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Canton home invasion among 'unusual' pattern

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A rash of area home invasions involving armed intruders who restrained residents and robbed them – including an incident in Canton – has been called unusual by a Michigan State Police spokesman.

"I think home invasions are more a crime of opportunity," MSP Lt. Michael Shaw said. "Most burglars aren't going to want to go into a home that's

occupied. It's unusual when that happens."

Home invasions are more likely to occur after burglars have staked out a neighborhood and watched for residents to leave their homes, he said.

Shaw's comments came as Canton police are investigating whether a home invasion that occurred about 7 p.m. Nov. 26 may be linked to similar incidents in Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Township and Ypsilanti Township.

"We're still looking at that," Canton Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said. "Those (home invasions) are very similar to ours."

Canton police are urging caution after they say three black males – one armed with a gun – forced their way inside a home in the 45000 block of Lothrop, near Canton Center and Glengarry Boulevard, restrained the residents and seized items from the house.

Police say the brazen home invasion occurred after a resi-

dent responded to a knock on the door.

The intruders stole undisclosed items and fled, after which the residents managed to free themselves and call 9-1-1.

Canton police have been guarded in releasing extensive details as the investigation continues.

However, they have asked anyone who may have noticed suspicious behavior or vehicles in the neighborhood to call the Canton Police Department

at 734-394-5400.

About an hour after the Canton incident, three men armed with handguns and wearing bandanas over their faces tied up two parents and two children in a home on Arlington in Ann Arbor before fleeing with cash and electronic devices.

Police say similar incidents happened Nov. 24-25 in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti townships, where intruders took cash,

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Katelyn Carrigan and Brett Moore in the battle of the families from 'Romeo and Juliet.'

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKING ON THE BARD

The Park Players present
'Complete Works of Shakespeare'

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Hanna Rhode prefers her drama with a bit of a lighter side.

She gets her wish this weekend, when she and the other Park Players

cast members bring *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* to the Canton DuBois Little Theater stage.

The play, which runs Dec. 5-6 and 12-13, is a light-hearted romp through some 37 of The Bard's writings – just the way Rhode, a veteran of five Park Players productions, likes it.

"It's extremely comedic, with outrageous movement," said Rhode, a Plymouth High School junior appearing in

her fifth production for the Park Players. "You definitely won't be bored."

The 30-member production crew, including 13 cast members in a show written for three, has been rehearsing since early October. They've had to compete with other groups using the Little Theater, but director Shannon McNutt said that hasn't deterred the

See **BARD**, Page A6

Salvation Army fundraiser helps families in need

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

It's that time of year again. The sounds of bells echo outside stores and coins for the less fortunate clang inside red kettles.

The kettles harken back to 1891, when Salvation Army Capt. Joseph McFee placed the first collection kettle at a dock in San Francisco to fund Christmas dinners for poverty-stricken families. McFee placed a sign asking donors to "keep the kettle boiling."

The idea spread and now the red kettle is an iconic symbol for The Salvation Army, a faith-based organization that not only helps more than 4.5 million people in need celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, but provides year-round food distribution, disaster relief services, children's welfare programs and other services in communities throughout the United States.

When you toss your change into one of 23 Plymouth, Northville, Canton and Belleville kettles, you're raising the bar on The Salvation Army of Plymouth's \$315,000 Red Kettle goal, with a \$225,000 target from the kettles themselves and the remainder expected to come from the Red Kettle mail campaign. The money goes directly toward food, utility payments and other basic needs for people living right in the Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville areas, Plymouth Corps Officer Keith

See **ARMY**, Page A2

Observer & Eccentric wants to see your holiday light display

The *Observer & Eccentric* is on the search for cool Christmas light displays to photograph and share with our readers.

If you or your neighbor has an attractive display, please let us know so we can feature it in our area Light Tour.

A tour map will show residents where they can check out holiday light displays. The map will be published in the paper and at Hometownlife.com in mid-December.

Being on the tour requires nothing other than the homeowner's permission. There is

no charge, no gimmick.

The *O&E* simply wants to share a bit of Christmas joy with the rest of the community. And we just might write a feature story about your display if you invite us over to take a look.

To nominate someone or yourself, please email the homeowner's name, phone number and address to managing editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

The names and telephone numbers are needed for contact only; they will not be published.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Hidden Creek subdivision in South Lyon is an optical feast during the holidays. Dennis Nagy, standing with son Ben in their decorated front yard, helps organize the 160-plus neighbors to do the same thing



BRAD KADRICH

Veteran bell-ringer Ron Kretschmer of Canton, ringing at Holiday Market in Canton, said his goal is to ring 36 hours this year. Last year, he hit 34.



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Canton's Turkey Trot for a Cause has raised \$130,000 to fight epilepsy

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

The numbers are in and they're impressive. Canton's latest Turkey Trot for a Cause, a Thanksgiving morning 5K run/walk, raised an estimated \$22,000, pushing the 12-year total close to the \$130,000 mark for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

"It's outstanding. It's better than good," said Michael Murray, a Canton resident whose family has worked alongside Canton Leisure Services to make the event a success.

Turkey Trot for a Cause is personal for Murray, whose 17-year-old son Justin battled epilepsy, but has been seizure-free since doctors at the Cleveland Clinic removed a lesion from his brain in 2007.

Nearly 1,300 people walked or ran in this year's event, as another 200 looked on as spectators, Murray said.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who again fired the starting pistol, said the fundraiser to fight epilepsy has become a tradition strongly supported by local residents.

"I think it's a giving community," LaJoy said. "The people understand the importance of giving and the importance of trying to help other people."

LaJoy commended the Murray family and Canton Leisure Services



A large crowd gathers for the 12th annual Turkey Trot for a Cause in Canton to raise money to fight epilepsy.

employees such as Ann-Marie Carravallah for their untiring efforts to make Turkey Trot a success.

"They're so committed to the cause," LaJoy said. "It has been a real community partnership. It's been great."

This year's Turkey Trot grand marshal, Mark Thompson, has been seizure-free since 2008 when, like Justin Murray, he had surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, coincidentally by the same surgeon.

Thompson, a 21-year-old Canton resident and Eastern Michigan University senior, welcomed his role in this

year's event, saying "it feels pretty good" to serve as grand marshal after years of battling seizures prior to his surgery.

Surgery, he said, "changed my life."

That's exactly why Turkey Trot for a Cause organizers want to keep raising money to support research and medical advances through the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

Turkey Trot participants started at Summit on the Park and traveled through places such as Pheasant Run golf course and Heritage Park before ending back at the Summit.

Murray, meanwhile, already has started working toward next year's run/walk.

The event started 12 years ago with nearly 100 people and drew close to 1,500 participants last year, when it raised nearly \$24,000. Though Murray said participation and dollar totals were slightly lower this year, the Turkey Trot still reflected an outpouring of community support.

"We're extremely pleased," he said.

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Volunteer bell-ringer Ervine Miller talks to Plymouth resident Cheryl Summers at the Kroger on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

ARMY

Continued from Page A1

Bailey said.

"It's very important," Bailey said of the Red Kettle Campaign. "We do have poor people here. We have homeless people here."

Bailey, who's from Flint and has worked for 30 years in various Salvation Army Corps around the country, said he would not have viewed the local area as one of need, but the need is there. "There are sections," he said. "It's really surprising."

Much of The Salvation Army's donor base is middle class, Bailey said, and he's noticed how changes in the economy affect that class. Often-times, he said, middle-class donors become Salvation Army clients themselves. Many people are on the edge of poverty — a job loss or health expense could qualify them for charitable services.

Bailey said there's need in every economy and, even as the economy improves and the jobless rate declines, there are people who can't afford basics like rent and utilities, let alone Christmas gifts. "We're getting a lot of working poor," he said. "People have jobs, but they don't have enough to make ends meet. We have people working three or four jobs."

Proceeds from the Red Kettle Campaign

help fund The Salvation Army of Plymouth's food distribution to 400 area families that can't afford a Thanksgiving, plus Christmas toys and gift cards for 450 area families. The campaign also funds year-round social services programs for adults and children.

The Salvation Army of Plymouth is one of 7,546 Salvation Army community centers in the U.S. Founded in 1929, the Plymouth Corps provides a variety of programs like youth education programs, youth day camps, senior citizen's groups, women's ministries and other community services from its location on Main Street in Plymouth Township. The building, a renovated Baptist church, also provides Christian worship services at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

The red kettles made their debut Nov. 7 and will be out for collections through 2 p.m. Christmas Eve. People can help The Salvation Army of Plymouth by donating at the kettles or via the website at <http://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/plymouth> or by volunteering as bell ringers.

The Plymouth Salvation Army needs bell ringers for the Christmas season. Go to www.ringbell.org to sign up.

"We always need volunteers to ring," Bailey said. To volunteer, call Plymouth Corps Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Kollinger at 734-453-5464, ext. 24.

Driver critical after Canton crash near IKEA

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A 66-year-old driver who crashed his car off the southbound lane of Haggerty near Ford

Road remained in critical condition, a Canton police official said Monday morning.

The driver, a Brownstown Township man, is believed to have suf-

fered a medical issue when his 1997 Nissan 200 SX veered off the right side of the road and crashed into a tree shortly after 7:30 p.m. Friday, police Lt. Pat Sullivan said.

"It happened very close to IKEA," Sullivan said.

The driver's identity hadn't been released.

Authorities were called to the scene of the one-car crash and found the driver unresponsive and having difficulty breathing, Sullivan said.

The accident happened north of the bustling Haggerty-Ford

intersection, one of Canton's busiest traffic spots.

Canton Fire Department paramedics rushed the man to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where he has been listed in critical condition, Sullivan said.

The Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team was called in to investigate the crash. Alcohol isn't believed to have played a role in the accident, which was attributed to an undisclosed medical condition.

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INVASION

Continued from Page A1

guns, jewelry and electronics.

As the investigation continues, Canton police urged residents not to open their doors for strangers and to contact police immediately about suspicious situations.

Shaw, meanwhile, advised residents to take

the following precautions:

- » Don't put empty boxes for big-screen televisions, iPads and other items at the curb. Rather, he said, cut them up and put them in trash bags or burn them in a fireplace.
- » Keep doors locked. "You'd be surprised how many people don't lock the doors to their homes and vehicles," Shaw said.
- » Consider investing

in a home alarm system.

- » Trim shrubs so they don't offer a shield for intruders near places such as windows.
- » Keep the house and porch lit up.
- » If on vacation, make sure mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped while away.
- » Report any suspicious behavior to police.
- » While away, have a neighbor keep watch and report any suspicious

incidents.

On a lighter note, Shaw said the character Gladys Kravitz from the old *Bewitched* television show had a reputation as a nosy neighbor.

"She was actually a good neighbor," he said.

Michigan.com contributed to this story.

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IKEA Canton plans to add more solar panels as the store continues to grow at the Ford-Haggerty intersection.

IKEA grows its solar energy with expansion

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

IKEA's Canton store, site of a 44,000-square-foot expansion project, plans to increase its rooftop solar array and create more electricity for its iconic building at Ford and Haggerty roads – the equivalent of heating 136 homes a year, officials said.

IKEA, set to expand its 311,000-square-foot store by next summer, announced its expansion will add 765 solar panels, pushing the total to 4,925 panels atop Michigan's only IKEA store.

In all, IKEA expects to generate more than 1.4 million kilowatts of clean electricity every year after the solar addition is complete, the equivalent of reducing 984 tons of carbon dioxide or elim-

inating emissions from 207 cars.

"We are thrilled at the opportunity to increase the amount of solar energy generated and used by this store," store manager Matt Hunsicker said in a statement. "This is another example of the IKEA commitment to create a more sustainable life for communities where we operate."

IKEA has chosen Inovateus Solar LLC to design and install the enhanced solar power system. The company is considered an industry-leading distributor and integrator of large-scale solar installations.

The latest news came after IKEA spokesman Joseph Roth told the *Observer* in November the store expansion potentially could create new jobs as sales in-

crease with the new addition, which is adding nearly 15 percent more space to the building.

Construction crews have started building the addition to the west side of IKEA at Ford and Haggerty roads, after which the solar panels will be installed. IKEA is expanding on a site where the former ABC Warehouse building was demolished.

The store's solar panel expansion means IKEA will have created solar energy at nearly 90 percent of its U.S. locations. Globally, IKEA has allocated \$1.8 billion in renewable energy as it moves toward a goal of being energy independent by 2020.

The Canton IKEA store opened in 2006 and installed its solar panel system in 2012.

State Supreme Court to hear case of former McCotter staffer

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The case against one former staffer of former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter will go before the state's highest court.

The Michigan Supreme Court has decided to take a look at the case against former staffer and Livonia resident Paul Seewald after the Court of Appeals ruled this summer that the Wayne County Circuit Court was correct in throwing out two felony conspiracy charges in the signature-collecting debacle that resulted in McCotter, R-Livonia, being left off the ballot in 2012.

Fellow former staffer Don Yowchuang was also originally charged with a felony in the case, but had his dismissed as well.

The appeal was filed by Attorney General Bill Schuette's office.

The attorney general's office appealed the circuit court ruling in 2013, asking the court to reinstate the felony charges Seewald originally faced in 2012. The two men were charged after sec-



McCotter Seewald

retary of state officials found several of the forms used to collect signatures to place McCotter on the ballot for Congress were falsified with photocopied signatures.

The Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 in favor of the defense this summer, claiming Wayne County Judge Margie Braxton was correct in throwing out the felonies, leaving the two to face some misdemeanor criminal counts.

The actual number of signatures collected by McCotter's campaign was below the threshold needed for him to appear on the ballot to run to represent the 11th Congressional District, which would have included western Wayne County communities, including Livonia, Ply-

mouth, Canton and Northville, as well as several Oakland County communities. McCotter resigned from Congress shortly after not making the ballot.

He was not charged, but did offer testimony during Seewald and Yowchuang's preliminary examination in Livonia's 16th District Court in 2012. Several other staffers also faced criminal charges as a result.

Since his resignation, the seat has changed hands frequently: David Curson, D-Belleville, won a special election to represent the district for roughly six weeks, followed by current U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, R-Milford. Bentivolio was defeated in August's Republican primary by the eventual general election winner, Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, who is expected to take office in January after defeating Canton Democrat Bobbie McKenzie.

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Police: Be alert, stay safe when holiday shopping

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

You can't eliminate the possibility of being a crime victim when out shopping, but common-sense tips from police can reduce that likelihood.

"Make sure you lock your car," Cmdr. Dave Stasch of the Farmington Hills Police Department said. He also urges you to shop in nearby, well-lit areas and to put shopping packages and gifts out of site, "preferably in the trunk."

Purses should be carried close to your body, said Stasch, who heads up the Hills Administrative Bureau, including crime prevention. "Make sure you close your purse and carry your strap across your body," he said.

"If you have a concern of a suspicious person, certainly notify security or the police," Stasch said. Men can carry their wallets in a zippered pocket or a front pants pocket, he said, to reduce chances of a pickpocket striking.

"These days, most parking lots are well-lit," Chief Tom Tidderington of the Plymouth Township Police Department said. He noted if you see someone by your vehicle upon your return, it's advisable to go back to a populated area

such as the mall for help if you're fearful.

"Certainly you want to make your way back in a well-lit area," said Tidderington, who agreed busy holidays can distract some shoppers. "A lot of times, people are preoccupied. They lose track of their surroundings."

He said you should immediately lock your car doors when you get in, rather than delaying, to make a call, for example. "They're vulnerable after they get inside the car if the vehicle's not locked," he said.

Criminals look for the easiest opportunity when committing a crime. Shoppers, women especially, can be vulnerable to such crimes as theft, robbery, and assault. These crime prevention tips from Canton police aim to make shopping as safe as possible:

» Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Knowing who and what is around you can help you avoid being surprised. It also allows you time to react if something does appear suspicious.

» Display confidence. Criminals choose the victim who looks like the easiest target. That choice is partially based on their perception about your abilities to react to an attack. If you



FILE PHOTO
Police say shopping with others is one way to stay safe during the holiday shopping season.

walk with purpose, scan the area around you and make casual eye contact with others, you are displaying confidence.

» Trust your instincts. Your body will tell you when someone or something is suspicious. If you have an intuitive feeling something is wrong, do not second-guess yourself. React immediately and take action to reduce your risk.

» Carry only what you need. Extra cash, credit cards, checks, jewelry and other items should be left at home. If it is necessary to carry a purse, keep it in front and close to your body. Men

should keep wallets out of back pockets, where they are easily stolen. Carry wallets in front coat pockets or use a money clip as an alternative.

» Don't be overburdened with packages. Carrying several shopping bags makes you look vulnerable. Request a store to hold your merchandise until you are finished with your shopping. If the store does not offer that service, place your purchases in the trunk of your car before you buy additional items.

» Shop with others. The chance of being victimized drops dramatically when you are with a companion. If there are three or more people together, the chance of being targeted for crime is 90 percent less than when alone.

» Ask for an escort. Many retailers have security personnel. Ask for an escort to your vehicle if you are uneasy about venturing into the parking lot alone.

» Plan ahead. Choose areas to park where lighting is good and activity is high. Be sure to lock the car at all times. Most auto burglaries occur on cars that are left unlocked.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Death threats

A Wixom woman who works in Canton told Canton police she has received phone calls from her former husband, a Redford resident, who had threatened to kill her, a police report said.

Police went to the victim's workplace after she made a complaint about harassing phone calls made from early September through late November. She said she and her ex-husband had been divorced since Sept. 13 and have children together.

The woman, who formerly lived in Canton, told police she has started dating another man, prompting her ex-husband to threaten to kill her, her new boyfriend and the new boyfriend's parents. She said he also said he had someone watching her.

The woman told police her ex-husband trailed her new boyfriend once in Detroit and made direct threats toward him. She didn't want to press charges at this point but wanted to file a police report for documentation.

Scary encounter

A 50-year-old Canton man who confronted a motorist parked in the middle of a street told police he became frightened after the driver threatened him.

The victim told police he couldn't drive down his street because a male driver, accompanied by two passengers, had stopped a royal blue hatchback-style vehicle near Preserve and Palmer shortly before 6 p.m. Monday.

The resident said he flashed his headlights and then got out of his vehicle and approached the other driver, who refused to budge. He said the other driver had a large wad of money in his hand and was texting someone on his phone.

The resident said the other driver continued to refuse to move his vehicle, saying he hadn't been asked nicely to do so. The resident said the driver then got out of the car, took a picture of the resident's license plate and said he "was going to get him," a police report said.

The resident described the driver as a black male in his late 20s or early 30s who wore a red jacket and baggy, dark-

colored jeans. The driver finally moved his vehicle.

Robbery arrest

Canton police arrested a 35-year-old Westland man, wanted by Wayne County authorities for an unarmed robbery incident, after he was involved in a two-car crash about 7 p.m. Friday near Canton Center and Sheldon Center roads.

Police had made a routine request to see the man's driver's license and, while running a background check on it, learned he was wanted on the felony warrant by Wayne County authorities.

Police took the man into custody and made arrangements to turn him over to county authorities.

Snow blower theft

A 46-year-old Canton man notified police to report his snow blower had been stolen from his garage in the 2000 block of Woodbine, southwest of Palmer and Lilley, a police report said.

The man said the theft occurred sometime prior to 8:15 p.m. Sunday. He said he came home from a movie thea-

ter and realized the snow blower was missing.

The man conceded the garage door had been left open on several occasions in recent days. He said the snow blower was valued at \$600.

Woman harassed

A 44-year-old Westland woman told police a 40-year-old male co-worker has been harassing her in her workplace in the 7000 block of Commerce, southeast of Koppnick and I-275.

The woman told police the co-worker has been calling her vulgar names and swearing at her. She also said he stood behind her Nov. 26 and made lewd motions.

Police contacted the suspect at work and he denied the allegations. Nonetheless, he was advised to refrain from talking with the woman.

A police report indicated a workplace manager planned to document the incident and notify human resources.

-By Darrell Clem



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Main Street Cafe is open during the fall and winter semesters at Schoolcraft College. The café features food prepared by our chefs and students including entrées, breads, and desserts.



PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIBRARY CONCERT

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: The Friends of the Plymouth District Library present Lee Murdock and The Christmas Tree Ship Concert: Great Lakes Maritime History. Murdock combines music and stories of the inland seas, Great Lakes and port cities of the early 1900s. Murdock will also share his favorite holiday songs as part of the magical season. His song about the Rouse Simmons is the centerpiece to this concert, a story and song of hope and tragedy, of loss and renewal, as the famous ship struggled into a raging winter storm in November 1912.



Murdock

Contact: Register for this free concert in advance by contacting the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at plymouth-library.org

FOOD/WINTER WEAR

Dates: Through Dec. 18
Locations: Nico & Vali, The Sardine Room, Fiamma Grille, Compari's, the Post Local Bistro, Sean O'Callaghan's, Penn Grill, E.G. Nick's and the Ironwood Grill in downtown Plymouth
Details: Diners at any of the participating restaurants who donate either non-perishable food or winter wear can receive 5 percent off their bills (up to \$50) in a drive to help the Plymouth Salvation Army in a drive being sponsored by the Metro Times.

Contact: For more information, call the Salvation Army at 734-453-5464.

PARENT ACADEMY WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: Canton High School media center, 8415 Canton Center, Canton

Details: The Plymouth-Canton Parent Academy offers a workshop on safety presented by ThinkFirst St. Joe's Ann Arbor, a nationally syndicated injury-prevention program that focuses on preventing brain and spine injuries that may be associated with poor judgment among school-aged children (ages 5-18). The program's educational focus is to empower students to make safe behav-

ior choices. ThinkFirst St. Joe's Ann Arbor is jointly sponsored by the St. Joe's Trauma Program and the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and is also supported by local grants and donations. The program is free and free child care is available. Register at <http://community.education.pccs.k12.mi.us/Class#742>

BAREFOOT PRODUCTION

Dates/Times: Dec. 5-6, 12-13 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 7 and 14 at 2 p.m.
Location: Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth
Details: Barefoot Productions presents *The Desk Set*, a comedy by William Marchant which inspired the movie starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. All seats are \$15.

Contact: For tickets, call 734-560-1493 or go to www.justgobarefoot.com.

PEARL HARBOR CEREMONY

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park, in front of Central Middle School, downtown Plymouth

Details: At about 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plymouth time - Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked. This ceremony will "Remember Pearl Harbor." Pearl Harbor Day is a day that should be a quiet memory of those military men and women who never asked questions, but followed orders - and died. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695, Plymouth Passage-Gayde American Legion Post No. 391 and the Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter No. 528 invite you and your family to attend.

FARRAND FAIR

Date/Time: Thursday, Dec. 4, 4-8 p.m.
Location: Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar Lane, Plymouth Township

Details: Farrand Elementary School hosts its annual Vendor/Craft Fair, featuring more than 25 vendors and crafters. The event also features jewelry, purses, health and beauty items and more. Admission is free.

BLUES @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Details: Big Ray and the Motor City Kings bring their mix of

blues, rock-and-roll and country. The group features Big Ray Haywood on sax and vocals, Davey Fender on guitar, Mike Rupprecht on keys and vocals, Louis Eurns on drums, and Richard Bright on bass and vocals. There is a \$5 donation at the door.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, visit www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

BAREFOOT AUDITIONS

Date/Time: Dec. 8-9, 7 p.m.
Location: Barefoot Productions theater, Main near the railroad tracks in Plymouth

Details: Barefoot Productions announces auditions for *Distracted*, a dark comedy by Lisa Loomer. The play deals with A.D.D. and its treatments. Roles for three men and six women. Actors should bring a resume and head shot, if available.

Contact: For more information, call Chris at 734-673-4244 or go to www.justgobarefoot.com.

COLLEGE WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Thursday, Dec. 4, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton

Details: A free workshop on funding a student's college education features Robert Hoger, certified college planning specialist with Michigan College Funding LLC. He will be discussing such topics as how to send kids to the school of their dreams without going broke; how to increase eligibility for aid; how to find scholarships and grants. Admission is free, but seating is limited by the size of the room.

Contact: Call 248-662-1300 to reserve a seat and for more information.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

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

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



DAVID L. MALHALAB | M NEWS SERVICE

Final steps

The Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team marches along the parade route during last week's annual Detroit Thanksgiving Day parade. Hundreds of thousands of parade fans lined the route for the team's final appearance. The team plans to retire after the annual Fourth of July parade in downtown Plymouth.



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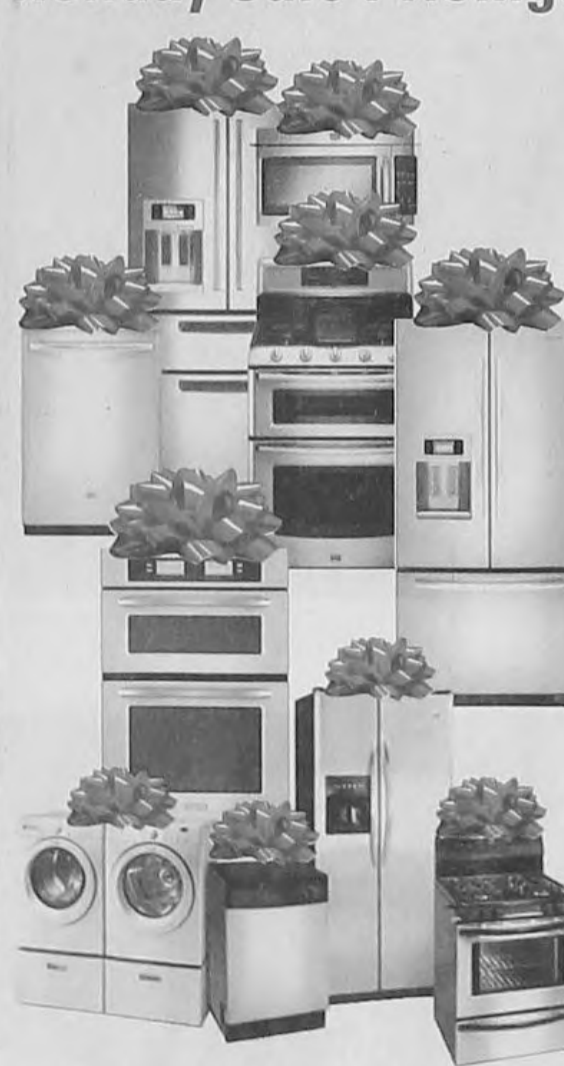
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thank you, Detroit, and good night.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brett Moore is a hip-hop Othello.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The witches of 'Macbeth.'

BARD

Continued from Page A1

crew from getting it right.

Though the work was originally written for a cast of three men, McNutt has cast 13 actors in the production, which she calls a "true ensemble" performance.

Group effort

"I'm moved by ensemble shows, where you don't have just a few actors," McNutt said. "The playwrights are fine with adding more actors. Everyone gets a chance to shine. It's a true ensemble show."

Still, turning a show written for three actors into an ensemble has presented its own share of issues. The 13 actors move quickly through 37 of Shakespeare's plays and, although each actor has roughly the same number of lines, there are other aspects to the performance that make it a challenge.

"The speed is amazing," said Rhode, a veteran of five Park Player productions who plays Juliet and the ghost of Hamlet's father in this one. "You have to pick up your cue lines really quickly. It's really fast-paced. Each actor has the same number of lines, but the people in the background also have to know how to react to what's going on. It's all about the comedic timing."

Canton High School junior Ali Ghannam is in his second Park Players production - he debuted in *Murdered to Death* last year - and said the speed also brings about physical challenges.

For instance, cast members have multiple costumes to wear and getting in and out of them can sometimes be difficult.

"We have so many costume changes," Ghannam said. "There was one point (in rehearsal) where I was still changing my costume as I was walking out onto the stage."

Forming bonds

McNutt acknowledged there have been other challenges as well, not having to do with the actors, whom she said have "been great." But there's a lot of competition for use of the DuBois Little Theater and money is a bit tight.

The meager set is a testament to the budget, she said, and, since the play is set in a theater, the actors quickly decided to use DuBois as a prop. Cast members routinely come into the audience to help act everything out.

"The big challenge really hasn't been the actors or acting," McNutt said. "It's the use of the space. So many groups want to use it."

None of that has dimmed the enthusiasm the actors and crew have for the show. The crew "really didn't know each other" when rehearsal started, McNutt, but have blended in nicely since then.

"I think they're really enjoying it," she said. "They've made some great friendships, which always happens in a show. They're having a lot of fun with it."

The actors hope audiences will have just as much fun with it. After all, as Ghannam pointed out, "Shakespeare definitely isn't boring." What do they hope the audience takes away from the performance?

"Some smiles," Rhode said. "Our goal is to entertain. If you leave with a smile on your face, we're satisfied."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

George Rafka is Julius Caesar.

TAKING ON THE BARD

What: Park Players present *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 12-13

Where: DuBois Little Theater at Canton High School, 8415 Canton Center, Canton

The premise: A comedic run through some 37 of William Shakespeare's works, featuring a cast and crew of 30

Tickets: \$10



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ali Ghannam is Titus Andronicus.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Mullen and Brett Moore in 'Romeo and Juliet.'

Spotlight on Youth group presents 'Rock 'n' Roll Santa'

The Canton Village Theater will host Spotlight on Youth's production of *Rock 'n' Roll Santa* Dec. 4-7. Local youth will bring elves, reindeer and the man himself to life at the Biltmore Studio at the Village Theater, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton's Cherry Hill Village.

Rock 'n' Roll Santa takes place in the late 1950s in Santa's workshop. Like most teenagers of this era, the reindeer are all about rock and roll.

When the North Pole finds itself in "debt" - it's Blitzen's fault - the deer organize a rock and roll band. The band is

looking for a famous lead singer. Who will it be? "Families will laugh, clap and sing along to some of their favorite holiday tunes," said director Barbara Bloom, a Novi resident. "Santa Claus will be available after the show for a 'photo' with Santa Claus." Spotlight on Youth is asking for a \$5 donation for the photo opportunity to support their scholarship fund.

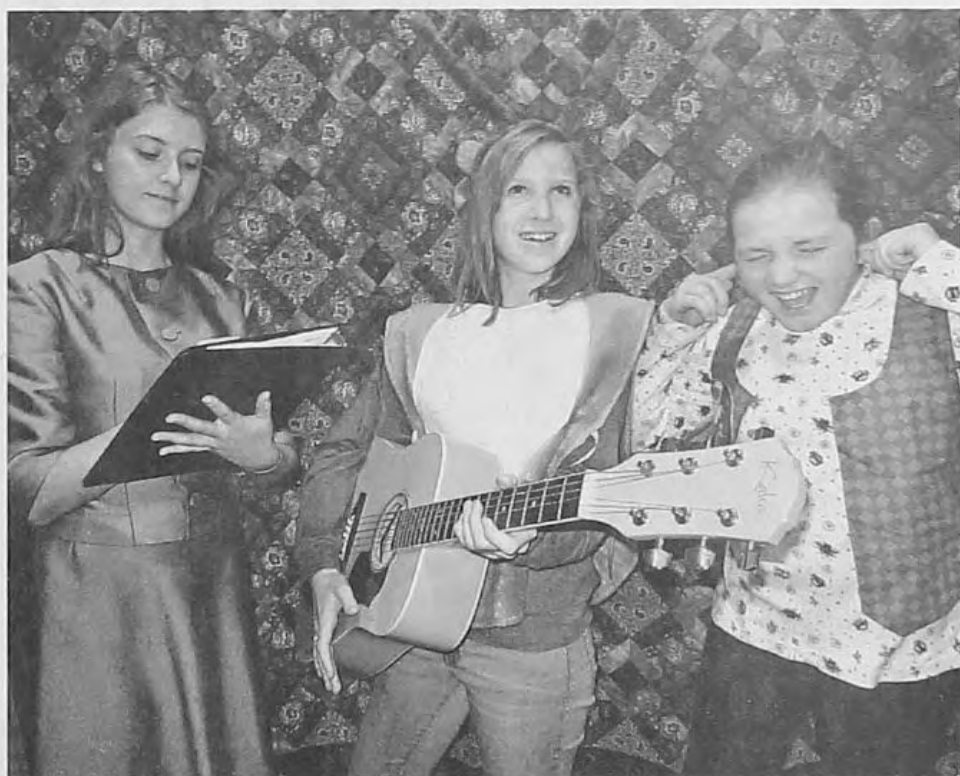
Rock 'n' Roll Santa is written by R. Eugene Jackson with music by Carl Alettee and orchestration by Mark Rogers. Songs include *Eight Tiny Reindeer*, *The Hula*

Hoop, *The Sock Hop*, *Jingle Rock*, *Jingle Roll* and familiar old tunes such as *Jingle Bells* and *We Wish you a Merry Christmas*.

Show times will be 7 p.m. Dec. 4-6 and matinee showings at 2 p.m. Dec. 6-7.

Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased by calling the Village Theater Box Office at 734-394-5300, online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org, in advance at the Summit on the Park or in person at the door.

For more information on Spotlight on Youth, go to Spotlightonyouth-mi.com or email soy@mi.rr.com.



Spotlight on Youth brings "Rock 'n' Roll Santa" to the Village Theater stage this weekend.

Judge rules some autopsy photos allowed at trial for man accused of killing referee

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A Wayne County judge has ruled several photographs taken during the autopsy of a

Westland soccer referee can be used during the trial for the man accused of killing him.

Judge Thomas Cameron ruled Monday morning that most of the photographs the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office would like to present as evidence during the planned jury trial for 36-year-old Bassel Saad could be admissible.

Prosecutors would like to include several photos, including ones taken that appear to show the injuries suffered by John Bieniewicz, the referee witness-say was struck by Saad during a soccer game this past summer at Mies Park in Livonia

after getting mad about a call made during the match. Saad is charged with second-degree murder and faces up to life in prison if convicted.

The photos are important because many of the injuries Bieniewicz sustained that day are not visible unless an autopsy was completed and dissections took place, rendering the display of photographs taken by the medical examiner's office as crucial pieces of evidence, said Raj Prasad, an assistant prosecutor. "It was a comprehensive autopsy," he said. "The injuries are not apparent to the naked eye."

About 60 photos were taken during the autopsy, Prasad said, with the prosecution wanting to introduce about a dozen during the trial.

Brian Berry, one of Saad's defense attorneys, said the defense's position is that none of the photos should be introduced, saying that much of the detail requires detailed explanation

from a medical professional and could lead the jury to react emotionally at the sight of them because of their nature.

Having a medical professional instead testify to the photos' content would be more helpful to a jury, Berry said.

The motion hearing Monday was a continuation of one that started Nov. 26. In that hearing, Cameron ruled that a prior assault Saad was charged with in 2005 in Canton could not be introduced during his jury trial and denied a motion to drop the second-degree murder charges down to manslaughter. He also ruled other photographs taken at the field showing Saad in a vehicle with his middle finger extended could be shown to the jury when it is seated. The jury trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 24, according to the online court calendar.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728

Calculate overdraft protection fees; don't be afraid to switch banks, too

According to a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau report (the government entity established to protect consumers after the financial crisis) 17,000 percent is the average interest rate that U.S. consumers are paying for overdraft protection.

Overdraft protection was a mainstay with banks when the great majority of consumers used checking accounts. If you overdrew the balance on your checking account, overdraft protection would cover the check.

You can think of overdraft protection as a line of credit that would automatically kick in if needed.

In the past, the cost of overdraft protection was nominal. That is no longer the case. According to the Consumer Financial Bureau report, banks are now collecting more than \$30 billion a year in annual debit card overdrafts. The average overdraft is about \$24 and the average fee that the banks are charging is \$34. In addition, the typical overdraft is paid off in three days. If you do the math, that short-term loan is



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

a motivating factor to begin the process of finding a better banking relationship. Good luck.

costing about 17,000 percent interest.

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

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Holiday toy gifts can combine learning, fun

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Sherry Attard came Monday, Dec. 1, to Plymouth to shop for her 2-year-old granddaughter at Genuine Toy Co. on Forest Avenue.

"I'm trying to find something that's an original toy," Attard said. "Things (like) back when I was a child."

At the toy and game store, Attard looked at dress-up outfits, a small piano she liked and puppets. "Oh, it has everything," she said of Genuine Toy Co. "And, of course, she loves stickers," another must-get purchase on Attard's list.

Her daughter-in-law teaches at West Bloomfield High School. "Her mom, of course, introduces her to everything educational," Attard, a Trenton resident, said of her granddaughter's mom.

Parents, grandparents and others are out in droves these days in search of toys for children that combine learning and fun. Karen Paciorek, a professor of early childhood education at Eastern Michigan University and a Novi resident, has some advice for those shoppers.

"I am all about the



Paciorek

schools Board of Education more than eight years, wrote in an email. "That means there are multiple ways to use the materials and the child can keep returning to the material. Anything that has parts to put together many different ways, think blocks, magna tiles, straws and connectors, etc."

In an interview, Paciorek said there is a good variety of toys and books for kids. "There's a nice selection for families that want to look a little bit," she said. "I prefer the creative toys. Low-tech or no-tech that really require the children to put in some effort."

"These types of toys have been around for centuries and are popular for their ability to help children learn to solve problems," she added. "The architect Frank Lloyd Wright's son developed Lincoln Logs after spending most of his life around a master builder. These are timeless toys and the ones

parents and grandparents today remember from their childhood."

Paciorek, the mom of two grown children, recommends the site <http://www.amightygirl.com/>

"Lots of good information," she said of the site, which helps parents and others avoid gender stereotyping. "They have excellent recommendations for books, materials and anything needed to help raise strong, powerful women. I also like to recommend gifts that keep children active. So much of a child's life today is scheduled physical team activity that play that is freely chosen is important to cultivate. There are some great recommendations on A Mighty Girl under Toys and Outdoor Play."

Paciorek, who earned her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, is a professor and program coordinator for Early Childhood Education at EMU's Department of Teacher Education in Ypsilanti. One recommendation she gives would be some gifts that spark creativity and curiosity. There are gifts in the creative arts where children are able to expand their creative side, she said.

"When we look at children developing the aesthetic or creative self, there are four different types of creative arts," Paciorek said.

» Visual – paints, stickers, pastels, clay.
» Performing – dress-up clothes, puppets, musical instruments.

» Literary – books, writing supplies, journals, a variety of pens.

» Usable arts – kits for making something for themselves or as a gift, such as a pillow, scarf, woodworking, jewelry, container or basket, etc. or fabric, yarn for the child to create on his or her own.

Parents will want to encourage the child to explore by allowing a creating space, the professor noted. That's a place where the child can start to construct and then return later. So many parents make children clean up after each play segment that good construction and creativity never has the opportunity to flourish. It's a good idea to allow children to put a string or piece of yarn around a work in progress and return to work on it later, she said.

"Books make wonderful gifts," she said. You can also keep a family



Sherry Attard of Trenton looks for gifts for her 2-year-old granddaughter at Genuine Toy Co. in downtown Plymouth.

journal, with such things as annual Christmas or Hanukkah memories, fun to look back on years later.

"Those are wonderful memories for families to build," Paciorek said. "Now everybody keeps everything online. A family journal is a wonderful thing to keep."

She added to watch

age recommendations on toys, which in some cases are wider to encourage sales when a toy may not be appropriate. "Find out what the child enjoys," Paciorek said. "Children enjoy sharing what they do," making it a good idea for parents to join in the fun.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bowker office

Cheryl Bowker opened a new Allstate Insurance Agency in Plymouth on Monday, Dec. 1.

Bowker has more than 35 years of experience with Allstate. Now, she is using that entrepreneurial background and opening her third full-service

Allstate agency to meet customer and consumer needs and provide solutions for their household.

"I make my home in this community. We make it a point to give back to the community with grant donations to public safety departments, our Passport to Safety program and Toys for Tots drop-off cen-

ters," Bowker said. "My knowledge and understanding of the people here will help me provide customers with an outstanding level of service. I am looking forward to making a difference in a different sort of way, by serving customers and taking care of a family's insurance needs."

Bowker's agency will

celebrate its grand opening Dec. 10 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony 3-6 p.m. The office is at 40516 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

Bowker's agency offers auto, property, life, annuities and financial services products. Bowker and her team of licensed staff are ready to consult with customers to help them with their needs.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and by appointment Saturday. Reach

Bowker and her team at 734-456-6066. Bowker also has agencies at 31221 Five Mile in Livonia and 5972 Sheldon in Canton and can be reached at either 734-525-9610 or 734-738-0300, respectively.

Winery open house

Vintner's Canton Winery, winner of 19 medals in *Winemaker* magazine competition, will host its annual Holiday Open House 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Vintner's Canton Winery, at 8515 N. Lilley, will offer free wine tasting,

complimentary holiday snacks, sweets and hot chocolate for the children.

As a great gift for the holidays, Vintner's offers a six-pack split sampler of many of its wines, each individually labeled with festive labels, custom holiday labeled wines, award-winning ice wines as well as gifts for the wine lover on any list.

For further information, call the winery at 734-354-9463, check the website at www.vintnerscanton.com or Facebook at Vintner's Canton Winery.

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Clock Tower)

Cornwell Christmas World set for going-out-of-business sale

Cornwell Christmas World, one of the largest Christmas displays in metro Detroit, at 874 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, will be closing after a going-out-of-business sale, which begins Saturday, Dec. 13.

Owner Gerald Visel will be retiring after the finish of the going-out-of-business sale at Cornwell Pool & Patio in Ann Arbor next summer.

"We have enjoyed a tremendous relationship with the people of Plymouth and surrounding areas for over 55 years,"

Visel said. "With the many changes taking place in the retail industry, I felt it was a wise decision to announce my upcoming retirement and to close our store."

The Lynch Sales Co., an internationally known sales promotion specialist based in Grand Rapids, will coordinate the sale.

"We expect tremendous crowds due to the low prices we will be offering," Visel said. "Everything, including our newest merchandise, will be included in this sale."



Cornwell Christmas World will be closing after a going-out-of-business sale, which begins Saturday, Dec. 13.

Android app lets users capture smart phone usage habits

Michigan State University Systems and Security Lab has launched YOU++ for Android. YOU++ enables users to view pie charts and graphs breaking down their app usage, phone screen time and Wi-Fi signal strength.

YOU++ is a fully interactive data display, empowering users with statistics on their own smart phone usage. YOU++ also offers a map of Wi-Fi signal strength per location, allowing users to find the strongest Wi-Fi points in their vicinity.

In a day and age where users check their smart phones constantly, YOU++ helps users become more aware of their own smart phone usage habits. YOU++ also features custom

time settings so users can discover their phone activity at any given point in time within a month.

The app features:
» App usage by time – break down time spent actively on the phone per app.

» Screen usage by time – view your screen usage over time.

» Wi-Fi usage by time – view your Wi-Fi signal strength at given time and over time ranges.

» Wi-Fi usage by location – view your Wi-Fi signal strength at a given location.

YOU++ is a research-based app from the Systems and Security Laboratory at Michigan State University. As such, data is collected anonymously and confidentially from users who

accept the terms of agreement.

The goal of the research study is to discover smart phone usage patterns that may lead to enlightening discoveries on optimizing smart phones based on user behavior. As the lab collects and analyzes data, the lab will update the YOU++ website with key findings.

YOU++ was developed by Michigan State University senior Angela Sun and fourth-year Ph.D. candidate Shahzad Muhammad, in cooperation with Dr. Alex Liu.

YOU++ is available worldwide on the Google Play Store for free. YOU++ is compatible with both phones and tablets. YOU++ requires Android 4.2 or newer.

Donations sought for apartment fire victims

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Donations continue to be accepted for Woodcrest Villa Apartments residents who were displaced by a massive Thanksgiving week fire.

Clothing and non-perishable food donations can be sent to the Wayne-Westland Fire Administration, 37201 Marquette, Westland MI 48185. Monetary donations are also being accepted and checks can be made out to Westland Firefighters Public Awareness Committee.

Wayne-Westland firefighters responded Nov. 24 to a fire at Woodcrest Villa Apartments in Westland that ultimately affected 17 families and destroyed 20 units at the complex.

Due to extreme winds that day, the fire was difficult to contain and the responders from Wayne-Westland, Garden City, Livonia and Inkster battled the flames for nearly 10 hours, Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said.

The apartment management company and the fire department worked together to provide placements in other apartments for the affected families and individuals, he said. In addition, the Red Cross and Salvation Army provided basic essentials to the victims.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by this tragic fire and we are so thankful that no lives were lost," Mayor William Wild said. "I want to thank our brave firefighters from Westland and other communities who responded and fought the flames for nearly 10 hours."

Wild added that he has also been encouraged by the response from the community at-large.

"This is an unfortunate tragedy, especially as we head into the holiday season, but I am proud of the compassion our residents have shown to those affected and I thank everyone who has donated and supported the displaced families," he said.

Henry Ford OptimEyes, 35184 Central City Parkway, in Westland, is accepting donations of new or gently used clothing for all ages and non-perishable food for the fire victims through Friday, Dec. 5.

Immediately after the fire, Reddy said the two-story building was too damaged by the fire to be rebuilt and would have to be demolished. He estimated the building loss at \$2.5 million. No one was injured during the fire.

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734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver



BOB MASON

Donations are being collected for 17 families displaced by a Nov. 24 fire that destroyed 20 units at Woodcrest Villa Apartments in Westland.

Annual Christmas Day dinner moves to new location

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Although there's a new location for a popular free Christmas Day dinner, the traditional loving sentiments remain.

The Christmas Day dinner held for more than 10 years at St. Dunstan Parish will now be incorporated on the site of the new St. Thomas Apostle Parish.

In June, both St. Dunstan and St. Raphael parishes closed to become St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. The holiday dinner is scheduled to be held in the former St. Raphael building located at 31530 Beechwood, west of Merriman, in Garden City.

"After being a parishioner since 1958, I don't have to tell you how heart-breaking it was," said Judy Larry, a Realtor and church member affectionately known by all as Judy "O."

She and her husband Bruce, along with countless volunteers, have provided a turkey dinner every year complete with all the fixings. They took over the dinner responsibilities years ago from John and Mary Surge.

"We are trying to make the new church our home," Larry said. "We are getting acclimated."

The mission of the dinner hasn't changed. It will be provided to individuals who would otherwise be alone Christmas Day. These people don't have families nearby. It



FILE PHOTO

Judy Larry, better known as Judy "O," gets help from her husband Bruce with the annual Christmas dinner.

is not meant for families.

Last year, Larry and her volunteers served dinner to about 125 people. Until the final numbers are known - reservations are a must - it is unknown whether the dinner will take place in the Resurrection room, which is attached to the church, or in the gym, located across the street from the church.

"We will be having our dinner like we did at St. Dunstan on Christmas Day," Larry said. "It will start at 1:30 p.m., doors open at 1 p.m. It is a wonderful dinner of turkey and all the trimmings. We have never turned anyone away."

The full sit-down dinner includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, rolls, butter and an assortment of desserts.

Guests will be treated

royally and all who attend will receive a special surprise gift to take with them.

She also appreciates anybody who can help out, make cookies or offer a donation.

Members of the Larry family, which consists of six children and 22 grandchildren, also roll up their sleeves and work that day. The event has grown so large that they celebrate their own special family time now Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day.

Christmas Day is devoted to helping others.

To make reservations, call Judy "O" at 734-595-3049 and leave a message. Participants must provide their name, phone number and indicate how many people will attend.

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Twitter: @SueSBuck

Funeral home holds annual Service of Remembrance

The R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Livonia and Garden City will hold its 24th annual Service of Remembrance Dec. 6-7 for families who have lost a loved one during this last year and in years past.

At the service, family members may place an angel with their loved one's name on a tree where it will re-

main until after Jan. 1, 2015.

A Children's Table is available for kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings.

Tips on getting through the holidays after a loss will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are read.

Cookies and beverages will be served.

The service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Livonia Chapel, 15451 Farmington Road, just north of Five Mile, will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

The service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Garden City Chapel, 31551 Ford Road, just west of Merriman, will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

For more information, call 734-422-6720.

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OUR VIEW

Holiday giving: Know charity and its history before making donation

You may have missed Giving Tuesday, what with all the hoopla surrounding the four biggest days of the holiday shopping season – pre-Black Friday (a.k.a. Thanksgiving), Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday.

Giving Tuesday was founded in 2012 as a way to promote and celebrate the great American tradition of giving. For many of us, giving to charities like the Goodfellows, The Salvation Army and Toys for Tots is as much a part of the holidays as the shopping and celebrations with family and friends.

For many charities, the donations they receive now will support their efforts throughout the year. Locally, hundreds of families and children will have a bright and beautiful Christmas thanks to the generosity of strangers.

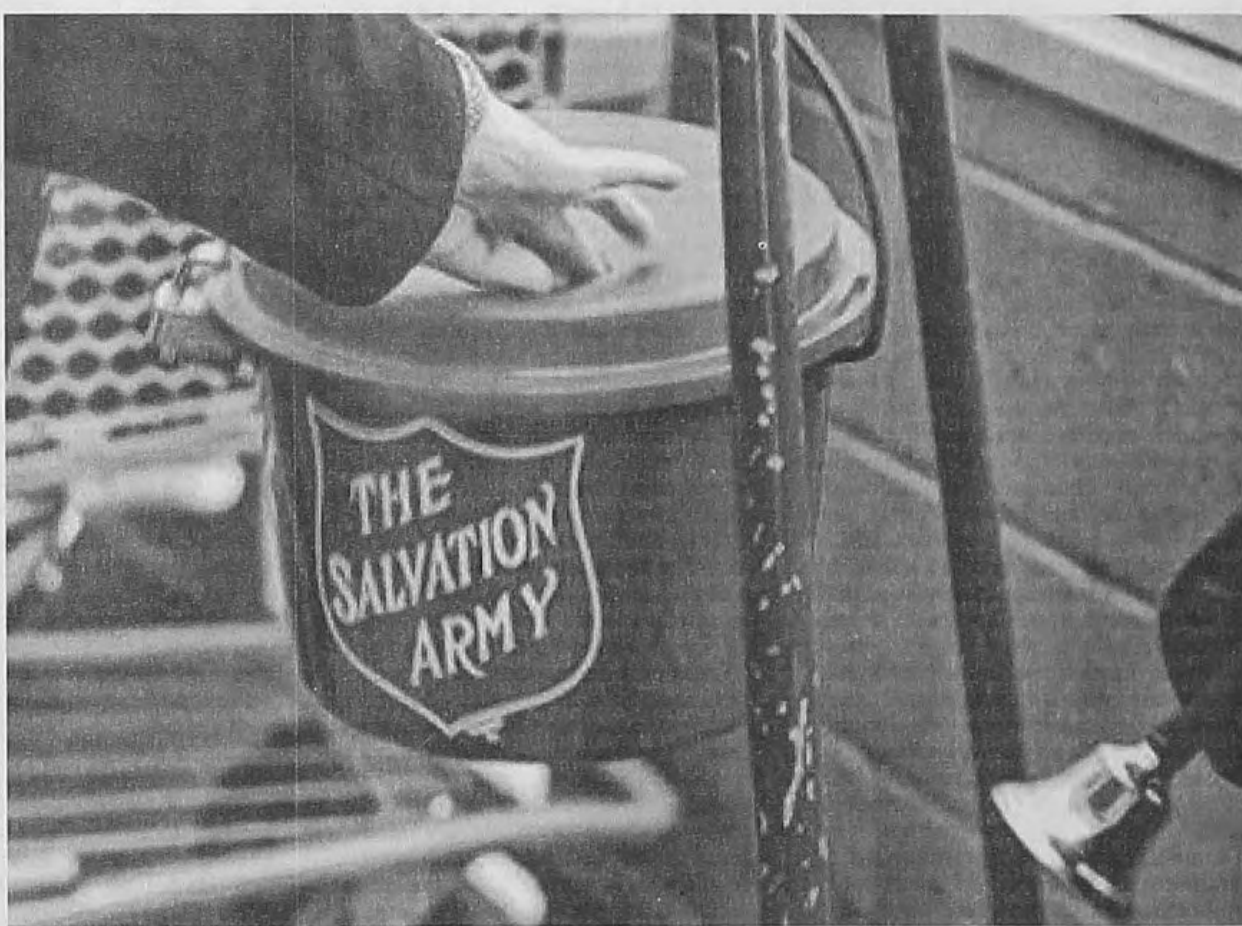
And the solicitations will go well beyond local groups. Mixed in with the sizable increase of mail and email requests for charitable donations, telephones will be ringing with this or that organization looking for assistance. Some will come from well-known organizations, but there will be those from less recognizable groups.

Charitable giving done before Jan. 1 means that the monetary gifts will be deductible on the 2014 tax return, but before you give, take the time to find out where your money is going. Don't let glossy campaign literature sway you to opening your checkbook or use your credit card. Our recommendation is to focus on charities you know and trust.

The Better Business Bureau recommends that if you are unfamiliar with an organization that is soliciting donations, don't give without first getting details about the charity. Don't be fooled by low overhead claims – get the charity's information. Ask for the charity's name, address and written information on the charity's programs and finances.

Know how much of your purchase goes to the charity. If something is being sold to benefit a charity, be wary of statements such as "all proceeds go to charity." Look for a disclosure that states exactly how much will go to the charity's programs.

A case in point is the Kids Wish Network, which had the dubious honor of being the worst charity in the nation in a 2013 review of charities with wasteful spending practices done by the *Tampa Bay Times*, CNN and the Center for Investigative Reporting. Based on "cash paid to solicitors in the last decade," the report found that of the \$127.8 million raised for Kids Wish Network, \$109.8 million went to the solicitors.



For many of us, giving to charities like The Salvation Army is as much a part of the holidays as the shopping and celebrations with family and friends.

Give by check or credit card. When you give by check or credit card, you have proof of your donation when it's time to do your taxes. Never be pressured into giving cash and never give via wire transfer.

Just say no. If you get a call from an unfamiliar organization asking for a contribution over the telephone by credit card, just say no and hang up. The caller could be calling you from anywhere in the world. The longer they keep you on the telephone, the more likely they will be to pressure you into giving. Once they have your credit card number, they could

max out your credit limit within minutes.

If you get an email from an unfamiliar organization asking for a contribution, do not click on links or download attachments. You could download viruses to your computer. Scammers send out millions of fake "phishing" emails every day to steal personal information.

Tuesday may have been Giving Tuesday, but it's never too late to give. Charity begins at home, but make sure your money will be wisely spent.

GUEST COLUMN

No more excuses, let's fix our roads

Our state's economy is recovering, people are moving back to Michigan and our small businesses continue to grow and create more jobs.

But we have a glaring problem that we have waited too long to address. Michigan's roads continue to worsen every day that we fail to pass a comprehensive long-term solution to improve our roads.

No more excuses. We need more money to fix the roads.

It's a long-running joke among Michiganders that when you take a family trip and you're driving south, you don't need a "Welcome to Ohio" sign to know when you've crossed the state line – you can just tell because the roads are suddenly smooth.

Why is it that Ohio seems to have so much better roads than Michigan? Are they just designing better roads? No. It's because Ohio, as well as every other state in the country, invests more per capita in road funding every year than Michigan does.

The joke isn't funny anymore. The average Michigander pays \$539 annually in additional vehicle repairs because of our poor roads. We've been under-investing in Michigan's infrastructure for decades. Today, Michigan ranks dead last in the United States in per capita spending on infrastructure. That's unacceptable for the state that's known for putting the world on wheels.

And the roads will only get worse without a road-funding solution. If we choose to do nothing – again – eventually we will need to completely reconstruct every single road in the state, costing us almost 10 times as much as it costs to maintain them now. In fact, back in 2004, the cost of returning all of Michigan's roads to "good" condition was \$3.68 billion.

By 2011, because we chose not to fix our roads, the cost had ballooned to \$11.5 billion. Every day we wait, it



Mike Nystrom

GUEST COLUMNIST

becomes more and more expensive to fix Michigan's roads.

If we choose to invest more in our roads today, we would actually save money in the long run. For every dollar invested in maintaining our roads and bridges, we save at least \$6 in reconstruction costs.

For too long, we've used Band-Aids to fix our roads, but that is not an acceptable answer anymore. Some 48 percent of major roads in Michigan's largest cities are in poor or mediocre condition; 27 percent of Michigan bridges are in need of repair, improvement or replacement.

Michigan families deserve safer and more reliable roads and it's time we take action.

Passing Gov. Rick Snyder's plan and fixing the roads needs to be a top priority for Michigan's Legislature before the end of the year. If we pass the bill to fix the roads, we'll create more and better jobs, save money and save lives.

We'll either pay now or pay more later. We've already waited too long. As we continue the comeback of Michigan, increased funding for roads and bridges is critical to building and maintaining a 21st century road system that will meet the demands of Michigan's growing economy.

Every Michigander deserves better infrastructure and needs to call or email their state representative and encourage them to support Gov. Snyder's plan to enact a comprehensive solution to fix Michigan's roads.

Mike Nystrom is executive vice president of the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association.

GUEST COLUMN

Tax increase should be 'last option considered'

To tax or not to tax – that is the question.

Michigan's road debate continues. The proponents of tax increases have an extremely strong lobbying base. They have incessantly pushed a false narrative that our roads cannot be fixed without tax increases, despite our citizens already being subject to the fifth-highest gas taxes in the country.

After having served as vice chairman of the Senate Transportation Subcommittee on Appropriations for the past four years, I happen to have a different opinion. Let me be clear: I want to fix the roads as much as anyone. The key difference is that I know that we can do so without having to dig deeper into the pockets of families struggling to make ends meet.

Here are some simple facts for Michigan citizens to consider. When I started my service in the Legislature four years ago, our state budget was \$46.8 billion. The last budget that we enacted for fiscal 2014-15 was \$53.1 billion. That is an increase of \$6.3 billion. Of that, \$1.1 billion went toward education; \$840 million of that has already gone toward our roads. That leaves \$4.3 billion unaccounted for in our list of budget priorities.

What are the odds that most folks would find most, if not all, of the spending items associated with this \$4.3 billion less important than fixing our roads? Would we raise taxes to pay for film incentives? Would we raise taxes to pay for other corporate incentive packages? The funds for these programs could be used for roads, yet we are being sold a narrative that we need a tax increase to pay for our roads. Why not push the tax increase discussion onto these programs instead?

Compound these observations with the fact that a significant portion of our transportation budget does not go toward fixing our roads. In fact, did you know that 10 percent of the taxes collected under the most recent bill the Senate passed to increase gas taxes would go toward rail and mass transit programs? Diverting funds to rail and mass transit will not fix a single pothole. Funny, but I don't recall trains and buses being part of the "Just fix the roads" propaganda blitz. Do you?

Against this backdrop, I maintain that we do not get the bang for the road-funding buck that we deserve in Michigan. In earlier editorials, I cited findings from the 20th annual Highway Report compiled by the Reason Foundation. It stated that Michigan spends



Patrick Colbeck

GUEST COLUMNIST

53 percent more per mile than the national average on our roads. Its latest study shows that Michigan still spends 27 percent more per mile than the national average and 7 percent more per lane-mile than the national average. Despite this spending level, our road conditions have consistently ranked 40th or worse.

When I cite such figures, I am assaulted by proponents of increased taxes who point out the influence of our winter climate on our poor road conditions. Minnesota, not exactly a winter getaway for warm-weather enthusiasts, spends 18 percent less per mile than the national average, yet has higher rural road quality. Truck weights are also cited as a major contributor to the poor quality of our roads. I'm all for lowering truck weights. In fact, the Senate has passed legislation to do just that, but, as an engineer, I am bothered by the lack of fundamental engineering data on this topic.

Despite years of inquiries, I have yet to find a specification that connects the dots between how long our roads should last under a given load profile and the road designs that we build. If one is interested in roads that last longer, as I am, it makes it very difficult to analyze the impact of truck weights and longer life road designs without this data.

The good news is that we all seem to agree that we need to fix our roads. The bad news is that there are still too many folks who choose to make their point by misrepresenting the views of folks like me who do not believe that we need to raise taxes. Proponents of tax increases have poured significant time and money into making us believe that tax increases are the only "rational" solution to our road woes.

Meanwhile, our citizens continue to pour out the fruits of their labor toward satisfying government's insatiable appetite for more of their hard-earned money.

Tax increases should always be the last option considered. All too often, though, they are the first. It is about time that we changed our priorities.

Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, is the state senator representing the 7th District, which includes the Plymouths, Canton and Northville.

CANTON OBSERVER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brown's record

Why haven't you or any other media FOIA'd Michael Brown's criminal record? Is it too politically incorrect for you to do so? Are you afraid?

Was he a perfect angel or did he have a background of assault and crime? The public needs to know.

We know via video that he stole cigars and assaulted a clerk. Robbery, a felony. What's the rest of the story?

Tom Kelly
Plymouth

A kinder world

It's that time of year. For most of us, it's the favorite time of all. Well, I have had a lot of thoughts lately that make me nervous. It is our world and the people in it. We are so many different types and we all seem to think that everyone should do or be like each other. Why? That question only you can answer.

What I have come up with is this: I myself do not have to change, but if the changes make me a better person and the world around me better, then I do need to change.

I believe it starts with understanding that we are all different and wish for the best for each other. This makes nothing impossible, if we work together to make the best of everything. We have to trust

that something new may make the other happy, that forgiving others without asking why is good. This brings compassion, love and change.

This is what most of the story we see on TV or read books about people changing for the better, making others happy and bringing change to the world. We do this by speaking to each other, by listen to each other, by saying let's give it a try for the outcome is greater than myself.

We can't always think it's about us. Growing up, I heard many people say it's for the future, it's for the children, it's for others. Now I hear people say what am I going to get, how will I benefit or what about me. As one friend has called it, it's the Me Box complex.

I am not saying we lower our standards, but maybe help others to see through different eyes. I know I have seen many different lives and try to respect other people and their ways without losing sight of who I am and where I have come from.

I am not always right and I have a lot to learn, like asking for help, saying no and all the above. At least I will try to make the change by doing what I have said. We can't always believe what we hear, but the facts are what we have to go by.

So please from here on stop and say

hello to a stranger, hold a door open, tell someone what a great job they are doing or did, help someone with packages. Pass on a good deed to someone else and the person who has helped you. Pay it back to others twice for what you receive and it does not have to be the same way you get it. Most of all don't think about the outcome just let it happen. Listen to someone else without telling them what to do or how to do it.

Life is too short and we can only do the small things as one person, but together we can do so much more. We are good, but we can always be better.

Sharon A. Strebbling
Westland

Oppose Electoral College bill

Voters beware — your vote for the president and the vice president may be meaningless in future years if the state Legislature adopts a proposed bill that would change how Electoral College votes are allocated.

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County urges you to contact your state representative, opposing HB 5974, which would change the way Michigan votes for the president of the United States. Currently, along with 47 other states, we use the "winner takes all" system, which allocates all of our 16 Electoral College

votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote in Michigan.

HB 5974 would change the current system to one where the candidate who wins the statewide vote would get at least nine of the state's 16 Electoral College votes and then an additional electoral vote for each 1.5-percent point increase in their margin over the second-place finisher. The second-place finisher would get the rest of the electoral votes.

According to *Crain's Detroit Business*, if this bill had been in effect in 2012, President Obama would have received 12 of the state's Electoral College votes and former Gov. Romney would have received four. This result would not have reflected the will of the majority of voters who supported the top candidate. President Obama would have received only 12 electoral votes, not the entire 16, even though he won the popular vote by 400,000 votes.

Tell your legislators and the governor that you do not want them to take away the "winner-take-all" basis for the Electoral College. To find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, go to www.lwvww.org and click on the link for "They Represent You."

Angela E. Ryan
president, League of Women Voters
Northwest Wayne County

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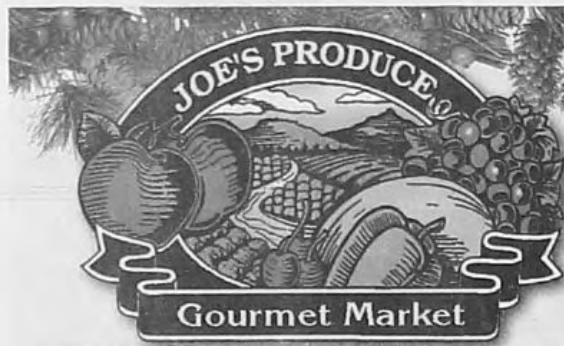
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GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 3



Looking to pass the ball during last spring's Class A state final is Canton's Alana Brown (right), one of two returning starters.

GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Learning curve awaits PCA

Young Eagles hope to grow into roles as season unfolds

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team, the 2014-15 season will indeed be the proverbial "work in progress."

Minus four key players from the team that reached the Class D regional final (Jen Malcolm, Rachael Fuller, Rachel Smith and Martha Mullett), the Eagles will undoubtedly evolve as players grow into their roles.

Second-year head coach Rod Windle acknowledged that PCA "lost some really fantastic players last year, but these girls are excited to start their own legacy."

The Eagles open at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at home against Washtenaw Christian.

Two returning players who figure to be instrumental in whether the Eagles can soar in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference are senior forward Danielle Witkowski and senior guard Raina Postma.

"I'm looking forward to the leadership they are going to bring to the team," Windle said about the duo.

"They really have great attitudes and are encouraging to the younger players. They have just a positive outlook about the season this year."

Their on-court skills aren't bad, either.

Witkowski is a post player who can get to the basket, box out and block shots. Now, she is trying to sharpen her scoring touch.

"She's outstanding at rebounding and shot blocking; those are her two strengths," Windle said. "She's improving in the scoring area and getting her points (in scrimmages)."

Meanwhile, Postma "is an outstanding leader and a very good shooter inside of 15 (feet). We're going to stretch her game a little bit to extend out to the three this year."

Looking for offense

Both players need to find the mark, because PCA lost most of its scoring from a season ago.

"We lost four seniors from last year and they scored most of our points," Windle said. "There's not a lot of offense returning, so

See EAGLES, Page B3

SEAMLESS TRANSITION

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Natalie Winters returns from the 2014 Class A state finalist team to be a key component for the new-look Chiefs this season.



New coach, same philosophy as young Chiefs set to tip it off

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The more things change, the more they stay the same — especially with Canton's varsity girls basketball team.

Longtime coaching fixture Brian Samulski — whose run of sustained success ended with last season's loss to Birmingham Marian in the Class A state championship game — recently stepped down to pursue an administrative job at the Park.

Enter new Canton head coach Kevin Palmer, who was junior varsity coach last season. He takes over a youthful squad that lost a quartet of standouts in Paige Aresco, Taylor Hunley, Rachel Winters and Shannon Perry.

Although returning starters Alana Brown and Natalie Win-

See CHIEFS, Page B3



PCA seniors Raina Postma (left) and Danielle Witkowski will set the tone for the Eagles.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers stung early, late

Plymouth bounces back from poor start to draw even, only to let game get away

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Perhaps it was fitting that the Plymouth Whalers weren't rewarded late for what head coach Don Elland described as a poor effort much of the way Saturday night against Sarnia.

The Sting survived a late push by the Whalers to win the Ontario Hockey League match-up 4-2, disappointing an announced crowd of 1,718 on Military Appreciation Night at Compuware Arena.

Sarnia's Daniel Nikandrov opened the scoring just 59 seconds into the West Division game to set the sorry tone.

"Right from the opening faceoff we weren't ready to compete, we weren't ready to



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Plymouth's Will Bitten (No. 41) fires the puck into the Sarnia goal during the second period. At right for the Whalers is linemate Matt Mistele (No. 22).

play," Elland said. "They were. Good job for them. But we have to be better, we have to get them better prepared."

"Right now, we're not a very good hockey team."

Eventually, the Whalers started to skate and create some chances — which were

few and far between over the first half of the game — and did draw even at 2-2 in the third on a goal by forward Matt Mistele (his team-leading 18th).

But then came a giveaway

See WHALERS, Page B4

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Park teams both stuck in neutral

Salem, Canton icers let chance for win escape, settle for 4-4 tie

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Hockey fans Saturday night filled Plymouth Cultural Center to catch a glimpse of two Park rivals looking to maybe get a jump on the coveted Lash Cup.

Those spectators watched host Salem and Canton go at it in a KLAAs South Division varsity boys hockey contest. But after the teams played to a 4-4 deadlock, coaches for both teams weren't exactly ecstatic about the result.

"I'm not happy with the tie. I'm not happy with the effort tonight," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said in matter-of-fact fashion. "It was disappointing in a game like this."

Canton coaching counterpart Brad Barath lamented that "it was a game we let get away from us. Penalties absolutely killed us."

Both teams now are 1-1-1 on the young season.

Canton senior forward Tommy Kiddle put the Chiefs up 4-3 with 14 minutes to play in the game, one-timing a feed from senior defenseman Hunter Schlamp (two assists) past Salem senior goalie Dillon Phillips.

"Schlamp made a nice play," Barath said. "He carried the puck in and found (Kiddle) out front for a good tap-in. It was a very good goal."

But the Rocks responded

See HOCKEY, Page B4

MID-AMERICAN POMPON HIGH KICK COMPETITION

CANTON POMPON SQUADS KICK INTO HIGH GEAR

For first time, varsity and JV teams capture first place at Mid-American Pompon High Kick competition

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

All-year long, girls in the Canton High School pompon program work tirelessly to perfect their grueling routines.

And Nov. 9 at Saginaw Valley State University, both the varsity and junior varsity teams won a championship at the prestigious Mid-American Pompon High Kick contest.

The varsity team, coached by Jenny Kesler and Gabby Cayao, won the medium varsity division with a "bellhops" routine.

The JV squad, coached by Brandee Amick and Nikki Battaglia, took the top spot with its "Monopoly" theme.

This marks the first time in Kesler's 14 years with the program that her team took the championship.

"The girls worked so hard," Kesler said. "They finally got to realize that hard work does pay off. It was very exciting."

Kesler said the teams perfected theme-based routines, with synchronized movement, high kicks and jumps.

"We work on our skills all year," Kesler said. "The girls and I make up the routine; the girls help do the choreography."

"We just fine-tune it, we drill it a lot until they get it right."

In order to be as highly conditioned and trained for the competition as possible, the athletes practice with a continuous minute of high kicks.

"They have to have stamina," Kesler said. "If you don't, you can't get through the routine."

They believed

The Canton pompon program will also participate in February in the statewide competition.

"They do weight training and cardio training," Kesler said. "That's a big part of pom. They worked so hard. This year, I practiced both teams. The JV coach and myself, we really stressed to them to believe that you can do it."

"At practice, they knew what their goal was. They wanted to get first and they worked that hard. It's not too often the varsity and JV teams both win in a competition."

Members of the varsity team include Tara Quigley, Grace Brekke, Abby Crippes, Mia Tavian, Maigan Byars, Aleigh Gorham, Madison Santori, Gabby Watts, Stacey Partain, Alicyn Mabry, Brenna Shaw, Emily Cesario, Emma Stevens, Sophie Mekled, Clara Mason, Ayden Peters, Morgan Fillmore, Katie Valchine and Shelby Petersen.

The JV team is composed of Mallery Woodard, Jessi Dawson, Kendall Milo, Nicole Piontek, Claire Carrier, Brooke MacIntyre, Brianna Tetlow, Arianna Mattioli, Sydney Drechnowicz, Alia Jones, Alexis Faught, Jenna Milewski and Din Guerra.

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CANTON POM SQUAD

The Canton varsity pompon squad performs its first-place bellhops routine at the recent Mid-American Pompon High Kick competition at Saginaw Valley University. From left are Tara Quigley, Grace Brekke, Abby Crippes, Mia Tavian, Maigan Byars, Aleigh Gorham, Madison Santori, Gabby Watts, Stacey Partain, Alicyn Mabry, Brenna Shaw, Emily Cesario, Emma Stevens, Sophie Mekled, Clara Mason, Ayden Peters, Morgan Fillmore, Katie Valchine and Shelby Petersen.



CANTON POM SQUAD

Canton's junior varsity pompon squad also took first place at the recent Mid-American Pompon High Kick competition at Saginaw Valley University. From left, doing a Monopoly theme, are Mallery Woodard, Jessi Dawson, Kendall Milo, Nicole Piontek, Claire Carrier, Brooke MacIntyre, Brianna Tetlow, Arianna Mattioli, Sydney Drechnowicz, Alia Jones, Alexis Faught, Jenna Milewski and Din Guerra.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL OPENER

Wildcats get best of ice-cold Rocks

Plymouth cruises to 45-25 triumph in opening game for campus rivals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

One team would like a mulligan after Monday's season-opening varsity girls basketball game, while the other is fine and dandy with how things turned out.

That's because the contest between Salem and host Plymouth was one-sided pretty much all night, with the Wildcats building a huge 27-5 half-time lead and going on to a 45-25 victory.

Spearheading the Wildcats was senior wing Kendall Rose, who buried three triples en route to a game-high 16 points. Chipping in 11 points and 10 rebounds was senior forward Leah Kliczinski.

"I thought Leah was really important tonight," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "I thought she established some things inside. She scored eight points in the second quarter and I thought that was really important."

Bright spots for Salem were few and far between, but freshman wing Lasha Petree registered 10 points. Contributing four points and four boards was senior forward Shara Long.

"I have to be honest, I'm very surprised at how that game turned out, score-wise, because Salem's a good team," Brandon said. "They have good players. But I felt like we were really, really prepared tonight."

Salem head coach Lindsay Klemmer, meanwhile, witnessed things go from bad to worse.

More than three minutes of the first quarter elapsed before anybody scored and that was a free throw by Long. The Wildcats reeled off the next seven points, taking a 7-1 edge after one quarter.

"We missed the first couple shots and then a couple of the girls got a few quick fouls and that took us right out of our game," Klemmer said. "I had to sit two of my seniors right away and that hurts."

"We looked like we had something on the rim, but nothing would drop. As soon as we missed those few, we got out of rhythm."

Building momentum

The Wildcats, who forced 22 Salem turnovers and enjoyed a healthy edge in rebounding, also took a while to get going. The first field goal of the contest was a layup by Kliczinski with 4:30 left in the first.

Senior post Patti Begoske (six points) then connected on back-to-back jumpers in the final 35 seconds to beef up the Plymouth lead after the opening eight minutes.

"I think we were nervous in the first quarter," Brandon said. "I think it's normal on opening night to go out and not be firing on all cylinders. But we stayed together, we stayed united, which is what we do."

Plymouth went on a 15-2 run to cap off a dominant first half and by all intents put an end to any hopes of a Salem comeback.

Kliczinski dropped in a couple of short-range shots and senior point guard Courtney LaVallee (five points) hit a trey to make it 16-3.

It was 25-5 with five



After hustling to retrieve the ball, Plymouth's Cassidy Lewis looks to pass to a teammate.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Plymouth's Courtney LaVallee (right) looks to dribble around Salem defender Leah Moss during Monday night's season opener.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

seconds to play in the half and Salem in-bounding the ball in the Rocks' end of the floor. But ju-

nior wing Cassidy Lewis (seven points) stole the pass and went in for a layup at the horn, epit-

mizing how the half unfolded.

If Klemmer tried to pump up her team at halftime, all it took was 15 seconds for another deflating shot by the Wildcats. This time, Rose hit a trey from the left wing and it was a 30-5 ballgame.

A few minutes later, Rose converted a jumper from virtually the same spot to build Plymouth's lead to 34-10 with 3:20 left.

"I got a lot of good passes and a lot of good cuts by my teammates to help me get open, gave me good screens," Rose said. "It's a lot easier (to score) when I have teammates that can help me like that."

Strong for Salem

Salem did get a spark from freshman sisters

Lasha and Jala Petree, who accounted for eight of the Rocks' 10 points in the third quarter (which ended with Plymouth up 40-15).

Lasha Petree connected on a trey in the third and followed up with another in the fourth, a quarter in which the Rocks actually enjoyed a 10-5 edge.

"They both gave us extremely good minutes," Klemmer said. "Obviously, Lasha's a scorer and that's what she did. And defensively, she did a few good things, too."

"And then Jala, when she came in she was very aggressive and they both played really hard and that's what I preach. So I was impressed."

Brandon was pleased with the way his team — after the slow start, that is — persevered and became the kind of play-making machine it can be.

"Our identity is that we're a great passing team and that we share the ball and trust each other," Brandon said. "That's our team identity, offensively."

"And our goal every night is to take what the defense gives us and be the best passing team on the floor. I thought we were that tonight."

Rose was a thorn in Salem's side for more than her outside shooting.

She also grabbed seven rebounds, made four steals and tallied three assists.

Plymouth visits Ann Arbor Huron at 7 p.m. Thursday, while Salem visits Farmington Hills Mercy at 7 p.m. Friday.

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CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

ters will look to keep the 2014-15 Chiefs perched atop the KLAA South Division standings, the team immediately will be faced with a familiar foe.

Into the fire

Canton will host Marian in Thursday's season opener, continuing the Samulski-honed habit of going up against the very best during the slate of non-league games that take up much of December.

"I kind of teased Brian a little bit about thanking him for setting up the schedule to open up against the state champs for our first game of the year," Palmer said. "They are returning everybody but one person. But I kind of believe in what Brian believed in, which is scheduling the best opponents in the state in order to measure up and see where you stack up at that time and where you need to get to be."

Later on, the Chiefs go up against Farmington Hills Mercy, Dearborn Divine Child and Grosse Pointe South.

"We do that for a reason, to kind of get our girls prepared and ready for when it comes tournament time, we've been there and done that," Palmer said. "We know how we need to play in order to beat these teams."

"So that's something I really liked that Brian does and I know I'll continue to do for however long I'm here."

Strong leaders

It doesn't hurt to have excellent co-captains in senior forward Brown, junior guard Winters and senior guard Alexa Lagola to lead the charge.

"Alana and Alexa have stepped up, as well as Nat. They've really stepped up their verbal leadership," Palmer said. "Last year, we had four seniors that were very



Alexa Lagola is one of three captains for new Canton coach Kevin Palmer.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

vocal, where the (younger) kids didn't have to be vocal.

"And this year we're kind of curious to see how they react to those seniors being gone. All three of them really stepped up and have been big vocal leaders for us in practice."

Although the Chiefs won't have the size of last year's team, especially without Aresco and Hunley, they will be quick, tenacious and able to connect from the perimeter.

Winters, one of the guards, can shoot the lights out, for example.

Another player who can bring it is Brown, who competes bigger than her size.

Lagola is expected to be a third starter, while returning sophomore forward Erin Hult is a solid bet to also be a regular.

"Erin Hult's had a phenomenal tryout, a phenomenal practice," Palmer said. "She had an awesome summer. She plays a lot of basketball."

Opportunity abounds

Palmer also likes the potential being shown by newcomer sopho-

more guard Brianna Finn and returning junior guard Madison Archibald.

"(Archibald) had experience playing on varsity last year, but not really getting a lot of playing time," Palmer said. "She's someone that we're hoping, now that she has a different type of opportunity with those seniors graduated, that she really steps up and kind of takes advantage of it."

The coaching staff (which for now does not include longtime assistant coach Bob Blohm) is taking a close look at several varsity newcomers.

Those include sophomore forward Madi Wolfbauer, sophomore guard Monica Newton, junior forward Bre Donehue, junior forward Rio Santo and junior guard Casey Muglia.

"We have a lot of new kids to the varsity squad," Palmer said. "Madi Wolfbauer is a sophomore that's going to be playing up."

"Monica Newton is a sophomore who was on (the) freshman team last year and had a phenomenal tryout. She earned a spot on varsity this year."

The Chiefs might be smaller in stature and shorter on experience, but Palmer still is set on the team making a big impact this season.

Moreover, the winning culture established under the watch of Samulski (and Blohm) is expected to remain intact.

"Between me and Brian, we're very similar in the way that we coach, how we do things, our philosophies," Palmer said. "It hasn't been a big transition for the girls in terms of learning a lot of new things, new concepts."

"So as far as our philosophies, those haven't changed. The players have changed. We have a lot of new kids in terms of kids that haven't had a lot of playing time, that have to step up and it's going to be a wait-and-see to see how they react to it."

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GOLF ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Trosper named top junior golfer

Donnie Trosper of Canton, who took the American Junior Golf Association Tour by storm this summer, is the Golf Association of Michigan Junior Boys Player of the Year.

Trosper, whose GAM membership is through Carl's Golf and in Plymouth Township, topped the Honor Roll with a resounding 1,089 points in large part because of his four wins on the AJGA Tour, a feat that tied him with none other than Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson for second in all-time single season wins in AJGA play. Seung-Su Han has the record of five.

Another Canton golfer, James Piot, who works on his game at Fox Hills Learning Center of Plymouth and won the GAM Junior Stroke Play Championship, was second on the GAM Honor Roll with 869 points.

Dylan Deogun of Orchard Lake and Orchard Lake Country Club was third with 640 points. Glenn Piot Jr. of Canton, James' brother, had 512 points and Jake Kneen of White Lake and Beacon Hills Golf Club, the winner of the Michigan Junior Amateur Championship, had 510 points. A complete Honor Roll points list can be found at www.gam.org.

Work pays off

Trosper, playing this week in yet another AJGA event in Florida and likely scoring more Honor Roll points, said the hard work on his game in the last few years paid off this year.

"I think it was the hard work paying off and my putting finally coming together," he said. "My dad (Don) got me on

the right track going forward and I just figured out how to win."

Following his win in the prestigious Ping Invitational (Oklahoma), an elite AJGA event and the fourth AJGA win of his summer, he received a scholarship offer from the University of Central Florida and plans to join the UCF program in the fall.

"I'm really excited about Central Florida," he said. "I put my expectations pretty high this year and ended up being a Junior All-American, so it's been a great year. The three AJGA wins (Coca-Cola Junior at Boyne

Highlands, Columbus Junior presented by The Memorial in Ohio, Randy Wise Junior in Flint) were in that expectation level I had of myself and then I had to pinch myself when I won the Ping Invitational."

Trosper, who will play his final prep season for Canton High School in the spring, said winning the GAM Award was exciting.

"Being a Michigan native, it feels great to win it," he said. "I know how good the golfers are here and the kind of season I had to have to do this."

Trosper describes himself as a shot maker more than a distance player.

"I'm not that big, but I can get it out there pretty good," he said. "But I take pride in shaping my shots. I hit a fade most of the time, but I can hit the shot that is required and my putting was really solid all year."

He plans to play a full summer schedule in 2015, including several GAM events.



Trosper

EAGLES

Continued from Page B1

we'll just have to get better at that as the season goes on."

Another returnee who will open the season in the starting lineup is sophomore forward Aliyah Pries.

"She's kind of a post

and a guard; she's going to move between both," Windle said.

Sophomore guard Rachel Witkowski is slated to start and freshman guard Robin Albert also has an opportunity to do the same.

"They bring great energy, (they're) very athletic and they're learning fast," Windle said. "So that's a big key

for us this year. ... We just have to have that energy to keep learning and keep improving."

The team is banking on a return by guard Lydia Chapel, who was on the 2013-14 varsity. She is recovering from an injury and "may have to wait a little bit to get going."

Junior forward Paige Perky is another player

who will provide a spark off the bench.

"She'll be one of our rebounders in the post when she comes in," Windle said, adding that he is still trying to decide on which players from the JV will round out the roster.

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

at 7:16 on the power play to draw even and leave the rink with one point in the standings. Junior forward Evan Newel took a centering pass from senior forward Noah Willer and jammed his second shot past Canton senior goaltender Nick Borg.

"Just a couple whacks of the puck, going in to the dirty areas of the ice and his effort paid off," Ossensmacher said about Newel's net-front persistence. "Unfortunately, we didn't do that enough."

Back and forth

It was a see-saw affair. Salem led 2-0 in the first (on goals by Willer and junior forward Zach Goleniak, the latter set up by sophomore forward Marty Mills) before falling behind 3-2 after the Chiefs tallied three unanswered goals.

Canton got on the board with 3:23 left in the first, when senior forward Jon Winberry beat Phillips. Picking up the lone assist was sophomore defenseman

Michael Gaffka. The Chiefs then netted consecutive even-strength goals by junior winger James Tucker and senior forward Connor Wherrett, both parked in front of Phillips.

Sophomore forward Emerson Taylor assisted on Tucker's goal, while Schlamp set up Wherrett's tally.

Salem drew even 3-3 on a goal by junior forward Nick Callegari at the 16:17 mark of the second (from senior forward Liam Walker and junior forward Miles Dougherty).

Making 25 saves for Salem was Phillips, while Canton's Borg stopped had 31.

Barath's team hosts Grand Blanc on and Friday at Arctic Edge Arena. He hopes his team doesn't parade to the penalty box the way it did Saturday.

"We doubled them up in penalties," he said. "And there were a few defensive breakdowns."

The Rocks will visit much-improved Livonia Franklin for a game Friday at Eddie Edgar Arena.

SALEM 3, WOODHAVEN 1: On Nov. 22, the Rocks scored three times in the third period

to earn their first win of the season at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Bob Cupit put Woodhaven up 1-0 with a goal at 12:48 of the first against Phillips.

But the Salem goalie shut the door the rest of the way, making 25 stops. Phillips kept his team in the game until the offense came alive in the final period.

The line of Willer-Newel-Walker accounted for the tying and go-ahead goals. Willer scored on the power play early in the period with assists from Newel and Walker. Then, with 4:07 remaining, Newel scored the equalizer (from Walker and Willer).

Scoring into an empty net with eight seconds on the clock was sophomore forward Shawn Weldon.

"It was not our best effort through two periods, but we picked it up in the third for the win," Ossensmacher said. "Dillon Phillips was very solid in net. We will need to have a better 51-minute compete level" in order to have success in conference play.

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RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Matt Mistele (No. 22) of the Plymouth Whalers hammers away at a loose puck in front of Sarnia goalie Justin Fazio Saturday night at Compuware Arena.

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

deep in the Plymouth zone with about six minutes remaining.

That resulted in an unassisted goal by Nikita Korostelev to break the tie. For good measure, the Sting added an empty netter by Brandon Lindberg with 5.2 seconds to go.

But with about 45 seconds remaining and the faceoff in the Sarnia end, Whalers forward Sonny Milano got past a defenseman and found himself all alone in front of Sting goalie Justin Fazio.

Saving the lead

Milano backhanded a dangerous shot from just above the blue paint that Fazio somehow fought off — keeping the Sting in the lead.

"We got to be in a better situation than to rely on that in the last 30 seconds," Elland said.

After being outskated and outworked most of the first two periods, Plymouth (10-14-1)

trailed 2-0 in the opening stanza and only registered five shots midway through the match-up.

Sarnia's second goal, also by Korostelev, was scored on an unassisted shorthanded breakaway at 14:37 of the first.

Korostelev shot up the middle of the ice and beat Whalers netminder Alex Nedeljkovic (27 saves) with a shot between the pads.

The sparse crowd finally had something to cheer about midway through the second when Plymouth forward Will Bitten cut the deficit to 2-1. It was his sixth goal of the season.

And then, in the final 90 seconds of the frame with Plymouth on the power play, the Whalers blitzed Fazio (29 saves) with six in-close shots to close the period with some momentum.

Fazio blocked a shot from the right circle by Mathew Campagna and then slid his pad over to stymie two cracks at rebounds by Cullen Mercer, who was stationed near the right post.

The Whalers kept cranking up the heat in the third period, outshooting Sarnia (12-11-1) by a 17-7 count.

Midway through the stanza, with a Sarnia penalty expiring, Mistele picked off an errant pass and whipped a high shot from the right circle that beat Fazio.

Unfortunately, Plymouth could not break the tie the rest of the way.

That honor went to Korostelev, who forced a Whalers' turnover and jammed a shot in from the doorstep.

Elland said the inspired power plays late in the second and during the third were too little, too late.

"When you're not moving your feet and you're not competing, you're not going to draw penalties," Elland noted. "Once we started doing that, we started earning some power-play time. That helps."

Plymouth will look to have better starts Friday at Mississauga (7:30 p.m.) and Saturday at Compuware against London (7 p.m.).

SPECIAL EVENT

BEAR HUGS

Whalers, Orin Jewelers team up Saturday for 15th annual Teddy Bear Toss at Compuware Arena

When the Plymouth Whalers host the London Knights at 7 p.m. Saturday at Compuware Arena, there will be more than hockey players and referees on the ice surface.

Saturday is the Whalers 15th annual Teddy Bear Toss, sponsored by corporate friend Orin Jewelers of Garden City and Northville, the official jeweler of the Whalers.

The first time the Whalers score on Saturday, fans are encouraged to throw new and gently used stuffed toys on the ice.

The Whalers — with the help on Orin Jewelers and other friends — will find homes for the stuffed toys.

Fans have the option of purchasing stuffed toys on Saturday at Compuware Arena for a donation of \$5.

Although the Teddy Bear Toss happens every holiday season with Ontario Hockey League and hockey teams throughout North America, this season is a first-time experience for Orin Jewelers.

"We're looking forward to Saturday," said Orin J. Mazzone Jr., owner of Orin Jewelers. "This is a new experience for us. It's a little nerve-wracking waiting



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Teddy bears are strewn all over the Compuware Arena ice during last season's event.

for the Whalers to score, but once they do, the smiles on everyone's face will be worth it.

"We appreciate the opportunity to be part of a great tradition. And with the support of the Plymouth United Way, we know all these teddy bears will be going to good homes in our own communities this holiday."

Chuck-a-Puck, too

Orin Jewelers has enlisted the assistance of the Kiwanis Club of Garden City to assist as well. They'll be running the 50/50 raffle and Chuck-a-Puck events.

Also involved in the event is 96.3 WVDV and Blaine Fowler of Blaine & Allyson in the Morning.

"This is all about good people and their businesses helping a great cause," said Denise Ronayne, director of marketing for the Whalers.

"We enjoy working with Orin Jewelers and are looking forward to seeing the teddy bears coming on to the ice on Saturday."

Fans should be ready to throw the bears early. The Whalers have a history of scoring during the first period of previous Teddy Bear Toss games.

Per Ontario Hockey League rules, if the Whalers score in the final two minutes of the first or second period, the game will be stopped and the time remaining will be added on to the second or third period.

PREP GYMNASTICS

Wildcats open with strong performance

Plymouth gymnasts off to good start with victory over Livonia Blue

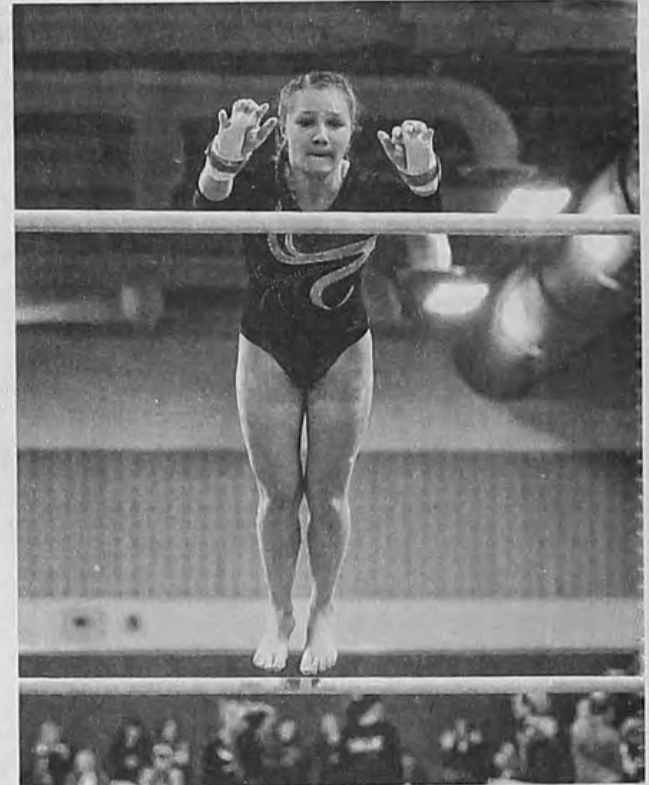
In an early-season meet, Plymouth's varsity gymnastics team edged Livonia Blue, 139.275 to 137.575.

Early-season jitters were not apparent to captains Kayla Janevski, Rebeca Simu and Molly McSween. Janevski led the team on vault with a 8.9, McSween led bars with a 8.85 and Simu led floor exercise with a 8.8 and beam with an 8.8.

Sophomore Natalie Janke nailed her beam for a 8.9 and Adrianna Tao and Sara Hosmer followed closely with 8.7 each. Drew Degener opened up on floor with a regional qualifying score.

Junior Emily Welch had strong performances on vault and beam, while Rachel Auer and Isis Madyun led the 'B' team on vault.

Freshman Victoria Sylvester and Lindsay Badger led the 'B' team with stellar all-around performances. They promise to push the team to new heights, gaining



FILE PHOTO
Plymouth's Molly McSween performs on the uneven parallel bars during a meet last season.

new skills daily.

Natalie Ondayko and senior captain Anna Warbel kept the team together, calm and focused with their compassion and spirit.

"I was amazed and overwhelmed with the team work, dedication of

all the gymnasts," Wildcats head coach Pam Yockey said. "New skills and performances yet to come from the rest of the team promises to be a fun and successful year."

Plymouth will host Salem on Thursday, Dec. 11.

- Achieve Charter Academy**
3250 Denton Rd Canton, MI 48188-2110
734-397-0960 PHONE | 734-397-0968 FAX
- Canton Charter Academy**
49100 Ford Rd Canton, MI 48187-5415
734-453-9517 PHONE | 734-453-9551 FAX
- Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy**
48484 N Territorial Road Plymouth, MI 48170-2850
734-459-6149 PHONE | 734-864-0341 FAX
- South Canton Scholars Charter Academy**
3085 S. Canton Center Rd Canton, MI 48188-2452
734-398-5658 PHONE | 734-547-3077 FAX
- South Pointe Scholars Charter Academy**
10550 Geddes Road Ypsilanti, MI 48198-9442
734-484-0118 PHONE | 734-864-0353 FAX

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2015-2016 academic school year ends on 2/27/2015 at 5:00 pm. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHAschools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held at the respective school on the following date:

- Achieve - 3/17/2015 at 4:30 PM
- Canton - 3/17/2015 at 4:30 PM
- Plymouth - 3/17/2015 at 12:00 PM
- South Canton - 3/17/2015 at 4:30 PM
- South Pointe - 3/10/2015 at 4:30 PM

Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Walker Charter Academy admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.



NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2014

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2014 and payable through February 28, 2015 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page—www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Wednesday, December 24, 2014 and Thursday, December 25, 2014 also Wednesday, December 31, 2014 and Thursday, January 1, 2015.

During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be OPEN on Monday, December 22, 2014, Tuesday, December 23, 2014 Friday December 26, 2014 and Monday, December 29, 2014 and Tuesday, December 30, 2014 for our taxpayers' convenience.

Teresa Cischke, MiCPT CPFA
City Treasurer

Holidays call for fire safety in decor, cooking

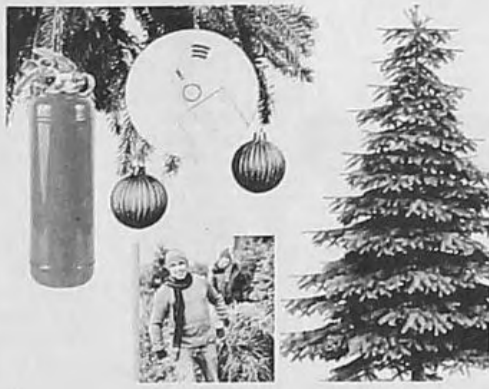
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released its Home Christmas Tree and Holiday Light Fires Report in late 2013 which offers statistics on fire hazards that typically accompany the winter holiday season. NFPA offers safety advice and informational resources at www.nfpa.org/holiday that can be used to minimize fire risks this season.

In 2007-11, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 230 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees. Although these fires are not common, when they do occur, they are likely to be serious. On average, one of every 40 reported home structure Christmas tree fires resulted in a death compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home structure fires.

One-third of Christmas tree structure fires involved electrical failures or malfunctions. Nearly 20 percent of these structure fires occurred because some type of heat source was too close to the tree.

NFPA offers the following safety tips:

- » If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- » If using a real tree, select one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be



sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree:

- » Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are the second and third leading days for cooking fires, respectively. Most cooking fires occur when cooking is left unattended.

With unattended cooking as the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries, fire officials say to stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it's for a short period of time. If

you're simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking. Your Fire Department also suggests creating a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried.

Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holidays, and December is the peak month for home candle fires. The NFPA's statistics show that two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.

Fire officials urge residents to consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles. However, if you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces. Avoid using candles in the bedroom where one-third of U.S. candle fires begin or other areas where people may fall asleep. Lastly, never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

Heed law, business interests in cell tower placement

Q: We have a cell company coming to us regarding putting up a cell transmitter tower on our condominium. What do you think we need to know before giving the go ahead for a cell phone tower to be installed on common elements?

A: 1. Make sure that you have an attorney for the association knowledgeable about this issue assisting you in any contract. Make sure you are comfortable with the length of time that the contract covers.

2. Include a provision that requires the cell provider to indemnify the association in the event the tower or property is damaged by storm, earthquake, etc.

3. Use only a reputable installer that indemnifies your association if you have any control over the installation, which you should.

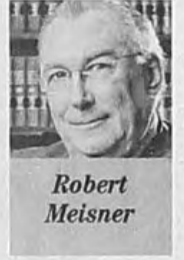
4. Work with the roof company to make sure that your roof warranty isn't invalidated by the installation of the tower and equipment.

5. Include language in the contract that gives you at least a six month notice of termination from the cell provider should it decide to cancel the contract.

6. Make sure the contract has some manner to dissolve disputes and address concerns during the life of the contract and a remedy right giving you attorney's fees incurred in the event of a breach.

Q: I have heard you in a lecture refer to the checks and balances between the association board, the attorney and the management company. Can you further explain what you mean by that?

A: What I mean simply is that the Board of Directors has a responsibility to run the affairs of the association and incident to that, monitor the affairs of all of its vendors and professionals, including the management company and the attorney. If the management company is figuratively in bed with the attorney because of economic considerations as a result of referrals, that checks and balances system may be in jeopardy. The attorney should be monitoring the affairs of the management company and the Board of Directors, and must otherwise comment on any irregularities that he or she observes. The management company should be monitoring the Board of Directors and the attorney to ensure that the attorney is performing his or her functions properly so as to make the operation of the association run effectively.



Robert Meisner

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 21-25, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

16160 Beechwood Ave \$255,000
30601 Embassy St \$390,000
18521 Hillcrest St \$370,000

BIRMINGHAM

338 Baldwin Rd \$1,050,000
784 Bird Ave \$649,000
1451 Cedar Dr \$365,000
1288 Chesterfield Ave \$735,000
1274 E Lincoln St \$495,000
2859 E Maple Rd # 3 \$52,000
1859 Henrietta St \$275,000
675 Larchlea Dr \$610,000
1475 Maryland Blvd \$266,000
335 N Eton St # 27 \$89,000
543 N Old Woodward Ave \$250,000

855 Pilgrim Ave \$1,150,000

1272 Villa Rd \$252,000
2261 W Maple Rd \$266,000
1470 Washington Blvd \$295,000
866 Westchester Way \$720,000
639 Westwood Dr \$935,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

4315 Sawgrass Dr \$245,000
2827 Heathfield Rd \$370,000
3645 Lahser Rd \$2,330,000
326 Lakewood Dr \$1,181,000
255 Lone Pine Ct \$1,150,000
2133 Park Ridge Dr \$258,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

2927 Aspen Ln \$275,000
7201 Bingham Dr \$526,000
2358 Brenthaven Dr \$399,000
624 Deauville Ln \$484,000

3290 Devon Brook Dr \$250,000
742 E Fox Hills Dr \$73,000
1353 Forbes Dr \$387,000
1807 Indian Trail Rd \$385,000
1975 Klingensmith Rd \$90,000
1936 Klingensmith Rd \$113,000
Unit 52
909 Rock Spring Rd \$385,000
801 W Long Lake Rd # F4 \$108,000
4032 W Orchard Hill Dr \$355,000

COMMERCETOWNSHIP

8788 Alsup Ave \$355,000
1838 Cheshire Ln \$421,000
3236 Edgemere St \$107,000
5065 Greenview Dr \$270,000
3007 Ivy Hill Dr \$359,000
145 Liza Ln \$302,000
3385 Tiquewood \$266,000

FARMINGTON

33904 Glenview Dr \$147,000
21392 Magnolia Ct \$215,000
23819 Wilmarth Ave \$280,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

21792 Aspen Ct \$376,000
32901 Biddestone Ln \$205,000
37527 Burton Ct \$260,000
38518 Darbyshire \$130,000
25142 Farmington Rd \$235,000
28615 Grayfield Dr \$201,000
29960 Green Acres \$265,000
22441 Haynes Ave \$25,000
22451 Haynes Ave \$10,000
33611 Heirloom Cir \$447,000
28629 Kendallwood Dr \$225,000
35360 Lone Pine Ln \$213,000
23424 Middlebelt Rd \$59,000
21899 Ontaga St \$132,000
24180 Scott Dr \$220,000
28475 Shadylane Dr \$140,000
29342 Shenandoah Dr \$270,000
30999 Sudbury St \$275,000

29473 Sugar Spring Rd \$180,000
24012 Susan Dr \$227,000
28442 Thorny Brae Rd \$188,000
28829 W King William Dr \$307,000
32311 W Wayburn St \$208,000
21121 Whitlock St \$183,000
FRANKLIN
29905 Forest Dr \$810,000
HIGHLAND
3180 Beaumont Dr \$175,000
1142 Charlick Dr \$213,000
5265 N Duck Lake Rd \$40,000
161 Reid Rd \$216,000
505 Snyder Rd \$75,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

26560 Meadowood Ct N \$189,000

MILFORD

711 Atlantic St \$243,000
424 Hickory St \$465,000
781 Milford Glen Ct \$303,000
1305 Oak Hollow Dr \$550,000
784 Ridgeside Dr \$186,000
1684 S Hickory Ridge Rd \$127,000

NORTHVILLE

21096 Boulder Cir \$195,000
44339 Chedworth Dr \$300,000
314 Debra Ln \$218,000
42153 Gladwin St \$130,000
21147 Lujon Dr \$375,000

NOVI

45499 Addington Ln \$460,000
43169 Ashbury Dr \$450,000
49963 Blackberry Trl \$320,000
39456 Country Ln \$138,000
24585 Edgewood Dr \$290,000
44722 Gwinnett Loop \$145,000
27859 Hopkins Dr \$170,000
28064 Hopkins Dr \$171,000
41783 Independence Dr \$175,000
51188 Luke Ln \$267,000
23608 N Rockledge \$76,000
2450 Novi Rd \$120,000

22264 Pondview \$119,000
25562 Portico Ln \$170,000
45735 Sheffield Dr \$400,000
24691 Simmons Dr \$240,000
27516 Sloan St \$364,000
27315 Victoria Rd \$324,000
27332 Victoria Rd \$306,000
247 Wainwright St \$155,000

SOUTH LYON

58643 Bridge House Ct \$82,000
345 Cambridge Ave \$156,000
23158 Cheyenne Ct \$419,000
1168 Equestrian Dr \$350,000
61131 Ladbrooke Dr \$378,000
423 Lyon Ct \$150,000
25778 McCrory Ln \$285,000
21551 Nathan Ct \$365,000
1131 Paddock Ct \$251,000
362 Princeton Dr \$193,000
24291 Ravine Dr \$2,000
24798 Ravine Dr \$2,000
23899 Stoneleigh Dr \$456,000
441 Whipple St \$165,000

SOUTHFIELD

29490 Bermuda Ln \$170,000
29672 Brentwood St \$120,000
19350 Eldridge Ln \$85,000
20280 Lacrosse Ave \$150,000
17582 Melrose St \$118,000
25209 Prairie Dr \$122,000
19646 Raleigh Cir N \$58,000
25552 Saint James \$127,000
29465 Sharon Ln \$140,000

WHITE LAKE

10719 Jacob Ct \$563,000
8656 Newport Dr \$331,000
9390 Steephollow Dr \$187,000
9210 Twin Lakes Dr \$498,000
8335 Woods Edge \$333,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 11-15, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

2536 Brookhaven Rd \$195,000
456 Buckingham Rd \$168,000
7031 Copper Creek Cir \$153,000
4136 Coronet Ave \$215,000
41992 Coventry Way \$196,000
1583 E Lakeview Ln \$165,000
39646 Edmondton Dr \$117,000
43075 Fernwood St \$204,000
4224 Forest Bridge Dr \$224,000
4368 Forest Bridge Dr \$194,000
43414 Fredericksburg St \$150,000
47890 Gladstone Rd \$465,000
51185 Glen Hollow Ave \$50,000
41642 Haggerty Woods Ct \$166,000

44650 Heather Ln \$260,000
7519 Kingsbridge Rd \$224,000
7528 Kingsbridge Rd \$190,000
44533 N Umlerland Cir \$70,000
264 N Village Way \$150,000
338 N Willard Rd \$197,000
43669 Oakbrook Rd \$234,000
1734 Ranier Blvd \$150,000
44925 Rector Dr \$198,000
6241 Runnymede Dr \$187,000
1699 Rustic Ridge Rd \$164,000
347 S Village Way \$163,000
265 Selkirk St \$160,000
42149 Tonquish Ct \$175,000
1992 Trinity Rd \$540,000
51174 Upland View St \$50,000
51187 Upland View St \$50,000
1538 Valentine Ct \$285,000
5993 Wedgewood Rd \$266,000
8561 Westchester Ln \$232,000
42469 White Hart Blvd \$300,000
508 Worthington Rd \$222,000

GARDEN CITY

6932 Belton St \$65,000
30855 Block St \$43,000
31045 Block St \$123,000

32219 Bridge St \$106,000
32215 Cambridge St \$31,000
1723 Deering St \$10,000
31311 Elmwood St \$89,000
6417 Hawthorne St \$116,000
30470 Hennepin St \$76,000
1061 Inkster Rd \$20,000
414 Lathers St \$103,000
994 W Rose Ave \$145,000

LIVONIA

11320 Berwick St \$181,000
15208 Blue Skies St \$167,000
9949 Cardwell St \$135,000
11723 Cavell St \$75,000
31716 Curtis Rd \$198,000
39193 Dover St \$168,000
10051 E Clements Cir \$118,000
33395 Fargo St \$45,000
15162 Golfview Dr \$194,000
9105 Harrison St \$90,000
14348 Henry Ruff St \$160,000
17423 Hizmet St \$120,000
15078 Houghton St \$135,000
14733 Inkster Rd \$125,000
3647U Joy Rd \$107,000
11180 Karen St \$128,000
35598 Leon St \$190,000
15495 Mayfield St \$82,000
8921 Melvin St \$140,000
16777 Riverside St \$140,000
38107 Ross St \$155,000
35041 Roycroft St \$282,000
11025 Sunset St \$105,000
13994 Susanna Ct \$163,000
18374 University Park Dr \$100,000
15014 Westbrook Ct \$235,000
16452 Westbrook St \$270,000
16643 Whitby St \$210,000
34412 Wood St \$234,000
14772 Yale St \$165,000

NORTHVILLE

47149 Seven Mile Rd \$398,000
42010 Baintree Cir \$263,000
50920 Belmont Park Ct \$542,000
44519 Birchwood Ct \$400,000
18260 Blue Heron Pointe Dr \$460,000
20018 Bryn Mawr Ct \$119,000
17302 Cameron Dr \$435,000

16764 Dover Dr \$148,000
39852 Glenview Ct \$307,000
502 Grace St \$239,000
16798 Lochmoor Cir W \$300,000
44030 Medinah Ct \$625,000
15927 Morningside \$150,000
19629 Neptune Ct \$135,000
626 North Ctr \$238,000
42251 Nottingwood Ct \$300,000
16128 Oakwood Ct \$445,000
49784 Parkside Dr \$464,000
303 Saint Lawrence Blvd \$310,000
19233 Surrey Ln \$106,000
777 Thayer Blvd \$918,000
20172 W Whipple Dr \$385,000
16972 Warwick Ct \$354,000

PLYMOUTH

42543 Applecreek Dr \$154,000
46332 Barrington Rd \$331,000
50475 Beechwood Ct \$194,000
9406 Caprice Ct \$207,000
8860 Colony Farm Dr \$375,000
11820 Deer Creek Cir \$400,000
770 Deer St \$125,000
9032 Hackberry Ave \$195,000
505 Hartsough St \$425,000
424 N Harvey St \$500,000
777 N Harvey St \$233,000
40459 Newport Dr \$75,000
13956 Oakland Ct \$470,000
1338 Penniman Ave \$575,000
1380 Penniman Ave \$350,000
142 Pinewood Cir \$93,000
42491 Plymouth Hollow Dr \$69,000
49479 Pointe Xing \$160,000
190 Riveroaks Dr \$117,000
101 S Union St \$160,000
14230 Shadywood Dr \$195,000

REDFORD

11311 Appleton \$57,000
20508 Delaware Ave \$115,000
25500 Donald \$109,000
14426 Fenton \$92,000
16817 Five Points St \$52,000
9312 Garfield \$93,000
19512 Garfield \$49,000
15412 Gaylord \$76,000
18655 Gaylor \$57,000

13027 Laverne \$82,000
12780 Mercedes \$94,000
8841 San Jose \$70,000
9052 Seminole \$98,000
16960 Woodworth \$65,000

WAYNE

3769 Winifred St \$35,000
WESTLAND
8570 Alper St \$119,000
33706 Avondale St \$115,000
1301 Barchester St \$135,000
32740 Birchwood St \$100,000
6530 Central City Pkwy \$115,000
37001 Condor Ct \$105,000
8239 Creekside Dr \$256,000
36650 Deerhurst S \$116,000
39253 Dillingham St \$123,000
34934 Donnelly St \$70,000
1850 Dunn Ct \$123,000
33426 Farmington Ct \$85,000
6218 Ferraina Dr \$150,000
38099 Greenwood St \$45,000
34833 Hiveley St \$70,000
33604 Krauter St \$67,000
28374 Mackenzie Dr \$132,000
31260 Mackenzie Dr \$105,000
29114 Manchester St \$38,000
376 Marigold Cir \$100,000
8164 Melvin Ave \$85,000
5630 N Linville St \$50,000
5971 N Linville St \$30,000
6220 N Newburgh Rd \$110,000
7715 N Venoy Rd \$137,000
30666 Palmer Rd \$75,000
33139 Parkwood St \$109,000
35422 Pheasant Ln \$87,000
6766 Quail Run Cir \$83,000
412 Ravencrest Ln \$115,000
34203 Rosslyn St \$110,000
365 S Byfield St \$100,000
159 S Carlson St \$105,000
538 S Hubbard St \$107,000
34345 Shawnee St \$114,000
227 Summerfield Dr \$210,000
36069 Traditions Dr \$156,000
2430 W Miller Cir \$123,000
31246 Windsor St \$93,000
1382 Woodbourne St \$94,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR						
	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1SP Mortgage	138501	(313) 215-1766	3.75	0	2.875	0
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.75	0	2.875	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.75	0	2.875	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.75	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.125	0	3.25	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.125	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	2.875	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	0.75	2.75	0.875
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.125	0	3.375	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.25	0

Above Information available as of 11/26/14 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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HELP WANTED - TRUCK DRIVER

DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED! Become a driver for Stevens Transport! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! New driver earn \$800+ per week! PAID CDI. TRAINING! Stevens covers all costs! 1-888-528-8864 drive4stevens.com (MICH)

\$3000 SIGN ON BONUS, \$65K-\$75K ANNUALLY! Dedicated Customer Freight, Excellent Benefits and We Get You Home Every Week! Call Today 888-409-6033, Apply Online www.DriveJacobson.com (MICH)

ATTN: TRUCK DRIVER RECRUITERS. We can help you place your ad in print & online for as low as

FLATBED DRIVERS, EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED Immediately for regional flatbed operation. Call 888-888-7996 Today. (MICH)

INSTRUCTION, SCHOOLS

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES NEEDED! Become a Medical Office Assistant! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Online training can get you job-ready! HS Diploma/GED & PC/Internet needed! 1-877-253-6495 (MICH)

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here. Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training. Financial aid if qualified. Housing available. Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 1-877-891-2281 (MICH)

MISCELLANEOUS

CANADA DRUG CENTER is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 75 percent on all your medication needs. Call today

1-800-259-4150 for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. (MICH)

ORDER DIRECTV SERVICE TODAY. Enjoy the ultimate TV experience tomorrow. Call DigitalTV authorized retailer (888) 710-7564. (MICH)

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Advertise your product or recruit an applicant in this paper plus 65 other papers in Eastern Michigan for only \$250/week! Call 800-227-7636 www.cnaads.com (MICH)

STEEL BUILDINGS

PIONEER POLE BUILDINGS - Free Estimates - Licensed and insured - 2x6 Trusses - 45 Year Warranty Galvalume Steel - 19 Colors - Since 1976 - #1 in Michigan - Call Today 1-800-292-0679. (MICH)

12014East

CONTACT US AT:
800-579-7355
www.hometownlife.com
eads@hometownlife.com

DEADLINES:
Fri. at 4 pm for Sunday
Tues. at 3 pm for Thursday

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HOMES

apartments.com
HomeFinder.com

RENTALS

apartments.com
HomeFinder.com

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

Inspec
Inspec, Inc. a Canton, MI company, has immediate openings for the following positions -

Inside Sales Representative-Part Time Microsoft office skills and high volume phone traffic skills required, previous sales exp. with measurement equipment a plus.

Field Service Technician-Full Time Must possess the physical, mental, mechanical and electrical skills required to install and service a variety of coordinate measuring machines, travel required.

CMH Programmer-Full Time Min. 2yrs. PC-DMIS or LK-DMIS programming experience, travel up to 50%, Faro arm experience a plus.

Receptionist - Part Time Multi-line phone system and Microsoft Office skills required, previous exp a plus.

See full descriptions on Careerbuilder.com or at inspec-inc.com/company/jobs. Send resumes to resumes@inspec-inc.com

Homes

METAMORA - DO YOU WANT TRANQUILITY IN YOUR LIFE? COME SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME. Beautiful home, sitting on 13+ wooded acres for complete privacy! This home welcomes you with a large 2 story foyer, large formal and informal living and dining spaces, beautiful garden room with wonderful views also includes huge first floor master suite. Must see this wooded wonderland with its abundant wild life. All in the heart of Metamora horse country, 6,400 sq. ft. \$648,000. Contact: Peggy Ludwig 248-931-4711

Apartment For Rent

GARDEN CITY: Beautiful remodeled 2 bdrm. Heat & water incl., credit friendly. (248) 474-3005

NOVI 2 Bd/2 Ba luxury suite avail. Jan. 1st. Crown molding, vaulted ceilings, granite counters, clubhouse w/ lots of extras \$1,645+ First month rent free & no sec. deposit. Call 734-255-3191

Help Wanted - General

DIRECT CARE: * New wage* \$8.50/hr. trained, must be 18 & have a valid MI driver's license; CLS/MORC trained preferred. Full time and part time; many shifts, support adults living in their own homes; make a difference! 734-728-4201

Engineer: Johnson Controls Inc. is seeking Product Engineer(s) for its Plymouth, MI location to be resp for design exec & processes for auto seating product line; utilize best practices in design & eng, including POISS, drawing standards, FEA, GD&T, root cause analysis, DVP, DFMEA, hand calc & use of carry-over & CPP tech, to create layout, detail, & assembly drawings; conduct root cause analysis to resolve test failures; issue DCRs, ECRs, IRs, or DAs to doc customer or company initiated changes. Reqs BS or equiv & 3 yrs of exp or MS or equiv & 1 yr of exp & exp w/ CATIA system; FMVSS, & ECE-10% nat'l travel. Send resume to Elizabeth Bartz, JCI, 5757 N. Green Bay Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53209. Must reference job code PE-PMI when applying. EEO.

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT Full-Time. Experienced for busy internal medicine practice. Livonia area. Fax resume to: 313-295-1529

Food - Beverage

Restaurant Manager Beans & Cornbread, a busy award winning restaurant in Southfield. Experience in a fast charged environment helpful. Competitive salary. Send resume to: Reference Box 6000 oerums@hometownlife.com

Help Wanted - Domestic

DIRECT CARE WORKER - MIRC TRAINED Needed for young man in Farmington Hills, 10 hrs/wk \$12.85/hr. 734-637-6143

Position Wanted

RELIABLE HAPPY HELPER - CNA Certified or house cleaning, I will help you clean, organize, etc. 734-772-4043

Elderly Care & Assistance

Retired RN looking for part time work flexible hrs, caring for loved ones 313-538-3387

Duplexes & Townhouses

WESTLAND Holiday Park Townhouse Co-op for Sale, 2 br/1.5 bath, hardwood floors, nice quiet neighborhood. \$29,000. Call 772-221-1964

Lease - Option To Buy

HAMBURG TWP. Lake front, all sports, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2.5 car att. gar., \$1,800/mo. + sec. 810.599.9581 after 5 p.m.

Cemetery Lots

CANTON - KNOLLWOOD MEMORIAL 2 Cemetery plots w/ vaults. \$4,000 or best offer. 734-721-7299

Oakland Hills Memorial Cemetery Novi, MI. 72 Burel sites for Sale. \$1800 each - Buy One Get One Free. Must pay title transfer Approx. \$100. Call Tom at 248-674-1245

Condos & Townhouses

Farmington Hills -very nice 2 br, 1 ba, whr/dryer in unit, private balcony, woods & river view. \$865 /mo. 248-418-1729

Homes For Rent

GARDEN CITY: 28417 Barton Newly Decorated 2br home, bsmt & gar. No pets \$800 + sec. immediate occupancy & credit check 248.910.3695

WAYNE: 2 br duplex, full bsmt, nice area! \$675/mo. 734.945.6714

Inventory Counters Immediate opportunities for RGIS Inventory Takers. Requires strong attention to detail, 18 yrs old and out of HS, able to work variable hrs, nights/weekends/days, reliable communication/transportation. Skill with ten-key by touch is a plus, but not required. \$9 hr, paid training. Apply www.rgis.com Ref INVO0115 EOE

Manufacturing FAST PACED metal stamping facility in Canton is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Tool & Die Maker/Repair
- Die Setter
- Machine Repair
- Weld Tech
- Machine/Weld Operator
- Truck Driver
- Shipping and Receiving
- Purchasing
- Quality Manager
- Quality Tech
- Cost Estimator
- Design Engineer
- New Model Engineer
- Project Engineer
- Robotic/Weld Engineer

Competitive wages and benefits. High School diploma or equivalent required. Higher education and or exp a plus. Call: (734) 738-0254 or email resume to: jcurran@adveng.net

MECHANIC LARGE EQUIPMENT

RAM
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Exp'd MECHANIC for Livonia warehouse. Email resume: mkaspari@ramservices.com or fax: 734-793-1934

Help Wanted - Dental

CHAIR SIDE DENTAL ASSISTANT w/EXPERIENCE Part time hours with full time benefits. Bring in your resume and fill out an application Thurs., Dec. 11th, 10am-noon, Tues., Dec. 16th 2-4pm & Thurs., Dec. 18th, 10am-noon 41895 Eleven Mile Rd. Suite 101, Novi 48375

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We are seeking top level residential/light commercial HVAC service professionals to join our team. Duties will consist of general maintenance, service diagnostics and repair of residential and light commercial HVAC systems of up to 20 tons. Boiler knowledge and diagnostic capabilities are a plus but not required. We offer a full range of benefit packages with options to suit every individual. Paid holidays and vacations and company matching traditional 401k retirement packages are also included. Individual direct compensation is based on experience and level of expertise, but make no mistake, we offer higher compensation packages than most any other company in the area.

If you think you have what it takes to take your career to the next level, please send resume to: info@mechanicalheating.com or feel free to drop one off in person at: Mechanical Heating & Cooling 6192 H. Telegraph Rd. Dearborn Heights MI 48127

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Absolutely Free

Piano Upright Used Good condition, needs tuning. FREE! You move. Message (734)459-5948

Auction Sales

ESTATE AUCTION Sat - Dec 6th - 7pm Plymouth Community Center 525 Farmer, Plymouth, MI Antiques & Collectibles Furniture, Glassware Tools, Outdoor Items Household Items Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm Joe Carl, Profession Auction Service 734.451.7444 www.jcauctionservices.com

Help Wanted - Dental

Dental Assistant For periodontal/implant practice. Must have surgical experience and be certified in radiology. Full time (Tues-Sat) w/benefits. Farmington Hills area. Contact Karen at: 248-851-1034

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT For Wayne and/or Ann Arbor podiatry office. Excellent remuneration commensurate with exp. Call 313-920-9604 Email: jk1218@aol.com

Medical Assistant Full-Time. Experienced for busy internal medicine practice. Livonia area. Fax resume to: 313-295-1529

Food - Beverage

Restaurant Manager Beans & Cornbread, a busy award winning restaurant in Southfield. Experience in a fast charged environment helpful. Competitive salary. Send resume to: Reference Box 6000 oerums@hometownlife.com

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Elderly Care & Assistance

Retired RN looking for part time work flexible hrs, caring for loved ones 313-538-3387

Estates Sales

ESTATE ANTIQUE Auction Fri. Dec. 12th, 5pm & 6pm. 11580 Ozga Rd, Romulus MI 50+ Antique Bisque Dolls, 50+ Steiff Teddy Bears, Victorian children items, Great antique toys, Barbie Collection, Antiques, clocks, furniture, Fishing and Guys stuff plus More. See photos and list DougDaltonAuctioneer.com 800-801-6452

Household Goods

1900's period antique side board w/ lion head mirror & cabinet \$1000 or best offer. Also Black computer desk w/ chair, cabinets & drawers. \$200 734-968-4856.

ONE STOP SHOP FRENZY Support Local Vendors and Moose Heart Charities at Wayne Moose Lodge 835 38050 Michigan Ave, Sunday Dec. 7th 1-5 PM Featuring: Scentsy, Thirty-One, Younique, A Serendipity Cakery, Origami Owl and More + Raffles

PYRUS LIFTCHAIR - beige 2 yrs old \$225. • IKEA 4 drawer whitewash dresser. \$100. 734-891-3505

STUDIO COUCH, 72" w/pull-out Stems & Foster mattress included, \$200. 734-266-3024

Misc. For Sale

Canton Garage Sale Leftovers Dept 56 Original Dickens village pieces. Selling 1/2 half of retail and will sell as a bundle. Many Christmas items, including ceramic snowman, tea pot, and water pitcher. Delta joiner, other household items. 734-748-1139

Misc. For Sale

Cemetery Lots, 2 plots 2 vaults & 1 bronze companion marker in Knollwood Memorial Park (Prayer Garden), Ridge Rd in Canton. Valued at \$8,900 asking \$4,000. (734)558-1132

Musical Instruments

GUITAR SALE! 50% off BO WILLIAMS GUITAR DAN 517-376-1580

Kurzweil Piano Keyboard & Lead Series Keyboard Amp Both rare American made. Like new condition. Includes accessories. 313-531-7475 miafan@me.com

Wanted to Buy

CASH PAID or CONSIGNMENT for Vintage, Antique and Other Valuable Items. Single items to storage units to entire estates and estate sales. Professional, courteous, fair, honest, discreet older gentleman. I drive to you. Coins, costume and fine jewelry, knock knacks, military, collections, books, toys, stereos, instruments, ephemera, clothing, Christmas, more. References. Richard, BSE, MBA: (248)795-0362 richard.preston48@yahoo.com

WANTED: Old Fishing Tackle & related items. Successful Deer Hunter Patches. Call Bill: (734) 890-1047

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Alplanes

SELL YOUR CAR FOR ONLY \$30.99!

Are you looking to sell your used vehicle and would like to reach over 140,000 potential buyers and have it a nationwide website to even widen the opportunity of selling it?

Then Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers is the place to advertise it!

Package Includes:
• Ad in all 13 community newspapers for 2 weeks
• 14 days on cars.com
• Extra \$5 add a photo

*4 line minimum (\$2.00 for each additional line).

Motorcycles/Minibikes Go Carts/Off Rd

Harley Davidson 1999 Ultra Convertible - pipes & ftr bags 11k miles. Excellent cond. Stored. \$5800/obo. 586.337.0292 734.523.8284

Snowmobiles

Skidoo 2001 MXZ 700 & 3 place snowmobile trailer; alum drive on/drive off. \$2700 obo. 734-890-2053

Auto Auctions

CHANDLER CAR CARRIERS 936 W. Ann Arbor Plymouth, MI Auction Mon. 12/08 at 9am 08' Kia-KNDMB233X86266678 97' Plymouth 1P3E542Y1V0300463 Bidding start at towing and storage charges.

Trucks for Sale

FORD F-150 XLT 2012 Extended cab, 4x4, ABS, tow hooks, only 29K! \$28,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FORD RANGER 2008 Sport Ext. Cab, RWD, 66K. Certified. \$15,876 NORTH BROS. 855-667-96 80

GMC SIERRA 2010 Crew Cab, short box, 4x4, SLE, ABS, traction control. \$22,995. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

4 Wheel Drive

SIERRA 1500 2011 Ext. Cab, 4WD, SL 56k, 1 owner \$23,495 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE 2009 CXL, FWD, ABS, leather/heated seats. \$19,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012 FWD, leather, heated seats, Black Metallic. \$21,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CHEVY EQUINOX 2011 FWD, 4 dr, 2 LT, heated leather seats, ABS, power sunroof, too much to list! \$16,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

FORD '07-ESCAPE LTD, 4X4, 6CYL, TOWNER, GOLD BEIGE LTHR., SNRF., LOADED 104K.MI. 248-420-7500

FORD EDGE 2011 SE, FWD, 28K, rear spoiler. \$19,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FORD ESCAPE 2014 4x4, SE, moonroof, only 2700 miles. Ford Certified! 1.9% NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

GMC '04 - YUKON EXT DENALI AWD BLK/TAN LTHR 123K.MI., ALL PWR., HTD SEATS, 248-884-7200

GMC 2008 ENVOY SLT Summit white ext, bik lthr int, 4 whl dr, heated seats, 70k mi, new tires, sunroof, pwr seats, running boards, trailer equip, keyless, XM satellite, Onstar. \$12,900. 248-924-6476

Sports Utility

GMC ACADIA 2010
FWD SLT1, Lther, Bose stereo system, loaded! \$18,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2010
FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, back up camera, privacy glass. \$14,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, 42K, 1 owner, extra clean! \$17,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2011
4WD, 4 Dr., 1500 SLT, Leather, Pwr. Sunroof, 3rd Row Seat. \$29,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

JEEP LIBERTY 2012
4x4, 4WD, 4dr Spt. 1 owner, 40,000 miles \$17,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

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

SCION IC 2009
2 dr. hatchback, power sunroof, 1 owner. \$14,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

SUBARU LEGACY 2011
2.5i, Prem, AWP, power moon, AWD. \$15,988.
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Buick

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

Buick 03 LaSabre Limited
Loaded. Low miles, good cond \$2,700. 586.337.0292 or 734.523.8284

BUICK LACROSSE 2008
36,000 Miles, White Opal, 1 Owner, Fully Loaded. \$12,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

BUICK LUCERNE 2011
CXL Premium 4 dr sedan, Fully loaded. A real beauty! Only 50,000 miles. \$17,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2012
FWD, Touring, Silver, 1 owner, certified, 29,000 miles. \$21,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LaSabre 1994- 4 dr
blue, v8, 142k, auto trans Runs & Looks good. \$1500 obo. 248-961-4444

LUCERNE CXL 2010
43K, leather, heated seats, ABS, traction control. \$15,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

REGAL CXL 2011
CXL R1 Russelsheim, 48K, 3rd row seat, 1 owner. \$12,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Cadillac

CTS 2011
Sedan, 3.0L V6, AWD, 22K Black Raven. \$22,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Chevrolet

CAMARO Z28 1996
Only 35K miles! Bright red, leather - this one won't last! \$10,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CHEVY MALIBU 1LT 2011
36,000 Miles, Imperial Blue, Auto, Just Int! \$13,495.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

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

CRUZE 2012
Sedan LS, only 11K! 1 year FREE maintenance (limited time offer). \$13,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

IMPALA LT 2011
30K, 1 owner, leather, heated seats, power sunroof. \$15,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

MALIBU 2014
1LT, 1K miles, 1 owner. Just like new, except the price! \$22,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Chevrolet

MALIBU LT 2012
W/ZLT, FWD, 33K, loaded! Black metallic. \$16,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Chrysler-Plymouth

Chrysler 2006 T&C VAN
56k miles \$10,000
3.8V6, Auto, white exterior, grey leather interior. Trip Computer w/ Compass, photo chromatic rear view mirror, heater front bucket seats, Cruise control, PS PB, PL, PW, Power Mirrors, Power Doors, Tinted windows, AM-FM-CD-TAPE-DVD w/ rear seat video screen, controls on steering wheel, Power adjustable pedals, Stow & Go seats, third seat, Power front seats, front and rear air conditioners w/ integral ducting, roof rack, towing package, class 2 hitch receiver, self leveling suspension, front and rear, air deflectors, ceramic brake pads, 1 owner, interior and exterior in-like new condition, 4 Firestone Snow tires mounted on vehicle. Remote Entry and Factory theft Deterrents. Livonia area. Call 734-255-3666 for viewing information.

SEBRING TOURING 2008
FWD, air, cruise, heated mirrors. \$8345
NORTH BROS.
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TOWN & COUNTRY 2010
4 dr. wagon Touring, 4 wheel ABS, Solar glass, 1 year FREE maintenance (limited time offer). \$13,995
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734-453-2500

Ford

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

FIVE HUNDRED 2005
SEL, FWD, Red Fire Metallic, Ford Certified
NORTH BROS.
855-667-96 80

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

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

FOCUS SEL 2012
White Metallic, 1 owner, 5 dr hatchback. \$12,595.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

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

FORD 00' ECONOLINE
Blk/gld in color, Runs good, new radiator & alternator, Michelin tires \$2000 obo Call 734-812-9996

Ford 03 Focus wagon-
original owner looks good, runs good needs nothing, high miles \$2500/obo 734-261-5680

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

MUSTANG 2008
GT Premium RWD, Torch Red Only 15K miles! \$19,998
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Honda

Honda Civic 04 black four
door 70,671 miles excellent condition well maintained please email for any questions grendal1965@gmail.com (248)798-2456

Jeep

Grand Cherokee 1993
Laredo. 4 whl dr, Runs great! New tires! Good transport. \$1700 obo. 734-444-6840

Jeep

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

Lexus

LEXUS ES 350 2008
4 dr., Sedan, Leather, Heated Seats, Loaded! \$18,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Lincoln

MKZ 2011
4 dr sedan, FWD, 58K miles. Leather, sunroof, traction control. \$17,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Mercury

MARINER 2008
Auto, a/c, full power, Alloys. Priced to sell! \$10,988.
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

Nissan

NISSAN 14' VERSA SV 21k Miles, Red pearl, Pwr. options, Excellent condition. \$11,100 248-495-0777

Pontiac

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

PONTIAC G8 GT 2009
White, Low Miles, 1 Owner, Moon Roof, New Arrival \$20,995
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Saturn

SATURN VUE REDLINE 2008
Deep Blue, Black Interior, 1 Owner! Only \$11,495.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Toyota

COROLLA XLE 2009
77,000 miles, gray Automatic \$13,988
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sugar source
 - 5 -relief
 - 8 IRS employees
 - 12 Fridge stick
 - 13 Parapsychology topic, briefly
 - 14 Rajah's spouse
 - 15 Straw in the wind
 - 16 Maritime
 - 18 Firebug's crime
 - 20 Break in
 - 21 Recumbent
 - 23 Sun, in Cancun
 - 26 Malamute's load
 - 29 Rainy-day cache (2 wds.)
 - 31 San - Obispo
 - 32 Flood residue
 - 33 She, in Cherbourg
 - 34 - of Aquitaine
 - 36 About half of us
- DOWN**
- 37 Horse color
 - 38 Out in front
 - 40 Tony-winner - Hagen
 - 41 Meter-reading determination
 - 45 Tunneled
 - 49 Homeless child
 - 51 Cinnabar and hematite
 - 52 Garden-pond fish
 - 53 Poet - Pound
 - 54 Mr. Lugosi
 - 55 Clue
 - 56 Lockbox document

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	N	F	A	T	S	S	L	A	B
E	R	A	O	M	N	I	K	I	L	O
F	A	N	O	T	A	R	I	Z	E	D
S	T	O	O	D	M	T	N			
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L	A	B	S	O	R	B	E	L	L	S
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- 7 Rebuffed
- 8 Cheat sheet
- 9 Boot liner
- 10 Miscellany
- 11 - vous plait
- 17 Clothing
- 19 Primeval
- 22 Get acclimated
- 23 Broker's advice
- 24 Eye impolitely
- 25 Size above med.
- 26 Crewmate of Uhura
- 27 Encumbrance
- 28 NASA counterpart
- 30 Drink with scones
- 31 Showed the way
- 32 Punk hairdos
- 35 Its HQ is Brussels
- 36 Docs
- 39 Thorough check
- 40 Bear, to Brutus
- 42 Deeply impressed
- 43 Watch the stars
- 44 Blarney Stone locale
- 45 Fishing float
- 46 Suffix for press
- 47 Aunt or bro.
- 48 Fair-hiring abbr.
- 50 Craze

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
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	26	27	28			29			30		
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37				38			39				
				40					42	43	44
45	46	47				48			49		50
51						52			53		
54						55			56		

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

ADOPTION WORD SEARCH

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

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 and 17

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: The meditation theme is "Waiting With The Old Testament Church"

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Location: Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City

Details: The service provides a "sacred space" for grieving for those who have suffered a loss, emotional trauma, who feel overworked and pressured, or who just feel sad this holiday season

Contact: 734-421-7620

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 13

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Pancakes and sausage; \$6, \$4 for age 8 and under; picture with Santa, \$9

Contact: 734-427-3660

CANDLELIGHT GATHERING

Time/Date: 5:30-8:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Michigan Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Evening ceremony at 5:30 p.m., reception at 6 p.m., candlelight program, 7:15. Music, food and fellowship. This is a quiet, musical event with candles. Due to safety concerns, it may not be suitable for younger children. Vegetarian food without onion, garlic and chive will be served during the reception. RSVP to michigantemple@yahoo.com

Contact: 734-890-2307

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. December 4-6

Location: Trinity in the Woods, 26880 La Muera, Farmington Hills

Details: Holiday Hearthsong, a celebration concert for the holiday season, features the Trinity and Friends Choir. Tickets are \$10 and include a wine and cheese reception

Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityinthewoods.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit

Details: The Fort Street Chorale sings Handel's *Messiah*. Tickets are \$20

Contact: 313-961-4533; fortstreet.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: St Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: The concert is divided into two parts of roughly 30 minutes each. The first half consists of popular Christmas



Members of the music ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth will sing Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent.

songs performed by soloists, small groups, and handbell ringers, and the second half is the cantata, *Were You There on That Christmas Night?* sung by the combined choirs of St Timothy and Kirk of Our Savior of Westland, with special guest percussionist Peter Falk. A free-will donation will be accepted

Contact: 734 464-8844, sttimothy@sttimothypcusa.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, 35320 Glenwood, Westland

Details: Christian rock band Wise For Salvation will perform and accompany singing of traditional and contemporary Christmas songs

Contact: 734-721-5377

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. early bird sale, 10 a.m. regular sale, Dec. 13

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Christmas cookies will cost \$7.50 per pound. Other baked goods will be priced by the item. Admission is \$2 for the early bird sale; free for regular start time

Contact: 734-751-6464

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverne, Redford

Details: Excerpts from Bach's *Magnificat*, along with carols and other songs; tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and students

Other concerts: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills

Contact: www.detroitluthransingers.com

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The service includes readings of scripture from *The Message*, a contemporary language translation of the Bible, along with songs and carols by the Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Grace and Amazing Grace choirs and House Band, under the

direction of Julie Ford. Local percussionist, Tom Arnett, also will perform. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted for donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan

Contact: 734-453-0190, or visit stjohnplymouth.org

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: St. Aidan, located on the east side of Farmington Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia

Details: Features the ensembles and members of St. Aidan Music Ministry. Admission is a \$5 donation or two canned food goods for Christmas food baskets for the needy

Contact: 734-425-5950

LIVE NATIVITY

Time/Date: 5:15-6:15 p.m. Dec. 10

Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Dinner and Advent service featuring the preschool follows the live nativity

Contact: kroedel@stpauls-farmington.com

WINE & CHOCOLATE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Wine and chocolate tastings, musical entertainment and silent auction. Tickets are \$18 per person. For reservations, make checks payable to Sisterhood of Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301.

Contact: Harriet Cooperman, at 248-321-9023 or hcooperman@sbcglobal.net.

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

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

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK

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

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

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

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

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

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

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

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

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

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

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

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.

Details: Music, singing, prayer

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

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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

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

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

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

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

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

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

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

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

First Presbyterian Church

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

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

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

Steve's Family Restaurant

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

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

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

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

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

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

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

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

Passages View Online www.hometownlife.com
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

BRIGGS, SARAH
Age 45, of Westland, formerly of Belleville & Livonia, died November 29th. Daughter of Richard Jerome & Bonalyn Janet (Reiher) Hertz. Survived by daughter Alexandria Briggs, sons Jacob & Nicholas Briggs, all of Milford, mother Bonalyn Hertz of Westland, sisters Melissa Hertz & Amy (Andrew) Hertz-Baylon & brother Richard Hertz. Visitation 5-8 p.m. Friday & Funeral 11 a.m. Saturday at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Interment, Soop Cemetery, Van Buren Twp. davidcbrownfh.com.



Van Voorhis, Thomas C.
August 16, 1925 - November 16, 2014. Loving husband of Annemarie Lilly Van Voorhis joining her in heaven. Father of four children: Karen Bradley, Daniel Van Voorhis, Kristina Fayyad, Michael Van Voorhis. Opa to twelve grandchildren: Kristen, Daniel Jr., Richie, Robbie, Louisa, Bella, Ali, Zayd, Dima, Sami, Kaitlin and Lauren. Loving brother of the late Ann Van Voorhis Keller. Tom was a Varsity Athletic Marketing and Development executive at Oakland University for more than 10 years after retiring from General Motors Corporation. A 35-year veteran of General Motors, Tom was most recently a Marketing Executive within the AC Delco division. Tom earned both undergraduate and masters degrees at The University of Michigan. He was also a long-time supporter of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Tom served honorably in both World War II and earned 2nd Lt. US Army Reserve in the Korean Era. A public memorial service will be held in Spring 2015 at Ward Church, Northville, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Rd., Northville, MI, 48168. Serving the family is Lynch and Sons Funeral Home, Walled Lake. Condolences at: www.LynchFamilyFuneralDirectors.com

BROOKER, LOIS M.
November 26, 2014 Age 68 of Romulus/Wayne. Loving daughter of the late Seward and Mildred Brooker. Dear sister of Deloris (John) Bickel. Aunt to several nieces and nephews. Dear friend to Tony Anthony and Laurie Runion. Lois graduated from Wayne Memorial in 1964. She drove for Wayne Cab, Victory Cab, and Best in Town Car Service. A memorial gathering of friends to celebrate Lois's life will be held at Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd. Westland, Saturday 12-2pm. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com

HULTON, SHIRLEY ANNE
Age 92. www.mccabefuneralhome.com.

ORTMAN, HELEN
November 22, 2014. Age 94. Beloved wife of the late Benedict. Dear mother of Sandra Clark and the late Mary Bugajski. Also leaves 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Services were held on Monday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. Share your memories at www.schrader-howell.com.

Schrader-Howell FUNERAL HOME
A loving tribute

Honor the Memory and Celebrate the Life of passed loved ones by placing a Special Holiday Tribute. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a Special Tribute during the holidays. Here is the perfect opportunity to share your thoughts of loved ones who hold a special place in your hearts.

In Loving Memory at the Holidays

Call us for our Special Holiday Rate
Publications Sunday, December 14th through Thursday, December 25th Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Deadline For Sunday Publication/Friday 4 p.m. prior For Thursday Publication/Tuesday 9:30 a.m. prior

Call 800-579-7355 Fax: 313-496-4968 email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

Your Invitation to Worship

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-926-2219 or e-mail: ssare@michigan.com

Tour holiday-trimmed homes, get ideas at Livonia Christmas Walk

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Jodi Holmes hopes her Christmas decorations strike a chord with every visitor to her home this holiday season.

She expects some will recognize at least one of the 400 vintage ornaments on the tree in her "Santa room." Or they'll delight in the bird nest trimmings and white candles near her four-poster bed. They might enjoy primitive decor as much as Holmes does and admire the handmade garland of dried apples and oranges that winds around the tree in her living room.

"Christmas is my special time. When I was a kid, it would be July and I'd be dragging out Christmas bulbs," said Holmes, 68, who decorated five rooms in her quad-level house for the upcoming Livonia Christmas Walk.

"They asked for people to volunteer for the Walk. It's something I wanted to do for a long time. I thought I'd like to share," she said, explaining her role in the annual fundraiser for Greenmead Historical Park. "I wanted to have (visitors) come in the house and experience the excitement like a small child on Christmas morning. I have all these vintage ornaments, I thought I could bring someone that feeling of joy."

Holmes, a member of Friends for the Development of Greenmead, will open her home, one of five private residences on the Walk, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$10 at the event. Buy advance tickets at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile or at Greenmead, located at Newburgh and Eight Mile. The walk begins at either location.

Historical preservation

Sue Poster, Friends president, said the Walk raises \$4,000-\$8,000 annually for improvements at the historical



A tree sparkles in white and silver at Jodi Holmes' house in Livonia

village. The Simmons/Hill house at Greenmead, decorated by local Quaker chapters, will be open to the public during the event. Donated Christmas caroler figurines will help set the theme in the museum house.

"This year the Walk features five private homes that have never been on the Walk before," Poster said. "Our homes are done by the homeowners. They aren't professionally decorated. They're decorated by people who have



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lisa Garon and her husband, Rich Belcher, turned their dining room into a wine bar. Snowmen and greenery make the room holiday-ready.

real jobs, and families. It's a lot of work for them, but everyone is happy and excited."

Decorations include a ceiling-to-floor-sized American Girl doll house in one home and Polish ornaments in another.

Wine pub

Lisa Garon's 3,000-square-foot ranch house sports "touches" of Santa Claus and snowman themes throughout.

"We decorate every room very elegantly, but just in touches ... subtle touches," Garon said. "My house is rustic, traditional and contemporary all mixed together."

She and her husband, Rich Belcher, turned their formal dining room into a wine pub by outfitting it with round, smaller tables and a television.

"It still has its formal chandelier, but now it's the most-used room in the house," Garon said.

Their year-old Cockapoo, Mason, has his own Christmas stocking with antique lettering and three beds throughout the house, one with a snowman blanket that contributes to the decorating theme.

Belcher decorated the tree his "man cave" in the basement, with sports memorabilia and ornaments collected during vacation trips.

"We have a tree in the living room, a tree in the basement, my office also has a smaller tree and then there are touches of Christmas in every room," Garon said. "I get a lot of my ideas from magazines ... I change up my decor all the time."

Garage sale finds

Holmes, who is married and a great-grandmother, made the dried fruit garland in her living room, but also enjoys "the hunt" for decorations at estate sales and garage sales. Treasured finds have included vintage twisted metal icicles, an old photo album and a book inscribed "a Christmas present to Nellie from mother," dated 1891.

"The rugged and lovingly used — I appreciate it because of the history behind it," she said.

Find out more about Greenmead Historical Park at www.facebook.com/Facebook.

Potters Market gains space, local artists at new venue

Shoppers will notice a few big changes at the 39th annual Potters Market, which opens Friday, Dec. 5, at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen in Southfield.

The 20,000-square-foot venue, a new location, will offer more space, wider aisles and a new layout for the show's 145 exhibiting artists and nearly 35,000 pieces of pottery. Other improvements include more parking, a refreshment cafe, vending machines and an ATM.

"We are extremely excited about the big move," said Carol Fitzpatrick, Potters Market co-manager, in a press release. "The new facility is bigger and gives us the opportunity to add even more potters to the roster and expand and improve the sales floor layout."

The move from Madison Heights to the larger Southfield venue also will enable artists to demonstrate pottery making.

Thirty-five new artists, including Barbara Gibson of Livonia and Leslie Greeneisen of Canton, will sell their works.

Gibson has taught pottery at Schoolcraft College and the University of Michigan and shows her work in 51 galleries nationwide. She has been making ceramic art for 50 years.

Greeneisen began making pottery in high school. She moved from Georgia, where she was involved in academic pottery programs, to Michigan in 2002. Greeneisen has worked at Schoolcraft College and is active in the Village Potters Guild in Plymouth.

The Potters Market is organized by the exhibiting artists. They not only organize the event, but stock shelves, handle the free coat check, ring up sales and assist customers.



SUBMITTED

This lantern by Leslie Greeneisen of Canton will be among the nearly 35,000 pieces of pottery for sale at the 39th annual Potters Market in Southfield.

"The advantage of this sale is that we constantly restock," Fitzpatrick said. "Having enough of the same item in order to restock is a requirement for the artists. We also have a wonderful customer service area."

The sale includes pots, vases, platters, tiles, mugs, garden art, bird baths, jewelry, ceramic framed mirrors, sculpture, lamps, tile-topped tables and more.

Another special highlight of this year's show is the "Pots for Charity" table in memory of Potters Market founder, Charlie Blosser, who died earlier this year. Pots from his collection of fine ceramics will be sold, with proceeds donated to the Detroit Fire Department.

The Potters Market will open for a preview sale, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. Admission is \$10 at the door. Regular hours are 2-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Admission is free Dec. 5-7. No strollers are permitted.

For information, call 248-554-5570 or visit www.thepottersmarket.com.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

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

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

Details: Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit

Contact: 248-473-1859

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Dec. 6

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: 2014 International Mosaic Exhibit and Auction includes 141 mosaic artworks from artists representing 13 countries.

Northville Camera Club: "The Art of Light," through Dec. 6 in the lower level gallery

Contact: 248-344-0497

VAAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5-14; opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Location: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), 37653 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: One-of-a-kind holiday gifts created by area artisans include pottery, fiber, hand blown glass, jewelry and other accessories, wood items, clothing, ornaments, framed and unframed art and more. Items in every price range.

Contact: 734-838-1204; vaalart.org

DANCE

THE NUTCRACKER

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Salem High School auditorium, located in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, on Joy, west of North Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, with the Michigan Philharmonic; tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for children and \$3 for the Sugar Plum Parade held after the show

Contact: plymouthcantonballet.org

FILM

FARMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington

Details: See *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas* for free with donation of a new book, toy, or canned or boxed foods for Farmington Area Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program. A surprise winter princess movie will screen at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.



SUBMITTED

Paul Hardy and Bobbi Gladden, both of Livonia, belt out a song in "A Reel Christmas," a show with Christmas music, a sing-along and scenes from Christmas movies, Dec. 5-6 at Inspire Theatre in Westland.

Contact: farmingtonareagoodfellows.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *It's a Wonderful Life*, admission \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 6

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

Details: *Christmas Vacation*; \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through Dec. 21

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: The exhibit, "Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan," consists of 82 artifacts, including ceramics, glass, metal, textiles, paintings, illuminated manuscripts and wood

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 11, 2015

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit features scenes from stories and movies, such as *Elf*, *Polar Express*

and *A Christmas Carol*. Santa visits every Sunday until Christmas and will be on hand for the annual craft bazaar and open house, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

HOLIDAY LIGHTS LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: Lightfest hours 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along four miles of Hines Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail, in Westland

Details: Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car.

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

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 5-7, 11-14, 18-23 and 26-31

Location: The Detroit Zoo, I-696 service drive at Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak

Details: The event includes photos with Santa Paws, carousel rides, The Polar Express 4-D Experience, ice carving, arts and crafts. Admission for ages 2 and older is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate; parking is \$6 per car. Buy tickets online at www.detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights, at Detroit Zoo main admissions, or Kroger stores

Contact: 248-541-5717

MUSIC

BECKRIDGE CHORALE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville

Details: "Wonder of Christmas" concert; tickets \$15 and \$18

Contact: beckridgechorale.org

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Big Ray and the Motor City Kings on Dec. 9. \$5 donation

Contact: 734-453-1780

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

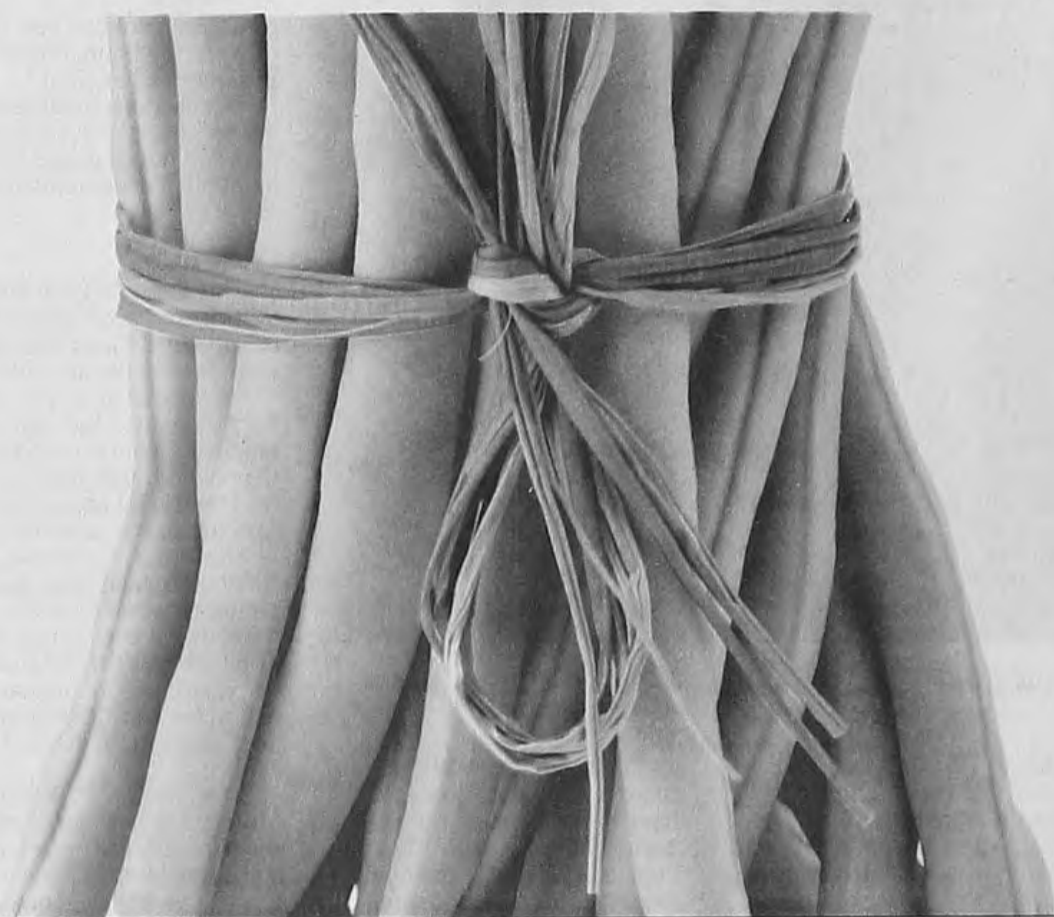
Location: Harrison High School, 29995 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Season's music by the concert band and some jazz standards by the FCB Big Band

Contact: fcbmusic.org



KIDS WILL ASK FOR MORE WITH THESE EASY BEAN RECIPES



Green beans are no longer a plain side dish for dinner. Here are some fun, kid-friendly recipes to try at home to help encourage your kids to eat a healthy serving of green beans. "Try them with hummus, ranch or any of your favorite dressings," suggests Justin Timineri, executive chef and culinary ambassador, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Green beans are a flavorful way to eat healthy all year around.

- » They are a good source of dietary fiber.
- » Green beans contain vitamin C and folic acid.

» They are also an important source of potassium and many micronutrients.

» One cup of cooked, fresh green beans has only 30 calories and no fat, sodium or cholesterol.

When choosing beans, look for plump, crisp beans that are reasonably well shaped. The beans should have even color with fresh blossom ends and snap readily when broken. Many people prefer smaller beans, which are usually more tender.

You can find more delicious recipes for Florida green beans at <http://bit.ly/flsnapbeans>.

— Courtesy of Family Features

GREEN BEAN STIR-FRY

Yield: 4 servings

1 tablespoon olive oil
3 cups fresh green beans, ends trimmed
2 cups sweet bell peppers, sliced
2 cups zucchini, sliced thin
1 cup carrot, sliced thin
2 tablespoons honey
¼ cup low sodium soy sauce
1 tablespoon black and white sesame seeds

Preheat large sauté pan or wok over medium high heat. Add olive oil to preheated pan. Carefully add all vegetables to preheated pan. Cook vegetables for 4 to 7 minutes or until desired doneness. Add honey and soy sauce to pan and stir to combine. Serve stir-fry with rice and garnish with sesame seeds. Chef's tip: Add favorite vegetables in place of the ones listed in recipe. Kids can: Snap green beans and help measure honey and soy



GREEN BEAN AND POTATO SALAD WITH YOGURT DRESSING

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

½ pound fresh green beans, washed, ends trimmed and cut into thirds
2 pounds potatoes, washed, peeled and diced large
½ cup low-fat yogurt
2 lemons, juiced
1 cup fresh parsley, chopped fine
¼ cup olive oil
Sea salt to taste
Fresh ground pepper to taste

Fill large sized stock pot ¾ of the way full and lightly salt water. Bring lightly salted water to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and water. Add trimmed and cut green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place them into ice water to stop cooking. The green beans should be crisp-tender and vibrant green. After green beans have cooled down, remove from ice water and set aside.

Carefully add cut potatoes to same boiling water greens beans were cooked in. Cook potatoes in boiling water for around 15 minutes depending on size. The potatoes should be slightly firm, yet tender to the bite. Using colander placed in the sink, drain potatoes and run cold water over them to cool off and stop cooking. In large mixing bowl, combine yogurt, lemon juice, parsley and olive oil. Stir yogurt mixture to combine. Taste potato salad and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Keep potato salad cold in refrigerator and stir before serving. Kids can: Help combine ingredients for dressing.



GREEN BEAN POUFS

Yield: 4 servings

½ pound green beans, trimmed
1 can prepared crescent roll dough

Fill large sized stock pot ¾ of the way full and lightly salt water. Bring lightly salted water to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and water. Add trimmed and cut green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place them into ice water to stop cooking. The green beans should be crisp-tender and vibrant green. After green beans have cooled down, remove from ice water and set aside.

Dry blanched green beans with paper towel. Open tube of prepared crescent roll dough. Cut each dough roll into strips. Wrap bunches of 3 green beans in spiral manner and place on cookie sheet. Continue process until all dough and green beans are used. Bake wrapped green beans until the dough is cooked and golden brown. Let cool and serve.

Kids can: Wrap dough around the green beans.



MINI GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

Yield: 4 servings

1 pound green beans, ends trimmed
2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
½ cup panko bread crumbs
1 tablespoon olive oil

Fill large sized stock pot ¾ of the way full and lightly salt water. Bring lightly salted water to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and water. Add trimmed and cut green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place them into ice water to stop cooking. The green beans should be crisp-tender and vibrant green. After green beans have cooled down, remove from ice water and set aside.

Preheat oven to 370°F. Divide blanched green beans evenly into four mini casserole dishes. Add an even amount of cheese on top of green beans. In small bowl, combine panko bread crumbs and olive oil. Mix ingredients to combine. Sprinkle bread crumb mixture on top of green beans and cheese. Place mini green bean casseroles in oven and bake until bubbly and golden brown. Let cool before serving. Kids can: Add shredded cheese to the top of green beans.

