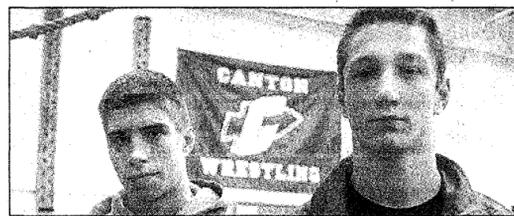


THURSDAY
December 3,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers
Volume 35
Number 46
75 CENTS

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Top ranked wrestlers to lead Canton
Sports, B1

CANTON CONNECTION

Shop Canton

On Saturday, Dec. 5, noon to 3 p.m., Shop Canton will be hosting a holiday event, "HO, HO, HO and a Whole Lot More," in the Red Block (between Sheldon and Morton Taylor) and the Green Block (between Morton Taylor and Lilley).

Santa will be there to greet the little ones at a great location inside JC Penney, and there will be Carriage Rides at the Harvard Square Shopping Center. The Stuff-a-Bus (toy donation collection) has named our own Canton Goodfellows as one of the recipients and will be at Borders Bookstore. A magician will be at Canton Cinema, face painters will be at Paul's Fine Jewelry, and a balloon artist will be at Once Upon a Child.

For more information, call (734) 453-4040.

Teddy toss

The Plymouth Whalers host the 10th annual Teddy Bear Toss during the Saturday, Dec. 5 game against Sault Ste. Marie at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Fans are asked to bring a teddy bear to throw on the ice when the Whalers score their first goal.

Over the last nine years, the event has resulted in thousands of teddy bears being donated to organizations like the Children Charities. The bears are used to comfort children at disaster scenes and during times of crisis.

Faith grants

The Plymouth Salvation Army announced that Faith Stimulus Grants will be in effect through June 30, and that funds for the newly unemployed are still available.

Criteria for the funding is: Proof of unemployment (letter of separation, documentation from state, bank statement showing automatic deposit of unemployment funds), and applicants must reside in the Plymouth Salvation Army's service area (Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Belleville).

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

Candle lighting

The Compassionate Friends are set for their annual candlelight vigil to honor children lost too soon 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

Two trees will be decorated with ornaments dedicated to lost loved ones. The names of all registered loved ones will be read during the vigil, which will also include poems, music and the candle lighting.

To register a name or for more information, e-mail tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com or call (734) 981-4528.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Santomauro retires at the end of the month after a 24-year career with the Canton Public Safety Department.

Hanging up his badge

Sun sets on public safety chief's long career

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Far from the New York City school where his boyhood dream of becoming a U.S. Marine began, and a world away from the Vietnam battlefield where his combat medals included a Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds, John Santomauro seems content as he closes out a 40-year law enforcement career that tops a long list of achievements.

Santomauro, Canton's long-time public safety director, will retire as December ends and as he closes the door, just one more time, of his third-floor office in the township's administration building. At 60, he has dedicated the last 24 years of his career to making this community a safer place.

"I don't know how I could have had a more enjoyable career than Canton has offered me," Santomauro said, reflecting on his life from behind his desk. "It was 24 years of a great run."

Long before he changed Canton's approach to public safety, Santomauro, an only child, recalls seeing trenchcoat-clad police officers walking the streets near the public school he attended in New York's Queens borough. As a fifth-grader, he also was riveted to a Marines brochure he saw.

By age 13, Santomauro's



John Santomauro started with the Canton Police Department in 1985.

stepfather had died, and he moved with his mother to live with relatives in Garden City, where he attended high school before enlisting in the Marines. His duty included a 13-month stint in Vietnam, and he served in combat during the bloody Tet Offensive. He survived malaria and shrapnel wounds, finished his tour, earned several medals and commendations and achieved the rank of staff sergeant before his honorable discharge.

"It was a very traumatic life experience," Santomauro said of Vietnam. "For me, it was a catalyst for growth, for what leadership is in its purest form, for learning to accept life as it is."



John Santomauro earned a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam.

Santomauro has kept in his office a Vietnam photo album and scrapbook meticulously compiled by his daughter, Tamara Danaher. He also has a son, two grandchildren, two stepchildren and is married to wife Laura.

After he returned from Vietnam, Santomauro was only 20 years old when he got his first police job in 1969 in Farmington, where he achieved the rank of deputy chief, before leaving for the top slot of public safety director in Pittsfield Township in 1982.

Please see **CHIEF, A2**

Study shows Canton among safest in U.S.

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton has Michigan's lowest crime rate — and ranks as the nation's 22nd safest community — in a new crime analysis of 393 cities and townships with a population more than 75,000.

The latest feather in Canton's safety cap comes from CQ Press, a Washington, D.C., publisher that issues crime rankings and other data on American politics, government, elections and world affairs.

CQ, a division of SAGE Publications, just issued its latest findings in *City Crime Rankings*, a 388-page publication using 2008 FBI crime data for murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

Canton's ranking as the nation's 22nd safest community with a population more than 75,000 placed it higher than Michigan cities such as Livonia (32nd), Troy (38th), Farmington Hills (40th), Sterling Heights (41st), Ann Arbor (56th) and others.

Detroit ranked 390th out of 393 U.S. communities in the safety rankings. Colonie, N.Y., placed No. 1.

Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro wasn't surprised by the township's enviable position. Other surveys have consistently ranked Canton at or near the top of Michigan's safest communities.

"It is a compliment to the organization and the community that our crime rates have remained low throughout the past year of economic and demographic changes," Santomauro said. "Our low crime rate can be attributed to our proactive method of policing, as well as our ongoing partnerships and support within the community."

Statistics revealed that Canton, a community of nearly 90,000 residents, averaged 19.71 crimes per 1,000 residents. That broke down into 18.29 property crimes per 1,000 residents and just 1.42 violent crimes.

Canton has continued to make strides with its community policing, which assigns teams of police officers to certain geographic areas; its Community Watch program, which involves residents and businesses being vigilant and reporting crime; and its Crime Analysis Unit, which allows the township to target certain areas where crime trends emerge.

"At the end of the day, it's about the cop on the street," Santomauro said.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Canton's latest ranking as one of the nation's safest communities can only continue to bolster its image.

"People want to live and have their families live and work in a community that's safe," he said. "It's obviously a big priority for people, so I think it's a huge plus for the community."

Moreover, local officials say it lends credence to Canton's claims as one of the safest communities when an independent report, compiled by outside analysts, reaches similar conclusions.

"It's an indicator. It's a measurement. Obviously it's a pretty good indicator that we're doing a lot of good things and the right things," LaJoy said. "We didn't ask for that (latest ranking), but we got it, and we're going to try to continue to go in that direction."

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Index

APARTMENTS	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C3
CAREER BUILDER	C3
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C2
FILTER	B7
FOOD	B8
OBITUARIES	B4
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Road widening projects evade budget ax

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A long-awaited project to widen Canton Center Road from two lanes to five between Cherry Hill and Palmer is expected to begin as early as April and potentially conclude by next Labor Day, township Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said.

Across town, another one-mile project to broaden Sheldon Center Road from two lanes to five between Canton Center and Joy could possibly start late next year and take a year to complete, Faas said.

The multimillion-dollar projects, mostly funded by federal dollars, will happen because they already were set in motion before a budget crunch prompted local officials to eliminate other road projects next year.

Plans to widen and improve

the stretches of Canton Center and Sheldon Center come as the two roads continue to deteriorate amid heavy traffic.

"They badly need to be five lanes," Faas said.

County officials are expected to maintain traffic in both directions during the projects, with periodic closures possible.

Canton Center's widening, backed by \$4.5 million in federal money and just \$35,000 in township funds, also includes improving the Palmer Road and Heritage Drive intersections, and closing a sidewalk gap near the township's library. State-administered bids are expected to be sought starting this week.

Sheldon Center's five-lane project, backed by \$3.8 million in federal funds and \$957,000 from the township, also includes improving intersections and traf-

fic signals, including moving one traffic light further south from Gallimore Elementary School.

Ken Jacobs, deputy superintendent of Plymouth-Canton schools, said parents and school officials have long hoped for changes along Sheldon Center.

"I know our school community has been anxiously waiting for that to happen," he said. "I think it's going to be a vast improvement, not only for Gallimore school, but all the traffic that moves along that road."

Under the new plan, motorists traveling north on Sheldon will be routed slightly west to Sheldon Center to improve traffic flow. That will allow work crews to remove about 1,000 feet of existing pavement on Sheldon, immediately south of Sheldon Center,

Please see **PROJECTS, A2**



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CHIEF

FROM PAGE A1

Canton hired him in 1985, and he headed up the old police station near Geddes and Sheldon before he embarked on a career-defining task of creating a nominally consolidated police and fire, or public safety, department. Santomauro oversees a department of nearly 200 employees.

"Without question, he was the architect of what we have today, which in my opinion is the finest public safety department in the state of Michigan," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said in

September, when Santomauro announced plans to retire.

True to his military background, Santomauro implemented a rigid department philosophy and culture requiring officers to have short hair, a polished look, a minimum two-year college degree and other training, plus the ability to pass a rigorous test.

"We have continued to do that," he said — and many officers haven't made the cut.

Santomauro led the charge to form certain regional crime-fighting organizations, such as the Western Wayne Special Threats Response Unit, and in Canton he spear-

headed efforts to give public safety officers the tools they needed for their evolving jobs — ranging from in-car laptop computers to a fire truck with a 100-foot aerial ladder.

Canton Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher commended Santomauro's knowledge and leadership.

"It wasn't like coming to work every day. It was like going to school," Rorabacher said. "His knowledge was so vast. The process to make decisions, to disagree and to communicate was honed to such perfection that it really made business easy. It wasn't all smooth, but even when we had disagreements, it was never personal, and there was never a mean word.

"I truly admire the guy," Rorabacher added. "He has been more than a mentor."

During his law enforcement career, Santomauro continued his education. He earned his bachelor's degree in social science from Madonna University and his master's degree in interdisciplinary technology from Eastern Michigan University. He also is a graduate of the 164th session of the FBI National Academy, and has held numerous positions such as president of the Wayne County Chiefs of Police Association.

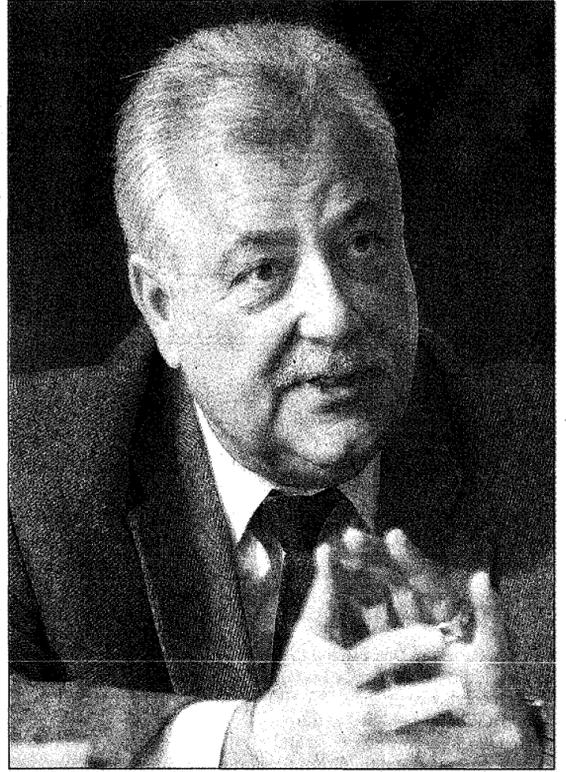
As the low point of his career, Santomauro cited the 2003 death of Gordon "Lew" Stevens — the only Canton police officer ever killed in the line of duty. Stevens was killed when his patrol car was hit by another vehicle after he stopped to investigate a suspicious situation.

"It was a traumatic shock for our organization," Santomauro said, but the department struggled through it and "came out of it stronger."

After he retires, Santomauro plans to continue part-time teaching and lecturing at places like Eastern Michigan University. He and wife Laura want to travel, and he plans to spend more time with family, including grandchildren Amanda, 13, and Connor, 10.

Deputy Police Chief Patrick Nemecek has been tapped as his successor, and Santomauro has confidence the department — already nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies — will continue to flourish.

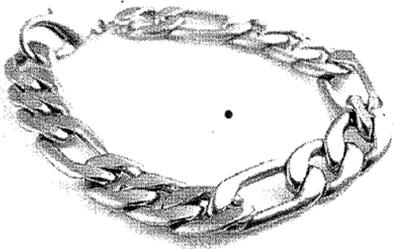
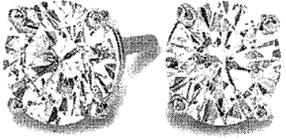
"The talent pool is so deep in this organization, it is unbelievable," Santomauro said. "The greatest legacy I could leave is not only will this place be fine, but will it continue to grow and evolve? I believe it will."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Without question, he was the architect of what we have today, which in my opinion is the finest public safety department in the state of Michigan," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said of John Santomauro (above), who retires at the end of the month.

Things get slippery around the holidays



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PROJECTS

FROM PAGE A1

and turn it into green space. "It will be safer," Faas said, "and there will be less traffic

congestion."

As a formality, Wayne County and Canton will have an environmental assessment public hearing 5-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, at township hall. The only real change involves expanding a culvert near a county drain.

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Ho, Ho, Ho, and a Whole Lot More!



Make your holidays more colorful on Canton's Ford Road.

WDVD 96.3 FM Stuff-A-Bus
Friday Dec. 4th – Monday, Dec. 7th, 24 hours a day!

Bring toys for needy children to the Borders parking lot. Toys go to various children's charities and a portion of the toys collected will go to The Canton Goodfellows.

Ho, Ho, Ho and a Whole Lot More
Saturday, Dec. 5th Noon - 3pm
in the Red and Green Blocks on Canton's Ford Road

- Come see Santa at JCPenney on Ford Rd. Parents are welcome to take photos.
- Be sure to pickup your bag full of coupons at the Shop Canton Gazebo or Canton Info. Booths!
- Delight in the Amazing Clark Magician at Canton Cinema. Shows at 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm
- Enjoy a complimentary Carriage Ride in Harvard Square at Ford and Sheldon.
- Visit Once Upon a Child to see the Balloon Artist and enjoy refreshments.
- Pop into Potbellys for some live music, Clyde Brown on guitar.
- Have your face painted at Paul's Fine Jewelry and enjoy refreshments.
- Stop by WOMC 104.3FM Prize Machine and see the Amp 98.7FM promotion team in Canton Corners. You might even see "The Jazz Cat"!
- Take a break at Sign A Rama and have hot chocolate and cookies!
- Feeling crafty? Kids can make a Rudolf Ornament and warm up with some cocoa at Wedding & Celebration Creations.
- Don't forget Fido! Stop by PETCO and be sure to get your pet's picture taken with Santa. (See store for details)

Even more fun will be sprinkled through the Red and Green blocks on Ford Road. Look for the Ho, Ho, Ho sign at participating merchants on Saturday, December 5th, Noon - 3pm for specials to enhance your shopping and dining experience.

- Applebee's
- BuyBuy Baby
- Canton China Restaurant
- Comic City
- Cigar Hut
- Dollar Tree
- Donoven's Salon
- Mirage Restaurant
- Once Upon A Child
- Paul's Fine Jewelry & Gifts
- PETCO
- Potbelly Restaurant
- Red Wing Shoes
- Richardson's Sav-mor Drugstore
- Sign A Rama
- Wedding & Celebration Creations

SPECIAL OFFER:

The first 10 people to present a receipt from a Canton retailer for a purchase of \$50 or more spent on Dec. 5 will receive a FREE gift.

Receipt to be presented at Shop Canton Gazebo near Canton Cinema.

Brought to you by the
Canton Marketing Partners:
Canton Downtown Development Authority
Canton Chamber of Commerce
Canton Leisure Services



www.shopcanton.org

SHOPCanton

"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Toys drive

The Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Club is collecting toys for the Salvation Army through Dec. 8.

Bring new unwrapped toys to Citizen's Bank at 6549 Canton Center Road or Help-U-Sell Real Estate at 7120 Haggerty Road.

The greatest need is for toys or games for 10-18 year olds. If you have any questions, please contact Kiwanis at (734) 981-0460.

Craft show

The 19th annual St. Thomas a' Becket Craft Show will be held this Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 555 S. Lilley in Canton.

Over 80 crafters will be present. Lunch will be available and there will also be a raffle. Stop by for some unique holiday gifts and shopping fun.

Historical Hold 'em

The Canton Historical Society hosts a "Texas Hold 'Em" event at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Canton Center Road, Dec. 10-12, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The event will feature sit-and-go tournaments, cash games, Omaha, a smoke-free environment, professional dealers, full-service bar, a late-night menu and a midnight pizza buffet.

For more information, call Rose's at (734) 981-9904.

Toys for Tots

The Goddard School began collecting new, unwrapped Toys for Tots on Monday, Nov. 23. The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program distributes the donated toys as holiday gifts to needy children in the community.

The goal of the Toys for Tots program is to not only deliver a new toy during the holidays, but also a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters throughout the United States. The Goddard School uses cause-related opportunities like Toys for Tots to teach their little students the importance of helping others.

A Toys for Tots collection box will be located in the lobby of the school through Dec. 16 for donations. The Goddard School is located at 6697 N Canton Center Road. For more information, call (734) 454-4737.

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestras will be selling Luminaria kits for the holiday season. Each kit will consist of 10 white paper bags as well as 10 candles. The kits can be purchased for \$5 in Plymouth at Gabriel's, Saxton's, Sideways, and The Plymouth Canton Symphony office located at 774 N. Sheldon Road.

The Luminaria kits will also be for sale in between the 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Plymouth Symphony "Home for the Holidays" POPS concert that will be taking place in the historic Penn Theatre located downtown Plymouth on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The Luminaria kits are available through Dec. 24. For further information contact the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society at (734)-451-2112.

Holiday party

The merchants of the Red and Green blocks of Canton's Ford Road invite families to a holiday party to kick off the season noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. This free family-friendly event will include taking your own pictures with Santa at JCPenney; free carriage rides at the Harvard Square Shopping Center; "The Amazing Clark" magic shows at Canton Cinema; face painting at Paul's Fine Jewelry and Gifts; live music at Potbelly Sandwich shop; hot chocolate and cookies at Sign-A-Rama; balloon artist at Once Upon a Child; free pet pictures with purchase at Petco; Kids Craft at Wedding Celebration Creations; WOMC 104.3-FM prize machine and The Amp 98.7-FM promotion team at Canton Corners.

For more information go online to www.shopcanton.org.

Book signing

Award-winning author/photographer Cheryl Vatcher-Martin of Canton will be autographing copies of her latest



DAVID REED

Helping the hungry

Beth Sexton (left) donates canned goods to volunteers Cassie Berlin (middle) and Delaney Carr Saturday night at the Plymouth Cultural Center, where a canned food drive preceded a hockey game between Canton and Salem. All are from Plymouth. For the game story, please turn to the Sports section.

release, "The Cornstalks Are Whispering" at the Holiday Shoppe & Craft Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Hawthorne Valley in Westland.

Her brand new book, "The Cornstalks Are Whispering," was inspired by a local cornfield in Canton and her former residence in Massachusetts. The book garnered her a fiction award in 2008 through the Lowell Council For The Arts, in Lowell, Mich.

Additionally, her books and fine art photographs are available in Orion Township's Art Center for the holiday market which runs Dec. 7-20.

Her second solo fine art photography art show, "Expressions II" is on exhibit presently and her pieces are available for purchase at the Flat Rock Library. She'd be happy to schedule a school visit to read her books, too. She can be reached at peroin5@comcast.net or (734) 397-1626.

Martin is the owner of Pero Inc., a full service writing, coaching, editing, consulting, photography, teaching, tutoring, and publishing company. She's also a presenter and speaker. She can be reached at (734) 397-1626. E-mail at peroinc5@comcast.net. As an instructor she is offering a new children's writing course, and French and Spanish classes through Wayne-Westland Community Schools. For further information: (734) 419-2426.

nonperishable items or cash donation for the Canton Goodfellows and receive a gift from our Santa Bag. All gifts are with a retail value of \$20 or more.

"This is our way to help those children in the Plymouth/Canton school district that are in need and wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas or food while out of school on the holiday break," said Linda Robin, Showroom of Elegance owner. "Our need is great this year with over 700 children to provide for. We need so much help. Please join us in this mission."

For more information, call (734) 207-1906.

Coffee with Slavens

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at a coffee hour on Monday, Dec. 7, from 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Big Boy, 45250 Ford Road, in Canton.

"Meeting with residents and getting their input on the issues that matter most to them helps me to better serve

our community in Lansing," Slavens said. "Times are tough right now in Michigan, and we have to do everything we can to get our economy back on track. That's why I encourage you to join me and share your thoughts and concerns with me as I continue fighting to create jobs and move our state forward."

If your business or organization is interested in hosting an event with Slavens, please call her office toll-free at (888) 347-8021 or send an e-mail to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov.

Chorale auditions

BeckRidge Chorale announces auditions for the second half of its 36th season.

Auditions will be held Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7-9:30 p.m. at Plymouth First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

To get more information and to sign up for an audition go to: www.beckridgechorale.org. While there you may also purchase tickets to BeckRidge Chorale and/or Cherry Hill Singers upcoming concerts.

Canton Goodfellows

Canton Goodfellow's "No child without a Christmas" Collection continues through Dec. 9 at Showroom of Elegance, 6018 Canton Center Road.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIME WATCH

Masked gunman gets away in Wendy's heist

A masked gunman robbed the Wendy's restaurant on Michigan Avenue east of I-275 and escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash around 7:40 p.m. Sunday, according to Canton police. No shots were fired.

Witnesses told police a lone gunman walked in, jumped over the counter, brandished a handgun and ordered an employee to open a cash register.

The bandit escaped out the back door and was last seen going north on Lotz, but he couldn't be located after officers brought a police dog to the scene to help in their search.

Witnesses described the suspect as a black male wearing black clothing and a mask.

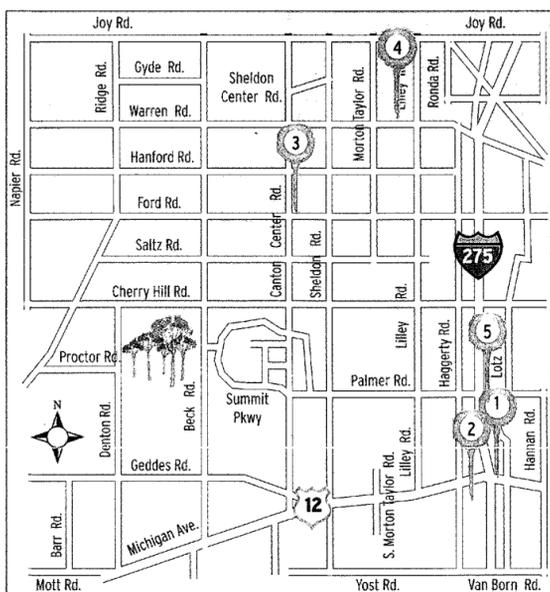
Police Sgt. Mark Gajeski urged anyone with information to call Canton police at (734) 394-5400 or, to make an anonymous tip for a possible cash reward, call Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP.

Counterfeit bills

Police confiscated several counterfeit \$20 bills from a man after making a traffic stop for an expired license plate on Old Michigan Avenue, southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty near the entrance to the Sherwood mobile home park.

Police stopped the 1999 Dodge Caravan about 1 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, and arrested him after learning he had a suspended driver's license. Officers discovered the counterfeit money after they took him to the police station and he emptied his pockets.

The man gave authorities conflicting accounts of how he got the money, and the investigation was continuing.



Van vanishes

A man told police his 2000 Ford van was stolen shortly before 4:30 p.m. Friday after he parked it at the Meijer store on Ford Road east of Canton Center.

The man said he and his son went inside the store, and he told police he believed he had locked the doors of the vehicle. When the pair left the store, the van was missing.

Apartment break-in

A man who lives on Cranbury Court, northwest of Lilley and Warren, reported that someone went into his apartment and stole money from three jars, along with two portable gaming systems. The incident happened between 6:45 p.m. Nov. 24 and 12:30 a.m. Nov. 25.

The man told police he had been visited by a friend before the theft occurred. The victim had to leave to go to a college class, and he said he returned

home to find the items had been stolen.

He indicated the sliding door of his apartment was unlocked. The incident was under investigation.

Thanksgiving theft

A woman who lives on Glen Eagle told police that a GPS and a docking station for her Sirius radio were taken between 9:30 p.m. Nov. 25 and 5:30 p.m. Nov. 26 after she parked her vehicle in the driveway of her residence.

She told police she believed she had locked the doors, but she didn't hear her car alarm going off when the items were stolen.

The woman told police that a few nights earlier, someone had tried to pry open the driver's side door of her vehicle, but fled when the alarm went off.

— Compiled by Staff Writer Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

BBB offers shopping safety tips

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tim Burns, public affairs director for the BBB Serving Eastern Michigan, sees shoppers who fall pray to scams this time of year.

"What we see is an increase in crimes that try to take advantage of people when they may be harassed or distracted," said Burns, an attorney. The BBB sees an increase in "phishing" scams in which fake post office, FedEx or UPS e-mails seek information.

Those fake e-mails can introduce a virus granting access to your computer. "They can look up and see what information you have stored online," such as Social Security number, bank account and credit card information, Burns said.

The BBB also sees mystery shopper offers this time of year that are bogus. The "shopper" is told to spend some money and keep some for herself, when in fact the check is counterfeit. In some cases, shoppers are asked to wire money back.

"You find yourself holding the bag for the money that's missing," Burns said of the checks which even bank tellers have trouble detecting as counterfeit. Some such shoppers send products back overseas, helping the unscrupulous person to resell the product. You'll be out the money and the product, and have committed fraud.

Burns warns against ads for professional gift wrappers for so-called "clients. You're helping them to launder money," he said of such scams, which can seem like an easy way to make extra holiday money.

He also sees copying of legitimate Web sites on the Internet, but a closer look reveals money's sent to and processed at a different site. Those committing this scam hope you'll be fooled by such things as the BBB seal and won't look more closely.

Charity scams are something to check on this time of year as well, Burns said, urging you check affiliations. Some dishonest people will even add a greater amount to your check before cashing it. "Just make sure you take some basic precautions," he said.

The Better Business Bureau offers the following tips for holiday shoppers:

- Before making a purchase, ask the merchant about its refund and exchange policy. A store is not obligated to accept items for refund, exchange, or credit unless the item is defective or was misrepresented. Never assume that the merchandise can be returned. Refund and exchange policies vary from store to store, so before making a purchase inquire about and completely understand the store's policy. To make the process easier, be sure to save all tags and receipts and bring the merchandise back in good condition and as soon as possible. Remember that some stores have a time limit for returns.

- Protect your identity. Clean out your wallet, purse, or pocketbook before heading out for shopping. Remove unnecessary credit cards, debit cards, your Social Security card, and other unneeded documents that could compromise your identity if lost or stolen. Pickpockets will be out in force during the holiday season. The more documents that

you carry with you, the more difficult and time-consuming it will be to report and recover from their loss.

- Guard your PIN number. If you are using a debit card or withdrawing money from an ATM, stand between the next person in line and the debit card machine when entering your pin number. Don't worry about being impolite, it is rude to stand in view of another person's personal banking information.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Don't forget to take simple precautions to protect your personal safety. Men can carry their wallets in a front pocket, which is less susceptible to pickpocketing. Women can place their purse strap over their head and across their chest. The bait and switch trick is popular during the holidays where someone will switch a worthless bag for yours when you are not looking. Keep an eye or a hand on your bags at all times. When shopping at night, park in a well-lit area. Be careful getting into and out of your car at the shopping mall. If you feel uncomfortable for any reason, find mall security and ask for an escort.

- Make smart gift card purchases. Gift cards have become very popular during the holidays and Michigan has some very specific regulations to protect consumers who use them; but these rules don't apply to gift cards purchased or used in another state or those that are issued by financial institutions vs. those from retailers and restaurants. Be aware that some gift cards have expiration dates, activation fees, or conditions on how they can be used.

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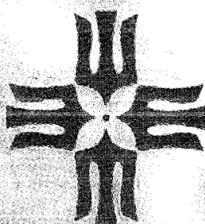
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Clarification

On the Nov. 12 Thanksgiving Traditions holiday page A6, the story, "A twist on tradition," should have read:

"Completely submerge the bird in a large container for about six days."

Executive Chef Jim Moschini of the Culinary Arts Institute at the Art Institute of Novi does not recommend the use of a paint bucket for this task. He also recommends refrigerating the turkey at all times during the brining process.

Tips for lighting

For specific holiday-themed drama, explore the latest seasonal decorations powered by LED lighting. "New color-changing technology now allows lighting designers to have the ability to specify custom color scenes or shows to set a particular mood for festivities," says David Wilkins, president and CEO of American Lighting in Colorado. "Whether you desire a red roofline or one that fades from red to green and back to red, color-changing LED technology offers creativity like never before. You can produce the exact ambiance you like at any moment during your party or gathering this season."

— Courtesy of ARAContent

DAZZLE YOUR GUESTS WITH HOLIDAY ETIQUETTE TIPS 101

You've spent the entire day cooking the perfect holiday feast. But it's an hour before your guests arrive, and you find yourself standing in front of the table, listening to a little nagging voice in your head.

Does the knife go on the left, fork on the right, or is it the other way around? Is that centerpiece too tall? Should I go ahead and put food on table before guests arrive, or do I wait until everyone gets here?

If you can't answer those questions, don't feel alone. In today's eat-on-the-run world, you're not the only one to flunk holiday etiquette.

"Table manners have become a lost art," says etiquette expert Jill Slatter. "Think back 15 or 20 years ago, families gathered every evening for a proper meal. But these days we're all stretched so thin juggling work, school and home, most folks don't have time to sit down together, so when holidays roll around no one's sure what to do at a formal meal."

Slatter is an etiquette coach at Greensboro, N.C.-based Replacements, Ltd., touted as the world's largest supplier of old and new china, silver, crystal and collectibles. The company is bombarded with questions this time of year from folks looking for a crash course in

proper manners and table settings. Based on the most frequently asked questions, Slatter offers this quick holiday etiquette 101 to give you insight that will dazzle your guests.

Set the perfect table

- Forks to the left, knives and spoons to the right. Only set out utensils that will be used for various courses. "If you're not serving soup or salad, you certainly don't want an extra spoon or fork in your place setting," Slatter says. "Not only will those get in the way, the extra utensils may confuse your guests."

- The bread plate goes on the left of the dinner plate, glasses on the right.

- Wait to pour. Water glasses should be the only glasses filled before your guests arrive. Iced tea, wine and other beverages should be poured once everyone is seated. Wine should be filled halfway, not to the rim.

- Salad and bread should be the only food on the table when your guests arrive.

- Courses are generally served in the following order in the United States: appetizer, soup, salad, main course, dessert.



Are you the hostess with the mostest?

- Remember, the hostess always sits last.

- Unscented candles are a great part of holiday decor, but should only be lit during the evening. "Another thing to keep in mind, flickering candles are more than a distraction, those can cause headaches," warns Slatter. "That's why you never want to place burning candles directly in front of your guest, and make sure you situate the flame below eye level."

- Centerpiece too tall? Sure those flowers you spent hours arranging are pretty, but will only get in the way if your guests have to crane their necks to look at each other. Make sure your guests can see over any table adornments.

- Passing isn't just in football. Always pass food around the table counter clockwise to the right and refrain from serving yourself first. Always pass the salt and pepper as a set, even if you're only asked for one.

Be a gracious guest

- Avoid the smear. Female guests should blot their lips before sitting down at the table. This will keep you from getting lipstick stains on linen napkins or glassware.

- Wait for the signal. Your host will let you know when it's okay to begin eating. They may make a prayer or

statement or start by passing a dish.

- If you're not sure which utensil to use with each course, start on the outside and work in toward the plate.

- If you need to excuse yourself temporarily, gently place your napkin in your chair.

- Signify you're finished with the meal by placing napkin to the left of the dinner plate, and your fork and knife side by side diagonally across your plate with the sharp side of the knife blade facing inward and the fork tines down.

"One of the most panicked questions we hear concerns what to do if you accidentally break a piece of the host's dinnerware," adds Slatter. "You should certainly offer to replace the broken piece especially if it has sentimental value for the host or hostess."

Slatter says don't lose hope if your host doesn't know the name of the pattern or the manufacturer—you can always take advantage of Replacements' free pattern identification service.

If you're still in doubt about holiday etiquette 101, a cheat sheet is just a mouse click away. You can find place setting guides outlining the correct layout for all meals at www.replacements.com, under the site's "neat things" tab. With these tips in mind, you're sure to throw the perfect gathering.

— Courtesy of ARAContent



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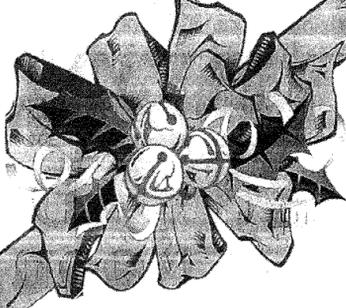
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Country star Aaron Tippin to play benefit for injured soldiers

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Country music singer Aaron Tippin, known for his patriotic-themed music, will be headlining an upcoming Christmas show that will benefit soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tippin will perform his songs at Operation Injured Soldier's inaugural Christmas Spectacular Dec. 11 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The event, which begins at 7 p.m., will help the South Lyon-based non-profit organization's efforts to send injured soldiers and their families on vacations, to sporting events, and

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

- **When:** 7 p.m., Dec. 11
- **Where:** Laurel Manor in Livonia
- **Tickets:** \$75 (includes dinner)
- **More info:** For more information about tickets or sponsorship, call (248) 437-1144 or visit www.injuredsoldiers.org.

on hunting, fishing and camping trips. The trips are provided at no cost to the soldiers.

According to Operation Injured Soldier's Pam Bijansky, who also owns Parkside Cleaners in South Lyon, this is the biggest fundraiser the group has ever held. She said the reason they decided to do it is because more and more soldiers are coming home with injuries suffered in



Aaron Tippin with Al Hogan and Pam Bijansky of Operation Injured Soldier during Tippin's tour earlier this year.

America's two current wars. Many of the soldiers are suffering from post traumatic

stress disorder caused by head injuries, and have had a difficult time adjusting back to

everyday life. The point of Operation Injured Soldier, according to

Bijansky, is to help with that adjustment, and help the soldiers and their families reconnect.

"There is just a huge, huge need. People don't even understand," Bijansky said. "It's not just the soldier, it's their families. If they have drifted psychologically, they need a family vacation. They need to bond again as a family."

Bijansky said many of the trips the group is able to send the soldiers and their families on are donated. However, the group still has to pay for transportation and other related costs.

"We have had so many people step up with time shares and guided hunting trips, but we had to turn them down because we couldn't afford to send the soldiers," she said.

And that is why Bijansky is hoping for a good turnout at The Christmas Spectacular. Her goal is to get 1,000 people to attend the event. She believes Tippin's star power will help.

Tippin agreed to do the show when members of Operation Soldier and some of the soldiers attended one of his concerts earlier this year. He was already scheduled to be in the state to do a Dec. 12 show in Roscommon.

Bijansky is also still looking for a local choir that might be interested in singing Christmas carols during dinner.

Tickets for the show are \$75, which includes a full dinner. There will be a cash bar available. Bijansky said the group is still looking for corporate sponsors for the event. Currently Hines Park and Abbey Park at Mill River are the two main corporate sponsors.

"Every penny goes back to our guys," Bijansky said.

People can also buy tickets and donate them so injured soldiers can attend the event and see Tippin perform.

"A lot of people have already donated their tickets. Half of the room will literally be filled with our injured heroes," Bijansky said.

For more information about tickets or sponsorship, call (248) 437-1144 or visit www.injuredsoldiers.org.

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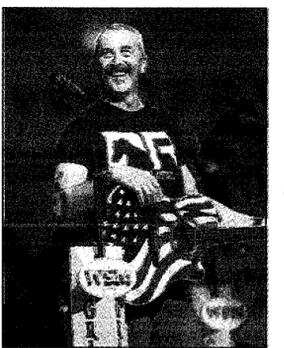
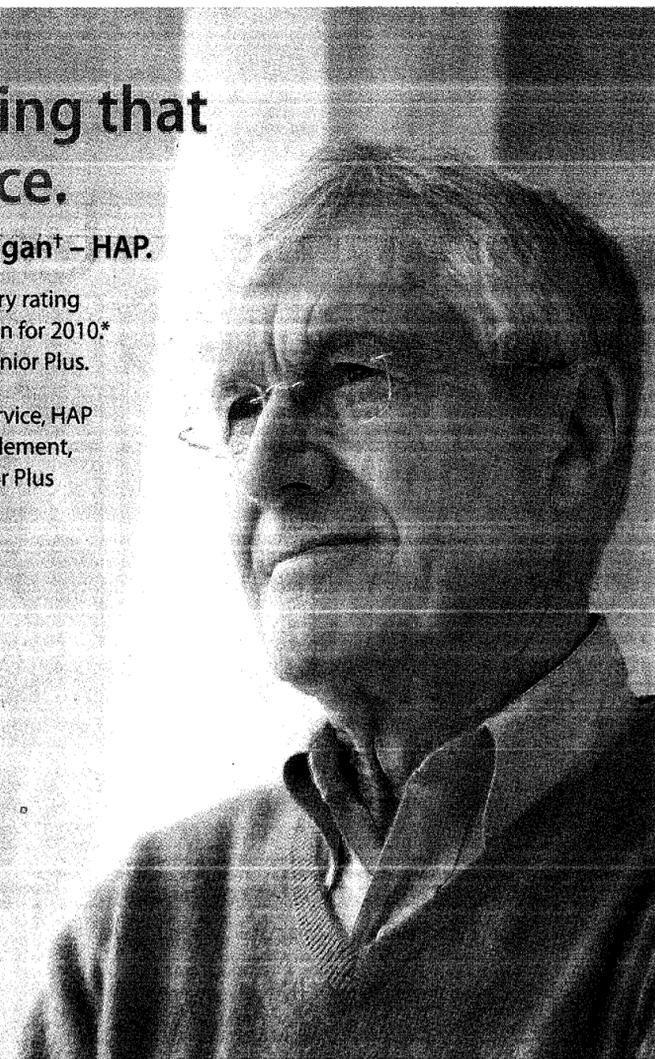
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Country music star Aaron Tippin will be singing his patriotic songs at Operation Injured Soldiers Christmas Spectacular Dec. 11 at Laurel Manor.

NEWS BRIEF

Ornament artwork
Children can explore their artistic talents and lend a hand to a worthy cause on Saturday at the Plymouth District Library.

The Plymouth Area Jaycees are sponsoring a free ornament-decorating event from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the library. Children, accompanied by a parent or guardian, can drop by and decorate an ornament or two to give as gifts or hang on the Christmas tree.

The Jaycees will also be collecting gift cards to donate to First Step, the program that offers assistance and support to the survivors of domestic violence in Western Wayne County and Downriver communities. A donation is not mandatory.

The Plymouth Area Jaycees is a newly recognized Jaycees chapter for men and women ages 21 to 40 who work or live in Plymouth, Plymouth Township or surrounding communities and want to strengthen leadership and organizational skills, contribute to the community and build professional and social networks. The group is recruiting new members; a former local Jaycees chapter folded in 2007.

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*Based on Medicare's Plan Quality and Performance Rating 2009 Survey conducted by the federal Medicare program. To see full results, go to "Compare Health Plans" on www.medicare.gov

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Raising a village

Salem grad uses Peace Corps stint to help others

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The first time James Leddy applied to join the Peace Corps, the Peace Corps lost his paperwork.

Figuring it was some sort of omen, Leddy returned to seeking work in the field for which he'd gotten a degree from Michigan State University: International relations.

Then death claimed his grandfather, the one person who'd most supported his idea to serve. Leddy, a graduate of Salem High School and a resident of Canton, put his name back in for consideration.

Six weeks later, in March 2007, Leddy was in El Salvador.

"It's gone by so quick," said Leddy, who was home for a couple of weeks before returning to his village. "At first, seconds seemed like hours. But looking back, it's gone by so fast."

While his grandpa may have been the most ardent supporter of Leddy's decision to join the Peace Corps, he wasn't the only one. Lifelong friend Erin Williams, no stranger to the concept of public service herself (her dad is Canton Township Trustee Pat Williams), found out when her parents talked to Leddy's parents.

"I think it's a fantastic fit for (Leddy)," Williams said. "His family has always been giving and caring, and that's how Jimbo is. It just kind of made sense."

His service has gone by quick enough that Leddy, 24, isn't sure he wants it to be over. He has begun discussions with Peace Corps officials aimed at extending his service.

And that's because he loves what he's doing in El Salvador. He lives among the villagers in Santiago De Chile, a farming community that plants largely coffee. He works in a school, teaching fourth- and fifth-graders about decision-making and planning ahead.

"It gets kids to start thinking," Leddy said. "A lot of kids just follow the crowd. I get them to use their imagination."

His teachings roam a gamut from giving pet vaccinations to brushing teeth. He's taught sex education and he's worked with neighborhood associations, "basically training them not to need me," Leddy said with a laugh.

After a two-week visit home, though, Leddy is back in Santiago De Chile, where he's needed perhaps more than ever. Shortly before Leddy's sojourn home, his "home-away-from-home" was buried in a mudslide that destroyed a large portion of the village. It destroyed communities and devastated - in some cases wiped out - entire families.

In an area already ravaged by poverty, the disaster was crippling.

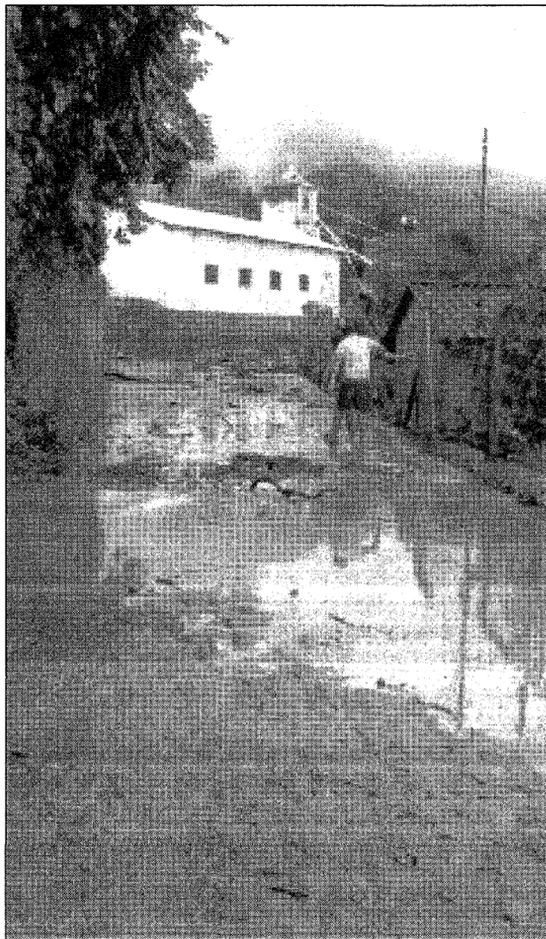
"In one night ... thousands of people have been left without homes, without food and water, without clothes," Leddy wrote on his blog (www.jimboleddy.blogspot.com). "Entire communities have been erased. Entire families have passed away. Crops that Salvadoran farmers use to feed their families are ruined." While devastating to the community he'd spent 20 months helping, the experience also affected Leddy. Existing on the side of a volcano, the village was susceptible to the kind of disaster that struck after torrential rains. Leddy resisted, but Peace Corps officials ordered him off the volcano.

"When I was on the volcano that day, I wasn't scared, I was just thinking about getting off," Leddy said. "The second I got into that Peace Corps car, I wanted nothing but to go back."

And back he's gone, with fellow Peace Corps volunteer and friend Dave Hannon, who did his service in Afghanistan. Leddy, who with Williams organized a fund-raiser to help the village while he was in Canton, and Hannon will assess the damage and the need, and Hannon will help raise money when he gets back. So far, the Peace Corps is



James Leddy of Canton, a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, tries to get the troops organized for a baseball practice.



The heavy rains and mud decimated the El Salvadoran village where Canton's James Leddy works for the Peace Corps. The village needs houses built, clothing and food.

resisting letting Leddy actually live in the village, fearing for his safety. But they are letting him go back into the village to help, which is his big purpose in life right now.

"I want to get these people back on their feet," Leddy said, pointing out the kind of help needed is building houses and clothing and feeding the villagers. "This was a poor community before the tragedy. We need to get them at least back where they were."

Leddy has post-Peace Corps goals, too. He was figuring he'll get his master's degree in either Argentina or Spain, then come home and use it in international business.

But his experience in El Salvador may be affecting him more than he'd bargained. "The more I work with these kids," he said, with a broad smile creasing his face, "the more I think about teaching."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

Event funds will help villagers

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When James Leddy was planning a trip home to Canton from the El Salvador village he's helping as a Peace Corps volunteer, the plan was to chill out, see some friends and family and enjoy the time home.

After the village where he lives was devastated by torrential rain and mudslides, though, Leddy decided he'd spend the time at home trying to help his home away from home.

So he and longtime friend Erin Williams kept up a dizzying pace to organize a fund-raiser at The Crow's Nest in Canton to try and raise money to help the villagers in El Salvador.

All the effort paid off: The fund-raiser, held last week before Leddy returned to El Salvador, raised more than \$4,000. The Crow's Nest, according to Williams, ended up donating 10 percent of its pro-

ceeds from the evening.

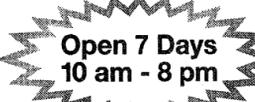
Among the crowd were Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Williams' father, Canton Township Trustee Pat Williams.

"It went very well," said Williams. "Lots of people came out to help, people from our neighborhood and friends from high school and college."

Leddy said it will "take thousands and thousands of dollars" to help get the village back on its collective feet. Houses need to be built and villagers need to be clothed and fed.

Leddy and fellow Salem grad, friend Dave Hannon, also a Peace Corps volunteer (he did his duty in Afghanistan) traveled back to El Salvador this week to assess the damage. When he gets back, Hannon and Williams will organize more fund-raisers.

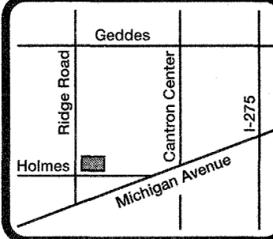
"I want to get these people back on their feet," Leddy said. "This was a poor community before the tragedy. We need to get them at least back where they were."



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EXTRA SPACE STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 21, 2009 @ NOON, TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, 6729 N Canton Center Rd. Canton, MI 48187.

Owens, Stephon/ Owens Concrete	B40	10x15	Generator, cooler, 4 rims, 4 tires (new), backpack-leafblower, misc. industrial tools and landscaping equipment.
Prpich, Hollyanne/Mark	C90	10x25	TV repair supplies, various electronics, 20+ Televisions.
Yarwood, Anthony (Tony)	C95	10x25	Golf Clubs, electric scooter, brown granite countertops, 2 outdoor chairs, 2 kitchen chairs, misc. tools and household goods.
Milliner, Bewildow	C96	10x4	Twin size mattresses, low-profile box spring & frame. Nightstand, 7+ totes, misc. household goods.
Owens, Stephon/ Owens Concrete	G273	10x30	Bowflex, stationary bike, treadmill, 27" CRT TV, Full size sleigh bed and bedroom suite, Full size pillow top-mattress and bed spring, golf clubs, charcoal, grill, entertainment center, receiver and cd changer, misc. garden and household goods.

OUR VIEWS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shopping locally, as Kim Pascua and her 10-year-old daughter, Nina, did at Showroom of Elegance in Canton on Black Friday, helps local businesses survive and, hopefully, thrive.

Shop locally this holiday season

Many people will be cutting back on spending this holiday season because of the economy.

They have less money for gifts, decorations and festive foods than they have had in past years. Some may even be cutting out gift-giving entirely.

That isn't all bad. Simpler celebrations may mean people will focus more on the true meaning of each holiday.

However, people still need to purchase food even if they don't host extravagant parties. And, many people invariably will still buy gifts for their loved ones, even if they spend less than they have in the past.

We encourage readers to shop locally this holiday season, whether it be for food or gifts or both.

By doing so, they will help local businesses, which, in turn, will benefit them.

If every Michigan household spent \$10 each week on Michigan-made products, \$37 million would be put back into the local economy on a weekly basis, according to the grassroots Made in Michigan Movement.

More money is kept in the community because locally owned businesses purchase from other locally owned businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing locally helps other local businesses to grow.

When businesses grow, they hire more people. Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally.

Local businesses also support the local community, donating money and/or services to local schools and service organizations benefiting local children and other residents.

And, customer service is usually better. Local business often are willing to order items specially for customers or offer more services than national chains.

In Canton, the Downtown Development Authority has rolled out a Shop Canton regional advertising campaign. They've hung color-coded banners on street lamps so local retailers and officials can help consumers navigate Ford Road, the township's busiest thoroughfare.

Ford Road merchants are hosting a holiday party to kick off the season noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, an event that will include features such as pictures with Santa, carriage rides, face painting and a magic show.

Officials say the latest marketing plan helps not only big box stores but, just as importantly, the smaller, independent businesses that can get lost amid the hustle and bustle of Ford Road.

The local shopping began on Black Friday, the traditional start to the Christmas shopping season. When you make your holiday shopping plans, plan to buy as many gifts on your list as possible from local merchants.

Your gifts will not only benefit your loved ones, they'll also help the local economy and put local merchants in a better position to survive and, we hope, thrive in the new year.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you plan to spend more or less money this holiday season than you did last year?

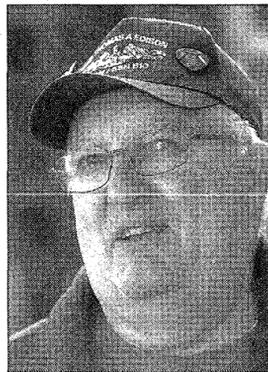
We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"Probably about the same."
Carol Lukas
Canton



"We're spending less. We have four children under the age of 6."
Becky Wolfe
Canton



"About the same."
Larry Morin
Canton



"Probably about the same."
Susan Antieau
Canton

LETTERS

Goodfellow help

It is that magnificent time of the year when we stop to give thanks for all we enjoy. In these incredibly difficult times many of us in Canton are very fortunate.

We are writing to respectfully request the good citizens of Canton to assist with the 2009 Canton Goodfellows annual Paper Sale fund-raiser. This sale is performed annually so that every child in Canton may feel the joy of Christmas.

The Goodfellows are attempting to serve a record number of deserving families this upcoming season. Conventional wisdom would suggest that the Goodfellows should lower their 2009 expectation.

Our suggestion is that the citizens of Canton understand this challenge and will come forward in this year of special need. Everyone can help. It does not take much if we all share the load.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009, the Canton Goodfellows will be visible throughout Canton with their Annual Goodfellows Paper Sale. Please support these caring volunteers attempting to raise money for food, necessities and toys for our own children of Canton. Any donation makes a difference. Please do what you can to support this worthy effort.

Canton is a special community with very special residents. We have a challenge this year that might discourage some communities. We are betting the Canton community will step up and show why this is such a fantastic place to live.

Please do what you feel you can do to support the Canton Goodfellows paper sale on Saturday, Dec. 5. We will have a better community for your efforts.

If you are able to adopt a child this Christmas, please contact Nancy at (734) 397-8975 or e-mail her at johnnancysp@aol.com.

Noreen Rybar and Karl Zarbo
co-chairs,
Canton Goodfellows Annual Paper Sale

Zonta thanks

I would like to thank you for the wonderful article that ran in the *Observer* Sunday, Nov. 29 ("Zonta members reach out to women, girls, mark milestones").

I received several calls about the article and interest in Zonta. What a great boost for our club members who have work so hard on the many projects we do to help improve the status of women. Thanks again.

Sally Randall
Zonta Area 3 director

(Note: For more information about Zonta or to attend a meeting, call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728. You can also visit www.zonta.org or www.zonta15.org/northwestwayne.)

Too much influence

The health care industry is plying Congress with huge amounts of money to protect that industry's interests.

These are some statistics that I have read:

Some \$1.4 million per day is spent by the health care industry to lobby Congress. The health care industry has hired six lobbyists for every member of Congress. These people are paid to protect the interests of the health insur-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife.com

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

ance companies, the pharmaceutical industry and other corporations that make up the health care industry.

Max Baucus, who is a Democrat from Montana, is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Five of his former staffers are involved with companies in the health and insurance sectors. Max Baucus has received over a million dollars from health care and insurance companies. Even worse, 23 members of the Senate Finance Committee receive millions from health care interests.

We can put a stop to this kind of influence by writing or calling our Senators, urging their support of the Fair Elections Now Act (FENA). When we show our outrage over the influence of corporate lobbyists in Congress this type of influence pedaling will stop.

Doreen Lawton
Plymouth

Support the home team

When you drive a vehicle from a foreign manufacturer you cut off your nose to spite your face. You destroy your home value, threaten your employment and reduce your school funding — and that's just for starters.

Manufacturing is the heart of the economy, and the automotive industry is by far the largest element of manufacturing. George Bush chose to ignore many things like Katrina, financial oversight and manufacturing, to name just a few. Along with Cheney and Greenspan (at least he admits it), they chose to let the old boy network of short-sighted greedsters run amok. Meanwhile, Cheney and Bush love big oil, that is their wealth. What market forces? This toxic economic soup created the catastrophic Bush Depression — some call it a recession because they don't include the affect of trillions of dollars sacrificed by Americans, multiplied throughout the world.

Jennifer Granholm, to be fair to the other party, is just like George; she does nothing. Quite frankly, Jim Hiller with his grocery stores has done more for Michigan than Granholm can dream of. Blown away yet? While the ship sinks she is courting foreign automotive companies, and that's on a good day. What's wrong with fighting every day for the home team?

Someone in the world (all over the world) has to build 70 million (and growing) new vehicles every year. That is a lot, and it is not going away. Why not us? Have the leaders of the Big Three also been short-sighted greedsters for decades? Absolutely, but do we really want to send our standard of living overseas to spite them? Is the mess really

this simple? Manufacturing is the heart of the economy; anyone that tries to tell you differently is a liar.

Go ahead, cut off your nose — at the neck. Or support the home team.

Mark Ritchie
Northville

Cox is wrong

If as Attorney General Mike Cox says, the 2002 Manoogian affair is just "gum on my shoe which will wear off if I just keep walking," is far from being accurate. Unless and until our attorney general comes clean about what actually happened at the Manoogian Mansion and subsequent death of Tamara Greene, he is unfit to even run as our next governor. If this matter has been covered up and Cox is involved, this is obstruction of justice. The citizens of Michigan cannot tolerate possible obstruction of justice from our own top cop.

There are substantial discrepancies between the sworn testimony from State Police Detective Mark Krebs and statements made by Cox. Cox is likely to get more gum on his shoes if he continues to dismiss this as an "urban legend."

Gerald and Dolores Maxey
Farmington Hills

Rethinking crime

I am wrestling with the fact that all criminals aren't bad.

The hackers that exposed the e-mail antics of global warming "scientists" has brought the house of cards down on this farce. The story of evil doing was too good to pass up, and only the Associated Press has seemed to minimize the story. But given time, it, too, will join the fray.

ABC, CBS and others have dropped their previous attitudes and are now on board. The story of bad conduct is so good that even the left-leaning press has joined the *Wall Street Journal* and a few other publications that have been warning us of the farce. But those publications were using factual data, which could have stopped the juicy tale of conflict.

Long live the work of some hackers.

Tom Shipley
Birmingham

Thanks for nothing

I would like to thank all the big and smaller companies — Wal-Mart, Meijer, Kmart, Penney's, etc. for playing a major part in stemming the spread of H1N1 flu. The public thanks you too. Encouraging shoppers and sick employees to stay home and away from large gatherings was a great sacrifice on your parts.

Oh, wait. No sick leave and an employee shortage. Oops. In to work for you! To the store, you sneezing shoppers! What do you care. Bargains at and cost, and we're talking health and well-being here, folks. Those employees need a reason to be at work and you're forced to be it. Maybe I'm wrong. It's the executives who need workers and buyers. They wouldn't get their wonderful bonuses if these two groups failed to respond. We can't have that. Who would make all these intelligent far-thinking decisions if we didn't have executives who can't live without their bonuses. We can all be so proud of ourselves.

Margaret Betts
Birmingham

CANTON
OBSERVER

GANNETT

Brad Kadrich
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

Gifts, etc.

Holiday etiquette for the 'others' in our lives

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One day last summer, my son, then 3, ran out to greet the mail truck. His face fell when he discovered none of the mail was for him. A few days later, he got a stamped card from a "secret admirer." I knew the culprit was Cathy, our sweet mail carrier. That kind of thoughtfulness earned her a nice tip at Christmas.

But Cathy's been transferred, and now it seems a different postal worker visits our home each day. So, is it necessary to tip the mailman this year?

In the season of giving, it's natural to buy presents for close family and friends, but what about the other people in our lives, such as babysitters, teachers, personal trainers, dog groomers and coworkers?

I spoke with two local etiquette experts to find out.

According to Ramona Lawrence of Blessings of Etiquette in Southfield Lathrup, gifts should be given only to people who are extra special.

"You cannot personally thank everyone who has provided you with a service throughout the year, but if continuously you've been pleased with that service it's nice to show your gratitude at the end of the year," she said.

The key is to tailor gifts to each individual.

"It comes from the heart when you can do some type of research, get to know that person and what they like," she said. "When all else fails I don't think you'll find too many people who'll say they don't want money."

CASH FOR CHRISTMAS

When it comes to giving gifts of cash, etiquette experts agree it's standard to double



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your normal tip or payment. For people like your shampoo girl, manicurist, hairdresser or pet groomer, that would mean twice the usual tip, or the cost of a basic service like a haircut; for a housekeeper or babysitter, an extra day's pay. A beloved nanny should be



Find Harney & Sons teas at TranquilliTea in Plymouth.

compensated an extra week, if possible.

Good etiquette dictates that you personalize a gift of money with a nice card.

"If you're just giving cash, I suggest you write a note to that person and let them know how you feel about them. It just adds that special touch," she said.

And while it's nice to tip a bit more generously this time of year it isn't necessary to go out of your way to pay the guys at the car wash, the barista at the corner coffee shop, or the groomer who always has a treat for Fido.

"I would tip them extra if I'm using them during the holiday season, but I wouldn't make an extra trip to go see them," Lawrence said. "As far as the amount, everyone has to face how much they can give."

Of course there are some instances when cash isn't appropriate, such as in the workplace or at your child's school. In those cases, creative and thoughtful gifts go a long way.

BUSINESS OF GIFTS

Denise Anne Taylor, owner of Competitive Advantage, Inc. in Birmingham, special-

TOKENS OF APPRECIATION

Simple gift suggestions for people who take care of you year round:

Yoga teacher: Harney & Sons teas, 20 bags for \$8.75 at TranquilliTea in Plymouth

Dog groomer: Special Dog ornament with a photo of their favorite client, \$12.50 at Hallmark in Livonia

Boss: Starry Sleighride with fresh and chocolate dipped fruit, \$100 at Edible Arrangements in Farmington

Client: Motivational letterpress print, \$12.50 at etsy.com

Babysitter/children's teacher: Visa gift card, accepted virtually everywhere

izes in business etiquette. She said the holidays are a nice time to show your appreciation to supervisors, co-workers and clients.

"If you have special people who throughout the year are always there for you providing support, I think it's nice to acknowledge them," she said. "Give them little incentive items, just to say 'thank you,' especially if they go above and beyond."

Fitting gifts include items they can display on their desk, like a paperweight, photo frame, or a small vase. Or, fill a basket with office supplies, such as notebooks, colored paper clips and novelty pens.

Holiday ornaments are also an inexpensive choice.

These ideas also can be applied to teachers.

Taylor warns against buying extravagant gifts for supervi-



Find this Special Dog ornament at Hallmark in Livonia.

sors in an effort to curry favor. Instead, look for a token that reflects a hobby like golf or tennis.

Or, take up a collection to purchase something nicer for a beloved boss, but don't expect everyone to put money in the pot.

"Some people don't feel comfortable contributing to a large gift. That can be awkward. I don't feel anyone should be compelled to contribute. Make

sure you include everyone, and give everyone the opportunity to decline," she said.

For clients, Taylor suggests a bottle of liquor, a tin of pistachios, or a tray of homemade cookies they can share with the rest of the office.

If you're not sure about diet restrictions or allergies, opt for something healthy like a basket of teas or an Edible Arrangement stocked with chocolate covered fruit.

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Local dancers highlight 'Nutcracker' performances

The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company presents two performances of the Nutcracker Ballet with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

Audience members can follow Clara as she journeys with the Nutcracker Prince from her home through the Land of Snow. The Snow Queen and the Snow Flakes send them to the Magic Kingdom where she is entertained by a vast array of dancers and honored by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra will perform the Nutcracker at the Salem High School Auditorium 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5. Both performances will be followed by a Sugar Plum Parade. Audience members will have the opportunity to meet the dancers on stage. Tickets are \$18 for adults and teens, \$12 for children and \$2 for the Sugar Plum Parade.

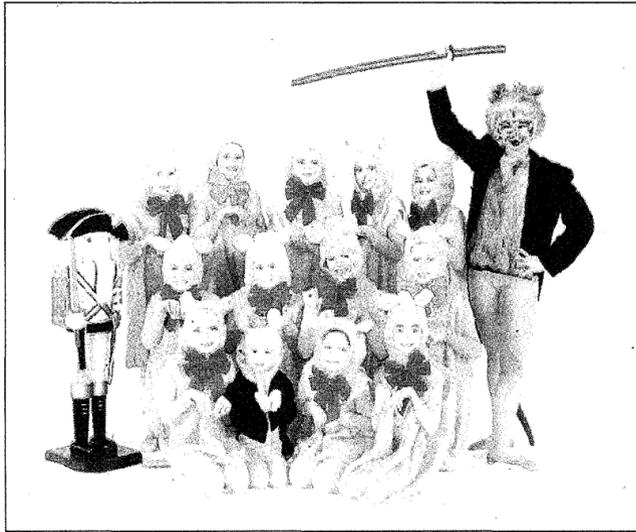
Calin Radulescu and Elizabeth Kelley will be the



Lauren Hansen of Canton and Triston O'Day Snow Queen and King in the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company's production of 'The Nutcracker.'

guest dancers for the performances. Radulescu will dance the part of the Cavalier, while Kelley will dance the

Sugar Plum Fairy. The dancers are from Grand Valley State University. Radulescu is a faculty member at the University



The 'Mice' - Gretchen Fancher, Alivia Davis from Belleville, Emma Kuechler, April Gee, Megan Rivera, Sarah MacIntyre, Hannah Harrigan from Canton, Elliana Krohn from Redford, Bethany Beaudoin from Westland, Jillian Sypula, Merry Lynne Patterson from Romulus, Mary Beer from Livonia, Claire Burton from Birmingham, Gavin Smith from Grosse Ile, Rat King, Amanda Woodward from Wyandotte and the Nutcracker is from China - take to the Salem High School stage Friday and Saturday for 'The Nutcracker.'

and Kelley is a member of the University Dance Company.

The company dancers are drawn from many communities in the Metropolitan Detroit Area, including Plymouth and Canton. Approximately a dozen dance studios are represented.

"It is a pleasure to be able to bring these dancers together for this performance," said artistic director Dawn Greene. "Their backgrounds may be different, but we are proud that they can gel into a ballet corps in just a few rehearsals."

Reid Conlon of Canton will dance the role of the

Nutcracker, with Makenzie Marinkovich of Grosse Ile who will perform as Clara. Conlon is the current Dance Masters Great Lakes Regional Teen Mr. Dance and Marinkovich is the Dance Masters Great Lakes Regional Jr. Miss Dance.

Lauren Hansen of Canton is a student at Salem High School. She will dance as the Snow Queen with Triston O'Day of Detroit. She has been a scholarship recipient at the LA Dance Magic Dance Convention. Triston has danced with the Madison Ballet, Boston Ballet Ensemble and the Detroit Metropolitan

Opera House. They will dance the Snow Pas de Deux and in the Waltz of the Snow Flakes. Hansen will also perform as a soloist in the Spanish Variation from the Magic Kingdom.

Tickets can be purchased at the Plymouth Symphony, 774 N Sheldon, (734) 451-2112; Joanne's Dance Extension, 42020 Koppernick in Canton, (734) 455-4330; Dancewear Gallery, 44926 Ford Rd in Canton, (734) 207-7730. Tickets can be ordered directly from the Plymouth-Canton Ballet by phone at (734) 676-7233 and online at www.plymouthcantonballet.org.

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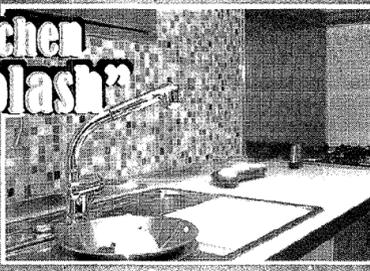
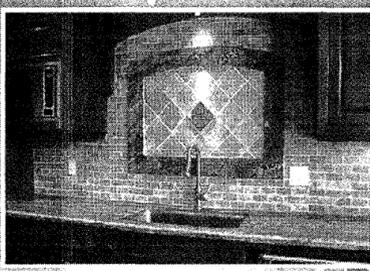
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HOLIDAY BRIEFS

Send memories

The holiday season is upon us and, through the hustle and bustle, we're asking our readers to let us be a part of their celebration.

We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Observer* for the special holiday edition we're planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright? Share those memories with

your neighbors through us. Send your items — be sure to include a photo, if you can — to *Observer* editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Santa letters

Santa Claus has started to make his list, although sources tell the *Observer* that, while he's far from check it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters.

The *Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the

letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole.

The letters should be sent by e-mail and include a snapshot of the child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Ol' Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have.

Send Santa correspondence to bkadrich@hometownlife.com and be sure to put "Letter to Santa" in the subject line. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

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HOMETOWN LIFE

Tim Smith, editor, (313) 222-2637
tsmith@hometownlife.com



2009-10 BOYS WRESTLING PREVIEW

Rocks ready for new era

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Greg Wochuck looks at his roster, the Salem varsity wrestling coach sees a lot of youngsters new to the team. But when he delves deeper, he discovers the first-year guys are about as experienced in the sport as they can be.

And he notes that Salem's last state champion, Jeremy Henderson, started on the varsity in ninth grade.

That's a plus, he said earlier this week while his team geared up for the 2009-10 opener Saturday at the Lake Orion Invitational.

"We're pretty young, over 40 percent are first-year kids," Wochuck said. "But we have some freshmen in this year who have more matches and competitive matches than my last state champ in 2006 (Henderson)."

Those promising freshmen — Danny Kemp (starting at 125 pounds), Austin Banfield, Tyler Gross and Cody Korpus — cut their wrestling teeth both in the district middle school program and club teams.

Wochuck said they have the fundamentals down pat, so now all they need to do is figure out they can hang with the older athletes.

"It looks like a good thing for the future, but I'm dealing with getting their confidence up right now," he said. "But our last state champ started as a ninth-grader."

Of course, returnees from last year's 15-8 team (6-2 in the KLAAs) will be the leaders who hopefully will help the Rocks remain competitive.

Senior Nick Kim, who finished eighth in the state meet, will start at 112.

But the Rocks have a number of other returnees to provide plenty of experience and depth.

In the upper weight classes, sophomore Nick Giannini (189), senior Blake Abbey (215) and senior Adam Turner (285) are back.

Also returning are seniors James Middleditch (135), Devin Stratton (130), Joe Williams and Brad Sugg (battling it out for 152), Colin Gross (160) and Chris Sweet (171). Competing with Sweet for honors at 171 is junior returnee Cody Mandelka.

Juniors Josh Marhofer (145), Dylan Hatcher (145) and sophomore 140-pounder Josh Kuhn also bring previous varsity experience.

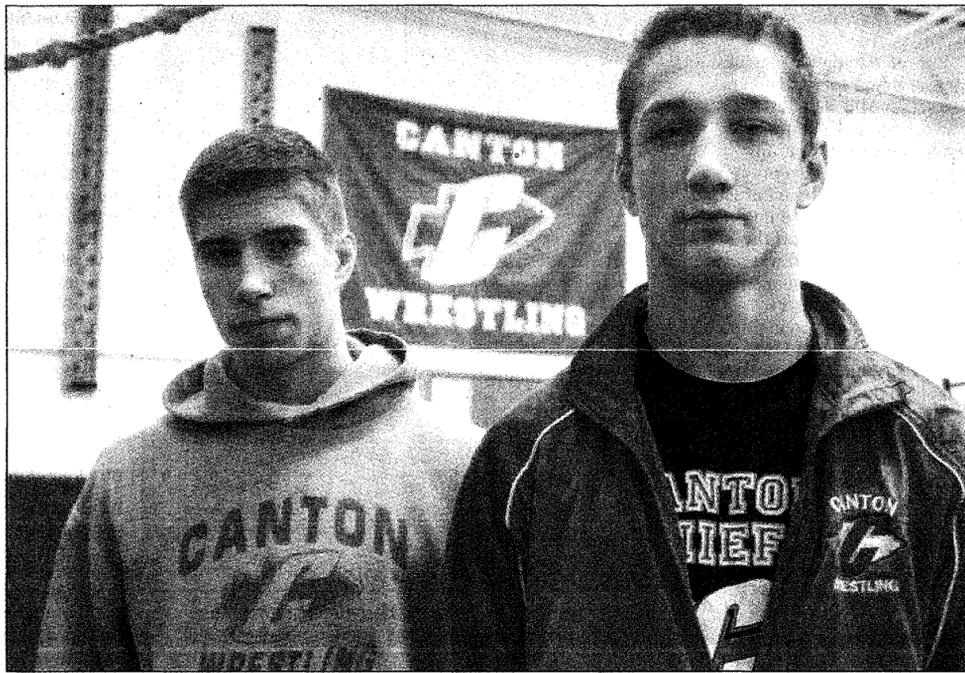
Wochuck is penciling three other first-year wrestlers into the lineup. They are senior James Bushaw at 135, freshman Alex Arbel at 103 and freshman Mike Karizat at 125.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Although much of this year's Salem wrestling team is new to the team, the Rocks still feature 2008-09 state qualifier Nick Kim.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Back again this year for Canton are key wrestlers from last year, Brent Winekoff (left) and Donnie Watkins. Both are seniors coming off strong seasons.

Tough quintet to spark Chiefs

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Canton Five will be back, and that means bad news for other KLAAs wrestling teams in 2009-10. After the Chiefs came within an eyelash of going for a team state championship last season, the core of that excellent team (25-11) will be looking to get there this time.

"We just missed going to the team state championships in Battle Creek by the sixth criteria," said Canton second-year head coach Cory Mancuso. "We tied (Westland) John Glenn and then lost in criteria (rules applied for seeding)."

Spearheading that tough quintet of returnees are seniors Donnie Watkins and Brent Winekoff, who will move up the latter from 135-to-145 pounds and 145-to-160, respectively.

Watkins, currently ranked No. 1 in the state at 145, finished third at the state meet last year as did Winekoff (at 160).

The latter is ranked No. 2 in the

state in his new weight class and is ticketed to wrestle at Eastern Michigan University.

Also back are senior 125-pounder Waleed Faraj (eighth-place at 112 last season) and senior 171-pounder Keith Zech, a state qualifier.

Augmenting those four will be junior Anthony Abro, a regional qualifier in 2008-09 who will fill the 189 spot.

Mancuso knows he has a gifted cast of seniors to lead the Chiefs. Other seniors include Connor Jackson, back at 130 after taking a year off, Mitch Wolski (140) and 285-pound powerhouse Julius "Mad-Dog" Maddox in the heavy-weight class.

But the coach is looking forward to how the younger members of the team step into the varsity limelight. "We have a very talented senior group and some very talented, hard-working freshmen and sophomores that will impact our lineup this year for the first time," Mancuso said.

Starting at 103 will be freshman

Richard DeMarois. Battling it out for the 112 position are ninth-grader Marc Przyblski and sophomore Keshav Patel.

Two sophomores face no such competition and are expected to start.

Zach Marsh will wrestle at 135, filling the void left when Watkins moved up to 145.

The 152-pound spot will go to Sean O'Keefe.

Another sophomore who is in the mix is Alex Eimers, who is competing with junior Daniel Filippelli for the honors at 119.

Rounding out the lineup is junior 215-pounder Ben Poirier.

Mancuso said some of his weight classes are very strong and the others feature wrestlers with "a lot of potential. It should make for a fun year. I envision my wrestlers winning a lot of matches."

Canton opens the season with a Thursday match at Riverview.

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Plymouth grapplers determined to avoid slow start

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The talent is there and so is the work ethic, which brings a smile to the face of Plymouth head wrestling coach Quinn Guernsey.

The Wildcats started slowly and went only 10-16 in 2008-09, the first season with Guernsey at the helm.

But with the start of a new season (Wednesday in a quad meet at Dexter), he is enthused about an intriguing mix of experience and fresh faces. There's renewed determination among those who are back and don't want to repeat what happened a year ago.

"A lot of the guys wanted to get better," Guernsey said. "We only graduated four guys, so the return-

ers all pretty much decided themselves that they'd like to get better.

"And then we had a few freshmen come in who are pretty solid freshmen and are going to be impact wrestlers for us."

Guernsey said his wrestlers got after it hard during the off-season in order to report to workouts in top-notch shape, too.

"We've got to hit the ground running this year," he said. "We're already pretty much where we were at the middle of the season last year."

If there is a new outlook, a lot of the credit goes to senior tri-captains Rob Barackman (160), Brandon Crowther (152) and Ryan Schultz (140).

"All should have pretty good years," Guernsey said. "When they

wrestle well, they can go with anybody and they're excellent team leaders."

Sophomore Said Youssef definitely can go with anybody, moving from 103 in 2008-09 (when he was an all-conference selection) to 119 this year.

"He's a real talented kid, he worked hard in the off-season to get bigger and stronger," the coach said. "Last year he was at 103 and was a little undersized. Now he's a legit 119."

Definitely not undersized are senior 285-pounders Wally Eppler and Jordan Birman, two heavyweights good enough to start. Eppler probably would have been an all-conference pick last year had

Please see PLYMOUTH, B2

GAME WRAPS

Boys hockey

PLYMOUTH 4, SOUTH LYON 2: In this KLAAs matchup Tuesday, the visiting Wildcats scored two third-period goals to break a 2-2 tie and improve to 5-0 on the season.

Colin Wright scored about seven minutes into the third for the winner and Ryan Renault added an empty-netter with one second to go.

"I thought we played really strong and controlled the majority of play," Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender said. "We forechecked with a lot of intensity and protected the puck well."

That was how Wright netted the tie-breaker, on assists from Ryan Bauer and Cody Hunt. The line cycled the puck down low and kept constant pressure on the Lions' defense.

"Then Colin came out of the corner, skated in front of the goal and went five-hole" on the South Lyon goalie, Fassbender said.

Scoring in the first period for the Wildcats was Zach Gambrell (from Tyler Sanders and Ryan Brown), while Hunt scored a power-play tally in the middle period from Sanders.

Making 22 saves for the victory was goalie Mike Justus.

SALEM 4, FARMINGTON UNIFIED 4: After building leads of 3-0 and 4-2 Tuesday at Plymouth Cultural Center, the host Rocks gave up a pair of goals to Farmington Unified and wound up in a tie.

"We started off very well, but faded late in the game," said Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, whose team is 2-0-1 going into Friday's rematch with Canton (8 p.m.) at the Arctic Edge.

ICE CUBE INVITE: Plymouth captured the Ann Arbor Ice Cube Invitational with a 3-2 victory Saturday against Waterford Kettering, improving to 4-0 on the young season.

Ryan Brown, John Deal and Ryan Bauer scored for the Wildcats, with Zach Wojcek earning the victory in goal.

Plymouth reached the tournament championship game with Friday's 4-3 overtime victory against Utica Eisenhower.

"We pretty much dominated (Saturday), the reverse of yesterday when I think we were outplayed and snuck out a win," Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender said. "We gave up a late goal on the power play, which you can't do (to make it 3-2)."

"Then we had to hold on the last minute or two, but we played OK. We moved the puck well."

Against Eisenhower, the Wildcats forced overtime when Zach Gambrell scored with 1:10 to go in the third and Ryan Brown tallied the winner in OT after taking a feed from Tyler Sanders.

"It was a great game, we found a way to win," Fassbender said.

Girls basketball
PLYMOUTH 61, WEST BLOOMFIELD 59: Proficiency from the free-throw line down the stretch Tuesday night enabled the

Please see WRAPS, B2

Tough start for off-target Rocks

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ice cold from the get-go, host Salem struggled against Brighton in Tuesday night's girls basketball opener and lost 49-37.

The Rocks missed their first 10 shots from the floor and only made in the vicinity of 25 percent of their field-goal tries all night.

"I wasn't disappointed with how we played, because our effort was fantastic," veteran Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "I was disappointed that we didn't finish shots. I was disappointed that we didn't talk nearly as well as we should or could."

"But it's day one and it's a starting point."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sara Stone and Brett deBear, the Rocks' senior leaders, did manage to score 13 and 11 points, respectively. But they only connected on a combined 9-of-35 attempts.

After the game, Thomann sat with the two players and talked about turning the page.

"What I was telling them, as veterans, as three-year players who have played on championship teams, it's up to them to lead," Thomann said. "Get us in the right direction, get us started and just continue to play hard."

SAME SCRIPT?

Despite losing to the KLAAs Lakes

Conference Bulldogs, who started five seniors, the Rocks can point to last season as evidence one loss isn't the end of the world.

"Last year they beat us by 14 points, and we ended up playing for the association championship and they didn't," Thomann said. "So we think we've got to do the same thing this year. We have to use this as a stepping stone to get better."

Despite Salem's early struggles making shots (the first points came with 3:12 left in the first on a putback by Stone), Brighton did not take full advantage due to turnovers and terrible free-throw shooting (1-of-8 in the first).

Please see ROCKS, B2



DAVID REED

Way to go

After scoring late in the first period Saturday night to give Canton a 2-1 lead over Salem, goal-scorer Jordan Smith (No. 5) is congratulated by teammates at the bench. The lead didn't hold up as the host Rocks won 4-3 at Plymouth Cultural Center. For the story, please turn to B3.

Eagles girls cage team eager to soar PLYMOUTH

FROM PAGE B1

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Seven players from last season's Division 4 district winners graduated and the landscape has changed in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference with the influx of several teams from the former Metro Conference.

But Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball coach Carol Gerulis remains as confident as ever that the Eagles can continue to be a very competitive squad in 2009-10.

"I think we can compete in our conference," said Gerulis, whose team opened the season Tuesday night at Livonia Clarenceville.

PCA will be spearheaded by 5-10 sophomore center Kristin Malcolm and junior point guard Brianna Harris, two key players from the 2008-09 team. Malcolm (12 points, eight rebounds last year) is nursing an ankle injury, however, and will miss the first week or so of action.

"Between the two of them, they will be the keys to our season," the fifth-year coach emphasized.

Harris averaged five assists and six points last year for the

Eagles, and will be counted on to orchestrate PCA's offense.

Gerulis is asking guards Jenna Abraham and Karen Windle to do what Malcolm did last season — make immediate contributions as freshman players.

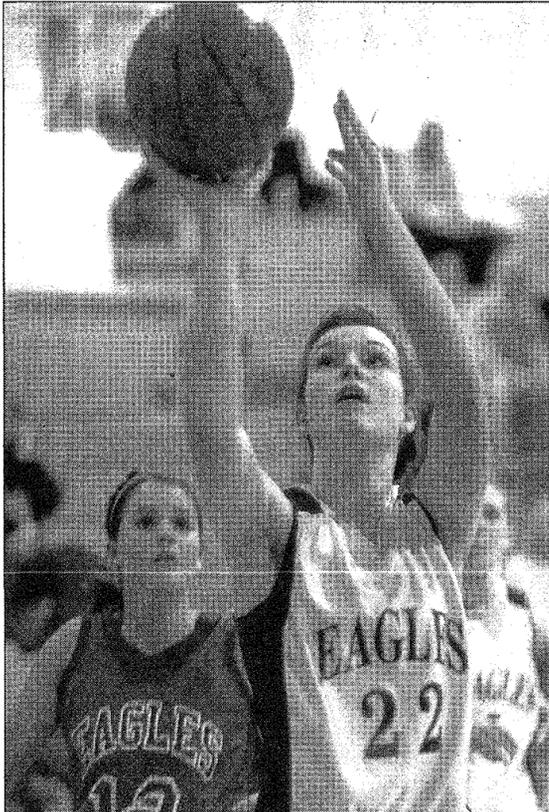
"I think they're going to handle it (varsity) OK," Gerulis said. "They are two pretty strong guards."

Expected to divide playing time at power forward will be 5-8 senior Michaela Wheeler and 5-6 junior Bethany Hale while two former Canton Agape Christian players (senior centers Brooke Purcell and Saquia Hood) could make contributions off the bench. The 6-4 Hood was slated to start the season opener due to Malcolm's injury.

The amount of playing time that 6-0 Purcell and Hood receive "depends on how they adapt" to their new team.

Meanwhile, PCA's list of opponents this year include newcomers Ann Arbor Greenhills, Lutheran Westland and Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett among others. But if Malcolm and Harris excel as expected, the Eagles should be in the mix all season, Gerulis added.

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Going up for a basket during a game last season is Plymouth Christian forward Kristin Malcolm, one of the team's mainstays entering 2009-10.

he not cracked a rib late in the season.

"We're really expecting him (Eppler) to have a great year," Guernsey said. "And our backup heavyweight (Birman) is pretty good, too. We're going to have trouble finding both of them matches."

He does expect both to see a fair amount of action and both be entered in the districts.

"Until then they're going to split time a lot and they're both going to get their chances," Guernsey said. "Wherever we can I'm going to take them both and get them as many matches as we can."

"It's a heckuva problem to have when you have two guys who are both that talented."

The Wildcats will plug in some freshmen who should make noise right away, including Alec Breckenridge at 112 and Chase Kallil at 125. Breckenridge is going toe-to-

toe with Youssef in the room during practices, showing Guernsey the ninth-grader won't back down in competition.

Junior 103-pounder Shadi Jammoul will be "a man wrestling a lot of boys this year. We're expecting him to have a good year."

And ditto for seniors Curtis Crosier (171) and Brendon Varner (189).

"We're hoping for them to have good, solid years and beat who they should beat," Guernsey said. "They both work hard."

Other teams might have flashier, more accomplished wrestlers. But Guernsey likes the makeup of his squad.

"We don't have the showy kids who are returning state champs," he said. "But we've got a lot of high-quality, 30-win wrestlers on our team, which will make us tough to wrestle."

"We're a very balanced team from top to bottom."

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ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

It was 13-9 Bulldogs after the first and Salem got into enough of a groove to take a short-lived lead (15-13) following a jumper by deBear, a nifty finger roll through the paint by Stone and two free throws by junior Heidi Schmidt.

But Brighton outscored Salem 8-2 the rest of the quarter, with six of those points via free throws, to go up 21-17 at the half.

Early in the third, Stone stopped and popped from the top of the key to put the Rocks to within one point (21-20).

BUILDING THE LEAD

From there, the game unraveled for Salem as Brighton went on a 15-4 run to take a 36-24 lead.

Doing much of the damage during that stretch was senior forward Angelo Bisaro, scoring six of her team-leading 13 points.

Brighton went up 38-27 after three and held serve the final eight minutes.

Other key players for the Bulldogs included senior point guard Kirsten Tripp (11 points), senior forward Anna Mattson (nine points) and senior forward Allyson Lloyd (six points, eight rebounds).

Tallying five points in her first varsity game for Salem was Breanne Beaver, but she fouled out late in the third.

Stone led the Rocks with 13 rebounds and three blocks, while deBear registered four assists.

The Rocks get back into action at 7 p.m. Thursday against Ann Arbor Huron, also at Salem.

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Canton cage fighter heads up TXC/Gladiatorial Games

Josh Fisher representing Mash Gym in Redford and Lee Trombley of East/West Martial Arts in Canton are just two of the fighters on the card this Saturday as the TXC/Gladiatorial Games IV, Cage Fighting Championship comes to Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

In all, 15 fights make up the night's card, including four bouts carrying championship implications.

Fisher will battle 155-pound champion Tony Zilinski of Northern Combat Club, while Trombley will square off against Josh Roberts of The

System Gym for the vacated light heavyweight division title.

The mixed martial arts competition features full contact combat allowing a wide variety of fighting techniques. Rules allow use of striking and grappling techniques both while standing and on the ground.

"This is an exciting sport and the reaction from the first three Gladiatorial Games was great," said Christopher Trainor, promoter for Gladiatorial Games IV. "People left asking 'When is the next one?'"

Tickets are available and more information on the evening's activities may be

obtained by calling (877) MMA-TIXX.

Proceeds from the event will help benefit needy families this holiday season through charitable organizations such as Toys for Tots and Gleaners Food Bank.

"When we heard about Gleaners and Toys for Tots being at this event we were excited and we wanted to be part of this holiday spirit," said Anthony Burke, event sales manager for Rock Financial Showplace. "We will give a coupon for a free hot dog to anyone who makes a donation at the door."

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 3

A.A. Huron at Salem, 7 p.m.

A.A. Greenhills at Ply. Christian, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4

Ladywood at Flint Powers, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Friday, Dec. 4

Salem vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

PCS Penguins vs. Bloomfield Hills, 3:15 p.m.

at Royal Oak Lindell Arena

Plymouth at Lake Orion, 6 p.m.

Ladywood at Port Huron, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Thursday, Dec. 3

Canton at Riverview, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Lake Orion Invite, 8 a.m.

Rocket Duals at John Glenn, 9 a.m.

Clarenceville Quintet Meet, 9 a.m.

Columbia Central Invite, 9 a.m.

Grand Blanc Invitational, 9 a.m.

Blissfield Invitational, TBA.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Friday, Dec. 4

Plymouth at Saginaw, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Sault Ste. Marie vs. Plymouth (Teddy Bear Toss)

at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 4

(WHAC/MIAA Challenge)

Olivet College at Madonna, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m.

(WHAC/MIAA Challenge)

Alma College at Madonna, 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 4

(Schoolcraft College Invitational)

K'zoo Valley vs. Kennedy-King (Ill.), 5:30 p.m.

Schoolcraft vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Schoolcraft Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m.

WRAPS

FROM PAGE B1

host Wildcats to capture their season opener.

Senior forward Danielle Desilets canned 7-of-8 tries from the line and wound up with 13 points to pace Plymouth.

Also in double figures was Stacey Klonowski (12 points), while Alex Roberts and Isis Haywood tallied nine each. Chipping in with eight points was Troi Davis, while Katelyn Watson contributed six points.

CANTON 53, SALINE 13: The visiting Chiefs opened the season with offensive and defensive dominance against Saline, going up 16-5 after one quarter and then outscoring their opponent 15-0 in the second for a commanding 31-5 advantage at halftime.

Kari Schmitt sparked Canton with 19 points, five boards and five steals, with other top contributions from Robyn Mack (nine points, three rebounds) and Alyssa Cottrell (eight points, four steals).

"Defensively, we were pretty solid," Chiefs head coach Brian Samulski said. "The Schmitt twins (Kari and Sara) and (Kayla) Bridges did a great job on their best player. ... Overall, it was a great team effort, all nine players (who saw minutes) scored."

CLARENCEVILLE 40, P. CHRISTIAN 32: Livonia Clarenceville turned to its defense Tuesday night to score this come-from-behind victory over Plymouth Christian in the season-opener for both teams.

Trailing 28-17 at halftime, head coach Brady Gustafson's cagers turned the fortunes in their favor in the third quarter as the Trojans outscored PCA 9-4 to climb to within six heading to the final quarter of play.

In those last eight minutes, the Trojans held the Eagles without a basket of any kind, while scoring 14 of their own to walk away with the win.

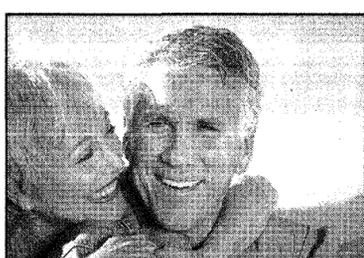
Jenna Burgess topped Clarenceville on both ends of the court as she recorded a double-double with 10 points and 20 rebounds.

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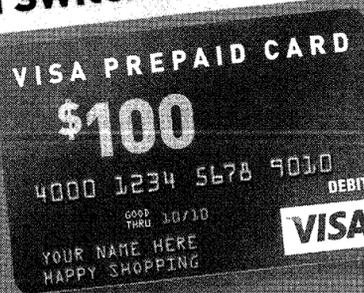
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DAVID REED

Canton junior forward Garrett Bryden (No. 11) rips a shot past Salem senior defenseman Ryan Blakey (No. 2) during Saturday nights contest at Plymouth Cultural Center. The host Rocks held on for a 4-3 win.

Rocks survive late Canton scare

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was that close, Saturday's white-hot intense varsity boys hockey tilt between host Salem and Canton at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Chiefs trailed 4-3 in the KLAAs crossover and were on the power play with a minute left and their goaltender on the bench for an extra attacker. Waves of Canton forwards jammed the goal but just couldn't get the puck behind Salem senior netminder Steven Manser, and the Rocks escaped with the 4-3 win to improve to 2-0.

"Anything could have happened, they could have scored, we could have scored (into the empty net) and I guess that's what a game like this is all about," said Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "Positioning-wise we did a nice job at the end. We crowded in front of the net and made it as hard as possible for them to get a shot through.

"The more legs that are in there the less opportunity it has to go in the net."

Canton (1-2) also missed the open net and hit a crossbar along the way, to the dismay of Chiefs head coach Jeremy Majszak.

"Sometimes the puck's with you, sometimes it's not," Majszak said. "The net was there, we hit a couple cross-bars, a couple posts, couple times hit some skates."

He might have been embellishing things a bit, but there's no denying the Chiefs did pour on the pressure after Salem broke a 3-3 tie at the 13:00 mark of the third.

"After they scored we went out there with more of a sense of urgency," Majszak continued. "We were down in their end the last five minutes of the game."

WINNING FEELING

That game-winning goal came when senior defenseman Matt Hull pinched in and zinged a shot over the

glove hand of Canton sophomore goalie Max Sexton (30 saves). On the play, a Salem shot bounced behind a Canton defenseman in the slot and Hull found himself with the puck and room to shoot.

"Somehow the puck ended up behind (the defenseman)," Hull said. "I just came up, took a good shot on net and it happened to go in.

"It's a real good feeling, especially hearing the crowd go wild and everything afterward."

Just before Hull's goal, the Chiefs turned up the offense during a power play but Manser (35 saves) was equal to the task.

Manser snared a pair of drives by senior defenseman Kyle Korte (1 goal, 1 assist), sandwiched around a nifty pad save against junior D-man Jimmy Lafontaine (1 assist) from the top of the right circle.

"Our first four games, two scrimmages, two regular season games, Steven's played each one and each one he's played extremely well," Ossenmacher said. "He's bailed us out of a lot of situations."

That game-ending scrum indicated how close the play was throughout the evening. Salem opened the scoring at 3:50 of the first when junior forward Matt Downey crashed the crease to put one behind Sexton.

Canton finally registered a shot on goal at the eight-minute mark and off the ensuing faceoff knotted the contest. Manser stopped a shot, but slick junior forward AJ Rosales (1 goal, 1 assist) put the rebound in.

The Chiefs entered the first intermission up 2-1 on a power play marker by junior forward Jordan Smith.

Salem came out with more urgency in the second and got the equalizer just 27 minutes into the frame. Senior forward Josh Jarvela (2 assists) had a shot turned aside, but senior forward Mario Macari (1 goal, 1 assist) deposited the rebound behind Sexton.

RUSH JOB

Just a minute later, the Rocks went up 3-2. Senior forward Steve Haburne chipped the puck out of his own end and junior forward Ryan Quigley picked it up in the neutral zone and rushed down the left wing.

Quigley skated into the left circle and buried his shot over Sexton's blocker.

It nearly became a 4-2 Salem lead, but the apparent goal was wiped out by a penalty.

And Canton made good on that turn of events, scoring at 11:57 on the power play to make it 3-3 after two stanzas.

Rosales dished the puck back to Korte, standing halfway between the walls in front of the Salem blue line. His slapper zipped through the pads of Manser, who appeared screened on the shot.

Early in the third, Sexton came up with a string of clutch stops — including a pokecheck to thwart a dangerous rush — to keep his team close.

But Manser held the fort at the other end, right down to the perilous final seconds.

"We played pretty well, we had our spurts," said Ossenmacher, whose team won 2-1 over Southgate Anderson in the Nov. 25 opener. "For the second game of the season I thought that we played pretty well.

"We still have a lot to work on, with our consistency and our positioning."

Majszak didn't like the loss, but he did like the way his young team competed.

"Obviously on the scoreboard we lost, but it was a back and forth game that could have gone either way," he said. "Max stood in there and made some big saves and so did their goalie.

"The big shining point of tonight is we didn't give up the last five minutes even after they scored that goal."

Both teams will have a chance to face each other again 8 p.m. Friday at Canton's Arctic Edge.

Mach 10

Shamrocks, coach enjoy 10th championship

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

In an extreme clash of styles Saturday at Detroit's Ford Field, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central used brute force to conquer finesse to capture the high school's 10th State Championship.

The Shamrocks — who barely survived OT against Canton in the Nov. 14 regional final — knocked off pass-happy Sterling Heights Stevenson 31-21 thanks to a stingy defense and a ground game that racked 360 yards while holding the Titans to minus-five yards.

"It was a fantastic year," said CC head football coach Tom Mach, at the helm for all 10 Shamrocks titles. "It was a very, very tough game. We knew Stevenson was an excellent football team in all areas.

"I feel fantastically fortunate to be in this situation. I thank all my kids for doing such a great job. They were one of the best football teams I've coached as far as camaraderie, hard work, getting along and sacrificing for each other."

It was also the first title for Mach and the Shamrocks since 2003, two years before the school moved from Breakfast Drive in Redford.

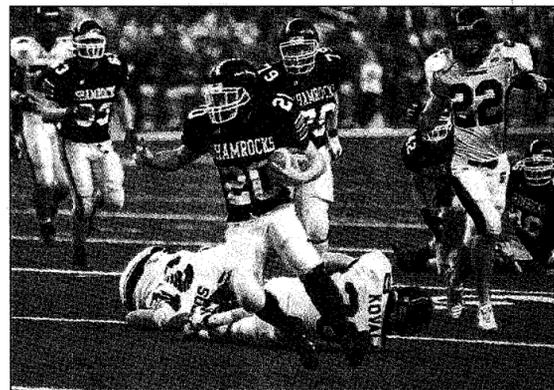
"They're all the same, but this one in particular, since we're experiencing it now, is a great, great feeling," said Mach.

The running back tandem of inside-bruiser Niko Palazeti and outside speedster Anthony Capatina carried most of the load in the Division 1 final. Palazeti carried 34 times for 146 yards, while Capatina racked up 188 on 20 carries. Both scored two touchdowns each.

"It's like pure joy," said Palazeti. "It's indescribable. It's the greatest feeling in the world."

It was the second-best output of the year for Capatina. He ran for more than 200 yards against Livonia Franklin.

"It's amazing," said Capatina. "It's the best feeling



Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Anthony Capatina (20) finds daylight in the Sterling Heights Stevenson secondary during Saturday's Division 1 football final. Capatina scored twice as the Shamrocks captured their 10th state title, including their first since exiting Redford in 2005.

I've ever had in my life."

The game started in favor of the Titans. A long kickoff and a 32-yard pass on the first play from scrimmage by star quarterback Jason Fracassa set up a field goal just moments into the contest for Stevenson.

But it would prove to be the only points of the half for the Titans.

GRINDING IT OUT

The Shamrock offense pounded out a possession time advantage of 17:29 to 6:31 for the Titans in the first half alone.

The opening drive for the Shamrocks featured seven runs by Palazeti and four by Capatina, finished off by a two-yard run by Capatina with 4:30 remaining in the opening quarter.

Following a three-and-out by Stevenson, the ground-pounding continued.

This time Capatina toted the ball five times with Palazeti carrying four times and finishing it off with a one-yard plunge barely more than three minutes into the second quarter.

Stevenson put together a solid drive on the next possession, but wound up missing a 34-yard field goal.

The same thing happened to the Shamrocks, when Justin D'Agostino's 35-yard field goal

was blocked.

The final major momentum switch of the half came via a blocked punt by Scott Byrne, giving the Shamrocks the ball at the Titan 14 with 2:18 remaining in the half.

Four plays later, Palazeti scored from the one for a commanding 21-3 halftime lead.

Stevenson made its best run in the third quarter, holding the CC offense off the scoreboard.

A 20-yard field goal by David Brown and a 75-yard pass from Fracassa to D.J. Mershman pulled the Titans within one score. Fracassa also hit Marcus Beaurem for the two-point conversion to trail 21-14.

But the Shamrocks got things rolling again with their third 12-play drive for a score.

The key play of the drive came with CC facing a fourth-and-one from its own 30. Quarterback Sam Landry snuck the ball for two yards for the first down.

Seven plays later, Capatina followed a Palazeti block on the edge for a nine-yard score and a 28-14 lead.

On the next play from scrimmage for Stevenson, Shamrocks defensive back Andrew Nelson stepped in front of a receiver on a deep ball for an interception.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Teddy Bear Toss

The Plymouth Whalers return home Saturday to host Sault Ste. Marie at 7 p.m. in the annual Teddy Bear Toss game.

Fans are encouraged to bring a new stuffed animal to Compuware Arena. The Booster Club also will have teddy bears available to purchase at the game and fans can throw them on the ice once the Whalers score their first goal.

It's a magical moment for fans and for families in need across Wayne County. All toys will then be donated to the Plymouth Community United Way children's charities.

Holiday hoops camp

The Plymouth High School Basketball Booster Club announced it will be hosting its Holiday Basketball Camp, 1-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Dec. 30 at the PHS gymnasium.

Up to 50 boys in grades 5-8 are eligible to sign up. The cost of the camp is \$50. For more information and to register, contact booster club president John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

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DEC. 3-9

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Breakfast

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, presents Breakfast with Angels, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 5. The special event for families with children age 3-7, will include breakfast, crafts, singing and a special visit from the angels. Contact the church office at (734) 464-0211 for more information.

Christmas ornament

The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vanjesson at (734) 737-9442.

Clothing closet

Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank will be open to people in need 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 9, and noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty. Donations of winter coats, gloves, boots accepted. The church also can schedule appointments to shop if your need is urgent. For more information, call (734) 927-6686

Concert

Christmas concert featuring the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. A reception will follow. Tickets \$12 each in advance; \$14 each at the door; \$10 each for groups of 10 or more. Go to SeatYourself.biz/stmatthewslivonia or call (734) 422-6038 to purchase tickets or for more information.

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington presents the men's choral society Measure for Measure in a special joint concert with the Wayne State University Concert Chorale at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile. There is no admission fee for this event, open to the general public, but donations of \$10 per person or \$25 per family are suggested. (248) 474-6170, Ext. 208

Drop and shop

6-8 p.m., Dec. 8 and 15 at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Mothers and Grandmothers will take care of children while their parents are out doing last minute errands for Christmas. No charge for the service. For information call (734) 421-5406.

Gift shop

Congregation B'nai Moshe Sisterhood of West Bloomfield presents a Holiday Gift Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday,



The Our Lady of Good Counsel ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Mass at the church.

Dec. 6. Discover gifts for all ages, including items such as handbags, clothing, toys, jewelry, works of art, Judaica and more. Congregation B'nai Moshe is located at 6800 Drake, between Maple and 14 Mile Roads in West Bloomfield. For more information, call Linda Mondrow at (248) 682-0471 or e-mail to lmondrow@aol.com

Lessons and carols

4:30 p.m., Dec. 6, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Members of the church's music ministry, including Children's and Youth choirs, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir, and contemporary group SonShine, will come together to present the music for the service, under

the direction of Minister of Music Julie Ford. The event is free, but a free-will offering will be taken. Proceeds will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. (734) 453-0190

Special needs event

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and their caretakers to attend a Christmas "Sing & Ring" event 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Participants will sing carols, ring bells, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy dessert and beverages. RSVP to Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to judy@emmanuel-livonia.org no later than Friday, Nov. 27. If local schools are closed because of heavy snow or inclement weather, the event will be cancelled.

Swedish Christmas Shop

5-8 p.m. Friday Dec. 4 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat. Dec. 5 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, corner of Drake, in Farmington Hills. Swedish Christmas ornaments and decorations, along with homemade cardamom bread and crafts from Thailand and South Africa.

DEC. 10-16

Advent celebration

Traditions of Christmas will be presented at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church will present

"Traditions of Christmas," 4:30-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 9601 W. Hubbard, Livonia. The evening will be an all ages Advent celebration including family keepsake craft stations, Christmas and Dickens Village displays and formal family pictures by the family Christmas tree. There will be storytelling by members of the Detroit Storytelling League and the Northville High School Singers will perform. A family-style dinner will be served at 6 p.m. An Advent musical, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," will be presented by the RGPC Chancel Choir at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Dec. 5. Adult tickets are \$7; children under 12 pay \$5. Advance tickets only. Call the church office at (734) 422-0494.

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. The service is 45 minutes long. For information, call (313) 532-8655.

Advent speaker

Sister Mary Finn, faculty member from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will speak at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Her topic is "So Gifted, So Responsible." RSVP via e-mail or phone to David Conrad at davidjconrad@staidanlivonia.org or (734) 425-5950.

Christmas craft

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia will host a Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12 for grades kindergarten through 6th. Kids will enjoy a morning of creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. The event is free. To sign up, call (734) 422-1470 by Thursday, Dec. 10. St. Paul's is located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road.

Christmas musical

"The Name Jesus," a Christmas musical, runs at 7 p.m., Dec. 11; 10:45 a.m., Dec. 13; 7 p.m., Dec. 18 and 6 p.m., Dec. 20, at First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill, Canton. (734) 981-6460

Christmas open house

2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. See Christmas decorations, enjoy Christmas carols and refreshments. (313) 534-7730

Concert

The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Mr. Ray Schmidt, will present its 28th Annual Christmas Concert, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of

Six Mile, in Livonia. Admission cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission in its efforts to aid those in need during the Holiday Season. (734) 425-5950.

Christmas Cantata, "Only Love,"

7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12 and 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main, Milford. (248) 684-2805.

The Detroit Handbell Ensemble performs Christmas music 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, Garden City. Directed by Susan Berry. Donations accepted. For more information call Susan Berry at (313) 278-7387 or visit www.detroithandbellensemble.org.

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study at Kirby Coney Island presents a concert by the Gospelmen Southern Gospel Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in the chapel, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Free admission. For more information call Tim Reno at (734) 266-0607

Annual Christmas Concert with the Festival Choir, Jubellation Hand Bell Choir, Children's Choir and Brass Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. www.christsaviors.org; (734) 522-6830

Hear the St. James Presbyterian Church handbell choir perform during the 10 a.m. worship service at the church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730

Cookie walk

10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 12, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia. Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound, along with various baked goods. (734) 427-2290

Readings and carols

Kneeling in Bethlehem - A Festival of Readings and Carols will be presented at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. The combined Adult, Children's and Handbell Choirs of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Lutheran church along with strings, flutes, percussion, organ and narration will tell the Christmas story through the music of composer Michael Burkhardt and the poetry of Ann Weems. Christmas cookie reception will follow the concert. For information call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at (734) 464-0211.



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WILFRED "BILL" "BUMPY" CAMERON

Age 81, November 25, 2009 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Olga. Loving father of Reid (Mary Kay) and Marcia (Brad) Saunders. Dear brother of Ruth Frazer. Grandfather of Richard (Tracey), Kasi, Ellen and Aaron Saunders, Grace (Tony) Zaszczurynski and Audra Cameron. Great grandfather of Nicholas, Mitchell, Heston and Lilly. He was preceded in death by his son Keith Francis Cameron. Mr. Cameron worked at the YMCA for many years. He was a lifelong Rotarian, where he was past President, Paul Harris fellow recipient and Friendship Exchange Volunteer. During his life Mr. Cameron wrote two columns (Court Jester and Ski-Heil) for the Observer Newspaper. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday at 11AM at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. The family suggests donation to Livonia Rotary Foundation. Please sign Bill's online guestbook at www.rggharris.com



CATHERINE KECSKES

Age 91 passed away Nov. 28, 2009. Beloved wife of John (deceased). Mother of Catherine (Al) Bright and John (Diane) Kecskes. Grandmother of Dawn (Lou) Gasbarro, Kevin (Beth) Kecskes, William (Kelly) Hunt, Keith (Lisa) Kecskes, Nicole Bright, Kevin Bingman. Great-grandmother of Dylan Hunt, Sophia and Nico Kecskes, Carson and Quinn Kecskes. Catherine has been an active member in her church, St. Mary's of Wayne, and also active in her community, Wayne, for most of her life. Visitation Thursday 3-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 Michigan Ave, Wayne. Funeral Mass Friday, in state 10:30am for an 11:00am Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne. Memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association appreciated.

JOANNA (Jury) GARRETT

Love, Compassion, Joyfulness

Former Birmingham resident Joanna Garrett died on Monday, November 23, 2009. Joanna Jury was born in Jackson, MI, on August 4, 1940 to Helen and Henry Jury. She began her lifelong love of education at the University of Michigan where she earned a B.A. and M.A. in English. She was President of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and was involved in many academic and social activities during her time in Ann Arbor. Following her graduation she taught high school English in the Birmingham School District. Joanna was a modern renaissance woman. She loved, supported, and participated in the creative arts. She was a passionate reader and was co-founder of a book club which continues to this day. She was a painter and weaver, a superb cook and gracious hostess, and above all, a teacher and mentor to children, friends and family. She was an accomplished gardener who reveled in the first blossoms of spring, the last displays of fall color, and even the raking of leaves. She loved making clothes for her grandchildren on her ancient sewing machine. She enjoyed all the performing arts, especially live theatre and movies. An avid traveler along with her husband and greatest admirer, Roger, Joanna enjoyed numerous hiking, biking, and kayaking trips in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. In 2002 she completed the famous and challenging "Coast to Coast" walk across England in 15 days. She traveled to every continent except Antarctica, and always looked forward to the exciting new experiences her travels would bring. Joanna served on the boards of the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, the Friends of the Detroit Public Library, Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, Family Life Education Council (FLEC), and the Parents League of Independent Schools. She volunteered for many worthwhile causes including Habitat for Humanity, Guyton School in Detroit, the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Greening of Detroit, Services for Older Citizens (SOC), Pewabic Pottery, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Joanna will be remembered as a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother by her family. All who knew her will remember her enthusiasm, kindness, generosity, compassion, joyfulness, beauty, and keen mind. Mrs. Garrett is survived by her husband Roger, children Jeffrey (Maria) Johnston, Hillary (Dave) Grogan, and Bevan (Steve) Gottlieb; grandchildren Katherine, Michael, Benjamin, and Madeleine Johnston, and Garrett, Sterling, and Eleanor Gottlieb, and brother William. A memorial service will be held at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church on Saturday, December 5th at 11:00 a.m. Memorial donations may be made to the University of Michigan Depression Center, Rachel Upjohn Building, 4250 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.



DOREEN J. STEVENS

Passed away quietly on November 20, 2009. Preceded in death by her loving husband Lee. Survived by her children Janet (Mike) Jensen, Randy (Mimi) Stevens, and Sheila (Tom) Gebhardt, grandchildren Sara, Christopher, Christine, Craig, Danny, Lea, Samantha, Callen, and great grandchildren Aiden, Kailie, Maggie, Kelsen, and Emmy. A Celebration of Life was held in Colorado. Memorial contributions may be made in Doreen's name to the Porter Hospital Cancer Center, 2525 S. Downing Street, Denver, CO 80210. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington, MI. www.thayer-rock.com

FRANK W. VAIL

Nov. 26, 2009 age 86 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Mamie. Dear father of Frank Jr. (Darella), Sandra (John) Kowalski, Carol (Timothy) Bell, Ronald Conrad, and the late (Joseph (the late Margaret) Vail. Brother of Albert, Bonnie Riley, Jeannie McCoy, the late Levi & Alfred. Predeceased by grandson Kevin Bell and survived by 13 grandchildren & 13 great-grandchildren. Funeral was held at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Tuesday, Dec. 1st. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com

ALMA G. ZIMMERMAN

Age 89, November 29, 2009. Beloved wife of Howard. Dear mother of Joseph (Susan) Ramer, Sharon (John) Downs, the late Ruth Ann McKinley and the late Janet Guy. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 15. Great-great-grandmother of three. Sister of Ralph Gardner, Richard Gardner and Norma Poisman. Services were held. Memorials suggested to the Garden City Builders Lodge Scholarship Fund. Arrangements by Santeiu & Son.

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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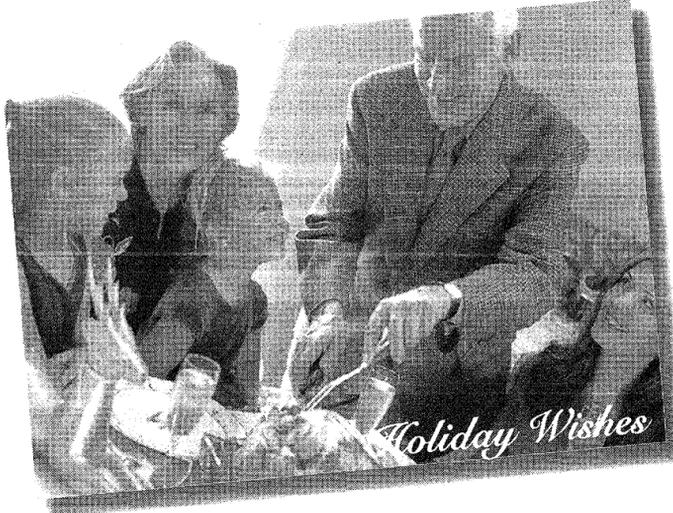
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Theater troupe inspires laughter

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Inspire Theatre stages its plays in a church.

A former church pastor founded and directs the group.

And proceeds from this weekend's run of its current show, an original comedy about a pair of former televangelists, will help needy families at Christmas.

But that's where the similarity ends between the four-year-old theater troupe and church-based drama programs.

"We are an aspiring community theatre group," said Len Fisher, founder and artistic director.

The group rents performance space at Westland Warren Road Church and has produced such favorites as *Godspell*, *Father of the Bride* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Fisher penned the current show, *KORK-TV*, which ran two weekends and continues with encore shows at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 and 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6. Tickets are \$12 and a portion of the proceeds will be used to help needy families.

"After talking with my pastor, Ron Wrightson of Life Church in Canton, I realized that there were many families in our area who are struggling even to put food on the table, much less buy presents."

He said although the current show "is great fun" the troupe wanted to "give something back" to the community.

WACKY CHARACTERS

KORK-TV is a farcical comedy about two convicted former televangelists who are ordered to turn around a failing local television station as a part of their community service project.

Among the characters they must deal with are a narcoleptic weatherman, a priest who has his own bluegrass aerobics show, a flirty receptionist, a sportscaster with Tourette syndrome and a handyman who likes explosives.

How does a comedy about fallen evan-



Deanna Lee and Bill Peterson in *KORK-TV* at Inspire Theatre.

gelists play in a church setting?

"I'm not really certain and I've not questioned it," Fisher said.

"It's reality that preachers fall from grace, so that's not a stretch. The characters are likeable enough so people accept them."

Some of the characters grew out of an improv class the troupe held last year. Fisher gave his cast a setting — television station — and they improvised scenes.

"We laughed until our sides hurt. I said this is too good. I've got to make this into a play."

FORMER PASTOR

Fisher, a Westland resident, said he found he had a gift for teaching through drama after the church he had pastored was closed. He had always been active in community theater and had produced shows at churches. He knew it was time to start his own troupe.

"It was a now or never moment. I called everyone up and said, hey, we're going to start a theater."

He said the characteristics that made him a "mediocre pastor" have turned him into a "good director."

"I push and shove people. I tell them, just remember when I push and shove you, it's not to make you feel good but to make you look good."

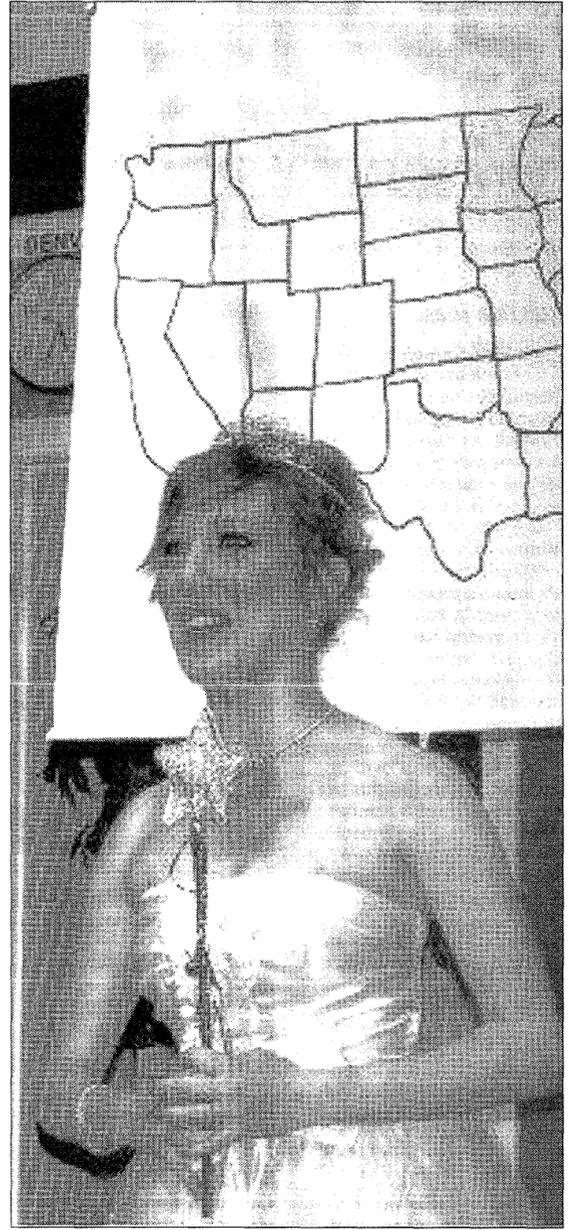
"I watch people who are timid and shy and I get them on stage and push and shove them and drag them to places they want to go, but have never been before. Then, in a performance, they steal the show. It's a wow moment for them."

Fisher works with a core group of about 25 actors and crew members. There are no membership fees, but the troupe pays its dues through "sweat equity."

"We do everything to make it fun," Fisher added.

He's working on his second original play. Auditions will be slated this month, with rehearsals starting after Christmas. The show is scheduled for Valentine's Day weekend.

For more about Inspire Theatre visit www.inspiretheatre.com.



Elizabeth Fisher in Inspire Theatre's current production, *KORK-TV*.

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website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org OE08026510

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Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560
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For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org OE08026517

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

Canton Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Yuletide Feast

Vintners Canton Winery has a lot to celebrate. WineMaker Magazine Competition has awarded Kathy and Darryl Nowacki a total of 19 medals for their participation in the largest wine competition of any kind in the World.

Celebrating the season, Vintner's Canton Winery is joining forces with one of Plymouth's premiere caterers to present "A Yuletide Feast," 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 at the Banquet Center at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church located at 47650 N. Territorial located in Plymouth, near M-14 and Beck Road.

"A Yuletide Feast" will include culinary delights by Chef B.J. Page of A Family Affair Catering in Plymouth. Guests will be treated to a fabulous menu (for menu specifics see www.afacatering.com), the Gold Medal winning wines of Vintner's Canton Winery and a festive atmosphere created by Wedding and Celebration Creations of Canton.

"A Yuletide Feast" includes dinner, wine, gratuity and tax for \$30.

For more information, call Vintner's Canton Winery at (734) 354-9463.

Goodwill VP

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit announced the promotion of Lindsay



Kathy Nowacki and Vintners Canton Winery recently were awarded 19 medals by WineMaker Magazine Competition for their participation in the largest wine competition of any kind in the world.



Chalmers

Chalmers of Canton to vice president business development, marketing, public relations, and commercial operations.

Chalmers will oversee each of these functions in support of Goodwill's ongoing efforts to help individuals across Metro

Detroit secure jobs and overcome employment challenges by becoming trained, trusted and ready to work.

"Lindsay's thorough cross-functional understanding of Goodwill's operations will be incredibly beneficial as he looks to align important marketing and public relations activities with our organizational objectives," said Lorna G. Utley, president and CEO, Goodwill Industries

of Greater Detroit. "Over the past five years, he has used his business experience to develop and cultivate new opportunities that have strengthened our ability to help Metro Detroit's unemployed secure jobs and improve their lives."

A resident of Canton, Chalmers most recently served as Goodwill's vice president of business development and commercial operations.

CHAMBER CHAT

Volunteers needed

On Saturday, Dec. 5, noon to 3 p.m., Shop Canton will be hosting a holiday event, "HO, HO, HO and a Whole Lot More," in the Red Block (between Sheldon and Morton Taylor) and the Green Block (between Morton Taylor and Lilley).

Santa will be there to greet the little ones at a great location inside JC Penney, and there will be Carriage Rides at the Harvard Square Shopping Center. The Stuff-a-Bus (toy donation collection) has named our own Canton Goodfellows as one of the recipients and will be at Borders Bookstore. A magician will be at Canton Cinema, face painters will be at Paul's Fine Jewelry, and a balloon artist will be at Once Upon a Child and "a Whole Lot More..." to come.

Anyone willing to give a few hours, please contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce office at (734) 453-4040 or e-mail admin@cantonchamber.com. Please include Name, Company, address, phone, cell and e-mail.

Holiday party

The Canton Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party takes place 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at Keller & Stein Florist & Greenhouses, Inc., 42158 Michigan Ave.

Cost is \$10, and reservations are required. Call the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or e-mail admin@cantonchamber.com. Wine tasting compliments of Holiday Market. Sponsors include Community Financial, Keller & Stein Florist & Greenhouses, Inc., Oakwood Healthcare Systems, Schoolcraft College and Showroom of Elegance.

Maps/directories

The Canton Chamber

of Commerce Community Maps and 2009 Chamber Directories are available at the Canton Chamber office.

The Canton Chamber Map includes a map of Canton with all streets and points of interest on one side and a Wayne County Map on the other side. The 2009 Directory includes information about the Canton Community as well as phone listings for State and Local Governmental Departments.

The Canton Chamber Directory also includes a member Buyer's Guide, Membership Directory, information on Chamber Membership and a complete listing of Chamber Community Events.

Photo gallery

The Canton Chamber of Commerce has added a new and exciting feature to the Chamber Web site at www.cantonchamber.com

"We now have a Photo Gallery, that covers all of our Chamber Events," said Dianne Cojei, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce. We have photos from all of our 2009 Ribbon Cuttings as well as our Luncheons, After Hours, Networking Coffees, Auction, Consumer Expos and much more.

The Chamber Web site offers a complete Directory listing of our members by category and/or by company name. We also offer easy access to other Web sites including Shop Canton, Canton Township, Canton DDA, Leisure Services, S.C.O.R.E. and much more. The Chamber Web site offers coupons and discounts for members, residents and visitors. Looking for a place to hold a meeting? Looking for a good place to eat? The Canton chamber Web site has it all... just go to www.cantonchamber.com.

Flexible spending, medical savings accounts have pluses

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us there are some tax planning opportunities to consider as 2009 winds down.

Whether it is converting existing IRA money into a Roth IRA or implementing such tax moves as making an estimated payment on State of Michigan taxes before the end of the year, the time is now. One area that many people need to consider before the end of the year is flexible spending accounts.

A flexible spending account is generally set up through an employer and it allows pre-tax dollars to cover certain non-reimbursable expenses such as health care. Although flexible spending accounts can save money, they have one downside — if you do not use the money before the end of the year you lose it. Although a few years ago the Department of Treasury did pass new regulations that allowed employers to extend the time period in which flexible spending accounts can be used, not all companies have done so.

If you participate in a flexible spending account you should review the plan provisions and determine your remaining balance.

Many people are surprised how money can be used in flexible spending account. Over the last few years, what is a permissible expenditure has been expanded. For example, you can use flexible spending account money to pay for



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

LASIK eye surgery, sunglasses and in many situations a doctor-recommended weight-loss program. The key is to look at your plan to determine what qualifies. If you have

questions, talk to the human resource representative at your company.

Many people are confused when it comes to the difference between flexible spending accounts and medical savings accounts. Although they sound similar, they are not. Medical savings accounts have much greater flexibility than flexible spending accounts. For example, in a medical savings account you are not required to use your contribution on a year-by-year basis. If you have a balance, the amount remains in your account and you can use it for years down the road. Flexible spending accounts don't have that same feature.

I am frequently asked if an employee should take advantage of a flexible account. My answer is yes. Flexible spending accounts give individuals an opportunity to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain expenses. For someone in the 28 percent tax bracket, using pre-tax versus post-tax dollars represents a 28 percent savings right off the top.

The key, however, is how much to fund these accounts. Because flexible spending accounts have the use-it-or-lose-it feature, be smart with the dollars you contribute. Consider the expenses you incur that can be covered. That is the amount to contribute. It does not always make sense for an individual or even a family to contribute the maximum. In fact, because of the use-it-or-lose feature, I recommend contributing a little less than you expect to use.

Used effectively, flexible spending accounts offer individuals or families a great opportunity to save on taxes. However, like many tax items, when they're not used properly they end up costing you money.

It would be nice if there was one type of flexible account with standard terms. That is not the case. There are many types of plans with different terms and conditions. The key is to understand your plan and use it effectively.

One last note, if your employer does not offer a flexible spending account, discuss it. In addition, if your flexible spending account does not cover certain out-of-pocket health care expenses, talk to your employer about changing the plan. You would be surprised how easy it is for employers to make changes.

Don't forget the end of the year is upon us. If you have any tax moves, don't delay, now is

the time. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Gallery challenges conventional wisdom

Art & Ideas Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio, a new art gallery and teaching studio located between Plymouth and Northville, hosts its grand opening 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. In the midst of troubling economic times, the opening of an art gallery may surprise some, but that hasn't deterred Art & Ideas' director and owner, Mike Tolinski, nor its artist-in-residence, teaching artist Shaq Kalaj.

The gallery, located just north of Plymouth's Old Village, will be showcasing over 40 of Kalaj's drawings at this first opening and exhibition, which will be followed periodically by new openings and shows of Kalaj's work throughout 2010.

"It's always the right time to open an art gallery," said Tolinski.

Kalaj agreed. "Art is always important," said Kalaj, who believes art can address all issues of life, among them health, family and emotion. "One of my slogans is 'Art equals Life.'"

Functioning also as a "teaching studio," Art & Ideas has also scheduled small art classes to begin in February, where one-on-one attention by Kalaj will be the key feature. She has taught several such classes to adults and children for



Art & Ideas Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio will feature the work of artist-in-residence Shaq Kalaj.

over a decade.

Saturday's grand opening will include a short talk by Kalaj at 7:30 p.m., followed by music, food and socializing. Art & Ideas is located at 15095 Northville Road in Plymouth Township, in Provincetown Center. It's across from Phoenix Lake, just north of the eastbound 5 Mile Rd. intersection, right at the intersection where northbound Edward Hines Drive ends at Northville Road.

For a map, directions, and other details, see www.artandideasgallery.com or call (734) 420-0775 (gallery) or (734) 634-8117 (cell).

FREE WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

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Friday and Saturday, Dec 4th & Dec 5th
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\$2.00 Admission
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- Photos with Santa & take home gift

Package just \$149 for a family of four

Phone 734-414-0600 to reserve
Reservation deadline is Monday, December 14

Breakfast-Only Tickets Are Also Available
Visit www.theinnatstjohns.com or phone 734.414.0600 for details.

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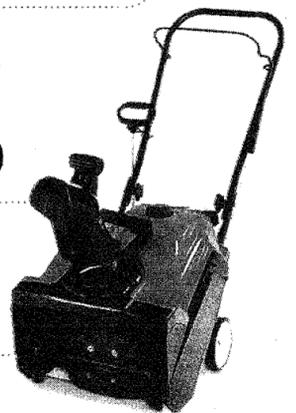
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Santa is Coming to Our Livonia Branch Saturday, December 5th!

10:00 a.m. ~ 12:30 p.m.

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(Corner of Newburgh)

- ✂ Free Pictures With Santa
- ✂ Free Stocking Filled With Candy & Surprises
- ✂ Free Snacks & Refreshments
- ✂ Bring in this ad and receive the first \$5.00 to open your account (not redeemable for cash).

To open an account, bring in the child's Social Security card.



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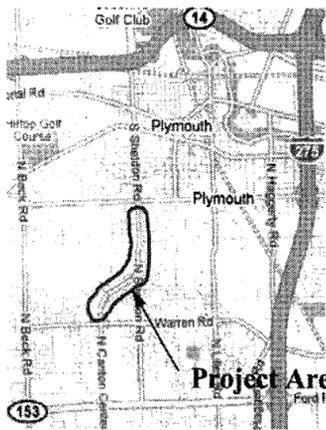
Detroit Artist Market

Location: 4719 Woodward Avenue, in the Detroit Cultural Center
Contact: (313) 832-8540 or visit www.detroitartists-market.org
Costick Center
Time/Date: Through Jan. 8, 2010; gallery hours are

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Details: The work of multimedia artist Susan Warner
Location: 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills
Contact: (248) 473-1856
Lotus Arts Gallery
Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth
Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
 IN COOPERATION WITH THE
 TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
 ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING
 FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
**SHELDON CENTER ROAD
 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
 (FROM SOUTH OF CANTON CENTER ROAD TO JOY ROAD)**

CANTON TOWNSHIP
 Monday, December 21, 2009
 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
 at the
 Township of Canton
 Administration Building
 Lower Level, Meeting Room E
 1150 Canton Center S.
 Canton Township, MI 48188



The Environmental Assessment will be available for review during normal business hours beginning December 3, 2009 and ending January 15, 2010 at the following locations:

Township of Canton
 Administration Building
 1150 Canton Center S.
 Canton Township, MI 48188

Canton Public Library
 1200 S. Canton Center
 Canton, MI 48188

Wayne County
 Department of Public Services
 Field Engineering
 Permit Office
 33809 Michigan Ave.
 Wayne, MI 48184

The Environmental Assessment is available for viewing on the Wayne County web site at <http://www.waynecounty.com/mygovt/dps/>. Look for News Releases.

Comments may be made in person at the aforementioned hearing or in writing to Kenneth M. Kucel at Wayne County Department of Public Services, Engineering Division, 415 Clifford, Detroit, MI 48226 or by email to SheldonCenterEA@co.wayne.mi.us. Written comments must be submitted no later than January 15, 2010.

Publish: December 3 & 10, 2009

069882199-348.5



A chair covered in pennies is among the pieces that will be auctioned at The 1st Annual Chair-ity Ball.

Sculpted, painted chairs auctioned to help veterans

BY SHARON DARGAY
 O&E STAFF WRITER

Grace Stanzak figured it was a natural coupling: promoting art and literacy while at the same time spotlighting social issues.

The Plymouth mom and artist created a charitable organization, called Mercy Street, to get her idea off the ground. And then she waited until she found the perfect beneficiary for the organization's inaugural fund-raising event.

She heard an interview with the head of the Michigan Veterans Foundation about homeless veterans and knew "that's who I should help."

"When I heard that veterans are at least a third of the homeless in Michigan, I just thought it was disgraceful in some respects, tragic mainly," she said. "The Michigan Veterans Foundation and Veterans Haven in Wayne are actually trying to build a section of housing for soldiers that have families and have no place to go.

"Somehow we need to do better as a country for our veterans."

She hopes funds raised through The 1st Annual Chair-ity Ball, will make a difference in veteran's lives.

Kimberly's Catering will provide food and Charles Wickens, The English Auctioneer, will auction the 70-some chairs

that have been transformed into abstract art and functional, decorated furniture by 60 artists. The event will run 7-10 p.m., at Tangent Gallery, 715 Milwaukee, in the New Center area of Detroit. Tickets are \$20, available in advance by calling (734) 276-1842, as well as at the door.

"They are plain, simple Ikea chairs," Stanzak described the unusual canvass. "They aren't fancy chairs."

Transforming the simple furniture was left up to the artists. The pieces run the gamut, from paint-splattered pieces, to mosaics and sculptures.

"We've had a ball, a lot of fun doing this," Stanzak said. "I think the people who'd want to come would have a heart for homeless veterans or just for veterans. And also, people who love art and want to get something unique for their home office, studio or to give as a gift."

Among her favorite chairs are a spiky piece turned on its head and placed on a pedestal. "Most are functional and you can sit on them. Or they are functional looking but something you might want to set in a corner."

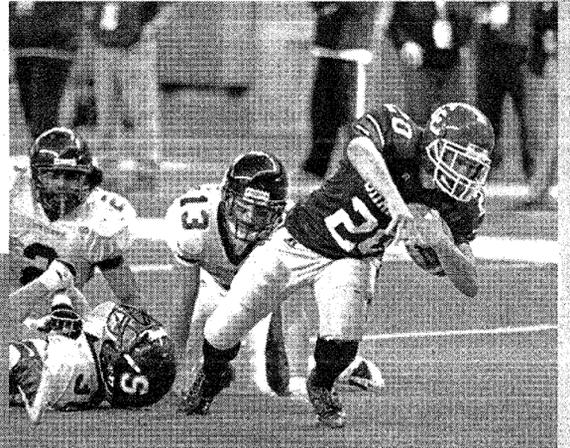
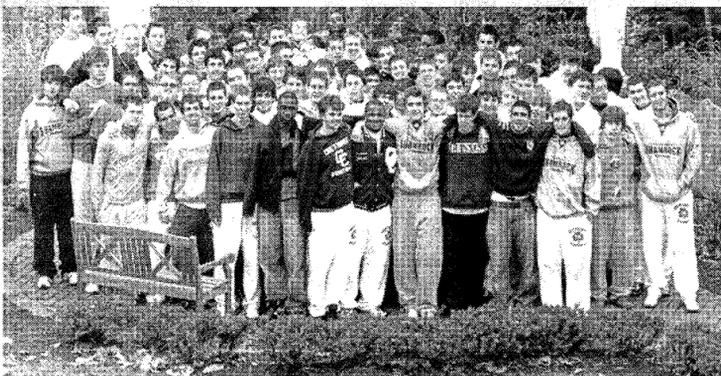
Several chairs on display now. Look for them at Westchester Barber Shop, 580 Forest, Plymouth and Plymouth Coffee Bean Company, 884 Penniman, Plymouth, and Haven, 863 Penniman, Plymouth, as well as at Mudgie's, 1300 Porter Street, Detroit.

CONGRATULATIONS

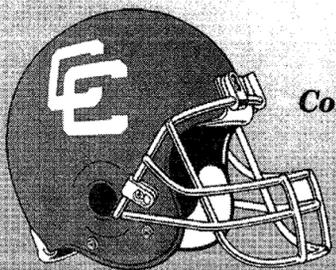
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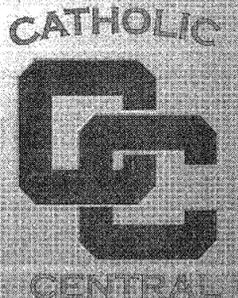


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Concert offers symphony, dance, seasonal carols

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra's upcoming performance on Saturday, Dec. 5, is more than just a seasonal concert — it's a community event.

Students from the Bunny Sanford School of Dance in Livonia will share the stage for the first half of the show; members of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic will play with the musicians on two numbers; singers from Clarenceville High School will carol. There's even an afterglow buffet at Corsi's Banquet Center.

"We did want to make it a family type thing," said Rose Kachnowski, symphony board president. "It's nice to be able to bring in the high school we're performing at. And the Livonia Youth Philharmonic, we try to get them to sit side by side with seasoned musicians once a year. This is a good concert for us to do that."

"We've had relationship with Bunny Sanford's School of Dance for many years. They are superb dancers. They make a contribution to the concert."

Although the dance school's students will perform their own full version of *The Nutcracker* at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Dec. 19 at Stevenson High School, 33500 W. Six Mile, in Livonia, they'll also dance several well-known selections during the first half of the Livonia Symphony concert at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, in Livonia.

"This is our second year," said dance teacher Marie Rabey, describing the school's participation at "The Sounds



Dancers perform "snowflakes," a selection from "The Nutcracker." They'll dance the routine Saturday, Dec. 5, at a Livonia Symphony concert.

of the Season," the symphony's Christmas show.

"It feels quite new to us. We're excited because we're dancing with live music. It's a different feeling. You hear the music differently. It brings the ballet more to life."

KEEPING IT TOGETHER

With only one dress rehearsal, student dancers "have to get used to it quickly" and learn to follow the conductor. Rabey said Volodymyr Shesiuk, Livonia Symphony conductor, "knows ballet" and keeps an eye on the dancers, making sure the music is in synch with their steps.

About 50 students will dance in the symphony show. "We're doing our snow scene and act two. Act two has all

the famous numbers — the Russian dance, the Chinese dance, the dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy."

Dancers range in age from 7 to adult. Most are in middle school and high school.

"I did it for over 17 years downtown with the Detroit Symphony. It's a part of my holiday. The whole feeling you get with the steps and the costumes evoke holiday," Rabey said. "I'm excited for my students. Between the music, costumes and steps it's entertaining all around."

AFFORDABLE

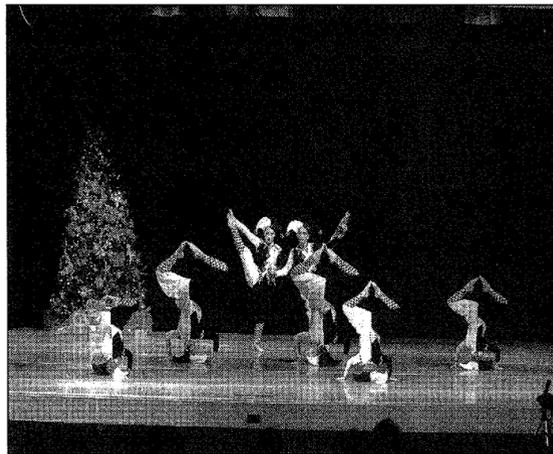
Kachnowski pointed out it's also reasonably priced entertainment. Adult tickets are \$17; children and students pay \$5.

"Regardless of age, it's \$5. Our concerts are one of the most affordable around," she said. "Even \$17, to see a full-blown production and all the community involvement, it's well worth it."

Christmas corsages will be available at the concert for a donation. Kachnowski said "it's a little something extra... giving back to the community."

The symphony contributes in an even bigger way to young musicians in the community by allowing members of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic to play with them.

"They're coming in to do a side by side. The young musicians will be sitting with the adults," said Linda Ignagni, personnel director



Students from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance perform an acrobatic routine from "The Nutcracker." Dancers will team up with the Livonia Symphony for a performance on Saturday, Dec. 5

for the Livonia Symphony and a string specialist for the Livonia Youth Philharmonic. "The kids will do *White Christmas* and *Silent Night*. It will be exciting for them."

"This will be a great concert especially for someone who has never come to a live concert. When the orchestra starts to play, it's like Wow!"

Tickets for the concert are

available at all Livonia libraries, Livonia Drugs, 33525 Five Mile, or at the door on concert night. For more information, leave a message on the symphony hotline at (734) 421-1111.

Tickets for the afterglow buffet at Corsi's are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. To make a reservation, call Kachnowski at (734) 591-0266.

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Church members make St. Lucia Day, Christmas fare

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Louise Turnquist has baked yeast breads for the St. Lucia Day breakfast celebration at her church for years — first as a student baker, then as a teacher.

"When my son was a baby there was a woman at church who taught yeast dough making. It wasn't too hard and it was fun to do," said Turnquist, who took the classes at church.

As the St. Lucia Day event at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills grew from one to four breakfast seatings, serving approximately 1,000 guests each year, the church needed more bakers to make the yeast-based cardamom bread and Lucia buns served at the event.

By then Turnquist, who lives in West Bloomfield, had started teaching her own classes, using the same cardamom bread recipe her teacher had used.

"I would teach basic yeast dough making classes. They were four weeks in a row. The first week was white bread, the second was cinnamon and pecan rolls, the third week was cardamom bread and the fourth week was Lucia buns," she said, adding that students "had to promise to bake for the Lucia celebration" if they wanted to take the class.

GROUP EFFORT

Turnquist has long given up teaching classes, but she and other women from the church still turn out cardamom bread for the annual celebration. They gathered in the church kitchen two weeks ago to make the braided bread that will be served, along with other Swedish specialties, at the St. Lucia breakfast program on Dec. 5.

"They make it fancy. Rather than it being a loaf of bread, we braid it. We put big sugar on top," Turnquist said. "It looks like the fat salt on a pretzel, but it's imported Swedish pearl sugar. It's sprinkled on top." She makes the bread



Linda Kennedy paints an egg wash on the bread just before it goes in the oven.



Louise Turnquist removes a tray of Swedish Cardamom Coffee Bread from the oven. Linda Kennedy watches.

at home for Easter and Christmas, too.

"I'm Swedish by marriage," she explained, adding that Christmas Eve dinner always includes Scandinavian fare.

"Fruit soup I only make at Christmas. My husband loves it. To me, it's too sweet and I'm a chocolate lover. That's as sweet as it comes. I'll eat a

little of it, but he'll eat bowls of it."

Turnquist's Christmas Eve dinner often includes ham, Swedish Potato Sausage — prepared by a sister-in-law — brown beans, fruit soup, cardamom bread and Swedish cookies.

The breads, cookies and soup are served at St. Lucia celebrations, as well.

Add some Swedish flair to your holiday baking

Plan a St. Lucia Day celebration or give a Christmas Eve dinner a Scandinavian twist with these recipes from members of Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills.

The church's annual St. Lucia Day breakfast on Dec. 5 is sold out, but you can recreate some of the foods at home on Dec. 13, St. Lucia's feast day. Many of the same foods are served on Christmas Eve.

Louise Turnquist offered the recipe Swedish Syrup Cookies. Jeannine McFadyen gave us the Skorpör recipe and Nancy Bergstrom submitted the cardamom bread recipe. All of the women are members of Faith Covenant Church.

greased baking pan and let rise until double. Brush tops with melted butter or slightly beaten egg and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 375 degrees, about 20 minutes. Tap lightly with fingers to see if they are done. They will sound hollow.

SWEDISH SYRUP COOKIES

- 1 cup butter — no substitution
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons dark Karo syrup
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Using a pastry blender — do not use an electric mixer — mix ingredients well. When the dough starts to leave the sides of the bowl, use your hands to blend until dough is in a soft ball. Divide into four equal parts. Shape each into a long roll, 3/4- to 1-inch diameter. Rolls will be about 12 inches long. Set oven at 300 degrees. Place two rolls on a cookie sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes. Cut diagonally while still warm. When firm enough, move from pan.

SWEDISH SKORPÖR

- 1 scant cup oleo
- 1 scant cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 tablespoons sour cream

Cream together the oleo and sugar. Add the eggs, vanilla, flour, baking soda, baking powder and sour cream. Make two long strips with the dough and place on a greased cookie sheet. Cover with a mixture of about 2-3 tablespoons cinnamon and sugar. Bake 25-30 minutes in a 350 degree oven. After baking cut into 1-inch strips. Put back into oven with heat turned off. Leave for four hours or overnight. Enjoy.

SWEDISH CARDAMOM COFFEE BREAD

- 2 tablespoons dry yeast
- 2 1/2 cups of milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 8-9 cups of flour
- 1 cup butter
- 3 eggs, beaten slightly
- 1 teaspoon powdered cardamom or more to taste; or crush 12 pods

Dissolve yeast in 1/2 cup warm water. Heat milk to warm. Add yeast, sugar, and salt to warm milk. Then gradually stir in four cups of flour and stir the batter with a spoon using 100 strokes or more, stirring in one direction only. Add the melted butter, the cardamom, and the eggs. Stir well. Gradually add the remaining flour one cup at a time until four more cups have been worked into the dough. If needed, add up to a cup more flour. Knead dough until smooth. Cover with a cloth and let rise to double.

Let rest on a floured board about 10 minutes. Divide into four pieces. Cut each piece into three strips and make a braid. Place each braid in a

SWEDISH BISCOTTI

Jeannine McFadyen of Westland, who coordinates the St. Lucia event at Faith Covenant Church, makes Skorpör for the holiday, among other treats.

"It's good to dunk in coffee. It's like a Swedish biscotti," she said. "It's very easy to make."

Turnquist likes the Swedish Syrup Cookies ("they're heavenly") that she makes for Christmas as well as for her daughter, Krista Nunemaker, who invites family to a St. Lucia dinner at her home in Chicago, Ill., every December.

As a teen Nunemaker played in the orchestra at Faith Covenant Church's St. Lucia Day celebration. She portrayed the saint in her high school senior year.

Now married, with two children of her own, she continues the tradition in her own home, wearing a St. Lucia costume as she serves Swedish fare.

"She makes the fruit soup the night before," said Turnquist, "but I do all the baking."

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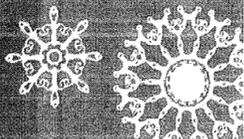
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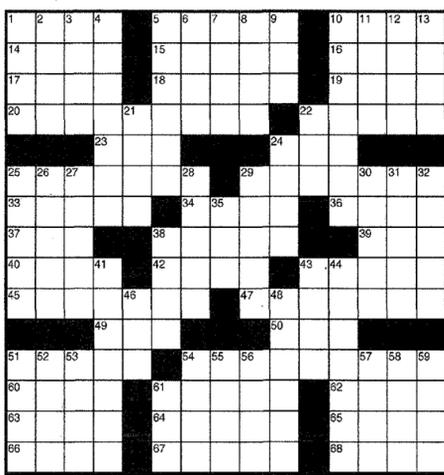
- ACROSS**
- Yellow vehicles
 - Clumsy sort
 - Ballooned
 - Toward shelter
 - Like a wolf's howl
 - Bait
 - DEA operative
 - Find a loophole
 - Minor
 - Bright flower (2 wds.)
 - Flashlight carrier
 - Up for payment
 - Vinyl records
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 - Tricks
 - Catcalls
 - Hera's husband
 - Vamoose
 - Forensic science tool
 - Scottish poet
 - Wallet stuffer
 - Scandinavian city
 - Egg on
 - Cattle country
 - Backtrack
 - TV advertiser
 - Family docs
 - Oddjob's creator
 - Raga instrument
 - Snail or slug
 - John, in Russia
- DOWN**
- Isn't up to
 - Jai
 - Broken-off glacier
 - Left the union
 - Capsized, with "over"
 - Strauss of jeans
 - River in Russia
 - Neaten up
 - Last letter
 - Tumblers
 - Big hurry
 - Cleveland's waters
 - Get threadbare
 - Sprints
 - Checkout ID
 - Not so much
 - Strong devotion
 - No brain surgeon
 - Handed out
 - Sky-colored
 - Sand hills
 - Desktop symbols

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PLAZAS SPA LACE
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 USED FIE BIN
 RAG VEG POLYGON
 AKA AIM OWL SUE
 LASAGNA ELS UTE
 NUT PTS BIRD
 DRONE SRI FETES
 RETURN TICKET
 ANTI ARC INTACT
 MEET MAE SCORED
 AWRY EDS SERIES

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- 31 Steamy dance partner
 32 Herd member
 35 Foot-pound relative
 38 Tampa Bay gridders
 41 Sheer fabric
 43 Jet engine noise
 44 In a snit
 28 Sky-colored
 29 Sand hills
 30 Desktop symbols
- 52 Currier's partner
 53 Furniture cover
 54 Good hold
 55 Equal to the task
 56 Fries or slaw
 57 Fierce feline
 58 Skip past
 59 Be adventurous
 61 Started cries



SUDOKU

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

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 E H I D O C R A V U
 C D R O M B A S I C
 D A S D D F D E G S
 R H J S O N A R K L
 O W E B S N R O M M

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SUDOKU

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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7100 Estate Sales 7100
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