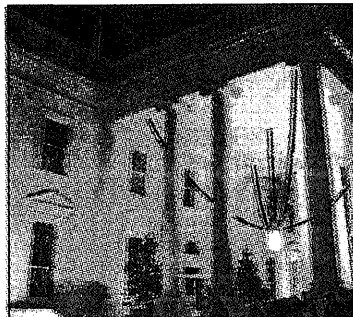
"My brother (Farmington native Charles Rousseaux) is the speech writer for the Secretary of Health and Human Services," said Swift, who resides in Farmington. "The White House sent out invitations to different departments to come through and see the decorations. It said he could bring one guest, and he asked me. I was very thrilled and honored he would ask me to come."

Swift took the 8:50 a.m. flight to Washington, D.C. for the day-long adventure of sightseeing and the invitation-only look inside the White House.

"In the East Room, they had different decorations and a huge nativity scene that was a gift in 1967, carved in Italy," Swift said. "It was gorgeous."

"The Blue Room had a huge Christmas tree, and I had my picture taken in front of it," she said. "We walked through the estate dining room where there was a 300 pound gingerbread house. Across the hall, in the Grand Foyer, there was a children's choir singing Christmas songs, with a grand piano. It was beautiful."

So, what does one wear to a White House Christmas open house?



In a span of little more than 12 hours, Valerie Swift of Farmington, a counselor at West Middle School in Plymouth Township, flew to Washington, D.C., took a tour of the White House and attended a White House Christmas open house.

"I asked my brother what to wear because I didn't want to be underdressed or overdressed," Swift said. "Most people were coming from work, so the men wore suits and most women were in pantsuits or skirts. I decided on a skirt and red sweater."

By 10 p.m., the day-long adventure was over and Swift was back in her Farmington home.

"I was tired, but it was worth it," she said. "To get an opportunity to do that was amazing."



Valerie Swift of Farmington, a teacher at West Middle School in Plymouth Township, poses with her brother, Farmington native Charles Rousseaux, who is the speech writer for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in the Grand Foyer at the White House.



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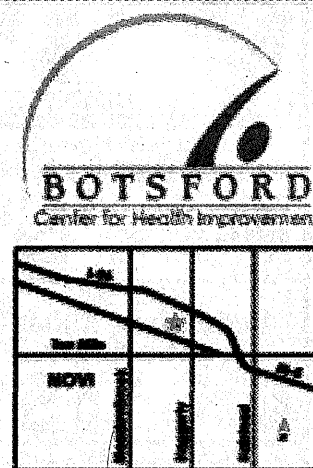
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Wilma Jean Allmayer
 Allmayer, 78, of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 11.
Frank O. Anderson II
 Anderson, 82, of Lakewood, N.Y., died Dec. 12.

B
Susan M. Baker
 Baker, 60, formerly of Canton and Plymouth, died.
Maurice L. Brown Jr.
 Brown, 63, died Dec. 11.

E
Cecilia Ellis (nee Reyes)
 Ellis, 84, died Dec. 13.
Dawn Renee Haugan Ernst
 Ernst, 79, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 12.

F
Barbara Bowersox Frohardt
 Frohardt, 85, formerly of Royal Oak, died Nov. 29.

H
Walter V. Hawkins
 Hawkins, 78, of Saline, died Dec. 12.
Esther L. Hibler
 Hibler, 89, of Plymouth, died Dec. 13.

I
Michael H. Ingersoll Sr.
 Ingersoll, 63, died Dec. 11.

L
Robert F.C. Labadie
 Labadie, 82, of Belleville, died Dec. 12.

M
Barbara L. MacNab
 MacNab, 93, of Birmingham, died Dec. 10.

P
Marilyn Margaret Pipp (nee Carrier)
 Pipp, 84, died Dec. 12.

S
Linda Denise Slage
 Slage, 59, of Garden City, died Dec. 13.
Margaret Steinlauf
 Steinlauf, 74, formerly of Livonia, died Dec. 11.

T
Eric Peter Tremblay
 Tremblay, 17, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 11.

V
Jane E. Van Dusen
 Van Dusen, 82, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 10.

W
Mary E. Waterson
 Waterson, 75, of Rochester, died Dec. 11.
Aurilla "Peggy" McCullough Williams
 Williams, 92, of Birmingham, died Dec. 11.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page B3.

RYAN

FROM PAGE A1

selecting a search firm, how I can support the search firm as it works with the board in getting to the interview process," he added.

Ryan said there are some other pieces of the educational puzzle he would like to address before retiring.

"The master plan, how to deal with our structural deficit and negotiations with our 11 unions," he said. "I'd like to see if it's possible to come up with a way to get contract agreements so the new superintendent doesn't have to jump into negotiations."

Ryan noted he'd also like to address leadership transition, as several central office and high school administrators are expected to retire within the next several years.

Simescu said board members have had brief discussions on the search for a new superintendent.

"We're looking at timing to start that process, but it will be after the bond issue before

we get there," Simescu said. "We're hoping to have someone in place when he (Ryan) leaves. At least have the selection by then. That's our intent."

As part of the midyear review of his performance, the Board of Education evaluated Ryan in areas of curriculum and instruction, master plan, administrative services, development and leadership. While trustees don't grade Ryan as part of the midyear review, during the presentation at Tuesday's school board meeting Secretary Judy Mardigian didn't leave any doubt as to where the board stands on Ryan's performance.

"We have very positive relationships with the Board of Education and the superintendent," Mardigian said. "Dr. Ryan is doing a very good job of keeping us informed, and we all feel we have an open communication style in the organization because of Dr. Ryan."

"Overall, he's a wonderful superintendent and he's loved by the staff and community," she added.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erik Partin, 12, entertains the residents of Canton Place Tuesday. He wants others to use their talents to spread compassion.

Canton boy takes music on the road to spread holiday spirit

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
 STAFF WRITER

Erik Partin could've been at home playing video games Tuesday afternoon, but instead the 12-year-old decided he wanted to spread some holiday cheer.

With his violin and viola in tow, Erik visited residents at The Canton Place senior apartments on Ford Road and entertained them for half an hour.

In addition to playing Christmas standards such as "Joy to the World," the Canton Charter Academy seventh grader performed the theme from the James Bond movies.

"The fact that it's his idea to come and do this for us is incredible," said Dianne Bodell, Canton Place service coordinator.



Erik Partin

Standing in the middle of a room filled with holiday decorations, including a large candy cane propped on a wall, Erik tucked his viola between his left shoulder and his chin and began playing "Deck the Halls."

Some Canton Place residents hummed along with the music, others nodded their heads and a few tapped their fingers.

"We love having him here," said Bodell, adding that Erik's age gives some residents a good perspective on today's youth. "One of our residents had been receiving prank calls from some kids so this gives her a nice opposite view."

Having performed at Canton Place last year, Erik was also scheduled to play outside of the Canton Wal-Mart Wednesday evening, hoping the holiday spirit would rub off on shoppers.

"I'm just trying to promote compassion," he said. "And I hope to get other people to use their talents to help others."

Erik, who's a member of two orchestras, began playing the viola two years ago.

In addition to playing "Silent Night" two times by request, Erik played Jingle Bells, the Star Spangled Banner, Happy Birthday and a few fiddling tunes for the seniors.

"I'm always happy to make you happy," he told the audience, as people asked him to come again next year. "I really appreciate you watching me play."

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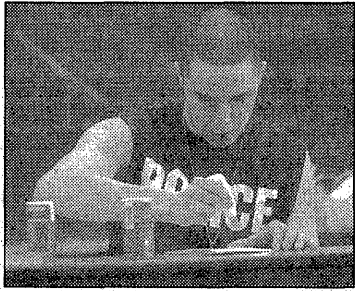
CARDS

FROM PAGE A1

"It's so touching, and lets the veterans know people remember and honor them by taking the time," Lenesi said.

Andrew Moore said, at first, he had reservations about the card-making project. Then realized the meaning behind it.

"We have to appreciate our veterans and take care of them any way we can," said Moore, 17, of Plymouth Township. "If that's all it takes to make someone happy, then I'm happy to do it."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gabriel Lopez uses the materials with care.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the VA Hospital can call Beverly Lenesi at (734) 761-7995.

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COLE

FROM PAGE A1

and agents helping load trucks and pick up toys, which often ended up stacked to the ceiling in the Plymouth Road office.

Did that stuff ever hurt his business? Cole said he doubts it, but that didn't matter. "We didn't care because we're giving back to the community. We didn't care because we were giving from the heart," he said.

This year's Redford Goodfellows paper featured a half-page tribute to Cole and Toppa, who recently moved to Oscoda with her husband after he retired. "Over the years, Tracey and John's hard work put big smiles on the faces of countless children on Christmas morning. Thanks John and Tracey for your help

and support over the years. The Redford Goodfellows will sincerely miss your assistance."

This year's Toys for Tots coordinator, Linda Rankin also raves about Cole's efforts for the program. "He is a wonderful man," she said.

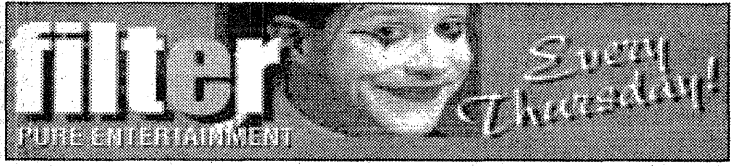
Cole's passion for real estate isn't dampened much by Michigan's lousy economy. He knows there are many homes for sale are just sitting there, and he notes that now's the time for renters to "give up the rent habit."

"It's a great opportunity to invest (in a house) right now because prices are negotiable, sellers are motivated and interest rates are low," Cole said.

However, he understands the reluctance. "The buyers are out there. It's a matter of confidence in the economy to come back."

Those buyers enable Cole to continue doing the best part about real estate: "Being able to help people achieve their dream home and putting it all together," he said.

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Savitskie says....

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Holiday classic

Ballet, symphony team for Nutcracker

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company marked their 16th year of collaborating on a presentation of the holiday classic Nutcracker last weekend.

Judging from the sizes of the crowds at the Salem High School auditorium, they had every reason to be pleased. The groups combined for three performances, including a sold-out show Sunday.

"The sets were phenomenal," said Jennifer Philpot-Munson, executive director of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. "The kids did such a wonderful job. It's just a lot of fun to watch."

The performances featured guest artists from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Ballet, Erik Sanborn and Laura Goodman. Goodman performed as the Sugar Plum Fairy; Sanborn was the Cavalier. The Snow Queen was performed by Erica Marshall of Grosse Ile, with Martin Skocelas-Hunter of

Livonia as the Snow King.

The dancers were joined once again by Judge Ron Lowe of the 35th District Court, who read *The Night Before Christmas* to begin the performance.

The holiday classic was brought to life by the company of 50 dancers and a full professional orchestra. Ranging in age from 8 years to adult, the performers come from 12 different dance programs in the metro Detroit Area.

These performances have been a part of the Plymouth and Canton holiday tradition since 1989.

The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, under the direction of Dawn Greene, has been formed as an educational alternative for dance students in the Metropolitan Detroit area interested in the performance of ballet. The company offers local communities a high quality artistic experience for performers and audiences through dance productions.

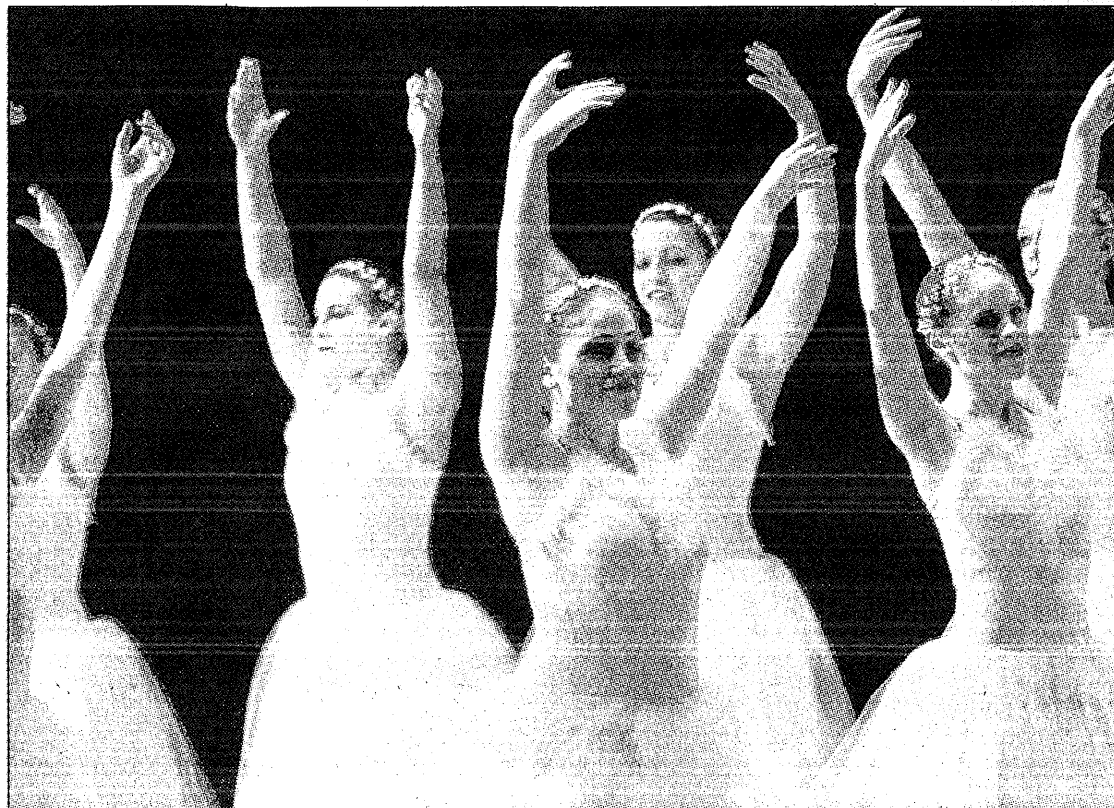


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Backstage mom Pam Kakos helps junior clown dancer Lauren Shawver prepare for the second act, The Magic Kingdom.



Amber Lawson was Clara in the classic Nutcracker Ballet presented last weekend by the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company.



The Land of Snow appeared on stage as the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra collaborated on the 16th-annual presentation of 'The Nutcracker.'



Guest artists Laura Goodman and Erik J. Sanborn in a performance of 'The Nutcracker' at Salem High School auditorium.

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Denise King
Executive Director, Community Opportunity Center

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The Plymouth District Library offers the following programs during December:

Construction updates

The lower level is moving along as the new home of our Youth collections and programs. Check out the latest developments on the Library's renovation project by going to plymouthlibrary.org and clicking on the Building Blog. Current project updates and photos will take you behind the scenes.

■ **MEDICARE D PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRO-**

GRAM, Thursdays, Dec. 21 and 28, 1:30-3 p.m. — CVS Pharmacy will join the Library staff in helping seniors gain a better understanding of the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Attendees are invited to bring a list of their specific prescription needs and will have the opportunity to compare pricing in the different programs available. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or online at plymouthlibrary.org

■ **STARS, MOONS & PLANETS** - There will be no

Stars, Moons and Planets discussion in December — plan now to join local stargazer Mike Best when this group reconvenes Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. For more information contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@comcast.net

■ **CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. — Members of this book discussion group are invited to read *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: a Novel* by Lisa See. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are wel-

come at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

■ **LIBRARY GARDEN GROUP** - There will be no Garden Group meeting in December. Start thinking about your 2007 garden at the next meeting to be held on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.

■ **GREAT BOOKS** - Great Books takes a holiday break — there will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. The discussion group is open to anyone who is curious and willing to work with others in developing an understanding and appreciation of great literature. For further information, contact group facilitator Karen Berrie at (734) 453-2454. To learn more about The Great Books Foundation, see the Internet Web site: <http://www.great-books.org/>

■ **NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING** - There will be no Needlecrafters Meeting in December. Kick off the new year with a new project when the group meets again Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required.

■ **BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Dec. 27, noon — This month's discussion invites members to read *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* by Terry Ryan. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Linda Pride at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail lpride@plymouthlibrary.org


■ **DODGER BLUE ...** and baseball really is funny, Thursday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m. — The library kicks off this special baseball series, "Hot Stove League: Professors of Baseball share their love of America's pastime" with Detroit and former major league outfielder, Tom Paciorek. An Emmy Award-winning broadcaster, Paciorek will share vivid stories of his forty-year baseball career with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Atlanta Braves, the Seattle Mariners, the Chicago White Sox and the Texas Rangers. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or online at plymouthlibrary.org.

■ **VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT**; Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — Spend a few hours at the Library in this Mario Kart Double Dash Tournament. Register at Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.


■ **GET CRAFTY @ YOUR LIBRARY**, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m. — Make a gingerbread house — to eat or to take home. Register for this free program (with all supplies provided) at the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **HOLIDAY MOVIE - ICE AGE II: THE MELTDOWN**, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2 p.m. — This PG rated movie is for children ages 5-12 and their families. No registration is required.

■ **NEW YEAR'S EVE CRAFTS**, Thursday, Dec. 28, 11 a.m. (Tween session for kids ages 9-12); 2 p.m. (Youth session for kids age 5-12) — Ring in the New Year with fun crafts at the Library — make hats, masks, noisemakers and more. Space is limited — register for this free program at the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.



BACK ON THE JOB A WEEK AFTER HERNIA SURGERY

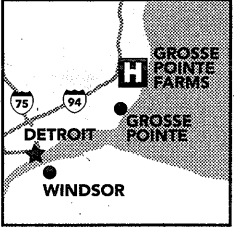


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■ **HOMEBOUNDED BOOK DELIVERY** — Joining the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, the Plymouth District Library will deliver library books and audio books to homebound residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 240 to enroll or go to plymouthlibrary.org and complete the homebound delivery service registration.

Youth programs

■ **LAP SIT STORYTIME**, Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. — This 15-minute program is designed for the very young — babies ages 6-24 months and their caregivers. No older siblings please. Registration is required — call Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **BABY PLAY** — There will be no Baby Play sessions in December. This fun program will resume in January and is for babies ages 6-24 months. Baby Play is a less formal companion to our Lapsit program. Babies and caregivers listen to a story, followed by play with developmentally appropriate toys and interaction with other children. Registration is not required for Baby Play.

■ **COMPUTER TRAINING**

There will be no computer training classes during the month of December as our system is upgraded. Check the Library's homepage — plymouthlibrary.org for computer training offerings in the new year or call the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.


For more information on any library programs, please contact Susan Stoney, Plymouth District Library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 242.

You need to know this

■ All Teen Zone programs are FREE — it costs you nothing to participate.

■ The Friends of the Plymouth District Library provide FREE refreshments for every teen program. All the info you need about our teen programs can be found at plymouthlibrary.org/ya.htm

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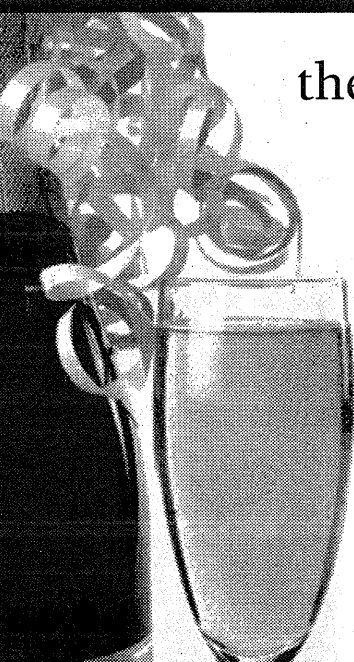
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AROUND TOWN

Olivet scholarship
Olivet College is offering every high school in Michigan the ability to nominate two graduating seniors to receive the new Olivet College High School Guidance Counselor Scholarship. The scholarship is worth \$2,000 a year for four years equaling a total of \$8,000 for each qualified student. Enrollment availability is based on a first come, first served basis. The scholarship program empowers the guidance counselor or staff to choose two responsible seniors who have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and 19 or higher on the ACT. One of the selected students must also demonstrate a greater need for financial assistance. For more information on the Olivet College High School Guidance Counselor Scholarship pro-

gram, contact the Office of Enrollment Management at (800) 456-7189 or e-mail admissions@olivetcollege.edu
The Livingston County Genealogical Society
The Livingston County Genealogical Society hosts its meeting Jan. 4 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 Grand River in Howell. Speaker Kerry Chartkoff, director of Capitol Tours, will speak on "Save the Flags Program" of the Michigan Historical Museum, which is preserving 230 Michigan flags, 160 from the Civil War. The public is invited. For information, call (810) 227-7745.
New Year's Eve party
Urban Singles presents "Ring in the New Year," with live entertainment from Jimmy Howard and Company Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the party goes until 1 a.m. The party takes place at the Livonia Elks, 3117 Plymouth Road in Livonia

(between Merriman and Middlebelt). Tickets are \$50 per person until Dec. 8; \$60 after Dec. 8, and cover dinner and beverage. Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations will be available. Deadline for tickets is Friday, Dec. 22.
For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173, or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

Poetry contest
The Detroit Impact Community Center hosts a youth poetry contest with a \$100 prize 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at 9930 Greenfield in Detroit. The contest is open to poets 14-17 years old. Poems must be at least two minutes long. Any subject matter is permitted but no "excessive" profanity will be allowed. No props or music allowed. Poems must be recited and participants will be scored on originality, creativity and performance. Participants may be required to recite up to three poems (depending on attendance). Individuals should be at Detroit Impact no later than 6 p.m. Dec. 22 to register. The first 20 individuals will be allowed to register (based on a first come, first serve basis). For more information call (313) 272-0004 or (313) 598-8396.

Career development scholarship
The Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club is now accepting applications for a "Career Development Scholarship" to recognize and support women entering or re-entering the work force or seeking to advance their careers. Candidates seeking application forms should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club, Career Development Scholarship Committee, 34030

Fountain Blvd., Westland, MI 48185. Completed applications are due postmarked by Jan. 31. For more information, call Amy Allen, (734) 522-1603.

Card party/luncheon
Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Admission is \$6; event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 459-6063.

Holiday nights
This December, step into a Christmas card of the past during Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village, Dec. 17 and 19-23. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling (313) 982-6001 or visiting The Henry Ford's Web site at www.thehenryford.org.

Hospice training
Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

Literacy Council tutors
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The coun-

cil will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Toastmasters meet
Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don't know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley, just south of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Grief support
New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecenter.net.

Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Mark Hammar, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 455-6620.

Plymouth Newcomers
Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasional special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplus-janet@aol.com

Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue
The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered. There is no membership fee but a small donation will be accepted. For information call Lucy Rowley 734-462-1768

MOPS meet
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861.

Mosaic
MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small-group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Resha at (734) 207-0658 or resha@juno.com.

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.
The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given that on 12/22/06 at 10:00 a.m., at Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

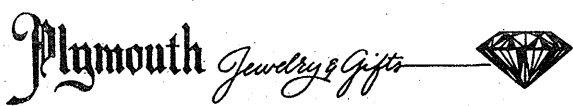
1992	FORD	E350	1FTJE34G5NHA32935
1988	HONDA	CIVIC	JHMED3651JS009194
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1991	CHEVROLET		1G1LT53TOMY219337
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OE0049243

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday January 2, 2007. The bid opening will take place at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday January 2, 2007 at Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth Michigan for the following:

Concert Production Services
City of Plymouth
Downtown Development Authority
c/o City Clerk
Plymouth City Hall
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Specifications and bid documents are available in the City Manager's Office, at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170 during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>

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

LINDA J. LANGMESSER, CMC
City Clerk - City of Plymouth

Publish: December 17 and 28, 2006

OE0048689

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF
PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will sell at public auction by competitive bidding. Sales are cash only. Removal within 24 hrs., for sale and storage unit in which rent and fees are past due.

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 36001 Warren Ave., Westland, MI 48185 (734) 729-7095, on 1/2/2007 at 10:30 am.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1268-Rutherford Renovations: Contractor supplies and tools
5160-Ibony Davis: lamp, microwave, couch
4078-Jennifer Andrew: Totes, refrigerator, boxes
3170-Joanna Hannum: Boxes, toys, baby crib
3110-James Craft: Curio, dresser, fan
3030-Don Fields: Snow blower, couch, freezer
3018-Mattie Card: TV, vacuum, chairs
1118-Cliff Gibson: Stereo, suitcase, clothing

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 41877 Joy Rd., Canton, MI 48187 (734) 254-0243 on 1/2/2007 at 11:00 AM

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1016-Joshua Busa: Stereo, TV, couch

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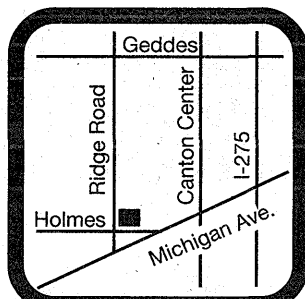
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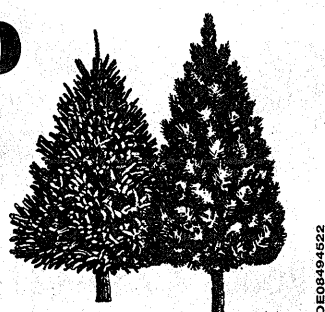
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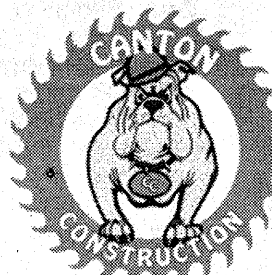
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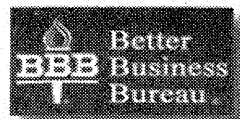
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It's a world of imagination, especially at Christmas time

One of the best things about being a grandparent is that it lets you be a kid again.

My 3-year-old grandson has the right idea. He hauls around a small cardboard box that he's transformed into a rocket ship.



Hugh Gallagher

"All it takes is a little imagination," he says.

Yeah, that's right, all it takes is a little imagination. Boxes become rocket ships, kitchen chairs become a train, a puppet magically turns into a person, a bicycle becomes a super fast out-of-control motorcycle.

We are now deep into the frantic time of the Christmas season. Parents are making the annual assault on stores to find the latest hot toys for their children. Some manufacturers seem to be deliberately keeping supplies short to enhance the buzz.

The sad thing is that many of these hot toys are imagination killers rather than enhancers. They don't stimulate play, they overwhelm play, they crush imagination. The only real play involved was the play of the games' inventors.

My grandson goes exploring with Dora the Explorer and plays other games on the computer (I expect that in about a year he'll have far surpassed my competence on the computer). But the cardboard box, the role playing, the building sets, the puppet theater all seem to engage him more completely.

The best times are when we make believe together.

"OK, you be a pirate and we've got to escape because we're being chased by tyrannosaurus rex," he says.

Next thing you know we're running at top speed to avoid being stepped on by a dinosaur.

A Dumpster looms ahead and with the raised cover it looks just like ...

"Watch out, it's the dinosaur," he yells.

I look with terror.

"No, it's OK, it's just a garbage can," he says, just in case I've gotten too afraid to keep play-

ing. Climbing bars become a pirate's ship. A slide becomes an escape hatch. A closed door becomes a secret hideaway.

Of course, many of these adventures have been fed by books. But he embellishes greatly and casually tosses pirates in with dinosaurs and spacemen in with cowboys. It's all good.

He's not yet at the "I want this" for Christmas stage. He's just as happy with the cardboard box as he is with the remote control car or the video game. Happier.

If he's lucky, he'll keep that imagination and build upon it. Christmas won't be about the latest fad he wants, but about the special times he spends sharing his imagination with others.

Christmas is a many things to many people. It's a Christian holiday to mark the birth of Jesus. The holiday's emphasis on the infant child has placed children front and center for the holiday.

As the magi bestowed gifts upon the infant Jesus, we give gifts to our children.

It's a day for children, for imagination, for play. Christmas Eve is a time of wonder, worry and giddy anticipation. We teach the children to leave a snack for Santa, reinforcing how the importance of "thank you."

And while visions of sugarplums have been replaced by visions of Game Boy, little children still hold on to visions of Santa Claus, elves and flying reindeer.

But mostly this is a holiday about family traditions and building on rich memories. It's a reminder of all those Christmases past, especially those when we were children.

With all the stress and madness of the world, all the hustle and change, it's a good thing sometimes to let go and get down to a child's eye view.

Christmas is the perfect holiday for seeing the world with fresh eyes and an open heart.

All it takes is a little imagination.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer-News*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149 or by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

Have a Merry Christmas - whatever that means

Pity poor Christmas. It has been twisted in so many ways that it's sometimes hard for a lifelong Catholic (in spirit, if not always practice) to remember what it's all about.

What prompted this reflection is an item I saw on the National Public Radio's Web site that listed new Christmas albums. Among them was Twisted Sister's *Twisted Christmas*.



Greg Kowalski

There are only two things I know about Twisted Sister: One is that it is a heavy metal rock group and the other is that the group is led by Dee Snider, who made a truly outrageous horror film several years ago.

I am left to imagine what kind of spin Twisted Sister can give to Christmas music. I probably will never know because I don't plan to buy the album and I don't expect to receive it as a Christmas gift.

But it does bring up another facet of what has happened to Christmas as it has morphed into all kinds of things including being the subject of controversies and pointless political debates. Christmas began as a religious ceremony, of some kind or another.

It's pretty well known that Christmas and many of the trappings that we associate with it like the Christmas tree, mistletoe and holly, are derived from pagan times, when the December holiday was held to mark the winter solstice.

But even as a purely Christian event, Christmas has been subjected to all sorts of indignities over the centuries. For a long time, a Mass in church was the principal celebration of the day, although I'll bet that even a thousand years ago they were sipping mead and generally partying down, medieval-style, after they got home from church.

Once different forms of technology became available, the options to put a different spin on Christmas were quickly employed. One of the most famous, of course, is Charles

Dickens' 1843 classic *A Christmas Carol*, a product of the printing press.

This is one of the greatest, most popular books ever written. But really, what does it have to do with the true meaning of Christmas? Nothing. It's a ghost story with a theme of morality and the spirit of charity. Since then there has been a steady stream of Christmas books including one about a Grinch.

We also got our first view of Santa Claus in the 19th century when the image of the fat guy in a red suit appeared in the drawings of Thomas Nast.

Santa Claus is an elf, by the way. There were shepherds, and lambs and wise men present at the site where Jesus was born, but I don't think there were any elves.

With the advent of motion pictures about a hundred years ago, Christmas became a favorite subject and has remained so with dozens, maybe hundreds of Christmas movies, including several adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* and the one about the Grinch. Even John Wayne got into the act as the most mind-boggling Roman soldier of all times in *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. Maybe the best Christmas movie ever made is *A Christmas Story*, Jean Shepherd's charming and nostalgic tale of a boy and his BB gun.

There were no BB guns in ancient Bethlehem.

You can take what you want from the story of Christmas, or you don't have to take anything at all. But when you look at all the ways Christmas has been transformed into so many different things it's amazing that it has any kind of coherent meaning.

Yet one thing is certain: Christmas generates an aura of good spirits for those who believe in it as either a religious or secular celebration. Whether you say Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas - enjoy.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowsk@hometownlife.com.



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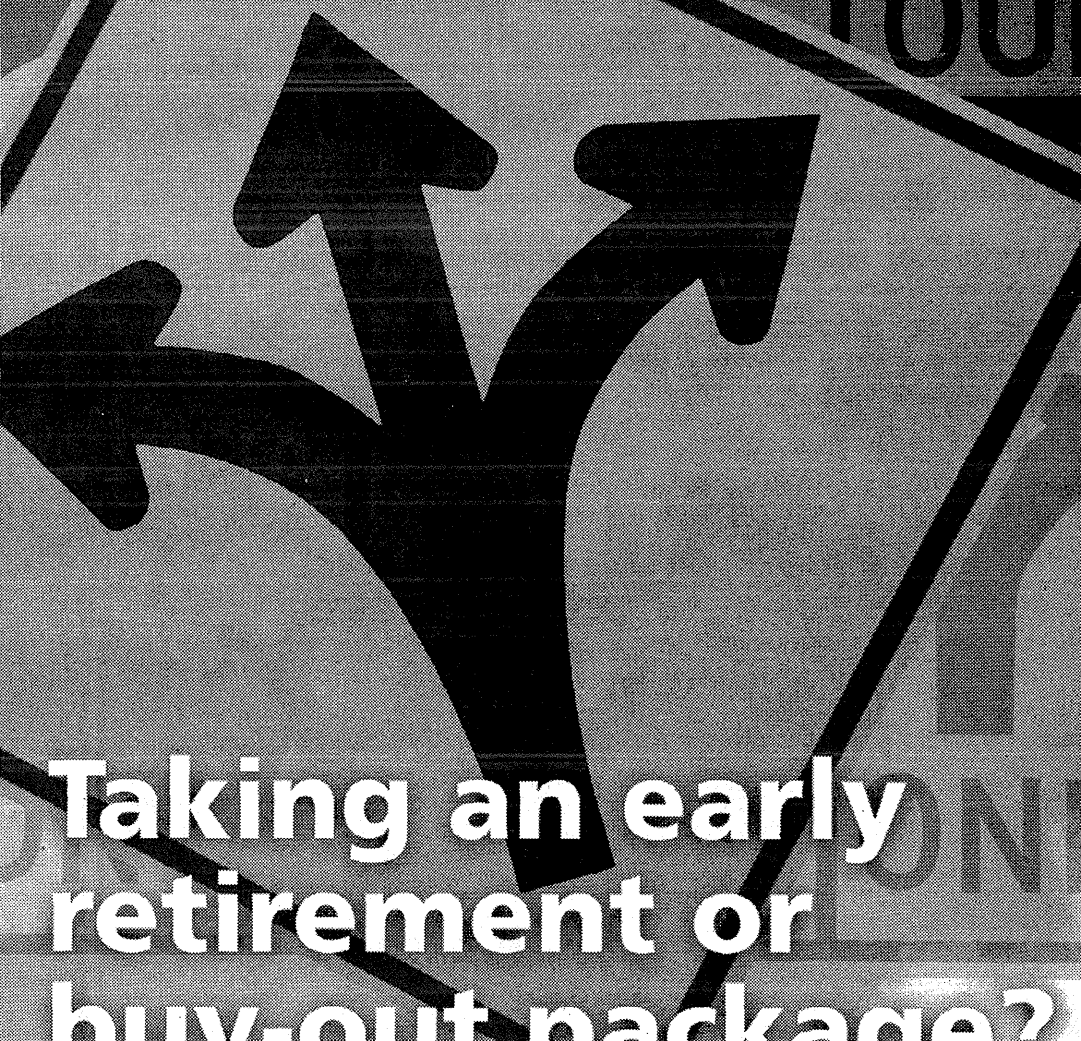
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Patterson, Ficano tout efforts to diversify region's economy

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

The county executives from both sides of Eight Mile Road made the same claim Thursday morning: They are committed to doing whatever it takes to bring the jobs of the future to southeast Michigan.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano addressed editors, reporters and newspaper executives at the annual *Observer & Eccentric* Journalist of the Year breakfast at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

And unlike their recent joint television appearance, the two spent most of the hour talking cordially on the issues that bind the two counties.

Ficano said there's been a lot of talk about economic problems in Michigan. He said the glass doesn't have to be half-empty — but people always talk like that.

"Many times the rest of the world envies what we have and don't use," he said. "Every gen-

eration faces crises and southeast Michigan has always stepped up to them. You should have heard my grandparents talk about the Depression."

He said the region's biggest asset was Detroit Metro Airport. Just as Detroit was built on the shores of an important waterway, the future of the region is dependent on air traffic, according to Ficano.

"The global economy can't be ignored, if we're going to compete our big assets are going to be Metro and Willow Run," he said. "I-94 from Ann Arbor to Detroit is the new gold coast. That's why Pfizer and Toyota have their R&D operations there — the proximity to U-of-M and other colleges."

Patterson touted Oakland County as the "engine that drives the Michigan economy" and said programs like Automation Alley and his own Emerging Sectors are proof the region is ready to contend on all fronts that matter.

"In 2003 we decided to look

into the future and find out what industries were coming to replace manufacturing," he said. "It's biotech, it's nanotechnology. We're gradually beginning to diversify our economic base. By the time we get all of those industries, it will have been a 20-year rollout."

While both executives agreed new technology and new industry were the keys to the future, they diverged on the topic of Detroit's Cobo Center. Ficano has announced a plan to renovate and expand the convention center, a plan Patterson has denounced as too expensive for his constituents.

"I disagree with how it's being funded, I'll always disagree with it," Patterson said. "There's \$120 million in deferred maintenance on the building and we're going to pay Detroit \$20 million? They

should be paying us to get them off the hook."

Ficano said Cobo is the home of the North American International Auto Show and, therefore, the home of the region's number one brand. Given that the average NAIAS has more credentialed media than a Super Bowl, he said, the region has to step up to keep the show viable with a new center.

The price, according to Ficano, a continuation of a hotel/liquor tax, isn't so onerous.

"The tax isn't on property owners, it's on poured drinks," Ficano said.

"If it goes away, bars are not going to lower the price of those drinks."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano (left) and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson duked it out over, among other topics, the future of Detroit's Cobo Hall, while Observer Managing Editor Hugh Gallagher (center) refereed.

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SPORTS

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(CP)

Sunday, December 17, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Salem icers score in pairs to upend Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Like an opportunistic boxer, Salem's hockey team used a pair of one-two punches to level rival Canton Friday night in a Western Lakes Activities Association cross-over game played at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Rocks won 5-1 thanks to two bang-bang scoring situations — one early in the

PREP HOCKEY

second period and the other late in the third. The victory improved the winners' record to 3-3-1 while the Chiefs slipped to 1-7.

Following a scoreless first period, Salem struck the first blow with 10:34 left in the second when Mike Haburne wristed the puck past Canton goalie Kevan Swanberg.

Twenty-one seconds later, Brad Nycek lit the lamp to make it 2-0.

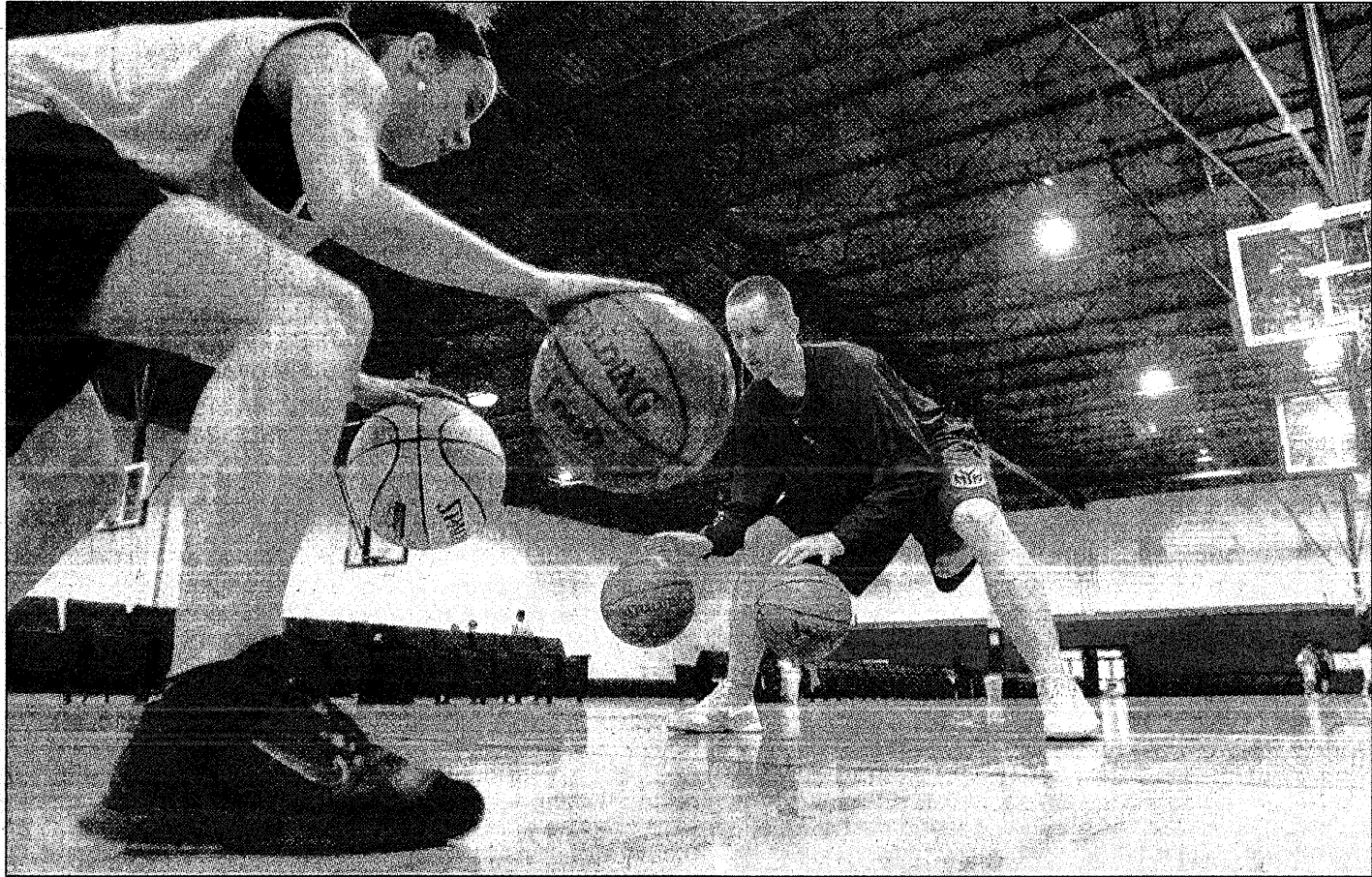
Leading 3-1, the Rocks iced the game with just under six minutes to go when Nathan Werda and Aaron Markwell sandwiched together a pair of goals — also 21 seconds apart.

"It seemed like once we got a goal, everybody got enthused and worked harder to get another one," said Salem coach Fred Feiler, describing his team's winning combi-

nations. "Overall, I thought we worked hard in the neutral zone tonight. We didn't play a very physical game in the first period, but we picked it up in the second. In the third period, we just had to protect a two-goal lead, which is hard to do sometimes."

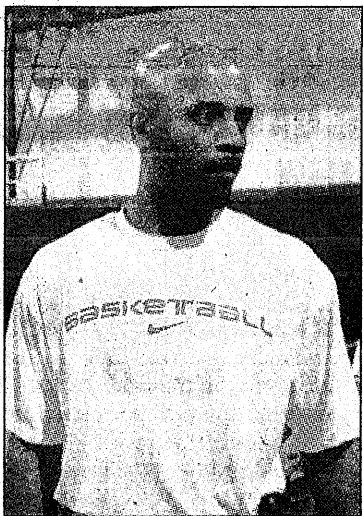
Although disappointed with the loss, Canton interim coach Dan Abraham saw a lot of positive traits from his young and

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, B2



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Basketball Planet co-owner Jamey Petree leads Ann Arbor's Lauren Ross through a series of dribbling drills Thursday night. The 47,000-square-foot Canton facility offers a wide range of basketball-related activities, including pick-up games, training and leagues.



Canton resident Will Vance, who played college basketball at Sam Houston State, co-owns Basketball Planet with Jamey Petree and Detroit Piston guard Lindsay Hunter.

HOOP HEAVEN

Canton's 'Basketball Planet' offers a slice of paradise for area's many basketball fanatics

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Basketball fans would take an instant liking to Will Vance's Canton office, the walls of which are decorated with Michael Jordan action photos.

But they'd absolutely love what's just outside his office door — 47,000 square feet of pure basketball bliss.

Vance is the co-owner of Basketball

Planet and his desk is just a long jump shot away from four full-sized, hardwood basketball courts — one of which is NBA-sized — two half-courts for 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 games, and one mini-court for kids under the age of 7.

Unlike other fitness-related businesses in the area, Basketball Planet is all basketball, all the time — just the way Vance and co-

PLEASE SEE HOOP HEAVEN, B4

Wildcats earn big road win

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner found out a lot about his young basketball team Friday night.

So did Walled Lake Central.

The most important thing Van Wagoner and the Vikings discovered is that the Wildcats are pretty darned good after they invaded Central's gym and earned an impressive 39-37 victory to improve their record to 1-1.

The Wildcats led by nine with two minutes to play and held on for dear life as their hosts mounted a tenacious rally that brought them to within two with possession of the ball in the closing seconds. However, a pair of three-point attempts missed the mark and the ball bounced harmlessly on the court as the final seconds ticked away.

"It was a great team effort tonight," said Van Wagoner. "Hopefully, this win will build some momentum and confidence for us because we have such a young team." Van Wagoner said his team's performance at the defensive end of the court keyed the win.

"Obviously, we did score a lot of points, but we packed it in on defense and forced them to shoot outside," he said. "They moved the ball well and probably had seven or eight passes on every possession, but we kept them outside. They have some dangerous shooters, but they weren't hitting tonight."

Junior guard Brandon Roberts led the Wildcats with 12 points before fouling out early in the fourth quarter. Junior center Jake Hager was tough in the paint for the winners, tallying nine points and nine boards. Myron Puryear and Kulraj Sandhu both contributed seven points off the bench for Plymouth.

Senior forward Matt Golden led the 1-2 Vikings with 14.

"It was a good win against a good opponent," Van Wagoner concluded.

Sidelines

Houle shines
Plymouth resident Jason Houle turned in a spectacular effort at the state finals of the Punt, Pass & Kick competition, which was held Dec. 10 at Ford Field. Houle, who won local and regional rounds to advance to the finals, took first in the passing and punting events and placed third overall in the 10- and 11-year-old age division.

The punting and kicking portions of the competition took place prior to last Sunday's Detroit Lions-Minnesota Vikings' game. The passing event unfolded at halftime of the game.

Sestito lauded

Plymouth Whalers left wing Tom Sestito was named the Ontario Hockey League's "Player of the Week" for the week ending Dec. 10. The 19-year-old winger from Rome, N.Y. scored six goals and notched seven points in three games over the seven-day period.

Sestito, a Columbus Blue Jacket draft choice, helped the Whalers to a 7-1 victory on the road in London on Dec. 7, netting a natural hat trick and an assist.

The next night, he recorded his second-straight three-goal game as the Whalers defeated Sudbury, 5-3, at home. The back-to-back hat tricks give Sestito four on the season. He currently leads Plymouth with 20 goals in 28 games.

The Whalers are at Brampton this afternoon before taking a break for the holidays. Their next home game is Thursday, Dec. 28, at 2 p.m. against Windsor. That game will be "Kids Day," and offer several activities for children in Compuware Sports Arena before, during and after the contest.

Coaches needed

Canton High School is looking to fill the following coaching vacancies: head girls track, assistant girls track and freshmen softball. Applicants are asked to send a letter of interest and resume to: Sue Heinzman, Athletic Director, 8415 Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48187.

Shaw named top cross country coach

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

From humble beginnings to one of the top units in the state — that's the path the Plymouth boys cross country program has traveled since its inception in the fall of 2002.

Coach Lee Shaw still remembers his team's inaugural practice when the coaches nearly outnumbered the runners.

"We had three male athletes come out that first year, so we've come a long way," said Shaw.

Indeed they have.

Earlier this year, the Wildcats placed 12th at the Division 1 state meet — one week after placing second at their D1 Regional. Among their other considerable accomplishments this season were a Western Lakes Activities Association title and a runner-up showing at the Wayne County meet.

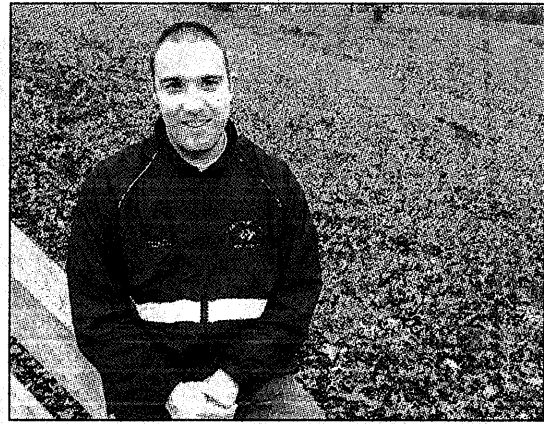
The impressive list of achievements earned Shaw the Observer Coach of the Year honor.

"This group of athletes wanted to work," said Shaw, when asked what

made the 2006 Wildcats special. "I asked them what their goals were before the season started and they all set high goals. So I pushed them to reach their goals. I'm not one of those coaches who's going to keep saying, 'nice job' if they're not working hard."


Shaw is as accomplished as a runner as he is a coach. A native of Manchester, England, he moved to Michigan in his late-teens to run cross country at Eastern Michigan

PLEASE SEE SHAW, B2




TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER


Plymouth's Lee Shaw was named Observerland's boys cross country coach of the year.



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Chiefs' last-second rally falls just short

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's basketball team is going to have to wait until 2007 for its first victory of the young season.

The Chiefs fell to 0-3 Thursday night after dropping a hard-fought, 47-45, decision at South Lyon. The win evened the Lions' record at 2-2.

Canton nearly pulled off a semi-miraculous comeback in the closing seconds. Trailing 47-43 with seven ticks left, junior forward Neil Sharma was fouled on a three-point attempt. He made the first two free throws before missing the third intentionally. The rebound bounced out to Chief senior guard Josh Butler, whose desperation 18-footer barely missed the mark at the buzzer.

"I liked our energy level tonight," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "We knew we'd have to play hard to match them, and I thought we did. We were down seven in the fourth and managed to battle back."

"We had 19 turnovers. It's not as many as we had our first two games, but it's still way too many. We need to cut that down to 12 or 13, if not lower." Sharma led the Chiefs with

PREP BASKETBALL

17 points, 11 of which came in the final eight minutes. Senior center Ryan Waidmann also had a strong game, tallying 16.

Jon Collins paced the Lions with 14 points.

South Lyon led 12-9 after one quarter before the Chiefs clawed back to forge a 20-20 halftime tie. The Lions led 29-28 with eight minutes to play.

Canton connected on 8-of-12 free throws (67 percent) while the hosts drained just 7-of-17 (41 percent).

The Chiefs are now idle until Jan. 5 when they travel to cross-campus rival Salem.

PCA 52, RUDOLF STEINER 32: On Friday, the 3-1 Eagles soared over Steiner (2-2) thanks to 15 points from junior guard Trevor Zinn and 14 from senior center Devyn Govan. Steiner was led by Spencer Subowski, who netted 10.

Plymouth Christian led 14-5 after one quarter and 28-7 at the half. The Eagles secured a 35-16 advantage with eight minutes to play.

Both teams struggled from the free throw line: PCA nailed 6-of-14 attempts while visiting Steiner managed to drain just 9-of-19.

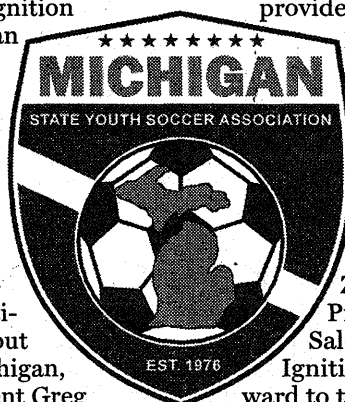
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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 19
Salem at Woodhaven Christmas Tournament, 5:30 p.m.
Macomb Christian at PCA, 7 p.m.
Ann Arbor Pioneer at Canton, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Salem at Woodhaven Christmas Tournament, TBD
Plymouth at Novi, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21
Zoe Christian at Canton Agape at G.C. United Christian, 7 p.m.
PCA at Calvary Christian, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15
Plymouth at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Dec. 19
Livonia Stevenson at Plymouth at Compuware Sports Arena, 5:10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Salem at Livonia Franklin at Eddie Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
W.L. Northern at Canton at Arctic Edge, 6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22
Dearborn United at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
W.L. Central at Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Salem at Canton Quad Meet, 5:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Friday, Dec. 22
WLLA Conference Relays at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
PREP VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Dec. 21
Canton Agape at Inter-City, 6 p.m.
PREP GYMNASTICS
Monday, Dec. 18
Saline at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 19
Spring Arbor at Madonna, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Schoolcraft at Alpena CC, 5 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Schoolcraft at Alpena CC, 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Sunday, Dec. 17
Whalers at Brampton Battalion, 2 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Sunday, Dec. 17
Det. Ignition at Chicago Storm, 7:35 p.m.

Ignition, MSYSA unite to promote soccer

The Detroit Ignition and the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) have entered into a partnership to promote the sport of soccer while encouraging youth participation throughout the state of Michigan.



Ignition president Greg Bibb announced today. Through the agreement, the Ignition and the MSYSA will collaborate to establish an annual "MSYSA Night" where members, participants, and friends and family of those involved, will have the opportunity to attend a designated Ignition regular season contest at a special discounted price.

The inaugural MSYSA Night will take place on Friday, Jan. 5 as the Ignition take on the Chicago Storm at 7:35 p.m. ET at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth. The announcement will allow each organization to enhance their missions while furthering the soccer opportunities

provided for Michigan's youth.

"MSYSA has been a tremendous resource and leader for soccer in the state of Michigan," stated Greg Zaskowski, Vice President of Ticket Sales for the Ignition. "We look forward to the opportunity to continue and accelerate the development of our sport, and are very excited to officially kick-off our relationship at the Inaugural MSYSA Night."

"MSYSA is excited to begin a relationship with the Detroit Ignition," said MSYSA Executive Director Thomas D. Frisbie, Jr. "We feel that such a relationship can only help strengthen the soccer culture in the state of Michigan. We look forward to a mutually beneficial affiliation as we move forward."

Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) is a statewide, nonprofit, and educational youth soccer organization that represents over 90,000 players, 10,000

'MSYSA is excited to begin a relationship with the Detroit Ignition. We feel that such a relationship can only help strengthen the soccer culture in the state of Michigan. ...'

Thomas D. Frisbie Jr.
MSYSA Executive Director

coaches, and 4,000 referees throughout the State. MSYSA consists of 70-plus leagues who register boys and girls — ages 4 to 19 — at various competition levels.

The Ignition is a member club of the Major Indoor Soccer League, competing in the club's inaugural campaign for the 2006-07 season.

Information regarding Ignition season, group and individual tickets can be obtained by calling the club at (888) 436-4625, by visiting the team's official Internet property, www.detroitignition.com, by calling TicketMaster at (248) 645-6666, or by using www.ticketmaster.com.

Penguins too much for Liggett to handle

PREP HOCKEY

lamp for the winners.

Junior Keely Kowalski registered four assists while her goal-tending twin sister, Kristie, earned the win between the pipes. The lone goal Kowalski surrendered came on a 5-on-3 advantage for Liggett.

CANTON 5, D.H. CRESTWOOD 4: On Wednesday, the Chiefs notched their first victory of the season thanks to big nights from Ryan Lash, Justin Ward and Andrew Jubacki.

Lash scored a pair of goals, Jubacki notched a goal and an

assist, and Ward had a pair of helpers to spark Canton (1-5) to its first win under interim coach Dan Abraham.

"Each game we've played since I took over, we've been in a position to win the game," said Abraham, who was the first Canton boys hockey coach before stepping down three years ago. "We were right in the game against Churchill and Stevenson, which are both quality teams. Time just ran out on us."

"We really needed a game like this where we were able to close it out and get a win. These kids not only need to believe they can be right in

every game, but that they can win every game."

The game was tied at 2-all after one period thanks to a pair of net-finders from Lash. Jordan Emery then scored the eventual game-winner with 1:29 left in the second period off an assist from Ward. Emery's goal came on his first shift of the night after he replaced an injured teammate.

Canton put the game away thanks to third-period goals from Jubacki (unassisted) and Alex Lajoie, who was assisted by J.P. LaFontaine.

Zane Birchler played well in net for the Chiefs, turning back 20 shots.

Whalers crush Oshawa

The Plymouth Whalers scored four power-play goals on the way to a 5-1 victory at Oshawa Friday night.

Chris Terry and Tom Sestito both netted a pair of man-up lamp-lighters' while Evan Brophy notched one goal and four assists.

Michael Neuvirth was sharp in goal for the Whalers, recording 37 saves, including 16 in the second period. Mark

Packwood turned away 32 shots for the hosts.

Terry and Sestito both scored one goal a piece in the first and second periods; Brophy's came at the 10-minute mark of the third.

John Taveras netted Oshawa's lone goal, a power-play net-finder mid-way through the second period.

Plymouth monopolized the game's three-star selections: Brophy was No. 1, Terry No. 2 and Neuvirth No. 3.

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team was hitting on all cylinders Tuesday night during its 9-1 victory over University of Liggett at the McCann Ice Arena in Grosse Pointe Woods.

The Penguins scored early and often to improve their record to 7-0-1 overall and 4-0-1 in the Michigan High School Girls Hockey League.

Katie Zimmerman led the PCS charge with three goals and an assist. Amy Coleman also played well, notching a pair of goals. Edra Burris, Kristin Callahan, Nikki Songer and Shauna Siebert also lit the

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

scrappy team.

"For the first period and a half, we played back-and-forth with Salem," said Abraham, who took the reins of the team three weeks ago from Mike Behen, who abruptly resigned after just two games. "Any time you can play even with a skilled and experienced team like Salem it's a good thing."

"When they got the first two quick goals, I think we got down a little, but I wasn't unhappy with our effort. The kids continued to play hard every period and I see a lot of promise in that."

"We seem to be getting better each game. We're moving the puck better, seeing the ice better and our team game is improving. We're not at the point where we're going to start dominating the league, but we're at a point where we can be in a position to win games in the third period."

Canton senior captain Brad Barath cut his team's deficit in half — 2-1 — with 6:37 left in the second period when he secured the puck just outside the left face-off circle, spun 180 degrees then ripped the puck off Salem goalie Ralph Aspenwall's glove and into the back of the net. He was assisted by Clark Albers and Justin Ward. Steve Heisler put Salem up 3-1 with 56 seconds left in the second period when he flipped the puck over a sprawling Swanberg after receiving a pass from Kris Brandt.

Heisler, Markwell, Joel Cheesman, Haburne (two), Kyle Zink and Evan Haneline registered assists for the Rocks.

Aspenwall was solid in net for Salem, netting 16 saves. Swanberg stopped 22 for the Chiefs.

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SHAW

FROM PAGE B1

University, where he earned three varsity letters.

Before taking the reins at Plymouth, he coached cross country and track at Livonia Ladywood and the University of Detroit Jesuit.

Shaw didn't hesitate when asked to name his brightest high-light from a sparkling season.

"The state meet was it," he said. "If one more of our runners would have ran well, we would have finished in the top five."

"The kids were kind of disappointed in their times this year, but it was a very wet fall, so everybody's times were up. I told them it's not the times that mattered as much as where they placed."

And for the up-and-coming Wildcats, that was a very high place indeed.

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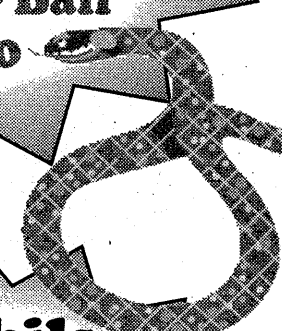
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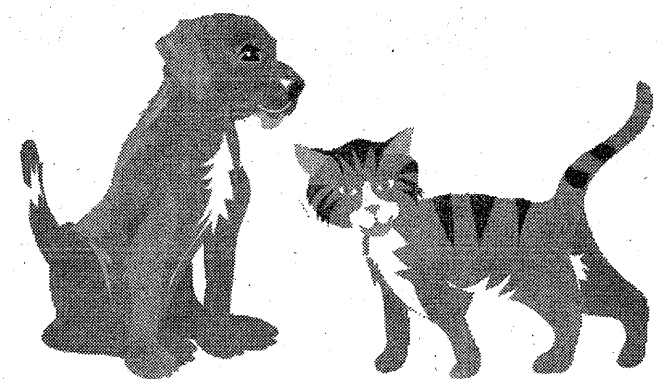
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With 8 regulars graduated, Wildcats will have new look

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The loss of eight talented seniors from last season's ultra-competitive team could turn into a good-news-bad-news situation for the Plymouth volleyball team.

While the Wildcats will sorely miss the departed contributors, their void will create invaluable opportunities for this year's talented roster of players.

"This year's squad is one that I would call a 'progressive team,'" said Plymouth coach Kelly McCausland, who has guided the

PREP VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

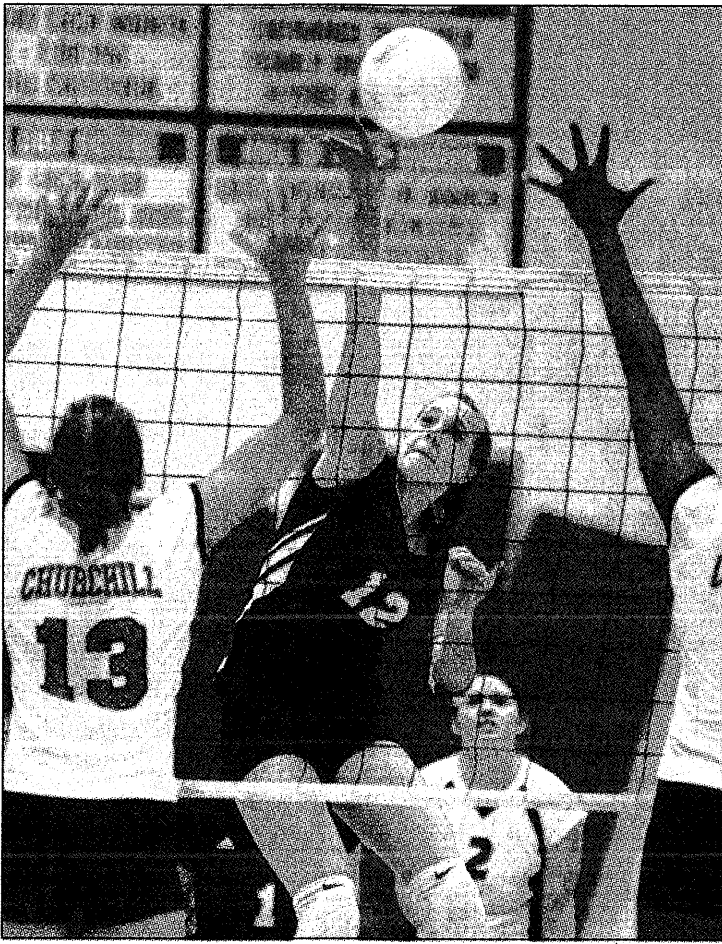
Wildcats since the school opened five years ago. "We make progressions each and every minute we step onto the floor.

"We are young, and I feel they are still playing very timid. I would like them to become more aggressive, both offensively and defensively. I feel that we are going to become a very strong team once we lose this timid nature and build on a strong team chemistry."

Gone from last year's team are Sarah Haskins, Jeanine Moise, Brandi Swyhart, Janet Hanchett, Jackie Dorre, Lauren Stemberger, Lindsey Vogelsberg and Katie Hughes.

Among those expected to step up and help fill the void are captain Brittany Hengesh, a powerful front-row player; Courtney Buttermore, captain Clare Baptist, Danielle Giudici and captain Chelsey Quinlan.

Among the promising newcomers are Rachel Heaton, a



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brittany Hengesh will provide Plymouth's volleyball team with plenty of front-row firepower this season.

transfer from Lenawee Christian; Kate Spangler, a junior setter; Megan Quinlan, a sophomore middle hitter; Mandy McManus, a sophomore middle hitter; and Katie Salo, a freshman setter.

The Wildcats opened the season last weekend by going 3-2 in the Madonna Invitational.

Among the standouts were Baptist (51 digs), Heaton (40 digs and 21 kills), Chelsey Quinlan (29 digs), Hengesh (27 kills and 13 solo blocks), Salo (30 set assists) and Buttermore (33 set assists).

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HOOP HEAVEN

FROM PAGE B1

owner Jamey Petree planned it when they bought the massive warehouse on Haggerty Road over a year ago.

"We wanted to open a place that basketball players would walk into and go, 'Wow! This is what I'm talking about!'" said Vance, discussing the motivation for the business. "Jamey and I are both gym rats and we both played college basketball, so we know what players are looking for in a basketball facility.

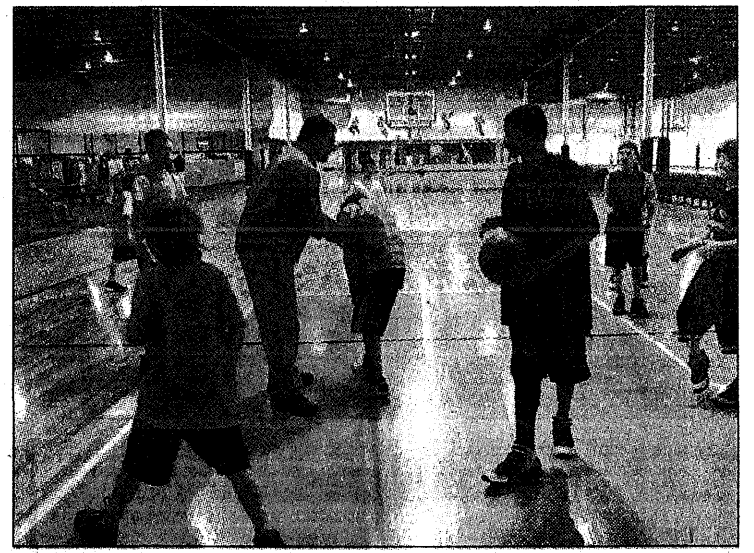
"Before we opened Basketball Planet, we were both into basketball training — we teach both individuals and groups. As our clientele grew, we found that it was hard to find the space for the training, so the idea of opening up our own place started to click. There are a lot of fitness places that offer basketball, but it's way down on their priority list. That's not the case here."

It's obvious from the second you walk in the front door at Basketball Planet which sport has a monopoly on the place. Visitors are greeted by slick action photos of NBA greats — and the rhythmic sounds of basketballs meeting hardwood.

The sight that unfolds before your eyes once you make a quick right turn past the front desks is enough to make Dick Vitale hyperventilate from excitement — wall-to-wall hardwood as far as the eye can see.

On any given afternoon this past summer, several NBA players — from rebound king Ben Wallace to 3-point-shooting king Veshon Lenard — scrimmaged on the NBA court while toddlers squared off on the mini-court.

"We figured Canton was the perfect location for a place like this because it's close enough to draw players from Detroit and surrounding areas like Belleville and Ypsilanti, as well as the suburban players from Canton, Plymouth and all the other cities around here," said Petree. "We get a very diverse crowd in here which gives it a nice mix. We get everyone from pros to little kids."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A youth travel team is pictured practicing at Basketball Planet Thursday night. The facility's six courts — four full-length and two half — can be rented on an hourly basis.

"Veshon Lenard comes in here to practice shooting threes because it's the only NBA-sized court around," added Vance. "We get a lot of Division 1 players in here, too. They love the place."

A few months ago, Vance and Petree welcomed a third owner on board — Detroit Piston guard Lindsay Hunter, whom Vance also trains during the off-season. Along with financial support, Hunter has lent his marquee name to the various leagues that will tip-off at the facility in mid-January. He'll also help oversee a series of summer basketball schools in the summer of 2007.

"Lindsay was here every day before the NBA season started, from morning 'til night," Vance said. "We practically had to kick him out of here some nights," Vance said, laughing.

Vance said the clinics and personalized instruction offered at Basketball Planet focus on more than just basketball.

"We stress to the kids how important school is, too," he said. "Jamey and I both made it to a high level, so we know the do's and don'ts — both on the court and off."

While it's difficult making a new business work, the experience has been worthwhile for both Vance and Petree. "As far as coming to work every day and working in this environment, it's been a

HOOP-TOPIA

■ **What:** Basketball Planet, a 47,000-square-foot indoor facility dedicated strictly to basketball;

■ **Where:** 7171 N. Haggerty in Canton (between Warren and Joy roads);

■ **Who:** The facility is owned by Will Vance, 39, who played collegiately at Sam Houston State University; Jamey Petree, 30, who played at Iowa Central University; and Lindsay Hunter, a veteran Detroit Pistons guard.

■ **When it's open:** Seven days a week (Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to midnight; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to midnight);

■ **For more information:** Call (734) 656-0091; or visit the Web site www.thebasketballplanet.com.

dream come true," said Petree. "It hasn't always been easy, and we've had to overcome a lot, but that's one of the life lessons we can pass on to the kids who come in here. We use basketball as a microcosm of life."

SWIM RESULTS

CANTON 115 JOHN GLENN 60 Thursday at John Glenn
200-yard medley relay: 1. Canton (Matt Carlson, Kevin Karlinski, Chris Marinica, Jon Templeton), 1:50.10; 2. Canton (Richard Zhang, Mike Booker, Joe Spillane, Jordan Gorzalski), 2:04.68; 3. John Glenn, 2:06.25.
200 freestyle: 1. Robert Blaesser (C), 1:57.69; 2. Russell McBain (C), 2:09.40; 3. Jon Burgess (JG), 2:16.34.
200 IM: 1. Ross Schwarz (C), 2:17.59; 2. Kevin Chappelle (JG), 2:42.61; 3. Ryan Boes (C), 2:47.82.
50 freestyle: 1. Matt Espy (JG), 24.15; 2.

Chris McGinnis (C), 24.47; 3. Billy Lyons (JG), 25.89.
1-meter diving: 1. Chris McGinnis (C), 156.95; 2. Kyle Broderick (C), 54.40.
100 butterfly: 1. Matt Carlson (C), 58.04; 2. Jon Templeton (C), 1:03.03; 3. Dan Fabrey (JG), 1:10.25.
100 freestyle: 1. Matt Espy (JG), 54.24; 2. Chris Marinica (C), 54.40; 3. Billy Lyons (JG), 59.23.
500 freestyle: 1. Jordan Gorzalski (C), 5:47.33; 2. Russell McBain (C), 6:03.56; 3. Jon Burgess (JG), 6:24.24.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Matt Carlson, Robert Blaesser, Ross Schwarz, Jon

Templeton), 1:37.34; 2. Canton (Chris Marinica, Chris McGinnis, Dennis Rose, Kevin Karlinski), 1:42.10; 3. John Glenn, 1:46.77.
100 backstroke: 1. Richard Zhang (C), 1:05.97; 2. Kevin Chappelle (JG), 1:10.25; 3. Robert Goodwin (C), 1:12.26.
100 breaststroke: 1. Matt Carlson (C), 1:05.78; 2. Mike Booker (C), 1:20.60; 3. Ryan Boes (C), 1:23.98.
400 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn, 4:06.63; 2. John Glenn, 5:28.66; 3. Canton (Ross Schwarz, Robert Blaesser, Chris Marinica, Jon Templeton), 4:15.48.
DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Canton, 1-0; John Glenn, 0-1.

SPORTS BRIEFS

CANTON REC OFFERINGS

Canton Leisure Services will be offering several fun-filled sports programs during the winter months. Among the offerings are:

■ The annual Snowball Co-ed Classic Softball Tournament will be held at the Canton Sports Center on Jan. 13. This event is played in the snow with an oversized, Chicago-style softball. The cost of the double-elimination tourney is \$125 per team. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams.

■ The bi-annual "Family Bowling Night" will be held at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton on Friday, Jan. 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$40 per resident family and \$50 per non-resident family. The cost of the event includes two-and-a-half hours of bowling for up to six bowlers per lane; shoes; pop and pizza; and free give-aways.

■ A pair of cross-country ski days at Pheasant Run Golf Course will be offered on Jan. 28 and Feb. 17 from noon to 4 p.m. Participants may bring their own skis or rent them at

the course. The cost is \$10 per person and includes access to the trail that winds through the golf course; refreshments; and a free raffle. Pre-registration is required.

To register for the events, or for more information, call (734) 483-5600.

BASEBALL SIGN-UPS

Registration for the 2007 Canton Little League will be held Jan. 20 and Feb. 17, 2007, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran School, 1309 Penniman Ave. in Plymouth (a quarter-mile east of Sheldon).

The leagues offered will be: Minors (7-10 year-olds); Majors (11-12); and Juniors (13-14).

The league is open to all Plymouth and Canton residents.

Proof of residency and a birth certificate are necessary at the time of registration. For more information, visit www.cantonlittleleague.org; or send an e-mail to info@cantonlittleleague.net.

HVS WINTER PROGRAMS

High Velocity Sports in

Canton will be offering its "Winter 2" round of sports programs beginning Jan. 2 through Feb. 28.

The registration deadline for indoor soccer, flag football and dodge ball is Dec. 15. Leagues traditionally sell out during "Winter 2", so teams are encouraged to sign up early.

The team fee for indoor soccer (under-9 through over-30) is \$925 and the free agent fee (for players who need to sign up without a team) is \$95. The fee for U5-U8 is \$50 and the free agent fee is \$65. All indoor soccer leagues

include eight games and free agent fees include a free T-shirt.

The team fee for flag football is \$925. Elementary, middle, high school and adult leagues will be offered.

The team fee for dodge ball is \$400 for six games, plus an end-of-the-season tournament. Teams consist of at least 10 players.

Instructional clinics for soccer, basketball and volleyball are also available. Check www.hvsports.com for information on drop-in soccer and basketball; or call (734) HV-SPORT.



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Dates: Dec. 27-29 & Jan. 2-5
Half-day: 9am-12pm \$30/day (all supplies included)

SOCCER CAMP
Dates: Jan. 2-5 Fee: \$75/child
9:30am-11:30am Ages 5-8 or 12-2pm Ages 9-12

BASKETBALL CAMP
Dates: Dec. 27-29 Fee: \$75/child
9am-12pm Ages: 6-12

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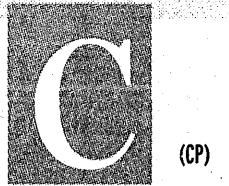
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Sunday, December 17, 2006
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Kadrich, editor . (734) 459-2700 . bkadrich@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Responsible: Keep pets safe during holidays

While you are busy making your plans for Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, please don't forget to include your pets.

The holidays are time for giving but there are some things you should not share with your furry friends. Once you know the hazards, a little precaution and prevention will make the holidays a happy time for everyone.



Dr. Vyvian Gorbea

Some of the more common holiday hazards include:

■ **Bones** - The holiday turkey or chicken will leave a lot of tantalizing bones, but don't feed them to your pet. Beware of steak bones, too. Some small bones can lodge in the throat, stomach and the intestinal tract.

■ **Foods** such as chocolate, raisins, grapes, coffee, onions, alcohol and macadamia nuts and even bread dough can be fatal if ingested in large quantities. Don't leave these foods on tables in reach of the dog or cat; be sure the trash cans lids are secure.

■ **Holiday plants** such as holly and mistletoe are extremely poisonous when eaten. The lovely poinsettia may not be truly poisonous, but its milky white sap and leaves can cause gastrointestinal distress.

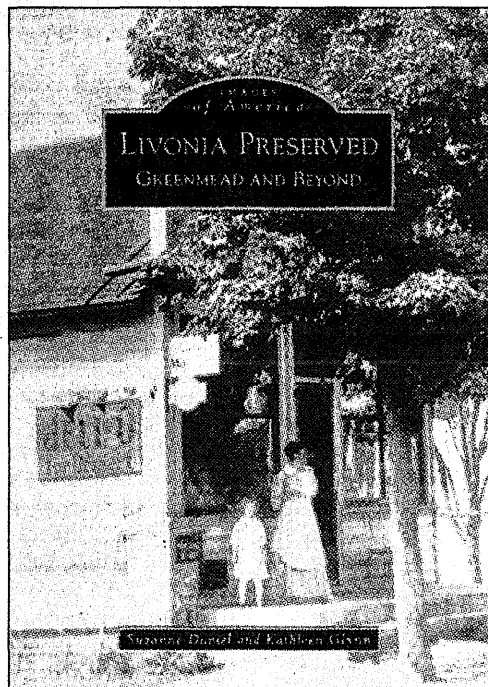
■ **Holiday lights** mean more cords for kitten and puppies to chew. Be sure you have the cords secure and out of the way.

■ **Candles** - Lit candles should never be left unattended. With an exuberant tail or a swat of a paw, candles and hot wax can quickly become disastrous.

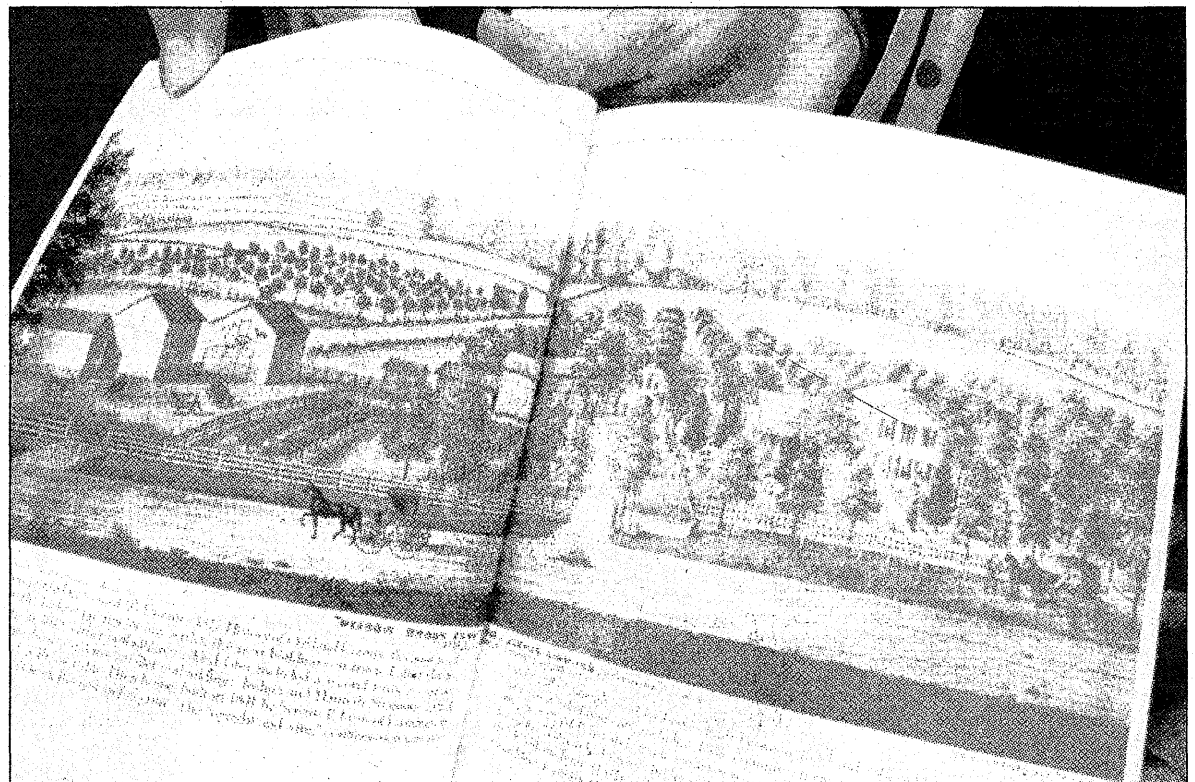
■ **Holiday tree:** Make sure your tree is well-secured. If you have a tree-climbing cat or a large dog with a happy tail, anchor the top of the tree to the wall, using strong rope or cord. Also, check around the tree and boughs frequently. Ingested pine needles can puncture your pet's intestines if sharp enough.

■ **With lots of holiday visitors,** the doors are sure to be opening more than usual. Be sure your pets are wearing collars and ID tags and have been micro chipped in case of an escape.

Dr. Vyvian J. Gorbea owns Plymouth Veterinary Hospital, an accredited member of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), an international association of more than 36,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. AAHA hospital members are regularly inspected to ensure they meet AAHA's high standards of pet care. She can be reached at (734) 453-0485.



This new book documents the story of the Livonia Historical Village of Greenmead.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Authors Suzanne Daniel and Kathleen Glynn hold open their book which includes this drawing from Samuel Durant's 1877 'History of Oakland County.' The drawing is of the Meadow Brook Farm residence of Joshua and Hannah Simmons. The Greek Revival home was built in 1841 by Sergius Lyon of Farmington.

Livonia preserved

Holiday tours light Historical Village at Greenmead

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

While Marian Renaud doesn't believe the Livonia Historical Village of Greenmead will ever be self sufficient, she's working on reducing the amount of funding received from the city. Along with holding weekly tours of the site, she's scheduled activities for the holidays.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, from 1-4 p.m., visitors can learn decorating tips from a century ago during tours of six buildings including the Simmons/Hill House where the theme this year is The Nutcracker Suite. At 3 p.m. Aria Degillio sings in Historic Newburgh Church. Tickets are \$3, \$2 for students. "Different people decorate every year," said Marian Renaud, program supervisor. "The concept is to create an old fashioned, time-correct Christmas."

Christmas Candlelight Tours recreate the atmosphere of holidays past from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Wednesday, Dec. 27. The first group leaves at 6 p.m. followed by a group every 15 minutes until 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 adults, \$3 students, and includes hot cocoa.

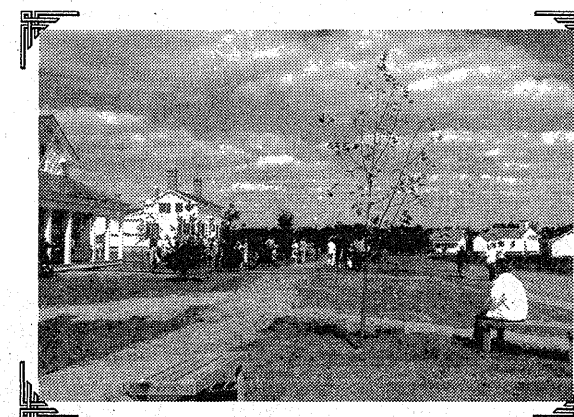
PLEASE SEE TOURS, C2

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Suzanne Daniel recalls the day she climbed up on the roof of the A.J. Geer General Store to replace wood shingles on the historic building. The memory is one of many Daniel shares when talking about a new book she wrote with Kathleen Glynn on the Livonia Historical Village of Greenmead.

Hundreds of volunteers continue to restore and preserve the history of the small farming community once known as Livonia Township by laboring on the 20 buildings in which pioneers lived, shopped and attended church. The city of Livonia purchased the historic Greenmead site at the corner of Newburgh and Eight Mile in 1976. The 95-acre farm was the home of Joshua Simmons, the third person to buy land in the township in 1824.

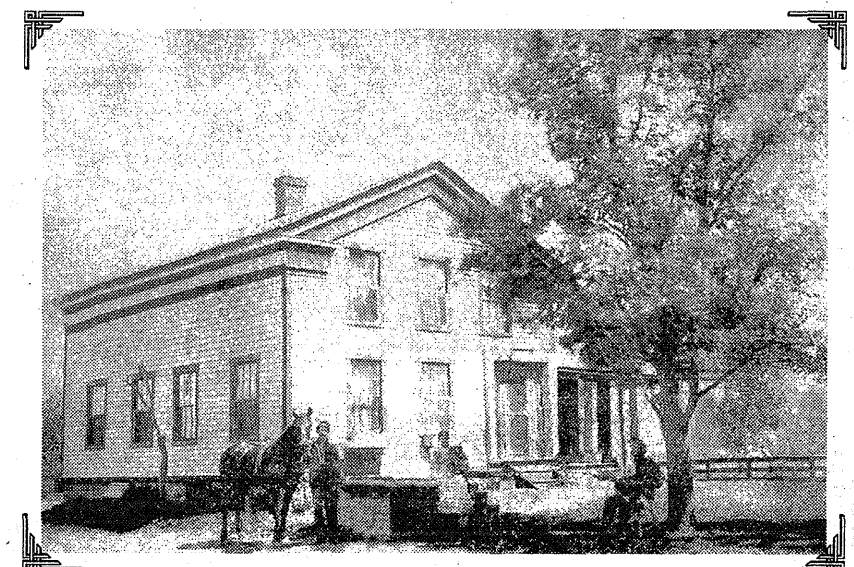
Initially the city acquired the Society of Friends (Quaker) meeting house on Seven Mile west of Farmington road at the urging of the Livonia Historical Society and Livonia Historical Commission who recognized the need to save structures dating back to the city's early



The Nathan Kingsley House formally opened in September of 1986. Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara spoke at the ceremony.



The Shaw House is shown at its original site on Six Mile. The home was moved to Quaker Acres in 1973 when Interstate 275 was under construction. It was later moved to Greenmead.



This Greek Revival home was built in 1856 on Plymouth road, east of Levan, by George and Henrietta Ryder. They were the parents of Alfred and John Ryder, killed at Gettysburg during the Civil War. Today, the home is located in Westland.

years. In Livonia Preserved - Greenmead and Beyond Daniel and Glynn follow the moving of the buildings from the original Quaker Acres to the historic location soon to become the village and farm of Greenmead. The historical site is comprised of two sections - one

reflecting the 1850s, the other the early 1920s, about 25 years before Livonia became a city.

"I remember laying out the Ann Arbor Trail and Newburgh build-

PLEASE SEE BOOK, C2

Gift of Life speaker urges others to consider organ donation

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Brian Hill of Plymouth got a little emotional Tuesday morning telling the story of daughter Andri's heart transplant.

Hill and his wife, Angela, have three children with Andri, 10, the eldest. She'd had a heart condition and a muscle disease that caused her to develop scoliosis. Doctors wanted to do surgery to correct her spinal problem.

"Her heart didn't respond too well to that procedure," Brian Hill told members and guests at Tuesday's Plymouth A.M. Rotary meeting at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Doctors began to talk of a

heart transplant for Andri. "That was not a good thing for us to hear" at the time. "It really set us back."

Andri's restrictive cardiomyopathy led doctors to that suggestion, and Andri's parents became concerned about her wheezing. The Hills communicated online with other families in similar circumstances, and decided to list their daughter Aug. 26, 2005.

Andri got the call last December to receive a new heart. She was out of the hospital after 13 days and is doing well. Another family they knew wasn't blessed that way; the out-of-state teen the family had met online died in January, while awaiting a heart

transplant.

"Christmas and holidays, it's tough," Hill said. He volunteers for Gift of Life to encourage others to sign up for the organ, tissue and eye donor registry. Gift of Life can be reached online at giftoflifemichigan.org or by phone at (800) 482-4881.

Hill, a real estate consultant, told Rotarians that some 94,000 Americans are awaiting transplants, and not all will be fortunate enough to receive one. The immune system is powerful in attacking the new organ and recipients must take suppressant drugs.

"It's not a cure-all." Still, he's talked to people who've had an extra two years who describe

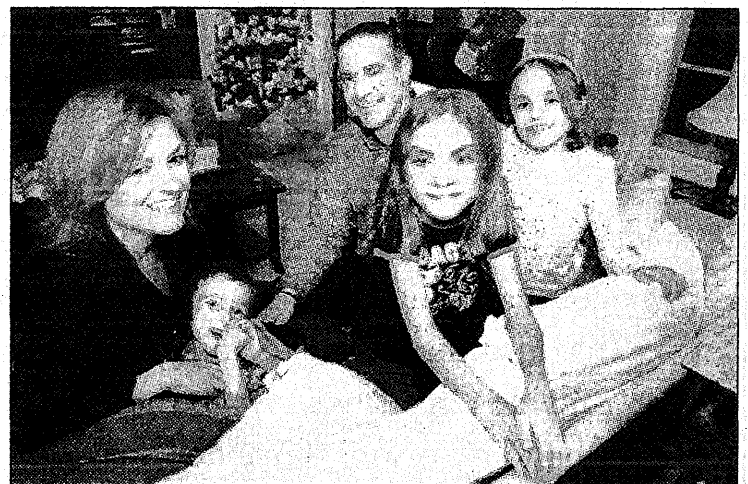
all they did during that time.

Hill told of Terry Gould, another heart transplant patient who resumed swimming after his surgery and won medals in the World Transplant Games in London, Ontario. Gould got to see a child of his get married. "He understands the gift of life and what it means," Hill said.

Some 50 percent of Americans don't wish to give their organs or tissue, something Hill's become more understanding of: "Some of it is faith. I know it's a personal decision and it's one that should not be made lightly."

He urged those present to

PLEASE SEE ORGAN DONATION, C2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andri Hill, center, surrounded by her family: dad Brian, mom Angela, sister Ally and brother Vincent. Andri received a new heart last year, and her dad spoke at Plymouth A.M. Rotary Tuesday to encourage organ donation.

ORGAN DONATION

FROM PAGE C1

talk with their families who will make the ultimate decision about organ donation after a death. "They're going to remember your convictions and your passion."

Hill also urged those present to complete the Gift of Life registry online at giftoflifemichigan.org.

Arlene Funke of Redford is glad she chose to give organs of her late husband, Doug, after his July 2003 heart attack. It wasn't a tough decision for her.

"Everything happened so quickly when he died," she recalled. Arlene Funke ran after the doctor and nurse when she was told of her husband's death, to ask if any organs could be used for transplants.

"I sort of had this inspiration

that this was something Doug would have wanted," she said. Doug Funke's corneas were used, along with heart valves, bones and skin. Doug was a longtime *Observer* reporter and community volunteer.

"He would want to do whatever he could to help somebody else," she said. "It really wasn't an agonizing decision at all. He would have been pleased."

jbrown@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2111

Cast is wanted for 'Noah The Musical'

The Grantland Street Players and Motor City Youth Theatre are holding auditions for *Noah, The Musical*, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 5-6, at the playhouse, 27555 Grantland, Livonia. Call

(313) 535-8962 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

This new musical by Ian Gower and Rob Alderton contains all of the elements you

would expect to tell this story - a large boat, animals two by two, a storm, dove, and a symbolic rainbow.

The cast includes Noah and Mrs. Noah, ages 40-60; a storyteller age 20 and up; Noah's three sons and three daughters-in-law, age 18 and up; various singing and dancing animals played by ages 8-17; Baasha and council of elders age 20 and up, and a chorus of singers and experienced dancers, all ages.

Audition times are 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, for adults, and 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, for youth.

The production runs March 9-11, 16-18, and 23-25.

Elizabeth I exhibit debuts with library show



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Adult services librarian Donna Winter talks about the exhibit, Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend, on display in the second-floor gallery at Livonia's Civic Center Public Library.

Queen Elizabeth I ruled over England more than 400 years ago, but she'll begin a two month reign the Civic Center Public Library Art Gallery starting Monday, Dec. 18.

A major, museum-quality traveling exhibit features the monarch whose 45-year leadership made England a power and fostered a period of major cultural achievement, including poetry and the works of Shakespeare.

Called "Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend," the exhibit features 6-foot panels showing artwork and an explanation of her significance in government, religion, the arts and exploration of the world. Livonia is one of only 40 libraries across the country - and the only one in Michigan - chosen to show the exhibit. "We are pleased to have been selected as a site for this

exhibition," said Kathleen Monroe, city librarian. "Elizabeth I was a remarkable historical figure, and the Elizabethan Age is filled with many fascinating topics of interest to audiences of all ages."

The library is hosting a number of events to showcase the exhibit, starting with an opening night "Meet the Queen" evening from 7-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, in the Civic Center Library atrium. Dancers, musicians from her court and desserts from the Elizabethan period will be featured.

Through January and February, the library will host a series of book discussions, historic presentations, concerts and even a "Tea with the Queen" event for children ages 6-12.

The show was organized by the Newberry in Chicago, in collaboration with the American Library Association. The National Endowment for the Humanities provided major grants, with support also from the Vance Family Fund, the University of Illinois at Chicago, plus Madonna University and the Livonia Arts Commission.

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REWARD - TOP DOLLAR PAID

BOOK

FROM PAGE C1

ings," said Suzanne Daniel, who's worked on the project since 1974. "We went down and stopped traffic and measured to recreate the intersection."

Daniel and Glynn found plenty of inspiration for the book while working in the print shop which has no telephone or running water. In the fall of 2005 they began organizing and searching for photographs not only of buildings in the village, but historic cemeteries such as Newburg where Revolutionary War soldiers are buried, and the city's lost and remaining homes and buildings including Wilson Barn and Henry Ford's Newburgh

village industry plant site now occupied by the Wayne County Sheriff and their horses. The Livonia Historic Preservation Commission oversees all of the city's historic districts and is responsible for seeing that U.S. Secretary of Interior standards for preservation are met.

"We had a lot of peace and quiet," said Kathleen Glynn who's volunteered at Greenmead since the late 1980s and has served as president of the Livonia Historic Preservation Commission. In June of this year she and Daniel turned their manuscript over to Arcadia Publishing.

"It's a great way for small historical societies to tell a story with little capital if you're willing to do the work," said Glynn. "Even people who know about Greenmead enjoy the book which tells how it started, the restoration efforts, all of the people who gave their talent. Even the staff say they learned something from the book."

"I think it's a good tool for volunteers," added Daniel.

Glynn and Daniel have been involved with preserving the area's heritage for many years

as volunteers. Glynn earned a master's degree in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University and co-authored Michigan Historic Cemeteries Preservation Guide. She is a principal in a historic preservation consulting firm which has gathered documentation for several southern Michigan National Register and Historic District nominations.

Daniel earned a master of elementary education from Eastern Michigan University where she later took historic preservation courses for several years. She has a master degree in library science from Wayne State University. She is currently documenting one-room school houses in Michigan.

"We have gardeners at Greenmead who keep up the grounds," said Glynn. "Over a 30 year period, we've seen the efforts of so many people from having the foresight of creating a village to the moving of buildings to the site, the Questors redecorating"

In addition to the hundreds of volunteers who have labored over the years, the Friends of Greenmead has held garden

and Christmas walks to raise funds. Individual donations have added up as well.

"Once a girl scout gave five cents," said Daniel. "Every penny that has come toward this is important. Our next project is Hill House. We've only done necessary maintenance. We need to update the electrical."

"I hope the book helps people have a better understanding of what we have at Greenmead. Most people think Livonia is not old. We do have history. Let's take care of what we have left."

Livonia Preserved - Greenmead and Beyond (from the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing) is available at the Greenmead gift shop, area bookstores, and businesses including Town Peddler on Plymouth Road, and Walgreens and Hallmark at Six Mile and Farmington. The cost is \$19.95. For information, visit the Web site at www.ci.livonia.mi.us and click on Greenmead, or call (248) 477-7375.

ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

TOURS

FROM PAGE C1

and cookies. For reservations, call (248) 477-7375. Proceeds benefit Historic Greenmead.

Carols will be sung by the Livonia Civic Chorus in the Meeting House and Aria Degillo in the church.

"They'll tour the Kingsley and Shaw houses, Newburg school and church, the Bungalow, and the A.J. Geer General Store," said Renaud.

"Along the way they meet costumed re-enactors. It's neat to go through the buildings after dark. I like the lights dim and the warm glow

of the candle."

Volunteer Suzanne Daniel spends an entire day just setting up the candles in the buildings and walkways all the while keeping in mind that the historic structures could go up quickly in flames if one is misplaced.

"I do it for people to realize how low the light was," said Daniel. "This was the simple life," added Renaud. "The candle light walks are something to do after the holidays to extend the Christmas season. For some people it's sort of like a family tradition."

Greenmead is becoming a year round tradition for businesses and organizations

holding meetings and parties in Judge Blue's House which was renovated with events planning and fund-raising in mind. Couples regularly wed in the Newburg Church and hold the reception afterwards in the Blue House which is really a cream structure built in the mid 1800s.

Proceeds from a Presidential Tea there on Saturday, Feb. 24, will go to the restoration and preservation of Greenmead. For reservations, details or to find out about holding an event, call (248) 477-7375.

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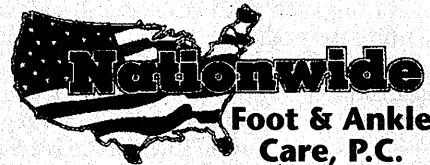


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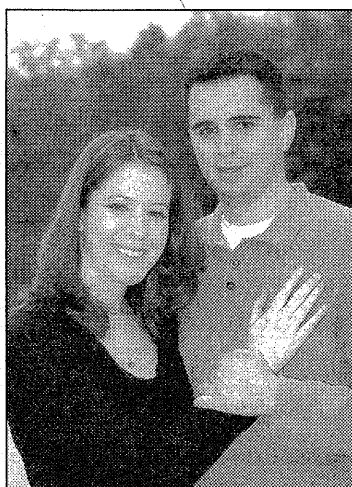
ENGAGEMENTS

Samsel-Androsian

Stan and Lynn Samsel of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Andra, to Jeffrey Androsian, son of Bill and Sandy Androsian, of Brighton.

The bride-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Stevenson High School and will be receiving her bachelor's of business administration from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in April of 2007. She currently works for Busch's in Livonia.

The prospective groom is a 1997 graduate of Northville High School and obtained his bachelor's of business administration from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2002. He is currently pursuing his master's of business administration at Lawrence Tech. He



works as an Account Manager for NYX, Inc. in Livonia.

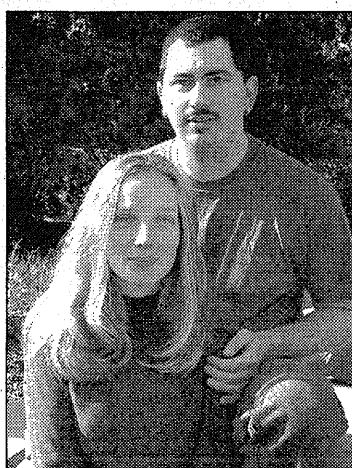
A July 2007 wedding is planned for Northville. They will make their home in Dearborn.

Ouillette-Clayton

Tonya Ouillette and Nic Clayton of Gladwin announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Robert and Robin (Carter) Ouillette of Gladwin, formally of Garden City. She is also the granddaughter of Audrey and the late Ervin (Red) Ouillette, and Roy and Mary Lou Carter all of Garden City. She is a 2001 graduate of Clinton High School and 2003 graduate of Kirtland Community College where she is employed.

The groom-to-be is the son of Theodore and Teresa Clayton of Clinton. He is also a 2001 graduate of Clinton High School



and is employed as a heavy equipment operator in Harrison.

A June 2007 wedding is planned.

Roderick-Vineyard

Thomas and Wendy Roderick of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Holly Antoinette Roderick of Westland, to Gary Anthony Vineyard of Westland.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of John Glenn High School and attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She is employed at Long Mechanical in Northville.

The prospective groom is the son of Gary and Debra Vineyard of Westland. He is a graduate of John Glenn High School. He is employed at Ford Motor Company, Livonia Transmission.

A July 2007 wedding is planned at the Inn at St. John's



with a reception at Plymouth Manor.

'Mocktail' recipes help people stay safe on road

Wayne County Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance recently joined forces to urge drivers to stay safe this holiday season and all year. As part of that, a "Mocktail Mixer" contest was held to seek ideas for nonalcoholic drinks for holiday parties.

Cecilia Nesbitt, Westland Shopping Center employee and first-place winner, received a \$75 gift certificate to NML Laser Design, \$50 gift certificate to Sears, \$25 to J.C. Penney and an A&W meal card. Here's her recipe:

MARDI GRAS PUNCH

- 1 (6-ounce) can of frozen orange juice concentrate (thawed)
- 1 (6-ounce) can of frozen lemonade concentrate (thawed)
- 1 quart chilled apple juice

MDA VOLUNTEERS

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is searching for summer camp volunteers who are looking for a rewarding and memorable experience. Volunteer counselors are needed to help young people with neuromuscular diseases enjoy fun-filled, weeklong MDA summer camps across the country.

Volunteer counselors must be at least 16 years old and able to lift and care for a young person between the ages of 6 and 21. Each counselor becomes a companion to a camper with a neuromuscular disease. Counselors help their campers with daily activities such as eating, bathing and dressing, and in recreational activities such as arts and crafts, swimming and horse-back riding. "MDA summer camp is a week that young people with neuromuscular diseases look forward to all year long because it is a place where barriers simply do not exist," said MDA President and CEO Gerald Weinberg. At no charge to families, MDA's summer camp program serves more than 4,000 campers nationwide in some 90 weeklong sessions. Last year, some 5,000 volunteers helped make this all possible. It costs the association \$650 to send one child to camp.

To obtain an application or learn more, contact your local MDA office, or call (800) 572-1717. Information can be found on the MDA summer camp pages of the Web site at www.mda.org/clinics/camp.

- 2 quarts chilled ginger ale
- 1 quart raspberry, orange, lime and lemon sherbet
- Stir concentrates and apple juice in a large bowl.
- Stir in the ginger ale.
- Scoop sherbet into balls and spoon into punch.

Tyrnza Wiley, Detroit resident and second-place winner, received a \$50 gift certificate to NML Laser Design, \$25 gift certificate to J.C. Penney and an A&W meal card. Here's Wiley's recipe:

CRANBERRY - ALMOND PUNCH

- 1 can jellied cranberry sauce
- 2 1/4 cups of water
- 1/2 cup of lemon juice
- 3/4 cup of orange juice
- 1 teaspoon of almond extract
- 1 cup of ginger ale, chilled

Use a fork to crush the cranberry jelly, hand beat smooth with a whisk, then combine and stir in the water, lemon juice, orange juice and almond extract. Chill.

Stir in the ginger ale just prior to serving.

Garnish glasses with lemon slices and mint.

For best results, use a blender prior to adding the ginger ale.

Lisa Podina, Westland Shopping Center employee and third-place winner, received a \$25 gift certificate to NML Laser Design, \$25 gift certificate to J.C. Penney and an A&W meal card. Here's her recipe:

CHRISTMAS SUNSHINE PUNCH

- 3 cups of apricot juice
- 1 can of pineapple juice

- 1 liter of ginger ale
- 2 quarts Ruby Red grapefruit juice

Mix all ingredients in a punch bowl with ice cubes to chill before serving.

LaVeida Hendricks, Inkster resident and fourth-place winner, received a \$20 gift certificate to KB Toys and an A&W meal card. Here's her recipe:

LAVEIDA'S PARTY MIXER

- 1 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 cup fresh grapefruit juice
- 1/2 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/2 cup cranberry juice
- 1/2 cup pomegranate molasses
- 1/2 cup club soda
- Slices of lemon

Combine, and serve over ice.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com



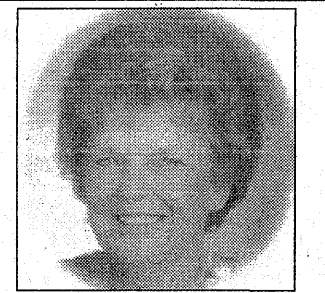
CECILIA ELLIS (Nee REYES)

Age 84. December 13, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Albert A., loving mother of Cynthia Andrews (John), Patricia Ellis Strowger (Richard), Albert J., and Sandra Langan (Matthew). Dear grandmother of Christen and Caitlin Andrews; Ryan and Bradley Strowger; Albert A. II and Andrew Ellis; Lauren and Erin Langan. Sister of Peter Reyes, Elizabeth Reyes, and Mary Lou Wholihan. Predeceased by her sister, Caroline, and her brothers Joseph, Albert, and Frederick. Survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday 2-4 and 6-9 at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack Ave. at Vernier Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods. Rosary 7:00 pm. Funeral Mass Saturday, 11:00 am at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice or The Hope Cancer Clinic.



ROBERT F.C. LABADIE

Age 82, of Belleville, passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. Mr. Labadie owned and operated 2 dry cleaning establishments, Lacy's Cleaners in Westland and Detroit, retiring in 1990. Funeral services will be at 1 P.M. Monday, December 18, at the Love Funeral Home, Bancroft, Michigan with Pastor Wayne DeVerna officiating. Burial will be in Fuller Cemetery, Byron, Michigan. Visitation will be Sunday from 2-5 P.M. and 6-8 P.M. and Monday from 11 A.M. until service time at the funeral home. He was born on March 6, 1924, in Bellaire, Michigan, the son of Francis and Grace (Mortimer) Labadie. He graduated from Bellaire High School. On April 11, 1953 he married, Marie T. Wiggins. Mr. Labadie is survived by his wife, Marie and eight children; Robert Francis (Marilyn) Labadie, of Waterford, John Charles (Debbie) Labadie, of Westland, Michelle Marie (Ken) Deschepper of Byron, Madeline Elizabeth (Dale) Baker, of Salem, Ohio, Mary Renee (Michael) Wiggert of Ft. Collins, Colorado, Maureen Therese (Bonni) Alesna of Warren, Margaret Ann Labadie of Burns, Wyoming, and James Joseph (Cyndi) Labadie of Greenville, South Carolina; 22 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one sister: Madelyn Ricketts of Traverse City.



MARILYN MARGARET PIPP (nee CARRIER)

Age 84, Dec. 12, 2006. Beloved wife of 62 years to the late John C., cherished mother of Kathryn (Terry) MacDonald, Julie (Jack) Tillotson, Janice Dahlofer, John Jr., James, Mary (Jim) Correll, Michael (Monica) and the late Joseph. Proud grandmother of Joseph, Cheryl, Anthony, Carin, James, Brad, Michael, Thomas, Kathryn, Christian, Mark and Erin; and great grandmother of Steven and Grant. God gave us an angel for 84 years. The beauty of her spirit touched all who knew her. She will live forever in our hearts. A Funeral Mass was held Saturday, December 16th, at our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington. Memorial tributes suggested to the Arthritis Foundation (arthritis.org), Alzheimer's Assn. (alzheimers.org) or Covenant House (www.covenanthouse.com). Arrangements entrusted to the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. heeneys-sundquist.com

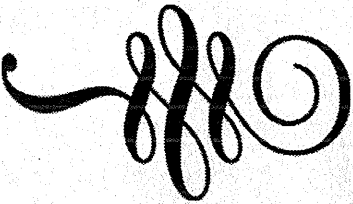


LINDA DENISE SLAGE

of Garden City. In loving memory, May 12, 1947-December 13, 2006. Linda will be forever loved and missed by the many hearts that she touched with her genuine smile and warm laughter. She died Wednesday at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital after battling cancer for more than a year. She is survived by husband, Stephen; and sisters, Donna and Gloria Tasovich. She is preceded in death by her grandfather, Stoyan; grandmother, Florence; brother, James; sister Judy and son, Steven Dennis Bock. She loved her dog, Mickey and kitty, Smokey. Services were held Saturday at Harry J. Will Funeral Home and burial will be Monday at Knollwood Cemetery in Canton.

JANE E. VAN DUSEN

Age 82, of West Simsbury, Ct., died on Sunday, December 10, 2006 at 8:30 pm at the Atlantic City Medical Center, Atlantic City, NJ. Jane is survived by her brothers Fred and George Erb, her children Fred, Steve, Cathy, Marjorie, and by her grandchildren Sean, Michelle, Brendan, Robin, Ashley, Nathan, Jesse, Paul, Linda, Steven, Heather and Anna. Predeceased is Jane's daughter Janie. Jane was born on October 31, 1924 in Detroit, MI. She graduated high school from Kingswood Birmingham, Michigan. She married Charles T. Van Dusen in 1944. Jane spent years as a dedicated wife, mother and homemaker. Later in life, Jane went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Goddard College, New Hampshire. As a long time and active member of The Threshold Foundation, Jane worked to make this planet a better place to live. Jane loved and loyally supported her family and friends throughout her life. Jane will be sorely missed by them all. A Service will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2006, 12:30 p.m. in Beach Haven, NJ at the Holy Innocence Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, on Jane's behalf to the charity of your choice.



MARY E. WATERSON

Age 75, died Monday, December 11, 2006 at Maplewood Manor. Mrs. Waterson was born January 7, 1931 in Shannon Mississippi the daughter of Olen and Etta Mosley. Mary's life was centered around her church, Bethany Tabernacle, where she participated in many church functions including Bible study. She had worked at Cunningham Drugs and Perry Drugs and Apex Drugs and Elias Brothers in Rochester, Michigan. Surviving are sons, Alvin (Becky) Waterson, Roger Waterson; Grandchildren, Kathryn, Michael, James; sisters Virginia Vondran, Rachel Ashmore; several nieces and nephews. Mrs. Waterson was preceded in death by her son, Carl Richard Waterson, brothers William Mosley, Thomas Mosley, and sister Bernice Ford. Friends may visit the family from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday, December 17 at the Reigle Funeral Home Sunset Chapel. The funeral service will be 1:00pm Monday, December 18 at the funeral home. Pastor Dan Hutchinson and Pastor Don Werden will officiate burial will follow at Sunset Hills Cemetery. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to Bethany Tabernacle Teaching Fund. Reigle Funeral Home Sunset Chapel 5501 W. Pierson Rd, Flushing MI 48433. 810-732-1448

WILMA JEAN ALLMAYER

Age 78, of Farmington Hills passed away on November 11, 2006. Beloved wife of Bruce, and loving mother of Linda (Ed), Larry, Mary (Mike), Karl (Mary), and Dale. Also survived by thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Born in Redford Township to the late William Walbridge of Livonia. She was a graduate of Redford Union Class of 1946. From 1964 to 1974 she was the general leader for the 4-H youth group, the Los Caballeros based out of Farmington. Wilma had traveled through all 50 states including driving to Alaska. Her travels also took her to Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and The Galapagos Islands.



NORBERT R. ZELAZNY

Age 83, died December 8, 2006. Long time resident of Livonia. Loving husband of Irene, for 56 years. Together they traveled the world, visiting 6 continents, in search of the most spectacular waterfalls. Loved father of Richard Edward, (Edith) Mark Andrew, (Jean) James Allen, Daniel Norbert and Barbara Irene (Rory) Alderton. Loving Grandfather of Robert, Erica, Jessica, Sarah, and Kevin. Missed friend to Astrid. Devoted master of dog, Buffy. Originally from Alpena, where he was Captain of the Alpena High School football team, during the 1941 season. Veteran of WWII, serving with the US Army Corps of Engineering in Europe. Well respected Project Engineer for the Wayne County Road Commission for 35 years. Known to his co-workers as "Zeke". Passionate Bridge player, reaching the status of Life Master. Avid gardener, spending most of his free time in his gardens of vegetables, flowers, and fruit trees. Voracious reader of mystery novels late into the night. His warmth, integrity, honesty and sense of humor will be deeply missed. Services were held December 13th, 2006 at St. Genevieve Catholic Church, where he was a parishioner since 1964. Buried at St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

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Don't leave your pets out in the cold, local Humane Society says

As temperatures drop, calls to the Michigan Humane Society Cruelty Hotline increase with reports of pets left outside with no shelter or other provisions. Sadly, when weather becomes severe, some calls arrive too late to save an animal left to fend for himself in brutal conditions.

The Michigan Humane Society recommends that pets live indoors all year long. However, if an animal must be outside, guardians should put proper provisions in place now before it becomes a life or death situation - and one for which they can be charged with animal cruelty law violations.

Misdemeanor animal cruelty charges can carry a sentence of up to 93 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, community service and loss of pet ownership for a specified amount of time.

"Even though the temperatures are just beginning to drop, there have been several cold and wet days already that could be unbearable or life-threatening for a dog left outside," said Debby MacDonald, senior cruelty investigator for the MHS. "We encourage animal guardians to bring their dogs inside all year, especially during extreme weather conditions, but those who remain outside must have adequate protection from the elements. Now is the time to make sure proper shelter, plenty of nutritious food and unfrozen water are available."

The following tips will help people care for pets responsibly during cold weather:

- When temperatures plummet, pets should not be left

Misdemeanor animal cruelty charges can carry a sentence of up to 93 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, community service and loss of pet ownership for a specified amount of time.

outside for any length of time. Even large or long-haired breeds cannot withstand severe or inclement weather. Bring small or short-haired dogs in when temperatures reach 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit. Larger breeds and thick-coated dogs may remain outside, with adequate shelter, to about zero degrees. Precipitation and severe wind chills should also be taken into account.

■ Cats should be kept permanently indoors or at least brought into a warm, animal-proofed garage during severe weather.

■ Roaming cats often seek the warmth of car engines, so knock on the car hood or honk the horn before starting your car to give them a chance to escape.

■ Shelter is required by Michigan state law for dogs who must remain outdoors for any length of time. Adequate shelter means a well-built, insulated, slant-roofed dog house. The interior should be just large enough for the dog to stand and to lie down comfortably. It should be slightly elevated from the ground for air circulation. The door should face away from prevailing winds and have a protective flap to eliminate drafts. Clean, dry straw should always be provided for bedding rather than towels, rugs or blankets

that absorb moisture and may quickly freeze.

■ Several types of inadequate shelter often encountered by investigators include an unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or dogs simply tied out to a porch, fence or deck with no shelter at all.

■ Increase food and water 10-20 percent for dogs left outside during the winter. Check drinking water frequently, every few hours, to make sure it hasn't frozen.

■ If an animal is cold to the touch, or his paws and ears have turned bright red, he may be suffering from frostbite. Move the animal to a warmer area and contact your veterinarian immediately.

The Michigan Humane Society's four cruelty investigators and one field agent handle approximately 4,000 cases of animal cruelty each year in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park. Suspected animal cruelty/neglect in these cities should be reported by calling the MHS Cruelty Hotline at (313) 872-3401. A confidential message can be left 24 hours a day. Elsewhere, the local animal control or police should be contacted.

The MHS operates shelters in Westland, Rochester Hills and Detroit.

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<p>APPOINTMENT SETTER Ideal for anyone who cannot get out to work. Work part-time from your home, scheduling pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, Mon-Fri. (734) 728-4572</p>	<p>LUBE TECH Experienced tech needed full-time. BC/BS & dental insurance. Wage + bonus. Apply at: Lubemart 32960 Michigan Ave. NW corner of Venoy, Wayne. Maintenance CITY OF FARMINGTON Department of Public Services Accepting applications for a position in Public Works Division. Wage: \$18.44 per hour, plus benefits. High school diploma or GED, and two years experience in heavy equipment operation, grounds maintenance, and general construction practices or equivalent combination is required. Familiarity with underground utility repair and installation preferred. Must be able to work extended periods of manual labor. Must possess, or obtain and maintain, valid Michigan Commercial Driver's License, Endorsement "B." Must be able to work nights and weekends. Applications available from Department of Public Services, 33720 W. Nine Mile, Farmington, MI. Completed applications must be received in the Public Services Department by 4:30pm on Wednesday, December 20, 2006. An Equal Opportunity Employer</p>	<p>ROOFING LABORERS For commercial work. Must have exp & transportation. Call 734-513-6699</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NPO in Canton seeking administrative assistant to the president. Quickbooks & MS Office skills required. Mon-Fri. up to 30 hrs/wk with flexible work schedule. Send resume to: kjamison@lajoygroup.com Phone 734-453-1115 E.O.E.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT A growing development company seeking a Non Destructive Testing Engineer. Successful applicant must have a minimum of a Level II certification in Magnetic Particle & Fluorescent Penetrant Inspection, Nital Etch exp. also a plus. Fax resume: 313-841-0315 Any questions, call 313-341-9478 Tues. - Thurs. 12-3.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Engineering 5030 TECHNICAL HELP WANTED Detroit based aerospace company seeking a Non Destructive Testing Engineer. Successful applicant must have a minimum of a Level II certification in Magnetic Particle & Fluorescent Penetrant Inspection, Nital Etch exp. also a plus. Fax resume: 313-841-0315 Any questions, call 313-341-9478 Tues. - Thurs. 12-3.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040 DENTAL ASSISTANT Exp. Full-Time, Plymouth/Canton area. Email resume: lilley45@hotmail.com or fax 734-981-2683 DENTAL ASSISTANT 4 day work week. Exp. necessary. No evenings, no week-ends. Benefits. 248-351-9060 DENTAL ASSISTANT & RECEPTIONIST Downtown Plymouth dental office looking for an energetic, friendly, team player. Full-time. Experience needed. Fax resume to: 734-453-4513 DENTAL ASSISTANT COME BE A PART OF OUR EXCITING DENTAL TEAM! Full-time position in group practice. Minimum 2 yrs. exp. with X-ray certification. Perio & Ortho exp. a plus. Excellent benefits including 401K. Fax resume to: 734-722-5192</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Sales 5120 SUPERSTAR SALESPERSON Are you outgoing, competitive, able to think on your feet? Does an upbeat work atmosphere and up to \$13 per hr. sound good to you? WEED MAN, North America's largest franchised lawn care company, has several openings in both our Novi and Ferndale locations, and we want you! We believe in an honest, fair, and professional workplace. Hours: Mon-Thurs., 6pm-9pm; Sat., 9am-1pm. Please call 248-477-4680 for interview.</p>	<p>AMY'S CAFE Hiring: Wait Staff. Grand River/Haggerty. 248-426-0665</p>
<p>ASSISTANT PROPERTY MANAGER - FT For American House Senior Living Residences in Wayne County. Exp. w/ seniors and leasing desired. Please email resumes to: ahrresumes@comcast.net.</p>	<p>BUSINESS MANAGER 20 yr old Oakland City non-profit agency seeks exp'd Business Manager with a Bachelors degree (min) & 8 yrs of managerial exp. Must have exceptional organization & communication skills. Understanding of consumer quality assurance & proficient computer skills. Salary \$41,000. Email resume to monica88@sboglobal.net</p>	<p>MANICURIST NEEDED For busy hair salon to service existing clients. No rent or percentage taken, all your own business. Call Kathy at 248-642-2882 or fax resume 248-642-7667</p>	<p>SEMESTER BREAK WORK \$17.25 base/appt. Work 1-5 weeks over break, customer sales/service, no exp necessary. Conditions exist. Must be 18+. Apply Now! Start after finals! (248) 426-4405</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020 CAR BILLER Exc. pay and benefits. Exp. required. Send resume to Varsity Lincoln Mercury Inc., P.O. Box 633, Novi, MI 48376-0633 Attn: Kevin</p>	<p>CLERICAL HELP, Part-Time. Home office in Canton. Knowledge of QuickBooks a plus. 10-15 hrs/wk. \$8/hr. Fax resume: 734-331-2661</p>	<p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Classes begin in Jan. 1 day a week, 5 weeks. Cost \$850 at local hospital. (313) 382-3857</p>	<p>VETERINARY TECH Experienced Only. Competitive wages + benefit package. Full-time. Resume & references to: Strong Veterinary Hospital, 29212 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Ask for Eva.</p>	<p>Observer & Eccentric Classifieds 1-800-579-SELL</p>
<p>DELIVERY/SALES \$675 TO \$975/WK Company vehicle & training provided. 248-471-5200</p>	<p>MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST Troy, MI wanted for marketing field work for business-to-business products, including automotive. Send resume to Nick Limb, Managing Partner, Ducker Research Company, Inc., 1250 Maplelawn Drive, Troy, MI 48064</p>	<p>★ Oil Change Technicians ★ 10 Minute Oil Change experience or will train. Full &/or part-time. Apply in person: 34680 W. 8 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. 1/2 mile W. of Farmington Rd. 248-476-1313</p>	<p>TECHS Gowing Chevy Dealer has immediate openings for ASE & State Certified Techs in several areas. Master Tech with Trans & Drivability Certification preferred. Excellent pay and benefit package available. Contact John Peters @ 313-790-9621 or 313-532-2057. George Matick Chevrolet</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NPO in Canton seeking administrative assistant to the president. Quickbooks & MS Office skills required. Mon-Fri. up to 30 hrs/wk with flexible work schedule. Send resume to: kjamison@lajoygroup.com Phone 734-453-1115 E.O.E.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040 DENTAL ASSISTANT Exp. Full-Time, Plymouth/Canton area. Email resume: lilley45@hotmail.com or fax 734-981-2683 DENTAL ASSISTANT 4 day work week. Exp. necessary. No evenings, no week-ends. Benefits. 248-351-9060 DENTAL ASSISTANT & RECEPTIONIST Downtown Plymouth dental office looking for an energetic, friendly, team player. Full-time. Experience needed. Fax resume to: 734-453-4513 DENTAL ASSISTANT COME BE A PART OF OUR EXCITING DENTAL TEAM! Full-time position in group practice. Minimum 2 yrs. exp. with X-ray certification. Perio & Ortho exp. a plus. Excellent benefits including 401K. Fax resume to: 734-722-5192</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080 AMY'S CAFE Hiring: Wait Staff. Grand River/Haggerty. 248-426-0665</p>	<p>Waitress experienced, full to part time. Apply Mon-Fri., 2-4 at: Four Friends Bar & Grill 44282 Warren Rd., Canton. RESTAURANT POSITIONS Downtown riverfront restaurant accepting applications for exp. Servers, Host Staff, Kitchen Staff, & Restaurant Manager. Experienced only need apply. Great opportunity please submit resume & apply Tues. thru Thurs. 2-4:30pm at 267 Joseph Campau, S. of Jefferson. WAITSTAFF Priya Indian Restaurant is looking for friendly Waitstaff for lunch & Dinner shifts. Call Manager 248-615-7700; 36600 Grand River, Farmington Hills, 48335 WAITSTAFF Full/Part-Time. Flexible schedule at an Irish sports pub. Sheehan's On The Green 5 Mile, E. of Haggerty. 734-420-0646</p>	<p>See what really counts... Observer & Eccentric Classifieds 1-800-579-SELL</p>
<p>ASSISTANT PROPERTY MANAGER - FT For American House Senior Living Residences in Wayne County. Exp. w/ seniors and leasing desired. Please email resumes to: ahrresumes@comcast.net.</p>	<p>BUSINESS MANAGER 20 yr old Oakland City non-profit agency seeks exp'd Business Manager with a Bachelors degree (min) & 8 yrs of managerial exp. Must have exceptional organization & communication skills. Understanding of consumer quality assurance & proficient computer skills. Salary \$41,000. Email resume to monica88@sboglobal.net</p>	<p>MANICURIST NEEDED For busy hair salon to service existing clients. No rent or percentage taken, all your own business. Call Kathy at 248-642-2882 or fax resume 248-642-7667</p>	<p>SEMESTER BREAK WORK \$17.25 base/appt. Work 1-5 weeks over break, customer sales/service, no exp necessary. Conditions exist. Must be 18+. Apply Now! Start after finals! (248) 426-4405</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020 CAR BILLER Exc. pay and benefits. Exp. required. Send resume to Varsity Lincoln Mercury Inc., P.O. Box 633, Novi, MI 48376-0633 Attn: Kevin</p>	<p>CLERICAL HELP, Part-Time. Home office in Canton. Knowledge of QuickBooks a plus. 10-15 hrs/wk. \$8/hr. Fax resume: 734-331-2661</p>	<p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Classes begin in Jan. 1 day a week, 5 weeks. Cost \$850 at local hospital. (313) 382-3857</p>	<p>VETERINARY TECH Experienced Only. Competitive wages + benefit package. Full-time. Resume & references to: Strong Veterinary Hospital, 29212 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Ask for Eva.</p>	<p>Waitress experienced, full to part time. Apply Mon-Fri., 2-4 at: Four Friends Bar & Grill 44282 Warren Rd., Canton. RESTAURANT POSITIONS Downtown riverfront restaurant accepting applications for exp. Servers, Host Staff, Kitchen Staff, & Restaurant Manager. Experienced only need apply. Great opportunity please submit resume & apply Tues. thru Thurs. 2-4:30pm at 267 Joseph Campau, S. of Jefferson. WAITSTAFF Priya Indian Restaurant is looking for friendly Waitstaff for lunch & Dinner shifts. Call Manager 248-615-7700; 36600 Grand River, Farmington Hills, 48335 WAITSTAFF Full/Part-Time. Flexible schedule at an Irish sports pub. Sheehan's On The Green 5 Mile, E. of Haggerty. 734-420-0646</p>
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THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS
WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

Feeling festive: Plymouth-Canton AAUW members meet for holiday merriment

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes, it's good to get together just for fun, especially during the December holidays. Members of the Plymouth-Canton branch, American Association of University Women, know that's true.

"We're here to celebrate together," said Becky Copenhaver of Canton, branch president, during the annual holiday gathering Wednesday at the Plymouth Historical Museum. "It's fun to get together for the holiday season."

The event, which draws some 40-50 women each December, includes bringing gifts for First Step, the local domestic violence and sexual assault center. AAUW members and guests contributed toys, clothing and other essentials.

Member Diana Wilcox made scarves and bought gloves for a silent auction, in addition to raffle baskets put together by board members. Money raised went to the association's Legal Advocacy Fund.

Food was served and the women enjoyed a tour of the museum's Santa Claus exhibit from the collection of Weldon Petz of West Bloomfield.

"We get to see people we haven't seen all year," said Copenhaver, a third-grade teacher at Hoover Elementary in Livonia. Member Diana Wilcox made scarves and

bought gloves for a silent auction, in addition to raffle baskets put together by board members. Money raised went to the association's Legal Advocacy Fund.

Sanford Burr, interim museum director, gave background on the museum and its Lincoln collection from Petz. Petz has some 3,000 Santas, about one-fourth of which are on display at the museum.

"I know that people are very busy shopping and doing that kind of thing," said Burr, who encourages folks to stop by to see the Santas, including some from the J.L. Hudson's department store. "I think this is just a super exhibit. I love it. Every time I walk around I see something new."

The Santas will stay at the museum, 155 S. Main, into January, he added. For information, call the museum at (734) 455-8940.

LIBRARY PICKS

Every week, the Plymouth District Library staff provides the Observer with their list of Best Sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or online at www.plymouthlibrary.org

FICTION

1. "Cross," James Patterson
2. "For One More Day," Mitch Albom
3. "Dear John," Nicholas Sparks
4. "Shape Shifter," Tony Hillerman
5. "Nature Girl," Carl Hiasen

NON-FICTION

1. "The Innocent Man,"

- John Grisham
2. "The Audacity of Hope," Barack Obama
3. "Culture Warrior," Bill O'Reilly
4. "Marley & Me," John Grogan
5. "The God Delusion," Richard Dawkins

PARENTS' CHOICE NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

1. "Heave Ho!" Heinz Janisch
2. "Sam is Never Scared," Thierry Robberscht
3. "The Red Chalk," Iris Van der Heide
4. "Oops," Arthur Geisert
5. "Moon Plane," Peter McCarthy

Come Home for Christmas

We're waiting to welcome you home to
First Presbyterian Church.

Saturday, December 23

5 p.m. Christmas Jazz

Sunday, December 24

8:30 a.m. Lessons & Songs

10 a.m. Stories & Songs

5 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

8 p.m. Candlelight & Communion

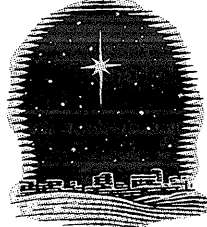
11 p.m. Candlelight & Special Music

First Presbyterian Church • 1669 West Maple Road, Birmingham
(between Southfield and Cranbrook)
248-644-2040 • www.fpcbirmingham.org

Rejoice in the Glory of Christmas

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

6255 Telegraph Road
Bloomfield Hills 248-646-5207
www.standrew-lutheran.org



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**
December 24th at 7:30pm

Christmas Eve Morning
Worship at 10:00am
Special Crafts and Snacks for Children

Sunday Worship and Sunday School
10:00am
Staffed nursery available each week.

Church is located on the east side of
Telegraph just north of Maple

DECEMBER

Join us
Christmas
weekend
Dec 23 & 24

Service Times:
Sat 8:15p & 7:15p
Sun 9:15a & 11:15a

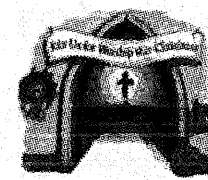
4 Identical Services

4155 North Vermilion
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-414-7177
NorthRidgeChurch.com

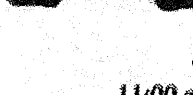
Christmas is a time to welcome friends to your home, family to your table, and joy into your heart. And that is why we at Plymouth First United Methodist Church are extending a warm welcome to you and yours. Join us on Christmas Eve as we experience Christmas with music, programs, and services that celebrate the wonder, the warmth, and the real meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Eve Sunday
10:00am Worship Service*
4:30 pm Family Service*
(skits & contemporary music)
8:00 pm Candlelight Service*
10:00pm Candlelight Service
*Nursery available

**Plymouth First United
Methodist Church**
(734) 453-5280 • www.pfumc.org
45201 N. Territorial Road • Plymouth
WE ARE MORE THAN SUNDAY SERVICES



**First Presbyterian Church ~ Plymouth
Church & Main Streets ~ 734-453-6464**
Regular Sunday Worship Services:
8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve Services:
9:00 a.m. Puppet's Service
11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
December 31 ~ One service only ~ 10:00 a.m.

St. James Episcopal Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

website: stjamesbirmingham.org

The Reverend Fred Elwood, Rector 248.644.0820

CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8 & 10 a.m. Morning Prayer

5 P.M. CRECHE PROCESSION & HOLY EUCHARIST

Carols & Candles; Service oriented for children; Nursery provided

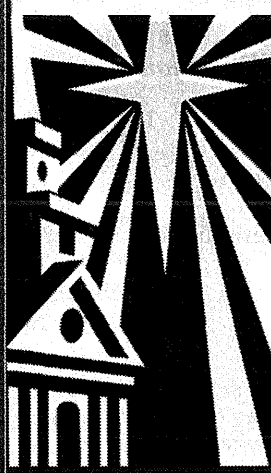
10 P.M. CHORAL EUCHARIST

Carols, Christmas Message & Candles (Music begins at 9:30!)

CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols

(Downtown Birmingham
between Woodward & Southfield,
corner of W. Maple and Chester)



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

620 Romeo Street, Rochester
248-651-9361



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

9:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. FAMILY CELEBRATION
(Glo-sticks for children; candles for adults)
Dr. Hal Weemhoff

7:30 and 11:00 p.m.
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
Rev. Jeff Regan

Infant and toddler care available at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve, December 31
10:00 a.m. Worship

www.stpaulsrochester.org

Experience the Hope!

A Christmas Festival
Christmas Concert
Sunday December 17, 7:00 p.m.


Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24
9:00 and 10:20 a.m.,
4:00, 5:30, and 7:00 p.m.



WARD
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile, Northville, MI 48168
248.374.7400
www.wardchurch.org

Jesus
hope
for the
holidays

Christmas Services
 Sunday, December 24
 4:00, 7:00, and 11:00 p.m.
 Music Prelude at 10:30 p.m.
 Monday, December 25
 10:00 a.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church
 574 S. Sheldon Road
 Plymouth, Michigan
 www.stjohnsplymouth.org
 734.453.0190



Church of the Holy Spirit
 9083 Newburgh Rd.
 Between Joy & Ann Arbor Tr.
 734-591-0211
Christmas Eve 6 pm
Christmas Day 10 am
 Web: www.holyspirit-livonia.org

Celebrate Christmas!
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
 Just north of I-96 (734) 522-6830

Christmas Eve:
 7:00pm Family Service
 11:00pm Candlelight Service
Christmas Day:
 10:00am Worship
<http://www.christsaviors.org>

ST. GENEVIEVE PARISH 29015 Jamison, Livonia
 ST. MAURICE PARISH 32765 Lyndon, Livonia
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CLUSTERED PARISHES MASS SCHEDULE
 Sunday, Dec. 24th ...Christmas Eve
Children's Mass: 4:00p at St. Genevieve and 6:30p at St. Maurice
Christmas Vigil Mass: 10:00p at St. Genevieve
 Monday, Dec. 25th...Christmas Day
Mass: 9:00a at St. Maurice and 11:00a at St. Genevieve
 Sunday, Dec. 31st...New Year's Eve
Mass: 4:00p at St. Genevieve and 6:00p at St. Maurice
Holy Hour: 11:30p-12:30a at St. Genevieve
 Monday, Jan. 1st...New Year's Day
Mass: 9:00a at St. Maurice and 11:00a at St. Genevieve

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 36500 Ann Arbor Trail
 Livonia, MI

Christmas Eve
 Two Services
 7:00 p.m.
 Family Worship & Candlelighting
 11:00 p.m.
 Holy Communion & Candlelighting

Anglican Church of Livonia
Did GOD become Man? A Sermon Series
 Dec. 17 10 am Virgin Birth...myth or truth?
 Dec. 24 10 am A Christmas fairy tale?
 Dec. 24 7 pm God in the flesh.
 All services at Livonia YMCA • 14255 Stark Road
www.hischurch.us

Trinity Church
Invites You to join us on
Christmas Eve
Choose from 3 Services:
 10:00 am Family Service
 7:00 & 11:00 pm Candlelight Services
Childcare Available at
 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd. • Plymouth, MI
 734.459.9550
www.trinityepc.org

Risen Christ Lutheran Church LC-MS
 Rev. Dr. David W. Martin, Pastor
 46250 Ann Arbor Road
 Plymouth
 (1 Mile West of Sheldon Road)
 734.453.5252
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
 4:30 and 7:00 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 16360 Hubbard Rd. • Livonia 48154
 734.421.8451
 December 23rd 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
 December 24th 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve
 Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
 December 30th 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
 December 31st 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Parkview Baptist Children's Church
 presents
"Klinkenschnell the Christmas Bell"
 Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.
 9355 Stark Rd., Livonia
 (734) 261-6180
 Come and enjoy the Christmas spirit by joining us for a delightful children's Christmas musical drama "Klinkenschnell". Four present day children are exploring a public Christmas display, when one of the children trips a switch on an antique time machine.

The First Congregational Church of Wayne
 Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am...Morning Service
 Sunday, December 24, 6:30 pm...Family Christmas Eve Service
 Sunday, December 24, 11:00 pm...Candlelight Service
 2 Towne Square
 Located on Wayne Road
 Between East and West Bound Michigan Avenue
 For More Information Call (734) 729-7550


LOLA PARK EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
 14750 Kinloch, Redford
 313-532-8655
 Rev. Gregory D. Gibbons, Pastor
 Regular Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.

Nardin Park United Methodist Church
 29887 West 11 Mile Road
 Farmington Hills, MI 48336
248-476-8860 • nardinpark.org
 Christmas Eve Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
 Sunday, December 24, 2006 • (Nursery care is available at 4:30, 6 and 8 p.m.)
 4:30 p.m. (Family Service) "Holy Chaos" Luke 21:20
 Rev. Mary Shipley, Preacher
 Media Premier of "Children's Christmas Production"
 Music by Cherub & Wesley Children's Choir
 6:00 p.m. "Recovering the Wonder" Titus 2:11-15
 Dr. Dale Miller, Preacher
 Music by New Generation Youth Choir
 Nardin Park Liturgical Dance Choir
 8:00 p.m. "Recovering the Wonder" Dr. Miller, Preacher
 Music by Chancel Choir
 11:00 p.m. (Communion Service) "Recovering the Wonder" Dr. Miller, Preacher
 Dr. Wesley Brun, Liturgist

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
 9600 Leverage, Redford 48239 313-937-2424
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!
Christmas Eve - Dec. 24
 10 a.m. 6 p.m. 10 p.m.
Christmas Day - Dec. 25
 10 a.m.
New Year's Eve - Dec. 31
 10 a.m. 5 p.m.
 Dec. 31 evening service followed by a potluck fellowship for all ages - everyone welcome!

Resurrection Catholic Church
 48755 Warren Rd.
 Canton, Michigan 48187
 734-451-0444
 Rev. Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor
CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24th
 4:30 p.m. Children's Mass (All Saints Gym)
 4:30 p.m. Mass (Church) & 10:00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec. 25th - 10:30 a.m.
SATURDAY, Dec. 30th - 4:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, Dec. 31st - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Come Catch the Christmas Spirit
Redford Aldersgate United Methodist
 Diana & Bob Goudie Pastors
Sunday, Dec. 24 10:00 a.m.
 Chancel Choir Cantata: "This Day is Born Emmanuel"
5:30 p.m.
 ☆ Family Friendly Service
 ☆ Contemporary Chorus
 ☆ Candle Lighting
 ☆ Nursery provided for preschool children
10:00 p.m.
 ☆ Adult Choir
 ☆ Hand Bell Choir
 ☆ Communion
 ☆ Candle Lighting
Sunday Morning Dec. 31
 One Service 10:00 a.m.
 Blessing of the children & their toys
 10000 Beech Daly
 2 Blocks South of Plymouth Road
 313-937-3170.....www.redfordaldersgate.org


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

Christmas Worship at St. Paul's
 Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Day Worship 10:00 a.m.
 New Year's Eve 7:00 p.m.
Come and worship with us!
 Pastor James Hoff Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia
 (734) 464-0211 • www.holytrinitylivonia.org
Christmas Eve - 10:00 a.m., 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m. New Year's Eve - 6:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church
 Woodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50)
 NEXT TO COMERICA PARK
www.stjohnsdetroit.org
 (313) 962-7358
Sunday, December 24th, 2006
Advent IV - 8 am and 10 am Service in the Chapel
Christmas Eve
 5:15pm Children's Pageant Service
 10:30pm Carol Prelude Service
 11:00pm Festive Holy Communion Service with our professional choir
Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day
 11am Service only, in the Chapel, á cappella
Nothing compares to a Festive Christmas Service in a 147 year old Church on Woodward Avenue!
Come find out why so many of your neighbors drive here every week to a Church which is biblically and liturgically traditional!

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Immemorial Tridentine Latin Rite Mass
 22310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239
 (313) 534-2121
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE
Christmas Day and New Years Day are Holy Days of Obligation

Christmas Eve	Confessions	10:00-11:50 pm
	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
Christmas Day	No Confessions	
	Mass	10:30 am
New Years Eve	Rosary and Benediction	11:30 pm
New Years Day	Confessions	9:45-10:25 am
	Mass	10:30 am

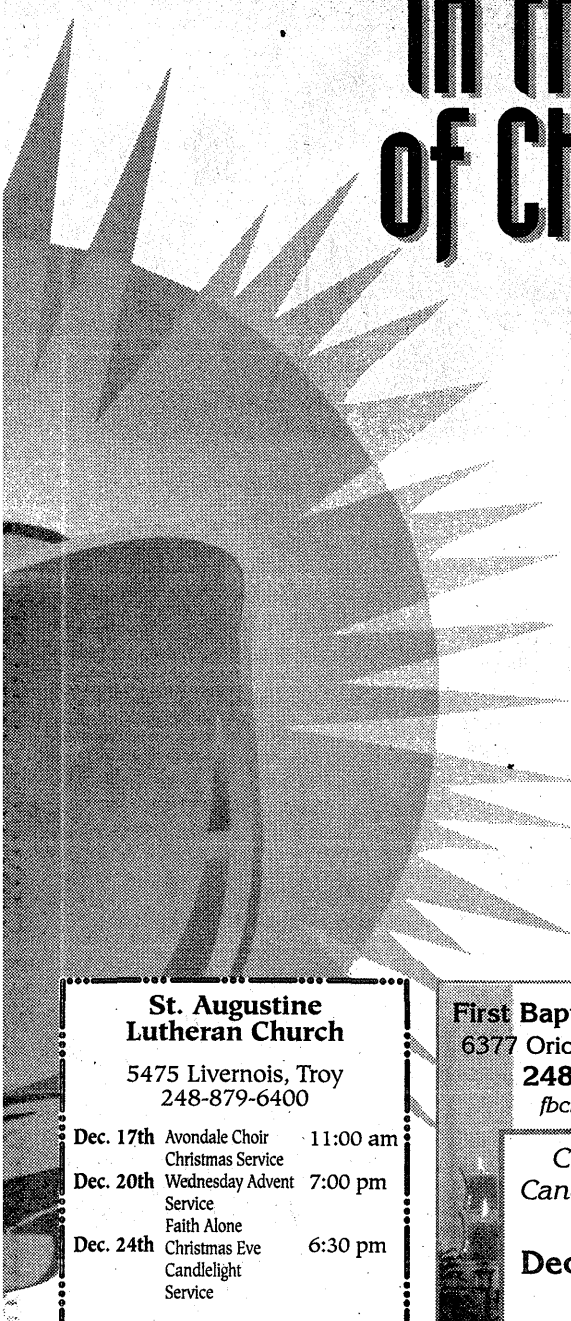

Begin the new year with Benediction and praying the Holy Rosary. See schedule above.

NO OTHER NAME
 Omega
JESUS
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 6:00-7:00 p.m.
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 43065 JOY RD. CANTON, MI 48187 734.455.0022
WWW.CBCJOY.ORG

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 ~Christmas Eve Services~
Sunday, December 24, 2006
 9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Worship Service with Praise Team
 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service with Chancel Choir
 Featuring Children's Choir and Bell Choirs
 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service
 Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Assoc. Pastor
Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago
 Livonia, Mich. 48150
734.422.0494
www.rosedalegardens.org

Rejoice

in the Glory of Christmas



Celebrate the Joy!

Christmas Eve Services:
Family Carol Service
 at 5:00 pm
Candlelight Carol Service
 at 10:00 pm

CANA
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
 E.L.C.A.
 Catalpa Dr.
 at Henley
 Berkeley, MI
 248.543.0767

12 MILE
 CATALPA
 11 MILE

OE08495041

"Christ Our Hope"
 Orchard Lake
 Community Church,
 Presbyterian
 "White Church on the Lake"

Christmas Eve Services
 Worship @ 9:00 a.m.
 Children's Choir Presentation @ 10:30 a.m.
 Children's Christmas Pageant @ 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Services
 9:00 & 11:00 p.m.
 December 25th
 Christmas Day Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
 Regular worship 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 (Childcare, Children's and Youth Programs, Adult Classes)

5171 Commerce, Orchard Lake
 (248) 682-0730
 www.orchardlakechurch.org

SALEM CHURCH
 Downtown Farmington
 33424 Oakland Ave.
 (N. of Grand River, W. of Farmington Rd.)
 Farmington, MI 48335
 (248) 474-6880

Christmas Eve 10:45 am
 With Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 8:00 pm
 Candlelight with Holy Communion

Everyone Welcome

Come celebrate Christmas!

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
 with special music.

Sunday, December 24th
 at 6:30 pm
 (child care provided)

A congregation with family feeling, a Biblical perspective and a global consciousness

Church of Our Saviour Presbyterian (USA)
 6655 Middlebelt Rd.,
 just south of Maple
 West Bloomfield
 248.626-7606
 www.michurchofoursaviour.com

OE08495044

Antioch
 Lutheran Church

33360 W. 13 Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48334
 Antioch, a congregation of the ELCA, is located at the NE corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Roads in Farmington Hills. (248) 626-7906; website: antiochelca.org. Join our celebration of Jesus' birth - God's gift to us all.

Christmas Worship Services

December 24 (communion at all services)
 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas
 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre-service music at 5:45)
 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival Worship (pre-service music at 10:00)

Sunday, December 31
 10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols

OE08495039

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington
 26165 Farmington Rd. 248-474-6170
 http://www.farmington-pres.org

Christmas Eve Services
 10:00 am — Sunday Worship
 5:00 pm — Family Service
 10:15 — Musical Offerings
 11:00 pm — Traditional
 Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

OE08495040

Farmington First United Methodist Church
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:30 PM — Family Service
 10:00 PM — Carols & Bells (9:40)

33112 Grand River (East of Farmington Rd)
 (248) 474-6573

www.FarmingtonFUMC.org

"Nursery Provided"

OE08495038

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

Sunday,
 December 24, 2006
10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent
 "Fill the Earth with Peace"
7:30 pm CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 "Images of Bethlehem"

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen
 Rev. Mary E. Biedron

OE08495042

ST. ALAN CHURCH
 3077 GLOUCESTER TROY
 WELCOMES ALL TO OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

DECEMBER 24 SHEPHERD'S MASS 4:00 PM
 "MIDNIGHT" MASS 11:00 PM

DECEMBER 25 MASSES 9:30 & 11:30 AM

REV. GARY M. TIERNEY, PASTOR

OE08495035

St. Augustine Lutheran Church
 5475 Livernois, Troy
 248-879-6400

Dec. 17th Avondale Choir Christmas Service 11:00 am
 Dec. 20th Wednesday Advent Service 7:00 pm
 Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 pm

OE08495037

First Baptist of Rochester
 6377 Orion Rd. • Rochester
 248.652.6151
 fbcrochester.org

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 Sunday,
 December 24th
 6 PM

OE08495046

Peace Lutheran Church Welcomes You This Christmas Season

December 21 — Caroling — Meet at the Church 6 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

10:00 am Traditional Morning Service
 6:00 pm Family Service with Children's Nativity Play
 8:00 pm Candlelight Carol Service

Coffee 9:30 am — Child care provided for services
 Preschool Sunday School 9:00 am

Peace Lutheran is located at 17029 W. Thirteen Mile Rd. Between Greenfield & Southfield Roads
248-642-7047

OE08495022

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Historic Franklin Village Green
 United Methodist in Affiliation. Ecumenical in Spirit.
Christmas Eve • December 24, 2006
 10:00 AM • Handel's Messiah
 7:00 and 11:00 PM

Evening Services include Special Music and Candlelight

26425 Wellington Pastor James E. Greer
 (between 13 & 14 Mile Roads • 1 block west of Franklin)

OE08495036

Come, Let Us Adore Him

St. John Lutheran Church
 Farm. Hills, 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584

Christmas Eve Services
 10:00 am Only
 5:00pm Children & Families
 7:30 & 10:30 pm Carols & Candlelight

New Years Eve
 10:00 am Only

OE08495038

EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
 3980 Walton Boulevard 248.373.6960
 (Across the street from Oakland University)

December 17 Christmas Musical "The Gift" 5:15 PM

December 21 The Longest Night Service 7:00 PM
 (Light in the darkness for those who struggle at holiday times)

December 24 Christmas Eve Three Services
 10:30 AM. Family Service -The Christmas Story
 7:00 & 11:00 PM Candle Light Service, Communion & Carols.
 (Please, come as you are)

Visit our website for complete details www.stlukesrochester.org

OE08495036

The First United Methodist Church of Troy

6363 Livernois -- between Square Lake and South Boulevard
 248-879-6363...FUMCTROY.org & findyourfaith.org
 Pastor Rich Peacock

December 21: Longest Night Service - 7:00 p.m. A service for all who've experienced loss, grief, death, or feel a little down during the holidays.

December 24: 9:30 a.m. - Advent Worship

Christmas Eve: 4:30 p.m. - Family Service with a visit from the Holy Family
 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight & Choirs
 9:00 p.m. - Contemporary Christmas
 11:00 p.m. - Candlelight & Communion

Servant Church of St. Alexander
 27835 Shiawasse
 (between Inkster Middlebelt)
 Reconciliation Monday, December 19th 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
 4:00 PM Children's Mass
 9:30 PM Carols and Christmas Mass

New Years Day
 10:00 AM New Years Day Mass
 Mary Mother of God

Christmas Day
 10:00 AM Christmas Mass

OE08495033

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
 www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620

Sunday December 24th
 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (childcare available)
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (childcare available)
 5:00 p.m. Family Worship (childcare available)
 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service (childcare available)
 11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Carols

OE08495037

Trinity invites you to our Christmas Worship Services
 Advent Wednesday Evening Worship
 December 20 at 7:00 PM
 Light Supper at 6:00 PM (bring salad or dessert to share)

Christmas Eve Worship
 Sunday, December 24
10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
6:30 PM Children and Families
 Great for families with small children
7:30 Christmas Candlelight & Holy Communion
 Choirs, Carols & Children's Message
11:00 PM Christmas Candlelight & Holy Communion
 Celebrate Christmas at Midnight with us.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 749 West Fourteen Mile Road
 Clawson
 OE08495034

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

248-644-4010
 RedeemerBirmingham.org

1800 W. Maple Rd.
 Birmingham MI 48009

Christmas Eve Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.
 Family Carols by Candlelight 5:30 P.M.
 Carols by Candlelight 8:00 & 10:00 P.M.

New Years Eve Worship 7:00 P.M.
 Pre-Service Meal 6 P.M. Call for Reservations

Usual Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:30 A.M., Mondays 7:30 P.M.
 Children's Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

OE08495036

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

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE
December 17 — Third Sunday of Advent
 11:00 a.m. Worship: Children's Pageant
 "The Most Wonderful Birthday of All"

December 24 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
 11:00 a.m. Worship: Cantata
 "Ceremony of Candles"
 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

OE08495012

Worship at Christ Church Cranbrook this Christmas.

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE
 Sunday, December 17
 Traditional Anglican Service of Scripture and Christmas Carols led by the Christ Church Cranbrook Choir at 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE
 Sunday, December 24
 Family Service (child-friendly) at 5:00 p.m.;
 Holy Eucharist with message and music at 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 Childcare provided at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY
 Monday, December 25
 Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
 No nursery care, Children's Chapel, or Sunday School

CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK
 470 Church Road • Bloomfield Hills, MI
 (one mile west of Woodward, at the corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook Roads)
 www.christchurchcranbrook.org

OE08495027

First United Methodist Church
 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham • 248-646-1200

DECEMBER 24 MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
 Rev. Lynn Hasley preaching

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
 4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children
 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children
 Nursery Open

2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 Christmas Lessons and Carols
 Dr. John E. Harnish preaching
 Holy Communion at 2:00, 7:00 and 11:00
 Nursery Care at 2:00 and 7:00

Pastors
 John E. Harnish
 Lynn Hasley
 Carl Gladstone
 Jeff Nelson
 Carl Price
 Rodney F. Quainton

Visit us at www.fumcbirmingham.org

OE08495047

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 in Downtown Birmingham at the
First Baptist Church

All are welcome to worship in the beautiful English Gothic Sanctuary in downtown Birmingham.

- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Service
- 4:30 p.m. Family Service
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Listen to an inspiring Bell Choir Presentation and the Traditional Lessons and Carols of the Season

First Baptist Church 300 Willits at Bates Streets
 Tel: 248.644.0550 E-mail: firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net

OE08495034

Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Advice for avoiding the holiday blues

Carol from Troy has the holiday blues. She is looking for tips to make her holiday season a little more merry.

Carol, here are some tips to make your holiday season a little merrier. Winter blues and the weight gain that usually comes with it, can usually be kicked by increasing your physical activity.

Researchers find that men and women participating in exercise tests did much better on mood tests than those not exercising. Women who were jogging twice a week were more self-confident, self-accepting, and alert!

Weight training in the winter months is one of the most effective ways to fight depression. In just two and a

half months 70-year-old men who engaged in weight training programs were three times less likely to be depressed than their sedentary counterparts. Proof positive that fitness club memberships can make great stocking stuffers!

Karen from Walled Lake writes to us saying that she likes to snack in the afternoon while at work. She is wondering if there is anything good that she can eat instead of chips?

Karen, I suggest that you try some pistachio nuts or sunflower seeds. They are a great afternoon snack and are good for you. In fact a recent study found that both pistachio nuts and sunflower seeds lower your cholesterol and are good for your heart.

Remember though, too much of a good thing can be bad. Nuts and seeds pack 150 to 200 calories per ounce so limit your snacking to only one or two ounces. Also, many nuts and seeds can be very salty so look for those marked unsalted. They are better for you!

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter through his Web site at www.peternielsen.com.

'Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women worldwide.'

Dr. Ann Rehm

Improving the odds

Vaccine is first to prevent cervical cancer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

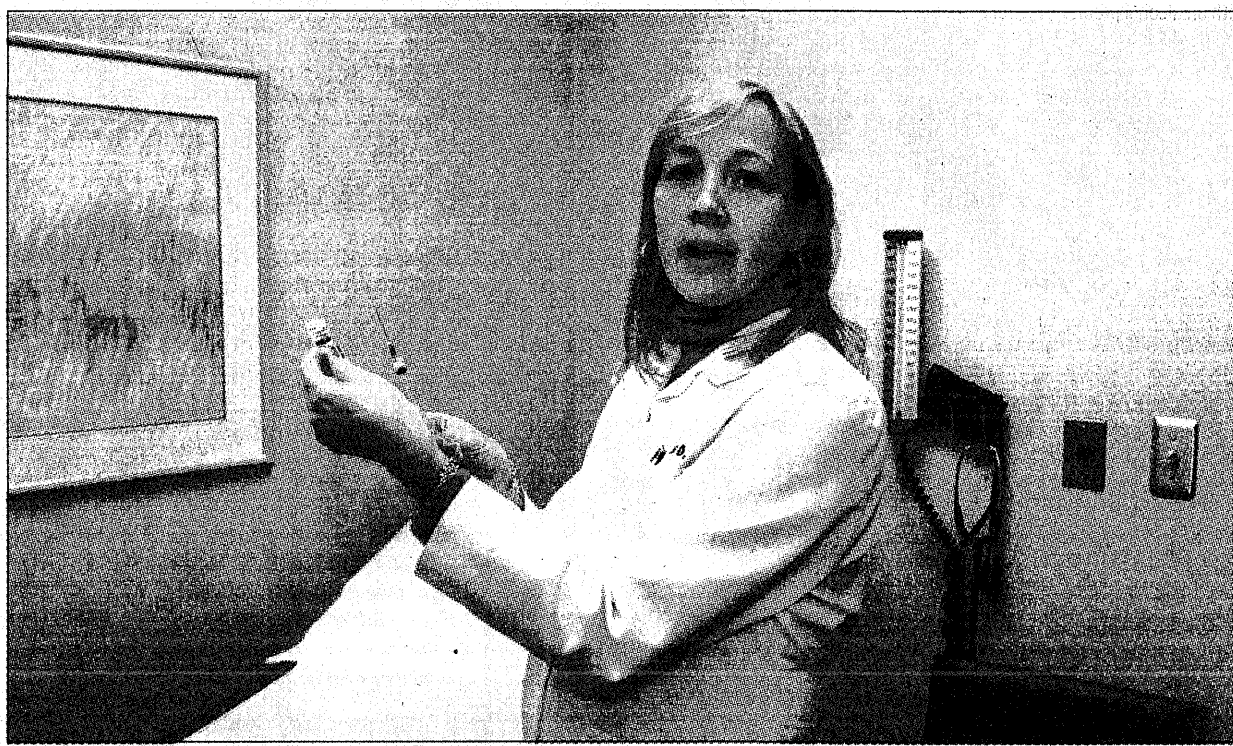
Dr. Deirdre Wickham isn't taking a chance that her 14-year old daughter could develop cervical cancer. Wickham made sure she was vaccinated not long after Gardasil was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in June. The vaccine protects against diseases caused by the sexually transmitted infection known as human papillomavirus (HPV), specifically Types 6, 11, 16, and 18.

As many as 75 percent of women may contract a sexually transmitted HPV at some time during their life, increasing their risk for cervical cancer. Although the vaccine was approved for ages 9 to 26, local physicians are especially recommending vaccinations for females before they become sexually active.

"I just wished they would all get this vaccine," said Deirdre Wickham, a D.O. who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology at Botsford General Hospital. She offers the vaccine at her office in Farmington.

"It's the first time we've had a vaccination to protect against cancer."

According to the Centers for Disease



Dr. Ann Rehm says it's especially important for young girls to receive a new vaccine to prevent cervical cancer.

Control and Prevention, 20 million Americans are currently infected with HPV and 6.2 million more are infected each year. Wickham suggests women receive an annual PAP smear as cervical cancer if not diagnosed and treated is fatal.

Dr. Ann Rehm plans to vaccinate her 9 and 12-year old daughters before they enter high school. Although Rehm preaches abstinence as the best way to avoid HPV, she realizes sexual activity rates are probably higher than parents want to admit. She recommends if a woman of any age is sexually active that she remain in a monogamous relationship. A condom may not prevent transmission of HPV as it can be acquired from other forms of sexuality activity besides intercourse including foreplay.

"Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women worldwide," said Rehm, an M.D. specializing in obstetrics and gynecology at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Rehm vaccinates patients at her office in Birmingham.

"It's important that young girls receive this because you want to administer it before they're sexually active so the body's immune system will be protective. A younger girl's

immune system will develop a superior response compared to an older one whose response might not be as robust."

While 70 to 80 percent of the population have been exposed to HPV, Wickham says most subtypes don't have any clinical significance unless of course a woman is infected with types 16 or 18 which are responsible for 70 percent of cervical cancers. In 2006, the American Cancer Society is estimating there will be 10,000 new cases of cervical cancer and 4,100 deaths. Both physicians feel it's well worth the cost of vaccinating girls and young women even though Gardasil is not currently covered by all insurance companies. The vaccine is given in a series of three injections at \$160 each.

"I try to tell moms because you think your daughter is going to be a virgin, she's going to meet Mr. Right, she might not be infected with HPV, but maybe Mr. Right is," said Rehm.

Gardasil is available at Wickham's Farmington office by calling (248) 476-1540. Rehm offers it at her Birmingham office at (248) 647-5660.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145



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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

DECEMBER

Alateen support group

For teens who are dealing with someone with an alcohol problem, meets the first and third Sundays of the month at 10 a.m., at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For details, call (248) 706-1020.

Blankets for AIDS

Higher Ground, an HIV/AIDS support group based in Royal Oak, is sponsoring the fourth Blankets for AIDS Drive to help adults and children living with HIV/AIDS in Southeastern Michigan. To participate purchase a new blanket and drop it into the bin at Affirmations on Nine Mile in Ferndale, Paramount Bank on Woodward in Ferndale, or St. John's Episcopal Church at Eleven Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak, by Dec. 31. For more information, call (586) 427-1259 or send e-mail to higherground2003@aol.com.

UPCOMING

Teen drug workshop

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do" series provides helpful information to families and others concerned about a young person who may be harmfully involved with alcohol or other drug use. The free workshops are presented by Ronald Harrison, SW, in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. Parents, other family members, teens, and people who work with teens are welcome. Free literature about alcohol/other drugs and teens is provided. Part One: What To Know will be presented 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, and provides information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. Part One and Two are repeated every first Tuesday of each month from October to June.

Part Two What To Do is scheduled 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, and provides information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a recovering teen speaker. For more information, call (734) 973-7892, send e-mail to teojessa@med.umich.edu or visit www.teensusingdrugs.org.

Stop smoking program

Presented by Dr. Arthur Weaver 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, Monday-Friday, Jan. 8-12, and Monday, Jan. 15, at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. No charge but donations accepted. For more information, call (734) 466-2540.

Emergency physicians urge caution during holidays

For millions of homes, the holiday season would not be complete without decorations, twinkling lights, Christmas trees, and candles. Unfortunately, these festive signs of the holiday season also can lead to injuries and the American College of Emergency Physicians urges the public to keep safety in mind.

"The holiday season is a hectic time for all of us, filled with activities and errands, and many people pay less attention to safety and end up in the emergency department," said Dr. Brian Keaton, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

More than 12,000 people are treated in the nation's emergency rooms each year due to falls, cuts, electrical shocks and burns from faulty holiday decorations or accidents that occur while putting decorations in

place, according to government statistics.

The holiday season also means parties where alcohol is served. More than one thousand people in December 2004 were killed in car crashes involving a car or motorcycle driver with an illegal blood alcohol content level of .08 or higher according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ACEP offers the following safety tips to help the public avoid the most common injuries during the coming holiday season:

OUTDOOR SAFETY

- Clear snow and leaves from pathways and sprinkle salt on patches of ice.
- Check children's shoes, socks and gloves periodically to make sure they are dry while playing outdoors in cold weather to avoid frostbite and hypothermia.

er to avoid frostbite and hypothermia.

■ Find a safe place for children to sled. Make sure the area is free of fences, roadways, trees and other hazards. Choose a hill where children cannot reach fast, uncontrollable speeds.

TRAVEL SAFETY

- Wear seat belts at all times.
- Place all children under age 12 in the back seat and secure all children in appropriate safety restraints for their ages and sizes.
- Never drink alcohol and drive. If you do plan to drink alcohol, assign a designated driver.
- Be aware of your surroundings, including changes in weather or traffic patterns.

CANDLES AND FIREPLACES

- Keep lighters and candles away from children and never

leave burning candles unattended.

■ Have chimneys and fireplaces professionally inspected yearly to ensure they are safe to use and the chimney is unobstructed.

DECORATIONS

- Check decorative lights to make sure they are not broken and the wires are not bare or frayed.
- Turn off all decorative lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Avoid using sharp decorations and ornaments.
- Keep Christmas trees away from fireplaces or other areas

where high heat is present. When buying an artificial tree, be sure the label indicates it is "fire resistant." When buying a live tree, check for freshness (green, full of needles, sticky trunk).

Fresh trees are less of a fire hazard and should be watered frequently.

■ Use the appropriate size ladder for any decorating job and have someone help you.

GENERAL TIPS

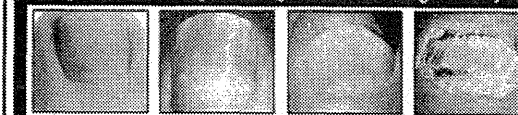
- Have a first aid kit nearby.
- Know where the fire extinguisher is kept.
- Keep emergency telephone numbers by your telephone.

FOOT-ANKLE-LEG PAIN??

LASER FOOT SURGERY

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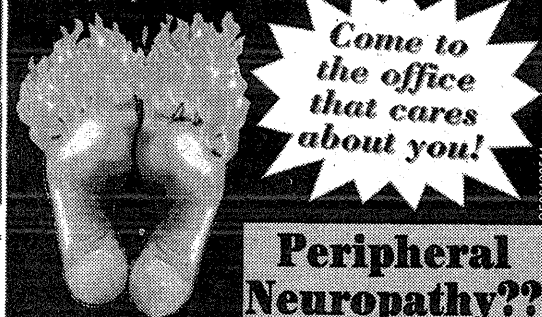
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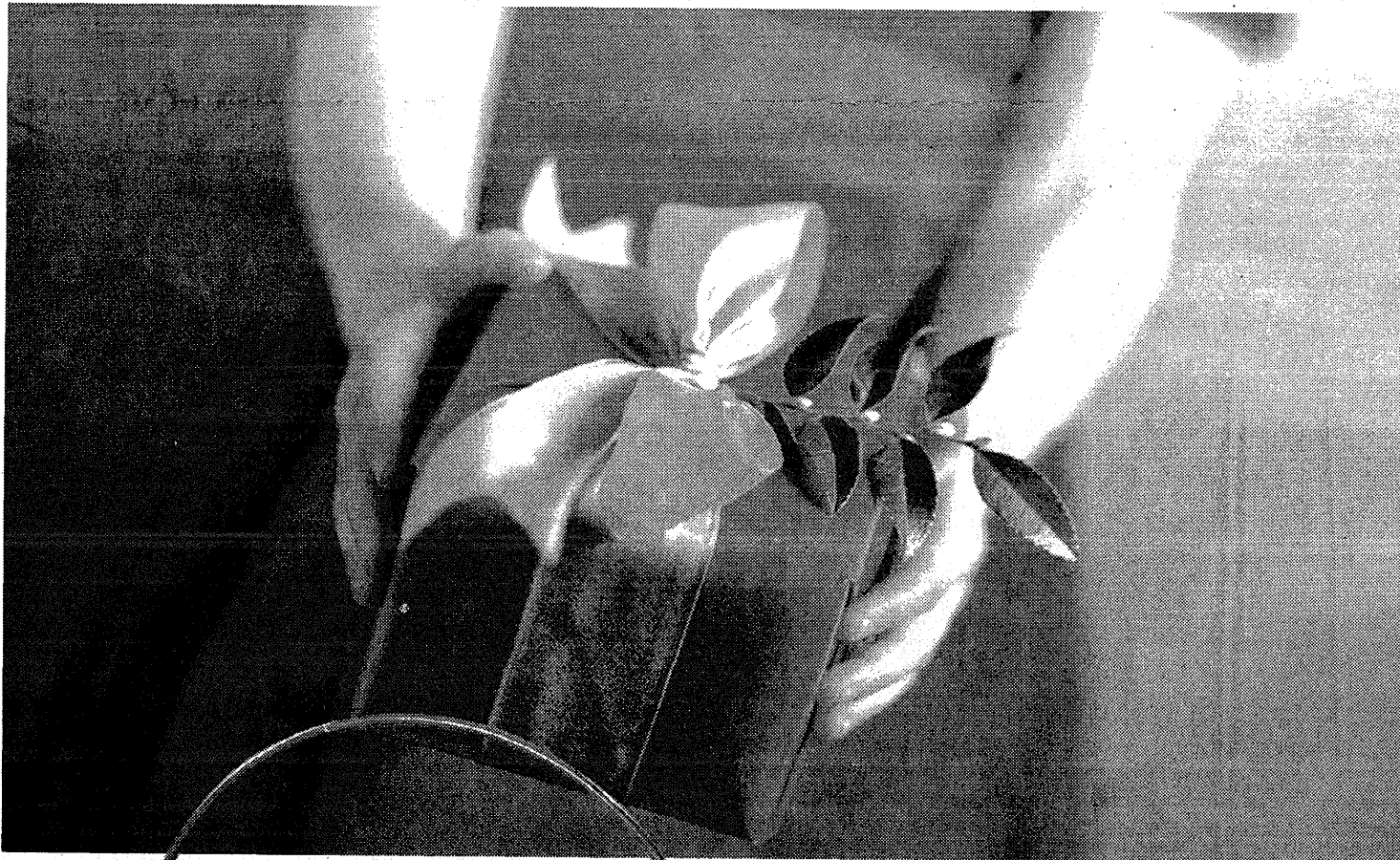
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HOLIDAY CHEER AND ARTHRITIS
 The holiday season features eating cakes, cookies, turkey, rich gravies and drinking wine, beer, liqueurs, and scotch to excess and beyond. It is not likely your arthritis will make you suffer for enjoying such good times.
 The condition you may experience is gout; a combination of rich food and alcohol puts you at risk for an acute attack. The reason is that alcohol inhibits the normal excretion by the kidneys of uric acid, the chemical that causes gout. If at the same time, you are eating large portions of beef, steak, turkey or chicken or reaching out for seven layer cakes and the like, you are creating large additions to your body stores of uric acid. The rise, particularly if sudden, in the blood concentration of uric acid can precipitate an acute attack of gout.
 Other arthritic conditions are not so affected by holiday eating. Excess alcohol may cause a flare of both psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. While the logic behind the observation is unclear, a combination of heavy drinking combined with smoking may set off other crystalline conditions such as pseudogout.
 Holiday eating does not affect rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, except if you become drunk and fall on a knee, shoulder or hip. Then a slight hit may reap a big fracture.
 The indulgence offered by the holidays is generally a good departure from the restrictions that arthritis imposed the other months of the year. In addition, the holiday offers a brief respite from the vigilance arthritis will demand for the rest of the winter.

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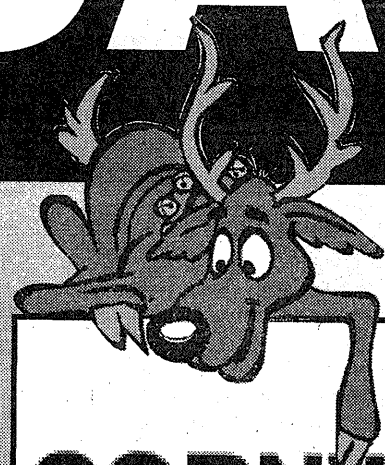
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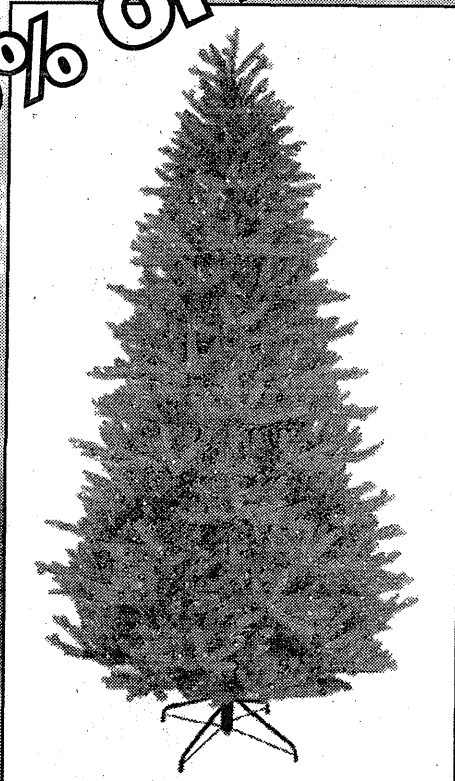


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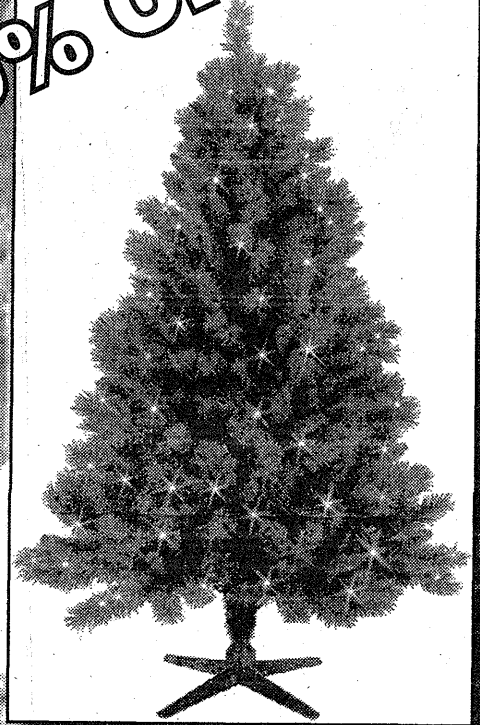


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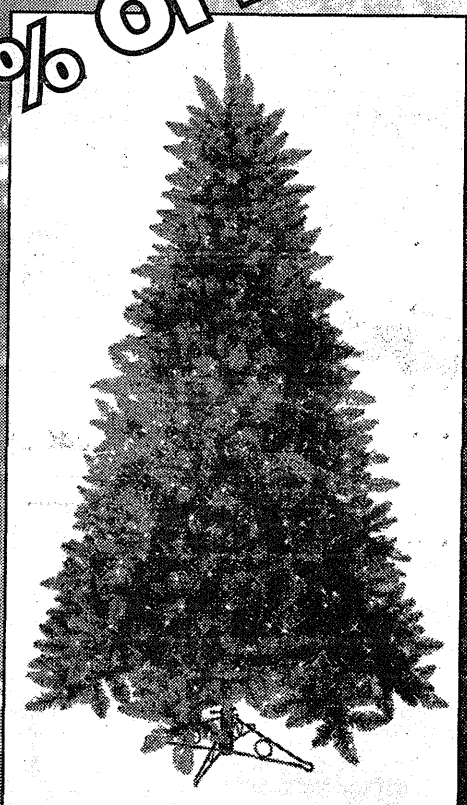
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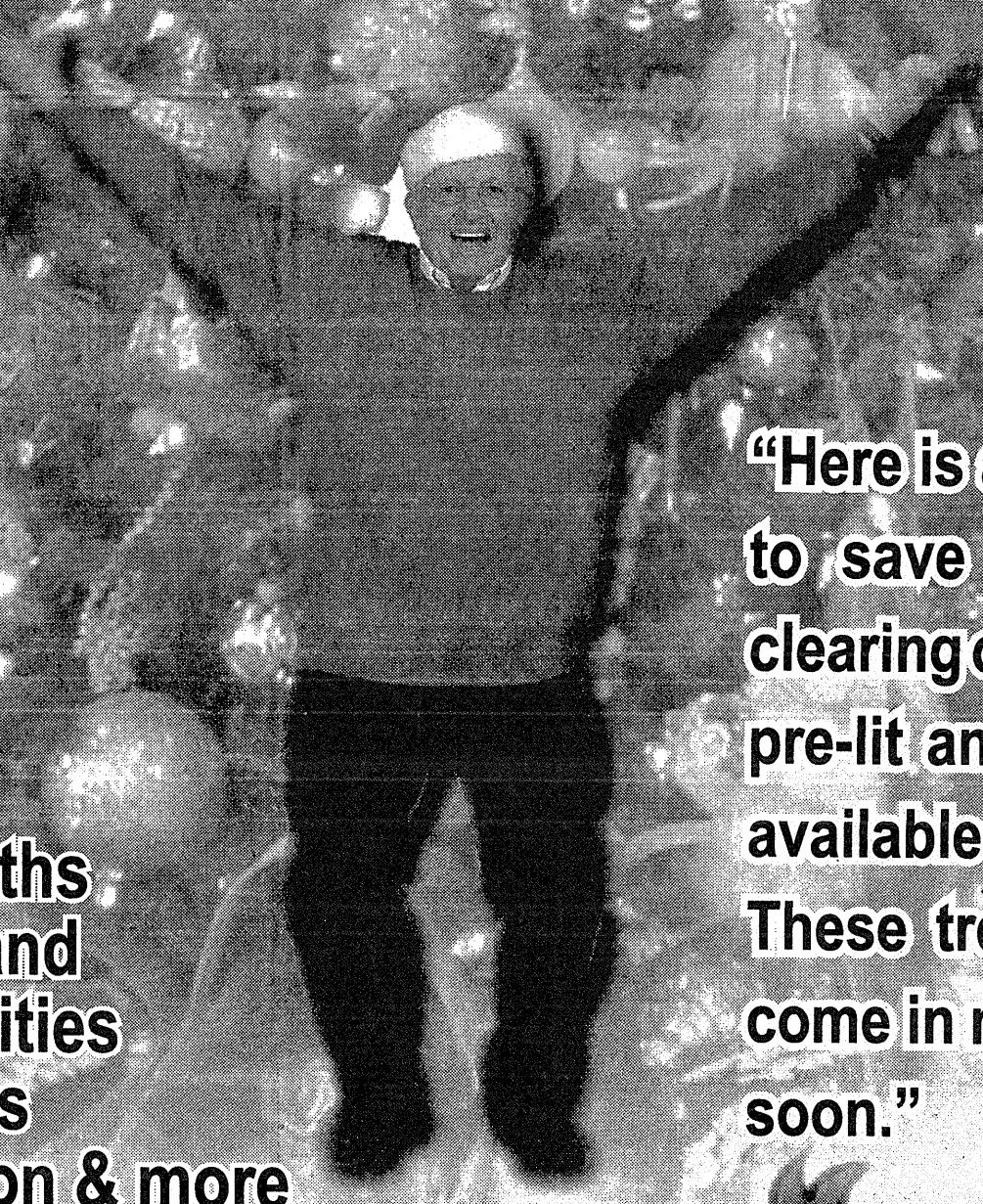
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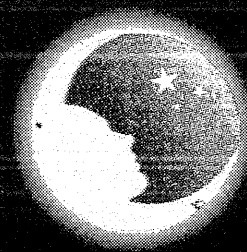
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To see creations by FAFFA finalist fashion designers (right), stay tuned to PINK!



The FAFFAS

Fanclub Fashion Awards Finalists Announced

Detroit might not rank among the fashion capitals of the world, but a recent competition proved Motown's style scene is worth a closer look.

Forty-nine fashion designers and 34 models entered the Fanclub Arts Foundation Fashion Awards by dropping off applications, sketches and photographs at Shapes Boutique in Royal Oak.

On Dec. 3, the designers and models gathered for the first stage of competition at Playground Photographic Studios in Detroit.

Models walked the runway to compete for 10 finalist slots in the FAFFAs. A panel of judges reviewed their portfolios and evaluated them for their potential for print, runway and spokesmodel jobs.

Concurrently, judges reviewed the concepts, sketches and application materials submitted by the designers and scored each one.

That same evening, the scores were tallied, finalists in each category were announced, and in a *Project Runway*-style drawing, designers' names were drawn and each picked a model they will work with for the rest of the competition.

As the FAFFAs continue, designer finalists will bring one of their sketches to life, creating the garment to fit their chosen model. The pair will then compete on Feb. 10 during the ARTrageous charity gala at MOCAD Museum. The annual gala, presented by the Fanclub Arts Foundation to raise money for arts education, will fea-

FAFFA Design Judges:

Treas Charow, Fashion Designer and Owner, Shapes Boutique
Jennifer Graham, Model & Fashion Designer
Tricia Kreuger, Wardrobe Coordinator, Productions Plus
Scott Sprague, Fashion Photographer
Wensdy Von Buskirk, Editor of PINK

FAFFA Model Judges:

Scott Breithaupt, Fashion Photographer
Treas Charow, Fashion Designer and Owner, Shapes Boutique
Chloe Dolata, Brogan & Partners
Alex Lekocaj, Owner Alex Emilio Salon
Wensdy Von Buskirk, Editor of PINK
Melissa Weber, Brogan & Partners

ture art, entertainment, food and wine, along with the final FAFFA competition. The top designer and model will win \$1,000 from Fanclub Arts Foundation, a photo shoot by Christopher A. Jablonski that will appear in PINK, a buying trip to New York City with Treas Charow from Shapes Boutique, and more. Here's a list of the finalists:

Finalist Designer & Model Teams:

Designer: Kate Bennett, Rochester Hills
Model: Rachel Kausek, Saline

Designer: Samantha Bullock, Detroit
Model: Kateland Harris, Big Rapids

Designer: Christina Desmet, Grosse Pointe Woods
Model: Strawberry Fears, Lake Orion

Designer: Blair Grinn, Troy
Model: Andrea Davis, Detroit

Designer: Rosemary Mifsud, Grand Rapids
Model: Christina Long, Clay Center, OH

Designer: Morija Reeb, Woodslee, Ontario
Model: Harley Reaves, Shelby Township

Designer: Jill Marie Robertson, Southfield
Model: Alvana Nica, West Bloomfield

Designer: Michelle Ariel Sanders, Canton
Model: Summer Scarborough, Canton

Designer: Raminta Vilkiene, Livonia
Model: Catherine Helms, Detroit

Design Team: Jason Humphrey and Amanda Jurban, Detroit
Model: Jen Noser, Rochester Hills

In the pink

● **Timeless accessories**
 Designer Michael Kors' picks for classic gifts

● **Local Looks**
 Sparkle up your holiday outfits at Tre Sorelle

● **Blush beauty**
 Cosmetic sets for all the gals on your list

● **Beyond the Window**
 Lainey takes on the hunt for last-minute gifts

● **Girl Talk**
 All we want for Christmas is ...

● **PINK Picks**
 Wear It! DON'T Wear It! Do It! Shoe It!

● **PINK Mommy**
 She deserves some goodies in her stocking

● **Holiday Tables**
 PINK designs at Cranbrook House



On the Cover

Model Kate McDonald of Troy wears a Dina Bar-El copper gown (\$675) and vintage gold pillbox hat from Paris Boutique in Royal Oak. Her look, inspired by the red lips and pin curls of the 1920s, is by Make Up Artista Rommy Najor, and Stilista Fathie (Patti) Sunga, both of Luigi Bruni Capelli Moderni in Birmingham. For more, turn to page 10.

PHOTO BY STEVE CANTRELL
 COVER DESIGNED BY DAN DEAN

Vol. 3 • Issue 11
 December 17, 2006



Pink Best New Fashion Special
 Section in the U.S.A., 2004
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 including Letters to the Editor to:
PINK • 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150
 E-mail: PINK@hometownlife.com

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fanclub thinks

PINK THINKS... All women are beautiful. Take a moment to notice the beauty that's more than skin deep in a woman you know. And in the spirit of the holidays, make it a point to tell someone what it is you admire about them. Chances are, you'll inspire those around you to do the same!

— Wendy Pierman Mitzel

Timeless Gifts

By Samantha Critchell
● AP Fashion Writer

Want to find the right holiday gift for a friend or loved one without the headache of knowing their size, favorite color and style?

To avoid the guesswork, we enlisted designer Michael Kors, style guru of Bravo TV's *Project Runway*, to create the ultimate list of must-have fashion accessories that no woman should be without.

Accessories are gifts that keep on giving since they simply are used more often than a single garment. For each time a camel cashmere sweater — a worthwhile gift by most measures — is worn, a camel leather handbag is probably used a dozen times.

There's also the issue of investment. A classic accessory is worth the extra money you might be thinking of spending on a gift since it rarely, if ever, goes out of style.

Here are Kors' picks for the timeless pieces that will accent your wardrobe and enhance your style:



Designer
Michael Kors picks
classic accessories that keep on
giving

Chunky Bracelet-Style Watch

Style Advice: On a woman, a watch like this says, "I'm stylish but I'm a rule breaker," Kors explains, noting that it also looks a bit utilitarian yet offers a sense richness and polish.

Why You Need Them: "You wear this, and you turn into Elle Macpherson wearing flip-flops with a gown on the red carpet."

Fabulous Bags

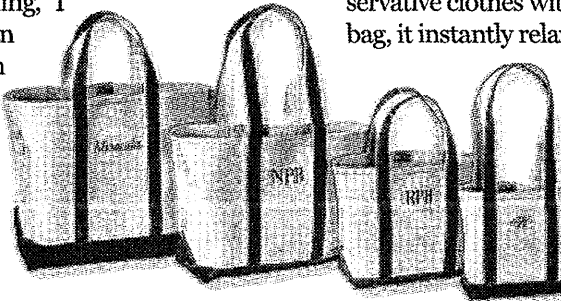
Style Advice: Kors breaks down handbags into four must-haves, "there simply isn't one that will do it all," he says.

First, you need a streamlined clutch, preferably in snakeskin or other texture, that can be slipped into a bigger bag. The clutch allows you to take just the essentials to lunch and then transitions to evening. But most women can't get through their day without the rest of their life that they keep in their tote bag, Kors says. The most fabulous totes are the ones that make you look like a jet-setter, hopping from one great destination to the next, even if it's from the office to PTA meeting.

Why You Need Them: "Women find that the most perfect tote bag is something to invest in," Kors says. They can be fancy or funny — like the ones with bright webbing that are popular right now — but always completely functional. The L.L. Bean boat tote is something everyone needs, at least one if not two or three."

A soft, easy shoulder bag is another essential. Kors describes: "If you wear conservative clothes with a soft suede shoulder bag, it instantly relaxes you and gives you an easier attitude."

But there are lady-like fashion moments, too, and for those you need a handheld, double-handle satchel. ●



Pearls

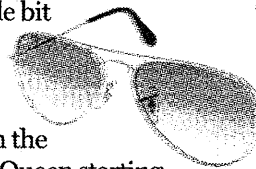
Style Advice: The only thing that rivals diamond studs in the jewelry box are pearls. Kors says the key look is the single strand — though your personal preference will dictate either chunky or delicate beads.

Why You Need Them: Pearly pearls do more than add a touch of class. When worn as a necklace, they also add a natural luster to the face, sort of like the warm glow of candlelight, Kors explains.

Aviator Sunglasses

Style Advice: This look says you're somebody and hints at a little bit of intrigue, danger or secrecy. "Put them on, and it's Kate Moss shielding her eyes from the paparazzi, or Steve McQueen starting his affair with Ali McGraw," says Kors, who owns several pairs, including a pair of yellow Ray-Bans from the '40s.

Why You Need Them: "They automatically turn you into a jet-setter. They're the kind of thing that have no age or gender," says Kors, adding, "I think there's an aviator version for everyone. I haven't seen anyone who can't find the right pair."



Diamond Stud Earrings

Style Advice: "You want the biggest ones you can afford," Kors says, "and if you can't afford real ones, there are some pretty fabulous fakes."



Why You Need Them: Basically, there is no excuse for anyone with pierced ears to be without these little gems. They complement a pair of jeans and a T-shirt just as well as a little black dress, and they're appropriate for teenagers and grandmothers.

"There are not a lot of things that are demure and glamorous at the same time, but the perfect pair of studs are both."



local looks

Tre Sorelle

23366 Farmington Rd.,
Farmington
(248) 477-3500

Oh the treasures that await you at Tre Sorelle in Farmington. This little store is packed to the brim with beautiful handmade items that will not be found anywhere else. The store, which was opened in July by three sisters (Andrea Yeo, Isabella Lawson and Patricia Williams) and their mother (Edith DeMartini) is overflowing with all things wonderful. Everything in Tre Sorelle (which translates to "three sisters") is from artists in Argentina (once home to DeMartini) or Thailand (home of Lawson).

Looking to spice up your holiday attire with something out of the ordinary? Check out the lovely silver and beaded necklaces from Thailand. Want something sparkly to carry your essentials on a nice night out? Pick up one of the hand-beaded purses or cell phone pouches.

Don't worry about dropping too much cash here either. The jewelry runs from \$12 to \$35 and the purses are all in the \$32 range.

— By Christy Breithaupt



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blushbeauty

By Christina Kallery

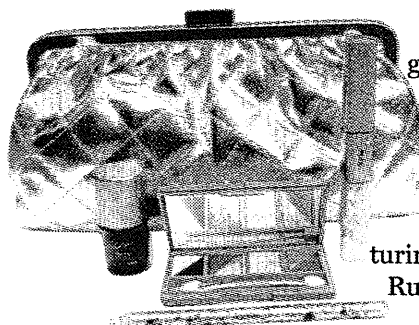


Glam for the Holidays

Last-Minute Gifts of Beauty!

This year, give the gift of glam. Here are some fantastic eleventh-hour finds for all your favorite beauty junkies (including you)—most under 50 bucks!

The Best of Benefit: Three of the company's top-selling products are tucked into this super cute package: Dandelion—a perfect pink powder, Benetint cheek and lip stain and Bad Gal Lash. \$42. Exclusively at Sephora.



Tarte All That Glitters Sampler Set: Get your glam on with Tarte's shimmery eye shadow, cheek stain, lip gloss and gold eye pencil. Even better, they come with a chic gold clutch. \$38. Available at www.tartecosmetics.com.

Laura Mercier Lip Book: A chic lip palette featuring an array of flattering shades. \$40. Available at Ruby's Balm or www.lauramercier.com.

NARSskin Set: Start the new year with a fresh skincare regimen, featuring NARS cleanser, toner and moisturizer. Choose either normal-to-dry or normal-to-combination formulations. \$98. Available at department stores or www.narscosmetics.com.

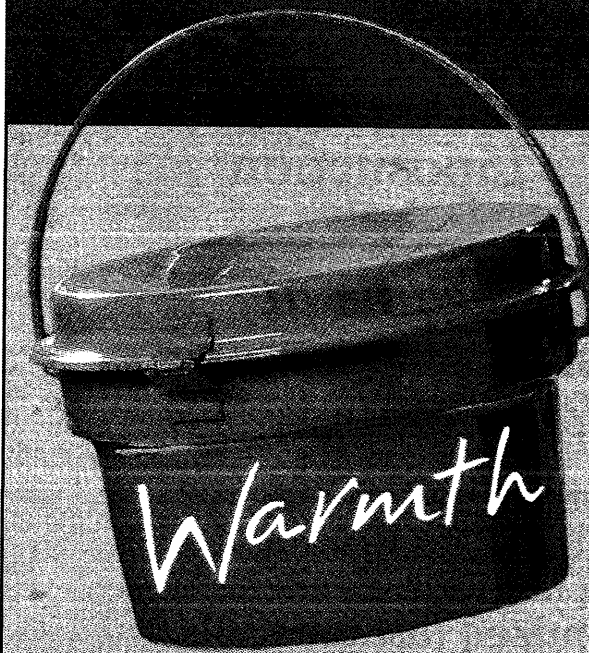
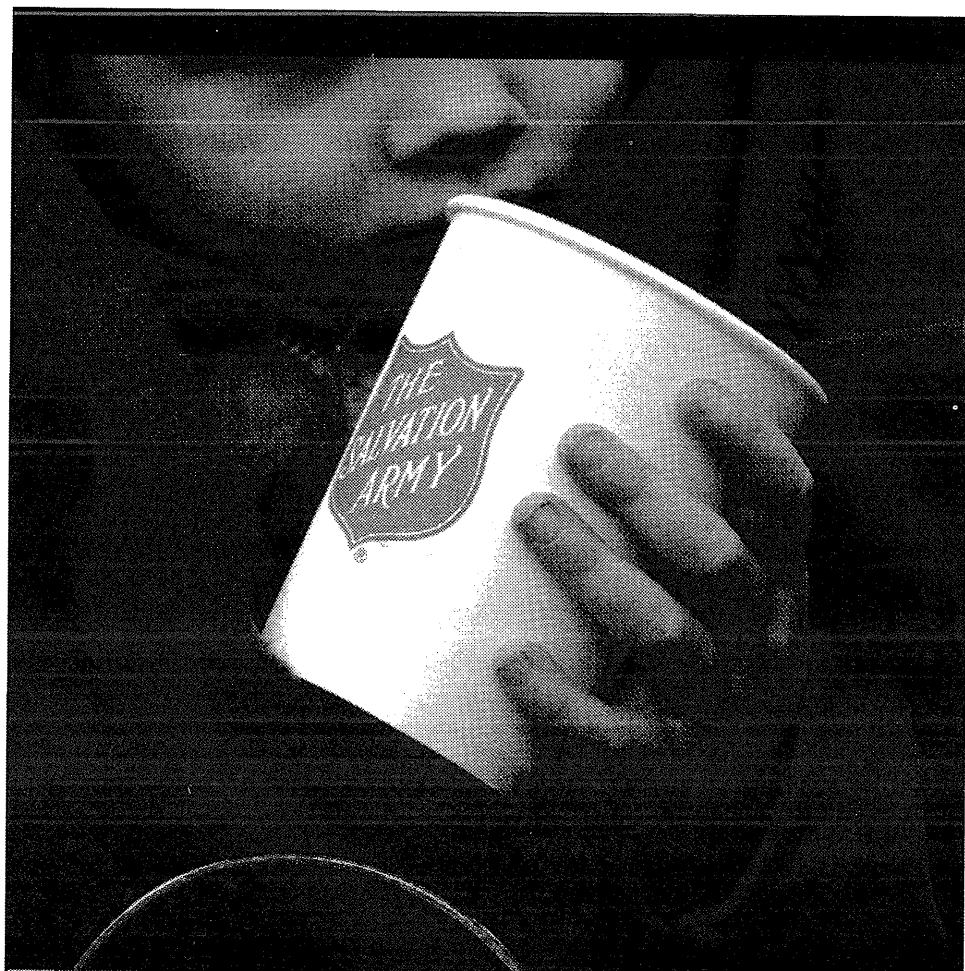
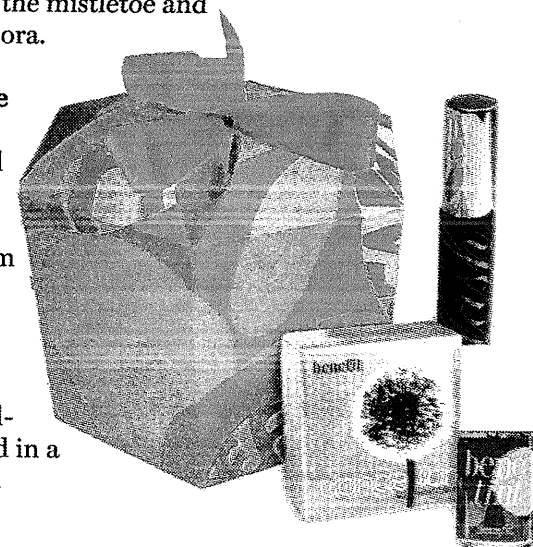
Urban Decay Heavy Metal Glitter Eyeliner Trio: The drama queen or glam rocker in your life will adore this threesome of glitter liquid liners: bronze, iridescent and bright aqua. \$39. At Sephora.

Too Faced Lace Case in Vintage Vengeance: Like naughty lingerie for your cosmetics bag! This sexy, lace-covered pink case holds four lip glosses and four eye shadows. \$27.50 At Beauty First or www.toofaced.com.

LORAC Man Magnet: A set of three double-ended wands featuring flavored lip polish in four shimmering hues plus "stimulating" gloss formulated to plump up your pout. Position yourself under the mistletoe and let the kissing begin! \$30. At Sephora.

Jaqua Mint Chocolate Guilt-Free Body Treats: Body butter, hand crème and shower syrup that smell like a sinfully scrumptious dessert—minus the calories. \$30. Exclusively at ULTA (www.ulta.com for locations or online shopping).

The Sanctuary Spa Indulgence Box: She can create her own home spa with this soothing bathtime collection. Comes beautifully arranged in a wooden gift box. \$19.99. At Target.



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A Last Minute Conversion!

Transform These Hints into Magical Gifts

● By Elaine Perlin Crossley

OK, holiday shopping procrastinators! It's time to hustle beyond a few windows for some last minute gifts to 'wow' 'em.

Let's whiz beyond a few festive windows for some cool ideas.

Small Box Sensations

'Pinkophiles' are giddy over baubles -- from glimmering gems to bohemian danglers to bold geometric links.

Colored diamonds are a current fashion statement, with such hues as pink, canary, cognac and black. The Charriol line, available at **Tapper's** (West Bloomfield), presents pieces with striking black pavé diamond accents.

Other area fine jewelers include **Greis Jewelers** (Farmington Hills), **Dearborn Jewelers** (Plymouth), **The Miner's Den** (Royal Oak) and **David Wachler & Sons** (Birmingham).

For fashion jewelry and accessories, **Lolly Ella** (West Bloomfield) offers heart-shaped crystal bangles in various metal choices, rose metal infinity circle pendants, or the popular 'haute' headbands with holiday sparkle. (Great stocking stuffers!)

Other havens with femme treasures? **Gotta Have It** (Farmington Hills), **High Wire Girls** (Royal Oak and Novi), **Shoetique** (Rochester), **Catching Fireflies** (Berkley and Rochester).

Cozy Threads

Length and layering are 'in,' and woolens are the rage, from sweater coats and dresses to blousons and plunging cowl necklines.

How about some cute knee socks or a flowing scarf? Find great selections at **Macy's**, **Parisian** and **Lord & Taylor**. (And notice the great sweater accents out there, like belts, pom-poms or ruffles.)

With its little green alligator logo, Lacoste is hot. Find a selection of sweaters, classic piqué polos and other items at

Macy's, **Neiman Marcus**, **Saks**, the **Lacoste** shop at Somerset Mall and other area stores..

Essence (West Bloomfield) carries cutting-edge apparel. Check out amazing Pilar Ruiz coats, or jeans by Frankie B. (Tip! Eye-popping red accessories are 'in!')

The Arty Spirit

Find innovations in ceramic, glass, fiber, jewelry and home design at **Swearingen Visions**, **Studio 427** (both in Northville) and **People's Pottery** (Birmingham.)

Dancing Eye Gallery (Northville and Walled Lake) entices with hand-made ceramic ornaments, holiday tiles, artist designed tees, jewelry, scarves and more.

For the tea lover/art devotee, purchase an original teapot sculpted by one of many artists participating in the annual teapot exhibition at **Ariana Gallery** (Royal Oak).

Rockin' Stockin' Stuff

Is she 'juiced' on electronics? Go for color with a pink magenta Motorola V3M Razr phone at **Verizon** stores or the Sanyo MM-8300 red cell phone at **Sprint**.

For sizzling lingerie, hit **Victoria's Secret**, and check out their Pink line of cute 'boxies,' hoodies, tees, sweats and more. Or, sweep her off her feet with a luxe lacey number at **Harp's** (Birmingham).

For a good read, find 'On Beauty' by Zadie Smith at **Barnes & Noble**. Or, grab the 'Desperate Housewives Dirty Laundry' game, available at **Target**.

Pamper your pal with pomegranate or cherry blossom infused products from **Bath & Body Works**. At **Ulta**, pick up a Hard Candy blue jeweled Keepsake Heart with two great glosses. Or, get her a gift card for a rejuvenating treatment at the **Franklin Spa** (Franklin).

Elaine "Lainey" Perlin Crossley wishes you a sparkling holiday season. She can be reached at (586) 612-7177.

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talk

All we want for X-mas

By Wendy Pierman Mitzel

It didn't seem a lot like Christmas at all when PINK stopped in at Little Lambs Preschool in Livonia earlier this month. The balmy weather and light drizzle hadn't stopped any of the kids from talking of Santa and presents, but PINK really wanted to find out from their moms:

"What do you want to see under your Christmas tree this year?"

"A laptop,"
Kim Juszczak,
Livonia



"An iPod/MP3
player,"
Angie Vance,
Livonia



"I want it all!"
Kim Peters,
Livonia



"A wetsuit,"
Anna Eberly,
Livonia.



pink picks

By Wensdy

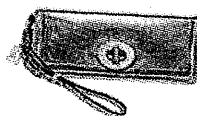
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when you can wear
them all day!)

Tote It!



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Clutch

Kick It!

Strappy metallic
party shoes

Face It!

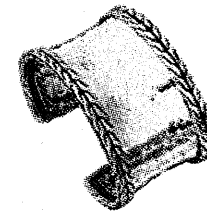
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High Heels
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by Kasey Michaels



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OF T.J. MAXX

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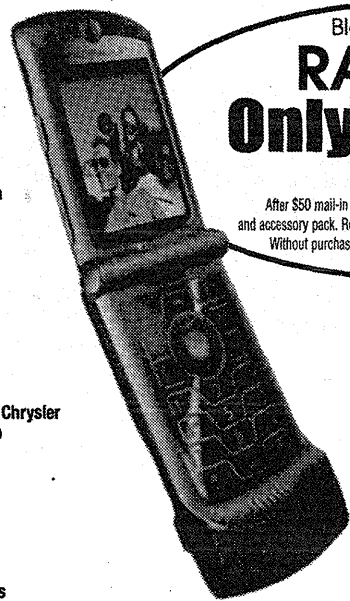
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By Wendie DeLano

PINK mommy

Great gifts that will
tickle her pink!

This month I am writing to all the PINK Daddies out there who need my help. There are only a few days until Christmas and you need ideas fast. The PINK Mommy in your life has worked hard all year to be a great Mom to your kids (and mate to you) and she deserves a special gift. Keep reading for three perfect presents that will have her thanking you until next Christmas.

For Princess Mommy

If you really want to spoil the woman you love, I highly recommend a day at the spa. Most spas offer a full menu of treatments and can customize packages to suit your needs. I recommend **Spa Julianna's** Afternoon by the Sea package (\$345), featuring the spa's signature facial, a Swedish massage and a classic mani/pedi. She will leave relaxed and rejuvenated, mind, body and spirit. Call (734) 455-4445 or visit www.spajulianna.com.

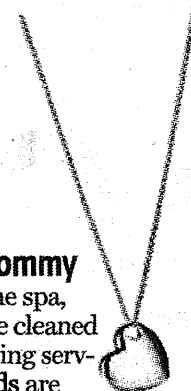
For Practical Mommy

While Mom is at the spa, why not get the house cleaned for her return? Cleaning services from **Merry Maids** are available weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or just one time, and they offer gift certificates! It's more affordable than you might think. Call (734) 458-9708 or visit www.merrymaids.com

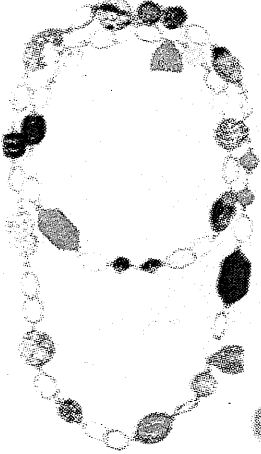
For Romantic Mommy

Did you know you can buy a gift from Tiffany & Co. for under \$200? **Tiffany & Co.** at The Somerset Collection has more than a dozen beautiful pieces of jewelry that fit well within a budget, including a lovely two-heart pendant (\$150, pictured above). She will think you are the most romantic PINK Daddy in the world when you present her with that signature little blue box. Visit www.tiffany.com, or call (248) 637-2800.

Now ... can someone make sure my husband reads this?



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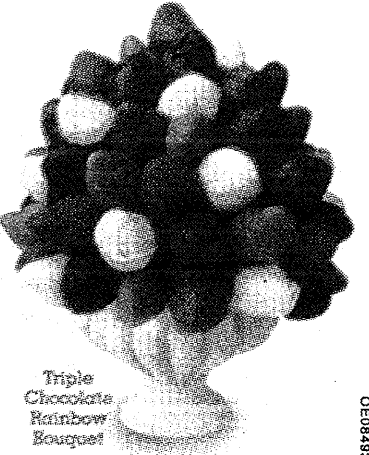
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Old 'Fashion' Holiday

PINK creates Cranbrook Holiday Table

PINK participated for the first time in Cranbrook Holiday Tables, held Nov. 17-19 at the lovely Cranbrook House in Bloomfield Hills. The festive event featured elaborate holiday place settings created by local residents and designers. PINK's table theme, Old 'Fashion' Holiday, emphasized vintage styles of the 1920s. Our intimate table set the scene of a couple on a romantic holiday date, and was meant to remind people to take time out during the hustle of the modern holiday season to spend quiet time with a loved one.

The woman at the table was represented by a fur stole, long gloves and vintage hat from Paris Boutique in Royal Oak. The man's presence was represented by a cigarette case, spectacles, top hat and ascot. With its lace tablecloth and mismatched China, the table was a return to romance, and a reminder that red and green aren't the only colors of the season!



Brightly-colored fabric sculpture by Bloomfield Hills artist Jannell Eagan add flavor to PINK's holiday table. The plums, cherries, and grapes are made from velvet with beaded wire stems, and the Christmas tree is decorated with jewels.

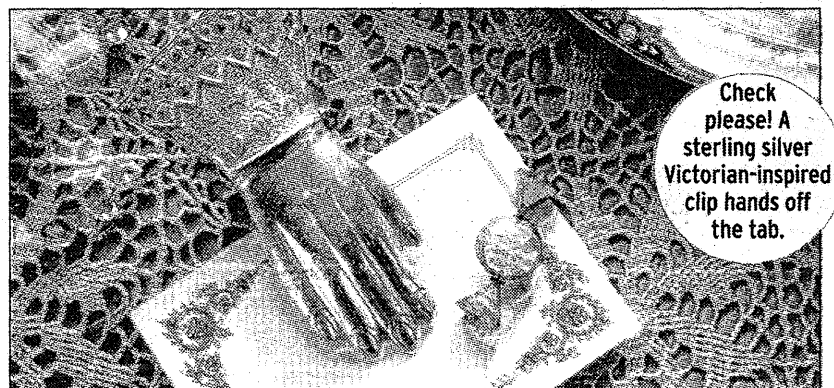


Model Kate McDonald brings PINK's holiday table to life, wearing a vintage fur stole and gold pillbox hat, with a beaded handbag and gloves, all from Paris Boutique in Royal Oak.

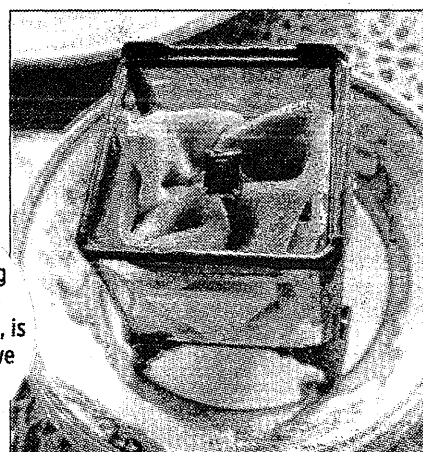
Menu

Escargot
Hearts of Palm Salad
Braised Lamb Chops
with Mint Sauce
Figgy Pudding
Champagne & Martinis

A delicious gift waits on a place setting of Moritake China. The ring, from Paris Boutique, is presented in a decorative glass box from Anthropologie.

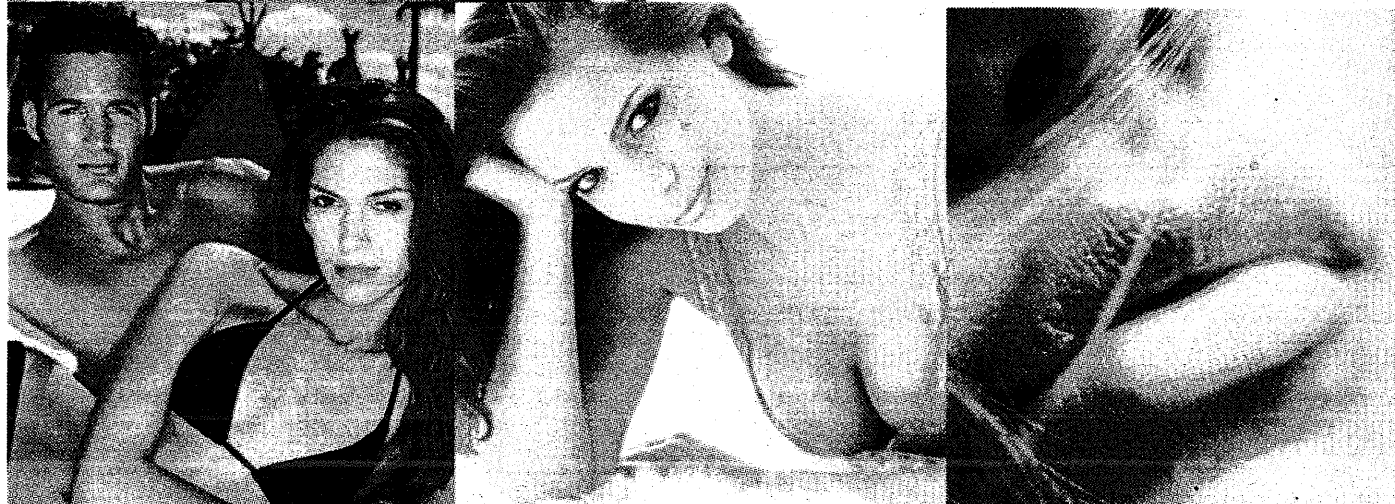
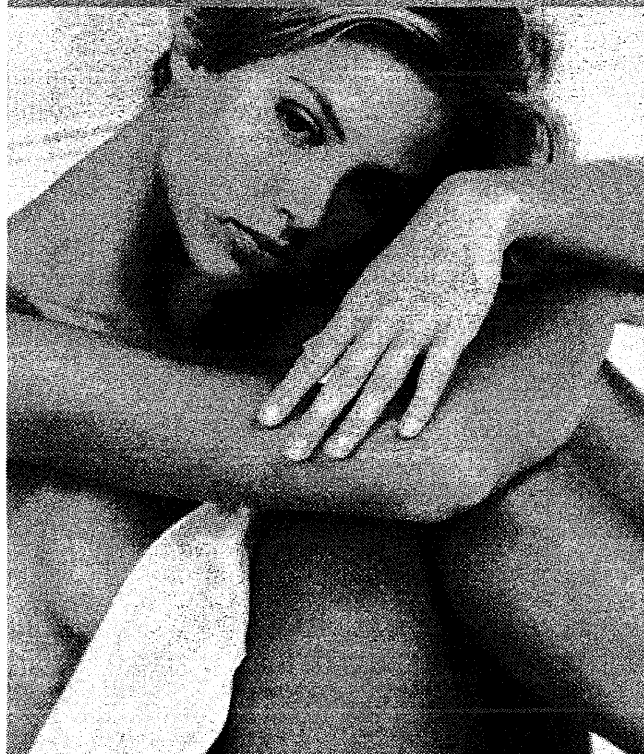


Check please! A sterling silver Victorian-inspired clip hands off the tab.



Model: Kate McDonald
Photos: Steve Cantrell and Wensdy Von Buskirk
Table Design: Wensdy Von Buskirk; and Jannell Eagan, Art of the Fifth Sense
Clothing and Accessories: Paris Boutique, Royal Oak
Salon Partner: Luigi Bruni Capelli Moderni, Birmingham
Makeup: Rommy Najor
Hair: Fathie (Patti) Sunga

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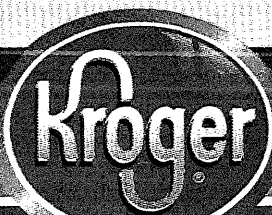
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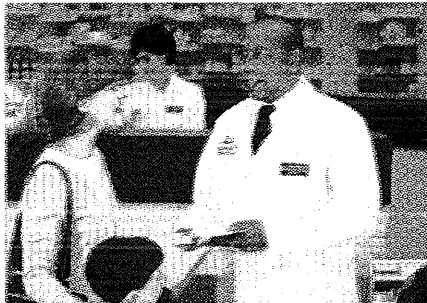
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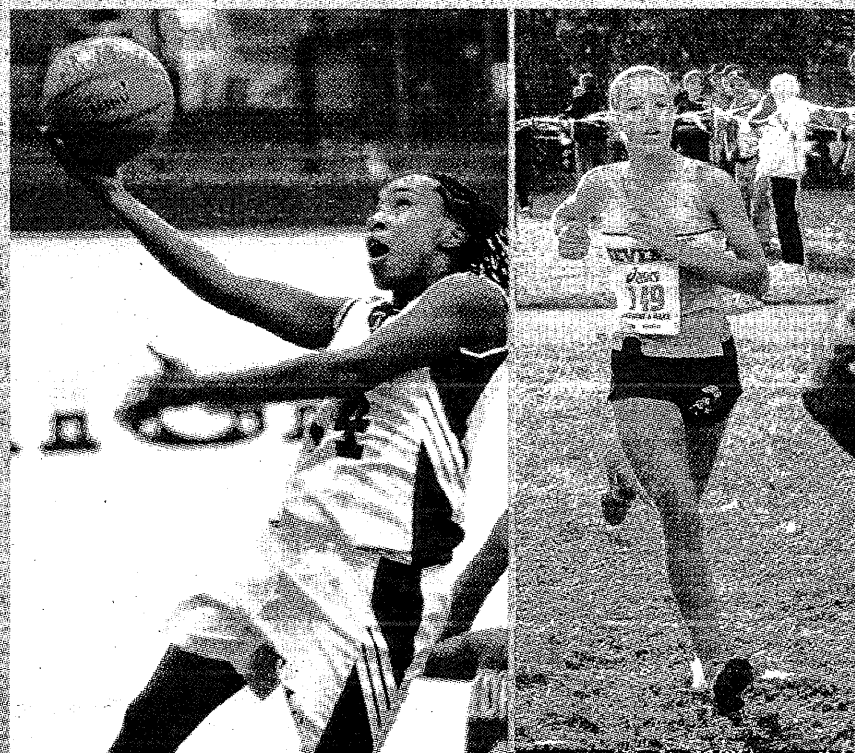
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2006 FALL SPORTS ALL-AREA TEAMS

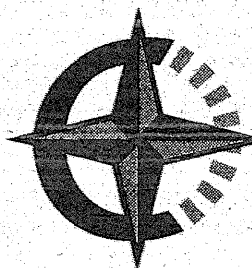


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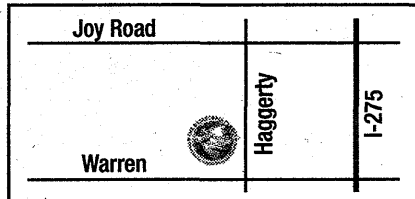
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Danny Martin, honorable mention, Livonia Churchill
Ben Grace, honorable mention, Livonia Churchill
Matt Winters, honorable mention, Livonia Churchill
Ryan Matthey, honorable mention, Livonia Franklin
Matt Rzekpa, honorable mention, Livonia Stevenson
Ben Burton, honorable mention, Livonia Stevenson
Brady Thom, honorable mention, Livonia Stevenson
Ron Berger, honorable mention, Garden City
Jordan Turner, honorable mention, Walled Lake Northern
Eugene Vinogradov, honorable mention, West Bloomfield

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:

Lindsay McMullen, second team, Livonia Churchill
Hannah Otto, honorable mention, Livonia Churchill

GIRLS BASKETBALL:

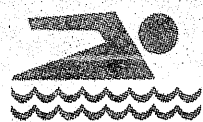
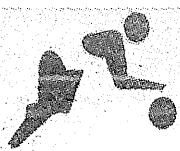
Becci Houdek, first team, Canton High
Allison Yanke, Lutheran Westland, honorable mention

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FIRST TEAM

Becci Houdek, Sr. G, Canton: A rare four-year starter, Houdek led the Chiefs to a 19-3 record and WLAA conference tournament title. A multi-dimensional threats, she averaged 13.4 points, 5.6 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 3.6 steals.

"Becci's court awareness and vision are amazing," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "She made everyone around her better because of the way she could distribute the basketball. And, obviously, as a four-year starter, she will definitely be missed."

Houdek earned a basketball scholarship to Ferris State University.

Chloe Booker, Sr. G, Red. Thurston: Always extremely talented, the hard-driving senior point guard averaged 17 points, five steals, five assists and five rebounds in sparking Redford Thurston to an 18-0 regular season record, good for a second consecutive Mega Gold title. The Eagles finished 19-1, finally losing in the district semis to Livonia Ladywood.

Booker's ability to either drive through the lane or connect on long-range jumpers in crunch time earned unanimous selection to the all-conference team - not to mention garnering attention from college scouts.

"Chloe has come around and played such fantastic basketball this season," said Thurston coach Bob Ostrowski. "She is so much more aware of the floor, dishing out assists."

Taylor Langham, Sr. G, Salem: The 5-11 guard was a threat at both ends of the court for the Rocks, who posted a sparkling 18-4 record. She averaged 12.5 points, 5.3 rebounds and close to two steals per game while providing coach Fred Thomann with aggressive defense.

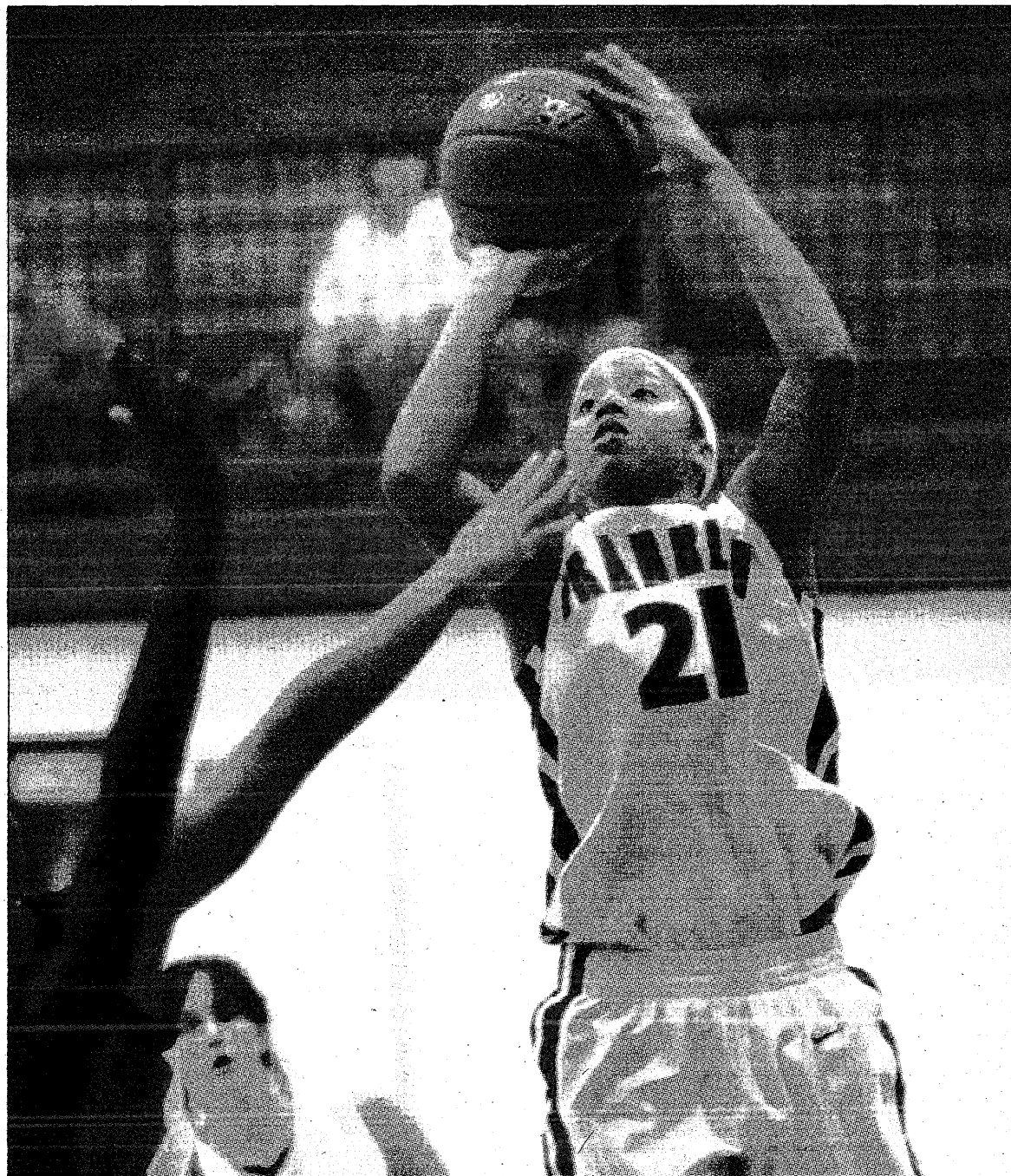
"Taylor is an explosive scorer who defensively got better and better as the season went along," said Thomann. "She made a lot of big shots for us and got us off to good starts with her early offense. We had a very balanced offensive team, so she probably could have scored twice as many points as she did on another team."

Ja'nee Morton, Sr. F, Canton: Morton stands 5-9, but played much bigger for the Chiefs. She led the team in scoring (13.9) and rebounding (6.7) while shooting a blistering 49 percent from the field.

"Ja'nee is an outstanding athlete who always found a way to score around the rim," said Samulski. "She is a great rebounder for her size and her defense really improved from her junior to senior season."

Kathryn Berger, Sr. C, Liv. Ladywood: The 6-1 senior center, who averaged 11 points and seven rebounds on a well-balanced team, earned All-Catholic League honors as the Blazers won the Central Division, Central-AA playoff and Class A district titles.

"Kathryn pretty much did everything for us, scoring and rebounding," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "She always guarded the other team's best player. She's very versatile."



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PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL, 5 Franklin sophomore Briauna Taylor earned second-team All-Observer honors.

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FIRST TEAM

Player	Year	School
G-Becci Houdek	Sr.	Canton
G-Chloe Booker	Sr.	Red. Thurston
G-Taylor Langham	Sr.	Salem
F-Ja'nee Morton	Sr.	Canton
C-Kathryn Berger	Sr.	Liv. Ladywood

SECOND TEAM

G-Laura Guina	Sr.	Liv. Ladywood
F-Briauna Taylor	Soph.	Liv. Franklin
F-Teresa Coppiellie	Sr.	Salem
C-Robyn Whalen	Sr.	Liv. Franklin
C-Alex Serowoky	Jr.	Liv. Ladywood

THIRD TEAM

G-Alaya Mitchell	Jr.	Salem
F-Jenna Anastos	Jr.	Liv. Ladywood
F-Stephanie Bradshaw	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
C-Shaakira Haywood	Soph.	Plymouth
C-Ashley Moore	Soph.	Red. Thurston

FOURTH TEAM

F-Baylee Hollowell	Jr.	Canton
F-Brianna Chrenko	Sr.	Agape Christian
F-Lauren Adlof	Jr.	Huron Valley Lutheran
C-Brittany Holbrook	Soph.	Westland Glenn
C-Becca Refenes	Soph.	Lutheran Westland

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bob Ostrowski	Red. Thurston
---------------	---------------

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Churchill: Hilary Antal, Lindsey Graciak, Liz Buttery;
Franklin: Brittany Taylor, Andrea McCall, Allison Bonsall;
Stevenson: Rebecca Bartek, Janice Hollandsworth, Kaitlyn O'Hara, Allison Smith;
Ladywood: Alison Szczyпка, Amber Drabicki;
John Glenn: Chanel Payne, Kiaya Montague, Brittany Brown;
Wayne: Trenia Barbee, Nastassia Goines;
Lutheran Westland: Allyson Yankee, Kayla Gieschen, Lauren Schwecke;
Huron Valley Lutheran: Amanda Gruenewald;
Thurston: T. J. Cunningham, Chelsea Carradine, Lanea Williamson;
Redford Union: Heather Kesteloot, Jasmine Johnson, Stacey Gavin;
Garden City: Deanna Clendening, Kelly Floetke;
Canton: Lauren Delapaz, Marie Martin;
Plymouth: Kelsi Robinson, Stacey Klonowski;
Salem: Lauren Kurtz, Chelsea Davis;
Plymouth Christian Academy: Sara Ross, Jessica Murphy, Megan Greve.

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 4

SECOND TEAM

Laura Guina, Sr. G, Liv. Ladywood: The 5-9 senior guard was a four-year varsity player and earned All-Catholic League honors.

Guina averaged eight points and five rebounds for the Catholic League champions, who finished 20-4 overall.

"Laura was our team leader," Gorski said. "She'd do all the little things for us to win. She's a very unselfish player."

Briauna Taylor, Soph. F, Liv. Franklin: The 10th-grader earned All-Western Division honors as she paced the Patriots in scoring, averaging 13.1 points per game.

She shot 49 percent from the field and 62 percent from the foul line.

Taylor also averaged 6.5 rebounds per game.

"Briauna is an exciting open court player," Mary Kay Whalen said. "She covers the court well both offensively and defensively, and can score both inside and out."

Teresa Coppiellie, Sr. F, Salem: A four-year letter winner, Coppiellie enjoyed another brilliant season, averaging 9.5 points and 8.5 rebounds. She started every game during her four-year career.

"Teresa was a tremendous veteran player for us this season," said Thomann. "She's a tremendous scorer around the basket and an excellent defender. She could play on the perimeter and inside for us, which was a nice luxury."

Robyn Whalen, Sr. C, Liv. Franklin: The 6-2 senior center was a force inside for the Patriots, averaging 12 rebounds and five blocks per game.

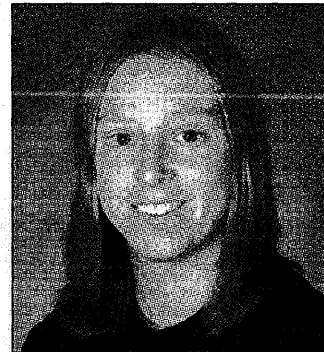
Whalen, an All-Western Lakes pick, also averaged 9.7 points per game for the 15-7 Patriots. She shot 45 percent from the field.

"Robyn is an outstanding inside defensive player with great timing," Franklin coach Mary Kay Whalen said. "Her strong rebounding and passing ability ignited our fastbreak and created easy baskets for her teammates."

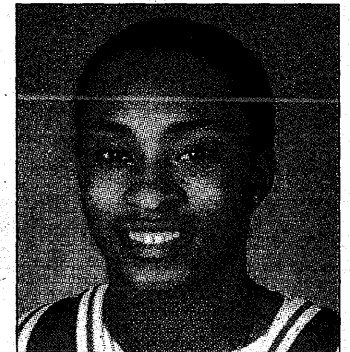
Alex Serowoky, Jr., C, Liv. Ladywood: The 6-1 junior center averaged nine points and seven rebounds en route to All-Central Division honors in the Catholic League.

Serowoky rebounded nicely after sitting out most of her sophomore year with a broken foot.

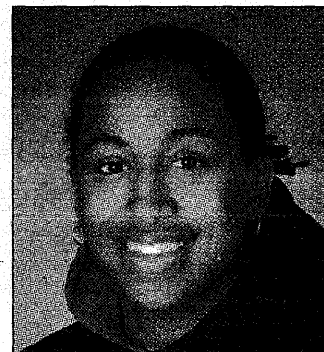
"Alex improved her game as the season went along," Gorski said. "She was very versatile. She could score with either hand and she developed and outside jump shot."



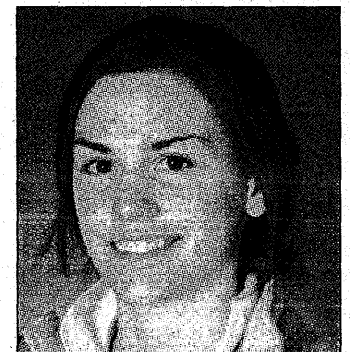
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Chloe Booker
Redford Thurston



Ja'nee Morton
Canton



Kathryn Berger
Livonia Ladywood



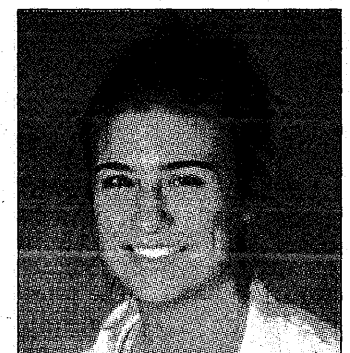
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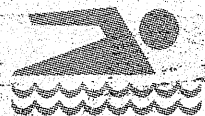
Briauna Taylor
Livonia Franklin



Robyn Whalen
Livonia Franklin



Alex Serowoky
Livonia Ladywood



State champion Schmitt sets the standard

FIRST TEAM

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Allison Schmitt, Jr., Canton (200 freestyle): The junior had a sensational season that was capped off when she was named the "Outstanding Swimmer" at the Division I State Meet at Oakland University Nov. 18. Schmitt took gold in two events at the D1 meet and actually qualified for seven individual events. She posted All-American times in the 200-yard freestyle, 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 500 freestyle and consideration times in the 100 butterfly.

"Allison is a wonderful athlete to work with," said Canton assistant coach Ed Weber. "One aspect that sets her apart from other great swimmers is her willingness to do what is best for the team."

Ashley Gordon, Fr., Liv. Stevenson (200 IM): At the Division I state meet, the freshman took 25th in the 200 IM (2:16.79) and 22nd in the 100 backstroke 1:02.49.

At the WLAA meet, Gordon was runner-up in both the 200 IM (2:15.48) and 100 backstroke.

Jill Peterson, Sr., Westland Glenn (50 freestyle): The senior earned four straight first-team All-Area berths in the 50 freestyle.

She posted a season-best 25.40 in the WLAA finals.

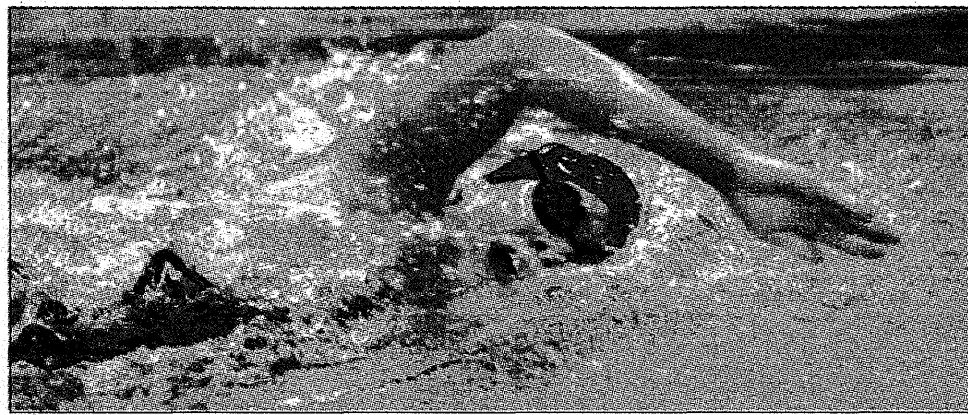
At the state meet, Peterson took 13th in the 100 breaststroke (1:08.26) and 17th in the 100 freestyle (54.87). She was also runner-up in the WLAA meet in the 100 breaststroke.

Peterson holds Glenn school records in four individual events - 50, 100 and 200 freestyles, along with the 100 freestyle. She is also part of two school record relay teams (200 medley and 200 freestyle).

"Jill is the best swimmer to come through John Glenn," coach Randy Ferguson said. "Her talent will be sorely missed. We've been able to build a strong team around her the past four years and now it's time to pass the torch to one of her other teammates."

Katie Koetting, Soph., Salem (diving): The sophomore has become a force on the high school diving scene in just her second season with the Rocks. Koetting is a two-time Division I Regional qualifier, a two-time All-WLAA performer and the reigning WLAA conference diving champion. She also excels in the classroom, having compiled a 3.66 grade-point average.

"Katie has earned the respect of her teammates and competitors for her efforts to become the best diver she can be," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "The results so far have been high and the



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland John Glenn senior Jill Peterson was honored once again in the 50-yard freestyle.

next two years will be even better."

Ashley Sells, Soph., Westland Glenn (100 butterfly): The sophomore repeats as the first-team pick in the 100 butterfly after placing 10th at the Division I state meet with season-best time of 1:00.01 in the prelims.

Sells was also a state qualifier in two other events including the 200 IM where she took 29th in 2:18.42.

She was also part of Glenn's school-record 200 medley relay team.

"Ashley had a great season," Ferguson said. "She works very hard and will be a good leader. She was picked by her teammates to lead the team next year.

"I know we'll see better times from her in the next two years."

Laura Timson, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (100 freestyle): The junior improved her time in the 100 freestyle with a clocking of 54.88 on the lead-off leg of the 400 freestyle relay at the Division I state meet.

Timson placed sixth in the 500 freestyle (5:13.27) after going 5:12.82 in the prelims at the state meet. She also added an 11th in the 200 IM (2:11.32).

At the WLAA meet, Timson won the 200 IM and was fifth in the 500 freestyle.

Monica Blaesser, Jr., Canton (500 freestyle): Blaesser enjoyed a stellar junior season, qualifying for the state meet in the 200 and 500 freestyle events. She placed second in the 200 at the WLAA conference meet and was the league champion in the 500 freestyle.

"Monica is a very determined and dedicated swimmer," said Weber. "She is a great leader on the team and I look forward to what she will be able to do next year."

Whitney Aumillier, Soph., Salem (100 backstroke): Although only a sophomore, Aumillier proved to be one of the top swimmers in the WLAA this season as she was the conference champion in the 50-yard backstroke while qualifying for

the D1 state meet in the 100 backstroke, 200 freestyle and the 400 and 200 freestyle relays. She was named the Rocks' Most Valuable Swimmer at the team's banquet.

"Whitney has been a go-to swimmer in competitions," said Olson. "She's been asked to match up with the competition's top swimmers no matter the stroke or distance. Whitney has shown that she will do the work in practice to be tougher than the competition."

Brynn Marecki, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (100 breaststroke): The junior earned a third-place finish in the Division I state meet (1:05.04) in the 100 breaststroke and was runner-up to Ann Arbor Pioneer's Carlye Ellis in the 200 IM (2:07.08).

At the Western Lakes meet, Marecki set a new WLAA standard during the prelims of the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.87, breaking the mark of 1:06.37 set by Stevenson's Mary Schoenle in 1984.

Marecki was also runner-up in the 100 freestyle at the WLAA meet (53.1).

RELAY EVENTS

Stevenson, 200 medley (Ashley Gordon, Fr.; Brynn Marecki, Jr.; Anna Polkowski, Sr.; Laura Timson, Jr.): This quartet finished third in the state meet in the meet with a time of 1:50.27.

They also captured the WLAA title in 1:53.68.

Canton, 200 freestyle (Monica Blaesser, Jr.; Laura Landis, Sr.; Maggie Carlson, Fr.; Allison Schmitt, Jr.): This foursome placed ninth at the Division I state meet with a time of 1:41.44. Their season-best time of 1:40.95 broke a school record and placed them first on the Observerland swim list.

Stevenson, 400 freestyle (Laura Timson, Jr.; Blake Holtz, Jr.; Anna Polkowski, Sr.; Brynn Marecki, Jr.): This foursome earned a ninth-place finish at the state meet with a time of 3:39.0.

Marecki's anchor leg was clocked in

2006 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING

200-yard medley relay: 1. Livonia Stevenson (Ashley Gordon, Brynn Marecki, Anna Polkowski, Laura Timson); 2. John Glenn (Jordan Burgess, Jill Peterson, Ashley Sells, Casey Peterson).

200 freestyle: 1. Allison Schmitt (Canton); 2. Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson).

200 IM: 1. Ashley Gordon (Stevenson); 2. Maggie Carlson (Canton).

50 freestyle: 1. Jill Peterson (John Glenn); 2. Ally Stencel (Salem).

Diving: 1. Katie Koetting (Salem); 2. Chelsea Selden (Canton).

100 butterfly: 1. Ashley Sells (John Glenn); 2. Anna Polkowski (Stevenson).

100 freestyle: 1. Laura Timson (Stevenson); 2. Blake Holtz (Stevenson).

500 freestyle: 1. Monica Blaesser (Canton); 2. Emily Bair (Salem).

200 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Monica Blaesser, Laura Landis, Maggie Carlson, Allison Schmitt); 2. Stevenson (Blake Holtz, Ashley Gordon, Stephanie Buckley, Anna Polkowski).

100 backstroke: 1. Whitney Aumillier (Salem); 2. Alyssa Johnson (Canton).

100 breaststroke: 1. Brynn Marecki (Stevenson); 2. Sijia Hao (Plymouth).

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Laura Timson, Blake Holtz, Anna Polkowski, Brynn Marecki); 2. Canton (Allison Schmitt, Laura Landis, Alyssa Johnson, Monica Blaesser).

Coach of the year

Greg Phill, Liv. Stevenson

53.13, while Timson led off in 54.88. Holtz went 55.21, while Polkowski was timed in 55.78.

The same quartet also captured the WLAA title in 3:42.51.

PLEASE SEE SWIMMING, 7

SWIMMING

FROM PAGE 6

SECOND TEAM

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Stephanie Buckley, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (200 freestyle): The senior was the WLAA champion in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:01.37.

Her best time came at the state meet in 2:00.47 (32nd).

Buckley also took 36th at the state meet in the 500 freestyle (5:27.27). Buckley was also runner-up in the 500 freestyle at the WLAA meet.

Maggie Carlson, Fr., Canton (200 IM): The ninth-grader performed like a seasoned senior this season, qualifying for the D1 state meet in the 200 IM, the event she placed third at the WLAA conference meet. She also placed sixth in the 100 breaststroke at the league meet and was a key part of the school record-breaking 200 freestyle relay contingent.

"Maggie is a talented swimmer," said Weber. "I was really impressed by her freestyle leg in her 200 IM. Even though it's her breaststroke that keeps her in the race, it's her freestyle that wins her the race. I'm looking forward to another three years of working with Maggie."

Ally Stencel, Sr., Salem (50 freestyle): The senior was a three-time Division 1 state qualifier and eight-time All-WLAA performer (50 and 100 freestyle; 200 medley; 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle relays). She won the 2006 "Coach's Award" and was named the recipient of the 2006 "Rachel Maurer" award, which honors the team's outstanding leader, student and athlete. Stencel's grade-point average is 3.91.

"Ally has had a wonderful four years of high school," said Olson. "She's a great teammate, she sets the example in practice, competitions and as a person. Ally certainly fits the Salem tradition of the student/athlete."

Chelsea Selden, Sr., Canton (diving): Among the senior's many accomplishments this season were a personal-best score of 208 (six dives) and a 13th-place showing at the Division 1 Regional meet.

"Chelsea is one of my favorite divers," said Weber. "In fact, I coached her as a swimmer during her middle-school years at East Middle School. She was a great captain and could always be counted on. I wish her the best next year and know that she'll do great at the University of Michigan."

Anna Polkowski, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (100 butterfly): The senior placed 33rd overall in Division I in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:02.07.

She added a fifth in the same event at the WLAA meet.

In the 100 backstroke at the WLAA meet, Polkowski finished fourth in 1:04.6.

Blake Holtz, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (100 freestyle): The junior sprinter placed fourth in both the 50 freestyle (25.7) and 100 freestyle (57.31) at the Western Lakes meet.

Her best time in 100 freestyle occurred during the prelims of the

WLAA meet (56.7).

She was also an integral member of Stevenson's 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams.

Emily Bair, Soph., Salem (500 freestyle): The sophomore qualified for the D1 state meet as part of the 200 and 400 freestyle relay quartets. She's a two-time WLAA All-Conference performer in the 500 freestyle and 400 freestyle relay and was voted the team's "Most Improved Swimmer" award in 2006. She has compiled a 3.91 grade-point average.

"Emily is one of those rare athletes who enjoys practice," said Olson. "She takes the same enthusiastic approach to perfecting a drill or tackling a difficult task. I'm sure that Emily will continue to lead by example as a student-athlete."

Alyssa Johnson, Sr., Canton (100 backstroke): The senior placed third in the 100 backstroke at the WLAA league meet and improved on her time at the D1 state meet two weeks later.

"Alyssa was a great captain," said Weber. "One thing you can always expect from Alyssa is her determination to succeed. She always wants to do better and swim faster. That type of focus will take her a long way in life. We'll miss her a lot next year."

Sijia Hao, Fr., Plymouth (100 breaststroke): The ninth-grader excelled in her first year of high school swimming as she helped lead the Wildcats to their best-ever season. The team's top point-earner, she posted Top 10 Observerland times in three events: the 200 IM (2:21.76), the 100 butterfly (1:06.10) and the 100 breaststroke (1:12.78).

"Sijia was able to swim any event at any length competitively and she really allowed us to match up with different teams just about any way we wanted," said Plymouth coach Doug Schade.

"That really helped us go undefeated in our division this year. She is a tireless worker, accepts coaching well and is a dedicated member of the Ann Arbor Swim Club in the off-season."

RELAY EVENTS

John Glenn, 200 medley (Jordan Burgess, Soph.; Jill Peterson, Sr.; Ashley Sells, Soph.; Casey Peterson, Fr.): This quartet was runner-up in the Western Lakes meet with a school-record time of 1:54.65.

They added a 20th-place in the Division I state meet (1:54.65).

"When these girls finally put their best times together, they swim really fast at the conference finals," Ferguson said.

Stevenson, 200 freestyle (Blake Holtz, Jr.; Ashley Gordon, Fr.; Stephanie Buckley, Sr.; Anna Polkowski (Sr.): The Spartans took 16th overall in the state meet, clocking a 1:42.99 in the B heat finals after going a season-best 1:42.35 in the prelims.

This same quartet added a third at the Western Lakes meet in 1:44.54.

Canton, 400 freestyle (Allison Schmitt, Jr.; Laura Landis, Sr.; Alyssa Johnson, Sr.; Monica Blaesser, Jr.): This foursome qualified for the D1 state meet where it tied for sixth with an All-State clocking of 3:40.71.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Greg Phill, Liv. Stevenson



Allison Schmitt
Canton



Ashley Gordon
Stevenson



Casey Peterson
John Glenn



Katie Koetting
Salem



Ashley Sells
John Glenn



Laura Timson
Stevenson



Monica Blaesser
Canton



Whitney Aumiller
Salem



Brynn Marecki
Stevenson



Stephanie Buckley
Stevenson



Maggie Carlson
Canton



Ally Stencel
Salem



Anna Polkowski
Stevenson



Blake Holtz
Stevenson



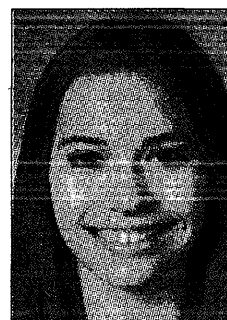
Emily Bair
Salem



Alyssa Johnson
Canton



Laura Landis
Canton



Jordan Burgess
John Glenn

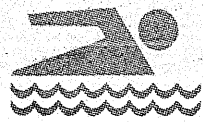


Jill Peterson
John Glenn



Sijia Hao
Plymouth

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Stevenson, Salem netters in class of their own

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

Amanda Moccia, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The Spartans' No. 1 singles player posted a 21-6 record this season, finishing runner-up at the Division I regional and Western Lakes Activities Association tournaments where she fell in both finals to state champion Christina Ruiz of Northville.

The four-year varsity letter winner finished 1-1 in the Division I state tourney and boasts a two-year No. 1 singles mark of 40-13.

Moccia also captured the Novi Invitational, took runner-up honors at the Grosse Pointe South Invitational, and added a third at Saline.

"I can't say enough about Amanda's dedication to this team and her desire to be the best player she can be," Stevenson coach Kathy Ladd said. "This year Amanda has added even more power and consistency to dominate her opponents - she has crushed many with love sets. She is a fine overall athlete with great court sense and quickness. She's a tenacious competitor who always sets goals for herself in practices and matches."

Alex Ware, Sr., Salem: The senior accomplished the rare feat of playing four straight years as the Rocks' No. 1 singles player. She compiled a 30-14 overall record and was 9-3 this past year when she advanced to the semi-final round of the WLAA tournament where she was defeated by the No. 1 seed. Ware made it to the Ann Arbor Regional semifinals all four years and she notched 15 tournament match wins.

"Alex has an all-around game with a big forehand that can end a point quickly," said Salem coach Lin Ware. "She has become mentally tough as a player and she hopes to continue improving as she plays collegiate tennis."

Corinne Pasley, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The Spartans' No. 2 singles player capped her senior season with a 21-6 record where she earned runner-up honors in the WLAA tournament.

Pasley was a gold medalist at the Grosse



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pointe South and Ann Arbor invitationals. She also was a finalist at the Novi Invitational and won the consolation bracket at the Saline Tournament.

The four-year veteran had "no bad losses" this season, according to her coach. "Corinne is a talented lefty with a wonderful arsenal of shots, a rifle forehand and an agile net game." Ladd said, "There is no shot Corinne cannot make to befud-

dle her opponent. When she's on her game, she is simply amazing.

"I also admire Corinne's spunk and her courage. On the tennis court, she goes from being a delightful and animated teenager, to this buzzsaw of concentration and determination."

Tracy Lytle, Jr., Salem: The junior had a 9-3 conference record and she advanced to the conference semifinal round each of

the past three years. She has an overall record of 27-9 in the WLAA and has steadily moved up from No. 1 doubles to No. 2 singles.

"Tracy has only been playing tennis since middle school and she continues to improve both physically and mentally," said Ware. "She'll be looking to take over

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TENNIS

FROM PAGE 8

the No. 1 spot next year.”

Lindsay Hostetter, Jr., Liv. Stevenson: The Spartans’ No. 3 singles player enjoyed a banner season finishing 26-2 overall.

The WLAA and regional champion also captured invitational titles at Ann Arbor, Grosse Pointe South and Novi. Hostetter was undefeated in dual matches.

Her victory in the regional final earned Stevenson an 18th point and an automatic berth in the Division I state tournament.

“Lindsay is a powerful player capable of offensive shots from anywhere on the court,” Ladd said of the three-year veteran. “She’s a very emotional player, battling through the ups and downs of each game, and berating herself when she misses a shot. The fact is, she doesn’t miss all that many, and her record proves it. Many of her matches were double-bagels (6-0, 6-0).

As a No. 3 and No. 4 singles player the past two years, Hostetter’s overall match record is 51-5.

“Lindsay had a phenomenal season, and thank goodness, we hope to have her talent and leadership next year,” Ladd said.

Allie Carpenter, Fr., Salem: The freshman had a 9-2 conference record and 10-4 overall mark this past season. She advanced to the semifinal round of the WLAA tournament and she upended talented Northville player Sarah Koupal in a regular-season match.

“It’s rare for a freshman to be able to break into the varsity lineup like Allie did,” said Ware. “She has great ground strokes and hits the ball hard. I expect to see big things from her in the future.”

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES

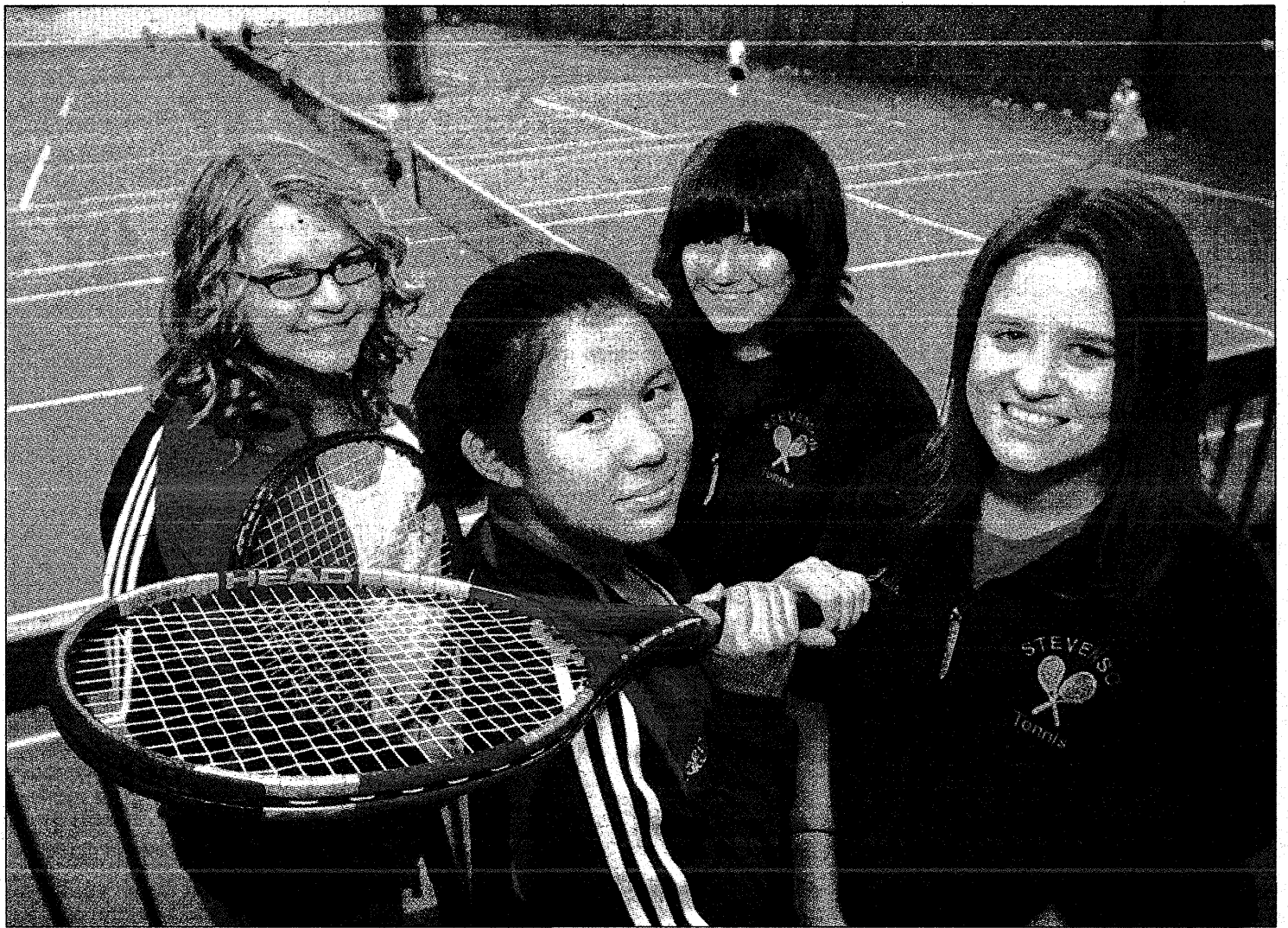
Laura Sims, Jr., and Julie Francisco, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: This tandem, Stevenson’s No. 1, posted a record of 21-9 during the fall en route to a top seeding and runner-up honors in the WLAA tourney.

Sims and Francisco also were medalists at the Ann Arbor and Saline invitationals, along with semifinalists at the regional.

They were quarterfinalists in the Division I state finals going 1-1.

“Laura and Julie dominated many of their matches this season, and won easily,” Ladd said. “But I think they played their best when they were really pushed. They also found a way to win when they weren’t playing well.

“Laura improved her all-court game this season, adding crisper volleys and a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

First-team doubles players of the 2006 All-Observer Girls Tennis team include (from left): Claire Madill and Linda Ling, both from Plymouth Salem; Laura Sims and Julie Francisco, both from Livonia Stevenson.

harder serve to her already consistent, deep ground strokes. She rules the backhand corners and sets up her partner for put-away volleys.

“Julie has a lovely forehand – steady and deep – the smoothest on the team that sets up put-away volleys. She also improved her confidence this year.

“The one-two punch serves them very well. I’m also excited to point out that they are getting into the net together more often, and becoming a fearless wall.”

Claire Madill, Jr., and Linda Ling, Soph., Salem: The Rocks’ No. 1 doubles duo etched a 9-2 conference record and 10-4 mark overall. They made it to both the semifinals of the conference tournament and the Division I Regional event.

“Claire and Linda formed a formidable team, defeating Saline twice during the sea-

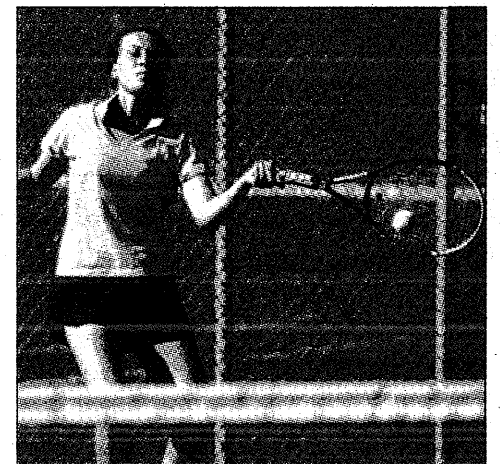
2006 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS TENNIS

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

Amanda Moccia	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
Alex Ware	Sr.	Salem
Corinne Pasley	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
Tracy Lytle	Jr.	Salem
Lindsay Hostetter	Jr.	Liv. Stevenson
Allie Carpenter	Fr.	Salem

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES

Laura Sims	Jr.	Liv. Stevenson
Julie Francisco	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
Claire Madill	Jr.	Salem
Linda Ling	So.	Salem



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

son,” said Ware. “This is Linda’s first year playing varsity tennis and Claire’s second.”

Stevenson’s No. 2 singles player Corinne Pasley earned first-team All-Area honors.



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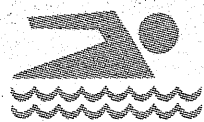
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Final 4 Chiefs lead wealth of grid talent

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Dezmond Latham, Sr. RB, RU: The multi-talented Latham sparked Redford Union to a third consecutive postseason berth.

Standing just 5-10, Latham stood tall, gaining 1,314 yards on 190 carries for an average of nearly seven yards per attempt and tallied 14 touchdowns, earning unanimous selection to the All-Mega team. But the third-year starter also excelled at linebacker, with 61 tackles and two interceptions.

"He was the heart and soul of our team," said Panthers head coach Miles Tomasaitis about his co-captain. "Each time we needed a big play, Dezmond would deliver."

For example, Latham almost single-handedly carried RU to a win against Trenton, gaining 222 yards and scoring three touchdowns.

Nate Gholston, Sr. RB, Plymouth: Despite battling injuries for a good chunk of the season, the 5-9 senior captain was the sparkplug of the Wildcats' offense.

Gholston's combination of speed and power gave opposing defenses fits as he led the team in rushing (918 yards and eight TD's) as well as providing valuable leadership qualities.

The WLAA All-Western Division performer's biggest night came Oct. 13 when he rushed for 115 yards on 22 carries in the Wildcats' 15-7 victory over Westland John Glenn. The highlight of Gholston's big night was a 49-yard TD sprint.

"Nate is a great runner, but what made him special was all the other things he did when he wasn't carrying the ball," said Plymouth coach Jay Blaylock. "He is a great blocker and he was a leader on the field."

Nick Moores, Sr. RB, Canton: The senior made a sudden impact in his only year with the Chiefs after transferring from Novi-Detroit Catholic Central. He led the team in rushing yards, touchdowns and carries on the way to a school-record 12 victories. Moores' most prominent contribution of many may have been his 90-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dashing around a defender on the way to another touchdown this season is Redford Union senior Dezmond Latham.

yard kickoff return for a touchdown on the opening play of the WLAA conference championship game against Walled Lake Central, which Canton won 20-14.

"Nick is a very physical player, both as a blocker and a runner," said Canton coach Tim Baechler. "Once Dalton (Walsler) got hurt, Nick became our big-play threat. He made some big runs for us, including two kickoff returns for touchdowns."

Derek Severson, Sr. WR, Liv. Stevenson: The 6-foot, 170-pound senior wide receiver, voted the team MVP, earned All-Western Lakes honors with 15 receptions for 303 yards and five touchdowns.

He also returned seven punts for 170 yards and one TD for the Division I state playoff qualifier.

"In addition to being blessed with great hands and athleticism, Derek has a drive without limits," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "He had the desire and the ability to make something good happen

on every snap, whether it was a highlight film catch, or just a solid block on the backside of a play."

Dan Chynoweth, Sr. WR, Liv. Franklin: The two-year starter and team MVP had a total of 28 catches for 533 yards and six touchdowns for the 5-4 Patriots.

The 5-10, 162-pound Chynoweth started at free safety as a junior before moving to strong safety as a senior where he made 61 tackles with two fumble recoveries and seven pass breakups.

"He made big plays on both sides of the play," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said of the All-Western Lakes pick. "When we needed a big play, Dan would make it."

Brandon Fender, Sr. TE, Canton: The converted quarterback's biggest contribution to the Chiefs' "Final Four" season was his consistently strong blocking for the team's run-oriented offense. When he was called upon to catch passes, he was extremely reliable, hauling in six receptions, four of which were touchdowns. The senior's blocking skills were respected by opposing WLAA coaches, who voted him to the All-Conference First Team despite his half-dozen catches.

"Brandon is an excellent blocker and he has great hands, too," said Baechler. "His blocking ability is probably the No. 1 reason the coaches voted him to the All-League team. He made a smooth transition from quarterback to tight end two years ago."

William Khoury, Sr. OL, Canton: The 6-4, 305-pound senior emerged as the Chiefs' top interior lineman in his first year as a starter. Khoury grasped the team's elaborate blocking schemes quickly and paved the way for Canton's prolific group of running backs.

"William moves very well for a big guy," Baechler said. "Once things started clicking for him early in the season he turned into a dominant player for us. A lot of the yards Nick Moores got were behind William's blocks on the right side."

Kevin Wengert, Sr. OL, Liv. Franklin: The 6-2, 243-pound senior played both ways on the line and stood out.

As a strongside tackle, Wengert record-

ed a 92 percent rating.

Defensively, he made a total of 90 tackles, 12 for loss, along with three sacks, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

He earned All-WLAA honors after making All-Western Division as a junior.

"Kevin is our best football player," Kelbert said. "He's the type of player I wish all players were in terms of work ethic. He's in the weight room every day. He's committed to the game of football."

Josh Perusse, Sr. OL, Wayne: The 6-2, 250-pound senior excelled on both sides of the ball.

Offensively, the All-WLAA had only two bad snaps all year in Wayne's shotgun attack.

Defensively, Perusse recorded 70 tackles, including three sacks.

"Josh is very smart and got better as the season went along," Wayne coach Craig Hnatuk said of the three-year starter. "He's very powerful, enormously strong. He made himself strong living the weight room."

"He lifted more than me when I competed. He deadlifts 670 pounds and my best as a grown man was 620."

Perusse also excels in the classroom with a 3.5 grade-point average.

Frank Toarmina, Sr. OL, John Glenn: The 6-3, 252-pound senior was a two-year starter and co-captain for the Rockets.

Toarmina, who also played in spots defensively, earned All-Western Lakes honors.

"Frank was a devastating blocker," Glenn coach Todd DeLuca said. "He ran the show for us up-front. He knew our schemes and was like another coach on the field. We ran over him quite a bit because he has good size and good feet."

Robert Pennywitt, Sr. OL, RU: Co-captain Pennywitt's "tireless" work ethic in the weight room and on the field had a positive impact on teammates, helping the Panthers finish with a regular season record of 6-3 and another playoff spot.

Pennywitt was another essential third-year starter for coach Tomasaitis, who noted

PLEASE SEE FOOTBALL, 11



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FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 10

that the 6-3, 230-pound tackle's quickness "caused problems for everyone he faced."

With a blocking efficiency of 90 percent, Pennywitt's play helped open holes for players such as Latham and Yourye Wilson to burst through.

Pennywitt, also a defensive standout with 35 tackles, earned another selection to the All-Mega squad.

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Deshon McClendon, DB, Canton: A two-time All-WLAA First Team performer, McClendon was a force on both sides of the ball again for the Chiefs. Although hampered by a series of injuries throughout the season, McClendon registered 19 tackles from his free-safety position while chipping in with several hard runs from his fullback spot on offense.

"Deshon was our momentum guy," said Baechler. "Whenever we needed a big play on defense, or a big run on offense, he'd come through. He changed the momentum of a lot of games. The hit and fumble recovery he had in the South Lyon game was huge. As far as total, all-around players, he's the best I've ever coached. He's the best blocker, the best runner and he has great vision when he's running the ball."

Arron Payne, Sr. DB, Red. Thurston: Versatile and heady on the gridiron, the third-year starter earned Redford Thurston's Most Valuable Player award for leading the Eagles on both sides of the ball.

At defensive back, the All-Mega first-team selection made 31 tackles, intercepted two passes and broke up seven others. But he also sparked the Eagles with a 25.2-yard average on kickoff returns and as the starting quarterback.

"He has great football intelligence and has an awareness on the field that allows him to excel, especially at defensive back," said Eagles coach Bob Snell. "He thinks the game so well and he's one step ahead of other players."

Chris Bogdanski, Sr. DB, Canton: The 5-6 senior played much larger than his size as he regularly clamped down on taller receivers while providing consistently strong play against the run as well. He recorded a pair of interceptions as well as a school-record four fumble recoveries. Bogdanski was named to the All-WLAA's First Team defense.

"Chris is a hard-working guy who has great technique," said Baechler. "He's a ball hawk in coverage and he also is a

good tackler. He was always around the ball. He had a school-record four fumble recoveries this season, which is kind of odd for a defensive back."

Pat York, Sr. DB, Liv. Stevenson: Though only 5-9, 145, the junior free safety was the Spartans' leading tackler with 96.

He also intercepted five passes and had five pass breakups for the Spartans, who finished 6-4 overall.

"Pat just came out of nowhere," Gabel said. "He was an imposing tackler way beyond his body weight. Pat also has tremendous focus on the concept of a game plan. His ability to rapidly learn the opponents' tendencies gives him an extra step on every play."

Jerry Smith, Sr. LB, John Glenn: The 6-4, 205-pound senior and two-year starter was a hybrid, playing several different positions for the Rockets including linebacker, tailback, tight end and split end.

His best game came against Salem when he had eight solo tackles, six assists and two interception, including a return for a TD, and a fumble recovery. He averaged eight tackles per game.

He also rushed for 179 yards in 31 carries in a 10-7 win over Churchill.

"Jerry played wherever we needed him," DeLuca said. "He was our quarterback on the field defensively. He got us into the right checks against certain formations and we go to him. He's a very smart football player, a great leader with a nose for the football. He did a tremendous job for us."

Brad Leverenz, Sr. LB, Wayne: The 6-0, 210-pound senior was in on a team-high 110 tackles on the year, including two sacks, en route to All-Western Lakes honors.

Leverenz also played fullback out of the I-formation.

"Brad's got to have our career tackle record," Hnatuk said. "He's so physical. When he made tackles, you could hear it. He just had some devastating tackles. He ran our defense for two years.

2006 ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Running backs

Dezmond Latham 5-10 185 Sr. Redford Union
Nate Gholston 5-9 185 Sr. Plymouth
Nick Moores 6-0 205 Sr. Canton

Wide receivers

Derek Severson 6-0 170 Sr. Liv. Stevenson
Dan Chynoweth 5-10 162 Sr. Liv. Franklin

Tight end

Brandon Fender 6-0 180 Sr., Canton

Offensive linemen

Will Khoury 6-4 305 Sr. Canton
Kevin Wengert 6-2 243 Sr. Liv. Franklin
Josh Perusse 6-2 250 Sr. Wayne Memorial
Frank Toarmina 6-3 252 Sr. John Glenn
Robert Pennywitt 6-3 230 Sr. Redford Union

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive backs

Deshon McClendon 5-7 185 Sr. Canton
Arron Payne 5-10 170 Sr. Redford Thurston
Chris Bogdanski 5-6 165 Sr. Canton
Pat York 5-9 145 Jr. Liv. Stevenson

Linebackers

Jerry Smith 6-4 205 Sr. John Glenn
Brad Leverenz 6-0 210 Sr. Wayne Memorial
Colin O'Shaughnessy 6-0 210 Sr. Canton
Billy Turger 6-1 205 Sr. Canton

Defensive linemen

Isaac Burris 5-9 185 Sr. Redford Union
Jon Robinson 6-0 225 Sr. Livonia Churchill
Donnie Laramie 6-3 280 Sr. Canton

COACH OF THE YEAR

Tim Baechler Canton

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterbacks

Mitchell White 6-0 155 Jr. Liv. Stevenson
D.J. Freeman 5-9 170 Jr. Wayne Memorial

Running backs

Brian Walker 6-1 200 Sr. Redford Thurston
Mike Schatz 6-0 190 Sr. Luth. Westland
Cole Kelly 5-10 164 Sr. Liv. Franklin

Offensive linemen

Ben Poole 6-2 305 Sr. Garden City
Stephen Chester 6-4 260 Sr. Redford Covenant
Shawn Murphy 6-1 205 Sr. John Glenn
Pat Cecile 6-3 220 Jr. Liv. Franklin
Keil Price 5-8 175 Sr. Canton
Saratino Ruggeiro 6-3 325 Sr. Plymouth
Brian Baumgart 6-6 275 Sr. Salem

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive backs

Chris Woudstra 5-9 165 Sr. Canton
LaBrodrick Caldwell 5-9 166 Sr. Plymouth
Joe Speiss 5-10 180 Sr. Liv. Churchill
Dan Kubera 5-9 175 Sr. Clarenceville

Linebackers

Brandon Page 6-0 190 Sr. Clarenceville
Yourye Wilson 6-1 185 Jr. Redford Union
Nick Rosochacki 6-2 178 Sr. Plymouth
Dan Wanshon 5-10 205 Jr. Canton

Defensive linemen

Wardell Fuqua 5-10 280 Sr. Canton
Kevin Tabone 6-2 225 Jr. Liv. Churchill

Punter

T.J. Price 6-0 205 Sr. Liv. Stevenson

HONORABLE MENTION

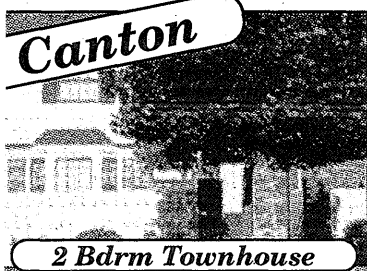
Churchill: Mike Berger, T.J. Tilley, Max DiCicco, Duane Najarian, Daran Carey, Aaron Poirer; **Franklin:** Israel Woolfork, Jesse Carpenter, Neil Copeland, Jeff McCullough, David Fortin, Sean Sciba; **Stevenson:** Ricky Bell, Eric Huber, Cory Lynch, John Samaan, Kevin Ahn, Matt Broome, Emanuel Onwuemene; **John Glenn:** Ian Thornton, Antonio Smith, Nick Ajlouny, Ryan Wakeford, Ryan Lopez, Andrew Hein; **Wayne:** Josh Bayer, Alan Freeman, Zack Kyle, Josh Gonzales; **Clarenceville:** Kris Thomas, Chris Lozano, Marcus Watkins, Jeremy Gainer; **Lutheran Westland:** Sam Ahlersmeyer, Josh Haller, Brandon Ross, Nate Bachert; **Canton:** Jeff Phillips, Jay Bailey, Kyle Brodzik, Nick Dunleavy, Antuan Hawkins, Brandon Lasko, Steve Paye, Derek Perino, Adam Powers, Dalton Waiser; **Salem:** Andrew Kirby, Justin Bader, Josh Cudney, James Crabil; **Plymouth:** Andy Price, Spencer Tobin, Ronnie Goble, Kulraj Sandhu, Mohamed Hakkami, Dean Hubbard, Junior Fails, Gerald Lou, Anthony Bono, Chris Sanchez; **Redford Union:** Mike Bratcher, Jason Matties, Kevin Thomas; **Thurston:** Jordan Stoll, Dallas Thompson, Ron Nelson, Lantz Washington; **Garden City:** Paul Cole, Samaj O'Banion; **Redford Covenant:** Jamone Chester, Anthony Davis.

"He won our Plymouth game with a stop on fourth down and goal."

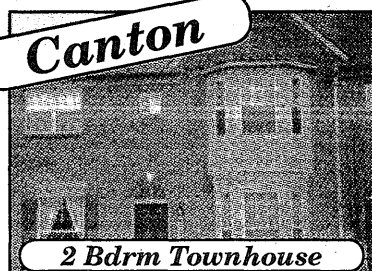
Colin O'Shaughnessy, Sr. LB, Canton: A reliable three-year starter, the 6-0, 205-pound All-WLAA First Team performer was the heart of the Chiefs' defense. Along

with notching the second-highest number of tackles on one of the top defenses in the area, O'Shaughnessy was in charge of making on-the-field adjustments and call-

PLEASE SEE FOOTBALL, 12



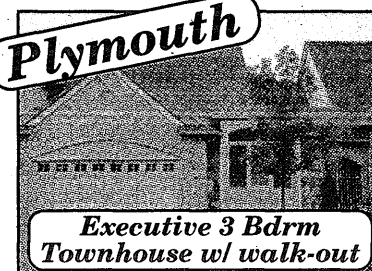
2 Bdrm Townhouse



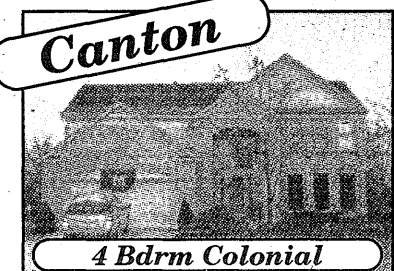
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FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 11

ing the plays in the huddle.

"Colin was the leader of our defense," said Baechler. "He was just super, super solid all three years on the varsity. He gave a consistently strong effort both in practice and during the games. He's not the fastest kid, but he's a sure tackler and he always made the right checks and calls."

Billy Turner, Sr. LB, Canton: The 6-1, 205-pound senior enjoyed a stellar final season of high school football as he finished as one of the Chiefs' top tacklers as well as averaging 28.8 yards per reception as a starting tight end.

"Billy is identical to Colin in that he's solid and his preparation is great, both offensively and defensively," said Baechler. "He has great technique on defense and he had the speed it took to pursue running backs and chase down quarterbacks. He came to play every game, every practice."

Isaac Burris, Sr. DE, Redford Union: The third-year letter winner, co-captain and all-conference selection dominated on defense with 66 total tackles (including 52 solos), also forcing or recovering five fumbles.

Coach Miles Tomasaitis praised Burris for his dedication in the weight room and ability to play several positions on defense — including defensive end, nose tackle and linebacker. Burris also excelled at offensive guard.

"He's a sure tackler and his quickness caused problems for everyone he faced," Tomasaitis said.

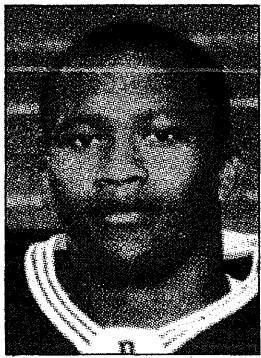
Jon Robinson, DT, Liv. Churchill: The 6-foot, 225-pound senior captain was an All-WLAA pick who played on both sides of the ball.

Defensively, Robinson finished with 42 solo tackles and 34 assists. He had six sacks and 14 tackles for loss along with a blocked punt, forced fumble and fumble recovery.

"Jon is one of the best two-way linemen in the WLAA," Churchill coach John Filiatraut said. "He was also an outstanding center. His motor is always running."

Donnie Laramie, Sr. DT, Canton: The 6-3, 280-pound senior earned All-WLAA First Team honors thanks to his dominating play on the Chiefs' D-line. He is the first defensive lineman in Canton coach Tim Baechler's 15-year coaching career to lead the team in tackles.

"He led our team in tackles, which is rare for a defensive lineman," said Baechler. "He could take over a game. Donnie was our emotional leader. He'd get the rest of the defense pumped up with the way he played."



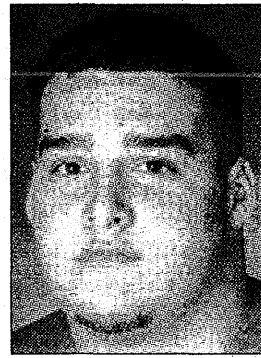
Nate Gholston
Plymouth



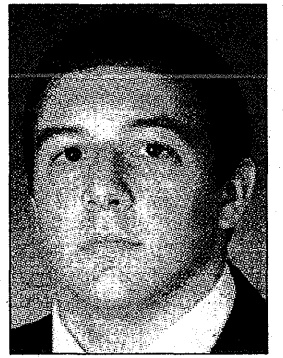
Pat York
Livonia Stevenson



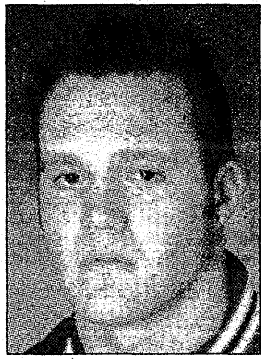
Brandon Fender
Canton



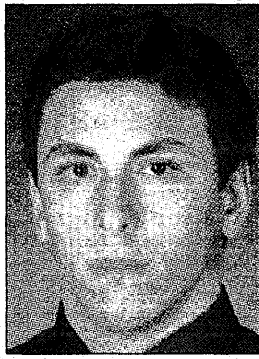
Will Khoury
Canton



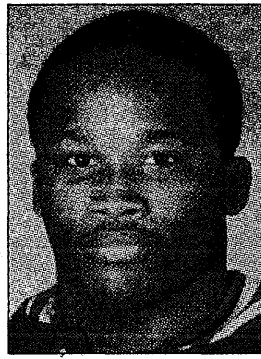
Frank Toarmina
John Glenn



Nick Moores
Canton



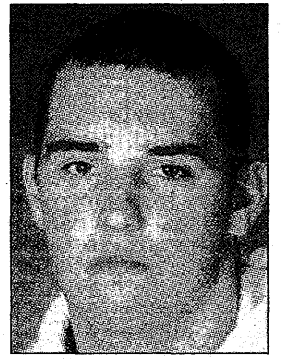
Jerry Smith
John Glenn



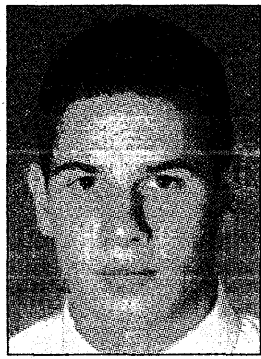
Isaac Burris
Redford Union



Dan Chynoweth
Livonia Franklin



Billy Turner
Canton



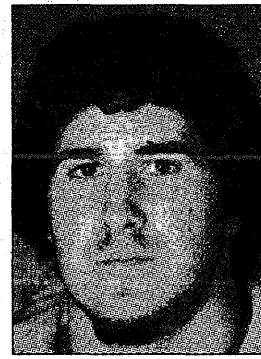
Derek Severson
Livonia Stevenson



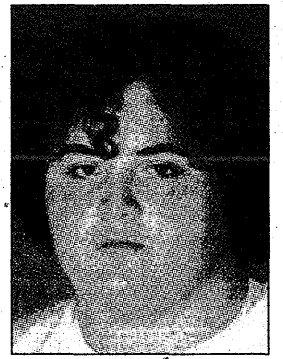
Brad Leverenz
Wayne Memorial



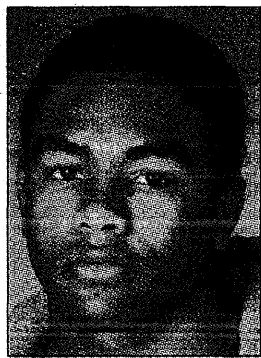
Robert Pennywitt
Redford Union



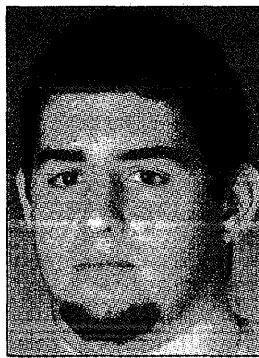
Colin O'Shaughnessy
Canton



Donnie Laramie
Canton



Arron Payne
Redford Thurston



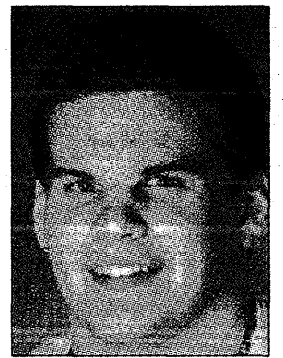
Kevin Wengert
Livonia Franklin



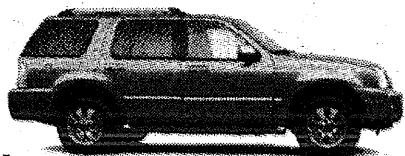
Chris Bogdanski
Canton



Josh Perusse
Wayne Memorial



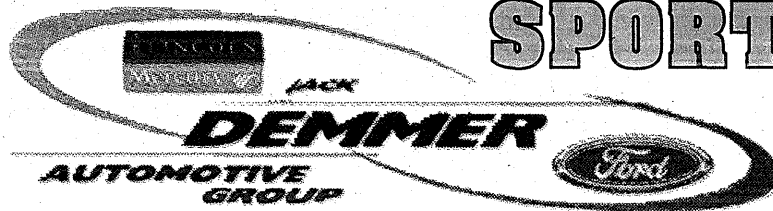
Jon Robinson
Livonia Churchill



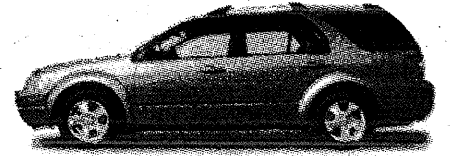
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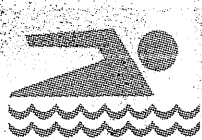


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Consistency hallmark for area's top golfers

FIRST TEAM

Tommy Lucko, Sr., Liv. Churchill: The senior's list of accomplishments for the four-time letter winner are numerous.

The Chargers' team MVP earned dual match medalist honors six times, averaging 36.8 shots per nine holes. His 18-hole scoring average was 75.6.

Lucko, bound for Oakland University, tied for second at the Whispering Willows district (75) and Pinckney Invitational (73). He added a third at the Brighton Invitational (73) and took sixth in the Farmington Invitational (72). He also earned All-WLAA honors with a 77 (tied for fourth).

As a sophomore, Lucko was second at the regional (71) to earn a trip to the state finals. He also gained All-Division honors that season.

As a junior, he was district medalist with a 69 (winning in a playoff).

Last summer, Lucko qualified for the Michigan Open and made the 36-hole cut after shooting 76-70.

"Tommy's game has matured greatly from his junior season," Churchill coach Paul Worley said. "Tommy has strived to become a better player each season with his strongest attribute being his mental approach and his short game. I will miss having to write his name down on the scorecard for a match and having him in my number one slot. He has meant a lot to the success of the Charger program and to his coach."

"A talent like Tommy Lucko only comes around so often."

Austin Stillman, Sr., Liv. Franklin: The senior became the first Patriot golfer in over 20 years to qualify for the state finals.

His third-place showing at the Travis Pointe regional with a 79 in unseasonable conditions earned him a trip to Eastern Michigan University's Eagle Crest where he shot a two-round total of 84-90-174 in the Division I Tournament.

Stillman averaged 38.7 per nine, earning medalist honors twice and scoring a low of 35. He also average 83.8 for 18 holes.

Stillman also earned All-Division honors with an 80 at the WLAA Tourney. As a junior, he was co-medalist in the WLAA.

"Bobby Jones once said, 'There are two kinds of golf. There is golf, and there is tournament golf,'" Franklin coach Scott Rutterbush said. "Austin is without question a tournament golfer. He thrives on competition and there is nobody on our team that has hit more pressure shots and made more clutch putts."

"The 79 Austin posted at the regional in the most adverse weather conditions really speaks to the kind of competitor he is. Not only is Austin a super player, but he's a



Members of the 2006 All-Observer Boys Golf first team include (from left): Hagan Risner (Garden City), Austin Stillman (Franklin), Tommy Lucko (Churchill), Derek Trosper (Canton), Tyler Jeleniewski (Salem) and Matt Talbot (Plymouth).

fantastic young man."

Hagan Risner, Jr., Garden City: The junior was a major reason why his team finished 9-1 to again claim the Mega White title, with averages of 38.1 and 78.1 for nine and 18 holes, respectively.

"Hagan is one of the finest competitive golfers ever to play for Garden City High School," said Cougars coach Ron Pummill, who is already excited to see what Risner can accomplish in 2007 as a senior.

But he did quite a bit in 2006, medaling in 10 of 12 dual matches and tying for the low round at the state district tournament with a 75. He also medaled at the Western Wayne Invitational (with an 18-hole score of 74) and at the Mega White tournament with a 76, repeating top-spot honors.

Risner, a three-time selection to the All-Mega White team, actually amassed the most overall points in the league this season, Pummill said.

Tyler Jeleniewski, Jr., Salem: The junior enjoyed a sensational season as he set the school record for low nine-hole round (32) while qualifying for the Division I state meet as an individual. He averaged 39.0 for nine and 78.0 for 18 thanks to a stellar short game and powerful driver. Jeleniewski finished runner-up to Northville's Phil Snow in the WLAA tournament.

"Tyler was our most valuable golfer,

without a doubt," said Salem coach Rick Wilson. "He was the medalist in five dual matches and was competitive in every tournament we played in. He has great length off the tee and he's very precise around the greens."

Matt Talbot, Sr., Plymouth: The senior averaged 38.0 for nine holes to lead the Wildcats to their most successful season in the five-year history of the school. The four-year varsity player was an asset off the course as well.

"Along with being a solid player, Matt — along with Jeff Selasky — spearheaded the offseason practices with the team," said Plymouth coach Chris Moore. "He took the initiative to call and schedule practices to prepare for the 2006 season. He was named MVP along with Jeff Selasky."

Derek Trosper, Sr., Canton: The senior captain earned three varsity letters for the Chiefs. He averaged 83.4 strokes for 18 holes and 39.6 over nine his senior campaign. The highlight of Trosper's season came at the Division 1 District tournament where he earned medalist honors with a 75. He fired an 84 at the WLAA meet and a 92 at the D1 Regional competition.

"Derek has a tremendous work ethic," said Canton coach Tom Alles. "He has great knowledge of the game."

SECOND TEAM

2006 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS GOLF

FIRST TEAM

Tommy Lucko	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
Austin Stillman	Sr.	Liv. Franklin
Hagan Risner	Jr.	Garden City
Tyler Jeleniewski	Jr.	Salem
Matt Talbot	Sr.	Plymouth
Derek Trosper	Sr.	Canton

SECOND TEAM

Travis Dodson	Sr.	Garden City
Josh Proben	Jr.	Liv. Churchill
Ross Gerulis	Jr.	Ply. Christian
Jeff Selasky	Sr.	Plymouth
Andy Myers	Soph.	Westland Glenn
Jake Johnson	Sr.	Red. Thurston

THIRD TEAM

Clark Albers	Jr.	Canton
Alex Chisholm	Sr.	Liv. Franklin
Josh Brist	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
Shayne Giordano	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
Kevin Robinson	Soph.	Liv. Churchill
Quentin Higgason	Jr.	Salem

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ron Pummill	Garden City
-------------	-------------

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Brian Bint; Franklin: Justin Adams, Tony Semonick; Stevenson: Richard Wyman, Drew Herron, Mike Niesyto, Drew Mossoian; John Glenn: Dan Tamarogio, Kevin LaFlave; Wayne: Kevin Sample, Kevin Ponican; Garden City: Chris Cislo, Joe Felice, Ron Pummill, Nick Walker; Thurston: Casey Feys; Redford Union: Bill Cetnar, Ben Piskor; Canton: Andrew Rickerman, Mike Haar; Salem: Joel Cheesman; Plymouth: Jimmie Vlcek, Mike Gerisch; Plymouth Christian: Derek Elenbaas, Aaron Lorincz, Mitch Geracz.

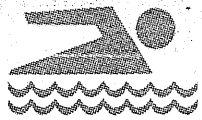
Travis Dodson, Sr., Garden City: The senior captain helped steer the Cougars to their second consecutive 2006 Mega White championship with an average of 39.8 per nine and 81.3 per 18 — including a 75 at the state district tournament, earning him a share of the lowest round.

"Our team has not lost at home during Travis' tenure and he is a major reason why," said Garden City coach Ron Pummill. "... I have enjoyed coaching Travis and will truly miss him."

Dodson accomplished plenty throughout his high school career and during his senior season. In 2006 he was medalist four times in dual matches and was "best ball" medalist at the Fellows Creek Cup for the second time in his career.

Josh Proben, Jr., Liv. Churchill: The junior

PLEASE SEE GOLF, 18



Runner-up Spartans headline soccer squad

FIRST TEAM

Mitch Hildebrandt, Sr. GK, Liv. Stevenson: The senior, committed to Oakland University, earned Dream Team and first-team Division I All-State honors.

The Mr. Soccer runner-up and All-Western Lakes Activities Association choice posted a 16-2-3 record this season for the Division I state runners-up with 13 shutouts.

His career record is 57-8-4 with 35 shutouts. He was a second-team All-State both as a junior and sophomore.

"Mitch has been a fantastic goalkeeper and team leader for four years," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "Even as a freshman, I knew that he possessed special qualities. He will go down as one of the all-time great Stevenson goalkeepers, leaders, and overall soccer players."

Alex Wozniak, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson: The senior was the backbone of Stevenson's defense, but also was a threat offensively with his left-footed free kicks.

The first-team All-State and All-Western Lakes pick finished with eight goals and a team-leading 17 assists.

Wozniak also excels academically, carrying a 4.18 grade-point average.

"Alex has a great combination of skill, intelligence and athletic ability - rarely found in a high school defender," Richters said. "He is also one of the top scholar-athletes I have been associated with, and I'm confident that he will be very successful in life."

Eric Zech, Sr. Def., Canton: The senior defender was instrumental in the Chiefs' 12 shutouts this season. A fast, heady player, Zech frustrated opposing teams' attackers with his quickness and willingness to get physical when the situation called for it. Zech is a rare four-sport athlete as he has also earned varsity letters in football, basketball and track-and-field.

Scott Zech, Soph. Def., Canton: The sophomore teamed with his older brother, Eric, to give the Chiefs one of the stingiest defenses in the Observerland area this season. Zech combines sprinter's speed with a savvy knowledge of the game to cause headaches for opposing forwards.

Colin Rolfe, Jr. MF, Plymouth: The junior earned First Team All-State honors after leading the Wildcats to their best-ever season. An outstanding dribbler,



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the 2006 All-Observer Boys Soccer first team include the following: (first row, from left), Eric Puroll (Churchill), Luke Knochel (Stevenson), and Tom Bennett (Salem); (second row, from left) Chris Mulcahy (Stevenson), Alex Wozniak (Stevenson), Mitch Hildebrandt (Stevenson), Brooks Belhart (Salem), and Colin Rolfe (Plymouth); (third row, from left) Anthony Sasinowski (Plymouth), and Kyle Ramthun (Lutheran Westland).

PLEASE SEE **SOCCER, 15**



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SOCCER

FROM PAGE 14

Rolfe can rocket the ball into the net from great distances. He notched 20 goals and 16 assists and was voted a captain despite his junior status.

"Colin is a dynamic player," said Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich. "He steps up when the situation calls for it and he scored some huge goals in big games for us this year."

Tom Bennett, Sr. MF, Salem: The senior earned WLAA All-Conference honors after tallying 15 goals and seven assists for the Lakes Division champion Rocks. He was instrumental in Salem's late-season surge to the Division Regional final, where they lost a 2-1 heart-breaker to Livonia Stevenson.

"The thing that best sums up what Tom meant to the team this year is that he scored four goals in our five post-season games, and they were all one-goal games," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy. "He's an aggressive player and a hard worker. He's able to excel because of sheer determination and effort. He also has a great shot."

Eric Puroll, Sr. MF, Liv. Churchill: The senior, an All-Western Lakes selection, finished with 12 goals and 15 assists.

His 32 career assists are the most recorded by a Churchill player since 19⁸⁵.

Puroll was also Churchill's MVP and earned All-District honors.

"Eric was our best player," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said of the four-year starter. "He played five different positions. He was our captain and our leader. We wouldn't have had the season of success without him. I don't know if I'll ever have kid like him. He's special."

Anthony Sasinowski, Sr. MF, Plymouth: The senior registered six goals and seven assists from his holding mid-fielder position. However, his offensive contributions paled in comparison to the defensive presence and ball-controlling skills he brought to the Wildcats. He was named to the WLAA All-Western Division unit as well as earning All-District consideration.

"Anthony was extremely solid in the middle and he brought great toughness to our defense," said Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich. "His work ethic is unbelievable and he provided incredible leadership skills."

Luke Knochel, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson: The senior finished the year with 27 goals and 15 assists en route to Dream Team and first-team Division I All-State honors (for the second straight year).

During his career, Knochel had a total



Scott Zech
Canton



Eric Zech
Canton

of 60 goals and 39 assists.

The All-WLAA pick carries a 3.91 grade-point average.

"Luke has had an amazing run at Stevenson, scoring more goals in a two-year span than any Stevenson player in recent memory," Richters said. "He is an outstanding three-sport athlete (baseball and basketball), but he is even more outstanding as a person."

Brooks Belhart, Sr. F, Salem: The senior earned Second-Team All-State recognition after scoring a team-high 21 goals and contributing eight assists for the WLAA Lakes Division champion Rocks.

"Brooks is one of the best pure finishers in the state," said McCarthy. He can strike the ball well with either foot and he has outstanding accuracy and power."

Kyle Ramthun, Sr. F, Luth. Westland: The senior, who finished with 30 goals and 15 assists, earned first-team All-State honors in Division IV.

Ramthun also made first-team All-Metro Conference. He earned first-team All-Observer honors last year and was second-team All-State.

"Kyle's season started in the off-season - in the weight room or in a nearby park by his home where he's dribble, shoot and run for hours," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "There's not a harder worker. It's pure will and determination. He gave us great senior leadership as a captain. He's a classy kid who leads by example, just a fine, fine individual. A guy who will be highly successful where he goes."

Chris Mulcahy, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson: The senior fueled the Spartans' run to the Division I state finals.

He ended the year with 22 goals and 10 assists en route to All-Division honors in the WLAA and honorable mention All-State (Division I).

"Chris is a very good athlete who made great progress this year, especially as a goal scorer," Richters said. "His goals at the end of the season and throughout the playoffs, when we needed them most, were essential to our success."

2006 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER

FIRST TEAM

GK-Mitch Hildebrandt	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
D-Alex Wozniak	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
D-Eric Zech	Sr.	Canton
D-Scott Zech	Soph.	Canton
MF-Colin Rolfe	Jr.	Plymouth
MF-Tom Bennett	Sr.	Salem
MF-Eric Puroll	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
MF-Anthony Sasinowski	Sr.	Plymouth
F-Luke Knochel	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
F-Brooks Belhart	Sr.	Salem
F-Kyle Ramthun	Sr.	Luth. Westland
F-Chris Mulcahy	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

GK-Parker Laabs	Sr.	Canton
D-Tony DeLaRosa	Sr.	Garden City
D-David St. Amant	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
D-Brandon Filipiak	Sr.	Liv. Franklin
D-Aaron Yankee	Sr.	Luth. Westland
MF-Matt Coombs	Sr.	Red. Thurston
MF-Sean Vandebrink	Sr.	Luth. Westland
MF-Alex Cabildo	Sr.	Westland Glenn
MF-Bobby Towne	Sr.	Salem
MF-Brian Klemczak	Soph.	Liv. Stevenson
MF-Andrew Esshaki	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
F-Tony Kuszak	Sr.	Liv. Clarenceville

COACH OF THE YEAR

Lars Richters Liv. Stevenson

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Danny Martin, Bryon Niemczak, Jason Corey, Brad Evans, Ben Grace, Mat Winters; **Franklin:** Marc Langlois, Ryan Matthey, Tony Calleja, Mike Sylvester; **Stevenson:** Matt Rzekpa, Dylan Green, Ben Burton, Adrian Fylonenko, Brady Thom; **John Glenn:** Nick Lloyd, James Chave, Khalid Suleiman, Perry Johnson; **Wayne Memorial:** Steve Maynor, Marc Thompson, Jon Smoes; **Clarenceville:** Matt Parent, Nick Garant, Andre Dit; **Lutheran Westland:** Joe Girolamo, Adam Zehel, Josh Palka; **Huron Valley Lutheran:** Scott Hoff; **Thurston:** Nick Chastine, Tim Maher; **Garden City:** Carl Roll, Brian Wisniewski, Ron Berger, Josh Shrader; **Redford Union:** Matt DeLong, Andrew Butler, Andrew Pherson; **Canton:** Keith Campbell, Kyle Gring, Eric Piwowar, Ryan Dugan, Andy Huang, Willy Noetzel, Matt Epelman; **Plymouth:** Travis Norris, Steve Schaeffler, Brad Brennan, Jeff Lucco, Andrew Koet, Tyler Floyd; **Salem:** Jon Gibson, Kevin Cope, Brian Field, Jeremy Stoychoff, Adam Brown, Dan McLaughlin; **Plymouth Christian Academy:** Ian Roberts, David Koscielny; **Canton Agape Christian:** Mark Mullett, Jack Anleitner, Jared Miller.



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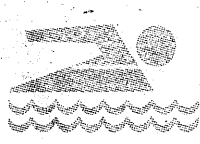
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Churchill girls blaze the trail at state level

FIRST TEAM

Megan Maceratini, Sr., Liv. Churchill: The senior earned All-State honors with a seventh place finish in the Division I state meet at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn with a school-record time of 18 minutes, 12.5 seconds for 5,000 meters.

The Chargers' team captain also was Western Lakes Activities Association (18:39) and regional (19:00.5) champion. She was also runner-up in the Livonia Public Schools meet; third at the Jackson and Wayne County invitationals; and 10th at the Nike MSU Invitational.

The two-time All-Area selection earned Churchill's MVP award.

She is also a WLAA Scholar-Athlete and MHSAA Scholar-Athlete nominee.

"Megan capped off an exceptional high school cross country career by having an amazing season," Churchill coach Sue Tatro said. "She steadily improved and ran her best race at the state meet. Megan is a remarkable athlete with a great amount of poise and heart.

"She was a true leader who was able to motivate her teammate by her outstanding example. She goes down in Churchill history as the most successful and decorated athlete in the girls cross country program. It's been a pleasure to coach her these past four years and she'll be greatly missed."

Alyssa Mira, Soph., Liv. Churchill: The 10th-grader earned All-Area honors for the second straight year after an All-State performance in the state meet where she took 11th place (18:23.1).

Mira was also runner-up at the regional (19:09.4) and sixth in the WLAA meet (19:11.9).

"Alyssa is one of the most determined and hard-working young ladies I've ever had the privilege of coaching," Tatro said. "She takes all of her workouts and meets seriously. She is incredibly dependable and talent, and has a true passion for competition. These are all the ingredients that formulate an amazing athlete."

Mira also took a fourth at the Livonia Public Schools and Jackson invitationals; a sixth at Wayne County; and 19th at MSU.

"It was nice to see her taking her running to the next level this year," Tatro said. "She was determined to earn All-State honors, and it was great seeing her accomplish this goal. I'm looking forward to the next two seasons."

Mira, who carries a 4.16 GPA, also earned Academic All-State honors.

Rachel McFarlane, Jr., Liv. Churchill: The junior earned All-Area honors for the third straight season after placing 14th in the Division I state meet at MIS with a time of 18:24.1.

The two-time All-Stater added a sixth at



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 2006 All-Observer Girls Cross Country first team includes the following: (front row, from left) Sarah Thomas (Canton), Courtney Plummer (Garden City), Hannah Cavicchio (Salem); (back row, from left) Meghan Horgan (Franklin), Courtney Calka (Stevenson), Kristen Frey (Stevenson), Alyssa Mira (Churchill), Sara Knoll (Churchill), Megan Maceratini (Churchill) and Rachel McFarlane (Churchill).

the regional (19:36) and fifth at the Western Lakes meet (18:59.1).

McFarlane was also runner-up at the Wayne County meet (18:52); fifth in the Livonia Public Schools meet; seventh at the Jackson Invitational (19:22.1) and 21st at the Nike MSU.

"Rachel peaked at the right time and ran her best race at the state meet when it really counted," Tatro said. "It was incredibly exciting watching her receive All-State honors for the second year in a row."

"When Rachel steps to the starting line, it's always a guarantee that she will finish near the front of the pack. Rachel continues to make her mark on the Churchill cross country and track programs. She is a very talented, hard-working and competitive athlete, and I'm looking forward to watching her take on a leadership role next season."

Sara Kroll, Fr., Liv. Churchill: Kroll was an instant success as she became the first Churchill freshman to earn All-State honors with an 18th-place finish in the Division I meet with a time of 18:27.29, fourth fastest in school history.

Kroll also placed fourth in the WLAA meet (18:56) and fifth at the regional (19:36), Wayne County meet (19:07) and Jackson Invitational (19:10.6). She also added a third at the Livonia meet and 15th at MSU.

"Sara is the most successful freshman to come through our program," Tatro said.

"She has established quite a running resume already. It was obvious from the beginning of the season that she was going to make an immediate impact on our program."

"She is a highly motivated young lady with an outstanding will to succeed. What she achieved during her first cross country season was truly amazing. It will be exciting to see what Sara will accomplish during her next three seasons."

Courtney Calka, Soph., Liv. Stevenson: The Spartans' top runner since early in her freshman year, Calka capped off her sophomore season by earning All-State honors with a 26th-place finish at the Division I finals (18:39).

Calka also placed third at both the WLAA (18:49) and regional (19:16) meets. She was the individual winner at both Lakes Division jamborees in 18:44 and 19:19, respectively, as well as Livonia Public Schools Invitational champ.

She also produced runner-up finishes at South Lyon, Huron, Catholic Central (19:26) and Center Line (18:16) invitationals, as well as a third at Bath and a eighth at Portage (18:42).

"Courtney is an aggressive runner who never backs down from a challenge," Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg said. "She will be the backbone of the Stevenson team again next year."

Hannah Cavicchio, Sr., Salem: The senior capped an illustrious high school career

2006 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

FIRST TEAM

Megan Maceratini	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
Alyssa Mira	Soph.	Liv. Churchill
Rachel McFarlane	Jr.	Liv. Churchill
Sara Kroll	Fr.	Liv. Churchill
Courtney Calka	Soph.	Liv. Stevenson
Hannah Cavicchio	Sr.	Salem
Sarah Thomas	Soph.	Canton
Kristen Frey	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
Meghan Horgan	Sr.	Liv. Franklin
Courtney Plummer	Jr.	Garden City

SECOND TEAM

Lindsay Marlow	Jr.	Liv. Churchill
Beth Heldmeyer	Soph.	Plymouth
Stephanie Perez	Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
Denee Meier	Jr.	Liv. Stevenson
Kelly Roulier	Jr.	Liv. Franklin
Pam Bhullar	Jr.	Plymouth
Ashley Bailey	Fr.	Westland Glenn
Lindsay McMullen	Soph.	Liv. Churchill
Molly Slavens	Soph.	Plymouth
Stacey Richardson	Sr.	Westland Glenn

COACH OF THE YEAR

Sue Tatro Liv. Churchill

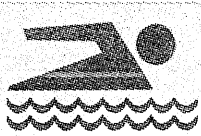
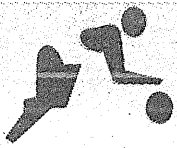
HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Michele Verellen, Hannah Otto, Erica Hope, Kim Verellen, Rachel Lambert, Tiffany Pao, Melissa Westrick, Julia Hassell;
Franklin: Kari Saarela, Jackie Covert, Victoria Church, Brittany Dilley, Kelsey Kaplan, Megan Wilson, Devan Walley, Laura Marshall, Tiffany VanOrden; **Stevenson:** Victoria Saferian, Stephanie Kraft; **John Glenn:** Joslyn DeGroot, Danielle Levy; **Wayne Memorial:** Melissa Smith, Claire Moro; **Lutheran Westland:** Katherine MacKenzie, Mim Pranschke, Ashley Taylor Voss; **Garden City:** Bobbi Beveridge, Christina Milne; **Redford Union:** Allison Patra; **Canton:** Anne Murphy, Katelin David, Paula Schubatis, Katherine Galm; **Salem:** Lauren Olson, Kelley Determan, Kortney Marsh, Sabrina Burcoff; **Plymouth:** Paula Green, Lauren Ahearn; **PCA:** Armilla Francis.

with a 37th-place finish at the Division I state meet. She warmed up for the state meet with a fourth-place showing at the D1 Regional a week earlier. The captain's most impressive effort came in October when she broke the tape first at the talent-laden Wayne County meet.

"Hannah's work ethic is better than any runner I've ever coached," said Salem cross country coach Dave Gerlach. "There were times when she would wake up and run

PLEASE SEE GIRLS CC, 18



Boys harriers able to gain competitive edge

FIRST TEAM

Anthony Scaparo, Sr., Plymouth: The senior capped an outstanding high school career by leading the Wildcats to the school's first-ever WLAA championship in any sport. He placed 12th (16:00.5) at the Division 1 state meet, which helped Plymouth finish 12th in the team competition; and third (16:28.35) at the D1 Regional on Oct. 28.

Among his other senior-year accomplishments was a third-place showing at the WLAA conference meet.

Duncan Spitz, Soph., Canton: The sophomore enjoyed a banner 10th-grade season after leading the Chiefs in miles during the summer months. A tireless, dedicated worker, Spitz placed 57th at the D1 state meet with a time of 16:24.2. He also led Canton to a fifth-place showing at the D1 Regional meet with a stellar eight-place finish in 16:37.90. Spitz's most-impressive performance of the season may have been at the WLAA conference meet where he crossed the line in fifth place, just two seconds out of fourth.

"Duncan got stronger as the season went on," said Canton coach Bill Boyd. "He was our top guy as far as miles run in the summer, and the way he ran proves that hard work pays off."

Derek Lax, Soph., Plymouth: The sophomore is a bright light for the Wildcats' future thanks to his 49th-place finish in the D1 state meet, his 11th-place showing at the D1 Regional competition and his seventh-place performance in the WLAA conference meet. With Scaparo graduating, Lax should step up and become the Wildcats' top runner in 2007.

"Derek is a very hard worker," said Plymouth coach Lee Shaw. "Last summer, before his freshman season, he wanted to run all the miles that the older kids were running. He was only 14, so I thought he was too young to be putting that many miles in. He was a little upset, but he understood."

Brandon Grysko, Jr., Liv. Churchill: The junior was Churchill's 2006 MVP and is a three-time state finals qualifier and letter winner.

The two-time All-Observer pick took 156th at the state meet (17:04.4) after placing ninth at the regional (16:40.11).

Grysko also placed fourth in the WLAA meet (16:34.17) and 11th at Wayne County. He was also the Livonia Public Schools and Lakes Division champion.

"Brandon was Churchill's 'go-to' runner the last part of our schedule," coach John McGreevy said. "He has only one bad race. When he is right, Brandon is a very tenacious athlete. He is looking forward to next year and some unfinished business."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the 2006 All-Observer Boys Cross Country first team include the following: (kneeling, from left) Spencer Lyle (Westland Lutheran) and Mark Waterbury (Churchill); (standing, from left) Anthony Scaparo (Plymouth), Evan Sirena (Franklin), Duncan Spitz (Canton), Cristian Chagas (Plymouth), Derek Lax (Plymouth), Brandon Grysko (Churchill) and Joe Varilone (Churchill). Not pictured is Kevin deBear of Salem.

Joe Varilone, Jr., Liv. Churchill: The junior earned first-team All-Observer honors for the second straight year after taking 100th in the Division I meet with a personal-best 16:38.9 to lead all Churchill runners.

After finishing 20th at the Schoolcraft College regional (17:16.29), Varilone added a 10th in the Western Lakes meet (16:56.75); 16th at Wayne County; runner-up in the LPS meet; and first in the Lakes Division jamboree.

"Joe has been Mr. Steady the last two years," McGreevy said. "He is a very dedicated athlete. His teammates respect his hard work and calm demeanor. Joe would like to improve his time next year by 30 seconds."

Varilone also excels in the classroom, carrying a 3.888 GPA.

Evan Sirena, Jr., Liv. Franklin: The junior wound up 134th overall in the Division I state meet with a time of 16:54.5 after placing 15th in the regional (17:08).

"Evan turned in one of the gutsiest performances I've ever witnessed at the regional meet when he started out fast, came around the last turn in 15th place and had to dig deep and find another gear to hold off two runners trying to beat him out of the final state meet qualifying spot," Franklin coach Walt Reasor said.

Sirena also placed ninth at WLAA meet (16:52) and 11th in the Western Division meet. He also took a third in the Livonia

Public Schools meet in 17:10, more than a minute better than his regional time as a sophomore.

"Evan is a true team-oriented runner who is forever encouraging and congratulating his teammates," Reasor said. "Evan is a true example of how setting goals and hard work can pay off. He started working hard in the middle of last season and his times came down quickly. He set a goal of getting to the state meet and being the fastest runner on our team at the beginning of this season. Right from the start it was clear to see that he was serious about achieving those goals."

"I look forward to next season with Evan pulling along as many of his teammates to work hard and achieve lofty goals such as he experienced this year."

Kevin deBear, Jr., Salem: The junior three-sport athlete seemed to get stronger and faster as the season progressed. Prior to placing 112th at the D1 state meet, deBear turned in impressive showings at the D1 Regional meet (seventh in 16:37.13) and the WLAA conference meet (11th in 17:01.16).

Cristian Chagas, Sr., Plymouth: The senior finished his high school career with a flurry when his personal-best time of 16:34.5 was good enough for 54th place at the D1 state meet, helping the Wildcats to a 12th-place finish. Chagas combined with Anthony Scaparo and Derek Lax to lead Plymouth to its first-ever WLAA title. He

2006 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

FIRST TEAM

Anthony Scaparo	Sr.	Plymouth
Duncan Spitz	Soph.	Canton
Derek Lax	Soph.	Plymouth
Brandon Grysko	Jr.	Liv. Churchill
Joe Varilone	Jr.	Liv. Churchill
Evan Sirena	Jr.	Liv. Franklin
Kevin deBear	Jr.	Salem
Cristian Chagas	Sr.	Plymouth
Mark Waterbury	Soph.	Liv. Churchill
Spencer Lyle	Soph.	Luth. Westland

SECOND TEAM

Patrick Slavens	Sr.	Plymouth
Craig Cowing	Jr.	Salem
Justin Huey	Jr.	Plymouth
Kyle Clinton	Soph.	Canton
Mark Freyberg	Fr.	Liv. Churchill
Derek Hoerman	Jr.	Canton
Brian Robertson	Sr.	Liv. Churchill
James Holbrook	Jr.	Wayne
Rob Curtis	Soph.	Salem
Mark Pilat	Sr.	Liv. Churchill

COACH OF THE YEAR

Lee Shaw Plymouth

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Paul Folk, Jim Waterbury, Josh Mann; Franklin: Mike Krcatovich, Pete Walblay, Doug Cole, Dylan Taylor; Stevenson: Mike Gibbons, Kevin Reschke, Dave Antishin, Dave McIntyre; John Glenn: Tim Boes; Wayne: Jacob Schofield, Abraham Mendez, Kevin Lewis; Lutheran Westland: Josh Rice; Redford Union: Nick Levinson; Garden City: Mike Nordby; Plymouth: Alex Noble, Henry Xu, Ty Schroeder; Canton: Kyle Clinton, Derek Hoerman, Zach Spreitzer, Josh Osinski, Greg Reed; Salem: Andrew Cassidy, Justin Kane.

crossed the finish line in 21st (17:16.83) at the D1 Regional and 17th (17:11.60) at the WLAA conference meet.

Mark Waterbury, Soph., Liv. Churchill: The sophomore was selected Churchill's Most Improved after finishing 122nd in the state with a personal best 16:50.6.

Waterbury also added a 12th at the regional (17:02.9) and WLAA meet 17:01.68. He also placed fourth at the LPS meet; fifth at the Lakes Division meet; and 13th at Wayne County.

"Mark saved his best performances for the last two meets - the regional and state," McGreevy said. "Mark will be a key component of any team success we might have in 2007."

Waterbury also carries a 4.111 grade-

GIRLS CC

FROM PAGE 16

before school and then run at practice later that afternoon. She's tiny in stature, but don't let that fool you because she's very strong and a great competitor."

Sarah Thomas, Soph., Canton: The sophomore racked up a trophy case-ful of outstanding performances this season. She was second at the City Meet, first at the WLAA Western Division meet, ninth in the WLAA conference meet, 10th at the DI Regional and 43rd at the DI state meet.

"Sarah is a very hard worker who always gives her best effort," said Canton coach Tracy Haratsaris said. "Sarah is a natural leader who is willing to work to improve. Sarah is also a good teammate who enjoys seeing other team members do well."

Kristen Frey, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The four-time All-Area pick capped off a stellar cross country career with an 80th-place at the state meet (19:16) after placing 13th at the regional (20:28).

Among Frey's other finishes: fourth at the South Lyon and Huron invitationals; sixth, Livonia Public Schools Invitational; seventh, Lakes Division Jamboree (No. 1); eighth, WLAA meet; ninth, Lakes Jamboree (No. 2); and 12th, Bath Invitational.

"Kristen has been the core of the Stevenson team for four years," Holmberg said of Frey, an All-State in 2003 and 2004. "You don't replace someone like Kristen on your team . . . you look for several to fill roles that she played."

Meghan Horgan, Sr., Liv. Franklin: The senior returned to the state meet after placing ninth at the regional with a time of 20:12.7.

In the Division I finals, Horgan placed 110th out of 238 runners with a personal best 19:40.0.

Horgan also placed 13th at the WLAA meet with a time of 19:48.88.

She placed sixth at the first Western Division jamboree (20:52), seventh at LPS meet (20:22.0) and seventh at the Western Division championship (21:38.3).

She also added a second at the UDM Invitational (19:54.7); third at the Walled Lake Western Invitational (21:18.7); fourth at Monroe-Jefferson (20:48.0) and 14th at Wayne County (20:03.6).

The Franklin senior, who carries a 3.869 GPA, also earned Academic All-State honors.

"Meghan has had an outstanding career as a Patriot runner setting the school record on every course the run on," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said, "and has recorded the second best time in school history (19:05.9). She has been All-Area first- or second-team each year and has qualified for the state meet three years in a row. Meghan has been our number one runner for the past four years and will be sadly missed next season."

Courtney Plummer, Jr., Garden City: The diminutive junior Cougar excelled all season, eclipsing the 20-minute mark at the Dearborn Divine Child Falcon Relays (19:54), in the process setting a new school standard for the Garden City girls harriers.

Plummer placed eighth at the All-Mega conference meet, following a third-place showing at the Mega White league meet. She had solid showings at the Wayne County (12th) and Division 1 state regional (14th) meets before placing 146th at the state finals.

Her consistency helped earn her Garden City team MVP honors for the second time in her career. She also made the all-league squad for a third time.

"Courtney is a pleasure to coach," beamed head coach Rob Phillips. "She loves to run and understands what it takes to be successful. She leads by example and is an excellent role model."

at the Catholic Central and Gabriel Richard invitationals with times of 17:41 and 17:31, respectively.

He is a two-time state qualifier.

"Spencer is a talented individual who I see nothing but great things for him in the future," Lutheran Westland coach Jeremy Fabris said. "What I like about him the most is his team-player attitude. Spencer cares a lot about his teammates, and I feel he shows a lot of quiet leadership for someone so young. I'm very blessed to have the opportunity to coach such a talented, yet humble athlete in my short coaching career."



Members of the 2006 All-Observer Boys Golf second team include (from left): Travis Dodson (Garden City), Jeff Selasky (Plymouth), Josh Proben (Churchill) and Ross Gerulis (Ply. Christian). Not pictured are Andy Myers of Westland John Glenn and Jake Johnson of Redford Thurston.

GOLF

FROM PAGE 13

averaged 41.5 per nine and 79.6 for 18 holes for the district champion Chargers.

The three-year letter winner earned All-WLAA honors with a third-place showing in the conference tourney with a 75.

He tied for 13th at the district after earning a top five finish as a sophomore. Proben also took 15th at the Farmington Invitational with a 76.

"Josh had a very good year in 18-hole events this season," Worley said. "He'll need to find that success in the nine-hole dual matches for the coming season. He will have some big shoes to fill as a leader on the team because five players are leaving due to graduation. But I think he'll be up to the task. Josh can get things done when he puts his mind to it."

Ross Gerulis, Jr., Ply. Christian: The junior led the Eagles to their most successful season in school history. He regularly fired rounds in the 30s and qualified for the Division 4 state meet, where he led through 25 of the 36 holes.

Jeff Selasky, Sr., Plymouth: The senior averaged 39.0 for nine holes this past season. A four-year player, he earned co-MVP honors along with Matt Talbot.

"Jeff — along with Matt Talbot — spearheaded the offseason practices, so he contributed during the season and before," said Moore.

Andy Myers, Soph., Westland Glenn: The sophomore just missed qualifying for the Division I state finals by one stroke after firing an 82 (with just 28 putts) in the cold, windy and wet regional conditions at Travis Pointe.

Myers tied for ninth place at the dis-



Andy Myers
West. John Glenn

trict tournament with a 79 and was the Rockets' top scorer at the WLAA tourney with an 82. He also carded an 82 at the Western Wayne Invitational.

Myers, who averaged 38 per nine, was medalist in eight of 12 dual matches.

"What stands out about Andy is his continued improvement," Glenn coach Steve Pilon said. "The kid works harder than anybody I've seen. He hit the ball father off the tee and continues to work on short game on where he excels. He studies the game and always tries to improve."

"He's a coach's dream. He'll practice with us two or three hours, then practices on his own for another hour."

Jake Johnson, Sr., Red. Thurston: The senior capped an excellent four-year prep career by being named Thurston's most valuable player for the second year in a row as well as making the all-Mega Conference team for the third time.

Johnson averaged 39.4 for nine and 76.2 for 18 and took first place overall for the Mega Blue regular season (he placed second at the Mega Blue tourney). Other accomplishments included coming in as the No. 2 regional qualifier at district play and medaling at the Western Wayne Invitational with a second-place showing.

"He's an excellent young man, both on and off the course," said Eagles coach Kevin Spier. "He has a great swing, stays focused (and has) lots of potential to make a significant contribution to a college program."

BOYS CC

FROM PAGE 17

point average in Churchill's Math-Science-Computer curriculum.

Spencer Lyle, Soph., Luth. Westland: The sophomore earned a 32nd place at the Division IV state meet with a personal-best 16:57 after placing fifth in the regional at Ella Sharp Park in Jackson.

Lyle also took sixth in the Metro Conference meet at Nankin Mills (17:04.6) and added a runner-up finishes



Brad Emons



Tim Smith



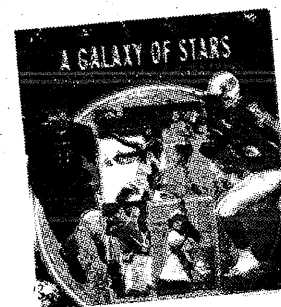
Ed Wright

HOW TEAMS ARE SELECTED

The All-Observer teams spotlighted in this section represent the area's best for the fall sports season. Teams were selected and compiled by Livonia-Westland sports editor Brad Emons, Plymouth-Canton sports editor Ed Wright and Redford-Garden City sports editor Tim Smith along with essential input from varsity coaches across Observerland.

On the cover

First-team players featured on the cover include: Colin Rolfe (soccer), Chloe Booker (basketball), Courtney Calka (cross country), Hagan Risner (golf), Amanda Moccia (tennis) and Nick Moores (football).
Cover design: Dan Dean.
Section layout: Bill Emerick.



CONGRATULATIONS TO U OF D JESUIT FALL SPORTS TEAMS!

Cross Country

- All Catholic Honors: Jim Pearson (Bloomfield Hills), Phil Fattore (Bloomfield Hills), Phil Clark (Troy), David Funke (Canton), and James Holly (Garden City)
- First place, Inaugural Michigan Catholic Invitational
- Second place, Catholic League Finals
- Third place, MHSAA Districts
- All District Honors: Phil Fattore, Jim Pearson, and Phil Clark
- Seventh straight MHSAA State final appearance

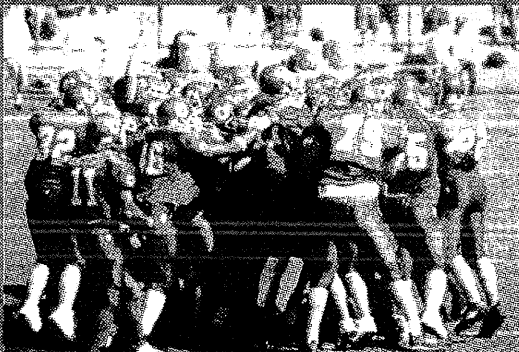


Golf

- All State Academic Team: Highest GPA in Division 1
- All State Academic: Pat Alger (Livonia)
- All State Honorable Mention: Pat Alger
- All Catholic Honors: Ryan Alger (Livonia)
- Second place finish, Catholic League regular season

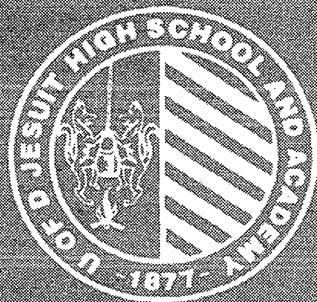
Soccer

- All State Honors: Phillip Presnell (Rochester)
- All State Honorable Mention: Markian Shier (Pleasant Ridge)
- All Catholic Honors: Peter Fino (Auburn Hills), Phillip Presnell, and Markian Shier
- All League Honors: John Abela (Pleasant Ridge), Frank Iaquina (Livonia), Jake Mechlowicz (Sterling Heights)
- All Academic Catholic League Honors: Peter Fino
- 2006 Catholic League Runner Up



Football

- All Catholic Honors: Craig Hamilton (Detroit), George Winn (Southfield)
- All League Honors: Joe Thompson (Farmington Hills), Joe West (Ferndale)
- All Academic Catholic League: Ted Bealin (Troy)
- Associated Press Class A All State Team: George Winn
- First Team All Detroit: George Winn
- Second Team All Detroit: Craig Hamilton, Joe Thompson



EIGHT TOP 10 ACADEMIC ALL STATE TEAMS IN 2005-2006
 Cross Country, Golf, Hockey, Skiing, Soccer, Swimming, Baseball, Tennis



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