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HOLIDAY
TO REMEMBER
LOCAL NEWS, A6



LOCAL FIREFIGHTER
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ENTERTAINMENT, B6

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Decorating contest

Canton Leisure Services' annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest is a chance to win "bragging rights" and a Leisure Services gift certificate for going all out in the spirit of the holidays.

Canton residents who've decorated their homes or yards with twinkling lights, beautiful garland, dazzling wreaths, inflatable jolly Santas, and other holiday decorations, can enter. Just post a photo by Dec. 15, on Canton Leisure Services' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cantonfun or call (734) 394-5474 to make arrangements for a photo to be taken. Winners will be announced on Monday, Dec. 17.

The contest is free to enter and is open to all Canton residents.

Goodfellows aid goes to more area families

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

After the death of longtime Canton Goodfellows President Nancy Spencer in October, community volunteers and donors have answered the challenge to provide clothing, toys and food for 179 needy families — including 463 children — and 31 senior citizens.

"It has been different without Nancy, but people have stepped up," John Spencer, her husband of 45 years, said Wednesday. Goodfellows, with its No Child Without a Christmas motto, is

helping nearly 30 more families this holiday season compared to last year, as many local families continue to struggle through tough economic times.

Goodfellows volunteer Nancy Williams, using Facebook and her personal email account, managed within eight days to find donors to "adopt" and buy gifts for 356 children. Within another week, she found help for 107 teens.

"It was certainly a labor of love, and I can't thank the community enough," Williams said, saying support even came from outside Canton. "The community

response has been great." Spencer, carrying on his late wife's role, said Canton Goodfellows spends around \$25,000 a year, not counting the gifts bought by donors who adopt families.

"When you include that, we're probably looking at a \$100,000 program every year," Spencer said.

Early next week, volunteers will gather at the Canton Administration Building to collect and organize donated gifts.

"We'll look through them and see what we need to supplement," Spencer said.

Most gift recipients will pick up their gifts Saturday, Dec. 15, at township hall, though volunteers will deliver packages to residents, especially seniors, who rely on home delivery.

Canton Goodfellows carries out its mission with a small army of volunteers. Monetary donations may be made at any time by addressing checks to Canton Goodfellows and mailing them to Canton Goodfellows, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. For more information, go to www.cantongoodfellows.org.

dclm@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2238

Candlelight vigil

Candles will glow around the world Sunday, Dec. 9, when tens of thousands of bereaved parents, siblings, grandparents, relatives and friends will join together to light remembrance candles to honor the memories of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

The local Compassionate Friends ceremony, sponsored by the TCF Western Wayne County (Livonia) chapter, takes place in Plymouth's Kellogg Park Sunday, Dec. 9, beginning at 7 p.m.

The remembrance will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, poetry and songs. Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon.

For more information or to register a child, call (734) 778-0800 or e-mail either Gail Lafferty or Brenda Hernandez at tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com.



Kathleen Salla is retiring as Canton's Downtown Development Authority coordinator.

DDA chief retiring at year's end

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Kathleen Salla has left an indelible mark on Canton's premier shopping district — the bustling Ford Road corridor, that's home to 340 businesses, Michigan's only IKEA store, eye-catching public art and a popular summertime jazz concert series.

Salla has helped spearhead

efforts to spruce up and market the district for the last 14 years as Canton's first downtown development coordinator. Long after she retires at year's end, her supporters say her leadership will have an impact.

"She is so positive Canton Township," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "She has been just an outstanding employee. She will be truly missed."

Through prosperous times

and an economic recession, Salla worked alongside the Canton Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Leisure Services, among other groups, to promote the community.

"She has been a tremendous asset to — the township and the DDA," said Canton Treas-

Please see SALLA, A7

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School board grapples with bond parameters

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Facing declining enrollment projections and wanting a bus replacement program that lasts longer than five years, Plymouth-Canton Board of Education trustees continued Tuesday to wrestle with the parameters of a possible bond question they could put to voters in May.

Board members are considering asking for a \$117 million bond to basically accomplish three things: Solve an equity issue by closing Central Middle School and either building a new school or expanding the remaining four middle schools; significantly enhance the district's technology capabilities; and replace an aging bus fleet.

But how those three things will

be accomplished, and what the final bond package will look like, is still up in the air.

What to do with Central Middle School, and its 850 students, is at the center of the discussion. There are three options being considered as solutions. One option is to build a new school on district-owned property in Canton, at a cost of some \$38 million. Another option is to expand

to expand at least three, and possibly all four, of the remaining four middle schools, at a cost of some \$28 million.

Or the district could renovate Central Middle School to bring it up to standards, at a cost of some \$25 million. But that option would come with its own issues.

"We'd have to find somewhere

Please see BOND, A5

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The Canton Rotary will offer two public concerts Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. featuring "Mr. Steve" of SteveSongs, a rising star on the national kids' music scene.

Rotary concerts feature PBS star

Canton Rotary brings a big dose of holiday cheer to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill as part of their Candy Canes and Kiddie Rock programming efforts this holiday season.

In addition to a special invitation-only concert offered to Headstart and Starfish families on the morning of Dec. 8, the Rotary will offer two public concerts.

A recipient of numerous music awards, Mr. Steve is best known for his role on national TV as the co-host of the PBS KIDS morning block featuring favorites like Curious George and Clifford.

Tickets to PBS's Mr. Steve performing SteveSongs at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill on Friday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. are \$16 for adults and \$14 for youth/seniors.

8 fundraising concert at 7 p.m. are \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth/seniors. To purchase tickets or to find more information, visit www.cantonvillage-theater.org or call (734) 394-5144.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is conveniently located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI 48187.

Ticket sales for these holiday extravaganzas will benefit ongoing charity efforts of the Canton Rotary, which has helped in the Canton Community by annually donating Christmas baskets to our senior citizens in need, partnering with the Salvation Army and the Plymouth-Canton Schools Clothing Bank.

In the International Community the Canton Rotary has worked on water projects in El Salvador, contributed to the worldwide polo eradication effort, helped build a home for one of the homeless "Children of the Dump" families in Nicaragua, and contributed to the installation of a heating system at an orphanage in Asia.

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

HELP FOR MOM

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 8
Location: RealBarBQ of Canton, 42452 Ford Road
Details: Officials at RealBarBQ of Canton said they're joining a variety of people and groups in the Plymouth-Canton community embracing and supporting one of their own. Joanne Savage, a widow and mother of three sons Colin, Jack and Nolan, was diagnosed with a rare cancer called peritoneal carcinoma.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT EREADER

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 8, 4-5 p.m.
Location: Canton Public Library
Details: Ready to make the leap into the world of eBooks, but not sure how to choose the right one for you? Join us on Saturday, December 8th from 4:00-5:00 PM to learn more about the current world of eBooks and eReaders.

COOKIE WALK

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to noon
Location: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh, in Westland.
Details: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church will hold a cookie walk/bake sale.

COLORING CONTEST

Date/Time: Now through Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8:30-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.
Location: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, 40875 Plymouth Road
Details: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet will be holding a coloring contest.

GOLF

Continued from page A1

for the site on Lotz Road between Palmer and Michigan Avenue.

"We are working on the agreement with Billy Casper, and I would hope to have the terms to present to the board in January," Canton Leisure Services Director Debbie Bilibrey-Honowitz said.

Ross family loyalists who packed a Nov. 13 township board meeting requested the financial comparison and said the debate shouldn't simply

be about money. However, officials such as Trustee John Anthony have said the decision should hinge on what's financially prudent for Canton's 90,000-plus residents — not just those who support the existing company.

Just this week, Trustee Pat Williams responded to questions by indicating he intends to study the financial details that become available prior to the expected vote in January.

"In this specific case, I am still concerned about the revenue numbers as well as the abil-

ity for Casper to deliver the results," Williams said Tuesday. "Therefore, I am waiting for the presentation in January to allow me to go through the numbers again, and probably one of the most important pieces of the deal for me is going to be performance guarantees."

Billy Casper Golf manages 125 golf courses in the Midwest, including 70 municipal sites such as Plymouth Township's Hilltop Golf Course. Plymouth Township officials have indicated they have been pleased with

the company's performance.

In a separate development, Canton has abandoned for now an earlier proposal to potentially switch management of the Pheasant Run Golf Club on Summit Parkway west of Canton Center. Township Supervisor Phil Lajoy said during the Nov. 13 meeting that any Pheasant Run changes have been shelved as talks continue with township employees who operate the site.

dciem@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2238

AROUND CANTON



Santa's Shoes

Talented local youths, ages 5-18, showcase their acting talents in Spotlight on Youth's upcoming production of "Santa's Shoes" Dec. 13-16, at the Village Theater of Cherry Hill. Santa himself serves as the narrator of the play and will be available afterwards for "Photos with Santa." Tickets are \$10 each.

COLORING CONTEST

Date/Time: Now through Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8:30-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.
Location: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, 40875 Plymouth Road
Details: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet will be holding a coloring contest.

WCGH REUNION

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
Location: Café Marquette in the William D. Ford Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Wayne County General Hospital employees will gather for their 28th annual holiday reunion. A luncheon buffet will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$16 and includes beverage, dessert and tip. You can pay at the door.

Contact: For more information contact Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or e-mail chkhlt@wideopenwest.com. Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or e-mail fightingjirish316@gmail.net or Pat Libottoni at (734) 331-9291 or e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journaling as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.
Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email annchristensen@cchnet.net.

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First Friday, 9:15-11:30 a.m.
Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth
Details: The St. Edith's St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.
Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stemkops@gmail.com, or visit www.stekmops.org

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth
Details: Meetings are open to sewists of all levels. The Nov. 1 meeting features "Purse/Tote challenge" judging and holiday gift ideas. The Dec. 6 meeting features "Holiday potluck luncheon."
Contact: For more information, email ASGP@comcast.net

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton carver Ted Wakar is a fixture at the Plymouth Ice Festival, which takes place Jan. 18-20 in downtown Plymouth. This year, though, the festival will be run as a for-profit event.

Ice festival approved, drops nonprofit status

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The 2013 Plymouth Ice Festival got the green light Monday with the approval of a permit for the three-day show by a Plymouth City Commission vote.

But the festival, scheduled for Jan. 18-20, will operate as a for-profit enterprise, and the nonprofit Plymouth International Ice Festival committee will dissolve, said Sam Walton, the event's executive producer, and Commissioner Ron Loisel, the festival committee chairman.

Walton, who is planning his fourth ice show, told commissioners that landing event sponsorships to fund the festival would be easier if potential sponsors see the event as a venture that's attempting to make a profit.

"The world has changed a little bit" when it comes

to enticing sponsors to fund public events, Walton told commissioners. "Sponsors want to see for-profit events."

Festival funding has been down in recent years, as many of its big corporate sponsors withdrew, and Walton has been working to increase sponsorships. The ice festival budget has hovered around \$85,000 in recent years, while budgets were well over \$100,000.

Walton said he is "looking forward to a bigger and better event." Next year's ice festival will be Plymouth's 31st.

"I take my role seriously and I want to make everybody proud," he said.

Loisel said Walton has agreed to take several steps ahead of dissolving the festival committee, including providing financial records from this year's festival, which are overdue, to its accountant, and pay-

ing any penalties resulting from the late filing of its 2012 Internal Revenue Service statement, which is required of organizations exempt from taxes.

Loisel tried to get those conditions attached to the commission's approval of the event permit, but some commissioners balked at that, saying the city shouldn't get involved in an agreement between Walton and the festival committee.

However, Commissioner Diane Bogenrieder's motion to postpone the vote for two weeks died for lack of support. Loisel withdrew his motion for conditional approval, and introduced a motion to approve the festival permit without conditions.

"If he's allowed the freedom to create an event where he's allowed to make some money, let him," said Loisel of the Walton after the meeting.

Help children have happy holiday season

Scop the Newshound is asking Canton Township families to join the O&E Media toy drive to benefit youth served by Methodist Children's Home Society and Orphans Children's Services.

"Both organizations help protect abused and neglected children by providing housing, education and other services," said Choya Jordan, O&E Media marketing manager and project organizer. "Please consider donating a new unwrapped gift this year. Your gift will help brighten a youth's holiday season."

Donate a new unwrapped toy and you will receive a voucher for a free Buddy's four-square cheese pizza. Drop off gifts at these O&E Media and partner locations:
• Plymouth Office and Distribution Center, 41304 Concept Drive (east of Haggerty

between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads).

• South Lyon Office, 101 N. Lafayette (corner of Pontiac Trail and Lafayette in downtown South Lyon).

• Southfield Chamber of Commerce, 24300 Southfield Road, Suite 101 (248) 557-6661 (from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays).

• The Birmingham Community House, 380 Bates Street, in downtown Birmingham (248) 644-5832 (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays).

All gifts must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7.

This is the second year the O&E has sponsored a toy drive to benefit these local organizations and help brighten the holidays for area children.

The Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford has been successfully helping children for 95 years, but right now foster children are in dire

straits. The cost of caring for these children has increased, but state funding has not. In these hard economic times, these children need help now, more than ever.

Last year MCHS served more than 270 children through residential, foster care, adoption and literacy programs.

Orphans Children's Services has been a beacon of hope for children and families for more than 50 years.

Orphans seeks to protect and nurture children and youth by providing shelter, sustenance, life and educational skills and opportunities. Orphans programs and services touch children from birth to young adulthood, and the agency remains committed to them every step of the way.

For more information contact Choya Jordan via email at chjordan@hometownlife.com.

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CRIME WATCH

Embezzlement charge

1 A former employee of Guitar Center, on Ford east of Lotz, is facing a court date after Canton police cited him for embezzling under \$100, a police report said.

Police went to the store Sunday after receiving a call that a 24-year-old employee who handled a transaction gave a customer \$62 — rather than \$142 he was supposed to receive — for equipment he traded in, the report said.

The employee, accused of pocketing the \$80 difference, has since returned the money and expressed regret, the report said. Canton police went to the store, escorted the employee out, placed him under arrest for embezzling under \$100, took him to the police station, processed him and cited him for embezzlement.

Reckless driving

2 A 20-year-old woman was cited for reckless driving following allegations she struck three vehicles while she was driving in the parking lot of Meadowood Townhomes, northeast of Palmer and Haggerty.

Police received a call about the incident about 3:15 p.m. Saturday. They arrived to find the suspect, in a red Ford Focus, had struck two other vehicles and pushed one of them into a third vehicle, a police report said.

The driver told police she swerved to avoid a sewer drain and lost control of her car. She said she was driving 15 mph when the accident happened.

Cocaine warrant

3 Canton police arrested a 23-year-old man and turned him over to Wayne County authorities

after learning he was wanted on a probation warrant involving possession of cocaine, a police report said.

Police had stopped the driver on Michigan Avenue near I-275 about 9 p.m. Nov. 28 after the vehicle matched the description of a car involved in an unrelated credit card case. A passenger in the vehicle admitted he was wanted by Wayne County for the probation warrant, the report said.

Drug arrest

4 Police confiscated heroin and marijuana from a 44-year-old man after making a traffic stop when the driver allegedly failed to stop for a flashing red light while driving south on Haggerty at Van Born, a police report said.

The report said the 44-year-old man, an Oak Park resident, nearly caused a traffic crash about 4:30 a.m. Nov. 28 while driving a 1996 Dodge Ram.

Police stopped the driver and noticed the smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle, the report said. The driver admitted he had smoked marijuana on his way to work at a Canton fast food restaur-

ant, the report said.

Police ordered the driver out of the car, searched the vehicle and found numerous remnants of marijuana, according to the report. Police also learned the suspect was carrying a small plastic bag with eight pieces of folded tin foil containing heroin, the police report said.

The suspect said he had bought the drugs from a man who sells it on a Detroit street corner.

Police impounded the vehicle. During a later search at the police station, the suspect was found to have three small bags of marijuana in his possession, the report said.

Civic stolen

5 A 52-year-old man notified police the morning of Nov. 27 to report that his 2010 Honda Civic had been stolen while it was parked on Crossbow Circle, southeast of Haggerty and Cherry Hill, a police report said.

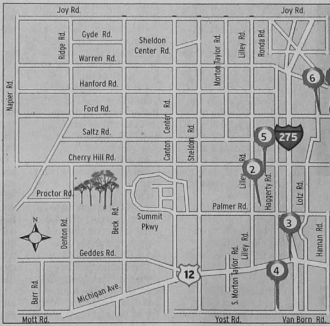
The man told police he makes his car payments every month and wasn't late. He said he had all the keys to the vehicle, which he said was locked. Police didn't spot any broken glass near where the vehicle had been parked.

The man told police the car was taken between 5 p.m. Nov. 26 and 9 a.m. Nov. 27.

Credit card fraud

6 A Canton woman contacted police Nov. 27 to report that someone had tried to use online her credit card from the Walmart store on Ford east of Lotz. She wanted to file a report after being notified by the store.

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



Canton bank suspect faces federal charges

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer



The federal criminal complaint indicates a suspect entered the Bank of America branch

Canton bank robbery suspect Raymond Ralph Ivey has been named in a criminal complaint in U.S. District Court in Detroit that accuses him of robbing the Bank of America branch on Michigan Avenue near Canton Center and changing his clothing outside after he went to the nearby Dick's Sporting Goods store and bought new attire using stolen money.

The complaint obtained from the U.S. Attorney's Office accuses Ivey, a Michigan parolee involved in two bank robberies from 2009, of robbing the Canton bank shortly after 9 a.m. Nov. 19 before township police captured him near the scene.

Ivey remains in state custody as he awaits his appearance in federal court on the criminal complaint implicating him in the Canton bank robbery, U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman Gina Balaya said.

One of the 2009 incidents occurred at the Comerica Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

Though the Canton bank robbery case was turned over to federal authorities, Ivey also appeared after his arrest in Plymouth 35th District Court for fines he allegedly failed to pay for a 2009 stalking case, according to the court.

wearing a brown jacket and a blue baseball hat with a white letter "B" before he approached a teller and handed a note demanding money.

The complaint quotes the note as saying, "This is a robbery, give me the money and no one will be hurt." It accuses Ivey of obtaining a substantial amount of money, buying new clothes and changing before he was arrested by Canton police.

At the time, Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner had commended township police for their quick response to the incident, calling it "a good job by the police officers."

The federal complaint said the clothing Ivey allegedly wore during the robbery was confiscated. The complaint accuses the suspect of placing two plastic beverage containers in his jacket pockets so it would appear he had a weapon.

Ivey once had a Canton address. The federal complaint involves allegations and doesn't reflect a formal guilty plea or conviction.

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Museum exhibit looks at Victorian era

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The new holiday display at the Plymouth Historical Museum recalls a time before artificial Christmas trees and gigantic light displays, when children might have gone ice skating or snowshoeing Christmas morning instead of breaking out the new video games.

The exhibit, "A Dickens of a Christmas," runs through Thursday, Jan. 13, at the museum at 155 S. Main.

"We're showing a time period that is really before a lot of the Christmas decoration frenzy we know today," museum Director Liz Kerstens said during a tour Monday.

Kerstens said she likes to call the Victorian holiday style "simple but elegant." The exhibit combines

a look at what Victorian-era Plymouth might have looked like at Christmas time with a celebration of the bicentennial of the novelist Charles Dickens, the most popular English writer of that era. The museum's "Main Street" is decked out with wreaths on the doors of businesses plus a few Christmas trees, and some of Dickens' characters from *A Christmas Carol*, including Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim, are on the street. There's also a full-sized sleigh and a sleigh buggy, which would have been used for a child.

Kerstens said Christmas trees were popularized in England during the Victorian period by the German-born Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband. There would not have been many trees during the early part of Victoria's

reign, she said, but more during the later years.

The trees are decorated with strings of popcorn and cranberries, paper ornaments and real candles with small drip pans. "They did whatever they had the materials for and the imagination to do," Kerstens said. She credited the Trailwood Garden Club with decorating most of the trees on display at the museum.

The exhibit also features enlarged color drawings from an illustrated edition of *A Christmas Carol*, alongside mannequins wearing clothing similar to that depicted in the pictures.

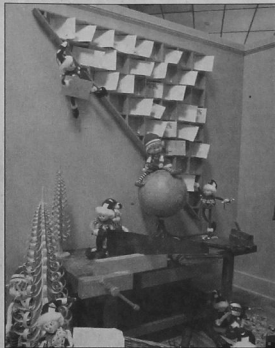
"The Americans got their fashions from England, France," via fashion magazines read by women in the U.S., Kerstens said. "The women who were here would've wanted to dress fancy."

In Plymouth's early days, frontier conditions made that difficult, but after the Civil War, Kerstens said, women in town were wearing the latest fashions.

There is also a Victorian living room, a depiction of Santa Claus in his workshop and a collection of Victorian-era toys, including dolls, stacking blocks, a toy farm set with miniature animal figurines and a mechanical toy featuring the famous British puppet characters Punch and Judy.

Museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students 17 and younger. Children can visit Santa Claus during museum hours every Saturday through Dec. 22.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elves working hard in Santa's workshop.

BOND

Continued from page A1

to put 850 students while that work was being done," said Phil Freeman, the district's assistant superintendent for facilities and operations. "At this point in time, there are no feasible options within our own district outside our district."

Housing issues

The eventual option chosen to deal with middle school housing issues could come down to enrollment, and where students are coming from. Three enrollment projections done by outside firms for the district show enrollment at the middle school level declining between 685 and 937 students by the

2017-18 school year.

The projections do not forecast from where the students will be coming. A large portion of the district's middle school students attending schools in Plymouth are actually Canton residents. According to Freeman, a former Pioneer Middle School principal, the majority of students at Pioneer, Central and East middle schools live in Canton.

That's why board Secretary Judy Mardigian, who has pushed for years for a new middle school, wants to know the migration patterns of students. "I'm interested in adding classrooms in Canton, because that's what the population dictates," Mardigian said. "I'm not wedded to (building) a new middle school, but I want to see more class-

rooms in Canton."

Responding to a request from the board, administrators also stretched the original five-year replacement plan for buses, which would have cost some \$9.1 million, into a 10-year plan. That estimation pushed the cost of the transportation portion of the bond to more than \$19 million.

Because of the requirements of bond repayment, extending the bus replacement portion of the package would reduce the amount of the overall package to some \$95 million and leave the district with choices to make about what to cut out.

Administrators want to spend some \$30 million on instruction and technology needs, including computers, laptops, dig-

ital tablets and technology devices to support the district's technology curriculum and the district's own fiber wireless networks for voice and data.

Online needs

The needs are growing in the district, with the state set to go to an online MEAP testing system in a couple of years.

Jeanne Farina, the district's assistant superintendent for instruction, said the district has gotten by so far. That is, she said, no longer the case.

"We've been able to purchase technology with general fund money," Farina said. "We're no longer able to keep up with it doing it that way."

Trustee Sheila Paton, who has children in the district, said the technology part of the bond

question should be just as important as the bricks-and-mortar portions.

"We've decided buses are a no-brainer, we need them to get kids to school," Paton said. "And our schools have to have a roof, we know that. (Technology) is how our kids learn now. It's a competitive advantage for us, and it should be a no-brainer, too."

Trustees also wanted to take a closer look at any potential "fat" that might be in the administration's bond recommendation. The items included in the recommendation are divided largely into "Priority 1" and "Priority 2" items.

"Priority 1 looks like 'needs,' and Priority 2 looks like 'wants,'" Treasurer Barry Simescu said. "My thinking is (Pri-

ority 2) might be a place we look at. That could get us \$15 or \$16 million, and take us closer to a \$100 million bond instead of a \$120 million."

Administrators are hoping for a board decision on seeking the bond by its Jan. 8 board meeting. The potential election would come in May.

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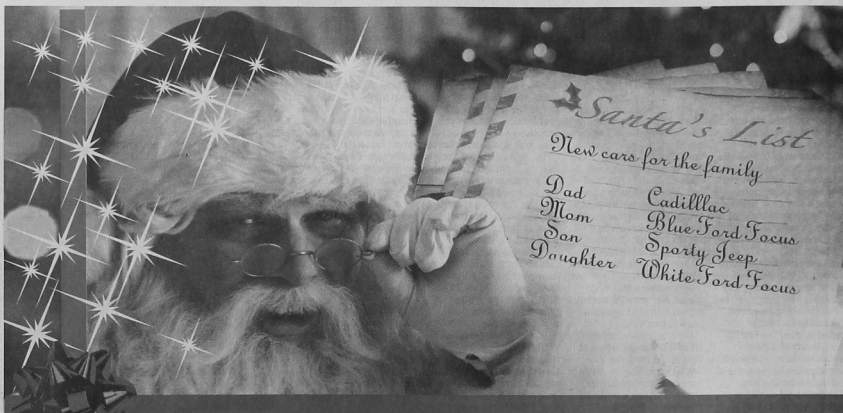
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Does your holiday gift list include a new car?

Area dealers are ready, willing to help make it a Christmas to remember

By Michelle Muñoz
Correspondent

We've all seen the TV commercials around this time of year — someone looks out their window Christmas morning to find a shiny new car in the driveway with a big bow on top. Have you ever wondered if that really happens?

Area car dealers say it does indeed, and the big bow is part of the deal. Dealers all over southeast Michigan say giving cars as gifts doesn't happen everyday, but when it does the buyer often enlists the help of the dealership to orches-

trate the perfect surprise. course, growing up in it, I have always seen about four or five during the holiday season," Jeannotte said. "It's a lot more common than people are aware."

Ed Pobur, general manager of Cadillac of Novi, likes to remind his sales staff that not only is the customer trying to craft a surprise, but they are also buying a new car, something that people only do every few years. Pobur and his sales staff do what they can to make the experience special.

Rob Millar, a sales associate at Fred Lav-
ery Porsche in Birmingham, said he has delivered vehicles to valet stands at restaurants or country clubs. Bob Faust, general sales manager at Jack Demmer Ford in Wayne, said the dealership has even delivered vehicles Christmas Day to a buyer's home.

Dealers said the cars are going to children from parents for graduation or birthdays, from one spouse to another (usually from husband to wife) and sometimes from children to their parents.

Popular models

A dealership's most popular models are often their most popular gifts as well. Often the people giving the car go for practicality and affordability rather than luxury. Jason Scott, general manager of Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth, said the customer will go with whatever car fits their needs.

Hunsinger enjoys getting involved and helping to create a magical gift-giving moment.

"There hasn't been a request that we haven't been able to assist with the gifting of a vehicle yet," Hunsinger said. "It's really a fun and engaging experience."

Ron Chaudoin, general manager at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth, said gifting a car to loved ones is something everyone should take into consideration.

"I don't know why more people don't buy them as gifts," Chaudoin said. "If you're

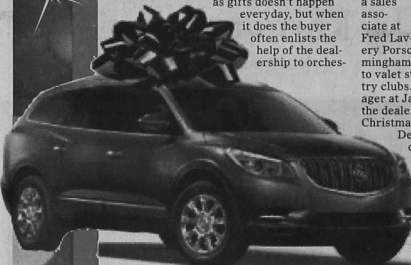
going to buy a car anyway, why not take credit for it and get it as a present for the family."

Before making the move, though, do your homework. Even though it is often a surprise and a gift, picking the right car requires some forethought. Steve Hunsinger, new car sales manager at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn, said he has seen a few customers try to return a gifted car after the holidays.

Deciding between a lease and a purchase depends on the situation, dealers said. Chaudoin said parents of children heading off to college should consider whether they want the car to last throughout the four years of school when opting for a lease or purchase.

When spouses are picking a car for each other, doing some preliminary shopping can make a big difference, dealers said. Jeannotte said the successful surprises usually start with a couple browsing together before one decides to make the car a gift. He said some spouses also like to go with a pre-

paid lease, so the car can be enjoyed worry-free until it's time to pull out another big holiday bow.



John Swanson, Buick and GMC sales consultant from Somerset Buick in Troy, said the deals customers can get during the holidays bring them in, not necessarily gift shopping.

"It definitely happens during the holidays," said Mike Schrieber, new vehicle sales manager at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia. "Every year there is someone who wants to buy a car for a loved one and put a bow on it and have them show up here and surprise them."

Chris Jeannotte of Bob Jeannotte Buick GMC in Plymouth said the dealership already has two cars prepared for Christmas delivery.

"I've been in the business for 22 years and, of



Check Social Security info to avoid errors later

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

I met with a new client recently and, when reviewing their information, something didn't seem quite right. The husband told me that he had worked for nearly 40 years, but when I looked at his Social Security benefits, it appeared that he was not receiving nearly the amount which I thought he was entitled to. When I questioned him on it, he told me that one of his previous employers had misreported his Social Security number and the result was he did not get credit for his earnings for a number of years.

He told me that he didn't notice the error until he applied for Social Security. He was told that because of statute of limitation issues with Social Security, it was too late to make a change. He hired an attorney to fight his case, but he was unsuccessful. The end result was that he and his wife received reduced benefits because of the clerical error. I'm not sure how often this

happens, but I have no doubt when it does, the consequences are severe. In the late 1990s, the Social Security Administration recognized that there were issues when it came to benefits. As a result, the agency started sending out a yearly statement to everyone on his/her birthday. The statement contained a list of annual Social Security earnings from the time you had started working to the present time. In addition, the statement also estimates your Social Security benefit. It showed what would happen if you collected at your normal retirement age at 62 or at 70.

Sending out the statements provided an easy way for people to review their Social Security information. Unfortunately, because of budget cuts, the SSA ceased sending those statements for all citizens last year. However, the SSA did start resending statements on a person's 25th birthday and to those over age 60 who are receiving benefits. If you were not in that limited group of people who are receiving a Social Security benefit statement, checking your benefits is something you need to do. I recommend checking your Social Security earnings record once a year to make sure that

they are accurate. Social Security has made it easy to do. Go online at www.ssa.gov/mystatement to review your account. You will be asked a number of questions about yourself and this will allow you to set up an account where you can review your earnings. The few minutes that you spend can eventually mean thousands of dollars more that will end up in your pocket — exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

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

SALLA

Continued from page A1

sure Melissa McLaughlin, who chairs the DDA board. "She has managed during some of the most challenging years we've ever had in the DDA. One of her greatest assets is Kathleen. She is charming and intelligent, and she has had an enormous positive impact. She is pretty remarkable."

Upbeat tone

Salla, a Plymouth Township resident, reflected on her time as DDA coordinator during an interview in her third-floor township hall office. Even a gray, foggy Monday afternoon couldn't dampen the upbeat atmosphere inside, where a large, colorful Stop Canton display greets visitors. "I'm privileged that I got to be a part of this during a very exciting time," Salla said.

Her successor hasn't been named — a choice LaJoy will make working with the Canton Merit Commission. Salla began her Can-



Salla

ton career as coordinator of township volunteers in 1994, then became the first DDA coordinator in January of 1999. The DDA district, which captures certain tax revenues to spur improvements along Ford Road, began in 1984 as a fledgling strip between Sheldon and Morton Taylor, but was expanded in 1996 to encompass a three-mile stretch from west of Canton Center to the Canton-Westland boundary.

Salla, whose education includes a bachelor's degree in community services from Michigan State University, cited "tremendous growth" along the DDA corridor.

Indeed, Ford Road's success has led to such traffic congestion, especially near the I-275/Ford Road interchange, that Michigan Department of Transportation officials are exploring a fix. Protective of her turf, Salla has said

she hopes any plan will disrupt businesses as little as possible. During her watch, numerous projects have occurred along Ford Road, partly funded by a \$10 million bond and DDA tax revenues without a local tax increase. Those projects involved new streetlights; decorative brick garden walls; a landscaping face lift around the I-275/Ford interchange, burying most overhead power lines; installing mast arm traffic signals and road signs; and completing sidewalks along the DDA strip.

Good marketing

Salla helped lead efforts to develop a marketing campaign, partly with a twice-a-year Shop Canton guide that reaches 60,000 homes and regional Michigan welcome centers. It's packed with coupons and community information. "The merchants like it. The residents like it — it has worked out really well," Salla said. After IKEA located in Canton in 2006, drawing customers from across

the Midwest and Canada, local officials sought to help other businesses capitalize through marketing campaigns. Efforts have included hanging colorful banners along Ford Road — a tool used to help shoppers find their way among myriad shops. Canton touted its shopping destination with a new economic slogan, "We've Got It. The website www.shopcanton.org was started, and marketing efforts through social media began.

Salla and other leaders work every year with Midwest Sculpture Initiative, a Blissfield company, to switch out public art exhibits along Ford Road. Moreover, the eight-week summertime jazz concert series, initiated six years ago, draws 500 to 1,000 visitors every Friday evening to the commercial strip — visitors who spend money at local restaurants and shops. "It brings people in from neighboring communities," Salla said.

In retirement, Salla plans to spend more time with husband Hank, their three grown children and their one grandchild, 15-month-old Evan Salla, in Pennsylvania. She also expects to do volunteer work and play piano, a hobby of hers since age 5. She said she has no regrets as Canton's first DDA coordinator, though she's ready to retire. "I love this job," she said.

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CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS



New digs

A ribbon cutting was held on Thursday, Nov. 8, by Arella Studio, Inc., to celebrate their grand opening. Arella Studio, Inc. is located in Canton's Cherry Hill Village, 50218 Cherry Hill. Canton Chamber of Commerce members, Canton Township employees and Canton residents were all among the attendees.

Anniversary gala

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts a 40th anniversary gala 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the Traditions Condominium Association, 1315 Waterside. Wine tasting will be available courtesy of Canton's Holiday Market. Cost is \$15 per person. The event is sponsored by Atchinson Ford Sales, Molly Maid, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and Tammy Brown Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance. Reservations are required, call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com.

Lunch with Santa

Antonio's Cucina Italiana Restaurant, located at 2220 N. Canton Center in Canton, will host its annual Lunch with Santa Saturday, Dec. 8, and Sunday, Dec. 9. This very popular event includes a buffet luncheon, holiday cookies, fun crafts, goodie bags, and pictures with Santa and his live reindeer. This year Antonio's has partnered with Wayne County Sheriffs to support their annual Goodfellows Holiday party, so please consider donating an unwrapped toy for those children in need. Both Saturday and Sunday have two seatings to choose from at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. Tickets are \$19 per person, or \$5 for children 3 and under. Seating is limited. Advanced reservations are required and can be made by calling (734) 981-9805.

New on-line retailer

YesMichiCAN, maker of "Don't Mess with the Mitten" apparel and accessories, announced the launch of its new online store. Just in time for the holidays, the redesigned e-boutique makes it easier than ever — and much more fun — to order the company's T-shirts, hoodies, air fresheners, decals, and coffee tumblers emblazoned with the "Don't Mess with the Mitten" logo and Michigan silhouette.

The new website was designed by Axis Cross Media of Troy, Mich., and focuses on the beauty and spirit of Michigan with full-color photographs and references to the state's most famous attractions. It reflects the Don't Mess with the Mitten Facebook page, a community of more than 7,400 fans that showcases beautiful pictures and positive news and events in the Mitten State. "Our company is more than what we sell," said Terri O'Brien, co-owner of YesMichiCAN. "We are all about promoting Michigan pride and shedding light on the wonderful people, places and opportunities in our great state." O'Brien and her long-time friend Lisa Burnia founded YesMichiCAN in 2009 to help out neighbors, family and friends affected by economic turmoil. A percentage of sales are dedicated to help families in the inner city of Detroit. For more information contact Terri O'Brien or Lisa Burnia at (248) 347-4350 or visit www.dontmesswiththemitten.com.

Observer gets new advertising exec

Kelley Albrant has already bought a new pair of shoes. Albrant, who started her career with the Birmingham Eccentric back in 1990, has been named the new advertising account executive for the Canton Observer.



Albrant

Albrant, a married mother of three, started her new job Oct. 1. "Canton is a large area," Albrant said. "I want to make sure all businesses have the opportunity to have the O&E Media Group as part of their marketing strategy." After serving as a sales assistant with the Bir-

mingham Eccentric, Albrant moved on to O&E Media's only daily newspaper, the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus. She moved to the South Lyon Herald in December 2010 before being hired in Canton. "Kelley has a dynamic personality we are confident will help her in her new duties," said Grace Perry, advertising director for O&E Media, the Canton Observer's parent company. "Advertisers in Canton are going to find her easy to work with. She is a complete professional." Albrant has a bachelor's degree in advertising from Michigan State University. She lives in Howell with her husband of 20 years, Paul. They have three sons, Patrick, 17, Bradley, 14, and Mitchell, 10. Despite the challenge of Canton's sheer size, Albrant believes she's ready. "I'm very excited for the challenge," Albrant said. "I'm looking forward to working with everyone."



Gov. Rick Snyder was at Hiller's Market last week to launch the new Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program. On hand were (from left) were Justin Hiller, vice president of Hiller's, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, Julie Metty Bennett, executive director of Michigan Saves, state Rep. Kurt Heise, Gov. Snyder, Greg White, MPSC commissioner and Tom Conzelmann, of Ervin Leasing.

Snyder stops at Hiller's to tout energy efficiency

Gov. Rick Snyder made a stop in Northville last week to launch a new program to help Michigan businesses make changes to become more energy efficient. On Friday, Snyder was at Hiller's Market on Center Street to tout the new Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program. Hiller's is the first business to take advantage of the program, which offers Michigan businesses low-interest financing for energy efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, insulation, refrigeration, equipment, and more. Businesses make the upgrades with the help of authorized contractors and affordable financing of \$2,000 to \$150,000. The program's advocates say participating businesses can lower operating costs and improved cash flow for a quick return on investment. "The Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program is a win-win for Michiganders," said Snyder. "It helps businesses save on costs, creates good-paying jobs and moves us toward a greener energy future." The financing is avail-

able through Michigan Saves and lending partner, Ervin Leasing and capital provider Bank of Ann Arbor. Michigan Saves is a public-private partnership, which was seeded with public funds and works with private lenders to provide affordable financing to help homes and businesses save energy and money. "We were proud to help thousands of homeowners across the state with the Michigan Saves Home Energy Loan Program and now we want to help local businesses lower their costs and improve on energy efficiencies," said Julie Metty Bennett, executive director of Michigan Saves. "When businesses use inefficient ways to operate, they are losing money they could spend to hire more people or make more products." Buildings and properties that are owned or occupied by businesses or nonprofit organizations located anywhere in the state of Michigan are eligible for Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing, subject to credit review by Ervin Leasing. Typical improvements to the business

could include: replacing T12 fluorescents with T5 fluorescents or LEDs; installing anti-sweat heater controls; installing vertical night covers on open deck coolers and replacing door gaskets on walk-in coolers. Hiller's Vice President Justin Hiller said they will use the program to move to more efficient lighting and other cost savers. "We are pleased to have a welcoming, light and bright presence at all of our grocery markets," he said. "But that signature business model comes at a price. We are always looking for advantageous opportunities for our businesses and our customers and this program will help us speed up our efforts to go green while saving money. We thank the governor for highlighting our efforts." Snyder said energy efficiency is a "pro-growth strategy that aligns with the state's plan to provide local businesses with the tools they need to foster economic growth and grow new jobs." Businesses can get more information by visiting www.MichiganSaves.org.

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Mary Dekker, Wayne Clinic coordinator (from left), is joined by Lillie Tabor, president of the Metro Health Board of Trustees; Cathy Robinson, executive director of Hope Clinic, and Gail Bernth, clinical services coordinator at Hope Wayne Clinic, in receiving the grant.

Wayne Clinic receives health foundation grant

A medical clinic that provides free care to low-income, uninsured adults has received a \$12,500 grant from the Metro Health Foundation of Detroit to help expand the services provided by its satellite medical clinic in western Wayne County.

The Hope Wayne Medical Clinic is based on the model of Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti, which was founded in 1982 by a local family practitioner Dr. Daniel Heffernan.

Hope opened the clinic in 2007 to provide more accessible care for the

many patients who were traveling to Ypsilanti from western Wayne County. In August 2012, the Wayne Clinic moved to its new home in the basement of the Light-house Home Missions building at 33608 Palmer Road, Westland.

The clinic has weekly walk-in clinics on Saturday mornings with sign-in from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. It also has two monthly weekday clinics to provide continuity of care for patients with chronic conditions. Care is provided by volunteer doctors, nurses, and other medi-

cal professionals, supported by a small paid staff. St. Joseph Mercy Health System and St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia provide laboratory services and X-rays. Referrals for specialty care are made as resources are available.

Free or low-cost medical services are provided to Hope patients through retail programs, pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs, samples and purchased bulk medicines.

For more information, contact Wayne Hope Clinic at (734) 710-6688.

Walmart drive to 'Fill the Trucks'

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit and Walmart are asking the community to give this holiday season during The Salvation Army "Fill the Truck" Toy and Coat Drive from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, at all Walmart locations.

During this one-day event, Salvation Army Corps Community Center officers and volunteers will hand out wish lists to Walmart customers as they enter the stores. Customers will have the opportunity to buy items from the list to fulfill local families' wishes by providing them with toys and warm coats this holiday season. Supporters can drop toys and coats into bins located outside of Walmart locations. Salvation Army trucks will be parked outside to collect

the purchased items.

Throughout the holidays, Detroit area Walmart stores are hosting The Salvation Army's red kettles and bell ringers through Monday, Dec. 24. All donations made to the red kettles will remain in the community and help The Salvation Army provide food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance and other services to metro Detroiters in need all year long.

"Last year, The Salvation Army distributed more than 5,000 coats and 90,000 toys to local children in need. The 'Fill the Truck' event will enable us to help more families than we have in the past," said Major Mark Anderson, general secretary and metro Detroit area commander of The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan

Division. "We are thankful to Walmart for allowing us to collect toys and coats at their store fronts, as well as the iconic red kettles for the 2012 Red Kettle Campaign."

In addition, more than 25 Walmart stores throughout the area will host Angel Tree Programs. Angel Trees are filled with tags containing the age/gender description and a suggested gift item for someone who otherwise might not receive a gift this Christmas. Walmart customers are encouraged to choose an "angel" from the tree, buy a gift and return it, unwrapped, to Walmart to surprise a child on Christmas morning. The Salvation Army welcomes such age-appropriate gifts such as clothes, sporting goods, toys, backpacks and books.

Remember your loved ones that you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute for the holidays. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.



Prices start at \$22.50 "1x3 remembrance ad (Larger remembrance may be purchased)

Publications Sunday, December 23rd Observer & Eccentric Newspapers:

Thursday, December 20th Hometown Weekly Newspapers: (Milford, Northville, Novi and South Lyon)

Deadline Monday, December 17th For all publications

Call: 800-579-7355

Fax: 313-496-4968

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OUR VIEWS

Speak up!

Tell lawmakers what you think about budget, school issues

As lame duck sessions go, this one is shaping up to be an interesting one when it comes to the Michigan Legislature and U.S. Congress.

In the past two weeks, Gov. Rick Snyder has rolled out his plans for sweeping reforms of public education and revamping the state's personal property tax. Congress, on the other hand, is in the middle of a stare down with the President that could take the country over the fiscal cliff.

None of these issues as they presently stand, bode well for taxpayers. Michigan cities could lose money with the elimination of the personal property tax that businesses pay. School districts could lose control of their purse strings not to mention unused school buildings. And taxpayers would lose even more, if there's no agreement on continuing tax cuts and a long-term plan to cut the deficit.

This all comes at a time when politics is the last thing people want to think about. It's Christmas. There's gifts to buy, cookies to bake and parties to plan.

Wrong. Voters also need to keep their attention focused on what is happening in Washington and Lansing, and let legislators know what they think about their plans.

In the case of the fiscal cliff, the pain will be felt in pay checks. The House and Senate failed to resolve major party differences on \$1.2 trillion in targeted savings over 10 years, triggering the tax hikes and program cuts scheduled to begin next year. Income tax will increase, if the Bush tax cuts are allowed to expire on Dec. 31, and payroll taxes will climb, if President Barack Obama's two-year-old Social Security payroll tax ends.

It's time to get on the phone, write an e-mail or send a letter. Compromise is needed now, not in the 11th hour. Recovery from the last recession has been painful at best and the financial losses, as the result of it, have affected all citizens. Partisan politics need to be set aside for the good of the country.

Lansing is another place voters need to watch closely.

Gov. Snyder has done well to turn around the state's finances, but at what price? Support to public schools has been cut, and cities have seen revenue sharing slashed. Both entities now must meet a number of devised best practices to get a little extra cash out of the state.

While the elimination of the personal property tax would be phased in, it's still a loss for cash-strapped communities, even with the creation of an authority that would send back money, if there is a minimum 2.5 percent of the general fund revenues.

School districts, for years, have said that the funding mechanism for K-12 education is flawed, but the proposed changes which would revamp the School Code go well beyond tweaking.

The governor has said the state's educational system has not given taxpayers, teachers and students "the return on the investment" they deserve." Last month lawmakers rolled out proposed bills that will, among other things, create a new any time, any place, any way, any pace public school learning model in which per pupil school aid would be tied to the student not to a specific district.

The bills also expand the use of virtual learning, putting education just a mouse click away, use performance as the basis for funding and create a list of unused school buildings that could be taken over by the state and repurposed for public academies and charter schools.

Politicians are always good about telling constituents what they want and what they need, whether or not they want it or need it. In these instances, people need to make it perfect clear what it is they want: Higher taxes? Giving up local control of their school districts? Giving up control of school buildings they paid for with their tax dollars?

Whether the answer is yes or no, now is the time for people to let their voices be heard loud and clear. Today is the day to send the Beltway and Lansing a message: You, the people, elected them, and they need represent your interests, not theirs.

Don't wait, don't hesitate. Tomorrow will be too late.

CANTON OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

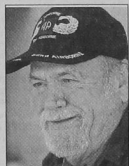
Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you find the holiday season stressful and, if so, how do you cope?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"No, it's great. I've got 10 grandkids and I don't have to do the shopping — Grandma does."

Don Kirk
Canton



"Yes. I just try to take it day by day."

Jennifer Girard
Belleville



"I do find it stressful. I deal with it by focusing on the reason, which is Jesus Christ."

Jason Girard
Belleville



"Yes, I find it stressful. I cope by spending time with family and friends."

Kelley Cunningham
Canton

LETTERS

Change Congress's seating

The first item on the agenda of both houses of Congress ought to be a seating rearrangement. Presently, the aisle that divides the two parties in our legislative chambers has become a no-man's-land over which vitriolic missives are hurled. Some legislators treat that divide as the line of scrimmage in the game of politics. Shame on them; it is not a game the American people wish to watch.

The present seating arrangement achieves nothing, while it does nurture single-mindedness, homogeneity of thought and, worse, it fosters mob behavior by encouraging a recklessness that wouldn't prevail without the false sense of courage provided by cohorts.

Since our congressmen have been behaving as unruly children, their behavior should be altered by more adult treatment.

Patrick M. Downey
Novi

What to do with Obama

Mr. Obama has been doing a reasonably good job.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com

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

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

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

His muzzling of the banks following the market crash that coincided with his election seems to be going well. The banks appear to be returning to their role in our economy.

The medical insurance system he proposed is some response to the problems of greed and fiscal incompetence of American health care.

Obama exulted in his victory at this last election. He even

shed at least two tears. I saw them on TV.

It is my opinion that his plate is full. Ensuring the banks continue to reduce their own business activity while performing the functions they should — like lending, saving and investment — is a large task. His insurance scheme has that to be put into operation. Yet will be much work.

Mr. Obama has, unfortunately, shown a disdain for anyone who does not swear allegiance to him. It strikes me that he believes that those who oppose him or his ideas are ignorant. His second term is thanks to two facts. First, there are only two power-

ful (though corrupt) working political parties in the United States. Secondly, the opponent the Republicans chose to pit against him was a gift.

The fact of the matter is that if the American people he looks down on were as ignorant as he seems to believe, then we would have put Romney in the White House.

Now that we have dealt with Mitt Romney and the Money Circus, what do we do with Obama?

Alfred Brock
Wayne

STAFF COLUMN

Penn Theatre, '40s actress bring 'Wonderful' film experience to life

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

I could rave for hours about the glories of Citizen Kane, the relationship between German Expressionism and film noir.

I've been to the Toronto International Film Festival twice, and

film classes were among the most memorable of my college career. In another life — before kids and a mortgage — it wasn't unusual for my wife and me to take in two or even three movies a day — at theaters, too, not on video.

But I'd never, before Sunday, seen *It's a Wonderful Life*, the Frank Capra-directed sentimental favorite that's become a television staple during the holidays.

The 1946 movie is about a hard-working, honest Everyman, George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, whose long dissatisfaction with being stuck in Bedford Falls running the family business, a struggling savings and loan, leads to an encounter with his guardian angel, Clarence, and an epiphany that shows him his life and work had had great value and had won him many loyal friends.

I'm not giving anything away here, because it seems as though everybody, at least every adult,

has seen this movie — many multiple times. The story is so much a part of our culture that even I, who had only caught a short scene, maybe two, in years of flipping by it on television, at least knew the plot.

My boss, Brad Kadrich, laughed incredulously when I told him I'd never seen it; he watches it every year, he said, and seems to be able to recite many lines from memory. "Did you grow up in America?" said John Buzvis, Plymouth's special projects director, when he learned of the obvious gap in my cultural education.

But thanks to Virginia Patton Moss, an actress from the 1940s who had a bit part in the movie, I finally got a chance to sit down with *Wonderful Life* Sunday afternoon at the Penn Theatre.

Moss appeared at the Penn Street with her husband, Cruise Moss, and greeted moviegoers, signed autographs and posed for photos ahead of the afternoon showing. The event nearly packed the place; people were lined up along Pennington all the way to Main Street before the theater doors opened, and a few disappointed fans were still in the receiving line when the house lights dimmed.

In *Wonderful Life*, Moss, then Virginia Patton, was a radiant 20-year-old on the screen for a few minutes as Ruth Dakin Bailey, George's sister-in-law. In present life, she's still radiant, with

her and her husband maintaining a glamorous appearance despite her having left Hollywood more than 60 years ago.

I found *It's a Wonderful Life* to be well-acted and imaginatively told, a movie that respects its audience, and the audience's ability to read movies, despite a somewhat sappy tone.

The story of a man's, and a community's, perseverance through hard times remains relevant: the Mr. Potters of that world have become today's faceless corporate lenders whose policies wreck neighborhoods, even as taxpayers in those neighborhoods pick up the tab for their bad decisions. And the struggling people of Bedford Falls, the garlic-eaters, as Potter disparagingly refers to them, are today's overworked (or underemployed), overtaxed, overstressed Americans who always seem to draw the short straws.

So I've finally had my *It's a Wonderful Life* initiation, and I'm thinking of sitting down with it again with my wife and kids. I'm not sure a guardian angel had anything to do with it, but one could say, as far as moviegoing goes, I got my wings.

Matt Jachman is a reporter for the Plymouth Observer whose (rare) movie-watching now is limited to family-friendly comedies and cartoons. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or at mjachman@hometownlife.com.

Tail Wagger's collecting donations of pet food, supplies for holidays

With the holidays fast approaching and some families struggling to provide a Christmas for their children, Tail Wagger's 1990 is collecting pet food donations so their pets' needs are also met.

The community is asked to drop off food and/or supplies for both dogs and cats for the Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program at Tail Wagger's office,

located at 28402 Five Mile Road at Harrison between Middlebelt and Inskter.

The goal is to collect at least 250 bags of dog and cat food so that the animals in the community can have a little something special under the tree for them this holiday season, founder Laura Zain said. Gift cards to Petsmart, Petco, Target and Walmart are also welcome.

The Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program gives assistance to animals in need so that they can stay with the family they have grown to love. "The goal of the Pantry 4 Paws program is to help eliminate additional financial stress on a family during the holiday season and to ensure the animals of the community are being fed and not going to sleep hungry at night," Zain said.

Local businesses are also encouraged to become a collection point for the Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program along with an invitation to area Scouts, church groups, youth groups, schools, etc. that are in need of a special project. All collection points will be given a sign, personalized flyer, collection bin and exposure on the Tail Wagger's 1990 website. Currently, canned

food for dogs, cats and kittens is running low. Families in need of pet food assistance can contact Tail Wagger's at (734) 855-4077 or tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com. All calls will be kept confidential and arrangements will be made on an individual basis for pick-up of food.

Financial contributions can be made through the website at: www.tailwaggers1990.org or by mail

to: 28402 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154. All financial contributions are tax-deductible. Tail Wagger's 1990 is a non-profit organization, committed to helping people help animals. It is their ultimate goal to be able to support dedicated pet owners in need of assistance along with providing necessary funding for those animals in emergency situations.

Peace group presents talk on education in Haiti

An educator, activist, mother, writer and advocate of active non-violence will discuss her passion for peace with the Citizens for Peace group as well as the public at 7 p.m. Tuesday,

Dec. 11, at Unity of Livonia, 26880 Five Mile Road.

Kim Redigan, of Dearborn Heights, who teaches at U of D High School, will tell of her recent trip to Haiti where she partic-

ipated in a Peace Camp for the children living in Cite Soleil, a shantytown outside of Port-au-Prince. Her first trip to Haiti took her to the mountainous area for a celebration of the first college gradu-

ating class in rural Haiti. With the two different perspectives of education in Haiti, Redigan will share her experiences and impressions of education in Haiti.

Redigan also teaches social justice at a two-week Peace Camp every summer in Detroit. Her passion for peace has taken her to the Middle East with the Michigan

Peace team three times in the past 10 years. She is a nonviolence trainer with the Michigan Peace Team and writes for their newsletter. Redigan serves on the board of Pax Christi Michigan; the Michigan Coalition of Human Rights; South-eastern Michigan Jobs with Justice; and is on the Coordinating Committee of the Detroit

Area Peace with Justice Network.

There will also be a book exchange after the presentation. Anyone bringing a favorite book to trade can select another book to take home. All are welcome.

For more information, go to www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com or call Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **Monday, December 17, 2012 at 9:30 A.M.** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at:

6729 N. Canton Center Rd.
Canton, Michigan 48187
(734) 459-4821

The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

B030 Matari Cooper
D139 Cordell B Barker II (aka Brian Barker II)
H287 Cheryl Lawrence

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Publish: November 29 & December 6, 2012

AT9791470 3x3

CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE TO PUBLIC BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Linda Langmesser, Clerk of the City of Plymouth, County of Wayne, State of Michigan to all residents of the City of Plymouth the December Board of Review will be held in the Plymouth City Hall on the 2nd floor, at 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

The following is the schedule for December Board of Review.

Tuesday, December 11, 2012 Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the December Board of Review, you may call Courtney Dugger at (734) 453-1234 Ext. 253.

LINDA LANGMESSER, CLERK
City of Plymouth

Publish: December 2, 2012

AT9791420 3x3

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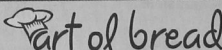
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SECTION B • (CP)
 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2012
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 734-469-4128

SPORTS

2012-2013 BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PT. 2

KLAAs champs brace for new challenges

By Tim Smith
 Observer Staff Writer

Bob Brodie is fully aware his Salem varsity boys basketball team will be the hunted rather than the hunter during the 2012-13 season.

"That's what happens after a team rolls to a 20-3 record and KLAAs championship, which last year's Salem squad accomplished.

"We've got a target on our back," said Brodie, beginning his 29th season at the coaching helm.

"Everybody's going to be shooting for us because we're the KLAAs champs, divisional champs, conference champs.

"Everybody wants a piece of us and knock us off the mountain. Our job is to defend that if we can."

Brodie said there is no question the graduation of key players such as guards Tyler Stewart (Madonna) and Grant Bettner and forward Josh Peterson leaves some important voids to fill.

They know the drill

Yet there are eight players who were on board for last season's successful ride, which ended in the Division 1 district final against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

"That's all over, (but) it instills confidence in us as a team," Bro-

die said about what last season's experience means to the returning players. "We know we can do it, we've got a lot of players coming back."

At the top of that list is 6-7 senior forward Chris Dierker, who averaged 10.5 points (second to Stewart's 15.2) and 9.5 rebounds per outing last winter.

"He'll be a key guy down low for us this season," Brodie said. "He was last season. He's played a lot of basketball for us at the varsity level, so are expectations of him are high.

"Whether or not he can fulfill those expectations is yet to be seen."

Brodie cited Dierker's inconsistency, between being dominant and "kind of non-existent on the court. If we could get him to be more consistent, we'll have a great season."

Several other forwards, in addition to Dierker, provide Brodie with good, numerous options in and near the paint. Those include seniors Cam Werner (6-2), Ankit Tiwari (6-2.25), Ahmad Khalid (6-4, 225) and Jake Burns (6-6).

"We got Cam Werner, who started quite a bit inside for us," Brodie said. "He'll be running at the three

Please see HOOPS, B3



Eyeing the basket during a 2011-12 game is Salem's Austin Whitted (No. 24), who is back for another season with the Rocks.

Prep pucks for Gleaners

Plymouth's and Salem's prep boys hockey teams (JV level) are teaming up to help fight hunger.

They will be facing each other 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, in a "Black vs. Blue Hockey Night" at Plymouth Cultural Center, culminating the first annual Gleaners Food Drive.

Admission will be the donation of five canned goods, which will be sent on to the Gleaners Food Bank. Game two (7 p.m.) will feature the Plymouth and Salem alumni teams.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. will be a third Plymouth-Salem game, pitting the current varsity teams. An admission fee will be required for the varsity contest.

Plymouth's prep hockey program is spearheading the Gleaners Food Drive (Salem and Canton are involved in similar endeavors for the holidays). Leading up to Dec. 21, Wildcat players will be canvassing neighborhoods to collect cans. A goal of 1,000 cans for Gleaners is the team's ultimate goal.

For more information, contact Rick Couvaut at (313) 319-3666.

Washington's men ready to go to work for Eagles

By Tim Smith
 Observer Staff Writer

It remains to be seen how much of a turnaround Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team can make in 2012-13.

But second-year head coach Dominique Washington is enthused that the mission of his program is starting to take root.

"Our motto this year is defense and work hard," Washington said. "So far these kids are buying into that. ... Last year, I came in and everything was new to me.

"I tried to express what

I wanted out of games and (that's) not going to happen overnight. Now they know where I'm coming from and they're all on board."

For example, Washington, a former prep basketball star at Salem, said players are arriving at the gym early — for 5:50 a.m. practices. They're leaving it all out on the floor, even in the wee hours.

"Everybody wants to be here, they push themselves," Washington said. "Everybody's working hard and everybody understands in order for them to play, they have to earn their playing

time. Just showing up isn't enough."

That work ethic and all-in attitude could help the team improve upon last season's 7-15 mark and become more of a factor in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division.

Leading the charge will be the players who started down the stretch last year, following a knee injury to center Eric Jipping (a 2012 grad).

In the backcourt will be senior guards and co-captains Mick Noel (PC's top scorer with 21 ppg) and Drew Ibach, with junior Daniel Jip-

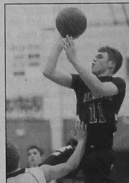
ping in the wing position. Also in the lineup: senior small forward and co-captain Alex Huber; 6-2 junior guard/forward Daniel Jipping; and 6-0 junior post player Jacob Bailey.

New approach

According to Washington, the starters will need to all chip in "by committee" on the boards because the team lacks a dominant low-post player such as Eric Jipping.

"The same game plan I had last year, I can't go with this year," he said.

Please see EAGLES, B3



BILL BRESLER
 STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian Academy's offense this season will rely on the outside shooting of senior guard Mick Noel (No. 11).

Heldmeyer tops at Siena

Beth Heldmeyer, a 2009 Plymouth grad and senior at Siena Heights University, was named the team's most outstanding cross country runner for the second year in a row.

During her career she was a four-time NAIA national qualifier, all conference, academic all conference and VHAC Senior Champion of Character Award. She will graduate in the spring with a degree in nursing.

SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

Salem seniors to lead by example

By Tim Smith
 Observer Staff Writer

Seniors will lead the Salem Rocks on and off the mat in 2012-13.

According to Salem varsity wrestling coach Pete Israel, the efforts of senior co-captains Tyler Gross, Riley Duxtader, Alex Arble and Mitch Marshall should set the tone for the younger members of the squad.

"Overall, I think if we are all healthy throughout the season, this could be a good year for the Rocks," Israel said. "I see the senior class really stepping up and providing great leadership for a younger team. I look forward to seeing the hard work pay off for these young men."

Gross will compete at 171 and Israel expects continued excellence from the 2012 state qualifier. "Tyler should have another great year topping off his Salem career."

WRESTLING PREVIEW

Duxtader is set to wrestle either at 135 or 140. "Riley is coming off a great cross country season and made strides during the off-season and will make solid contributions to the Rocks.

The coach said Arble (119) and Marshall (140 or 145) both have worked hard and made strides during the off-season and will make solid contributions to the Rocks. So will senior Tony Agostini, who Israel said "has shown a lot of improvement and (is) looking to be a contender for great things" at 215.

There is competition at both ends of the lineup. At heavyweight, Tyler Moore, Matt Piotrowski and Derek Young are battling it out for the top spot on the depth

Please see SALEM, B3

EMU-bound Rodes excited about golfing where his grandpa did

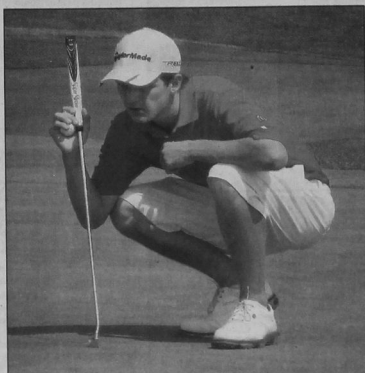
By Tim Smith
 Observer Staff Writer

Eastern Michigan University men's golf and Kyle Rodes's family have a long tradition that the Plymouth senior wanted to continue.

His grandfather, Cliff Zill, golfed at Eastern and now so will the 17-year-old Rodes — who recently signed his national letter of intent to join the EMU program coached by Bruce Cunningham.

"One of the factors that made me decide on Eastern was coach Cunningham," Rodes wrote in a recent email to the Observer. "Listening to current players and other coaches that were pursuing me, all said that (Cunningham) is strong at developing young players and taking them to the next level."

Cunningham attended Rodes's recent signing ceremony. Also on Eastern were his parents, Lisa and Joe Rodes, and his former and current coaches at Plymouth — Chris Moore and Nick Brandon, respectively. Of course, first will come his senior season



Plymouth's Kyle Rodes reads the green before putting during last summer's AJGA Columbus Memorial Tournament, where he finished fourth.

with the Wildcats, who finished 10th in Division 1 last year.

"I am very excited about my senior year of high school golf," Rodes continued. "Our team has finished in the top 10 the past three seasons and

our goal for next season is to win it all."

It will be with new coach Brandon leading the way. He is taking over the team from longtime coach Moore, who had to step down due to a career move.

"I had a great relationship with coach Moore," Rodes wrote. "During tournaments, his calming influence factored into my scoring. After meeting briefly with our new

Please see RODES, B4

Whalers lose 'bear-y' good game in shootout

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It was quite a Saturday evening at Compuware Arena, with magical plays, brilliant saves and even more than 1,000 teddy bears raining down on the ice.

The only thing missing for the 3,483 fans in attendance at the annual "Teddy Bear Toss Night" was a Plymouth Whalers victory over the Kitchener Rangers. They almost got it, but lost 5-4 in a shootout. "It was a great game, I'm sure the fans would have liked a win and so would have we," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "It was end-to-end hockey. We tied it up late, had a lot of chances in overtime, (but) their goalie made some great saves."

The Whalers trailed 4-3 entering the final minute of regulation. With their net empty, forward Rickard Rakell skated deep into the Kitchener zone.

Then came some magic. As Rakell spun around on the doorstep, he made a dazzling no-look pass across the crease to linemate Ryan Hartman for the tap-in at the right post.

That tally made it 4-4 with 51 seconds left in the Ontario Hockey League tilt. It also was Rakell's third assist and Hartman's second goal of the night.

"He makes that pass quite a bit," said Vellucci about Rakell, an Anaheim Ducks prospect. "He made a great pass and Hartman put it in when he had the chance."

Forward Stefan Noesen almost won the game with the final seconds of the period lapsing. But Kitchener goalie Franky Palazese came up big for one of his 38 saves for the Rangers (18-9-1).

Goalie duel
Palazese followed up with spectacular work



After Plymouth's first goal Saturday night, Compuware Arena fans tossed more than 1,000 teddy bears onto the ice. The toys will be distributed over the holidays to needy children by Plymouth Community United Way.

throughout overtime and the shootout. The only goal of the shootout was scored by Justin Bailey.

Also playing a strong game despite giving up four goals was Plymouth's 16-year-old rookie netminder, Alex Nedeljkovic, who made 28 saves and could not be faulted on any of the four goals he allowed.

It was Nedeljkovic's third consecutive start following a disappointing 7-6 loss to Kitchener on Nov. 23 where the Whalers let a 5-2 lead slip away.

The youngster earned wins at Erie and against Ottawa as Plymouth, with the point Saturday, improved to 14-8-3-2, good for 33 points and first place in the OHL West Division.

"He (Nedeljkovic) played really well this week," Vellucci said. "For a 16-year-old, not too many kids can play that many games and play that well. So we're very excited about him."

Vellucci said he wasn't sure yet whether Nedeljkovic would start again Wednesday at Owen



Matt Mistele (No. 22) of the Plymouth Whalers deflects the puck into the net past Kitchener goalie Franky Palazese in the first period. The goal prompted fans to toss teddy bears onto the ice at Compuware Arena. At right for the Rangers is defenseman Ben Fanelli (No. 4).

Sound. Another factor is a foot injury hampering the Whalers' No. 1 goalie, Matt Mahalak.

"As a coach you always play the guy that's got the hot hand and the guy that's played well," Vellucci noted. "He's going to play until he deserves otherwise."

From start to finish, it was a back-and-forth game by both teams.

There go the teddies

The first goal of the game, scored at 11:22 of the opening stanza by Matt Mistele—deflecting Tom Wilson's shot into the top-left corner—signaled fans to throw their teddy bears over the boards. Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV, then came out to center ice to briefly talk about how those teddy bears will be distribut-

ed this month by Plymouth Community United Way to needy children throughout the area.

When play resumed following a short delay, the Rangers needed just 45 seconds to make it 1-1. Ben Thomson blocked a shot at the Kitchener blue line, then motored down the ice before deflected Nedeljkovic and slipping a low shot between the pads.

Garrett Meurs gave Plymouth a 2-1 lead at 4:50 of the second, roofing the puck into the Kitchener net. Rakell set the goal up with a perfect pass.

A wraparound by Bailey, after stealing the puck behind the Plymouth net, resulted in a goal that again tied the contest with 6:16 to go in the frame.

Each team would score late in the period ended to make it 3-3. A fortuitous bounce off the boards behind Nedeljkovic led to a goal by Matia Marcantoni to give Kitchener its first lead.

Then with 1:10 remaining, Hartman slammed home a one-touch feed across the crease from forward Alex Aleardi (Farmington Hills). Starting the play was Rakell, who moved the puck up the wall to Aleardi.

Kitchener netted a power-play goal with 13:57 left in the third to go up 4-3. Radek Faksa made good on his own rebound, capping off a three-shot flurry.

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Chargers de-iced by 'Cats, 10-2

BOYS HOCKEY

Plymouth scored 10 unanswered goals after Livonia Churchill took an early 2-0 first period lead en route to a 10-2 victory over the host Chargers Friday at Edgar Arena.

Nick Schultz led the Plymouth assault with three goals and three assists, while Michael Schultz added three goals and two assists. Zack Tavernier also added a pair of goals for the Wildcats (5-1, 1-0), including a power play goal with 6:43 remaining to end the game due to the eight-goal mercy rule.

Dean Guenther and

Mitch Claggett also added goals for Plymouth, which was tied 2-2 after one period and led 4-2 after two periods before adding four goals in the final 11:17 of the third.

Churchill got goals from Riley Brown (from Tommy Carey and Drew Sparks) and Drew Puihes (Brown).

Jared Maddock was in goal for Plymouth, while Alec Calvaruso and David Turel each played for the Chargers (1-3, 0-1).

Marlins get back at Pens

GIRLS HOCKEY

The last time the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins squared off against Farmington Hills Mercy for a girls' hockey showdown, it was for their league's Division 2 championship.

PCS won that contest in triple overtime, winning the trophy and giving the Marlins something to look forward to.

Mercy exacted some measure of revenge on Saturday night with a 3-1 victory at Canton's Arctic Edge Arena.

The Penguins (1-2 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey

League) fell behind 3-0 in the first period on Mercy goals by Anna Julien, Madeline McClain and Caitlin Conner.

It was the third period before PCS got on the board to spoil Mercy's shut-out bid.

With 14:09 remaining, Amanda Hoehn found the back of the net with Cortny McAdoo collecting the lone assist.

"I feel like the girls let the hype and nerves get to them in the first half of the first period where Mercy scored all three goals in a six-minute time frame," PCS head coach Mary Beth Trainor said. "This was Mercy's chance to get revenge and I knew that they would come out flying, which they did."

Trainor said she told her players not to let the setback get them down, emphasizing the Penguins were the better team for much of the remainder of the night.

"Without that (six-minute) breakdown, it would have been a 1-0 game for us," she added. "I know we all looked forward to playing them again on February 15."

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GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

Chiefs eager to finish title quest 'Cats feature deep, talented roster

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The roster changed a bit, but not the Canton varsity girls gymnastics team's quest to win a state championship.

After coming oh-so-close to the pinnacle last season (Grand Ledge won by .825 points over the Chiefs), veteran head coach John Cunningham sees enough talent to take another run.

And that's even with the loss of 2012 graduates Ayana Lewis and Marina Milad, two of last year's top performers.

This season looks like another year where we have a run at a state championship," Cunningham noted. "We have to replace graduating team leaders Ayana Lewis and Marina Milad.

"But a year of improvement to last year's runner-up team might make the difference."

For starters, back for another season is junior Erica Lucas—the 2012 state champion on vault in Division 2.

Senior co-captains Nicole Lasecki, Katie Adams and Jenna Foster will pick up the leadership reins where Lewis and Milad left them. They also can get it done in competition, too. Lasecki placed 19th in all-around in Division 1 at the state individual finals held at Kenowa Hills.

Others who comprise the 2012-13 nucleus are returnees Melissa Green (a junior who was 11th in D1 all-around) and sophomore Jocelyn Moraw (a sophomore who was eighth in D1 all-around).



Canton's Jocelyn Moraw, shown from last season, is one of the returnees from the state runners-up team.

Augmenting them will be Katie Lawera, Katie Klaebir, Jessica Siegler (who Cunningham said is showing more potential) and freshmen Haley Hodgson, Maddie Toal and Ellie Bachman.

"Our hope is to remain one of the teams to beat in the state," said Cunningham, whose Chiefs rolled to a perfect season in the

KLA A division and conference last year.

Canton opens up with Saturday's Vassar Quad at Bounce. On Wednesday, Dec. 12, the Chiefs will square off against Salem at Plymouth High School (where the Park's gymnastics matches take place).

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Plymouth's varsity girls gymnastics team is gearing up for a promising season, which started Tuesday with an impressive 137.35-127.775 win over Northville.

Head coach Pam Yockey said the Wildcats (2-4 in 2011-12 KLA A dual meets) feature a mix of outstanding veterans and youngsters such as freshman Emily Welch who are making quite a first impression.

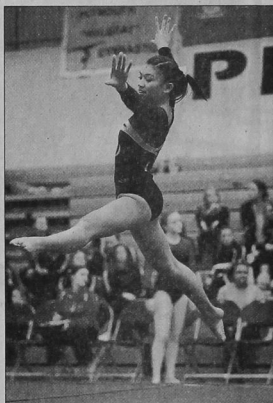
Welch set a new Plymouth record on vault against the Mustangs, registering a 9.2 score. Yockey said there is strong depth with 10 all-rounders and "as the season progresses and skills are acquired, the team hopes to break 140."

The Wildcats boast plenty of talent in all events, but she cited an excellent lineup on the balance beam.

Strong beam performances are expected of senior co-captain Sarah Uhlman (school record on beam, 9.55 last year) and junior co-captains Brenna Connelly and Katie Salanga.

On floor exercise will be senior co-captain Jane McCurry (school record on floor, 9.50 last year) along with junior Kennedy Lewis.

In addition to Welch on vault, the Wildcats will look for contributions from freshman



Junior co-captain Katie Salanga is one of many key returning gymnasts for Plymouth.

Rebeca Simu and sophomore Megan McKeenan (school record on floor, 9.50 last year). Plymouth's lineup on uneven parallel bars includes Simu, Haley Metz and freshman Sam Fontana.

Rounding out the roster are seniors Amanda Pzybyla (floor, vault,

beam), Jessica Lutkenhoff (vault, beam, floor); junior Kayla Janeycki; sophomores Alessandra Bologna (floor), Alissa McCarter (floor, vault, beam), Anna Warbel, Molly McSweeney, Natalie Ondayko (vault, bars, floor); freshmen Caitlin Browne, Drew DeGener and Megan McCurry.



Plymouth senior Kyle Rodes puts his name on the dotted line, recently signing a national letter of intent to play men's golf at Eastern Michigan University. Standing behind Kyle (from left) are former Plymouth boys golf coach Chris Moore, parents Lisa and Roder, EMU coach Bruce Cunningham and current Nick Brandon, who is succeeding Moore at the helm of the Wildcats.

RODES

Continued from page B1

coach, Nick Brandon, he seemed really competitive and motivated to continue our program's success."

For his final year with the Wildcats, Rodes intends to shave strokes off his already outstanding average (73.9 for 18-hole tournaments, 35.9 for nine-hole matches).

"My personal goals are to lower my scoring average and to end my high school career playing the best golf I possibly can," he added. Rodes, a two-time KLA A Scholar Athlete and National Honor Society member (with a 3.76 grade-point average), said family tradition and the EMU coach weren't the only factors in his

decision to go there. The Plymouth resident liked the Eagles' strong schedule (such as tournaments at Maryland, Northwestern and Georgetown), noting his ultimate goal "was to play the best competitive

golf I can. Eastern gives me the greatest opportunity of all the schools interested in me to do that."

Golf to the rescue

The opportunity to play the sport at a high level did not come automatically. Rodes, whose parents (who both golf, by the way) have attended every round of competitive golf in which he's played.

Growing up, he played football, baseball and basketball along with golf — albeit on an occasional basis.

Then in eighth grade, he fractured his femur playing basketball and required surgery. He broke it again on the baseball field and ultimately needed a third surgery, to remove screws from his leg.

"It was at that point I realized that I may not be able to compete in contact sports, so the logical choice then for me was golf," Rodes said. "The rest is history. After my third surgery and then a fourth surgery to repair a fractured elbow, I questioned God's plan for me.

But now I know." He really got his golf game on track the past three years, with assistance from swing coach Paul Haase of Kendall Golf Academy. Haase worked with the teenager on his physical and mental approach and that paid off handsomely.

Augmenting Rodes's high school career have been participation in several elite tours (AJGA, Adams, GAM, Golfweek).

Although it took injuries to steer Rodes to the links, he's stayed on course with dedication and talent. Now, the road will lead him to Ypsilanti.

His grandfather, a former pro at Ann Arbor Golf and Outing who passed away in 2007, would have been tickled. "Unfortunately," Lisa Rodes said, "my dad got sick with emphysema right when Kyle was beginning to get more involved with golf after all his surgeries. They never got to play together. He would be thrilled and very proud."

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Sue Craik, (left), Christian education adviser, Mary Anne Dulak and Marie Adams, co-chairs of the 50th anniversary committee, and the Rev. George Covintree show one of the anniversary banners at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia.

Passages

Obituaries, Reminders & Announcements

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Speaker, displays wrap up 50th anniversary

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will conclude its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration with a worship service and special guest speaker, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey will give the sermon and serve communion. The Rev. George Covintree Jr., St. Matthew's pastor, will assist.

A light luncheon will be served in the fellowship hall after the service.

Mary Anne Dulak chaired the 50th anniversary committee, which planned special events throughout the year. Wink Covintree and Dawn Johnson designed anniversary banners and Dulak, Marie Adams and Karen Cunningham make the banners.

The anniversary celebrated the merger of the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church into the United Methodist Church. St. Matthew's became the first United Methodist Church in the United States.

Historical photos and letters will also be on display after the service.

For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

BERTSCH SMALLIDGE BROWN JOAN

7/19/29-12/3/2012 (83) was born to Ralph E. Smallidge and Grace E. (Humphrey) on July 19, 1929, at Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Her family lived in Flint and Ypsilanti and after attending Ypsilanti High School, Joan attended Michigan Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Teaching and a Master's degree in Special Education. In 1977, she earned a second Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Michigan. She enjoyed a very fulfilling teaching career which spanned four decades beginning in Grand Rapids in the early 1950s. She was not only a classroom teacher but also a homebound teacher—for students with illness or disability—and finally a consultant in special education consulting for Oakland County Schools. Joan is predeceased by her only sibling, Patricia (Sutton) and her first husband, Ian H. (Scott) Brown, Jr. whom she married in 1953. Joan and Scott lived in Midland and Birmingham before making their home in Farmington Hills in 1958. Joan is also predeceased by her second husband, Thomas Bertsch, whom she married in 2001. Joan is survived by her three children: Daniel (Claire) Brown, Lawrence (Connie) Brown and Rebecca (Edward) Brinskele and her three step-children: Frederick (Elaine) Bertsch, Maggie Hunklele and Lawrence (Diane) Bertsch. Joan is also survived by her seven grandchildren: Amanda, Caitlin and Bill Brown and Paige, Jake, McCall and Walker Brinskele and six step-grandchildren: Ethan and Parker Portice, Sarah Renee (Dave) Hyston, Heather (Tom) Blair and Matthew, Michael and Thomas Bertsch and step-great-grandchildren Liam and Joan. Joan was an energetic, inspirational and loving mother, wife, grandmother and friend as well as a gifted teacher and an accomplished gardener. She will be dearly missed. A memorial celebration in the life of Joan Bertsch will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 2012 at 11 a.m., with visitation at 10 a.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, 121 South Harrison, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Memorial donations suggested to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org). Arrangements made by Care Funeral Home, Saginaw, Michigan.

Dec. 2, 2012, age 83 of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late Lois Dear father of Danny (Maureen), Neerene (Michael) Hanchett, the late Kathleen Mary & Keith Allen. Brother of Francis & the late Claude, Gerald. Loving grandfather of Melodie (Jason) Alery, Darin Albary, Amy (Bernard) Rizkallah, Angela (Vincent) Kutschied, Albany, Danielle (Robert) Short, Bryan (Tonya Showell) Boyd, Danny Boyd. Also survived by 9 great grandchildren. Family will receive friends Sat. 12 noon until time of Memorial Service at 3 pm at the UH Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family requests memorials to Oshesny Hospice. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.althc.com

BOYD, HUBERT J.

Dec. 2, 2012, age 83 of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth (Dinkie) Chapin. Dear father to Ann (Bruce) Cavender of Norville and Clark (Karen) Chapin of Plymouth. Grandfather of Robert (Susan) Cavender of Livonia and Bill (Anna) Chapin of Oakland, CA. He was predeceased in death by his wife and brothers, Martin and Job. He was the son of Martin G. Chapin and Margaret (Clark) Chapin of Detroit and was born on February 19, 1921. Gordon graduated from Detroit's Redford High School in 1939 and Wayne State University in 1948. A veteran of the US Army, he served in Europe during WWII as part of the 109th Maintenance Company (Medium). He was an engineer who helped develop the first domestic automotive disc brake system while employed by Kelsey-Hayes in Romulus. He was active at the Plymouth Historical Museum and Risen Christ Lutheran Church. An active sailor, he served as Commodore for Portage Yacht Club in Pinckney and sailed 18-ft Interlake Class sailboats until age 85. He was honored by Portage Yacht Club in 2006 for his years of service. Visitation Fri 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 W. Ann Arbor Road, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 or Risen Christ. To share a memory, please visit www.risenchristfuneralhome.com

Age 91 of Plymouth, December 3, 2012. Beloved husband of Elizabeth (Dinkie) Chapin. Dear father to Ann (Bruce) Cavender of Norville and Clark (Karen) Chapin of Plymouth. Grandfather of Robert (Susan) Cavender of Livonia and Bill (Anna) Chapin of Oakland, CA. He was predeceased in death by his wife and brothers, Martin and Job. He was the son of Martin G. Chapin and Margaret (Clark) Chapin of Detroit and was born on February 19, 1921. Gordon graduated from Detroit's Redford High School in 1939 and Wayne State University in 1948. A veteran of the US Army, he served in Europe during WWII as part of the 109th Maintenance Company (Medium). He was an engineer who helped develop the first domestic automotive disc brake system while employed by Kelsey-Hayes in Romulus. He was active at the Plymouth Historical Museum and Risen Christ Lutheran Church. An active sailor, he served as Commodore for Portage Yacht Club in Pinckney and sailed 18-ft Interlake Class sailboats until age 85. He was honored by Portage Yacht Club in 2006 for his years of service. Visitation Fri 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 W. Ann Arbor Road, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 or Risen Christ. To share a memory, please visit www.risenchristfuneralhome.com



CLARK, TREVA N.

Age 87, November 30, 2012. Loving mother of Dennis (Penry) Clark, Lynne (Roy) Almos, Karen (Fred) Layton and the late Brandon Clark. Dear grandmother of Angie, Arianna, Bonnie, Derek, Amie, Jayme, Ryan, Andrew, Laura and Lisa. Dear great-grandmother of 10. Sister of Larry, Diane, Bob, Sharon and Andy. Funeral Services will be held for Treva on December 3, 2012 at the R.G. & C.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. Please share a memory at: www.rgharris.com

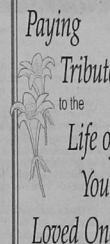
GULLEGG, BETTY JANE

Born April 16, 1929. Died November 23, 2012. Born in Henry County, Ohio our loving mother was predeceased in death by her parents: John Henry and Lula Mary Swalley. Her brothers, Robert & Donald Swalley. She moved from Ohio to Michigan then began working as a home health care aid until her late 60's when she retired. She leaves behind to mourn her passing 5 children: Roger Hurt, James Hurt, Linda Rabe, Pamela Bynum, and Sheryl Pritchard, followed by her 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many close friends. She is dearly loved and will greatly be missed. Services will be held at Hubards Family Funeral Home 2401 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI 48186, followed by a lunch-in Sat. Dec. 8th 2012 at 2:00. Rest in The Arms Of The Angels Mom.

SADOWSKI, ANTHONY F.

Age 64, December 1, 2012. Resident to Westland. www.sewesterseandersonfuneralhome.com

Age 64, December 1, 2012. Resident to Westland. www.sewesterseandersonfuneralhome.com



RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at dargay@hometownlife.com.

December

ADVENT SERMONS

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. Sundays through Dec. 23

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Rev. Paul Stunkel will focus on "Why? The Prophecy, The Stable, a Virgin," Dec. 9; "Why?

Shepherds and Wise Men," Dec. 16; and "Why? Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Family, and featuring a live nativity, Dec. 23

Contact: (734) 422-1470

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, and 19

Location: Lora Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The meditation theme is the beginnings of the Gospel of St. Matthew, St. Luke and Revelation

Contact: (734) 968-3523

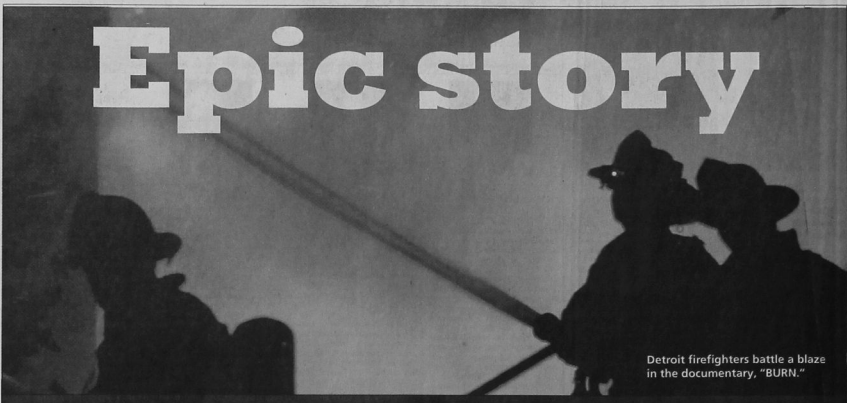
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For information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Epic story



Detroit firefighters battle a blaze in the documentary, "BURN."

Farmington Hills man featured in firefighter documentary

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

As a Detroit firefighter, Dennis Hunter sees the best and the worst of his former hometown every day.

"I love the city and I hate the city. It's where I grew up. It's my hometown and everyone in Metro Detroit, they know Detroit once was a great city and I believe it can be again. It just needs investment, leadership.

"What I hate is the lack of leadership and the crime and the school system, which is one of the main reasons I left."

Hunter, 41, who is married and the father of three daughters, moved to Farmington Hills from Detroit about four years ago, but continues to work in one of the busiest fire departments in the country.

He's a senior firefighter in Engine Company 40 on Detroit's west side and one of several firefighters featured in the documentary *BURN One Year on the Front Lines of the Battle To Save Detroit*, by Tom Putnam and Detroit native Brenna Sanchez.

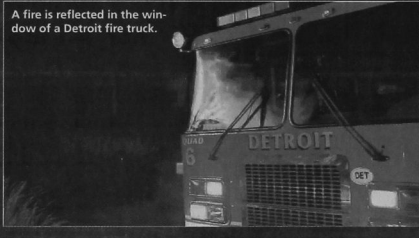
Hunter saw the film at its Tribeca film festival debut in New York earlier this year. It will open Friday, Dec. 7 in Washington D.C., Chicago, Ill., AMC Livonia 20 in Livonia and AMC Forum 30 in Sterling Heights. A portion of the proceeds of the film will go to the Leary Firefighters Foundation to buy gear for Detroit firefighters.

Untold story

Putnam and Sanchez became interested in filming Detroit firefighters after learning in late 2008 that a veteran fireman had died battling an arson blaze in an abandoned home. Nine months later they were embedded in Engine Company 50 on the city's east side where they filmed a test reel. In their first two days of shooting, the crew filmed 21 fires. They also inter-



Dennis Hunter of Farmington Hills is a 14-year veteran of the Detroit Fire Department.



A fire is reflected in the window of a Detroit fire truck.

viewed each member of the eight-man crew and outfitted them with helmet cameras.

They shopped the footage to film executives and cable broadcasters who said they liked the idea but couldn't find an audience for a movie about firefighters. So, the pair posted the trailer on Vimeo.com and YouTube where it drew 100,000 views. They started a Facebook page and led a fundraising campaign on Kickstarter.com. With funding from corporate sponsors, such as General Motors, and individual donors, they began filming in December 2010, finishing in January this year. In the process, Denis Leary, star of

the FX series, *Rescue Me*, and Jim Serpico, president of Motion Pictures and Television at Apostle productions, joined them as executive producers.

In addition to filming at Engine Company 50, the crew spent time at other fire stations, including Engine Company 40, where Hunter is based.

"It was pretty easy. They worked around us," Hunter recalled the film shoots.

"They gave us cameras for our helmets. They'd be in the firehouse filming. I got used to it. At first it was, 'wow, I'm getting filmed.' But then it was 'I'm going to be me, be real.' I'm at work.' You've got a serious job to do."

A new career

Hunter became interested in firefighting after a cousin, who also works for the Detroit Fire Department, mentioned that the city was taking applications.

"My dad wasn't a fireman. I didn't grow up wanting to be a fireman. I didn't know much about it even though my cousin was one. I have a barbershop I own. I was working there at the time," said Hunter, adding that he continues to cut hair in his spare time. "I decided, man, I could use some insurance. I'll take the test."

Several thousand other job-seekers had the same idea that day at Cobo Center.

"It was like a needle in the haystack. It was ridiculous."

Hunter later received notice that he had passed the test and was accepted into the training academy.

"Now I was getting interested. It was starting to get a little intriguing. Once I got into the academy, it was like, wow, I really want to do this ... helping people, the physical part of it, being in the community."

After four months in the academy, he spent eight months in the field completing his trial period before attaining his badge. He remembers his first fire was in an attic — attic and basement fires are the hottest blazes — and a sergeant led him through the process.

"We were up in the attic for an hour. It was something I never did before. It was scary, but when I saw all the guys seemed so comfortable, it relaxed me. I was probably full of adrenalin."

Suburbs, city

The film notes that Detroit firefighters often see flames from the inside of a burning structure, a necessity in neighborhoods with older houses in

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TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

Michigan Philharmonic plays sounds of the season

By Sharon Dargay
OAE Staff Writer

The Michigan Philharmonic will perform its holiday concert five times this month, but each show will vary depending on its location.

"It's very different from place to place and that keeps it fresh," said Beth Stewart, Michigan Philharmonic executive director. "There are a whole

host of things that can change it up."

"Home for the Holidays" concerts on Dec. 7 at Walled Lake Northern High School in Commerce and Dec. 14 at the Seligman Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills will feature school choirs singing holiday tunes and leading the audience sing-along. The Huron Valley Council for the Arts sponsors the concert in Commerce, which will include the Walled Lake School youth choirs. The Detroit Country Day School choirs will sing at the Seligman Center.

Vocalist Regina Coles of Canton will sing Dec. 15 at the Carr Center in Detroit. She's also a board member for the Michigan Philharmonic and a founding member of the Canton Cultural Commission. Coles has performed at venues throughout the Detroit area, including Baker's Keyboard Lounge, MGM Grand, and Motor City Casino.

An early evening concert Dec. 13 at the Penn Theatre in Plymouth will appeal to families. It's shorter than the other shows and will include an appearance by Santa Claus. A later evening performance is geared toward adults. They also can make reservations at a special dinner that Fiamma Grille offers to concert-goers.

Michigan Philharmonic pianist, Patrick Johnson, will perform at all of the events except for the family concert at the Penn. He is working on a doctorate in piano and music theory from Michigan State University. He also plays organ at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Hazel Park.

The size of the orchestras will stay the same—30 musicians—for each concert. "We keep it small and compact because of the Penn," Stewart said, noting that the theater's stage doesn't accommodate larger orchestras. "We have managed to have big sounds with a smaller

number of players." She said residents from Northville, Canton and Plymouth make up the majority of the orchestra's audience at the Penn Theatre, which is situated in a perfect location for an evening out on the town. "It's downtown and close to restaurants and the (Kellogg) park looks beautiful," she said. Stewart described the Carr Center as an intimate space, set in old ballroom, where "the audience practically sits around the orchestra." It typically includes children because tickets for



The Michigan Philharmonic under the direction of Nan Washburn will perform three holiday concerts Dec. 13-15.



Patrick Johnson

youngsters are free. "At Seligman, it's a fabulous performing arts center. We love playing there and the sound is terrific," she said. "The tickets are priced by section. There is something for everybody."

She added that the symphony's holiday repertoire will offer music for everyone.

"If your favorite isn't here, I'd be surprised. There's a lot of great Christmas music... Hanukkah songs, too."

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Michigan Philharmonic will play seasonal classics including, "Winter Wonderland," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," holiday songs from films, such as "Miracle on 34th Street," the "Polar Express," and more. Michigan Philharmonic pianist, Patrick Johnson, will perform Bach's "Piano Concerto #3 in D Major" and the audience will be invited to sing along on several tunes.

Plymouth: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Pennington Ave.

Beverly Hills: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at the Seligman Center for Performing Arts, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 13 Mile and Lahser, in Beverly Hills

Detroit: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at The Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River Ave.

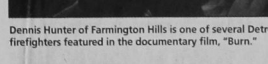
Commerce: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Walled Lake Northern High School, 6000 Bogie Lake Road

Tickets: \$30, \$25 and \$10 at the Penn; \$40, \$30 and \$20 at the Seligman Center; \$25 for adults and free for students accompanied by a paying adult at the Carr Center; and \$40, \$25 and \$15 adult admission, \$10 for youth, 10 and under at the concert in Commerce

Contact: Get information, buy tickets or make Fiamma Grille reservations by calling the Michigan Philharmonic office at (734) 451-2112 or visit www.michiganphil.org. For the Commerce concert, call (248) 889-8660 or visit huronvalleyarts.org

administration, and high arson rates. "We do save a lot of houses people live in. We save a lot of people. We do have a record amount of fires—30 to 40 a day (department-wide) and out of those, 70 percent are vacant. Another thing that keeps me going is, you can go through the politics, the tremendous amount of fires and the equipment that doesn't work, and I think when you save a life, save someone's property, that makes every thing worthwhile and you can keep on going."

AMC Livonia is located at 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile, Livonia, (888) 264-4386. AMC Farm 30 is at 44681 Mound, south of M-59 in Sterling Heights, (586) 254-1381.



Dennis Hunter of Farmington Hills is one of several Detroit firefighters featured in the documentary film, "Burn."



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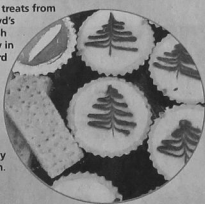
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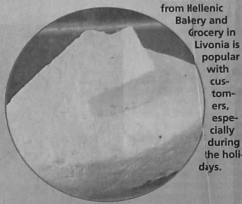
Bottles of olive oil line the shelves at Cantoro Italian Market in Livonia.



Sweet treats from Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery in Redford are a hit, especially during the holiday season.



Greek feta cheese from Hellenic Bakery and Grocery in Livonia is popular with customers, especially during the holidays.



A culinary trip around the world

Area ethnic markets lead the tour

By Mary Quinley
Correspondent

Distant cultures intrigue me. I especially like to sample unfamiliar foods and check out native shopping possibilities. Yet, travel to far away places isn't always feasible. If I stayed close to home and scoured local ethnic shops and markets, would that satisfy my urge? Absolutely. I found an amazing assortment of edibles and gifts ideal for celebrations, including the fast-approaching holidays.

Here's a sampling: • A warm, wonderful aroma welcomed me as I strolled into Pearl of The Orient in Livonia on a recent afternoon. It was Chicken Afritada. The stew-like entrée with pieces of chicken, potatoes, carrots, tomato sauce and seasonings is often served in Filipino households, Conrado C. Gegajo, the cook, told me. Made-in-house Filipino hot dishes — beef, pork and squash concoctions among them — and spring rolls are other popular any-occasion-to-go items. Customers flock to the store during the holiday season for gift-wrapped hams (marinated with brown sugar and pineapple), pork butt roasts (coked in Calamansi), a tropical lemon/lime marinade; and, sweet treats like steamed rice cakes and custard cakes.

• "Everything is good and fresh and home-made. That's what I like about this place," said Nick Pitsillos of Livonia, as he shopped for olives and feta cheese at Hellenic Bakery and Grocery in Livonia. His Greek and non-Greek friends, as well, also enjoy made-in-the-back-kitchen spinach pie, arm-length-long loaves of wheat and white bread, kourambietes (shelves almond cookies), baklava, and kolyva (a sweet treat served at Orthodox memorial services). Barrels filled with soup staples like lentils, bulgur wheat and chickpeas; shelves lined with bottles of olive oil and packages of orzo and other pastas; and, a refrigerated case with Greek yogurts, caviar and cheeses lure customers. A limited selection of wines and non-alcoholic beverages — I found Kouros, a favorite Greek white wine — are available.

• Whenever Harini Prabhun needs lentils, or an



Customers rave about the made-in-house pork rinds from Dos Hermanos, a Mexican market in Westland.

LOCAL ETHNIC MARKETS

- **Hellenic Bakery & Grocery**, 33306 W. Seven Mile, Livonia, (248) 476-2080; Greek
- **Cantoro Italian Market**, 19710 Middlebelt, Livonia, (248) 478-2345, www.cantoromarket.com
- **DiMaggio's Italian Bakery**, 25861 W. Six Mile, Redford, (313) 538-9665
- **Simply Polish**, 6201 Middlebelt, Garden City, (734) 525-2800, www.simplypolishusa.com
- **Da Zhong Food Market**, 28850 Seven Mile, Livonia, (248) 426-9798; Chinese
- **Dos Hermanos**, 34707 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 326-0523; Mexican
- **Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery**, 25566 Five Mile, Redford, (313) 532-1181, www.ackroydsbakery.com
- **One World Market**, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 374-0844, www.oneworldmarket.us; Japanese
- **Polanka**, 28905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 466-9725; Polish
- **New International Market**, 15383 Inkster Road, Livonia, (734) 522-2220; European and Mid-eastern
- **Colleen's Gaelic Gifts**, 15373 Farmington Road, Livonia, (734) 513-2107, www.colleensirishgiftshop.com
- **Beirut Bakery**, 25706 Schoolcraft, Redford, (313) 533-4422, www.beirutbakery.net; Mid-eastern
- **Uri Market**, 31557 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 488-0477; Korean
- **Loaf & A Pound**, 34815 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 728-5623, www.loafandapound.com; Italian
- **August Chinese Market**, 42488 Cherry Hill, Canton, (248) 844-8688, www.chinesemarketusa.com
- **Maria's Italian Bakery**, 41705 W. 10 Mile, Novi, (248) 348-0545, www.mariasitalianbakery.com
- **Vani Food**, 38245 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 919-0062, www.vanifood.com; Indian
- **Namaste Plaza**, 34703 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, (248) 476-7500; Indian
- **Koyama Shoten**, 37176 Six Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-1480, www.koyama-shoten.com; Japanese
- **Bombay Grocers**, 45510 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 459-2016; Indian
- **Jeramk Westside Oriental Store**, 29454 Ford Road, Garden City, (734) 421-0019
- **Dedo's Marketplace**, 33021 Grand River Ave., Farmington, (248) 476-0300; Arabic, Eastern European and Indian

Indian spice, like masala powder, or an Indian vegetable, she heads to Vani Food in Farmington Hills or Namaste Plaza in Farmington.

"I use the powder to cook Indian gravies," said Prabhu of Farmington Hills, who is a regular customer at both markets. The stores carry an assortment of groceries, fresh vegetables (coccinia grandis, an ivy gourd, can be found only at Namaste), and Indian CDs and DVDs.

• Sausages rolls, meat pies, candy bars and a selection of pastries from Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery elicit happy childhood memories for Derek Marshall of Livonia.

"If we behaved ourselves, these (edibles) would show up," said Marshall, chuckling. Shortbread and Empire Biscuits (buttery shortbread cookies filled with strawberry jam and topped with white icing and a cherry piece) are some favorites. During the holiday season, said Allan Ackroyd, co-owner, "steak pies for Christmas dinner are popular." This Redford market also carries a variety of imported items from the United



One World Market, a Japanese grocer in Novi, carries fresh produce.

Kingdom including gift boxes of assorted Cadbury candy bars, Christmas Crackers (colorful wrapped cardboard tubes typically filled with small gifts and candies), and traditional Christmas puddings.

• A medley of pleasant scents — fresh-from-the-oven Italian bread and peppercorn rolls, among them — filtered through-out DiMaggio's Italian Bakery and Catering in Redford on a recent Saturday. Debbie Dahlman of Plymouth picked up a "to go" order of pasta salad, dinner rolls, and broast-

ed chicken. "THE best chicken!" Dahlman said.

At a table just inside the bakery's door, customers nibbled on Italian subs and sipped bottles of red birch beer, a hard-to-find, cane-sugar-sweetened soda. Desserts, perfect for holiday gift-giving, include cannolis (sprinkled with mini-chocolate chips or dotted with peanuts), chocolate-raspberry cakes, and a selection of cookies. Made-to-order beef, pork or lamb meatballs, or a combination of any of the three, are favorite customer requests. "Whatever people need, that's what we do," said Steve DiMaggio, who is co-owner with his wife, Tina Zdravkovskis.

When Kathy and Franklin Luxon decided they wanted "something different and unique" to add to their bridal registry, they knew just where to find it. Simply Polish in Garden City. "It's the only place (in the area) where you can get authentic Polish pottery," said Kathy Luxon. The stoneware, adorned in patterns of blue, green and earth tones, has roots dating back to the early 19th

century. The couple from Livonia received a hodgepodge of place settings, casserole dishes, salt and pepper shakers and a "whole cabinet of odds and ends." Holiday gift seekers will enjoy shopping for the pottery, amber jewelry, glass ornaments, apparel, tea pots and other Polish-themed wares.

• Dos Hermanos, a Mexican market in Westland, carries "many things that many places don't sell, like piñatas and homemade pork rinds and tamales," said Reyes Arreola, an owner. An assortment of jerseys, T-shirts and other apparel provide possibilities for under-the-Christmas-tree gifts. Piñatas — three sizes of the decorated papier-mâché confection — range from the store's ceiling — entertain kids as well as adults on happy occasions. Like guacamole? Choose a mild or hot made-in-house variety. Other dell items include mild to very hot salsa, chicken feed (good for soup-making), beef tongue, cod, and made-in-house chorizo. Shelves are packed with dry spices, Hispanic tea seasonings, and sweets. The market, serves authentic Mexican fare.

• Not to worry if Japanese is an unfamiliar language. Signs and many labels at One World Market, which is the largest Japanese market located in Novi, are bi-lingual. Two cases hold a medley of must-be-cooked-before-eating halibut, snapper, mackerel, butter fish and other fresh fish. A variety of safe-to-eat raw fish like blue fin tuna, whelk and conch. Green tea- and red beans-flavored Mochi Ice Cream Bonbons, plum wine, fresh fruit, and a variety of cooking supplies, and an in-house sushi bar are among the highlights.

• Polanka Market in Livonia features a slew of holiday heat-and-serve meals like stuffed cabbage, city chicken and potato pancakes. Soup choices include dill, pickle, and chicken noodle. A assortment of deli meats, baked goods and shelves are packed with a variety of Polish cookies, candies and canned goods can also be purchased.

• All things Irish — and then some — decorate the shelves at Colleen's Gaelic Gifts in Livonia. "I carry Waterford crystal, Belknap Parian China, and a large selection of jewelry, especially Gaelic wedding bands," said Colleen Haggerty, owner. Edibles — a plate of Irish cookies sits on the counter for customers to sample — and, a selection of teas, music CDs, and, "everything in between" make shopping for everyone's "wish list" an easy task. Most merchandise is made in Ireland. Michigan and USA products also are featured.

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CANTON GARAGE FOR RENT 6 months. \$220/mo. 1 year \$770/mo. 734-320-7500
PLYMOUTH 1800 sq. ft. 4 bdrm, 1.5 bath, granite, hardwood, spa, built garage no smokers \$1500/mo. 248-348-6069
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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Corduroy ridge
4 Limestone formation
8 Fired
12 Wall climber
13 Yajima ruler
14 The —, the merrier
15 Overtly glib
16 Like a chipmunk (hyph.)
18 Nasty laugh
20 Russian range
21 Hallowe'en
23 Really big tees
24 Is or was
27 Beluga delicacy
29 Like some candy
33 Conquistador's guest
34 Quiet lodging
35 Molecular biology topic
36 Secure a contract

DOWN
38 Sweet murmur
39 Chicken feed
40 Just scrape by
42 Access
43 Carry —
44 In that case (2 wds.)
46 Wax theatrical
50 Fight-or-flight chemical
54 Leather punch
55 Dairy opener
56 Balance
57 Harmless lie
58 Soup-can flav
59 Cattle backprop
60 RR terminal

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
CELT BAY TOW
NYLON ALI OAK
NEATO ZEPHYRS
MANN A EEO
OPAL VAN EICH
DOSED R ALFAA
LID DON PEN DR
ESC MOB MODES
REEK DIM OATH
YES DANDY
LILYPAD ALLGAE
TOD ODE TELLS
DUN TON SOFA

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8 James Bond foe
9 Georgetown hogster
10 Pitcher — Hersher
11 Turner or Koppel
17 "Futureworld" name
19 Diminish
22 Instant
23 Noble gas
24 Encyclopaedia
25 Hurler stat
26 L. — Hubbard
28 Lennon's wife
30 Palindromic name
31 Hosp. workers
32 Dit partner
37 Dry expanse
39 Duke player, for short
41 —, Tik
42 Gossypiumger
44 — fix
45 Kuka's friend
47 Bumblers
48 Tease
49 Napoleon's island
50 Total up
51 Upper limb
52 Peggy or Brenda
53 NASA destination

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crosswords" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Word Search — Evergreen

NEERGREVECANPVR
KSULMFJKHRYRREF
NEEDLESCBDIPFKB
ZEAABJE OUDCIRUG
WRFNHPRLGANJSUG
YTIIMVZMNOHQT
WPTYPIXLCEAQPTIT
LMCTKVJHRS LRJYI
KAASYRJ SRETNIWB
AHEP L HUWI PP RW
PIORWLHENGIRTE
NLEUXPPOPBZFNZR
FSXC F I R U H T P K Z Q
XKMEGWFAUXKVOKJ
VB NV F L E T R H Y M O I L

Word Search

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

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Livonia MI 48150

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Senior Project Engineer
Engine Calibration for diesel engine manufacturer in Plymouth, MI. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or related field and 5+ years' experience. Designing & performing engine and vehicle calibration engineering including planning & managing on-going research according to project requirements; reviewing engineering proposals for compliance with engineering principles and project specifications; planning and executing laboratory studies; engine testing performance and emissions research and development activities. The position is located in Plymouth, MI with 20% travel. Send resume to: **AVI PowerTech Engineering, Inc.** Attn: Neil Carter 47023 Hayward Drive, Plymouth, MI 48178. Please indicate SPEC in subject line.

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Grocery: Shook's/Roscoe's
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JOBS

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Help Wanted - General

CAREGIVER
For autistic boy in Farmington Hills, Westland, Westland, \$8.50/hr. 866-633-7351

Cat-N-Care is looking for snow removal workers in Westland.

• CDL Drivers
• Loader Operators
• Plow Truck Drivers
Call: 248-658-0070

DRIVER

Must be licensed for CD, B with air for delivery of roofing materials, ability to lift heavy objects. Please apply at: **Benson Building Supplies** 25013 Plymouth Rd, Redford (313) 358-9300

MAINTENANCE

Full-time maintenance person needed by retirement community in Westland. Requires general knowledge of preventive and repair repairs including plumbing, electrical and HVAC. Fax resumes to: 734-779-9644, EOE

Help Wanted - General

LEGAL SECRETARY / LEGAL ASST.

Division Director for law office seeking an energetic individual with excellent organizational, multi-tasking and computer skills. Minimum 4 yrs. legal experience required. Please send resume to Office Manager at shangpu@shangpu-law.com or fax (313) 256-8913.

FLOW TRUCK DRIVER NEEDED

Must be reliable, experience required. \$15-20/hr
Call: 734-622-8622

Warehouse Manager

Candidate sought for the position of Warehouse Manager for a national office furniture resupply company. Responsibilities include: managing both warehouse activities, shipping, receiving, tracking equipment, fleet management & maintaining client inventory. Communication skills, a valid driver's license, computer skills and positive attitude a plus.

Apply in person
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm
29801 Anthony Dr
Warren, MI 48093
or send resume to:
hr.mi.resume@gmail.com

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

CLERICAL, FULL-TIME
General Office & Apprg. Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Apply at: West Manufacturers Co. 987 Manufacturers Dr., Westland, MI. For directions: 734-778-4772

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Anderson, organized, mature assistant for non-profit. 25 hours/week. Fax resume to: 748-214-2423; email: info@andersonfund.com

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

at Inland Family Practice. Must have exp. interest in holistic/naturopathic medicine as a must. Resumes to: inlandoffice@gmail.com

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Help Wanted - Domestic

HOUSEKEEPER

PART-TIME, Tues- 6-10 hrs/wk, \$12/hr. Email: cewg@springgroup.com

Position Wanted

HOME CLEANING OFFERED

Female student, thorough, honest, and reliable. \$70 for most sized homes. References available. Weekly or bi-weekly. Please send a detailed message with your name & number to: 866-633-7351 or contact the email: er100@wayne.com

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For info call: 586 872 1432 Email: CPA@CPAIngle.com or visit: CPAIngle.com

Position Wanted

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Job Opportunities

1-800-579-SELL

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