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CITY BITES, B10

Teachers reject proposed two-year contract

Educators vote 73 percent against, 27 percent in support

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

It's back to the bargaining table after Plymouth-Canton teachers rejected Monday a proposed two-year contract by a majority of 73 percent of the 950 members who voted.

"They thought it was collectively time to send a message," said Bob Williams, president of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association, which represents the teachers. Following a theme of "Supported teachers make successful students," some 15 teach-

ers, former teachers and parent supporters took turns Tuesday night explaining to the P-CCS Board of Education the difficulties of living on wages that have not kept pace with the economy nor allow teachers to adequately support their families or repay student

loans. Despite the overwhelming rejection of the proposed contract, speakers expressed an understanding of the difficulties with state financing of public education. But teachers told the school board they could no longer continue to accept pay freezes and lower wages because the state requires a balanced budget that

does not require budgeting for steps up in salaries. In an unprecedented move from the board's tradition of not responding to public comments, John Barrett, board president, told the overflow crowd at the former Allen Elementary School that "we understand. Unfortunately, we

See TEACHERS, Page A5



Veterans and friends gathered Monday in Plymouth to remember the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Police enlist residents in crime-fighting initiative

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Striking back against crimes such as home invasions, vandalism and larcenies from cars, the Canton Police Department is ratcheting up efforts to involve residents in making their neighborhoods safer. The new initiative goes beyond typical neighborhood watch programs and sets goals that homeowner groups need to achieve to make it work. It is being spearheaded by Police Officer Patty Esselink in her new position as community relations coordinator.



Esselink

"I want a lot more community involvement, so that everybody is aware of what's going on in the community and they can help solve some of the issues we have with larcenies from autos and home invasions and things like that," she said.

The program, dubbed Partners in Your Safety, involves three major goals for neighborhood involvement:

- » Homeowner associations or groups need to get 25 percent of neighborhood households signed up for one or both of two crime alert platforms, www.nixle.com and www.nextdoor.com.

Canton police use those tools to issue crime alerts, crime prevention tips and other important communications. Residents also may use the services to inform local authorities of concerns and needs in their own neighborhoods.

- » Police are asking that 25 percent of neighborhood households attend a crime prevention seminar hosted by Canton police. The sessions will focus on ways residents can try to protect themselves from crimes such as burglaries and larcenies, while teaching tips for personal safety and recognizing suspicious behavior. The gatherings can occur in places such as subdivision clubhouses or at the police department.

"The goal is to just be aware of what's going on around you," Esselink said, adding that it could be an occupied, suspicious vehicle on the street or what appears to be a stranger potentially staking out homes.

- » Police say that 25 percent of households need to take a

See RESIDENTS, Page A2

'FREEDOM IS NOT FREE'

Veterans gather for Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Members of local veterans groups gathered Monday in Plymouth to remember the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and honor the Americans who fought there — and all who served the U.S. in uniform, especially during World War II.

The Pearl Harbor Day remembrance, 74 years after the surprise attack on a U.S. Navy base, which brought the U.S. into the war, was held at Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park. Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 and American Legion Post 391 were joined by family members, friends and local elected officials.

The Pearl Harbor attack, on a Sunday

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charles Minthorn and Charles Cone are both Navy veterans of World War II.

Funding in question for disabled recreation program

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton-based therapeutic recreation program that serves people with disabilities from across western Wayne County could be forced to scale back or increase fees unless funding is continued, officials say.

The program provides job-building skills, swimming, holiday dances, movies and numerous other activities for 150 people a year, helping them to become more independent and boosting their social skills. It serves a population with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities. Jennifer Provenzano, Can-

ton recreation specialist, said the program, largely based at the Summit on the Park recreation center, has survived with a \$75,000 Wayne County grant for each of the past two years, but funding isn't guaranteed next year even though the number of participants has grown.

"It would be sad if funding

for that program was going in the other direction," she said.

Wayne County Commissioner Joe Barone, who represents Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, said money wasn't allocated in the county's new budget, but he is working to change that.

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For the children



JULIE BROWN

Diane George of Plymouth, a volunteer with the Plymouth Goodfellows, was out Saturday collecting in downtown Plymouth to guarantee "No Child Without a Christmas." The Plymouth Goodfellows were out in full force for their annual holiday fundraising to support needy people in the community.



PHOENIX THEATRES

"The Force Awakens," the first film in the third "Star Wars" trilogy, is set approximately 30 years after the events of "Return of the Jedi" (1983).

Phoenix Theatres will play 'Star Wars' movie non-stop

The greatly anticipated *Star Wars* movie, *The Force Awakens*, hits theaters at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, to a nationwide, energetic fan base like few film series have ever known.

Phoenix Theatres will be the only known Midwest theater chain that will keep the doors open all night long, catering to those who miss out on the first showing and cannot wait another minute to see the J.J. Abrams' epic.

"For the first time in the history of Phoenix Theatres, due to the national groundswell of demand for this film and

the excitement it's generated, we've decided to start at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, and will keep it playing – non-stop – straight through the night, early morning hours and on into the normal rotation of show times on Friday for over 30 hours of non-stop *Star Wars* action," Phoenix Theatres President Cory Jacobson said.

"It was actually the employees who came to us, so excited about this film that they wanted to run all night with it. Our group of people are really excited about *Star Wars* and for the *Cause of the Force*, they want-

ed to do this," he added.

Jacobson is also former president of the National Association of Theatre Owners of Michigan and he knows of no other movie theater in the Midwest planning to show the film for more than 30 hours and all night long.

"There are a lot of behind-the-scenes preparation going on," Jacobson said. "It is an event film that we're trying our best to present in the way Mr. Abrams would want it presented, at the highest quality level, so we're running around double-checking projectors, lamps, sound

systems and all the other equipment to make sure everything is up to specifications."

Tickets may be purchased in advance at any Phoenix Theatres location or online at Phoenixmovies.net or Movietickets.com. Phoenix Theatres opened its first Detroit-area theater in 2001 and currently operates 10 screens at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, eight screens at the Mall of Monroe in Monroe and four at State-Wayne.

For more information or to take a "virtual tour," go to www.phoenixmovies.net.

CANTON OBSERVER

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hometownlife.com

Editor: Joanne Maliszewski
248-396-6620
Email: jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

Sports: Tim Smith
734-469-4128
Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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RESIDENTS

Continued from Page A1

pledge for Not in Our Town, a national movement urging residents to combat hate, stop bullying and build safe, inclusive communities. Canton already hosted a rally in September to roll out the program.

Neighborhood groups or subdivision associations that achieve all three goals will receive

signs they can place near entrances to their communities along with window stickers – both intended to warn would-be criminals that residents are watching.

"Residents can have a really big impact in driving crime down in the community and making it as safe as possible for people to live and raise their families here," Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden said. "In order to create the safest community you can pos-

sibly have, you need to engage the community members in that safety."

Canton has an estimated 94,000 residents and, despite being a comparatively safe place when stacked up against similar-size communities, certainly isn't immune to crime.

Hilden said the Partners in Your Safety program, combined with the Nixle and Nextdoor programs, can make Canton safer by getting large numbers of residents

involved. "We've got all those extra eyes and ears in the community looking for our suspects or suspicious circumstances," he said.

To get involved in Partners in Your Safety or for more information, send an email to patriacesselink@cantonmi.org or call Esselink at 734-394-5194.

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Wayne-Westland sets up strategic planning

Dreaming and thinking big doesn't cost anything, so officials in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools are looking for residents willing to help the district define its future by dreaming big about what the district wants for its students.

District officials are developing a strategic plan that will guide its direction over the next five to 10 years. It is an opportunity, they say, to "dream big," an opportu-

nity to envision what could be and what will be in the future.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools is building a strategic plan officials said will be "the stimulus for continued innovation and excellence in our district, both now and into the future."

A strategic plan is a guide to success and a chance for students, staff, parents, city officials and community members to share their dreams for the future of

the district.

District officials are looking for creative thinking, innovative possibilities and out-of-the-box ideas. They've set up a series of meetings through the end of January to help shape the plan.

Meetings are expected to last two hours, with the goal of being highly interactive, inspiring and engaging. Meetings are set for:

» Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m., Parent Meeting (all par-

ents welcome), at Walker-Winter Elementary School, 39932 Michigan Ave., in Canton.

» Jan. 7, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting, David Hicks Elementary School, 100 Helen, in Inkster.

» Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren, in Westland.

» Jan. 14, 1 p.m., Seniors (open to all community members), Dyer

Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, in Westland.

» Jan. 19, 1 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, 31250 Dorsey, in Westland.

» Jan. 19, 6 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, in Wayne.

» Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting (all parents welcome), Taft-Galloway

Elementary School, 4035 Gloria, in Wayne.

The strategic planning process will culminate in a presentation to the Board of Education in spring 2016.

Anyone who can't attend one of the meetings can submit suggestions to <http://wwcsd.net/home/strategic-planning-information/>.

For more information about the strategic planning process, contact Cheryl Watson or Sue Rawson at 734-419-2010.

Observer seeks World War II stories

The *Observer* wants to honor its surviving World War II veterans in a package of stories slated to run later this month.

To accomplish this, we are hoping to tell the stories of living World War II veterans from our communities.

We'd love to tell their stories, see their photos and share any memories — letters to/from home (especially around the holidays, important dates, etc.), keepsakes, etc. — the veterans are willing to share.

If you are a World War II veteran or know a World War II veteran whose story we could tell, please email *Observer* editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

New Kroger store in Northville to serve as model

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

For months, residents and passersby saw construction crews at the former Hiller's on Center Street. When the new Kroger opened in its place Sunday, it was like, well, a holiday gift of sorts.

The grand opening at 8 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, drew Northville community officials and crowds of shoppers, leaving many to drive around the area looking for a parking spot. That didn't seem to bother shoppers, who wanted to get in and see the new store.

After all, unlike many former Hiller's markets that were reopened as Kroger stores, the Northville site took a bit longer. "The store was in need of extensive remodeling and structural repair," said Ken McClure, Kroger consumer communications manager. "We had decided to close it immediately (in June) and give it a full-scale remodel."

In May, Kroger Co. of Michigan purchased the seven popular Hiller's stores, which were known for their ethnic foods and other hard-to-



Kroger Co. of Michigan's Jimmie Mares, one of only five certified cheese professionals in Michigan, helps a customer at Murray's Cheese Shop, inside the new Kroger store.

get products. The Hiller's on Center Street closed — to a public collective sigh of dismay — June 25.

But the new Kroger is what company leaders call a model for what future new stores will be like. Even as the smallest Kroger store at 36,000 square feet, the location boasts Murray's Cheese Shop and a world-class wine cellar that features beverage steward Kaila Boggs. A Starbucks, one of the first to offer its breakfast sandwiches, is also a big draw.

The store includes All

Things Cheese, where shoppers can take a rest and order a meal. "As you order it, they are making it," McClure said.

A Boar's Head Sandwich Stop is also a new feature. "They have a hot Italian sandwich that will knock your socks off," he said.

Kroger will continue and expand on the Hiller's offerings of ethnic foods. Indian, Asian, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean offerings will be available, including a fresh salad bar.

"In fact, other of our Michigan stores have

also expanded ethnic food selections, depending on the area," McClure said.

The grand opening was celebrated in style, with Kroger of Michigan president Jayne Homco presenting a \$5,000 check to Northville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher.

"In all the communities we operate in, we try to be involved in community projects," McClure said. "(School officials and Gallagher) were very gracious to come in at 8 a.m. on a Sunday." The donation was

made, McClure said, with Northville High School in mind. "It is like the epicenter," he said. "We know how important the school is in the community."

Shoppers may or may not notice it, but the store features top-notch energy saving technology for refrigeration and air handling. "We are using this as a case study to use across our enterprise," McClure said.

Shoppers will, however, recognize the Kroger manager — Rick Sherman, who served as manager of the former Hiller's. "We retained the vast majority of Hiller's employees and management," McClure said.

Also familiar to local shoppers is George Jordan, in charge of the seafood department, as he was in the Hiller's store.

The store also boasts a totally new decor that includes a gallery of black and white photographs of special Northville-area landmarks.

"It is an entirely new environment," McClure said.

jmaliszewski@hometownlife.com
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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Burglary suspects nabbed by police

Quick action by Canton police led to the capture of two burglary suspects fleeing the scene of a break-in that happened shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday at Wayne Lawn & Garden Center, on Michigan Avenue near Lotz.

Police responded after an alarm company detected a burglary and, through live audio, could hear a loud banging noise at the building, a police report said. Police arrived and saw three suspects running toward a nearby wooded area.

An officer quickly caught a 15-year-old Wayne boy and a second suspect, a 17-year-old Wayne male, was soon apprehended. A third suspect and possibly a fourth were still being sought.

Police believe the suspects used a tool to break into the business, but the report in-

dicated nothing appeared to have been taken.

The investigation was continuing.

Suspicious behavior

Police went to the Mexican Fiesta restaurant at Ford and Sheldon roads after reports of two males acting suspiciously after they entered the eatery about 8 p.m. Monday, a police report said.

The owner told police the men walked in, said they would need a table for five and behaved suspiciously as they supposedly waited for others to arrive. One of the men tried to walk into the kitchen before he was stopped, while the other went to the cash register to ask for change — but then didn't follow through.

One of the men went toward the restroom, but never went inside. The owner said the two males quickly exited the restaurant after he removed the

money from the cash register.

He described one of the men as a tall, thin black male wearing a black vest and white sleeves. He said the second man was a short, thin black male wearing dark clothing.

Court violation

Police arrested a 35-year-old Canton man after learning he had gone back to his mother's house despite a court order to stay away, following an earlier domestic incident.

Police had gone to the 67-year-old mother's house in the 48300 block of Applewood, near Palmer and Sheldon, about 6:10 p.m. Sunday to serve a subpoena for the woman to testify in court, a police report said.

Her son answered the door, refused to let police inside and shut the door. Police tracked down the mother by cellphone and arranged to speak with her.

Police learned the son wasn't supposed to be at the house,

although he and his mother told police they were unaware of any court orders for him to stay away.

Fake car theft

A 47-year-old Canton woman is facing charges of filing a false police report after authorities say she lied about her 2013 Chrysler 300 being stolen from her home, a police report said.

Turns out her son apparently took the car and crashed it, possibly ending up in a hospital, where he was suspected of using an alias rather than his real name, the report said.

The woman went to the Canton police station to report her car had been stolen from her residence at Carriage Cove, an apartment complex near Warren and Lilley. She said it was taken between midnight and noon Sunday.

The woman told police she had fallen asleep and that

someone, possibly her son, had taken the car while it was parked in Canton. She said she realized the keys had been taken from a kitchen drawer when she tried to go to work.

Further investigation revealed the woman had been staying at her son's residence in Detroit, when the car was taken and crashed near Linwood and Grand Boulevard. Police also learned the woman had made three phone calls to her insurance company.

The woman ultimately admitted to police she had lied when she said the car was stolen in Canton, leading police to arrest her for filing a false police report. She posted a \$300 bond and was released from custody.

Police learned the woman's son had a suspended license. The investigation was continuing.

— By Darrell Clem

Human trafficking meeting offered

A free meeting about the dangers of human trafficking and its implications around the world and in our community is being held Monday, Dec. 14, at Westland City Hall.

The guest speaker will be Deena Policicchio, director of Outreach and Education Services at Alternatives For Girls, who can be seen in the MSNBC documentaries *Sex Slaves: Motor City* and *Sex Slaves: Addiction*.

Michigan ranks second in the human trafficking trade, behind only Nevada. This awareness event will begin to provide the knowledge and insight to prevent and identify potential human trafficking occurrences, victims and ways to help.

The public is invited to attend the event, sponsored by the Westland Area Jaycees. Westland City Hall is located at 36300 Warren Road, east of Central City Parkway.

Township shoplifting suspect confesses car theft

A 31-year-old man was arrested on a car-theft charge Nov. 30 after being stopped in Plymouth Township on suspicion of shoplifting.

The arrest occurred shortly after 10 a.m., after an officer patrolling Beck Road spotted a southbound Mercury that matched the description of a car involved in a shoplifting that had occurred minutes earlier and turned around to look at its license plate.

The Mercury's driver turned quickly onto westbound Galleon and then into a business parking lot, where the officer blocked him in, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. Asked about it by the officer, the man denied hav-

ing stolen from the Busch's supermarket on Sheldon, but then tried to open the car door and told the officer to handcuff him, the report said.

Asked why he should be handcuffed, the man replied that he had stolen the Mercury in Brighton on Thanksgiving Day.

The car was impounded and the suspect turned over to the Livingston County Sheriff's Department on the car-theft case.

The shoplifting had occurred a short time earlier at Busch's, just south of Five Mile. Police were told that a man had tried to leave with a basket containing 11 four-packs of Red Bull, but dropped the basket when confronted and fled north on Sheldon in a tan-colored car covered with dirt. A witness was able to get a license-plate number.

Fraud try

A township woman reported an apparent case of attempted fraud Saturday.

The woman told police she had received a letter claiming to be from a sweepstakes organization and telling her she'd won \$2.6 million. The letter instructed her to call a certain number, which she did, a police report said.

During the call, she said, a man verified her address and then asked for her bank account information, which she declined to give.

The woman called the sweepstakes organization mentioned and was told the letter was fake, she said.

Larceny from auto

The front grille was reported stolen Nov. 30 from a Ford Contour while the car was parked at an apartment

complex on Plymouth Road in the township.

The theft occurred between Nov. 23 and the morning of Nov. 30, the victim told police. There was nothing else reported stolen from the car.

License suspended

A 29-year-old woman was cited for driving with a suspended license the night of Dec. 3 after police noticed the car she was driving had an improper plate.

The woman, driving a Ford Fusion, was stopped in the area of Sheldon and Plymouth Oaks Boulevard about 10 p.m., a police report said. Police said the license plate on the Fusion had been flagged by the Secretary of State's office for suspected fraudulent activity. The plate was confiscated.

— By Matt Jachman

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

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Priest who died in '04 now accused of child sex abuse

Bill Laitner
Michigan.com

More than a decade after the death of the popular Roman Catholic priest and pastor known as Father West, church authorities said an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been "found to be credible" against West, who served in about 20 parishes across southeast Michigan.

The Rev. David West died in 2004 at age 65, well before anyone came forward charging him with sexual abuse, according to the Archdiocese of Detroit.

But church officials "put no time limits on the reporting of sexual abuse of minors" by members of the priesthood or any other personnel connected with churches and related institutions such as parochial schools and seminaries, said Joe Kohn, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"It doesn't matter when it happens or when

it's reported. We try to determine if it's credible and, if it is, we notify every place" in which the perpetrator ever served because "that increases the likelihood that this might have occurred elsewhere," Kohn said.

The goal is to find other victims, if any, and to offer them counseling services, he said, adding: "We do everything in our power to help every victim." In West's case, the abuse occurred in the 1970s and "the victim was male," Kohn said.

West was ordained in 1964 and served in many high-profile positions, including as church pastor at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Grosse Pointe Woods, St. James in Ferndale and St. Louise de Marillac in Warren. West also was on the



West

faculty of Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, a minister at Wayne State University and chaplain at Bishop Gallagher High School in Harper Woods, a news release from the archdiocese stated.

He also served as administrator at churches in Temperance, Livonia, Eastpointe, Dearborn Heights and Rockwood. And according to a *Detroit Free Press* report, West was an instructor at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake when he was chosen, in 1997, to be parish administrator of Detroit's Catholic Church of the Madonna upon the death of its pastor, the Rev. William Cunningham, legendary co-founder of Focus: HOPE.

To report abuse committed by a priest or other person working for the Archdiocese of Detroit, email the victim assistance coordinator via vac@aod.org or call 866-343-8055, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.



CANTON LEISURE SERVICES
Mary Anne Muldon and Gabby Kreza share smiles at the therapeutic recreation prom.

PROGRAM

Continued from Page A1

"I'm pushing for it," he said, adding that he is "relatively hopeful" that a budget amendment will be made and the program will be funded.

His predecessor, former Commissioner Shannon Price, now Plymouth Township's supervisor, fought the same battle when he was in office.

The program serves people ages 15 and older year-round and, during summer months, it expands to include children 8-14 years old. Provenzano said the participants and their families form strong bonds.

"We continue to promote acceptance and we watch our participants grow and blossom in ways that many people never thought might be possible," she said.

As officials await word of funding, a therapeutic recreation program "wish tree" has been placed in the Summit lobby through Dec.



CANTON LEISURE SERVICES
Dale Edwards enjoys a swim as part of the therapeutic recreation program.

30, adorned with gift tags designating items that volunteers can buy to help the program and its participants, Provenzano said.

"These are items that are so important to our success, but they are also items that aren't necessarily built into our budget each year," she said.

They include stress balls, gardening tools, art and craft supplies, puzzles, books, gift cards and specialty sensory integration items, among others.

For those who prefer to make a monetary do-

nation, they may send checks to the Canton Community Foundation with Camp A.B.L.E. in the memo line — a reference to a special-needs camp. They should be mailed to the Canton Community Foundation, 50430 School House Road, Suite 200, Canton Township, MI 48187.

Another option is to go to www.cantonfoundation.org, click on the Donate button and scroll down for Select a Fund tab.

dclm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver

TEACHERS

Continued from Page A1

are under a severe economic hammer from Lansing."

Barrett referred to the state's Proposal A, which has drastically limited public school districts' funding. He urged teachers to work with the board and with legislators to turn the tide of reduced state funding for public education. "We will go through this every year," Barrett said.

In a statement, Superintendent Michael Meisen said, "We understand the frustration expressed by our teachers and we will continue to work with them within the finances as dictated by the state. We believe in the process and we believe strongly in our teachers and deeply appreciate all they do for our students and families."

The proposed contract offered a continuation of a pay freeze this year and a half-step increase next year for teachers earning in the first through 13th step. Teachers at the top of the scale, the 14th step and above, were offered a 0.5-percent increase next year.

"There is a business approach to education,"

Williams said, referring to the state and its funding of education. "It used to be that teachers got a step (increase in salary) every year."

Teacher Darin Silvester, a 20-year educator, told the board that he, like his colleagues, is committed to educating children and making them successful. But contracts in the past years — with little or no salary increase — have forced good teachers out of the profession. Prior to joining the teacher ranks, Silvester worked at a factory, where he earned \$60,000. The salary his first year of teaching was \$28,900.

"Our kids have lost good teachers," Silvester said.

Matt Johnson, former English teacher at Salem, left teaching. "The reason I am not at Salem is money," he said, adding he has a master's degree. When he left, he earned \$38,000 — before taxes — and was also trying to pay off his student loans.

Johnson told the board that when he approached a previous district administration about salaries, he was told, "If you don't like it, go somewhere else." He added that he finally decided to leave the profession when he realized he was looking at long-term

poverty. Discovery Middle School teacher Luke Haddad called teachers "the backbone of our district." After four years teaching at P-CCS, Haddad said he had moved only one step up in salary. He also figured that it would take him 48 years — under current contracts — to reach the top step in salary.

"I thought this sacrifice would be only a short-term one," said another teacher, referring to concessions and pay freezes. "Teachers continually are asked to make more concessions."

Former science teacher Jake Porter left teaching for a job in the automotive industry. "I do not miss the insecurity of my future," he said.

Salem teacher Emily McClellan told the board that after seven years in the district, she is only at step five of the salary scale. But she voted yes on all contracts during her tenure. She drives 65 miles to work and the couple — with her husband also a teacher — is deciding what to do next. "We have to be realistic on how long it will take me to get to the top step," she said.

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Still time for some holiday tech-savvy deals

Good news for procrastinators and last-minute shoppers: the best deals are yet to come. Even if you haven't yet purchased gifts for the tech geek on your list, you might be in luck.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are just the beginning of the winter season sales and buyers can expect low prices on hot items such as DSLRs, GoPro Cameras, Parrot Drones, TVs and mobile devices into 2016.

If you are buying for someone close to you or even for yourself, patience may pay. Manufacturers are hitting the end of their production years, meaning it is time to sell off inventory to make way for the new equipment.

In the first week of January, tech giants like Samsung, Sony, Microsoft and many others will launch their newest products at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. As the new prod-



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

ucts come to market, the old units typically reach unforeseen prices. And in this case, old doesn't mean bad.

Take HDTVs, for instance, which have steadily dropped in prices for a few years as newer 4K HDTV have hit shelves. Even 4K HDTV televisions have seen a sharp decline in price recently. Currently, a 4K HDTV in the 42-inch size range is going for \$350, whereas a model in the 50-inch range is about \$200 to \$250 more.

Just three short years ago, there were only two HDTVs available on the market and both retailed for more than \$20,000. So it is not surprising that the next big thing — the Ultra 4K HDTV from Vizio — is expected to hit shelves with a six-figure



Expect low prices on hot tech devices into 2016.

GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

price tag. Of course, it will be a five-figure price tag in a year or two and, in five years, who knows how cheap it can be.

Price drops are the norm for technology — especially for TVs and

computers. In the '90s, a mid-line desktop computer would retail for \$1,000 or more. This holiday season, a portable Chromebook with Wi-Fi capabilities can be found for less than \$150.

Of course, nobody should be expected to wait years for their prized technology to drop that drastically in price. Still, waiting until late January or early February could net you a deal.

If you need to have the presents wrapped and under the tree by Dec. 25, consider buying local. Internet deals with free shipping can be enticing, but a wrong product or a shipping mix-up could leave you in a bad spot. Local retailers may be able to price match and you also don't have to worry about an expensive tech toy sitting on your porch if you aren't home during delivery.

No time to go back to the mall, find parking, buy gifts and wrap them? Consider an iTunes or Google Play gift card or pony up to pay for a loved one's cable or Internet bill. Even if you procrastinate until Dec. 24, there remain plenty of options. As for wrapping the gifts, you're own your own.

Jon Gunnells is a social and digital media manager for a Detroit-based marketing and PR agency. He can be reached at Jonathan.Gunnells@gmail.com.

Stay focused and follow your own investing game plan

As I was watching Michigan State's incredible win over Iowa, my emotions were on a roller-coaster ride. Ultimately, the outcome was what I wanted it to be, but the journey had its fair share of twists and turns and it certainly was excruciating. The only way I can describe it is to compare it to the stock market. As investors, we know that the market tests our emotions and it certainly has its fair share of uncertainties — just like the Michigan State football game. However, the lesson to learn is that discipline and patience do pay off in the long run.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

For those who did not watch the game, you would have seen a team that was confident, patient and with a game plan. The game plan worked in the long run, despite its fair share of ups and the downs. What the Spartans did doesn't just apply to a football game; it also applies to managing your portfolios as well. Investors who have a game plan and who have the discipline to stay with that game plan, despite ups and

downs and twists and turns, tend to be those who are successful. Investors who don't have a game plan or let their emotions sway their decisions are generally investors who are not successful.

When Michigan State started its final drive of the football game, it had a game plan and stuck with it. Ultimately, that game plan was successful. The bottom line, when it comes to our investments, you have to make sure you have a game plan that can lead you to success. Unfortunately, too many investors do not have a game plan and, thus, are not successful.

Although I do not like new year's resolutions because, typically, all you're doing is setting yourself up for failure, one thing you should dedicate yourself to do in the next year is to make sure you have an investing game plan in place. Buying and selling investments based upon emotions or what currently is happening in the market is too haphazard.

You need a game plan that factors in market fluctuations, as well as your individual needs and wants. You must have the discipline to stay the course, even during difficult times. You can't let every hiccup or speed bump devi-

ate you from your plan. Of course, there are times you need to change your game plan, but you don't change your game plan for short-term comfort.

Too many investors make the mistake of letting short-term comfort cause long-term pain. You primarily change your game plan when your individual situation needs a change.

Remember, markets are volatile and change faster than the weather in Michigan; that's why you have to be cautious about making wholesale changes simply because markets move one direction or the other. No one will say that

having a game plan and following it is easy — it's not. Just like watching Michigan State's final drive of the game was not easy to watch, the same thing applies to your investments.

However, just like Michigan State, which stayed focused and achieved its goal, that's exactly what you should be doing with your portfolio.

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, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

MUST SEE PERFORMANCES



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Jan. 23 - Cashore Marionettes, 2 p.m. (family show) & 7 p.m. (for adults and children 12 and up)
Experience two amazing performances featuring master marionettes who take puppetry to the ultimate level. Tickets: \$12 for 2 p.m. show & \$15 for 7 p.m. show.

See the full season schedule at www.cantonvillagetheater.org for the most up-to-date performance listings. Follow us, Canton Village Theater, on Facebook for cool insider information.

TICKETS FOR THESE AND OTHER PERFORMANCES AVAILABLE AT WWW.CANTONVILLAGETHEATER.ORG

Be very wary of the word easy

The HP printer-scanner I bought last month for my school office was intended to make my life easier. Working from home in the morning and then from campus in the afternoon, I reasoned both spaces should have a color printer. After all, since the beginning of the semester, I had been writing lists after class about what needed printing or scanning once home. For the record, I keep hard copies of news articles I share with my students, as well as our correspondence, attendance sheets and duplicates of my lectures.

My trip to the office supply store was easy enough; in and out in less than 10 minutes. That the printer was less expensive than anticipated buoyed my mood.

Yet it sat in the trunk of my car for probably a month or more and then on the floor in my office for another few weeks. It is puzzling behavior, but I know the uneasiness I have when it comes to upgrading or installing technology is great.

The longer the printer sat in my car and then office (baby steps, right?), the more embarrassed I became — and disappointed in myself.

"It'll be easy," I repeated each day when I arrived at school. "You'll unpack it, plug in, log on and be done ... what are you waiting for?"

So with equal parts trepidation and excitement, I tore open the box, freed the machine from its Styrofoam swaddling, cleared a spot on my desk and reached for the instruction manual.

Easy as 1-2-3.



Ed Nakfoor
GUEST COLUMNIST

The deception begins

But it was not ... for me, at least. Quite literally, the manual describes the installation process in those terms and the website users go to to begin the process is 123.hp.com.

Hours later, my only accomplishment was having set the time and filled the paper tray. Well, that and having vented to the help desk operators at both HP and the office supply store as my entreaties went unanswered. I simply wanted a kindly voice to walk me through the process, but instead received only apologies on behalf of the respective companies.

No matter how much I willed the process to be easy and how much criticism I leveled on me, my disappointment, embarrassment and frustration grew.

Fast forward another week — and another hour on the phone with the computer service I rely on to get me out of these jams — I was, finally, printing with ferocity. Indeed, my life has become less cumbersome.

The deception of easy, then, is that it is not an absolute anymore than an opinion about a movie or restaurant is to readers of reviews.

What was easy to see, though, was my hypocrisy.

Easy does it

I often hear students in my classes say writing about a particular topic will be easy. Or they will ask my opinion about what might be the easiest to write about from a handful of ideas. High school students, too, are under the spell of easy. Indeed, they usually learn the hard way — a disappointing grade — that the best topics are those in which there is a personal interest. Note I did not say easiest. In fact, I discourage the use of "easy" and "hard." Better I say, to use phrases such as, "might pose less of a challenge in terms of finding sources" or "you might experience a few hiccups as you get deeper into the assignment ... are you prepared?"

Recently, I encouraged one student to change the topic for his final paper. Curious about why he selected the first theme, he admitted thinking "it'd be easy to find people to interview." He found it more challenging than anticipated.

As professionals, too, the word "easy" is ever present, as we are encouraged to tackle to-do lists by starting with the "easiest" item, for example. A better recommendation, however, might be to encourage us (students, too) to admit when we need help, seek guidance from an expert and learn for next time. Easier said than done.

Ed Nakfoor is visiting assistant professor of journalism at Oakland University. Contact him at edwardnakfoor@gmail.com.

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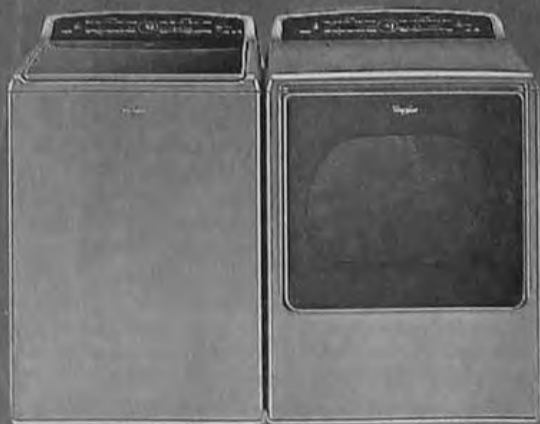
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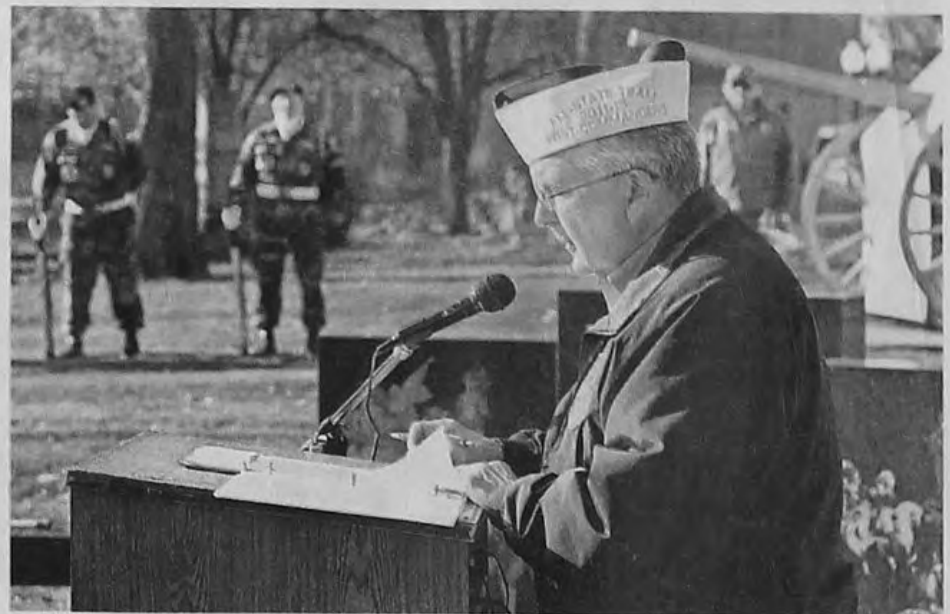


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Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695 past commander Dennis Bielskis conducts the ceremony.

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Deborah Davis of the Ann Cochrane chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution speaks at the ceremony.

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Wreaths are placed near the monument at Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park.

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Dec. 7 is the anniversary of the Japanese attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VETERANS

Continued from Page A1

morning, sunk or damaged 21 ships and caused some 3,700 U.S. casualties, including more than 2,400 killed. The sinking of the U.S.S. Arizona alone took 1,117 lives, said Dennis Bielskis, past commander of VFW Post 6695 and the master of ceremonies Monday.

"It pushed the United States' public opinion from complacency and isolationism to an acceptance," Bielskis told the crowd. "War was unavoidable. Our freedom was threatened."

The brief ceremony included a short speech by Deborah Davis, of the

"Don't let your children or grandchildren ever forget that freedom is not free, that we respect and cherish freedom, patriotism, sacrifice."

DENNIS BIELSKIS
past commander, VFW Post 6695

Ann Cochrane chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; prayers by Don Dignan, of VVA Chapter 528; the laying of wreaths at the park's war monuments; and a rifle salute by an honor guard from VVA Chapter 528.

Two Navy veterans of World War II, Charles Minthorn and Charles Cone, were recognized.

For Bielskis and Dignan, the cost of freedom was a major theme.

"Freedom comes at a tremendous price and it is for us, the living, to stand against all enemies," Dignan said in his closing prayer.

"Don't let your children or grandchildren ever forget that freedom is not free, that we respect and cherish freedom, patriotism, sacrifice," Bielskis said.

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1N4AL11D53C303884	2003	Nissan	Altima/S/SL
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1FMEU15H3PLA39006	1993	Ford	Bronco
2G1WF55K1Y9130508	2000	Chevrolet	Impala
1G2NE52F85M138010	2005	Pontiac	Grand Am SE
1FMZU72K92ZC70227	2002	Ford	Explorer XLS
JS1GT75AX42102216	2004	Suzuki	GSX-R1000
JM1TA221621718757	2002	Mazda	Millenia
1MEFM5850XG613639	1999	Mercury	Sable
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Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 honor guard close the ceremony.

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World War II Navy veterans Charles Minthorn and Charles Cone are honored for their service.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Opera House 'exciting' for women of Madonna U. Chorale

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Madonna University Chorale women's section got a special holiday treat Dec. 5. The women performed with a ballet company and the orchestra for *The Nutcracker* at the Detroit Opera House.

Some 15 women performed that day, said director Kevin Cushman, a Redford resident. The performance was one of about seven. "They would have different choirs from around the area," said Cushman, also the music minister at St. Valentine Catholic Church in Redford.

Barbara Wiltsie, a voice faculty member at Madonna, is on the Michigan Opera Theatre board and was able to pass along the request to Cushman. "We just set it up. Our part was a small portion of the production," he said.

"It's all women's voices. I was just there for moral support," he added.



KEVIN CUSHMAN

Women members of the Madonna University Chorale sang Dec. 5 in "The Nutcracker" at the Detroit Opera House.

The Madonna University Chorale numbers about 40 with the men. On Dec. 5, the women sang during the "Waltz of the Snowflakes" as well as doing Christmas carols at the Opera House to entertain before the performance and at intermission.

This is the first such performance Cushman knows of; he started with

the Madonna University Chorale this past fall. "The members who performed had never done it," he said. "They enjoyed it. It was exciting, entertaining, informative, just a nice honor."

The women had some performance "butterflies," he agreed. "You have to concentrate totally on the director," said Cushman, retired

from the Redford Union schools, where he was vocal music director for high school and middle school.

Liz Cross of Redford was among chorale members singing Dec. 5. "It was exciting," she said. "Half of us were under the stage as it was going on. We were all in the orchestra pit."

Cross, who began with

the chorale in September, said "it was kind of intimidating. But it was so much fun." She especially enjoyed listening to the orchestra.

"Just to sit with them and see what goes on in the pit," Cross said. The singers were able to go up after they were done and watch the performance from a balcony, which Cross did. The

chorale members wore concert black.

Added Cushman of the professional musicians, "It was a genuine response on their part. It was all very positive." They met the conductor.

The chorale members come from western Wayne communities of Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and Redford, as well as Southfield and the Farmington area, he said.

Its winter concert, with a "Winter Gifts of Music" theme, will be at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, in the Presentation Chapel of the Felician Sisters Motherhouse, in the Schoolcraft and Levan road area of Livonia. The concert is free and open to the public, with parking nearby.

"It's a nice wide variety of holiday specials," said Cushman, who agreed the Livonia chapel has good acoustics. "It's a lovely place to perform."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @248Julie

Registration available for Lawrence Tech spring semester classes

Students can register now for spring semester classes that begin Jan. 11, 2016, at Lawrence Technological University. Day, evening, weekend and online options are available, including many fast-track certificate programs in growing career fields.

LTU has associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs that can lead to careers in areas such as robotics engineering, biomedical engineering and computer science.

Call 800-CALL-LTU, ext. 1, or go to ltu.edu/futurestudents to find out about registration. For more information, contact admissions@ltu.edu or 248-204-3160.

Lawrence Technological University is a private university founded in 1932 that offers more than 100 programs through the doctoral level in Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Management.

Play it safe when out holiday shopping

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Shopping during the holidays, in search of just right gifts for loved ones, can be a lot of fun. Local police also encourage you to keep safety in mind when heading out to shop.

Chief Jeff Jedrusik of the Westland Police Department offers these safety tips for holiday shoppers:

- » Avoid stashing shopping bags or valuables in your vehicle while visiting stores. If you must, use the trunk vs. the vehicle's interior, which is visible. This will reduce thieves' temptation.

- » When possible, park near light poles. This will make your exit safer if it happens to take place after dark.

- » When exiting into a dark parking lot, time your departure from the store with others.

- » Have your keys in hand and ready when walking toward your vehicle.

- » Once you are inside your vehicle, lock yourself in.

- » If you need to util-



Jedrusik

ize an ATM machine, choose to use the ATM located in the Westland Police Department's lobby. The police station is on Ford Road (south side) east of Newburgh.

Westland is home to the Westland Shopping Center at Wayne and Warren roads, with anchors JC Penney, Sears, Macy's and Kohl's. Jedrusik agreed having a large mall in his community presents law enforcement issues.

"Yes, having a large

mall does create some law enforcement challenges," Jedrusik wrote in an email. "Increased pedestrian and vehicle travel causes an increase in the number of traffic crashes. With a higher traffic volume and wet/snowy roads, please take your time and be respectful to others."

"Thieves are attracted to crowded and busy malls. I encourage all of our visitors to be mindful of the listed safety tips. Most important, the holidays are supposed to be a time of happiness. Don't let the stress of the shopping season take our good decision making."

The Livonia Police Department also has common-sense holiday shopping safety tips, along with other crime prevention advice online. Here are some ideas that may help you keep the Grinch from spoiling your holiday season from Livonia police:

- » Do not leave an opening or a gap in any window for the Christmas lights extension cord. The smallest open-

ing is the biggest opportunity!

- » Do not advertise your newly acquired items by throwing out the boxes in the garbage. Make sure that they are flattened or torn down. Take them to the recycling depot, if possible.

- » Do not throw out anything with your name, address, phone number, banking or personal information on it without blacking out the personal information first. This also applies to magazines and boxes delivered to your home. Tear them, shred them, but do not throw them out intact.

- » Do not leave keys under mats, in mailboxes or hanging on a hook around the corner. You might just as well leave your doors open.

- » Do close all of your windows and blinds if you are going out so your Christmas tree and gifts are not on display.

- » Do engrave your new items (with your driver's license number — i.e.: BCDL9876543) Putting it off until later may be too late.

Michigan Ballet Theatre presents 'The Nutcracker'

Enjoy watching several young performers when the Michigan Ballet Theatre presents the legendary Christmas classic *The Nutcracker*, Dec. 18-20 at the Avondale Performing Arts Center.

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 18, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 19 and 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 20.

Tickets are \$32 for adults, \$28 for seniors and kids age 12 and under, and \$24 each for groups of 20 or more. Get a 50 percent discount by purchasing tickets in advance at the Rochester School of Dance and on Groupon. To order advance tickets by mail or for more information, call 248-652-3117.

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SECTION 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 6, consisting of **District-Wide Remodeling Projects**

will be received at the office of Ms. Pamela Anstey, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until **1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, December 17, 2015** at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

103: Selective Demolition 108: Carpentry / General Trades 114: Aluminum Entrances / Storefront / Glass & Glazing 117: Acoustical Ceilings 120: Painting 128: Plastic Laminate Casework 140: Plumbing 143: Electrical	106: Masonry 109: Roofing / Sheetmetal 115: Metal Studs / Drywall / EIFS 118: Carpet / Resilient Flooring 125: Toilet Partitions 130: Window Treatments 142: HVAC
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Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/4 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 2:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

END OF SECTION

Published: December 8 & 10, 2015

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OUR VIEW

Reason for the season: Giving matters, so help those in need during holidays

This is the time of year when local Goodfellows and Salvation Army leaders rely on your generosity. Not all friends and neighbors can provide a merry Christmas or holiday season for their children.

Goodfellows have been hard at work in recent weeks selling their trademark newspapers or collecting to make sure there's "No Child Without a Christmas." Salvation Army volunteers and staffers have also been out in full force with their Red Kettle campaign, which supports not only Christmas endeavors, but also help with rent, utilities, prescriptions and other necessities all year.

The Salvation Army and Goodfellows are joined by many churches, other faith-based institutions, schools and businesses, all working hard to make the holidays brighter. Food and clothing drives teach even the very young that kindness counts and giving matters.

Many, including the Salvation Army and other churches, offer the opportunity to adopt a child or family and provide toys and clothing geared to specific

needs. Involving your children in this shopping and giving can help teach them right from the start that not all have an easy road to walk.

Job loss, poor health and hard times are the reality for many and Christmas can exacerbate their feeling of separation from others who are shopping, celebrating and decking the halls. Remember them in this season of giving, to the extent your resources and finances allow.

This season is also a good time to remind children that there's a difference between needs and wants. Sure, none of us wanted a Christmas or Hanukkah with only socks or underwear as gifts when we were growing up.

It's only reasonable to try to accommodate children's wishes and holiday lists, but again that doesn't mean children should have free rein. One local boy was at Westland Shopping Center with his parents, who encouraged him to ask the volunteer Salvation Army bell ringers where the money raised goes.

The child understood the answers, especially

those related to others his own age. It's a good time for parents to reinforce lessons of generosity and of deciding what gifts are "must haves" and what doesn't have to be purchased.

It's also a busy season. If you have the gift of time available, don't sell yourself short on that. The Salvation Army hires bell ringers and benefits greatly from the work of volunteers who don't require pay. The website www.ringbell.org has details on bell ringing opportunities or you can call your local corps/citadel of the Salvation Army and ask for the volunteer coordinator if you're less tech-savvy, but still eager to contribute.

Let's make this season joyful for all, to the extent our resources allow. It's a good time to visit family, friends, neighbors and colleagues and to wish all the best for the coming year. It's also a good time to remember those without great blessings, such as warm housing, good food and decent clothing — and to extend the hand of friendship to them.

LETTERS

Money talks

It appears that pigs can fly. The ultra-right, corporate loving Mackinac Center for Public Policy and its child, Americans for Prosperity, have finally seen a tax giveaway that is so bad and vile that they are lobbying against it. This has to be a once-in-a-lifetime event, thus "When pigs fly."

A front page expose in *The Detroit News* (Nov. 30) brings to light a series of bills being

rushed through the state House and Senate that would be a boon to the Las Vegas company Switch.

According to the article, Switch promises to invest between \$5 billion and \$10 billion at a site in western Michigan. The catch is that it has to have a guarantee that it never has to pay any of the taxes our other companies are required to. This is the reason the bills are being hustled through Lansing. Never mind the loss to local

government units or schools — damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead, to hell with the consequences.

If a company has a business plan that varies by \$5 billion, I would be leery of any numbers proposed. Remember, in Las Vegas, the house always wins.

Some might wonder why our mainly Republican elected officials would approve these garbage bills. Just follow these politicians once they leave office. After bestowing billions in tax breaks on corporations, past lawmakers are now working for the very entities that benefited from this generosity. The Koch brothers, Matty Maroun and other billionaires make sure they reward their minions for service provided. And, believe this,

Switch will follow suit.

Money talks and the current group serving in the House and Senate is very adept at listening. These low-down pawns won't be happy until the only money going into the state treasury comes from individual taxpayers and every union in the state is obliterated.

James Huddleston
Canton

Thanks, Gov. Snyder for teacher attacks

So there's a massive shortage in available teachers; Detroit can't find teachers.

Gov. Snyder and the Republican Legislature greatly reduced teacher wages, retirement and benefits in order to defeat the MEA. Why would anyone want to get a four-year degree, work for \$32,000 per year with no retirement

health care or pension? They can do better in private industry.

Thank you, Gov. Snyder. It's going to get a lot worse.

Tom Kelly
Plymouth

Religious liberty attacked

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck's op-ed that appeared Nov. 26 nails the current state of attack on religious liberty that is taking place in our country today.

If a sitting U.S. president were to issue a Thanksgiving Proclamation today and invite fellow citizens "to set apart, and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens" and also "... fervently implore the

interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation ...," I dare say the liberals and secularists of today would come down on Abraham Lincoln with much vitriol and disdain for violating church and state.

Sadly, this movement on religious freedom is getting away with painting the historical fact that our country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles and seeks to ban any reference to God in public. We also would not have Thanksgiving today except for the fact that Lincoln made this proclamation Oct. 3, 1863, a time when invoking religion in public was acceptable and, dare I say it, tolerated.

Ray Ferrer
Northville

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PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW

Rocks primed to continue rolling

Salem upbeat about maintaining momentum from last season

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last year was a breakout of sorts for Salem's varsity wrestling program and signs indicate the positive momentum will carry forward into the 2015-16 season.

Definitely upbeat about what this year's squad can accomplish is coach Jeremy Henderson, himself a state champion during his high school career at Salem.

Last year's team "is coming off our best season in a decade," Henderson said, referring to a Division 1 district championship, plus sending several wrestlers to the regional and states.

"We have an experienced wrestler at almost every weight class and we are being led by a great group of seniors," Henderson said. "They are all gunning for a big year. Division champs and defending the district title crown are a couple of things on the list and I think sending four or five to states is not out



Salem senior and returning D1 state qualifier Roy Foster (left) is a mainstay in the lineup.

LISA BUSHAW

of the question."

Slated to provide all-around leadership are senior captains Roy Foster (a D1 state qualifier at 189 last year), Cam

Shaughnessy (a regional qualifier at 125), Ahmad Mehsen, Russell Gaubatz, Demetrius Fields, Seth Dunn and Tyler Moore.

Title mission

"Roy wants to win a state title this year and is determined to prove he can," Henderson said. "He has come a long way and a lot of people didn't know who he was until late last season."

"But they found out real quick on the mat. He always wrestles tough and his hard to get out of good position."

Backing up Foster at 189 is Mehsen, who "gives his heart every day and is in a tough position behind Roy. But it is a reason Roy will make the podium at states this year."

The lone junior captain is Akash Rai, a regional qualifier last season at 112.

Henderson, who shares Salem coaching duties with Pete Israel, said Shaughnessy and Rai will battle it out to start at 119, "with the other going up to 125. Obviously, for dual they could switch around often. They are both good wrestlers with hopes of making it to The Palace podium this year."

Moore is another standout returnee, who will be in the lineup at 215 to open his fourth season on Salem's varsity.

See ROCKS, Page B3

GYMNASTICS PREVIEW PART 1



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Among Canton's strong cast of returnees is senior Hailey Hodgson.

Chiefs remain on the beam

State runners-up looking to continue Division 1 dominance

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Don't expect Canton's varsity gymnastics team to slow down anytime soon, especially in 2015-16.

That's how Chiefs coach John Cunningham sees things as the season gets into gear for the Division 1 runners-up.

"Lots of other good teams out there," Cunningham wrote in an email to the Observer. "But we will start ranked in the top five."

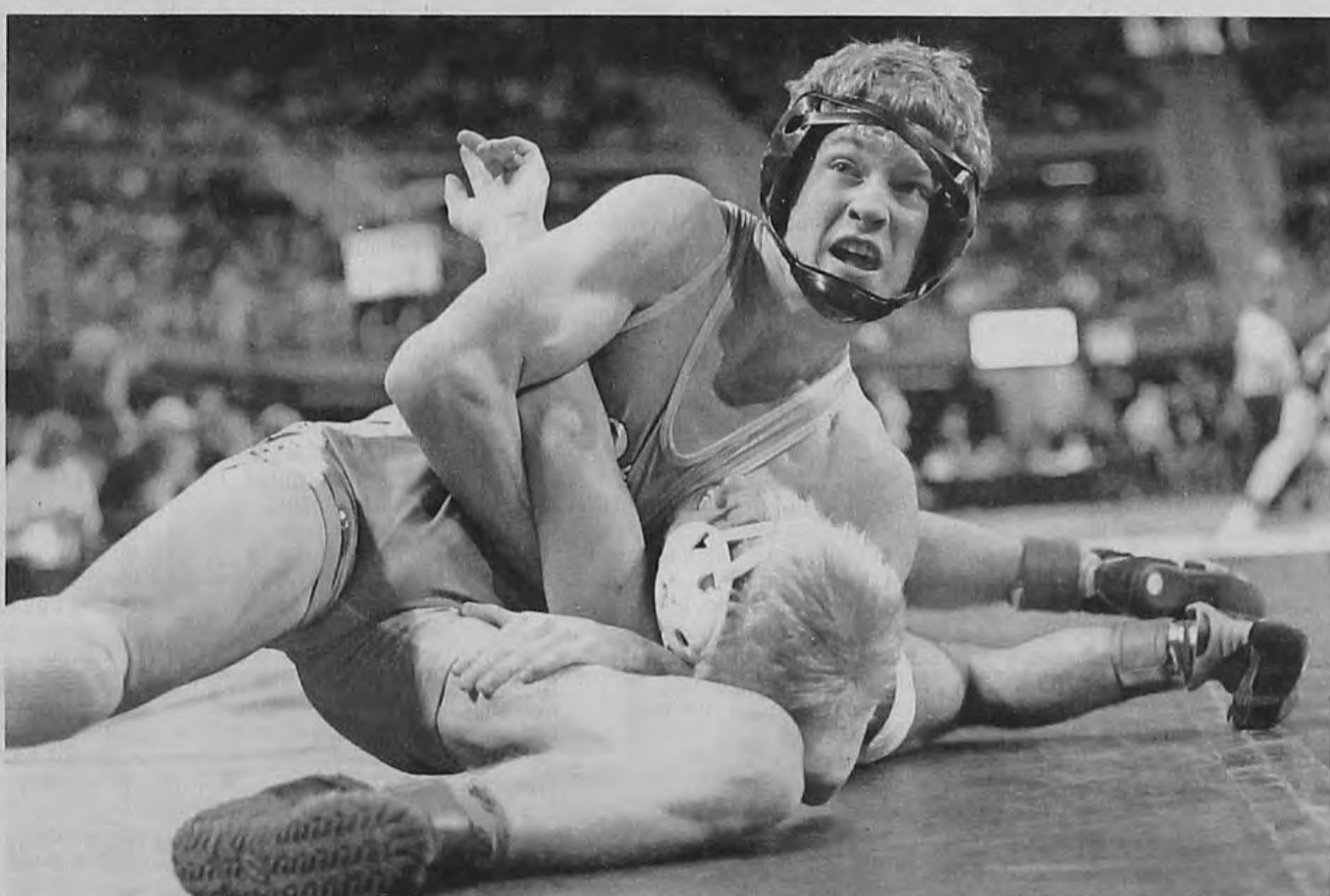
Canton finished 6-0 in KLAA meets last season (5-0 in the Kensington Division) to capture the conference and division championships. The Chiefs then went on to win the D1 team regional, but came up just short of a second consecutive state title.

Cunningham added that he expects the squad to be "just as strong" as last year's juggernaut, even with the graduation of Allison Kunz (state champion on uneven parallel bars).

It undoubtedly helps that seniors Maddie Toal, Hailey Hodgson and Stephanie Cox, junior Jana Hilditch and sophomores Katie Dickson and Rachel Socha are back

See CHIEFS, Page B3

PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

Plymouth senior 145-pounder Dylan Dwyer, shown subduing an opponent last season, is considered a contender for a state championship.

ON THE PROWL

Plymouth Wildcats planning on making life tough for KLAA rivals

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It remains to be seen how far Plymouth's varsity wrestling team can go this season, what with the graduation of several top performers from 2014-15.

Yet head coach Quinn Guernsey has a standout nucleus that could spark another winning season.

"This year's team has a lot of depth and experience," Guernsey said in a preseason overview about the squad. "But (it) is lacking in top-end talent compared to recent seasons."

"If wrestlers improve as the season goes on, we should be able to push (Westland) John Glenn for the division title. They are certainly the favorites, but we are only a couple of breaks away."

That improvement could begin as soon as Wednesday's scheduled tri-

"If wrestlers improve as the season goes on, we should be able to push (Westland) John Glenn for the division title."

QUINN GUERNSEY
Plymouth wrestling coach

meet against Belleville and Southgate Anderson and Saturday's participation at the Todd Schoenheide Challenge in Northville.

Undoubtedly, the Wildcats' lineup features a handful of athletes who could reach the podium at The Palace of Auburn Hills in early March.

Leading the list is senior 145-pounder Dylan Dwyer, who placed at the D1 state finals last season. "He

should be considered as a contender for a state title," Guernsey said.

Dwyer is one of the captains, along with seniors Collin Reed (130) and Spencer Schiftar (135) — both with the talent and work ethic to potentially get through the regional and qualify for states.

"Collin Reed and Spencer Schiftar have been competing with and beating some of the best wrestlers in the area," Guernsey said. "And this year both look to turn a corner, earning all-state status."

Other wrestlers who could help the Wildcats make a deep run are sophomore Isiah Berry (103), junior Ethan Shulaw (171) and promising newcomer Jezaan Sukhaida (119).

"Isiah Berry will look to have a breakout year after falling a round short of qualifying for the state meet last year and spending the summer

See WILDCATS, Page B3

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BOYS BASKETBALL

OFF AND RUNNING

Davis sparkles for Wildcats in 43-28 season-opening win over Redford Union

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Other than barely missing his single-game record for slam dunks and tweaking his left calf while ascending for one of his three jams Monday night against visiting Redford Union, Plymouth senior guard Brent Davis had a pretty nice debut as "The Man" for the Wildcats.

Handed the keys to the Wildcats' offense in the wake of the graduation of three top players from last season's Class A district-championship squad, Davis scored a team-high 20 points and spearheaded a mid-third quarter defensive surge that all but turned out the lights on the gutsy Panthers, who dropped a 43-28 decision.

Both teams were hit hard by graduation since last season and it showed at times during a less-than-artistic first half that ended with Plymouth clinging to a 16-13 lead.

The Panthers, who return just one player who was on the varsity roster last winter, trailed 21-17 with four minutes left in the third quarter before the Wildcats switched on the defensive after-burners while ripping off an 11-2 spurt.

Davis, who has an amazing 41-inch vertical jump — 10 inches higher than the average person — put an exclamation point on the game-changing span just over a minute into the fourth quarter when his crowd-pleasing throw-down upped Plymouth's lead to 32-19.

His final dunk came with 3:08 left in the game and gave his team a 40-26 cushion.

"I feel like coach has been preparing me for this role for two years now," said Davis, whose lower-left leg was wrapped with ice during a post-game interview. "It's a role I think I'm ready for. I like it because I don't have to be quite as cautious as before. I feel if I can drive the lane, the other team is going to focus on me, so that's when I can distribute to my teammates."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior Brent Davis (right) dribbles past a Redford Union defender Monday night.

Senior guard Kevin Hogain led RU with 10 points. Eric McCarter added nine, while first-year senior Caleb Moore contributed five points and eight rebounds.

"I like how we defended tonight, especially with how young we are," RU head coach Randall Taylor said. "One of our goals going into every game is to hold the other team to 45 points or less and we did that tonight, so that was good. We just have to figure out a way to score the basketball more. We'll get better, I'll tell you that."

Senior forward Pete Carravallah scored seven points and snatched five rebounds for the winners, while sophomore guard A.J. Neal added six points in his varsity debut.

Along with scoring five points, Plymouth senior guard Frank Brown was a beast on the boards, grabbing a team-high nine rebounds.

"I loved our effort level tonight," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "We did a great job of getting up into people tonight and making them uncomfortable. Our communication on defense was good tonight and our rebounding got a lot better in the second half."

"They came out in a 3-2 zone defense, which we don't see a lot. That was a great coaching decision by Randall, because it forced us to adjust."

Plymouth exploded out of the game and led 7-0 after Davis completed a three-point play at the 4:47 mark of the first quarter.

Slowly but surely, however, the Panthers chipped away their deficit and trailed just 16-13 at the half.

After Carravallah opened the third quarter with a long triple from the right wing, Moore scored four quick points to tighten up things again.

The pivotal sequence of the night unfolded with exactly three minutes left in the third quarter, when Brown tipped in a rebound while getting fouled. He made the free throw to extend the hosts' lead to 26-17.

On Plymouth's next possession, Carravallah hit the floor hard while getting fouled as he attacked the basket. He had to leave the game, but his replacement, Julian LeDoux, drained both free throws to make it 28-17.

ewright@hometownlife.com

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rocks can't stop Eagles in opener

Ammerman scores 27 to lift Skyline to 63-56 win

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Some late music Tuesday night by Salem's Kenny "T" Topolovec nearly lifted the Rocks to a season-opening comeback win against visiting Ann Arbor Skyline.

The senior center scored eight consecutive points in the latter stages of the fourth quarter — including a sweet baseline move to the rim — to cut a 10-point deficit to 58-54 with two minutes to go.

Unfortunately, the Eagles closed out a 63-56 varsity boys basketball win in large part to a 27-point game by sophomore guard Jack Ammerman (who drained five 3-pointers, including two from well behind the arc).

"We just had a couple turnovers that cost us," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "And if you get a couple of those nice puppies we had inside to fall, we're right back in the game."

"But give them credit; they're a tough basketball team. They play with a lot of aggression and shoot the basketball from the perimeter very well."

Leading Salem with 15 points and 16 rebounds was Topolovec, while senior guard Calin Crawford collected nine points along with three assists and three steals.

Strong on defense was junior forward Cameron Grace (eight points, seven rebounds). Chipping in seven points was senior guard Freddie McGee. Salem coughed it up 15 times and shot 18-of-60 from the floor for 30 percent.

Augmenting Ammerman for Skyline were Brandon Wade and Christian Knox with 13 and 12 points, respectively.

The Rocks led the opening quarter, 17-16, but the Eagles went up 33-27 at the half after taking advantage of Salem turnovers and off-the-mark shooting.

An example of how the game went came with about 1:30 left in the half. Crawford stole the ball, but missed on the subsequent layup.

"I thought all the players did a pretty good job for us. There wasn't a weak link out there, I don't believe," Brodie said. "We just had a couple unfortunate turnovers at times and missed shots. Otherwise, it could have gone the

other way." Skyline maintained the lead the entire second half, although the Rocks did get to within three or four points several times.

Ammerman greased the skids for Salem with successive triples from nearly 10 feet beyond the top of the arc, sandwiched around Salem guard Cam Barden's nifty scoop layout. That gave the Eagles a 50-42 edge after three quarters.

"They're a good basketball team with some weapons. They can shoot it from the outside; they got big guys inside," Brodie said. "But I was proud of the way our guys reacted; they never gave up. They kept fighting the whole time and answering the bell."

Brodie said one reason Ammerman could hit those shots was Salem defenders had to "back off because we got in a little foul trouble. But give them credit, when they're knocking those shots down, it's going to be hard to beat them."

The Rocks never quit, going on a 10-0 run in the fourth to slice the Skyline lead to 58-54. Getting it started with a bucket was Crawford. Topolovec followed with two field goals and four foul shots.

Topolovec put a charge into the home crowd when he made a strong, confident move along the baseline to score and give the Salem faithful hope.

"He had some nice moves inside," Brodie said about Topolovec. "If he would have got a couple 'and-ones' it would have been nice."

But in tune with how the night went, Skyline responded with another triple.

CANTON 53, COUNTRY DAY 49: Also Tuesday, Canton bested Detroit Country Day in the Chiefs' season opener.

Canton was led by B.Artis White (13 points), Obi Okoli (10 points) and Logan Ryan (11 points, seven rebounds and six blocks).

PCA 61, RUDOLF STEINER 41: New Plymouth Christian Academy coach Matt Windle's squad opened the season Tuesday with a victory over West Bloomfield Rudolf Steiner.

Levi Yakuber's 15 points paced the PCA attack. Contributing 12 points was Matt Malcolm, while Phillip Morby (eight points), Ian Hay (seven points, five rebounds, six steals), Luke Yakuber (seven points), Max Okolo (six points, nine boards), Layne Pries (four points) and Jayme Fadden (five boards) all helped the cause.

PCA's all-out team effort led to 38 rebounds and 18 steals.

"I thought we played as good as a first game as you could ask for from a team," Windle said. "Overall, there's still things we can look to improve obviously. But it was a great start with where we want to be going. We are moving in the right direction."

"Levi did a great job playing within the offense and just taking what was being made available to him. Matt (Malcolm) stepped up and hit some big shots in the second half."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Ocelots squeak past Owens CC

Schoolcraft makes timely plays down the stretch to improve record to 6-0

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Showing resilience and resolve, Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team gutted out a 73-69 win Saturday against visiting Owens Community College.

The Lady Ocelots battled late foul trouble, as well as the physical Express, and let a 39-30 halftime lead evaporate late in the fourth quarter.

But third-ranked Schoolcraft (6-0) stayed on course, with some clutch plays by sophomore guard T'era Nesbitt and freshman guard Jamyra Wilson (Salem) to break back out in front to stay.

"Against a good team like Owens, we finally put together four quarters," Schoolcraft head coach Kara Kinzer said. "We've kind of been struggling with that throughout the season."

"I'm happy with their play. It was up and down, but with a good team like Owens, it's going to be like that."

With the game deadlocked at 64-64 with less than two minutes to play in regulation, Nesbitt drew a foul and sank two free throws to put the Lady Ocelots in front.

She then stole the ball and led a two-one one, dishing it to Wilson, who hit the layup.

A few minutes earlier, Wilson got in the face of Briana Williams in the left cor-



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Schoolcraft College's Jade Wilson puts up a shot Saturday afternoon against Owens as teammate Jamyra Wilson (right) looks on.

ner at the Schoolcraft end of the floor and emphatically blocked the Owens player's trey attempt.

"My team looks at me for defense, so I just go out there and give it to them," said Wilson, who had 13 points and three steals. "I saw she was going to shoot it, I saw her eyes, so I was like, 'Got to get this one.' We needed a stop, because they were on a run."

"That block helped me and then the layup, that was just all focus. I hit it."

Schoolcraft closed out the victory despite Nesbitt, Rikki Scherdt and Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm) all having four fouls, each one infraction from being disqualified.

Kinzer said having any of those players foul out would

have made it challenging had the contest reached overtime.

But she stressed that this year's squad is deeper and able to overcome that kind of adversity.

"I can rely on my bench this season, we have a big bench," she said.

Enjoying an outstanding day for the Lady Ocelots was sophomore guard and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland, who scored 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Tolbert chipped in 13 points, while and freshman Rainy McCune scored 10.

For the Express (7-4), forward Ariel Bethea scored 18 points and Aysah Ingram contributed 14.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Salem comes up with some big clutch plays

Plymouth defense puts squeeze on Jaguars

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Bouncing back from a heartbreaking loss against Farmington Hills Mercy, Salem's varsity girls basketball team edged host Dearborn Divine Child, 46-44, Tuesday night.

Coming up huge for the Rocks was sophomore Lasha Petree, who scored six monumental points in the final 2:30 to enable Salem to rebound from a late 42-39 deficit.

Petree led the Rocks (2-1 overall) with 20 points and pulled down seven rebounds, while Jala Petree chipped in nine points.

It was a see-saw affair which began with Salem's Leah Moss hitting her first three shots to put the Rocks up 7-0. But the contest went back and forth the rest of the way.

Salem led 21-17 at halftime and 35-33 after three quarters, padding that lead to 39-34 during the fourth. But the Falcons went on an 8-0 run to take the lead.

Tough defense kept Divine Child from extending the lead and Lasha Petree buried a 3-pointer to tie the contest at 42-42.

After the Falcons regained the lead with another field goal, Lasha Petree was fouled

behind the arc with less than 20 seconds to go. She stepped up to the line for three foul shots and sank all three to enable Salem to go up 45-44.

Helping Salem's cause was the Falcons missing two free throws with 3.1 seconds left that likely would have sent the game into overtime.

Courtney Smithon scored 14 points for the Falcons.

Next up for Salem is a home game at 7 p.m. Tuesday against Livonia Churchill.

Plymouth prevails

Strong defensive pressure all over the court Monday night sparked visiting Plymouth to a 41-30 non-conference victory over Allen Park. It marked the first win for new Wildcats coach Ryan Ballard.

"Our kids really got relentless in the second half and played really hard," Ballard said, noting his team outscored the Jaguars 12-0 in the third quarter to break open a tight contest.

Leading the Wildcats with nine points was Cassidy Lewins, while Hannah Badger chipped in eight points.

Also big for Plymouth were contributions off the bench, notably from Bailey Brown and Gabby Chouinard, who Ballard said "did some really good things in our press."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW

Young Chiefs are 'hungry' to excel

Canton bringing energy and desire to mat for 2015-16

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With a fierce desire to compete on the wrestling mat, the Canton Chiefs collectively could overcome a lack of depth and experience in 2015-16.

At least, that's how head coach Cory Mancuso would like to see it unfold.

"We might not have the greatest numbers for a wrestling team, but the guys we do have are hungry," Mancuso said. "They come to practice each day with a positive attitude to get better and they're willing to do the extra work. That is a good sign for our future."

To that end, it is never a bad thing for a prep wrestling squad to have an athlete with the nickname "Tasmanian Devil" — which the Chiefs have in senior captain Armando Chacon.

"Armando always gives us a gutsy performance on the mat," Mancuso said. "We call him the Tasmanian Devil, because of how hard he wrestles for six minutes."

Chacon will wrestle at 160 this season, an interesting move as he was the Chiefs' 189-pounder last year.

"He is going to have to adapt to the lower weight," Mancuso said, "which means he will have to become better technically to have the success he wants to have in his final season for the Chiefs."

Joining Chacon as co-captains are senior Harrison Samoy (125) and junior Justin Winnie (130).

"Harrison just missed out on making the regional tournament last season," Mancuso said. "He is a scrappy wrestler that pushes the pace. The team will lean on him as our leader."



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

Tenacious efforts such as this one by Canton's Armando Chacon (front) will be needed in order for the Chiefs to be competitive in 2015-16.

They work it

Doing whatever it takes to get an edge in a bout is Winnie, described by Mancuso as a "great technician on the mat. His work ethic is second to none. I am expecting a breakout season for him."

The veteran coach is enthusiastic about what sophomore Zack Dehnke can accomplish as the starter at 135.

"Zack is a hard worker and has made great strides since his freshman year," Mancuso said. "He keeps getting better every day."

Juniors Jeremy Van Berkel (140), Abdelhabi Shuaib (152) and Clayton Declue (189) are listed as starters to open the season, but both Shuaib and

Declue have some competition.

Pushing Shuaib is sophomore Kelvin Buckner; Declue is No. 1 on the depth chart at 189, but freshmen James Deese and Jonathan Suppelsa will attempt to get their share of matches.

Two Chiefs with an uncontested spot in the lineup are sophomore Max Mulvaney at 215 and senior heavyweight Terrelle Crutchfield.

On their way

Mancuso pointed to a large group of promising ninth-graders, of whom several could step right into the lineup. "We have a real nice freshman class this year that is raw, but has the talent and work ethic to develop into some well-round-

ed wrestlers in the future," he said.

Deese is a three-sport athlete "with tons of talent that has the ability to really turn some heads as early as this year. If we can get his conditioning and technique to where it needs to be, watch out for this young man."

Just as promising is Chris Little, who is second at 145 to senior Sam Orr.

"(Little) has been wrestling for a long time, so wrestling comes very natural to him," Mancuso said. "He should adapt nicely to high school wrestling and do real well for us in the near future."

Freshmen will start at three weight classes: Collin Mueller (103), Alex Nesouski (119) and

one of Noah Van Berkel, Austin Rosenau or Johnathan Valchine at 171.

Canton's roster also includes several wrestlers who will be doing all they can to get into the starting lineup: sophomore Robert Laird (125), senior Walter Beavers (130) and sophomore Ben Samoy (130).

"We have a lot inexperienced guys that don't have much varsity experience," Mancuso said. "But I think because of the strong work ethic and dedication to each other, we will make great strides from the beginning of the year until the end, when it matters."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

His junior year was curtailed by a back injury suffered when he was thrown hard to the mat during a match.

"He has been having some of his best practices lately," Henderson said. "We could see Tyler go deep in the postseason as well, if he can put it all together."

Other senior starters will be Russell Gaubatz (135), Fields (171), Dunn (152) and Drew Lindsay (140).

Henderson is looking forward to seeing how all the hard work Gaubatz has put in will pay off on the mat.

"Russell is a two-year varsity wrestler so we are excited about what he can do this year," he said.

About Fields, whether or not he makes it to The Palace might just come down to staying healthy.

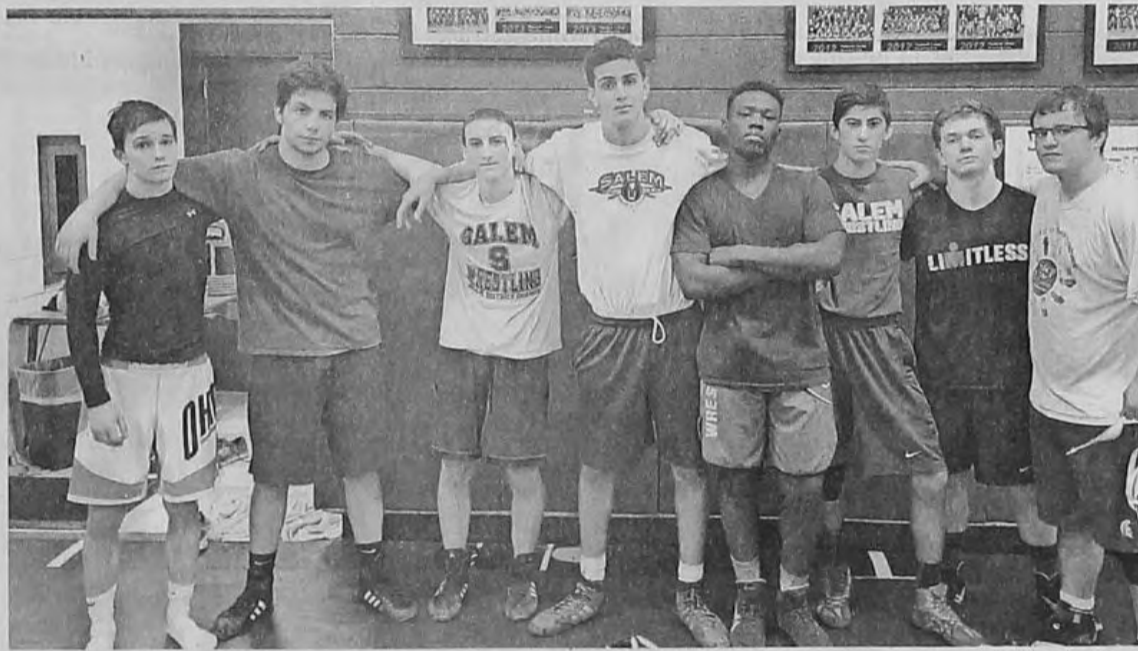
"Demetrius is one of our best wrestlers and can catch anyone anytime," Henderson said. "If he can put a good year together, we should be seeing him in a lot of finals and in the postseason."

Dunn is looking to exceed the 30 matches he won as a junior.

"Seth is one of the most competitive kids you will meet and that is a huge reason why he has gotten to where he is," Henderson said. "He has come so far."

Returning after missing 2014-15 due to injury is Lindsay. "He is excited to be back on the mat and we are excited to see that as well," Henderson said.

"He will be looking to go far this postseason and is fully capable of doing just that."



SALEM WRESTLING

Salem's varsity wrestling team has a strong group of leaders (from left): Cam Shaughnessy, Ahmad Mehsen, Russell Gaubatz, Demetrius Fields, Roy Foster, Akash Rai, Seth Dunn and Tyler Moore. All are seniors except Rai, a junior.

Starting at 145 will be junior Bruce Haslitt, winner of more than 50 matches combined during his first two seasons with the Rocks.

"Bruce has a unique style of wrestling, but it has been successful for him his entire career," the coach said. "This should be a breakout year for Bruce. He has all the tools."

Sophomore Nate Gaubatz is "poised for a big season" at 103 and Henderson noted he won't be undersized, as he was last season.

"He was only 88 pounds last year wrestling 103 and he is much closer to the weight class this year," he said.

Competition looms

Several weight classes will feature some intense competition to start, Henderson

stressed.

At 112, freshmen Colin Shultz and Mason Opie will battle it out. "Both are athletic and I am excited to see what they can do for us," he said.

Returning varsity letter winner Tyler Knop and newcomer Ali Kobeissi are in the mix to start at 130.

Both sophomores "are athletic and with some good practices could make some noise this year."

Sophomore Cullen Stroschm and junior Jake Fields are vying to start at 160.

"Both of these kids are fighters and are looking at their first time with a varsity spot," Henderson said. "It will be a tough role, but both of them will do their best and are fully capable of hanging with good competition."

Battling to start at 285 are sophomore Jake Giorgi and freshman Brennan McNeal.

"This is one of the most exciting weight classes for our team," Henderson said. "We finally have two full-size heavyweights, something we have not had in a long time, and they are both athletic big guys and it is awesome they get to work with each other."

"Both of them should hold their own, despite being underclassmen."

Rounding out the roster are freshmen Ben Bennett, Max Hirvela, Sean Barnett, Grant Schils, Dustin Murphy and Hunter Peterson.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

working with wrestlers around the state," Guernsey said.

"We also expect big steps from Ethan Shulaw, who had a successful sophomore season but should really take some steps this season in becoming a major contributor to the team in terms of wins.

"Jezan Sukhaida should also have some success at 119 for us after missing the entire year last season."

Others projected to start include sophomore Tyler Campbell (112), junior Zach Lundberg (125), senior Darwin Filey (140), senior Nourdeen Hussini (152), senior Jake Griffith (160), freshman Adam Atallah (189), junior Zach Lohrmann (215) and senior Elie Atallah (285).

Provided the newer Wildcats improve throughout the regular season, the team could advance to the regional.

"Our district should be competitive, as in years past, but I would say that Salem and us will be the teams most likely to advance, similar to last year," Guernsey said. "It should be a close dual that will come down to the last match."

"Advancing past our region, which contains Detroit Catholic Central, would be quite a challenge."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

from last year looking to prevail this time around.

Toal (state champion on balance beam), Hodgson (regional all-around champion), Dickson and Hilditch (state medalists) will spearhead the all-around lineup.

"Newcomers Katherine Najduk and Megan Johnson

(both freshmen) will give more depth to an already deep team," Cunningham said.

Strong performances can be expected from sophomore Bree Kalinski, junior Jitte Okabare, junior Kelsey Kernosek, senior Breanna Flowers, senior Breanne Henderson, junior Marissa Gubatz and sophomores Annika Wang, Paige LeFever and Sonali Mohanty.

"Annika Wang will do beam and Kernosek and Socha will

score well on floor," he said.

Handling captain duties will be Hodgson, Cox and Megan Adams.

Good start

Canton opened the season Saturday with a 135.05-117.525 victory over Vassar.

Toal led the way with first on beam (8.9), floor exercise (9.55) and all-around (35.325) while taking second on vault (8.6) and bars (8.375).

Also first was Dickson with

8.55 on bars; she also placed third on vault with 8.55.

Earning second were Hodgson (floor, 8.55) and Hilditch (beam, 8.875).

Other notable performers included Socha (third on vault, beam and floor with respective scores of 8.5, 7.8 and 8.5), Najduk (third on bars, 7.85) and Kernosek, with nice showings on beam (9.0) and floor (8.8).

"For a first meet so early in the season, this was a well-

balanced team effort with every gymnast having a good event," Cunningham said.

"High school coaches worry about both injuries and performances in December, but (we) did well in routines and came home healthy."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Rocks foiled by Franklin comeback

Salem gives up lead in third period, falls 5-4 against Patriots in OT

Livonia Franklin scored three goals during the final 3:48 of regulation Saturday night to draw even with host Salem, 4-4, before Zack Nelson deposited the game-winner into the net just under five minutes into the eight-minute overtime to give the Patriots an amazing 5-4 victory.

"You don't see comebacks like that very often," Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon said. "That's a game that our guys will tell their grandkids about and, more importantly, they learned a life lesson to keep the faith and never give up, no matter how insurmountable the odds."

Salem's Marty Mills scored the game's lone first-period goal — a power-play effort from Shawn Weldon.

Franklin scored the equalizer at the 13:52 mark of the middle period, when Chase Wallis scored from Brendan Whitney.

The Rocks scored three straight goals to seize what looked like an indestructible 4-1 lead before the Patriots began their remarkable rally.

After pulling goaltender Brian Hubbard at the 3:48 mark, Wallis scored an unassisted goal to make it 4-2.

Kolby Dewhurst added an unassisted goal approximately one minute later to bring the Patriots to within 4-3.

Wallis then completed his hat trick (from Dewhurst and Jack Engel) at the 15:24 mark. That set the stage for Nelson's overtime heroics.

(GIRLS) PCS PENGUINS 5, WALLED LAKE 4: On Friday at Arctic Edge Arena, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins prevailed as Catherine Vandobson and Brooke Gauthier each scored twice. The game-winner, in the third period, was scored by Michelle Cirino, who also assisted on two Penguins goals. Alexis Pheeny collected an assist.

(BOYS) SOUTH LYON UNIFIED 5, CANTON 0: A three-goal first period Saturday lifted South Lyon Unified to a lopsided win over the host Chiefs (0-3) Saturday at Arctic Edge Arena.

USA HOCKEY

Top line sparks NTDP U18s

Bellows, Keller, Anderson combine for 14 points in 7-4 win over Sioux City

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was "all hands on deck" night Saturday night for USA Hockey's NTDP Under-18 team against Sioux City, with a lineup depleted by injuries and game misconducts.

Five skaters were out for the United States Hockey League contest before two more players (Will Lockwood and Trent Frederic) were thrown out with game misconducts during the penalty-filled first period at USA Hockey Arena.

But thanks to the prolific top line of Kieffer Bellows, Clayton Keller and Joey Anderson, the U18s were able to outlast the Musketeers, 7-4. Anderson scored two goals and set up another, while Bellows (one goal, four assists) and Keller (one goal, five assists) also had their offensive magic working.

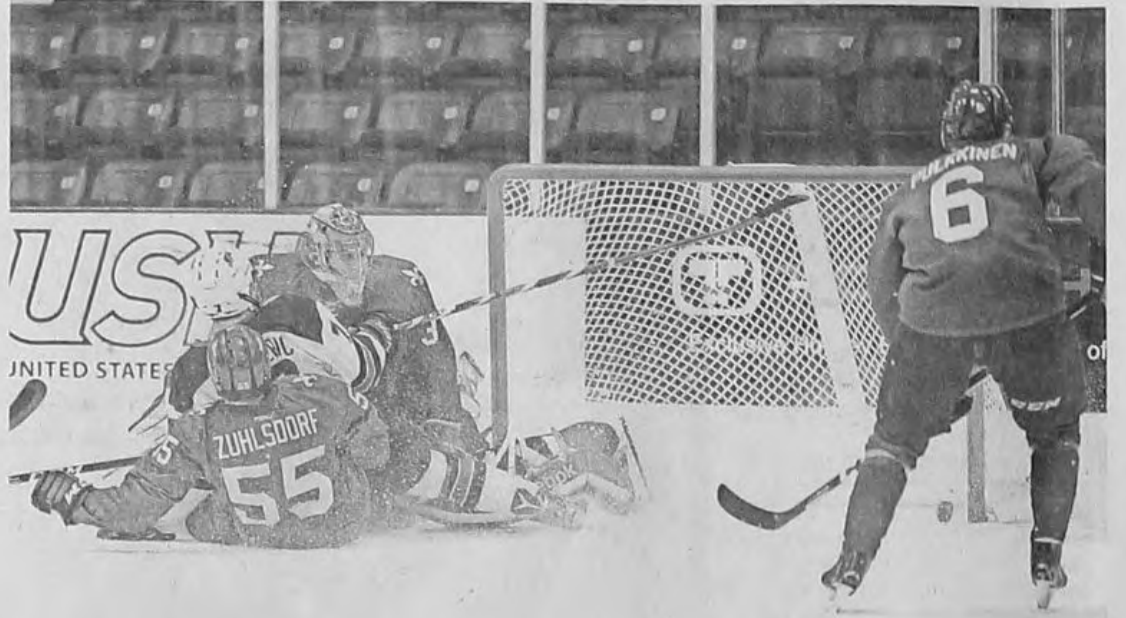
"I liked how we came out; we were physical," U18 head coach Danton Cole said. "It started really well, until we started running into the box and we were short for a good portion of the first period, but we got out of it tied at two and the guys really hunkered down."

"We were very short, five guys short to start the game and then two guys kicked out. So seven guys short. Conditioning-wise, real happy with how they just kept grinding, kept going."

Dangerous line

The Bellows-Keller-Anderson unit spearheaded the win for Team USA (9-8-1-1 in the USHL, including games played by the Under-17 team).

"They're a good line; there's a good mix," Cole said. "Probably the most important part, obviously, they have a lot of talent, but they work incredibly hard. They want the puck, they want it back



Crashing into the Sioux City goal crease is NTDP U18 forward Trent Frederic, between two defenders.

and then they're always attacking on offense."

Anderson said he has great chemistry with his linemates and a combined 14 points merely is the byproduct.

"All three of us we get along really well," the 17-year-old Minnesotan said. "I played with Kieffer growing up, so I know him pretty well."

"And I've played with Keller pretty much the whole time I've been here, so we've gotten to know each other really well and I think on the ice we kind of just know how each other plays and we kind of know how to read off each other. It works really well."

The line also prides itself on responding after the other team scores. Such was the case several times Saturday.

Midway through the middle period, Anderson scored a power-play goal (from Keller and defenseman Adam Fox) at 10:44, just over a minute after Sioux City's Matt Steeves took a stretch pass, skated into the right circle and beat U18 goalie Jake Oettinger (35 saves) to make it 3-2 Musketeers.

Keller jabbed at the puck on the doorstep and it slithered along the goal line behind Sioux City goalie Cam Gornet (37 saves). All alone at the left post to tap it in was Anderson.

At 17:58, all three members of the line were in on Bellows' goal, which gave the U18s a 4-3 edge going into the third. Bellows veered right-to-left and whipped a shot from between the circles that beat Gornet.

Anderson snapped a shot from the top of the right circle at 3:18 of the third to give Team USA a 5-3 lead. Once again, Bellows and Keller assisted.

"Any team needs a line like that," Anderson said. "It's always good to be able to go to somebody and have a quick response and turn the tide back to our team and kind of set that ball going downhill again like we want it to be and I think we do a good job of doing that."

Step forward

Sioux City would not go quietly, slicing the deficit to

5-4 at 8:29. But the U18s responded again, on a slap shot goal by Fox less than two minutes later.

Closing out the scoring was Keller's empty-netter at 19:34.

In the first period, U18 goals were scored by Frederic and Luke Martin.

According to Cole, whose team also defeated Sioux City 5-2 on Friday, the back-to-back victories against the big, physical Musketeers (10-11-0-0) represent another step forward during a long season.

"We've been winning a lot and sometimes that conceals some issues you got to work on," Cole said. "But I think the guys have done a good job mentally of understanding our goal is the U18 gold at the end of the year."

"And there's still a lot of work to be done and there's still things that we need to keep getting better at. ... They've done a great job and they've kept their heads in it."

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Trucks for Sale. FORD F-150 2011 Call Now For A Fast Approval Process #1516054A

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Trucks for Sale. Sports Utility. CHEVY EQUINOX ILT 2013 White, 8,500 Miles

Trucks for Sale. CHEVY ESCAPE 2013 SE, deep blue, certified, 40,000 miles

Trucks for Sale. CHEVY ESCAPE 2014 Titanium. FWD, one owner, 8,800 miles

Dodge. DODGE DART SXT 2013 Black, 20,000 miles, alloys, save now! \$13,988

Ford. FORD 2010 F150 XLT V8, new tires, 57k Orig. Miles. Mint Condition! \$15,000

Ford. FORD EDGE 2013 Call Now For Fast Financing Options! #15T3047A \$25,988

Ford. FORD EXPEDITION 2009 Call For Details \$32,988 #16T1078A

Ford. FORD FOCUS SE 2014 Leather, heated seats & mirrors, 25k miles

Ford. FORD FOCUS SEL 2012 FORD SYNC, BLUETOOTH, 6-SPD AUTO 15C8033A \$12,488

Ford. FORD FUSION 2014 Power Options, Automatic, Fast Approval Process! #P22289

Ford. FORD FUSION SEL 2012 White Platinum, Power Options \$11,988 #P22153

Ford. FORD TAURUS 2013 LIMITED - FWD, Sterling Gray, Tan Lthr, 30K Miles

Lincoln. LINCOLN MKS 2013 AWD, Heated Seats, Leather, 15T9401A \$25,988

Nissan. NISSAN VERSA 2012 FWD, Titanium Metallic, 30+ MPG, 52,000 Miles \$10,988

Pontiac. PONTIAC G5 2007 \$4900 Excellent condition, well maintained, good history.

Toyota. TOYOTA CAMRY SE 2012 Silver Metallic, FWD, Only 51,000 Miles

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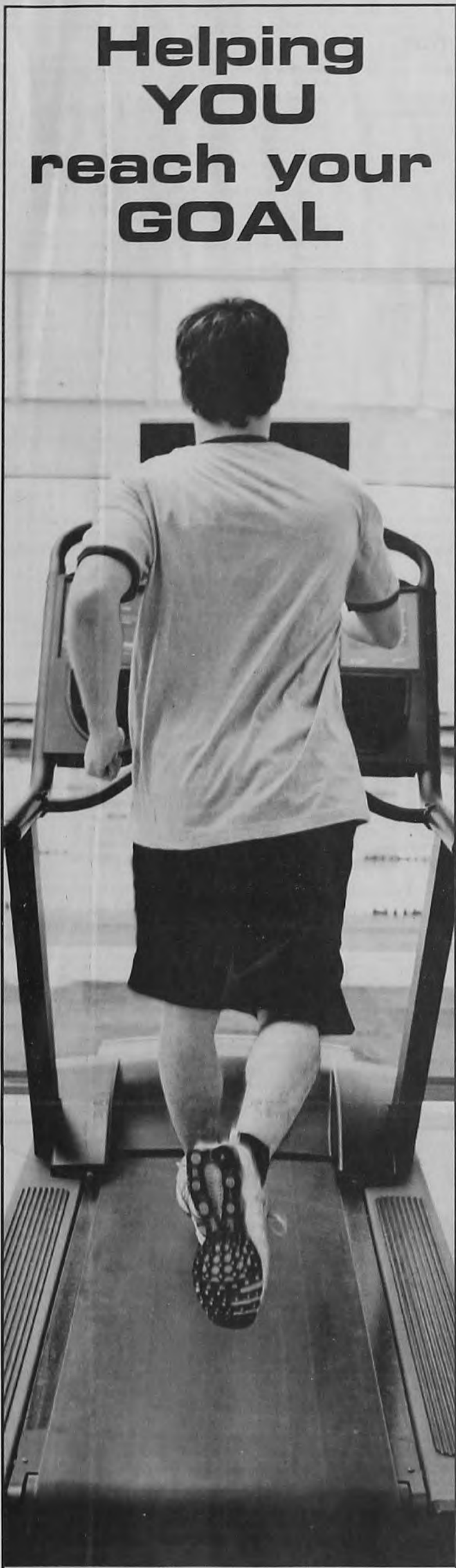
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Helping YOU reach your GOAL

THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS
 - 1 Tightrope-walking need
 - 8 Stymied
 - 15 Blurts out
 - 20 Onto
 - 21 Rhine temptress
 - 22 "Fear Factor" host Joe
 - 23 Job for someone sorting digging tools?
 - 25 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
 - 26 Barely-there beachwear
 - 27 Is ill with
 - 28 Meet in a session
 - 29 "Men in Black" role
 - 30 Satirist
 - 31 Redhead at Mel's Diner
 - 33 Title of a how-to book on delivering a tirade?
 - 35 "Give — call sometime"
 - 36 Prefix with athlete
 - 38 City WNW of Tulsa
- 39 Worker making barrels for a farm storehouse?
- 46 Near
- 51 Cello bow application
- 52 Heroic story
- 53 Bit of trickery
- 55 Edmonton hockey pro
- 56 Wanted felon
- 58 Including even the arrest documents?
- 61 Old GM make
- 62 Yaks it up
- 64 Keenly smart
- 65 1960s TV's — May Clampett
- 66 Heaven's opposite
- 67 Heavens
- 69 Prayer starter
- 71 "Ghost Hunters" channel
- 74 Beach headwear
- 76 "Exodus" author
- 77 Farming tool

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19					
20								21							22								
23							24								25								
26							27			28				29									
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111										112									113	114		115	116
117																							
121																							
124																							

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken 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 provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

WORDS

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BENCHMARK INSURANCE
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COMPANY MARKET
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CUBICLE PROFIT
DEBT RATIO
DOWN PAYMENT SALE
EARNINGS SERVICES
EMPLOYER SHARES
EQUITY STATEMENT
EXPENSE TITLE
FINANCES VALUE
FUNDING WARRANTY

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

Crossword Answers

BALANCE ATALOSS BLABS
AWAREOF LORELEI ROGAN
BANKINGOFSPADES IRLINA
BIKINI HAS BIT AGENTX
STAN FLO THGHARANGUE
GRANARYCOOPER CUOBETO
ROSTIN SAGA RUSE OBLER
OUTLAW WARRANTSANDER
GEOGABS ASTUTE BULLY
HELL SKIES GOOD
SIFYI SUNHAT URIS HOE
HOLD THE FORTRAN SWEETS
OHARA CLEM ABUG ADMITT
POBOXNO RANDBOMDELUTISE
CARRA USO ANT
INERRANTGAS NYG BAKE
DAMIEN TAP BDO ASHQBAY
EMEND CURRANTRESBOSSE
SERGI ANDOPRA WEARBIER
TAYST REENTER ESTEELS

Word Search Answers

LIQUIDATION
WARRANTY
PAYCHECK
STATEMENT
SHARES
INCOME
SERVICES
SALE
RATIO
PROFIT
PORTFOLIO
INSURANCE
MARKET
TITLE
VALUE
WARRANTY

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Trumpet players during the Winter Wonders jazz concert last year at Schoolcraft College, Livonia

LIFT YOUR SPIRITS AT WINTER WONDERS CONCERT

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Expect to hear joyous and jazzy sounds at Schoolcraft College's annual Winter Wonders concert on Monday, Dec. 14.

Riccardo Selva, Ph.D., director of the jazz studies program, hopes the upbeat holiday tunes touch hearts and lift spirits.

"When I invite people to the jazz concert, most of them in the normal demographic say, I don't like that 'out there' stuff. This concert will be very enjoyable, engaging and interesting for everybody. It's appealing to all ages. It's beautiful music," he said. "During the holiday season we need things that touch our hearts. There is nothing that does that like the arts, in an intentional way that is meant to foster reflection and stir our spirits.

"There is always a joy and sorrow, a bittersweet feel, and yet, we can celebrate that. Music has a wonderful way of bringing memories to mind and it has a wonderful way of healing."

The two-hour concert will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Diponio Room at the VisTaTech Center on the main campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Parking and admission are free, although donations will be accepted.

All ages

The program will feature the 20-member Jazz Ensemble, and seven-member Jazz Improvisation Combo. Musicians sign up for 15-week sessions through the Continuing Educa-



Riccardo Selva directs the Jazz Ensemble during the Winter Wonders concert last year at Schoolcraft College.

SUBMITTED

tion and Professional Development Department or for college credit. The groups each meet for nearly three hours one night a week. Some members are professional musicians and have played with the bands for years, some are college students who are new to jazz band performance.

"There's a good dynamic of mentoring happening. I have folks in their 70s and I've had people in their 80s before. We have engineers, doctors, teachers. I have students who went on to four-year colleges and they come back to Schoolcraft. The nice thing

about Schoolcraft is you can do your undergraduate work (elsewhere) and still come back and play."

The Winter Wonders concert will include arrangements by Gordon Goodwin, who performed at the Detroit Jazz Festival this year, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Ralph Carmichael, who arranged for Stan Kenton.

"It's very unusual because he uses unusual instruments and adds interesting colors," Selva described Carmichael's work. "Ralph is an interesting arranger."

The audience also will hear Vince Guaraldi's *Skating and Christmas Time is Here* from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Selva will juggle performance and directing during the Winter Wonders concert. He'll play lead alto sax with the ensemble and will both sing and play alto and soprano sax, flute and clarinet, with the improvisation combo.

"I'm a multitasking maniac. I'll be announcing and looking like I'm calm. And I'll be having a great time."

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 1

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

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through Dec. 12

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Small Works," an all-media juried art exhibit consists of 120 pieces that are no larger than 12-by-12 inches. A Northville Camera Club exhibit is located in the lower gallery.

Contact: 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through Jan. 31

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Dream Creatures" is a mixed

Roller skate with comedian Big Dooley in Canton

Sharon Dargay

Staff Writer

Comedian Gordon "Big" Dooley learned to roller skate when he was 6 years old and has been a fan of the sport ever since.

"I like the four wheels. That is what I grew up on," said Dooley, 37, explaining that he prefers traditional skates to the inline version. "Skating is one of those things like riding a bike. Once you've got it, you've got it for life."

The Ypsilanti resident is inviting skaters and non-skaters, age 25 and over, to the This is How We Roll skating party, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, at Skatin Station II, 8611 Ronda Drive, between Haggerty and Lilley, Canton. Tickets are \$15 at in advance and will be available at the door for a slightly higher price. The event will include a DJ playing a variety of tunes, a billiards tournament,

game tournament, and more.

"It will be fun. You don't have to skate to participate," said Dooley, who has run other skating events in conjunction with fellow alumni from Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti. He said members of the Willow Run alumni group are like-minded when it comes to skating. "It's a group of people who grew up on roller skating and are not willing to make the conversion to Rollerblades. We gather and skate and raise funds for the community."

Dooley said he plans to make the upcoming public holiday skate party an annual event.

"I think it is the perfect time. Everyone is looking for something to get out of the house once the food and family is done. It's a great day to work off Christmas dinner."

To get tickets, call United Sonz at 734-485-8889.

media solo exhibition featuring the works of Took Gallagher

Contact: 734/394-5300

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday,

Dec. 11 and 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Elf*, \$3

Coming up: *A Christmas Story*, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18; *The Polar Express*, 4:30

p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec.

19-20; *The Martian*, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 26-27 and Jan.

2-3

Contact: 734-453-0870;

www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 18, 2 p.m. and 8

p.m. Dec. 19, and 2 p.m. Dec. 20

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: *It's a Wonderful Life*, \$7. Karolyn Grimes, who played the youngest daughter, Zuzu, will be on hand for the screenings

Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordtheatre.com

LIGHTS

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31. Closed Dec. 25

Location: Enter at Hines Drive and Merriman in Westland and exit near Telegraph in Dearborn Heights

Details: Drive-through light show features nearly 50 lighted displays. Fee is \$5 per vehicle

Contact: parks.waynecounty.com; 734-261-1990

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 11-13, 18-23 and 26-31

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward Ave., Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$9 in advance and \$11 at the gate for ages 2 and older. Parking is \$5 per car. Features illuminated sculptures, holiday entertainment and activities, ice carving and arts and crafts. Buy tickets online at detroit-zoo.org/events/wild-lights

Contact: 248-541-5717

Turn holiday baking into a family activity

A staple of the holidays, flavorful desserts bring a seasonal spread together like nothing else, and whipping up those desserts is a perfect time to spend some quality time with your family. An array of tantalizing desserts can keep your family and friends around the dinner table long after the main course is gone, and give your family a new activity to bond over.

Made to vanish

When it comes to holiday baking, it's often the simplest ingredients and classic recipes that resonate best with everyone. One of which is Quaker's Vanishing Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, a family favorite that's been featured under the lid of the Quaker Old Fashioned Oats canister for 20 years. The Quaker Oats canister also is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Find more oats recipes and learn more about the iconic oat canister at quakeroats.com.

Holiday classic

Be sure to remember around the holidays that special can be simple, and recipes do not need to be complex to be guest-worthy. Keep your kitchen stocked with a few key ingredients that can be used in a variety of dishes, such as cream cheese, which is perfect in a rich, classic cheesecake and other desserts, but also lends a creamy texture to appetizers and main dishes. Find more tips and recipes to make your holiday entertaining sparkle at creamcheese.com.

From the freezer

For a festive twist to your holiday sweets, look no further than your freezer. Frozen red raspberries, with sweet and tart flavors, complement and enhance a wide range of ingredients. They also boast the most fiber and the lowest natural sugar content compared to other berries. Give your loved ones a taste of the holidays with this Raspberry Greek Yogurt Bark. Find more recipes worth sharing this holiday season at redrazz.org.

Courtesy of Family Features

VANISHING OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cooking time: 8 minutes
Makes: 4 dozen

½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened, plus 6 tablespoons
¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar
½ cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt (optional)
3 cups Quaker Oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)
1 cup raisins

Heat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, beat butter and sugars with electric mixer on medium speed until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add combined flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; mix well. Add oats and raisins; mix well. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes, or until light golden brown. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheets; move to wire rack. Cool completely. Store tightly covered.



CLASSIC CHEESECAKE

Prep time: 20 minutes
Total time: 5 hours, 45 minutes (including refrigerating)
Makes: 16 servings

1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
3 tablespoons sugar
½ cup butter or margarine, melted
4 packages (8 ounces each) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 eggs
1 cup canned cherries

Heat oven to 325 F.

Mix graham crumbs, sugar and butter; press into bottom of 9-inch springform pan.

Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla with mixer until blended. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed after each until blended. Pour over crust.

Bake 1 hour, or until center is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate 4 hours. Top with canned cherries, if desired.



RASPBERRY GREEK YOGURT BARK

Recipe courtesy of NourishRDs.com

2 cups plain, reduced-fat (2%) Greek yogurt
1 lemon, zest only
2 tablespoons honey
1 cup frozen raspberries
½ cup shelled pistachios
¼ cup slivered almonds

Line small baking pan with aluminum foil.

In medium bowl, combine first 3 ingredients. Stir until well incorporated.

Add berries, pistachios and almonds to mixture. Fold in until well incorporated. Spread mixture in baking pan and place in freezer for about 2-3 hours, or until hardened.

Once hardened, remove bark from pan and either cut or break up into pieces. Allow to thaw about 5 minutes before eating.

Notes: Store remaining bark in freezer. You can experiment with any ingredients you have on hand, such as frozen cherries with dark chocolate chunks, frozen blueberries with unsweetened flaked coconut or dried cranberries with pecans.



CITY BITES

On tap: Try 12 Dogfish Head beers at Craft Breww City

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Beer lovers can look forward to a tapping Thursday, Dec. 10 and a "tap takeover" Thursday, Dec. 17, at Craft Breww City, in Farmington Hills.

The craft beer restaurant, located at 27843 Orchard Lake Road, will tap one keg of Bourbon County Stout, brewed by Goose Island Beer Co., in Chicago, Ill., on Dec. 10. Bourbon County Stout is aged in bourbon barrels and released every November in limited quantities.

"Our rare offerings and tapings are at 6 p.m. and (the beer) is gone by 8 or 9 p.m.," said Curtis Nordeen, Craft Breww City operations director.

In October, customers lined up to get a chance to sample another rare brew, Delaware-based Dogfish Head Craft Brewers' 190 Minute IPA. The response to the sampling was



Submitted
Piercing Pils will be among the 12 Dogfish Head beers available at a "tap takeover," Dec. 17 at Craft Breww City in Farmington Hills.

overwhelming and led Nordeen to partner with Delaware-based Dogfish Head for the upcoming tap takeover.

Tap takeovers happen about once a month when the restaurant offers several beers on tap from a featured brewery.

On Dec. 17, Craft Breww City will pour Dogfish Head's 60 Minute IPA, 90 Minute IPA, Namaste, Indian Brown Pale Ale, Burton Baton, Palo Santo Marron, Fort, Higher Math, Midas Touch, Pennsylvania Tuxedo, American Beauty, and Piercing Pils, a special winter seasonal release. Nordeen has dubbed the tap takeover "12 Beers of Christmas."

"They are all really good. Dogfish Head makes unique and fantastic beers. Namaste is one we pour with good frequency here. Guests love it."

Not a Dogfish Head fan? Craft Breww City will have 28 other beer brands on tap that night.

"I have 40 beers on tap and those are always rotating," Nordeen said. "Forty kegs on draft and over 100 on bottle."

Other food and drink happenings:

Holiday pub crawl

Royal Oak — Santa Hat Pub Crawl, 1-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec.

12, costs \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door and includes stops at 13 bars and restaurants. Visit santaconroyaloak.thesocialconnectionevents.com.

Edible gifts

Livonia — Schoolcraft College's Main Street Cafe is offering edible holiday gift items 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, and 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday-Friday, through Dec. 18 at the VisTaTech Center, on the main campus, located on Haggerty, north of Six Mile. Gifts range from \$1.75-\$48 and include such items as holiday cookie bouquets and baskets with homemade sausage and goat cheese. For more information call 734-462-4675.

Holiday brunch

Plymouth — Sean O'Callaghan's Irish Pub offers a holiday brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, featuring omelets, waffles, smoked salmon, bacon, sausage, hash browns, salad bar, prime rib, ham,

corned beef hash, chocolate fountain, desserts and more. Cost is \$24.99 for adults and \$9.99 for children, 10 and under. The restaurant is located at 821 Penniman Ave. Call 734-459-6666 to make reservations.

Cookie walks

Livonia — Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, will sell Christmas cookies 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12. The early bird sale starts at 9:30 a.m. and costs \$2 admission. Cookies will be priced at \$7.50 per pound. Other baked goods will be individually priced. 734-427-2290

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 Seven Mile, between Farmington Road and Newburgh, opens its doors at 7:30 a.m. and starts its cookie sale at 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 12. The sale includes European cookies, nut, poppy seed and apricot rolls, perogies, stuffed cabbage, and sweet bread. 248-476-3432