

CANTON OBSERVER

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Merry Christmas



Board delays decision on PARC offer

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Don Soenen won't say what the offer was he presented to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education for the Central Middle School property, but he believed it was substantial enough to sway the board. He was wrong – at least for

now.

Board members voted in a hastily called special meeting Monday not to extend an exclusive negotiating agreement with representatives of the Plymouth Area Recreation Complex that expires Dec. 31, a move that would have allowed the board to talk exclusively with PARC another month. That leaves an offer present-

ed by Soenen on behalf of the PARC – which would turn the Central Middle School site, located in the heart of downtown Plymouth, over to a private owner – in limbo.

That unidentified owner would have hung onto the property until plans for the PARC, stalled by a lack of support from the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, could move

forward.

But the board wasn't swayed yet by the deal, which contains a few stipulations for which board members apparently wanted more details. The board isn't scheduled to discuss the subject again until its Jan. 13 meeting.

"We made an offer that we believe met their overall financial expectations," Soenen

said. "The board wants more details on terms and conditions before they are prepared to make a decision."

Board of Education President Judy Mardigian said Monday's action had "nothing to do" with the actual offer, which neither side would discuss. She said it was simply a decision

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Ella Ray (from left), Marlene Griggs, Virginia Garner and Gloria Cifaldi pose inside the Canton Senior Center after talking about Christmases past.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CANTON SENIOR CITIZENS SHARE MEMORIES OF CHRISTMASSES PAST

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Christmases have come and gone, decades have passed, many loved ones have died, yet nothing has erased the childhood holiday memories still cherished by Canton senior citizens.

Smiling, laughing, reflecting, four friends gathered inside the Canton Senior Center and shared Christmas memories they made long before they

knew each other.

Marlene Griggs said her family couldn't afford to spend much money for Christmas gifts when she was growing up in Wayne. So the dolls she already had got a makeover after her mother bought doll wigs from a Kresge store and sewed doll clothing from scrap material.

"I thought they were brand new dolls," Griggs said.

Gloria Cifaldi said her family, many

from Scotland, rented a hall during the 1940s in her hometown of Detroit, decorated a Christmas tree in it and placed gifts under the tree for a celebration that drew as many as 40 people.

"I remember getting together with all my cousins," she said, including some she saw just once a year. "It was real exciting to see them and hear all my relatives with their Scottish accents."

They shared Scottish shortbread.

"There was no shortbread like my grandmother's shortbread," Cifaldi said.

Young girls would open gift boxes to find dolls, while the boys often got toy cars and trucks. One time prior to the Christmas gathering, Cifaldi found a wrapped gift her mother had hidden in the attic, so she carefully un-

See MEMORIES, Page A2

Letters let Santa know children's Christmas hopes

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How have you been? Are you getting ready for your big trip? Can you bring my baby brother a chair for food please? Can you bring my Dad a Red Wings shirt please? Can you bring my big brother other mincraft shirts please? Can you bring my mom new red slipper please?

For me, Eddie, I want a mini Ipad, Juni B Jones books, a mini light and the collection of baseball players please.

I will give you cookies.

From your friend,

Eduardo Hernandez-Alor

INSIDE

More letters to Santa, A6

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa how are you? Are you getting ready for your big trip? My mom has been great! Can you please bring her new jewelry. Dad has been working hard. Can you please bring Dad Detroit Lions PJ? My sister Angelina has been good. Can you please bring her a gift card to Justies. Liast I have been doing my homework and cleaning my room. Can you

please bring me a skate bord?

How are your elves? How do you get in the house? My dog Daisy was good can you please bring her a chew bone? My grandma has been awesome! Can you please bring her new shoes? Thank you for the gifts last year! Have a safe trip in the sky!

Love,

Katie hart

Dear Santa,

Hi! How is Rudolph? Mom has been great! Can you please bring her a new camera? My Dad has been great

too. Can you please bring him a new lawn mower? Can you please bring Heath the book If You Give a Cat a Cupcake? Can you please give my sister some jewelry. Can you give both my brothers new ornaments that look like you, Santa?

I have been so kind and hard working at school. Can you please give me Snow Glow Elsa, Isabelle, and little live pet bird?

Have a safe trip!

From,

Grace Hippley

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How are you? Are you doing good? Are you ready for all the cookies? My mommy has been great! Can you please bring her a silver necklace with pink harts?

Papa has been working hard. Can you please bring him a big snow shovel. My older brother Dominik has been really good. Can you please bring him tools. I do my homework. Can you please bring me a box of paper clips? I hope you have a good trip.

From,

Desmond Pedersen



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Community singalong marks the holiday

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth took time out to celebrate the season with song Sunday afternoon.

The second annual Community Carol Sing brought many dozens of people to Kellogg Park, where they sang Christmas carols ranging from sacred songs like *Angels We Have Heard on High* and *Go Tell It On The Mountain* to more secular tunes like *Jingle Bells* and *White Christmas*.

The informal chorus – friends and acquaintances from the 10 area churches that formally participated, plus people who joined in just for the fun of it – sang while gathered around the park's Nativity scene. Jerry Smith, 80, the music director at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth and a longtime music instructor, led the singers.

"I enjoyed it very much," Kurt Wilder, a Canton Township resident, said later. "Any time you can bring people together to celebrate the message of the season, it's a wonderful thing to do."

For Christians, that means marking the birth of Christ, added Wilder, a member of First Presbyterian and a Michigan Court of Appeals judge.

Wilder spoke during an afterglow at his church's fellowship hall, where singers warmed up with coffee, hot chocolate and cookies.



Jerry Smith, music director at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, directs the holiday singers gathered in Kellogg Park.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No estimates were available, but a couple of people remarked that the turnout appeared to be double that of last year's debut singalong, when between 120 and 150 people showed up.

The singalong is one of three Plymouth events sponsored by a group of people from 10 area churches and an outward sign of what those involved say is a growing local ecumenical movement. The other two

events, which debuted this year, are a National Day of Prayer observance in May and the Heartbeat Festival in August – two days of lectures, Christian-oriented concerts and other activities.

All three events are planned for next year.

Bonding community

Organizers were calling the second Carol Sing a success.

"It continues to bond

the community, not only of churches, but the Plymouth community in general," said Jeremy Russell of Plymouth First United Methodist Church. Russell, of Livonia, is chairman of the Heartbeat Festival's music committee.

Smith said the singing of Christmas carols tugs at people's memories and highlights the emotional attachment many have to the music of the season.

During Sunday's singalong, Smith noted, he was struck by how many participants didn't need the song sheets that had been passed out.

"They do remember *Silent Night* and they do remember *O Come All Ye Faithful* and they're looking for a chance to sing," he said.

In addition to First Presbyterian and First United Methodist, the churches involved in the local ecumenical move-

ment, organized with the name Heartbeat of Plymouth, are Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic, St. John's Episcopal, Praise Baptist, Ward Evangelical Presbyterian, Calvary Baptist of Canton, Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene and Lake Pointe Bible Church.

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Historic post office to become Westborn Market

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A new chapter will open for the historic post office building on Penniman in downtown Plymouth next year when it reopens as a specialty grocery chain's fourth location.

Dearborn-based Westborn Market recently signed a long-term lease with Mark and Patty Malcolm of Plymouth, owners of the former Pursell Station post office, to use the nearly 11,000-square-foot building for a new market. The building, dating from 1935, closed last spring when the U.S. Postal Service moved the Pursell Station to a long-vacant convenience store nearby.

Mark Malcolm and Westborn president Mark Anusbigian say the building's exterior will be restored and many of its historical features preserved and that a new

Westborn will add to Plymouth's thriving downtown. A fall opening is planned, Mark Anusbigian said.

"I think you're going to see that building looking more historic than it has in decades," Mark Malcolm said.

"The building is just so cool – I can't say it enough. It's just a great venue for a specialty market," Anusbigian said.

'Feels right'

Westborn is a family owned grocery with stores in Dearborn, Berkeley and Livonia and has been in business for more than 50 years. The stores specialize in fresh produce, meats and baked goods and carry many gourmet products and grocery items that can't readily be found in supermarkets.

Anusbigian said he sees a Plymouth location as a logical next step for Westborn. "We just really love the community. It

just feels right," he said.

Some preliminary work has already been done and Westborn is working with state and local officials, including Plymouth's Historic District Commission, to make sure renovations are in keeping with the building's original character. Mark Malcolm said there are plans to apply for the building to be listed with the National Register of Historic places.

He said he's impressed with how Westborn has embraced the building's history. "I think it's going to be a pretty good marriage," he said.

Mural preserved

The building's lobby includes a four-panel mural, "Plymouth Trail," that was commissioned by the Department of Treasury during the Great Depression. Painted by the Cuban-born Carlos Lopes, who taught at the University of Mich-

igan, it depicts aspects of Plymouth's past.

The mural was restored in June by a Chicago art restoration company; the postal service retains ownership of it and paid for the restoration, but as the building owners, the Malcolms are responsible for preserving it.

The USPS put the post office on the market in 2010 in a cost-cutting and downsizing move. The new Pursell Station at Penniman and Harvey, which the postal service is leasing, is much smaller. The Pursell Station is named for the late Carl Pursell, a longtime Republican member of the U.S. Congress who represented the Plymouth area.

The Malcolms had the older building under contract for more than a year, closing the purchase in August for a price of \$760,000.

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MEMORIES

Continued from Page A1

wrapped it, looked at the doll inside and wrapped it back up.

Ella Ray, as a young child in Mobile, Ala., remembers she had a knack for disassembling toys her parents gave to her.

"Whatever they gave me, I took it apart and put it back together," she said.

Ray recalled having those skills at a time when girls couldn't take shop classes at school.

After her family moved to Chicago, she recalls the time she got her first bicycle for Christmas, a brand new Schwinn.

"It was a real pretty blue," she said, adding later, "I didn't need training wheels. I was living in Chicago. You just got on it and went. And I was a leader."

Virginia Garner, the oldest of eight children growing up in Roseville, said her parents used to decorate the family Christmas tree and put it in a place where the youngsters couldn't reach it.

"They put the Christmas tree in a playpen," she said. "And we always had a real tree."

Their stories harken back to Christmases long gone. Yet, as they shared holiday sweet treats, tea and childhood stories at the Canton Senior Center, one thing became abundantly clear: They're still making memories.

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PARC

Continued from Page A1

not to extend the exclusivity agreement past Dec. 31. The board did, however, vote at its Dec. 16 meeting to continue negotiations with the PARC, just not on an exclusive basis.

"The practical matter is nothing is going to happen until Jan. 13, so there's still time to negotiate," said Mardigian, who wouldn't talk about Monday's closed-door discussions. "What they were asking us to do is extend the (exclusive) negotiating period. The resolution we passed the other night said we would continue to negotiate with them and that's where we stand. That hasn't changed."

The Central property includes 4.25 acres occupied by the Plymouth Cultural Center, 1.15 acres for the Miracle League of Plymouth special-needs baseball field, 9.79 acres of athletic fields and tennis courts and 6.41 acres for Central Middle School itself.

The property was appraised last year at some \$4 million, though the district's asking price for the property is believed to be lower than that. Neither Soenen nor district officials would talk about the amount of the PARC's offer.

The cultural center and the Miracle League field likely won't be included in any potential sale, because their value to buyers would be diminished by long-term leases, appraisers have said. That leaves a little more than 17 acres

accounted for in the appraisal.

Among the assets to the property are a football field and Central's swimming pool. The Steelers youth football program calls Central its home field, while the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers depend heavily on the Central Middle School pool. Soenen pointed out Monday those teams need to know soon whether they'll have a place to play.

"My concern is all those user groups," Soenen said. "If they don't know something by the middle of January, they may have to dissolve those teams. It would be pretty tough to resurrect all of that."

Soenen acknowledged the offer did include a few stipulations, including things like district officials being involved in defining what the complex is going to offer and participating in a feasibility study to determine what's possible and what the community wants.

"Ultimately it needs to be a community project," Soenen said. "The school district needs to be a big part of that."

Soenen hoped Monday's board meeting, posted over the weekend, would have provided some resolution to the issue. But board members decided they needed further clarification.

Soenen said his group will keep plugging away.

"We will continue to work at trying to find a way to get this done, but tonight's action by the board was very disappointing," Soenen said.

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Detroit Circus brings big top to Canton

Come one, come all Saturday, Jan. 24, to Canton's Village Theater, when the Detroit Circus comes to town.

This high-energy performance is set to take place at 2 p.m. on the main stage, at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Audiences will witness high-flying aerial antics on fabric and the trapeze; fire dancing and eating; stilt walking and stilt acrobatics; plus, feats of mind-bending strength. Organizers

point out this is an animal-free circus.

In addition to the performance on stage, audience members can also purchase popcorn, other concession items and carnival-themed images created by on-site face painting artists.

The Detroit Circus has been dazzling audiences for the past several years with its acrobatic skills and gravity defying acts. Watch as members of the aerial acrobatics troupe tie

themselves into ornate poises utilizing silks hung from the rafters and captive audience members with grace, poise and incredible strength.

During this performance, skilled aerialists will dance, weave and flow through the air, while aerial hoop performers display lyrical flexibility and astonishing strength as they contort and spin. Adagio Acrobatic members will also amaze viewers with

their challenging body balancing, yoga and flexible maneuvers requiring two partners, who appear to push the limits of physics.

Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillage-theater.org or in person at the Village Theater box office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 734-394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillage-theater.org.

Teaching investors about investing

A few weeks ago, I received a call from someone I know in the financial world asking me if I would participate in a contest. The prizes were nice, but nothing to write home about.

My initial reaction was, why not? It would be fun. But then I heard what the contest entailed. They were giving 10 advisers \$250,000 in play money to see which adviser made the most money over a six-month period.

The rules stated that trading would be allowed in any listed security. The trades would be done online so others could see how the money was being invested.

The company stated the goal was to try to get more people involved in investing and teach people the fundamentals. These are wonderful goals and ones that I support, but I told the company that I would not participate.

My reason was not that I was worried whether I would win or lose. Rather, I thought it sent the wrong message to investors. If one of the goals is to teach people about investing, having a contest where the goal is to make as much money as possible over a six-month period doesn't teach the right lesson. If someone had a six-month goal for his/her money, I would tell them to avoid the stock market and to invest in such things as CDs. I recognize that this is not a very sexy investment, but it is the prudent one.

The contest, however, tends to perpetuate the unfortunate belief that investing is equivalent to gambling, which it is not. Investing is for the long run and certainly is not a game.

Had I entered the



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

contest, I would have tried to win, which means I would have thrown out pretty much all the rules of investing and taken on more of a gambler's mentality.

I would have rejected the proven principal that it is time in the market that's important, not timing the market. If I had entered the contest, considering the goal was only six months, timing the market would have been much more important than time in the market. That is the opposite of what an investor ought to be thinking.

There's no doubt these types of contests are fun, but they should not be used to teach people about investing. Investors need to learn that investing is not gambling and that six months is a relatively immaterial time frame for investors to judge whether an investment is worthwhile.

Another problem I have with the contest is that it encourages unnecessary risk taking. As investors, the goal is to have a portfolio that matches your goals and objectives and risk tolerance level as well.

I love the idea of teaching investors about investing and encouraging more people to get involved. However, I do not believe that contests, although fun, accomplish that goal.

Good luck.

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

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: This event features Judie Cochill with the Ron Kischuk Trio. The group features Judie Cochill on vocals, Ron Kischuk on trombone, Tad Weed on piano and Jeff Halsey on bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzat-theelks@gmail.com.

SENIOR FITNESS

Location: Plymouth Senior Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth

Dates: Jan. 6 to Feb. 13, Feb. 16 to March 27

Times/Details: Silver Sneakers, Tuesday and Fridays, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Seniors 65 and over. Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activities for daily living. Hand held weights, elastic tubing with handles and Silver Sneakers balls are offered for resistance. Chairs are available as needed. Silver Sneakers Yoga, Wednesday, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Classes offer a modified variety of stretching exercises in both seated and standing positions. The movements and stretches done during a Yoga Stretch workout help increase muscle tone and build strength. Exercising the joints keeps them functional and helps you

Going in style



JULIE BROWN

"Sidewalks Dressed in Holiday Style" featuring horse and carriage rides, live music and store specials came to downtown Plymouth for the first Christmas in Plymouth event the evening of Thursday, Dec. 11. The downtown area followed that up with a Ladies Night a week later that brought some holiday spirit to the community.

remain pain-free. Flexibility, range of motions and balance are improved through yoga, each of which help prevent falls.

Zumba Gold, Wednesday, 11-11:45 a.m. A specialty dance inspired fitness class that takes the same fun Zumba flavor and modifies the moves and pace to suit the needs of active older adults, baby boomers and the beginning fitness person. Zumba Gold has a longer warm up and cool down to allow participants a program to improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular strength.

Contact: For more information, contact cmorency@ymca-detroit.org or 734-453-2904.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:

Jan. 2, noon to 5:45 p.m., Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road, Canton

Jan. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Jan. 5, 12:30-6:15 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The American Red Cross asks eligible blood donors to make a resolution to give blood regularly in 2015,

beginning with National Blood Donor Month in January.

Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with O negative, A negative and B negative.

Contact: To learn more about donating blood and to schedule an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

LIBRARY BAG SALES

Dates: Jan. 23-26; Feb. 20-23; March 27-30

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: The Canton Public Library hosts several Bag Sales to benefit Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public Library bookstore. Visitors can shop during the monthly sale and fill a big with books for just \$5.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Dates/Times: First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman.

Details: Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

Contact: For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050, or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

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Pair pleads guilty to assault outside eatery

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Two women have pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon amid allegations they threatened a third woman with a gun and a chain outside a Canton fast food restaurant.

Antoinette Hope Boone, 37, of Canton and her cousin Alyah Chaurice Tooson-Boone, 19, of Inkster could face penalties ranging from probation to four years in prison when they are sentenced Jan. 15 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The pair pleaded guilty Dec. 12 after authorities say they



Antoinette Boone (left) and her cousin Alyah Tooson-Boone face sentencing after pleading guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

threatened a 30-year-old Inkster woman when tempers

flared over a man Boone and the victim had both dated.

The dispute erupted the night of Aug. 14 after the assailants and the victim, in separate cars, pulled into a McDonald's parking lot on Michigan Avenue near Lotz.

Boone was accused of brandishing a .40-caliber handgun while police say Tooson-Boone wielded a chain. The victim told police she had been trailed eastbound along Michigan Avenue by assailants who swerved into her lane, threw objects at her car and yelled at her.

The victim told police she

had begun dating a man formerly involved with Boone.

Boone's decision to plead guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon resulted in dismissal of additional counts of felony firearm and carrying a concealed weapon, court records indicate. She would have faced a mandatory two-year prison term if she had been convicted of the felony firearm charge.

No shots were fired and no one was injured, Canton police Lt. Chad Baugh has said.

Tooson-Boone was charged with only a single count of assault with a dangerous weapon. The defendants remain free

as they await sentencing. They already had been released from jail amid orders to stay away from the victim.

The victim told police the incident unfolded after she stopped at the McDonald's restaurant to meet a friend, who told police she also felt threatened.

The victim told authorities she retrieved a baseball bat from her car before the dispute was broken up as police arrived.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Violent suspect

Police took a 32-year-old Canton man to a hospital for evaluation after he became violent and family members feared he might harm himself due to his battles with schizophrenia and depression, a police report said.

The man threatened to pour hot tea on his aunt and then threatened her with a butcher knife while she was sleeping on a couch at a family residence on Gloria, near Lilley and Cherry Hill.

The incident happened during the early morning hours Saturday.

The man pulled a blanket off the aunt and told her to go to the basement, then threatened her, a police report said. She ran to the basement in fear and told her brother – the suspect's father – the next morning. She told police she stayed awake all night in the basement out of fear.

The incident was reported to police by family members, who said the suspect suffered from schizophrenia and depression. He reportedly is more than \$300,000 in debt after failing in medical school.

The aunt didn't want to prosecute. Rather, she and relatives wanted the suspect to receive psychiatric help for his problems. Police went to the house on Gloria and gave him a ride to the University of Michigan for evaluation.

Days Inn damage

Canton police arrested a 25-year-old man for malicious destruction of property and disorderly conduct after he allegedly became violent during an incident shortly before 1:30 a.m. Sunday at the Days Inn on Michigan Avenue.

Police went to the location amid reports the man had smashed out a light near a stairway and tried to fight with another man. The suspect told police he had left his room to smoke a cigarette, but de-

nied allegations he became violent.

Police noticed a strong odor of intoxicants and found a pint of vodka in his back pocket. Police also learned he already was on probation for domestic violence from Westland 18th District Court.

The man who the suspect allegedly tried to fight with told police the suspect appeared angry, smashed out the exterior light and tried to intimidate him, prompting him to call police.

The suspect was taken into custody.

Pet Smart incident

Police arrested a 27-year-old man after he became violent while intoxicated inside the Pet Smart store on Ford Road, east of Lilley, shortly before 9 p.m. Friday, a police report said.

Police went to the store after receiving reports the man went into the store bathroom and could be heard yelling and hitting the walls. He then came out of the bathroom, grabbed some merchandise and threw it on the ground, the report said.

The suspect had cuts on his hands and allegedly told police he acted the way he did because "it was cool," the police report said. After he left the Pet Smart store he went to a nearby Michael's store.

The man was arrested for public intoxication.

Sam's Club theft

A 59-year-old Westland woman notified police after someone stole her Samsung Galaxy tablet out of her locker in the employee break room at the Sam's Club on Ford Road, east of Lotz, a police report said.

The victim told police the locker had been left unlocked.

The woman said the tablet was valued at \$200 and she needed to file a police report to document it had been stolen.

– By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Pot delivery

Marijuana was turned over to police by a business on Halyard after apparently being mistakenly delivered there via a national shipping company.

The pot, amounting to more than three pounds, was delivered to the business Dec. 11 and the package opened the next day, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The complainant at the business told police he had no idea why it was sent there.

Police said the package had a return address indicating it had come from McAllen, Texas, and that the original documentation on it showed it was intended for an address in Charlotte, N.C. A sticker with the Halyard address, however, had been placed over the original shipping document, police said.

Larceny try

A man seen going through two parked pickup trucks in the township Dec. 10 was apparently arrested a short time later in neighboring Canton Township, police said.

The incident occurred in the area of Sheldon and Joy roads at about 5:40 p.m.

Dec. 10, a police report said. A caller told police the man was rummaging through two pickup trucks parked in the driveway of a house. Police responded, but were unable to locate him. The man was said to be wearing an orange hoodie.

Around 6:30 p.m., police received word that a man of a similar description had been spotted in Canton and that Canton police found him in a garage and arrested him.

Nothing was reported stolen from either of the pickup trucks.

Funny money

A man tried to buy two glazed doughnuts with a fake \$20 bill at the Dunkin' Donuts on Ann Arbor Road in the township Dec. 9, police report.

The cashier told police the bill appeared to be counterfeit and was handed back to the man, who paid for the doughnuts with another \$20 bill and left, a police report said.

– By Matt Jachman

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December tours take Greenmead visitors to Christmases past

Visitors to Greenmead Historical Park this month got a look at how Christmas was celebrated in Livonia in years gone by.

The Sunday Christmas Tours, held Dec. 7, 14 and 21, took visitors through six historic buildings all decorated for the holidays, including the Simmons/Hill House, an 1841 Greek Revival farmhouse.

"The tours are well-attended at Christmas," said Sue Daniel, chair of the Livonia Historical Commission and a member of the Livonia Historic Preservation Commission.

The Simmons/Hill House, considered the jewel of Greenmead, is looking its best in years, Daniel said. Once considered the "grandest house in the county," according to a local history book, it recently underwent a \$600,000 structural renovation.

"It's in such good condition," she said.

Cosmetic improvements, including reupholstering, are going on now. Four pieces of furniture – a vanity bench, bolster bench and chair from Jean Boyd Hill's bedroom on the first



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Marion Jones, at the Newburg School, has been a Greenmead volunteer for more than 20 years.

floor and a red parlor chair – were reupholstered with money from a grant secured by The Sauk Trail Quilter Chapter No. 573 of Livonia.

"They really look nice," Daniel said.

Another three pieces are being reupholstered with money from another grant received by the Quilter chapter.

In addition to the building tours, visitors enjoyed holiday musical performances, like the one this past Sunday by the Novi Brass Ensemble, and visits with Santa.

– By Karen Smith



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A volunteer peeks out the door of the church.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Volunteer Deborah Nicholas of Plymouth waits for the next group to visit the A.J. Geer Store.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kurt and Rolanda Zabel of Livonia walk to the next stop on the Greenmead tour.

Seniors from Botsford Commons surprise first-graders with books

During the holidays, people look forward to traditions – baking cookies with grandma, trimming the tree as a family or attending festive parties with friends. At Botsford Commons Senior Community in Farmington Hills, the Giving Tree has become a holiday tradition with staff, families and residents. Now in its third year, it's a hand's down favorite.

Seventy-eight first-grade students from Botsford Elementary in Livonia recently visited Botsford Commons, all looking forward to singing holiday favorites and entertaining the residents. Little did the children know, but the residents and staff had been

working hard for months, collaborating with their teachers, to make sure every first-grade student received brand-new books that would interest them and be at their current reading level.

The residents and staff watched while Santa counted down, "three, two, one" and the students all unwrapped their books simultaneously. The screams and yells from the excited kids brought tears to the eyes of the staff and residents. "It was such a joy to see," said Margaret Lightner, president and CEO of Botsford Commons. "We were all involved in their joy; enjoying that moment with the students was

amazing. They loved their gifts and it was beautiful to see the residents' faces light up – watching the kids in that moment was a gift to us all."

The event is organized through the Fullness of Life department at Botsford Commons. This year's event was led by Barb Smith. Christmas trees are decorated with envelopes, each one labeled with a student's name. The staff, residents and families are excited to fill the envelopes with donations.

Reading has connected Botsford Commons seniors and these Clarenceville School District students for seven years, thanks to a popular read-

ing program called "Botsford Buddies." Every month, the children read to the residents, improving their literacy skills and building bonds along the way.

First-grade teacher Maureen O'Leary said, "In all my years of teaching, this event was the most incredible thing I have ever experienced. One of my students last year opened her gift of books, hugged them and never put them down. This gift put her on the road to reading."

The children carried their books home, stored safely in dry cloth grocery bags, donated by Senior Helpers, Residential Home Health and Kroger.



Botsford Elementary first-grade students (from left) Kaylee Brown, Alyssa Shananaquet, Justin Tolbert and Yumahawa Diop visit with Santa.

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Kids hope letters to Santa Claus yield a Merry Christmas

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How is Rudolph?
Grandma has been good. Can you please bring some new slippers. I have been really good. Can you please bring a blue truck? Mom has been really good. Can you please bring her a new necklace?
Have a safe trip Santa!

Xander Burnett

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. How have you been? Are you getting ready for your big trip? Mom has been good so can you please give her an owl picture. And can you give my dad a video game. Last but not least, my silly sister, can you give her a tea set. How is Rudolph doing? Can you please give me Snackeez?

Your friend,

Kylie Anderson

Dear Sanata,

Hi Santa! How have you been? Don't believe what everyone says you're not fat! Can you get my twin brothers a head light. Can you get my mom a wonderful kiss from me. My dad would love some new shirts. I would love a Frby, ice power and pacifers.

Have a safe trip!

Love,

Brooklyn Dood

Dear Santa Claus,

Hi Santa! How is Rudolph doing? Are you giving Rudolph reindeer food and carrots? For my mom please get her special kind of earrings, please get my dad some cookies, please get Nolan a toy car, please get my grandma another butterfly necklace. My grandpa would like some working tools. Me a big rainbow turtle.

Kaitlin Williams

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are your reindeer? Could you bring a yellow chair for my mom and an iPad for my Dad? I have been very good this year. Could you bring me a red baby because we don't have one.

Love,

Cal Dood

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. How has Rudolph been? My Nana was very awesome this year. Can you give her a paint set and my brother Brodi a real monster truck. My Dad would like a new iPad. My mommy a new shiny charm. Can you please give me a frozen castle that is one side Anna and the other side Elsa.

Kieri English

Dear Santa,

Hi! Merry Christmas. Are you ready for your cold trip? Is Rudolph practicing his jumps? My mom has been very good. Could you please bring me a new shiny necklace? My dad has been fabuoles! Could you please bring him a watch? Could please bring a drum for my brother? Could please bring me a shiny brand new scooter?

I love you very much you are the best!

Janani Ram Sudhakar

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. How have you been getting ready for your big trip? My mom has been very good. Please bring her some flowers. My dad was great can you please bring him a sport car. My big sister has been good too. can you please bring a Frozen poster. My brothers are good. Please give them a big Minecraft.

From your friend,

Madison Davis

Dear Santa Claus,

Hi. My brother Hunter has been good, can you please bring him a skate board? My mother a pair of slippers please. Also my father would like a dog. I would like a new puppy just born today. Also a skate board. My Nana would love a special bow. Have a good trip.

Love,

Faith Nelson

Dear Santa,

Hi! How is Mrs. Claus? Is she feeding you well? My Mom and Dad have been nice, can my Dad get a tool set? And my Mom is very nice. I think my Mom would love new earrings. My big and little sisters have been good, too. Can you get them a Barbie doll house? My little brother is kind of nice can you please bring him a mini motercicl? I have been nice. Can I have a replays mint spi watch?

Have a safe trip!

Ben Park, Mishagin

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How is Rudolph? Is he doing good? Are you getting ready for your trpp? I am leaving some carrots for Rudolph. My Mom has been good. Please bring my mom purple slippers and Dad is working hard. Please give him a new rake and also please bring my brother a poke-mon deck of cards. And please give me a Power Ranger toy.

Bikramjeet Saini



Ava Collett lets Santa Claus know what she wants for Christmas.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Dear Santa Claus,

Hi Santa! Is Rudolph getting ready for the big trip? My mom has been great!! Can you please bring a pandora necklace to my mom. My dad has been working hard. Can you please bring my dad a snow blower! Can it be green and white? My brother has been AMAZING!! Can you get him a Paymax figure? Last, I have been GREAT! Can I have a fort set?

I hope you are ready for the lots of cookies and milk!

Jada Dieffenbaugher

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! I will leave water for your reindeer. I want to know if you like chocolate cookies? Can you please bring my mom some red Gaterade. Can you bring my dad a new computer. He has been good too. Can you bring my brother a army men. He has been good too. Can you please bring me a DS and a DS charger?

Finnegan Walker

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. How have you been? Have you fed your reindeer? My mom wants a pair of slippers please. My dad wants working tools. My Grandma wants working teeth things. My brother wants a toy airplane. My sister wants a puppy. I want a cat.

Have a good trip.

Richard Wu

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How have you been? Are you getting ready for your big trip? My mom has been great. Can you please bring her a mommy chapter book? Dad has been working hard so can you please bring car magazines for my dad?

Aidan Dood

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa have you been working hard? My brother would like a flashlight. I have been good this year too. Please bring me a roller coaster. Thank you for coming!

Marco Flores

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How have you been? How is Rudolph? Mom has been cleaning really good. Please bring her some clothes, dishes, and make up. Dad has been good too and Dad needs cozy slippers. Dad also needs a drill. My dad wants money.

Have a safe trip.

Brandon Davis

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How are you? Are you getting ready? Is Rudolph ready for his long trip? The elves ready? Do not believe in others. You are not fat! My mom has been great can you get her pink slippers? My dad has been great can you get him a sports car? Payton Myles has been great. He would like spy gere. Santa, can you please bring me spy gere too.

Avery Myles

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How have you been. I hope you have been heathy and eating your vegetables you are great! Please get my grandpa a new pair of shoes. My grandma would love a new dress. My big brother is nice. Please get him DS. I am good in school. Please get me slippers, Ironman lego set, a laptop, an Ipod, Xbox, clothes, and a toy.

Be careful on your trip,

Christian Busch

Dear Santa,

How is your reindeer? Are you doing OK? Can you bring my Mom a dress. Can you bring my Dad a shirt. Can you bring my brother a pair of socks. And I would want an American

girl doll which is Meet Kaya. Bring my dog a chow toy. How is Mrs. Claus? I love you. Have a good chrip be safe. And cep up the good wrok. Do your ranedeer gid your slay? I hope so.

You are awesome! I hope you say thank you. Wake me up. I ben a good girl so fre. I hope I git a lot presnts.

Madison Reif

Dear Santa,

How are you big guy? Can you please bring my brother a new game? Can you please bring my dad a new baseball glove? Can you bring me a new baseball bat? Can you bring my mom a new coat? Wake me up when you get here.

Love,

Kyle Candito

Dear Santa,

Can you get my mom a rainbow necklace? Can you get my younger sister a toy? Could you get my older sister (2nd oldest) a new lovey? Could you get my little brother some blocks? Can you get me some books? Will you get my daddy a tool kit? Can you give me one thousand presents?

Love,

Riley Silverman

P.S. Wake me up and I'll give you a hug!

Dear Santa,

Could you please bring mici a toy? My brother would LOVE a football? Do you like cookies? Could you please bring me a Elsa? Have a very safe trip.

Love,

Kimberly Sainsard

P.S. I'll leave you cookies!

Dear Santa,

How is your reindeer? Could you please bring my mom a lovely hat? My brother would love a Minecraft videogame. My Dad could have a new socks. Would you bring my little sister a dol. I want a Elsa dol and it sing let it go.

I will liv you cookies.

Laurel Klein

Dear Santa,

How are you? How is roodoff? I will leef you cookies. I like you! How are your reindeer? Can you bring my mom a necklace? Can you bring my sister a mincraft endrman toy? Can you bring my brother a moneyky toy? can you bring me a amaracin girl doll thanksgiving set? Have a good trip.

Love,

Sukhi Kaur

P.S. I've been a very good girl this year!

Dear Santa,

How is the rain dears? Santa Clas I wot clipping change bumble bee. How is mis is Claus? I wot the stuffed animal Endo dragon. Love you big guy!

Shaun Glaspie

P.S. You are awesome!

Dear Santa,

How are you doing big guy? How are your elfs? My dad would want a chrofeey. My mom would want some prfyoom. My sister would like an Amercuin dol. I would like Ohio State guy and nadr give. I'll give you cook-ies.

P.S. Give roodoff a hiy five.

Your friend,

Shawn Lane

Dear Santa,

I hope you could you git my mom a necklace. How are you Santa? Could you beg Justin on x-box? I wat a Barbie car that I could fit in. How is Rudolph? I will have sum cookies ready for you.

Love,

Madison Moncrief

P.S. I hope you have a git trip.

Dear Santa,

How is yor randers? Can you please bring my Mom a necklace? I will mack big cookies. Can you gev Henrey a new toy? I wod love a new Elsa Bowa. Can you breng my cat a new mows toy? Mom wod love a new cup. Can you breng my Dad a new fotbal? Can you breng me sparkled tye ara? Can you breng me a Elsa cape? Can you bring me sum candey? I love you Santa!

Love,

Carolyn Kimmel

Dear Santa,

Are your reindeer doing good? Are your elves doing good? Are your Rudolph and sleigh ready for the trip? My mom would love a new bras-lit. My Dad would love a new tool. Are you ready for the trip?

Love,

Adam Mikolajczyk

Dear Santa,

How are your rader? Pleas give my bruthr a new Wii game. It is Mario Cart 8. My mom was a sweatshirt. I wot a Lions hat. P.S. I will give caris to your rander.

Love,

Gavin Starzyk

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? Give Owen Mannarelli the Ninja go book. I would like the American Girls name Kiersten. All leave carrots for my reindeer. You know me, it's Sarah Riddell. P.S. I'll give you some chocolit milk.

Sarah Riddell

Dear Santa,

How are your raindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? Can you please bring my mom a new necklace. Can you bring my dad a new hat? Can you bring my brother a new dooploe set? I want a new Nanja Turtle lego set. I love you big guy!

Love,

James Allen

P.S. Woch out for birds!

Dear Santa,

How are you doowing? Can you please get my mom a new neclis? Can you please get my mom a samsppum tablit. Can you please get my dad a ipad. Can you get my dad a new payr of jrill batres? Can you please get me a ipad. Can you get me a xbox. Have a very safe trip.

Love,

Lukas Yamazaki

P.S. If you wake me up I will give you a hi five.

Dear Santa,

How are your elves doing? I will leve you cookes and milk. Could you please give my mom a nekeless. Can you please give my dad a phone. Can you please give my brother a star wars lego set. I want a star wars lego set too.

Love,

Kean Hui

P.S. I'll leave food for your reindeer. I'll leave carrots and oats.

Dear Santa,

Hows your reindeer? Can you bring my mom a necklace? Can you please give my dad a tool box? Can you give my brother a toy house? Can you please give my other brother a teether?

Have a nise trip. I'll bring you cookies. Oh, I forgot, I want a dog?

Love,

Brandon Miller

P.S. I'll leave you chocolate milk.

See LETTERS, Page A10

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

New shareholder

Butzel Long attorney Paul M. Mersino of Plymouth has been elected a shareholder. Previously, he was an associate with the firm.

Based in Butzel Long's Detroit office, Mersino is a member of Butzel Long's Commercial Litigation Practice Group. He also represents and advises several start-up companies, assisting them with



Mersino

their legal needs and matching them with potential venture capital funding and serves as a mentor to start-up business incubators and accelerators in the region.

Mersino also handles appeals in the Michigan Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court and federal courts. He has been recognized as a Michigan Super Lawyers Rising Star in Business Litigation for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Mersino is the vice president of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Barrister's Section and serves as an adviser to the Institute of Continuing Legal Education's Litigation Advisory Board. He is a member of the current class of Leadership Oakland and recently graduated from the Detroit Chapter of the American Inns of

Court. He also is a member of the Detroit Historical Society.

Coat drive

Coldwell Manuel Weir Manuel, one of Michigan's largest residential real estate brokerages, has collected more than 400 winter coats for those in need during this cold holiday season.

CBWM provided no-cost continuing education last month for its 400 licensed real estate practitioners in return for each agent donating a new or gently used coat.

Four events were held in Rochester, Northville, Birmingham and Grosse Pointe. The coats were then distributed directly to children and adults in the local area through Detroit Rescue Mission and a national nonprofit known as One Warm Coat.

"Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is proud to give back to the communities we serve," CEO Kelly Sweeney said.

"So many of our neighbors need help these days. We are proud to work with and support each one of our coat drive organizers and donors. The time, resources and energy they give to help their neighbors prove we can warm communities one coat at a time," said Jennifer Stockard, president and CEO of One Warm Coat.

Raising dough

Tony Sacco's and the Ted Lindsay Foundation

are teaming up to "raise dough" for autism awareness.

Tony Sacco's Canton is donating \$1 from each spinach artichoke dip and \$1 from every dessert ordered to the Ted Lindsay Autism Foundation.

Diners who come in for these tasty treats are helping raise money for a great cause.

Tony Sacco's Canton is at 1663 N. Canton Center. For more information, call 734-404-5484.

Battery power

Johnson Controls is supplying its advanced lithium-ion batteries for the 2014 Hybrid Range Rover.

Production of the cells and complete battery systems is underway at Johnson Controls' manufacturing facility in Holland.

Hybrid batteries are a part of the company's full-spectrum of energy storage solutions for vehicles to help automakers meet increasing regulations for fuel efficiency and emission reductions across their fleets.

"As the first company in the world to produce lithium-ion batteries for mass production hybrid vehicles, we are excited to work with Jaguar Land Rover," said Lisa Bahash, vice president and general manager of the Original Equipment Group for Johnson Controls Power Solutions.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Santa: Year-long effort makes Christmas magical

O&E: How hard is it to get ready for Christmas? How early do you have to start planning?

Santa: Oh it's very hard. After Christmas, Mrs. Claus and I take a couple of weeks off for a well-earned vacation. Then, we gather all the elves to start planning for Christmas next year!

O&E: Why do you only check the list twice? Does anyone else proofread it first?

Santa: I only have to check it twice because, well, I know you have heard of Bernard, my head elf? He is an overseer of all the other elves. So when I get the list, he and the other elves have already looked at it many times. It certainly makes my job easier! Ho, ho, ho.

O&E: Do you get frequent flier miles?

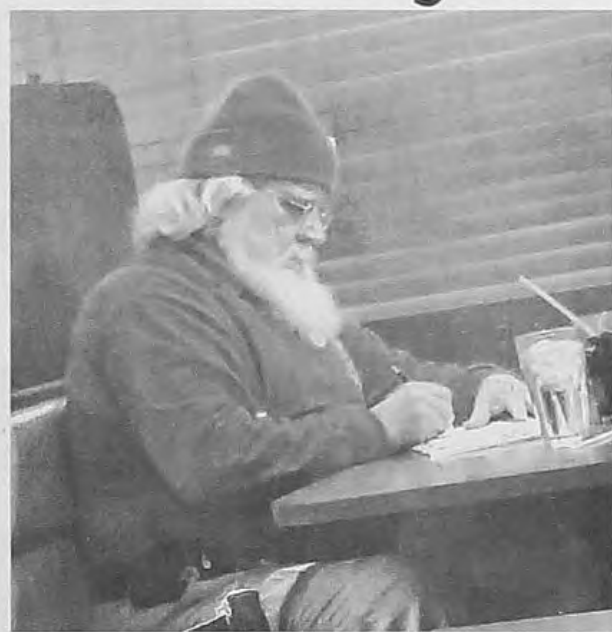
Santa: Oh no, I don't get frequent flier miles! Ho, ho, ho. It's my sled and reindeer, so I don't have to worry about that sort of thing!

O&E: How did you get started in the Santa business?

Santa: Well, the Santa business is all about giving to others and not worrying about getting back. I have always been a giving person, so I fit right in!

O&E: What do you like best about being Santa?

Santa: What I like best is all the smiles on all the boys and girls when they come and see me and especially on Christmas morn, when they open their presents.



ANGIE KHALAF

Santa, in casual dress, was caught checking his list at a local restaurant.

O&E: What's the biggest challenge?

Santa: The biggest challenge is always trying to make sure that every child everywhere receives a much deserved gift.

O&E: What's the worst part?

Santa: I think the worst part is when a child is sick and not feeling well!

O&E: Do you like all those cookies or do you like some variety, maybe some vegetables or crackers and cheese?

Santa: Of course, I am partial to milk and cookies, hee, hee, hee; but I do like vegetables and crackers and cheese, too! That's how I keep such a "round" belly! Ho, ho, ho!

O&E: Have you and the elves gone high-tech

DETAILS

Name: Santa's Workshop
Location: North Pole
Owners: Santa and Mrs. Claus
Years in Business: Too many to count
Employees: Many, many elves
Contact: By letter and mailed to Santa Claus, care of the North Pole

and created a database to keep track of everyone in the world?

Santa: Oh, yes! What with the smart phones and, of course, all of the elfin dolls around the world, I know what "everyone" is doing in a moment's notice!

Merry Christmas!



BD'S MONGOLIAN GRILL

bd's Mongolian Grill in Canton adopted four local families through Volunteers of America.

Canton restaurant gives presents to needy families

bd's Mongolian Grill in Canton is creating magical memories this holiday season by giving back to underprivileged families in metro Detroit.

The create-your-own stir-fry restaurant adopted four local families through Volunteers of America Michigan's "Adopt A Family Program," a Christmas charity program designed to help low-income families celebrate the holiday season by connecting them with local businesses, organizations and individuals who "adopt" them and personally deliver Christmas gifts.

By hosting several fundraisers and raising money at the restaurant, bd's Mongolian Grill was able to donate more than \$600 worth of presents to four deserving families during a special holiday event Dec. 20. The event also featured a buffet of fresh breakfast foods along with surprise visits from Mr. & Mrs. Claus and Mongo Man, bd's national mascot.

"Participating in the 'Adopt A Family Program' this year was such a rewarding experience," said Laurie Lockard, general manager of bd's Mongolian Grill in Canton. "My team was thrilled to partner with Volunteers of America and I am truly grateful for their enthusiasm along with the support of our generous customers.



BD'S MONGOLIAN GRILL

Santa excited the kids with his appearance at the bd's Mongolian Grill event.

Together, we were able to make this holiday season brighter for these deserving families. This is just one of the many ways bd's works hard to

give back to our community and we look forward to finding new and exciting ways to make a difference for years to come."

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IT'S WHAT
everyone's
talking about.

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Huge sale going on now at Varsity Lincoln of Novi

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi is clearing the lot with a huge year-end sale going on now. More than 150 Certified Pre-Owned Lincolns are on-site, ready to drive off the lot for as low as \$12,995.

Varsity Lincoln is the highest volume dealer in the nation.* The dealership has held this honor for 17 consecutive years. It offers a newly remodeled showroom, indoor delivery area and service reception aisle.

This year, Varsity Lincoln celebrated its 20th anniversary and won six prestigious automotive awards: the Triple Crown Award, Lincoln Leaders of Excellence, President's Award, Ford One Hundred Club, CPO Sales Leadership and Premier Club.

Hurry over to Varsity Lincoln these next three days to catch the deals:

» Friday, Dec. 26, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

» Saturday, Dec. 27, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Monday, Dec. 29, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"I have the MKS and I love, love, love the technology in it," said Lincoln MKS owner Lanya Tarleton, a Varsity Lincoln customer for 16 years. "I get the best service here. I never have to worry about anything."

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles come with many benefits, including:

» A meticulous 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians

» A 6-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage

» Complimentary 24/7 roadside assistance

"The warranty is key. With Certified Pre-Owned, you get the best from Varsity Lincoln," Law said. Certified Pre-Owned financing is available for as low as 0.9% APR.**

"Leasing or buying from the number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," said Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. "Our dealership is ready to assist customers with anything,

whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

This dealership provides The Varsity Lincoln Advantage. Varsity Lincoln team members are selected based upon their unwavering focus on customer care and satisfaction.

"I have an MKZ from Varsity Lincoln; I've had it for about a year now. It's a beautiful interior, a beautiful exterior, it handles well on the road and gives me good gas mileage!" Lincoln MKZ owner Gary Trudeau said. "I love this place. I wouldn't even consider buying a car from anybody else!"

Jason Towe told us why he got a Lincoln: "I definitely love the comfort and the sportiness of the Lincoln. The cost was a big factor for me — it was actually cheaper than my last car I owned — and I feel I'm getting a better quality car for what I'm paying!"

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Certified Pre-Owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," Law said. "The 100,000-mile, free bumper-to-bumper warranty that comes alongside all Certified Pre-Owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no

cost, exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

"Loaded with features, a Lincoln will satisfy any customer," Law said. "Certified Pre-Owned vehicles not only provide peace of mind on the road, but also provide a combination of sportiness and luxury. Benefits include FWD or AWD, EcoBoost, Navigation, Bluetooth, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof, and heated and cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few.

"Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind knowing that Lincoln vehicles will hold their value. Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, ad-

vanced styling and dependability add to a Lincoln vehicle's value.

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are, before, during and after the sale."

*Based on 11/2014 Total New Retail Sales, Pre-Owned Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction per Lincoln Sales Report.

**As low as 0.9% APR for up to 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.



COURTESY OF VARSITY LINCOLN

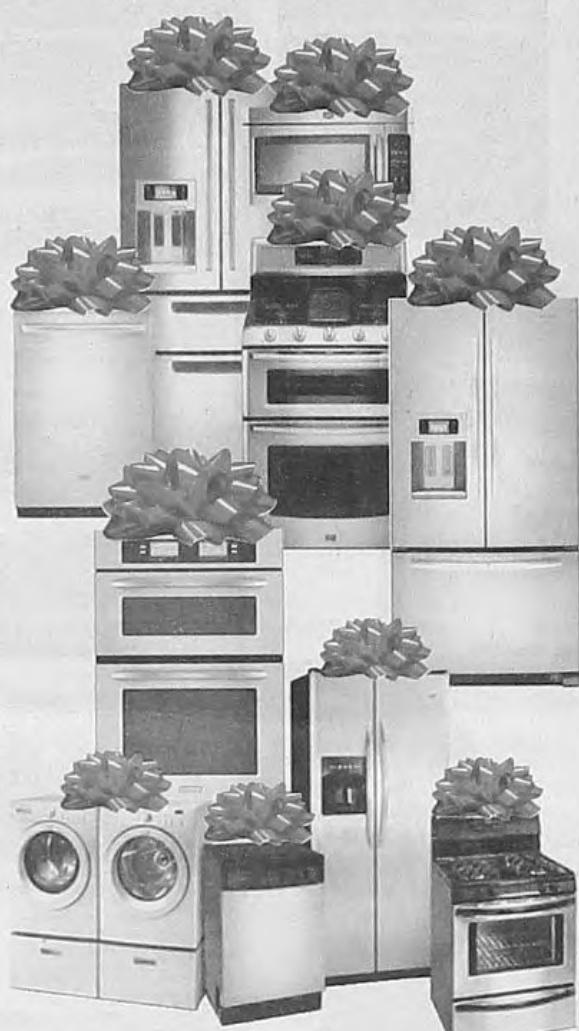
A 2009 Lincoln MKS Ultimate FWD is one of more than 150 Certified Pre-Owned Lincolns on-site at Varsity Lincoln of Novi.

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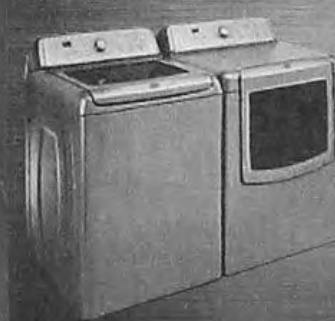


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KitchenAid

LETTERS

Continued from Page A6

Dear Santa,

I hop eat my coes and my milc. I hop you breg my sisdr a brbe. I hop you giv my brothr a zowmidino. I like you are fun. I hop you breg a new cat. I hop you breg dad a new latop. I wot a videogame Skylander trap tem.

Luv,

Nathan Bobak

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? How is reindeer? I will live you a necklace. Please give me a spiderman and batman. Can you give me and Lawrence and Jay a basketball rim? Can you give my mom a purple coat? Can you please bring the poor kids presents?

Your friend,

Markquel Steward

P.S. You or fun!

Dear Santa,

How are your reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? Please bring my sister a prinses doll. Please bring my dad a Mishagin state shrte. Could you bring my mom a ring? Please bring my dog a new bed. Please bring me a ninjogo video game. Have a safe trip!

Love,

Owen Mannanelli

P.S. I'll leave milk and coddles.

Dear Santa,

How are you? My sisrts want teddy bears. My brother want a toy car. I want a necklace. How is your rdeen?

Love,

Heeba Rahman

P.S. Happy holidays!

Dear Santa,

How are you doing big guy? How is your reindeer? Could you bring my mom a necklace? Could you bring my dad a baseball trophy? Will please get my brother some videogames? Can you get me and my sister some toy dolls?

Love,

Cassidy Sinclair

P.S. I will give you cookies!
P.S.S. I'll leave you some milk too.**Dear Santa,**

How are you feeling? Do you like Sugar cookies? Could you bring a ring to my Mom? Could you bring a race car for my brother? Could you give me a Ninjago lego set? Could you give my Dad a football?

Love,

Gavin Ward

P.S. Merry Christmas Santa!
Watch out for airplanes!**Dear Santa,**

I love your toys. Your toys are the best toys. Could you please bring my mom a glass vase? Could you please bring my dad a new electric car washer? Can you please bring Jack a new Hot Wheels cars. I want a cheese-durger maker.

Merry Christmas!

Love,

Robert Strudel

Dear Santa,

I love your toys. My mom will like an American flag. My dad will like so many pencils. My grandpa will like a watch. My sister will like a Orange toy. My grandma will like a watch. I will like a soft olaf a medium soft olaf.

Merry Christmas!

Arya Patel

Dear Santa,

I miss you. Thank you for yor toys. Please give my dad a new computer. Please bring my mom some red shoes. Please bring my brother Kaden a little train and my brother Keh-lil a new game and a Wii U. Please bring Faith a necklace. and please bring me a PS3.

Merry Christmas, your friend

Keilan McGinnis

Dear Santa,

I wrot you a lettr to you santa. Did you read it? Could you please bring my mom a new robe. Could you please bring my dad a new pair of slippers. Can you please bring Bryson a Hotwheels cars. Can you please bring me a Chuck e Cheese pizza maker.

Merry Christmas!

Ethan Sims

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the toys and my family. My mom likes boots please bring her black boots. My dad likes tools to fix the cars. My brother would like a foot ball. My sister likes new boots. My brother Daniel really would like a new phone. I want new glasses. My dog wants a new bones.

Merry Christmas!

Christian Jaramillo

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the toys last year. Could you please bring my mom new slippers. Could you please bring my dad a new robe. Can you bring Jaylee crayola crayon maker. Can you bring Trinity new shoes. Please bring Eli new legos. Please bring me a big Teddy bear.

Merry Christmas!

Anika Du

Dear Santa,

I miss you Santa. How are you? Mom has been good. Please give my mom a necklace. Dad has been good,

too. Please bring a car. Please bring my brother trucks. Please bring me a book.

Merry Christmas! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Noelle Richards

Dear Santa,

I did not get to see you for 100 years. I love you Santa. My mom wants a back massager. My Dad would want roller blades. My sister high heels. My brothers would like baby toys and mega beast. I would like all the presents in the world.

Merry Christmas!

Sienna Schaecher

Dear Santa,

Is anything dangerous for you? Please give my mom a necklace. Please give my dad ESPN. Please bring my brother a Iphone. Please bring me an Iphone too. Thank you Santa.

Merry Christmas.

Sripaada Kandarpa

Dear Santa,

I think your elves have been working hard last year and this year. My mom wants a heart of chocolates. My dad wants a football that is signed by Calvin Johnson. My brother likes Legos dupll. I want Calvin Johnson helmet. And a Calvin Johnson small jersey.

Merry Christmas!

Jackson Daley

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the toys. Could you please bring my mom new earrings. Could you please bring my dad a video game. Can you please bring Dom a new toy. Please please bring me a toy.

Merry Christmas!

Camron McGee

Dear Santa,

I love you Santa. My family loves you too. I love you the most. Mom wants some presents. Dad wants lot of presents. Bella wants Barbies. My two kittens wants kitten toys. Can you bring me some presents - stuff animals.

Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,

I miss you Santa. Thank you for all of the toys last year. Please bring my mom new clothes and please bring my dad new clothes too. Please bring me a iphone. Please bring me clothes and bring my brother clothes too. Ho Ho Ho.

Merry Christmas,

Maggie Marudo

Dear Santa,

I love your toys. My mom wants a waffle maker because ours broke. My dad would like a watch. Luka would like more army guys and maybe a Transformer lego. It would be nice if you gave me a phone just with games and a Hello Kitty case with it. I would like a Panda pillow pet.

Merry Christmas!

Mia Kelleher

Dear Santa,

I can't wait till you get here. Could you please bring my mom a box of chocolates. Can you please bring my dad a new staple. Can you please bring Carter Little Caesar's pizzsa maker. Please bring Finley baby toys. CAn you bring me Minecraft Legos.

Merry Christmas!

Evan Riggs

Dear Santa,

I love you Santa. Thank you four the presents last year. Please bring my mom a necklace. Please bring my dad a computer. Please bring my little sister a Dora toy. Please bring my big sister a monster high doll...daughter of Snow White. Please bring me a new Ipad.

Merry Christmas!

Mariano Serapiglia

Dear Santa,

I miss you. How are you? Can you bring my dad a new I phone case please. Can you please bring my mom a new camera. CAn you please bring Caroline a rattle. Can you please bring me Lego Mixels, a toy car, and a O gravity laser. Thank you Santa.

Merry Christmas!

Brendan McParlane



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Welcome Dr. Irby-Johnson

The St. Mary Mercy Medical Group would like to extend a warm welcome to NiJuanna Irby-Johnson, MD. She joins our medical group of over 25 primary care and specialty physicians as an internal medicine physician. She has more than 10 years of experience in adult primary care, preventative care and management of chronic disease.

Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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PETS' VISITS WITH SANTA HELP CLINIC'S EMERGENCY FUND

By Sue Mason
Staff writer

Santa Claus made a special stop Monday at VCA Garden City to say hello to family pets and help raise money for the Betty McClain Fund.

It was the first time Dr. Brad Davis put on the red suit and beard to pose for photos with pets that came dressed in their Christmas finery. Pet owners received a photograph and, in lieu of a fee, were asked to make a donation to the fund.

"My staff suggested that now that I'm fat enough and gray enough, I could be Santa," Davis said. "We've probably had 20-25 people come through. It's been busier than I thought."

Betty McClain was a client at VCA. When she died several years ago, her daughter made a donation to the clinic. The money is used to help families when they have an incident and don't have the money to pay for it.

"If that happens, we



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Breann Kasputis brought her dog Bentley to see Santa, better known as veterinarian Dr. Brad Davis.

would use money from the fund, but there's usually nothing in it," Davis said.

Pet owners gladly made donations to get the Christmas snapshot, making sure their animals came properly dressed.

"I found the outfit at Walmart and I wanted it," said Breann Kasputis of Westland, who brought in 14-week-old Bentley wearing a plaid outfit, complete with a knit scarf.

"I decided it would be super-cute for him for his photo."

"This is my baby," said Lenora Jackson of Redford, whose 9-year-old shih tzu Razz was wearing a polo sweater. "My sister comes here with her two pets and told me about it."

Davis hammed it up with the animals, flanked by several elves and a toy soldier, played by staffers Kim Arbour, Kellee Cochran and Lauren Bockstanz, whose



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Santa, assisted by Lauren Bockstanz, Kim Arbour and Kellee Cochran, poses for a photo with Razz.

mother Sarah was the official photographer. Arbour even dressed up her hairless kitten

Nikita, known as The Naked around the clinic, for the occasion. The success of the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Santa holds Nikita, a hairless cat that goes by the name of The Naked at the Garden City clinic.

event had Davis saying that it would probably be something the clinic will do once year. The staff liked it and liked dressing up.

"But my gut feeling is that they'll get a rabbit costume in the spring," he said.

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Milford family bakes up tasty Christmas tradition

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

What do you get when you combine 37 pounds of butter with 78 eggs and 39 cups of sugar – along with a whole lot of other goodies – and mix it up with four generations, lots of laughter and a few sentimental tears?

If you're the Strauss family of Milford, you get a 25-year cookie baking tradition, along with nearly 2,000 homemade Christmas cookies in 19 different varieties.

It all began in 1989, when Jeff Strauss and his wife Karen invited Jeff's parents, Larry and Toni Strauss, over to bake Christmas cookies with their young children. Everyone had so much fun, the family decided to do it again the following year, only this time moving the festivities over to grandma and grandpa's home in the village of Milford.

A tradition born

Every year, the entire family – men, women and children – gets together on a Saturday in December to bake cookies. Oftentimes, friends join in, as well.

"That's how we evaluate future spouses," Jeff Strauss said, noting Nick Kocsis – husband of his niece Kim – can ball and decorate cookies like no one else.

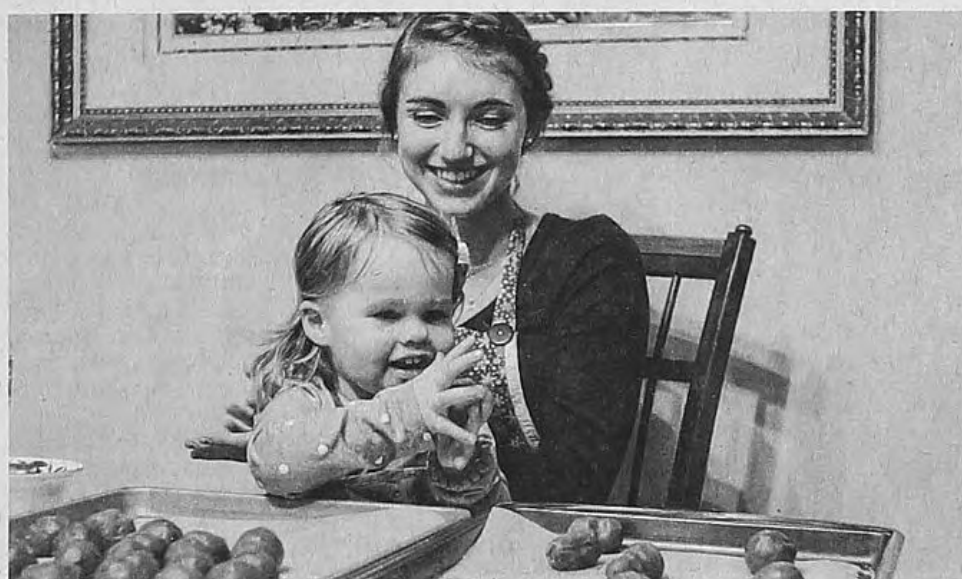
The varieties are endless. Peanut butter swirls are the family favorite, but there's plenty of room for the peanut butter kisses, mint chocolate chip, molasses and monster cookies, along with the bon-bons and biscotti, sparkling toffee, shortbread, snickerdoodle and sugar cookie cutouts.

"The cutout cookies, those separate the men from the boys," Jeff said without hesitating to boast a bit. "They're very labor-intensive, not only to roll out, but also to decorate. I'm the reason we have cutout cookies."

Some years, the family also throws a few "designer" varieties like rum balls into the mix and a number of gluten-free selections have also joined the lineup in the last few years, as well.

The day unfolds

When the day begins, everyone shows up with their own cookie dough already made. That, the family says, simplifies the process, since the ovens are going all day long under the watchful eye of Larry Strauss, who is assigned to the upstairs kitchen, and Joe



LAURA COLVIN
Isabelle Kocsis, 2, a fourth-generation member of the family, learns to ball cookie dough with a little help from cousin Catherine Strauss.

Strauss, who mans the second oven downstairs.

Batch after batch of cookies is placed on parchment paper-lined trays for baking and those who watch the ovens have an important job. Each variety requires a different temperature and a very specific baking time.

"How long do the chocolate chip cookies bake?" someone yells from the kitchen.

"Sixteen minutes," answers one person. "No, 19 minutes," shouts another.

Larry takes the tray out of the oven to check. The cookies must be baked to perfection.

"Those aren't done," someone says. "They need three more minutes."

Garage manager

In the attached garage, dozens upon dozens of cookies – which will eventually be shared with friends, neighbors and others – are grouped into batches on several long tables set up for cooling and packaging.

Jim Eldridge, who is married to Larry and Toni's daughter Chris (she made special aprons for the entire family a few years back) calls himself the garage manager. It's his job to move the cookies from the trays to cooling racks and transition them to the tables from there.

"I get yelled at if I don't get the trays back to the kitchen fast enough," Jim said, noting he tried – along with several other senior members of the family – to convince the younger generation to cut back on the cookie production this year.

"It can get a little crazy," he said, noting the family baked a whop-

ping 2,700 cookies one year. "It's about getting together and having fun, not breaking a record. Who needs 2,000 cookies?"

The third generation, who are now college age and beyond, have a different idea. The more cookies, they say, the better.

Family sentiment

"This is our favorite day of the year," Kirsten Strauss said as she rolls dough for molasses cookies into balls at the dining room table with her cousin, Catherine Strauss. "Everyone is together, but we're not just sitting around – we're all working together. We laugh – a lot – and there's always debates going on."

Over the years, Kirsten added, the annual cookie-bake has involved plenty of frosting fights and sprinkle wars: "It's a little bit of controlled chaos. The most exciting thing is getting to the end and finding out how many we made."

Kirsten said her grandparents, Larry and Toni, are special people who make sure the family stays close: "They're so loving and caring. They want the best for all of us."

And when Kirsten gets sentimental and begins to tear up, her Aunt Karen – Jeff's wife – joins in, too.

'Not about the cookies'

"This whole thing really isn't about the cookies," Karen said, noting sentimental tears "run in the family." "It's about family and you can't take that for granted. It's about the bonding that goes on down in front of the oven and catching up with each other's lives, especially

as the kids get older and move away."

As the family matriarch, Toni Strauss, like the rest of the family, looks forward to the cookie bake every year.

"If we didn't do it, the grandkids would be upset," she said, noting it's also important, in the family, to get together for birthdays, holidays and just because. "We all



LAURA COLVIN
Kirsten Strauss (from left), Catherine Strauss, Kim Kocsis and Nick Kocsis share some family banter while preparing cookies for the oven.

get along so well. We're family, but we're also friends ... if I'm just sitting here thinking about it, I start to cry."

And she does tear up, because for her, family bonds run deep. On her Christmas tree hang ornaments made by her children and grandchildren, displayed alongside intricately beaded bulbs crafted long ago by her own mother.

"She's been gone 30 years now, but I still get these out every year and hang them on the tree," she said. "Christmas is

really special to me."

The cookie count

When the day is over and all the cookies are finally baked, there's a ceremony. A drum roll. Anticipation. The cookie count announcement is part of the tradition.

This year, the final number came in at 1,927 cookies.

"We each load our cookies into the car, go home and pass out," Jeff said.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com
248-390-7396

INVITATION TO BID COOKE SCHOOL - VOCATIONAL KITCHEN RENOVATION NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting Prime Contractor firm bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to the Vocational Kitchen Renovation Work at the above referenced school; located in the Northville Public Schools.

Plans and specifications as prepared by the Mielock Associates may be downloaded via PlanWell and are available for review at the office of the George W. Auch Company, 735 S. Paddock Street, Pontiac, MI 48341 248.334.2000, on or after December 19, 2014. Bid Package consists of Instruction to Bidders, Proposal Forms, General and Supplementary Conditions, drawings and pertinent trade specifications. Contact Scott Oswald or Shawn Debo for download instructions.

Your proposal marked "Vocational Kitchen Renovation" will be accepted **NO LATER THAN 1:00PM, JANUARY 5, 2014 TO: NORTHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION-ROOM 307, 501 WEST MAIN STREET, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167.** (Note: The Board of Education building will be closed for holiday break through January 4, 2015, and will re-open at 8:00 am on Monday, January 5, 2015.) Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 1:00 P.M., January 5, 2014 at the Northville Board of Education-Room 104, 501 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48167.

A pre-bid walk through is scheduled for December 30, 2014 @ 11:00 am at 21200 Taft Road, Northville, MI 48167. Please meet in the Cooke School main entrance. This meeting is not mandatory.

All contracts to be entered into by the Northville Public Schools must and will comply with the equal opportunity laws of the State of Michigan.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Northville Public Schools, Board of Education or the Northville Public Schools, Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Proposals must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Northville Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each proposal over \$23,126 and must be submitted on the bid proposal form furnished with the specifications. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

Cynthia Jankowski, Secretary
Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

OUR VIEWS

Have faith in making peace on Earth real

As we celebrate another Christmas, wars and terrorism continue to make peace on Earth still a wistful and somewhat distant hope.

Nevertheless, the fact that we live in a country where, yes, even satanists can set up a controversial display at the state Capitol speaks to the U.S. being a country where tolerance is epitomized.

Throughout the metro area, tolerance morphs into the recognition that this holiday season is celebrated religiously and culturally by groups outside of Christianity. Not only is that multiplicity to be celebrated, the values embedded in those celebrations should be recognized as well.

For Jews, Hanukkah began Dec. 16 and ran through Dec. 24. Known as the Festival of Lights, it commemorates the occasion when one bottle of oil, enough for only one night, was used to keep the menorah burning for eight days for the re-dedication of the Holy Temple after it was desecrated.

The celebration of Kwanzaa, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, is a celebration of family, community and culture in the African-American and Pan-African community. Values celebrated include the dignity of people, the well-being of families and the health of the environment.

For Christians, the year end time has been appropriated to celebrate the birth of Jesus, a savior who came to the world not as a great king, but as a baby born to humble parents in a stable. The circumstances of Jesus' birth give profound weight to his later message of love and human kindness.

Pilgrims in early America thought the meaning of Jesus' birth so immense that they banned the frivolity of feasting and gift giving on Dec. 25 as somehow not in keeping with the day's importance.

But that dignity and well-being celebrated throughout the world still faces challenges.

The very site of Christ's birth has been a place of contention and violence. Even here in the world's most prosperous country, many are in need as the economy slowly recovers.

Local charities report a decline in contributions and an increase in requests for help.

The Arab American and Chaldean Council, as part of its twice-monthly Pantry of Plenty food distribution program, provided more than 1,500 meals for



The circumstances of Jesus' birth give profound weight to his later message of love and human kindness.

needy residents Christmas Eve.

The Christmas dinner, which will be available for pick-up starting at 10:30 a.m. at the ACC Youth Recreation and Leadership Center, 62 W. Seven Mile in Detroit, is made possible through donors and the ACC's partnership with Forgotten Harvest.

We must resolve to do more throughout our communities. Each year we rouse ourselves during the holiday season to listen to the better angels of our nature. We reach out to others during this special time and promise to carry our concern forward into the new year. Sometimes we do and sometimes we get caught up again in our own too busy lives.

Perhaps we expect too much of the holidays for the world and for ourselves. It is probably better to remember the holidays' small gifts through all the rush, including the rewards of an outpouring of charity.

For most of us, once we get past the colored lights and glittery packages, the holidays are about family, friends, home and love. As in the song that Judy Garland first sang so plaintively in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, we all long to be together "if the fates allow."

We know that separations will come, troubles will come, but through the simple gifts of family, friends and faith, we can determine our own fate.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What was your best Christmas present?

The question was asked in downtown Plymouth and elsewhere.



"My daughter, Avery. She came right before Christmas, but I can't think of one better."

Brent Plawecki
Canton



"A lease on a horse. I wanted it for such a long time."

Abby M.
Northville



"The iPod I got last year. I like the camera, because the camera is the big thing in everything for me."

Abby A.
Plymouth



"My laptop. I needed it for school and I love it."

Olivia A.
Plymouth



"My best Christmas present was when my fiance proposed to me."

Krystal Bain
Garden City



"It was the year my brother got me a paper clip holder. His smile made it the best."

Mitchell Russelburg
Garden City



"The best ... object was a table and the true present was the joy of receiving the table."

Colin Arian
Garden City



"My favorite Christmas present is doing things with my family."

Vicki Cochrane
Garden City



"A Barbie doll. They painted her nails and put in earrings."

Olivia Birch
Westland



"When I got a pair of Ugg boots."

Madison Carroll
Westland



"Having my family at the dinner for Christmas. That's the present for me."

Sharon Eby
Westland



"Having my grandchild's first Christmas was the best."

Lecia LaFortune
Westland

LETTERS

Recall campaign

The Recall 4 campaign in Plymouth Township is in full swing. The objective is to recall Richard Reaume, Ron Edwards, Nancy Conzelman and Kay Arnold.

It is surprising how many people in the township are not familiar with the circumstances that have led up to this grass-roots recall campaign. That being the case, the committee has been circulating information that tells the story behind this bold move.

The group Plymouth Township United Citizens is sponsoring this non-partisan drive to collect signatures on petitions, which will allow a recall vote to appear on the May ballot. Then the citizens of Plymouth Township will have the opportunity to vote on whether they want to recall these four.

Surprisingly, most of the people working on the recall campaign have voted for these same board members in previous elections. But the bizarre behavior and lack of concern for the citizens of Plymouth Township have resulted in the loss of respect and support of their one-time advocates. We can no longer afford two more years of board members who refuse to answer questions, continue to spend out of control and who no longer represent the interests of the people of Plymouth Township.

Look for Recall 4 buttons and signs in the area and ask where you can go to sign a petition. The only requirement for signing is that you are a registered voter in the township. Let's work together to get our township back to the people. For more information, go to the website plymouth-townshipunitedcitizens.com/about-us.html

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township

Region endangered

While I was reading the license that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for the Fermi 3 nuclear reactor to be built, I could not help but think about Nazi Germany issuing new laws before they committed their crimes. Everything they ever did was legal.

And now it will be legal for DTE Energy to rapidly increase the algae blooms that Fermi 2 and DTE's coal fired are now causing. It will be legal for more cooling towers to suck in live fish and millions of fish larvae and fish eggs and then heat the waters to attract more invasive species.

During construction of Fermi 3, it will also be legal to block the entrances where fish and eels swim inland to spawn. It will be legal to store all the high-level radioactive waste on-site forever. It will be legal to kill Lake Erie.

So, now that the government will license Fermi 3 – and the extension of Fermi 2's operating license will be coming shortly, one would think Citizens' Resistance At Fermi Two would just stand down and give up the fight. However, our whole region is endangered; therefore we have no option but to continue doing our part to save it.

Jessie Pauline Collins
Redford

Cuba decision is right one

I was very glad to hear the announcement regarding the normalization of relations with Cuba.

I was born in the year 1963 and that arrangement has continued through my life. I learned about it in elementary and high school as subject matter.

I also believe that the original intention of the arrangement did not turn out as intended. Obama's decision to change the relationship with Cuba to make it more open and inviting is a wise one and one to which I fully agree.

Not only will this engagement process allow the Cuban people the opportunity to interact with the world in such a way as to allow them to encounter and work with democracy without being in conflict with it but it will allow a broader expression of democracy in the United States.

It is effective to pursue one's goals without having to take the time to thwart someone else. It is a great drain. As it happens, a small group of politically minded individuals, whether by intent or having been swept up in circumstances, took advantage of and exploited the situation between Cuba and the United States.

I am looking forward to the opportunities of possible widened trade relations with the island nation. I await their own actions, in a positive and constructive manner, to help build a better Americas community.

Alfred Brock
Wayne

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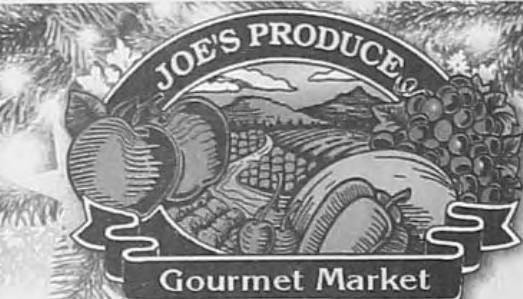
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LIVONIA FRANKLIN HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT



Redford Thurston's Quran Kennedy hits the floor with Salem's Kenny Topolovec in pursuit of a loose ball during Monday night's game.

ED WRIGHT

'HOOP'Y HOLIDAYS!

Thurston runs by Salem with third-quarter explosion

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The message delivered in the Redford Thurston boys basketball team's locker room during halftime of Monday night's compelling match-up against Salem was simple and direct.

Oh, it was also very well-received.

"Coach (Brian Bates) told us we needed to box out better, run

the court better and get going on defense," said Eagles senior guard Rickey Hudgens, whose team faced a 31-28 deficit during intermission of the opening game of the four-team Livonia Franklin Holiday Tournament.

Thurston responded to Bates' challenge with flying colors as it mounted a game-changing 21-3 second-half run that turned a one-point Eagles advantage with two minutes left in the

third quarter into a 63-44 cushion just over four minutes later.

Thurston ultimately finished off the Rocks, 79-64, to improve to 5-0 and earn a berth in Tuesday's championship game against Walled Lake Western. The Warriors upended the host Patriots, 56-33.

Salem were set to face Franklin in Tuesday's third-place game.

"I got after the guys a little

bit at halftime," Bates said, smiling. "I told them they had to play with more intensity and that they had to be in good position on defense because Salem is a well-coached team and I knew they were going to be where they were supposed to be. The guys came out in the second half and played like they were capable of playing."

Thurston 6-foot-5 senior post player Isiah Crofford powered the rally as he scored 18 of his 24 points during the final 16

See THURSTON, Page B3

Warriors too tall an order for Patriots

Walled Lake Western's size, athleticism topple gutsy Franklin

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Grittiness, scrappiness and wall-to-wall hustle will only take you so far when your tallest player is 6-foot-2 and you're playing a team with as much hops as Walled Lake Western.

Such was the dilemma facing modest-sized (at best) Livonia Franklin during the nightcap of the holiday tournament it hosted Monday night.

Bouncing around the rim like they were on pogo sticks, the Warriors jumped to a 22-3 lead before eventually booking a 56-33 victory. The loss dropped the Patriots to 0-5 and reserved them a spot in Tuesday's consolation game against Salem, which lost to Redford Thurston,

79-64. Seniors Marcus Bailey and Jerald Booker did most of the damage for Western as they each pumped in 15 points despite sitting for long stretches of the second half once the game got out of hand.

Senior forward Charles Keith and sophomore guard Johnny Cantrell led the Patriots with eight points each.

Western took a lot of the drama out of the contest during the first eight minutes, when it surged to a 22-3 lead.

Franklin didn't help itself by making just 4-of-14 free-throw attempts and turning the ball over 22 times.

"We came out a little flat tonight and we didn't execute like we need to given our size

disadvantage," Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We know our window to get a good shot is so small and our time is limited, which is why we have to execute better."

"I thought we gave a good effort after we got through that first-quarter melee, but we fell behind way too quickly."

Franklin played the entire game without the services of talented junior guard Denzel Adams and most of the game without 6-4 forward Jackie Hughes, who suffered a first-quarter head injury.

The guys who did play got after it, particularly Nick Curtis, who hounded the Warriors' bigger, quicker guards, and Joe

See PATRIOTS, Page B3



ED WRIGHT

Franklin's Johnny Cantrell slices through the Walled Lake Western defense Monday night.

PREP WRESTLING

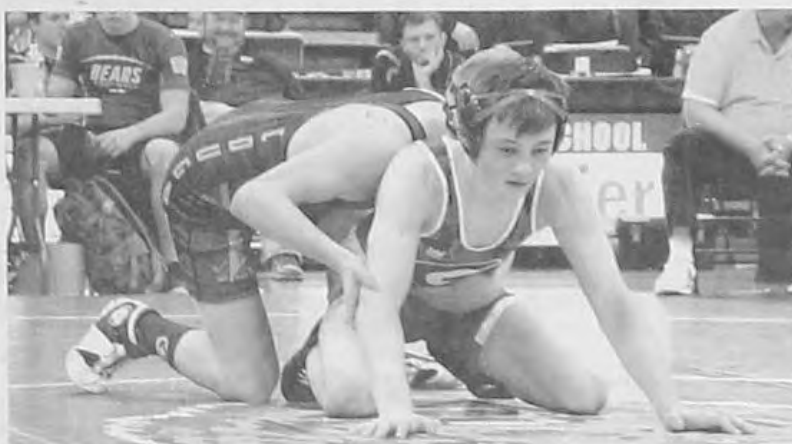
John Glenn matmen split pair in Brighton

Sophomore Siemasz the catalyst for Rockets' fine showing

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's young but resilient wrestling team traveled Dec. 17 to Brighton, where it split with a pair of matches against heavyweight opponents.

The Rockets, whose lineup was depleted somewhat by injuries and a flu bug, opened the night with a 44-33 setback to defending Division 3 state champion Dundee before bouncing back to upend Wyandotte Roosevelt, 54-23.



JAMES SPEEN

Westland John Glenn sophomore John Siemasz went 2-0 for the Rockets in their pair of matches on Dec. 17.

Sophomore John Siemasz was perhaps the team's MVP on the

night as he notched wins at 119 pounds (against Dundee's Zac

Bellair) and at 125 (against Wyandotte's Aaron Young).

In the other matches, the hosts – who are currently ranked No. 1 in Division 1 – knocked off Dundee, 38-22, and Wyandotte, 73-3.

In addition to Siemasz, John Glenn's non-void winners against Dundee were 135-pound Payton Beneteau, who pinned Austin Bodine in 69 seconds; 215-pound Nate Irvine, who registered a dramatic overtime fall against Gabe Heiserman; and heavyweight Avery Casaey, who pinned Logan Grey in 3:31.

The comfortable victory over the Bears was spearheaded by 103-pound Michael Mars' second-round pin of Mike Clark and Beneteau's down-to-the-wire 5-3

See WRESTLING, Page B3

Ladywood cagers upended

Kalisa Williams scored 13 points, while Camaryia Williams added 12 points, 12 rebounds and eight steals to lift Muskegon Reeths-Puffer (4-1) to a lopsided 57-23 opening round victory Friday over Livonia Ladywood (1-5) in the Muskegon Area Hall of Fame Girls Basketball Tournament.

Brooke Larabee added nine points and 12 rebounds for the victorious Rockets, who led 23-8 at halftime and 37-18 after three quarters.

Junior Aliya Grandison and sophomore Maggie Shirk each tallied six points for the Blazers, who were scheduled to face host Muskegon in the consolation final Saturday.

RU boys hoops team wins

Redford Union's boys basketball team upended Dearborn High, 53-46, in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference contest played Friday night.

The victory improved the Panthers' record to 2-3 heading into the holiday break.

Jerrime Koger led the winners with 21 points. It was his second straight game with 20-plus points and the third time this season he's exceeded the 20-point plateau.

Keyon Thomas continued his strong play for RU with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Zebra bowlers win

The Wayne Memorial girls bowling team struck down Salem, 23-7, in a match held Dec. 17 at Super Bowl in Canton.

The two teams split the Baker games as the Rocks captured the first, 149-124, before the Zebras rebounded to take the second, 175-151.

Individual game leaders for the victorious Zebras were Christina O'Harris, who rolled games of 166 and 177; Shayla Wojewski (150 and 167); Kayla Thompson (147 and 157) and Gabby Charon, who tallied scores of 145 and 168.

Hayley Gilbert recorded a 142 in her only game, while Amy Hoch delivered a 125.

Tractors plow Trojans boys cagers

Dearborn Fordson knocked off Livonia Clarenceville, 68-32, in a boys basketball game played Friday night.

The Trojans were led by Jerrell Johnson, who scored 17 points, and Mitch Kubiak, who scored seven in a reserve role.

Panthers bring cheer to Toys For Tots

By Alice Walters
Correspondent

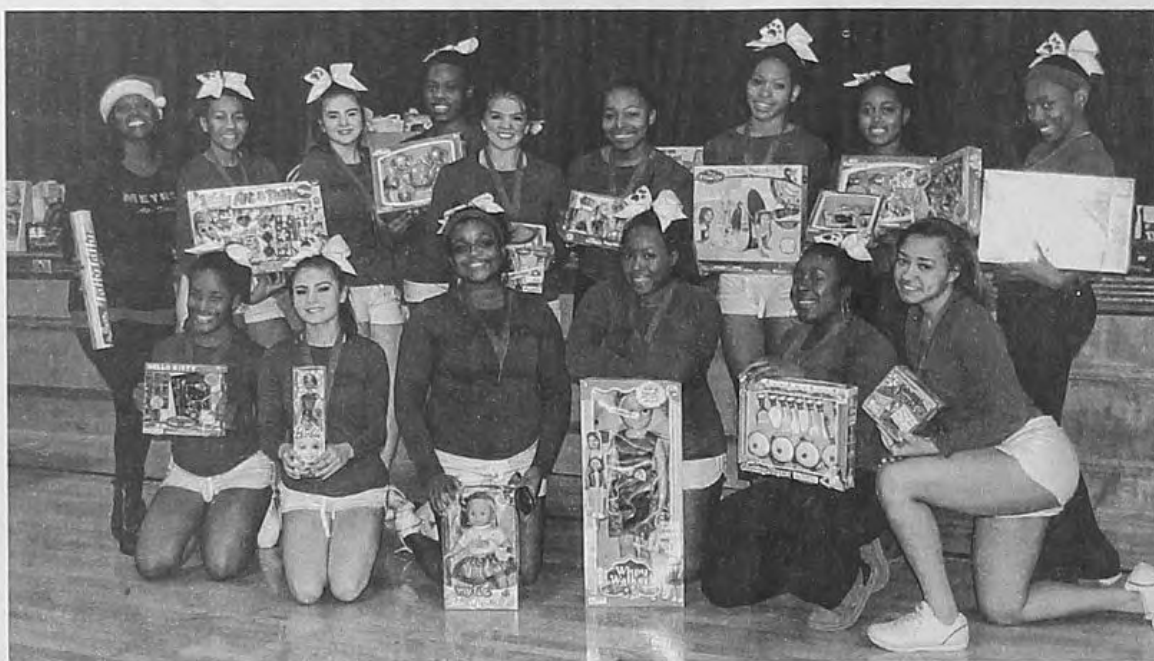
Redford Union's varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads hosted and performed Dec. 5 in the "Holiday Cheers to You Showcase," which benefited Toys for Tots.

The cheer teams participated with approximately 300 entrants to raise contributions for Toys for Tots in the Redford Township area.

Toys for Tots is a program orchestrated by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve with the mission "to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less-fortunate youngsters."

Participating cheer teams performed holiday routines to a packed crowd at Hilbert Middle School in Redford Township. Individual cheerleaders competed for awards in jumping and tumbling. Jefferson Pom and Northeast Pom from Midland won the award for top donations.

J Cheer-Clovers varsity from Southfield captured the



Members of the Redford Union cheerleading squads pose with toys that will be distributed to less-fortunate children.

Spirit Award by sporting uniforms accompanied by elf hats

that certainly captured the holiday spirit.

The success of the event has grown each year and 25

community teams performed this year.

The Eastern Michigan University Dance Team amazed the crowd and cheer athletes in a benefit performance that opened the showcase.

Redford Union's 40 varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders prepared event set-up at Hilbert Middle School with event organizer and RU cheer coach Perrmella Harris, who emphasized that community events like the showcase are a core component of team-building, community awareness and leadership development in the training program for the high school cheerleaders at Redford Union.

"We train and mentor the girls to give their best in all areas of their lives," Harris said.

"Giving back and helping others is an important part of increasing the girls' understanding of their role in the community."

Harris is in her fourth year coaching at RU.

Golden Nuggets



The Nuggets captured the championship in the Plymouth-Canton Community Educational Basketball League's Boys A (seventh- and eighth-grade) division Dec. 13 by upending the Bucks, 69-50, in the title game held at West Middle School. Team members include (front row, from left) Ethan Farrugia, Arul Srivastava, Hamza Tqbal and Mihar Javkar and (back row, from left) Abhimannu Deshpande, assistant coach Shaine Keyandwy, Joe Watson, Liam Radomski, Mihir Joshi, head coach Caden Farrugia and Karan Parikh.

PREP HOCKEY

Patriots thrash St. Clair Shores, 6-0

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin's resurgent hockey team made another loud statement Saturday night when it out-skated host St. Clair Shores Unified, 6-0, at the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena.

The victory improved the Patriots' record to 4-3-1.

Franklin led 1-0 after a tightly-contested first period before shifting into high gear in the second period when it took a 4-0 lead.

Chase Wallis and Brendan Whitney were the winners' primary catalysts, as they both

booked two goals and two assists.

Justin Makowski and Jonny Parkinson chipped in two assists apiece. Joining the goal-scoring parade were Trevor Lasaline and Cory Linsner, who were assisted by Kolby Dewhirst, Nic Anderson and Jack Ores.

Brian Hubbard registered the shutout between the pipes by turning away 15 Unified shots, including two breakaway chances. Jenna Pleva made 57 saves for SCS.

"We had a little fun tonight, that's for sure," Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon said. "Quinn Shine, Jack Ores

and Jonny Parkinson played well at the defensive end, which helped us keep Justin Makowski and Kolby Dewhirst fresh and ready as needed.

"Cory Linsner notched his first goal of the season, which was great to see, and Nic Anderson had a solid game, which isn't easy at this level when you're a freshman."

"Jaret Evans also played well on the back end and Brian Hubbard made some spectacular saves and is really starting to come into his own as a bona fide goaltender that we can count on."

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Grandville grinds out win over Canton icers

Chiefs score early, then run out of steam against Bulldogs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Playing against a Grandville team that traveled from the west side of the state and then played Friday night, Canton's varsity boys hockey team came out Saturday afternoon with an edge.

The Chiefs quickly grabbed a 1-0 lead at Arctic Edge Arena when forward Cooper Rice took a feed from linemate Nick Harwell and snapped the puck past Bulldogs netminder Myles Madden.

That was all the Chiefs would get however, as Grandville slowly but surely took control of the game and earned a 4-1 victory. The Bulldogs, who routed Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard 9-3 on Friday night, improved to 8-1-0, while Canton dropped to 3-5-2.

"Grandville played last night, long trip, I'm sure they were a little jet-lagged, so to speak, at the start of the game," Canton head coach Brad Barath said about his team's quick start. "But they picked it up at the end of the game and we didn't. We went the wrong way."

Grandville tied things up at 1-1 with 5:22 left in the first period, when for-

ward Noah Weigle scored against Canton workhorse goalie Nick Borg, who once again was brilliant in a losing effort. Setting up Weigle's goal were forwards Mitchell Parsons and Brandon Rozema.

The ice started tilting more and more as the game continued, with the Bulldogs ultimately taking a 2-1 lead when forward Eric Neitzel one-timed defenseman Thomas Breazeale's pass with just over 11 minutes left in the second.

Borg kept the Chiefs within a goal when he stood on his head during an extended five-on-three Grandville power play. He made a handful of big stops.

"The goals that were scored weren't his fault," Barath said. "Just defensive breakdowns, bad communication and they took advantage of it."

Early in the final period, Borg stoned the Bulldogs during yet another power play.

But Grandville scored just seconds after the penalty expired, when forward Zach Vanderwel's cross-crease pass was slammed home by forward Jake Baum, all alone at the left post for the tap-in.

Vanderwel and

Baum hooked up again with 6:18 remaining for the game's final goal as Baum collected his second of the day.

Barath said he was hopeful that his team would come out with more of a purpose after being embarrassed 7-1 Wednesday by Romeo.

After a solid opening period, things got away from the Chiefs, however.

"I guess it's a step in the right direction after what happened against Romeo," Barath said.

As for going up against non-conference teams that the Chiefs rarely play, Barath said, "If anything, it should fire them up a little bit more to play these teams, especially Grandville, a team who's a perennial state championship contender. They're a good team, they grind."

Now the Chiefs have a few weeks to get recharged for the second half of the schedule, which resumes Jan. 14 against Plymouth.

"We're kind of in a slump right now," Barath said. "Guys are banged up, guys are tired, guys are hurt; it's just part of the season."

"You got to get over it, get through it. We got 25 days until our next game to get healthy."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Crusaders fall short in upset bid, 70-66

Duncan tallies 24 in loss to IU-East

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It was a golden opportunity to knock off a top 25 team.

But the Madonna University men's basketball team came up just short Saturday afternoon as visiting Indiana University-East, ranked No. 18 in the latest NAIA Division II coaches poll, pulled out a 70-66 win to improve to 12-2 overall.

Senior guard Shaun Duncan, playing only his third game after transferring from Wayne County Community College, led the Crusaders for the second straight outing with a game-high 24 points.

But it couldn't prevent the MU from falling to 6-9 overall.

What led to the Crusaders' undoing was a poor offensive performance in the first half.

MU shot only 22.9 percent (8-of-35) from the field and went scoreless for 4:48 as Red Wolves led by as many as 15 and took a 36-25 lead into the dressing room at halftime.

"The ball was sticking, we weren't really moving it, so we were shooting shots instead of getting each other open," MU coach Noel Emehiser said. "Any time you can go that part of the game without scoring, it's going to hurt you, whether it comes back to bite you

at the end or the moment. It got us at the end, when you consider everything."

The 6-foot-1 Duncan, however, tallied 14 of his game-high 24 in the first half to keep the Crusaders within striking distance.

And eventually the Crusaders clawed their way back, taking their first lead of the second half with 6:10 remaining on Duncan's triple.

With just 1:17 to go, Duncan's layup gave MU a 66-64 advantage, but IU-East took the lead for good on Tyler Fangman's 3-pointer from the corner with 1:06 left on the clock for a 67-66 advantage.

On the ensuing possession, Duncan appeared to draw contact on a drive to the basket, but missed a layup with 35 seconds left. He fouled Jacob Claypool with 27 seconds to go and the 6-2 freshman guard made both free throws to put IU-East up by three, 69-66.

The Crusaders then missed a pair of triple tries, one by Khalil Malone (eight points, six assists) and the other by Duncan, during the final 12 seconds.

Huston Clark's free throw with 1.9 seconds remaining sealed the win for IU-East.

MU, which also got 10 points from senior center Donald Owens and seven off the bench

from sophomore Chris Dierker (Salem), regained its shooting touch in the second half, going 13-of-28 from the floor.

Madonna, however, made just 4-of-22 from 3-point range (18.2 percent), but the Crusaders kept it close by making 20-of-24 free throws (83.3 percent).

"I thought we played closer to what we wanted in the second half," Emehiser said. "We continued to defend. We moved the ball a lot better and got shots we wanted, got to the rim, got to the free-throw line a lot better. But in the end, they made one more play than we did."

Fangman paced IU-East with 14 points, while Clark added 11 points and 11 rebounds. Brad Hunt contributed 10 points.

The Crusaders, who stand 2-5 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, return to action at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, in Fort Wayne against Indiana Tech in the first of three straight WHAC road games.

To make the WHAC playoffs, MU will have to finish in the top eight of the 12-team conference.

"There's a lot of time," Emehiser said. "The goal is to get better every day, take one game at a time. We hope to have a chance to position ourselves to play in the (WHAC) tournament and playing our best ball when that time comes."

bemons@hometownlife.com

Mercy rallies again, this time to beat Canton

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Never count out the Mercy Marlins, who came from behind to win for the fourth time in five games Monday night in girls basketball.

Down by as many as nine points in the third quarter, they rallied in the fourth to defeat visiting Canton, 39-37.

Mercy finished the 2014 part of its schedule with a 5-0 record, having staged comeback wins against Waterford Mott, Salem and Goodrich, too.

"The one thing we've done in each of our games is play a strong fourth quarter," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "Tonight it was 13-4. Obviously, Taylor (Jones) hit the shots, primarily in the fourth."

Canton held the Mercy sen-

ior guard scoreless in the first quarter and didn't allow any dribble penetration, but Jones got her points eventually and finished with a game-high 25. Sixteen came in the second half, 11 in the last quarter.

"She tends to get better as the game goes," Morris said. "We did a better job in the second half of having her teammates help her by setting screens and trying to free her up. She was able to get the ball a little more in space."

Erin Hult, who led the Chiefs (2-3) with 14 points, scored the first basket of the fourth to give Canton a 35-26 lead, but Jones scored 10 of the next 12 to pull the Marlins within one, 37-36.

Another Canton turnover led to Jackie Bauer's reverse layup and Mercy's second lead of the

game with three minutes to play.

The Marlins made two turnovers while they were trying to work the clock, but they managed to escape without any damage being done.

Hult's shot from the corner went in and out of the basket and Sierra Wangler made two big defensive plays to put the ball back in Mercy hands. She tipped an inbound pass that led to a turnover and she blocked a Canton shot in the final half-minute.

Zora Pullen grabbed the loose ball after the block and that possession resulted in Jones making the front end of a one-and-one with 6.5 seconds left. Canton's attempt at a three missed at the end.

"We put ourselves in a position to win against a great

team," Canton coach Kevin Palmer said. "Obviously, I'm not happy about the outcome, but I'm very happy about the way we played."

"Two great teams played each other tonight and battled. Unfortunately, they made a couple more winning plays at the end to seal it."

"I couldn't be more proud of the girls and the effort they gave and I think we're definitely heading in the right direction as a team."

Wangler added six points for Mercy. Canton's Brianna Finn finished with 10 points and Alanna Brown six.

The Chiefs led by nine twice in the first half, but the Marlins closed the gap to 19-17 at half-time and took a 22-19 lead at the start of the third quarter.

Canton, after missing its

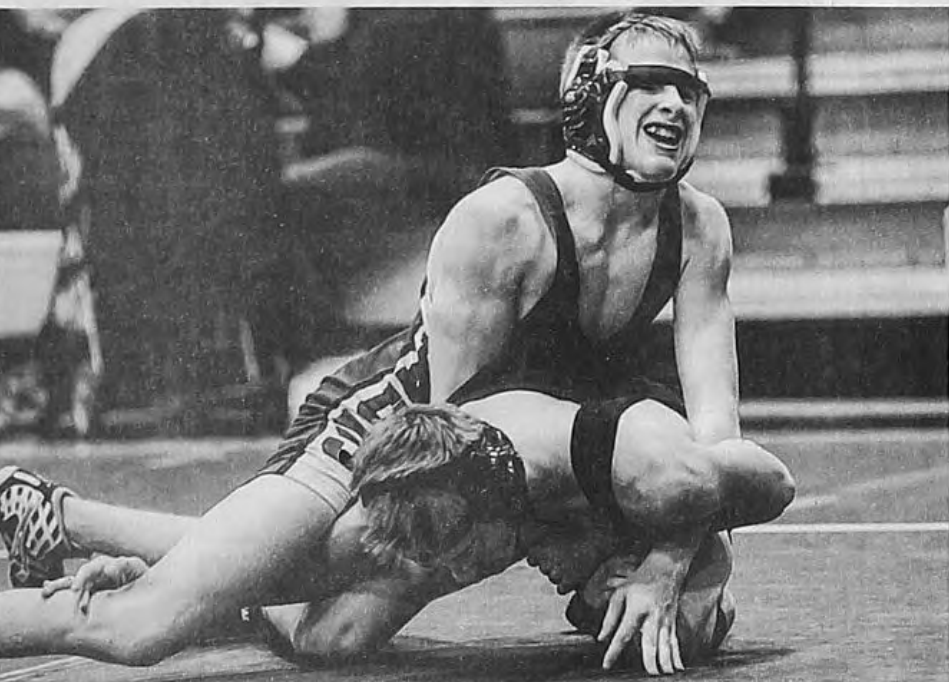
first five shots of the second half, made five of the next six and scored 12 straight points to regain the lead, 31-22.

"I thought we really struggled in terms of other kids hitting shots," Morris said. "We kept trying to plug away and I thought we were very fortunate tonight."

"While I say that, everybody should be very proud of what we've done. Given the schedule we've played and our inexperience to start the season, it's a nice accomplishment to go 5-0 for December."

"The fact we had those close games helped. I wouldn't say we like being in that situation, but we're fairly comfortable with it. We don't feel added pressure. I thought we turned it up a notch in terms of energy in that fourth quarter."

HOLIDAY WRESTLING



Redford Union's Kenny Vadnais gets the upper hand on an opponent during Saturday's Panther Invitational.

Area teams excel at Panther Invitational

State-ranked Melvindale goes 5-0, but several local grapplers shine

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

State-ranked Melvindale proved to be the cream of the crop at Saturday's third annual Panther Invitational wrestling tournament hosted by Redford Union.

The Cardinals went 5-0 in the seven-team event that was punctuated by a pair of compelling pre- and mid-tournament announcements. Dearborn Heights Crestwood finished 4-1.

Prior to the first match, a moment of silence was held in honor of Garden City head coach Mike Howell, who died last week after suffering a massive heart attack at his home. Saturday's tournament was the first action for the Cougars since their coach's unexpected death.

Don Giese, who preceded Howell as head coach of the Cougars' program, has rejoined the team to help fill the coaching void. Howell's No. 1 assistant, Joe Hay, has also been instrumental in attempting to bring some normalcy back to the GC program in the wake of the tragedy.

During a break in the matches later in the day, Lutheran Westland head coach Joe Schmidt was recognized for having reached the 25-year mark of coaching high school wrestling.

The host Panthers registered several eye-opening performances, including 5-0 days by sophomores Kenny Vadnias (125 pounds) and Larry Elliott (130).

"We wrestled as well as we have all season," RU head coach Rob Rankin said. "The younger

guys are starting to grow up a little bit."

"Kenny did a nice job of staying in position; he was standing too tall in some matches earlier. Larry was more aggressive on his feet than he's been."

Three Panthers went 4-1 - 103-pound freshman Eric Gregory, 171-pound sophomore Bobby Dixon and 152-pound freshman Tavian Groves.

Gold medals were presented to all of the tournament's unbeaten performers and silver medals were distributed to the 4-1 finishers.

Schmidt's squad had a bountiful day, going 3-2 thanks partly to the 5-0, five-pin effort of 215-pound senior Thomas Krueger, who improved his early-season ledger to 10-0.

"All five of his matches were impressive," said Schmidt, whose team is now 4-2 in dual matches. "The thing he does best is take-downs. He gets probably 80 percent of his points on take-downs and he rarely gives them up."

A host of Warriors carved out stellar 4-1 records in the Panthers' gymnasium. The flashiest one-loss Warrior was senior 145-pounder Caleb Richter, whose lone loss was a 10-8 nail-biter to Melvindale's Ryan Long-Agee. A two-time individual state qualifier, Richter is off to a sizzling start after losing in the blood round last year at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

The youngest 4-1 Warrior was ninth-grader Christian Zimmerman, who Schmidt tagged as the "second-most talented freshman to enter the school." The 112-pounder is already 8-2

despite his scant high school wrestling experience.

Junior 119-pounder Manny Rankin also went 4-1 for Lutheran Westland.

"Manny is the ultimate grinder," Schmidt said. "On Saturday, he won two matches in the third period - one by pin and another by getting five points in the last 30 seconds. He never gives up and always gives 100-percent effort."

Three other varsity performers went 4-1 for LW - 135-pound senior Matt Parent, 152- and 160-pound junior Wes Warren and 189-pound senior Josh Kuhn.

"Wes is a take-down machine," Schmidt said. "Josh has been with us for four years, but this is first year on varsity. He is all about work ethic. He has never missed a practice and he's always working harder to get better."

With an odd number of teams at the event, a "bandit" team of back-up wrestlers from each of the squads was formed. Two of Lutheran Westland's "bandits" - sophomore 130-pounder Joey Seta and junior 160-pounder Andy Cross - went 4-1 against varsity opposition.

"We have so much depth this year, which is why we have guys like Joey and doing so well on the bandit team," Schmidt said.

The Warriors are primed for a big season after losing just one starter from last year's 18-3 squad.

Schmidt delivered high praise for 125-pound sophomore Andy Faith, who went 3-2 despite the weakening effects of illness.

"Andy gives me everything he has every match," Schmidt said.

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WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

triumph over Vallen Woodward.

The Rockets were also bolstered by victories from Brad Speen, who pinned Matthew Lesko in the 140-pound match; Rick Laurence, who pinned Hiram Robinson

at 160; and Derrick Lester, who out-pointed Adam Akers, 5-3, in overtime.

Wyandotte voided four weight classes.

WAYNE COUNTY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Observerland matmen excel against county's best

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Sparked by a championship effort from 135-pound standout Dylan Dwyer, Plymouth was the top Observerland-area finisher at Saturday's Wayne County wrestling meet as the runner-up Wildcats piled up 150 points, just six fewer than first-place Southgate Anderson.

Woodhaven took third with 119 points.

Dwyer pinned his first two foes before taking an 11-6 decision over Wyandotte Roosevelt's Colin Vargo in the semifinal match. Dwyer then made short work of Woodhaven's Hunter Grasso in the title encounter, pinning him in 91 seconds.

Plymouth also received fourth-place points from Isiah Berry in the 103-pound bracket.

The Wildcats also benefited from runner-up showings by heavyweight Michael Jordan, who advanced to the championship match by pinning Salem's Tyler Moore and out-pointing Dearborn Heights Annapolis's Greg Johnson, 6-1; 119-pounder Brandon Harris, whose lone

setback was a slim 6-2 decision to champion Chris Brown of Belleville; and 189-pound Hussein Youssef, who pinned three opponents before suffering a 10-1 major-decision loss to Annapolis' Diallo Mat-simela in the final.

"Our team looked really strong at the tournament," Plymouth coach Quinn Guernsey said. "We are still pretty early in our competitions and haven't seen too many opponents yet, so it was hard to tell going in what kind of team we actually have."

"After taking second and competing with Southgate right up to the end to be tournament champions, we have a much better idea of where we are. Dylan looked great all day. His match in the semifinals was a very smart and well-executed match on his part."

Other Observerland teams competing included Westland John Glenn, which placed seventh with 97.5 points; Livonia Churchill (11th with 71 points), Salem (12th with 68), Livonia Franklin (13th with 67), Wayne Memorial (17th with 50), Canton (19th with 35) and Clarence-

ville, (21st with 23.5).

The Rockets' strong performance was propelled in part by 103-pounder Michael Mars, who took gold in his weight class by pinning Dearborn Edsel Ford's Cam Wyka in the final match.

Churchill's top performer was 145-pounder Zach Leck, who advanced to the final before falling to Dustin Gross of Annapolis, 6-2. Lech pinned Wayne's Jordan Mills in 87 seconds in the semifinal round.

The Rocks' big day was solidified by Mitchell Gross, who placed second at 215 after registering a pin, a major-decision win and a 4-3 triumph over Detroit Loyola's Patrick Harbin before getting nudged, 4-3, by Southgate's Cody Tis in the championship bout.

"We have had a lot of guys out due to injuries, illness and grades," Salem co-coach Jeremy Henderson said. "We only entered nine guys on Saturday, but we placed six of the nine and finished 12th in a very tough field of teams."

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THURSTON

Continued from Page B1

minutes. Crofford, a talented wide receiver on the Eagles' football team, ran the court like a 5-11 guard most of the night, racing ahead of the Rocks' defense to make a huge target for his back-court teammates in the transition game.

"It helps us a lot when Isiah runs the court like he does because it takes one of their big guys with him," Hudgens said.

Hudgens was also ultra-productive for the winners, netting 24 points and snatching four steals on defense.

Thurston's other top

weapon was senior guard Marquie'l Thomas, who pumped in 13 points.

"Even though we were leading at half-time, I didn't think we played very well," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "In the second half, whenever we'd try to slow them down in transition, they were blowing right past us like we were standing still."

"Our defensive effort was poor tonight. When we rotated while trying to help, they kick the ball out to one of their 3-point shooters and they were wide open, for the most part."

"Thurston was the team I expected they'd be. They're quick and they can shoot. They

weren't doing anything fancy on defense - just in-your-face man-to-man, but they did it well. We needed to work together better and communicate more than we did."

Salem (2-2) was led by Allante Wheeler, who scored 13 points. Jacob Lenders added 11 and Kenny Topolovec chipped in 10.

Crofford led the Eagles with 12 rebounds. Lenders yanked down nine boards for Salem.

Despite their attack-the-rim style, the Eagles only went to the free-throw line eight times, making five. The Rocks were 11-of-17 from the stripe.

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PATRIOTS

Continued from Page B1

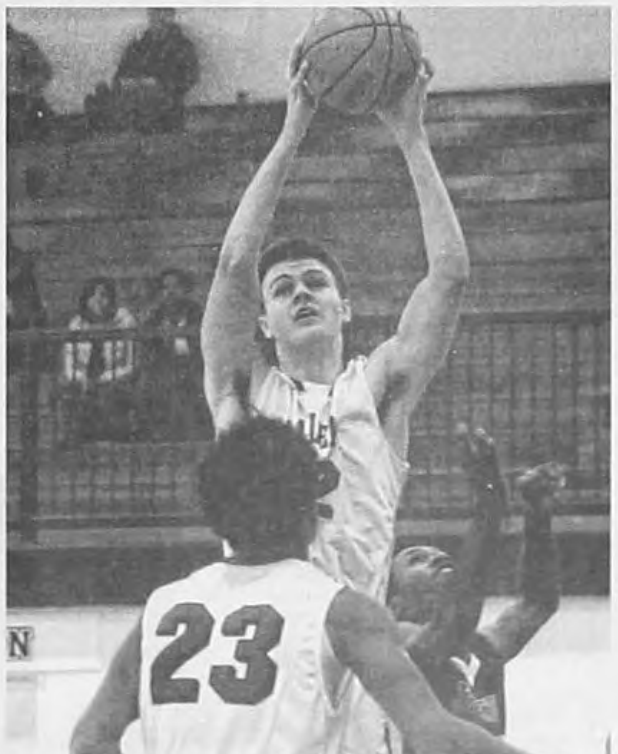
Chinavare, who was removed from the game briefly in the second quarter after he landed hard following a mid-air collision with Bailey.

Franklin actually outscored the Warriors, 13-11, in the third quarter, but any momentum that was gained evaporated in the fourth quarter when Western reeled off a 14-3 game-sealing run.

"Even though we're smaller, if we execute like we can, we're OK," Rheault said.

After committing seven turnovers in the first quarter, the Patriots turned in a turnover-free second quarter.

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Salem's Kenny Topolovec launches a short jump shot in the key Monday night against Thurston.

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FORD F-150 XLT 2009 Ext Cab, 4x4, 1 Owner, only 62K miles! \$22,988

NORTH BROS.

855-667-9660

MARINER 2010

4wd, 4 dr Premier leather, ABS, \$13,995

SIERRA 1500 2011

Ext. Cab, 4WD, SL 58K, 1 owner \$21,995

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2009

4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd Heated front seats \$21,000

BOB JEANNOTTE

BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

NORTH BROS.

855-667-9660

4 Wheel Drive

FORD F-150 XLT 2009 Ext Cab, 4x4, 1 Owner, only 62K miles! \$22,988

NORTH BROS.

855-667-9660

MARINER 2010

4wd, 4 dr Premier leather, ABS, \$13,995

SIERRA 1500 2011

Ext. Cab, 4WD, SL 58K, 1 owner \$21,995

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2009

4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd Heated front seats \$21,000

BOB JEANNOTTE

BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

NORTH BROS.



Sports Utility

JEEP LIBERTY 2012
4x4, 4WD, 4dr Spt. 1 owner,
40,000 miles \$17,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports & Imported

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011
4WD, LTZ, leather, back-up
camera, remote ignition.
\$29,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

SCION IC 2009
2 dr, hatchback, power sun-
roof, 1 owner, \$15,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Buick

ALLURE CXL 2006
Auto, Leather, Certified
\$11,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

BUICK LUCERNE 2011
CXL Premium 4 dr sedan,
Fully loaded, A real beauty!
Only 50,000 miles \$17,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CENTURY 1998
- low mileage 79,000
mi., good physical &
Mechanical cond.
\$3000/OBO. 248-652-8554

LACROSSE 2010
CXL, 3.0, FWD, leather, heat-
ed seats, ABS. \$16,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Buick

LACROSSE 2012
FWD, Touring, Silver, 1 owner,
certified, 29,000 miles \$20,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LUCERNE CXL 2010
43K, leather, heated seats,
ABS, traction control.
\$16,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

REGAL CXL 2011
CXL R1, Russelsheim, 48K, 3rd
row seat, 1 owner, \$13,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Cadillac

CTS 2011
Sedan, 3.0L V6, AWD, 22K
Black Raven, \$21,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Chevrolet

CRUZE 2011
LTZ Leather, full power.
Spotless! \$16,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

IMPALA LT 2011
30K, 1 owner, leather, heated
seats, power sunroof, \$14,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

MALIBU 1LT 2011
36,000 Miles, Imperial Blue,
Auto, Just in! \$14,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

MALIBU 2014
1LT, 22K miles, 1 owner, load-
ed. Just like new except the
price! \$21,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Chrysler-Plymouth

SEBRING TOURING 2008
FWD, air, cruise, heated
mirrors. \$8345
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

TOWN & COUNTRY 2010
4 dr, wagon Touring, 4 wheel
ABS, Solar glass, 1 year FREE
maintenance (limited time of-
fer), \$13,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

O&E Media Classifieds
Just a quick call away...
800-579-7355

Ford

FIESTA SE 2012
FWD, 29K, One Owner, Ford
Certified. \$14,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FIVE HUNDRED 2005
SEL, FWD, Red Fire Metallic,
Ford Certified \$5765
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FLEX 2013 LIMITED
Versa, navigation,
Ford Certified! 1.9%, \$29,888
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FOCUS 2012 SEL
FWD, Lot of options,
20,000 miles \$16,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FOCUS SES 2010
FWD, ABS, 1 owner,
Ford Certified. \$14,488
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FORD 2002 TAURUS Runs
great - Located in Redford
new tires. 105K mi. \$2,100
313-937-6378

FUSION 2010
Sport pkg., AWD, moon. Fully
inspected & warranted.
\$14,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FUSION 2011
spt, FWD, leather,
1 owner, \$17,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

MUSTANG 2008
GT Premium RWD, Torch Red
Only 15K miles! \$19,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Kia

KIA RIO 2013
4 dr sedan, auto EX,
ABS, traction control
\$12,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Jeep

GRAND CHEROKEE 2012
LTD 4x4, leather heated seats,
dual moonroof. \$29,783
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Cash in with Classifieds
800-579-SELL

Lexus

LEXUS ES 350 2008
4 dr., Sedan, Leather, Heated
Seats, Loaded! \$17,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Lincoln

MKZ 2011
4 dr. sedan, FWD, 58K miles.
Leather, sunroof, traction
control, \$16,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Mazda

MAZDA CX-7 2011
Sport, FWD, ABS,
MP3 comp., bluetooth \$14,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Nissan

NISSAN VERSA 2008
1.8 S FWD, auto red metallic
\$7,986
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Pontiac

PONTIAC G6 GT 2007
Convertible, FWD, Premium
Sound System. \$13,488.
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

PONTIAC G8 GT 2009
White, Low Miles, 1 Owner,
Moon Roof, New Arrival
\$19,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Saturn

SATURN VUE
REDLINE 2008
Deep Blue, Black Interior,
1 Owner! Only \$11,000
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Autos Under \$2000

1995 BUS 18 Pass.
Body in Exc. Cond.
Needs some work
TLC. Ideal for Mechanic \$2000.
Serious Only 248-820-1768

Cash in with Classifieds
800-579-SELL

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Gets bare on top
- Beach scavengers
- Flexible
- Fair maiden of Astolat
- Senses of self
- Blooms
- Harmful ray
- Monsieur's summer
- Hollywood's — Merkel
- Turkish potentate
- "The Georgia Peach"
- Ms. Hagen of films
- From the jungle
- Grates
- Change color
- Website clutter
- Army off.
- Firewood stacks
- Flood stopper

DOWN

- Crude metals
- Not masc.
- Dried up
- Robin's beak
- Crater edge
- Back again
- Silver, in chem.
- Column type
- What the hen did
- Vitamin B component
- Develop slowly
- Claws or talons
- Boy Scout rank
- Large digit (2 wds.)
- It multiplies by dividing
- FedEx units
- Tour — force
- Marquee notice of yore

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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6 — Davis of "The Fly"

7 Arm bone

8 Refrain syllables

9 Chinese poet — Po

10 Cozily

11 Freeloader

13 Hedge

16 Stock options

20 Facilitate

22 Pitt and namesakes

23 Speech stumbles

24 Unites

26 NFL scores

27 Prez after Jimmy

29 Trippet

30 — the Barbarian

31 Roots

32 Vicksburg fighter

33 18-wheeler

34 Happen to

35 Check in

36 Rock hound's find

38 Helsinki citizens

41 Disturb

44 Here, in Paris

45 So-so grade

46 Record, as mileage

48 Battery sz.

50 Mount Vernon loc.

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

SNOWY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

ABLATION	FRONT
ACCRETION	GLACIER
ACCUMULATION	HAIL
ALBEDO	HAZE
ALPINE	HUMMOCK
ARCTIC	INDEX
AVAILANCE	LEVEL
BIGHT	LUMINOUS
BLIZZARD	MESOSPHERE
CLIMATOLOGY	PERMAFROST
CLOUD	SATURATION
COLD	SLEET
CRYSTALS	SLOPE
DEICING	SNOWFLAKE
DENSITY	TEMPERATURE
DEPTH	THAW
DRIFTING	THICKNESS
FREEZING	VISIBILITY

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

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

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Family service on Christmas Eve; free gifts for children and visitors

Contact: 734-968-3523

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Time/Date: 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield

Details: The Rev. Kimi Riegel officiates at the Christmas eve service

Contact: 248-354-4488; northwesternuu.org

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 31

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Worship service

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

JANUARY

FITNESS CLASSES

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12-March 30

Location: St. John Neumann, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: John Mason, a certified personal fitness trainer, teaches this 10-week class that includes yoga-oriented flexibility moves, stretching, strength training and abdominal and back exercises. Cost is \$70, with a portion of proceeds going to the church

Contact: 734-455-5910

WORLD SABBATH

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Jan. 25, 2015

Location: Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Celebrate peace and religious diversity through this interfaith experience of music, dance and prayer. Afterglow follows the service

Contact: 248-851-5100

FEBRUARY

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 1

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Open house for pre-school through grade 8

Contact: 734-425-4420

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island,

21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.

Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibro-group.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous

Contact: 248-559-7722; www.oa.org for additional information

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts)

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through May

Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives.

Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month

Location: The Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry, at 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit

Details: Led by Capuchin friar Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casey Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call for groups of five or more. No cost for the tour, although donations are accepted.

Contact: 313-579-2100, Ext. 149; www.solanuscenter.org

WORSHIP

Adat Shalom Synagogue

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and 6 p.m. weekdays

Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Contact: 248-851-5100

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday service

Location: 35300 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills

Contact: pastor Terry Miller at tshelton@mi.rr.com; 248-478-6520

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia

Contact: 734-522-6830

Congregation Bet Chaverim

Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m. the third Friday of the month

Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Details: Reformed Jewish Congregation with Rabbi Peter Gluck and Cantorial soloist Robin Liberatore

Contact: www.Facebook.com/betchaverim or email to betchaverim@yahoo.com

Due Season Christian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m. Tuesday Bible study

Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia

Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services.

Contact: 248-960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org

Faith Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday; learning hour is at 9 a.m. for all ages

Location: 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia

Contact: Visit www.livonfaith.org

Faith Community Wesleyan Church

Time/Date: Prayer service, 9 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m., Sunday school, 12:30 p.m., contemporary service, 1:30 p.m., Bible study, 6 p.m., Sundays

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Contact: pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

Garden City Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: Adult Bible study at 8:15 a.m.; traditional worship service, youth Sunday school and child care at 10 a.m. Large print order of service is available. Refreshments in the church fellowship hall immediately after service. Elevator and handicap parking

Location: Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road

Contact: 734-421-7620

Good Hope Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesday

Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Contact: 734-427-3660

Grace Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. traditional Sunday service and 10:30 a.m. contemporary; Sunday school and adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m.

Location: 46001 Warren Road, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton Township

Contact: 734-637-8160

His Church Anglican

Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. at Trinity and 10 a.m. at Madonna University

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, and Kresge Hall on the Madonna University campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Contact: www.HisChurchAnglican.org; 248-442-0HCA

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Faith Forum; 10 a.m. Sunday school; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday worship in the chapel.

Location: 30650 Six Mile, Livonia

Contact: 734-427-1414

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday

Location: 9600 Leverne, west of Beech Daly, north off West Chicago Road, Redford

Contact:

CROSSROADS CEILI SHOW FUSES SCOTTISH AND IRISH MUSIC

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Mick Gavin's annual Crossroads Ceili holiday show will take on a Scottish brogue this year.

"I think it's going to be the best ceili ever," said Gavin, a Redford resident who plays and teaches fiddle. "We'll explore some of our connections between the Irish and the Scots, musical traditions. We have a lot in common."

That includes the notion of a ceili, (pronounced kay-lee) a social gathering with music and dance.

During the upcoming the two-day festival of Irish song and dance, Gavin and his Crossroads Ceili members, sons Michael and Sean, Kelsey Lutz, Colleen Shanks, and Siobhan McKinney, will share the stage with musicians from the MacLeod and Rankin families of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, who will play Scottish tunes. Each band will play a set and then join forces for an Irish-Scottish musical fusion. Megan Holton from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance and Caitlin Nelson from O'Hare School of Irish Dance also will perform, along with Eileen Plunkett on vocals.

The shows are at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 26-27, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$15, available through ticketmaster.com or The Ark, 734-761-1800. A dinner-show combination ticket is available for \$25 and includes dinner at Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Make reservations through The Ark or by calling Conor O'Neill's at 734-665-2968.

"Over the years we've had famous players come in, but now we have a powerhouse of musicians right here in Detroit and Windsor," Gavin explained his choice of guest artists this year. "The music of Ireland is so strong here in Detroit and of course the Scots have been very strong with their music in Windsor."

Similar music, traditions

Sarah Rankin plays fiddle and step dances. Her brother Cameron, and Marion MacLeod both play piano. MacLeod's brother, Kenneth, is a fiddler. At The Ark, they'll perform together as a quartet and then with Gavin's group.

"They are going to give us a run for our money because they are very good and I'm delighted to have them," said Gavin, who created the annual holiday show 18 years ago. "We don't know what we'll play yet with these young Scots. Our music is the same structure, but different sounding, with a different accent."

"We're compatible in songs, music and culture. They have the same type of songs, the same type of Christmas puddings, and the language was



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Musicians from the MacLeod and Rankin families of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, will team up to play with Crossroads Ceili, Dec. 26-27 at The Ark in Ann Arbor.



Mick Gavin (center) of Redford plays fiddle at a gig in Saginaw. Gavin created the Crossroads Ceili holiday show 18 years ago.

identical over the years until the scholars and people changed it," Gavin said, listing similarities. "We play a lot of Scottish tunes in Ireland and they play a lot of Irish tunes in Scotland."

Gavin said the music differs in authorship. Much of Scottish music was composed by professional composers, many of whom created songs for the aristocracy. Much of the old Irish music "comes from the people," although Ireland also had its own tradition of composed music. Traveling harpists often performed and composed pieces for gentry in the 16th and 17th centuries.

"They had a separate horse to carry his harp and an entourage of horses came with it. It was a big occasion and they would have roasted a deer in the great room. It was a big compliment to have a harper compose a tune," Gavin said.

"But the music we play for a ceili — set dancing and polka and reel — they came from musicians here and there down from the ages. They didn't come from a book."

Gavin's band includes flute, penny whistle, banjo, harp, piano, Irish pipes and fiddles. He's considering at least one set with fiddles only for the show.

"When we're all together, we're almost going to have 10 (musicians). Plus we'll invite up a few more."

Gavin said the holiday show attracts 350-400 Celtic music lovers to each performance and has nearly sold out in the past. A few years ago a line of 200 fans waited outside the venue.

"We get a big crowd," Gavin said. "This is going to be the ultimate ceili. This is a great cultural experience."



Sean Gavin, who grew up in Redford, will play Irish pipes at Crossroads Ceili's holiday show.



Crossroads Ceili's holiday show includes performances by the Maid of Erin and her court. That's Megan Holton (right) from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, Caitlin Nelson from O'Hare School of Irish Dance, and Eileen Plunkett, a vocalist.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Wildlife art: The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition — a collection of images from the world's largest and most prestigious wildlife photography competition — runs through March 23, 2015, and is free with zoo admission. It features 100 images from winners of the 2013 competition.

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Jan. 9, 2015

Location: The Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit

Contact: 248-473-1859

GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through Jan. 7, 2015; closed on holidays

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

Details: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild display a wide variety of fiber art in-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Aaron Radatz performs magic Dec. 27 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

cluding: tapestries, wearable art, textiles, fiber paper, baskets, sculpture and surface design

Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillage-theater.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2-31, 2015; opening reception is 6-9 p.m. Jan. 2

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Between Landscape and Place" is a solo show by painter John Dempsey

Contact: 248-344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday through December

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth



Ron Kischuck will perform Dec. 30 at Jazz @ The Elks in Plymouth.

Details: "Inspired," is a show of 2-dimensional work by more than 26 artists

Contact: 734-416-4278

COMEDY

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 26-27

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Dave Williamson; \$16 show only, \$29 with dinner

Contact: 734-261-0555; catchthefunny.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27

Location: Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: David Dyer; tickets \$18

Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*; admission \$3

Coming up: *The Judge*, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2 and Thursday, Jan. 8; 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 3-4

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 9, 2015 and and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 10, 2015

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

Details: *All About Eve*, \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through Dec. 28

Location: Second floor in the Community Gallery at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Details: Fourteen stained glass windows that were installed at the original St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, built in 1929 and closed in 2005 in Farmington Hills, are on display. Admission is free

Contact: 313-833-7935

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday,

Dec. 27-28; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 30-31; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2015; 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 3-4, 2015

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: For the first time, the Kelsey Museum will be open during the holiday season when University of Michigan buildings normally are closed. Themed, one-hour gallery tours will be offered on select days at 2 p.m. Tours are free. Call for specific themes and dates

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 11, 2015

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit features scenes from stories and movies, such as *Elf*, *Polar Express* and *A Christmas Carol*. Santa visits every Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

HOLIDAY LIGHTS LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: Lightfest hours 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along four miles of Hines Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail, in Westland

Details: Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car.

Contact: 734-261-1990; parks.wayne-county.com

PINEAPPLE BRIGHTENS YOUR HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING



Celebrate the holiday season by serving unique dishes and drinks that burst with flavor.

The holiday hostess has a lot on her plate. But preparing for the big event doesn't have to be a challenge — this holiday, focus on special dishes and refreshing cocktails guests will remember for years to come. Use these tips to make your holiday events shine:

» Shake it up — From cool drinks, like the Pineapple Upside Down Mocktail, to delicious tropical twists on classic martinis, punches and warm ciders, pineapple juice can shake things up this season. It also is a good source of vitamins A, C and E.

» Captivating courses — To celebrate the season, serve up recipes for delicious entrees, small plates and desserts that bring a taste of the tropics to any occasion. Start guests off with a Holiday Kale Salad and then serve them juicy Jamaican Chicken & Couscous, followed by divine Pineapple Pumpkin Pie.

» Party planner extraordinaire — Looking for bright ideas on how to turn your next party into paradise? Visit dole.com/sunshine/holidayrecipes to find refreshing new ways to make your party the event of the season, from eye-catching invitations to delightful decor tips.

Courtesy of Family Features

JAMAICAN CHICKEN & COUSCOUS

Servings: 4

2 tablespoons dry Jamaican seasoning
1 tablespoon curry powder
4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 cup canned pineapple juice
½ cup water
1 package (5.6 ounces) toasted pine nut couscous mix
1 ½ cups Dole Frozen Mango Chunks, thawed
½ cup green onion, sliced
1 tablespoon lime juice
2 teaspoons black sesame seeds

Combine Jamaican seasoning and curry powder in small bowl. Place each chicken breast between 2 sheets of plastic wrap and pound (with meat mallet) to ½-inch thickness. Remove wrap. Brush both sides of chicken pieces with 1 tablespoon oil and sprinkle both sides with curry mixture. Cook chicken in oil over medium-high heat, 3 to 4 minutes per side or until brown and no longer pink in center. Meanwhile, stir together juice, water and pine nut seasoning mixture from package in medium saucepan; bring to boil. Stir in couscous; remove from heat. Let stand, covered, 5 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Fluff with fork. Stir in mango chunks, green onions and lime juice. Cut chicken in ½-inch slices and serve over couscous mixture. Sprinkle with sesame seeds.



PINEAPPLE PUMPKIN PIE

Servings: 6

1 can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple
1 ½ cups canned pineapple juice
1 envelope unflavored gelatin
1 ½ teaspoons granulated Sucralose sweetener or sugar
1 cup canned pumpkin pie mix
1 cup thawed whipped topping
1 (9-inch) low-fat graham cracker pie crust
Ground cinnamon, optional
Drain pineapple well; reserve juice. Combine reserved juice with pineapple juice in measuring cup. Add water to make 2 cups. Combine juice mixture and gelatin in saucepan. Let stand 1 minute. Stir over low heat until completely dissolved. Stir in sweetener. Pour into bowl. Chill just until starts to set, about 1 hour. Fold in pineapple, pumpkin and whipped topping. Pour into graham cracker crust. Chill 5 hours or overnight. Serve with whipped topping and ground cinnamon, if desired.



PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN MOCKTAIL

Servings: 2 (½-cup)

1 cup canned pineapple juice, chilled
1 tablespoon caramel sauce
Ginger ale, chilled
2 teaspoons grenadine syrup
Brown or turbinado sugar and maraschino cherries, optional garnish
Wet just the rim of a martini glass with a little water; dip rim in brown sugar or turbinado sugar for added garnish. Combine pineapple juice and caramel sauce in shaker over ice. Shake vigorously; strain into martini glasses or other favorite glasses. Top off with ginger ale. Slowly pour in grenadine. Garnish with cherry, if desired. Note: For alcoholic variation, combine 3 ounces cake-flavored vodka or vanilla vodka, 1 ounce Frangelico or amaretto liqueur, and 6 ounces canned pineapple juice in shaker over ice. Shake vigorously; strain into martini glasses. Slowly pour in grenadine; garnish with cherry, if desired.



HOLIDAY KALE SALAD

Servings: 4

1 package (4.5 ounces) Dole Baby Kale and Greens
2 ripe firm pears, halved, cored and sliced
½ cup red onion, thinly sliced
¼ cup dried cranberries
¼ cup pistachios, chopped
¼ cup olive oil
¼ cup canned pineapple juice
1 teaspoon minced garlic
½ teaspoon ground ginger
Salt and ground black pepper, to taste
Combine salad blend, pears, red onion, cranberries and pistachios in large bowl. Whisk together olive oil, pineapple juice, garlic and ginger in small bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour over salad mixture; toss to evenly coat.