

MEDC RAMPS UP TO GROW STATE

BUSINESS, A15

WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

OPINION, A12

CELEBRATE WITH NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS, B8



Tax payments

Canton taxpayers who want to beat a Dec. 31 deadline for income tax purposes have two options: Pay at the Treasurer's Office, 1150 S. Canton, before the close of business Thursday or place the payment in a drop box before the office opens Tuesday morning.



Knowles and Topelian

Band prowess

Two students from the Discovery Middle School Band have been recognized for their outstanding musical achievement in auditioning for the Michigan All-State Middle School Band. Annika Topelian (clarinet) was selected to the Michigan All-State Middle School Band, and placed fourth in the entire state on her instrument. Bronson Knowles (alto saxophone) was sixth in the state overall and received Honorable Mention status. The Michigan All-State Middle School Band concert will occur in conjunction with the Michigan Music Conference Jan. 19-21 in Grand Rapids.

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

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Former employee charged with embezzling funds from church



Galoch

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton woman has been charged with embezzling more than \$13,000 from a Westland church where she was a longtime employee. That amount is only a fraction of the nearly \$143,000

reported missing from St. Theodore Catholic Church and allegedly used by former bookkeeper Kathleen Galoch to pay her family's personal bills, with the permission of the parish priest. Galoch, 63, has been arraigned on a charge of embezzling over \$1,000 from

a nonprofit organization — a 10-year felony. A not-guilty plea was entered on behalf of Galoch, who was freed on a \$10,000 personal bond and scheduled for a Jan. 19 preliminary examination in Westland's 18th District Court. Employed at the parish from 1986 until earlier this year

when she was laid off due to financial problems, Galoch was hired as an administrative assistant, later having the job titles of parish administrator and business manager. Her duties included day-to-day bookkeeping, check prepara-

Please see CHARGES, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteers Kelley Donnelly and Abby Robichaud are National Honor Society members.

Helping at the holiday

Salvation Army donations help hundreds

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Community generosity was on display Thursday — along with new toys and games, children's clothing and boxes of donated food — at the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps. It was the third day of the Corps' holiday food, clothing and toy distribution, and the tables in the gymnasium at the headquarters on South Main — the corps services not only Plymouth, but

Canton, Northville and Belleville — were stocked with donations that will ensure hundreds of local children have presents to open Christmas morning, even if their parents aren't able to afford it. Nearby sat boxes of donated food, packed by local high school students, to help get hundreds of families through the holidays in a time of continued economic stress. Those getting assistance went through the aisles with shopping carts and volunteer helpers, who

guided them as they picked out clothing and a few toys for their children. "We're really blessed," said Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Corps' director of family and community ministries, as she and Maj. Dan Hull, the Corps' director, listed some of the donors for the event. Those donors included local schools and churches; Aunt Millie's Bakeries, which gave 500

Please see GIFTS, A2

Denim Days raise big bucks

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton Township employees combined their giving spirit and their blue-jean fashion sense to collect nearly \$12,000 for charities in 2011.

It's a project called Denim Days, and it urges Canton workers to pay \$5 every Friday they decide to wear work-appropriate blue jeans on the job. Jessica Bunjik, a clerk in Supervisor Phil LaJoy's office, confirmed that nearly \$12,000 has been collected this year for charities such as the Huron Valley Humane Society, Canton Goodfellows, the Canton-based Detroit Area Diaper Bank and the March of Dimes, among others.

"They pay \$5 on Friday if they choose to wear jeans, and they pick the charity they want to give to," Bunjik said. One-day donations typically ranged from \$150 to \$300. Employees emptied their blue-jean pockets even though they had absorbed what amounted to a pay cut this year due to furlough days and other concessions aimed at helping Canton strike back against a budget deficit.

Township Clerk Terry Bennett said the Denim Days project and its voluntary participation reflect positively on Canton and its employees.

"I think it's a terrific model of Canton employees giving back and one of the reasons this is such a great community to live in," Bennett said. Bunjik said most of the donations go to support charities that help people right here in Canton. "We try to keep it local," she said.

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Diaper bank hits million mark

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Reaching a charitable milestone, the once-fledgling Detroit Area Diaper Bank has distributed its one-millionth diaper to nonprofit agencies across southeast Michigan that help needy families who can't afford a necessity

forgotten by government safety-net programs. Started in April 2009 by Canton volunteer Marybeth Levine, a mother of three, the DADB has collected and distributed 1,079,139 diapers to nonprofit organizations in Canton, Plymouth, Westland,

Please see DIAPERS, A2



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Marybeth Levine runs the diaper bank from a donated storage room at Extra Storage Space in Canton.



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CHARGES

Continued from page A1

tion, bank reconciliation, counting and depositing cash collected, payroll and related duties.

Once Galoch had been laid off March 31, the parish payroll was reviewed and some questionable transactions were identified. The Archdiocese of Detroit did a complete audit going back to January 1997 and reported nearly \$143,000 missing from Galoch paying herself extra wages, paying personal expenses for herself and family members and using parish funds for what were described as loans/donations to herself and her relatives.

An archdiocesan representative presented the audit to Westland police seeking criminal charges against Galoch over the missing \$143,000. The audit showed checks written to pay mobile home rental fees, utilities and other expenses for Galoch's adult son, James E. Galoch, and wages for her husband, James J. Galoch. Both men had done maintenance-type work at the parish. Personal bills were also paid for Galoch's former daughter-in-law, Shannon.

However, when Sgt. Matt Price interviewed the Rev. Gary Michalik, who had been the St. Theodore parish priest, the case became more complicated.

"The priest had verbally authorized checks to pay the son's utilities and trailer lot rent," said Price, adding other checks and payments were also verbally authorized by Michalik, who is now assigned to St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia.

The nearly \$14,000 was identified as transactions not authorized by Michalik — loans or donations to Shannon Galoch covering her mortgage and car payment, personal transactions for Kathleen Galoch including property tax payments, taxes owed on her personal income tax return, a traffic ticket for her son and a personal tax consultation fee.

In a statement to police, Galoch said that she worked very hard for the church, which did not pay overtime and felt she deserved extra compensation. Additionally, Galoch told police she was angry at being laid off and cashed additional checks incorrectly sent to her after she was laid off.

Galoch had improperly filed her income taxes, adding money her husband earned to her income, she told police so that her husband wouldn't lose his Social Security benefits.

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Car-bike accident under investigation

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A vehicle ran off the road Monday evening near Lotz and Burlington Road, striking a bicyclist and a utility pole and ejecting passengers — though police said none of the injuries appeared life-threatening.

The accident happened about 8:30 p.m. and knocked

out power for hundreds of residents, but DTE Energy crews worked to restore service.

Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said Tuesday morning the accident remained under investigation.

A statement from Canton police indicated the driver and the bicyclist had been taken to a hospital but had been released after receiving

treatment.

Passengers who had been ejected from the vehicle were in stable condition, and authorities said their injuries didn't appear life-threatening.

Police didn't say exactly how many people were in the car.

Hundreds of people in the area of Cherry Hill and Lotz roads remained without power for several hours as utility

crews worked to restore service.

Police said it didn't appear that alcohol or drugs were factors in the crash.

Gajeski said no other details were available as the Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team was continuing its investigation.

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GIFTS

Continued from page A1

dozen dinner rolls; Forgotten Harvest, which dropped off 11 pallets of food; the United Auto Workers, which donated 10 food baskets; and dozens of individual donors who took part in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, donating toys for children.

The community's generosity is "just amazing," Hull said.

Lisbey Torres, who was helping Ivelizz Zayas pick toys for their children, said the gifts were much appreciated. Torres said he was unemployed for two years and recently found a job with a food distributor. Zayas said she's a medical assistant who has been jobless for about a year and a half. The family lives in Canton Township.

"I think it's wonderful," Torres said. "It takes the load off. Really eases some of the stress."

Jeff Doering, also of Canton, was one of the volunteer "shopping assistants." An engineer in powertrain research at Ford Motor Co., he had signed up through Ford's community service program.

"We can say that giving is important, but it's about doing," he said. The day was a chance to put the adage,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Salvation Army served over 500 families in three days.

"It's better to give than to receive" into practice, he said.

"I think it just improves the community as a whole," said Abby Robichaud, a junior at Canton High School who was also a volunteer Thursday through the National Honor Society. It was NHS members who packed boxes of donated food on a recent Tuesday; the Salvation Army's area office also supplied food boxes.

Aren said the Plymouth Corps is providing holiday assistance to about 520 families this year, with more than 1,100 children among them. That's up sharply from the 737 children helped four years ago.

"We understand there is a lot of need out there and we want to make sure no one falls through the cracks," Aren said.

That, plus stewardship of its resources, is one of the

reasons the Plymouth Corps shares information with other local charitable organizations, such as the Goodfellows, local churches and Northville Civic Concern. The groups want to avoid duplication and make sure there are enough donations to go around. The Plymouth Corps' service area is made up of Plymouth and Plymouth Township, Northville and Northville Township, Canton, Van Buren and Sumpter townships and Belleville.

Hull said it's being able to provide toys for children old enough to expect gifts at Christmas that tugs at his heart.

"I just envision the bright smiles on their faces and the parents (saying), 'I was able to do right by my children at Christmas,'" he said.

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DIAPERS

Continued from page A1

Livonia, Redford and other communities after surpassing the one-million mark earlier this month.

Levine can hardly believe it herself. "When we made our very first donation of just over 3,000 diapers to a family services agency on April 27, 2009, the concept of distributing one million diapers seemed light years away," she said. "But instead of light years, it feels like we got here in a flash."

Levine has lauded area residents, local companies, the national Hugies corporation and places such as the Canton Public Library for spearheading diaper drives and donations that allow the DADB to help dozens of social service agencies.

"It feels amazing to know we've been able to help so many of our neighbors in need already, but we know that the need is constant and ongoing and still larger than our reach," she said. "So our work continues."

Anyone seeking information about the diaper bank — or who wants to learn ways to help — may go to www.detroitareadiaperbank.org.

Meanwhile, the DADB has received its latest grant of \$5,000 from Walmart as the retail giant in December rolled out its 12 Days of Giving campaign across the nation, donating \$125,000 to charities.

"Honestly, where would we get these (diapers)?" church volunteer Joan Carr asked. "Marybeth and the diaper bank have been a godsend for us."

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On deadly blast's anniversary, store's future uncertain

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A year after an explosion destroyed William C. Franks Furniture, killing two employees and seriously injuring the owner, the fate of the business is uncertain.

"I'm just not there," Paul Franks said earlier this month about the future of the store, a fixture on Wayne Road since 1963. Franks, who lives in Plymouth Township, said he may soon be ready to make an announcement, but that planning is coming together "very, very slowly."

The Dec. 29, 2010, natural gas explosion, just after Paul Franks and other employees arrived for work, sent debris into Wayne Road and damaged several other buildings. The buildings on either side of the fenced-off Franks site, just north of downtown Wayne, remain closed, with signs on some establishments, such as the Hope Medical Clinic and the Northwest Alano Club, directing visitors to temporary locations.

The blast killed two Westland residents, Leslie Machniak, 54, a secretary, and James Zell, 64, a salesman. The exact cause remains undermined.

'So desolate'

Business people in the area say that things returned to normal for their businesses within weeks, and they'd welcome Franks' return to the site.

"It's too soon for us to tell how that's going to affect us," said Bob Kaplan, the owner of Northside Hardware, of the prospect of a long-term vacant lot at the Franks site.

Northside, directly across Wayne Road, was damaged in the explosion, and Kaplan said repairs were only recently completed. The hardware store was closed for a day because of the blast, and it took a few weeks for business to return to normal, he said.

He'd like to see the furniture store return. "We think everybody would," he said.

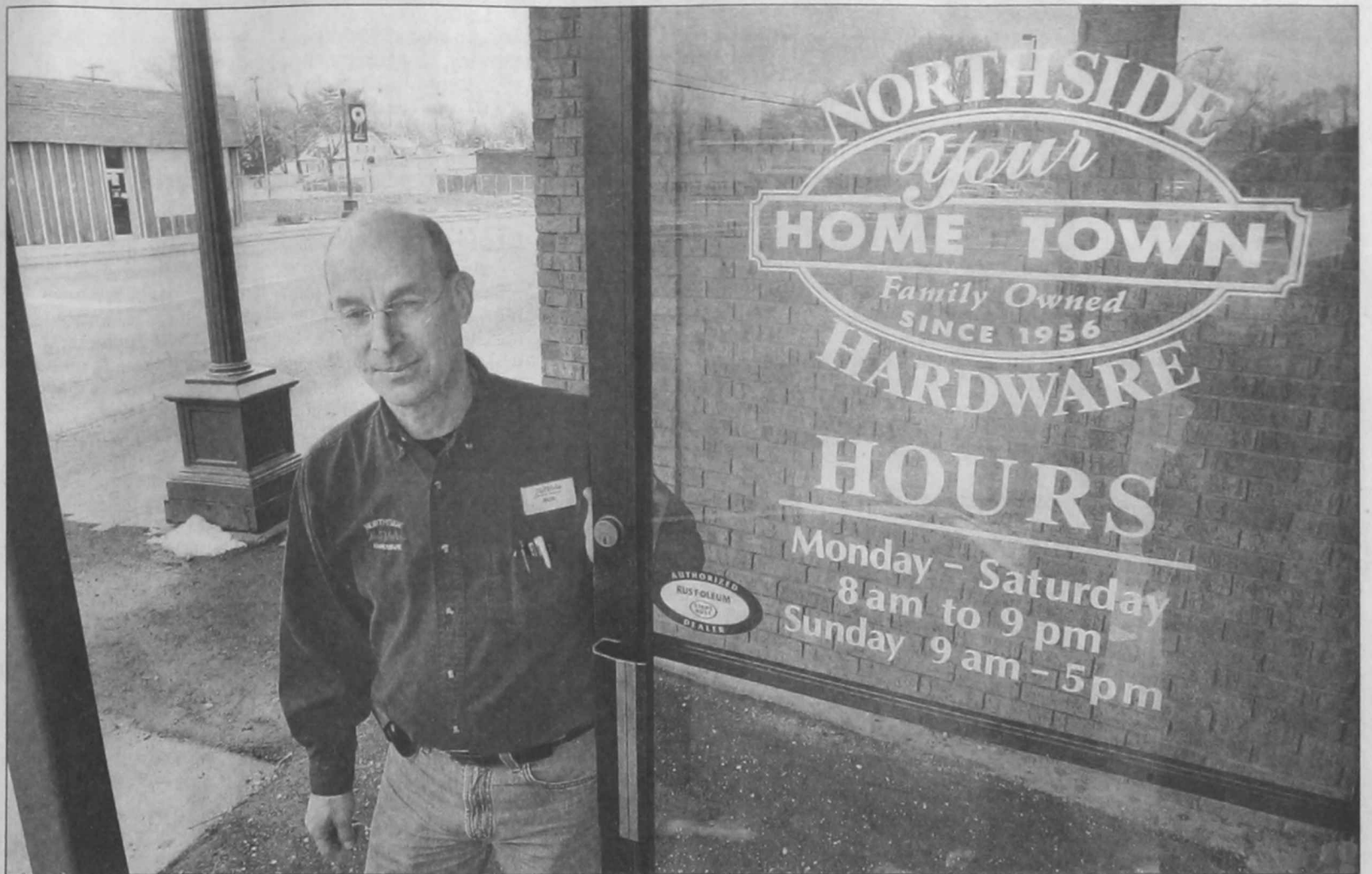
"That is just so desolate. It's like an empty shell over there," said Irene Yaklin, a cashier at the nearby Marathon gas station. "It'd be good to have all those places open again."

Yaklin said the gas station used to get a lot of business from Alano Club members, who would walk over for snacks and beverages. The club is a support and social organization for people recovering from alcohol and drug problems.

"We knew them all because they were like regular customers," Yaklin said.

On the east side of Wayne Road, just north of the Franks site, sits a nearly empty strip mall. Only a Subway sandwich shop and a Dollar Tree remain; closed are Aco Hardware, the Cantonese Village restaurant, Dollar Palace, an Armed Forces Recruiting Center and an H&R Block branch.

Aco closed within the



Bob Kaplan owns Northside True Value Hardware, across the street from the now vacant lot.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

last year, but Yaklin said her understanding is that the closure wasn't related to the explosion at Franks.

'That's their home'

Josh Justice, the day manager at Subway, said customers ask about Paul Franks on a regular basis, and that he'd welcome the store's return.

"Where else would they go? That's their home," he said. The store, launched by Paul Franks' father William, opened in 1963 and had its roots in a furniture refinishing business dating from 1946.

Justice said furniture store customers would sometimes stop in for something to eat, and that Machniak was a regular customer.

Subway sustained damage to the interior lights and ceiling tiles. Justice said things there were back to normal within a couple of weeks.

Paul Franks declined to sit down for an interview for this story, saying that without solid plans for the future of the business, "I don't think I've got enough to make it very interesting."

The store has been operating out of a warehouse on Dearborn Street in Wayne, and although shoppers are welcome, display space is limited and would-be customers are urged to call to discuss their furniture needs with sales personnel. The phone number is (734) 721-1044.

Probe inconclusive

Consumers Energy, which supplies natural gas to the area, on Dec. 20 filed a report with the Michigan Public Service Commission on its investigation of the explosion. The 65-page report listed possible sources of the gas — a gas-main rupture 230 feet from the building, the migration of natural gas through a sewer line, or a leak inside the store — but said there wasn't enough evidence to show exactly what happened.

For example, testing determined the gas main break 230 feet from Franks was the result downward force on the pipe, but the evidence didn't show whether the break occurred before the explosion or as a result of it, according to a fact sheet supplied by Consumers spokesman Dan Bishop.

Consumers in August reached an undisclosed settlement with Paul Franks, who had sued the company, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

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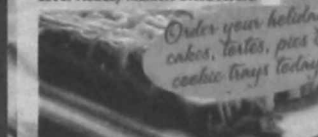
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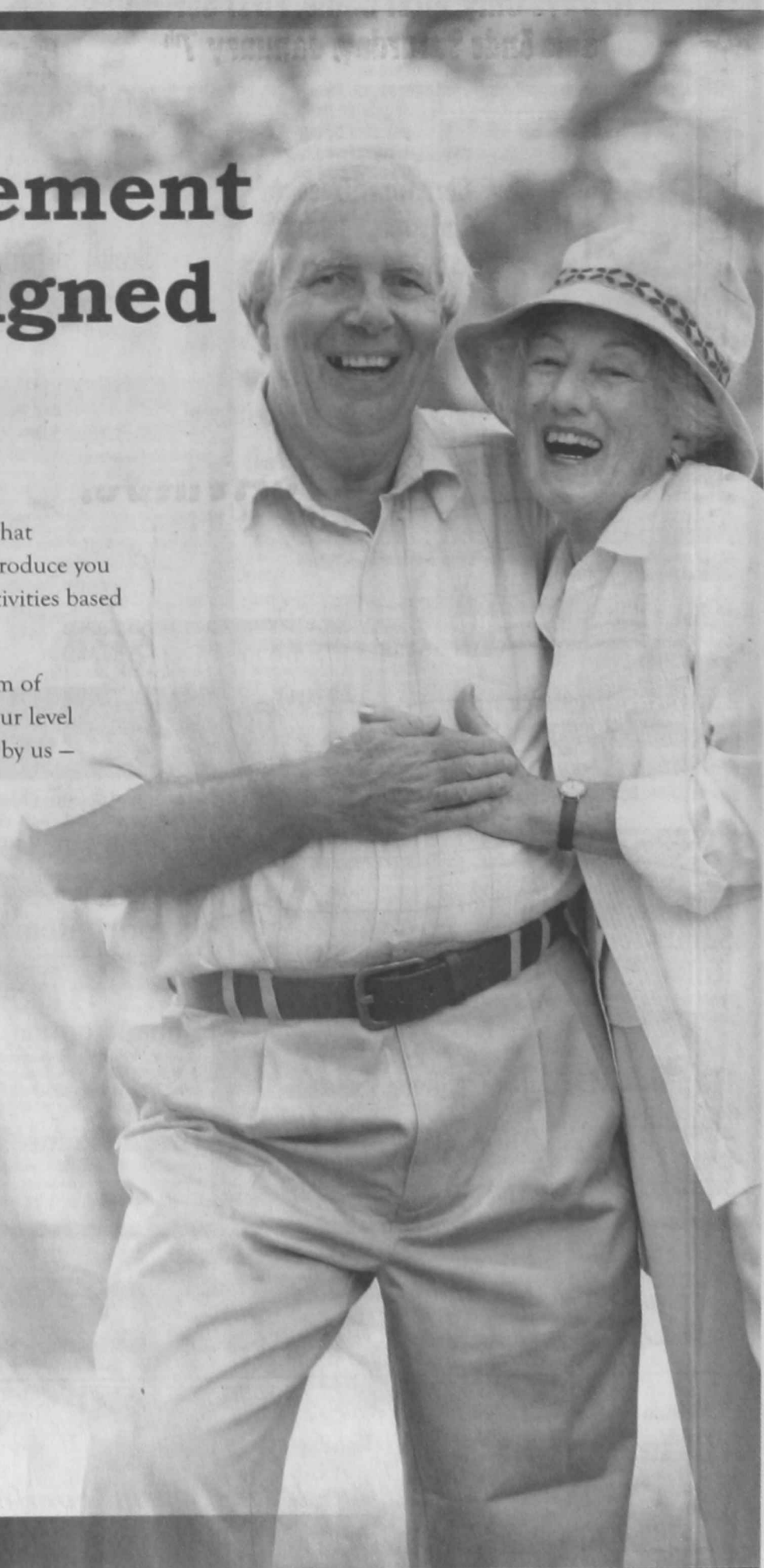
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Days, nights on the beat fast-paced for TV reporter Lange

By Stacy Jenkins
Observer Staff Writer

Life's script couldn't have come together any better for Amy Lange. The Emmy Award-winning Fox 2 Detroit general assignment and investigative reporter hit the city streets running as a 24-year-old reporter — and hasn't stopped, or regretted it, ever since. Lange, who moved to Farmington nine years ago with her husband, Michael Shore, a Fox 2 Detroit videographer, said it's been quite a ride so far.

"There's not a better news town in the country," said Lange. "You can't make this stuff up."

Lange came to Detroit in 1998 from her first on-air news job at WEYI-TV in Flint, where she reported during the week and did weekend weather.

She knew it was going to be life-changing to come to a large, competitive market like the Detroit area.

"That was quite a challenge to go into such a big place," said Lange, who grew up in Michigan City, Ind.

Renaissance was the talk of Detroit, under then Mayor Dennis Archer.

"He seemed to have a lot of energy, and there was a lot of growth downtown, but the neighborhoods and schools still struggled," she said.

But, then "everything

went on hold" when the texting scandal of succeeding Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick broke. Lange covered the unfolding events closely, often going on "Kwame watches."

"There were many cold days, sitting outside of the mansion," she said. "And, standing outside of city hall, waiting for his vehicle to leave, just to see if we could get a comment."

"Kwame certainly is the most all-encompassing, longest and biggest story that I've had the privilege of covering."

Even after the dust settled, Lange found herself continuing to report on Kilpatrick, although he had already served time and had moved his family to Texas. His recent book prompted more coverage.

"He's the story that just keeps on going," she said.

Many rewards

But, it's not always the big news making national headlines that make her job rewarding. Sometimes, it's the story of a struggling family or an inspiring story of someone's triumph.

"Just to be able to tell people's stories — there's no news in the newsroom, you've got to get out there and let them speak, let their voices be heard," she said. "It's liberating for people to be able to tell their stories, and it's an honor for me."



Fox 2 Detroit reporter Amy Lange enjoys spending time in downtown Farmington, where she's lived for nine years.

Deeper perspective

In 2008, Lange earned a master's degree in social justice from Marygrove College in Detroit. The program focused on social issues, from a global level.

The program has helped her gain insight into the deep-rooted social problems in race, class and gender that she sees every day on her beat.

"It gives me a broader perspective," she said. "I hope it continues to help me to look a little deeper and to understand. I hope I go in with a more open mind."

As an investigative reporter, she also hopes to make a real difference.

"In many ways, we can make people's lives better," she said.

When she's not reporting, Lange teaches a media and social justice class at Marygrove. And, she's active in the Home-

less Action Network of Detroit.

"It's a challenge," she said. "We definitely have too many people falling through the cracks."

Another cause close to her heart led Lange and her husband to an Emmy Award for their series on an orphanage in Haiti, following last year's devastating earthquake.

She's also been honored for her work by the Society of Professional Journalists, the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and the Associated Press.

Making a comeback

One story hit close to home, and also earned her an Emmy — a 2009 news feature, "Spine Story — A Reporter Breaks Her Neck," her personal story, detailing life-threatening injuries she sustained after falling down the stairs at her home in June 2009.

She fell down the carpeted stairs when her shoe got tangled up in her long dress. Her husband rushed to see if she was OK. She said she was fine and just wanted to go to bed.

The next day, she and Michael drove to the west side of the state, to Saugatuck, to visit her parents for Father's Day. After getting back home, she was still uncomfortable and decided to see a doctor.

"We didn't know for a few days that I had actually broken my neck," she said.

It was fracture at the base of her neck and the vertebrae had also twisted.

"I would never in a million years have fathomed it," she said.

She needed traction and surgery that entailed plates and screws that will always have to remain in her neck.

After just one month, she was back to work.

A couple of years later, Lange found herself learning fast-paced, intricate dancing skills from instructor Fernando Caducio, who was her partner in the Dancing with our Local Stars fundraiser event in September at the San Marino Club in Troy to benefit the American Diabetes Association.

"It was a blast," she said. "We worked hard, getting ready for it — I had no prior experience.

I was a really inexperienced dancer."

They took second place and first place for raising the most donations.

Living in Farmington

Lange and her husband moved to Farmington nine years ago, just after getting married. She became involved in the pavilion committee, when plans were being made to build it in the parking lot of the Downtown Farmington Center. The pavilion and Riley Park — which replaced asphalt — are now gathering places for the community, and host to the popular Farmers & Artisans Market and many other community events.

"It's good to see that the momentum has continued," said Lange.

She said she enjoys living in Farmington, where everyone is encouraged to be involved.

"I think that's really nice," she said.

Farmington could, however, do more to attract young people to the city, she said.

"Young people have great ideas and they have that energy — we need to do more to attract them," she said.

Lange has a stepson, Alex, a freshman at Michigan State University.

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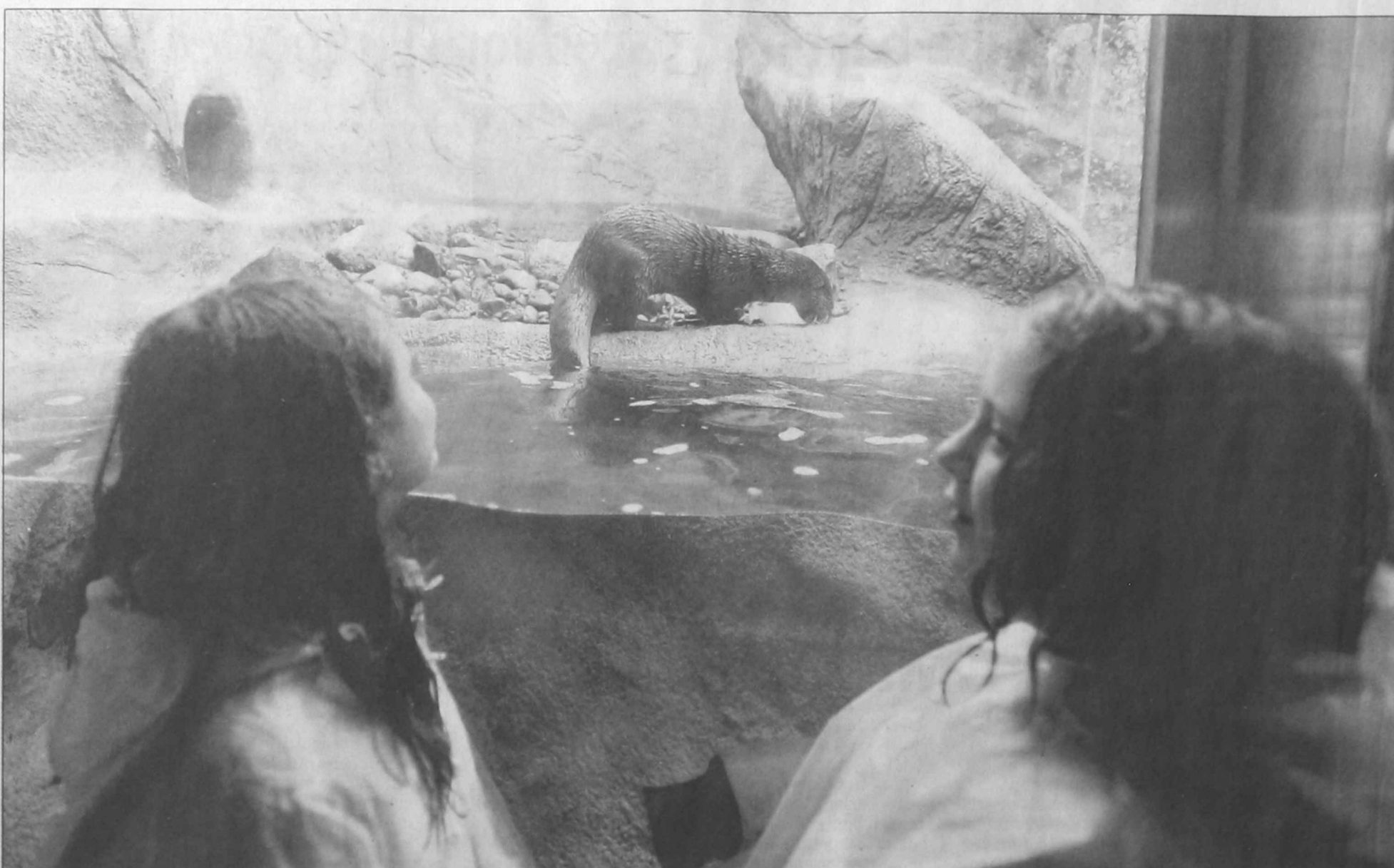
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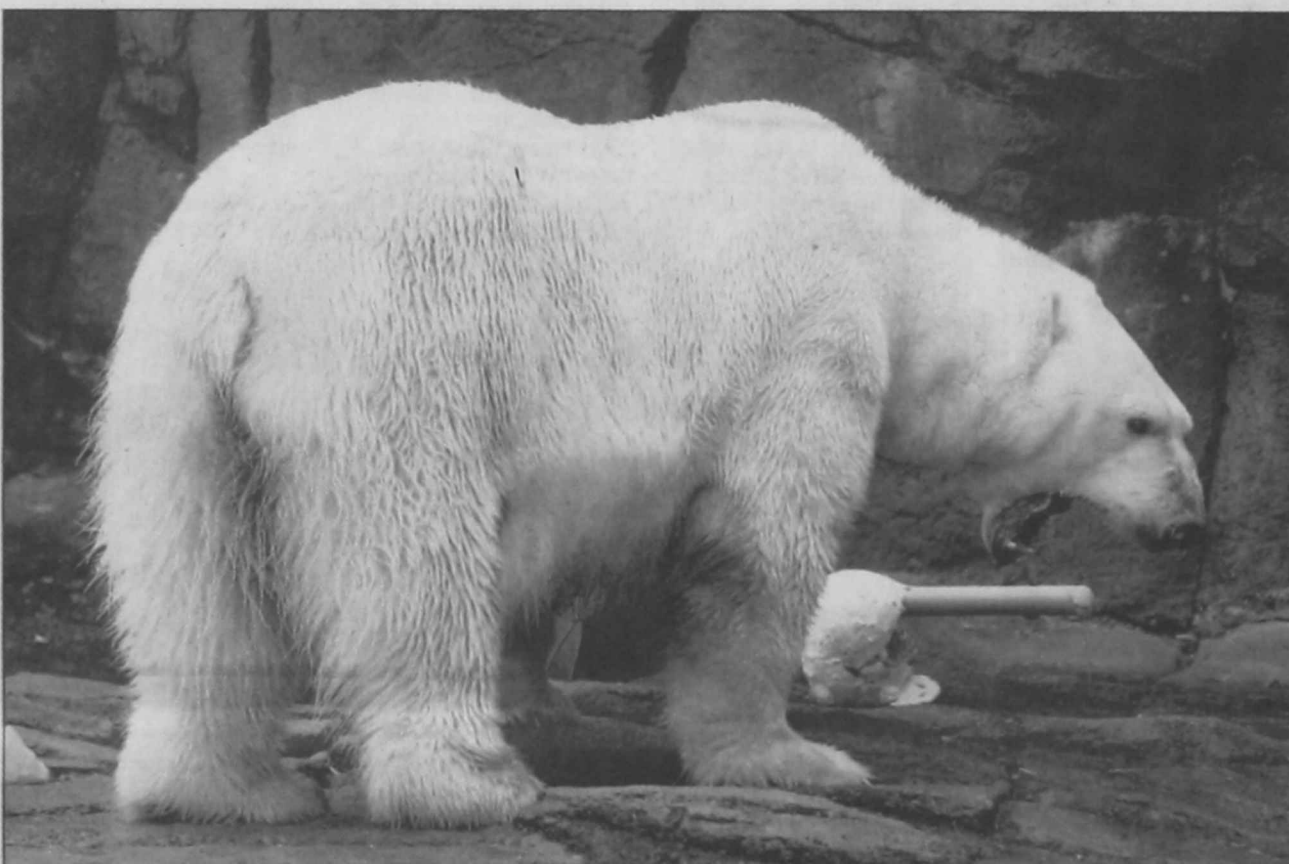
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Visitors to the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak watched as otters were fed fish treats in special holiday packages.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



This polar bear yawns after eating his gift.



Hanna Herd (left) and friend, Abby Tyner, both 10 and from Royal Oak, enjoy watching zoo residents play with treats.

'Presents' offer treats, activity at zoo

Just as businesses have office parties at this time of year, the animals at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak got down to business last week for some fun, unwrapping holiday-themed "gifts."

The occasion was the zoo's inaugural "That's a Wrap!"

Despite the rain and lack of holiday snow, visitors to the zoo seemed to still enjoy watching the animals enjoy their special treats, which were designed to be environmentally enriching, according to zoo staff.

Naughty or nice, the animals received treat-filled piñatas wrapped like holiday presents. The "gifts" were decorated with the traditional colors of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in universal celebration of the giving season.

The festively decorated packages and other enrichment treats were placed in the animals' habitats to stimulate natural behaviors, such as foraging and stalking.

"The wolverines will enjoy their piñata as much as the goodies inside," Animal Welfare Manag-

er Elizabeth Arbaugh said, speaking before the event. "They'll play with the box all day long, like kids on Christmas morning."

The holiday treats are among the many forms of environmental enrichment used daily at the Detroit Zoo to enhance the animals' habitats to make them more dynamic. That enrichment includes the introduction of novel and sometimes unpredictable elements, such as objects, sounds, scents or other stimuli. Those elements give the animals the opportunity to express choice and control in their environments, and to make decisions, express individuality and behave in species-typical ways.

The Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. now through March (closed New Year's Day). Admission is \$12 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older and \$8 for children 2-14 (children under 2 are free).



A wolverine tears apart a sleigh filled with treats.



Yum! This Tiger unwrapped his gift at the Detroit Zoo and promptly ate it.

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Joel R. Saper, M.D., *Principal Investigator*



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Alicia R. Prestegaard, M.D., *Principal Investigator*

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Some Sears, Kmart stores to close

Sears Holdings Corp. will close about 100 Sears and Kmart stores after holiday sales fell short due to a drop in demand for consumer electronics.

It is not known if any of the 100 to 120 stores slated to close are in Michigan.

Store officials at a Livonia Kmart and a Sears store at Livonia Marketplace would not comment on the report. A Sears store official in Livonia referred all questions to a public relations firm in Hoffman Estates, Ill., where Sears and Kmart is based.

A store official at a Kmart in Livonia who did not want to be identified said that store had not been notified about any closings. "Not a word," the official said. "We haven't heard any information. We've heard what you heard."

The official added that store has had a great holiday season and has a good customer base,

so if that store would close, it would be a surprise.

Likewise, a manager at Kmart in Plymouth Township said they have no information.

The company has about 2,200 Kmart and Sears stores in the U.S. and Canada, with 80 Kmart stores and 67 Sears stores in Michigan. The city of Westland has both a Sears and a Kmart.

The company said Tuesday that the cuts will make the retailers more nimble as it struggles for market share. Same store sales plunged 5.2 percent for the eight-week holiday sales period that ended Dec. 26.

Holiday sales at Kmart and domestic Sears stores fell 4.4 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

"Given our performance and the difficult economic environment, especially for big-ticket items, we intend to implement a series of actions to reduce

ongoing expenses, adjust our asset base and accelerate the transformation of our business model," chief executive Lou D'Ambrosio said in a statement.

The company kept weaker locations open while working to improve their performance but will now devote its resources to stronger stores "with the goal of converting their customer experience into a world-class integrated retail experience."

The move will generate \$140 million to \$170 million in cash as it sells inventory and real estate, the company said. The retailer also expects a noncash charge of about \$1.6 billion to \$1.8 billion due to a valuation allowance and an impairment charge on some goodwill balances for as much as \$600 million.

The stock (SHLD) was down more than 20 percent before 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Two charged in string of bank robberies

Farmington Hills Police Chief Charles Nebus announced the arrest of two suspects believed to be responsible for a string of bank robberies in the metro Detroit area over the past few months.

Arthur Duane Payton, 44, of Detroit and Nancy Marie Barta, 33, of Westland, are charged with four bank robberies and were arraigned Dec. 16 in the United States District Court in Detroit.

They're reportedly believed to be responsible for the following bank robberies:

- Nov. 9 at the Citizens Bank at 31215 14 Mile in Farmington Hills. At 4:58 p.m., Nov. 9, a lone female suspect entered the bank and presented the teller with a note announcing a robbery. The note indicated that the suspect was armed

with a firearm. After taking an undetermined amount of money, the suspect fled the scene on foot.

Three similar bank robberies occurred in the Detroit suburban area:

- Oct. 17 at Charter One Bank in Farmington
- Oct. 20 at a Bank of America in Livonia
- Oct. 28 at Flagstar Bank in Novi

Investigators from the Farmington Hills Police Department, Farmington Department of Public Safety, Livonia Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation coordinated their investigative efforts to solve these robberies.

A federal complaint was authorized charging the identified suspects with the four listed bank robberies.

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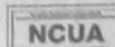
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Crowds thin out at the mall



A Sears employee, Jan Waldron didn't have much time to look for bargains before Christmas. Now the Garden City resident had time for some shopping.

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Now that the Christmas rush is over and people have shopped themselves out, the mall walkers have plenty of room again.

By Tuesday morning, Westland Shopping Center had a pretty empty parking lot and a pretty sparse crowd — a lot of them taking their morning constitutional.

Garden City resident Jan Waldron was among the shoppers, however. "I work at Sears so I don't get much of a chance to go into the mall," said Waldron. "So, I'm out getting the deals today. It was pretty busy yesterday (Monday) and not just returns. I started work at 7 a.m. and by 10 a.m. it was quite busy."

Waldron hadn't really started shopping yet — her husband had gotten some coffee — but the couple were heading to Kohl's to spend some Kohl's cash earned during some pre-Christmas shopping.

Bath and Body Works bag in hand, McKenzie Bowers was look-



Daniel Masserang of Plymouth was at Westland Shopping Center to exchange some shirts for the correct size.

ing at makeup at a mall kiosk with her sister and friend, who didn't want to be identified. They didn't go shopping on Boxing Day.

"Everyone is spent out of money," said Bowers, who wasn't surprised that the mall wasn't crowded. "I'm



Adia Ciecierski, 11, of Garden City shows off her new cell phone cover while shopping at Westland Shopping Center with her mother, Margo.

happy with what I got from Bath and Body Works. They were having a sale. We're just looking around — I'm not sure where else we will go."

Plymouth resident Daniel Masserang was at the mall to exchange some shirts for the correct

size. "We were here right at 10 a.m. I guess it was a lot more crowded yesterday," he said.

His father, Paul Masserang, commented that it was a bit surprising the mall wasn't more crowded but had made a point of not shopping on

Dec. 26.

Adia Ciecierski, 11, of Garden City came by the mall with mother Margo to pick up a cover for the tablet she received as a Christmas gift. While she was at it, Adia also got a new cover for her cell phone.

"Santa did really good this year. I told her (Adia), we're not shopping," said Ciecierski. "The deals were so great before Christmas, what do you need now?"

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Metropolitan Opera Theater soloists, from left, Mark Vondrak, Betsy Bronson, Maria Cimorelli and Karl Schmidt.

MOT soloists to perform at Farmington Players Barn

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This concert will lighten your hearts with a memorable evening of fun and music at the Farmington Players Barn on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Perpetual favorites, MOT concerts at the Players Barn have sold out for many years. The concert is part of the ongoing Cultural Arts Concert Series, which concludes March 9-10 with concerts by the Irish group Blackthorn.

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The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads in Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors and students. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at www.rec-reg.fhgov.com. For more information or to charge tickets by phone, call (248) 473-1848.

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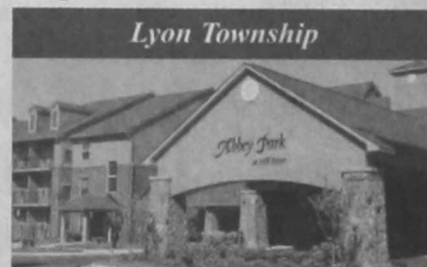
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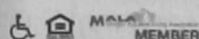
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All Saints collects food for charity

All Saints Catholic School in Canton is making a personal connection to All Saints Parish in Detroit. Led by the school's student council, a recent food drive to benefit the church yielded 495 pounds of donated food items.

"It's nice to know you helped someone in your own community," said Valentine Vena, an eighth-grader and president of the ASCS student council. "It was great that kids of all ages participated. Even preschoolers were a part of the effort and made a difference for those in need."

Although the issue of hunger is a serious one,

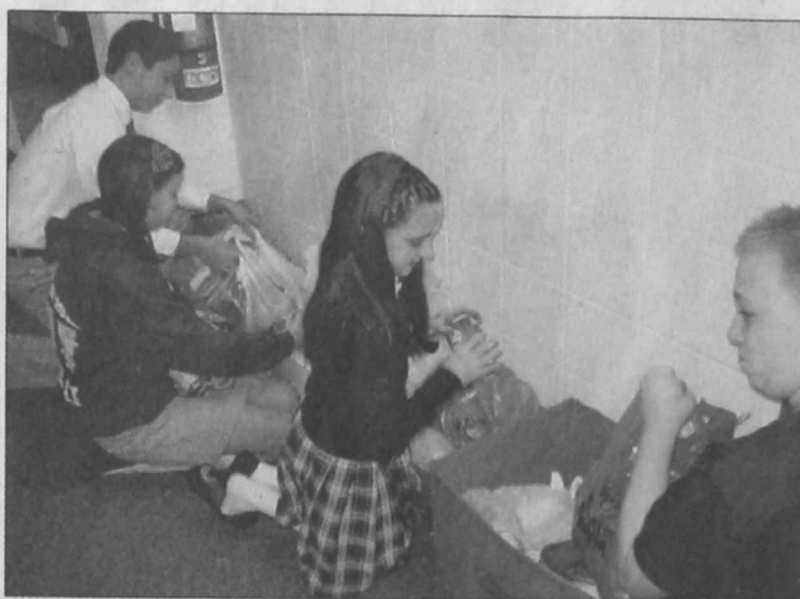
the students brought some friendly competition into the picture to raise awareness about the collection campaign and spur donations. The school has two main hallways, with preschool through third grade in one, and fourth through eighth grade in the other.

The hallways "competed" against each other to see which one could donate the greatest quantity of food. The older kids won, but the true winners will be the people served by All Saints Parish.

The first hall collected 120 pounds of food, and the second hall collected 375 pounds of

food. The total weight of all the food collected for All Saints Food Bank was 495 pounds. All Saints Parish picked up the donations on Dec. 19. The food will be used to serve prepared meals, as well as sent home with people to serve their families.

"I enjoyed seeing the creativity of the kids become apparent," said Emily Wagg, a sixth-grade teacher at All Saints and a student council adviser. "We had kids designing boxes to collect the food. We didn't have a lot of time to plan. It was nice to see everyone just jump in, get together and make it happen."



Valentine Vena (from left), Hannah Cohen, Hannah Watts and Jonathon Hyman prepare the food for pickup.

Wagg added that it was good to make the connection from one All Saints to another, and that students will be looking for future opportunities to help All Saints Parish.

All Saints Catholic School's efforts were not limited to the food drive, however. Two other major initiatives — a sock drive and a coin drive — were launched during the Advent season to support local community members at St. Aloysius Parish.

"The students learn to focus on the needs of others and learn ways to help express their Christian duty to reach out to those in need," said Deacon Donald Leach, the pastoral associate at St. Aloysius in Detroit. Leach explained how the students' efforts will help about 100 people.

"These donations are aimed at our seniors," he said. "They pay for transportation to doctor and dentist appointments, help to pay co-pays at these visits, help with drug purchase co-pays, and also to allow us to purchase small

items like pots, pans and dishes for the apartment-dwelling seniors."

Coin drive

For the past few weeks — and continuing into January — the students are encouraged to drop their extra change into collection canisters in their classrooms. The money will be collected on Jan. 20, and donated to St. Aloysius. The need is great, since other sources of funding have been lost, according to Carolyn Forrest, a seventh- and eighth-grade religion teacher at All Saints.

"I think this is important to the students because they learn more about the people in our own community who need help," Forrest said. "We know there is poverty worldwide, but the kids also discover they can help those in need who are close to them by doing small things."

Sock drive

Also in conjunction with St. Aloysius, All Saints students have supported a sock drive. During the week of Dec. 5-9, students brought in

new pairs of socks.

"We chose to do a sock drive because we thought it correlated well with our school theme for this year, which is 'Following in the Footsteps of Jesus,'" said Jessica Kotlarek, a second-grade teacher and a leader on the Catholic Identity Committee at the school. "We also held the drive during the week of St. Nicholas' feast day, to make the connection with the tradition of leaving a shoe for him to fill."

The students collected "two very large boxes," Kotlarek said. "I was overwhelmed, especially because we did little promotion or advertising at school, and hosted the drive rather quickly. Deacon Don Leach will pick up the socks, which will be placed into backpacks and distributed."

Leach is grateful to the ASCS students. "Thank you for all your efforts," he said. "I hope we will be able to develop other ways for you to integrate yourselves into the lives of the poor in the inner city over the years to come."

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MEDC ramps up to 'grow' Michigan

Observer: Tell us about the MEDC and what its mission is?

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is a public-private partnership serving as the state's marketing arm and lead agency for business, talent and jobs, tourism, film and digital incentives, arts and cultural grants, and overall economic growth.

MEDC offers a number of business assistance services and capital programs for business attraction and acceleration, economic gardening, entrepreneurship, strategic partnerships, talent enhancement and urban and community development. MEDC, founded in 1999, also developed and manages the state's popular Pure Michigan brand.

Our mission: To market Michigan and provide the tools and environment to drive job creation and investment.

Observer: The goal is to diversify Michigan's economy. With the state's long association with the auto industry, how are you accomplishing that diversification?

We must diversify our economy to capture

MEDC

Business Name: Michigan Economic Development Corp.



Finney

Your name and position: Michael A. Finney, President and CEO

Your Hometown: MEDC headquarters in Lansing, Office in Detroit, and satellite offices in every region of the state

Business Number of Employees: 500+

Opened: 1999 (formerly the Michigan Jobs Commission and the Michigan Dept. of Commerce)

Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Your Business Specialty: Economic development

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more knowledge-based jobs in areas such as health care, information, and yes, advanced manufacturing.

Our diversification strategy centers on "economic gardening," working with existing companies to find new markets for their products so they can create good-paying jobs.

Observer: What is Michigan Advantage and Pure Michigan?

Pure Michigan is the nationally known brand of the State of Michigan, administered by the state's marketing arm, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Since

2006, Pure Michigan advertising has described the wonders of Michigan, but in 2011 MEDC began bringing all of its activities under the popular brand, voted one of the 10 best destination brands ever by *Forbes Magazine*. MEDC has two websites: www.MichiganAdvantage.org for business and www.michigan.org for travel and tourism.

Observer: How hard has it been to attract new business to Michigan? What is helping or hindering your efforts?

We've been very successful at bringing new businesses to Michigan, including Magna Electronics, HP,

Gordon Food Service, Health Summit and Patriot Solar just to name a few. We've dramatically lowered business taxes and developed new tools to help companies locate and grow here.

Observer: What's your goal for diversifying Michigan's economy in 2012? How do you plan to achieve that?

The goal for 2012 and beyond is to make Michigan a top 10 state in employment, GDP growth, per capita income, and young adult population growth. We will continue to work in what Governor Snyder describes as "dog years." This means ramping up all the things we've put into place in terms of our economic gardening toolkit, talent initiatives and other economic development programs.

Observer: What has been your biggest success in 2011?

Laying the foundation necessary to reinvent Michigan: creating one of the most competitive tax climates in the country, putting an emphasis on talent enhancement, shifting our focus to economic gardening and increasing the flow of capital to help start and grow new ventures.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Elected vice chair

The International Truck Parts Association has announced the election of Jake Rea of Michigan Truck Parts in Westland to serve as vice chairman of its Board of Directors. His involvement and expertise in the industry will be a valuable asset for the association's management team.

The International Truck Parts Association was organized with 46 charter member companies in September 1974, as a not-for-profit association to promote, foster, and improve relationships among sellers and buyers of trucks and truck surplus products and other parties. A major purpose of ITPA is to exchange information and to improve and advance the truck parts aftermarket.

Michigan Truck Parts is at 38658 Ford Road, west of Newburgh, Westland.

Food Drive

TLC Holistic Wellness at 31580 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, is holding a food drive to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank. The goal is to collect 500 items.

Dry, canned and non-perishable food items — along with personal care items — can be dropped off at TLC through Thursday, Jan. 6.

Financial Boot Camp

DFCU is offering its repeating "Money Rocks at DFCU Financial" for kids 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, at its Livonia branch, 37373 Seven Mile, Livonia.

Kids will learn why saving money is important, the three things to do with your money and the cost of starting a new small business. In addition to important information on handling money, the Boot Camp includes prizes, snacks and a pizza lunch.

The boot camp also will be offered at Fairlane Branch, 400 Town Center Dr., Dearborn, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29.

For a reservation, call (313) 322-8225.

MEGA assist

The Michigan Economic Development Authority (MEGA) Board has approved a tax credit amendment for the U.S. Farathane Corporation to expand at its Westland and Shelby Township Facilities and build a new facility in another location.

USF designs and manufactures highly engineered plastic fabricated components. USF provides its customers with a wide range of full service support in product design, material selection and manufacturing capabilities primarily serving the automotive, consumer goods, electronics and heavy truck industries.

The company continues to diversify itself into new markets and products through utilizing its existing capabilities and taking them to other industries.

USF received a tax credit in 2009 for its new headquarters. This year's tax credit is an amendment to the 2009 credit so that it can expand in Westland and other locations. This new expansion is expected to create 391 new jobs. The company currently has 1,033 employees in Michigan.

The importance of teams in successful organizations

This is the second of a three-part series on the importance of teams. See Thursday, Jan. 5, for part three. The first installment was published Dec. 22.

By Martina Bogdanoska
Guest Columnist

In organizations, people very often reveal that it is much better to work in teams because teamwork improves execution of activities and mutual goals can be achieved faster.

It is so because no single person can have all relevant knowledge, skills and capabilities that are mutually complementary. Only in this way can a complementary team be built where its members will learn from individual differences and attain greater achievements because of them.

The team offers three major benefits:

1. It develops human potential at maximum level
2. It causes synergetic effects
3. It enables continuous improvement

Every team must address the following criteria:

- Personal identify of the team
- Membership involvement
- Influence, control, mutual trust
- Understanding, mutual loyalty

Every team goes through four phases of development: chaos, formality, maturity and team development. To achieve goals of successful work, relationship toward clients, innovation and motivation of the employees, managers should form different teams.

The teams should be formed by managers and should realize the goals of the organization. These teams include:

- Management (executive director, vice president and department heads)
- Research and Development

(members who have expertise in developing new products)

- Working groups (employees that report to one supervisor)
- Self-governing groups (employees who observe their own activities and the quality of produce and services they are providing)

The number of members in a team may be an important determinant of motivation for members and their commitment to the work of the group. There are several advantages to maintaining a relatively small group — between two and 10 members.

Compared with members of large groups, members of small groups tend to communicate more easily with each other and they can coordinate their efforts to be more motivated, satisfied and engaged. In these groups, it is easy to share information and to perceive the significance of personal contributions to the success of the group.

Recognizing these advantages, Muhvold Nathan, senior vice president for advanced technology at Microsoft Corp., found that eight is the ideal number of members for teams in research and development.

In choosing the appropriate size of the group, managers try to get the benefit of small groups while also forming groups with sufficient resources to achieve goals and have a well-developed division of labor. As a general rule, the groups should have more members than necessary to achieve the division of labor and resources necessary to meet the objectives of the group.

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: Every team needs a leader



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OUR VIEWS

Look to us for the local news that matters

With 2011 just about in the rearview mirror, it's time to start looking forward to the new year. And 2012 certainly promises to be a big one for Southeast Michigan and the nation as a whole.

The staff here at the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* is certainly anticipating a great 2012 — and looking forward to bringing all the news that matters to our readers. As always, our goal is to provide our readers with the most up to date look at the news stories that impact our local communities. Not only in our award-winning print editions, but also on our website, www.hometownlife.com, which is

updated daily with breaking news stories.

For years, the so-called experts have been predicting the demise of the newspaper industry. And for sure, we've experienced some tough times in recent years — just like many other industries. But our commitment to our readers has never waned, even in the face of a faltering economy that has forced us to make some difficult changes. But we are still standing, and we thank all of our readers for standing with us. We are looking forward to a new year that promises to be filled with extraordinary news stories.

For the first time in what seems like an eternity, the economy — both locally and nationally — is on the upswing. Let us hope that continues. Far too many people in Michigan have been hurt by layoffs and lost income since the beginning of the "Great Recession" and we could certainly use some good news on the economic front. It will be nice to report some good news on that front this year, especially how an improved economy will mean brighter days for our communities.

Elections also promise to be big news in 2012. Many local, state and federal offices will be up for

grabs. We hope to see an informed electorate head to the polls in the August primary and November general elections. While most of the national media will focus on the presidential race, we know that state and local campaigns will have a more direct impact on our readers, especially as it relates to taxes and services. You can look to us to provide the political coverage that hits closer to home.

We realize in most cases our newspapers are the only source when it comes to local news coverage. We take that responsibility very seriously. That's why we have reporters at school board and city

council meetings, prep sporting events and all the other happenings that are important to our readers.

In 2012, we invite our readers to become more involved. Whether it is a letter to the editor or a comment on our website, we want everyone's voice to be heard. That's what we are here for. We just ask that everyone respects the opinions of others — even when you might not agree.

As we turn the page on another year, we hope you will continue to look to us as your trusted news source. We are proud to be a part of our communities. And we thank you for trust.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your wish for the New Year?



"I guess just another happy, healthy New Year for me and my family."

Matthew Stabile
Farmington Hills



"Get a job and keep one. That's my focus right now. I moved from Traverse City and I'm looking for job opportunities."

Scott McCloskey
Livonia



"I wanted the Lions to make the playoffs; now that they're there, I want them to do well in the playoffs."

Christa Bekker
Canton



"It's going to be mostly what it is every year - to organize at home."

Mona Smith
Garden City



"Personally I wish the world would know the Christmas season is a celebration of Christ's birth and his message to the world."

Eric Moore
Livonia



"Generally, I don't make them."

Rob Bloomfield
Westland



"I don't have one, I don't usually do one."

Julie Forthun
Garden City



"Just a safe and healthy family."

Hunter Stabile, 9
Farmington Hills



"I think to be more patient with my children and keep up with the yard work."

Kimberly McDonaldson
Westland



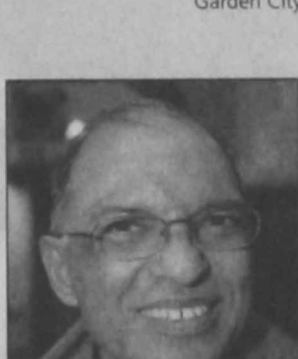
"Peace for families. A lot of families don't have that."

Susan Stoney
Plymouth



"Truly for people to co-exist with a real conscience and awareness of the true meaning of life, because there is so much negativity. There's more to life than just themselves."

Jennifer Westcott
Livonia



"Just a happy, peaceful life. I'm semi-retired, so just enjoy life, why not?"

Rajendra Shah
Farmington Hill



"I want to quit smoking, and hopefully I'll get into the University of Michigan to study medicine."

Michael Awad
Plymouth



"For me, it's to make time to work out and make use of my gym membership."

Ashlee Baracy
Westland



"I hope maybe to just try and eat healthier and not be on a diet."

Barb Wlosinski
Garden City

Teamwork vital for money worries

We've had our silent night. Now the area is about to get a whole lot noisier, and it won't just be from the revelry on New Year's Eve.

As a troubled year is ending, a challenging one is beginning throughout the region. Frequently, as individuals voice their New Year's resolutions, a big one is always to lose weight, but that was high on Gov. Rick Snyder's list even before the end of this year.

The kind of weight the governor had in mind was that from unnecessary expenses and duplication of service in our towns and schools. Officials railed bitterly against making awards in revenue sharing and aid to education dependent on meeting criteria

showing moves to reduce expenses by sharing the burden of providing services. Most officials pointed out that their schools and local governments have already done just that.

But the truth is that the state budget has become skinny, skin and bones, if you will. It is providing the spine of structure, but little else for local entities.

Perhaps in a way this is better than the bulimic feeding frenzy of past years for funding for sustenance of services that may have been able to have been fed a more healthy diet. But who is to say what nutrients are essential and which are icing on the cake?

Well, the one good thing is that

the governor has left it up to communities and schools to devise their own diet. The problem is that it has been a forced crash diet. So that noise you are about to hear as the New Year begins is likely to be from the gnashing of teeth as the budget process begins for the next fiscal year.

There is an image with a puzzle that involves a group of people sitting in a circle around a pot of food. Each person has a spoon, but it is a very, very long spoon — far too long to dip into the pot and then bring the nourishment to an individual's own lips.

The puzzle is: Will those people starve and go into receiver-ship? Or will they find a solution

to their collective problem? The answer to that puzzle is the one all schools and governments must embrace.

In the case of the pot of food, the people sitting around it discovered that the spoon may be too long to feed themselves, but it was just right to feed the person opposite them.

Local officials are all sitting around a pot of money, diminished though it is. As many times as they have called for cooperation, it is more essential now than ever.

Local officials will always have their own spoons, but they will have to come up with ways to make sure we all get our daily bread.

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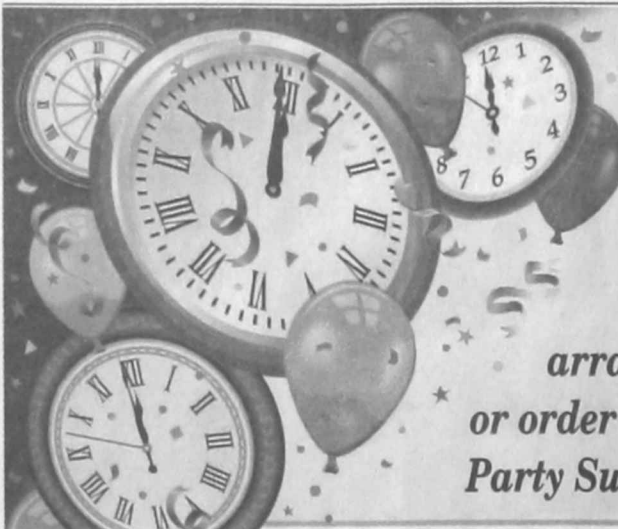
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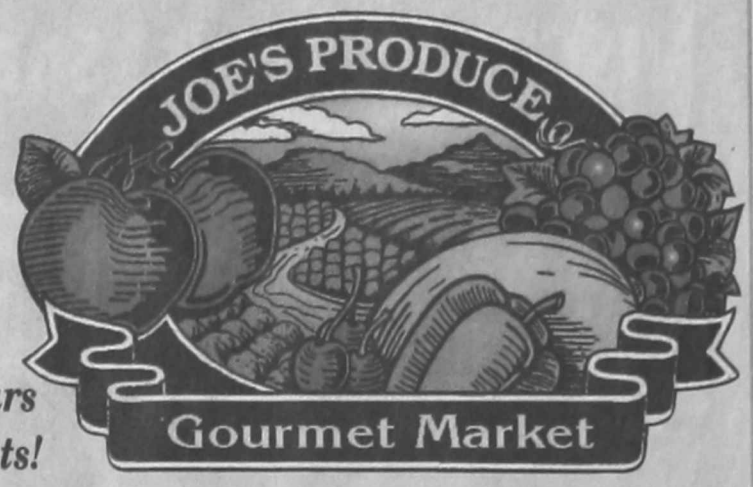
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Jipping plays big in PCA win

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Opponents flinch when Plymouth Christian Academy senior center Eric Jipping turns it up a notch.

And Dec. 22 against visiting Franklin Road Christian, the 6-foot-5 Jipping wasn't about to let the Warriors get any gift-wrapped victory.

Pounding the ball inside time after time, he scored 27 points — including a personal 7-0 run in the fourth to give PCA the lead for keeps — as the Eagles came away with a 56-55 Michigan Independent Athletics Conference crossover win to improve to 3-1.

Other PCA contributors included junior forwards Mick Noel (16 points, four assists) and Drew Ibach (seven points).

The physical Jipping, who also had 10 rebounds, is a treat to watch any time he's on the court. But on Thursday, his bulldog attitude brought a smile to PCA head coach Dominique Washington's face.

"He's our senior and our leader," said Washington, about Jipping taking control of the game in the fourth. "If he wants to play at the next level, he's going to have to be able to do that at this level.

"We have confidence in the decisions he makes. We know he's a great player, he's very, very confident. Fourth quarter, if he's going to step up he's going to step up. We're going to let him go."

The Warriors (1-3) led 51-47 midway through the final frame. Three Jipping power moves to the basket and a free throw later, it was a 54-51 PCA lead with just 1:44 remaining.

In all, Jipping tallied 12 of the Eagles' 15 points in the final stanza.

PCA never gave up the lead after that, although a triple at the horn by junior Quinn D'Ascenzo (21 points, eight rebounds) made it a one-point differential.

According to Franklin Road head coach Chico Hamilton, the play of Jipping wore down his defense, and contributed to senior forward Averett Barksdale's late foul trouble.

Barksdale (16 points), who has draw interest from Schoolcraft College, had to ease up on his defensive pressure after drawing his fourth foul of the night.

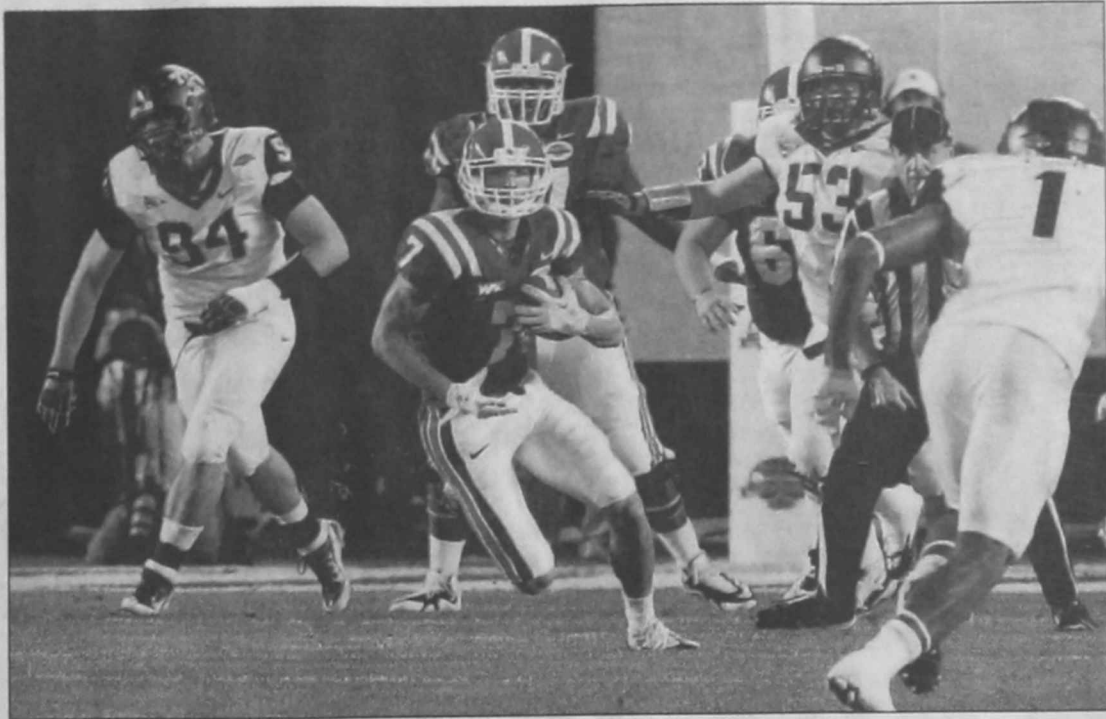
Hamilton subsequently had to use a guard against Jipping, creating a mismatch.

"He (Barksdale) had to play more tentatively and cautiously," Hamilton said.

On the flip side, Hamilton said the Warriors "took a couple bad shots where we could have worked the ball inside to get a better shot. Too many unnecessary threes. We weren't attacking the basket in the second half."

Despite the win, Washington said there is much room for the Eagles to improve.

Please see HOOPS, B2



LOUISIANA TECH PHOTOS

Stevenson High grad Myles White (7) makes the grab for Louisiana Tech during last week's Poinsettia Bowl game in San Diego against TCU. White had seven catches for 110 yards in a 31-24 setback.

A White Christmas

'Tis better to receive for Stevenson grad at La. Tech

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Myles White has taken a circuitous route to remain a Division I football player.

It's over 1,000 miles and a 17-hour drive from Livonia to Rushton, La., but the junior wide receiver from Stevenson High is thankful he's gotten a second chance after a couple of embarrassing incidents at Michigan State, which led to his transfer.

After a sprained foot limited his play during the first half of the season, the 6-foot-1, 185-pound White finished the season with a flurry including a career-best seven catches for 110 yards — including a 61-yard touchdown reception that gave Louisiana Tech a late 24-17 third-quarter lead — in the Bulldogs' 31-24 loss last week to No. 18-ranked TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl held in San Diego.

For the season, White ranked third in receptions (30) for a total of 414 yards and three TDs for the 8-5 Bulldogs. He also averaged a team-best 13.8 yards per catch for the Western Athletic Conference champions.

"I was irritated that we lost because I felt everything was in place, but it was a fun game overall just to be on national television, and to play in front of everybody," White said. "Louisiana Tech hadn't been to a bowl game since 2008, so

that was good for the school and the university. After catching the 61-yard TD pass from quarterback Colby Cameron, the national TV cameras captured a glimpse of White on the sidelines. And never one to shy away from the cameras, White delivered a message. "It's a shout out to Michigan and Livonia, and everybody back home, my whole family, and everybody at Stevenson," he said. "I just wanted to show everybody where my heart is."

White's heart was originally with Michigan State where he earned a football scholarship.

White's heart was originally with Michigan State where he earned a football scholarship.

White's heart was originally with Michigan State where he earned a football scholarship.

Please see WHITE, B2



Stevenson High grad Myles White makes the grab for Louisiana Tech during a regular season game against Fresno State.



Buford

Buford opts out to Iowa

Canton senior defensive back/half-back/return specialist Kevin Buford will be a Hawkeye.

Buford recently visited the campus of the University of Iowa and immediately loved it enough — not to mention the lure of playing in the Big Ten — to decide to change his verbal commitment from the University of Toledo.

The Hawkeyes' football staff also liked Buford and he could make an impact as soon as the 2012 season.

Canton head football coach Tim Baechler said it's a good fit for the All-Observer player.

"Kevin will play corner at Iowa and may return kicks and punts as well," Baechler said. "They like his personality and character and his explosiveness and big play ability."

A formal signing will take place in February.

Blazers skate past Pioneer

Goalie Sarah Koch made 18 saves to post the shutout as red-hot Livonia Ladywood captured its fourth straight game last week with a 3-0 Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win over the host Pioneers at Veterans Arena.

After a scoreless opening period, Ladywood's Lane Kolpacke tallied the game-winner from Katie Folk in the second.

The Blazers (4-5, 4-5) added two more goals in the third from Jackie Kristofik (unassisted) and Hannah Pereira (empty netter).

Paulina Arsenault made 21 saves for Ann Arbor (5-2, 5-2).

Moose skate vs. ex-Wings

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club and the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association will host their annual charity hockey game on Jan. 7 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

All funds raised from the event will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the game will start at promptly at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the game. (Children under the age of 10 will be admitted free.)

A variety of raffle prizes will also be given away and all admission tickets will be entered into the drawing.

A special drawing will also be held for a shot to skate with the Detroit Red Wings Alumni, which will be announced during the Jan. 2 Winter Classic. These \$25 tickets must be purchased in advance (adults only).

Thurston doomed by late collapse

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Led by a high-performance Lexus, Redford Thurston's girls basketball team cruised through the first 28 minutes of Tuesday night's game against Temperance Bedford when it built a 10-point lead.

Unfortunately for the Eagles, the wheels came off down the stretch.

A big night from Thurston junior forward Lexus LeGardy (12 points) couldn't put the brakes on a furious fourth-quarter rally by Bedford, which survived with a 56-49 victory over the Eagles in an opening-night encounter in the Airport Christmas Classic.

Thurston (4-2) was set to play Adrian in Wednesday's action at Carleton Airport High School.

Sharing scoring honors with LeGardy was Taylor Hunt, who also poured in 12 points. Sophomore point guard Brijanae Durrrough scored eight points for the Eagles.

Ellen Hays led the winners with 19 while Taylor Foster pumped in 14.

After trailing 27-26 at the half, the Eagles surged in the third quarter and early in the fourth when they constructed a 45-35 advantage.

But the Kicking Mules took advantage of a sudden shooting slump by Thurston to knot the game at 48-48 at

the end of regulation before holding the Eagles to just a single free throw by Hunt in the four-minute overtime.

"Once we got up by 10 in the fourth quarter, we kept shooting the ball instead of showing some patience," said Thurston head coach Marvin Essix. "We had too many wild shots and lazy passes. Bedford kept playing and made a couple plays to get back in it, then we panicked a little bit."

With the Eagles leading by two points and just over a minute remaining on the fourth-quarter clock, Durrrough was injured when she collided with a Bedford player while in possession of the ball, however, no foul was called. Bedford tied the game with 53 seconds left in regulation.

"Lexus LeGardy shot the ball very well tonight," said Essix, when asked for some bright spots. "She was getting her feet set and her jumper was falling."

"We were patient with the ball as a team for most of the game. We passed the ball around until we got an easy basket — until the fourth quarter. Give Bedford credit. They kept playing and kept fighting."

Essix was also impressed by the effort of junior forward Adajaih Pittman, who pulled down a team-high 10 rebounds.

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Redford Thurston sophomore point guard Brijanae Durrrough scans the court for an open teammate during overtime of the Eagles' 56-49 setback to Bedford Tuesday night.

New adult troupe debuts on youth stage in Livonia

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Motor City Youth Theater's new adult offshoot — Motor City Musical Theatre — will debut Friday, Jan. 6, 2012 with a little-known Stephen Sondheim play.

"When we heard the rights for the show had been released, we wanted to get in on that. It's a rarely-performed piece ... a rare treat. It's the first time it will be performed in Michigan, and possibly even in the Midwest," said Dave Cowan, a cast member who's also handling publicity for the show.

The play, *Saturday Night*, with Sondheim's lyrics and music, was set to debut on Broadway in the mid-1950s and would have introduced Sondheim, then 25, to theatergoers for the first time. When one of its lead producers died in 1955, the show was shelved until 1997 when a small professional theater in London, England produced it for the first time.

The story, written by Julius and Philip Epstein, authors of *Casablanca*, tells the story of Gene, a dreamer and a Wall Street clerk, who convinces his lonely, dateless friends to invest in the stock market during the spring before the stock market crash of 1929. Gene uses their money in a series of impulsive purchases, and is lured back to the real world by a developing romance.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 6-7 and 13-14, 2012 and 2



Elyse Moon (standing) portrays "Helen" and George Abud is "Gene" in the Motor City Music Theatre production of Stephen Sondheim's "Saturday Night." They're surrounded by cast members who play Gene's friends.

p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8 and 15, 2012, at the Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, Livonia. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Call (313) 535-8962 for reservations or e-mail to motorcitymusicaltheatre@gmail.com.

Hands-on actors

The cast includes mostly students and graduates from drama programs at Wayne State University and Oakland University, as well as a few actors from Windsor, Ont., Canada. They're involved in all facets of the show, including set-making, props, publicity and costuming.

"Everything is being done by the cast itself. We don't have to go through a hierarchy of who would normally make these decisions," Cowan said. "It's a nice change of pace and gives us more freedom. It's a blast."

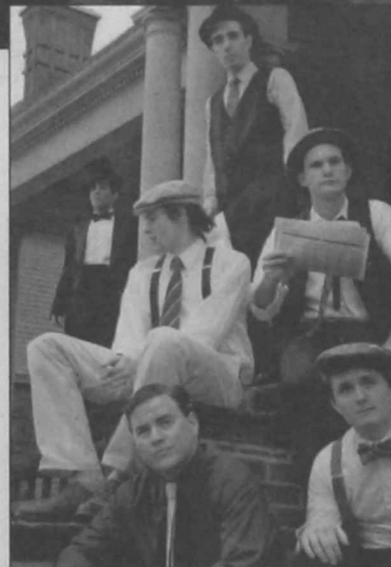
Motor City Youth Theatre founder, Nancy Florkowski, told friends at Wayne State University a few years ago that she wanted to form an adult troupe.

"We got together, pooled resources and found a play we all wanted to do," said Cowan, a Wayne State University graduate who also teach-

es at the Youth Theatre. "We'll sprinkle in two or three (adult) shows a season."

Cast, crew

Jeremy Ryan Mossman of Windsor directs and appears in the show. Other cast members are Wayne State students George Abud, Luke Rose, Matthew Miazgowski, Andrick Siegmund, Aaron Glenn, Dan Finn, Allison Fisher, Sydney Machesky, and Kendall Talbot; Oakland University student Elyse Moon; and Windsor resident Nathaniel Cedroni. Wayne State grads Adam Crinson designed the



sets and Megan Amadon designed costumes.

Florkowski serves as artistic director and her husband, Fred Florkowski, is technical director.


Cowan said *Saturday Night* is the perfect

A group of dateless friends are talked into investing in the stock market, in the show "Saturday Night."

play to stage at this time because the expanding income gap between the rich and the poor, along with the protests against Wall Street provide parallels to the story.

"The jokes are still funny," he said. "We're excited to have an audience. We've been rehearsing since October and we're ready to take the show to the next level."

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Farmington Hills artist returns to Ferndale gallery

Kathleen Boettcher of Farmington Hills will show her work in "The Best of 2011" exhibit opening Jan. 11, 2012 at Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward, east side of Woodward, two blocks south of Nine Mile, Ferndale.

She's among several prize-winning artists from the gallery's four annual juried shows — invitational, figurative, photographic and small works — who were selected to exhibit a larger selection of their work.



"Just as music, theater and literature look back on the best of the previous year's offerings in January, we at the Gallery have decided

Farmington Hills artist Kathleen Boettcher will exhibit this work in a "best of" show next month at Lawrence Street Gallery in Ferndale.

to give the public another chance to take a look at the new work of last year's top picks," stated Laura Host, exhibition organizer.

Other participating artists are Colin Delaney of Ann Arbor, Larry Zdeb of Troy, Carolyn Mel of Royal Oak, Christine Bruxvoort of Ypsilanti, Krysti Spence of Madison Heights, Robert Bielat of Ferndale, Candace Law of Berkley, and Anthony Duce of Birmingham.

The show runs Jan. 11-28, 2012, with a reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, 2012. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and noon-9 p.m. Friday; (248) 544-0394, or visit www.lawrencestreetyart.com

GET OUT!

Art

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 Stilettoes," an exhibit of the work of Tophir 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

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 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

JOE'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: John Roy, through Dec. 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: Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31; Scott Henry, Jan. 5-7, 2012; Mark Sweeney, Jan. 12-14, 2012; Jeff Caldwell, Jan. 19-21, 2012; Frances Dilorinzo, Jan. 26-28, 2012

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

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

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

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

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GET OUT

Continued from page B6

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

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 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

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "The Big Year," \$3
Coming up: "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; 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
Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

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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, 2012. 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 his-

tory of Red Ryder BB guns, which were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth, and artifacts of the 1940s. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK

Time/Date: Crossroads Ceili, Bua and Nic Gareiss, Dec. 29-30; The Fred Eaglesmith Traveling 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 Cebal 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

BASELINE FOLK 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. 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 PLAYERS BARN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14, 2012

Location: 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "From Broadway to Hollywood with the MOT" features soloists "up close and personal" in an intimate setting. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors and students. Advance tickets

are available 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets may also be purchased at www.recreg.fhgov.com or by phone at (248) 473-1848
Coming up: Blackthorn, March 9-10, 2012

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

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

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February 2012

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2/11/2012 11:00 AM

\$12 Adult, \$11 Senior/Youth, \$8 Group

March 2012

Kenya Safari Acrobats

3/30/2012 10:00 AM \$8/person.

3/30/2012 7:30 PM

\$25 Adult, \$20 Senior/Youth/Group, \$19 Early Bird Special by 1/30/12

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Celebrate New Year with tasty, nonalcoholic drinks

AAA's popular "Great Pretenders Party Guide" is available as a digital publication to help party hosts plan festive holiday gatherings — including tips on how to help reduce drinking and driving deaths and injuries.

The free guide includes drink recipes from AAA-Diamond rated hotels and restaurants that are appropriate for year-round festivities as well as holiday gatherings. It also offers advice to help party hosts monitor alcohol consumption among guests.

Drunken driving continues to be a serious problem on roadways and is a factor in more than one-third of all traffic deaths. Among the safety tips for party hosts:

- If despite your best efforts, some of your guests have had too much to drink, arrange for a ride with another guest who is sober, call a cab or have them stay overnight.
- Choose a reliable "bartender" who will keep track of the size and number of drinks that guests consume. Don't let guests mix their own drinks.
- Plan activities like party games to engage people and make for less active consumption of alcohol.
- Serve foods that act as a buffer to alcohol. High protein foods such as cheese and meats are best because protein stays in the stomach longer slowing alcohol absorption.
- Always offer nonalcoholic drinks or "mocktails" for designated drivers and others who prefer not to drink alcohol. Sparking grape juice is a good alternative to champagne.

The digital guide is located at AAA.com/Pretenders. Recipe cards, which include a nonalcoholic drink and promote the digital guide, are available at AAA branches statewide.

Here's a sampling of recipes:

Sparkling Pineapple Sunset

Submitted by Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1 cup Perrier
- Splash of grenadine
- Cherry for garnish

In a large glass filled halfway with ice, add equal parts pineapple juice and Perrier (or any sparkling water). Shake well. Add a splash of grenadine. Garnish with marashino cherry.

Magic Punch

Submitted by Dakota Magic Casino and Hotel, Hankinson, N.C.

- 1½ ounces pineapple juice
 - 1½ ounces cherry juice
 - 2½ ounces orange juice
 - 2½ ounces cranberry juice
 - 1½ ounces lemon juice
 - 1½ ounces 7-Up
 - 2½ ounces nonalcoholic margarita mix
- Blend all ingredients. Pour over ice.



A Refreshing Twist

Submitted by Ameristar Casino Hotel, Council Bluffs, Iowa

- 4 mint leaves
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 5 ounces ginger ale
- 5 ounces green tea
- 1 lime wedge

Lightly muddle mint leaves and sugar in bottom of a pint glass with a splash of green tea until all of the sugar is dissolved. Fill glass about half full of ice and add ginger ale and remaining green tea. Stir and top with squeezed lime wedge.

Creamelon

Submitted by Sixteen, Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago, Ill.

- 3 cups chopped seedless watermelon
- 1 cup chilled green tea
- 1 cup chilled cream soda
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon light brown sugar
- Ice cubes

Blend everything on a low speed and serve in a tall glass. Garnish with big watermelon slice.

Sweet Texas Juice

Submitted by Amarillo Bar-B-Que, Bellevue, Neb.

- 1 part pineapple juice
- 1 part cranberry juice
- 1 part freshly squeezed lemonade
- Cherry for garnish
- Ice cubes

Fill large glass with ice. Add one part pineapple juice, then one part cranberry juice. Top with lemonade. Garnish with cherry.

Baja Sol Cranberry Cooler

Submitted by Baja Sol Cantina, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

- 4 cups cranberry juice
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 3 cups ginger ale
- 1½ cups orange juice
- ½ fresh lime (squeezed)

Combine all ingredients in pitcher. Serve over ice in a sugar-rimmed glass.

Submit an apple recipe to win a mixer, bragging rights

The Michigan Apple Committee is accepting recipes through Jan. 31, 2012 for its annual Michigan Apple Amateur Recipe Contest.

"We're looking for original Michigan Apple recipes that will wow the judges," stated Denise Donohue, Executive Director of the Michigan Apple Committee. "Each year recipes submitted

are different and possibly more creative than the previous year."

Amateur cooks may send recipes that highlight Michigan-grown apples, to the Michigan Apple Committee via mail or e-mail. Mailed entries must be received before Jan. 31, 2012 at Michigan Apple Committee, 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906. E-mail entries must

arrive at Staff@MichiganApples.com before 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2012.

Recipes will be judged on taste, originality, preparation, and apple significance.

The top three highest-scoring recipe winners will receive a KitchenAid stand mixer. Their recipes also may be featured on cards distributed by the Michi-

gan Apple Committee at select retailers and farm markets in the Midwest.

Cooks can visit www.MichiganApples.com/contests for more information.

Need a little inspiration to enter the contest? Here are recipes for three previous winners, Pure Bliss Apple Ginger Scones, Skillet Apple-Cherry Pie, and Baked Apple Stuffed French Toast.

Skillet Apple-Cherry Pie

Created by Donna Bardocz of Howell
7-8 Servings

- Refrigerated pie crust (15-ounce box)
- ½ cup dried cherries
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter
- ½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- ½ cup (4 tablespoons) cherry preserves
- 4 tart Michigan baking apples, such as Golden Delicious, Gravenstein, Baldwin, Macoun, Northern Spy or Winesap, washed very well
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar (for sprinkling on top)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Combine the dried cherries, pecans, ½ cup brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl and set aside.

Select an ovenproof skillet that measures 9 inches across the bottom and 11-12 inches across the top. A cast-iron skillet works well and makes a home-style presentation. Melt the butter in the skillet over medium heat, and then stir in the other ½ cup of brown sugar and cherry preserves. When the mixture is bubbling evenly over the surface of the pan — 30 seconds or so — remove pan from the heat.

Do not peel the apples; the peels will help them to hold together. Halve them top to bottom, however, and core each half. Spoon some of the cherry-walnut mixture into each apple half, compacting it with a finger.

Quickly invert the stuffed apple halves and place them cut side down in the skillet. You should be able to get 6 or 7 around the outside and 1 in the center. Finely dice the remaining apple half, if left over, and scatter the pieces between the apples. Sprinkle the leftover cherry-nut mixture between the apples.

Between two sheets of waxed paper, converge and roll together both top and bottom pie crusts to form one 12-inch circle. After removing the top sheet of waxed paper, invert the pastry over the apples, center it and peel off the other sheet of paper. Lifting the edge of the pastry, either tuck the edge straight down along the inside of the pan or pinch it to crimp the edge. Poke two large vent holes in the pastry with a paring knife, twisting the knife to enlarge the holes slightly.

Lightly brush the pastry with the milk and sprinkle surface with sugar. Place the pie directly on the center oven rack and bake for 20 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 375 degrees and bake until the top crust is golden brown, another 25 minutes.

Transfer the pie to a cooling rack and let cool for at least 30 minutes or to room temperature before serving.



PURE BLISS Apple Ginger Scones

Created by Nadine Mesch of Mount Healthy, Ohio

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons cold butter
- 2 Gala apples, peeled and finely chopped
- ½ cup candied ginger, chopped
- 1 egg
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 1½ teaspoons lemon zest
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder and

salt. Using a cheese grater, grate the cold butter into the flour mixture. Stir. Add chopped Gala apples and candied ginger. In a small bowl mix together the egg, cream and lemon zest. Gently mix into apple mixture. Stir until dough forms. Knead dough 6 times. Place on parchment paper, form into an 8 inch round. About 1 inch thick. Cut into 8 wedges; separate slightly.

Bake for approximately 15 minutes until just lightly golden. Cool slightly. Combine powder sugar and lemon juice, drizzle over scones.

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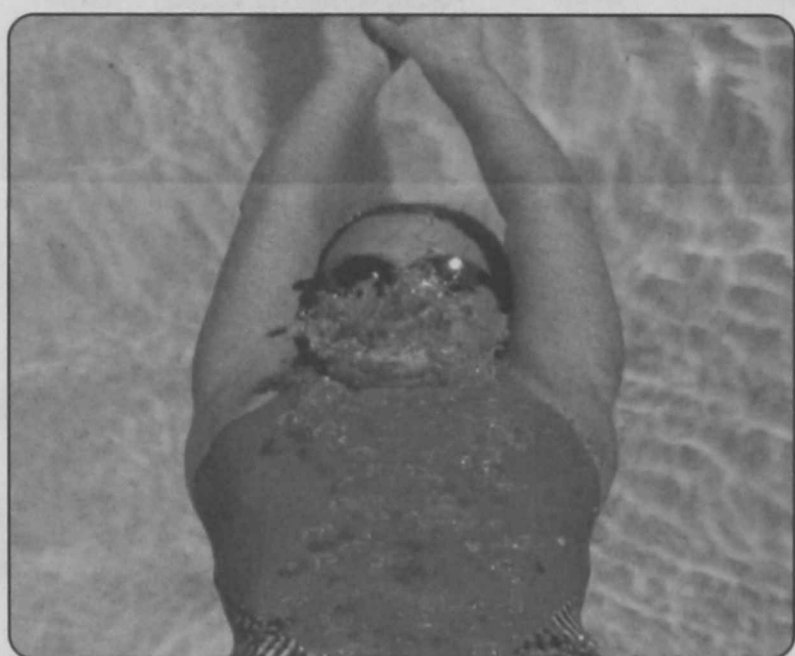
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