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Big Apple business



TERRY WOHL

Plymouth-Canton Marching Band members James Kutcha, Walter Hanley, Erin Zaluzec, Dan Smith and Mike Wolf ham it up for the camera at the parade staging area on New York's 81st Street before stepping off in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. For more on the band, see our opinion page (A10), more photos on Page A8 and find a photo gallery at www.hometownlife.com.

District mulls plan to keep funding

All-day kindergarten targeted

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Facing the possibility of losing half of the district's funding for kindergarten students, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are moving ahead to an all-day program for more than 1,100 kindergarten students.

With the 2011-12 State Aid Act carrying a provision that cuts state funding in half for all kindergarten students in half-day programs that could carry over into the 2012-13 school year, Plymouth-Canton administrators got approval from their Board of Education Tuesday to begin developing and marketing an all-day kindergarten plan.

The need for some decision-making is made greater, according to Supt. Jeremy Hughes, because kindergarten roundup comes up in March.

"We're going to have to make this decision fairly soon," Hughes told board members at their meeting Tuesday. "There are certainly some financial implications."

The financial implications are severe. With an all-day kindergarten program, and estimating a \$7,350 per-pupil foundation grant, Plymouth-Canton would receive an estimated \$8.4 million from the state. However, if the district goes against the grain and continues with the half-day kindergarten it currently offers, that number drops to some \$4.2 million.

Plymouth-Canton is one of just three Wayne County school districts that don't offer all-day kindergarten.

Aside from the funding aspect, administrators also must wrestle with space issues. While the vast majority of the district's 16 elementary schools already have enough space to hold all-day kindergarten, three do not. Bird, Smith and Workman elementaries all fall short of the space.

Smith has only 19 of the 21 full-size classrooms it would need to house an all-day kindergarten program, while both Bird and

Please see SCHOOLS, A5

HR chief ends 21-year run

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

As Canton's longtime human resources manager, Dave Medley has been instrumental in shaping a township workforce local officials tout as among Michigan's best.

"One of the most important decisions that's ever made by any organization, including Canton Township, is that when you hire someone, you have to make sure they are the right fit," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "Dave has done a tremendous job at that."

And now local officials face the crucial task of replacing him.

Medley, 63, confirmed his decision to retire Dec. 29 and end his 21-year Canton career, leaving behind a 350-member workforce he helped assemble.

"I always had pride that I knew where the labor force came from. I tried to recruit the best people, and I got to watch them grow. It's like being the proud parent or coach."

DAVE MEDLEY
Retiring Canton HR Director

Tough tasks

He has watched entry-level employees climb the ranks to become supervisors. He has faced the difficult task of negotiating worker contract concessions amid a tough economy. He has comforted grieving survivors of Canton

employees and helped them understand the death benefits they had coming. He has seen the proud smiles of workers who needed to add a newborn child to their health insurance.

"The pluses far outweigh the bad," Medley said, reflecting on his career and his life.

Medley grew up in Jackson, where he coached youth sports as he advanced from prison guard to court referee to his first human resources job with the Jackson County Probate Court's juvenile division.

Medley started working in Canton in April 1990 as a human resources specialist and advanced within a couple of years to his job as human resources manager.

"He has done a great job for us," township Trustee John Anthony said.

Please see MEDLEY, A2

Nativity fundraiser helps homeless

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton church will embrace the true spirit of Christmas — helping those in need — by displaying more than 100 nativity scenes and collecting donations to fight Michigan's homeless problem.

Miniature to life-size nativity scenes from folk art to elegant and from whimsical to reverent will be on display this weekend inside the assembly hall of St. John Neumann Catholic Church, on Warren between Canton Center and Sheldon, said Barbara Weir, one of the event

coordinators.

St. John Neumann parish and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Elizabeth Fagan Division will host the display to raise money for homeless programs sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which helps families in Canton and other communities.

Non-parishioners are welcome. Display hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday and continue Sunday after the three morning Masses and then 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.

Simply titled "No Room at the Inn," the event draws from a biblical passage to illustrate the

plight of the homeless and needy in the local area and beyond, organizers say. The event mirrors one started nearly 20 years ago in California that has since raised more than \$250,000.

According to a report from the Lansing-based Michigan Coalition on Homelessness, 100,000 Michigan people, including 22,000 children, were homeless at some point during 2010. Many others remain on the brink of being without a warm home as cold weather tightens its grip.

Sally Harrison, director of rental assistance

Please see NATIVITY, A2



This nativity scene by Fontanini, an Italian designer, is the Grotto Creche and will be on display at St. John Neumann Church in Canton. The figures are made to look carved, but are actually molded of plastic and hand painted.

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Snyder signs school election bills

Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed legislation he said will save school districts millions of dollars by standardizing school board election dates.

Senate Bill 427, sponsored by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and House Bill 4005, sponsored by state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, require school districts to hold elections during the general elections in November of even-numbered years beginning Jan. 1. Estimates show this move could save some school districts upward of \$8 million over a two-year election cycle (in Plymouth-Canton, some \$80,000 was budgeted for last month's school board election).

"Utilizing a standard election cycle will cut administrative costs and help schools maintain focus on educating students," Snyder said. "This change also allows for more consolidated elections so voters have the best opportunity to make their voices heard."

Since 2004, districts have had the option of conducting school board elections during the odd-year general election, the odd-year May regular election, the November regular election in even and odd years, or the May regular election in even and odd years.

In Plymouth-Canton, the move extends the terms of three board members — Judy Mardigian, Adrienne Davis, Barry Simescu — whose terms would have expired in 2013. It also extends the terms of the four newest members — John Barrett, Sheila Paton, Mike Maloney and Mark Horvath — to 2016.

"I'm not thrilled," Mardigian, whose daugh-



Gov. Rick Snyder (left) signs Senate Bill 427, which moves school elections to November of even-numbered years. The bill was sponsored by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton.

ter was in kindergarten when she was first elected and is now a college graduate, said recently. "I would like to go out on the year I was supposed to. You make a commitment for a certain amount of time, and it's a commitment I take very seriously. I don't like having that decision taken out of my hands."

"I love the content of the work we do, it fascinates me and that's why I continue to do it. But at some point, it'll be time for people with kids in the district and more of a stake than I have to take up the challenge."

Toy drive still on to help needy

There's still time to help bring Christmas joy to those in need in the Canton community this holiday season. Canton Goodfellows and Canton Leisure Services are teaming up to help brighten the holidays for Canton's neediest children.

Those who haven't yet donated can bring a new, unwrapped toy to a Canton Leisure Services location. Contributions will be accepted through Dec. 9.

This year, the following Canton facilities are collecting holiday gifts: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill,

located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road; the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway; and the Leisure Services Administrative Offices, located in the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

"We remain optimistic that the impact of the economic situation in our area won't dampen anyone's holiday spirits," said Nancy Spencer of the Canton Goodfellows. "We have this wonderful opportunity to help out our neighbors in the Canton community and we hope that we can once again put smiles

on the faces of many children this holiday season."

Suggested gift donations include sports equipment, arts and crafts projects, music CDs, children's books, electronics, dress-up clothes, board games, video games, card games, Lego's, as well as new clothing, sweatshirts, and shoes. No stuffed animals, please. Cash donations and gift cards are also welcomed and can be dropped off at the Leisure Services Department.

For more information, call 734/394-5360 or visit www.cantongoodfellows.org

MEDLEY

Continued from page A1

Seeing growth

Medley moved to Canton when he was hired here, and he witnessed the township grow as more and more of its one-time farmland gave way to development, before the boom years slowed due to an economic recession.

Through it all, he said he sought to help Canton assemble the best workforce possible, though he said the ranks have fallen to 350 full-time employees from nearly 400 due to the economy.

"I always had pride that I knew where the labor force came from," Medley said. "I tried to recruit the best people, and I got to watch them grow. It's like being the proud parent or coach."

And he knows about coaching. He coaches the Salem High School girls lacrosse team — a post he is keeping in retirement — and in 2006 he was instrumental in starting the Plymouth/Canton/Salem united girls lacrosse team. Some of his players now are successful at the college level.

"It has been very rewarding,"

Medley said.

Family time

As he retires, Medley also plans to spend more time with his wife of 34 years, Jeanne, their four daughters and five grandchildren. He also intends to volunteer his time helping senior citizens explore their best options for Medicare. Moreover, he will keep up his daily workout routine to keep in shape.

Medley expects he will miss his job as human resources manager.

"I'm very attached to a lot of the people here," he said. "We have a great staff. It's difficult (to leave), but no one is irreplaceable, and we all have to move on. I'm moving on to a different portion of my life. It's time."

LaJoy said local officials will likely advertise for Medley's successor through mid-December, in hopes of having a new manager on the job by mid-January.

"I think he's done a great job over the last 21 years," LaJoy said, and as a result, "We have a tremendous amount of outstanding employees."

"We're going to miss him," LaJoy said, "but we wish him the very best."

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NATIVITY

Continued from page A1

and homeless solutions for the Michigan Housing Development Authority, called the situation "sobering" in a letter contained in the coalition's annual report.

"The economy continues to take its toll," she wrote, "and the foreclosure crisis persists."

Much like the coalition, St. John Neumann hopes to fight the problem by raising money and finding solutions to help the homeless.

Weir cited research noting that families are now the largest population of homeless. Moreover, she said many people in Canton and neighboring communities are one paycheck away from potential homelessness because they can't pay for housing, utilities, food and medical bills.

Weir said some people are living outdoors and out of cars, hotels or

a friend's garage or porch as they struggle to find their independence — and many of them aren't counted among the homeless.

Organizers of the St. John Neumann-based nativity displays are asking for \$5 donations for adults and \$1 for children, though larger amounts would be accepted.

St. John Neumann parishioners plan to bring their nativity scenes from their homes for the display — scenes made of crystal, wood, porcelain china, clay, felt and fabric. Sets depicting the Christmas story came not only from the United States but countries as far away as Italy, Germany, Mexico and Africa.

To arrange for tickets in advance or for more information, call Weir at (734) 453-1459 or Karen Stuard at (734) 844-0166. Information by e-mail may be sought at laohelizabethfagan@hotmail.com.

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AROUND CANTON

"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

SENIOR PARTY FUND-RAISER

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road in Canton

Details: Many direct sellers are holding a fundraiser for the 2012 Plymouth Canton Educational Park Senior Party for all three high schools. Direct sellers scheduled to be there include Boresha Coffee, Dove Chocolates, Mary Kay, Pixie Printz, Tastefully Simple, Bounce Away Moonwalks, Kika Paprika Clothes, Miche Handbags, Scentsy Candles, Thirty One, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Lia Sophia Jewelry, Pampered Chef, Shure Pets

and Tupperware. A portion of the proceeds to benefit the senior party.

Contact: (734) 707-3602 for information

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.

Location: Veterans Memorial Park, in front of Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth

Details: There will be a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony, a cooperative venture of the local veterans military organizations representing Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton, including American Legion Post #391, American Legion Post #112, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #528 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6695. The ceremony will conclude with the playing of "Taps" and the laying of memorial wreaths.

Contact: Frank Pawelak, fpmasterkc@aol.com



Christmas concert

The New Horizons Band of Canton presents its free, family friendly Christmas concert 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in the Evola Recital Hall, 7170 N. Haggerty Road (between Joy and Warren) in Canton. Featured songs include Silver Bells, Believe (Polar Express), Charlie Brown Christmas and other favorites. For more information contact the band director, Lauren Erickson, at (734) 453-5791 or (734) 455-4677 or email Lauren.Erickson@Evola.com. Pictured are band members (front, from left) Joy Kind, Gayle Bortz, Lauren Erickson, Steve Brothers, Ashley Palac, Annemarie Hensholdt, and (back, from left) Chuck Myers, Bob Pici, Maryjo Olsen, Becky Palac, Sarah Tatomir, Joyce Bigelow, Chad Cox, Jim Townsend, Sunho Lee, Lori Ross.





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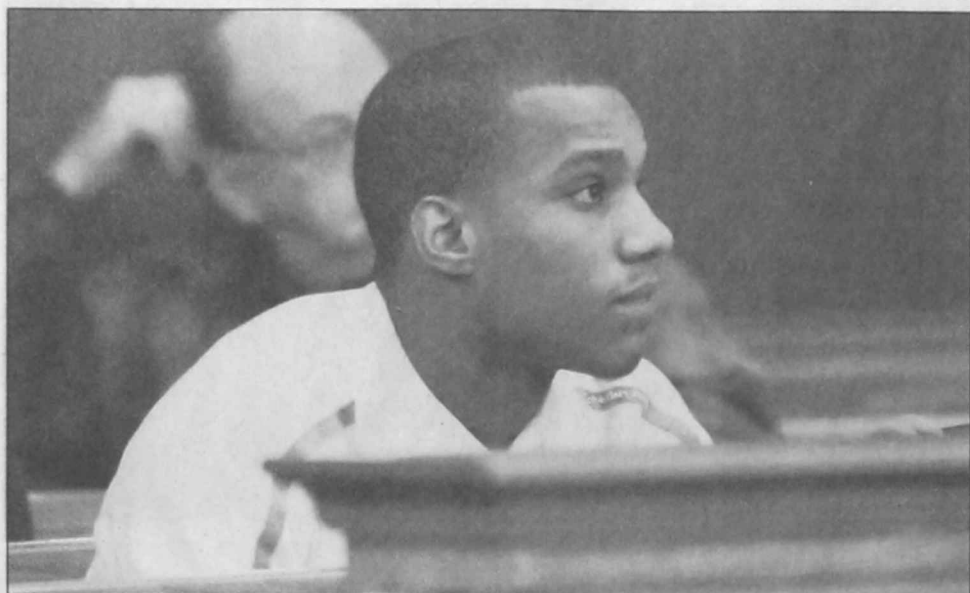
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DeMario Campbell waits in 35th District Court for his hearing to begin.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shooting suspect heads to trial

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Accused of firing gunshots outside a Canton sports complex, 19-year-old DeMario Campbell has been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of carrying a concealed weapon and reckless use of a firearm.

Campbell is facing trial after he voluntarily waived his right Monday to a preliminary examination in 35th District Court — a decision that averted testimony and automatically sent the case to the higher court for disposition.

Campbell, released on a \$10,000 bond, could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison if he is convicted as charged following allegations he fired two shots from a

.40-caliber semiautomatic handgun outside High Velocity Sports, located on Michigan Avenue near Belleville Road.

Campbell, accompanied by defense attorney Rene Cooper, stood quietly in court Monday other than indicating to 35th District Judge Ronald Lowe that he understood his decision to waive his hearing and have his case sent to circuit court. A not-guilty plea had earlier been entered for Campbell.

Canton police say the charges stem from an incident that started around 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, when two groups of young men got into an argument while playing basketball inside High Velocity Sports. Campbell was charged amid allegations he pulled the handgun from a back-

pack and fired shots after he left the popular facility.

According to the Canton Police Department, Campbell told police he was a Canton resident, though his driver's license had a Westland address.

No one was wounded during the incident, and Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said the defendant was taken into custody at the scene. Police also said the gun was confiscated after it was allegedly thrown into the trunk of a car.

High Velocity officials have said the facility has a "zero tolerance" policy for violence and that security measures were stepped up after the incident.

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Blaze blamed on light overload

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton firefighters Tuesday night doused a garage fire that started after a Christmas light display overloaded an electrical circuit, Fire Chief Tim Dunn said.

The fire occurred around 8:30 p.m. in the 44000 block of Nantucket Drive, northwest of Ford and Sheldon roads, and Dunn said no one was injured.

"No one was home at the time of the fire," Dunn said Tuesday night.

A neighbor reported the incident, and firefighters rushed to the scene and doused the blaze before it spread from the attached garage to the main part of the house, Dunn said.

"We had damage in the garage that was caused

by the fire and some smoke damage into the house," the fire chief said.

The fire served as a reminder for residents to use caution with Christmas displays.

"The fire was caused by an overloaded circuit from Christmas lights," Dunn said. "They were all plugged into one extension cord that went into one outlet, which is where the fire started."

A damage estimate wasn't immediately available.

• The fire department was back out Wednesday morning when the sixth floor of the Canton Place senior building located at 44505 Ford Road caught fire. Firefighters found light smoke and the fire unit's only occupant in the hallway.

Firefighter-paramedics took the occupant to the first floor to assess her injuries and medical condition, while additional firefighters entered the apartment. Inside the unit they found heavy smoke conditions and discovered the sprinkler system had extinguished the fire.

The fire was determined to be accidental, apparently caused when an unattended flame burning caught a cabinet on fire and subsequently set off the building's alarm and sprinkler system.

The occupant, who suffered smoke inhalation, was treated and taken to an area hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

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CRIME WATCH

Intruder alert

Canton police went to the Parthenon Coney Island at Ford and Lotz early Monday following reports that intruders had broken into the business.

Police went to the scene shortly after midnight after a report of an alarm.

The front glass door had been broken out, and walls had been damaged when intruders tried unsuccessfully to remove two flat-screen televisions.

No damage was reported to the cash register.

Home invasion

Following reports of a home invasion, Canton

police went to a house in the 41600 block of Quail Court, southeast of Cherry Hill and Lilley, around 4:35 p.m. Nov. 23 to investigate.

Numerous items were reported missing from the home, including a television, a computer, a printer, a scanner, 17 watches, four rings, necklaces, earrings, coins that had been placed in a bag, a blood pressure machine, Detroit Lions caps, a GPS unit and two camcorders.

Account tampering

Canton police went to the 600 block of Buchanan, southeast of Cher-

ry Hill and Ridge roads, after receiving reports that a couple's joint bank account had been accessed by someone who wasn't authorized.

Police went to the house shortly after 4 p.m. Nov. 23. They learned that the account had been overdrawn by \$4,000 and that debit purchases had been made in Louisiana at places such as Walmart, Dollar General and a Shell gas station.

Though it was a joint account, police learned it was the woman's debit card that had been compromised.

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

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New children's theater troupe prepares for debut

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

After weeks of rehearsing at the Plymouth Historical Museum, the area's new youth theater company is moving into its new — though perhaps temporary — home.

Some 48 children enrolled in Belo's Caught in the Act Youth Theater began rehearsing Sunday at the Barefoot Productions theater on Main Street in Plymouth, in preparation for the company's fall productions this weekend: three plays, each for actors of a different age group.

"That's always a shock when they start going on stage," said company founder Sharon Belobraidich. "That takes time."

But Belobraidich, a retired teacher who used to run the Plymouth Community Arts Council's youth theater program, has directed many of the cast members before, and she's confident they'll be ready for their debut at Barefoot.

"They'll pull it together. They always do," she



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fred the troll is Ian Barrette, and Liviana Capatina is the ballet dancer.

said.

Belobraidich, with support of parents whose children had studied with her through the PCAC, launched the company for actors ages 5-13 last summer.

She plans fall and spring shows each year, but is "still in negotiations" with Barefoot over whether to make that theater, the former Walker-Buzenberg furniture store, the troupe's perma-

nent home.

On Monday, rehearsals began at 4:30 p.m. and went into the evening; actors were getting used to the two-level stage at Barefoot, the lighting, and the wings just off the stage from which they'll make their entrances.

Belobraidich's actors are polishing three different youth-oriented shows based on classic folk tales: *The Three Billy Goats Griff*, *King Midas and the Touch of Gold*, and *The Frog Prince of Spamlot*.

"It's fun. Takes a lot of time to learn your lines, but it's fun," said Noah Flynn of Plymouth, a fifth-grader at Isbister Elementary.

Noah plays the court adviser to the king for the first half of *King Midas*, with Isabelle Tip-lady picking up the role for the second half. Belo-

braidich makes sure her productions have enough parts — with lines — for all interested actors, and both Midas and his adviser are taken up by new actors when Midas gets that golden touch.

The change works, Belobraidich said. "They do a nice job with it," she said. "They came up with a way to do it."

Noah worked with Belobraidich for several years at the PCAC; his mother, Sue, said acting has helped him build confidence and public speaking skills. "I really do think that's a big plus," she said.

Belobraidich, who is planning a round of spring shows for the first weekend in April, said she isn't sure whether the company will remain at Barefoot. But she's pleased with the support Barefoot's shown to

her new venture, as well as the support from the museum and the community as a whole.

"It's worked out well. I've just been amazed," she said.

Belo's Caught in the Act Youth Theater will make its debut with three shows this weekend at the Barefoot Productions theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. *The Three Billy Goats Griff*, with a cast of 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds, will take the stage at 7 p.m. Friday and 12:30 p.m. Saturday; *King Midas and the Touch of Gold*, with 8-, 9- and 10-year-olds, is at 2:30 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday; and *The Frog Prince of Spamlot*, with 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds, is at 10 a.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, \$6 each, will be available at the door.

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SCHOOLS

Continued from page A1

Workman fall one classroom short.

"Those three schools are pretty tight even without all-day kindergarten," said Kurt Tyszkiewicz, the district's director of student services, staffing and policy. "There's going to be a need to look at how we manage those buildings."

Hughes said that, while the state aid act currently includes the provision for

funding for all-day kindergarten, legislators are "being pressured" to give districts at least one more year.

"There is pressure on Lansing, especially in these (economic) times, to not put that economic burden on us," Hughes said.

While much of the presentation surrounded funding, Pete Kudlak, the district's director of elementary education, extolled the educational benefits of an all-day kindergarten. Surveys, he said, showed all-day kin-

dergarten students show improvements in their later academic life in everything ranging from test scores to attendance.

He said the move to all-day kindergarten would give teachers more time to ... well ... teach.

"Teachers in the half-day program are working very hard to get all their information in," said Kudlak, a former elementary teacher. "Having that gift of time to delve into the curriculum is magical."

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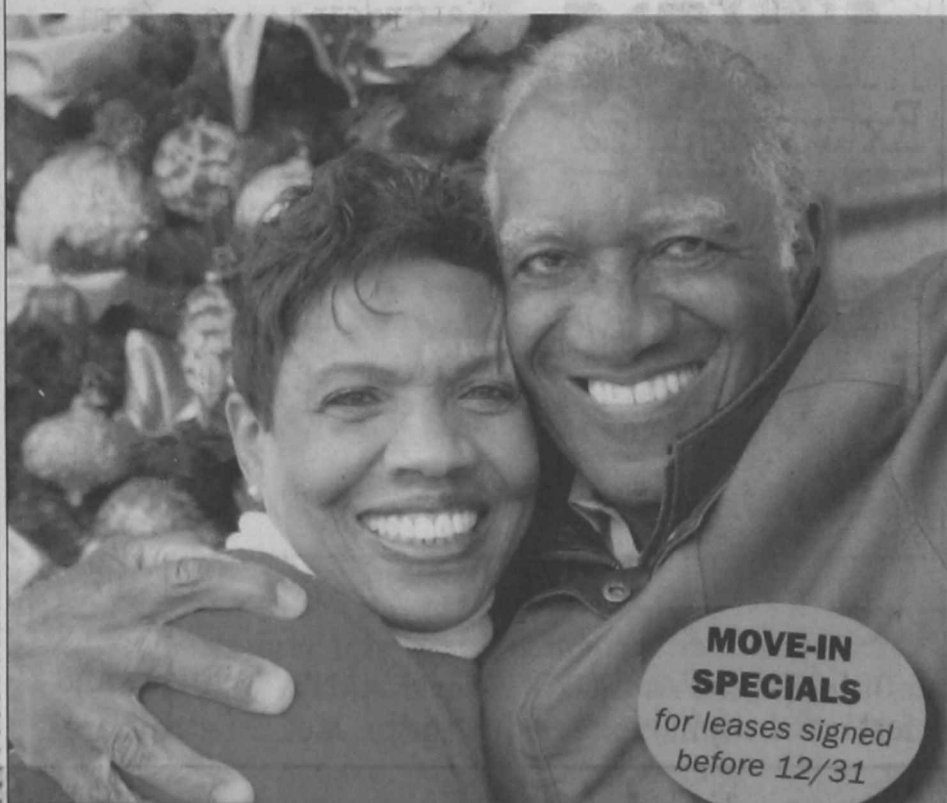
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Canton woman awaiting lung transplant

Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell only has one thing on her Christmas list, but it's a big one: a new lung.

Bracewell, a Canton resident, needs a lung transplant, but the costs are overwhelming. So volunteers are planning a bowling fundraiser to help.

In 1998, Bracewell came down with a bad cold that eventually worsened to pneumonia. She was referred to a pulmonologist, who diagnosed her with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, which has severely damaged her lungs. She knows firsthand how devastating COPD can be, as both her mother and aunt suffered from the disease. She has had frequent episodes of pneumonia since 2006, and her COPD continues to worsen. Doctors say a lung transplant is critical to her survival. She has undergone evaluations and was recently added to the transplant waiting list.

Despite her health battles, Bracewell, 63, is extremely positive and treasures every single day. She is determined to overcome her illness so she can return the many favors people have done for her.

Bracewell said she feels "blessed and thankful" for the love and support from her husband, Charles, and their two children and seven grandchildren. She "looks forward to the life-saving transplant" that will give her the ener-



Volunteers are holding a Dec. 11 bowling fundraiser to benefit Canton resident Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell (above) with medical expenses relating to the lung transplant she needs.

A CHANCE TO HELP

What: Bowling fundraiser for Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell
When: 4-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Where: Novi Bowling, 21700 Novi Road in Novi.
Why: To help Canton resident Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell with medical expenses relating to the lung transplant she needs.
Highlights: The event will include side jackpots and brackets, 50/50 raffles, a bake sale and a silent auction for items such as Carhartt clothing and snowmobile vacation packages.
Cost: \$20 (includes two games, two slices of pizza and soft drinks)
More help: To make a donation in Bracewell's honor, visit www.transplants.org, or mail a contribution to the NFT Michigan Transplant Fund, 5350 Poplar Avenue, Suite 430, Memphis, TN 38119. Be sure to write "in honor of Darlene Bracewell" in the subject line.

gy to get out of bed each day without a struggle. Because she fights for every breath, she is unable to enjoy activities such as bowling, taking

walks and exercising, but she stays busy by reading and playing cards. According to officials at the National Foundation for Transplants, a lung

transplant costs approximately \$450,000. Even with health coverage, Bracewell faces considerable medical expenses related to her transplant, NFT officials said. For the rest of her life, she will need follow-up care and daily anti-rejection medications. The cost of post-transplant medications can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month, and they are as critical to her survival as the transplant itself, the NFT said.

Although she "enjoyed" her job as a cost analyst, Bracewell has been unable to work since 2008, adding to the financial strain.

To overcome these financial challenges, Bracewell turned to the NFT for assistance. NFT is a nonprofit organization that helps transplant patients raise funds to pay for medical expenses.

"Can you imagine fighting for every single breath you take?" said Laura Hughes, NFT fundraising consultant. "That's the reality for Darlene. Most of us take the simple act of breathing for granted, but Darlene is painfully aware of each breath. At NFT, we're dedicated to helping Darlene raise the necessary funds so she can focus on her health without constantly worrying about the costs."

NFT currently assists more than 1,200 transplant candidates and recipients nationwide. For more information about NFT, please call 800-489-3863 or visit www.transplants.org.

W-W opposes proposed tax reform

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board has put Gov. Rick Snyder and state lawmakers on notice that reform may be fine but not if it comes at the expense of students' education.

The board unanimously approved resolution opposing Senate Bill 34 which would exempt all personal property from tax collection after Dec. 31, 2011.

"We need to send a message to Lansing to protect school funding," said Superintendent Greg Baracy is asking board approval of the resolution. "SB 34 would repeal the personal property tax and there has been no discussion about replacing it. This would be another significant hit on school finances."

According to an analysis of the bill by the Senate Fiscal Agency, the effect of SB 34 would be a decrease in revenue for the State School Aid Fund and an increase in revenue for the state's General Fund.

Based on 2010 taxable values, the School Aid Fund received approximately \$103.8 million in personal property taxes under the State Education Tax, while the General Fund received approximately \$52.7 million from taxes on utility property. The net impact on the General Fund was a loss of \$93 million. However, if passed, the bill would reduce School Aid Fund \$103.8 million and increase General Fund revenue by \$93 million.

The bill would affect millages levied by

local entities with taxing authority and would include taxes levied for local school district debt, county levies, and city/village/township levies, as well as levies by other authorities such as library authorities, zoo and park levies, and public safety levies for police and/or fire service.

Baracy told the board that the proposed bill would reduce school funding statewide by more than \$550 million and result in a loss of \$173,000 to the district's sinking fund as well as a loss of \$790,000 in local school debt fund collections which would increase the tax burden on homeowners.

Baracy pointed to Ford Motor Co.'s Wayne Assembly Plant and the equipment inside it, saying it's like that in other businesses.

"We have to send a message to Lansing and make it clear: If you're going to implement significant reform, you have to replace what you take out," he said. "This will really have an impact on the State Education Tax with a loss of more than \$1 billion and affect the state School Aid Fund."

"It's another raid on the School Aid Fund, and we know that last year when they did this they took hundreds and hundreds of million of dollars from education and put it elsewhere," he added. "This is the same concept, another act of taking money from education and there's no discussion about replacing it."

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Beware of bogus charities, be careful buying online

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Recently, I was doing some reading and came across some figures that dealt with identity theft and how it increases at this time of year. When you take a step back and think about it, I guess that's not so surprising. After all, this is the time of year that people are using their charge cards more than ever. That being said, I thought it would be important to remind you about how important it is to protect your sensitive information.

Identity theft is a crime that's probably been with us since the beginning of time. However, over the last decade or so with the explosion of technology, identi-

ty theft has been one of the fastest growing crimes. What makes identity theft so dangerous is that the crooks can be anywhere. Today, with the Internet and technology, people can be anywhere around the world and steal your identity. Although, there is no 100 percent way of assuring yourself that no one steals your identity, there are things that you can do to reduce the risk. In addition, being aware that there are crooks that specialize in stealing your identity will hopefully add another line of defense. After all, that's what this is all about — reducing the chance of your identity being stolen and also, if it is stolen, to reduce the consequences.

During the holiday season, one of the major sources of identity theft is bogus charities. This time of year we're inundated by phone solicitations and e-mail blasts appealing to our good nature to give to this cause or another. There are a fair number of these solicitations that have no charitable goal whatsoever, but rather

are attempts to get your personal information, such as charge card numbers. Therefore, be extremely careful as to what charity you choose to support. My general rule is I never give through a phone solicitation. It's not like the old days where kids from the local high school called you, hoping that you would donate to the school. Today with the solicitation calls coming from all over the world, I have no idea what will happen to my charge card information. Therefore my rule to protect myself is, if I am not familiar with a charity and have not given to them in the past, I will never give through a phone solicitation and that includes my local fire and police departments.

This time of year there are all sorts of deals that will give you discounts to sign up for a charge card. Most of these deals are legitimate and there are good ways to save a few dollars on your purchase. However, once again you have to be careful as to who you give this information to. A reputa-

ble store is one thing, but solicitations you see on the internet to get discounts are another thing. I'm very cautious as to whom I give information to and that includes solicitations for charge cards. The discount you receive is certainly not worth the aggravation if your identity is stolen.

People are buying more and more on the Internet. The Internet has some great advantages, but one of the disadvantages is that it's easy for crooks to operate. Therefore, during this holiday season, be extremely careful of the sites that you use for your purchases. Particularly, be very careful about linking to a site directly from an e-mail. Some of these crooks are so good that you can't tell the difference between a legitimate e-mail and a phony one. Therefore, my advice if you are going to go shopping on the Internet, type the web address in yourself as opposed to linking from an e-mail. This will protect you from being sent to a bogus site.

We must be careful at all times

regarding who we give our sensitive information to. In addition, it is also important that when we get statements and invoices that we review them for accuracy. It is always important to remember that when it comes to identity theft, you are the last line of defense for yourself. Being diligent and aware of the possibility of identity theft will not only reduce your risk of having your identity stolen, but also limit the damages that may occur.

It used to be when they said shop responsibly they meant, staying within your budget. In today's world, shopping responsibly means more than staying within your budget; it also means making sure that you protect your sensitive financial information at all times. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money-matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Robert Cuffe enjoys helping people buy and sell homes

If you are looking to buy or sell a house in the Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne & Oakland county area, Robert Cuffe wants to talk to you. With 23 years of experience in the Real Estate business, Cuffe offers the same high quality service to all his clients regardless of the price of their home. Robert is the Broker/Owner of the Remerica Integrity II Realty office on 7 Mile in Northville and has just surpassed over \$124,000,000 in sales. "I enjoy working with people and have made a lot of friends through the real estate business", Robert said. "I love what I do. I enjoy seeing people's excitement upon closing on their first home, investment home or dream house".

Cuffe works with his clients until he finds the right home for them. On occasion, Cuffe has had to suggest that clients not purchase a particular house because he thought the home wasn't right for them. It is this kind of honesty that has helped him to create a loyal and steadfast client base. "I have clients that have come back to me to sell their second or third house and now their children are coming to me to buy their first house," Robert said. "Repeat business is extremely important to my real estate business."

Cuffe began his career in 1989 by ranking first in sales & listings for several years in a row, he then managed a Real Estate office in Livonia and ultimately became an owner of 3 offices, all while maintaining a high level of service to his customers and his agents.

Robert has his own website that provides information about his listings and listings that are available throughout the entire

MLS system. Anyone with a computer can go to his website and create a profile that will enable them to receive by email any new listings that come available within their search parameters. Give it a try at: www.robertcuffe.com

Cuffe constantly stays in touch with his clients to keep them informed about every aspect of their real estate transaction. He provides his clients with detailed reports by mail or email, with information on showings, feedback, advertising & marketing efforts. He also does a market analysis of all homes his clients are buying to make sure they are getting the best value for their money.

Cuffe grew up in Livonia and now resides in Northville with his wife, their three sons, and two Puggle dogs Sammi & Bailey.

If you or anyone you know need the assistance of a professional full-time Realtor, or if you have ever considered getting into the Real Estate business, I encourage you to call Robert Cuffe today.

REMERICA

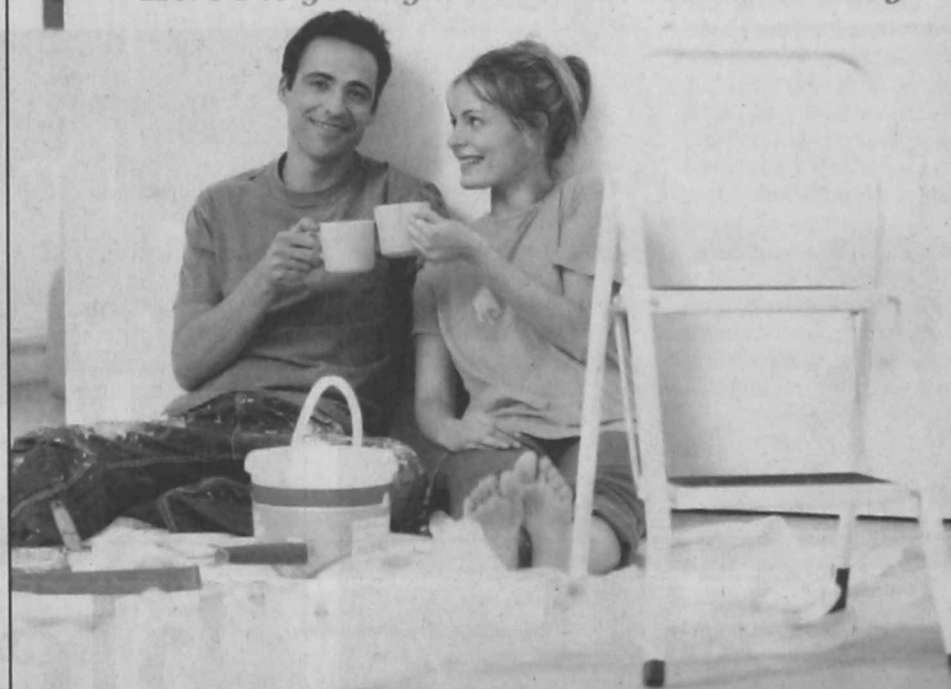
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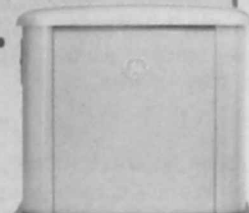
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A bite out of the Big Apple

They came, they saw and they conquered.

And while they were doing all that, the 180 members of the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band who took the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade by storm were having fun.

Accompanied by nearly as many chaperones, coaches and staff, the band spent last week in the Big Apple, seeing the sights and performing in the biggest parade of them all.

And the performance didn't really surprise their leader.

"It took the kids a little bit to get their bearings, because they weren't used to it, but by the end, they were having a blast," said director of bands David Armbruster. "The kids nailed it on national television. They had a fantastic performance ... I couldn't be happier."



PHOTOS BY TERRY WOHL

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band steps off in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, with band members (from left) Alex Harden, Rafael Bernal, Brian Karafiasz, Kate Fessler, Daniel Kempfer and Tony Duda stepping lively.



Nick Potter and Audra Gamble ride the ferry to Ellis Island.



Queued up for dress rehearsal in Herald Square are (from left) Jeremy Welsch, Lucy Kwak, Katie Wolf, Julia Triebwasser, Veronica DeVirgilio, Brian Quintos and drum major Grace Wine.



Band members Amanda Houghton, Sarah Wohl and Emily Hanson strike a Charlie's Angels pose on the streets of New York during their Thanksgiving trip.



Drum majors Shelbie Torok, Grace Wine and Alison Johnson at the parade staging area on East 81st Street.



Band director David Armbruster (right) has encouragement for band members (from left) Kathryn Flucht, Melissa Standing, Meghn Gruenberg and James Sasinowski at the staging area.



Band directors Dave Armbruster and Jon Thomann boogie with the rest of the Plymouth-Canton Marching band on the dinner/dance cruise Friday.

Jason Jakary (from left), Sarah Wohl, Amanda Houghton, Mike Engelman, Matt McCoy, Andrew LaDuke and Alexis Shaft get a bird's eye view of the city from the Top of the Rock Observation Center.



Jessica Longe, Justine Williams, Jessica Hodge, Amanda Grimm, chaperon Julie Hodge, Bella Comsa, Liz Cody, Sara Pascalo and Gena Adler in Battery Park.



Tires play role in vehicle safety

Now that the rain and snow season is arriving, drivers are thinking about new tires for their car, truck or SUV. And for a good reason, according to the folks at Mobile Tire Company: Tires play a very important role in vehicle safety. Staffers at Mobile Tire Company, Michigan's leading Mobile Tire Shop that mounts, balances and installs your new tires at your home or office, often get asked, "Do I really need snow tires?"

Snow tires have been around for many, many years. When they were first introduced, their tread pattern was beneficial in snow. Over recent years, tire manufacturers have made significant improvements in the tire compound and tread design making them much better in all types of winter weather, so, it's really more appropriate to call them winter tires, not snow tires, according to Josh Cohen of Mobile Tire.

Cohen said winter tires are made to perform in temperatures of 45 degrees or less. These tires will remain pliable in these temperatures conforming to the road much better than an all season tire. The more rubber that makes contact with the road, the more traction the vehicle will have.

In addition to the softer, more pliable rubber compound, the tread design has been improved also, according to Cohen. Older designs incorporated the use of studs. Today, winter tires are so refined, studs are not needed and many of the newer tire designs don't even accept studs.

Winter tires have several key tread design components that make



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tires play a key role in vehicle safety while dealing with Michigan winters, local tire experts said.

them better than all season tires in sub-45-degree conditions. The tire blocks are smaller in size, allowing them to conform to the road better. Winter tires have more sipes, which is a process of putting thin slices in the tire to increase traction, many of which are cross-directional. One of the biggest advancements is how well winter tires channel away water.

According to Cohen, this is an advantage in slushy conditions which is very heavy and thick. These new tire designs can channel slush out faster, allowing for better handling and stopping characteristics. Lastly, many of these tire designs have increased traction on ice. For example, Nitto tire uses crushed walnuts, while Continental uses glass shards, in their rubber compound to create a scratching effect on ice.

This combination of a more pliable rubber compound and tread design provide superior traction in winter weather conditions.

Another common question is why winter tires are needed if I have a good all season tire. All season tires use is more

common in the United States than in other parts of the world. In Europe, Cohen said, it's common practice to use summer tires and winter tires. The all season tire was created as a good general use tire for the consumer; however, it was not designed to perform the same as a specialty tire. Compared to a winter tire, an all season will have less siping, may channel less water, will have a more stiff rubber compound, and will not have any ice-scratching particles. It's for these reasons a winter tire provides more predictable driving characteristics in cooler temperatures.

Lastly, if you are considering changing to snow tires, it's recommended by 70 percent of the OEMs to change all four tires, according to Cohen. Since the tire has different characteristics to it, mixing winter and all season will diminish the overall performance of your vehicle.

Further questions about winter tires, or tires in general, can be directed to Mobile Tire at (734) 506-TIRE (8473) or visit www.mobiletirecompany.com



Employees from the Plumbing Professors call center in Canton pose with folks from the company's local service center in Farmington Hills.

Local firm saves landscape, money

When a sewer problem arises, homeowners could be spending much more money than necessary.

Plumbing Professors, based in Canton, looks at not only saving residents money, but also preserving landscape and trees in an eco-friendly green way. Company officials say their Sewer Epoxy Pipe Lining saves money and time and eliminates messes and "may be just what your home needs to repair a problem that normally requires digging up and removing smelly, bulky pieces of crud encrusted pipes."

Lining simply requires accessing the problem pipes through small holes or clean out valves. A 10-20 year warranty applies, along with a 100-percent guarantee of "No Dig" sewer and pipe repairs which amounts to no costs spent on restoration of landscaping.

"Epoxy Pipe Lining is very environmentally friendly and you're able to save structures including patios, pools, besides your treasured land-

scaping," officials pointed out.

As a case in point, Plumbing Professors has been on The University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor for two months now. The notable East Quad Dormitory has plans to undergo renovation next year but before the university begins construction, Plumbing Professors has been hired to eliminate storm water from entering the lower level of the building during heavy rains.

The contract, officials said, was awarded to them because of their ability to preserve a number of historic 100-year-old trees that's roots have grown over the dorms storm system. Plumbing Professors will be using their "No Dig" Epoxy Pipe Lining Process which will repair the existing Storm Piping System to prevent future root infiltration without needing to damage or remove trees which are an icon at The University of Michigan.

In addition, they've

been working on the grounds of the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit for over two years after being awarded the contract to install their Cured in Place Pipe System, to repair deteriorated cast iron rain water conductors that were imbedded in concrete and limestone. During rains these 106-year-old conductors would leak into the church and stain the limestone block.

Plumbing Professors installed over 700 feet of cured-in-place pipe inside the old weathered pipe to eliminate the problem, saving tens of thousands of dollars. This modern process reduces expenses, is fast and keeps the sewage contaminants in the drainage system.

Plumbing Professors is the third-largest small diameter pipe lining company in the United States and Canada serving residential and commercial properties. Plumbing Professors can be reached by calling (800) 654-1300.

CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Diabetes fundraiser

Throughout December, Cellular & More, a Verizon Wireless premium retailer, will be donating a portion of their sales to the Detroit Moose charity hockey game benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International.

"We're hoping to raise thousands of dollars throughout December," Cellular & More Owner Robert Emery said. "It's important to give back to our communities, especially during the season on giving."

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club, a division of Hockey North America, will be playing the Detroit Red Wings Alumni team Jan. 7 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. All proceeds raised will be directly donated to the JDRFI. At last year's game, the Detroit Moose raised \$16,250 in donations for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

"We're very happy to have Cellular & More's support to help benefit this great cause," Detroit Moose Captain Derek Fowler said. "This year we're hoping to raise even more money."

Tickets and additional information

about the Detroit Moose vs. Detroit Red Wings Alumni are available at www.detroitmoose.org.

Showroom in campaign

Showroom of Elegance is participating in a big way in the "No Child Without Christmas" campaign for the Canton Goodfellows.

Through Dec. 10, bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation to Showroom to help the families in the local community that are in need this holiday season. What's more, anyone contributing \$10 worth of food or cash donations will receive a free gift or gift card (your choice) from the Showroom of Elegance, while supplies last.

To support local families, donate at Showroom of Elegance, 6018 Canton Center Road in Canton.

For more information on Showroom of Elegance's collections and designer jewelry, visit www.showroomofelegance.com or call at (734) 207-1906.

To see how to donate to Canton Goodfellows at their many events this holiday season, visit <http://Cantongoodfellows.org>.

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OUR VIEWS



TERRY WOHL

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band nailed their performance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Nailed it

Band earns respect with Macy's march

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band got a lot of attention last week for its appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

And they deserved every bit of it.

The PCEP band was chosen, using a stiff set of qualifying criteria, to be the first Michigan high school marching band to march in the New York City tradition.

Since being notified of their selection last year, band members put in countless hours getting ready, choosing the music they'd play, setting the steps, honing the performance. They did all that while also preparing for, and marching successfully through, its usual competition season. They passed on the band's annual sojourn to nationals in Indianapolis this year in order to be ready for, and take part in, the Macy's parade.

Think they didn't have their work cut out for them? Band director David Armbruster was trying to figure out how to shave off the last tenths of a second off the performance of two "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" songs to fit it into the parade's strict guidelines.

They rode buses — OK, they were private coaches, not school buses, but still they rode buses — to get to New York. They were up at 3:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day to make final preparations, then were back at the site just hours later to step off.

They fought off all the distractions of the Big Apple and the nerves of three million people along the parade route and a national television audience. They embraced the challenge and, as they have done in local, state and national competitions, shined brightly.

It wasn't all business. The kids saw celebrities and sights, visited the Empire State Building and Times Square.

For at least part of their five-day trip, they were tourists like millions of other visitors to the city.

But when it was time to get down to business, the band was all business. They shook off the nerves, ramped up the effort and stepped off with pride. For the length of the parade route, and particularly for their 75 seconds on the mark, Plymouth-Canton marchers showed a nation what the folks back home have known for a long time.

They did what they always do, whether it's on a small scale or a national platform.

They nailed it.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you planning to shop online during Cyber Monday? Why or why not?

We asked this question Monday at the Canton Public Library.



"No. I just don't have time for it."

Gabrielle Green
Canton



"No. It's no fun to shop online. I'll probably check the prices though."

Derrick Osborne
Monroe



"No — too many crazies on that thing. You don't know what you're getting or who you're getting it from."

Annette Lemmon
Canton



"No. I don't want my credit card or computer to be jeopardized. It's a prime time for people to try to do that."

Dee Crowe
Belleville

LETTERS

Underlying meaning

There's been a lot of talk lately about "going green" and trying to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. Commercials, newspaper ads, and catalogs all stress a company's efforts to be green and be more environmentally friendly, but really what does that mean and why is it important?

Really "being green" and doing what's right for the environment is just part of the bigger picture, being more sustainable. In essence, sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of today without hindering the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Acting sustainably isn't just doing one thing or acting in a way that benefits just one aspect of the world. It's all about creating a lasting world that will be able to support generations and generations of human life. Acting sustainably isn't always easy or cheap but it's one that will make an impact on the entire world.

To act in a truly sustainable way we need to think how the actions we take affect the entire world around us. Yes, this includes the trees, rainforest and such, that many

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Canton Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

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

companies focus on. But it also means thinking about the bigger picture. This includes thinking about where the energy we use comes from and how much of it is left in the world, about how we use natural resources that are limited and we don't think anything about, such as water, how much we pollute and how that affects the atmosphere for future generations. Keep in mind these aren't the

only things considered when trying to be more sustainable, just some key points.

If all companies start to produce more sustainable products and do so in more sustainable ways we will by far create a much better world for the future. But companies can't be held responsible alone, we as people have to make an effort to be more sustainable and have to make a conscious effort as consumers to purchase goods that are sustainable. And by doing so we can truly be green and help preserve the world that we have today for the future.

Norm Freda
Canton

Hear all voices

Regarding Mr. Scannell's statement that students shouldn't be allowed on a committee to develop standards of conduct at school dances:

What Mr. Scannell doesn't consider is that there are probably many, many students who are also uncomfortable and disgusted by what goes on at the dances. It's very important that their voices be heard and supported.

Victoria DeVinney
Canton

GUEST COLUMN

Tax credit elimination won't stop generosity

By Joan Noricks
Guest Columnist

When Gov. Rick Snyder first proposed eliminating state tax credits for contributions to community foundations and other charitable organizations, the nonprofit world gasped. When the state Legislature later adopted Snyder's budget reform package, the nonprofit world took pause.

Following the initial shock, nonprofit leaders snapped themselves back to the reality facing Michigan and realized that any support always has, and always will be, valued — regardless of tax incentives.

As the end of 2011 draws near, individuals, families and businesses may hear from favorite nonprofit agencies. These organizations will remind you that should you want to take advantage of the state tax credit for charitable contributions, now is the time. The venerable tax credit will be eliminated as of Jan. 1, 2012.

The elimination was included in Gov. Snyder's tax reform package to reduce Michigan's budget deficit. Snyder has claimed that the tax credit elimination will save the state gov-

ernment some \$50 million and eventually spur job growth.

The Canton Community Foundation understands that all sectors must do their part to make Michigan stronger. The foundation has encouraged all area nonprofits to inform their donors of this impending change. From all accounts, our area nonprofits are forging ahead and fulfilling their missions and goals.

Under the current tax credit, donors who contribute \$200 or more receive a tax credit of \$100. If filing jointly, a gift of \$400 or more will provide a tax credit of \$200. Businesses fare even better.

A gift of \$10,000 or more will receive a tax credit of \$5,000 or 5 percent of the total tax liability for that business, or whichever is less.

And more good news for donors is that the federal income tax deduction donors earn with contributions will remain in effect, despite Michigan's changes.

The Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit was signed into law in late 1988 to encourage individuals, families and businesses to help build permanent endowments for community foundations. Before the birth of the state tax credit, community foundations served only about one-third of Michigan. Today, community foundations serve 64 of Michigan's 83 counties.

Endowment growth is paramount to charitable organizations as the larger the endow-

ment, the more grants that can be given to worthy causes. In 1989, grants awarded by foundations hovered at about \$1.7 million. By 2008, the value of awarded grants grew to more than \$130 million.

That's just a quick indication of how well the state tax credit worked for community foundations and other charitable organizations that were included under the 1988 state law. Organizations such as libraries, universities, museums, public radio, food banks and homeless shelters will be among those organizations that will lose this advantage beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

Unfortunately, there is irony to the elimination of the Michigan tax credit. As public coffers continue to shrink, public budgets are cut, and public services are reduced, the burden of providing eliminated services to individuals and families in need will fall to nonprofit agencies.

The state credit was a much-needed incentive to help build the state's charitable organizations during the past two decades. Of course, the incentive will be missed. But at the Canton Community Foundation we believe that those who want to help others in the community will continue their generosity with, or without an incentive.

Joan Noricks is the president of the Canton Community Foundation. She may be reached at (734) 495-1200 or at jnoricks@cantonfoundation.org.



Cast members (back, from left) Jonathon Wennstrom and Christine Steves and (front, from left) Linda Stanko, Michael Corliss, David Alexander, Elizabeth Whitcomb and Nathan Corliss help Barefoot Productions bring "A Christmas Carol - A Narrative" to the stage Dec. 10.

Barefoot's 'A Christmas Carol' keeps tradition

Plymouth's own Barefoot Productions will keep a holiday tradition going with its third annual production of "A Christmas Carol - A Narrative," Saturday, Dec. 10. This unique and intimate reading of A Christmas Carol is a tribute to the original performances given by Charles Dickens.

Craig Hane, artistic director and founder of Barefoot Productions, edited and adapted his own version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" for the annual, reading presented by Barefoot Productions. Hane's adaptation is 'voiced' for seven actors to perform over 42 character voices.

Performers include Linda Stanko (Grosse Isle), Jonathon Wennstrom (Livonia), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), David Alexander (Dearborn), Elizabeth Whitcomb (Livonia) and Nathan Corliss (Canton), all of whom return for their third year to perform the reading. New to the cast this year is Michael Corliss of Livonia.

nia.

The suggested \$30 donation for admission includes tasty offerings from local and area merchants, and supports Barefoot Productions' activities throughout the year. Returning for the third year will be hot-mulled and cold wines from the Vintner's Canton Winery, a selection of teas from Plymouth's own TranquiliTea, and an assortment of pastries from Sweets21. Also helping are Gerard Tuxedo Rental and Your Event Party Rental.

All proceeds of the night will aid in the production budget for the remainder of Barefoot Productions 2011-2012 season. All donations are tax-deductible. Barefoot Productions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community theater, Plymouth's only live, adult, 'Theater for the Community.'

Barefoot Production is located at 240 N. Main Street, Plymouth, in the old, Walker/Buzenberg Building, by the train tracks, next to Bode's restaurant.



The Spotlight on Youth cast features youth actors from Plymouth, Canton, Belleville, Westland, South Lyon and Dearborn Heights.

Spotlight Players bring 'Virginia' to stage

Audiences at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill will be on hand when Virginia gets her question answered as Spotlight on Youth presents, "Santa Lives! Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," Dec. 8-11.

Inspired by the famous editorial by Francis R. Church of the "New York Sun Times" an 8-year old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, asked if there really was a Santa Claus. In this play, Virginia loses Christmas spirit when her classmates bah-humbug the holiday play she writes for the school. Will Virginia get her holiday spirit back? Maybe a surprise visit from Santa Claus is all she needs.

This show is 90 minutes long and, organizers say, perfect for little ones who can't sit still long. Santa Claus will be available after the show to take photos with kids.

"This show will appeal to all of those who believe and may not believe in Santa Claus," director Barbara Bloom

said. "You will not only enjoy your time spent watching this charming production but also leave the theater knowing that Santa lives!"

The Spotlight on Youth cast features more than 20 youth actors from Plymouth, Canton, Belleville, Westland, South Lyon and Dearborn Heights.

The play shows 7 p.m. Dec. 8-9, 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 10 and 2 p.m. Dec. 11, in the Biltmore Studio of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Tickets are available by phone at the Village Theater box office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or www.spotlightplayersmi.org or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door. Tickets are \$9-\$10 each.

Spotlight Players is the resident adult theater group for the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Formerly the Plymouth Theater Guild, Spotlight

Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

and has been part of the community for 65 years.

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New comment system requires real names of users

By Larry Ruehlen
Observer Staff Writer

It's the end of the anonymous era.

Hometownlife.com, the website for the *Observer & Eccentric* and Hometown Weekly Newspapers, now requires posters to sign on by using their real names. Company officials believe the move will result in a "higher-quality discussion" on story chats.

"We ask those submitting letters to the editor to sign their name to printed material and this is no different. I believe this new policy is a start in raising the level of quality discussion and engagement on our website," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor and publisher of the *O&E* and Hometown Weeklies and hometownlife.com.

Readers are required to log into a registered Facebook account to comment on *Plymouth Observer* stories at Hometownlife.com. Gannett Co. Inc. announced in October it will make that change for all of its U.S. community publishing and broadcast sites.

Other Gannett-owned sites affected in Michigan are the *Lansing State Journal*, *Detroit Free Press*, *The Livingston Daily Press & Argus*, *Battle Creek Enquirer* and *WZZM-TV*. The official Gannett-wide Facebook comments deployment began last week and is scheduled to finish in January.

News organizations that implement Facebook commenting abilities on their sites say they are seeing "higher-quality" discussion and a "significant increase in referral traffic," according to a report by Jeff Sonderman, a digital media fellow at The Poynter Institute. Poynter is a school in St. Petersburg, Fla., that advocates for

journalistic excellence.

The Gannett changes to the new commenting system weren't reckless, said Luz Long, Gannett Digital project coordinator.

"We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment," the Gannett e-mail announcement sent by Long reads. "However, our aim is not to shut out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages high-quality and relevant contributions."

"By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us."

Pilot study

Gannett selected five sites of varying audience sizes to pilot the changes over the course of a few months, Long said. The pilot sites were ksdk.com, 13wmaz.com, travel.usatoday.com, newspress.com and desmoinesregister.com.

The changes were prompted in an effort to keep up with digital media trends, Long said.

Gannett will continue using Pluck, the company's current application programming interface for commenting, to power other website components, such as reader blogs. Alternatives to the Pluck API system, however, will be "explored in the coming months," according to Gannett's announcement.

The new system prohibits pornography, hate speech, threatening language, graphic violence, bullying, and spam, aligning with current Gannett moderation guidelines. Current Gannett moderation policies ban abuse, harassment, threats, vulgarity and spam.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Why the switch?

A: The decision to change our commenting tool was not made lightly. We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment. However, our aim is not to shut out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages high-quality and relevant contributions. By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us.

Q: What are the benefits of using my Facebook account on www.hometownlife.com?

A: Once you log into your Facebook account and start commenting, there will be no need to maintain a separate login on the site. Plus, you will be able to use the Facebook grammar filter; 'Like' and follow other readers' posts; include your friends in the conversation; get instant notifications when someone responds to your comment; view the most relevant comments from friends, friends of friends and the most active threads; and hide spam.

Q: I'm logged into my Facebook account, but unable to comment.

A: If you are signing up for Facebook just to post a comment keep in mind that new accounts will have to make a few friends and upload an avatar before becoming "active" and participating on the site. This helps to establish your identity as well as the identities of others using Facebook. For issues concerning Facebook we encourage you to check with their Help Center, <http://www.facebook.com/help/>

issues/.

Q: Can I leave a comment if I don't have a Facebook account?

A: After the switch is made to the entire site, anyone wishing to post a comment will need an active Facebook account. If you don't have one, don't worry. It's easy to sign up at Facebook.com <http://www.facebook.com>

Q: Why does my Facebook photo and user name appear on the page when I haven't posted a comment?

A: If you're signed into Facebook, you will be able to see your information, but it will not be visible to anyone else until the comment publishes.

Q: If I post a comment will other people be able to see my information or photos?

A: What others see when they click on your information is determined by your Facebook privacy settings. For assistance in updating your settings please visit the Facebook Help Center <http://www.facebook.com/help/privacy>.

Q: Do the site's Conversation Guidelines still apply?

A: Yes, you make a difference in the community when you add civil and respectful contributions to the conversation and report abusive comments and identities. If you suspect someone is using a fake or abusive account, report them directly to Facebook by clicking on the user's profile, then clicking "Report/block this person" at the bottom left of the page. For abusive or inappropriate comments, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment and report it as spam or abuse.

Q: Why can't I see the comments?

A: Comments on www.hometownlife.com are public, which means anyone logged in or out of Facebook should be able to view them. If you cannot see the comments, check with your IT department.

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Choral concert

Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, presents a holiday choral concert 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The concert of about 90 minutes will be followed by a reception in the church's social hall. Proceeds from ticket sales will support a mission project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, by a team of 10 Newburg Church members who will travel there in April. Tickets are \$12 and can be obtained by calling (734) 459-5631.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW PT. 2

Chiefs will stick to the script

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Off to colleges are the five stellar seniors who propelled Canton's varsity girls basketball team to consecutive appearances in the Final Four.

But with one key starter back for the 2011-12 season, the beat goes on for the Chiefs — featuring a new look but the same old blueprint for success.

"We got different players and they got different roles," said Brian Samulski, entering his seventh season as the team's head coach. "But we still have the same expectations we've always had."

"We're going to come out, we're going to defend, we're going to rebound, take care of the ball and compete. And we go from there."

Mack is back

The lone returning starter from the team that went 24-3 last season is senior point guard Robyn Mack.

She will be instrumental to how the Chiefs fare in the KLAA South Division, with additional responsibilities on the offensive end.

"It's completely different

because now the attention is on me more," Mack said. "I don't mind it, but it's kind of nerve-racking because Brian expects a lot and it's a little bit different role from last year."

According to Samulski, a lot is expected of the fourth-year player. But he has no reason to believe she won't be able to deliver.

"Robyn started all three years, she's gone 68-8 in her three years as a varsity point guard," Samulski said. "So I have very high expectations for her (and) she understands that."

"She's going to be expected to score a lot more this year than she has in the past. And I think she's ready and willing to take on the challenge."

For example, Mack will need to score in the double digits following last year's average of 6.0 points per game.

Yet Mack welcomes the challenge and noted that it will benefit her being part of recent Canton teams along with the Schmitt twins (Kari and Sara), Melanie Pickert, Kayla Bridges and Carol Ann Sexauer.

"I think it will help me, but I

Please see CHIEFS, B3



During last season's Division 1 semifinal, Canton's Robyn Mack (No. 4) looks to score against Inkster.

Salem looks to parlay defense into wins

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It almost hurt veteran Salem varsity girls basketball coach Fred Thomann to smile when talking about his team as the 2011-12 season draws near.

Last summer, Kayla Kavulich tore her ACL and won't play all season. Junior starting forward Breanne Beaver is awaiting medical clearance to return to the court after tweaking her knee during the volleyball season.

Add to that the players who have either been sick or nicked up as Thomann tries to map out his starting five in advance of the Dec. 6 opener against vis-

iting Ann Arbor Huron. "We just got to get them on the floor," said Thomann, starting his 29th season at the Salem helm. "We got to see who's here."

Thomann is cautiously optimistic that Beaver (8.5 rebounds per game in 2010-11) will be back sooner rather than later.

He knows that senior point guard Katelynn Krause will be ready to go, taking over the job handled by recent graduate Heidi Schmidt.

Figuring it out

"We're still in the process of putting our starting group together," Thomann added. "We know right now that Kate-

lynn Krause is a full-time starter, Breanne Beaver, if she gets release from the doctor she'll start. Then it's a matter of fitting the other pieces together."

Because he employs a motion offense, the other players will be wing guards who can handle action down low or around the three-point arc.

At the top of that list is senior Brianna Berberet, last year's top scorer with 10 points per contest.

Another senior, Katie Heitmeyer, will be an important all-around player while the team's other senior is Jenny

Please see SALEM, B3



Salem senior point guard Katelynn Krause will be a catalyst for the Rocks in the 2011-12 season, which opens Tuesday.

Winning start for Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Maybe it was opening night jitters, but both Plymouth and Farmington Hills Harrison had trouble finding the bottom of the bucket in Tuesday's season opener.

Fortunately for the host Wildcats, the second half of the non-conference varsity girls basketball tilt went much smoother — connecting on 10 of 15 tries from the field en route to a 36-25 victory.

"I think in the first half their press, we weren't solving it the way we normally would solve it," said Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear, whose squad made just five of 21 field goal attempts in the opening half. "I thought we got some good shots in the first half against it, but we just didn't make them."

"But in the second half we got to their press a little bit, and I think that was big."

Scoring 11 points for Plymouth was sophomore point guard Kylie Robb, with senior forward Chyna Williams chipping in with eight points and seven rebounds.

Other key Wildcats included senior guard Kate Watson (six points, five boards), sophomore forward Shelby Cheston



Plymouth's Shelby Cheston (No. 34) gets ready to rebound a missed free throw during Tuesday's game.

(six points, five boards) and sophomore guard Alyssa Dillon (five points, five assists).

Plymouth's top rebounder was sophomore forward Jada Woody, with eight.

Handing out kudos

"Kylie Robb controlled the game, she had a great game," de Bear said. "Watson, Dillon, those

guys were solid out there. Jada was rebounding, scoring and handling the ball."

Top scorers for the Hawks were senior guards Tiera Parker and Joslyn Wilcox, with eight and seven points, respectively. Adding five points was senior guard RaeAnna Sollostre.

Please see WILDCATS, B3

Tear rips Rocks with OT goal

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

An ugly goal ended a beauty of a high school hockey game Saturday night between Canton and Salem.

Canton senior forward Duggan Tear jammed the puck past Salem junior goalie Anthony

BOYS HOCKEY

Veresan with just 1.3 seconds left in overtime to give the Chiefs a 2-1 victory at Plymouth Cultural Center.

The deciding play started with a routine slap shot that hit the glass behind the Rocks' net. Canton senior forward Brandon Grillo got to the puck and sent a feed in front to Tear, who was stationed at the left post.

"Grillo went around and just threw it in front and it just happened to hit Tear in front and he shot it in the net," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said. "There was a big scrum in front of the net, the goalie was down and he just happened to be in the right place at the right time."

The victory for the

Chiefs followed a 2-1 win over Plymouth.

"We don't give up, we keep going the whole game," said Tear, who also scored a big goal against the Wildcats. "Plymouth and now Salem, it's been a good year so far."

Campus competition

The frantic conclusion to the KLAA South Division matchup of campus rivals was similar to one of last year's meetings when the Chiefs nipped host Salem 3-2.

"Any time you play Plymouth, you play Canton, with all three teams being so close it's always going to be a good game," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "That's what we had last year and that's what we had tonight. That was a great high school hockey game."

"Unfortunately, it was a second too long for us."

Majszak said the game was "just like last year (against Salem), it was a battle and their goalie kept them in it. We must have had a ton of shots today."

Please see ICERS, B2

Cellular & More joins charity effort

Throughout December, Verizon Wireless premium retailer Cellular & More will be donating a portion of their sales to the upcoming charity hockey game by the Detroit Moose, which will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International.

"We're hoping to raise thousands of dollars throughout December," said Robert Emery, owner of Cellular & More. "It's important to give back to our communities, especially during the season of giving."

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club will be playing the Detroit Red Wings Alumni team on Saturday, Jan. 7, at Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. The puck drops at 5 p.m. All proceeds raised will be directly donated to the JDRFI.

At last year's game, the Moose (a community-minded amateur team made up of older players) raised \$16,250 in donations for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

"We're very happy to have Cellular & More's support to help benefit this great cause," said Derek Fowler, captain of the Moose and a Canton resident. "This year we're hoping to raise even more money."

Tickets and more information about the Detroit Moose vs. Detroit Red Wings Alumni are available at detroitmoose.org.

MU's Brda All-Academic

Madonna University senior women's soccer player Diana Brda (Livonia Franklin) was named to the 2011 Capital One College Division Academic All-America second team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) on Monday.

The College Division Academic All-America soccer teams are comprised of student-athletes from NAIA, Canadian and two-year institutions.

A psychology major with a 3.83 grade point average, Brda becomes the fourth Academic All-America selection in Madonna history, joining softball's Erin Brockert along with volleyball's Karie Altman and Natalija Tinnina.

The Westland native, a three-time Academic All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference selection, was named to the All-WHAC honorable mention team this fall and led the WHAC in assists with 13.

She currently ranks fifth nationally in assists per match and 14th in total assists.

To be eligible for Capital One Academic All-America consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher, have reached sophomore academic and athletic standings at its current institution and be nominated by the school's sports information director.

DIVISION 1 FOOTBALL FINAL

Cass Tech's frosh QB carves up CC defense

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's normally airtight defense was dissected by a 14-year-old surgeon Saturday afternoon in the Division 1 football final at Ford Field.

Detroit Cass Tech freshman quarterback Jayru Campbell, who was handed the keys to the Technicians' high-powered offense in August even though he's too young to drive, threw for 240 yards and five touchdown passes to lead his team to a 49-13 victory over the Shamrocks.

The game marked the first time in Tom Mach's tenure as head coach that a Catholic Central team had been on the wrong side of a running clock.

With his Ben Wallace-esque Afro escaping out of the fringes of his green helmet, Campbell souped up the Technicians' offense with a variety of darts and bombs to his arsenal of speedy receivers.

Helping Campbell's cause was an athletic offensive line that made sure their quarterback was only touched on touchdown-celebrating body bumps.

"We wanted to get a little more pressure on him than we did, but they did a good job of keeping us out," said Mach. "He could stand back there and wait for people to come open. They spread their receivers across the field and did a very nice

job of using their talent."

It didn't take long for Cass Tech head coach Thomas Wilcher to realize he had a special player in Campbell.

"After our first day of practice (in August), I told Jayru's dad, 'Watch out, your son's going to shock the world,'" Wilcher said.

Leading up to Saturday's game, Wilcher said he was confident his offense could exploit the Shamrocks' defense.

"I told the guys all week that there was no way they were going to shut us down," Wilcher said. "I told them that if we don't throw for over 300 yards, it's our fault. There are too many ways you can pass the ball against that team, and we took advantage of it."

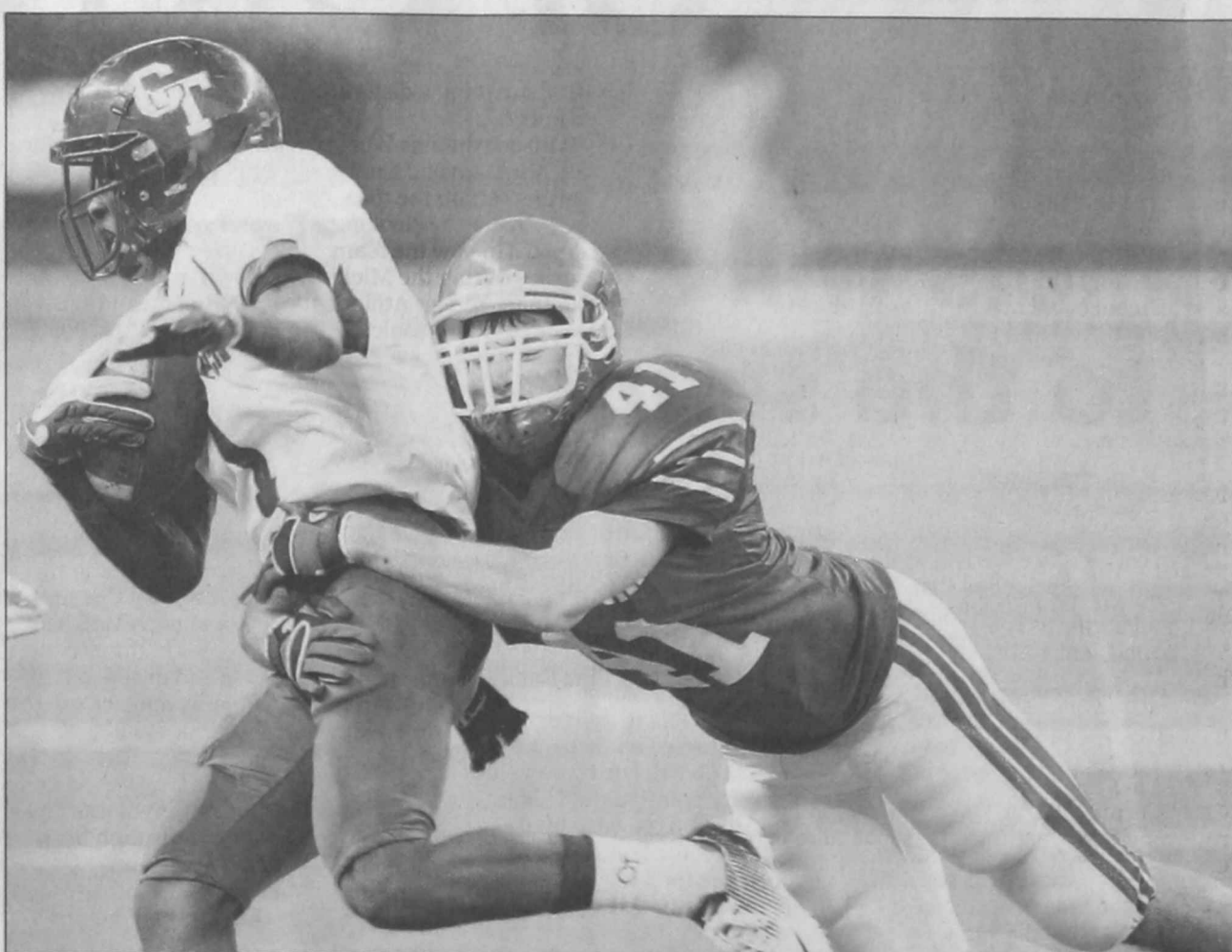
Cass Tech offensive lineman Daryl Goldsmith praised his team's determination in the trenches.

"The desire to win beats technique every time," Goldsmith said. "They used a lot of technique, but we were stronger up front and we wanted it more."

If Campbell was nervous, he didn't show it. Poised in the pocket, he delivered tight, accurate spiral after tight, accurate spiral.

"I wasn't nervous at all," he said. "I knew my teammates had my back and I knew my coaches had my back. I knew we were going to get a 'W.'"

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Detroit Cass Tech's Lewis Jordan is tackled by David Racey of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central during Saturday's Division 1 final at Ford Field. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shamrocks drive for title stalls at Ford Field

By Jeff Theisen
Sports writer

Cass Tech walked as a team from its campus Saturday at Ford Field.

Once there, the Technician offense picked up the pace and ran by Novi-Detroit Catholic Central for a 49-13 victory and the Division 1 state championship.

"We got outplayed today," said Catholic Central head coach Tom Mach. "I was very proud of our team throughout the whole year, we met our match today. They did a great job."

Cass Tech freshman quarterback Jayru Campbell passed for 240 yards and five touchdowns to lead the explosive offense.

"We wanted to get a little more pressure on him, but we didn't," said Mach. "They did a very good job of keeping us out and not putting pressure on him so he could stand back there and

wait until people came open and hit them. They had us spread across the field. They used the talent they had very well.

"Every time we would blitz or go to a sixth man in the middle, they would throw. When we went to a fifth man in the middle, they ran. They put us in a bind."

Early start

The Technicians scored the lone points of the first quarter when Royce Jenkins-Stone broke free for a 32-yard run. The extra point was no good.

The lead grew to 14-0 when Campbell connected with Ruben Lile for a 46-yard strike and threw added a two-point conversion via the pass.

Catholic Central answered right back on the ensuing drive when quarterback Kyle Cooper delivered a screen pass to Anthony Darkangelo who got a block and was gone for a 47-yard touch-

down with 7:25 remaining in the half.

Cass Tech regained a 14-point edge right before the half when Campbell hit Terry Richardson with a 36-yard TD.

The Technicians (11-3) added two more scores in the third quarter for a 35-7 lead entering the fourth quarter and they didn't let up as Campbell found Jordan Lewis for a 46-yard score in the opening minute of the fourth.

The Shamrocks aren't built for big comebacks, and the next play proved it. Jenkins-Stone picked off a CC pass and returned it for a score and a 49-7 lead.

The final score came with a little more than two minutes to play when CC's David Houle crashed in from a yard out, but the point after was no good.

Catholic Central was held to 83 yards rushing on 30 attempts. Co-

per did hit on seven of 14 passes for 143 yards, but a third of that came on the screen to Darkangelo.

"We're a pound-it-out type of team and that's what we like to do," said Mach. "We weren't able to do that today."

Houle led the ground game with 57 yards on 11 attempts. Zach Bock was next with 18 yards on eight carries.

Darkangelo was lone Shamrock with multiple catches. He hauled in four for 97 yards.

Despite the way the season ended, Mach was impressed with what his group accomplished along the way to the State Finals.

"I'm very proud of our team," said Mach. "Until this game, we were fighting and clawing through a pretty tough league. Very few teams in our league have lost at all. We've been great up this point. Today, it just came unraveled."

ICERS

Continued from page B1

They kept sending rubber (38 shots) toward Veresan, who showed quickness and excellent positioning at the top of the crease.

"Anthony, his first regular season high school game stepped up, played phenomenally well," Ossennmacher said. "Espe-

cially early in the game I thought he kept us in it.

"So to come out in a situation like this, and a stage like this, and perform like he did is a very good indication for things to come."

Craig was just as good for the Chiefs, stopping all but one of 32 Salem shots.

First things first

Yet Canton (2-1-0) needed to score a power-play

goal at 9:18 of the third period to even send the game to OT.

A wrist shot from the left circle by Grillo was stopped, but the persistent Chiefs stayed on the rebound until senior forward Taylor Baker chipped it inside the right post to make it 1-1. Also assisting was sophomore defenseman Collin Smith.

After two scoreless periods, the Rocks got on the board first.

Salem junior forward Alek Zultowski poked in the rebound of a point shot by senior forward Mark McGee with 13:46 left in the third.

Drawing the second assist for the Rocks (0-2-0) was senior forward Austin Sartorius.

Despite the tough ending, Ossennmacher said the game was an improvement from a 7-2 loss to Novi in the season opener (McGee scored both Salem goals in that tilt).

With only three seniors in the lineup and a fourth not yet back from an injury (defenseman Michael Manser), the coach expects there to be a learning curve early during the season.

"I think any team the goal is to be better at the end of the year than it is to be at the beginning of the year," Ossennmacher said. "But with a team as young as ours is I think it's a lot steeper hill to climb."

"... We've got a lot of learning to do. But just from Wednesday to today, we worked on some things in practice and we did them today in the game. So that's a positive sign."

Salem's next game will be 8:30 p.m. Friday against Livonia Stevenson, at PCC. Meanwhile, the Chiefs visit Farmington at 7 p.m. Saturday.

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Young Eagles eager to excel

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Unselfish play and a desire to get after it on the hardwood are a couple reasons Plymouth Christian Academy's girls basketball team could make some noise this winter.

Those characteristics might make up for a roster featuring three starting sophomores.

Those 10th graders include Jenny Malcolm (center), Emily Gerulis (guard-forward) and Rachel Smith (forwards). They will line up along with junior guards Karen Windle and Jenna Abraham.

"We are a very young team grade wise but not young on experience," said Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis. "We are returning four starters. The two juniors have



started since they were freshmen. We have two sophomores that started as freshmen."

They'll chip in

Meanwhile, sophomores Martha Mullett and Rachel Fuller "will play a big role" throughout the 2011-12 season, the coach added.

Others making up the supporting cast are mostly new to the varsity level.

Senior returnee Kristin Lindberg brings some experience, but the team also has first-year varsity players in senior Katie Buam and junior Allison Smith.

Another promising sophomore is Rachel Kral, but she is out indefinitely

after suffering a dislocated kneecap.

With co-captains Windle, Abraham and Emily Gerulis setting the tone, the PCA coach is looking forward to how the team meshes during the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference schedule.

"They are very unselfish kids they don't care who scores," Carol Gerulis said. "They just want to win. This is a very tough group of players and they love to compete."

"I am very excited to see how they progress throughout the season."

That season began Tuesday at Ida, with the Eagles' home opener scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday against Dexter.

(Results of the Ida contest were not available as of press time.)

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Shown from a 2010-11 game, Rachel Winters (No. 10) is one of the key returnees for Canton's varsity girls basketball team.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

have to develop a little bit more in the team leadership," Mack said. "I was more of the quiet person last year. There were five seniors that killed it and now I'm supposed to be the top leader that people look up to."

Increasing role

Another key returnee is sophomore guard Rachel Winters, who chalked up plenty of minutes as a freshman.

But instead of coming off the bench to help the cause, she'll be a starter and instrumental to Canton's chances.

"Rachel's in the same boat as Robyn, her role is changed drastically and we're going to expect a lot of things out of her," Samulski explained. "Last year, she was a role player who subbed in. This year she's going to have to bring a lot more to the table both offensively and defensively."

Winters will bring a sharp shooting eye for long jumpers, but she can "also get to the rim and score at the rim."

With Tuesday's season

opener at Saline on the horizon, Samulski is still deciding who his third starting guard will be.

Senior Gabby Malec could get the nod. But other players hopeful of a shot include sophomore Kelsey McDougall, junior Megan Smith, senior Jesse Larner and junior Kayla Lagola.

So far, Samulski is certain of one of his starting post players with the second job still being decided.

In the lineup will be sophomore forward Paige Aresco, who is 5-11 and strong enough to get her share of rebounds and putbacks.

Aresco saw some varsity minutes last year, but the Chiefs are "going to look for her to have a significant step up in her role," the coach stressed.

"We're going to look for her to score from the perimeter more, be a great rebounder and go from there," Samulski said.

Paint job

Two 6-1 players are competing to start at center, namely junior Kiara Schneider (a varsity returnee) and sophomore Taylor Hunley.

It's pretty safe to

assume that both players are going to see plenty of action, regardless of who starts.

"Right now they're battling with each other and competing with each other to see who's going to be the starter," Samulski said. "We're really looking to those two to rebound, defend and then score when they have the opportunity."

Those job responsibilities also apply to 5-11 sophomore forward Shannon Perry, who will back up Aresco.

Meanwhile, Samulski added that a big plus for the new-look team is the fact "all 11 players have improved individually and gotten better through our spring workouts, our summer stuff and our fall workouts. It's a hard-working group."

Because of that work ethic, Samulski is confident the Chiefs will be able to hold its own in the tough KLAA South.

"I think from top-to-bottom it's a good division," he noted. "Where we're going to land, I don't know. But our goal is to come out each night and compete."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wolfpack tryouts

The Western Wayne Wolfpack will hold girls basketball tryouts for girls ages 11-13 (grades six-eight) from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10 and 17.

Tryouts will take place at the Canton High School gym and cost \$25. For more information, contact coaches Fred Thomann, (313) 929-0291, Bob de Bear, (734) 218-4478, or Brian Samulski, (734) 673-2555.

Canton High School is located off of Joy Road, west of Canton Center Road.

Winter hoops

The Plymouth Family YMCA announced that

winter basketball leagues are forming for ages 4-11.

Programs are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The annual registration fee is \$91 or \$123 for community participants. Registration continues until Jan. 2, 2012.

After teams are formed, they will practice once a week and play on Friday evenings from Jan. 16 through March 23.

For more information, visit www.ymcadeloitrois.org or call (734) 453-2904.

Softball camps

Coach Al White of Madonna University will stage a series of winter

softball camps for ages 7-18 including:

Hitting - 9-11:30 a.m. (session 1) and noon-2:30 p.m. (session 2) on Sunday, Dec. 18 (cost \$30);

Fundamentals (session 1) - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 after Dec. 1);

Fundamentals (session 2) - noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 before Dec. 1).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com; or e-mail White at awhite@madonna.edu.

You can also call the MU softball office at (734) 432-5783 or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716.

WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

The first half was a struggle for both teams, with plenty of missed opportunities and turnovers.

Back-to-back buckets by freshman forward Kyla Roland and Wilcox within a 20-second span in the second quarter put Harrison up 10-7 with three minutes left in the half.

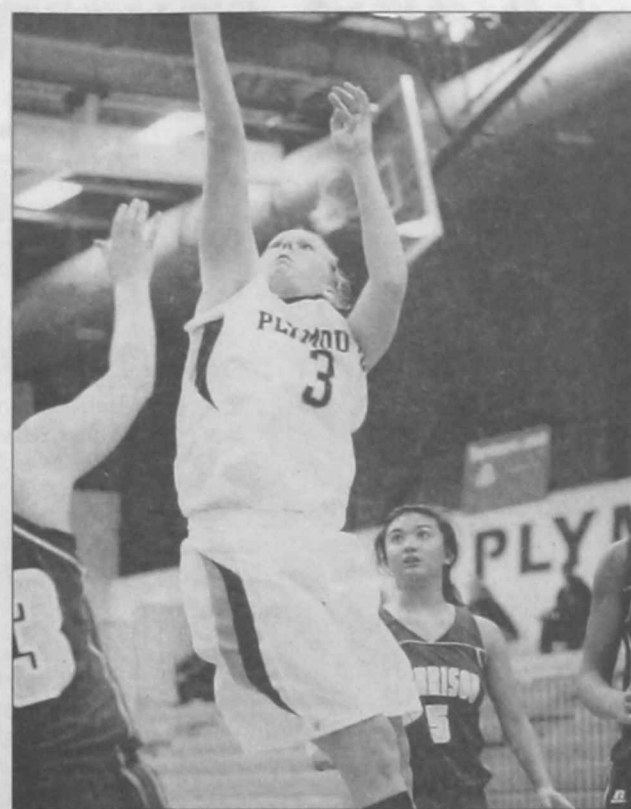
Plymouth answered with a bucket featuring two varsity newcomers, junior guard Lexie McGhee and sophomore center Shelby Cheston.

On the play, McGhee "dribbled right into their press and dropped it off to Shelby and she got that layup," de Bear said.

It was a 13-11 edge for the Hawks at halftime, but Plymouth finally broke through for a 7-0 run in the span of a minute midway into the third.

Layups by Watson and Williams bookended a trey from beyond the top of the arc by Dillon as Plymouth took a 20-14 lead.

The Hawks chipped away to close the gap to 21-19 after three. Junior guard Marissa Cotton stole a pass in the Plym-



JOHN KEMSKI

Going strong to the rim Tuesday night against Farmington Hills Harrison is Plymouth's Kate Watson (No. 3).

outh paint and converted the layup and Parker followed up in the final seconds with a basket.

In control

But Plymouth got things rolling again early in the fourth, scoring four consecutive baskets to go up 29-20 — with Robb connecting on two of the field goals.

From there, the Wildcats finished off the win with some tenacious defense.

"It's a good feeling" to start the season with a victory, de Bear noted.

Plymouth will next visit Farmington Hills Mercy on Friday night.

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SALEM

Continued from page B1

First — expected to get some minutes in the paint (along with sophomore Hannah Nowaske) if Beaver isn't quite ready to roll.

Thomann likes the potential he's seeing out of his four sophomores, Nowaske, Kelly Whalen, Ashley Baker and Arielle Echols (a transfer from Detroit Cass Tech).

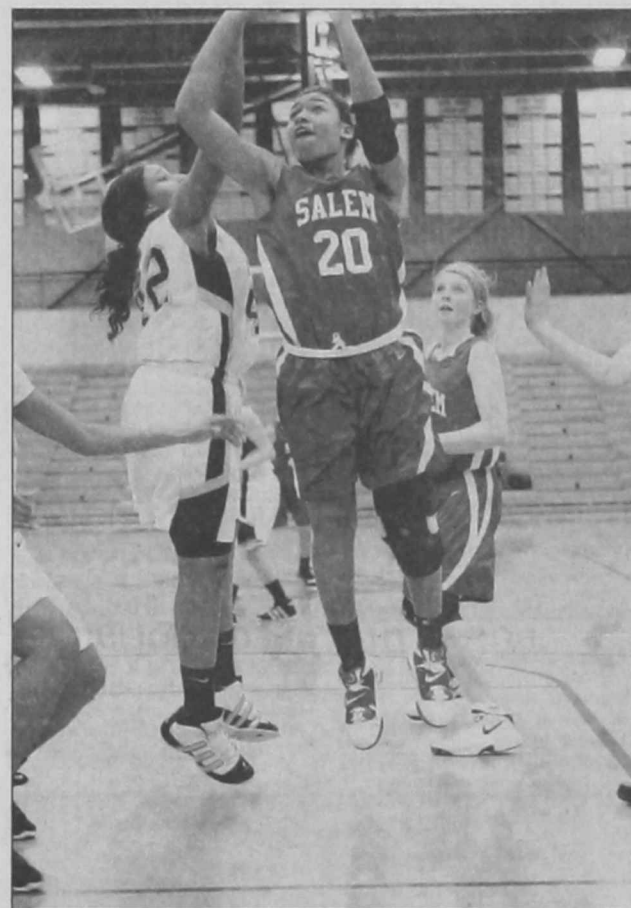
The Rocks, looking to improve on a 9-12 season in the KLAA Central Division, will have to play sound defense as a unit in order to have success, he stressed.

"We have a little bit of size, we have a little bit of quickness, we have a little bit of toughness," Thomann noted. "What we have to do as a group is really pull together and our defense has to become really, really solid."

"Offensively we'll score a little bit because we have some kids who can. But for us to compete we're going to have to be able to stop people."

Early tests

According to Thomann, he'll find out in short order how competitive the 2011-12 squad is going to be.



JOHN KEMSKI

One of Salem's low-post threats is junior forward Breanne Beaver (No. 20), shown from a game last season.

After playing Huron, the Rocks square off against Farmington Hills Mercy, defending Class B champion Dearborn Divine Child, Plymouth and Canton heading into the holiday break.

"Our five games before Christmas, I think, is as good a schedule as there

is in the area," he said. "And maybe in the state. ... Our first five games are very, very competitive."

"We'll know where we're at in the pecking order real quick."

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Ladywood wins early litmus test

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood second-year coach Anthony Coratti wanted to test his team early for the start of the 2011-12 girls basketball season.

And the Blazers got off on the right foot Tuesday night with a hard-fought 52-49 home court victory over a formidable Saginaw Nouvel squad.

Two free throws by Andie Anastos with only 12.7 seconds remaining helped seal the victory for Ladywood. The 5-foot-8 junior point-guard finished the night with a game-high 18 points to go along with six rebounds and five steals.

Senior guard Briana Combs chipped in with 12 points, including three of the Blazers' six three-pointers.

Nouvel, under 11th-year coach Kris Hengesbach, finished 18-7 a year ago reaching the Class C regional finals. The Panthers captured the 2006 and 2008 Class C state titles.

"They (Nouvel) were a very good team," said Coratti, who guided Ladywood to an 18-6 record and a berth in the regionals in his inaugural varsity season as coach. "They have some big kids, which we kind of lack in size. But we made up for it in other areas with our grit and our kids really did a good job of battling and fighting through. They (Nouvel) did a good job of executing."

Ladywood led 12-10 after one quarter and took a 24-20 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, the Blazers connected on three triples and led by as many as nine with 1:11 remaining on a basket by junior Sara Even.

Hanging on

Leading 40-34 going into the final period, Ladywood found itself in a dogfight after the Panthers crept to within one, 43-43 on a banker by junior Taylor Hengesbach with 4:32 left.

A big rebound basket by Haley Walter with 2:34

to play gave the Blazers some breathing room at 50-45, but Nouvel refused to fold despite having to give three fouls as Ladywood milked the clock.

Rachel McInerney scored on a rebound with 1:42 to go pulling Nouvel within three, 50-47.

A steal and two free throws by Lindsay Stroebel cut the deficit to 50-49 with 50.1 seconds remaining.

Nouvel then fouled Anastos, who missed the front-end of a one-and-one giving the Panthers an opportunity to take the lead, but couldn't convert with less than 20 seconds left.

Anastos then nailed a pair of free throws to seal the victory. The Panthers tried one last-ditch three-point attempt, but it missed the mark.

Taylor Hengesbach and McInerney scored 15 and 14 points, respectively, for the Panthers.

Ladywood senior center Morgan Chops, who fouled out in the fourth quarter, added six points and 11 rebounds.

Livonia church offers two Christmas concerts



Members of Newburg United Methodist Church, in Livonia rehearse. They'll sing the story of Christmas during worship services Sunday, Dec. 4.

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Head to Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia over the next two weekends for a lively dose of Christmas music.

The church's choirs will sing the story of Christmas at two worship services, 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. The following Sunday, Dec. 11, Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, will perform a Christmas concert at 4 p.m. to help raise money for a mission trip to Haiti planned by 10 Newburg members.

It's the second year the Newburg choirs will present a cantata during worship services. They'll sing *The Mystery and the Majesty* by Joseph Martin.

"It's a new work that follows the story from the Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah's coming through the whole story of Christmas through the birth. It sets the tone for the whole season," said Richard Lenz, choir director. "It takes practically the whole service. It's about 45 minutes. There is no sermon."

The services are open to the public and Lenz said last year's cantata drew

The Haiti mission team, which includes two teens and eight adults, hopes to raise \$3,500 through the Measure for Measure concert. The Global Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church will match what the group raises to help cover project costs.

individuals from outside the church.

At least one Newburg member, Gary Fry of Plymouth, also sings in the men's choir that will perform at a fundraising concert on Dec. 11. The group, Measure for Measure, was formed in 1988 and draws its more than 80 members from throughout southeastern Michigan. Its repertoire incorporates songs from a variety of musical styles and periods.

The concert will run approximately 90 minutes, followed by a reception in the church's social hall, at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail. Tickets are \$12, available by calling (734) 459-5631.

The Haiti mission team, which includes two teens and eight adults, hopes to raise \$3,500 through the Measure for Measure concert. The Global Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church will match what the

group raises to help cover project costs.

"The team will be working in Port au Prince in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Haiti, building either a school, community center, children's center or church," said Sarah Nadeau Alexander, youth and young adult ministry coordinator. "Partnering with the UMC in Haiti allows the team to use their resources to the fullest of their ability."

Alexander said each team member pays a fee to participate in the trip. Fundraising will raise money for project costs, such as building supplies.

"Hopefully they'll just have to do this concert and will be all set."

For more about Measure for Measure visit www.measure4measure.org. For more about Newburg United Methodist church visit www.newburgumc.org.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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

BOSKER (PAGEL) CATHERINE C.

84, of Lake City, MI. formerly of Plymouth, MI. November 27, 2011. See online obituary at www.youngfuneral.com

CASADAY, ANNABELLE CATHERINE (COGUT)

November 18, 2011. Age 81. Beloved wife of the late William. Dearest mother of Patrick Louis and Anita Louise. Grandmother of Douglas Ryan Ziembowicz and Bryan David Ziembowicz. Sister of Theodore (Marie), Delores Gary (Jesse), Angie Newman Pierce (the late Bob & Charles), Joseph (Sally), Larry (Vicki), the late Virginia Martin (Keith), Carolyn and William. Survived by 23 nieces and nephews. Sister-in-law of Patricia. Visitation Monday 2-8pm at the Funeral Home. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery. www.sajewskith.com

DALE, ROSALIE E.

Age 83, passed away November 25, 2011. She was born on August 21, 1928, in South Lyon, daughter of the late Harold and Evelyn Darling. Rosalie was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother. She could often be found working on her favorite crossword puzzles, watching golf, curling or football. She is survived by her beloved daughters: Sandy McDaniels and Audra (Mike) Renner; her grandchildren: George, Leigh, Tim, Melissa, Michael, Gracie; her great grandchildren, Jonathan, David, Jackie, Jasmine, Jesse, Siena, Jimmy, Zach and Melissa. She is also survived by one great-great grandchild Preston and her sister Bonnie and her brother Don. She was preceded in death by her husband Lewis and four children. Visitation was held on Tuesday, November 29 with funeral services Wednesday, November 30, at 1:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to Cystic Fibrosis. Online Guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

LOGIE, JR. ROBERT G.

85 yrs. old, died November 27, 2011. A devoted husband to Marjorie (deceased) and loving father to Cherie (Gary) Van Vliet, he is also survived by his sisters Jessie Clemens and Helen (Jerry) McMillan, and many nephews and nieces. An outdoor memorial ceremony and interment will be held on Monday December 5, 2011 at 10:00a.m., Parkview Memorial Cemetery, 34205 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Donations to charities serving our local communities requested in lieu of flowers.

May
you find
comfort
in Family
and
Friends

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Dec. 1-7

CAROLFEST

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. church service, 11:45 a.m. brunch, 12:45 p.m., CarolFest, Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: St. Paul's Singers, children, instrumentalists and congregation, will present a plethora of carols — traditional, folk and contemporary — in the church sanctuary; RSVP for the brunch

Contact: (734) 422-1470

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: Silver Strings Dulcimer Society presents a free Christmas concert

Contact: (734) 427-3660

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3; seating begins at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Old St. Mary's Church, 646 Monroe, at St. Antoine, in Greektown, Detroit

Details: The Madrigal Chorus of Southfield presents its 2011 Holiday Concert. Advance tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students. Cost at the door is \$20

Contact: (248) 804-1377, e-mail yourmcs@yahoo.com or order online at mcs-notes.org

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Fort and Third in downtown Detroit

Details: The Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra present Handel's Messiah. Tickets are \$20

Contact: www.fortstreet.org or by calling (313) 961-4533

SOUP & SCRIPTURE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper, followed by service at 7 p.m. Dec. 7, 14 and 21

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Hearty soup and bread supper followed by Advent service

Contact: (734) 427-2290

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thurs-

day, Dec. 1

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Junior High Commons, 1062 Church, Plymouth

Details: New Beginnings is a support group for divorced Catholics. This will be the first of regular monthly meetings featuring guest speakers who will address topics central to the experience of divorced Catholics. The evening will begin with a talk by the Rev. John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, followed by a Q&A session. Participants can discuss issues related to divorce and faith in a safe, confidential, and prayerful environment. Pre-registration recommended

Contact: newbeginning-solgc@gmail.com

Dec. 8-14

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers Christmas concert; \$10 general admission; \$7 for senior citizens and students, 12 and older

Contact: detroitluthersingers.com

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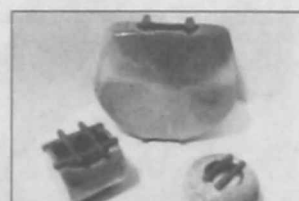
For Information
regarding this Directory,
please call Donna Hart
at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247
or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com



Kathy Sandberg of Plymouth will sell works, like this plate, at the annual Potter's Market.

Potter's Market

Artists show 40,000 clay items at annual sale



Akiko Kawano of Novi will show clay art with a Japanese flair at the upcoming Potter's Market.

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

David Albrecht has been up to his elbows in clay more than a few times the past nine years.

During his second semester in Oakland Community College's (OCC) ceramics program, he served as the ceramic studio's clay maker and made 500 pounds of clay three times a day.

"It was quite an experience," he said. "Clay used in pottery isn't just one kind of clay that you'd dig up in the backyard. It's three kinds of clay, six different ingredients — all earthen materials — and a little silica."

"It wasn't a fun job, but someone had to do it."

These days, the Farmington Hills artist is finishing requirements for a certificate in the program, producing his own ceramic pieces and selling them at both the summer farmer's market in his hometown and at the annual Potter's Market in Madison Heights.

When he and 134 other artists show 40,000 ceramic works at the 36th annual Potters Market, Dec. 2-4, they'll have more on their hands than just clay.

Formerly sponsored by Oakland Community College, the largest pottery sale of its kind in the country is now an independent potters' event, with a collective of artists — calling themselves Ceramics Community Network — presenting and running the show.

Shoppers aren't likely to notice the difference between previous college-sponsored shows and this year's event because the artists have always taken a hands-on approach to the sale. Since its beginning, they've assisted customers, restocked the selling floor, worked the checkout, wrapped items and served coffee and sweets to shoppers. This year will be no different.

"We had our last board member meeting yesterday and it's coming together even better than I expected," said Albrecht, who serves as "personnel chief" at the show. "We have all the bases covered. I think it's going to be a great show. We have plenty of merchandise and potters signed up."

Albrecht said Alan Paulson, OCC's ceramics program director, along with several advanced ceramics students



David Albrecht of Farmington Hills, shapes a clay piece on the wheel at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak campus.

jury the show, which includes room for 100 advanced students and 35 guest professional potters.

"Sometimes you're on a waiting list. But every year there's turnover. I had to

earn my way in. It took me three years."

Arts after retirement

Albrecht was an art major at Ohio State University, where he focused

on sculpture in a variety of materials. After graduation he began working in pharmaceutical sales, a job that took him from Illinois to western Michigan and in 1989, to Farmington Hills.

"I missed it all those years but was never able to participate, being married and having two kids and little time."

He discovered the OCC ceramics program after retiring, and took the plunge into clay art, signing up for both wheel throwing and hand building classes. He's been hooked on ceramics ever since.

He also organized a clay sculpture group that met every Friday for six years in the ceramics studio at OCC. Participants spent three hours each time sculpting pieces based on a live model.

Garden art

Albrecht will sell bowls and pagoda lanterns — which are wheel thrown and assembled — at the upcoming Potter's Market. The pagodas are glazed in different colors, including midnight blue and pale green and stand approximately 20 inches. Most customers set them outdoors in the summer and use them as garden art.

Other local artists who will participate in the Potter's Market include Joe Conti of Livonia, Donna Williams of Plymouth, Kathy Sandberg of Plymouth, Jack Adelman, Gaylin Bates, Robert Crisp and Julie Gaynett, all of Farmington Hills.

Albrecht said the artist collective also will sell reusable shopping bags and 2012 calendars featuring the works of 12 advanced students.

Potters Market hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4. Admission is free. A special preview sale is 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1. Admission is \$10 for the preview sale. Strollers are not permitted at the show. The UF & CW Union Hall is located at 876 Horace Brown Drive, one block south of 13 Mile, between I-75 and John R in Madison Heights. From northbound I-75, exit at 12 Mile, go west one block to Stephenson Highway, then north to 13 Mile and east to Horace Brown Drive. Call (248) 246-2686 or visit www.thepottersmarket.com.

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Art

ART & IDEAS

Time/Date: Through Dec. 24; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or by appointment

Location: 15095 Northville Road, in Plymouth

Details: "Downtown Foot Art" includes works by the gallery's artist-in-residence, Shaqe Kalaj. She focused on historical buildings in downtown Plymouth for her series of works which she sketched and painted with her feet in the outdoors over the summer

Contact: (734) 420-0775

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12, 2012 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8, 2012; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18, 2012

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Through Dec. 10

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: The seventh annual Northville Holiday Art Market includes hand-crafted work in painting, printmaking, glass, mosaic, fiber, photography, jewelry and mixed media for sale by well-known local artists. Hours for the market are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. On "First Fridays" in December hours are 1-9 p.m.

Contact: (248) 344-0497

Comedy

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomey.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8



Detroit Chamber Winds will perform Dec. 13 at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre.



PHOTO BY KEN HOWARD OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA
Renée Fleming as the title character and Andreas Scholl as Bertarido in Handel's "Rodelinda."

p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Alex Ortiz through Dec. 3; Chad Daniels, Dec. 7-10; Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Mike Green, Dec. 1-3; Kivi Rogers, Dec. 8-10; Lars Callieou, Dec. 15-17; David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: Cedric the Entertainer; tickets are \$52-147, available at ticketmaster.com

Contact: www.thecrofoot.com

Dance

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Film

METROPOLITAN OPERA

Time/Date: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3

Location: Canton Cinema, 43555 Ford Road, Canton and AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: "Rodelinda" features Renée Fleming in the role of a queen who must fight treacherous enemies to keep her son safe and the memory of her exiled husband alive. Running time is four hours and 15 minutes. Tickets at Canton Cinema are \$21 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$13.50 for children and students, along with a \$1 service fee if purchased online. Tickets at Livonia 20 are \$22 for adults, \$18 for children and \$20 for seniors

Contact: (734) 844-3456 for Canton Cinema and (888) AMC-4FUN for Livonia

20

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 2-3 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "It's a Wonderful Life," \$3

Coming up: "White Christmas," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8; "Polar Express," 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18; and "Elf," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23; all seats \$3

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 2 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 3

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: "Miracle on 34th Street," tickets \$4

Coming up: "Christmas Here We Come," featuring Laurel & Hardy in "Big Business" and guest artist Walt Strony on the Barton pipe organ, 8 p.m. Dec. 10, tickets \$12 for adults and \$8 for ages 12 and under; "It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 17

Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday

Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

Details: Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31 Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free

Contact: (313) 494-5800

CRANBROOK

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday

Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.

Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

Please see GET OUT!, B7

"Charm, sparkle & talent by the SLEIGHLOAD."
-NY Daily News

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FOX THEATRE

Santa meets with special needs children

Children with autism and other special needs can meet with Santa Claus in a relaxed environment, 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at 12 Oaks Mall in Novi.

Because the mall is open only to walkers and employees during that time, special needs children won't have to endure the crowds, noise, chaos and lines that can occur during busy shopping hours.

Professional photographers will be on hand at the free event to take

photos, but parents are not required to purchase the pictures. Siblings of special needs children also may meet Santa.

My Great Kid, LLC, founded by Staci and Steve Bockmann of Farmington Hills, sponsors the annual event. They are the parents of child with autism and know how difficult it can be to see Santa with all the hustle and bustle of a busy mall.

For more information, call Staci at (734) 612-3934.

GET OUT!

Continued from page B6

KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday, through Dec. 18

Location: In the heart of the University of Michigan campus, 434 S. State, Ann Arbor

Details: "Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" will explore the story of a site excavation initiated by U of M in the 1920s and 1930s. It will illuminate the historical records of a single vil-

lage community, located 80 kilometers southwest of Cairo in the Egyptian countryside, during Egypt's Greco-Roman period

Contact: (734) 764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Dec. 31

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: "A Red Ryder Christmas Story" features vignettes of scenes from the film, "A Christmas Story," information about the history of Red Ryder BB guns, which were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth, and artifacts of the 1940s. Santa visits the museum every Saturday in December.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK

Time/Date: Judy Collins, Dec. 1; The April Verch Band, Dec. 2; Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players, Dec. 3; Shawn Colvin and Rose Cousins, Dec. 3; Bill Kirchen Honky Tonk Holiday Show, with George Beard, Dec. 4; Riders in the Sky, Dec. 5; Lee Murdock: The Christmas Ship Concert, Dec. 6; Open Stage, Dec. 7; Melissa Ferrick, Dec. 8; Student Songwriter Series, Dec. 9; Commander Cody Band, Dec. 9; The Ragbirds present Ebird

and Friends, Dec. 10; The Wheeler Brothers, Dec. 11; Raul Malo Christmas Show, Dec. 12; Decembersongs: An Acoustic Holiday Celebration, Dec. 13; Emerson Hart of Tonic, Dec. 15; Graham Colton, Dec. 16; The RFD Boys, Dec. 17; 10th Annual Concert for Peace, Dec. 18

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month

Location: JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The show in-

cludes eight open mic performances and a featured performer. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families and offer free admission to monthly concerts

Contact: (248) 347-6881

BECKRIDGE CHORALE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 9

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Christmas concert; tickets are \$10

Contact: Call (888) 459-4887 or e-mail to sing@beckridgechorale.org; www.BeckRidgeChorale.org

DETROIT CHAMBER WIND AND STRINGS
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Tues-

day, Dec. 13
Location: The Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Holiday Brass concert; tickets are \$19 for adults; \$17 for students and seniors. Advance tickets available at https://rec-reg.fhgov.com, by calling (248) 473-1848 or 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile
Contact: Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15

Location: Penn Theater, 7600 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Home for the Holidays Concert

Out On The Town

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Many are offering great values and are ready to serve you...ENJOY!



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Newburgh Plaza
Livonia

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運 Inn

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Dinner for 2 \$4 off Dine-in Only China House Inn <small>With this coupon. Not valid on holidays. One coupon per customer, per party, per table. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. Expires 12-30-11.</small>	Buy 1 Entree Get 2nd Entree 50% off Dine-in or Carry-out. All Day China House Inn <small>With this coupon. Not valid on holidays. One coupon per customer, per party, per table. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. Expires 12-30-11.</small>
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Reservations Suggested

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---	---

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Happy Hour
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Your Way \$3.49 3 Eggs, Meat, Hash Browns, Toast & Jam <small>With purchase of beverage Expires 12-10-11</small>	First Time Guest Special Offer FREE Biscuit & Fresh Strawberry Jam <small>Limit one per customer. Expires 12-10-11</small>
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★TIS THE SEASON

easy recipes for the holidays

If time and money are in short supply, use creativity to turn small splurges into celebrations. Here are holiday ideas and recipes that won't break the bank nor leave you exhausted afterwards.

Each recipe features an affordable import — butter and cheeses from Ireland, where cows are grass-fed and milk from small farms is used to make prized dairy products.

The Family Holiday Dinner

Keep the main course simple with a no-fuss roast. Make a splash with a festive salad featuring creamy and elegant Cashel Blue Irish farmhouse cheese. Serve on your best china.

Pear, Roast Onion, Hazelnut and Cashel Blue Cheese Salad

1 red onion, peeled
Olive oil
Salt and pepper
3 pears (not too ripe)
2 tablespoons Kerrygold Unsalted Irish Butter
2 ounces hazelnuts, lightly toasted, halved
5 ounces baby greens (watercress, baby spinach and frisée)
10 ounces Cashel Blue cheese, crumbled

Dressing:

2½ teaspoons white wine vinegar
¼ teaspoon Dijon mustard
Salt and pepper
4 tablespoons hazelnut oil
2 tablespoons light olive oil
1½ teaspoons superfine sugar (or to taste)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Halve onion and cut it into crescent slices. Put into a small ovenproof dish, drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast about 20 minutes, or until soft with slightly caramelized tips. Keep warm.

Whisk dressing ingredients together. Halve and core pears, then cut lengthwise into slices slightly thicker than ¼ inches. Melt butter in a frying pan and quickly sauté on each side until golden. Don't overcook — they should still hold their shape.

Toss salad greens with nuts, using most of the dressing; divide among 6 plates. Add pear and onion slices to each plate and scatter with cheese. Drizzle each plate with the rest of the dressing. Serves 6.



A Tree Decorating Party

A holiday party doesn't have to be fancy; any simple excuse to gather informally, like trimming the tree or decorating the house, will do. It's a great way to include children in the festivities. Serve up mugs of chowder enriched with Irish Cheddar, plenty of bread and Irish butter, a salad and some Christmas cookies.

Potato Chowder with Pancetta and Aged Cheddar

6 ounces pancetta or bacon, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 pound Yukon Gold potatoes, unpeeled, cut into ½-inch chunks
1 cup chopped celery
1½ cups chicken broth
1 cup low-fat buttermilk
Salt and pepper
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Kerrygold Aged Cheddar

In large saucepan over medium-high heat, cook pancetta, stirring, until crisp, about 5 minutes. Remove pancetta and drain on paper towels. Discard all but ½ teaspoon fat from pan. Add onion and sauté over high heat until lightly browned, 4 to 5 minutes. Add potatoes, celery and broth. Cover, bring to a boil and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 12 minutes. Add buttermilk and pancetta and stir until hot, 1 to 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat, stir in cheese and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings; multiply recipe for a crowd.

Gifts from the Kitchen

Give a gift of love and save money, too, with home-baked goods wrapped in pretty packaging. Let the kids help with the decorating.

Slice and Bake Butter Cookies

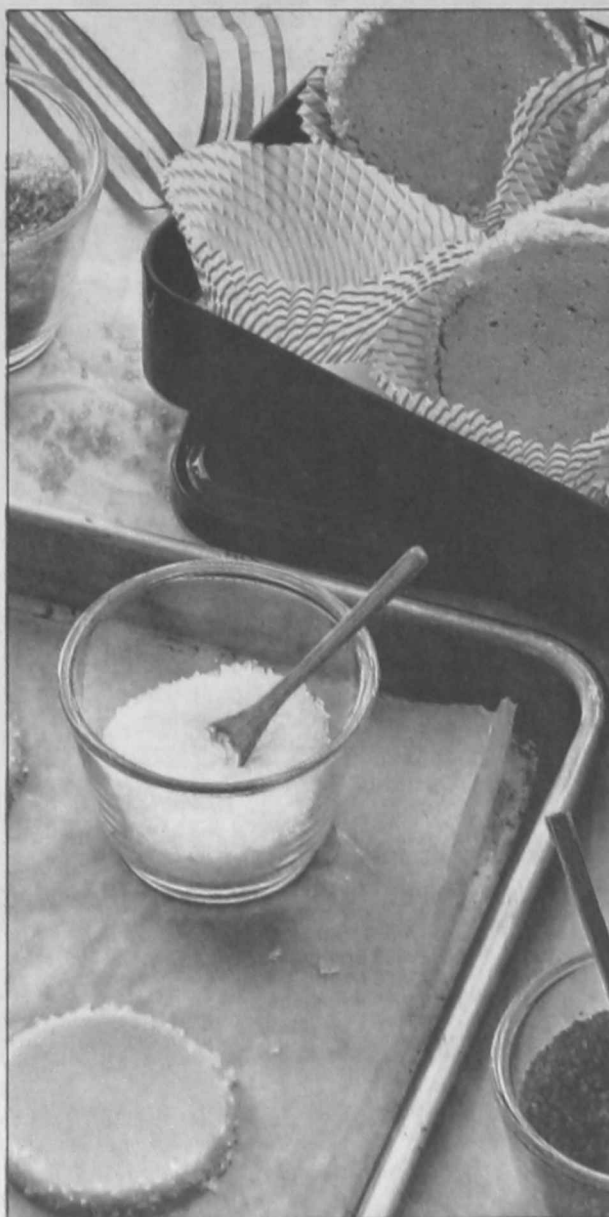
2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
1 package (8 ounces or 1 cup) Kerrygold Salted Irish Butter, at room temperature
¾ cup granulated sugar
2 large egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 large egg white
¾ cup granulated sugar or coarse sugar crystals for rolling the cookie log

Sift flour, baking powder and salt into medium bowl and set aside. In large bowl beat butter and sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Mix in egg yolks and vanilla. Add flour mixture, mixing on low just until flour is incorporated and soft, smooth dough forms.

Divide dough into 2 pieces; form each into a log about 7½ inches long and 1½ inches in diameter. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate about 1 hour until cold and firm, or overnight. Or freeze, wrapped securely, for up to 1 month. (Defrost in the refrigerator before slicing and baking.)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. In small bowl, beat egg white with fork until foamy, about 30 seconds. Brush each log with egg white. Sprinkle the ¾ cup sugar on strip of wax paper then roll each log back and forth in sugar to coat lightly. Use sharp knife to cut each log into ¼-inch-thick rounds. Place 1 inch apart on baking sheets.

Bake one sheet at a time on middle rack of the oven until cookie edges and bottoms are light brown, about 18 minutes. Cool 5 minutes, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Store tightly covered. Makes 60 cookies.



And for Every Holiday Get-Together, a Cheese Board

A universal favorite of guests and the easiest choice for the host is a cheese board. An assortment of Irish cheeses like Dubliner, Cashel Blue and Kerrygold Aged Cheddar with fresh fruit and chutney make a spectacular presentation.

For more holiday recipes, visit www.kerrygoldusa.com.

Safety practices reduce risk of wintertime home fire

N.Y., N.Y.,
place to be

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

As we move closer to winter and home fire deaths begin to increase, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) remind everyone that fire safety and prevention are especially important in the coming months. Because home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season, NFPA and USFA are once again jointly sponsoring a special initiative — Put a Freeze on Winter Fires — to help raise public awareness about winter fires.

“These fires are a painful reminder of what we see every year — the temperatures drop and fires increase,” said NFPA President Jim Shannon. According to NFPA statistics, space heaters account for about one-third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths.

The USFA’s Winter Residential Building Fires (PDF, 1 MB) report shows that each winter an estimated 108,400 residential building fires occur in the United States, resulting in 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires at 36 percent followed by heating at 23 percent. Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“The winter season brings the highest number of home fires, more than at any other time of year,” said USFA’s Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. “Home fires increase in part due to cooking and heating. Winter storms can also interrupt electrical service and cause people to turn to alternative heating sources that contribute to the increased risk of fire during the winter months.”

The NFPA and USFA recommend following these safety tips to prevent winter home fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen



en for even a short period, turn off the stove.

- Space heaters need space; keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from each heater.

- Check electrical cords often and replace cracked or damaged electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.

- Never use your oven or stovetop to heat your home. They are not designed for this purpose and can be a fire hazard. In addition, carbon monoxide (CO) gas might kill people and pets.

- Do not put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with

water at all times.

- Avoid using lighted candles. If you must use candles, place them in sturdy candleholders that won’t burn.

- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.

“Winter fires are preventable,” Gaines emphasized. “Everyone should find out what they need to know to prevent a tragedy and have a safe winter season.”

For more information about the causes of winter fires, winter storm fire safety, holiday fire safety, and tips that will help prevent the incidence of fire in the home, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and the NFPA website at

www.nfpa.org/winter.

As an entity of the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency, the mission of the USFA is to provide national leadership to foster a solid foundation for our fire and emergency services stakeholders in prevention, preparedness, and response.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

Q: I note that they have built a “High Line” in New York between 10th and 11th Avenue and I am wondering if you have any knowledge of the consequences on the real estate market there.

A: Having just walked the High Line, I can tell you that there have been a number of restaurants that have sprung up near the stairs that go to the High Line at every five or six blocks. Of particular interest to you would be the fact that a number of buildings are being renovated for residential use, and because of the

landscaping of the High Line, shops, restaurants and boutiques are springing up along the line. In addition, it is giving an opportunity to various

merchants to sell merchandise in buildings where the High Line traverses. Generally it has become a tourist attraction which, of course, increases the residential and commercial value of the buildings surrounding the High Line.

Q: I am thinking about buying a condominium in New York and I am wondering what suggestion you may have with respect to getting a reasonable price on a place near Central Park.

A: Unfortunately for you, the real estate glut has not affected the condominium cooperative market in New York and, in particular, around the Central Park area. Indeed, prices continue to increase as well as the relative assessments that are being charged by the associations in order to meet the increasing costs of operation. My experience recently in observing the market there is that New York continues to be one of the most expensive places in the world for residential housing. You are best advised to get a knowledgeable real estate agent who can point out to you areas where a bargain may be possible.

Q: Our condominium association is considering posing a restriction on the installation or use of solar energy devices such as panels and associated devices by a homeowner. Is there any state prohibition on it in Michigan?

A: To the best of my knowledge, Michigan and 11 other states do not have provisions to address solar rights issues and usage within their state codes. Only three states currently prohibit covenants or restrictions placed upon homeowners which would prevent the installation of solar powered panels and associated devices. Fifteen states currently have laws that protect easements and their establishment on a legal contractual basis without having an express solar rights law. Therefore, if you are in Michigan, your association can enact whatever restrictions you wish to place on the installation of solar panels and/or solar devices to the extent that the documents are so amended.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn’t be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 22-26, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

47462 Adriana Ct	\$312,000
44012 Ardmore St	\$110,000
41614 Bedford Rd	\$54,000
42618 Boulden Ct	\$178,000
445 Constitution St	\$250,000
1754 Dunston Rd	\$200,000
7188 E Spring Dr	\$178,000
44945 Fair Oaks Dr	\$110,000
7359 Green Meadow Ln	\$120,000
42067 Hartford Dr	\$150,000
48442 Inveraray Rd	\$295,000
44937 Lemont Rd	\$160,000
45093 Lemont Rd	\$157,000
50250 Mott Rd	\$375,000
7966 N Lilley Rd	\$53,000
47728 River Woods Dr	\$233,000
268 Robyn Ct	\$145,000
4746 Sherwood Cir	\$192,000
543 Stonehenge Dr	\$230,000

GARDEN CITY

31010 Dawson St	\$84,000
1231 Gilman St	\$35,000

30616 Pierce St	\$60,000
836 Venoy Rd	\$40,000
LIVONIA	
36800 Seven Mile Rd	\$238,000
32200 Allen St	\$185,000
9619 Arcola St	\$110,000
9665 Arcola St	\$100,000
9824 Arden St	\$155,000
33101 Barkley St	\$235,000
28709 Bayberry Ct W	\$148,000
30489 Bonnydale St	\$142,000
33315 Broadmoor Ct	\$180,000
15081 Cavell St	\$95,000
14201 Deering St	\$74,000
36732 Grove St	\$149,000
30676 Hathaway St	\$105,000
9904 Ingram St	\$145,000
9623 Loveland St	\$93,000
14362 Melrose St	\$148,000
19490 Norwich Rd	\$160,000
32125 Oakley St	\$92,000
32202 Oakley St	\$94,000
32240 Oakley St	\$110,000
20135 Rensellor St	\$45,000
19030 Shay Ct	\$210,000
38823 Summers St	\$105,000
18149 University Park Dr	\$63,000
31811 W Chicago St	\$140,000
17494 Wayne Rd	\$202,000
14428 Yale St	\$126,000

NORTHVILLE

41230 Aldea Dr	\$318,000
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16256 Brook Trout Ln	\$130,000
19444 Cardene Ct	\$125,000
39577 Dun Rovin Dr	\$210,000
48682 Freestone Dr	\$98,000
48794 Freestone Dr	\$98,000
48878 Freestone Dr	\$98,000
15605 Johnson Creek Dr	\$145,000
15966 Johnson Creek Dr	\$125,000
16122 Johnson Creek Dr	\$458,000
16154 Johnson Creek Dr	\$125,000
47960 Manorwood Dr	\$757,000
510 Randolph St	\$275,000
15825 Spyglass Dr	\$620,000
41032 Stone Haven Rd	\$208,000
18043 Stonebrook Dr	\$430,000
39557 Village Run Dr	\$240,000
15711 Winchester Dr	\$235,000
40104 Woodside Dr S	\$325,000

PLYMOUTH

40467 Brecken Ridge Ln	\$215,000
46351 Currituck Ct	\$368,000
42669 Five Mile Rd	\$80,000
11180 Gold Arbor Rd	\$85,000
11180 Gold Arbor Rd	\$119,000
165 Hamilton Ave	\$95,000
15036 Plymouth Xing	\$243,000
11729 Sycamore Dr	\$72,000
9382 Tymbeline Ct	\$315,000
390 W Ann Arbor Trl	\$169,000
770 York St	\$93,000

REDFORD

19146 Delaware Ave	\$54,000
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17461 Denby	\$27,000
12035 Farley	\$35,000
19339 Gaylord	\$31,000
19443 Glenmore	\$63,000
19972 Indian	\$10,000
9245 Jerome	\$33,000
20173 Kinloch	\$26,000
15095 Kipke	\$88,000
13101 Leverne	\$62,000
27065 Lyndon	\$81,000
24979 S Sylbert Dr	\$47,000
9307 Sarasota	\$84,000
25432 Southwick	\$35,000
23817 W Chicago	\$43,000

WESTLAND

2251 Ackley Ave	\$23,000
32536 Anita Dr	\$81,000
32027 Avondale St	\$23,000
8572 Berwick Dr	\$82,000
36003 Booth St	\$62,000
36791 Canyon Dr	\$80,000
770 Easley Dr	\$65,000
38456 Meghan Ln	\$130,000
8325 Melvin Ave	\$93,000
8330 N Henry Ruff Rd	\$55,000
32053 Parkwood St	\$57,000
1536 S Parent St	\$28,000
2420 Stieber St	\$21,000
33718 Tawas Trl	\$87,000
7743 Terri Dr	\$87,000
1341 Windham St	\$68,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 15-19, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

15913 Amherst Ave	\$238,000
22210 Nottingham Dr	\$425,000

BIRMINGHAM

111 Abbey St	\$370,000
643 Ann St # 645	\$719,000
1050 Davis Ave	\$440,000
2655 E Maple Rd	\$28,000
801 Hazel St	\$269,000
1832 Melbourne St	\$364,000
1075 Oxford St	\$240,000
630 Wallace St	\$573,000
282 Wimbleton Dr	\$372,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

3199 Pebble Ln	\$167,000
6963 Sandalwood Dr	\$240,000
1750 Tiverton Rd Unit 31	\$130,000
3542 W Bradford Dr	\$125,000
620 Willow Glen Ct	\$480,000
1251 Wincombe Dr	\$139,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

1320 Forestglen Ct	\$142,000
1961 Golf Ridge Dr	\$278,000
6222 Indianwood Trl	\$243,000
242 N Glengarry Rd	\$355,000
7160 Parkhurst Dr	\$360,000
1199 Peveril Rd	\$120,000
1972 Post Chaise Ct	\$175,000
7435 Saint Auburn Dr	\$235,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
9510 Garden Ter	\$116,000
3510 Newton Rd	\$58,000
850 Ridgemont St	\$75,000
FARMINGTON	
32030 Grand River Ave Unit 3	\$29,000
35167 Oakland St	\$170,000
32808 Slocum Dr	\$119,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
29768 Briarton St	\$170,000
24082 Creekside Dr	\$119,000
29610 Gilchrist St	\$140,000
22147 Harsdale Dr	\$325,000
38940 Holsworth Ct	\$205,000
33133 Hopecrest Ct	\$155,000
23054 Potomac Cir	\$147,000
36785 Quakertown Ln	\$180,000
28809 Ramblewood Dr	\$165,000
30227 S Stockton Dr	\$79,000
28464 Westerleigh Rd	\$120,000

MILFORD

110 Bensfield	\$460,000
NOVI	
43000 12 Oaks Crescent Dr #	\$94,000
22340 Oak Dr	\$240,000
24065 Cranbrooke Dr	\$100,000
43038 Oxford Ct	\$390,000
24500 Riverview Ln	\$185,000
24585 Sarah Flynn	\$170,000
39786 Village Wood Cir	\$21,000
1181 West Lake Dr	\$300,000
SOUTH LYON	
54210 Birchwood Dr	\$30,000
147 Easton Dr	\$200,000
61248 Greenwood Dr	\$34,000
24327 Heatherwood Dr	\$125,000
834 Norchester St	\$137,000
23731 Prescott Ln W	\$61,000
1116 Vassar	\$119,000
SOUTHFIELD	
29869 Brentwood St	\$42,000
23866 Merrill Ave	\$37,000
21669 Potomac St	\$65,000
22570 Shevington Dr	\$142,000
WHITE LAKE	
1307 Round Lake Rd	\$65,000

BRIEFS

Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. Free seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods. Next seminar is scheduled for Dec. 1.

HOMES

apartments.com
HomeFinder.com

Homes

PLYMOUTH-
For Sale By Owner
Lovely 3 bdrm, 3 blocks from downtown 1750 sq. ft., new kitchen w/marble cabinets, ceramic tile & oak flooring. New windows & siding. Living room & master suite w/fireplace. Bsm. Screened porch. \$265,000. 248-444-0896

Manufactured Homes

CANTON HOMES
For Sale
\$16,900
Payments as low as \$629/mo. Includes insurance, home payment and lot rent. Financing available. 3 bedroom/2 bath, deck, shed & appliances.
*Some restrictions apply.
Expires 12/31/11
Sun Homes Services, Inc.
2777 Franklin Rd., Suite 200,
Southfield, MI 48034
OE08769946

SUN HOMES
Academy/Westpoint
academywestpoint.com
1-888-658-5659
*Some restrictions apply.
Expires 12/31/11
Sun Homes Services, Inc.
2777 Franklin Rd., Suite 200,
Southfield, MI 48034
OE08769946

BUY NOW!
OWN YOUR HOME
FOR AS LOW AS
\$9,900
2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH
NEARLY 1,000 SQ. FT.
\$1,000 LOWE'S GIFT
CARD UPON CLOSING
CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING
SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE
SUN HOMES AT
COLLEGE PARK ESTATES
CANTON, MI
(888) 265-9858
*Financed amount \$9,900 at 12.9% APR, 36-month term.
Includes site rent of \$185/mo. in yr 1.
Expires 12/31/11 • EHO • WAC
www.4collegepark.com

SOUTH LYON:
In Northville Crossings,
3 bdrm, 2 bath, family
room with fireplace,
20x12 deck, kitchen
appliances, nice
landscaping. Take over
payments or make offer.
Call: (248) 573-7248

REDFORD MOBILE HOME-
Warrick Village, Trailer 1 on
Joy Rd btwn Beech/Telegraph.
\$5500/best. 313-680-9783

Commercial/Retail For Sale
CANTON: Busy Michigan Ave
corridor. New 5100 SF building,
completely occupied.
4.5 acre site has room for
another 15,000 SF building.
\$1,400,000. #2615853
Bela Sipos
734-669-5813, 734-669-4100
Reinhart Commercial

Cemetery Lots
CEMETERY LOT Mt. Hope
Memorial Gardens, Garden of
Valor. Double deck lot. \$2500.
989-821-5509

Apartments
FARMINGTON AREA
Adult community, quiet country setting, heat/water incl. \$590/mo. Call: (734) 564-8402
FARMINGTON HILLS
ANNIE APTS.
1/2 off sec. dep. if qualified
FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom
\$505. 9 Mile/Middlebelt
248-478-7489
GARDEN CITY: Large 1 bedroom. Appl., heat & water Free. \$560 + Security. 734-464-3847, 734-513-4965
LIVONIA - Mid 5/Middlebelt. 2 bdrm with laundry room in unit. \$666/mo. 50% Off 1st Month's Rent! Call: (248) 521-1978
LIVONIA MANOR: 2 bdrm. appliances. Heat/Water incl. Starting \$695/mo. 5 Mile & E/Middlebelt. 734-288-8430
LIVONIA: HEAT/WATER INCL
Spacious 2 bdrm, wood floors, balcony. \$735/mo. 734-516-0541

WESTLAND \$300*
Moves You In!
Spacious 1 bedroom
Private entry
On-site maintenance
Hurry, won't last!
734-721-6699 EHO
*call for details

WESTLAND
Hickory Woods Apts.
\$224 MOVE IN!
1 Month Rent Free
(for qualified applicants)
1 Bdrm-\$550
2 Bdrm-\$650
FREE GAS & WATER
(734) 729-6520
*Short term leases available.

Westland Park Apts.
FREE RENT
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath,
\$595, 936 Sq. Ft.
1 Bdrms start at \$530
728 Sq. Ft. "Special"
\$100 off a month!
\$200 Security Deposit
Heat and Water Incl.
(New residents only)
with approved credit
No Pets, C/A, Vertical
Blinds, Intercom.
Appliances include
Dishwasher
Very clean Apartments
Excellent Maintenance
(734) 729-6636

Condos/Townhouses

PLYMOUTH- 55+ comm. 2nd flr w/balcony, carpet & view of creek front & rear. Inc heat & water. \$700. 734-455-2988
PLYMOUTH: 1 bdrm with gar in a unique country setting. Min from downtown Plymouth. \$675/mo + dep. 734-641-2009

Mobile Home Rentals

3 bed/2 bath homes starting at \$629
College Park Estates Sun Homes
Apply at: 4collegepark.com
Hurry won't last!
(888) 284-9760
SUN HOMES
*Some restrictions apply, call for details.
Exp. 12/31/11 EHO

Homes For Rent

Manufactured Homes for Rent
\$579. Free Rent Until 1/1/2012*
Beautiful 3 Bed/2 Baths homes starting at \$629. Call us today!
(888) 272-3099
SUN HOMES
Academy/Westpoint
41021 Old Michigan Ave • Canton
*Offer valid on select homes only.
Expires 12/31/11. WAC
www.academywestpoint.com

Homes For Rent
CANTON: 720 SCOTTSDALE \$1495/mo with a sec dep of \$2,492.50 to move in. 5 bdrms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, family room w/ fireplace, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, patio, shed, stove & refrigerator. Prices and Pets are neg. Showtimes for this home are Wednesdays and Sundays at 4pm or by appointment. Please call 313-920-9966 for more information or email us at scm901@yahoo.com
COMMERCE TWP. Lovely 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt, lake privileges, appl., fenced yard. \$955. 248-568-6119
GARDEN CITY
2 Bdrms, bath, 1 garage, central air, laundry facilities, large living/dinning/kitchen - very cute home ready to move in! No pets! Immediate Occupancy. \$850. 734-341-8713
GARDEN CITY-\$950
Section 8. 3 Bdrms, 2 baths, 2 garage, basement. No pets! Available Jan. 1st, 2012. 734-788-1635
INKSTER: 1220 Helen, 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, finished bsmt, c/a, newer carpet, fenced, 1.5 garage. Immediate Occupancy \$800/mo. 313-622-8214
LIVONIA
home 2 Bdrms, bath, Immediate Occupancy, \$750 313-729-5219
LIVONIA: 3 bdrm ranch with family room, 2.5 car garage, lg yard, hot tub, neighborhood schools. Call: (734) 522-5428
REDFORD: Remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath, all appls incl. Detached garage. \$850/mo. 248-767-1323
WAYNE: 3 bdrm, 2 baths, updated kitchen & bath. Fenced yard, 1 car gar. Non-smoking. \$850. 734-878-9045
WESTLAND - Economical 2 Bdrm, updated, C/A, bsmt, new furnace. Stove, fridge, W/D \$700/mo Sect 8 welcome! Agent: (734) 646-4957
WESTLAND: 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, full bsmt, brick ranch, no garage, no pets, \$849/mo. 248-360-7916, 248-669-9519
WESTLAND: 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch home. Completely redone & appliances, Livonia Schools. \$950. 734-604-1789

Living Quarters To Share
CANTON: Quiet executive home on 5 wooded acres, \$325 incl. cable & all utilities. Non-smoking. 734-658-8823
FARMINGTON HILLS: Professional to share immaculate, furnished house. Safe, \$395 incl. util., cable, W/D, Wi-Fi, maid. (813) 205-9926

Building Remodeling
CERAMIC TILE WORK
Water damage repairs From \$150 (Small Work) Ins. 31 years. 734-469-0565
Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair
BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO. -New & repairs Sr. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins. 248-557-5595, 313-292-7722
Cleaning Service
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Honest, meticulous, experienced. 10% OFF First visit! Call 734-772-2627
HOUSE CLEANING
\$25/hr. Dependable, hard working & honest. \$10 off first visit. Call 734-604-8882
Drywall
COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.
Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/Ins. Free Est. 29 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738
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FAMILY ELECTRICAL
City cert. Violations corrected. Service changes or any small job. Free est. 734-422-8080
Hauling/Clean Up
A-1 HAULING
Move scrap metal, clean basements, garages, stores, etc. Lowest prices in town. Quick service. Free est. Wayne/Oakland, Central location. 248-547-2764, 248-559-8138
Painting/Decorating Paperhangers
PAINTING BY ROBERT
• Wallpaper Removal • Int • Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair • Staining. 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147
QUALITY PAINTING
Livonia & Northern Suburbs. Interior - Exterior. Free est. Since 1967. (248) 225-7165

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BEST CHIMNEY CO.
Free Est. Lic & Ins. 248-557-5595, 313-292-7722
LEAK SPECIALIST Flashings, Valleys, Chimneys, etc. Warr. Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic / Ins. Call: (248) 346-4321

SERVICES

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Cards Of Thanks
PRAYER: Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted. M
Absolutely Free
Christmas tree. Pre-lit, 7 feet tall. 248-887-9161 after 6pm.
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Auction Sales
ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION: 12/07/2011, Family Towing, 30712 Industrial Rd., Livonia, MI. 1995 Lincoln L1NLM97V9SY705083

ESTATE AUCTION
Sat. Dec. 3rd, 7pm
Cultural Center
525 Farmer
Plymouth MI
Extraordinary Collection of Pottery, Roseville, Weller, McCoy, Hall, Weller, Redwing, Furniture, Glassware, Old Toy Collection, Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm
Joe Carli, Professional Auction Service
734.451.7444
jcauctionservices.com

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BUY & SELL

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Wing Lake Craft and Vendor Show
Wing Lake Center
6490 Wing Lake Rd
Bloomfield Hills, 48301
Maple, 1/2 mile
W of Telegraph
Sat. December 3, 9-4pm.
45+ Vendors & Artisans.
Shop local,
support MI businesses

Auction Sales
ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION: 12/07/2011, Family Towing, 30712 Industrial Rd., Livonia, MI. 1995 Lincoln L1NLM97V9SY705083

ESTATE AUCTION
Sat. Dec. 3rd, 7pm
Cultural Center
525 Farmer
Plymouth MI
Extraordinary Collection of Pottery, Roseville, Weller, McCoy, Hall, Weller, Redwing, Furniture, Glassware, Old Toy Collection, Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm
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jcauctionservices.com

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Arts & Crafts
WESTLAND: Huron Valley Lutheran High School Craft Vendor Show.

JOBS

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Help Wanted-General

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart.
Call Mon-Fri, 9-5pm.
734-728-4572 or email: phneworkinfo@aol.com

ASSEMBLY

Start your new year off right: dynamic manufacturer in Plymouth is looking to increase production staff. We are eager to train dependable, bright individuals who can demonstrate a strong work ethic and positive attitude. Entry level, full and part time, day-shift positions are available. High school diploma required. Our modern manufacturing facility is very clean and houses the latest in innovative equipment. Competitive wages and a generous benefit package including 401(k), EOE.
Email resume to: hrplymouth@yahoo.com

AUDIO/VIDEO ALARM TECHNICIAN

AVIO, Michigan's premier source for AV and Alarm has immediate opportunities available at our Troy location for experienced audio-video technicians and alarm installers. Candidates should have exp. in alarm installation & service, specifically with Ademco, Napco, Moose and DSC panels and exp. in residential or commercial audio-video and/or control systems.
For consideration email resume to: position@avinc.com No phone calls please.

AUTO BODY MANAGER

For busy collision repair facility with several locations. Must be licensed & I-Car certified. Exc. pay & benefits.
Email resume to: employeecl@comcast.net

AUTO MECHANIC - LICENSED

Van Ess Auto in Livonia. Call for interview: 734-422-0320, email: stuartms@gmail.com

AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS

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Exp'd. only. Crystal Glass, Wixom. Email resume: jsolomon@crystalglassinc.net Fax: 248-685-8448 or Call: 248-685-9220

HAIR STYLIST/ASSISTANT

Part-time, cosmetology license required. Plymouth. Call: (734) 451-0855

High Pressure Boiler Operator/HVAC Service Tech

FT. Immediate opening in Southfield MI. 5 yrs. exp. with HP boilers and auxiliaries, MAUs, pumps etc. Must have strong mechanical/trouble shooting skills motivated & willing to learn. Competitive wage and compensation package send resume to: jobs11@bctenair.com

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\$14.25 base-appt. Call 248-888-9246 or apply online at xmashelp.com

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Help Wanted-General

MASONS

Must have own truck, tools & ladder. Must have exp. **CHIMNEY SWEEP** Must have own truck/van. No exp. needed, will train. Call: 734-217-4993 Fax: 734-667-3012

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Central Oakland County Law Firm seeks Full Time Legal Secretary with a minimum of two years legal experience. Experience in Probate and Estate Planning a Plus. Please send resume to: Observer & Eccentric 6200 Metropolitan Pkwy Sterling Heights MI 48312 oerresume@hometownlife.com Reference Box 1875

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Experienced, self motivated Dental Assistant needed full time for fast-paced office. Implant experience a plus. Fax resume 734-728-1656

Help Wanted-Medical

Certified Nursing Assistants

Exp. in private homes. Plymouth. info@for-hcs.com Fax: 248-443-8343

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT

Duties include: clerical work, some billing, taking patients to rooms and learning x-rays. Requires good communication skills, friendly & outgoing personality. Must be mature & responsible & have computer skills. 20 hrs/wk. Mon-Wed-Fri: 2:45-7:30PM. & Sat: 8:45am-1:30pm. 27527 Joy Rd Westland. Call mornings Mon-Tues. Wed. & Fri. 734-522-5501

RN

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Veterinary Receptionist & LVT (or equivalent)

Part-time at Cherry Hill Animal Clinic in Westland. Includes evenings and Saturday hours. Previous veterinary experience REQUIRED. Send resume by attachment to CHACVET@aol.com Please no calls.

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COOK

For assisted living facility. Apply in person: 8121 Lilley, Canton, MI (btwn Joy & Warren)

MANAGER

Full-time manager at self-serve food establishment in local mall, benefits dependent on experience. Must have experience in food service industry. Reply to: storemgr2011@gmail.com

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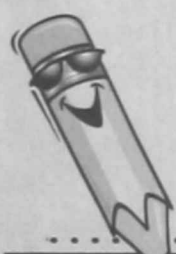
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ACROSS

- 1 Collects maple sap
- 5 Kind of rage
- 9 747 or DC-10
- 12 Water, to Juana
- 13 Newsman — Abel
- 14 "Honest" fellow
- 15 Element number 79
- 16 Bit of straw
- 17 Two-bagger (abbr.)
- 18 Spiky flowers
- 21 Vacation acquisition
- 22 And so forth
- 23 Hail, to Caesar
- 26 Bogus Bach
- 28 Expresses boredom
- 32 Count calories
- 34 Depot (abbr.)
- 36 Pajama coverer
- 37 Urban woes
- 39 "Westworld" name

41 Kilt-wearer's no

- 42 Letterhead abbr.
- 44 Figured out
- 46 Suffering from bad luck
- 51 LP speed
- 52 German valley
- 53 Card combo
- 55 Had roast beef
- 56 Falco or Sedgwick
- 57 Pantyhose color
- 58 Glamorous woman, slangily
- 59 Rip apart
- 60 Cherry leftover

DOWN

- 1 Playground game
- 2 All excited
- 3 Tug
- 4 Anwar of Egypt
- 5 Runs back-

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
	18			19				20		
				21			22			
23	24	25	26		27		28		29	30
32			33		34		35		36	
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
	46	47			48			49	50	
51				52				53		54
55				56				57		
58				59				60		

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search

G W Q C S R F D L P I L E P L
M R J M B C R A J L I Q L J W
G D A E Y A P C S S L P V Y S
J O T C F W O R A J P I I L A
Z Z D T E M E M P H I S S R G
D P C D K L A H A T W Y E A E
S R Y E N R A Z H D Q L Y V V
Z I S M I U S N R U B E D I S
O S N E R P O P D H L Q G G A
V C Z G L A H H C S E X V X L
R I Y G E E M E E S P I H D H
D L J I T R C R U J W E O F X
I L K B M Q P P K A Q D O P U
E A H E F V P Q V B Y S M W R
E N T E R T A I N E R N M S N

army entertainer hound dog memphis RCA
draft graceland las vegas presley sideburns
elvis hips lisa marie priscilla singer

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

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Volkswagen

JETTA 2010
Midnight Black, SEL, leather,
and sunroof! Ready to roll!
Just \$19,895!
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

PASSAT 2006
2.0T \$11,995
NORTH BROTHERS-TROY
248-643-6600

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA
Dk blue, 35K \$14,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
(734) 453-2500

Autos Under \$2000

FORD FOCUS 2002:
95K miles, right side
damaged, \$500/best offer.
SOLD

Switch to LaRiche!

SWITCH TO LaRICHE!

BEST SELECTION

BEST PRICE FOR EVERYONE



2012 CHEVY CRUZE

LEASE FOR
\$159
OR LESS
SIGN & DRIVE

EVERYONE'S PRICE
ZERO DOWN

BUY FOR
\$16,396
OR LESS



2012 CHEVY EQUINOX

LEASE FOR
\$269
OR LESS
SIGN & DRIVE

EVERYONE'S PRICE
ZERO DOWN

BUY FOR
\$22,395
OR LESS



2012 CHEVY MALIBU

LEASE FOR
\$179
OR LESS
SIGN & DRIVE

EVERYONE'S PRICE
ZERO DOWN

BUY FOR
\$18,495
OR LESS



2012 CHEVY IMPALA

LEASE FOR
\$297
OR LESS
SIGN & DRIVE

GREAT SAVINGS
ZERO DOWN

BUY FOR
\$19,546
OR LESS



2012 CHEVY TRAVERSE

LEASE FOR
\$234
OR LESS
SIGN & DRIVE

EVERYONE'S PRICE
ZERO DOWN

BUY FOR
\$25,562
OR LESS



2012 CHEVY SONIC