

Arts event

The Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities hosts its spring fundraiser, "Rock-n-Roll Valentine's," Friday, Feb. 10, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The event starts with a 7 p.m. reception; the concert, featuring local favorite Steve King and the Dittilies, starts at 8 p.m. King's music showcases classic rock from the 1930s to the present, spiced with current comedy.

Tickets are on sale now at www.cantonvillagetheater.org. They are \$30 each or \$25 if purchased by Jan. 10.

Trash time

There will be no change in the Canton Waste Recycling collection schedule next week. CWR will keep the same Monday-Thursday collection following the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

For questions or more information on solid waste collection, visit www.cantonmi.org or call CWR at (734) 397-5801.

Chorale tryouts

BeckRidge Productions announces its upcoming season for Cherry Hill Singers and BeckRidge Chorale. Cherry Hill Singers is a non-auditioned choir whose rehearsals

Feds snub Canton's I-275/Ford plan — again

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

For a frustrating third time, federal officials have snubbed a \$20.3 million proposal to reshape the I-275/Ford Road interchange in Canton and ease traffic congestion around one of Michigan's most accident-prone areas.

Barring yet a fourth round of so-called TIGER grants — Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery — Canton officials concede they will have to pin their hopes on a state-funded solution, which has indeed gained momentum amid bipartisan support from Michigan legislators.

"I'm disappointed we didn't get TIGER III, but we're not going to give up," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the Michigan Department of Transportation already is moving forward with a traffic and environmental impact study of the I-275/Ford Road interchange that should be completed by 2013.

"They don't fund a study unless there is going to be a project," Faas said.

The overriding question is when, and officials can't say with certainty.

However, the project is expected to gain more momentum when the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, likely in March, is expected to add the long-awaited project to its list of regional transportation projects. "By the end of 2012, we have a very good chance of getting the project shovel-ready," LaJoy said.

Project endorsed

Officials from Canton, neighboring communities and Lansing — including the full state Senate and the House Transportation Committee — have formally endorsed the need to fix the beleaguered interchange and

Please see I-275/FORD, A2

Hearing delayed in child abuse case

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

A 4-month-old Canton boy allegedly abused by his father had been removed from a life-supporting ventilator, the maternal grandfather said Wednesday morning, two weeks after the baby's father was accused of pushing the child's head against the floor of a residence on Michigan Avenue near Sheldon.

"He's not doing any better," Sal Alongi, the grandfather of little Hunter Sewejkis, said at press time Wednesday. "He's fighting on right now, but it's still a matter of time. Hunter suffered a fractured skull and extensive brain damage during a Dec. 7 incident that led to criminal charges against 25-year-old Anthony Lawrence Sewejkis, who has admitted he "messed up bad." Lora Weingarden, a lead attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, has told 35th District Judge Ronald Lowe that Sewejkis, already charged with first-degree child abuse, will face higher charges if the boy dies. Her comments came Monday morning as a preliminary exam for Sewejkis was adjourned until Jan. 5. Alongi said young Hunter's family has kept vigil at the University of Michigan Hospital, where the boy was taken from another hospital after authorities say he was abused while Sewejkis was home alone with him. "We've been through all kinds of emotions," Alongi said Mon-



begin Monday, Jan. 16, at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church (321 Ridge Road in Canton).

BeckRidge Chorale is an auditioned choir and auditions will be held Jan. 3, 10 and 17. Their rehearsals are Tuesday nights and begin Jan. 17 at Plymouth First United Methodist Church (45201 N. Terrítorial in Plymouth).

Contact Kelly Fifield at kelly@beckridgechorale. org to schedule an audition or for more information about either choir.

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Josh Isenhardt is the social media pastor for NorthRidge Church.

Churches turn to Facebook, Twitter to help tell Gospel story

By Karen Smith Observer Staff Writer

God used angels more than 2,000 years ago to announce the birth of Jesus.

Today, churches are using Facebook, Twitter and other modern technology to help spread the Gospel message.

Though the message is the same — God loves everyone so much he sent his only son to save them — the way that message is delivered has changed over the centuries.

"We definitely see social media as one of the languages of the culture (now)," said Josh Isenhardt, 30, social media pastor at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township. This generation considers Facebook a modern-day town square. "Why wouldn't we have a presence there?"

NorthRidge, Bell Creek Community Church in Livonia and Grace Chapel in Farming-



NorthRidge Church is using social media to aid in spiritual formation. "Ultimately, we want to see people grow to be more like Christ," Pastor Josh Isenhardt said.

ton Hills are among the local churches that are implementing some of the latest technologies.

Virtual campus

NorthRidge added a virtual campus this year. It has a brick and mortar campus in Plymouth Township, and meets in schools in Saline and Howell.

In the virtual campus, members from around the country and world simultaneously visit the church's website (northridgechurch.com) at 7 p.m. Sunday to watch a rebroadcast of the weekend service and participate in a live-time chat room, even praying for each other.

"Church online is for those people who are not ready to step into the physical location," Isenhardt said.

Bell Creek Community Church, which meets at Franklin High School in Livonia, used Twitter for the first time this year to remind people to pray during the week. The church tweeted the word "pray" to those who had signed up to be reminded during a series the church held on prayer.

"We found that it was very effective, and it's something we're going to keep doing," said pastor Fred Wright, 43. "It was amazing how many of our folks signed up."

Please see CHURCHES, A5

Please see ABUSE, A3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER The preliminary hearing for Anthony Sewejkis was delayed until Jan. 5.



I-275/FORD

Continued from page A1

ease conditions along traffic-clogged Ford Road.

"Now we're on the radar," LaJoy said.

The project as touted would add new ramps from the southbound I-275 exit to allow motorists to travel either north or south on Haggerty without getting onto Ford Road. It also proposes a northbound service drive along the east side of the interstate from Cherry Hill Road to north of Ford.

"I think first of all, the good news is we've raised the awareness and the need all over the state of Michigan," LaJoy said. "That part of it, we've got behind us.

The traffic and environmental study comes next, Faas said, followed by eventual phases for design and construction.

Canton officials got the word last Friday that the I-275 project had been overlooked yet again in third-round TIGER grants. Moreover, federal officials announced just one TIGER grant for all of Michigan - an effort in St. Clair County to pave a gravel road and improve the Smiths Creek Road Bridge to improve access to a landfill that houses the nation's first "septage bioreactor," which uses garbage and sewage to create energy.

Other choice

An estimated 2,300 people a day are projected to use that road, compared to at least 50,000 motorists who travel Ford Road every day. Federal officials allocated \$3.6 million for the St. Clair County project, far less than the \$20.3 million sought for the I-275 proposal.

Faas had said early on the competition would be fierce as federal officials WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas (from left), Supervisor Phil LaJoy and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, talked state legislators into supporting the project, but the feds still aren't convinced and turned it down for a third time.

approved some \$527 million for project proposals that reached a startling \$14.3 billion.

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood underscored the same sentiment in a statement he released about TIGER grants.

"The overwhelming demand for these grants clearly shows that communities across the country can't afford to wait any longer for Congress to put Americans to work building the transportation projects that are critical to our economic future," he said. "That's why we've taken action to get these grants out the door quickly, and that is why we will continue to ask Congress to make the targeted investments we need to create jobs.'

Canton officials have estimated the I-275 project would create as many as 200 jobs.

LaHood also said the federal TIGER team looked for projects that "will contribute to longterm economic competitiveness, upgrade existing facilities and transportation systems, increase energy efficiency, improve safety and get people where they're going faster and more reliably. We paid particular attention to projects that are expected to create and preserve jobs quickly.

Canton officials had billed the I-275/Ford project as a perfect description of the criteria.

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



By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

Canton fire officials are alerting local residents that a survey mailed to some township homes to gauge satisfaction with paramedic and ambulance service did not come from the township's public safety or administration offices.

The letterhead contains the township's official logo for the Canton Community, though Fire Chief Tim Dunn said the survey apparently was sent by a Lansing-based survey team on behalf of another ambulance service.

"A survey has been sent out that appears to have come from the Canton Fire Department," Dunn said. "It did not, nor have we sanctioned it.'

The survey appears to have been sent to certain residents who recently used an ambulance service other than Canton Township's.

"It was never sent out by us," Dunn said.

The fire chief sought to clarify the issue for residents who may believe they are being asked to rate Canton Township's paramedic and ambulance service.

Township officials have notified local homeowner associations and have distanced themselves from the survey in a statement in Canton's Focus newsletter.

"Canton Public Safety has recently been made aware of a survey that was mailed to an unknown number of Canton residents containing questions regarding the fire department's paramedic/ ambulance service," the statement says. "The sur-

vey was printed to look as though it came from Canton Administrative Offices, but recipients should know it did not.

"If you're in doubt of the authenticity of a survey you have received, check the address printed on the return envelope,' the statement reads. "Surveys mailed out by Canton Public Safety will always be sent back to Canton's Public Safety headquarters located on Canton Center Road in Canton."

Dunn dismissed the survey as "deceiving" considering that it used an official Canton logo from the township's official website.

Dunn said anyone who has questions may call (734) 394-5455.

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

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

MAGIC SHOW

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m. Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

Details: Las Vegas magician and Michigan native Aaron Radatz returns to the Village Theater at Cherry



Hill. Radatz presents his one-man show of magic and comedy with a holiday flavor that is geared to entertain the entire family. Performing at this venue has become a holiday tradition for Radatz. Tickets range from \$17 to \$22 and

can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling

(734) 394-5300.

NEW YEAR FRIENDSHIP

Date/Time: Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7:15 p.m. Location: Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford, Canton

Details: Start the new year right with the straight "Talk of the Township" from speaker Melissa McLaughlin, Canton's treasurer, at the Canton Newcomers and Neighbors general meeting. Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara will also be stopping by to highlight five benefits to living in Wayne County. In addition, and with the support of club sponsors showroom of Elegance and Dr. Jyothi Nichana, enjoy a tasty treat to celebrate the Chinese new year, a raffle to benefit The Heat and Warmth Fund, and signups for interest groups including Playgroups, Couples Bunko, Let's Do Lunch, Book Club, Ladies Night Out, Euchre and more



Pizza with Santa

The Canton Rotary Club continued its tradition of hosting Pizza with Santa this year, but with a slightly different emphasis. This year Rotarians hosted 73 children and 61 adults from the Head Start Program. These disadvantaged youth are unable to afford to attend many of the community events where there is a charge for the festivities. The Canton Club, with the help of a grant from the district and from Walmart, put on a celebration for the youngsters with a balloon maker, a face painter, a visit from Santa who flew in by helicopter, a story teller, and the gift of a storybook for the students and a medical reference book for the adults. And, of course, there was plenty of pizza and salad for everyone made to order by The Roman Forum and Rotarian Greg Gatto.

Contact: (734) 394-5300 or visit www. CantonVillageTheater.org.



A2

St. Michael Lutheran Church



Christmas Eve: 5:00 and 7:00 pm Family Oriented Worship

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion

> Christmas Day: 10:00 am

7000 N. Sheldon Road (Sheldon and Warren) Canton • 734-459-3333



Contact: To RSVP, call Noreen at (734) 981-0486 or e-mail nrybar@yahoo.com.

TIME MACHINE

Date/Time: Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Details: Celebrate the past and toast the future when veteran rockers, "Time Machine," will ring in 2012. Make this New Year's celebration one to remember as you take a journey back through classic rock history with covers from your favorite bands, including the Stones, Beatles, Bob Seger, Alice Cooper, Bad Company, Fleetwood Mac, Kid Rock and Van Morrison. The \$45 ticket includes a strolling buffet, two sets of classic rock music on stage, desserts, favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

DRUM CLASSES

Date/Time: Wednesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 1, 5-6:30 p.m.

Location: Artico House, adjacent to the Plymouth Community Arts council, 724 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Join instructor and professional drummer Pat Paul Sorise at the Plymouth Community Arts Council for a new series of Drum Classes in the New Year. First will be Beginner Drum Set 100 (5-5:45 p.m. for ages 7 to adult), which will introduce students to holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, how to count and play quarter and eighth notes and introduce/play the drum set. For the advanced and experienced drummer the PCAC will open a new section of Advanced Drum Set 200 (ages 7 to adult, 5:45-6:30 p.m.). This class will identify drums/cymbals, wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns.

Contact: To learn about other great opportunities at the PCAC or a complete list of classes offered visit www.plymoutharts. com or stop in the PCAC at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth, or call (734) 416-4278.



CITY OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USES OF 2012-2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK **GRANT FUNDS**

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Plymouth is announcing its objectives and possible uses for developing projects using Year 2012-2013 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

OBJECTIVES;

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- To provide benefits to senior citizens.
- To provide benefits directly to persons of low/moderate income and/or areas in which at least 51% of the residents are of low/moderate income
- To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG funded programs

PROPOSED YEAR 2012-2013 PROJECTS:

The City anticipates receiving approximately \$56,779 in CDBG funds for the contract year 2012-13, and has identified the following potential projects and corresponding estimated allocations for use of these funds:

ADA and/or Public Facility Improvements		\$40,313
Public Services- Senior Transportation		\$10,788
Administration/Planning		\$ 5.678
A Manufactor a second B	TOTAL	\$56 779

PUBLIC HEARING:

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects listed above, and to suggest other projects. All projects must meet one of the Federal CDBG objectives

A public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed uses of 2012-2013 CDBG funds, and additional suggestions for use of said funds, will be held at the Plymouth City Commission Meeting on Monday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk

Publish: December 22, 2011



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Family members say Anthony Sewejkis, charged with firstdegree child abuse, would "trade places with Hunter in a minute."

ABUSE

Continued from page A1

day, standing outside the courtroom. "We've been standing by the hospital bed, praying and hoping for the best. We're praying for a miracle."

Alongi, father of the boy's mother, Leanne Garlick, described her as "not well" and said she was shocked by the crimes Sewejkis is accused of committing. "She had no idea that he

was capable of anything like this," Alongi said.

Hunter has undergone surgeries to alleviate swelling after he suffered a fractured skull.

"The left side of his brain is completely dead," Alongi said, adding that the boy suffered hemorrhaging. He said the child survived the last few days because doctors used life-supporting machines to keep him alive.

"We're going to follow this through to the end," Alongi said, adding that he had only one wish for Sewejkis: "Rot in hell."

Standing outside the courtroom not far from Alongi, Kim Belmont, Sewejkis' aunt, said she and other relatives also are asking for prayers. "We believe in miracles," she said.

Sewejkis already has been charged with firstdegree child abuse, and he could face 15 years in prison if he is convicted of that charge. Belmont said she doesn't believe Sewejkis would intentionally hurt Hunter. "He's very scared," Belmont said of Sewejkis. "He's very worried about his son. He loves his son very much. He would trade places with him in a minute."

Sewejkis kept his right hand over his face much of the time as he sat in court Monday morning, dressed in a green jail uniform.

His preliminary exam — a hearing to decide if he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court — was adjourned until Jan. 5 after defense attorney Dennis Shrewsbury said he needed time to review evidence related to the case.

Sewejkis broke into tears during his Dec. 9 video arraignment in front of 35th District Judge James Plakas.

"I messed up bad," said Sewejkis, who was jailed with a \$500,000 cash bond.

Canton police had received a phone call from a hospital about 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, that it appeared Hunter had been abused.

"It has been alleged that (Sewejkis) caused a fracture to the skull of his son by pushing his head to the floor," Canton Detective Tim Wright said during the arraignment.

Wright said a prior referral had been made to Child Protective Services. The mother wasn't at

home when the incident occurred.

dclem@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2238

Hearing delayed in child porn case

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

A Monroe man facing computer-related child pornography charges remains free on bond after agreeing Monday in 35th District Court to postpone his preliminary hearing in the case.

J. Henry Lievens, the attorney for suspect Tavis Greene, said the adjournment was to allow the defense time for evidence discovery. Judge Ron Lowe rescheduled the hearing for Thursday, Dec. 29, in district court.

Greene, 24, was arrested Dec. 9 and arraigned the next day on six counts of using a computer to communicate with another to commit a crime, three counts of distribution of child sexually abusive material and three counts of possession of child sexually abusive material.

Authorities said inves-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The preliminary hearing for Tavis Greene, charged with multiple pornography-related counts, was delayed until Dec. 29.

tigators found evidence of child pornographic materials — and that some children in those materials appear as young as 10 — on a computer belonging to Greene. The investigation had been conducted jointly by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police.

Greene was arrested at the Plymouth Township home of a friend with whom he had been staying.

Greene, who works in information technology, will be able to use his work computer while on bond on the condition that his supervisor consent to a search of it by police and prosecutors at any time, according to an arrangement worked out between Lievens and Lora Weingarden, an assistant Wayne Country prosecutor.

Greene, who had several supporters in court Monday, is free on a \$100,000 cash or surety bond. Each of the 12 counts he faces is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

United Way awards basic needs grants

In response to increasing requests for rent and utility assistance, Plymouth Community United Way recently awarded grants to nonprofit organizations that help low-income residents of Plymouth and Canton. The challenging economic times have created a crisis for local families desperate for food and basic human needs.

The Salvation Army-Plymouth Corps received \$20,000 to help families in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville. On average, The Salvation Army receives 8-to-10 calls a day to prevent shutoffs and evictions.

Cuts to the federally and state funded Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Assistance Funds (LIEEF) have hampered the ability of organizations like The Salvation Army, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, St. Vincent de Paul and THAW (The Heat and Warmth Fund) to assist residents. Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency asked for and received a grant for \$5,000 for emergency utility assistance and energy education classes to help low-income residents in Plymouth and Canton lower utility bills.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. John Neumann Conference is using its \$7,000 to provide rent, food, clothing and utility assistance to those in need in the Can-

YOUR DESTINATION

ton community.

Along with awarding grants, Plymouth Community United Way raises funds year round for partner agencies including First Step, Angela Hospice, The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, and Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

Visit www.plymouthunitedway.org to learn about a variety of ways to give and volunteer, or call (734) 453-6879.

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T-F	DEC 27-30	10:00AM - 9:00PM
SAT	DEC 31	10:00AM - 6:00PM



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Pedestrian succumbs to injuries

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

Joseph A. Fluker, a 53year-old pedestrian who died nearly a month after he was struck by a vehicle as he tried to cross Ford Road east of Haggerty, will be remembered as a longtime Ford Motor Co. employee who enjoyed sports, visiting his family's Houghton Lake cottage and spending time with his family and friends.

Mr. Fluker died Dec. 9 after he was taken off life support at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, where he had spent his last days after he was struck about 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10 by a minivan.

Mr. Fluker, a Commerce Township resident, was born in Highland Park and worked 35 years for Ford Motor Co., according to Edward Swanson & Son Funeral Home in Madison Heights. He was a member of the United Auto Workers Local 892.

Mr. Fluker will be remembered for "his sense of humor and caring ways," his family said in his obituary. He enjoyed all sports but especially those involving his two daughters, Kara and Danielle — whether he was watching or coaching.

Mr. Fluker always looked forward to the Detroit Tigers baseball season and University of Michigan sports.

"He especially enjoyed spending time with his family and friends," his obituary said. "He looked forward to his Sunday morning drives through the neighborhood, catching up with the neighbors. He enjoyed Satur-



Joseph A. Fluker died Dec. 9 from injuries suffered when he was struck by a vehicle as he tried to cross Ford Road east of Haggerty last month.

day nights with (his family's) Euchre Club friends who are the best people you could ever meet."

Mr. Fluker's favorite activity was heading north to the family cottage on Houghton Lake, where he would fish, jet ski, find projects to do or just relax with family and friends on the water, around a campfire or during a barbecue.

Mr. Fluker had been crossing Ford Road on foot when the Nov. 10 accident occurred. Canton police have said he was east of a crosswalk when he was struck by the minivan, and authorities have said the 64-year-old Inkster woman who was driving the vehicle didn't appear to be at fault.

Mr. Fluker is survived by his daughters; his wife, Nicki, of 27 years; his parents, Jack and Betty Fluker of Sterling Heights; two brothers, John Fluker of Seminole, Fla. and Scott (Holly) Fluker of Macomb Township; and two sisters, Vicky (Dave) Smith of Shelby Township and Kathy (Jerry) Rowland of Clinton Township.

Services were held Dec. 13 at Edward Swanson & Son Funeral Home in Madison Heights. Interment was at White Chapel Cemetery.

Memorials made be made to the Joseph A. Fluker Daughters Educational Fund. A funeral home employee said checks made out to the fund and sent to Edward Swanson & Son Funeral Home, 30351 Dequindre, Madison Heights, MI, 48071. The funeral home offered to forward the donations to the family.

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

Assault charges

Canton police arrested a 46-year-old woman for felonious assault following allegations she tried to attack her husband with a hammer and a knife.

The incident was reported shortly before 3:30 a.m. Sunday on Cranford, northeast of Cherry Hill and Sheldon.

The man told police that his wife told him not to come home from work after they had argued over the home gas bill. He delayed going home, but when he arrived he said she had a hammer in her hand.

The man told police his wife started hitting things and tried to hit him before he wrestled her to the ground and took the hammer from her. He said he started to leave and realized she was hitting his Corvette, parked in the garage, with the hammer.

The man went back inside, and he said his wife grabbed a kitchen knife and again tried to assault him. He took it from her and called 9-1-1, saying she then began to calm down.

Police noticed damage to a dining room table, a microwave door and the Corvette. They took the woman into custody for felonious assault.

Medication stickup

A 22-year-old man told Canton police he was robbed at gunpoint of medications he kept at a residence on Stacy, northeast of Palmer and Haggerty, about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

Police were sent to the apartment following a report of a fight. The alleged victim said a friend had called and asked to stop by, and he was accompanied by three other males.

The victim said one visitor asked for a glass of water, then grabbed him by the chest and pushed him against a wall. He said two others punched him in the face and one put a gun to his side.

Catholic)

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CRIME WATCH

The visitors grabbed medications off the counter and then fled.

Three of the suspects were in their teens and one in his late 20s. Police had made one arrest and were seeking others.

Home invader

A woman called police after she said her ex-boyfriend kicked in the door of her apartment about 7:30 p.m. Monday on Cambridge, southeast of Warren and I-275.

Police arrested the suspect, a 46-yearold Redford resident, for home invasion.

The 41-year-old woman said her exboyfriend had come to her apartment the previous night and knocked on her door, though she didn't answer. She said they had ended a seven-year relationship about two years earlier, but he wanted to get back together.

The suspect is accused of kicking in the woman's door, grabbing her by the arm and raising his fist to her until her new boyfriend entered the room, prompting the ex-boyfriend to leave. He was later arrested.

Residence ransacked

A 61-year-old man notified police after someone broke the door frame of a home in the 6700 block of Foxcreek, southeast of Warren and Lilley, and ransacked the residence.

Police received the call about 2:45 p.m. Monday. They found the front door frame had been broken. An intruder had ransacked two bedrooms and had gone into an office.

The man's wife noticed something was amiss when she walked in with groceries. A police report indicated coins had been stolen from the home.

ou matter most

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



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CHURCHES

Continued from page A1

Twitter a witnessing tool

Grace Chapel started using Twitter as a witnessing tool this summer during a mission trip to Kentucky, said Daniel Rose, 35, assistant pastor. Members were tweet-

ing on their personal accounts about their experiences renovating three homes and holding a literacy, math and science camp, he said. That sparked conversations with others about what they were doing and why.

Now the church will use Twitter to let people know about its Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, blasting out tweets and then depending on members to retweet them to their followers

"It's a very easy way to get a large number of eyes on a small bit of information," Rose said.

Twitter has also helped build interest in Coffee-Doubt, a group for Christians, atheists, agnostics, theists and others that meets twice weekly in coffee shops to discuss spiritual issues, Rose said.

"We've seen a few people come join us because of conversations over Twitter," he said. Grace Chapel has

Facebook pages for the church as a whole, the youth ministry and CoffeeDoubt.

Rose said Facebook links people who already know each other, while Twitter links people who don't know each other.

The church's website (graceepc.org), he said, connects people who don't know about the church to the church, often through Google or another search engine. The website includes podcasts of each week's sermon that people can lis-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pastor Josh Isenhardt says the goals at NorthRidge Church are to use social media to raise awareness, grow community, encourage engagement and foster spiritual growth.

ten to on their computer or download to their iPhone.

Spiritual formation

At NorthRidge, Facebook raises awareness of what God is doing through the church, builds community and gives people a place to share their burdens, Isenhardt said.

But, the next step is using it for spiritual formation. "Ultimately, we want to see people grow to be more like Christ," Isenhardt said.

To that end, the church posts two or three questions a week based on the weekend's message. "We keep bringing it up to the forefront of their minds," Isenhardt said. "We want them to carry the truth from the weekend through the rest of the week.'

Wright said the church's website (bellcreek.org) is still its most effective technological tool because it connects people looking for a nondenominational church in the Livonia area to Bell Creek. He said the church has worked hard to make it easy for people to find and navigate the website, where they can

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Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills uses Twitter to help build interest in CoffeeDoubt, a group for Christians, atheists, agnostics, theists and others that meets twice weekly in coffee shops to discuss spiritual issues.

learn about the church's beliefs, listen to a sermon and submit a prayer request. The next step, he said, is ramping up the content to include articles on topics like raising children as a single parent and strengthening marriage. "The website is designed to deliver good content," Wright said.

Website gets most results

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Rose said Grace Chapel's website is better than Facebook and Twitter for getting people into the church on Sunday morning, but, he said, they are just scratching the surface with what technology can do. For example, the youth's Facebook page has an evite component so youth can easily invite their friends to church events. "A lot of the high school students use Facebook almost as a planner," he said.

The next step, he said, is using Facebook more interactively as an extension of the Sunday sermon or Sunday school.

Garden City Presbyterian (gardencitypresbyterian.org) is using Facebook to promote its monthly Christian concert series and other special events,

said Herschel Ele, pastor/ head of staff. It hasn't yet started using Twitter.

However, the church's new electronic sign on Middlebelt just south of Ford Road has been more effective than any other technology in getting people in the doors, he said. That's probably because people have to intentionally connect to Facebook or the church's website to get information about events instead of just happening to be driving by, he said.

'If people are intentionally connecting, they've probably already decided they're going to come to whatever is going on here anyway," said Ele, 64.

Other ways area churches are using modern technology include egiving, where people can have their tithes directly taken out of their bank accounts, and Google calendar, where people can easily add events to their iPhones or Smartphones.

Personal invites best of all

Yet with all the modern technology available to churches today, nothing will take the place of people personally talking to their family and friends about Jesus and inviting them to go to church with them, Rose said. "At the end of the day there's one best way (to spread the Gospel message) and that's being involved in the life of your neighbors."

Nor can people live the Christian life in isolation, Isenhardt said. They need to be in the physical presence of other believers, encouraging, praying with and hugging each other.

In those ways, the church hasn't changed since Christ's birth more than 2,000 years ago.

> ksmith@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2098

December a month of holidays

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a savior more than 2,000 years ago, as told in the Gospels and foretold in the Old Testament, according to Christian scholars.

No one knows for sure what day Jesus was born, but his birth is celebrated on Dec. 25.

Other holidays are also celebrated in December.

Jews celebrate Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, and commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.

This year, the eight-day observance started Dec. 20 and continues until Dec. 28. At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on till the eighth night of Hanukkah, when all eight lights are kindled.

Kwanzaa is an African- and Pan-American holiday celebrating family, community and culture. This year, Kwanzaa will be observed Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

The month ends with New Year's Eve when revelers of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds welcome the start of a new calendar year.

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Wayne High band sets sights on new uniforms

By Sue Mason **Observer Staff Writer**

The members of the marching band at Wayne Memorial High School are looking for a few new friends - ones who would be willing to adopt a band uniform for \$350. If they find 75 people who would do that, the band would be on its way to have new, update uniforms by the 2012-13 school year.

The high school's Instrumental Music Boosters have begun a campaign, New Stripes for 2012, to fund raise to replace the 12-year-old uniforms that have begun to show their age. Some \$20,000 has already been raised, but it's estimated that the boosters will need close to \$50,000 to pay for 120-130 new uniforms.

"We've really been talking about it since last year, we want to update



Instrumental Music Boosters are using a uniform jacket and pants to show why new ones are needed.

them for the time" said band director Matt Diroff. "We're looking for people who can donate a portion of the cost like for the pants, a hat, jacket."

The need for new uniforms was brought to the forefront this fall when Diroff ran out of uniform sizes for the musicians. It wasn't a case of not having enough big sizes, but having too many unusable uniforms. Diroff

ended up dressing the pit in a slightly different all

black uniform. "It worked, it fit the music they were playing," he said. "We had other students who had to go to Kohl's and buy pants and make that fit as much as possible.'

A problem with the current uniforms is that the white jackets get dirty very easily and the blue pants "are incredibly

expensive and have to be ordered."

The new uniform that is in the design stages will have black pants which are easy to get because they're in stock. The current jacket is a two-pice while the new jacket will be a one-piece that zips in the back. Black will become the foundation color which will help the school's blue and gold colors "pop," Diroff said.

"We're still working on the design, it'll have a lot of black," said Diroff. "It'll be a much sharper look. What we really want to do is have a uniform style that is simple and design-wise will last awhile. It's a traditional look with updates.'

Once the design is finalized the uniform company will create a sample so the school can get a feel the material and see how it will look as well as make adjustments. The plan is to have the uniforms done by the end of July or early August when the manufacture will come in fit the uniforms to the band members "and make sure they look the way they're supposed to be."

The boosters have to have the money secured by March 1 to try and provide a 90-day window to have them ready to wear. They don't want a situation where something doesn't come out right and the manufacture only has a week to fix it, Diroff said.

The boosters are doing a variety of fundraisers, including a bowling fundraiser at Wayne Bowl on Jan. 28 as well as a series of pancake breakfasts on Jan. 15 and 29 and Feb. 12 and 26. They have gotten support from Principal Valerie Orr who donated \$2,000 of the money she received from the Famous Footwear/ Converse contest and are taking a tattered uniform around to businesses to get donations.

Donation levels tied to the cost of the uniforms. A friend's \$25 donation is the expected cost of a uniform accessory, \$50 the cost the hat and feather plume, \$100 a pair of uniform pants, \$250 the jacket and uniform accessories and \$350 a single uniform.

People or businesses who would like to make a donation can contact Diroff at diroffm@wwcsd.net or booster finance chair Susan Webb at webbs@wwcsd.net.

'The kids are so excited, they have nice uniforms that have been put to good use, but they like the idea of going out onto the field and have a new look." Diroff said. "I think the current seniors wish they could stick around for another year."

> smason@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6751

W-W seeks volunteers for Literacy Corps

By Sue Mason Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has put out the call for volunteers to work with students as part of its new Literacy Corps.

Having volunteers go into the classroom to read with children is nothing new for the district; however, the Literacy Corps is a more formal program that includes training for the volunteers.

"We're excited about it, the teachers are excited about it," said Paul Salah, deputy superintendent for instruction. "We hope

it will rub off on the community.'

Salah worked with Antoinette Griffith and Cyndi Morningstar in developing the initiative which will be offered initially at nine elementaries, including Walker-Winter in Canton.

"Our goals are to increase student achievement and increase community and student involvement," said Morningstar. "We know from research that the more the community is involved, the more students achieve. We want our students to be lifelong learners and readers."

The district has begun recruiting volunteers. In a letter that being sent out to parents, guardians, community stakeholders and business partners, Salah stressed that "families, community members and business stakeholders all have a vested interest in the growth and development of young people.

According to Salah, research has shown that linking the community to the classroom has a positive impact on academic achievement. Students who don't develop sufficient literacy skills are

ue their education beyond high school.

"We want this to be a huge partnership," Salah said. "We want to provide volunteers so student know what is a good reading habit. We had participation in reading programs the past like at Schweitzer, but those were like islands of excellence.

Volunteers also will be required to attend a two-hour orientation and training session. Two sessions will be offered at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., both on Tuesday, Jan. 17. The program will kick off at the start of the second

semester on Jan. 23.

One of the tools volunteers will be provided with sill be the Michigan Reading Association's The ABC's of Reading Strategies for Volunteers. Using every letter of the alphabet, the publication offers volunteers ideas and suggestions to help students learn to read.

"We don't want to put volunteers out there without providing some monitoring questions," said Griffith. "We don't want volunteers to give students the answers, we want them to help the students problem solve."

Opportunities to work in the classroom with youngsters will be flexible and based on the volunteer's schedule. It

could be one hour a day or several days a week, once a week; even once a month.

The need varies from building to building, we have some that have 100 percent participation," said Morningstar.

The district has brochures available that explain the program that include a volunteer form to fill out. The information will be used to do a criminal background check. The completed form can be dropped off or mailed to the district's Human Resources Department at 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185.

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 22, 2011

Be wary of investment advice for the coming year

By Rick Bloom **Guest** Columnist

s I was doing my reading and research this weekend, one topic that kept coming up was the best investment moves for 2012. I can't tell you how many articles there were all dealing with what investors should do in 2012. What I thought was so humorous was that someone would read an article that would say, for example, the best move for 2012 is to buy gold, and then there would be another article that would say the best move for 2012 is to sell gold.

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that there were conflicting ideas as to what would be a good move for 2012. In addition, I read numerous articles that recommended a particular stock or mutual fund as the best investments for 2012. Although I find these articles interesting and I do sometimes learn something from them, I think the more important issue is how we should react when we read these articles.

I've always questioned any articles that claim that a particular investment is the best one to buy. My question always is, the best investment for whom?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

tor needing current income. the investments

in your portfolio may be totally different than someone who is saving for a retirement that may be 30 years down the road.

To me, one of

the key mis-

takes that so

many of these

articles make

is that they fail

to address who

the investment

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is best for. If

Take, for example, an individual stock such as Ford. In order to buy Ford stock, someone had to sell Ford stock. It doesn't necessarily mean that one investor made the right decision and the other one made the wrong decision. In fact, they each could have made the right decision because they based their decision upon their goals and objectives. When you read these articles, the key point to remember is that even though they identify what they believe is the best investment move in 2012, the advice should be considered as generic and may not apply to your own individual situation.

One of the problems that many investors have is they've listened to too many people. They will go to a party and listen to what someone says about investing and automatically change their portfolio to reflect what that person said. As investors, you have to be cautious as to whom you take investment advice from and make sure that the investment advice relates to your own individual situation. In addition, you also have to make sure that the person you're listening to knows what they are talking about.

One thing that I have learned over the years, especially with the growth of the Internet over the last decade or so, is that there is a lot of bad advice out there. Some people who are providing advice in the financial world today are truly clueless as to how things work. I've read some articles lately and, based upon the advice provided, I honestly don't know whether I should laugh or cry. The bottom line is there are a lot of people that give advice; the question is whether it is actually good advice.

When you receive financial advice, I cannot stress enough how important it is that, whether in my column, another article or from someone at a party, you relate it back to your own individual situation. We live in

a world where no two families have the same financial situation. It used to be in this country, 50 or 60 years ago, that many people were in the same situation

Fast forward to today and everything is so different. For example, think about how easy mortgages were to obtain 50 or 60 years ago. Back then, you had your choice of either a 30year or a 15-year mortgage; pretty much, that was it. Fast forward to today and there are literally hundreds of different mortgage programs available. The mortgage program that is best for you may not be the mortgage program that's best for your neighbor.

Also, think about how much the investment world has changed. When you go back 50 years ago, most people didn't invest their money and, if they did, there weren't that many investment alternatives. Fast forward to today, and every one of us literally has tens of thousands of different investment vehicles that we can choose from. When I got started in my career, there may have been 500 or so mutual funds. Today, there are literally tens of thousands of mutual funds. The bottom line is our world has become more complex and so

has our own personal financial planning situations. That is why it is so important that you always relate financial information advice to your own individual situation.

Is there a move for 2012 that make sense for everyone? Sure, and it is the same "move" that everyone should have made in 2011, 2010, 2009, etc. be involved with your financial situation. It would be nice if we could put our finances on automatic pilot and not think about them, but we can't. In today's ever-changing world, it is more important than ever that we be involved in our personal finances

I wish I could tell you that the area of personal finance is getting easier, but it is not. As time goes by, everything becomes more and more complex. I wish it wasn't this way, but it is and you and I have to accept it. As we get ready to enter 2012, my best piece of advice is to keep involved, ask questions and always stay within your comfort level. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www. bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please e-mail Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.

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LOCAL NEWS

Dear Santa,

I would like to ask you for a few things. First I would like a bean bag chair, xia xia crabs also I would like lots of gift cards. As you can see, these are the things I would like for Christmas. Sincerely,

Lily Grelak

Dear Santa,

These are some things that I would like, please. Oh, and my mom would like an iPad if you can.

1. American girl doll ball roon treats table

2. Kaya's Tepee and sadle

3. Rebecca's couch

4. Julie's table and chairs, and fondue set, school locker, lunch box, birthday goodies, room accessories

5. doll storage cabinet

6. Kananis paddleboard set, luau set, beach outfit, shave ice stand, ukulele set

7. American girl doll earlings, another American girl with medium skin, wavy black-brown hair, and blue eyes, baby grand piano, glasses, soccer outfit, stable and supplies, snowshoe set, breakfist in bed set, cocnut pet set, fresh and clean shower, bubble bathtub, bath wrap set & charm, bathroom vanity, bows, clips, curlers, headbands, bobby pins, hair care kit, sporty skate set, school desk set, ski gear, baking table and treats, baking accessories, fiesta picnic set and hanging storage.

8. new boots (fashion boots not winter boots)

9. science kit

- 10. magic kit
- 11. lava lamp

12. new winter hat from Justice

(doggy please)

13. Comic books

14. Gogo my playful pup

15. paper james drums or piano

16. craft kit

P.S. all 7 things are American girl stuff only get me one American girl on number 7 (if you can).

Grayce Jucha

Dear Santa,

Hi this is Emily Jocha. How are you doing? Here are some things that I would like for Christmas.

Fancy boots, flat iron, crimper, big

Dear Santa,

You are best guy in the whole world!!! Could you giv my mom a ring and could you giv my dad a video game and cod you giv me a star wars toy. Have a safe trip! Your friend,

Quinn Walker

Dear Santa,

You are nice. Have a nice trip. Please get my sister a American Girl Doll. I will give you cookies. Please give my mom earrings. Please bring my Dog a stuffed animal. Happy trip. Your friend,

Caden Wingrove

Dear Santa,

You are awesome. Could you please bring Julian a remote control car and bring me legos.

Could you bring us a fish? Have a safe trip! Your friend,

Xavier Jones

Dear Santa,

Hey Santa, can you drop a chew toy for my pupply? How are you dowen? I love you. Could you please bring Justin bevrs new cd? Take care of the reindeer.

Dear Santa,

You are nice! My mom nets earrings. My Dad nets Tis. I will like a Des. Do you like cookies?

Your friend,

Rushi Yalamanchili

Dear Santa,

You are so nice! Cod you ples brig my family dog fritz los of tres. I love you. Ples kep me on the nice list for ever and ever. Your fred,

Emma Hubbard

Dear Santa,

a snowblower. Please bring my brother a toy monster truck. Please bring me a Ipad. Please bring me a 3DS. Merry Christmas!

Gunnar Austin

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a TV. Pleas bring my Dad a dog. Pleae bring my brother a Xbox. Please bring me a video game. I will brng you cukes. Merry Christmas!

Chase Winekoff

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom new pajamas. Please bring my brother a book. Please bring me a doll and a dress and new shoes. Merry Christmasl

Joanna Frederick

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a new cup. Please bring my dad a new video game. Please bring my dad some mor tools. Please bring me some mor lego sets. Please bring me some x-ray vision glasses.

Khalib Cardenas

Dear Santa,

Please bring myi mom perfume, earrings, and socks. Please bring my dad a dress shirt, socks and paints. Please bring me xia xia, koo koo bird plush, Christmas color blanks. Merry Christmas Santal

Sydni Wolverton

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a new book. Please bring my dad laptop. Please bring me a cat Please me a purse. Please bring me lpad. Merry Christmas!

Micah Finley

chair, slipers, Legos, crafts, earings, books, soccer things, iHome for my iPad, motorized scooter.

I was also thinking that you could give one or two toys to the less fortunate. Some of my ideas were clothes, shoes, pillow, money, shelter, barbie (for girls), food, blanket, cards (for boys).

Thank you for thinking of me and ohters.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Sincerely,

Emily Jucha, age 10

Dear Santa,

You are the best! Will you please bring my mom some books and my Dad a watch. please bring my sister a new soccer ball. I want a Lego game, please. Have a good Christmas. Your friend,

Gabe Becker.

P.S. Please wake me up when you get here.

Dear Santa,

Have a safe trip!! I love you to the moon! Please bring my brother a G.I. Joe! please bring my mom a dress!

Isabella Carson P.S. How is Rudolph?

Dear Santa,

You are great. Plese gohnt my Bolsts a D.S. please great my other bolst a X-box Ebo. Plese bring my mom a dress. Plese bring my dad a tie. Coull you plese give me a dog. Have a safe trip!

Your friend,

Kayla Hoffmeyer

P.S. I'm go to lovse you some cookies

Dear Santa,

You are cool. Could you please bring presents to my brother. actually we all want them a iPod. Could you please wake me up.

> Your friend, **Joshua Discher**

You are AWESOME. Could you please bring my brother a new little toy car. Could you please bring my Dad a tie. Could you please bring my mom new earrings. Could you please bring me a diary codd diary. I'll leave you cookies. Your friend,

Arnav Saini

Dear Santa,

you rock. Could you please bring my brother a real dog? Can you please bring me a G.I. Joe? I will give you cookies. Your friend,

Blake Cunningham

P.S. Make sure Rudolph's nose is bright.

Dear Santa,

You are a nice Santa. I will leave you cookies. you are a loving Santa! Please bring my Dad a beautiful watch and my mom a Wii. I want a dog! Your friend,

Paige Green

Jaspreet Kaur

Bryce Garbacz

Dear Santa,

You are so nice! Could you please bring my sistr a blue spngbob car. Could you please bring me a secrit jrnl. I'll leave you cookies. Your friend,

P.s. I hop you have a safe trip!

Dear Santa,

You are nice. Could you please bring my sister a new soccer ball and my mom a new muge and my Dad a tie and I went a drum sate. Have a good Christmas. Your friend,

Griffin Ellis

P.S. Peace out. I love you.

Dear Santa,

You are so so nice! Can you please get my brother a toy story toy. Am I on the nice list? I wat a nerf for tast bastr.

Your friend,

P.S. Have a saf trip!

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a necklace. Please bring my dad

Aliha Cheema

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a scary movie. Please bring me a amazing Disney Princess castle. I will make you a ginger bread man and woman cookies. Merry Christmasl

Gabriella Fick

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom som flowers. Please bring my dad mor tools. Please bring my brother a toy. Please bring my sister a toy. Please bring me a toy. Merry Christmas.

Tim Chandra

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a coffee cup. Please bring my Dad some new tools. Please bring me a trash pack toy, a video game and hotwheel video car.

Merry Christmas!

Jacob Munie

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a coffee cup. Please bring Dad a new lawnmower. Please bring my brother a airhog plane. Please bring my sister a new doll. Please bring me a skateboard.

Henry Gray

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a coffee cup. Please bring my Dad a dog. Please bring my sister a ship in a bottle. Please bring me a new video game and a DS3 and Mario cart 7. Merry Christmas!

Jacob Kloostra

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a new dress. Please bring my brothers new toys. Please bring me a monster truck toy.

Aaron Broughton

A9.(*) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWNLIFE.COM BRAD KADRICH, EDITOR Bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BRAD KADRICH, EDITOR

The importance of teams in successful organizations

This is the first of a three-part series on the importance of teams. See Thursdays, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, for parts two and three.

By Martina Bogdanoska Guest Columnist

n today's business environment, working together doesn't always mean under one roof. It means knowing one another, executing complementary tasks and continually exchanging information to facil-



Martina

Now-

team-

work

is very

Bogdanoska

important for normal operations within organizations. Building teams is a good instrument for the creation of environments that allow for collaboration and cohesion among members who will drive the organization forward through joint support and transfer of knowledge and experience.

All teams are groups, but not all groups are teams. From an organizational point of view, groups could be any mix of people that accidentally have something in common. A team is considered always as something more than just a simple grouping.

Cooperation and teamwork among colleagues is a very important element for the successful operation of the organization. It is especially important to understand that every profession has its own competency and that more professions should work

TEAM WORK

The practice of companies around the world to implement teamwork in the past 20-30 years reveals two major reasons for team work. 1. Deterioration of organizational effectiveness, especially when it can't be corrected because of the complexity of the goal and assignment. 2. Pressure from the outside environment, which it cannot be influenced through the individual efforts of employees because of the complexity of the pressure.

In one successful team, the spirit of the team should be created such that all members will work for the good of the team. To achieve its goal and to realize a given task, the team should encourage every member to develop his or her skills. In that context, we can speak of a team as a group of people that can successfully accept and realize every given task. Successful means qualitative and timely executive of a task with full and economical usage of available resources.

essary to clearly and unambiguously define goals, to communicate those goals to all team members and to get confirmation that everyone understands those goals. In many cases, the failure of a team is a result of misunderstanding of goals from the beginning.

No matter how expert and competent its team members, groups often do not function as a team because they have team

Elves dedicated to children's happiness

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Howard DeElf: Our business is making children happy, and what business could possibly be better? We do this in concert with Santa, matching toys, games, electronic devices, dolls, and all other manner of enjoyment for children of all ages around the world with his famous "list." We do this only after, of course, he checks it twice for those who've been naughty or nice. (Quite frankly, though, he's pretty lenient).

Observer: How did you first decide to get into the business?

Howard DeElf: Well, my brother Hermey actually got me interested in being one of Santa's elves. He was really dedicated to the craft, until his interest in dentistry was piqued. When he was promoted to Santa's dentist, some of the other elves approached me about following in his footsteps. I've always been good with my hands, and I thought making toys for the good little girls and boys around the world would be a way for me to give something back.

Observer: Why did you choose Santa's Workshop at the North Pole?

Howard DeElf: Well, when you're an elf, and you want to make toys, where else are you gonna go? Toys R Us? Santa's Workshop is the major leagues of the toy-making world. Every elf who starts off whittling wooden dolls in his garage dreams of one day making it to the Big Time.



Santa and his helpers are getting ready for their biggest day of the year.

affected the business from our end; we still get so much work we're never sure how we're going to get it all done, though in the end we do. The economy has changed it for the people we serve, though, making it tougher for their parents to provide for them.

Observer: Do you have an

amusing anecdote to share? Howard DeElf: Well, there was the time I had an appointment with Hermey, and he gave me too much novocaine. When I went back to the line, my mouth was still numb, and the other elves had trouble understanding me. That was the year we had a whole shift's

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Business Name: Santa's Workshop Business Address: The North Pole Your name: Howard DeElf Number of Employees: Seasonal Hours of operation: 24/7 (there's no other way to keep up with demand) **Your Business Special**ty: Making millions of toys for girls and boys.

worth of Barbie dolls that ended up with Ken heads. Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Howard DeElf: Be true to yourself, be true to your customers, and learn as much about every aspect of the business as you can. And don't let them tell you you're too small, or too slow, or your nose glows too brightly to do the job. And learn how to use social networking. You wouldn't believe how many Letters to Santa he gets e-mailed now. **Observer: What's in**

store for the future of your business?

Howard DeElf: We will continue to grow, continue to adapt to the changes in the world and continue to make as many children as happy as possible.



together, in a team, on a basis of mutual understanding for the expertise of others.

Good teams focus their energy toward a common goal, toward a common realization of that goal and toward a sense of mutual responsibility. An environment that fosters teamwork via communication among team members in a manner that supports mutual trust and respect are of crucial importance for the efficiency and effectiveness of the team.

Team leader

Every team needs a leader. That leader is the person who takes responsibility for the team, assigns tasks and communicates progress of team actions. The leader instructs and motivates members and manages the development of a warm working atmosphere. To achieve that working atmosphere, it is necessary to have trust and respect between the members. It is necessary to have rules that will be accepted and respected from all. Working enthusiasm is maintained if the members are guided only with the desire of success and achievements. As a the team grows in maturity, it becomes more effective, works better and achieves better results.

If the team develops a sense of community and collegiality and if all members are guided by "all for one, one for all," the team will function efficiently and effectively.

4

Therefore, from the very beginning of the team's creation, it is nec-

members who act in different directions. To become a team, team members must direct all of their individual energies toward one joint goal. In other words, synergy should become operational.

Efficiency

Existence of this synergetic or joint action is considered a major reason for its use in teams and the knowledge base it promotes leads to a team efficiency that is greater than the collection of individual efficiencies. To become a team, one group needs a lot of time and effort because the members have certain needs, expectations and interests when they form the group.

To be a team member means to show loyalty to the goals and efforts of the team. This might require someone to sacrifice personal achievements in favor of the team.

The team is something more than just a simple grouping. For the team, it is necessary that some entry criteria are established to differentiate between who is and who is not a part of the team.

Martina Bogdanoska

is pursuing her research doctoral degree in the field of human resource management within health care. She is an inspirational academic interested in transforming health care through innovative thinking. She holds a doctoral degree in dentistry and a master's degree in health management.

Next week: Why people favor working in teams.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Howard DeElf: Well, first of all there aren't all that many businesses where your soul purpose is making children happy. That's unique in itself. But the way it all comes together, from the way all the elves work together to how Mrs. Claus fattens Santa up for the season to the reindeer using their annual reindeer games to train for that one big night, is really impressive, if I do say so myself. Of course, you get the occasional reindeer laughed at and called names, or the stray elf who gets ridiculed for his career choices, but all in all, we're a huge, cohesive team striving to make that one holiday a year the merriest of all.

Observer: How has it changed since it opened?

Howard DeElf: The overall business hasn't changed in generations. It's still all about the kids. It's the kids who've changed. Where a child may have wanted a Chatty Cathy doll or a Matchbox car years ago, now they all want the high-tech stuff. Computers, radios, cameras, video games, "smart" phones ... it seems like if there's an "i" in front of it, the kids want it these days. Steve Jobs really made this work a lot harder.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Howard DeElf: The economy hasn't

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PAGE A10 . (*) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OPINION

Susan Rosiek, **Executive** Editor Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Gospel message still the same

latest technology in new ways to help spread the Gospel message.

NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township has a virtual campus people can attend online to worship with others around the world. Bell Creek

Local churches are using the Community Church in Livonia uses Twitter to remind people to stop what they were doing and pray during the week during a series on prayer. Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills has an e-vite component on its youth ministry Facebook page so kids can easily invite their friends to church events.

While the methods have changed, the message hasn't.

The story of God's love in sending his only son to earth to die on the cross and take the punishment for everyone's sins, as told in the Bible, is one that has withstood the test of time.

The Bible remains the best-selling book of all time.

This Christmas, more than 2,000 years after Jesus was born, believers around the world will still celebrate his birth.

Times have changed, but the story of the birth of a Savior in a stable on a starry night so many centuries ago is one that continues to touch hearts and change lives.

Merry Christmas!

Give the 'perfect gift' this holiday season

The American Red Cross is encouraging people to give the "perfect gift" this holiday season by donating blood.

One blood donation can give up to three families more time hours, days, even years — and more memories. Yet it doesn't cost the donor a single penny just an hour of his or her time.

According to a national survey by the American Red Cross, about one in five (19 percent) respondents plan on giving blood this holiday season.

Blood donations often decrease this time of year as weather woes increase and family schedules turn tumultuous. Yet, the need is constant. Every two seconds, someone in this country needs blood. On average, 44,000 blood donations are needed each day to help trauma victims, surgical patients, burn victims, patients with blood disorders and many others.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia is hosting a blood drive 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday. It's one of many being held this holiday season in the Metro Detroit area. Donors will receive a holiday cookie. Walkins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

To schedule an appointment, call (800) GIVE-LIFE. To find another blood drive near you, visit redcrossblood.org.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you want for Christmas?





"An iPad, an X-Box and video games." **Casey Farren**

Livonia



"I want a dog, a shih tzu. I have one, but I want another." Chris Cook Livonia



"I want a Nintendo DSI because I can take pictures and make designs." **Rachel Groen** Garden City



"I want an iPod Touch. You can play games on it."

Jacob Kerner Livonia



"Lincoln Logs and some magnet tiles!" Nicholas Carlson, 6 Plymouth





Mobigo and more Legos!" Charlie Carlson, 4³/₄ Plymouth



"I don't even know yet. I really want Lincoln Logs.' Will Reed, 5 Plymouth



"An iPod 2 because you can learn new stuff on it ... "

Colin DeHetre Garden City



"A Nintendo DS with DS games!" Dasha Hodyas Canton



"Toys! A gigantic stuffed animal!" Sydney Levy Canton



Lego Halo V antoni." Liam Hallman, 8 **Beech Elementary**



"A (Nintendo) DS. You can play games. I'd also like an iPod." Julia Berger, 6 Farmington



"A (Nintento) DS, because it has games on it."

Brea Osborn, 6 Farmington



"An iPod Touch, an XBox360 and an MW3 for XBox." Devon Osborn, 10 Farmington



"A Christmas tree, a plastic one." Swasthika Prajosh, 6 Farmington



"A Monster High Doll." Laila Miller,9 **Beech Elementary**



"A TV for my room because all my other friends have one.'

Alex Salisbury, 9 Westland



"A cure for cancer. I want that because that's how my grandpa died."

Delshaon Knolton, 9 Westland



"I want homes for the homeless. I want them to have houses like us and not have to sleep outside." Letisia Kape, 9

Westland



"A new puppy because I like puppies. Cassie Allen, 9 Westland

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 22, 2011

District saw much success this year

By John Jackson Guest Columnist

uch has occurred and been written about the P-CCS Board of Education this past year. Some of that dealt with board behavior and controversial issues such as a proposed school closing and not renewing the superintendent's contract, and much of it was not very favorable.

However, as the year ends, there is much to be proud of and share. As the year began, a major challenge was the initial budget deficit for the 2011-2012 school year. Lansing cut the district's funding by \$470 per student, raised the retirement charge, and a num-



projected \$18 million operating def-

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much as a

icit. This caused the board to use nearly all the fund equity (savings) to balance the budget by June 30.

Since those days, this board has balanced the budget and restored the fund equity of more than \$12 million. As was often pointed out, there was no truth to the campaign rhetoric alleging a \$28 million deficit. There is, however, a potential \$5 to \$8 million dollar deficit for next year. The good

news is the district is in a much better position to address it.

The academic achievements of the district's students continue to be exceptional. The MEAP scores are substantially above the state and Wayne County averages. ACT scores rose and exceeded state and national averages. Plymouth-Canton continues to be an academically highperforming district.

A Plante-Moran CRESA feasibility study is underway. It will provide the data for making important decisions on districting, building utilization and other important elements.

New programs are being aggressively

explored (e.g., elementary world language, talented and gifted magnet school, high school academies, Schoolcraft College dual enrollment, all-day kindergarten and much more). Another unique partnership occurred in June with the finalization of the agreement for Plymouth-Canton to provide food service for Livonia Public Schools as a revenue producer for P-CCS. Likewise, the district began providing teachers to local parochial and private schools under the "shared services" program, which provided additional revenue for our District.

In May, the district was fortunate to hire Dr. Jeremy Hughes, former Dearborn Superintendent and State of Michigan Deputy Superintendent, as Interim Superintendent. This fall, the Board and Dr. Hughes discovered there was mutual interest in extending his contract through June 2013, and the "Interim" was removed from his title.

All labor contracts were settled in September with landmark concessions by the district's employee groups resulting in more than \$5 million of concessions and contributions to offset the deficit. The District is fortunate to have such dedicated, caring employees.

The district's food service program at Dodson Elementary was recognized with the Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge Bronze Award in October at a White House reception hosted by Mrs. Obama. In December, the same program recognized the other 15 elementary schools for the award.

As the four out-going board members turn over the school board reins, my wish is for the four new board members to build on these successes and create an even better district through their efforts. Our children are counting on you. Thanks to the voters of the district for the opportunity to serve.

John Jackson is president of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education.

verizon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School board thanks

As we close out 2011, I want to thank our Plymouth-Canton School Board members, especially President John Jackson, Vice President Dianne Gonzalez, former President Steve Sneideman, and Trustee Nancy Eggenberger.

I can't begin to thank all of you for the years

of service you have given to the third largest public school district in Michigan. Each and every one of you will be sorely missed - for all that you have given to us, all that you have taught us, and, the legacy that you leave with our children.

John C. Stewart state representative, 2000-06 Plymouth



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All Saints Catholic School Brownies Kendall McCaig (left), Meghan Stefanek and Annika Olson take part in the troop's field trip to Three Brothers in Plymouth.

All Saints Brownies celebrate cultures

What link do potato pancakes, kielbasa, chocolate coins, lo mein noodles and fortune cookies share?

Those were the items on the menu for Brownie Troop 41288 from All Saints Catholic School in Canton on Dec. 13, when the girls and some of their family members shared an after-school snack as a way to learn about various cultures.

The goal: To learn about the heritage and traditions of ethnic groups who comprise the Michigan Mosaic. Specifically, the girls were learning how people from around the world settled in this state and brought their culture with them. Many of these traditions are most strongly reflected in ways people celebrate end-of-year holidays. The Brownies visited Three Brothers restaurant in Plymouth and started their meeting with a mini Polish platter sampler. Many Polish-Americans are Roman Catholic and celebrate Christmas with Oplatek, which is a thin wafer shared at the table among family and friends. Kielbasa is often commonly served as part of Christmas dinners in Polish-American homes.

As the girls ate, troop co-leader Michele Burke explained how Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah and provided background on Chinese New Year. The girls each received a toy dreidel with an explanation of how to play with it, as well as information packets about Kwanzaa and Chinese New Year traditions. "My favorite part was the great food," said Brownie Kendall McCaig. "I loved the noodles," added Riley Tople, another Brownie in the troop. "They were delicious."

"We wanted to share information about Christmas, which the girls are familiar with," Burke said. "But we also wanted to teach them about the ways people all over the world celebrate different holidays that hold special meaning to them. We are grateful to Three Brothers for helping us host this event."

The session was part two for the troop in the members' quest to earn their Michigan Mosaic badge. In an earlier session, the girls made crafts and learned how children in various cultures play games.

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since 1942, that still cannot compare to what I saw tonight. I will give this production 5 Stars, that's the

top! The best word to use was 'mind blowing'!"

- Richard Connema, critic for

Talkin' Broadway

- Cate Blanchett, Academy Award-winning Actress



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may have found some new ideas for the next Avatar. It was a very unique performance. "

- Oscar-Winner Robert Stromberg, Production Designer for Avatar and Alice in Wonderland "A great job bringing together the history of Chinese culture. The sound effects, the visual effects, the special effects—it's just amazing." — Amerigo Fabbri, Dean, Yale University

"A beautiful show—fantastic! If you ever get a chance to see it, you should." — Joy Behar, Co-host of ABC's The View

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INSIDE: RELIGION, B5 . ENTERTAINMENT, B6 . FOOD, B8

SECTION B. (*) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

IEN BROWN

SPORTS

33 AN

TIM SMITH, EDITOR tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

Rockets almost spoilers

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

It was Inkster's night of coronation as the Lady Vikings celebrated their Class A state girls basketball title of a year ago by raising their championship banner.

But Westland John Glenn, after waiting patiently during all the 15-minute pre-game pomp and circumstance, nearly crashed the party before succumbing, 56-53, after building a seven-point fourth-quarter lead.

Glenn was outscored 16-10 in the decisive fourth quarter. "They're defending state

champs for a reason," Glenn firstyear

GIRLS BASKETBALL coach Eric

Kovatch said of the Vikings, who improved to 5-1 with the win. "They're a very, very good basketball team and they played until the end. They deserved to win, but I'm proud of my girls. Couple shots here-and-there, a couple of free throws - it would have been a different outcome. But I'm not going to take anything away from Inkster. They're an excellent, excellent team."

Glenn missed four critical free throws, including front ends of a one-and-one during the final 1:18 and committed three costly turnovers during the final two minutes

ShaKeya Graves hit a runner in the lane with 33.3 seconds left to put Glenn back up top 53-52, only to have Inkster guard Jamie Madden (16 points, four steals, five assists) hit a free throw and then

Please see ROCKETS, B3



Redford Thurston's Xzavier Bowen pushes the ball up the court as Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard's Jason Houle (21) hustles back on defense.

Close misses cost Thurston

By Ed Wright Observer Staff Writer

Getting to the rim wasn't an issue for Redford Thurston's boys basketball team Tuesday night at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

Filling the rim - well, that was another story.

Plagued by poor marksmanship in the paint, the Eagles spoiled a spirited defensive effort in a 57-50 setback to the host Irish.

Thurston slipped to 2-3 while Gabriel Richard enjoyed its first victory in four games this

season.

"Overall, I thought it was our best game of the season so far," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "I thought we played well in the first half, but we missed a lot of easy shots. We were down at the half (32-27). but we very easily could have been up.

"In the second half, I thought we lost our patience. We fell behind and we started taking some bad shots. We need to work the ball around a little better. Defensively, I thought we played well and we rebounded better than we have all season.

The kids played hard."

A two-minute stretch at the end of the first half epitomized the Eagles' night. A missed layup and two missed put-backs on one trip down the court was followed by a misfire on a close-range banker on the next possession.

The Irish took advantage of the Eagles' shooting woes by seizing a 48-37 lead after three quarters. Thurston never got closer than seven down the stretch.

"(Gabriel Richard) is a good,

Please see THURSTON, B3

Furgason is All-American

Canton senior defender Connor Furgason, an integral member of the Chiefs' 2011 Division 1 boys soccer championship team, recently was named to the 2011

National Soccer Coaches Association of America Boys High School All-America Team.



Furgason Furgason

is the first boys soccer player from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to be earn All-America honors.

He will be recognized at the annual All-America Luncheon, to be held in the Kansas City Convention Center's Grand Ballroom on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Balogh, GCHS get accolades

Farmington High School senior Trent Balogh and the Garden City High School football team have received academic all-state honors from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association.

Balogh is one of 27 players in the state and the only Observerland player - on the academic all-state first team.

The 27 automatically qualified for the first team by scoring 295 or better on the MHSFCA's 300-point scale. All of them also scored highly on the ACT: two scored 36, two 35, eight 34, five 33, six 32 and four 31.

The average GPA is 3.991. Balogh, an offensive and defensive lineman, was recently accepted into the University of Michigan's College of Engineering.

Garden City senior Jarrett DeHetre is an academic all-state honorable mention.

Falcons hockey team runs winning streak to five

By Dan O'Meara **Observer Staff Writer**

"We had a new team and knew we probably were going es netted the fifth goal. Stoney Creek's Camer-



After starting the season with six losses and a tie, Farmington High School's hockey fortunes have taken a turn for the better.

The Falcons have won their last three games - the latest being a 6-1 rout of visiting Rochester Stoney Creek - and improved their record to 3-6-1.

"Our schedule at the beginning was pretty tough, playing top-ranked teams like Brighton, Stevenson, Churchill, South Lyon and Canton,' coach Mark Vellucci said. "Those are five really good teams, and they always have good programs.

to have a tough beginning. We're learning to compete and play the right way. We're improving every day in practice, and we're taking it to the games now."

Senior Zach Massa scored a three-goal hat trick and earned a fourth point with an assist Saturday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Sophomore Kris Hamilton and Massa scored even-up goals in the first period, and senior Mike Manzo assisted on both.

The Falcons scored the first three of the second period. Massa and sophomore Nick Heffron capitalized on power plays, and senior Blake Holmon O'Shea added a late tally (1:42), and Massa scored the only goal of the third period on another power play.

Adam Lockner also had two assists for the Falcons (2-1-0 in the OAA Red Division), Nick Kazoro one.

Farmington senior goalie Josh Cliff made 17 saves; Callen Stewart faced 26 shots for the Cougars (1-6-0, 0-5-0).

'A key to our success is we've been outshooting other teams," Vellucci said. "We're getting production from a lot of people and different lines. "We're playing so much bet-

ter in every area. Our power

Please see HOCKEY, B2



CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS Senior Zach Massa scored a hat trick for Farmington against Alpena.

Pats grab county invite

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Christmas came seven days early for the Livonia Franklin wrestling team.

The Patriots surprised even their own head coach in capturing the Wayne County Invitational wrestling tournament held Saturday at Westland John Glenn.

Bolstered by three individual champions and one runner-up,

WRESTLING

Franklin scored a team-high 163.5 points to over-

haul Wayne Memorial's 132.5 for the team title.

Rounding out the top 10 in the 27school field was Brownstown Woodhaven (126.5), Plymouth (125.5), host John Glenn (108), Northville (100), Dearborn Heights Crestwood (84.5), Highland Park (84), Melvindale (80) and Canton (78).

Finishing strong

Franklin got individual titles from brothers Danny and Gabe Martinez at 119 and 125, respectively, along

Please see WRESTLING, B4



Franklin's individual winners at the Wayne County Invitational wrestling meet held Saturday at Westland John Glenn included (from left) Danny Martinez (119 pounds), Jordan Atienza (140) and Gabe Martinez (125).

'Fun' relays launch boys swim season

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Several Observerland boys swimming and diving teams dipped their collective toes into the early season water at Friday's

annual Plymouth Wildcat Relays, hosted by Salem High School.

Monroe won the fifth annual event with 84 points, with Canton's 62 good for second. Fourthplace Plymouth and sixth-place Redford Thurston tallied 46 and 28 points, respectively.

The Wildcat Relays helps bridge the sched-

uling gulf between the official start of the season (early December) and the beginning of dual meets, which for most teams won't take place until after the holidays.

Another plus of the event is it provides a vehicle for coaches such as Plymouth's Doug Schade to get a better read on how the season might unfold.

Please see SWIMMING, B2

'It was pretty good competition all night. All six teams won an event, so that was kind of good

Plymouth swim coach

Hockey Club and Detroit Red Wings Alumni will face off 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Arctic Edge Ice Arena on Michigan Avenue in Canton. All proceeds from the game will be directly donated to Juvenile Diabetes **Research Foundation** International. More information is available

at detroitmoose.org.

to see.' **DOUG SCHADE** Fishing meeting The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 3 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

The featured speaker will be Michigan Department of Natural Resources research biologist supervisor Liz Hay-Chemielewski, who give insight into the condition of Lake Erie along with the bag limit for walleye in 2012.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations are needed.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

Charity pucks The Detroit Moose

He helped the Cougars earn one of four all-state team positions in Division 2 with an average GPA of 3.945. Walled Lake West-

ern, Lowell and Holly

Farmington (3.655) was

one of 24 teams nomi-

are the other teams.

nated in Division 2.

First-place Whalers enter hiatus on a losing note

With several key players at various preliminary camps for the upcoming World Juniors, the Plymouth Whalers entered the holiday hiatus in first place in their division after splitting a pair of road games last weekend.

Plymouth blanked Oshawa 5-0 on Friday before losing 5-1 the following night at Belleville. Entering the holiday break, the Whalers own a 22-9-2-1 record (47 points), which is tops in the West Division of the OHL's Western Conference.

The team won't return to action until 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 at Compuware Arena against London.

By then, head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci will know how many of the five potential World Junior players will be back in the fold if any.

Goaltender Scott

Wedgewood made the Canadian team, while defenseman Austin Levi (Farmington Hills) and forward J.T. Miller are at the preliminary camp for the U.S. squad. The final U.S. roster will be announced Thursday by USA Hockey.

Forward Rickard Rakell and defenseman Dario Trutmann have made the Swedish and Swiss teams, respectively. Both played against Oshawa but missed the Belleville game while traveling to their prelim camps.

In the win over the Generals, Rakell scored his 17th goal of the season to give the Whalers a 2-0 lead after one period.

Adding two goals was forward Andy Bathgate (12 goals) with forward and Farmington Hills product Alex Aleardi netting his 17th of the season. The fifth goal was tallied by forward Stefan Noesen (11 goals).



Plymouth Whalers rookie forward Danny Vanderwiel, shown from earlier this season, scored his first OHL goal Saturday at Belleville.

Stopping all 30 shots for the shutout was Plymouth netminder Matt Mahalak while forwards Garrett Meurs and Jamie Devane each chipped in with two assists.

Saturday at Belleville, Plymouth rookie forward

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

play is starting to come around; we're not giving up short-handed goals, and our 5-on-5 team defense is a lot better."

Farmington will try to extend its winning streak and end the 2011 portion of its schedule with a victory tonight against crosstown rival North Farmington-Harrison.

Game time is 7 p.m. at FHIA. The teams tied, 3-3, after Farmington rallied from a 2-0 deficit on Nov. 23.

"Our tie against them was kinda like a win for us, and I'm sure they're going to want to get revenge on us!" Vellucci said. "It's going to be the type of game two archrivals play. It'll be intense and emotional.

"The last time we played it was a good hockey game; hopefully, we're going to give everybody their money's worth again. Every time we play it's usually a good game, and it comes down to the third period.

YUPPERS TOP FLYERS: North Farmington-Harrison (5-4-1)

was dealt a pair of defeats during a trip to the Upper Peninsula's Copper Country last week. The Flyers lost to the Houghton Gremlins on Friday, 5-1, and to the Calumet Copper Kings on Saturday, 5-4

"It was a great weekend of very good hockey and a wonderful experience for all of our players," Flyers coach Ken Anderson said. "Even though we ended up on the short end of the score, we had great competition and great team camaraderie. The trip will benefit us when we come back home and return to league play.

Calumet's Sam Lanctot scored the winning goal and broke a 4-4 tie with nine minutes remaining in the third period. The Cooper Kings had a

Danny Vanderwiel scored the first goal of his OHL career late in the first period to tie the game at 1-1.

But the Bulls cruised from there, scoring twice in each of the final two frames.

4-3 lead after two, but Justin Brereton knotted the score for the Flyers (assisted by Michael

Eric Stanis and Kyle Wood scored the North-Harrison goals from Eric Miller, Jake Ladouceur and Eamon Devlin. who scored in the second period (from Wood) between a pair of Calumet goals. On Friday, Houghton led 2-0

after one period and added a third goal on a second-period power play. The Flyers also scored on a power play later in the second (9:50) on a tipped puck by

Devlin from Brereton and Stanis. The Gremlins answered back with a fourth goal 15 seconds

later, and they got their fifth near the end of the third period.

Blazers remain hot

After dropping its first five games of the season, Livonia Ladywood has put together a three-game winning streak in the Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League.

The Blazers' latest victory came Saturday night at Plymouth's Arctic Pond with an 8-4 triumph over Warren Regina.

Ladywood, which improved to 3-5 overall and 3-5 in the league, got two goals apiece from Hannah Pereira and Lane Kolpacke.

Other Ladywood goal scorers included Virginia Matherly, Erin Doyle, Jackie Kristofik and Rana Freij.

The Blazers, who led 4-2 after one period and 7-2 after two, also got three assists from Freij and two each from Pereira and Matherly.

Other assists went to Katie Folk and Doyle. Regina (4-2, 3-1)

got goals from Maria Smith, Sarah Hackert, Megan Taylor and Sierra Kett.

Ladywood goaltender Sarah Koch made 20 saves, while Regina's Alex Hudas had 17 stops. On Friday, Lady-

wood downed Northville, 4-2, at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena as Koch made 24-of-26 stops.

After a scoreless opening period, Ladywood scored three times in the second period to take a 3-0 lead on goals by Freij (from Brittany Galvin), Pereira (unassisted) and Rachel Fradette (a power play from Galvin.

Northville's Chole

Page and Allison Holden each scored to cut the deficit to 3-2, but Pereira empty netter clinched the win.

Avery Allman made 22 saves for the Mus-

tangs (4-2, 3-1). BRIGHTON 7, STEVEN-SON 1: Five different Bulldogs scored, including two apiece from Tom Kivisto and Alex Sauchak, to lead the Bulldogs (7-1, 5-1) to a KLAA Central Division victory Saturday night over host Livonia Stevenson (7-2, 3-2) at Edgar Arena. Michael Gessler also contributed a goal and two assists for Brighton, which led 1-0 after one period and 4-0 after two.

"It was a great team effort from the back to the front," said Brighton coach Paul Moggach, whose team outshot the Spartans, 29-17. "I think we got contributions from everybody. When we play the game we know how to play we can be a real good team. Scott Schueneman also collected a goal and an as-sist, while Karsten Heppler and Zach Carr each tallied of pair of assists to round out Brighton multi-point scorers.

Mario Tomei scored for the Spartans on assists from Chris Catalano and Thomas Ross.

"We expected them to come out hard in the third," Moggach said, "but once we got those backto-back goals to start the third it really kind of threw the game the other way. Brighton freshman Jimmy Milletics stopped 16 shots to get the win in net. Connor Humitz started in goal for the Spartans before being lifted for Mike Kanitra in the third

WOODHAVEN 4, CAN-

TON 2: On Friday, host Brownstown Woodhaven got out to a four-goal lead en route to a non-conference win over the Chiefs at the Ice Box

Canton (5-3), outshot 27-22, got goals from seniors Duggan Tear (unassisted) and Taylor Baker (from Tear and Brad Ceci). Sophomore Robbie Beydoun made 23 saves for Canton.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS Glenn's dual match record: WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 20 5-1 overall, 4-0 KLAA Central PLYMOUTH 10 Division Dec. 20 at Novi Bowl

WAYNE MEMORIAL 27 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 3 Dec. 14 at Super Bowl Wayne scorers: Lorrissa Willet, 196-200-396; Tiffany Markham, 149-157-306; Kira Learch, 137-

along with the 100 backstroke, Le noted.

will be Ryan Kilgore, who the coach said "should con-

Glenn scorers: Jordan Hornes,

Handling diving duties

Chiefs look to keep winning

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Last winter, Canton's Victor Zhang made state-



Tobar). It was 2-2 after one period.

championship waves, sparking the Chiefs to KLAA South Division and **Kensington Conference** titles in the process.

Entering his senior year, Zhang and several other point scorers from the 2011 Division 1 state meet will look to keep the Chiefs splashing toward another successful season.

"It will be an exciting season," Chiefs head coach Dave Le said. "We will be competitive within the conference and expect to compete for another division championship."

Canton's 2010-11 team finished 5-1 to win the conference, including a 4-1 mark to take first in the KLAA South.

Leading the way will be Zhang, state champion in

SWIMMING

Continued from page B1

"It's kind of a fun way to start the season,' Schade said. "The boys like it. It was good for us. We've been in the water now for a couple weeks so it was good for us to just see where we're going to start out this season.'

All six high schools represented at the event won at least one of the 10 events (all were relays except for the 1-meter diving event)

"It was pretty good competition all night," Schade added. "All six teams won an event, so that was kind of good to see."

Schade said Plymouth's 200-yard butterfly relay team of Adam Liakos, Cameron Earls, Ben Yang and Nick Weber deserved special mention for finishing first with a time of 1:49.09

One of Canton's key returnees is senior Victor Zhang, who won the 100 backstroke at last season's Division 1 state meet.

the 100 backstroke with a personal best of 51.55 seconds.

But he also is outstanding in the 50- and 100-freestyle events and 100 breaststroke while being part of the 400 free relay. In the latter, Zhang - along with senior returnees Jay Jin, Adrian Simion and junior returnee Mike Carlson -

Thurston's quartet of

Dylan Crompton, Luke

Crompton, Julienn Wil-

liams and Tajhmahal Rob-

inson weren't far behind

That same group of

Eagles did take the top

stroke relay, with a mark

Canton actually nailed

down the most first-place

finishes, with three.

In the 400 freestyle

relay, Canton's Victor

Zhang, Mike Carlson,

Adrian Simion and Jay

Jin easily took first with

a time of 3:21.93, nearly

21 seconds ahead of Mon-

Winning the 400 med-

ley relay were the Chiefs'

The third Canton first-

place showing was in the

200 medley relay. Need-

ing 1:47.83 to win that

race were Jin, Michael

Wilyard, Zhang and Carl-

tandem of Jin, Kyle Bin-

das, Simion and Zhang

spot in the 200 breast-

(third, 1:53.08).

of 2:06.76.

roe's entry.

(3:56.08)

son.

tinue where he left off.

Le said depth will play a factor in how well the team performs. Swimmers who he expects to help the cause are juniors Michael Wilyard, Bryan Tolinski, Nathan Benjamin, Ryan Sheeler and Travis Alber along with sophomores Jay Akolkar and Jack Chaney.

"We (also) have several freshman who are showing a lot of potential early in the season," Le added.

Canton got off to a good start with a second-place finish at last week's Plymouth Wildcat Relays. Next for the team is the Salem-hosted Rock Kilgore Invitational on Jan. 7, with the first KLAA dual meet Jan. 12 against Plymouth.

200 breaststroke relay: Thurston (D. Crompton, Crompton, Robinson, Williams), 2:06.76; 3. Canton (Alex Bourdreau, Carlson, Jay Krebs, Wilyard), 2:15.65; 5. Plymouth (Maslyk, Johnson, Ryan Heinze, Gunnar Savalox), 2:27.16 200 backstroke relay: 1. Monroe, 1:54.26; 3. Canton (Simion, Josh Joy, Chris Jenner, Jack Chaney), 2:12.17; 4. Plymouth (Mike Pool, Alex Wilson, Andrew Harris, Gholston), 2:12.97

Earls, Yang, Weber), 4:15.88.

500 freestyle relay: 1. Monroe, 4:43.12; 4. Plymouth (Weber, Liakos, Earls, Yang), 4:58.17; 5. Canton (Nick Valli, Travis Alber, Nathan Benjamin, Nathan Albin), 5:44.67; 6. Thurston (Kevin Metushi, Dowden, Hill, Cervantes), 6:00.06.

200 medley relay: 1. Canton (Jin, Wilyard, V. Zhang, Carlson), 1:47.83; 4. Thurston (Robinson, Williams, L. Crompton, D. Crompton), 1:54.11; 5. Plymouth (Wilson, Maslyk Johnson, Heinze), 2:03.43 200 freestyle relay: 1. Te-cumseh, 1:36.29; 3. Thurston (Dowden, Williams, L. Crompton, D. Crompton), 1:38.39; 5. Plymouth (Heinze, Maslyk, Pool, Wilson), 1:44.66; 6. Canton (Drew Wade, Alber, Jonathan Marceau, Jenner), 1:49.58.

203. Team totals: 1,088-1,006-2,094 (16 points); Baker games: 212-151-363 (4 points). Plymouth scorers: Brandon Congdon, 231-200-431; Eric Thompson, 228-176-404; Rob Korstjens, 188-196-384; Evan Grimme, 206-171-377; Ryan Riva, 211; split score, 145. Team totals: 998-954-1,952 (4 points); Baker games: 189-194-382 (6 points). Glenn's dual match record: 6-0 overall, 4-0 KLAA Central Division

233-265-498; Mitch Dean,

203-214-417: Steven White, 256-

138-394; Daniel Ammons, 214;

Mark Kassab, 193; split score,

GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 22 PLYMOUTH 8

Dec. 20 at Novi Bowl Glenn scorers: Caitlin Lenard, 199-213-412: Jessica Pate, 169-193-362; Yvette Ayers, 165-132-292; Montana Graszak, 148, Olivia Cabildo, 147; Bre Riblett, 118; split scorer, 129. Team totals: 809-804-1,613 (18 points); Baker games: 164-132-296 (4 points)

Plymouth scorers: Emily Fraser, 170-156-326; Caitlyn Webb, 153-148-301; Tiffani Patterson, 135-137-272; Lauryn Vincent, 138; Megan Blanck, 123; Megan Brewer, 119; split score, 115. Team totals: 719-675-1,394 (2 points); Baker games: 152-156-308 (6 points).

160-297; Tiffany Ozog, 102-131-233; Sarah Shurge, 93-133-226. Team totals: 677-781-1,458; Baker games: 128-131-259 (10 points).

Clarenceville scorers: Bridget Moricz, 159-197-346; Nikki Iuliano, 126-118-244; Stephanie Quinn, 99-122-221; Caitlyn Kissandi, 90-102-192. Team totals: 560-197-1,215 (3 points); Baker games: 118-110-228 (0 points). Wayne's dual match record: 2-3 overall

WAYNE MEMORIAL 20 PLYMOUTH 10

Dec. 13 at Novi Bowl Wayne scorers: Tiffany Markham, 163-169-332; Lorrissa Willett, 153-143-296; Kira Learch, 100-165-265; Tiffany Ozog, 118-128-246; Sarah Surge, 94-110-204. Team totals: 628-715-1,343 (10 points); Baker games: 163-145-308 (10 points) Plymouth scorers: Megan Blanck, 156-134-290; Caitlyn Webb, 136-150-286; Tiffani Patterson, 141-129-270; Lauryn Vincent, 100-112-212; Serena Oliver, 109. Team totals: 665-640-1,305 (10 points); Baker games: 111-102-213 (0 points). Wayne's dual match record: 1-3 overall, 2-1 KLAA Central Division.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pitching clinic

Detroit Tigers pitching coach Jeff Jones will be the featured instructor at the pitching clinic hosted on Sunday, Jan. 22 by the Livonia Stevenson High baseball program.

Jones will be joined by former pro pitcher Dave Marcon, owner and scout of Indy Pro Showcase, along with the Stevenson coaching staff.

Session I (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. until noon followed by Session II (ages 13-18) from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Stevenson fieldhouse.

The cost is \$40 (checks should be made payable to the Stevenson High School Baseball).

For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail

Berry3724@aol.com. Arctic Edge is located at 46615 Michigan Ave. (south side) near Canton Center Drive.

Softball camps

Coach Al White of Madonna University will stage a series of winter softball camps for ages 7-18 including:

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 to 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26. 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.

PLYMOUTH WILDCAT RELAYS

scored points by placing

14th at the D1 state meet.

With all four of those

talented swimmers back

for 2011-12, Canton's 400

reckoned with.

free relay should again be

Jin, meanwhile, placed

23rd at the state meet in

the 200 IM with a time of

2:03.27 and will be a key

performer in that event

Dec. 16 at Salem H.S TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Monroe, 84 points; 2. Canton, 62; Dearborn Edsel Ford, 56; 4 Plymouth, 46; 5. Tecumseh, 44; Redford Thurston, 28. 400-yard freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Victor Zhang, Mike Carlson, Adrian Simion, Jay Jin), 3:21.93; 3. Plymouth (Adam Liakos, Cameron Earls, Ben Yang, Nick Weber), 3:42.87; 6. Thurston (Simon Hill, Nick Dowden, Marcus Cervantes, Adrian Croft), 4:09.31

400 medley relay: 1. Edsel Ford, 4:01.44; 4. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Michael Wilyard, Jonathan Marceau, Matt Gran), 4:27.75; 5. Plymouth (Alex Wilson, Todd Maslyk, Alex Johnson, James Gholston), 4:43.20.

200 butterfly relay: 1. Plymouth (Liakos, Earls, Yang, Weber), 1:49.09; 3. Thurston (Dylan Crompton, Luke Crompton, Julienn Williams, Tajhmahal Robinson), 1:53.08; 6. Canton (Jay Akolkar, Nathan Albin, Travis Wiggins, Gran), 2:19.88.

1-meter diving: 1. Zach Nofziger (Monroe), 173.90 points; 2. Ryan Kilgore (Canton), 157.05; 3. Connor McManus (Plymouth), 144.05 400 medley relay: 1. Canton (Jin, Bindas, Simion, V. Zhang), 3:56.08; 3. Plymouth (Liakos,

LOCAL SPORTS

Foster's 39 paces North

Senior Do'rrell Foster scored a career-high 39 points Monday night to lead host North Farmington (2-2) past Melvindale Academy for Business & Technology, 71-63, in a non-league boys basketball game.

The 6-foot-6 Foster, who was scoreless in the third quarter, made 21of-23 free throws and two triple baskets as North evened its record at 2-2 overall.

"He really slowed down and let the game come to him," coach Todd Negoshian said of Foster. "Early in the season, it being his senior year, I think he was forcing some things.

"He played well, got to the glass and defended well. All the way around, he stepped up and played a solid game."

North led at halftime 38-26, but AB&T rallied with a 17-9 advantage in the third quarter. It was 58-all when Foster sank a pair of free throws, and the Raiders never trailed after that.

Caleb Hogans scored 17 points, including three triples and six of eight free throws, for North. Foster also had 11 rebounds and Hogans five assists. Jeron Rogers added six points and seven rebounds. The Raiders were 30-of-40 at the foul line.

Terran Ramsey netted 28 points and Steven Meeks chipped in 14 for the Gators (3-2), who sank 26 of 36 free throws.

"Cameron Darden stepped up and gave us huge minutes off the bench in his first game seeing significant time," Negoshian said of the junior forward. "He really played well and did all the things we need him to do for us to be success-

ful." WAYNE 61, RIVERVIEW

55: Dezmon Burleigh scored a game-high 21 points, including five-of-six free throws in the final quarter, propelling Wayne Memorial (3-2) to a non-conference victory Monday over the host Pirates (2-2). Brian Smith added 18 points for the victorious Zebras, who overcame 11-of-24 free throw shooting. Jordan Lowry also chipped in with eight points. Michael Cooper's three-pointer with 40 seconds remaining helped seal the victory.

Corey Turner and Chris Krach paced Riverview with 12 and 10 points, respectively. The Pirates made only 3-of-10

GARDEN CITY 56, WOOD-HAVEN 48: On Tuesday, the host Cougars (1-3) notched their first victory of the season thanks to strong games from seniors Tyler Steele (14 points, five rebounds) and C.J. Hill, who pumped in 12 points against Brownstown Woodhaven (2-2).

Garden City-led 29-25 at the half before building a 43-30 cushion after three. "We ratcheted up our defense a little bit in the third quarter," said Garden City head coach Greg Williamson. "We played with more intensity than in the first half." Junior point guard Tyler Gonzalez had a stellar night, contributing seven points and

four assists. Williamson also praised the play of Matt Stark (six points, three steals) and Kevin Brown, who recorded three steals in his first game since being promoted from the junior-varsity squad.

ANNAPOLIS 62, CVILLE 45: Zackary Fields scored 17 points, while Colton Mallia and Jacob Butzin each added 13 to lead Dearborn Heights Annapolis (2-2) to a victory Tuesday at Livonia Clarenceville (0-5).

Sam Brown led the Trojans, who made only 6-of-18 free throws on the night, with 17 points. Austin Douglass chipped in with eight. Clarenceville led 17-8 after one quarter, but fell behind 30-25 at halftime and 49-35 after three quarters. SEAHOLM 42, FRANK-

LIN 39: Senior center Jake Barham's 17 points and 11 rebounds were not enough Tuesday as host Livonia Franklin (0-3) fell to host Birmingham Seaholm (3-2). "We had far too many turnovers and missed free throws (6-of-11) were only part of our downfall tonight," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We had the lead most of the game, but did not handle the pressure that came with it. It was a tough loss, a sloppy game."

Franklin, which also got eight points and five steals from Tommy Smith, had a chance with 10 seconds left to take the lead and couldn't convert. Seaholm, led by Brett Houghton's 11 points, hit two free throws with 3.4 seconds left and the Patriots' half-court try at the buzzer didn't go. EDSEL FORD 61, RU 55:

EDSEL FORD 61, RU 55: On Tuesday, visiting Redford Union (1-4) led 47-40 midway through the fourth quarter before succumbing to a late Dearborn Edsel Ford (4-0) rally.

rally. "We took a few undisciplined shots in the fourth quarter and Edsel Ford capitalized," RU coach Randall Taylor. "We moved the ball pretty well offensively most of the night and our defense played O.K. until the fourth quarter. The Panthers played without leading rebounder Tre' Goynes, who received a one-game suspension after getting ejected from Friday night's victory over Garden City. RU received an inspired per-formance from Javonte Davis, who scored a team-high 23 points — 12 the result of four triples — before fouling out with just over two minutes left in the contest. Dwight Pooler also had a solid game for the Panthers, chipping in with 10 points. The Panthers led 18-13 after one guarter and 31-26 at the break.



Redford Thurston's Marquis Johnson (5) applies some inyour-face defense on Ann Arbor Richard's Kamari Davis.

THURSTON

Continued from page B1

disciplined team, so when they got the lead, especially late in the fourth quarter, I knew they'd be able to hold the ball on us," Bates said. "I thought we'd put together a run in the fourth quarter when we pressed, but you have to score to press and we didn't score enough."

Junior guard Xzavier Bowen led the Eagles' balanced scoring attack with 14 points. Diante McGowan scored 10 on four-of-five shooting while Marquis Johnson and J'Sean Jones both twined nine.

Senior guard Devin Ryles ripped down eight rebounds for Thurston. Rayvlon Croon notched six boards.

Junior guard Kamari Davis was the main man for the Irish, tallying 14 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore forward

GC finishes off Wayne

Jason Houle, who hails from Plymouth, and sophomore swingman Evan Fosha also poured in 14 a piece. Fosha added eight rebounds a break-away slam to cap the hosts' big third quarter.

Senior forward Mark Tanski was solid inside for Gabriel Richard, netting four points and six rebounds.

"I thought Diante played his best game of the season," Bates said. "And Marquis had a real good game. He's probably our best defender. He plays hard and he plays with heart."

Both teams nailed 18 of 54 field-goal attempts, however, the Irish were more proficient from beyond the arc and at the free-throw line where they swished 19 of 24 attempts. Thurston hit just half of its 18 freebies.

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ROCKETS

Continued from page B1

come up with a key steal as she scored off a layup with only 6.2 seconds remaining to put the Lady Vikings ahead to stay, 55-53.

Oh so close

Glenn, inbounding from underneath its basket, tried a full-court pass that sailed out of bounds. Inkster's Paris McLeod then hit a free throw with 5.8 seconds to go put make it a three-point cushion and Glenn's Brooklyn Holbrook's three-point shot as the buzzer sounded missed the mark dropping the Rockets to 3-1 overall.

"We were trying to drive to the basket, we were trying to draw a foul and get put on the line even though we weren't making our free throws," said Kovatch, whose team went 2-for-8 on the night. It was 29-all at halftime, but it was the Joslyn Massey show as the 6foot forward from Glenn, bound for Purdue University, scored all 16 of her points and controlled the glass while outplaying Michigan-bound Kelsey Mitchell, who finished with eight points. "Joslyn Massey — Oh, my gosh, she's so athletic," Inkster coach Ollie Mitchell said. "Her and Kelsey (Mitchell) are best friends. They just love each other to death. They are very, very competitive.' Massey took only two shot attempts in the second half, both coming in the third quarter. "We had to find out where she (Massey) was around the court," the Inkster coach said. "As you could see we did the best we could. She got hands on the ball, but we made sure we got bodies

around her. So it was a little tougher for her to get clean rebounds. We made Kelsey hustle up on the other end to get her a little fatigued so Kelsey worked her down on the offensive side."

But other Glenn players stepped up throughout the game including Graves, who finished with 10 points, along with Kierra Jordan (9), Kaira Barnes (8) and Abbey Wright (8 off the bench).

And the Rockets were missing one of their key starters, 5-11 senior guard Erica Covile, a Temple University signee who sat out after reinjuring her surgically repaired knee during last Friday's win at Novi.

Her status for the rest of the season is up in the air.

ir. "Erica Covile is a great Kovatch said of his defense. "We were good. I made a poor adjustment. I switched to a zone. I thought they (Inkster) were going to drive and draw a foul. I went to the 2-3 (zone). That was a mistake in retrospect. I would have stayed with the man the whole time. I think by making that decision we let them back in game."

to-man the whole night,"

Whew

Meanwhile, Mitchell, who replaced Peggy Carr as Inkster's coach following a 25-2 state championship run, felt fortunate to get out of his home gym with a win.

"If we're scoring 65-to-70 points a game, we're happy," he said. "But our problem was we didn't stop some people. It was

An infusion of thirdquarter enthusiasm fueled Garden City's 58-46 victory over host Wayne Memorial Tuesday night in a non-conference girls basketball clash.

The victory improved the Cougars' record to 3-2 while the Zebras tumbled to 1-5.

"The girls came out in the second half with great intensity and effort," said Garden City head coach Barry Patterson. "It was back-and-forth all night until late in the third when we strung together eight straight points."

The Cougars' catalyst was senior guard Justice Dean, who went on an 8-0 run of her own during the game's pivotal thirdIn addition to Dean, Minta Whitaker (nine points), Aleiah Smith (nine points, 15 rebounds) and Hillarie Werda (eight points, 10 boards) excelled for the winners.

Garden City connected on all but one of its eight free throws. Wayne was 12 for 23 from the line. **MERCY 55, GROVES 28:** The visiting Marlins raced to a 20-2 lead after one quarter Tuesday and held the Falcons to single-digit points in every period.

Sarah Benson scored 10 points, Sam Bauer and Candice Leatherwood eight each and Tyler Parlor seven. Farmington Hills Mercy (5-1) led at halftime, 32-11. Jordan Blackwell had eight points for Birmingham Groves (3-3).

"Recently, we've been getting off to very slow starts, so it was nice to get a good start and a nice lead," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "That set the tone for the night. The good part was all 13 girls played in each half and 10 scored "It was a nice game to fin-ish up before the Christmas break. We're happy to be 5-1, but we need to keep working to get better because the next game we play (Jan. 3) will be a Central Division game." STEVENSON 51, CABRINI 38: Senior guards Jorden York and Molly Knoph scored 17 and 13 points, respectively, leading Livonia Stevenson (3-1) to a non-conference victory Monday at Allen Park Cabrini (2-2)The Spartans, who jumped out to a 22-5 first-quarter lead, also got 10 points from sophomore center Charlesann Roy. Danielle Lollo and Valerie

Bertani tallied 18 and 10, respectively, for the Monarchs. Stevenson made 6-of-8 free throws, while Cabrini hit

9-of-16. **FERNDALE 58, C'VILLE 53:** Micaela Ellis poured in 19 points Monday as the visiting Eagles (2-4) turned back Livonia Clarenceville (1-6). Clarenceville led 13-7 after one quarter, but Ferndale went on a 20-8 second period run to take a 28-20 halftime lead. Sophomore center Ayanna Buckley scored 13 and junior guard Jodi Ankiel added 12 for Clarenceville, which made only 12-of-29 free throws. Ferndale connected on just 9-of-30 from the line.

PLY. CHRISTIAN 67, GEN-ESEE 27: On Friday, visiting Plymouth Christian Academy (3-2) jumped out to a 13-0 first quarter lead and never looked back to beat host Genesee Christian.

PCA, which led 32-11 at halftime, was paced by Karen Windle (19 points, 11 steals), Emily Gerulis (12 points, seven

basketball player, but also have a team full of really, really good basketball players," Kovatch said. "And I'll go to battle with whoever we got. I'm very, very proud of them. We're not making any excuses."

Each team had 19 turnovers on the night, while Glenn had the edge in field goals (25-22). But Inkster had a decided advantage in free throws (11-of-17) and Glenn connected on only one three pointer.

"Normally we can hit three or four of those, but we were off tonight," Kovatch said. "We have a great bench. We can go nine solid players deep. With Erica Covile we're nine solid players deep that I'm comfortable playing and I have confidence in all those players."

Kovatch, who replaced Mark Anderson, now an Inkster assistant, as the Rockets' coach following last year's 19-4 season, said he made a strategical mistake.

"We tried to go man-

just a tremendous battle. I believe that whoever comes out of that district (at Romulus), whether it's us or John Glenn, look for one of us to go to the Breslin Center (at Michigan State). That is a tremendous team and they'll get nothing but better. And we're going to do the same.

"We're going to take this win, build on it, and try to get better."

In the waning seconds, Glenn's 5-10 junior transfer from Ann Arbor Skyline, Kierra Jordan, went down with an apparent ankle injury and had to be lifted off the court.

"We were looking for one big body and we're fortunate she came to John Glenn," Kovatch said. "She could be a missing piece for us in a long run. We could be seeing these guys (Inkster) in districts. The way I see it we'll see them in districts and it will be another great high school game."

> bemons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851

Crusaders' win streak snapped

The longest winning streak by a Madonna University men's basketball team in program history ended at nine on Saturday in the finals of the BLT Sportswear & Apparel Crusader Classic.

Now the trick is to start another one.

Goshen (Ind.) College got 26 pints and eight rebounds from tournament MVP Matthew Martin en route to a 64-51 triumph over host Madonna in a battle of nationallyranked teams at the MU Activities Center. The Maple Leafs, ranked No. 11 in the latest NAIA Division II Coaches Poll, improved to 13-1 overall.

Geoffry Gilot, who also made the all-tournament team, added 14 points, while Garner Small came off the bench to add 13.

Sophomore guard Travis Schuba, another alltourney selection, led the No. 21 Crusaders (9-5) with 21 points, including 6-of-12 from three-point range.

No other Crusader notched double figures as sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) dished out nine assists, but had nine turnovers of his team's 13 turnovers.

Matt Jenkins grabbed a team-high seven boards.

"It was a great game," said MU coach Noel Emenhiser, whose team shot only 32.2 percent from the floor (19-of-59) and 7-of-15 from the foul line (46.7 percent).

MU is off until Friday, Dec. 30 when it travels to Denver, Colo. to face host Johnson & Wales. stanza stretch. Dean finished with 18 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Sophomore Ashley Bland paced the Zebras with 19 points. Tiara Childers also sparkled for Wayne, scoring 10 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

Garden City led 18-9 after one quarter before the Zebras stormed back to knot the game at 28all at the half. The Cougars seized control of the contest in the third quarter when they outscored their hosts, 16-7. steals), Jenny Malcolm (nine points) and Martha Mullett (nine points, including 7-8 from the free-throw line). Windle and Gerulis each grabbed five rebounds. **ADAMS 37, HARRISON 29:** On Friday, host Rochester Adams (3-1, 2-0) outscored Farmington Harrison (0-4, 0-2) by a 17-6 margin in the second quarter and stayed in front through the second half to earn the OAA White Division victor.

victory. Tiera Parker scored 14 points and Marissa Cotton eight for the Hawks. The Highlanders got nine points from Taylor Houghtlin and eight from Lexi Lewandowski.

Adams won despite missing 17 of 24 free throws. Harrison was 10-of-18 at the foul line.



Dec. 30 at Salem.

participated.

in the JV division.

Meanwhile, Israel praised his JV

freshman/JV meet, where 23 teams

Top performers included: fresh-

Charlie Woody, seventh at 119; Josh

Streeter, second at 135; Justin Cook,

third at 140; Matt Piotroski, fifth at

heavyweight; James Toms, second

at 119; Ralph Johnson, fourth at 145

men Garen Takessian, fifth at 145;

wrestlers for their performances

at Saturday's first Wayne County

Salem grapplers show progress

Salem wrestling coach Pete Israel is seeing positive signs from his team early this season, including Saturday's "Dave Melton Memorial Duals" held at Huron High School in New Boston.

The Rocks defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer and Grosse Ile, losing matches against Yale, Huron and always-tough Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Spearheading Salem's solid showing was Tyler Gross at 160. He went 5-0 to follow up his win at the recent Salem Varsity 10 Tournament.

"Tyler is progressing well this season and continues to make improvements," said Israel, adding that Alex Brown (4-1 at 189) "is starting to build some momentum and I am expecting good things to happen."

Capturing three wins each were Matt Lang (145, 152) and Tony Agostini (215) while 112-pounder Alex Arble earned two good wins.

Next up for the Rocks is the tough Plymouth Elks Tournament, set for

WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

with another at 140 by Jordan Atienza. Heavyweight Omar Haymour also added a second.

"We had a good final round," Franklin 12thyear coach Dave Chiola said. "The nine who were still in it, eight of them won. Five of them were pins, and two of them were majors, which were a lot of points.

"The kids we have that are tough did what they were supposed to do. Matt Horne was unseeded at 189 and took fifth. And some of our guys that lost in early rounds were able to go below and pin people."

Danny Martinez, a junior, decisioned Ali Ayache of Crestwood for the 119 title, 3-1, while Gabe Martinez, a senior, won by major decision, 8-0, over Keshav Patel of Canton at 125. Atienza, a sophomore, won by major decision over Said Youssef of Plymouth at 140.

"I thought we'd get four into finals and get

la said. "Those guys did what they were supposed to do and they did just enough. We didn't wrestle every match well, but pinned some people and that put us over the top. Everybody had kids out of the lineup. We actually have a pretty good tournament team, but in duals we'll struggle. We have some top kids, but also some inexperienced kids. But we'll see, some of the guys are getting better and some surprised me."

three champs," Chio-

Wayne Memorial, nicknamed the Wolfpack, came away with titles at 189 (Devin Korzetki) and 215 (Dimitrus Renfroe).

"All the credit goes to my wrestlers," Wayne coach Steve Vasiloff said. "We've been tough on them this season, constantly telling them about all the potential this team has and pushing them to reach it. At first, there was some resistance, and then they started to believe."

Korzetki earned upper weights MVP honors.

"He came into the tournament as the fifth seed and knocked off all the top guys to win the tournament," Vasiloff said. "Yet, we took second as a team because everyone wrestled well. I've always said I'd rather have a good team from top-tobottom than a team with one or two phenomenal wrestlers. And I'm glad to see we are getting there as a team."

'Cats freshman shines

Meanwhile, Plymouth captured crowns at 103 (Brandon Harris) and 112 (Trey Berry).

Harris, a freshman, decisioned Melvindale's Mohammed Yousef in the finals, 14-11.

"Brandon had a good day at 103," Plymouth coach Quinn Guernsey said. "Even though he's a freshman, he's not a rookie to the sport. But with that being said, he's still a freshman. The kid he beat in the finals was either a junior or a senior, so that's still asking a lot to beat a junior or senior in your first invitational meet. So he handled himself well and we're proud of him.

"Trey just kept doing what Trey's done all year. He's undefeated on the year and has had some pretty dominant wins. He's been working since all last season to become one of the more elite wrestlers in the area, and also the state where he showed that kind of potential on Saturday in the finals against a pretty good kid, a state placer from Allen Park (Jake Polenciewicz).

"We're pretty proud of how our team did. We only had 10 guys that competed, but we had a lot of guys perform to their level, which we weren't sure about. I wasn't sure how good they were, but they actually proved it out on the mat. It was a good feeling to have those juniors and sophomores step up and show the success they're capable of having."

Canton, missing three key wrestlers out with various injuries, was led by 135-pound champ Alec Pantaleo, who recorded the quickest pin in the finals against Quentin Santiago of Wyandotte Roosevelt in 1:36.

Run N' Gun secures first

Unbeaten Run N' Gun still tops the Redford Recreation Basketball League standings following Sunday's games — but just barely.

It took RNG (5-0) two overtimes to dispatch the feisty McBallers (1-4), 72-70, Sunday afternoon in one of four league contests. Brian Woodland spearheaded the winners' effort with 26 points. Drew Bradford (17), Dewey Rambin (11) and Rob Thomas (10) also played well for RNG.

Three players orchestrated the McBallers' upset bid: Anthony Simmons (17 points), Derrick Wilson II (15) and BJ Jones, who tossed in 15.

Dirty Dozen (4-1) remained within one game of first place when it outran the Arsenal, 93-83. Lionel Sullivan torched the nets for 29 points while Dariun Bynum scored 22 for the winners. Kobe Landry led Arsenal with 20. RT Runner (4-1) also

stayed in the hunt for a

REDFORD REC BASKETBALL

title thanks to an 89-76 triumph over Chuck's B & G. Marcus Barton led all scorers with 24 points while Gerald Binford had a 21-point night. Dan Kurtanitis led Chuck's with 21 points. Mike Bright added 15.

All Sport (3-2) started Sunday's four-game slate with an exciting 87-81 win over the Heavyweights (0-5). Mike Beatty was on fire for the victors, pouring in 29 points. Cornelius Webb also sparkled with 20 points. Dajuan Will added 16.

George Johnson was almost unstoppable for the Heavyweights, pumping in 33 points. Reginald Hodo and Leroy Blyden scored 16 points each in the losing cause.

Beatty tops the league scoring leaders list with a 28-pointsper-game average. Sullivan is averaging 26.8 per contest while Kevin Davis is scoring at a 25.3-points-pergame clip.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 22 Steve. at Garden City, 7 p.m. Edison at North Farm., 7 p.m. Franklin Rd. at PCA, 7 p.m. Fordson at RU, 7 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 22 Edsel Ford at Franklin, 7 p.m. GC at Stevenson, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Belleville, 7 p.m. RU at Fordson, 7 p.m. BOYS HOCKEY Thursday, Dec. 22 North-Harrison vs. Farmington 7 p.m. at F.H. Ice Arena PREP WRESTLING Thursday, Dec. 22 John Glenn Quad, 5:30 p.m. RU at Romulus, 6 p.m. BOYS SWIMMING Crestwood at RU, 4 p.m. Thurston at Dearborn, 6 p.m. Garden City at Belleville, 7 p.m.



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RELIGION CALENDAR

B5 (*)

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the email.

Dec. 22-31

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25 Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills Details: Family service at 5 p.m.; candlelight service at 7:30 p.m.

Contact: (248) 553-3380

HOLIDAY SERVICES Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25; 7 p.m. Dec. 31 and 9:30 a.m. Jan. 1, 2012

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The theme of the Christmas Eve service is "Once Again My Heart Rejoices." It will be a word and song service featuring favorite Christmas carols. All children will receive a special free gift. The Rev. Gregory Gibbons' sermon on Dec. 25 will be "Dreaming of a White Christmas? It's here!" Contact: (734) 968-3523 or (313) 532-8655

Jan. 1-11, 2012

CATHOLIC PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15 Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia Details: "Catholics Returning Home," is a six-week series of meetings designed to answer questions and provide a forum for nonpracticing Catholics who might be interested in discussing a possible return to the church. Each session will be facilitated by former lapsed Catholics in a very casual, non-threatening environment, with plenty of opportunities for practical and open questions, answers, conversation, and discussion

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207

GRIEF RECOVERY Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., Sun-

day, Jan. 8

Location: Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, near Six Mile and Beech Daly, in



Location: St. Kenneth

Plymouth

Church, 14951 Haggerty,

Details: Mass followed by

refreshments, social time.

Widowed Friends is a peer

group within the Archdio-

cese of Detroit that offers

and women in a safe and

Contact: Pat at (734) 895-

friendly setting

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Emmanuel Lutheran

Monday of the month

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second

Location: 34567 Seven Mile,

between Farmington and

Newburgh roads, Livonia

Bible class for adults with

developmental disabilities

and special needs. Includes

songs, Bible lessons, crafts

and activities, prayer, snacks

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler

at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail

to pastorscott@emmanuel-

Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Location: 34541 Five Mile,

Details: "Four Views of the

Also ongoing: "Life's Heal-

ing Choices" Study Group, 6

p.m., fourth Sunday through

September, is for men and

women who want freedom

from hurts, hangups and

Contact: (734) 464-7990

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7

a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney

Island, 21200 Haggerty,

habits of the past.

Men's Bible study

Sundays through May 8

End Times" adult study

Faith Bible Church

Details: Open Arms

6246

Church

and fun

livonia.org

Livonia

activities for widowed men

Details: The six-week support program, Living with the Loss of a Spouse," offered by Widowed Friends, will cover issues related to the grief process, including Ioneliness. A trained peer member will facilitate. Cost is \$20. Widowed Friends is a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit

Contact: Register by calling Joan at (248) 478-1084

NEW SERVICE

Time/Date: 10:10 a.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 8, 2012 Location: Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road in Plymouth

Details: A new 55-minute contemporary worship service called Impact will feature a praise band, lots of upbeat music and a powerful message in a relaxed atmosphere. Child care will be offered

Contact: (734) 453-5280

THESIS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 2, 2012

Location: Gesu Catholic Church, 17180 Oak Drive, Detroit

Details: Helen Marie Berg, senior at Catholic University, will present her thesis: "In Unity, There is Hope: A Story of a Detroit Parish." She will tell the story of how Gesu Catholic Church and School has changed as Detroit has changed.

Contact: (313) 862-4400 or visit http://gesudetroit.org

Jan. 12-31,

2012

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m., Jan. 22, 2012; check-in starts at

Northville Township Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615 **Nicole's Revival**

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Details: Scripture study Contact: (313) 534-9000

Passages View Online www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday . Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



CHASON, SARA JANE DALGLEISH

Age 56, of Dallas, Texas, passed Wednesday, December 7, 2011, surrounded by her loving family. Sara was a professional vocalist. She was both a performer and a patron of the Arts. Born in Michigan and grew up in Bloomfield Hills where she met her husband David in the 7th grade Advanced Math Class. Sara and David were married for 33 years and had two children, Benjamin and Rebecca. Sara attended Brown University, obtaining an A.B. in Psychology, The University of Michigan School of Music, obtaining Bachelors in Music Voice Performance, as well as Wayne State University, obtaining a R.M.T. in Music Therapy. She was a member of the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda, Chi Chapter, National Association of Teachers of Singing "NATS", American Music Therapy Association, Musical Arts Club, Pro Musical, Lyric Stage, Fort Worth Opera, Junior League of Dallas "JLD", NSCDA in TX and National Institute of American Doll Artists "NIADA". Sara taught private voice lessons at Highland Park High School, as well as in her private voice studio. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made in Sara's name to: Lyric Stage, www.lyricstage.org/donations.shtml. Sara is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Dr. David P. Chason, M.D. of the home, son; Benjamin G. Chason of Dallas, TX, daughter; Rebecca D. Chason of Dallas, TX, parents; Mary Jane and Charles Dalgleish Jr., of Bloomfield Hills, MI, brother; Charles K. (Anne) Dalgleish of Vienna, VA and sister; Elizabeth Dalgieish (John) O'Brien of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Memorial Service was held December 14, 2011 at Oaklawn United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. Mrs. Interment was held at Restland Memorial Cemetery December 12, 2011.

In memory of IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROGER F. **BARTLETT &** SHIRLEY

Shirley, his wife passed away after a long illness this year; Roger a short time after. His neighbors on Kinloch and Woodworth at Cambridge will miss him. He will long be remembered



December 15, 2011, age 50, of Canton. Bob was a loving husband of 30 years to Kathleen. Beloved father of Adam (Cindy), Andrew, Aaron, Alexander, Austin, and Aimeegrace. Dear son of Robert (Jeanne) Kaump and Sharon (Fred) Behnke. Dear brother of Karen (Greg) Marcum and Lynn (Tom) Taphorn. Also survived by several cousins, nieces, and nephews. A celebra-tion of his life will be planned at a later date. To leave condo-

lences, please see http://vermeulenfuneralhome. com/a/obituaries.htm



NYQUIST, EILEEN G. December 18, 2011 Age 93 Long

time resident of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Clarence. Dear mother of Nancy (Ken) Norris, Daniel (Nancy), and Kenneth (Sue). Sister of Kay Coburn and Cissy (Tony) Krzstofik. Grandmother of six and great grandmother of twelve. Secretary with the Wayne-Westland School Board and the city of Westland. Memorial service at Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Thursday 6pm. Family will receive visitors from 1-6pm. Cremation rights were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com.

WEBB, RALPH R.

December 18, 2011, age 80. Beloved husband of Mattie. Dear Father of Ralph R. (Michelle) Webb Jr. and Gillie W. (Denise) Webb. Grandfather of Jason, Kevin and Harrison Webb and Morgan (Adam) Rogers. Services were held on Wednesday. Share your special thoughts and memo-ries at: www.schrader-howell.com





B6.(*) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Celebrate the holidays with Irish music, dance

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

The fiddles, pipes and dancing shoes will come out for the 15th annual Crossroads Celi, two nights of Irish-style holiday celebration, next week at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

"This production at the Ark has been my doing for the last 15 years," said Mick Gavin, who teaches Irish fiddling from his home in Redford. "It's an annual event between Christmas and New Years. Years ago in rural Ireland and sometimes even these days in remote parts of Ireland, people met at the crossroads. They met in villages for fairs, to sell chickens, eggs ... but they met at crossroads and put up a platform and usually had pipers and dancers.

"They still have that in parts of Ireland as a tradition."

In keeping with that tradition, Gavin has recruited both local musicians and dancers and an international touring band, Bua, to heat up the stage with step dancing and Irish tunes.

The doors open at 7 p.m. and the shows will start at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 29-30 at the Ark, located at 316 S. Main in downtown Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$15 general admission, available from The Ark ticket and Information hotline at (734) 763-8587, and at www.theark.org.

Special guests this year are Bua and Nic Gareiss.

Bua, a quartet from Chicago, Ill., that includes Gavin's son, Sean, on flute, uilleann pipes, and whistle, plays Irish traditional music and tours extensively. The band released its third CD in October.

Gareiss, of Mt. Pleasant, has performed as a featured soloist with such bands as The Chieftains, Solas, and Dervish.

"He has incorporated many styles of dancing in the Celtic world ...oldstyle, Appalachian clogging, French Canadian step dancing and Scottish dancing from Cape Breton," Gavin said.

Bridget, Ella, Duggan and Dermot of the Dollowy family of Plymouth also will be on hand to dance, and play fiddle and banjo.

Other performers will include Kelsey Lutz on fiddle, Michael and Colleen Gavin — Mick Gavin's son and daughter-in-law — on fiddle, banjo, flute, and tin whistle, Terence and Siobhan McKinney on uilleann pipes and harp, and Lance Wagner on fiddle and piano.

"In keeping with tradition, we'll have lots of songs and some comedy songs," Gavin said. "We'll have some songs that go back to the famine days and some songs in the Irish lan-





Bua will perform with local musiciansat the annual Crossroads Ceili Dec. 29-30 at the Ark in Ann Arbor.



guage."

Look for a few Christmas carols performed in the Irish tradition, too.

For more information visit www.theark.com or crossroadsceili.weebly.com ARCHIVE PHOTO

Mick Gavin (right) presents Crossroads Celi at the Ark in Ann Arbor. Among the musicians who will perform at the event are his sons, Michael Gavin (left) and Sean Gavin on pipes. Sean is a member of the band, Bua.

Siobhan McKinney and Jaimie Lutz perform on harp at a previous Crossroads Ceili.



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 Jan. 13, 2012

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: Call for entries to the 6th annual Member Exhibition that runs Feb. 3-18, 2012

Coming up: "Etch, Sketch and Stilettos," an exhibit of the work of Topher Crowder, runs Jan. 6-28, 2012. The artist is inspired by animated Saturday morning cartoons, vintage postcards, and 1960s/1970s comic books

Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMU-NITY ARTS COUNCIL Time/Date: Through Dec.

Location: 774 N. Sheldon. Plymouth

Details: Works in colored pencil, ink, pastel and watercolor by members of Pam Grossmann's adult



Topher Crowder's "Yves Saint Laurent Patent Leather Tribute Peep Toe Platform" will be on exhibit along with his other works, beginning Jan. 6, 2012 at Northville Art House.

complex, Southfield Details: Stand-up shows, 8 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: Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31; Charlie Wiener, Jan. 4-7, 2012; Dave Waite, Jan. 11-14, 2012; Norm Stultz, Jan. 18-21 Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31 Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.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; upcoming special

dances include a New Year's

www.penntheatre.com REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2012 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 7, 2012 Location: 17360 Lahser,

just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit **Details:** "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," tickets \$4

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Contact: (313) 537-2560

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; the play, "There Goes the Neighborhood," runs Jan. 7-8. 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

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: Dec. 18; Crossroads Ceili, Bua and Nic Gareiss, Dec. 29-30; The Fred Eaglesmith Travel-



The Michigan Philharmonic's next concert features its chamber orchestra and a new work by composer Andre Myers on Jan. 15, 2012.

Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The show includes open mic performances and Circle of Friends, this month's featured performer. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families and offer free admission to monthly concerts

Contact: Mike Mullen at (248) 719-3464

FARMINGTON HILLS YOUTH CHOIR

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 22 Location: Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Selections will range from "Believe" from "Polar Express" to "Carol of the Bells" and Avril Lavigne's "Keep Holding On." Admission is \$5; children 3 and under are free Contact: (248) 473-1859

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Jan. 15, 2012

Location: St. John's Seminary Chapel, Plymouth Details: "Miniature Masterpieces" features music, such as Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun," and Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer," performed by the chamber orchestra. A new work, "Changes," by Michigan-born composer, Andre Myers, also will debut. Tickets are \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10, student Contact: (734) 451-2112; www.michiganphil.org

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: Fourth Tuesday; next show is 7-10 p.m. Dec. 27

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Details: \$5 donation at the door. Ron Kischuk and Friends perform. The group includes Ron Kischuk on trombone, Marion Hayden on bass, Gary Schunk on keyboard and Judie Cochill on vocals ers are welcome, without audition. The Society will perform "Requiem" by M. Durufle, "Regina Coeli" (KV 127) and "Ave Verum Corpus," both by W.A. Mozart, on Sunday, May 6, 2012 at the church. Richard Ingram conducts the group. The Michigan Sinfonietta Orchestra will join the Society for the concert.

Contact: (734) 455-8353 or plymouthoratoriosociety.org

Something different

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily Location: I-696 service

drive and Woodward, Royal Oak **Details:** Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and

for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free

Elks jazz program changes dates

Jazz@The Elks, the popular monthly jazz program at the Elks Lodge in Plymouth, will feature local jazz artists the last Tuesday of the month beginning in January 2012.

Shows previously had been scheduled the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The next performance features Ron Kischuk and Friends from 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, at the Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road. The group includes Kischuk on trombone, Marion Hayden on bass, Gary Schunk on keyboard and Judie Cochill on vocals.

Admission is \$5 at the door. For more information call (734) 453-1780 or go to www. plymouthelks1780. com.



Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Contact: (734) 416-4278

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; gocomedy.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

party. Call for details

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23 Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth Details: "Elf," \$3 Coming up: "The Big Year," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, 2012, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30; and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31; "Puss In Boots," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2012; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8, 2012; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012; all seats \$3 Contact: (734) 453-0870;

ing Show, Dec. 31; Black Jake and the Carnies, Jan. 6, 2012; Jill Jack Birthday Bash, Jan. 7; 2012; Deep Fried Pickle Project, Jan. 8, 2012; Bitch & Ferron, Jan. 8, 2012; Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound, Jan. 11, 2012; An Dro, Jan. 12, 2012; Mountain Heart, Jan. 13, 2012; Theo Katzman: Songwriting Workshop, Jan. 14, 2012; The Yellow Room Gang, Jan. 14, 2012; Bearfoot, Jan. 15, 2012 Location: 316 South Main,

Ann Arbor Contact: (734) 763-8587;

www.theark.org

SOCIETY

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. the third Saturday of the month

Location: JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N.

Contact: (734) 453-1780 MOTOWN BEAT

Time/Date: Jan. 14, 2012 Location: Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills Details: "From Broadway to Hollywood with the

MOT," Coming up: Blackthorn, March 9-10, 2012

Contact: https://recreg.fhgov.com or (248) 473-1848

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY

Time/Date: Rehearsal starts at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 9, 2012; come early to register and pay for scores Location: First United Methodist Church, 45201 Territorial Road, Plymouth Details: The Society kicks off its rehearsal schedule. New experienced sing-





B8.(*) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

FOOD

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM (313) 222-8883 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Add richer flavor to your holiday dishes with avocados

Family, friends, food and parties — entertaining during the holiday season can be a lot of work, but your party meals don't have to be complicated. Sometimes all you need is one ingredient that adds a little luxury and a lot of flavor, like avocados.

Thanks to the climate and rich, volcanic soil, Mexico produces an especially velvety avocado. Available year round, the Mexican avocado season peaks during the winter months. Take advantage of their creaminess this holiday season and top off a myriad of hors d'oeuvres and dishes for an instant splash of color and flavor. Here are some dishes to get you started:

• Upgrade a simple bruschetta with small chunks of avocado for a richer flavor.

 Slice an avocado and serve on a cheese and cracker plate for easy snacking.

• Bake an English muffin with melted cheese and sundried tomatoes then top with chunky avocado for sophisticated pizza bites.

 Add diced avocado to a side of grains for a varied texture.

Avocados not only add color and flavor to your meals, they are nutrient-dense and provide a good source of fiber, as well. Their good unsaturated fats lower cholesterol and satisfy hunger truly making them the crowning touch to any dish.

Crab Cakes with Avocado Aioli

Recipe courtesy of Pati Jinich of PBS's Pati's Mexican Table Yield: 8 crab cakes, 4 servings

2 avocados, fully ripened, halved, pitted, peeled

- 1 cup mayonnaise, divided
- 2 Serrano chiles or jalapeños, finely chopped, divided
- 1 garlic dove, sliced
- 1 cup fresh lime juice
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- % cup breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons white onion, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 pound jumbo lump crab meat, cartilage and shell removed
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon olive oil

In medium bowl, mix egg, bread crumbs, remaining ¹/₄ cup mayonnaise, 2 tablespoons lime juice, 1 chile, onion, mustard and ¹/₂ teaspoon each salt and pepper.

Fold in crabmeat until combined. Shape about & cup crab mixture into a 1-inch thick cake; place in nonreactive baking dish and refrigerate at least 4 hours or up to 1 day.

To cook, pat crab cakes dry with paper towels. In large skillet, heat butter and oil over medium-high heat. Add crab cakes; cook until crisp and golden brown, about 5 minutes per side.

Slice remaining avocado; serve crab cakes garnished with avocado slices and Avocado Serrano Aioli.

Avocado Serrano Aioli

Coarsely chop 1 avocado.

In blender, combine avocado, ¼ cup mayonnaise, 1 chile, garlic and 2 tablespoons lime juice; puree until smooth.

Add salt and pepper to taste; cover and refrigerate until ready to serve, up to 12 hours.

The "New" Deviled Egg

Serves: 16 halves

- 8 hard-cooked eggs
- 2 fully ripened avocados from Mexico, halved pitted, peeled and diced
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated horseradish, drained
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground or cracked black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)

Peel eggs; cut in half lengthwise. Remove yolks to medium bowl; arrange whites on serving platter. To bowl of yolks, add avocados and lemon juice; mash until smooth, mixing well. Stir in horseradish, salt and peppers.

Fill egg white halves with heaping tablespoon of mixture, piling high; sprinkle with herbs, if desired.

Mexican Shrimp Cocktail with Avocado Serves: 4

½ pound medium size shrimp, cooked, shells and tails off

2 firm ripe avocados from Mexico, halved, pitted, peeled and cubed Chipotle Cocktail Sauce, (recipe follows)

2 plum tomatoes, diced

- ¼ cup finely diced onion
- 1 serrano chile, finely diced
- 1/4 cup finely chopped cilantro
- 1 cup finely shredded lettuce
- 1 lime, cut into wedges
- 4 chilled martini glasses

Divide shredded lettuce in the martini glasses and add a lime wedge to the rim. Add shrimp, avocado, tomatoes, onion, Serrano chile and cilantro to the sauce; stir to coat well. Pile cocktail mixture on top of the shredded lettuce in each martini glass.

Chipotle Cocktail Sauce

- 1 cup ketchup
- ¼ cup fresh lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon Kosher salt

1-2 whole chipotle chiles in adobo, seeded and deveined

1 small garlic clove

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper sauce % teaspoon ground black pepper

Chop chipotle chiles with garlic and salt until there is a smooth paste. Place ketchup, lime juice, cayenne pepper sauce and black pepper in a small mixing bowl. Add chipotle paste and stir with a whisk to blend well. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes to let flavors develop before using.

Serve with crisp tortilla chips or saltine crackers.

For more tasty ways to top off your meals with avocados, visit www.avocadosfrommexico. com.

A taste adventure for the holidays

Globe-trotting may not be on your holiday agenda, but you can get inspired and bring a variety of flavors to your holiday table. With these ideas, you can take party guests on a taste adventure around the world — without ever leaving home.

Dips and Spreads

Set out a selection of veggies to dip, and broaden your food horizon with a selection of breads such as naan, toasted grain breads and pita wedges.

• Flavored hummus — Update the classic favorite with a delicious roasted pine nut hummus, or please the classic crowd with spinach and artichoke flavor.

• Greek yogurt-based dips — Greek yogurt is thick, creamy and delicious, and makes an excellent base for dips. It can be mixed with sundried tomatoes, roasted garlic, spinach and artichoke — the flavor possibilities are endless, and it's a healthy alternative to traditional sour cream based dips.

• Salsa — Salsa is always a favorite. Freshen things up with home-made or store-bought refrigerated salsas. Offer a selection from sweet to spicy.

Small Plates

Help your guests discover a variety of fresh and delicious dishes by setting out an array of small plates. Allow people to taste many different

Hummus Deviled Eggs

6 eggs

¼ cup, plus 1 tablespoon hummus

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon salt

3 teaspoons relish

Paprika for garnish

options and find new favorites.

• Dolmas — Grape leaves stuffed with rice, onions, currants, pine nuts, mint and spices. They can often be found in the deli section of the grocery store.

• Empanadas — Spicy, meat-filled little pastries that can be dipped in your favorite salsa.

• Spiced Nuts — Roast some almonds or walnuts and toss with olive oil, a little salt, a flavorful herb and spice mixture. Try bold flavors like rosemary, cayenne or aleppo pepper.

• Mini vegetable pizzas — Top grilled pita bread with hummus and a variety of grilled vegetables with crumbled feta or drizzled olive oil. Slice into quarters so guests can enjoy different versions.

• Bruschetta — The delicious tomato and basil flavors of Bruschetta on top of toasted French baguette slices is a crowd favorite. Prepared Bruschetta can be made ahead of time and stored in the refrigerator to make prep quick and easy.

Try this simple Hummus Deviled Eggs recipe, too. You can let guests serve themselves, or set out individual servings in shot glasses or tasting spoons.

To get more adventurous recipes for your holiday party, visit www.sabra. com.



Place eggs in pot and cover with cold water. Bring to boil over high heat. Turn off heat; let sit for 14 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon; run cold water over eggs. Cool eggs 10 minutes.

Remove shells when cool. Cut in half; scoop out yolks and reserve in bowl of food processor.

Add humus, olive oil, pepper and salt to yolks; puree in food processor. Add relish; pulse 3 to 5 times to incorporate.

Put yolks and mixture in piping bag. (Use tall glass and fold edges of piping bag over glass to make it easier to transfer mixture.) Pipe about 1 teaspoon of mixture into each egg white half; sprinkle with paprika.

Courtesy of Family Features

B9.(*) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

REAL ESTATE

JULIE BROWN, EDITOR JCBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM (313) 222-6755 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM







Party goers have a great time at the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors holiday party in Livonia. Left to right are MaryAnn Palise, Meriem Kadi, Sharon McCann, Lisa Reggish, Pam King and Ilene Patterson.

Yule party a festive time for Realtors, their industry friends

A good time was waiting Thursday, Dec. 1, at the American Legion Post 32 on Newburgh in Livonia. The Farmington-based Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors held its annual holiday party.

of Sept. 12-16, 2011, at the Wayne

\$113,000

\$157,000

\$206,000

\$217,000

\$340,000

\$326,000

\$155,000

\$279,000

\$135,000

\$118,000

\$325,000

County Register of Deeds office.

Listed below are cities, addresses,

and sales prices.

7745 Admiralty Dr

6315 Courtland Dr

1625 Crestview Dr

46856 Eastbourne Rd

47193 Eastbourne Rd

6667 Edgewood Rd 45914 Fountain View Dr

49499 Great Falls Rd

1804 Hendrie

4145 Kimberly Dr

49068 Hawksburry Rd

7950 Charrington Dr

41455 Copper Creek Dr 4116 Coronet Ave

CANTON

There was also a party Wednesday, Dec. 7, for eastsiders at Club Venetian in Madison Heights.

At the Livonia evening party, collections were taken for Arc of Northwest Wayne County and Warm Hearts,

two charitable projects of the association, said Pauline

Olszewski, administrator, The Livonia party had 189

members such as inspectors and appraisers.

people, Realtors and affiliate

"They had a great time,"

Olszewski said. "It's basically just networking for the members." The parties also serve as a thank you to the members from the association, she added.

\$410,000

\$25,000

\$60,000

\$13,000

\$47,000

\$50,000

\$34,000

\$47,000

\$25,000

\$89,000

\$53,000 \$15,000

\$85,000

\$65,000

\$80,000 \$61,000

\$50,000

\$52,000

\$86,000

\$30,000

\$90,000

\$160,000

South side of Chicago: pluses

By Robert Meisner Guest Columnist

Q: I understand that Chicago now has a Riverwalk on the south side of the river which then leads into the Lakefront. Are there any business opportunities that you are aware of in that area?

A: Indeed, Chicago does have a Riverfront area along the south side and in some areas along the north side of the river leading into the mouth of Lake Michigan. There are a number of restaurants present along with the rental of



bikes and kayaks as well as some street vendors, but it is also possible

consider

to

Robert Meisner

opening up some sort of business in that area should the opportunities avail themselves for walk-in traffic on a seasonable basis. Of course, you will need the proper permits from the city and you will have to do a cost business plan analysis in order to determine whether or not it is a feasible opportunity. There are a number of residences going up around this area which formerly was a railroad yard and now finds itself inundated with high rise condos and apartment buildings.

Q: I am renting a condominium from someone who bought a home and cannot sell his condominium. plus I needed a place near my daughter's house. I have been there for almost two years and pay my rent. One of the owners had a plumbing problem and the dues went up \$25 a month for all owners to cover the thousands that it cost to do repairs. Am I required to pay the increase in dues? A: Not necessarily unless your lease arrangement provides that you have to pay any increase in dues (assessments) to the association. That is, if your rent is based on a flat fee per month, irrespective of the dues (assessments), you have no obligation to pay additional sums. If the landlord tells you otherwise, you ought to consult with an experienced real estate attorney.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE 1855 Tradition Dr GARDEN CITY \$425,000 \$90,000 These are the area residential real \$55,000 estate closings recorded the week

31624 Brown St 32951 Kathryn St 6326 Lathers St 33221 Rosslyn Ave LIVONIA 38176 Ann Arbor Trl 32817 Barkley St 37317 Bennett St 14124 Berwick St 38240 Bloomfield Dr \$90,000 \$125,000 11326 Brookfield St 16294 Country Club Dr 15947 Deering St 20569 Ellen Ct 14474 Ellen Dr 16118 Fairway St 18413 Floral St 39096 Grennada St 29975 Hathaway St 14151 Ingram St 27549 Lyndon St 38235 Mallory Dr \$187,000

\$56,000 \$50,000 \$40,000 \$73,000 \$25,000 \$158,000 \$138,000 \$110,000 \$155,000 \$90,000 \$165,000 \$57,000 \$294,000 \$136,000 \$240,000 \$50,000 \$123,000 \$129,000 \$135,000 \$60,000 \$210,000

29003 Rayburn St 17254 Rougeway St 14541 Stonehouse Ave \$100,000 38471 Summers St \$123,000 17493 Westbrook Dr 28947 Westfield St 31341 Westfield St \$206,000 \$63,000 \$110,000 20335 Whitby Dr \$210,000 NORTHVILLE 16124 Brook Trout Ln \$128,000 16392 Brook Trout Ln 16132 Crystal Downs E \$130,000 \$425,000 39580 Dun Rovin Dr \$245,000 39639 Dun Rovin Dr \$188,000 48780 Freestone Dr \$98,000 48941 Freestone Dr 16425 Mulberry Way \$103,000 \$255,000 17226 Stonebrook Dr \$500,000 46670 Stratford Ct \$420,000 19197 Surrey Ln \$50,000 16995 Sycamore Ct PLYMOUTH \$321,000 42126 Brentwood Dr \$104,000 11816 Brownell Ave \$187,000

47648 W Ann Arbor Trl REDFORD 12150 Centralia 9535 Hemingway 26720 Joy Rd 17720 Lennane 15573 Leona Dr 19985 Seminole 26716 Student 26310 W Seven Mile Rd WESTLAND 6948 Bison St 35695 Castlewood Ct 7412 Central St 36568 Deer Run Ct N 35451 Dove Trl 31652 Fairchild St 434 Filbert St 7719 Gary Ave 35830 Hazelwood St 30831 Lonnie Blvd 2256 N Hix Rd 6916 N Wildwood St 741 Patricia Place Dr

856 New Providence way	\$43,000	17960 Mayrield St	\$196,000	735 Burroughs St	\$196,000	1455 Portland St	\$63,000
240 Old Colony Ln	\$207,000	31508 Merriwood Park Dr	\$85,000	13659 Fairview Ln	\$1,225,000	6223 Twin Oaks	\$83,000
733 Pond Run	\$191,000	35600 Minton St	\$100,000	1097 Hartsough St	\$105,000	1643 Westchester St	\$80,000
9164 Poppleton Ct	\$335,000	18748 Nola St	\$115,000	1799 Lexington St	\$200,000	1253 Woodbourne St	\$24,000
865 River Meadow Cir	\$181,000	31710 Norfolk St	\$165,000	9420 Mapletree Dr	\$339,000		
76 S Haggerty Rd	\$147,000	9911 Oporto St	\$55,000	49840 Pointe Xing	\$100,000		
5576 S Stonewood Rd	\$176,000	20205 Parkville St	\$99,000	45633 Primrose Ct	\$260,000		

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 6-9, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

17880 Beverly Rd 17928 Dunblaine Ave 30557 Georgetown Dr 18451 Hillcrest St 15780 Kirkshire Ave 15855 Kirkshire Ave 31173 Pickwick Ln 31330 Pickwick Ln BIRMINGHAM 355 Baldwin Rd 499 Bennaville Ave 909 Bennaville Ave 482 Cambridge St 1030 Lakeside Dr 1878 Maryland Blvd

\$104,000 \$330,000 \$260,000 \$319,000 \$135,000 \$115,000 \$213,000 \$214,000 \$428,000 \$600,000 \$525,000 \$360,000 \$585,000 \$370,000

1888 Pembroke Rd BLOOMFIELD HILLS \$599,000 1986 Dell Rose Dr \$310,000 1427 Kirkway Rd 2406 Rutherford Rd 1281 Water Cliff Dr \$1,150,000 \$830,000 3709 Darlington Rd S \$304,000 440 S Cranbrook Rd \$138,000 1825 S Woodward Ave 100 \$264,00 434 Thetford Ln \$525,000 **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** 2412 Bradway Blvd \$593,000 3835 Carriage Ln \$270,000 2220 Devonshire Rd 6185 E Surrey Rd \$98,000 \$260,000 412 N Glengarry Rd \$425,000 4049 W Maple Rd \$25,000 5707 Woodwind Dr \$305,000 5726 Woodwind Dr \$315,000 873 N Cranbrook Rd \$400,000 COMMERCE TOWNSHIP 2221 Applebrook Dr \$345,000 5409 Plantation Dr \$283,000 3148 Royal Blvd FARMINGTON \$35,000

0	35810 Smithfield Rd	\$219,000
	36228 Smithfield Rd	\$157,000
0	Farmington Hills 35745 Castlemeadow Dr	\$195,000
	37566 Cherry HI	\$385,000
0	38938 Country Cir	\$50,000
	37530 Emerald Forest Dr	\$226,000
0	28716 Eton Gln	\$225,000
0	37565 Glengrove Dr	\$270,000
0	32560 Hearthstone Rd	\$132,000
	26811 La Muera St	\$215,000
0	29645 Mayfair Dr	\$228,000
-	28401 New Castle Rd	\$130,000
	28519 Newport St	\$175,000
õ	29244 Oak Point Dr	\$160,000
õ	28788 Piedmont Dr	\$300,000
õ	25409 Ranchwood Dr	\$270,000
0	36226 Trenton Ct	\$180,000
0	FRANKLIN	
0	29855 Forest Dr	\$830,000
	MILFORD	
0	825 Abbey Ln	\$146,000
0	541 Cumberland Trl	\$325,000
0	1785 Melody Ln	\$243,000
	NOVI	

42945 Brookstone Dr \$243,000 22427 Cranbrooke Dr \$90,000 50297 Drakes Bay Dr \$592,000 313 Elm Ct 24599 Enchanted Dr \$13,000 \$170,000 24251 Lynwood Dr 195 Pleasant Cove Dr \$280,000 \$209,000 41821 Quince Dr \$88,000 1155 South Lake Dr \$33,000 30193 Viewcrest Ct \$247,000 SOUTH LYON \$68,000 1190 Fountain View Cir 27530 Milford Rd \$139,000 59378 Pacers Path \$225,000 Southfield 19751 Filmore St \$75,000 28540 Glasgow St \$26,000 17337 Westover Rd \$86,000 WHITE LAKE 1934 Margie Dr 8956 Sandy Ridge Dr 9185 Sandy Ridge Dr \$196,000 \$230,000 \$234,000

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.

VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE



REAL ESTATE 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, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www. metro-mi.com. These free one-hour 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.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residen-

tial real estate. Attend a free onehour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

On Facebook

RE/MAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from RE/MAX experts. The new site is



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

a chance for the public to ASKRE-MAX and get clear, expert answers in real time.

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B10 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 22, 2011



Manufactured Homes Manufactured Homes Apartments CANTON HOMES FOR SALE \$16,900 WESTLAND BUY ckory Woods Apts \$224 MOVE IN! (OW) Month Rent Free ments as low as \$629/mo. Inclu urance, home payment and lot rent qualified applicants 1 Bdrm-\$550 sancing available. 3 bedroom/2 bath. **OWN YOUR HOME** deck, shed & appliances. FREE GAS & WATER FOR AS LOW AS . 4 %. (734) 729-6520 Short term leases available. ^{\$}4,995 SUN HOMES Academy/Westpoint 2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH academywestpoint.com 1-888-658-5659 NEARLY 1,000 SQ. FT. ctions apply. EH0 Condos/Townhouses Expires 12/31/11 Sun Homes Services, Inc. 2777 Franklin Rd., Suite 200 Southfield, MI 48034 ENTRAL AIR CONDITIC CANTON: Luxury condo, 2 bdrms, bsmt, 2 car garage. ECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE OE087599346 fireplace, pool/workout room \$1250/mo. 734-216-1933 results. COLLEGE PARK ESTATES CANTON, MI **Homes For Rent** (888) 265-9858 CANTON: 1800 sq.ft. Colonial New kitchen, freshly painted. EXPIRES 12/30/11 . EHO . WAC Gar, bsmt. 6 mos to 1 yr. lease. \$1500/mo. 734-846-8590 www.4collegepark.com Every CANTON: 44750 Leslie veek we bring buyers and sellers, employers 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1900 sq. ft. **Cemetery Lots** 2 car garage, newly decorated, \$1500/mo. Call: 248-330-9262 and employe GLEN EDEN 3 lots. Garden of landlords and tenants COMMERCE TWP. Lovely sion. Sect. 267 Lot 29: together. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt, lake \$3600 for all 3 privelges, appli., fenced yard. \$955. 248-568-6119 You can rely on us to 615-319-8681, 615-412-4651 deliver results. GARDEN CITY "It's All About 1 Bdrms only \$579 2 Bdrms only \$619 Newly updated, Hurry Limited supply! New Management Apartments **Results!**" 1-800-579-SELL CANTON: Lg. 1 bdrm. apt. on 5 acres, \$525. incl. cable, Internet & all utilities. Bentley Square (734) 367-1087, EHO **Homes For Rent** 734-658-8823 GARDEN CITY 29828 Elmwood, 4 bdrm, shed, fenced, \$795/mo. Showing Weds., Sat., & Sun. at 5pm, 313-920-5966 FARMINGTON HILLS ANNGIE APTS. 1/2 off sec. dep. if qualified FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom or 248-563-8315 \$505. 9 Mile/Middlebelt 248-478-7489 LIVONIA: Beautifully updated, ö 3 bdrm 1.5 bath, brick ranch, LIVONIA - Mid 5/Middlebelt. w/new kit & floors, fin bsmt, 2 2 bdrm with laundry room in unit. \$666/mo. car gar, \$1100. 313-303-8524 50% Off 1st Month's Rent! PLYMOUTH: 1 bdrm, hard-Call: (248) 521-1978 vood, appl, washer/ dryer, a/c, SUN HOMES AND MILES AND MI Homes for Rent covered deck, on park, near lake \$775. 517-655-2753 LIVONIA MANOR: 2 bdrm appliances. Heat/Water incl. Starting \$695/mo. 5 Mile & SOUTHFIELD: 2 bdrm. No bsml. No pets. No Sect. 8. Lg. lot. \$1500 to move in. E/Middlebelt. 734-288-8430 \$750/mo. 248-827-2122 WESTLAND WESTLAND: Spacious 3 bdrm \$300* SUN HOMES Academy/Westpoint 41021 Old Michigan Ave duplex, new carpet and paint, fenced, \$650/mo. Moves You In! Spacious 1 bedroor Mr. Ludwig: 313-418-9905 Private entry On-site mainte Hurry, won't last! 734-721-6699 EHO Mobile Home Rentals END OF YEAR BLOW OUT! 3 Br./2 Bath starting at \$868 Up to \$100 saving per mo Must apply by 12/31/11 Apartments Call CELEBRATION HOMES for Details..248-437-3443 Living Quarters To Share FARMINGTON HILLS: Professional to share imm THE ulate, furnished house. Safe, \$395 incl. util., cable, W/D, Wi-Fi, maid. (813) 205-9926 **Rooms For Rent** NORTHVILLE or PLYMOUTH **Even in these** Jowntown. 1st week with fu deposit. Furnished sleeping rooms. Newly decorated. trying times, \$85/wkly. Security deposit. 734-355-6453 248-305-9944 we still have Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease the best prices! HIGHLAND Office & ware ouse, 900 sq. ft., for sale o lease. \$1500/mo., sec. required. 248-417-8100 Westland Plymouth

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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	
	U E O C A A O I D H Y R R Z I S P L K R B B E N A U P B Y S M S J E L N C A F N U D L M G T S A B E Y M M U S T Y C O Z Q Y E M R C O U K B L X X S R V K B I G A C P A I Y D S I F J E M J R D T D H A B G H I W R E T A R O C E D S I F N I	M E S T G J N E R
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Sudoku	CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE	
a service and the service of the ser		

Parkcreat Apts. Livonia Livonia KooMATE in MIND! Across from Meijers (734) 522-3013 Wilderness SPACIOUS!! Livonia SPACIOUS!! 2 Bdrr 1000 sq. CARPOR POW WASHER & DRY! inside u (734) 525-5731 Take advantage of one of these great specials today 734-4 www.ss	House House Ce Car Hag (734) Car (734)	den C Move- Specia Near estland 425-C HUC Bathro Border Westla 425-C 210	ials! ir f Joy 930 City 930 City In ls! Mall 930 E coms ring and 930	8	PL AN LET LASS DO Y WO	OUR RKI	
THE OBSERVER &	& ECCENTR	30 Yr.	Pts.	AGE N	Pts.	Other	
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	3.625	0	3.125	0	No. Contraction	
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	3.625	0	3.125	0	J/A	
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.625	0	3.125	0	J/A/F	
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.875	0	3.125	0	J/A	
BRINKS Financial Group	(800) 785-4755	3.5	0.5	3	0.5	J/A/V/F	
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	3.625	0.75	3.25	0	J/A/V/F	
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.375	0	L	
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	repeation of the second	4.25	.0	3.5	0	A	
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.375	0	J/A/V/F	
First State Bank	(800) 372-2205	4.125	0	3.625	0	J/V/F	
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F	
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	4.125	0	3.5	0	J/A/V/F	
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	3.625	0.875	3.25	0	J/A/V/F	
Signature Mortgage Michigan	(810) 588-4424	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A//F	
Talmer Bank & Trust	(800) 462-2786	4	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F	
Above Information available as of 12/16/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported.							





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