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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 • hometownlife.com

## Stewart to run for state Senate

Former state representative from Plymouth will challenge incumbent Colbeck for 7th District seat

**By Brad Kadrich**  
Staff Writer

Nearly eight years after finishing his third term as a state representative, Plymouth attorney John Stewart is planning to try to get back into the state Legislature.

Stewart, who served as state representative for the 20th District from 2000-06, will challenge incumbent state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, for Colbeck's 7th Senate District seat in the 2014 election.

Stewart, who served in the House as a Republican before



Stewart



Colbeck

switching to the Democratic party, will challenge Colbeck as a Democrat this time around. Stewart ran unsuccess-

cessfully for the same seat as an independent four years ago.

Stewart paid his \$100 filing fee to the Wayne County elections division last month. As of Tuesday, he was the only candidate to have filed.

"I'd love to run for state Senate," Stewart said. "I think I'm the moderate and I think I can win it."

Stewart, who has practiced law out of the same Main

Street office for nearly 30 years, said he believes the district—redrawn for the 2014 election—is more moderate now than it has been. Colbeck's district currently includes Plymouth, Canton, part of Northville, Wayne, Belleville and downriver communities.

For the 2014 election, the downriver communities have

See STEWART, Page A2



Canton firefighter Dave Holloway has a cart loaded with presents for Lina, Chris and Isabella Smith, who are enjoying the ride. TOM BEAUDOIN

## FILLING A NEED

Canton firefighters bring Christmas to local children

**By Brad Kadrich**  
Staff Writer

As a first-year program, organizers of the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation's first Christmas with a Firefighter shopping event weren't sure how things would turn out.

All's well that ends well. More than two dozen firefighters turned out to help

more than 30 children from low-income families at the Canton Meijer. The idea was to make sure as many children as possible had Christmas presents and a nice dinner for the holidays.

"It went great," said firefighter Greg Hunter, vice president of the foundation. "The participation with the firefighters who showed up and the children was great.

The parents and the children were so thankful."

Firefighters in their work uniforms brought Santa in on a fire truck. Firefighters then shopped with the youngsters. Firefighters donated \$150 each for the children, chosen from Canton-based elementary and middle schools with help from a social worker.

While the kids shopped for presents, Hunter said parents took some of the donated money and shopped

for clothes and coats.

Meanwhile, Meijer employees provided assistance, along with pizza and gift baskets that included hams for the families.

"The idea was to help anyone in the community who needed it," Hunter said.

"We wanted to make sure there were no kids who didn't have Christmas gifts or dinner for that night."

Hunter said the program

See SHOPPING, Page A3

## Church youths reach out to Detroit

Soup kitchen faces uncertain future

**By Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

About a dozen high schoolers from Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton will again this year sleep outdoors in the church parking lot overnight Dec. 26, to learn about homelessness and experience it firsthand. The youths and others from the church on Sheldon north of Ford will also collect donations for Fort Street Open Door, housed in Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit.

"We do it because we can," said Nancy Glodich, director of youth ministry for Geneva and a Plymouth Township resident. "I think it reminds us of the less fortunate people that are so close to us in distance. Jesus tells us to find his sheep and clothe his sheep. That's what we're trying to do."

The suburban teens' effort is particularly important this year, as Open Door faces cuts of up to \$75,000 a year from a \$200,000 annual budget, due to Detroit's bankruptcy. Those are U.S. Housing and Urban Development funds which Detroit Emergency Manager Kevin Orr has recommended be eliminated, said Ben Odgen, Open Door director.

"My job is in question by

See YOUTHS, Page A2

## Canton couple leads partying elves

**By Matt Jachman**  
Staff Writer

Santa's helpers took a break from Christmas preparations to spend Sunday night on the town in Plymouth.

More than 40 "elves," large and small, wore elf hats, adopted elf names, ate elf food at Sean O'Callaghan's and dropped in at the Penn Theatre for a showing of the comedy *Elf*, starring Will Ferrell as a normal-sized human, raised as one of Santa's elves, who reunites with his father in New York City.

The organizers were Dan Stechow and Lori Cale, a cou-

ple from Canton Township who dressed up Sunday as Mr. and Mrs. Claus or, in elf-speak, Danta and Mrs. Saucy Claus.

"There's something wonderfully weird about seeing dozens of laughing people in costume walking down the street. The holiday season needs a little strangeness, don't you think?" Stechow said.

**Downtown 'perfect'**

"It really was cute," said Catherine Withrow of Canton who, among friends with humorous elf names like "Pappy Appleshorts," "Squeazy Hamsterface" and "Sassy Stri-  
Pants," was simply dubbed "Dave" for the event. "It truly kind of kicked off the whole holiday season for me." Lighted up for the holidays, downtown Plymouth was "gorgeous" and the ambience "perfect," Withrow said.

Stechow explained in an email that he and Cale were inspired by "SantaCon" pub crawl events that feature participants dressed as Santa.

"In 2011 we found ourselves in Grand Central Station with over 5,000 Santas. We loved it so much, we wanted to make a little merry here at home," said Stechow, who

See ELVES, Page A3

## Rock the Clock!



The first ever Rock the Clock Run in downtown Plymouth is slated for Sunday, Dec. 29, with proceeds to help send children with Type 1 diabetes to a Fenton-based summer camp to learn about living with the disease. Charlie Stamboulian (left) and Kyle Meteyer, along with Nick Aiyler, have put together the event. Businesses around Kellogg Park have jumped on board to help the cause. For more on Rock the Clock, turn to page B1. ANH ESPINOZA



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## STEWART

Continued from Page A1

been eliminated. The district will now include Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Wayne and Livonia.

"The moderate advantage is even more true now that the district has shifted," Stewart said. "I am the only one who has represented all of those communities (the 20th included the west side of Livonia in 2000-02).

"I've walked every house door-to-door in Wayne," Stewart said. Colbeck's votes — on the pension tax in committee and on the expansion of Medicaid — show he "doesn't represent the people he was elected to represent."

Stewart had been delaying his entry into the race until state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, made a decision. The term-limited Slavens has been rumored to be considering seeking a Senate seat. Stewart, who had been waiting for Slavens' decision, said it no longer affects his status.

"I will not withdraw if (Slavens) files," Stewart said. "I filed knowing I could withdraw, but I don't like to. That's not my pattern."

For her part, Slavens said Tuesday she's concentrating on doing her job.

"I'm focused on my work in the House," Slavens said. "I'll make my decision on that after the first of the year."

Which leaves Stewart planning a campaign against Colbeck, whom Stewart said "is a great campaigner." But Stewart believes his support of public education and his experience as a small businessman will carry him past a potential primary against Slavens, whom he believes is too liberal, and against Colbeck.

"It will be a very difficult race (against Colbeck), because he really knows how to work his base," Stewart said. "This district won't elect a liberal. The people know me and they know I'm not a liberal."

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## YOUTHS

Continued from Page A1

my choice," he said, noting he's the only full-timer there.

Visitors are welcome at Open Door, 631 W. Fort St., at Third. Ogdens can be reached at 313-961-4533, ext. 34.

"We love people to come in," he said, noting a recent Wednesday lunch had some 40 homeless visitors watching a movie with volunteers. Visitors are welcome Tuesday through Friday.

The Dec. 26 event has become a Geneva tradition for some 19 years and is based on the British custom of boxing up clothing and items no longer needed to give to the needy the day after Christmas. Canadians also observe Boxing Day.

On Thursday, Dec. 26, beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until 7 a.m. the following morning, Geneva high school students and their adult advisers will spend the entire night outside in the church parking lot. Donations of clothing for those in need are welcome beginning Dec. 26. The church is at 3835 Sheldon in Canton.

## Donations sought

Donations of warm winter clothing, winter outerwear, blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries will be accepted through Jan. 10. Organizers have requested no furniture, appliances, toys or household items.

Donations may be brought to the Canton church during office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or left in the drop boxes outside the church entrance. The clothes and other items will be delivered Saturday, Jan. 11, to Open Door.

Organizers hope to be able to fill a semi truck with warm coats, blankets and clothing.

Ogdens, an Oak Park resident, noted the name Open Door Ministry is



Last January, Jessica Krone, Brenna Degener and Drew Degener showed off the room full of clothing donated through Geneva Presbyterian Church to help the homeless.

FILE PHOTO

often used in conjunction with churches. Open Door is marking its 45th anniversary and grew out of a church fellowship group for those age 30 and up when Fort Street Presbyterian had more members and Detroit's population was larger.

"It was just congregants and friends of congregants," he said of the "Nifty Fifty" group of that era. They saw the need to help homeless people and reached out to other congregations.

Today, Open Door provides more than 20,000 meals a year. It operates a Clothing Closet for about 100 men and women a week, with more men seeking clothes there. Men are eligible every four weeks, Ogdens said, while women are eligible every week because more women's clothing is donated.

Open Door also has a Career Closet of clothing suitable for job interviews, working with established and reputable job training programs such as Jewish Vocational Services.

"We try to stick to the ones that have a little more history," he said of job training programs, adding Open Door gives career clothing to about 30 people a week by referral.

Homeless people can also shower and groom themselves there.

Open Door staff and volunteers work with the

homeless. It's difficult to have 10 sleeping bags to give out and 100 needy people, he said.

"Certainly the suffering is very hard," he said.

## Mental illness factor

About 25 percent of the homeless have a mental illness diagnosis, he said. Detroit drew people for wartime work in the early 1940s and as those jobs disappeared when World War II ended, some politicians created welfare standards of the 1950s and '60s. Ogdens chooses his words with care, but notes welfare becoming "too easily available," along with "gross degradation of the family unit. That obviously was an unsustainable model."

Also, former Gov. John Engler mandated closure of state-run mental health institutions, Ogdens said: "The stress and strain of life can bring on mental health issues. A lot of those people got pushed out into the streets."

Veterans represent some 25 percent of homeless, he said, although Ogdens is pleased in the past five years to see the Veterans Administration more aggressive in its outreach. Vietnam veterans may not have read the mental health information in the discharge packet they got, he said.

He doesn't see service personnel from Iraq or Afghanistan in large

numbers who are homeless and is pleased they're getting VA services more quickly. Even Desert Storm outreach was less substantial, he said.

Ogdens doesn't see large numbers of children at Open Door.

"It's very rare to see a child on the street." He explained the difference between those who have no fixed residency but a place to stay, such as with family or friends, and the "chronic homeless. These are the shelter residents, the long-term stays, the folks sleeping under overpasses. These are basically the people, what they have they carry."

Suburbs, especially those with downtowns like Royal Oak or Plymouth, are starting to see homeless people, Ogdens said. Those homeless generally know specifics of panhandling laws. Panhandling has some restrictions, but it isn't illegal and prime downtown Detroit commuter corners have regular panhandlers.

Ogdens agreed it's difficult to seek support for the chronic homeless. He noted the "charity du jour" when homelessness became a headline grabber in the late 1980s and early 1990s with crack cocaine use spiking.

"Food security is the charity du jour" now, he said of such groups as Cleaners and Forgotten Harvest. "They are great programs," Open Door must, however, buy its food there.

He appreciates the Canton church and all donations.

"Once you're wet, you're dead, so we cycle through a ton of clothes (in winter)," Ogdens said, adding that Open Door welcomes volunteers and donations.

Ogdens plans to visit Geneva in Canton during the Boxing Night, meeting young people there and answering their questions.

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## ELVES

Continued from Page A1

lived in Manhattan for 25 years.

They hope to make "Elf Night," as they're calling it, an annual event.

O'Callaghan's, a block from the theater, served food like "Reindeer Sliders" and "Shepherd's Boy Pie" and adult beverages like "Bloody Merry Christmas." Names were drawn for prizes such as snowman paddleball, a hand-held Santa pinball game and a 2014 calendar featuring puppies. The Clauses and the elves then walked down Penninman to the theater.

"When the group of us walked across the street to go to the Penn Theatre, I'm sure it attracted some attention," Without said.

### 'Adds to festivities'

Jane McKimmy of Canton (elf name: "Sunny Bunster") attended with husband John and their sons, Ian, 14, Shane, 13, and Evan, 10. The family is friends with Stechow and Cale and her children.

"We had a really great time. I wasn't expecting all the festivities," said Sunny, er, McKimmy. "We were really tickled pink to have all this fun stuff going on around there." Next time, McKimmy said, she'll be

prepared with a full elf costume.

Ellen Elliott, executive director of the Friends of the Penn Theatre, which runs the 72-year-old movie house, was unfazed by the dozens of elves who arrived Sunday. It's not unusual, she said, for people to visit the Penn in groups for showings of Christmas movies. *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story* and *Christmas Vacation* are popular for group outings, she said.

"It adds to their festivities," Elliott said. "We caught on to that a few years ago."

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## SHOPPING

Continued from Page A1

was even more successful than organizers anticipated and would continue again next year.

"We want to do it every year now and we'd like to add even more kids, if we can," he said. "I think we accomplished everything we were looking to do. The kids were so happy."

The program comes as the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation moves to broaden its influence in the community. The organization already provides financial aid to victims of house fires, families suffering from tragedy or illness and people in need of shelter. The foundation also has given to charities that provide medical service or research.

The Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation has brainstormed



Canton firefighter Frank Rehling keeps Call Howard's shopping bag organized during their shopping trip at Meijer. TOM BEAUDOIN

to broaden the scope of its community efforts after the board ushered in a change of leadership due to a flurry of retirements.

Anyone who wants to support the organization's efforts may send checks to the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation, 1100 S. Can-

ton Center, Canton Township, MI 48188. For more information, send an email to cffcfc2289@gmail.com.

Staff writer Darrell Clem contributed to this story.

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# Optimists sponsor local essay contest

The Plymouth Optimist Club is hosting an essay contest.

A \$2,500 scholarship goes to the winner of the essay contest, sponsored by the Michigan District Optimist Club.

Each essay must be 700-800 words on the

topic, "How dreams lead to success."

High school students under the age of 19 are eligible to enter the Plymouth Optimist Club's contest, a semifinal to the overall contest. Students must be younger than 19 as of Feb. 28, 2014, to

qualify. Applications must be completed and returned to Optimist Bill Baumgartner, 1780 Hendrie, Canton, MI 48187, no later than Jan. 14.

For more details and an application, call Baumgartner at 734-844-6009.

# Wayne man busted for child porn

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

A Wayne man is facing charges related to the trafficking of child pornography after sending illicit images to a Canton man via text message.

The suspect, whose name is being withheld because he hadn't been arraigned as of press time, was arrested Sunday after the Canton resident reported receiving the text message while he was shoveling snow. The text message,

he told Canton Police, contained seven images determined to be child pornography.

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said police obtained a warrant to search the suspect's home. When they arrived, he said, the home was vacant. During the search, he said, police found evidence of illegal child pornography.

While canvassing the area, police tracked the suspect to another apartment building.

Baugh said detectives interviewed the suspect,

who made an admission of guilt to the material on his phone and to sending it.

According to Baugh, the man said he "sent it by accident," that he was trying to send it to another phone.

Baugh said the man told police he'd become "addicted to child porn" while patrolling the Internet to see that his 8-year-old daughter wasn't a victim.

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## Woman guilty of larceny from dementia patient

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

A Westland woman has pleaded guilty to one of two counts of larceny in a building following allegations she stole jewelry from dementia patients while working as a health care employee at Crystal Creek, a Canton assisted living center.

Gail Lynn Good, 45, could face penalties ranging from probation to four years in prison when she is sentenced Jan. 14 by Wayne County Circuit Judge James Chylinski. Authorities agreed to drop a second charge of larceny in a building after Good agreed to plead guilty to one count, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

Good was charged after



Good

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said police investigated allegations in late September and early October that Good had stolen a pair of gold necklaces, one with a diamond, had been stolen from elderly women who have dementia.

The case unfolded while Good was working at Crystal

Creek, on Lilley north of Warren. She has been released from custody while she awaits her sentencing.

Baugh said relatives of the victims notified the assisted living center's administration, which then contacted police.

Baugh said the necklaces had been taken to jewelry shops in Westland, where one was recovered, but the other already had been melted down.

Baugh had described the jewelry shops and Crystal Creek as cooperative while Canton police investigated Good, who was arrested on the job in October.

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## PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

### Mail theft

Two children's books, purchased as Christmas presents, were reported stolen Saturday from the mailbox of a house on Crabtree Lane, in the area of Five Mile and Haggerty, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The books had been ordered to be shipped by mail, the complainant told police, but only the torn, empty packaging for them was found in the mailbox on Saturday.

### Purse theft reported

A Westland woman reported the Dec. 7 theft of her purse and its contents, including cash and credit cards, from Compuway Arena, on Beck north of M-14 in the township.

The woman told police she had set the purse under her bleacher seat while attending her 6-year-old son's hockey game that evening. Upon arriving home, she discovered she

no longer had the purse and returned to the area, she told police. She and arena staff were unable to locate it, a police report said.

### Repeat vandalism

A passenger-side window on a new Dodge Durango pickup truck was broken earlier this month while the truck was parked outside a collision shop on Mill Street north of Ann Arbor Road.

The vandalism occurred at the Dick Scott Dodge collision shop between the evening of Dec. 10 and early the next afternoon, a police report said. The frame of the broken window was also damaged, police said the fence surrounding the lot had been cut and piled open.

It was the second window-breaking incident there within two weeks and the fourth within a 10-month period, the shop manager told police.

—By Matt Jachman

## CANTON CRIME WATCH

### Laced chocolate

Canton police Monday arrested a 17-year-old Plymouth boy after a brownie he fed to a 17-year-old Canton girl made her ill.

According to Canton police, the girl got sick in class and reported to the school nurse. The Canton Police Department resource officers started an investigation and notified the police detectives.

When detectives talked to the boy, police said, he admitted to possession of marijuana-laced chocolate bars. Police said they recovered dozens of chocolate bars in the boy's possession.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials declined to comment, other than saying the girl was taken to a hospital Monday, treated and then released a few hours later.

The investigation is ongoing.

### Pot possession

A Canton Police officer on routine patrol in the area of Michigan Avenue and Willard noticed a silver Chevy Monte Carlo switching lanes without

signaling to make a "Michigan left" and pulled the car over.

A check of the license plate showed the registered owner with a suspended license and warrants out of both Plymouth and Canton townships, according to the police report.

When the officer pulled the car over on eastbound Michigan Avenue, the driver got out of the car. The officer handcuffed him and placed him in the rear of the patrol car for security reasons, according to the report. The driver had parked the car on the shoulder, but it was blocking Willard.

The officer told the driver he would park the car for him and, when he got in the driver's seat, the officer noticed a plastic bag filled with what appeared to be a green, leafy substance on the passenger floorboard. According to the report, the officer asked for permission to search the car, but was denied by the driver.

The driver told the officer he'd been "returning from the city" and that his cousin had been sitting in the passenger seat. A subsequent search turned up a gold watch and a Paypal card be-

longing to the driver's cousin.

The driver was transported to the Canton Police Department and cited for possession of marijuana.

### Telephone harassment

A Canton woman told police her ex-boyfriend had been sending her threats via text, email and phone calls.

She said the ex-boyfriend, with whom she has a child, sent her some 50 emails in a week's time and had sent her 50 text messages and made 25 phone calls in one 24-hour period.

She told police she didn't want him prosecuted, but wanted the threats to stop. She also told police the boyfriend was on parole. Police advised the woman of the procedures for obtaining a personal protection order and also advised her to call the boyfriend's parole officer.

### Retail fraud

While responding to the Meijer store on Michigan Avenue for a retail fraud in progress, a Canton officer was notified the suspects had left the store in a burgundy HHR. The officer, arriving

on scene, noticed the vehicle pulling out of the parking lot and pulled it over.

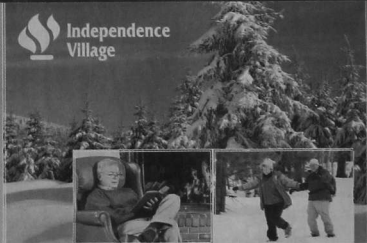
According to police reports, while talking to the vehicle's occupants, the officer noticed the interior of the vehicle was filled with toys and clothing. The driver told police they'd been shopping at Meijer, according to the report. The officer contacted the loss-prevention officer at the Michigan Avenue Meijer, who accurately described the occupants of the vehicle as those involved in the retail fraud.

While searching the car, officers also found clothing from both Dots and Old Navy. When Dots employees were notified, they told police there were also missing items from the store. According to the report, Old Navy staffers said they hadn't noticed the suspects, but would check their security video.

All three occupants were taken to the Canton Police Department and questioned and, according to the report, all three made written statements that admitted to taking items from Meijer, Dots and Old Navy.

—By Brad Kadrich

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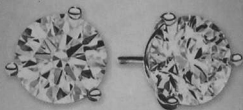
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 Sale \$13.99-\$4.60, reg. 15.99-\$7.60.



ALL THE PLAYFUL GIFTS

**10% to 60% off**

All toys.  
 Sale \$29-\$299.99, reg. 2.99-\$299.99. Toy dept.



TECH GIFTS

**10-60% off**

Electronics. Sale \$8.99-\$233.99, reg. 9.99-\$259.99. Select styles.

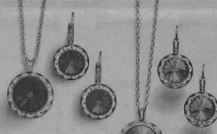


Some discounts may not apply

ALL KITCHEN ELECTRICS

**10% to 33% off**

All kitchen electronics.  
 Sale \$26.99-\$49.99, reg. 29.99-\$49.99.



**21.99 ea.**  
 Illuminate crystal jewelry made with Swarovski Elements. Fine silver plated. Orig. \$60 ea.

**60% to 70% off** ALL THE SPARKLING GIFTS  
 All fine jewelry & silver jewelry. Sale \$5.99-\$399.99, reg. 15.00-\$999. Excludes Simons' collection. See jewelry details below.

**109.99 ea.**  
 Two Hearts Forever. Two 1/4 ct. T.W. diamond pendants. Sterling silver. Reg. \$275 ea.



**74.99 pr.**  
 1/5 ct. T.W. classic diamond solitaire earrings. 14k gold. Reg. \$250 pr.



**139.99 pr.**  
 1/4 ct. T.W. classic diamond solitaire earrings. 14k gold. Reg. \$400 pr.



**389.99 pr.**  
 1/2 ct. T.W. classic diamond solitaire earrings. 14k gold. Reg. \$1200 pr.



**524.99 pr.**  
 3/4 ct. T.W. classic diamond solitaire earrings. 14k gold. Reg. \$1500 pr.



For the Kohl's store nearest you, call 1-800-837-1500 or visit Kohls.com. Prices good Fri., Dec. 20-Tue., Dec. 24, 2013, unless otherwise indicated.

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The evolution of St. Nicholas to the modern-day image.



# ENDING THE SPIRIT

Institute puts 'St. Nick' into historical context

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

A. Michael Deller had been performing as Santa Claus for nearly a decade before the St. Nicholas Institute opened Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia.

But when the institute, with its vision of, according to its website, empowering "faith-filled candidates with the tools needed to convincingly portray both St. Nicholas and the 'elfin' Santa Claus in a wide variety of venues," whether religious or secular, it caught Deller's attention.

"The institute ... would have an emphasis on St. Nicholas, the actual person, and his history and how some of his beliefs and passions in life have come through to the person we know as Santa Claus," said Deller, perhaps best known as the Santa in the now-defunct holiday parade in Livonia. "That sounded really interesting to me. I thought it would be interesting to see what they provided."

The institute revolves around St. Nicholas who, according to institute founder the Rev. Joseph Marquis, is "remembered and revered among Catholic and Orthodox Christians and is also honored by various Anglican and Lutheran churches."

## Charitable inspiration

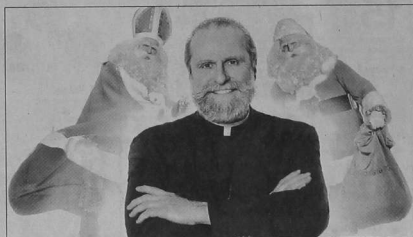
According to information provided on the institute's website, Nicholas was born in Patara of Lycia (present-day Turkey) during the third century, of devout and wealthy parents who provided him with a Christian upbringing and education. Especially well-known, according to Marquis, is his charity and love for children. He used his great wealth to relieve all who were in need: families, widows, orphans and children. For this same purpose he founded, as bishop, a poorhouse, hosteries and a hospital.

According to Marquis, charitable groups such as the Salvation Army, the Goodfellows and the St. Vincent DePaul Society "owe a lot" to St. Nicholas.

"I look at St. Nicholas as a role model for Christians as a focus of solving need, not taking bows for charitable works," Marquis said. "He was the personification of Christian love and affection. As such, he is honored by the entire Christian world, both the Eastern and Western Churches. In the West,



Students take part in the four-day St. Nicholas Institute at Sacred Heart in Livonia. The institute was founded last year.



The Rev. Joseph Marquis, pastor of Sacred Heart in Livonia, founded the St. Nicholas Institute last year.



A. Michael Deller got his start as a Santa in the now-defunct holiday parade in Livonia.



A. Michael Deller, as Santa, visiting with his grandchildren during an appearance at Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy last month.

especially, he is considered the great patron saint of children and in modern times as the cheerful giver of gifts, Santa.

"We teach about the historic figure behind Santa Claus," said Marquis, the pastor at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, home of the institute. "We're showing the historical context of St. Nicholas. Understanding who St. Nicholas is helps us more accurately portray Santa."

## Longtime Santa

Marquis should know about that, since he's been doing it for 42 years. He's an Emmy Award-winning Santa, a member of the Santa Claus Hall of Fame who used to portray Santa in the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown Detroit.

He's done parades and home visits, mall appearances and hospital visits. One story stands out in his mind of a little girl dying of cancer in a hospital in Ann Arbor. Her

grandfather appealed to Marquis to visit her as Santa in the hospital and to give the girl a new, blue dress she had wanted.

When he arrived, Marquis found the entire hospital staff had divined into the spirit of the occasion. The hospital was totally decorated for Christmas and staff members were all in Christmas costumes — and the visit happened in the summer.

Marquis passed through the entire children's ward, visiting with all the patients and final-

ly ending up in the girl's room. Her eyes widened with delight at the sight of Santa and she was all smiles when she opened the dress.

Marquis said when the crowd got around to singing *Silent Night*, "there was a presence in the room and a peace descended" — and a stark realization hit him.

"This was the real reason I was called to do Santa," Marquis said. "If this is the only person I ever do Santa for, it's worth it."

## Year-round spirit

It's worth it for Deller, too. A retired librarian, Deller has done story times at libraries, he's done family visits. He's also the Santa at a banquet center near Mount Clemens every year. And he takes with him the lessons learned at the institute.

"(The institute) hasn't really changed how I portray Santa, but it deepened my under-

standing of how this all came together and came to be," Deller said.

"For many of us, it was helpful in knowing what we needed to find or use in order to give a faithful appearance and presentation of the bishop known as St. Nicholas."

The first institute last year drew 17 students from 10 different states. This year's grew to 30 students from 15 states.

For Marquis, it's about spreading the word that the Christmas spirit isn't relegated to just the Christmas season.

"The beautiful thing is, the spirit is available any day of the year," he said. "That's the spirit I'm trying to give the 'Santas' who come through here. The one message they walk away with is, 'The most important child I ever see is the next one.'"

bkadrich@hometownlife.com  
313-222-8899  
Twitter: @bkadrich

# Happy Holidays from these Plymouth Area Businesses!

A portion of the proceeds from this page will be go to:

## Plymouth Community United Way

## We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in 2014!

Seasons Greetings

**Backyard Birds**  
627 S Main St,  
(734) 416-0600  
[www.backyardbirds.net](http://www.backyardbirds.net)

Happy Kwanzaa

**La Casa De La Habana**  
Cigars & Lounge  
420 Forest Place, Ste. 14  
(734) 207-9725

Merry Christmas

**Sunny J's**  
Professional Bra and  
Swimwear Fitters  
550 Forest Avenue  
(734) 453-8584

Seasons Greetings

**Thrivent Financial**  
Huron Valley Group  
217 W. Ann Arbor Rd.,  
Ste. 206  
(734) 455-9272

Happy New Year

**Independence Village of Plymouth**  
14707 Northville Rd.,  
(734) 414-1369

**Nick Pallas Agency**  
AAA of Plymouth  
1365 S. Main St., Ste. E  
(734) 453-2100

Merry Christmas

**Plymouth Chamber of Commerce**  
850 W Ann Arbor Trail  
(734) 453-1540

Happy Hanukkah

**Dental Care Innovations**  
190 Plymouth Rd  
(734) 979-0979

Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays

**Plymouth YMCA**  
248 S Union St.  
(734) 453-2904

**Expert Heating and Cooling**  
734 254 9314  
[www.expertheatcool.com](http://www.expertheatcool.com)

Merry Christmas

Seasons Greetings

**Central City Dance**  
6700 N Canton Center Rd, Canton  
734 459 0405  
[www.centralcitydance.com](http://www.centralcitydance.com)

**Lavida Massage**  
42142 Ford Rd Canton  
734 844 1402  
[www.lavidamassage.com](http://www.lavidamassage.com)

Happy Kwanzaa

Happy Holidays

**Downstage Dancewear**  
6700 N Canton Center Rd.  
Suite 1, Canton  
734 459 0405  
[www.downstagedancewear.com](http://www.downstagedancewear.com)

Seasons Greetings

Merry Christmas

Seasons Greetings

**IHA - Internal Medicine Plymouth**  
990 W. Ann Arbor Trail  
Suite 210  
734 398 7800

**IHA - Ann Arbor Ob/Gyn-Plymouth**  
990 W. Ann Arbor Trail  
Suite 302  
734 434 0427

Merry Christmas

**IHA-Child Health Plymouth**  
990 W. Ann Arbor Trail  
Suite 210  
734 455 4600

**Devz Pharmacy**  
6624 N Canton Center Rd Canton  
734 355 6312  
[www.devzpharmacy.com](http://www.devzpharmacy.com)

Happy Hanukkah

Merry Christmas

**Showroom Of Elegance**  
6018 Canton Center Rd Canton  
734 207 1906  
[www.showroomofelegance.com](http://www.showroomofelegance.com)

Happy Kwanzaa

Happy Holidays

**Crystal Creek Assisted Living**  
8121 Lilley Rd. Canton  
734 453 3203  
[www.crystalcreekassistedliving.com](http://www.crystalcreekassistedliving.com)

Merry Christmas







# Track Santa as he circles the globe

Have you ever wondered how Santa gets around the world in just one day?

According to North American Aerospace Defense Command, Santa doesn't feel time like regular people and, in his reality, he's traveling for much longer than 24 hours.

Children all over the world are fascinated by his journey and the folks at NORAD have gra-

iciously allowed us to share its tracking service with our readers.

Go to our website, [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com), Dec. 24 to track Santa as he circles the globe. Children in these parts will want to know when he gets to North America so they can set out milk and cookies or whatever goodies are planned to welcome Santa.

Just look to the right side of our site for the



NORAD Santa Tracker, click on the link and be prepared for fun.

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Blood drives

#### Dates/Times/Locations:

- Monday, Dec. 23, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth
- Monday, Dec 23, 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton
- Tuesday, Dec 24, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Hampton Inn Suites, 1950 Haggerty, Canton

Tuesday, Dec 24, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, 3950 S. Lotz, Canton

Thursday, Dec 26, 1:45-4:45 p.m., Resurrection Church, 48755 Warren, Canton

**Details:** The American Red Cross hosts blood drives at the above times and locations. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcome.

**Contact:** Diane at 313-549-7052 or [Diane.Risko@red-cross.org](mailto:Diane.Risko@red-cross.org) to set up an appointment.

### Open mic night

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** The Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center



The Salem Junior Varsity Rockettes took first place in the contemporary pom division and first place in the hip hop division at the 2013 Michigan State Spirit Showdown, held Saturday at Brighton High School. Team members include (front, from left) Sarah O'Donnell, captain Becky DeWater, coach Jes Wilhoite, captain Erica Garczynski and Morgan Poulos, along with (back, from left) Alyssa Marshall, Maddie Martinsky, Emily Bates, Tiffany Ciotte, Basia Bokuniewicz and Hannah Parent. Also on the team are Kara Rocheleau and Keicie Rocheleau.

for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, in Plymouth.

**Details:** The BaseLine Folk Society presents its festive "Total Open Mic" night. Artists can begin signing up at 6:15 p.m. This month will be complete open-mic with performers to perform two songs, original or cover. There's no featured guests this month. Host for the evening is Kenny

Lang, a BaseLine favorite who has performed more than 40 years. BaseLine Folk Society is a group of talented musicians promoting and preserving the fine art of traditional acoustical folk music. Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers.

**Contact:** Email the president, Scott Ludwig, at [BFSpresident@aol.com](mailto:BFSpresident@aol.com).



## Enjoy Great Family Entertainment The Village Theater at Cherry Hill Celebrating 10 Years!

### December

- 19-22 Central City Dance Christmas Spectacular - Various Times
- 28 Aaron Radatz Holiday Magic Show - 7pm
- 31 Star Tributes from Las Vegas - Matt King as Elvis with Live Orchestra - 4pm, 7pm

### January

- 11 TLC Productions - StageLab24: Several One-Act Plays (Studio) - 8pm
- 17 Detroit Symphony Orchestra - Mozart and Bach - 8pm
- 18 Partnership for the Arts - Simply Diamond - 2pm
- 20 Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - 5:30pm
- 23-26 Forever After Productions - Shrek the Musical Various - Various Times
- 24-25 Spotlight Players - Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner - 6:30pm
- 31 Spotlight Players - I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - 8pm

### February

- 1-9 Spotlight Players - I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - 2pm, 8pm
- 12 PCCS Showcase: Field Elementary Talent Show - 7pm
- 14 Star Tributes from Las Vegas Valentine's Day - 7pm
- 15 Michigan Philharmonic - Fabulous Fifties - 7:30pm
- 21-22 Spotlight Players - Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner - 6:30pm, 8pm
- 22 Estella Chambers Live!!! An Affair to Remember! - 8pm



The Village Theater at Cherry Hill  
 50400 Cherry Hill Road • Canton, MI 48187  
 (734) 394-5300

Be there when the curtain rises during the Village Theater's 10th Season. Get your tickets today at [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org).

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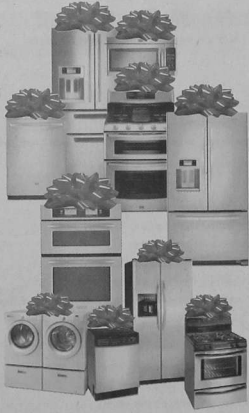
# Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



from all of us at Bill & Rod's Appliances and Mattresses



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In Store Financing Available See Store for details



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starting at \$ 299  
**Queen Memory Foam Mattress**  
starting at \$ 499

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<p><b>JANUARY 11</b> Milford Public Library 10:00am - 12:00pm</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 14</b> Livonia Satellite Office 1:00pm - 3:00pm</p>
<p><b>JANUARY 20</b> Plymouth Cultural Center 1:00pm - 3:00pm</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 5</b> Brighton Public Library 10:30am - 12:30pm</p>

**Call to RSVP or Register Online:**  
[www.MiEstateLawyer.com](http://www.MiEstateLawyer.com)

# Mutt Hutt bakes up a natural pet treats

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

After years of working with humans in the restaurant business, Tim VandenBosch and Kathie Geer are going to the dogs ... and cats and, quite soon, birds.

They are partners in the Mutt Hutt Bakery on Ford Road in Westland, which specializes in all-natural, handmade gourmet dog treats. Pet owners can treat their favorite pooch to truffles, cupcakes, bagels, even a cheeseburger and french fries, which are not only good to eat, but good for them.

"We care about our dogs and our customers' dogs," said Geer, a Canton resident. "I have yorkies and they get the best of the best. If a customer walks out of here with treats, they know that if they're good enough for my dogs, they're good enough for theirs."

Business partners, Geer and VandenBosch, who lives in Holland, Mich., bring a history of working in food service. Geer has owned three restaurants and Vanden-



Kathie Geer displays a tray of jelly-filled bismarks. Her products look good enough. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bosch owned one. Together, they owned one in Holland that they sold when they decided to start making gourmet pet treats.

#### All-natural products

The bakery uses all-natural products. There are carob and peanut butter trifles, yogurt-

frosted sports bones for all of the favorite teams and even a slice of pizza made with whole wheat flour, canola oil, yogurt and carob chips. There are also brownies and s'mores and wheat and gluten-free products for dogs with sensitive stomachs and food allergies. "We're expanding our



Mutt Hutt has sports bones for your pooch. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

line all the time," Geer said. "We've added cat treats and we've had a lot of people asking if we'd start doing bird treats. I never thought about that, but it will be coming soon."

Located on Ford Road south of Wayne Road, next to the Griffith Veterinary Hospital, the bakery is getting a lot of the hospital's patrons coming in to the store.

"The vets love our products and send their patients over here; one of the vets even eats our french fries," she said. "I think it's hilarious, but you really can eat anything in here. You just have to get past the mindset that it's a dog treat."

"We have a guy who drives from Sterling

#### MUTT HUTT BAKERY

**Business address:** 36329 Ford Road, Westland  
**Your name:** Tim VandenBosch and Kathie Geer of Canton, owners

**Business opened:** July 2013  
**Business hours:** 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday

**Business specialty:** A gourmet dog bakery, where all treats are handmade and all natural

**Contact:** 734-629-8860, topdogs@mutthuttbakery.com, online at www.mutthuttbakery.com, www.facebook.com/MuttHutt

Heights every few weeks and buys \$100 worth of treats every time," she added.

The bulk treats are available by the pound, while the frosted items are priced by the piece. The bakery has gift baskets like its popular All American that includes french fries, a cheeseburger, slice of pizza and a hot dog for \$6.99, plus cat treats, toys and designer pet coats.

Mutt Hutt also operates an online store at www.mutthuttbakery.com and ships to anywhere in the 50 states.

It also does wholesale and is looking for retailers who want to carry its products. One is the Lucky Dog Luxury Day-care and Boarding in Garden City.

#### Big opportunities

Geer likes having the business in Westland. The city is big enough for big opportunities, but small enough to embrace businesses like the Mutt Hutt Bakery. She also can't say enough about working with the city in getting the business open.

"They've been incredible," she said. "Geer also stresses that pet owners can expect the fresh baked treats from the Mutt Hutt."

"Our mission is very simple: to always have the highest quality, handmade, nutritional fun treats for dogs," Geer said.

"Owners know that the products from Mutt Hutt are the best they can give their animals."

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS



#### Mitten tree

Recreation Coordinator Ann Christensen and Program Director Brenda Kasseez pose for the 2013 Mitten Tree in the lobby of Compassionate Care Hospice, based in Canton. More than 100 items were donated by staff and volunteers, many knitted or crocheted with love. The items were collected Monday by Elizabeth Bennett, a board member of "Help on the Way," the charity for which the hospice collects these items. For information about hospice services or volunteering with this organization, call 888-983-9050.

#### Hats for homeless

Killer Crowns Hat and T-Shirt Shop in Canton is hosting a hat drive for the Hats for Homeless program sponsored by the United Way. On Saturday, Dec. 21, for every winter hat or pair of gloves purchased in store, Killer Crowns will donate a similar item to the Hats for Homeless program. If the store meets its goal of 100 items donated, Killer Crowns will donate an additional \$400 in cash to the charity. Killer Crowns Hat & T-Shirt Shop is located at 42711 Ford Road in Canton, just west of Lilley, between Outback Steakhouse and Hobby Lobby.

#### Jersey Mike's

Jersey Mike's Subs opened its doors Wednesday in Canton. Franchise owner and area director Peter Shipman is hosting a grand opening and free sub fundraiser through

Sunday, Dec. 22, to support the Plymouth-Canton school district's Athletic Department.

Anyone who has a fundraising coupon can get a free regular sub for a minimum \$1 contribution. Fifteen thousand coupons are being distributed throughout the community.

Started at the Jersey Shore in 1956, Jersey Mike's continued its growth in 2012, opening 92 new restaurants throughout the country, a 33-percent increase in new store growth over 2011.

"For the first five days that we are open, we will be raising money for a very integral aspect of our community, the P-CCS Athletic Department," Shipman said.

"In many ways, Canton is a vital hub of the suburban Detroit area and we are very fortunate to be opening our doors here. Canton is a great place for us to plant our roots."

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. You can contact the store at 734-844-2121.

#### Marketing agreement

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel announced that a marketing agreement has been signed with Talmer Bank and Trust.

"This strategic arrangement opens up more opportunities for Talmer Bank and Trust to provide mortgage services to clients of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel across all of its offices in southeast Michigan and in west and mid-Michigan.

"After a comprehensive and exhaustive search for a dependable mortgage partner, we decided on Talmer Bank and Trust because it is a local bank that shares the very same core values and commitment to the community as we do," said Kelly Sweeney, CEO, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel.

## Plymouth Orchards wins statewide contest

Alicia Estrada, Mary Krause and Mary Emmert of Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill took home first place in the 17th annual Michigan Apple Cider Contest.

The cider contest took place at DeVos Convention Center, with 34 cider makers participating in the competition. Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill took home second place in last year's contest.

"This competition started 18 years ago to promote Michigan apple cider and provide educational opportunities for cider makers," said Bob Tritten, contest director with Michigan State University Extension and founder of the contest. "I would like to thank our nine judges, especially Harold Thome, who has served as a judge for every year of the contest. We have

come a long way since the inception of this competition and, in my opinion, Michigan cider is the best in the world."

Second place in the 2013 contest went to cider maker Jim Hill of Hill Brothers in Grand Rapids. Third place went to Jim and Becky Engelsma of Engelsma's Apple Barn and Cider Mill in Walker. Engelsma's was the first-place winner in the 2012 contest.

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### OUR VIEWS

## Remember the true meaning of the season

### Give thanks for all of life's blessings

Christmas is a time to celebrate humanity. As you can tell by the bitterly cold weather this week, the first major snowstorm last weekend, the increased traffic on the roads and the crowds at your favorite mall, the Christmas season is upon us.

But those are the tangible — to some, distasteful — trappings of the seasons. For people of the Christian faith, it is one of the most significant times of the year. It marks the coming of the Messiah — the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians all over the world celebrate this great milestone with prayer and reverence.

But this time of year is also important to the followers of other religions. Jews, for example, recently finished celebrating Hanukkah, the eight-day "Festival of Lights," which ended Dec. 5. The season is marked by the candles of the menorah and Jews celebrate their ancient heroes and the survival of their culture with festive foods, games and blessings.

Although Hanukkah is considered to be a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, it has taken on more significance, especially in America, because of its proximity to Christmas. It is also at this time of year that many African Americans begin to celebrate Kwanzaa. Although not a religious holiday, Kwanzaa, which runs from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, is a time when followers come together and celebrate family, community and tradition.

So in reality, the Christmas season means different things to different people, especially in America, where so many different cultures have been thrown together. The common denominator seems to be that it is a time of celebration, to hold dear the things that we might take for granted the rest of the year.

In recent years, some people have complained that there has been a war on Christmas. A debate has raged about whether the meaning of Christmas has been watered down by huge department stores or the political correctness police.

It's an unfortunate debate, particularly at this time of year, because it seems to run counter to all the virtues that are celebrated during Christmas.

It is supposed to be a time of rejoicing and a time to reflect on the common bond of humanity. There are so many people around the globe, including right here in our own back yard, who are not as fortunate. Many are dealing with poverty, hunger or war.

In America, we are fortunate to have the freedom to celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. That in itself is reason enough to celebrate this holiday season.

So whatever Christmas means for you, please take a few moments during this wonderful season to think of those in the world who are not as fortunate. And give thanks for all that we are blessed with here in America. Merry Christmas.



While Christmas is the time to welcome Santa, it's also a time of rejoicing and a time to reflect on the common bond of hope. TOM BRADDOCK

### COMMUNITY VOICE

## What's the best thing that happened to you in 2013?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I got this Jeep Wrangler Sahara. That's the best thing that happened to me."  
**Beonka Smith**  
Canton



"Coming here from Atlanta to stay with my best friend (Beonka Smith) and getting a black Dodge Avenger."  
**Lamar Watkins**  
Canton



"Probably getting the job I have now as a local truck driver. Before, I was on the road."  
**Jeff Davis**  
Canton



"I had a great vacation in Hollywood, California."  
**Pat Boucher**  
Canton

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Good coverage

Kudos to the *Observer* for giving front-page coverage to three important matters in the Dec. 12 edition:

- The township recreation survey.
- The township vote on the PARC proposal.
- The township board's approval of the \$13 million 2014 budget.

These critical areas will have significant impact on the lives of all of us in the Plymouth "metropolitan" area.

**Bill Huppenbauer**  
Plymouth

#### Tirade no surprise

Once again, another right-wing zealot has Rick Snyder and his Tea Partiers scrambling for cover.

According to published reports, Dave Agema, Michigan's Republican National Committee representative, has made more anti-gay comments and set off a firestorm. Agema has never kept his opinion and distaste for gay

people a secret. This time he said homosexuals wanted to get married so they could use their partner's insurance because they have AIDS. Due to past slurs and lies, this latest tirade comes as no surprise.

So, I would ask Mr. Snyder and company, why is a known homophobe your national committee man? Have you just been snickering and grinning at his slurs?

This whole sordid story reminds of a tale I once heard. A woman found a snake that was almost frozen to death. She took him home, warmed him in front of the fireplace and fed him tea and honey. When the snake thawed out, he fatally bit her. When the woman screamed, "Why?" the snake replied, "Lady, you knew I was a snake when you brought me home."

Now, Mr. Snyder, why are you surprised when your snake bit you?

**James Huddleston**  
Canton

#### Upset by headline

I am the owner of Pet Suite Retreat on Michigan Avenue in Inkster, not so far from Garden City that you wouldn't have either heard of us or driven by our facility at some point over the past 13 years that we've been in business.

I am a bit upset by the tag line of your article "New resort is suite retreat" for obvious reasons. We have a good number of clients from the Plymouth-Canton area and I don't want them to be confused by your tag line which incorporates most of our name.

As the kennels at All American are not really "suites" as they are at Pet Suite Retreat (ours are 10 by 12 rooms), you could say as easily and perhaps more accurately used "sweet retreat" instead.

**Karen Knopper**  
Pet Suite Retreat  
Inkster

### GUEST COLUMN

## Lansing: Don't short-change higher education funding

There's no doubt about one thing: Michigan needs a better educated work force, more now than ever.

Yet one of the abiding mysteries of the past dozen years is the strange reluctance of our state's leaders to invest in our future by investing in our citizens' brainpower at colleges and universities.

"Reluctance," in fact, isn't the right term. Thinly veiled hostility is more like it. That's a puzzle, because on the surface it looks like short-changing higher education is cutting off our nose to spite our face. After all, Michigan employers say they've got jobs for 70,000 people, if only they could find applicants with the proper skills.

Statistics compiled by the House Fiscal Agency showed that unemployment for high school grads without a college degree is 10.6 percent, compared to 4.1 percent for those with a bachelor's degree.

Indeed, last week, the House Fiscal Agency — a nonpartisan body — issued a report concluding that students at Michigan universities could blame state politicians for something like 60 percent of the college tuition increases over the past 13 years.

That's because, as the report shows, the lawmakers have cut appropriations by a total of \$325 million since 2000. That's a 40-percent reduction when adjusted for inflation!

That's almost the biggest decline in support for higher ed in the nation. Indeed, according to a state Higher Education Executive Officers' report, Michigan is outranked only by Rhode Island and New Mexico in cutting higher education budgets.

#### State support

When I first joined the University of Michigan's Board of Regents in 1987, state support represented around 75 percent of total revenue; tuition and fees accounted for exactly a quarter. Today, it's around the reverse.

Talking with Lansing insiders about Michigan universities reveals a wide range of views,



**Phil Power**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

some very critical of higher ed, some supportive. One well-connected insider put it in a nutshell: "Today's Lansing environment is terrible for universities."

Some think the schools have brought that on themselves. "They consider themselves unaccountable," another said. "They're asked for metrics, for tuition restraint, for greater link between courses offered and the needs of the Michigan work force. They say 'don't bother, they're autonomous — and that's that.'"

The state Constitution says public universities, especially the Big Three — University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University — are independent of the Legislature or governor in setting policy.

That doesn't sit well with elected lawmakers who figure they're the ones who should be at the top of the food chain.

Nor does it help soften legislative attitudes when universities appear to be wasting public resources on turf competition among universities; cited repeatedly were Central Michigan and Western Michigan universities, both with dueling billboards in the Lansing area.

Couch-burning and other disorderly conduct in East Lansing after Michigan State beat Ohio State this month doesn't help, either.

#### Political problem

Universities also suffer from a structural political problem: Relatively few families in a given legislative district have students at college at any one time, whereas many families have kids in that district's elementary and secondary schools. "They started to cut the universities," one source told me, "and there was no political backlash. If

there's no pain in cutting, why not keep going?"

Despite the record of solid support for higher education during the years Republican John Engler was governor, the "let's cut 'em" attitude seems pretty much evenly distributed between Republicans and Democrats. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who started her term in office with a "listening tour" around the state, reported most people told her to cut higher education and she did, by around 18 percent over eight years. Her successor, Gov. Rick Snyder, cut higher education funding by 15 percent in his first year in office.

That's a puzzle. Granholm holds degrees from the University of California-Berkeley and Harvard Law School, while Snyder has three degrees from the University of Michigan. Of all people, they both should know the value of a great education.

However, while I got an earful of grumbling in Lansing, I also got the impression that legislative attitudes are much better than they were a couple of years ago. Some senior legislative leaders realize that while it's easy to mortally wound a good university, it's very hard to resurrect it. All in all, I wouldn't be surprised to see serious attention being given to higher ed funding in the state's next budget.

There's no doubt in my mind that one of Michigan's few world-competitive advantages today are our universities, especially U-M and MSU. Given today's realities, it would make enormous sense for our state's economic future to have the universities, the governor and the Legislature sit down and reason together.

Former newspaper publisher and University of Michigan Regent Phil Power is founder and chairman of the Center for Michigan, a nonprofit, bipartisan center think-and-do tank. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of the Center. He welcomes comments at [power@centerformichigan.net](mailto:power@centerformichigan.net).

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Sara Olson of Canton brought her son Gavin to the birthday party. He came dressed as a pilot in honor of his great-grandfather, Col. Jack Sims, who flew a B-25 in the Doolittle raid over Japan. TOM BEAULOUX

## Fans celebrate B-25D war bird's 70th birthday

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Jim Rucker made a promise to Gavin Olson. As co-pilot of the Yankee Air Museum's B-25D bomber, the "Yankee Warrior," Rucker promised the 7-year-old Canton resident that the plane will still be around for many years to come.

"My job is to make sure it's still here when you're ready to fly it," the Northville resident said. "I'm flying it now so you can fly it later."

Gavin and his family were among several hundred people who packed Bay 8 of Hangar 1 at Willow Run Airport on a recent Sunday afternoon to celebrate the 70th birthday of the "Yankee Warrior." The Mitchell bomber rolled off the assembly line Dec. 8, 1943, in Kansas City, Kan.

The youngest came dressed for the occasion, wearing a blue flight suit and helmet and aviator sunglasses. He even had the aviator lean when standing around.

"His great-grandfather, Col. Jack Sims, flew with the Doolittle Raiders," his mother Sara Olson said. "The helmet belonged to his great-grandfather. He is his absolute hero. He was a co-pilot of B-25 B14 on the raid."

It was B-25 bombers that Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle used April 18, 1942, during a carrier-launched raid on Japan. The "Yankee Warrior" wasn't one of them. It saw service during World War II in Italy, flying eight missions from the island of Corsica until being sent back to the States in May 1944.

### The war bird

The Olson family came to the party to see the bomber. They had been at the hangar in October, when the volunteers showed off the portion of the Willow Run Bomber Plant it hopes to buy to turn into a permanent home for the museum.

"Gavin came dressed in costume and ended up in their newsletter," Olson said. "He wants to grow up to be a pilot and fly a B-25. He wrote about it in school."

Rucker has been flying for more than 40 years, but has only been a pilot of the B-25 for two years. He described the plane as loud and very responsive in the air. On the ground, it's "grass-roots flying."

"In the air, it's wonder-

ful, on the ground, it's a challenge," he said.

The air museum acquired the bomber in 1987 and restored it to its military war bird status. Volunteers have been able to document the plane's travels from Kansas City to Europe to Canada and finally Willow Run Airport. The crew of six helps maintain it and keeps it in flying condition.

"What makes this plane special is that it's a B-25D with a combat history," Rucker said. "When we say it's a war bird, it truly is a war bird. There are only 24 still flying in the world today."

Air museum officials and volunteers were recognized at the event, as well as veterans, an original Rosie the Riveter from the Willow Run Bomber Plant and two original B-25 pilots — Earl Hart, 94, of Westland and Art Love, 97, of Ida. Hart was 21 years old when he enlisted in the military. He and two buddies decided to sign up before being drafted so they wouldn't end up in the infantry. Hart and one friend enlisted in the Air Force, while his other buddy signed up for the Navy.

### 'Good and bad'

Listening to Jerry Lester, public relations officer for the "Yankee Warrior," talk about the bomber brought back memories, "both good and bad," for Hart.

"We got shot up bad a couple of times, but some were milk runs," said Hart, who flew a total of 55 missions in the Pacific Theater. "We had two bad missions; one was to hit on a Japanese airfield on the tip of Bougainville. I don't know who dreamed up that mission, but we were supposed to come in low over the water and strafe and bomb the airfield."

He recalled one crew member saying they must have hit something big on the ground because of the explosion he saw. Hart didn't tell him that it was one of their planes.

"When we came across the runway, the Japanese opened up with everything they had; we lost 45 percent of our aircraft on that mission," he said. "I came off that airfield and I was alone. I came home by myself."

Love came to the hangar Sunday "just to see the plane." He was drafted into the service in 1941 and signed up for the Air Force after the

war broke out. He flew 17 missions off Okinawa and remembers a mission in which, at the last minute, the target was shifted 100 miles.

"As we were flying over Japan, we saw a little cloud forming on the ground below us; when we came back it was way above the ground and was mushroom-shaped," he said. "We didn't know until two days later that it was an atomic bomb, the one they dropped on Hiroshima. We didn't know what atomic bombs were; the ones we dropped were explosive."

He also recalls being ordered to load the bomb bay with the beer a supply ship had brought for the men and fly around until it was cold. He did, but the result wasn't what the men had anticipated.

"You couldn't drink it, it tasted horrendous," he said. "I don't know if it was because it got warm and then we chilled it, but it tasted bad. And there were a lot of guys waiting, with their tongues hanging out."

### Flying high

In a brief ceremony, Lester explained the history of the plane and how fortunate the museum is to have it. Volunteers like Rucker fly all over the country as a way to raise money for the museum. In the hangar for the winter, the war bird will be back in the skies during the 2014 flying season and, along with the museum's B-17 bomber, will be available to the public for rides. The cost is \$450 for the B-25 and \$475 for the B-17.

Olson is hoping to book a ride on the B-25 next year.

"I got to fly in one year ago at a Doolittle museum in Columbia, S.C.," she said. "I hope to get my husband Kirk and Gavin up in it next year."

The museum is located at 4784 D St., Belleville, and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information about the Yankee Air Museum, the airplane rides and its current fundraiser to buy a portion of the former Willow Run Bomber Plant, visit the website at [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org) or its Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/yankeeairmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/yankeeairmuseum), or call 734-483-4030.

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FIGHTING TYPE 1 DIABETES

# Crunchtime at Kellogg

Downtown Plymouth park to host  
Dec. 29 Rock the Clock Run

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

When Kyle Meteyer's brother, Gerard, passed away in 2007 due to complications from Type 1 diabetes, it understandably crushed him.

After all, Gerard Meteyer was only 34 and he had been a relatively healthy, very active young man who was a varsity athlete at North Farmington High School.

What happened to Gerard prompted former Salem varsity boys track and field coach Kyle Meteyer to establish a foundation in his brother's memory to send kids to Camp Midicha, an American Diabetes Association-operated camp in Fenton, Mich., where Gerard was a counselor.

And now, Meteyer — with longtime running buddies Nick Allen and Charlie Stamboulou — won't rest until youngsters with Type 1 diabetes have the chance to learn about battling the disease while relishing in all the sights, sounds and sensations of summer camp.

They have banded together to organize and launch the first Rock the Clock Run (8:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, in downtown Plymouth). Proceeds from the 5K run/walk will help kids of all ages get scholarships to the camp.

## Something good

"As heartbreaking as it (Gerard's death) was, we wanted to do something," Meteyer said. "It was a catalyst for us to do something good and so we started the Gerard Meteyer



Foundation to provide scholarships to Camp Midicha.

"It's a camp that's exclusive for children living with Type 1 diabetes. It's very expensive for them to attend it, and we knew there really was no resources for families that didn't have the money to send their kids. So we thought, let's start a foundation that provides money for these kids to go on scholarships to the camp."

Through ADA camps, youngsters combine typical camp "fun stuff" with valuable education about how they and their families can game plan to make healthy lifestyle choices. "Before they have dinner at some camps they say a prayer," Meteyer said. "At other camps they say 'Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub.' At this camp, they test their blood sugar."

He emphasized that children are not afflicted with Type 1 diabetes (formerly known as juvenile diabetes)

See RUN, Page B3



Charlie Stamboulou (left) and Kyle Meteyer stand at Kellogg Park. That's where the Rock the Clock Run starts and finishes. ANN ESPINOZA

*"Before they have dinner at some camps they say a prayer. At other camps they say 'Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub.' At this camp, they test their blood sugar."*

KYLE METEYER,  
Rock the Clock Run co-organizer

## ROCK THE CLOCK RUN

**What:** The first Rock the Clock Run.  
**When:** Sunday, Dec. 29, with race time slated for 8:30 a.m.

**Where:** The 5K (3.1 miles) run/walk begins and ends at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, near Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail. Registration tents will be stationed that morning outside the Sun & Snow business from 7-8:15 a.m.

**Why:** Nick Allen and Charlie Stamboulou organized the race (then enlisted Kyle Meteyer to help promote it) in order to generate proceeds for the Gerard Meteyer Foundation. That money will help send children with Type 1 diabetes to Camp Midicha. The GMF was created following Gerard's 2007 death at age 34 from a low blood sugar incident stemming

from Type 1 diabetes. Gerard was by all accounts a relatively healthy, active young man who was a varsity athlete at North Farmington High School.

**Honoring Gerard:** Gerard Meteyer also was a youth counselor at Camp Midicha, a Fenton-based camp operated by the American Diabetes Association. An award is set up in his name, given to the camp counselor who makes the biggest positive difference in campers' lives each summer.

**Camp Midicha:** At the ADA camp, youngsters get to experience all the traditional "fun" activities (swimming, horseback riding, archery) while receiving valuable age-appropriate diabetes knowledge and providing plenty of "teachable moments." According to

the ADA, campers: Learn at their own pace; discover ways to manage diabetes and start developing skills to help take care of oneself; build self-confidence and prepare, if ready, to start accepting more responsibility for diabetes self-management; take steps toward self-care.

**Type 1 Diabetes:** In the ADA definition, Type 1 diabetes stems from the body not producing insulin, a hormone needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. Only about 5 percent of people with diabetes have this form of the disease. It usually is diagnosed in children and young adults, and was previously known as juvenile diabetes.

**Register/info:** To participate in the Rock the

Clock Run/Walk, register online at [www.rocktheclockrun.com](http://www.rocktheclockrun.com) by Dec. 27. Cost is \$35 (\$40 on race day). To send questions about the event, email them to [info@rocktheclockrun.com](mailto:info@rocktheclockrun.com). Rock the Clock pint glasses will be presented to the top 5 finishers in each age group (age 3 up to senior citizen). Free long sleeve moisture wicking shirts will be given to all registrants.

**Sponsors:** A number of downtown Plymouth businesses are all in for Rock the Clock, including Sun & Snow, Kilwin's, Faurelia Engineering Worldwide, Greek Islands Restaurant, Sideways, Running Fit, Sun Heating and Air Conditioning, Jimmy Johns, Tri-Coverly Massage of Novi and Dunkin Donuts.

## ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

# Tyler made for Sensky

Canton High School  
junior steps into  
Plymouth Whalers' lineup

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

It might only be an audition of sorts.

But to the newest Plymouth Whaler, 16-year-old defenseman Tyler Sensky of Canton, that really doesn't take away from what promises to be a whirlwind couple weeks in the Ontario Hockey League.

Sensky — a junior at Canton High School from the Honeybaked Midget Majors — began last week inking a contract with the Whalers, to fill in until Dec. 31 while blueliner Yannick Rathgeb is with Team Switzerland at the World Junior Tournament.

He ended it playing for the Whalers Friday night at Sarnia and Saturday at Compuware Arena against Peterborough. He had family members and friends in the stands during the Whalers' 3-2 shootout loss.

"They're all here watching and supporting me and I can't thank them enough for it," said Sensky, who actually is a grizzled vet when it comes to playing hockey on the Compuware Arena ice.

That's because he has six years of experience in the Compuware youth hockey system, including 2012-13 with the Compuware U-16s. Plymouth general manager/coach Mike Vellucci drafted Sensky in the 12th round of the 2013 OHL draft.

Yannick went to the World Juniors



Tyler Sensky (No. 5) skates during Saturday's game at Compuware Arena for the Plymouth Whalers. Sensky is a junior at Canton High School who will remain with the OHL team until the end of December. RENA LAVERTY/PLYMOUTH WHALERS

with Switzerland and so we signed Tyler this week," said Vellucci, following the Peterborough game. "He's a great player and he's going to be a good player for us for a lot of years."

"He can only play 10 games for us (or up to Dec. 31) but next year he'll be a permanent thing... Rules are we can't have that many 16-year-olds so he's got to go back and finish the (sec-

ond) half of the year there, and then play for us next year."

## Face time

One clearcut sign Saturday that Sensky isn't yet a full-fledged OHLer was his black-painted face cage attached to his helmet. All of the other

## WAYNE COUNTY WRESTLING MEET

# Deep lineup sparks 'Cats

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Entering Saturday's Wayne County Wrestling Tournament at Wyandotte, Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey reminded his athletes to fight first and worry about where they finish later.

With that all-for-team approach, the Wildcats won the tournament with 200 points, eclipsing runner-up Westland John Glenn and Dearborn Heights Annapolis by 50 points.

In fifth, with 108.5 points, was Canton with the Salem Rocks placing 14th (42 points).

"We knew going in that we wouldn't shock the tournament with a huge number of champions," Guernsey said. "We thought we'd get three, but Franklin, John Glenn, Canton, and Annapolis could also get that many."

"All week we'd talked about our team depth, we needed guys who weren't championship contenders to still place. The tournament was won by our guys who fought for the highest spots on the podium that they could get. Every guy on our team contributed to this win."

To that end, 12 of 13 wrestlers brought to the tourney secured points. The Wildcats did have three individual champions, as many or more than the other four teams mentioned by Guernsey.

Still-undefeated Brandon Harris won by a technical fall over Riverview's Kyle Sparks to finish off a strong 3-0 tourney.

See SENSKY, Page B2

See WRESTLING, Page B4

BOYS HOCKEY WRAP

# Spartans top Plymouth, Northville back-to-back

By Brad Emmons  
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson continued its season-long gauntlet of a scheduled Monday night and the Spartans were able to pass another test impressively. The No. 1-ranked and defending MHSAA Division 2 state champions walked out Monday night out of Novi Ice Arena with an impressive 5-0 win over Northville, which came into the game ranked No. 4 in Division 1.

"The key to the win was in our preparation," coach David Mitchell said. "Going in we knew Northville was a very solid team. They'd only given up six goals in eight games, so we knew we'd have to earn everything we got."

Senior Tyler Irvine had two goals and two assists in the victory. Linemate Dominic Lutz opened the scoring with his 23rd goal of the season just 36 seconds into the open period off assists from Irvine and Devin Kelly.

Irvine then scored on a power play from Cole Christie and Lutz at 14:55 of the same period to make it 2-0.

The Spartans added two more in the second period to take a 4-0 advantage—Alex DeFiorio from Jon McDonald at 2:00 followed by Irvine's second at 14:07 from Andrew Nowak and Lutz.

Michael Sinclair added a power play goal to cap the scoring with 4:10 left in the third period from Christie and Lutz.

Stevenson, which moved into first place all alone in the KLAAC arena, outshot the Mustangs by a wide margin, 48-20.

Spartan goaltender Andrew Rozenbaum made 20 saves to post the shut-out, while Jeremy Onofrio made 43 for Northville, which slipped to 6-2-1 overall and 4-1 in the KLAAC Central.

"Team-wise we had all guys going. Defensively we were strong and Andrew Rozenbaum was strong in net. We got a couple of goals from our top line, then a couple of other lines chipped in. From start-to-finish we played a complete hockey game. It was a good win."

**STEVENSON'S PLYMOUTH** 5: Livonia Stevenson (8-1, 3-0) got a goal and two assists from Dominic Lutz in Saturday's KLAAC Kensington Conference crossover victory over the visiting Whalers (3-4, 2-2) at Edger Arena.

"It was a very good, hard fought hockey game between two good teams," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Plymouth played hard, ran a solid system and are extremely well coached so we are very happy to get the win."

The Spartans led 1-0 after one period on Lutz's 23rd goal of the season at 2:20 from linemates Tyler Irvine and Devin Kelly. At 11:03 of the second, Kelly made it 2-0 from Irvine and Lutz. But Plymouth answered on Mike Scarpelli's goal from John VanDerburg just one minute into the third.

But Irvine's goal at 6:39 of the final period from Drew Hunter and Liz Green Stevenson a two-goal cushion. Plymouth goaltender Jared Madlock made 32 saves, while Stevenson's Andrew Rozenbaum had 17 stops.

"We thought we had some good chances to score, but our goaltender Jared Madlock was outstanding," Mitchell said. "And when we broke down, our netminder, Andrew Rozenbaum, was definitely good as well. "Again, a solid win against a solid team."

BOYS BASKETBALL

# HVL's Schaffer breaks 1,000-point mark

By Brad Emmons  
Staff Writer

Despite a pair of defeats in the Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary boys basketball tournament, it wasn't totally a lost weekend for the Westland Huron Valley Lutheran.

In Saturday's consolation final, a 40-71 set-back to Howardsville Christian, the Hawks' senior forward Ryan Schaffer connected on a three-pointer with 1:02 remaining in the second quarter to surpass the 1,000-point mark.

The 6-foot-1 Schaffer

finished with a team-high 21 points as the Hawks slipped to 0-2 overall.

"That is great accomplishment early in his senior year with the rest of season still to be played," said Huron Valley Lutheran coach Jim Ott, whose team shot just 18-of-47 from the floor (38.2 percent).

Howardsville (1-1) led by only two at intermission, 25-23, but pulled away in the second half outscoring HVL 45-18.

Nathan Parks and Justin Jergens scored 26 and 21, respectively, for Howardsville, while Jon Wilde added 12.

In Friday's 57-28 first-round loss to the host Cardinals, HVL shot only 10-of-48 from the floor (20.8 percent), including just 4-of-22 from three-point range.

Casey and Peter Ross paced the winners with 21 and 17 points, respectively.

Schaffer scored a team-best 14 for the Hawks, while teammate Jordan Rundstadler added seven.

"It was an ugly offensive night, we just can't score," Ott said.

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ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



Ryan Hartman (No. 21) scores Plymouth's first goal at Compuware Arena, one-timing the puck past Peterborough's Andrew D'Agostini (No. 30). RENA LAVERITY/PLYMOUTH WHALERS

# Hartman's two goals not enough for Whalers

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Saturday's Plymouth Whalers game at Compuware Arena demonstrated how this has not been an easy season for the Ontario Hockey League team.

The Whalers recently welcomed back center Ryan Hartman from an injury, and he scored two goals—including a power play marker with 2:24 remaining in the third period of the game against Peterborough to make it 2-2. Plymouth ultimately lost 3-2 in the shootout.

But during the second frame, top goal scorer Carter Sandiak (who has 17 markers) was lost to an upper body injury after slamming into the end boards behind Petes netminder Andrew D'Agostini.

"It's not fun getting guys hurt but other guys got to step up and play," Whalers coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "He (Hartman) had two nice goals and we need somebody to score because we don't score a lot of goals."

Hartman opened the scoring with just 27.9 seconds remaining in the first period with his 12th of the season. A crisp, cross-crease feed by linemate Zach Lorentz was slam-dunked by the Chicago Blackhawks prospect (who soon will leave for the Junior World Tournament).

Plymouth (11-19-0-4) held the 1-0 lead for most of the second stanza, as Whalers' goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (28 saves on the night) and D'Agostini (19 saves) came up with some nifty glove and pad stops.

A bad break for the Whalers resulted in the tying goal by Josh Maguire with 3:41 left in the period.

A shot from the left point by Connor

Boland caromed in off Maguire, stationing just outside the blue paint.

Peterborough (13-18-0-3) went up 2-1 with four minutes to play in the third. Stephen Nosad sent the puck across to Michael Clarke between the circles and Clarke drove a low shot inside the right post.

Hartman's goal on a one-timer from above the left circle secured the point for Plymouth.

Defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto threaded a sharp pass from the right half-wall to Hartman. Also assisting was winger Matt Misteale.

"The power play actually looked good in the third," Vellucci said. "When we were desperate we played good, moved the puck and actually had a lot of chances."

"I think (Victor) Crux Rydberg also had a great shot and their goalie made a great save."

Following an overtime session where Clarke hit the left post, the Petes prevailed in the shootout on goals by Nick Ritchie and (for the winner) Jonatan Tanus.

Plymouth's only shootout marker came on a high shot by Lorentz.

The game also marked the home debut in a Whalers uniform by 17-year-old defenseman Tyler Sensky (see related story), a Canton High School junior who last week was signed to fill in while Yannick Rathgeb, with Switzerland's World Juniors.

Sensky must be returned to the Honeybaked Midget Majors as of Dec. 31, Vellucci said.

Sensky's OHL debut came on Friday night's 3-2 loss at Sarnia. Scoring for Plymouth in that contest were Hartman and right wing Connor Chatham.

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# SENSKY

Continued from Page B1

players wear visors.

"Yeah, it's a league rule that I have to wear the cage," said Sensky, shortly after experiencing the OHL perk of signing posters for young hockey players visiting the Whalers' dressing room. "I don't think (the cage) bothered my vision that much, but I have to (wear) it."

Sensky did a good job considering the circumstances, Vellucci said.

"This was a tough game (for Sensky) to jump right in and play," Vellucci said. "He played good defensively, he moves the puck well and he's strong. I don't think he'll be a great offensive guy but he's got some offensively ability, too."

According to Sensky, the games against Sarnia

and Peterborough enabled him to get a close-up look at the Ontario Hockey League style of play. He wasn't surprised or intimidated.

"It's a lot faster, the guys are a lot better, they can handle the puck a lot better, too," Sensky said. "More physical (than Honeybaked games)? Oh yeah, the guys are bigger, stronger. It's a harder game, in general."

Helping him adapt to the Compuware environment against the Petes was having logged so many practices and game hours inside the arena on Beck south of Five Mile roads for travel, travel and AAA squads.

"It's always nice because it's the home rink, I've been here all my life," Sensky went on. "Plus it's a lot faster-paced hockey, faster hockey, better hockey. Yeah, I think I'm stepping up. I always need

work but I think I'm getting into it."

# Cool response

Since he was signed to help out the Whalers this month, Sensky has been a bit of a celebrity around Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"My classmates all know, they're all congratulating me," Sensky said. "They all think it's pretty cool, which, it's super cool."

And by being with the Whalers, he'll have the chance to play in the OHL doubleheader on Sunday, Dec. 29, at Comerica Park (in conjunction with the Hockeytown Winter Festival).

How cool would that be?

"I love it (the opportunity)," Sensky said. "Who could ask for more playing outside at Comerica with the Whalers."

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PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

WAYNE COUNTY WRESTLING TOURNEY Dec. 14 at Wyandotte TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Farmington, 200 points...

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

At 119, in what Guernsey said was the toughest weight class to navigate through...

Grit pays off Plymouth also won at 140 with Jon Conn improving to 11-0 with a pin of Woodhaven's Austin Avison in 1:23.

Dezelski All-Region



Claire Dezelski (Livonia Ladywood) of Dominican University (Ill.) recently led the Stars to a 24-10 record...

PREP WRESTLING

Chargers win Hawk Havoc tourney

Livonia Churchill made it two-for-two Saturday, earning another dual meet wrestling tournament title in the young 2013-14 season...

103 pounds. Ryan Delp (160) also finished 3-0, while Brian Walrad (130), who jumped up a weight class to avoid any voids, added two victories.

At 171, Hussein Youssef "looked strong once again but fell just short of a championship when he ran into two-time state qualifier Hunter McCoy of Annapolis."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Canton gymnasts topple Huron Valley

The Canton varsity girls gymnastics team Saturday defeated Huron Valley, 139.875-130.05, improving to 4-0 on the season.

Softball camps

The Livonia Churchill Chargers holiday hitting camp for girls in grades 3-8 will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 21, at the high school fieldhouse.

Ferrick All-America

Madonna University senior midfielder Amanda Ferrick (Warren Cousino) was recently named NAIA All-America honorable mention in women's soccer.

FIGURE SKATING



The members of the Farmington United figure skating team are (front row, from left) Natalie Bears, Megan Harris, Bridget Race, Amanda McConnell, Veronica Stafford, Olivia Kells and Carolyn DaBrova and (back row, from left) Hafsa Khan, Sabrina Eila, Sydney Helwig, Allyson Lobsing, coach Susan Moran, Kara McGlashan, Lilly Reid and Michaela Kells.

United skaters have early success

The United Farmington figure skating team had an excellent start to its 2013-14 season Friday with its 'A' and 'B' teams taking their first place in their initial district competitions.

United Farmington's 'A' team was first in moves and jumps and fourth in spins at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

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Ferrick All-America

Madonna University senior midfielder Amanda Ferrick (Warren Cousino) was recently named NAIA All-America honorable mention in women's soccer.

also named to the Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete team for the second time.

MU ended the 2013 season with a 10-9 record.

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Jerry Abraham will offer a hitting camp from 9-11 a.m. (Session 1) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (Session 2) Saturday, Dec. 21 at the MU Activities Center.

WYAA volleyball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association girls volleyball (ages 9-17) is under way.

Free hot contest

The annual Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9, at St. Thomas Beckett Church, 5555 S. Lilley, Canton.

Pitchers-catchers

The Hawks Camps for Campers, a five-week pitcher and catcher progression camp will be from 1-2 p.m. (ages 6-12) and 2-3 p.m. (ages 13 and up) each Sunday at the Henry Ford Community College Athletic Memorial Building.



# High profile: Madonna film students screen their works at Masonic Temple

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

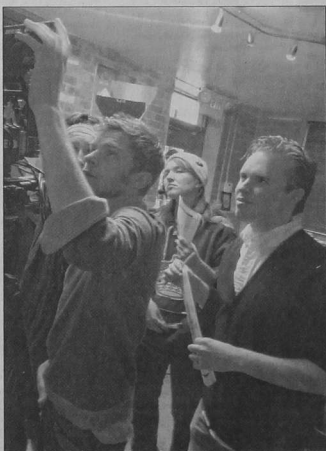
Aspiring cinematographer Tyler Henker is only a sophomore in Madonna University's Broadcast and Cinema Arts program, but he has filmed music videos, commercials, a fictional story — and worked on nearly 30 other projects — over the past year and a half through its Capstone film class.

"The class is set up so that you start low and work your way up," said Henker, of Canton. "I started off as a PA (production assistant) on the first shoot and came back on the second shoot as the AC (assistant camera). During a good portion of 2012 I worked in the camera department and was cinematographer on four projects: A Motor Honey music video, a BLT (Sportsweek) commercial, Paulina Jayne — one of the biggest country artists — her music video, and *Forever Saturday*, a short film.

The public will get a chance to see those and other film projects created by Henker and his Capstone classmates at a red carpet premiere, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at The Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit, (313) 832-7100. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and a party will follow the film showcase at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Get advance tickets at [tinyurl.com/CapstoneFilmClassPremiere](http://tinyurl.com/CapstoneFilmClassPremiere). The red carpet premiere will feature commercials — some that are currently airing on television locally — music videos and five short films that Capstone film class produced over two years.

## Hard work

"I went to the 2011 premiere and saw their work and basically what I saw was what they did that entire year," said Jeff Graham, a Capstone student and Madonna senior from Farmington Hills. "I thought they must have put tons of



Director of Photography Tyler Henker (center) sets a shot with director Benjamin Berg (left) and gaffer Ian Wolfe, on the set of *Forever Saturday*.

blood, sweat and tears into what they did. That's what I'm hoping the audience will see this year. We put so much blood, sweat and tears into these projects. I hope they enjoy it. We worked hard on it."

Graham, a graphic design major, signed up for the Capstone class as a part of his minor studies in broadcast and cinema arts. Like Henker, he worked as a production assistant on his first few class projects and then moved on to production design, enabling him to incorporate his experience as an artist, in *Forever*

*Saturday* and *The Hunting of the Jackalope*, two short films.

"I was going to shops and looking for props and making props. It's like a shopping spree and a scavenger hunt," Graham said. "After I did production design, I directed my own film called *A Dark Roast*, a silent film noir. I didn't know if I wanted a silent film or film noir. I decided why not do both?"

"I learned so much. It's a lot of hard work but it's the experience of a lifetime. I never thought I'd get this experience out of college."



Director of Photography Tyler Henker (center) sets a shot with director Benjamin Berg (left) and gaffer Ian Wolfe, on the set of *Forever Saturday*.

## Professionally run

Teacher Jennifer Champagne, who taught the class for three years, said she ran Capstone like a professional production company. She also called on class alumni and production colleagues to help mentor each new group of film students.

"My main goal is to make sure they are employable," said Champagne, a producer and 18-year veteran of the film industry. "When they show that they are professional and know their craft, I start referring them out (for jobs). They get out of the class what they put into it."

"I hire many of them myself because I have trained them. I'm tough, but the industry is tough."

She set many of the 2012-13 projects in Detroit. Student crews have filmed at Masonic Temple, the Max Fisher Theater, The Bottom Line Coffee House, Town Pump and more.

"A lot of these students

want to move to New York or L.A., however, they've never left the suburbs. If you want to live in those areas, you need to understand what city life is like," Champagne explained.

"We're at a time when Detroit is reinventing itself, there's an incredible artist community there. I think students should take a hand in that."

The red carpet premiere will cap Champagne's three-year teaching stint at Madonna. She plans to resume her own professional film projects full time, but won't cut ties with her students.

"I claim these kids for life and will continue having a relationship with them." She hopes the audience at the upcoming film showcase will recognize the "voice and talent" her students demonstrate in their work.

"I hope they are proud of these students. I hope they have a fabulous time and recognize Madonna as a leader in filmmaking."

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## Gospel version of Handel's Messiah aims to get toes tapping

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

When Pat Minnick joined the Rackham Symphony Choir 16 years ago, its singers performed Handel's *Messiah* nearly every Christmas season.

"We did a darn good job," said Minnick, who sings alto with the choir and coordinates music events at Schoolcraft College, Livonia.

A few years later, Rackham's director, Suzanne Mallare Acton, heard about a soulful jazz/gospel arrangement of Handel's classic work and suggested the choir give it a try.

"We all turned our noses up at the thought of doing a jazz *Messiah*," Minnick recalled.

Twelve years later, Minnick can't imagine Rackham welcoming the season without it.

"It is just absolutely fun to perform. It's true to the original score. It's just that the rhythm changes and it uses jazz motifs and gospel. The melodies are always recognizable. The arrangers did a marvelous job," Minnick said.

Rackham's Too Hot to Handel is set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

Tickets range from \$20-\$68 and are available at [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org). Soloists Rodrick Dixon, Alfreida Burke, and Karen Marie Richardson, will perform along with the choir. The Too Hot to

Handel orchestra will include Marton Hayden, Alvin Waddles, Dave Taylor and other Detroit jazz legends.

"It's just so powerful. You've got the full orchestra and jazz players," Minnick said. "You've got trombones — they never get a chance to play *Messiah* — and you've got organ and rhythm instruments. It's just exciting. And you don't have to be quiet.

You can shout, clap, yell Hallelujah and they do."

Although the singers dress in formal attire, they get caught up in the jazz/gospel sounds, too.

"We don't stand still. It is impossible," Minnick said. "The show is diffi-

See **MESSIAH**, Page B7

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# MESSIAH

Continued from Page B6

cult to explain to people who haven't experienced it. You almost have to go and see what I'm talking about."

## Challenging piece

Andrea Tawil, an attorney and a Livonia resident, will experience the show for the first time on Saturday as a soprano in the choir. She joined the group in January and has only sung the piece in rehearsal.

"I've done the classic Messiah, but I've never done gospel before. This has been an amazing experience," said Tawil, who sang in the choir at Churchill High School and later in a glee club at the University of Michigan.

"It's challenging in two ways. Even if you haven't done it before,



Suzzane Mellare Acton directs the choir.

most people have heard the pieces from the original Messiah. You want to sing the original. Then the other difficult part is

not having done gospel before. It has to be technically perfect but sound free-flowing and unrestrained. It has been

challenging, but in a good way. I love the sound we're getting out of it."

## Joining the choir

Tawil was watching a choral show on television last Christmas when she decided it was time to re-charge her interest in choir. She scheduled auditions with two groups, including Rackham.

"I was terrified when I did it. I sang my piece and they had me do some arrangements, highs and lows," Tawil said. She was invited to join and stay for rehearsal.

"Talk about hitting the ground running. The first thing we were doing was the Voices of Light. There is a silent movie about Joan of Arc. In the '90s a composer wrote a choral score to go behind it. They do it every few years. We were doing the performance while the movie played."

## More than song

Minnick said Mallare Acton often "pushes the

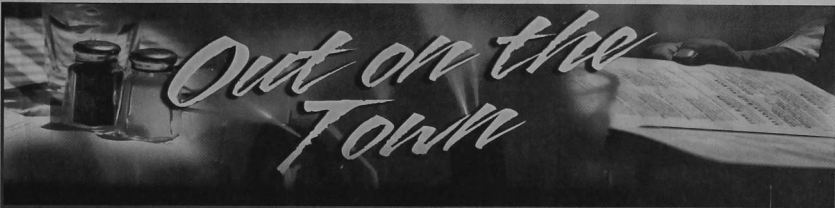
envelope" combining the choir with a multi-media presentation, dance, narrators or film.

"The thing that keeps me at Rackham is the director," Minnick said. "Every rehearsal is a voice lesson. She has high expectations for everyone who sings there."

Minnick had sung in school and church choirs for many years before auditioning for Rackham. The group consists of approximately 85 singers. It rehearses weekly at First Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak and membership is by audition.

"Church choirs do a lot of things connected to the service. With the kind of repertoire we do, we're able to do a lot of big things. We always sing with orchestra."

For more information about Rackham Symphony Choir, visit rackham-choir.org.



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# Big flavors

## Resourceful cooking creates

For most home cooks, using a French coffee press to create a tasty soup broth or a microwave to make a delicious custard might seem unconventional. However, during a time of year when many are cooking warm, comforting meals inside their kitchens, these ideas on making the most of small appliances and available ingredients start to make perfect sense.

"Pressure cookers are becoming a popular kitchen tool — you see them everywhere," said chef Kevan Vetter of the McCormick Kitchens. "Many people, however, might not know what to do with one — or that it's actually really easy to get different kinds of flavors and meals from it."

"Cooking in 2014 and beyond is going to be

about maximizing the appliances you have on hand, and using ingredients in multipurpose, creative ways to get the big flavors we all crave. For example, there's a good chance you have something as simple and affordable as tea in your kitchen cabinets — did you ever think about using it as a cooking liquid, a savory spice rub or even adding it to a marinade?"

According to Vetter, these tips and others like them were inspired by the Clever Compact Cooking trend from McCormick's Flavor Forecast 2014: 125th Anniversary Edition. The trend, which highlights the inventive ways urban home cooks with limited space are still creating bold flavor, has helped cultivate a new kind of cooking — and a thoughtful, efficient way to explore flavors.

New ways to create big flavors:

» **Savory step** — Make Vegetable Pho with Tea using a French coffee press. It's the perfect base for a vegetable version of Vietnamese pho, a comforting noodle soup.

» **Microwavable desserts** — Prepare Easy Lemon Tea Infused Custard with Candied Apricots in individual serving cups in the microwave. The bright flavor from the lemon tea is perfectly complemented by ground ginger and candied apricots.

» **Pressure cooking 2.0** — Cook Cajun Spiced Chicken Risotto in a pressure cooker for a creamy dish with just the right bite to the rice; no stirring needed.

Visit [www.FlavorForecast.com](http://www.FlavorForecast.com) for more flavors, trends and recipes to try in 2014.

### CAJUN SPICED CHICKEN RISOTTO

Risotto cooked in a pressure cooker comes out creamy with just the right bite to the rice, and no stirring is needed. Green tea adds a mild herb flavor to the cooking liquid in this Cajun-seasoned risotto.

Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 15 minutes  
Makes 8 (1-cup) servings

- 2 tablespoons McCormick Gourmet Cajun Seasoning
- 1 tablespoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander seed
- 1-pound boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups diced onions (1-inch dice)
- 3 cups water
- 6 green tea bags
- 2 cups Arborio rice
- 1 1/2 cups sliced assorted colors bell peppers (1-inch dice)
- 6 ounces andouille sausage, sliced diagonally into 1/2-inch thick slices
- 1 cup diagonally sliced green onions



1. Mix Cajun seasoning, garlic salt and ground coriander. Sprinkle chicken with 1 tablespoon of the seasoning mixture. Heat oil in open pressure cooker on medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook and stir 3 minutes or until browned. Add onions; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened. Add water and green tea packets. Bring to boil.
  2. Stir in rice, bell peppers, sausage and remaining seasoning mixture. Close lid. Bring pressure cooker to full pressure on high heat. Cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes.
  3. Run cold water over pressure cooker to release the pressure. Remove lid. Remove tea bags. Stir in onions.
- Test Kitchen Tip: Be sure to read the instruction manual that comes with your pressure cooker to familiarize yourself with the features of your cooker.

### EASY LEMON TEA-INFUSED CUSTARD WITH CANDIED APRICOTS

This custard is deceptively easy to achieve — you don't even need an oven! The lemon tea steeped custard and candied apricots are both prepared using a microwave, and can be on the table in less than 30 minutes.

- Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Cook Time: 15 minutes  
Makes 4 servings
- Lemon Tea-Infused Custard:
    - 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
    - 4 lemon-flavored herb tea bags, such as Bigelow I Love Lemon Tea
  - 4 eggs
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
  - Candied Apricots:
    - 1 cup finely chopped dried apricots
    - 2 tablespoons sugar
    - 2 tablespoons water
    - 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
    - 1/2 cup sliced almonds

1. For the Lemon Tea-Infused Custard, microwave cream and tea bags in medium microwavable bowl on high 4 to 5 minutes. Cover. Let steep 5 minutes. Discard tea bags.
  2. Meanwhile, for the Candied Apricots, place apricots, sugar, water and ginger in small microwavable bowl. Microwave on high 1 minute. Stir in almonds; cover. Set aside.
  3. Beat eggs and sugar in large bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Gradually whisk in cream mixture. Pour into 4 (6-ounce) microwavable ramekins or cups. Microwave on medium (50 percent power) 7 minutes or just until custard is set. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes. Serve warm with Candied Apricots.
- Test Kitchen Tip: Check your tea bags for metal staples. Be sure to remove before microwaving.



### VEGETABLE PHO WITH TEA BROTH

This flavorful, tea-based broth steeps in a French coffee press with spices. It serves as a perfect base for a vegetable version of Vietnamese pho, a comforting noodle soup.

Prep Time: 20 minutes  
Makes 4 servings

- 1 package (8 ounces) shirataki noodles
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Chinese Five Spice
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 2 tablespoons loose Lapsang Souchong Tea
- 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- 4 cups boiling water
- Garnishes:
  - 2 green onions, thinly sliced
  - 1/2 cup thinly sliced red bell pepper
  - 1/2 cup julienned carrots
  - 1/2 cup thinly sliced shiitake mushrooms or wild mushrooms
  - 4 sprigs fresh cilantro
  - Lime wedges

1. Rinse noodles with hot water in colander. Divide into 4 soup bowls.
  2. Place spices, tea leaves, hoisin sauce and water in 8-cup French press. Let stand 3 minutes. Using the French press plunger, strain stock. Pour clear liquid evenly into bowls. Sprinkle with desired garnishes.
- Test Kitchen Tip: Shirataki noodles can be found in Asian markets, health food stores, or in refrigerator case in the produce aisle of some supermarkets. If unavailable, substitute 4 ounces rice noodles, cooked as directed on package.











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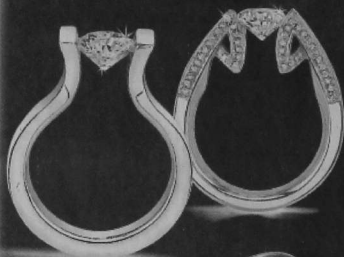
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