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FOOD – B5

Time short for Headlee's former offices

Alexander Hamilton building ready
for date with the wrecking ball

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

The Alexander Hamilton building, a Farmington Hills landmark that once served as headquarters for the late insurance and tax reform giant Dick Headlee, is reportedly heading for the wrecking ball.

The 127,000-square-foot office center that overlooks I-696 was condemned more than two years ago and had safety violations numbering in the double-digits, which included some four-feet of standing water in the basement.

"The previous owner was not maintaining the building. It was unsafe," said Larry Andree, Farmington Hills building official.

While court issues still plague the building, a new owner, Mike Koza of Hamilton Court Development LLC,

purchased the center in a distress sale for \$800,000 in May. "He seems very cooperative. He has indicated he is demolishing it," said Ed Gardiner, Hills planning and community development director.

Koza did not return the *Observer's* inquiry about his plans for the site or the building that was built in 1970 and served as the headquarters of Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co., until it was moved to North Carolina in the 1990s. Since the insurance company's

move, the Farmington Hills office center has changed ownership. A number of tenants' smaller companies and offices moved into the colonial-style office center. Before Koza purchased the building earlier this year, it was listed as owned by Alexander Property Investments LLC, which was unavailable for comment.

In 2005, Alexander Property Investments LLC purchased the center—

See BUILDING, Page A2



Renovations on Hill House will continue. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COUNTY'S 'GRANDEST' 19TH CENTURY
HOUSE REOPENS FOLLOWING

HISTORIC RESTORATION

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

The Simmons-Hill House, considered the jewel of Livonia's Greenmead Historical Village, is shining brighter these days.

A \$600,000 structural renovation of the 1941 Greek revival farmhouse on Eight Mile Road, west of Newburgh Road, once considered the "grandest house in the county," was recently completed, ensuring the historic home will be preserved for many years to come.

Cosmetic improvements, including wallpapering and reupholstering, are next. Grants have been sought for reupholstering from the Quarters Organization and will be for the wallpapering as well.

The public got to tour the home, after being closed for 13 months for

the structural renovations, during the annual Livonia Christmas Walk in mid-December. The Simmons-Hill House is a staple on the Christmas Walk.

It is hoped the home will be ready for regular tours this summer, said Sue Daniel, chair of the Historical Commission and a member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

The plan is to restore the home to what it looked like when the city purchased it and the more than 100 surrounding acres for \$500,000 in 1976 from the Hill family, Daniel said.

Awesome woodwork

"This was a very nice house," she said, "one of the best." One of its most striking features is the classic 19th century woodwork throughout. "We're kind of in awe of all the wood-

work in the house," Daniel said.

The home also has five fireplaces and is surrounded by a white picket fence.

Jean Boyd Hill had every room on the main floor decorated with maroon-colored wallpaper patterned similar to that found in Colonial Williamsburg. The Historical Commission will seek to replicate each of the patterns, as some of it had to be torn off during the structural renovation work.

When anyone wrinkles a nose at the maroon color, Daniel says, "This is her house. It doesn't matter if we like it or not."

Mrs. Hill and her husband, Sherwin A. Hill, a prominent Detroit attorney, bought the home in 1920. "They were members of the Meadow



The original radiators are retained, but the entire heating plant was repaired and upgraded.

See HILL HOUSE, Page A6

Detroit man arrested in shooting death of store owner

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Farmington Hills police, with the help of other law enforcement agencies, arrested a 43-year-old Detroit man Monday afternoon in connection with Saturday's shooting death of the popular owner of Tom's Party Store at Eight Mile and Inkster Road.

The man remains unnamed pending his arraignment. The investigation will be presented to the Oakland County Prosecutor for review and appropriate charging, according to Farmington Hills police.

"Physical evidence collected from the scene and surrounding area has linked the subject to the crime," Farmington Hills police said in a press release issued late Tuesday.

Duraid "Dave" Aziz Lossia, 59, who owned the Farmington Hills party store at 20925 Inkster Road for over 20 years, was pronounced dead at the scene of the apparent armed robbery at about 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Family members gathered outside the store when they received news of the incident and some required medical help, said Farmington Hills Police Chief Chuck Nebus.



Lossia

See ARREST, Page A2

A higher calling

Watkins wants to give a voice to those impacted by mental illness

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

A year after the nation stood horrified in the wake of another school shooting in Newtown, Conn., Tom Watkins wants people to know that mental illness is much more prevalent in our society than people care to admit. It doesn't just rear its head on occasion or is isolated to incidents like Newtown, where mental illness was blamed for the shooting rampage.

As Watkins says, there isn't a zip code in America that is not impacted by mental illness.

As head of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, Watkins is helping lead a transformation in how Wayne County and the city of Detroit serve residents suffering from mental illness, developmental disabilities, seri-



Watkins

See WATKINS, Page A9



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ARREST

Continued from Page A1

A number of vigils were held outside the store this past weekend as family, friends and neighbors near the store gathered to remember Lossia, who "was a beloved member of the community," Nebus said. "They all had tears coming down their faces."

"We understand when something like this happens it shakes the community," Nebus said. "The community has really responded."

Possible reward

Lossia's home community has not been revealed at family members' request until the unidentified suspect in the shooting has been apprehended. The store remains closed. Police are working with the family and the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce to establish a reward for the apprehension of the man suspected of killing Lossia. Police on Saturday were responding to a robbery call — thought to be in a neighboring community — when a passerby flagged down a Hills officer and told him that a man had been shot

inside Tom's Party Store. The passerby told police he saw an unidentified man running out of the store when he arrived.

"The officer was flagged down right in front of Tom's Party Store," Nebus said. "The man told the officer that he went into the store and looked over the counter and saw the owner had been shot and was laying in a pool of blood."

The search

When police entered the store they found Lossia on the floor where the passerby said he was and found the cash register drawer open. Immediately, Farmington Hills police received help from the Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's Department and other nearby agencies. Helicopters and K-9 units were used to search the area for the unidentified suspect.

Evidence gathered by technicians within a 12-hour period was packaged and taken to the sheriff's department. Off-duty deputies were called in Saturday to process the evidence. Hills technicians returned to the scene Sunday and collected additional evidence, Nebus said.

Family members and

friends remained outside the store for the remainder of Saturday. "This is a tragic set of circumstances. There had not been any problems at the store for years," Nebus said.

Photographs were taken of the scene and police also have video from the store. "We're not saying yet where (where in the store) we have video. We are still following up on leads," Nebus added.

It is unknown how much cash or other items were taken in the apparent robbery. There were no other employees in the store at the time of the shooting, Nebus said.

Lossia's death was the first homicide in Farmington Hills in 2013, Nebus said. The last murder in Farmington Hills was the April 2012 death of Robert Cipriano, whose son, Tucker, and his friend, Mitchell Young, have been convicted and are serving life sentences in prison.

Visitation for Lossia was Monday at the Southfield Funeral Home, 18338 W. 12 Mile. A funeral Mass was Tuesday at Mother of God Chaldean Catholic Church, 25585 Berg Road in Southfield.

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Police seek tips in credit union robbery

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton police are continuing to investigate a robbery that occurred Saturday afternoon inside the Credit Union Family Service Center on Sheldon north of Ford Road.

No one was injured and no weapon revealed, Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said.

Police were called to the business shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday after a suspect showed a teller a note demanding cash, police said.

The suspect obtained



Canton police are seeking the public's help in finding this robbery suspect.

an undisclosed amount of money and fled on foot, Baugh said.

The only description disclosed by police is of a suspect wearing a green coat, a hat and a scarf wrapped around the face. The suspect was described as between 5-foot-3 and 5-foot-7.

Police indicated the suspect had stood in line for approximately five minutes before reaching the teller and revealing the note.

The Canton Police Department's detective bureau was called in to investigate the robbery.

Anyone who has information about the incident or the whereabouts of the suspect is asked to call the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400.

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Twitter: @CantonObserver



Long known as the headquarters for the Alexander Hamilton Life Co., and former tax reform giant, Dick Headlee, the now vacant center has been condemned.

BUILDING

Continued from Page A1

also in a distressed sale — for \$5.7 million.

"The (Alexander Property Investments LLC) wouldn't repair the building at all. She played a lot of games with us. We have had a number of fires there, as well," Andree said.

Outstanding taxes are owed on the building. The last time taxes were paid was in winter 2006. In 1997, the building had a taxable value of \$5.1 million, according to

city records.

It's unknown specifically what Kora plans to do with the site. Before it is demolished, however, the effort will become a mitigation project because of the asbestos and other contaminants at the site, Andree said.

"That will have to go through the state of Michigan," he said. "This is going to be quite involved."

Headlee was elected president and chief executive officer of Alexander Hamilton Life in 1972.

He received a heart

transplant in 1987 and then retired and moved to his home state of Utah in the 1990s.

He most well known as the author of the Headlee Amendment and chairman of the Taxpayers' Union for Tax Limitation, which led the drive to amend the state Constitution and made way for the tax reform still in place today.

In 1982, he was the Republican nominee for governor of the state of Michigan.

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CORRECTIONS

» The Dec. 22 story "Nehasil Park phase one complete" in the *Livonia Observer* should have said the man who pleaded no contest to second-degree murder charges in Nehasil's death, Terry Bowling, was sentenced to prison for the rest of his life. Bowling's brother, David Bowling, fired the shots that killed Nehasil when police confronted the two burglary suspects at a home in

Walled Lake. David Bowling died from injuries sustained from the shootout with police.

» A photo of North Farmington basketball player Jeron Rogers on page B1 of the *Farmington Observer* Dec. 22 had an incorrect photo credit with it. The photo should have been credited to Chris Fleck at www.phleekphotos.com.

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Saturday, January 4, 2014 ▶ ▶ ▶ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Student Services offices

in the McDowell Center will be open Saturday, January 4, to help students make final preparations for the winter semester. This will include:

- ▶ Registration Center
- ▶ Student Financial Services (Financial Aid and Student Accounts)
- ▶ Academic Advising Services
- ▶ Counseling Services
- ▶ Testing Center
- ▶ Admissions and Welcome Center

Class start dates for Winter 2014

- ▶ 15-week, 1st 12-week, and 1st 7-week classes: Monday, January 6
- ▶ 2nd 12-week classes: Monday, January 27
- ▶ 2nd 7-week classes: Monday, March 10
- ▶ Last day to register for Open Entry/Open Exit Class: Thursday, February 27

Answer Center Help Line: 734-462-4426



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Garden City High School students Julie Johnson and Ashlyn Jones stop to take a selfie with an alpaca during a winter carnival at the Burger Center for Students with Autism. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SELFIES CLICK FOR SOME PEOPLE

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

The people who work on the Oxford English Dictionary named it the word of the year.

President Barack Obama was photographed taking one at a memorial service for Nelson Mandela.

And Kim Kardashian ... well, who cares ... 2013 just seemed to be the year of the "selfie," which is a photograph that you take of yourself, usually with a smartphone.

David "Shavers" Christopher Marino II, who says he is known as the "Selfie King," started taking selfies in 2005 with his Apple Macbook. His modern-day selfies began in 2010 when he got an iPhone 4.

"It was the first iPhone with a front facing camera. This was a game changer, not just for me but for everyone," Marino, who grew up in Northville, said in an email from his current home in California.

"You have a chance to be in a moment and capture it ... I completely understand that for other people, this seems like a silly practice, but I would argue that those same people might not see the value in documenting your life. Those same people might not have thousands of pages of high school and college love notes saved like I



David Christopher Marino in a variety of selfies.

David "Shavers" Christopher Marino II, who says he is known as the "Selfie King," started taking selfies in 2005 with his Apple Macbook. His modern-day selfies began in 2010 when he got an iPhone 4.

do," he said.

Brandie Krzaczkowski, 28, of Redford takes selfies just about every day, she said.

Anything can prompt taking a selfie, such as the way she did her makeup that day, she said.

"It depends on how I'm feeling," she said.

Friends tease

She started the practice a couple of years ago

when she got a cell phone and started taking pictures. She has kept them all and now has more than 1,000 "maybe even 2,000," she said.

Now, all her friends know she's into selfies. "They always make fun of me for it," she said.

She uses different angles and different lighting and usually puts them up on Facebook or Instagram. "Not all of them because I take a lot," she said.

Marino, 36, also keeps a record of his selfies on Facebook or Instagram. "Obviously, my favorite selfies go up there."

He also numbers his selfies over 1,000 and also has a favorite angle and lighting.

"I figured out my angle. My favorite way to take my selfie is holding the camera up and to the right," Marino said. "The best place is in natural light in the shade."

Often selfies are taken at events or unusual locations to help commemorate the occasion.

One of Marino's most unusual selfie venues? "After breaking my

arm in two places this past May, I took selfies while waiting for the doctor," Marino said.

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

It's not exactly the creature from the Black Lagoon. But Harold Larsen was, nonetheless, surprised when he saw what looked like a good-sized lobster crawling across the snow in his backyard and slip into a pond.

"We were shoveling snow off the pond when I saw a dark object walking in the snow," said Larsen, who lives in a Farmington Hills subdivision, which has two one-acre ponds.

One of the ponds — shared with about 12 other neighbors — is in Larsen's back yard. He quickly took photos of the creature and shared them with neighbors.

Unfortunately, some of the neighbors thought Larsen had planted the creature in the snow and was pulling a prank.

No way, Larsen said. In fact, he watched the creature, believed

to be a crayfish of at least some 7 inches long, crawl back into the edge of the pond, which was not yet covered in ice.

At first glance, Larsen said the creature looked like a lobster. But it was darker in color than most lobsters and then he remembered that lobsters are found in saltwater. He checked online and then concluded it must be a crayfish.

"We have seen small crayfish in there — about 3 or 4 inches long. But nothing this big," Larsen said.

Neighbors fish in the ponds, which also have small-mouth bass. The ponds are fed from water run-off and springs, he added.

Larsen figures that perhaps thousands of eggs will eventually hatch and one day neighbors might have a crayfish boil.

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This is what Farmington Hills resident Harold Larsen saw as he was clearing snow off the pond in his backyard. At first glance, it looks like a lobster crawling in the snow. HAROLD LARSEN

What is it?

Homeowner shoveling snow sees giant crayfish crawl out of backyard pond

Judge sets competency hearing for bank robbery suspect

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A 28-year-old defendant accused of robbing a Comerica bank branch inside a Canton grocery store will undergo an evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

Nathan Michael Kuhn also will be evaluated prior to a ruling to decide if he should be held criminally responsible, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

Kuhn, described as a drifter who has lived in Livonia and Westland, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted of

bank robbery for an incident that happened about 4 p.m. Oct. 24 inside the Kroger store near Canton Center and Ford roads.

Wayne County Circuit Judge Richard Skutt has scheduled a competency hearing for Jan. 24 to determine whether Kuhn should stand trial on charges he robbed the Comerica branch.

Kuhn remains jailed with a \$500,000/10 percent bond, meaning it would cost \$50,000 for his release as he awaits the outcome of legal proceedings against him. A not-guilty plea has been placed on record for him.

Even if Kuhn manages to leave jail, Skutt has ordered him to stay away from the Kroger store and a bank employee he is accused of approaching during the robbery.

Witnesses told Canton police a man went to the bank branch, passed a note demanding money and implied he had a gun. He left with an undisclosed amount of money.

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh has said Kuhn was arrested the next day after authorities received a tip that he was seen at a Wayne motel. Baugh said police had to force their way inside a room after the suspect tried to block officers.

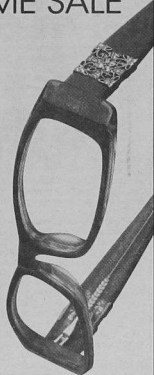
"We rushed in without incident," Baugh has said.

Police received tips of Kuhn's whereabouts after releasing surveillance photos from the robbery scene.

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Canton

Reckless driving

A 15-year-old male was reported to Wayne County juvenile authorities after Canton police learned he was driving recklessly in a parking lot while his mother was inside the Kohl's store on Ford Road near Sheldon, police said.

An off-duty police officer from Melvindale reported the teen driver on Dec. 23, saying the Garden City boy was driving 40-50 mph in a silver Ford Focus and nearly hit the Melvindale officer and his wife as they left the store. The officer had a video of the incident taken from his smartphone. The teen had a permit to drive, but because he had been driving recklessly in the Kohl's parking lot while his mother was inside the store, Canton police reported him to juvenile authorities so they could hand out the matter.

Children endangered

Canton police cited a 38-year-old Milan man for child endangerment and driving under the influence of alcohol while carrying a weapon, after police made a traffic stop shortly before 10 p.m. Dec. 27, a police report said.

Police noticed the man — accompanied by his wife and two children, ages 11 and 10 — after he pulled his gray Hyundai off Joy Road near Ronda and was seen urinating outside a church.

When police approached him, the driver showed his driver's license and his concealed pistol license, admitting he had the gun in the back of his pants, the police report said.

Police found the .45-caliber pistol described as a handgun with a round and ready to fire. The man said he and his family had gotten lost while en route to a skating rink on Joy Road in Canton.

Police determined the driver was over the legal limit for driving after consuming alcohol. He was arrested and the children were released with their mother.

Farmington Hills

Fire victim identified

Fire officials have identified the victim of a Dec. 23 house fire as Lawrence Zaczynski, 60. He died as the result of smoke inhalation at his home in the 2800 block of 10 Mile, west of Inkster Road.

The fire was discovered when family members who arrived to check on the man saw smoke coming from the house just after 10 p.m. Family members contacted the fire department from a neighbor's house, according to the fire department.

Following an investigation of the fire, the cause has been listed as accidental, said Farmington Hills Fire Marshal Jason Olaszewski. The house was significantly damaged in the fire.

When firefighters arrived, they immediately entered the house, found the man and removed him. But he had already succumbed to his injuries, according to the fire department.

Farmington

Third offenses

Farmington Public Safety officers arrested two drivers in separate incidents on their third offense of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

In the first incident at 2:30 a.m. Dec. 16, an officer stopped a vehicle on westbound U.S. near Farmington Road for drifting outside of its lane. The officer smelled alcohol in the vehicle and the driver admitted to having one drink earlier in the night. The driver was requested to perform field sobriety tests and complied.

The driver failed field sobriety tests and was arrested. In the second incident at 9:28 p.m. Dec. 16, an officer arrived at a crash at Nine Mile and Farmington Road. A driver in a black Ford SUV ran a red light on eastbound Nine Mile at Farmington Road and struck a northbound vehicle which caused the SUV to lose control and strike a stopped vehicle for westbound Nine Mile traffic.

AREA POLICE CALLS

The SUV then careened off of the stopped vehicle and struck the control box for the traffic signals over Nine Mile and Farmington Road.

Officers and paramedics tended to the injured victims who were taken to the hospital. The at-fault driver refused a breathalyzer test and was subsequently arrested for operating while intoxicated third offense.

The suspect was then transported to Botsford Hospital where a blood draw was conducted according to a search warrant. The case was turned over to the Oakland County prosecutor for review and charges.

B&E attempt

A public safety officer, who arrived at home in the 2200 block of Power Road on a report of a suspicious circumstance, learned that an unknown suspect attempted breaking into an occupied home. The suspect opened an unlocked bathroom window and moved a shower curtain. At some point the suspect was alerted to a possible occupant inside the home and fled the area on foot. There were fresh footprints in the newly melting snow. At this time, there is no suspect information.

Concealed weapon

At 12:40 a.m., Dec. 21, an officer stopped a vehicle near M-5 and Grand River for improper lane use. The officer ran the driver's license through the LEIN/SOS, the officer discovered that he had a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The officer asked him if he had a weapon on his person or in the car. The driver stated he did and that he had forgot to tell the officer about it. The driver was issued a violation for failure to disclose his concealed weapon to a police officer and was released.

Livonia

Purse reported missing

A woman came into the Livonia police station last Thursday afternoon to report her purse had been possibly stolen at the Target at 20100 Haggerty.

The woman said she was shopping at the business earlier in the week when she left her purse somewhere in the store. She went to customer service to see if someone had turned it in, but they had not. She then believed it had been stolen. The purse contained items such as her wallet, checkbook, credit card, iPhone and driver's license.

Storm door, bicycles missing

A former resident living in the 12100 block of Arcola came into the police station Sunday afternoon to report a larceny of several items from the home she was renting.

She told police she came back last week to the property she was renting for a final inspection with the landlord. When she arrived, she found the storm door missing off one of the doors and her children's bicycles missing from the garage. The woman noticed the storm door was fixed on the neighbor's house.

Break-in at business

Livonia police responded to a burglary that was reported last Thursday morning at Dunia Sweets, 15375 Inkster.

Police arrived and found glass smashed out of the front door and the cash register missing. The owner said he came back to the store that morning after stopping in the day before and found it missing. It also appeared some nuts were taken from the back room. The owner told police he was unsure of anyone that would break into the business.

Cash taken

A woman came into the Livonia police station Saturday afternoon to report some cash being taken from her purse while she was at the AMC 20,

19500 Haggerty.

The woman said she went into the theater earlier in the day to watch a movie and set her purse on the seat next to her. She said the suspect sat three seats down and left in the middle of the movie, only to come back and sit two seats away from the victim. When the movie ended, the suspect left immediately, and the woman went home. When she arrived home, she discovered the cash in her wallet was missing. The victim called the theater and they recommended she file a police report.

Plymouth Township

Cellphone hacked

A township woman reported Saturday the fraudulent use of her cellular phone account earlier in the month.

The woman told police she had received text messages from her carrier that her account's address, email and password had been changed, though she had not requested those changes. She contacted the company, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said, and learned her account had been pirated when someone purchased two cell phones at Somerset Mall in Troy.

The numbers for her husband's and her son's phones had been appropriated, she told police. The account was deactivated.

Plymouth

Store break-in

Police are seeking information in the Thanksgiving Day break-in of the Mayflower Party Shoppe on Main Street.

A brick was used to break a window at the store, and liquor and cigarettes were reported stolen, said Plymouth Lt. Jamie Grabowski. The break-in occurred shortly before 9 p.m. on Thanksgiving and was discovered by police responding to an alarm.

Anyone with information about the incident can call Grabowski at 734-453-1234, ext. 272.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING

Charter Township of Plymouth
Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of Petitions of property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose front footage constitutes more than 50% of the total front footage of the hereinafter described Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plymouth proposes a road rehabilitation project in the Country Acres of Plymouth Nos. 1, 2 & 3 Subdivision and to create a Special Assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by Special Assessment against the properties benefited therein.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth has tentatively declared its intention to make the hereinafter described improvement.

The proposed improvements shall consist of full depth removal of the existing concrete road with the placement of new concrete pavement at the entrances to the subdivision on Fellows Creek Drive, Maple Ridge Drive, Fellows Hills Drive, and various locations within the subdivision. It is understood that this is primarily a road maintenance project and therefore any drainage problems existing prior to the project will not be corrected except where said modification is necessary to protect the life of the road pavement. Excess water problems, such as standing water, etc., outside of the roadway will not be resolved by this program. It is further understood that this alternate, if permitted by the County of Wayne, could be subject to special conditions dependent upon the findings of the soils investigation report, existing subsurface conditions, etc. The proposed improvements to the existing two-lane concrete pavement shall include a complete concrete pavement replacement, as well as miscellaneous driveway and drainage work, which may be needed to facilitate the replacement of the concrete road pavement. The project commences from the north right-of-way of Ann Arbor Road and proceeds northward on Fellows Creek Drive for approximately 5200 feet to the west right-of-way of Fellows Hill Drive. The project proceeds: West from Fellows Creek Drive along W. Fellows Creek Court, and East from Fellows Creek Drive along E. Fellows Creek Court; West from Fellows Creek Drive along Top of Hill Court; South from the south right-of-way of Powell Road and proceeds along Fellows Hill Drive to Fellows Creek Drive; North from Fellows Hill Drive along Fellows Hill Court; East from Fellows Hill Drive along Pine Court, Oakview Court, Powell Ridge Court, and Ash Court; West from Fellows Hill Drive along Top of Hill Drive to Fellows Creek Drive; South from the south right-of-way of Powell Road and proceeds along Maple Ridge Drive to Fellows Creek Drive; West from Maple Ridge Drive along North Ridge Drive; South from North Ridge Drive along Maple Valley Drive.

That it has further been tentatively determined that the following described lots and parcels of land will specially benefit from said improvements and will constitute a Special Assessment District against which the cost of said improvement shall be assessed:

The district limit for frontage along Fellows Creek Drive, E. Fellows Creek Court, W. Fellows Creek Court, Fellows Hill Drive, Fellows Hill Court, Pine Court, Oak View Court, Top of Hill Drive, Top of Hill Court, Ash Court, Powell Ridge Court, Maple Ridge Drive, Maple Valley Drive, N. Ridge Drive, and North Ridge Drive, all in the Country Acres of Plymouth Nos. 1, 2 & 3 Subdivision located in Section 31, T1S, R2E, of Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth shall meet on **Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170**, for the purpose of reviewing said proposed Special Assessment District, and hearing objections to the improvement, creation of the Special Assessment District, and the assessment thereon. All persons may then and there appear and make any objections they may have to such improvement and assessment. Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount, if any, of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or agent thereof, may appear in person at the hearing, or may file an appearance or protest by letter. All parties or agents appearing in person at the hearing for purposes of protest should request the appearance be entered into the record of the meeting.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the plans, specifications, estimates of cost and recommendations of the engineer for said proposed Special Assessment District have been filed with the Township and are available for public examination at the office of the Township Clerk. The estimate of costs of such construction is in the approximate amount of \$1,029,000.00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that periodic redetermination of costs for the proposed Special Assessment District may be necessary and may be made without further notice to the record owners or parties in interest in the property.

Ms. Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth
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JUST A GROOMED TRAIL AWAY

Huron Meadows caters to cross country skiers close to home

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The high point of the winter season at Huron Meadows Metropark and for the collaborative effort to bring cross country skiing to south-east Michigan is the Frosty Freestyle/Krazy Klassic on Jan. 10-12.

There are various places to cross country ski in the metro Detroit area, but Huron Meadows has become a unique destination for local cross country skiers through its capability to have a snow-covered trail even when real snow is lacking, while also being a setting that is pure, well ... Michigan.

For the experienced and first-timer, it's a go-to, if not the go-to destination. Because of this, different parties, including REI of Northville, have come together to make the park and race event the best they can be.

"Huron Meadows Metropark is unique in that it really goes out of its way to cater to cross country skiers, from families to recreational skiers, to racers," race director Mike Muha said. "Because of that, skiers travel from Lansing, Toledo, and Clarkston travel past other, closer ski trails so they can take advantage of Huron Meadows' excellent trail grooming."

They also come from places like Northville, Milford and Livonia.

"It's a great place because they really work to make it that way and they listen really to what

the skiers want," Milford resident and ski fan Dan Yankus said.

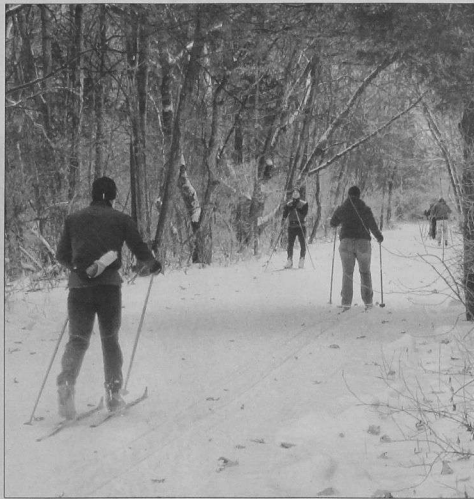
Northville resident Ken Roth is another fan and on a weekly basis tries to get out to the park for skate skiing, which is a style of cross country. For him, the partnership has made the skiing program top notch.

"Before this program began you had to drive three hours to get decent Nordic skiing," Roth said. "Now, thanks to the hard work of a handful of people and the commitment of the Metroparks, excellent skiing is available to millions of people in southeast Michigan. Ski racers, families, recreational skiers, all have access to the same facility, and the snow conditions are immaculately maintained."

Park Supervisor Adam Haberkorn is the brain behind the man-made snow process at the park, which extends and expands the season. Before a skier had to wait for snow, but now it's just a matter of temperature. However, last year the park did have skiers using its trails even with 50 degree-plus temperatures and no snow.

The process is a lot like what takes place at most downhill ski slopes, which makes their own snow. The difference at Huron Meadows is the snow is made into one big pile and then spread over a one-mile trail with a material spreader. A base of at least six inches of snow is typical.

The upcoming race has turned into the fundraiser to help with the



The trails at Huron Meadows are well groomed.

park's ski program. According to Muha, all proceeds from the race go to the park to support cross country skiing. In the past four years, the races have raised more than \$12,000 for the park with up to 220 skiers participating. The races are part of the Michigan Cup Series of races, but the shorter distances are

designed for new ski racers.

For more information on the race event, visit nordicsskieracer.com; for more information on the park and its different activities, visit metroparks.com.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, Ext. 255
[Twitter: @lhuhman](https://twitter.com/lhuhman)

Huron Meadows Metropark has become the home for many cross country skiers in southeastern Michigan.

FROSTY FREESTYLE/ KRAZY KLASIK

» **When:** Jan. 10-12
» **Where:** Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Road, Brighton
» **What:** Cross country skiing competition with all proceeds supporting the cross country skiing at Huron Meadows.
» **More info:** Visit nordicsskieracer.com/frosty

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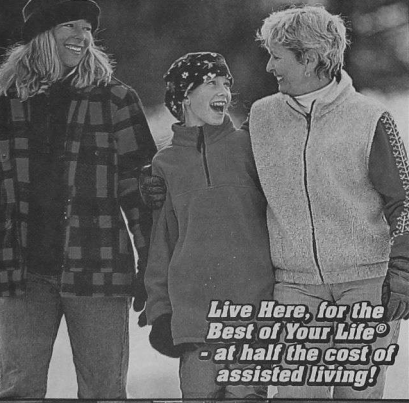
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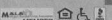
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Sue Daniel talks about the \$600,000 in renovations at Hill House. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HILL HOUSE

Continued from Page A1

Brook County Club and they would pass by this house on their way," Daniel said.

The Hills raised two daughters in the home, which they maintained with a staff of servants. The Hills made alterations to the home, including changing the direction of a stairwell to enlarge the living room, turning an adjoining shed into a sun room and adding a greenhouse on the property to ensure a steady supply of fresh flowers.

Mr. Hill died in 1963, while Mrs. Hill died in 1974. She lived in the home up until her death.

A mansion

The house was built in 1850 by Serguis P. Lyon for Joshua Simmons, the wealthiest farmer in Livonia Township and the third person to purchase property there. He and his wife had seven children.

"It would have been a mansion," Daniel said. "Most people were living in log cabins at that time."

An 1877 book on the history of Oakland County referred to it as the "grandest house in the county," Daniel said, though being on the south side of Eight Mile, it really is in Wayne County, not Oakland County.

Four generations of the Simmons family lived in the home. During the five-year period between the Simmons and Hill families owning the home, three different families lived in it.

The structural renovation work included tuck-pointing the stone basement inside and out, adding steel beams to the basement, upgrading the plumbing and electrical systems, installing a new furnace and adding air conditioning to maintain a constant temperature, replacing window mullions, refinishing the wood floors and painting some of the woodwork and ceilings.

No tax dollars used

The work was done by Integrity Building Group in Detroit. The architect was Michael Kirk of Neumann/Smith in Southfield.

About 40 percent of the Hills' furnishings remain in the home, as does a circa 1870 melodeon that belonged to Joshua Simmons' daughter.



Windows received a lot of attention during the renovation.

The money for the structural renovations came from donations from the Friends of Greenmead and admissions to Greenmead events.

"The city did not put one penny (of taxpayer dollars) into it," Daniel said.

Daniel credited Janet Bennett, wife of former Mayor Bob Bennett, as well as DeeDee Dittmar, for keeping the Friends group from disbanding in the late 1970s and then heading it up as president for about 25 years before retiring recently. Janet Bennett is now president emerita. The Friends group, now headed by Sue Foster, has contributed about \$500,000 to Greenmead over the years, Daniel said.

Bob Bennett was also extremely helpful to Greenmead while mayor, Daniel said, allowing it to collect admissions at events to raise revenue for preservation purposes. "We wouldn't be where we are today (without the Bennetts)," she said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com
313-222-2098



Note the built-in shutters on the window that slide back into the wall. The shutters had been painted in. The carpenters refurbishing the windows discovered and restored the pocket shutters to good working condition.



Plumbing was repaired and replaced, retaining original fixtures where possible.

Local doctor leads urgent care centers

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Dr. Mohammed Arsiwala of Northville believes the most important things a doctor can do for a patient is listen and be compassionate.

Those beliefs have helped him become the community doctor for many in the metro Detroit area.

"You have to listen carefully and provide compassion during what typically is a challenging moment," Arsiwala said while sitting in his office at Urgent Care of Novi.

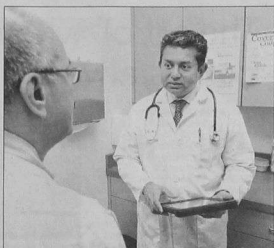
This caring touch has helped him succeed in his role as president and medical director of Michigan Urgent Care, which was founded in 1999. He's invested a lot of time and care in heading up 10 Urgent Care centers in Livingston, Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw and Monroe counties. This success has led to his appointment as the current president of the Wayne County Medical Society and Urgent Care

Association of Michigan.

He moved to the U.S. from India in 1993 and now lives in Northville, raising two sons, Akbar and Mohsin. Akbar attends the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and Mohsin is in high school.

Arsiwala practices at Urgent Care locations across the area, including centers in Novi, Livonia, Grosse Pointe Woods, Ann Arbor and Canton. The latest opening was in Waterford. After a residency at Wayne State Detroit Medical Center, as well as time at the Urgent Care at St. John Providence Hospital, he took over the state Urgent Care leadership in 2008.

These urgent care medical centers can treat things like cuts, burns, broken bones, sprains, sore throats and respiratory illnesses, as well as chest pains and urinary tract infections. The urgent care staffs are made up of board-certified physicians and physician assistants.



Dr. Mohammed Arsiwala is president and medical director of Michigan Urgent Care.

He said the care is provided with a 30-minute guarantee to all ages, all medical illnesses and all accidents/injuries/sports/physicals.

They're not primary care centers, but they are what their name means—urgent care clinics.

"Urgent care is a bridge between a doctor's office and an emergency

room," he said. "People can get quality care at a lower price at lower co-pays than at an emergency room."

About 35 percent of his patients are pediatric and the rest adults.

"Because of health insurance expansion and the need to lower costs, urgent care centers will be an important bridge

between patient and primary care providers. Urgent care centers provide comprehensive medical services when primary care providers are not available and emergency room use is not appropriate," he said.

He said they haven't seen the influx of people sign up for affordable health care that was expected, at least not yet. But he expects urgent cares to play a big part in accommodating new patients.

His team will be looking to expand into new locations Downriver and into Macomb and Oakland counties. For him, opening up new centers is a just natural progression for an important option that serves people looking for good health care.

"At the end of the day it's about the healing process and it starts when that person walks through our doors," he said.

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Twitter: @lhuhman*

Help others with Walk for Warmth

OLHSA, a community action agency, is planning its 24th annual Walk for Warmth event for Feb. 8 at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets.

Sponsored by Genesis Credit Union, the event includes walkers, sponsors and volunteers raising money to support emergency utility assistance to help keep Oakland families warm in winter.

Last year OLHSA's Oakland County Walk for Warmth brought in more than \$170,000 for utility assistance. This year, OLHSA hopes to exceed that amount.

"No one should have to choose between heating their homes or buying medicines," said Linda Zabik, Walk for Warmth Oakland chair and Public Relations/Community Involvement manager at Genesis Credit Union. "That is a simple fact that Genesis really believes, and is at the core of why we have supported Walk for Warmth for so many years."

The event that is open to families, offers music, games, refreshments, and plenty of support to raise funds prior to the Walk for Warmth itself.

Preregistration for the event is open through Jan. 31. Visit www.olhsa.org/walk4warmth to register, become a sponsor, or learn more. Day-of registration and T-shirt pickup is from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., with the Walk for Warmth beginning at 9 a.m. Enter at Bass Pro Shops.

Fatal fire caused by extension cord could be wake-up call

Shortly before 6 p.m., a North Carolina fire department was called to respond to a dwelling fire. While you never know what you might see when you arrive, these firefighters saw a house filled with smoke, being pushed out with quite some force, indicating a large fire inside.

Two of the female occupants had exited the dwelling before the first fire units arrived. One of those women had suffered burns to more than 50 percent of her body, and she was being treated by early-arriving firefighters.

After knocking down the fire by the front door,



Shadd Whitehead
GUEST COLUMNIST

firefighters made entry into the structure, and began firefighting and search operations. The fire was put out, and the woman who suffered the burn injuries was flown to a medical center by medical helicopter. She succumbed to her injuries a few days later. The cause of the fire was determined to be an overloaded extension cord in a bedroom.

While we discuss many ways to keep safer in homes, this week we

will look at the electrical issue in this particular fire.

The first step regarding electrical safety is not to use extension cords as permanent wiring. Extension cords are designed to do a job, then to be put away. I use them when I may have to drill a hole in a wall to mount something. I plug the cord in, plug the drill in, make the hole, hang the object, then put it all away. That is the intent of extension cords.

If you want to plug more items into your room than you have outlets for, this becomes a job for an electrician. They can make more outlets, and make sure it

is done safely. If you don't feel it draws too much current, plug your seasonal items into a power strip that has a ground fault circuit interrupter. This option will shut down power to the unit if it is using more than it is designed to carry.

By keeping the cord and power strip in sight, you might be more likely to remember to put them all away when the decorations come down. An often deadly scenario that I read of all too often is when an extension cord is used as permanent wiring, then run under a rug.

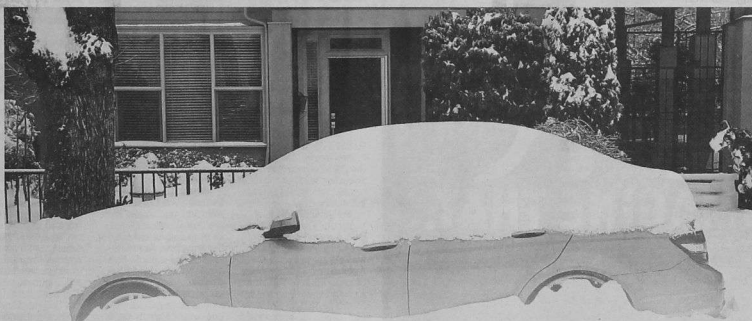
Once this happens, the traffic on the rug can

wear away at the insulating coating on the cord, eventually leading to bare spots in the wire. At that point, any heat, even from static electricity or friction, can start a smoldering fire that may not break out into flames for several hours.

Take a few minutes and check your home for any misuse of wiring. If you find any, take action to correct it.

Inspect your appliance cords for any signs of cracking or fraying, and replace them as necessary. It won't take long to get you back on the safety circuit.

Shadd Whitehead is the chief of the Livonia Fire Department.



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Start 2014 with a personal balance sheet

Happy New Year! I thank all readers for the opportunity to answer your questions and help you make better decisions with your money. It's a privilege and honor.

As we enter 2014 I have no doubt that — just like last year — this year will bring uncertainties, twists and turns and ups and downs. In other words, 2014 should be another interesting year.

A new year gives consumers an opportunity to review personal finances and try to do better than the previous year.

There are a few relatively simple steps that people can take to better their situation from a personal financial standpoint. The best way is to make a personal family balance sheet, which is nothing more than a listing of all assets and liabilities. This is important because it allows you to compare where you were a year ago and determine if you are moving in the right direction.

As a general rule, I recommend a personal family balance sheet be done twice a year.

When outlining a personal family balance sheet pay attention to liabilities. Know the interest rates you pay and whether they are tax deductible.

Don't overvalue assets

In listing assets, it is important to value them fairly. For ex-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

ample, your home should be valued not just by what you think it is worth but rather, what other homes in the area are selling for.

In addition, for items such as collectibles, the value is what you can sell them for, not what you hope they are worth.

This time of year it's also important to get a handle on what it costs you to live a month. Once again, this is a number that you should calculate at least twice a year and compare it to past years. It allows you to determine your personal increased cost of living.

The government may report what inflation is for the country but that has nothing to do with you and me. If we calculate our cost-of-living and compare it to previous years, then we know what our own individual inflation rate is and that is a relevant number.

I wish you, yours and a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year! Good luck.

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

The art of wheeling and dealing comes alive on 'Hardcore Pawn'

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Seth Gold never imagined he would end up in the family business.

The 1999 Andover High School graduate was studying pre-med at the University of Michigan, but it didn't quite feel right. Instead, he decided to join his dad behind the counter at American Jewelry and Loan, which is the largest pawn shop in Detroit and the setting for *Hardcore Pawn*, truTV's number one show.

The show is now in its eighth season and attracts over three million weekly viewers.

"I just love the fact that you never know what to expect when you're working here," said Gold. "One minute you're wrapping up a \$5 sale and the next moment you're dealing with something upwards of \$100,000. You just never know what to expect."

He joined the business in 2003. Over the past decade, he's listened to offers for rare cars, sports memorabilia and jewelry — even offers for prosthetic limbs ("we won't buy them," he notes).

The family's shop is located on Greenfield near Eight Mile. Seth works there with his sister, Ashley, and their dad, Les Gold, who started out in 1978 and is now the king of pawnbrokers.

"My dad knows everything about the business," Gold said. "Usually on the show you'll see me challenging his decisions, but honestly I'm just doing that to hear his angle on the deal. He's the first person I talk to in the morning and usually the last person I talk to at night."

Les Gold, a third-generation pawnbroker, recently spoke about the trade secrets in his best-selling book, *For What It's Worth: Business Wisdom from a Pawnbroker*.

How it works

"Pawn shops are a financial institution for the 25 million Americans who don't have bank accounts or lines of credit," said Gold. "They need money — whether it's for an anniversary or a birth-



"You just never know what to expect," Seth Gold said about the pawn business.

day. So they dust off an old item and sell it here for collateral to get a short-term loan."

What's the art of a good deal when it comes to buying or selling something?

"Do your homework," Gold said. "Realize what you have and be willing to negotiate. People want to move product, even in major retail operations, so it always pays to negotiate."

Gold describes himself as a bona fide sports fanatic — especially when it comes to the local teams in Detroit. He admits there have been a few World Series and Rose Bowl rings that he bought and was hesitant to sell.

"But then I'll sell them," he said, matter-of-factly. "I'm in the business of turning over merchandise. As for the rings, I've owned it for a second and now it's someone else's turn to own it. That's why we're in business."

Pawn shops are great barometers of the economy, Gold said, he could have predicted the financial meltdown several years ago just based on the increased number of transactions. Along those same lines, he can tell the economy has improved.

"You're on the front lines dealing with people who lost their jobs or have some type of financial problem," he said. "But they still have birthdays and other occasions and they come in here looking for a fair price."

Some of the more collectible items brought to the store have included miniature Stanley Cups and 1968 World Series rings, Gold

has also purchased his share of high-end watches and other pieces of jewelry.

One of his more expensive purchases was a Lee Iacocca Silver 45th Anniversary Edition Mustang for \$66,000. Only 45 cars are in existence and Gold has one ready for you to buy.

On a somewhat creepy note, the store just bought a copy of *The Detroit News* published right after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The newspaper carried a misprinted headline: "Kill Kennedy." Later editions correctly stated "Kennedy Killed."

Mostly, the store deals in jewelry for short-term loans. Jewelry is easy to price and it's easy to store. Electronics are also popular, as people will still buy an old VCR for \$10-\$15 so they can watch their tape collections.

Family and fame

Gold said the best part of the business, and the most challenging part, is working with family — especially his sister, Ashley.

"When it comes to doing business, I like to say she's quick and I'm correct," he said, smiling.

"Seriously, working with family is tough but rewarding. Nobody gets under your skin like family — but nobody has your back like family."

As for the fame part, Gold admits it's still a part of the job he's getting used to. Not only did his dad become a best-selling author, not only is their TV show a success — but Gold himself was just recognized as 2013 Pawnbroker of the Year by his peers. He accepted the award in July.

"I'm just a normal guy — people are sometimes surprised when they see me behind the counter," he said. "But in the end, I'm a pawnbroker. That's what I love to do."

"And this is a real live business," he said. "We have over 50 employees and we get hundreds of customers every day. Each day brings a different story and I'm just grateful to be a part of it."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com | 586-626-7030 | Twitter: @BhmEccentric

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Manager of Year

Sabrina Gaddy of Westland, regional property supervisor for FOURMIDABLE, has received the Accredited Residential Manager of the Year Award for 2013 and was appointed to the IREM Chapter 5 Board of Directors.

Gaddy is also on IREM's National Diversity Advisory Board and is the ARM committee chair for Minority Outreach, Scholarships and Diversity.

FOURMIDABLE, a Bingham Farms-based national real estate management company, also was presented with the Accredited Management Organization of the Year Award for 2013 from the Institute of Real Estate Management. This award is in recognition of continuously maintaining the highest ethical, financial and business standards in the advancement of professionalism of the Institute of Real Estate

Management

FOURMIDABLE is a national real estate management company that specializes in managing, marketing and leasing market rate, tax credit, senior and family government assisted and public housing apartment communities. For more information, call 248-593-4600 or visit www.fourmidable.com.

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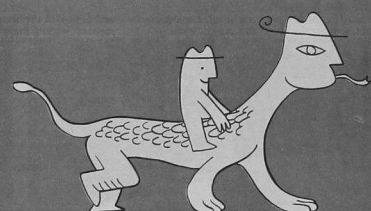
When 104.3 WOMC, Detroit's All-Christmas Hits Station, hosted Santa's Toy Castle on Dec. 13-14 to collect toys for the Salvation Army to give to low-income families, Farmington Hills company ACO showed its giving spirit. The company has been collecting buckets of toys in store for the past few weeks and staff loaded up trucks full of new gifts. Last year's Santa's Toy Castle event collected a total of 15,000 unwrapped toys for local children,

whose parents would otherwise be unable to afford to buy them.

Bank launches

Level One Bank, one of Southeast Michigan's leading community Banks, has expanded the depth of its commercial lending services with the launch of its new Equipment Finance division. Level One recently established the division in recognition of demands from businesses seeking to buy commercial equipment. Level One's equipment financing and leasing services provide clients an additional resource to help expand their businesses.

Since the launch of the new Equipment Finance division, Level One Bank has helped clients of all sizes, from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies, and various equipment types and industries, including health care, manufacturing, distribution and technology.



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Friday Night Live!

Planet D Nonet's Township Jazz Project performs South African jazz. Rivera Court, 7 & 8-30 p.m.

Sunday Music Bar

Enjoy coffee, cocktails and snacks in the refreshed Kresge Court with a performance by pianist Christina Dragone. 1-4 p.m.

Now On View

Watch Me Move: The Animation Show, FINAL WEEKEND.

On Saturday, buy one adult ticket and receive one free youth ticket!

Guest of Honor: Caravaggio's *Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy*, through January 12.

Balance of Power: A Throne for an African Prince, through March 16.

Foto Europa: 1840 to Present, through April 27.

General museum admission is free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

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Local church teens learn about homelessness

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The temperature was about 25 degrees outside Geneva Presbyterian Church on Thursday, Dec. 26, but Plymouth High School students Madelyn Degener and Julia Berg were ready.

The Canton residents were among high school youth at the Canton congregation who slept out that night in the church parking lot to learn about and experience homelessness.

"It's just a really fun thing to do with our church, to raise awareness for homeless people in Detroit," said Degener, 17, a junior at Plymouth High. This was her third year doing the Boxing Night outdoor event, and Berg's first.

"Madelyn told me about it," said Berg, 16, also a junior. "I completely supported it for the same reason, to raise awareness about homeless people in Detroit."

The teens gathered in cardboard appliance boxes, many covered with plastic, near two fires built in barrels. "It'll be fun," Degener said as she headed out from the



It's after 11 p.m. and Madelyn Degener, Julia Berg, Kelly Larson and Caitlyn Hunter are staying warm in the cardboard box shelter. This is Madelyn Degener's third time participating in the event. The others are experiencing it for the first time.

church on Sheldon north of Ford Road. "Lots of people come to visit us in the night."

She was dressed for the weather. "You layer a lot. It's really cold," Degener said.

Among the dozen or so high schoolers was Josh Doering, 15, a sophomore at Canton High School. This is the second year Doering, a Canton resident, has participated.

"We do this as a youth group to raise awareness of homeless people and get a sense of what it would be like to be home-

less," Doering said. He gets some idea from participating and from seeing others. "I don't think you can ever replicate that," said Doering, who has discussed the church project at his school. "It's come up a couple times. I've talked to a couple people about it."

Doering's clothing that night, when the temperature with wind chill dipped below 17, included two pairs of pants plus snow pants, as well as two shirts, an additional sweat shirt and hat. The teens wore hats, gloves,

boots and lots of socks. Parent Angie Stark of Canton opted to stay outside until 7 a.m. Friday, following her 8 p.m. start Thursday with the teens. Most of the adult volunteers took shifts, including Mike Graustadt of Canton, youth clerk on the first shift.

"Parents can make any time," he said. "We encourage them to come up."

This is the 20th consecutive such event, always done on Dec. 26. Boxing Day is the day those in the United Kingdom and Canada box up clothing no longer needed to give to the needy.

Genevans, who began the Boxing Night event in 1994, had fires lit by 45 and logs from the woodpile overnight. Graustadt agreed the suburban youth benefit from the experience.

"Oh, without a doubt," he said. "It allows these kids to understand and realize even a little bit what it would be like. I think it's good for them. It's getting awareness out from them and us."

Donations of warm winter clothing, winter outerwear, blankets, sleeping bags and toilet-

ries will be accepted through Jan. 10 at Geneva Presbyterian in Canton. Organizers have requested no furniture, appliances, toys or household items.

Donations may be brought to the Canton church 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Friday, Jan. 10, and the drop boxes outside the church entrance. Saturday, Jan. 11, is the planned delivery date to Open Door, an Open Door soup kitchen with other services housed at Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit.

Ben Ogden, Open Door director, joined the Geneva teens and adults Dec. 26, on an Oak Park resident, noted that the 2006 famine, a \$70,000 shortfall in 2014, due to cuts related to Detroit's bankruptcy, coming from federal Housing and Urban Development money.

"That's been a terrible struggle," said Ogden, noting the money has come in some 20 years and that his was among 19 impacted agencies. That sum represents almost half of Open Door's annual income, and he's considering resigning rather

than leave Detroit homeless for those with nowhere to go.

He said civic leaders are conscious of where homeless people congregate in Detroit, and wish to make them less prominent in the area. "But it doesn't do anything to address the problem."

Mental health and substance abuse issues are common, said Ogden, as is aging out of foster care without resources. "If you loved him, you wouldn't get rid of him," he said of such a foster teen.

Lack of education is often an issue, said Ogden, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees. He's worked some 25 years, since age 15, and has done many as handling jobs and supervisors.

"I learned how to grow plants that," he said of jobs with difficult supervisors, noting homeless people have trouble forming relationships and holding down jobs.

He described many as "Humpty Dumpty broken," adding, "It's just such a pervasive problem."

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WATKINS

Continued from Page A1

ous emotional disturbance and substance abuse disorders. The agency serves more than 72,000 people who suffer from such ailments right here in Wayne County alone.

Back in the fall, the Northville resident, who was the state schools superintendent under Gov. Rick Engler and Jennifer Granholm, was named president, CEO and executive director of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. Shortly after taking the position, the agency was transformed into an authority, and it is no longer operated by the county. It is now similar to the way the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Authority is operated. There is a 12-member board, six of whom are appointed by the mayor of Detroit and six others appointed by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

Since the switch, the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority has been implementing changes that, according to Watkins, lead to a new era of independence, growth and enlightenment about mental health issues. The group is trying to increase education, awareness and access to information for individuals and families suffering in some way from mental illness. With the expansion of Medicare under the Affordable Care Act, there are more benefits available to people for mental health care.

At the same time, Watkins and his board are trying to streamline the way the authority provides services.

"We will be seeking ways to increase services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse disorders and their families. While being good stewards of the taxpayers' money," said Watkins, who earns an annual salary of \$225,000 that is funded primarily by Medicaid, as well as state and county money.

Watkins, 60, feels he is the perfect person to be able to advocate for people who need a helping hand, but don't always know where to find it.

This role captures my professional career, providing a voice for people who are often voiceless in our society," he said. "It puts me in the middle of the state's and national health care reform and taps my admin-

istrative, leadership and health care background and political skills in a way that can help people with mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. I cannot think of a higher calling in life."

Watkins offered the following observations on a host of topics related to mental health, the DWMHA, where people can find help and what changes he would like to see implemented so his experiences like the school shooting at Sandy Hook is a thing of the past.

Observer: Explain how the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Agency has changed since it became an authority?

Watkins: On the outside there wasn't a visible change, but on the inside there was a changing of the guard that was monumental. We have a dedicated board of directors and staff who are focused on maximizing services to people with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse disorders. The authority is consumer- and community-focused, data-driven and (an) evidenced-based organization. We use these tools to provide the community with programs and services of the highest quality. It is our mission to lead and support a self-determined and recovery-oriented system that provides and manages an array of supports, services, care and treatment which honors choice, dignity and advances the quality of life for the person served, their families and the community.

Observer: Who are the main people served by the agency and

how?

Watkins: Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority serves over 74,000 people in Detroit and Wayne County with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or substance use disorder. We help to provide a wide array of programs, services and supports across the county.

Observer: How would you describe your leadership role with the agency? Have you implemented any big changes?

Watkins: As president/CEO of the authority, I see myself as leading this community mental health authority into an era of independence, growth and enlightenment about mental health issues. I am surrounded by an experienced team of professionals that are leading the way. Managing a huge public system such as the DWMHA requires a capable, focused, committed and dedicated board and staff, which I am fortunate to have support me.

I have added new leadership in the following key positions to help lead a \$640 million complex organization dedicated to serving some of our communities most vulnerable citizens.

» Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Carmen McIntyre

» Chief Information Officer, Bill Bailey

» Chief Operations Officer, Sandra Peppers

» Chief Financial Officer, Stacie Durant

» Chief of Staff, Bill Ward

In the first few months as an authority, we have identified ways

to reduce administrative costs and redirect dollars to direct care for the people we serve. Further, we plan to rebuild the entire system of care in the new year. We will be seeking ways to increase services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness, substance use disorders and their families, while being good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

Observer: How would you describe your leadership role with the agency? Have you implemented any big changes?

Watkins: As president/CEO of the authority, I see myself as leading this community mental health authority into an era of independence, growth and enlightenment about mental health issues. I am surrounded by an experienced team of professionals that are leading the way. Managing a huge public system such as the DWMHA requires a capable, focused, committed and dedicated board and staff, which I am fortunate to have support me.

We are grateful to President Obama, Gov. Snyder and the Michigan Legislature that voted to expand Medicaid to help the people we serve.

Observer: Mental illness seems to be one of the common issues in the mass shootings across the country. Why do these shootings seem to be increasing and is there anything that can be done to curb them as it relates to mental illness?

Watkins: Mental illness has been in the forefront of news headlines recently. The key to addressing these issues is to address the problem on a consistent basis instead of when a crisis arises. Education, awareness and access to informa-

tion is what will instruct everyone in our community about mental illnesses and those services that are available. We must never lose sight that mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders are equal opportunity disabilities. There is not a zip code in America that is not impacted.

Observer: Is stress and depression more prevalent during the holidays? What advice do you have for people who may be suffering from it this time of year?

Watkins: Don't isolate yourself, stay engaged with family and friends. Volunteer your time. If you know of someone who may be depressed, check on them. Don't put too much on your "to do list" – it's easy to get overwhelmed and stressed out. If you need help, reach out to family, friends or the faith-based community.

We are a phone call away. What: 800-241-9494.

Observer: What is the one thing you wish you could change when it comes to dealing with mental illness in not only Wayne County, but the nation as a whole?

Watkins: Treatment

for those with mental health issues has come leaps and bounds, but we still have a ways to go. U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow has proposed new legislation, the Excellence in Mental Health Act, which is a major step toward where we need to be. This legislation would expand access to treatment and improve the quality of care to mental health centers to those with behavioral health issues and offer services like 24-hour crisis psychiatric services and integrated treatment for mental illness and substance use disorders.

Quality mental health care is something that everyone should want and desire for the betterment of ourselves, but their families and their communities. We are not talking abstract statistics – we are talking about someone's grandparent, mom or dad, brother, sister, son or daughter – someone that is loved. We owe it to them to have the highest possible quality of care, treatment and support possible to help them recover and lead a life of dignity and respect.

kuban@hometownville.com
374-716-0783

"Why All the Household Dust?"

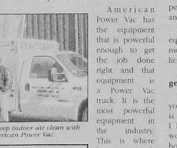
Tim Keith Meadows, owner and operator of American Power Vac, Inc. For years, I've been improving our community's health one family at a time. By now we've all heard the statistics: 50% of all illness is a direct result of poor indoor air and our indoor air is up to 90 times more polluted than outdoor air. Yet, 90% of the calls I receive everyday are from desperate people complaining about dust. They say they dust the TV on Friday, but by Sunday they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch *Dancing with the Stars*, and none of them know exactly where the dust is coming from. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not because you're a bad housekeeper, I tell people that by simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold air returns.

Cold air returns suck in dirty air, and over time it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag. Visit our website at www.americanpowervac.com for an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home. Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners are experiencing dust. While your return was being banded, your cold air return sucked all of the dust through the system and it settled on the bottom of the duct lines where a little at a time gets blown back into your home. To prove it, take a walk down into your basement, look up at the

ceiling for thin sheets of dust nailed between your floor joists. These are your cold air returns. They are the source of your dust problem. They are a good problem. You'll find that the dust is just seeping out of the edges of the floor joists. The my friend is the reason they dust the TV on Friday, but by Sunday they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch *Dancing with the Stars*, and none of them know exactly where the dust is coming from. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not because you're a bad housekeeper, I tell people that by simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold air returns.

This debris cannot be removed without a professional. What brings me to my next point: choosing an actual cleaning company. Most companies use portable units, which are like a shop vac that you would vacuum your car with, obviously a substandard solution. These companies who claim they have a truck-mounted system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van, again, absolutely useless. Visit our website for photos of our equipment.

vs. portable or truck mounted equipment at www.americanpowervac.com.



"One of the best companies I have ever had working in my home. They were very professional and I was very satisfied with their workmanship and clean up. I would hire your company again in a heartbeat and would gladly spread the word to family, friends and neighbors. Great company you have going!"
C. Miller, Bloomfield Hills
"American Power Vac is amazing. They were very professional and very courteous in manner and in how courteous you are."
L. Bernier, Sterling Heights
Visit us for more testimonials at www.americanpowervac.com

What makes the difference in our equipment? To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 CFM (cubic feet of air per minute), basically what you feel coming out of your register. Truck-mounted

equipment only moves 4,000 CFM's. American Power Vac moves over 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. That's more than triple the power of any truck-mounted equipment.

Beware of companies using cheap equipment and advertising cheap prices. Most are overcharging and advising that they are licensed and are not!

Avoid Scams by not falling for cheap get you in the door prices.

When asked what sets you apart from your competition Keith says "Honest service is number one, equipment is number two. I know the importance of being on time, knowing and respecting people's property, bones and their belongings." There are a lot of dust cleaners around but rest assured you'll receive the same Quality and Service we expect. American Power Vac is family owned and were here to help by offering a

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OUR VIEWS

Don't let
issues
fester
in 2014

Our state leaders made progress in 2013, but more often than not the biggest issues were kicked down the road.

The best news out of Lansing was the expansion of Medicaid to 470,000 low-income Michiganders through the federal Affordable Care Act. Also important was the long-debated adoption of Common Core standards for education. It took a few years to bring Michigan in line with 45 other states, but at least it finally happened. Gov. Rick Snyder should be lauded for expanding the Great Start Readiness Program with \$65 million in additional funding, allowing 16,000 more 4-year-olds to start school before kindergarten. The expansion is a bold commitment to early education, but more should be done. Double the size of the program again in 2014 and Michigan would be well on its way to leading the nation in funding preschool. Doing so would help Snyder reach the goal of having students reading proficiently at the end of third grade and pay future dividends in the effort to make Michigan competitive in the global marketplace.

There are several issues that demand attention in 2014. The cost of no-fault insurance is still too high, pending legislation threatens the vitality of our downtowns and roads all around Michigan are in deplorable condition.

No-fault debate

Far too many motorists are playing a dangerous game with Michigan's no-fault auto insurance these days. The vast majority of them don't want to risk driving without insurance; they simply can't afford to keep it. As a result, the practice of signing up for a policy but paying the premiums only long enough to get license plates is growing. In the end, the costs related to uninsured motorists go up, as well as costs for paying customers. Opposing forces have been arguing about no fault and the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association for years. In the end, little gets done and rates invariably go up yet again. Lawmakers must find common ground and do something constructive to bring down rates before the cost of auto insurance makes owning a car a luxury affordable for only the wealthy. Complete disclosure related to how MCCA sets rates would be a good start.

DDAs threatened

The state Legislature is beginning to take a serious look at eliminating or dramatically curtailing Downtown Development Authorities and Tax Increment Financing Authorities. The issue surfaced during the recent battle over whether DDAs could capture taxes earmarked for the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Institute of Arts. There is a belief among some lawmakers that these entities, which can capture taxes from other taxing authorities to improve downtowns and other districts, have gone beyond their "legislative intent." There is little doubt how important DDA groups have been to creating and maintaining many of our most vibrant downtowns. It would be a serious mistake to pass legislation that threatens the vitality of downtowns and state lawmakers had better consider all sides of the issue before doing so.

Road improvement

No one has been able to gain consensus on a plan to fix our failing road system, but the problem isn't going away. The money has to come from somewhere and prevailing wisdom is that Michigan residents wouldn't gladly pay a bit more if the money meant our roads would cease crumbling. One step that could be done right away is lowering the weights allowed for the trucking industry. It makes no sense that the federal government has a weight limit of 80,000 pounds on interstates, while Michigan allows more than double that, 169,000 pounds. Supporters of the trucking industry say Michigan calls for more axes, effectively dispersing the weight over a greater area. We'd like to see concrete proof that higher allowable weights don't do more damage to roads. Barring that, even the trucking industry concedes that allowing double the weight drives up the cost of building roads because a higher standard is used. Also clear is the fact that the higher construction standards aren't working as our roads remain, on the whole, in deplorable condition. Drive in any other state in the Midwest and it doesn't take long to see how poor Michigan's roads really are.

The bottom line is that our Legislature must find a way to reduce insurance costs, preserve our downtowns and improve roads—even if the choices that must be made aren't popular. Making tough decisions is what politicians are elected and paid well to do. Let's hope they earn their keep in 2014.

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

We asked this question throughout our Observer communities.



"To be a better person. I'm going to work on deepening my faith."

Karen Sovia
Canton



"I'm going to be working more hours, so in my free time I'm going to spend more time with my family."

Amy Lee
Canton



"I'm going to eat healthier and get more exercise. I also want to be more frugal."

Elaine Skrzynski
Canton



"I want to lose weight and get in shape."

Patty Lee
Canton



"To be the best person I can possibly be."

Jennifer Harper
Farmington Hills



"No more eating."

Nancy Priessorn
Farmington Hills



"I haven't thought about it. Keep things just the way they are."

Josh Schu
Farmington Hills



"Maybe cook at home instead of going out all of the time."

Merry Beth Tacy
Farmington Hills



"No."

John MacDonald
Farmington Hills



"I never make resolutions."

Susan Hynes
Livonia



"Yes, to be better organized."

Mark Brunett
Livonia



"Yes, to wash my kitchen floor more."

Lori Carlton
Livonia



"I don't make New Year's resolutions. I tend not to live up to them."

Ann Hunt
Plymouth



"I never make a New Year's resolution. I guess I'm not that creative."

Martha Walton
Plymouth



"I work for Jeff Glover & Associates Realtors, and mine is to hit my goals in sales."

Jolynne Mercieca
Plymouth



"To get more fit. I always eat junk food, so I'm going to try to eat better."

Mike Muysenberg
Plymouth



"Never to work again."

Steve Cantrell
Westland



"To stay out of the hospital. I've had three major surgeries in three years."

Bud Somerville
Westland



"I don't do New Year's resolutions although one year I decided to learn to do online banking."

Kim Smith
Wayne



"It's the same one every year — get the basement cleaned."

Rita Oztman
Wayne

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When Elaine Cash decided it was time to move to a senior community, she found what she was looking for in her own backyard at Abbey Park at Mill River. Born and raised on a farm just three miles away, Elaine watched the construction of Abbey Park and carefully considered the advantages offered by the community.

As the final stages of building were completed "I got me thinking," she said. "I decided, on my own, this was the answer."

Elaine knew it was time for a change; the family home that she and her husband, Jim, built in 1950 was no longer practical. The Cash Family has lived in

Lyon Township, a picturesque rural setting noted for the warmth of loving neighbors, for six generations. Moving into Abbey Park keeps Elaine close to friends and family and provides security, support and reassurance to loved ones concerned about her living alone.

While Elaine made the move to satisfy the concerns of her family, she is quick to acknowledge that she is very happy in her new home. "I am blessed to have made a best friend here," Elaine said. "I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here."

MY VERY PLEASANT SURPRISE

Just minutes from Ann Arbor, Novi and Brighton, Abbey Park's convenient location - on Milford Road across from Corrote Golf Club and just minutes from I-96 - enjoys a beautiful countryside setting, with state of the art amenities in addition to quick access to three major hospitals.

Within just a few days of Abbey Park's opening in January 2009, Elaine and her three children enjoyed a lunch and tour of the facility. She was surprised and "very impressed," with her initial visit. Elaine appreciated the beautiful landscaping of the grounds and courtyards, an elegant lobby featuring fountains, fireplaces, and a grand piano along with the welcoming

smiles of a few old friends and some new neighbors.

With any move there are decisions to be made, and so after offering the family home to her granddaughter, Elaine's first step was to find the perfect apartment in her new community. With nine floor plans ranging from one bedroom/one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets, all apartment options at Abbey Park include

a balcony or patio. Monthly rental fees include heat, water, electricity in addition to 24-hour staffing, medical monitoring, daily housekeeping, weekly laundry service, delicious meals served in the beautiful Grand Dining Room, continental breakfast and over 45 activities - including two happy hour events and live entertainment - to enjoy each week.

There were additional surprises, too: the community was luxurious and elegant but also very affordable. The meals served in the elegant dining room by attentive staff and prepared on site, were delicious. "The food is like a nice restaurant," Elaine said, and said that the employees and residents are, "Like another large family." There's a calendar full of weekly shopping trips, monthly casino excursions, Bingo, ice cream socials and destination outings, such as trips

"I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here."

Elaine Cash, Abbey Park resident



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash enjoying the beautiful grounds of Abbey Park at their annual car show.

to Frankenmuth and holiday shopping trips. Within the community, there is a theater, library, computer center, fitness center, hair salon and physical therapists on site. Medicare-certified optional personal care services are also available.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE MY NEW HOME

Elaine was quick to credit the leadership of the staff with the spirit of community and a calendar full of celebrations. "To me, [Administrator] Tamra Ward and [Hospitality Director] Charles Duty are 'Abbey Park,' plus of course, their wonderful, friendly, caring staff." Elaine's social calendar is full of parties and events. There's a champagne brunch

every Sunday, birthday parties, Grandkids Halloween Carnival, Grandparent's Day Luau, Oktoberfest and Abbey Park's Festival of Trees. There's a delicious menu for each holiday and celebration dinners are open to family and friends. Abbey Park at Mill River offers a Facebook page that is updated after each event for the enjoyment of the residents and their loved ones.

Soon after her move to Abbey Park at Mill River, Elaine met owners Dr. Benjamin Stein, Joe Norber and Edward Rosenbaum during one of their weekly site visits. "I told them how much I loved it here," Elaine said "I am a walking commercial for Abbey Park."

Elaine celebrated her fourth anniversary as a resident at Abbey Park in September and enjoys being part of the Abbey Park family. "I have loved every single day here," she said.



Left: Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash is surrounded by family at last year's Christmas party.

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DELI

Boar's Head Tavern Ham	\$7.49 lb	Boar's Head	Dietz & Watson Honey BBQ Chicken	\$7.99 lb	Save \$2.00 lb	Joe's Signature Old Fashion Ham	\$5.99 lb	Save \$1.00 lb	Hoffman's Super Sharp Cheese	\$5.99 lb	Save \$3.50 lb	Joe's Signature Cole Slaw	\$2.99 lb	Save \$1.00 lb
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Boar's Head Everroast Chicken	\$6.99 lb	Boar's Head	Dietz & Watson Swiss Cheese	\$7.99 lb	Save \$2.00 lb	Hoffman's Hard Salami	\$5.99 lb	Save \$2.00 lb	Boar's Head Muenster Cheese	\$4.99 lb	Boar's Head	Parrano Gouda Cheese	\$11.99 lb	Save \$4.00 lb

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SECTION B (•)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014
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SPORTS

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Crusaders shock U-D Mercy

Red-hot Kloster scores 24 in 86-76 win at Calihan Hall

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It may not go down as the biggest win in Madonna University women's basketball history, but it will certainly go down as the most surprising.

The Crusaders led from start to finish Monday night at Calihan Hall and stunned NCAA Division I foe University of Detroit Mercy, 86-76.

This one certainly came out of left field because the Crusaders, who came into the game

with a 5-8 record and a four-game losing streak, had given up 148 points in their previous game (Dec. 20) against fellow NAIA member Olivet Nazarene (Ill.) University.

Carrie Kloster, a 5-foot-10 senior forward from Ida who scored only 12 points all last season, had her finest hour as a Crusader, scoring a team-high 24 points, including 6-of-12 shots from 3-point range.

The lefty had already notched a career-high 15 by halftime as the Crusaders led 42-29.

Kloster also pulled down a career-high 14 rebounds, including 13 on the defensive end.

"My teammates did a really good job getting me the ball," Kloster said. "(Rachel) Melcher penetrated and was able to kick it out to me. She did a really good job penetrating and creating the shot."

Junior forward Chelsea Williams (Livonia Franklin) added 18 points, hitting 3-of-6 beyond the arc, while Melcher, a senior point guard, contributed 13 points and nine assists before fouling out with 4:27 remaining.

"There were players hitting their shots, driving to the basket, getting important rebounds," Melcher said. "Every-

See UPSET, Page B4



Madonna senior forward Carrie Kloster is all smiles after hitting two triples in win in Monday's 86-76 win over Detroit Mercy. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thomann services

A memorial gathering for longtime Salem High School basketball coach Fred Thomann will be held 9:10-30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth.

A memorial service will follow the gathering.

Thomann died Friday, Dec. 27, at the age of 71. He is survived by a sister, Gloria Shelton, and a niece, Tanya Thomann.

Thomann coached high school basketball for four decades and was a teacher in the Taylor, Willow Run and Plymouth-Canton school districts for 30 years.

In 1988, he was named teacher of the year by the Wayne County Intermediate School District.

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

MORE THAN A RACE



Runners get off to a fast start during Sunday's Rock the Clock 5K in downtown Plymouth. Close to 500 people participated in the inaugural event.

First Rock the Clock 5K benefits camp for children with Type 1 diabetes

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Most of the close to 500 runners who participated in Sunday's inaugural Rock the Clock 5K Run/Walk through the streets of downtown Plymouth were insulated from the chilly, late-December air by the latest in thermal running gear.

But it was the event's heartwarming cause that provided the most enduring layer of comfort.

People from 9 to 76 years old – some avid runners, others just wanting to cover the 3.1-mile course without pulling a muscle – braved the mid-20s temperatures not seeking personal-best times, but to assist the Gerard Meteyer Foundation, a charity that raises money for Camp Midicha, a camp that offers a fun-filled haven for kids who battle the relentless effects of Type 1 diabetes.

Meteyer, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of 9, died in 2007 at the age of 34



Anthony Nowak of Westland runs the 5K with Jessica McCain of Waterford. Both finished with a time of 31:58. PHOTOS BY KATHRYN HANSEN

as a result of a low-sugar incident.

"When Gerard passed away, it was incredibly tragic, but it also served as a catalyst for my family to do something good," said Kyle Meteyer, Gerard's younger

brother, referring to the development of the foundation. "We had always contributed a few dollars to charity and that sort of thing, but this gave us a chance to affect a lot more people in a meaningful way."

This past summer, Kyle Meteyer's good friends Charlie Stamboulion and Nick Allen – both former standout cross-country runners at Wayne State University – approached the Salem High School teacher about launching a 5K run that would benefit the Gerard Meteyer Foundation.

"When they asked me if I'd be interested, I couldn't say yes fast enough," Meteyer said moments after he crossed the race's finish line in front of the Penn Theatre. "Just seeing how all this came together and looking around at the scene today, it feels great. I know Gerard would feel very appreciative of all this. He'd be right here running with us."

Since his brother's foundation has very little overhead, Kyle Meteyer said a high percentage of the funds raised Sunday will go directly to Camp Midicha's cause.

"The first annual Rock the Clock Run was a huge success," Stamboulion said. "I'd like to thank the Meteyer family, along with all the participants, volunteers and sponsors. We couldn't have done it without them."

See RACE, Page B4

GC alumni hoop game

The Garden City High School girls basketball program will be holding its annual alumni game Friday night in the Cougars' gymnasium.

All former Garden City players who are interested in playing in this year's game should contact head coach Michele Tyree at mtyree@gardencityschools.com.

The public is invited to watch the former Cougars square off against the current team.

Stevenson grapplers take second

Livonia Stevenson's wrestling team stayed busy during the Christmas holidays by earning a runner-up finish in the 16th annual Michael Adamson Invitational, held Saturday at Ionia High School.

Carston City Crystal captured the team title with 349.5 points, followed by the Spartans (277), Jackson Lumen Christi (241), Wyoming Tri-Unity Christian (200), Portland (195), Delton Kellogg (184), Ionia (162), Lansing Eastern (154.5), Onaway (110) and Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern (100).

Stevenson was led by tournament champions Trevor Demers (130 pounds) and Connor Vaughan (171), both whom went undefeated on the day.

Other medalists for the Spartans included Majdi Hatem (160), second; Tyler Statham (135), Jake Tennis (145) and Brad Scott (189), third; and Castor Rodgers (130) and Sandro Lytwyn (140), fourth.

"This is a great tournament for our kids because everyone gets five mat time," Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan said. "Mat time is the most important way for us to get better during this time of the season."

"We still have a few key guys out with injuries, allowing some of our ninth- and 10th-graders to get valuable experience."

HOCKEYTOWN WINTER FESTIVAL

Goalie's magical night lifts Whalers at Comerica

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It already was a special night for the Plymouth Whalers, playing London at Comerica Park in Detroit.

And that was before Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic put on a display that sparked Plymouth's 2-1 shootout victory in the nightcap of Sunday's Hockeytown Winter Festival twinbill.

Nedeljkovic came within 2:14 of blanking the reigning Ontario Hockey League champions – giving up only a power-play goal to Chris Tierney that tied the game at 1-1.

The Knights then nearly won in overtime. But Nedeljkovic performed leather larceny against Matt Rupert to snag a dangerous point-blank shot as a Plymouth penalty expired.

"I was right next to him,"

Plymouth defenseman and captain Nick Malysa said. "I thought that was in, but then I just saw Ned's glove flash."

"It was one of those saves you're just dumbfounded, how someone could do that? But that's Ned, he does it all the time. We're just used to it by now."

That was one of seven OT stops by Nedeljkovic, who turned aside 44 of 45 for the game.

Plymouth (13-20-0-4) then won in the shootout on goals by Zach Lorentz and Francesco Vilardi.

After Vilardi beat London goalie Jake Patterson (25 saves), Nedeljkovic needed a stop to clinch the win and he sprawled to his left to deny the last-chance bid by Ryan Rupert.



Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (No. 39) dives to make sure London's Ryan Rupert (No. 64) does not get the puck past him Sunday night at Comerica Park. Helping out for the Whalers are Mitch Jones (No. 6) and Zach Lorentz (No. 9). RENA LAVERTY / PLYMOUTH WHALERS

See WHALERS, Page B4

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

CC hands Thurston pre-New Year's setback

Lee's 24 lead CC to 26-point victory over visiting Eagles

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central senior guard Noah Lee's point total matched his uniform number Monday night against visiting Redford Thurston.

That wouldn't have been an issue for the Eagles if Lee wore No. 2, but he wears 24 – and he wears it well.

Lee's big night – combined with the fact that the Eagles' perimeter shooting was colder than a plate of Christmas leftovers – led the Shamrocks to a 64-38 home victory.

CC improved to 3-1 on the season, while Thurston slipped to 4-4.

Lee may not have been the quickest player on the court Monday night, but he's equipped with a few valuable intangibles that make him a consistent contributor, CC head coach Bill Dyer said.

"Noah is one of the toughest kids we've had out here in the eight years I've been here," Dyer said. "He works and works and he's gritty."

From the opening jump, the Eagles never seemed to get in sync at either end of the court.

They followed up a 3-for-14 shooting effort in the first quarter with a 4-for-19 stretch in the second, which resulted in an ominous 35-19 halftime



Redford Thurston's Isiah Crofford secures a rebound during Monday's game against Novi Detroit Catholic Central. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT

deficit.

While the Shamrocks consistently worked the ball into the paint for high-percentage attempts, Thurston settled for longer-range shots that more often than not didn't find the net.

CC made 14-of-25 field-goal attempts during the opening 16 minutes.

"We have a group of kids who all get along, so they pass the ball to one another," Dyer said.

Thurston came out of the halftime locker room with an extra surge of energy as it forced back-to-back Shamrocks turnovers.

But the Eagles' energy spike proved to be only temporary, as the Shamrocks outscored their visitors 28-10 in the quarter to turn the final eight minutes into garbage time for both teams' reserves.

Charlie Ryan netted 15

points and five rebounds for the winners, who out-rebounded the Eagles 39-22.

Ryan and the rest of the Shamrocks' big men did a solid job of neutralizing Thurston's 6-foot-5 inside dynamo Otis Kemutambah, who was held to just six points. Xavier Crofford led the Eagles with eight points.

CC visited the free-throw line 20 times, making 12. Thurston was 8-for-13 from the stripe.

Thurston connected on just 13-of-58 field-goal attempts (22.4 percent), while the Shamrocks made 24-of-51 shots (48 percent).

"We had a few days off over the break, so the guys were rested," Dyer said.

"And they played like it. They played with a lot of energy tonight."

ewright@hometownlife.com



Novi Detroit Catholic Central senior guard Noah Lee pumped in 24 points Monday night against Redford Thurston.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Glenn rally falls short in Meijer Hall of Fame Classic, 58-54

The Westland John Glenn boys basketball team made a furious fourth-quarter comeback, but came up short Saturday against Lansing Eastern, 58-54, in the Meijer Muskegon Area Sports Hall of Fame Classic hosted by Reeths-Puffer High School.

The Rockets, who slipped to 2-4 overall, trailed 26-25 at halftime and 40-30 after three quarters before pulling within two in the fourth.

Ralph Parks scored 11 points in a losing cause, while DeAngelos Kirskey and Mychal Bradley added nine apiece for the

Rockets, who outscored Eastern 24-18 in the fourth quarter.

Dre Dentmore paced the victorious Quakers (5-0) with a game-high 19 points.

Clarenceville loses
Livonia Clarenceville

(4-2) couldn't overcome a sluggish first quarter as Saline (2-3) led wire to wire in a 61-49 consolation game win Saturday at the Northville Tournament.

The Hornets took control by jumping out to a 12-0 lead. They led 15-9 after one quarter and

25-20 at halftime.

Cam Cole scored a game-high 17 points to lead four Saline players in double figures. Max Recknagel added 12, while Erik Jacobsen and Michael Gale scored 11 apiece.

Kimani Dooley led Clarenceville with 18

points, while Jawan Nelson chipped in with 11.

"We lost the game in the first quarter," Clarenceville coach Justin Johnson said. "They were pressing and we were scrambling."

Clarenceville made 7-of-12 free throws, while Saline hit 9-of-13.

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CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2803-Independent Carpet One-1400 N. Wayne Road
Req. for a prohibited sign variance from Ord. 248 in order to change the panels on the existing sign to install a 60 sq. ft. LED panel; whereas Sec.15.3.2(a) states that any sign which incorporates any flashing or moving lights, or exposed incandescent light bulbs, except as specifically permitted, is prohibited.

Published: January 2, 2014

LD-00007-70000-04-01

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement:

Construction of **LAKEHILLS DRIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** to be located in the City as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Lakehills Drive	Inkster Road	Cal-de-sac

That plans and specifications outlining the improvement and the location thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination, along with the costs of said project, which are proposed as follows:

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT:	\$ 220,500
PERCENT OF COST ASSESSED TO DISTRICT:	\$ 32,775
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST TO DISTRICT:	\$ 178,100
AVERAGE COST PER BASE UNIT TO BE ASSESSED:	\$ 12,454.55

That the City Council has tentatively designated the proposed special assessment district to include the following properties:

TIN, R9E, SECTION 1, INCLUDING TAX IDENTIFICATION PARCEL NUMBERS:

22-23-01-276-023 - 031
22-23-01-278-014 - 015
22-23-01-278-003 - 007

That the City Council will meet in the City Hall Council Chamber, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 13th of January, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., to hear and consider any comments in opposition or in favor of said improvement.

If the City Council approves the making of the improvements, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the improvements. Act 186 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1973, as amended, provides that the special assessment must be protested at the hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any dispute involving the special assessment. The hearing for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll will be held, if at all, at some time in the future pursuant to notice given as required by law. Appearance and protest at such hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

PHONE: 248/871-2420

PAMELA B. SMITH, MMC
CITY CLERK
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Mailed: December 26, 2013
Published: December 29, 2013 and
January 2, 2014
Farmington Observer

Parling: A model of perseverance at GVSU

Former Salem gridiron star shrugs off injuries to lead Lakers' long playoff run

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Heath Parling's body has endured such a pounding during his first five years as a quarterback at Grand Valley State University that he would be an ideal spokesman for Timex ("Takes a licking, but keeps on ticking.")

Despite suffering a torn back muscle and a separated throwing shoulder in the past five months alone, Parling did much more than just tick for GVSU this season. Although he missed three games while recuperating from the shoulder injury, the former Salem High School three-sport stand-out threw for 2,441 yards and 27 touchdowns while leading the Lakers to the NCAA Division II semifinals.

"With the injuries and all, my arm was never really 100 percent so I had to adapt a little bit," Parling said, reflecting back on his painful, yet successful, 2013 campaign. "I couldn't throw the long ball like I wanted to, so I had to take what the defense gave us on the shorter routes. I had to change up my footwork a little bit and get a little quicker with my feet."

Parling was no stranger to adversity. Three games into the 2012 season, he tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee, ending his year. So while the personable



Heath Parling threw for more than 2,400 yards and 27 touchdowns this season for Grand Valley State University despite missing three games due to injury. GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

former Rock had received a degree in secondary education when he graduates from GVSU in May, he could no doubt teach a college-level course in physical therapy.

"The hardest part about getting injured and having to sit out is being away from my teammates and coaches," he said. "When I hurt my knee last year, it was a big blow at first and I was really down because I thought I was finally getting where I wanted to be as a college quarterback. But after a few weeks, you learn to deal with it and use the adversity as motivation."

In the days following his season-ending injury last fall, Parling learned how admired and respected he was back home.

"The number of supportive calls I received from people I

hadn't seen in years was amazing," he said. "My family and my teammates helped me out the most, but I also heard from my first youth football coach for the Steelers (Ted Barker) and my high school coach (Parker Salowich). It meant a lot and helped me get through it."

The resilient 22-year-old's career at GVSU has been nothing short of inspiring. After red-shirting his freshman year in 2009, he played sparingly as a back-up to Eastern Michigan University transfer Kyle McMahon in 2010.

"It was disappointing at the time," he said, reflecting on his reserve role, "but looking back now, it was probably the best thing that could have happened to me. It gave me an opportunity to learn the system and get stronger."

When given the reins of the Lakers' offense in 2011, Parling blew the start sheet. He led the nation in passing efficiency (180.3) while throwing for 2,415 yards and 34 touchdowns. His effort earned him a nod as a finalist for the Bilo D2 Quarterback of the Year Award.

Twenty-six percent of his completions that year went for touchdowns.

"If I had to put my experience here at Grand Valley into one word, it would be 'awesome,'" Parling said. "Obviously, it's always fun playing for a successful program, but I've also gotten to meet a lot of outstanding people and build some life-long relationships."

Opponents who lined up against Parling during his high school days may not recognize him now. His once-slender frame has expanded from 180



Heath Parling is pictured following a playoff game with his mom Linda Manni.

pounds to 220 thanks to his dedication to the weight room.

"I was playing three sports at Salem, so I wasn't in the weight room as much as I should have been," he said. "Once I got to Grand Valley and I was focused on one sport, I trained pretty much year-round to get stronger."

Parling said he doesn't even think about someday getting drafted into the NFL or signing a free-agent contract.

"I'm not sure that's too realistic right now," he said, "so I'm just going to go out next year – possibly my last year of football – and enjoy the experience," he said.

"I've been playing since I was 8 years old, so I consider myself lucky to have been able to play this long."

Once his playing days are finalized, Parling said he wants to be a college football coach.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL



Salem players celebrate after beating Edsel Ford, 83-63, for the Franklin Holiday Tourney championship. BRAD EMMONS

Rocks sold in Franklin Holiday Tourney title game

Salem downs T-Birds, 83-63, to win crown

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

If there was one thing Salem proved in the Livonia Franklin Holiday boys basketball tournament is that the Rocks can score points ... and do it in bunches.

Salem parlayed Friday's 82-66 opening-round win over Dearborn Heights Crestwood into an 83-63 triumph in Saturday night's championship final over Dearborn Edsel Ford.

"It was a carbon copy of last night ... fast-paced game," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, whose team improved to 4-2 overall. "The kids answered the challenge again and did a nice job for us."

Junior center Tyler Brooks and senior guard Connor Cole paced Salem's balanced scoring attack with 16 points apiece.

Senior forward Alec Winfrey added 14, while junior Allante Wheeler and senior Mike Hoover contributed eight each.

"The thing I was most impressed with both games is that it was a total team effort," Brodie said. "We had a lot of players play and contribute, a lot of players in double figures. Overall, I'm happy with all 12 players contributing."

Edsel Ford started off well, building a 19-16 first-quarter lead and took a 21-16 lead eight seconds into the second on a basket by Chad Gaillard (12 points).

But one of the reasons the Rocks trailed early is because they committed nine turnovers against the T-Birds' half-court trapping defense. (Assistant) Coach (Ryan) Nimmerguth said,

"We're just shooting ourselves in the foot and we're turning it over way too much, coach," so we locked into that and had a nice second quarter," Brodie said. "They took care of the ball better and did a better job defensively."

Salem had just three second-quarter turnovers, while outscoring the Thunderbirds 27-10 to take a commanding 43-29 halftime advantage.

Winfrey had seven points during the Salem surge, while Connor Cole and Brooks each added six.

Salem was also aided by a second-quarter technical foul against Edsel Ford head coach Ibrahim Beydoun. Connor Cole made both free throws and Allante Wheeler added two more to make it 28-21 with 5:01 left.

"We weren't getting any calls, unfortunately," Beydoun said. "Once they gave me the technical foul for whatever reason, it really took the fun out of the game. And the kids didn't really respond to my technical."

In the third quarter, Salem went up 51-34 with 4:57 left on a basket by Connor Cole and opened up a 66-44 lead heading into the final quarter as the Rocks made 11-of-22 shots from the floor.

The Rocks went 35-of-87 from the floor (40.2 percent) for the game, but shot 19-of-37 in the second half (51.3 percent).

"That's what you want, a higher percentage inside the paint than there is outside the perimeter," Brodie said. "We're going to have to have games where we'll have to shoot the ball from the perimeter. But we did a nice job inside tonight. We just broke, got some easy baskets. You're going to win a lot of games when

you shoot from there." Junior forward Donovan Farrell led Edsel Ford (4-3) with 15 points, while Chad and Craig Gaillard added 12 and 11, respectively.

"We competed," Beydoun said. "That's a very good basketball team (Salem) we lost to. Unfortunately we didn't shoot the ball very well tonight. We were 1-for-13 from the 3-point line and we got out-rebounded 55-28. They're just so much bigger than us. It was a fun game and the kids played hard. Credit to Plymouth Salem."

Edsel Ford went 24-of-65 from the floor (36.9 percent) and committed 19 turnovers.

Pats drop consolation

Esa Abuljumi and Ricky Ricketts scored 27 and 24 points, respectively, leading Dearborn Heights Crestwood (5-1) to a 72-47 consolation game victory Saturday over host Livonia Franklin (1-5).

The Chargers led 19-10 after one quarter and 44-25 at halftime.

"We did not handle the pressure well and were very not aggressive against it," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "And we got out-rebounded in some areas."

Franklin got 14 points from all-tournament pick Adam Monroe, a senior guard, Alex Perelli, another senior, added 10.

The Patriots went 15-of-21 from the foul line, while Crestwood was 14-of-23.

Also named to the all-tournament squad were Salem's Connor Cole and Tyler Brooks; Edsel Ford's Donovan Farrell and Craig Gaillard; and Crestwood's Billy Abuljumi and Rojeski.

PREP WRESTLING

Six Salem grapplers place in Elks tourney as Greenville wins title

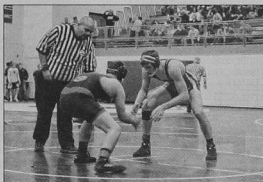
Gross takes gold at 189 pounds

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Greenville walked away with the top prize at Saturday's Elks Tournament held at Salem High School, but several Rocks earned the praises of head coach Pete Israel after placing in their respective weight classes.

Turning in the most impressive performance for Salem was 189-pounder Mitchell Gross, who cruised through his bracket with an unblemished record.

Placing third for the Rocks were Kent "Charlie" Woody at 125 and Caleb McCabe at 145. Connor Thornbury earned fourth-place points at 160, while Bruce Hassitt and Tyler Moore finished sixth at 135 and 215, respectively.



Connor Thornbury sizes up an opponent during Saturday's Salem Elks Tournament. The Rocks finished in the middle of the standings.

ly. "I was pleased with Bruce Hassitt's matches," Israel said. "Tyler Moore and Caleb McCabe looked good in their season debuts. The more matches they get and the harder they work, the more good things we will see from them."

"Charlie Woody had a good day. I am glad to

see things starting to click for him. With a little more hard work, Connor will get to the finals and Mitchell wrestled well. He had a major decision over Chris Paul, who is a ranked wrestler."

Salem finished in the middle of the standings, Israel added.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Churchill iced twice in Rochester Showcase

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Last weekend's Rochester Showcase turned out to be tough sledding for the Livonia Churchill boys hockey team.

The Chargers slipped to 3-8 overall after falling Saturday to Rochester United, 9-1, following a 3-0 setback Friday to Rochester Hills Stony Creek, 3-0, at Onyx.

Marshall Bowers had two goals and two assists to lead state-ranked Rochester United (8-2), which led 1-0 after one period and 6-0 after two.

Also getting into the scoring act was Max Harper (two goals, one assist), Graham Day and Evan Asuncion (one goal, one assist each); Nick Marek (four assists); Drew Harm (two assists); and Frank Scheff, Connor McLocklin and Rocco Torre (one goal apiece).

Andrew Sparks' lone goal after Churchill's lone goal at the 40-second mark of the final period off an assist from Jack Behen.

David Turel started in net for the Chargers and gave up four goals

before being lifted with 13:13 to go in the second period for Chris Adams.

Kyle Patenaude made 15 saves for Rochester United.

"Rochester (United) is a great team," Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said. "They're well-disciplined. They jumped on us early and unfortunately we just didn't seem to have the energy or the drive to compete with them. We had a good scrimmage game against them early in the season. We came in with certain expectations and certainly didn't meet them at the end of this one."

In Friday's loss, Stony Creek's Hayden Richardson scored a pair of goals in the first period as the Cougars improved to 7-4 overall.

Josh Niederhouser's power-play goal at 4:55 of the opening period from Grant Jubb and Nathan Hilton staked Stony Creek to a 1-0 lead.

Richardson then struck for an unassisted goal at 14:26 of the second period and added his second of the night at 2:51 of the third from Cam Scharratt and Sean

Reynold. "We had a power-play opportunity and it was just one of those unfortunate bounces where Evan Gibboney took a shot from the point, it went off the defender's shin pad, bounced out to center ice and Stony Creek just won the race to the puck and got a break-away goal," Reynolds said. "Those things happen. An unfortunate bounce, but it ended up costing us in the game."

Carson Redshaw made 21 saves to post the shutout, while Turel had 18 for the Chargers.

"The Stony Creek game was actually a good battle for us," Reynolds said. "We got tied up in some unnecessary penalties in the first period, which set us behind. But I was very pleased with how we battled back in the next two periods, where we actually out-shot Stony Creek."

"We were just snake-bit that game. We hit some goal posts and missed some opportunities that we didn't capitalize on."

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PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets secure OT win in Falcon Classic

GC falls to River Rouge

Senior point guard Kaia Barnes poured in 18 points as Westland John Glenn gave first-year girls basketball coach Derrick Jordan his first victory with a 45-42 overtime triumph Saturday over Pontiac Notre Dame Prep in the Rochester Falcon Classic.

Barnes, the only starter returning from last year's 24-2 Rockets' squad which reached the Class A state semifinals, was playing in only her second game of the year after coming off a knee injury.

Her basket with less than a minute remaining in regulation knotted the game at

39-39. Glenn then outscored the Fighting Irish 6-3 during the four-minute extra session to clinch the win.

Sierra Mosley chipped in with eight points, while Victoria McCloud and Jann's Shorter added seven and six, respectively.

"We missed some free throws late when we could have wrapped up the game," said Jordan, whose team improved to 1-5 overall. "The key was that we were able to execute. We broke their press and got into our offense. The first half, we couldn't hit any shots against their zone."

Notre Dame Prep, which lost its second straight in the Falcon Classic, got 11 points

from Megan Kraus, while Nicole Difiore and Jessica Green added seven apiece.

Cougars fall

Garden City slipped to 4-4 following Saturday night's 50-43 loss to River Rouge in the consolation game of the Southgate Anderson Invitational.

Gia Crawford led the winners with 22 points. Star Harris chipped in with 16.

Sophomore Lindsey Michalak had a big night for GC, scoring 16 points. Hannah Vera-Burgos contributed eight points and Abby Joseph added seven.

The Cougars are now idle until after the holiday break.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m., and the contest starts at 2 p.m.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation.

Contestants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call David Lengel at 734-516-4930.

Free-throw contest

The annual Knights of Columbus Youth Free-Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at St. Thomas

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Jan. 3
Peterson Academy at WFL, 1 p.m.
W. Central at Church, 1 p.m.
Wayne at Pinecroft, 7 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Jan. 3
Clemensville at Edsel Ford, 6 p.m.
Church at N.D. Prep, 6 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Church vs. Northville
at Edger Avenue, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 4

Ledywood vs. Vassar Regina
at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m.

Stevensville vs. Canton
at Arctic Edge, 6 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Saturday, Jan. 4

Waynesville Tournament, 9 a.m.

Leica Crest Invitational, 9 a.m.

Now Detroit CC Invitational, 9 a.m.

Clemensville vs. Northville, 10 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Saturday, Jan. 4

Salem Invitational, noon.

PREP BOWLING

Saturday, Jan. 4

Ledywood Holiday Tourney

at Vassar Regina, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER

Saturday, Jan. 4

Alber Park Invitational, 10 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

Saturday, Jan. 4

Defia at Schockcraft, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

Monday, Dec. 30

Madonna at U-D Mercy, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 4

Defia at Schockcraft, 1 p.m.

Madonna at Siena Heights, 5:30 p.m.



Runners were allowed to run with their dogs. KATHRYN HANSEN

RACE

Continued from Page B1

Sunday's race unfolded so smoothly that Meteyer is already looking forward to next year's race.

"We had a wonderful turnout, there were no glitches and the weather was perfect—at least as perfect as it can be for late December in Michigan," Meteyer said, smiling. "We had a million people step up to volunteer and help out. Several kids from the local high school's Honor Society volunteered."

"Now that people see it's a good race, they'll tell their friends and word will spread. Hopefully, we can double or

triple our efforts next year."

Runners were cheered on throughout the race by volunteers and by big-hearted Plymouth residents.

The overall men's winner was 23-year-old Farmington resident Alex Townsend, who covered the route in 16 minutes, 27 seconds. Seventeen-year-old Audrey Belf of Bloomfield Hills won the women's race in 18:30.

The top five finishers in each of the 16 age divisions were rewarded with a Rock the Clock paint glass.

But the ultimate reward for all of the high-spirited competitors was knowing they helped send a much-deserving group of kids to a one-of-a-kind camp.

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UPSET

Continued from Page B1

one played together and played intense."

Lizzy Otten, a 5-6 freshman from Grandville, also came off the bench to contribute 12 important points.

Kelsey Gerhardt added nine, while freshman center Erin Menard (Livonia Churchill) finished with seven points and seven rebounds before exiting with her fifth foul with 5:26 to go.

"It was nerve-wracking to watch," said MU coach Carl Graves, who witnessed MU's 15-point second-half lead dwindle to five points, 67-62, with 8:49 remaining. "Rachel (Melcher) plays so hard and sometimes it's hard to pull her back. We thought we'd play her with four fouls with just over four minutes, but it didn't work out for us. Molly Knop came in and did a great job and Chelsea (Williams) was helping with the pressure. We started moving the ball, made them chase us and foul us."

Madonna made 18-of-25 free throws on the night, while U-D Mercy hit only 18-of-35.

Megan Hatter and Sene Shearer each scored 26, while Reyna Montgomery added 10 points and nine boards for the Lady Titans, who slipped to 3-9 overall.

"No. 20 (Kloster) had a day for them," UDM coach Autumn Rademacher said. "I think we had a pretty good idea of what they were doing. They're all about the same height. They want to drive, pitch and weave. They were getting down the gut and drawing fouls. The team was shooting 24 percent from 'three.' No. 20 just got hot as a pistol."

Every time the Lady Titans tried to make a run, MU responded with a key basket.

"We stayed composed and have been working on press breakers all year long, so we were ready for their press," Williams said. "We were all able to break it. Towards the

end, we were looking to manage the clock and work the ball around, move it and make sure they were able to move. Their trap was coming and we knew that."

The Crusaders came out in a different defense than they were accustomed to playing.

"I am not a zone guy, as anybody will tell you during the eight years I've been here," Graves said. "But today it was the defense for us and we stuck with it. It was working and it gave them some trouble. They hit some perimeter shots. We'll take those, but we wanted to keep them from driving to the basket."

Graves was tickled with the way his team performed under the bright lights.

"Calihan Hall is a historic place and I grew up maybe two miles from here, so this is a huge deal for me, probably bigger for me than the kids," he said. "They came up big today. They really showed what they're capable of and we hope to carry this through January when we play our league games."

MU returns to Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play Saturday at Siena Heights with a 4-3 mark.

"This is the real Madonna team," Williams said. "We played a lot better defensively. We came together and you could tell we were really focused and ready to go."

The Crusaders hope to use the victory as a springboard to the second half of the season.

"We're all extremely excited," Melcher said. "We needed this. We were kind of on a downhill there, so we really needed this to pick up our spirits. I think everybody did a great job. It was a definitely a team effort today."

And it was a night Kloster will never forget.

"It was definitely the best, fun to play in," she said. "This kind of got our spirits back up after the games we've been having."

bernani@hometownlife.com

313-222-6831



Looking to pass the puck Sunday night at Comerica Park is Plymouth defenseman Mathieu Henderson (No. 24), who scored early in the third period for the Whalers. RENA LAVERTY/PLYMOUTH WHALERS

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

"It's a great feeling to win an outdoor game," said Nedeljkovic, the game's No. 1 star. "It's a great feeling to beat the Knights, especially after a season's playoff run."

"It's been a tough season so far, yeah, but just because it's been so tough, every win is something we like to cherish like we just won our first game."

Plymouth coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said his young team is starting to jell, demonstrated by impressive wins over Oshawa (before the holiday break) and London (25-71-3).

"We won our last two; it's a good streak to have for us," Vellucci said. "We're a young team."

"This was a tough building to play in tonight. The conditions weren't bad, but our guys were nervous."

Among the youngsters was defenseman Tyler Sensky of Canton.

"When I heard I was playing, I was super happy," said Sensky, with the Whalers on a short-term basis while Yannick Rathgeb is playing in the World Junior Tournament. "I never really played pond hockey, like a real game on ice."

"So playing here at Comerica, with the Whalers who I grew up watching, was just an amazing experience."

Sensky and his teammates said the ice itself was challenging. It was slushy and soft, quickly becoming covered in wet snow.

"The snow was a big factor," Sensky said. "The puck just stopped randomly and you'd have to take into consideration for your passes (the puck) slowing down. So just keep it simple, make the first hard pass."

Plymouth had the chance to close out the Knights in regulation, thanks to a goal by

defenseman Mathieu Henderson just 1:38 into the third period.

Henderson one-timed a pass from forward Brook Hiddink that got through the pads of Patterson.

That goal held up for the next 16 minutes as Nedeljkovic continued his spectacular play.

But the Knights finally got on the board when Tierney's fluttering shot from between the circles bounced in off of the Nedeljkovic's blocker.

"It hit my blocker," Nedeljkovic said. "I think it was an off-speed shot. ... I didn't know where it went from there."

Early pressure

From the onset of the game, players had difficulty skating and controlling the puck on the Comerica ice.

The Knights did put plenty of pressure on Nedeljkovic in the scoreless first period, outshooting Plymouth 14-4.

Nedeljkovic stopped Rupert's breakthrough bid with 12:40 remaining and later flashed his right pad to deny a point-blank shot by Tierney.

Plymouth's best opportunity in the first was a wrist shot by Connor Sills from the top of the right circle in the final minute that Patterson missed, but managed to stop. The puck hit the goalie's trap and fluttered over the crossbar.

Nedeljkovic continued his sparkling play in the middle period, stopping all 12 shots he faced, including a couple of big saves during a London power play late in the period.

Tierney dishd the puck in front to Rupert, whose backhand was turned aside by Nedeljkovic. Moments later, he got a shoulder on Max Dom's hard drive from the right circle.

Lorentz had the best chance of the period for the Whalers, ripping a shot from the right point that Patterson snagged.

Worth the trip

Both games of the double-header were late to get going. Clare from the mid-afternoon sun forced the Windsor-Saginaw game to start at 3 p.m. (instead of 1:30 p.m.) — to ensure goaltenders would be able to see the puck — and the nightcap didn't get under way until after 7 p.m.

The OHL announced that 26,384 tickets were sold for the Hockeytown Winter Festival twinnish, although far fewer spectators actually were on hand for both contests.

A number of Whalers fans made the pilgrimage downtown to the Compuware Arena, some taking a bus from the Plymouth Township arena.

Among those hockey commuters was Canton's Robert Mitchell, a mainstay at Whalers games.

He was walking on the concourse trying to stay warm and dry between the two games, although the cold, rainy mist was hard to avoid.

"A lot of us are out on the concourse right now, to stay out of the rain and the wind," said Mitchell, decked out in a green Whalers jersey.

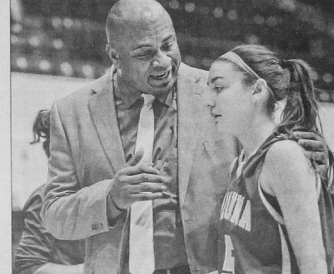
"This is my first year being out here. It's actually pretty nice."

He said he was able to watch the final period of the opener, a 6-5 win by Windsor.

"It's kind of hard to see certain sections of the ice itself," Mitchell said. "I'm amazed by exactly what they can do to Comerica Park that I never thought they could do."

The weather wasn't going to keep Mitchell from moving down to the dugouts to "take pictures of the boys when they come out of the tunnel. And then we're going to wander up to our normal seats and eventually bump into the other fans from Plymouth who (came) out here on the bus."

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Madonna coach Carl Graves (left) consults with Yazeem Hamid during Monday's 86-76 win at Calihan Hall. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

If you think skipping breakfast will help you maintain a healthy weight, you might want to think again. In fact, MyPlate recommendations include starting the day with a good breakfast:

Eat a breakfast that helps you meet your food group needs. People who skip breakfast often weigh more. Eating a nutrient-dense breakfast may help you lose weight and keep it off.

By choosing a balanced breakfast, you can get off to the right start, and fill in the gaps in food groups likely to be missing in your diet. Milk is a perfect breakfast complement, yet more than eight out of 10 Americans still fall short of the recommended milk servings each day.

Milk is packed with nine essential nutrients, including eight grams of high-quality protein. Along with building muscle and keeping bones strong, protein at breakfast can help you feel full and satisfied so you won't feel hungry by mid-morning, which will help people stick to their weight management plan.

Studies show milk drinkers and breakfast eaters have more nutritious diets and tend to be leaner than nonmilk drinkers and breakfast skippers. And to cut fat and calories, opt for fat-free or low-fat milk—they deliver the same nutrient-rich punch for fewer calories and less fat.

For more breakfast tips and recipes, visit <http://the-breakfastproject.com/>. Also, follow the Milk Mustache Campaign on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MilkMustache>, and Twitter @MilkMustache.

Courtesy of Family Futures

A HEALTHY BREAKFAST AND A HEALTHY WEIGHT

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

6 servings

Vegetable cooking spray
1/2 pound lean ground pork
1/2 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning
1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds, crushed
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup skim milk
16 ounces egg substitute
1/2 cup (1 ounce) shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
3 green onions, chopped
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
6 (1-ounce) slices white bread, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

Coat a large nonstick skillet with cooking spray, and place over medium-high heat until hot. Add ground pork, dried Italian seasoning, fennel seeds, and minced garlic; cook mixture over medium heat until meat is browned, stirring to crumble. Drain and pat dry with paper towels. Set pork mixture aside.

Combine milk, egg substitute, shredded cheese, green onions, dry mustard, salt, and pepper in a large bowl; stir well. Add pork mixture and bread cubes, stirring just until well blended. Pour mixture into an 11-by-7-by-2-inch baking dish coated with cooking spray. Cover and refrigerate at least 8 hours. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 50 minutes or until set and lightly browned. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Nutrition: 250 calories; 7g fat; 2g saturated fat; 40mg cholesterol; 27g protein; 18g carbohydrates; 1g fiber; 470mg sodium; 250mg calcium (25 percent of daily value). *Nutrition figures based on using fat-free milk.*



APPLE PIE OATMEAL

Yield: 3 servings

2 cups fat-free milk
1 1/2 cups uncooked regular oats
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
3 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup pure maple syrup
1 (12-ounce) package frozen harvest apples
Apple pie spice

Combine first 4 ingredients in a bowl, stirring well. Pour into a lightly greased 3-quart oval slow cooker. Cover and cook on low setting 8 hours. Add butter, stirring until it melts. Stir in syrup. Prepare apples according to package directions. Spoon oatmeal into bowls, and top with apples. Sprinkle with apple pie spice and serve immediately.

Nutrition: 510 calories; 15g fat; 8g saturated fat; 35mg cholesterol; 13g protein; 86g carbohydrates; 5g fiber; 600mg sodium; 350mg calcium (35 percent of daily value). *Nutrition figures based on using fat-free milk.*



EASY PEACH SMOOTHIES

Serves 2

1 1/2 cups low-fat milk
2 1/2 cups frozen peaches
2 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup ice

Pulse milk, peaches, honey and vanilla in a blender until combined. Add ice and blend until smooth.

Nutrition: 210 calories; 2g fat; 1g saturated fat; 10mg cholesterol; 7g protein; 44g carbohydrates; 3g fiber; 80mg sodium; 230mg calcium (23 percent of daily value). *Nutrition figures based on using low-fat milk.*



SKILLET EGGS AND POLENTA

Serve this morning meal with an 8-ounce glass of fat-free milk and a slice of whole grain toast to start right with a serving of veggies, whole grain, protein and milk all before noon.

Makes: 4 servings

1 cup sliced mushrooms
1 cup red bell pepper, cut into strips
1 cup zucchini, halved lengthwise and sliced into half-moons
1 jar (32 ounces) marinara sauce
2 1/2 cups low-fat or fat free milk
Salt
1/2 cup finely ground polenta or cornmeal
2 teaspoons olive oil, divided
4 eggs
Chopped fresh basil (optional)

Spray large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, bell pepper, and zucchini, and sauté until vegetables soften slightly, about 3 minutes. Add marinara and simmer to heat through. Reduce heat to low and keep warm. Bring milk and salt to a boil in medium saucepan over medium-high. Slowly whisk in polenta, stirring constantly to prevent lumps from forming. Cook until thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, cover, and keep warm.

Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Carefully crack eggs into pan and cook until whites are set and yolks are cooked to desired doneness, 4 to 6 minutes. To serve, divide polenta among 4 shallow serving bowls; top with marinara and an egg. Sprinkle with chopped basil if desired.



New youth theater offers classes, spring show

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Y Stars on Stage will take youth theater students for a walk along the "yellow brick road" this spring.

"What we're doing is offering some theater classes — we have preschool classes through high school classes — and in addition to that, we're doing a play," said Joanna Motowski, youth and family program director at the Livonia Family YMCA. "We thought we'd kick it off with *The Wizard of Oz*."

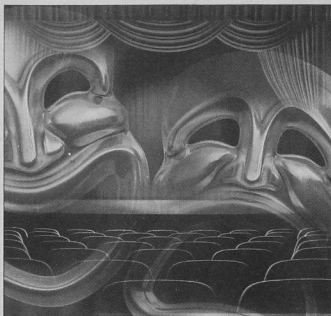
Auditions for the play are 6:30 p.m., Jan. 21 and 23 at Frost Middle School, 14041 Stark, in Livonia. The show is open to students in grades K-12. Classes will begin the weeks of Jan. 20 and 27.

Although Y Stars on Stage is new to the Livonia YMCA, both Motowski and drama teacher Patsy Gyrnys bring years of professional experience to the program.

Motowski, an Eastern Michigan University theater graduate, created a similar program for the YMCA of Southeast Illinois before taking on her current role at the Livonia YMCA last year.

"I have a passion for theater and for how it can impact children," Motowski said. "Patsy has a master's degree in theater at Eastern. She has experience in the community, directing theater shows and choirs."

Gyrnys offers theater workshops and camps through her



company, Shoestring Theatre Co., in Livonia. She also teaches music and theater through Palaestra Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides enrichment classes to homeschooled children.

Everyone's included

"My roots came through the Livonia School Community Education program," Gyrnys said. "I've been teaching through community ed since 1991 and doing productions since 1995. I have the Rising Stars Youth Theatre and now I'm bringing it to the Y."

"The way I run my program is you sign up and everyone gets a part. I do a quality product, but it's not the 'be all end all.' Most of the kids come in not knowing anyone and by the time the play is over they are exchanging phone numbers and most want to stay in touch. It's that kind of growth that I like to see. It's community being developed in the process and the fact that you feel good about what you do."

The Wizard of Oz cast members will pay a \$200 activity fee that will go toward costumes, play royalties, set and

Y STARS ON STAGE

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, and Thursday, Jan. 23
Location: Frost Middle School, 14041 Stark, across from the Livonia YMCA, in Livonia
Details: Students in grades K-12 may audition for "The Wizard of Oz." First night is an orientation and theater games; second night is auditions. No preparation necessary. Everyone who auditions gets a role. The cast will rehearse at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, beginning the week of Jan. 27. Cost is \$200. Performances will be April 10-11.
Contact: 734-261-2161; www.ymcadelroit.org

other expenses. YMCA membership or theater classes are not mandatory. Motowski said no student will be turned away for an inability to pay the fee.

"We're going to make it a full stage production with lights, music, set and costumes. We'll do our best to give them a neat, realistic experience, but at the same time keep it relaxed," Motowski said. "It's not just about playing a role on stage. There are roles behind stage, too."

She said Y Stars on Stage differs from other youth theater programs because it incorporates the YMCA's goals for youth development programs.

"Responsibility, respect, honesty and caring — we really make sure our programs for kids incorporate these values."

Classes

In addition to *The Wizard of Oz* production, Gyrnys offers theater classes. Wednesday and Thursday classes will begin the week of Jan. 20. Classes held on Monday will begin Jan. 27.

Time! students, ages 3-5, will explore theater through music, storytelling, props and crafts. The class runs 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays for eight weeks, at the YMCA gym. Cost is \$70.

» Young Actors is geared toward ages 5-8. Participants will perform a simple original play based on a familiar fairy tale or folk tale, with a showcase in March. The class runs 5:15-6:15 p.m. Thursdays, at the YMCA gym. Cost is \$80.

» Acting Level 1 is for students ages 9-11. Participants will perform basic acting skills in theater performance and prepare them to perform in front of an audience. Classes meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Buchanan Elementary School, 16400 Hubbard, Livonia. Cost is \$90. The class will culminate in a showcase in March.

» Acting Level 2 is for middle and high school students, ages 12-18, of all experience levels. The class runs 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays at Buchanan Elementary School, 16400 Hubbard, Livonia. Cost is \$100. Students will perform in a showcase in March.

On track: School of Rock musicians play acoustic, electric shows

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Students from the School of Rock Farmington will unplug for one night this month and show what they can do acoustically.

The school's open mic show, 7-9 p.m. Jan. 11, at Gatsby's, 45701 Grand River Ave., Novi, is open to performers under 18, including musicians who are not enrolled at the School of Rock.

"It's something we just started. We hope to try to do it every month," said Sheri Fucinari, the rock musical school's general manager. "We did one back in December. It went well. We had kids playing the entire time. We had a good turnout."

"I think it builds their confidence. You don't have your electric guitar or big drum kit to hide behind. It helps conquer fear of playing — and possibly of messing up — and getting out there in front of people they don't know. Open mic helps put them out there."

The first acoustic open mic show drew musicians, age 8-16.

Music program

School of Rock Farmington teaches guitar, bass, vocals,



The house band from the School of Rock Farmington will perform Jan. 3-4 at the International Motorcycle Show in Novi.

keyboard and drums to students, 7 and up. Beginning students learn fundamentals in Rock 101, a combination of private lessons and group rock band rehearsal. The school's

Performance Program is for students who know how to play their instruments and are ready to learn more about harmonies, musicianship and performing in a rock show.

"They aren't just sitting in a room with an instructor every week. You get to learn to play with a band. It makes the kids more excited about learning. I like the fact that it puts peer

pressure on them to be responsible and learn their parts."

Fucinari takes vocal lessons through the school's adult pro-

See ROCK, Page B7

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GET OUT! CALENDAR

ART & CRAFTS
FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Jan. 22.

Location: Cortick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Elements: Sky, Water, Land" features the paintings, drawings and three-dimensional mixed media works of Martine MacDonald.

Contact: 248-473-1856

GALLERY@V

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during public performances, or by appointment.

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Glass sculpture by JB Wood is on display through May

Contact: 734-394-5300

NORTHVILLE ART
HOUSE

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 7; opening reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Altered Perceptions" features paintings by abstract expressionist artist, Jan Brown

Contact: 248-344-0497; <http://www.northvillearts.org>

AUDITIONS
FARMINGTON HILLS
YOUTH THEATRE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 25-26

Location: Cortick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Camp Rock - The Musical, will feature a wide variety of roles, at all performance levels. Auditions are on a drop-in basis. Participants should bring a recent school photo. Preliminary materials will be available for review beginning Jan. 8 at fthq.com/YouThTheatre

Contact: 248-473-1859

FILM
PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 3-4; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: Last Vegas, admission \$3

Coming up: Frozen, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10 and 15; and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 11-12

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4

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

Details: Alfred Hitchcock's Shadow of a Doubt

Coming up: Amadeus, 2002 director's cut, 8 p.m. Jan. 17 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 18; True Grit, 8 p.m. Jan. 31 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 1

Contact: 313-537-2560

MUSIC
BASELINE FOLK
SOCIETY

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the third Saturday of the month through May

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon,



Eric Gutman performs Jan. 24-25 at the Berman Center for Performing Arts in West Bloomfield.



The Jasper String Quartet performs Jan. 1 at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Beverly Hills.

PLYMOUTH

Details: The event includes open mic performers and featured musicians. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and include free admission.

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSPresident@aol.com

CHAMBER MUSIC
SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 13 Mile at Lahser, Beverly Hills

Details: The Jasper String Quartet in collaboration with pianist Christopher O'Leary and cellist Matt Haimovitz, plays quartets and quintets by Haydn, Mozart and Schubert. Tickets range from \$15-\$24 for students and \$30-\$60 general admission, available online at chambermusicdetroit.org. Student rush tickets priced at \$10 also are available at the box office beginning at 6 p.m. on concert night

Contact: 248-655-6070

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO
SOCIETY

Time/Date: 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6

Location: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: Rehearsals begin. No auditions are necessary. The Society will perform Te Deum by Durck and St. Nicolas by Britton on May 6. They also will perform the Durck and two selections of Carmina Burana by Orff with the Michigan Philharmonic on March 9. Scores can be purchased at the first rehearsal

Contact: 734-453-6353; plymouthoratoriosociety.org

TRINITY HOUSE
THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Harper and Motor City Josh, Jan. 4; Empty Chair Night, Jan. 5; Timothy Monger, Jan. 10; Floyd King and the Bushwackers Old Time Gospel Show with Campfire Compadres, Jan. 11; Red Tail Ring, Jan. 17; Billy Brandt and the Sugarcars, Jan. 18; Ronny Cox, Jan. 19; Jeff and Mike Karoub, Jan. 24; Sweethearts of the Yellow Room Gang with Jan Krist, Kiri Donohoe and Annie Capps, Jan. 31. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.

Contact: 734-464-6302

SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
DETROIT 200

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31

Location: i696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$12 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$9 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

THEATER
BERMAN CENTER FOR
PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 25 and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Jan. 26

Location: On the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: "Eric Gutman: From Broadway to Obscurity" is a show about one man's struggle to get to the top of his game, and then to find his place when the game has ended. Gutman is a native of Detroit. Tickets are \$27; \$22 for JCC members

Contact: 248-661-1900

EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 8-11 and 2 p.m. Jan. 11-12

Location: The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti

Details: A reader's theater play of A.E. Gurney's "André" and "Voices." Admission is \$12. Seniors and students with ID pay \$10

Contact: 734-985-0875; www.emergentarts.com

RINGWALD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and Monday, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10-Feb. 3

Location: 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale

Details: "The Submission" is a new comic drama. Tickets are \$20.

Contact: 248-545-5545

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ROCK

Continued from Page B6

gram. Her daughter, also a student at the school, plays guitar, keyboards, and sings. Her son teaches at the school.

There's also a "house band" open by audition to students in the Performance Program.

"Our house band goes out and does all kinds of charity events," Fucinari said. "We don't charge extra for kids to be in the house band, and they get a free rehearsal, but they are obligated to perform in gigs."

Rock, motorcycles

The public will get a chance to see the house band perform at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3, and 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at the International Motorcycle Show, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi.

In addition to the performances by School of Rock, the show offers the latest in motorcycles, gear, apparel, stunt shows, celebrity appearances, and more. The International Motorcycle Show runs 3-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Adult admission is \$12; children 6-11 pay \$6.



Fucinari

All School of Rock Farmington students will get a chance to show their skills Jan. 25-26 at John Crowley & Sons, 33338 Grand River Ave., Farmington.

"Anyone can come and watch. The first show on the 25th is garage rock revival, which is rock from early 2000," Fucinari said. "Doors open at 11 a.m. and then the second show of the day, Pink Floyd and The Wall, is at 2 p.m."

Doors open at noon and 3 p.m. on Jan. 26. Admission is \$10.

For more information about School of Rock Farmington performances, visit farmington.schoolofrock.com.

RELIGION CALENDAR

JANUARY

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Pancake breakfast fundraiser to start a Life Trail U.S. troop at the church

Contact: 734-421-0472

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 9-11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 18

Location: Good Hope Lutheran

Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City

Details: All you can eat, pancakes, sausage and beverage, \$6

Contact: 734-427-3660

EXERCISE CLASS

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, beginning Jan. 13

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

Details: Six-week class includes aerobic movements, balance and strength training, high repetitions with light hand weights, abdominal and back exercises, yoga-oriented strength and stretch work, along with cool down. Joe Mason, certified personal fitness trainer, teaches the class, which costs \$42. A portion of the proceeds go to the parish.

Contact: 734-455-5910

LECTURES ON DVD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 15, 22, and 29

Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: The series features scholars from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Each week's lecture is approximately one hour. A brief informal discussion will follow each screening. Topics are: "Exodus and Sinai," featuring Michal Goodman, Jan. 8; "Prayer and Religious Intimacy" with Tovah Hartman, Jan. 15; "The Spirit of Jewish Prayer," with Rabbi Lauren Berkun, Jan. 22; and "Religious Pluralism in Israel," featuring Shalom Hartman, Jan. 29

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email to Nancy Kaplan at nancy@len879@att.net

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28931 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Preschool, Young 5's, K-8

Contact: 734-425-4420; stgenevieve.org/school

YOUNG FIVES PROGRAM

Time/Date: Jan. 6

Location: St. Paul's Preschool and Day Care, 2805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: New Young Fives program begins. Preschool/day care runs 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday for ages 2 to 5.

Contact: Karen or Robin at 248-474-2488

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19

Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth Township

Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group of the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men and women to celebrate Mass, followed by friendship and refreshments.

Contact: Pat at 734-895-6246

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

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

Location: Kirby's Conely Island, 2100 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-644-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: 7:30 seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: 734-846-4615

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Dale, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday

Location: School library, 11401 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic adult and Bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniamichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Contact: 248-374-5920

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

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

Thursday

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawwassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Time/Date: 248-777-1153, Ext. 12

FOOD BANK

New Hope Church

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

Location: 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at 734-270-2528.

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

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

Contact: Elizabeth Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Flestar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

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

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

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

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

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

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

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.

Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15689 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back

Details: Music, singing, prayer

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

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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

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

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

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

Contact: 734-459-3333

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

How to reach us:
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Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

BIGGERSTAFF, WILLIAM

December 19, 2013. Age 90 of Wayne. Beloved husband of Dolores, Dear father of Linda, Diane Reno, and William S. Biggersstaff. Brother to Edward Seash. Also survived by five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. William was a retired police officer for the City of Wayne and also retired from the Navy. His ashes will be interred at Great Lakes National Cemetery at a later date. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.ultfh.com



FREEMAN, RICHARD L.

December 27, 2013, age 72. Beloved husband of Sandy. Dear father of Tina. Dear grandfather of Justin and great-grandfather of Jason. Brother of Jim, Glenn, Jack, Bill and the late Shirley and Robert. Services were held Monday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth.



MCGINNIS, JOYCE WINIFRED

Age 81, of Cheboygan, former longtime resident of Farmington, passed away December 28, 2013 at home. She was born July 5, 1932 in Flint to Charles and Florence (Strickland) Davis. Mrs. McGinnis is survived by her husband, three children, Kevin McGinnis of St. Ignace, Laura Ravitz of Valencia, California, and Martha (Scott) Casper of Frisco, Texas; seven grandchildren. Joyce graduated from Flint Central High School in 1951. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Michigan State University in 1955. On June 9, 1956 she married David R. McGinnis at Lincoln Park Methodist Church. Her teaching locations included, Flint Central, Flint Northern, Flint Martin School, Republic School, Alma, and the Redford School System. She was a loving wife and mother. Joyce will be remembered as a fine Christian Lady. Private services will take place at a later date. Online condolences may be addressed through www.beckfuneralhome.org

www.beckfuneralhome.org

PRANSCHKE, HILDEGARD FLORENCE

Age 87. December 28, 2013. After a long, blessed, happy life and a brief illness, her Lord called her home to Himself. Hilde was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Roy, her son, Samuel, and all of her siblings. Her marriage to the Rev. Roy G. Pranschke was blessed with five children: Kenneth (Lexine), Barbara (Carl) Hall, Samuel (Leslie), James (Deborah), and Paul (Beth). Grandmother of twelve and two great-grandchildren. Visitation: Thursday, January 2nd from 1-9 p.m. at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile in Livonia. Funeral: Hosanna Taber Lutheran Church, 9600 Levee in Redford on Friday at 11 a.m. with viewing beginning at 10 a.m. The family requests memorials to Hosanna Taber Lutheran Church in lieu of flowers. Condolences and additional information at www.harrywillfuneralhome.com

Let others know...

When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages", a directory located in every edition of your Observer or Eccentric newspaper.

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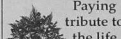


PUCKETT, ROY DEE

Age 89. December 28, 2013, in Ann Arbor, formerly of Livonia. Husband of the late Norma (Stanford). Loving father of Barry Roy and Brian Stanford (Sandy). Devoted grandfather of Sarah and Jeremy, uncle of nephew Michael, niece Kim Stevens-Cast and family. Preceded in death by brothers Robert Boone Puckett and James Stevens. He grew up on the west side of Detroit in the Old Neighborhood, a proud graduate of Central High School. He went on active duty with the 10th Mountain Division ski troops in Italy and Korea. Worked for Ford Motor Co., then taught at Bishop Borgess High School and Henry Ford Community College. Member of former Redford Ave. Presbyterian Church in Detroit, member and elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Southfield. Funeral Service Friday, January 3, 11 a.m. (in state 10 a.m.) at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 21575 W. 10 Mile (east of Lahser), Southfield. Visitation Thursday, 4 - 9 p.m. at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. (east of Newburgh), Livonia (734-591-3700). Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. In lieu of flowers, memorial tribute suggested to Covenant Presbyterian Church or Michigan's Own Military and Space Museum, Frankfort, Michigan. www.harrywillfuneralhome.com

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14 Way out
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16 Be quiet
17 Work stations
18 Pilot a ferry
21 Sponsorship
23 Kind of steer?
26 Gas or
29 Straights up
31 NBA's
32 Monroe
32 On behalf of
33 Dismounted
34 Enthusiastic approval
36 Warrior at Troy

DOWN

1 Quaker word
2 Skimmed through
3 Osprey kin
4 Ties up
5 Small wood
6 Hoover's org
7 More sassy
8 Vortex
9 Chaotic place
10 Tier

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