



SET TO CLASH
SPORTS, B1



ACTORS BRING 'DRACULA' TO LIFE AT SCHOOLCRAFT

ENTERTAINMENT, B5

Holiday lights

The Plymouth Downtown Development Authority and Plymouth Salvation Army Corps will host a Main Street boulevard tree lighting and Salvation Army Red Kettle kickoff at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, in Kellogg Park.

Last year's event featured great weather and about 500 people turned out for the event. Like last year, Panera Bread has offered to supply free coffee and hot chocolate to those who attend. The Plymouth Downtown Development Authority will have the Salvation Army band play music and the PCCS choir singing holiday songs.

The Salvation Army will once again hand out a gift to the first 100 people who attend, and there will be short speeches by DDA Board Chairman Phil Pursell and Major Dan Hull of the Salvation Army before the switch is flipped to turn on the new LED lights on the boulevard trees.

Bring nonperishable food for the Salvation Army pantry and have a chance to win downtown gift certificates.

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Township residents ask for fire department plan

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

With just over two months until the city of Plymouth leaves the Plymouth Community Fire Department, Plymouth Township officials have not spelled out how they plan to manage a department with a smaller coverage area and about three-quarters of its current revenue.

"We don't have the final plans at this time," Supervisor Richard Reaume said during Tuesday's

Board of Trustees meeting. But officials continue to seek partners among neighboring communities for firefighting and emergency medical services, and the city's planned departure from the joint department has been well-publicized, Reaume said.

Reaume was responding to concerns from township resident Tom Kelly, a leader of the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township, which advocates maintaining current fire department staffing.

"Are we only going to get two weeks' notice?" said Kelly, a firefighter in Royal Oak.

Tax hike proposed

Kelly asked the board to put to voters a proposal for a 1-mill tax to help fund the fire department. If approved, a 1-mill tax would generate about \$1 million a year; the township's budget proposal for the next fiscal year shows a cut in the PCFD budget of about \$927,000, money, officials say, that will be lost when Plymouth

leaves the department.

Plymouth is partnering with the city of Northville for fire department services beginning in January, and expanding the role of Huron Valley Ambulance for emergency medical response. Northville relies on part-time, on-call firefighters rather than full-time unionized personnel, and Plymouth officials estimate savings, after startup costs, of \$400,000 a year or more.

Please see FIRE, A2

Online forums

Both the Plymouth and Canton chambers of commerce have provided information from candidates running for the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

Answers to questions posed by the Canton Chamber of Commerce can be found at www.cantonchamber.com/pccsquestions.php.

Answers to questions posed by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce can be found at www.plymouthmich.org/chamber/2011-school-board-candidates-online-forum.html.

For more information, call the Canton chamber at (734) 453-4040 or the Plymouth chamber at (734) 453-1540.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Henry Bingham (Brandon Waldenmayer) isn't happy with Justin Hays (Thomas Bafalios), who just broke a priceless vase. Justin also has to finish the hole or lose \$200,000. Louise Hindbetter (Kaiti Szczepanik) and Pamela (Laura Siever) try to stop the mayhem.

Teeing up the laughs

Park Players tackle golf farce

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

In a play where the characters spend a lot of time going over the top, Canton High School junior Laura Siever is hoping she can rein her in a little when the Park Players take to the Canton Little Theater stage Friday for their winter production of *The Fox on the Fairway*.

Siever, a 16-year-old from Canton, plays the sophisticated Pamela in the play and, while Siever likes the idea of playing Pamela's wild side a little, the motherly nature of the character has her worried about toning it down just a bit.

"She's very sophisticated, but she's also very

DETAILS

What: Park Players' production of "Fox on the Fairway"

When: Oct. 28-29, Nov. 3-5; all shows 7 p.m.

Where: Canton Little Theater, Canton High School

Tickets: All seats \$10

sultry," Siever said of Pamela, her first role since transferring from South Lyon. "Everything in this show is over the top, but (Pamela) can't be over the top in all of her scenes. She's also one of the motherly characters."

The play, written by Ken Ludwig, portrays the season-ending golf tour-

Please see PLAYERS, A2



A tipsy Pamela (Laura Siever) asks an equally tipsy Henry Bingham (Brandon Waldenmayer) for a golf lesson. He has no tee, and claims that "I focus better, blindfolded."

Board OKs new fire station roof, liquor license

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Township's Fire Station No. 3 will be getting a new roof and related improvements, at a cost of at least \$37,200.

Low bidder Roof One of Pontiac was awarded the contract Tuesday by a 4-0 vote of the township Board of Trustees. The project includes new shingles, an ice guard, ventilation improvements and other work.

The next-lowest bid, from D.A. Home Improvement, was more than \$10,000 higher. Roof One's price, however, doesn't include any plywood that might need to be replaced once the old shingles come up.

The project is expected to be completed before the end of the year. Station No. 3 is on Beck Road at North Territorial.

Voting to award the contract were Supervisor Richard Reaume, Clerk Joe Bridgman and Trustees Mike Kelly and Kay Arnold. Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustees Steve Mann and Bob Doroshewitz were absent.

The board also voted 4-0 to approve a liquor license request that would allow the Trade Vine Market, a convenience store in the township, to sell packaged alcohol.

The request now goes to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, which has the final say.

Trade Vine is planned for an approximately 1,200-square-foot storefront on Ann Arbor Trail about four blocks east of Haggerty. Store manager Mike Morogi was present at Tuesday's meeting.

The township board has scheduled a special meeting for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, to discuss the township's 2012 budget, Bridgman said.

A general-fund budget for 2012 of about \$12.29 million has been proposed, and the township is required to have a new spending plan in place by the end of the year.

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CRIME WATCH

Neighborhood hit with three larcenies

Northern Avenue, in the area of South Main north of Joy Road in Plymouth Township, was the scene of two larcenies last week, and a third took place two streets away, according to township police reports.

At one house on Northern, a pair of glasses and business cards were stolen from a Chevrolet Tahoe parked outside, police said. The theft occurred between about 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Oct. 18, a police report said.

There were no signs of forced entry, and the victim told police the Tahoe had likely been left unlocked.

In addition, the light bulbs had been removed from outdoor lighting fixtures at about the same time, the victim said.

At another house, a 6-foot witch decoration was reported stolen from the front porch, police said. That theft occurred between about 7 p.m. on Oct. 17 and 2 p.m. the next day, the victim told police.

Also, on nearby Ball Street, two streets east of Northern, a briefcase was reported stolen Oct. 18 from a vehicle parked in a driveway.

That theft occurred

between 8 p.m. Oct. 17 and 8 a.m. the next day, the victim told police. The victim said the Jeep Cherokee had been locked, but police found no signs of forced entry.

Signs vandalized

Two neighborhood announcement boards were reportedly vandalized Friday or Saturday in the Deer Creek subdivision on the township's west side.

One sign was at Buck Run and Deer Creek Run, the other at Hunters Creek Drive and Deer Creek Circle.

The plastic coverings were taken off each of the signs and the letters rearranged, according to the homeowners association.

Vandalism

Someone used black paint on an exterior mirror on a 2009 Lincoln MKS while the car sat in the driveway of a house on Primrose Court, west of Sheldon and north of Joy Road, on Saturday or Sunday.

The door of a garage on McClumpha Road was spray-painted recently; the vandalism was reported on Sunday. A police report did not detail what was sprayed on the door.

— By Matt Jachman

FIRE

Continued from page A1

Kelly argued that, with the decline in residential taxable values in the township since 2007, a 1-mill tax increase would still mean lower property taxes than four years ago. The current township tax is about 4 mills, or \$4 for every \$1,000 in taxable value.

"We could maintain our service and still be paying less tax dollars than we were in 2007," Kelly said.

Kelly also pointed to the signatures, gathered by the Citizens Action Group, on petitions that called for a vote on a special assessment to support the fire department.

Public input

"We had the 3,500 signature saying, 'We want to keep the same level of

services we had,'" he said.

Although the summer drive fell short of getting a special assessment question on the ballot, citizens group members are continuing the effort. The petition signatures must represent the owners of at least 10 percent of the property in the proposed district — which would be made up of the entire township — in order to get a proposal on the ballot.

Other residents said Tuesday they wanted time to review any new fire department operational model before it's implemented.

Jennifer Mann, the wife of a PCFD firefighter and an active citizens group member, said the comment was made at a March 22 board meeting that there would be public hearings on the changes. "I think you owe it to

the public to stand by that comment," Mann said.

Reaume later said he's "not sure what was promised by any individual," but that public hearings are a possibility. Minutes from the March 22 meeting don't include such a comment; Mann said it was captured on a video recording of the meeting.

Exploring options

Reaume said township officials continue to look at options for the fire department. He said talks with neighboring communities are ongoing, but wouldn't specify which communities.

"Nothing may come of this, and then we'd have to decide what we're going to do on our own," Reaume said. In the past, the township has had discussions regarding fire service with officials in Livonia and Canton and

Northville townships.

The PCFD currently has 21 firefighters, plus an inspector, a secretary and Chief Mark Wendel. In 2002, the department had 32 total employees, 27 of them firefighters.

Township officials have discussed the possibility of layoffs in the department, plus moving away from 24-hour shifts, and have taken steps to hire part-time, on-call firefighters.

Kelly said a board decision to put a tax question on the ballot would allow it to limit the tax to 1 mill, rather than capping it at 10 mills, which, some argue, would be a drawback of a special assessment district.

"Take the bull by the horns," Kelly said after the meeting. "That'll lock it in."

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PLAYERS

Continued from page A1

nament between rival country clubs, Quail Valley and Crouchy Squirrel. Quail Valley's Henry Bingham, believing he's employed a ringer, bets heavily on the outcome, only to find out his ringer has defected.

Director Paul Bird chose Fox largely because he's a fan of Ludwig's handling of comedic dialogue. Bird likes Lud-

wig's style, which he said is reminiscent of farces from the 1930s and 1940s.

"I was looking at (Ludwig's) other shows and came across this, and since I liked his other stuff, I just thought we'd try this," Bird said. "It's been a real treasure. We've had a lot of fun with it."

Bird and another Park Players director, Johnathan Rase, started auditions for their respective productions (Rase is directing the upcoming

production of *MacBeth*) at about the same time. With 6,000 students at the high school park, finding enough actors to fill both plays was no problem (Fox only uses six actors).

"Because we were looking for completely different things, we didn't have to fight over the actors," Bird said. "We each got exactly what we wanted."

Despite getting the cast he wanted, Bird worried a little about perhaps his biggest challenge: Getting teenagers to accurately portray older characters.

"You have to get them to realize these characters are in their mid-40s," Bird said. "It's easier to

play younger than older, because kids don't have the life experiences."

One of the half-dozen actors chosen for Fox was Salem High School senior Brandon Waldenmayer, a veteran Park Player performer who was in *Bus Stop* last year. Waldenmayer plays Bingham in this production. He said he enjoyed playing the older man.

"Henry is very neurotic, way over the top," said Waldenmayer. "Keeping that level of energy and craziness the entire show is a challenge, but I love it."

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Citizen panel interviews school board candidates

The *Observer* selected a five-member panel of readers to interview candidates for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education election Nov. 8.

The panel operated independently of the *Observer* editorial staff, interviewing the candidates in person, attending candidate forums, researching the issues and deliberating the choices.

The idea is to give readers an additional opinion separate from

the *Observer's*, one formed by readers like themselves.

Sitting on the panel were Bob Burger, Kary Amin, Eric Brown, Ryan Hayes and Carol Pastrick. The panelists, who represent a wide cross-section of voters, were chosen from among several impressive candidates who learned about the program from stories in the *Observer*.

Following is their endorsement for Plymouth-Canton's Board of Education.



Ryan Hayes, Carol Pastrick, Eric Brown, Kary Amin and Bob Burger made up the *Observer* reader panel.

Reader panel recommends six candidates in school board race

In September, the *Observer* selected five community members to participate on the *Observer* Reader Election Endorsement Panel. Our mission was to evaluate the candidates for the PCCS Board of Education and make recommendations/endorsements to the electorate on the best candidates for the available school board seats.

The panel's endorsements are based on a consensus and are completely independent of the newspaper. The evaluation strategy involved the completion of a background questionnaire and an interview with each candidate which lasted approximately 40 minutes. (However, it should be noted that we were not able to contact Clifton Nealey for an interview).

As a panel, we have had many discussions on how to best advise the community on the candidates of choice. With 14 candidates running for four positions, this seemed to be a daunting task. However, we have decided to



Paton

Goecke

Sneideman

Eggenberger

Barrett

Horvath

recommend six candidates for the four openings.

The reason for this decision is we felt more than four candidates will bring strong qualifications, experience and ideas to the PCCS Board of Education. Additionally, we preferred to endorse a pool of candidates that we feel will represent the community well, as opposed to recommending only four candidates for the available positions. This will allow the voting community to have more choices when making the decision on who is best to serve on the board themselves.

Here are the *Observer* Reader Election Endorsement Panel's recommendations:

• Sheila Paton will

bring a unique perspective to the school board and her background will allow her to be able to address the increasingly complex fiscal and budget challenges facing our district head-on. With a proven track record as a volunteer in a variety of district groups and committees, this reinforces her commitment to the kids of PCCS district.

• Stephanie Goecke has also served our community and district in a variety of volunteer positions. She scored high marks from our panel due to her obvious passion and enthusiasm for the kids in our district. As an attorney, we believe she can help address the more complicated district challenges and will be very active in the interview process-

es and procedures established for hiring our next permanent superintendent.

Goecke has a straightforward approach for addressing the financial matters and that is to live within the means of the budget.

• Steve Sneideman is running as an incumbent candidate. Throughout the recent turmoil on the board, Sneideman maintained his composure and acted in a professional manner. We believe that the hard lessons learned on the board have helped strengthen his resolve to ensure that the Board act in the best interests of PCCS as a whole. His experience on the board will allow him to "hit the ground running" if elected to serve again.

• Nancy Eggenberg-

er is another incumbent seeking re-election. With her vast knowledge of how the district runs, combined with her wide network of community members and organizations, she is an asset worth having around. Her proven dedication, experience, and familiarity with the district's administration are reasons enough to re-elect her to the school board.

• John Barrett has an unparalleled knowledge of public school education with over 40 years of experience as a teacher, curriculum coordinator and administrator. Most recently, Barrett was the principal of award-winning Farmington High School. His focus is on academic excellence, and he understands the necessity for accountability and fiscal responsibility. He will bring an insider's perspective to the PCCS school board.

• Mark Horvath brings ready-made experience to the board based on his previous stint as a school board member and pres-

ident. He has a wealth of board experience and is very vocal with regard to the board's need for transparency, which some believe has been lacking over the past year or so.

Horvath's emphasis is on budgetary concerns, which we believe will help ensure that the board be proactive in addressing fiscal responsibility. Horvath is outspoken and he will also ensure that there will be no status quo on the board. Worth noting, unlike the other five candidates endorsed by this panel, Horvath was not a unanimous choice among the group.

As a panel, we are proud of the high quality of men and women from the Plymouth-Canton community who have committed to run for the PCCS Board of Education. We are indeed lucky to have so many that are interested in dedicating themselves, as volunteers, to such a vitally important task.

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Fourteen candidates seek four open seats in the Nov. 8 Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Election. Today we preview the final five.



Name: Sheila Paton
Home-town: Plymouth
Family: Husband, Brian; daughter, age 13 and son age 11 – both are students at West Middle School

Education: B.S. in Business with a Major in Finance, Miami (Ohio) University; MBA in Finance, Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Occupation: Senior Financial Analyst, University of Michigan Health System - Ann Arbor and Livonia locations.

Community Involvement: Co-chair and co-founder, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Legislative Action Network; Volunteer in Public Schools Award Recipient; Michigan PTA Child Advocacy Committee Member; Trustee, PCCS Educational Excellence Foundation.

What are the three biggest issues facing Plymouth-Canton Schools?

The top three issues within our district are (1) student achievement, which includes increased academic choice for all students at all levels; (2) safety and stability within the district to place the primary focus on the students and their achievement; and (3) stabilization of the budget so that planning within the district can be proactive rather than reactive.

There has been a great deal of dissension on the school board over the last year or so. What will you do to heal the division?

I commit to working with all board members and vow to be honest and open in my communications. I expect that we will disagree on occasion and hope that we can have discussions surrounding those disagreements and find middle ground whenever possible. I have developed good working relationships with the current board members through my work on behalf of the District and in committee meetings.

What quality will you bring to the board that will help the district going forward?

My heavy recent involvement in the district would allow me to be effective immediately. I have a strong understanding of the budget and appreciate the serious situation of our financial position. I actively monitor legislative bills affecting education and seek to understand how each piece of legislation could impact our district, financially or otherwise. I have a track record of working well with others to reach common ground. My primary focus is our students and what we can do to ensure each one of them is successful.

The current board came within one vote of closing an elementary school this year. Does the district need to take a look at its facility usage, and how would you go about it?

We need to evaluate the facilities. Some buildings are over capacity while some have a significant amount of space available. Plante Moran recently presented to the School Board a program in which they would analyze a range of options, incorporating input from the board and the community, and propose solutions based on the facts. It appears fair, unbiased and well worth the funds to free up valuable administration time.

One of the biggest decisions to face the new board will be the selection of a new superintendent. What qualities do you think the board should be looking for?

I believe we need to hire someone who works well with others, is collaborative and forward-thinking. It would be helpful if he/she had experience in developing and expanding academic programming that is taking place in our surrounding districts, such as International Baccalaureate or Language Immersion programs. The candidate needs to be prepared and willing to strongly advocate for our district in Lansing and with our legislators. We need a candidate who is financially astute and has shown that they can be creative when it comes to balancing a budget.



Name: John Jackson
Home-town: Canton
Family: Wife, Jean; two children

Education: B.S. B.A. (Business Administration), Central Michigan University

Occupation: Career Development Consultant

Community Involvement: P-CCS Board of Education, 2007-present; P-C Music Boosters, 1999 – 2007; Team Canton Re-employment Workshops; Adopt-A-Road Canton; Hamlet Villa Owners Association

We must develop action plans to position the district for stability, success and even growth through strong programs focused on the expressed needs of the community and meeting required academic standards. We must focus on a diligent budget process that considers at least the subsequent two budget years. To accomplish this, we need to maintain a positive, collaborative relationship with our employee groups to meet the financial challenges imposed upon the district by the State funding model.

The key to healing the division is focusing on agreed upon goals for the board, superintendent, district and committees. These are being re-instated under by board leadership. The board agreed on high level goals on May 10th, the Superintendents goals, through the first half of the year, are approved and the Board gave the superintendent approval for beginning to implement the strategic (Dynamic Plan). With clear goals and expectations focused on student success it will be much easier to agree and move forward with collaborative actions.

I bring a thoughtful approach to decision-making based on analysis of pertinent data and a concern for impact on people. Most of all, I will keep in the forefront, how any decision impacts the students in the classroom.

Absolutely. In October, the current Board will consider a proposal to approve a detailed study of district facilities, student growth/decline projections and a number of other factors. It should also provide information that may support offering additional specialized learning opportunities and expanding the District's course offerings. The proposed study would be conducted by a trusted business partner with a strong successful track record.

Some of the qualities I think the board should look for include a person who responds and relates well to people in all positions; is seen as a team player; establishes clear directions; sets stretch goals and assigns responsibilities that bring out the best work from people; communicates a compelling and inspired vision or sense of core purpose; inspires and motivates the entire organization; is widely trusted; presents truthful information in an appropriate and helpful manner; keeps confidences; admits mistakes; tactfully dispenses direct and actionable feedback; is open and direct with others without being intimidating.

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Fourteen candidates seek four open seats in the Nov. 8 Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Election. Today we preview the final five.

What are the three biggest issues facing Plymouth-Canton Schools?

There has been a great deal of dissension on the school board over the last year or so. What will you do to heal the division?

What quality will you bring to the board that will help the district going forward?

The current board came within one vote of closing an elementary school this year. Does the district need to take a look at its facility usage, and how would you go about it?

One of the biggest decisions to face the new board will be the selection of a new superintendent. What qualities do you think the board should be looking for?



Name: Clifton Nealey
Home-town: Canton
Family: Wife, Susan, sons Chase, 11, and Alex, 10.
Education:

Associate degree in law enforcement; closing in on a bachelors degree in law enforcement.

Occupation: I have worked for the Wayne County Sheriffs Department nearly 18 years.

Community Involvement: I have coached youth sports now in the PCCS district for eight years. First and most concerning

issue I have is the current cuts in school funding is forcing districts to make severe cuts to their budget. These as far away from the students as possible. I am concerned about the current legislation being introduced that will destroy public education. For example, unlimited charter schools, privatization of the teachers, parents being able to vote to make their schools a charter school that is for profit leaving the students behind. Legislation that will allow districts to hire more administrative personnel that are to do evaluations of teachers. These evaluators will triple administration in districts paying them six figures.

I think the dissension is due to them having personal agendas or owing favors to other politicians. The board members should be working with the communities to help educate them more on issues. I guess be more involved.

I will bring to the board a willingness not to be one sided on issues.

Yes, it needs to take a huge look at the facility issues. My boys attended Fiegel which was scheduled for closing. My boys are bussed 6.5 miles to get to Fiegel when there are two other elementary schools with in two miles of my home. Not only is this a financial mishap it could be a burden on the district, the way the schools are staffed. The boundaries need to be changed to assist with the economics.

I think the district should be in search of a superintendent who has tremendous people skills, strong communication skills. That person should have knowledge of curriculum and experience with all levels of teaching (i.e) elementary and secondary and even special education.



Name: John Barrett
Home-town: Plymouth
Family: Wife, two daughters
Education:

master's and PhD in education
Occupation: Retired educator, current Plymouth City Commissioner

Community Involvement: I spent considerable time last summer as a volunteer member of the PCCS Dynamic Planning Committee.

The top priority issue facing Plymouth-Canton Schools is academic excellence – the focus on student achievement. School practices should have a laser beam orientation on high standards, a rigorous curriculum, and quality teachers.

The second priority issue is budgeting and finance. My third priority would be to create a unified team of school board members and school officials.

If elected, I would use my considerable experience as a team player (both as a high school principal and as a city commissioner) to help advocate openness and democratic processes in all board activities with an emphasis on team decision-making and consensus. Having the entire team attend training workshops will be a positive step in the right direction.

I spent over 40 years in public education and the last two years as a city commissioner. The skills, therefore, that I would bring to the board are: a clear vision of how to create effective schools, program innovation skills, experience with long-range fiscal planning and, most important, the ability to work with others to create an effective team.

In order to best educate kids, we need to provide them with high quality teachers and schools that have a laser beam orientation on high standards and a rigorous curriculum. We also need to provide a safe and secure environment so that kids can focus on learning and not be distracted by bullying or harassment. Creating a positive learning environment and having high expectations are the keys to any student's success.

The board should be looking for a number of qualities. These include the ability to develop a collaborative relationship with the board; the ability to articulate a clear vision for educating students; the ability to communicate with clarity and specificity; being highly visible and open to all members of the community. The superintendent should also have extensive experience in working with a large and diverse school district.



Name: Nancy Eggenberger
Home-town: Canton
Family: Married with three children (two graduates of PCCS and one current senior)

Education: B.A. in Elementary Education from Alma College. M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Eastern Michigan University

Occupation: PCCS School Board Trustee

Community Involvement: former President of PCCS Community School Council, Co-Chair of two Bond Election campaigns.

The three biggest issues facing PCCS are balancing the budget while also maintaining educational excellence for all of our diverse student populations, hiring and retaining a new superintendent and redistricting and repopulating our schools.

I think we need to create Board Operating Procedures (BOP) with complete board agreement. An understanding of our roles and responsibilities will create an atmosphere where everyone will be able to work together. I am very interested and willing to work with the board to create the BOP.

I will always take the time to listen to all sides before making a decision. I also believe that my background in education is helpful when making a decision.

The district is looking at contracting with Plante Moran to examine our redistricting options. I will be supporting this plan. I think it will be helpful to have an outside agency perform the initial work on the redistricting along with involvement of the community.

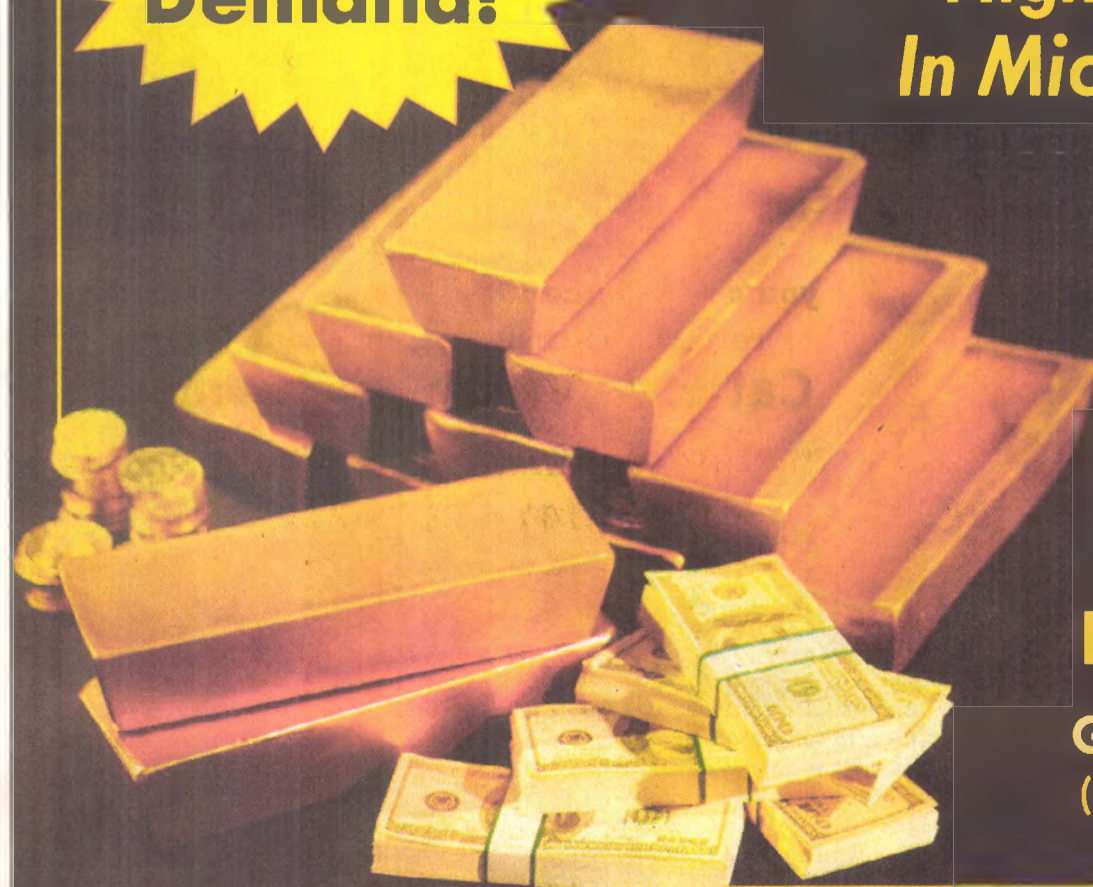
I think it is important to have a superintendent who is willing to look at innovative ideas, not only in ways that maximize the educational experience of our students, but also those that reduce costs and increase district revenues. I have also realized from this past years' experience that someone who is able to navigate the political climate of the community and the board will have a better chance at being successful.

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Downtown streets were closed from noon to 4 p.m. to make it a safe event for children. Local businesses gave out treats to hundreds of costumed kids and their parents.

Pumpkin Palooza debut 'definitely a success'

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

With warm, sunny weather and an estimated turnout of more than 1,000 — and that's only counting children — downtown Plymouth's inaugural Pumpkin Palooza is being called a success.



The Tooth Fairy — a.k.a. Ricky Styes — a teacher at Plymouth Canton Educational Park, brought his wife, Maggie and daughter, Reagan, 3, to Sunday's event. The family lives in Livonia.

"Definitely a success, especially for a first-time event like that," said Nancy Ball, owner of Hands On Leather on Forest, who helped run the event. "I thought the kids had a lot of fun, and we did get shoppers, so it was great."

Ball helped with the Palooza's pumpkin bowling event, in which children used smallish pumpkins, with the stems cut off, to knock down "pins." Meanwhile, her store was busy, Ball said, even among customers without kids in tow.

Her husband, Mike, was the event's "singing pirate," belting out tunes while playing the banjo. He started out in front of her store and later strolled through the event, which took place on several streets downtown.

"That was fun. He enjoys talking to the kids anyway," Ball said.

Pumpkin Palooza, organized and run by downtown retailers, included other games, crafts, a "haunted alley" off Main Street, costume contests and, of course, trick-or-treating at some 20 downtown businesses. There were also candy stations at three different downtown intersections.

The Halloween-themed event replaced the Great Pumpkin Caper, which had mainly become an evening of trick-or-treating that crowded downtown sidewalks and did little to inspire the Halloween spirit, organizers said.

The new event was a welcome change, said Teri Fry, events manager at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, who helped with the planning.

"We had all kinds of good comments about it, and everybody seemed to like it," Fry said. Organizers are already talking about bringing it back next year, she said.

Attendance Sunday was estimated at more than 1,000 children, Fry said, because businesses that passed out candy had planned for 1,000 trick-or-treaters and some places ended up running short.



Plymouth's new Halloween event was a family affair. Joining the fun is the Maxworthy Family of Plymouth — John and Karyn with sons, Aidan, 1 (in the wagon) and Colin, 2. The event featured games, prizes, activities, entertainment and candy stations.



All dressed up and ready to hit the candy stations are Alyssa Lollo (from left), 9, dressed as Frankie Stein of Monster High; Olivia Nasso, 9, as Batgirl; and Frankie Lollo, 7, a skeleton.



Dressed as a mom, Chrissey Detary of Plymouth escorts daughters Mary (left), 6, and Carol (the Zombie Prom Queen) to the downtown candy stations.



Anna Gonzales, 4½, of Plymouth was escorted through the streets by her mom, Lirio, and the family pet, Titan, dressed as a bumble bee.



Families came in costume to Sunday's Pumpkin Palooza. Enjoying the festivities were bananas Nathan Herberholz (from left), 9; Zachary Milder, 5, and Madison Milder, 3. In charge of their bananas are Erik 'Gorilla' Herberholz and Jill 'Chiquita Banana' Milder. The family lives in Novi.



Nandini Desaraja, 6½, came dressed as a geisha doll. She was joined by her brother, Keshav, 2½, who is Super Why, the PBS superhero who encourages youngsters to read.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

Golden Gala kicks off Schoolcraft's 50th anniversary

Throughout the 2011-12 academic year Schoolcraft College will host a variety of events and sponsor a number of activities in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the college's founding on Oct. 24, 1961.

On Saturday, the celebration began in earnest with more than 900 people attending The Golden Gala: Ever Upward event on the college's main campus in Livonia.

The evening started with the opportunity for attendees to take a tour of the campus to experience how much has changed in the past 50 years. "What started out as a cornfield now is a bustling campus with 36,000 students, 10 buildings, all filled with state-of-the-art classrooms and labs, and the technology needed to support learning in the 21st century," said Gregory Stempien, chair of the board of trustees.

Dr. Conway A. Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College, said it is important for the school to reflect on its 50-year history and success. "Because of the commitment of faculty, staff, administration and, most importantly, the community, we have provided education and training for tens of thousands of people across Michigan and throughout the world, including many of the leading professionals working in our community today.

"As we look forward to our next 50 years, we continue to find innovative ways to educate and inspire students to achieve more than they thought possible."

A welcome reception featuring hors d'oeuvres sponsored by the college's renowned culinary arts program was followed by opening ceremonies. In addition to several proclamations from local, state and federal institutions, Schoolcraft College's Choral Union performed the college's hymn, *Look Ever Upward*, under the direction of Jonathan Drake. The 25th Anniversary Time Capsule was opened and the 50th Anniversary Time Capsule was sealed. Items in the time capsule from 25 years ago included an IBM PC operating manual and a newspaper from Oct. 24, 1986, with a headline report-



Students in the Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts program engage with guests, describing their culinary creations, during the Strolling Dinner through the college's state-of-the-art kitchens and the American Harvest Restaurant.

ing record profits for Ford Motor Co. A special-ty commissioned piece of artwork, commissioned by Sarah Olsen, professor of art at Schoolcraft, was unveiled.

Following a strolling dinner and international coffee bar presented by the college's Culinary Arts program and Food Services, the Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Riccardo Selva, and local favorite, Fifty Amp Fuse, provided entertainment and the opportunity for dancing until midnight.

A highlight of the evening occurred at 10 p.m. with the lighting and ceremonial ringing of the college's famous Bell Tower. A musical light-show featuring Aaron Copeland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, performed by the Schoolcraft College Synthesizer, under the direction of Barton Polot, capped off the official activities for the night at the base of the tower at 10 p.m.

Throughout the evening guests visited the special 50th Anniversary Historical Exhibit Hall, sponsored by alumna Dr. Gary Gable and his wife, Lisa. Featured were 10 special displays highlighting the evolution of the college's Athletics, Business Development Center, Children's Center and Child and Family Services Department, Continuing Education and Professional Development, Culinary Arts, Mathematics Department, Nursing, Public Safety (Criminal Justice, Fire Technology, EMT/Paramedic and Homeland Security), Sciences, and Transition Center, in addition to the early years of the college and the college in general

through the past 50 years.

Gable, the college's Distinguished Alumni honoree in 2010, said of the celebration, "It is really impossible to say what the best part of the celebration is. I think that overall the collective impact this wonderful institution has had on so many former students who came here not knowing what their future held and the direction they received is the best part."

"We have 12 people in our group tonight, five of whom have direct ties to the college as students themselves or their children are graduates," said Gable. "We are all so proud and excited by this opportunity to show off this wonderful institution to our friends and family this evening."

The Golden Gala event marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of the college's contribution to the community. A complete listing of all the events and activities celebrating Schoolcraft College's 50th anniversary throughout the entire 2011-12 academic year can be found at www.schoolcraft.edu/50.



PHOTOS BY STEVE FECHT

The VisTaTech Center was magically transformed into a venue fit for a Golden Gala celebration.

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Program lets kids try hockey free

Arctic Edge Ice Arena of Canton is inviting boys and girls ages four to nine to the arena 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, for a free hockey clinic to experience ice hockey for the first time and learn the basics of the sport in a fun, safe environment.

The event, Try Hockey for Free Day, is part of Come Play Hockey Month, said Jason Varlesi, director of sales and marketing for Arctic Edge and Arctic Pond ice arenas, 46615 Michigan Ave.

The free program, which

requires registration, is designed to provide youth hockey associations a national platform to introduce new children to the sport. It is a joint effort between USA Hockey, the National Hockey League, NHL member clubs and OneGoal.

Try Hockey for Free Day also is a component of USA Hockey and the NHL's collaboration with the Let's Move! initiative to help the nation's youth lead healthier, more active lives through hockey.

To register for one of the 400-plus Try Hockey for Free opportunities, visit www.TryHockeyForFree.com or contact Arctic Edge Ice Arena at (734) 487-7777.

Have a good laugh



This weekend is the last chance to catch Barefoot Productions sixth season opener, Neil Simon's FOOLS! Directed by Craig A. Hane, the comedy will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. Tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$14 for students and senior citizens. For reservations, call (734) 560-1493 or visit the Players' website at www.justgobarefoot.com.

Best mutual funds have strong track record to research

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I was approached by an investor who wanted my opinion about a new mutual fund. Apparently a friend told him the fund that was employing a variety of strategies and trading techniques and that the goal of the fund was to protect the portfolio in both bullish and bearish times. I told him I had never heard of the fund or the fund company. That being said, my advice to him was to avoid the investment. I told him that if he wanted to take a flier on the fund that was one thing, but I don't consider that an investment. A flier is something that is similar to gambling. The reason that I said that this mutual fund was a flier was because it was brand new and did not have a track record.

I've always believed that investors must follow a set of rules when it comes to selecting investments.

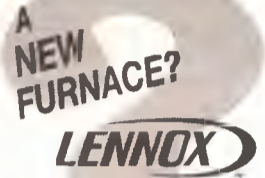
One rule that I follow is don't invest in any investment that doesn't have a solid, long-term track record. I like investments that have been around for a period of time so I can look at how they have done and compare them to other types of investments. For instance, I prefer investments that have been around for a 10-year period so I can get a good picture on how they've performed over a period of time. Yes, I will make some exceptions, but those are few and

far between. The exception may be if an investment has been a very good performing fund that has been around for maybe seven years, I would consider investing in it. However, I would not invest in a fund that is brand new.

For the great majority of investors, when a new fund comes on the market they should avoid it. I recognize that there will be some opportunities missed. However, let's keep in mind that most investors would rather give up something on the high end so as not to get hit on the low end. Therefore, avoiding funds that are brand new is the appropriate strategy. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City of Plymouth on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. At that time candidates for the following offices will be voted on:

CITY COMMISSIONER (Four Position to be vacant in November, 2011)

PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS (Four Positions - Regular Terms ending 12/31/2015)

Absentee ballot applications may be requested in person from the Clerk's office, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, or by calling 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225. Absentee ballots will be issued to qualified absentee voters in person in the Clerk's office from 8:00 a.m. - until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2011. On Monday, November 7, 2011, qualified voters can receive their ballots and vote them in the Clerk's office until 4:00 p.m.

Individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations to participate in this election should contact 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225.

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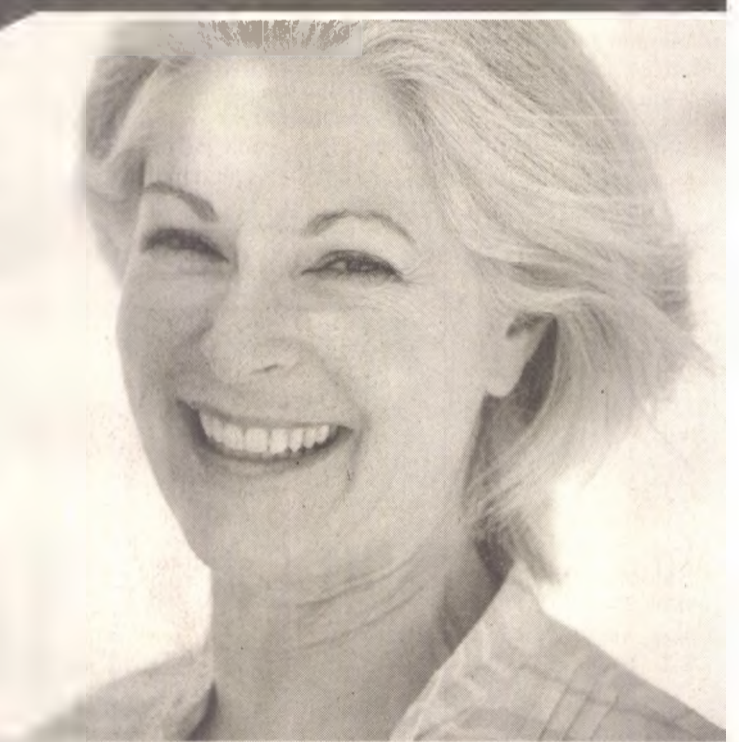
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LaVida Massage, a Commerce-based massage and wellness center, announced the opening of a new LaVida location on Sheldon Road in Plymouth.

Canton massage owner adds Plymouth location

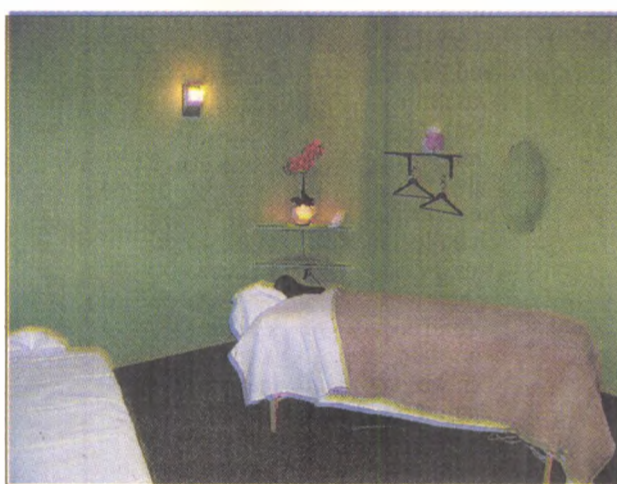
LaVida Massage, a Commerce-based massage and wellness center, announced the opening of a new LaVida location in Plymouth.

The new center, located at 15175 Sheldon, opened earlier this month. The facility's spacious 4,100 square feet is now the largest LaVida center and features 12 regular massage rooms, two couples massage rooms and three aesthetics rooms.

The center will provide a number of services and products specifically designed to meet the needs of both men and women in the area, including a variety of massage therapy options, such as Swedish, couples, deep tissue, hot stone, prenatal, chair and corporate massages performed by Michigan licensed massage therapists.

The new center will be owned and managed by franchisee Mark Davis. Davis also owns and manages the other LaVida center and originally became interested in the company due to its business model and the dramatic growth of the health and wellness industry.

"I'm extremely excited to open another LaVida location in Michigan," said Davis. "My location in Canton has experienced significant success since its opening and I am now looking forward



The new LaVida massage location on Sheldon Road in Plymouth includes rooms for individuals and for couples.

to continuing that success, while introducing and expanding the LaVida brand in Plymouth."

In addition to its opening, the center has been supporting the American Cancer Society's "Wall of Hope" during Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. In exchange for the purchase of a ribbon to be placed on the center's "Wall of Hope," which will be sold for \$5, patrons will receive a \$5 coupon for any aromatherapy product available at the location.

LaVida has locations that span the United States, with several more centers slated to open by the end of the year. The company has doubled in size in the past year, and is positioned for substantive growth as clients continue to find unmatched value in the

benefits of visiting a cost-effective, high quality massage center.

The Plymouth location will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, and offers convenient on-line scheduling 24 hours a day.

Founded in 2007, LaVida Massage is a health and wellness massage center, providing massage, facial and cosmetic services that revitalize and rejuvenate clients' emotional and physical health. As more Americans find value in personal care and therapeutic relief from negative outside influences, LaVida continues its expansion throughout the U.S. LaVida is headquartered in Commerce. For more information, visit www.lavidamassage.com.

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Business News

From the desk of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

- Salon Awesome is raising money to help combat breast cancer. Donate \$10 and you get one free pink hair extension put in your hair. Help a worthy cause and become fashionable at the same time.

- Magnolia Fresh Flower Market is holding its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A free gift to the first 100 people ... and receive 25 percent off your most expensive item.

- Basket Kreations will hold its open house on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The first 75 customers will receive a free gift bag, and there will be food and refreshments. Visit Stella and get a peek at the 2011 holiday decorations and gift selections.

- Avenue Market is celebrating its two-year anniversary during the entire month of October. Check out their Facebook page for weekly specials or stop by the store to see what's on sale.

- The Cupcake Station is still selling its Breast Cancer awareness cupcakes for the month of October. For every pink cupcake they sell, the Cupcake Station will donate \$1 to local Breast Cancer Awareness foundations.

- Elite Sports Marketing is holding a Wicked Halloween Run on Sunday, October 30. There will be a 10K run, 5K run/walk and a "Monster Mile". All events start in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth beginning



The success of the sold-out Girl Talk concert last March promoted Crofoot and AEG to move other mid-sized concerts to Compuware Arena, which seats 4,500 for concerts.

at 8:15 a.m. All participants receive a T-shirt.

After the run there will be entertainment, food and a costume contest. To register, go to www.wickedhalloweenrun.com. For questions, e-mail awhitehead2009@gmail.com.

Compuware concerts

Compuware Arena – in Crofoot Ballroom and AEG Live promotions – will be the home of three concerts before the end of the calendar year, two in November and one in December. The concerts are:

- Wednesday, Nov. 9, Hollywood Undead and Asking Alexandria – Hollywood Undead comes to Plymouth in support of their new release "American Tragedy."

Asking Alexandria, a veteran metalcore band based out of the United Kingdom, formed in 2008 and released "Reckless and Relentless" in 2011. The CD went as high as a ninth in the US charts and third in the US Indie charts.

Price is \$27 for advance purchase and \$32 the day of the show. Tickets are general admission. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the

event starting at 5:25 p.m. Call (877) 271-1280 to purchase tickets or go online to www.compuwarearena.com.

- Saturday, Nov. 26, Bassnectar – Fronted by Lorin Ashton, Bassnectar is an open-sourced musical project that is as play a diverse mix of music.

Tickets are \$32 for advance purchase, or \$35 the day of the show. Tickets are general admission. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the event starting at 8 p.m. Call (877) 271-1280 to purchase tickets or go online to www.compuwarearena.com.

- Friday, Dec. 16, Five Finger Death Punch – Based out of Los Angeles, Five Finger Death Punch dedicates the song, "Far from Home", to all veterans. The band's new release is "American Capitalist."

Tickets are \$25 for advance purchase, or \$30 the day of the show. Tickets are general admission. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the event starting at 7:30 p.m. Call (877) 271-1280 to purchase tickets or go online to www.compuwarearena.com.

Any questions about the upcoming concerts – or any events concerning Compuware Arena – should be directed to Mike Henry at (734) 453-6400.

PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CORNER

Board ballot

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce members planning on casting votes for the chamber's Board of Directors have until Nov. 1 to get the voting done.

This year the following names are being submitted for approval by the membership for three-year terms on the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. There are four seats open for election this year.

- Jeff Bell, Schrader Howell Funeral Home
- Teri Allen, Dearborn Jewelers (second term)
- Bernie Spraggins, Johnson Controls (second term)
- Mark Evenson, Community Financial (second term)

Drop-in theater

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is offering theater classes for kids and adults through Dec. 12. Theatrical Movement and the Art of Improv (school-age thru adult); Learn to Love Auditions (school-age thru adult) and Introduction to Acting Techniques and Methods (age 10 thru adult). Classes are \$15 for members and \$18 for non-members.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This year's Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Gala Auction. This year's event is set for Friday, Nov. 4.

For more information call (734) 416-4278 or visit www.plymouthartclasses.com.

Gala auction

Tickets are now on sale for the November Chamber Gala Auction featuring Dick Purtan as the emcee. Tickets are \$75 and include dinner, dancing and auctions all wrapped up in one GROOVY-FUNKY evening.

To order tickets call the chamber at (734) 453-1540.

Wicked Halloween Run

Elite Sports Marketing is holding a Halloween run Oct. 30. There will be

a 10K run, 5K run/walk and a "Monster Mile." All events start in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth beginning at 8:15 a.m. All participants receive a T-shirt. After the run there will be entertainment, food and a costume contest.

To register, go to www.wickedhalloweenrun.com. For questions, e-mail awhitehead2009@gmail.com.

Shocktober series

The Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth is hosting the Shocktober Classic Series of movies, featuring:

- Oct. 27, "Abbott & Costello Meet the Killer," 7 and 9 p.m.

gardenviews

Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 5th
10:00 to 5:00 pm

- Eight Decorated Trees in Elegant, Contemporary & Traditional Styles
- \$50.00 Gift Certificate Drawings Every Hour
- Holiday Cookies and Music

117 E. Main St.
Downtown Northville
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OUR VIEWS

Steady diet

Results show food service choice was right one

When the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education made the decision two years ago to cut ties with longtime food service contractor Sodexho and bring the operation in-house, there was a lot of push-back from people who thought it would never work.

When food services director Kristen Hennessey told board members recently the operation spent \$92,000 on updating equipment at seven different schools and *still* was able to contribute some \$188,000 back to the general fund, it became clear the move was the right one.

Hennessey and her staff — whom she lavishly credits every chance she gets for the program's success — have improved the program in nearly every way. The food is better, it's more nutritious, it's served more efficiently and more kids are eating it. Lunch participation has increased 3 percent annually, and breakfast participation has seen a stunning 29-percent hike. The district has gone from 8,398 meals a day to 10,159 per day over the last two years.

How good is the food? Dodson Elementary last year earned the HealthierUS School Challenge Bronze Award in a national initiative, spearheaded by first lady Michelle Obama, to promote healthier school meals, physical activity and fitness opportunities and nutrition education. This year, Hennessey has the district's other 15 schools in line for the same honor.

The district has rolled out an online program that allows parents to find out what their children are eating every day and also to pay for it with the PaySchools program. The system brought in some \$564,0090 in pre-paid meal funding last year.

Perhaps the true measure of the district's success: Other districts want their services. Plymouth-Canton this year signed a two-year agreement with Livonia Public Schools to run that district's food services program, and Hennessey's staff will also provide meals to Our Lady of Good Counsel School this year. Other districts have also come calling, but Hennessey has had to hold them at bay for fear of taking on too much too soon.

Two years ago there was a lot of skepticism about bringing the food services operation in-house. Hennessey and her staff have worked hard to prove it was the right decision.

It was then, and it is now.

City does great job

When the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off came to town one Sunday earlier this month, the event brought tens of thousands of people to town.

By Monday morning, you couldn't tell the city had just hosted such a huge crowd for such a popular event.

And residents largely have the city's Municipal Services Department to thank for that.

Festivals like Chili Fest, and the myriad of other events that call Plymouth home — Art in the Park, Fall Festival, the Green Street Fair and the ice festival among them — bring a lot of stature and buzz to the community.

But they also bring tons of people, and someone has to clean up after them. The city's Municipal Services Department is small — barely a dozen people — but somehow manages to get the job done.

Someone also has to keep all those people safe, and Plymouth police officers do a great job of that. There are incidents, to be sure; completely keeping the peace with tens of thousands of people parading through town is nearly impossible. But Plymouth is as safe as possible during all of these events.

There's a lot of work that goes with inviting thousands of people into your home for a huge party.

And Plymouth gets it done as well as anyone.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are the Detroit Lions for real?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



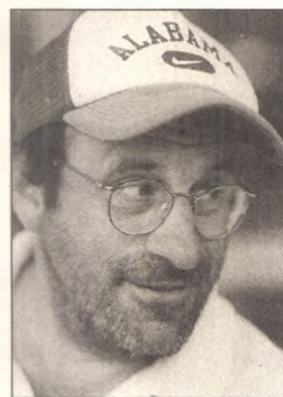
"I think so. Talent. Energy. Work ethic. I think they're feeding off the city, too."

T.J. Taylor
Plymouth Township



"I don't know. I don't watch the Lions."

Teresa McLenaghan
Plymouth Township



"Yeah. Before the season started, I predicted they were going 12-4. ... I think this is the year."

Steve Beltari
Garden City



"I certainly do. They've proven their ability. They played a good game against San Francisco, and their other games have been good. I just think they're for real."

Walt Welliver
Plymouth

LETTERS

Literature disgusting

We are writing to express our disgust at the literature that the "M&M" candidates are distributing. While we have our own opinions on various candidates, it is not even the "M&M" candidates' platforms that have us up in arms. Instead, it is the absurdity and the absolute lies that they are spreading through their literature.

Specifically:

- The current board "instituted racial preferences for hiring minority candidates." We were both hired in the summer of 2009. We each had three interviews with three different groups of people. These interviews included hours of questions, sample instructional lessons, and a wide variety of evaluations. At no point did anyone ask either of us about our own racial background. Instead, on several occasions, we were asked about diversity among our students and the ways in which we planned to incorporate culturally responsive teaching practices into our daily instruction.

First of all, no one from the board attended any of our (separate) interviews. Hiring of teachers is done on the building level. Second of all, the majority of the teachers in our building are white. There is not a shred of evidence to suggest that the board is involved in teacher hiring in any way or that they have instructed building administrators to make decisions based on racial preferences.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

- The current board "allowed dangerous teachers in the classroom." The incident involving a teacher with a weapon on school grounds is tragic. It is also cause for concern and investigation into that particular teacher's credentials. However, there are 1,100 other highly qualified, dedicated, hardworking, and professional educators teaching in Plymouth-Canton. To suggest that one incident with a particular individual is representative of "dangerous teachers" in our classrooms is not only absolutely ludicrous, but it is also highly offensive.

- The current board has "no commitment to high quality teachers." Aside from being completely unfounded and blatantly untrue, this statement is perhaps the most offensive of all. Plymouth-Canton students receive the highest quality edu-

cation from the most dedicated of high quality teachers. To suggest otherwise is simply a lie.

We are also incensed by the mailing with the photos of President Obama, Congresswoman Pelosi, and Sen. Reid on it. School board elections are non-partisan endeavors. We can only imagine that the photos of these Democratic leaders are being used to incite action among those who strongly oppose the platforms and policies of said Democratic leaders. Our school board election is no place for national party politics. Along this same vein, the aforementioned campaign literature is being paid for and distributed by "Wayne 11th CDRC, 29514 Pickford, Livonia MI." This is the note that is printed at the bottom of the fliers themselves. This is the acronym and address of the Wayne County 11th Congressional District Republican Committee. Aside from the inappropriate partisan nature of this maneuver, the fact that the address is in Livonia suggests that a group from outside our district is attempting to push its political agenda onto us.

There is too much at stake to let these candidates continue to spread lies throughout our district. Regardless of how you plan to vote on Nov. 8, please know that these lies are hateful, hurtful, and being used to manipulate voters.

Rachel Goldberg
Bill Lembesis

East Middle School

GUEST COLUMN

People are paying attention to election

By Melanie Collinsworth
Guest Columnist

Whether it is the Tea Party movement or the Occupy Wall Street movement, people are awake, paying attention, and will not allow elected officials or special interests' reckless behavior to continue. On Nov. 8, we have an opportunity to send this same message to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education.



Melanie Collinsworth

In the past, the MEA has spent tens of thousands of dollars in every school board election. Why are they spending this money? The answer is simple; it is a lot easier to negotiate with yourself. It is the equivalent of putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

What has putting the fox in charge of the hen house gotten us in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district? You guessed it: Out of control spending, mounting debt, out-of-touch hiring policies, and disregard for the taxpayers of our community.

According to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Preliminary Financial Projections dated June 24, 2011, the district has exhausted a \$23 million fund balance and has a projected \$28 million deficit moving forward into the fiscal year. While the current MEA endorsed candidates like to claim that these figures are no longer valid, the district has not provided any new official data.

Instead, with just weeks before the election, we are given pie in the sky projections with no plans to fix the structural deficits that are driving our district into bankruptcy.

It is imperative that the district hire the best teachers possible. The process should be color blind, gender blind, ethnicity blind, and the district should be hiring the most qualified teacher. However, last year the school instituted a policy to identify teachers of "color." The HR department instructed administrators to use "cues" to identify traditional African-American schools, colleges and organizations. This is clearly a violation of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative passed by voters nearly 60-40 in 2006. However, instead of correcting the problem, the current board and MEA-endorsed candidates have attacked anyone who dares to raise the issue.

While some of these decisions

could be seen as just bad judgment, no one can overlook the blatant disrespect the board has had for the taxpayers of the district. Whether it was the \$2.8 million purchase of land for a middle school without voter approval, or moving the 2010 election to this odd years at a cost of \$100,000 to the taxpayers (according to an *Observer* article dated Oct. 7, 2007), the board has put their own interests before those of us they represent.

Why did they move the election? According to local news stories and the video from the board meeting, they felt that too many people voted in even years and it would cost them (as candidates) too much money to get their message out, and they were concerned that people would not be able to find them on the ballot. How insulting is it to assume the voters are not educated enough to find the school board race on the ballot!

On Nov. 8, we have a chance to stand up and make our voices heard. We have a chance to put an end to the reckless behavior of the past and tell the special interest groups that enough is enough.

Melanie Collinsworth is a Republican precinct delegate with the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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Boarshead Low Sodium Ham \$6.99 lb. <small>Boar's Head Save \$3.50 lb.</small>	Joe's Signature Roast Beef \$7.99 lb. <small>Save \$2.00 lb.</small>	Hoffmans Salami \$4.99 lb. <small>Save \$2.00 lb.</small>	Hoffmans Super Sharp Cheddar Cheese \$5.99 lb. <small>Save \$3.50 lb.</small>

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Colonial Inn Egg Noodles <i>All Varieties</i> 10/\$10
Yoder's Veggie Chips 2/\$3

BAKERY

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Chocolate Filled Cannolis \$2.49 each

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PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Quick draw

Season on the line as Plymouth, Canton gridders set to clash in pre-districts

PLAYOFF PRIMER

What: Division 1 pre-district football game between Canton and Plymouth.
When: 7 p.m. Friday, at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity turf field.
Records: The 8-1 Wildcats, champions of the KLAA South Division and Kensington Conference, face 7-2 Canton.
Head-to-head: In the 2010 district final, Plymouth defeated Canton 17-7. This season, the Chiefs rallied to win 31-30 on Oct. 7.

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Canton head football coach Tim Baechler, half jokingly Monday, said he'd take his team all the way to Alpena if it meant the MHSAA had a more equitable way of doling out first-round playoff seedings. But Baechler and his 7-2 Chiefs found out during the "Selection Sunday" program on Fox Sports Detroit that they will meet a familiar foe — cross-campus rival Plymouth, the defending Division 1 finalists and owner of an 8-1 record. Kickoff will be 7 p.m. Friday at Plymouth-Canton Educa-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Friday's playoff tilt between Canton and Plymouth comes just three weeks after the teams last played. During the Oct. 7 meeting, Plymouth's Donte Fox (No. 5) bursts down the field with Canton defenders Zac Merillat (No. 21) and Matt McKoy (No. 4) in pursuit.

tional Park. Both teams believe they can go deep into the postseason, but because of the draw that march ends after just one game for either the Chiefs or Wildcats. "We didn't expect it," Baechler said. "You trust that the state does things geographically like they say. (Livonia) Churchill's 10 minutes

from Canton and Plymouth and they're not in our district. "And the one that really makes you scratch your head is Brighton and Ann Arbor Pioneer, down south with Monroe and Temperance Bedford." The uber-competitive early matchups mean teams that poten-

tially could make it to Ford Field for the D1 final will be on the sidelines before the regional championship. **Dealing with it** "Normally it's that regional championship, that third round playoff game is where the rubber hits the road," Baechler said.

Meanwhile, he added that it is pretty much a given that Canton and Plymouth will always be in the same district, "so whether you play Week 1 or Week 2, it is what it is." Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk had a similar take. "You get **Please see GRIDDERS, B2**

McDougall 43rd at D1 girls golf final

Canton's varsity girls golf team also had something to cheer about at the recent Division 1 championship at Grand Valley State University's The Meadows. Sophomore Kelsey McDougall had a very respectable showing, finishing 43rd out of 90 participants. McDougall registered rounds of 97 and 99 for a two-day total of 196 strokes. Also at the D1 final, the Plymouth Wildcats finished third in the team standings, while junior Kelsey Murphy earned third place honors with a 74-84-158 scorecard.

PCS Penguins hockey tryouts

Tryouts for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls varsity hockey team are just around the corner. Tryouts will be 4-5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, Wednesday, Nov. 2, and Friday, Nov. 4, all at Canton's Arctic Edge Arena. The cost is \$60 to attend all three tryouts with \$20 per tryout. Athletes from all three high schools at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are eligible to play. For more information, e-mail or call PCS Penguins head coach Mary Beth Johnson, at smeeb@aol.com or (734) 891-6159.

Wicked

Elite Sports Marketing is holding a Wicked Halloween Run on Sunday, Oct. 30, at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. There will be a 10K run, 5K run/walk and a "Monster Mile" race. After the run there will be entertainment, food and a costume contest and each participant will receive a T-shirt. To register, go to www.wickedhalloweenrun.com. For questions, e-mail awhitehead2009@gmail.com.

Lady Ocelots boot Cincy St.

The 14th-ranked Schoolcraft College women's soccer team improved to 14-1-1 overall and 10-0 in NJCAA Region XII on Saturday by routing visiting Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, 6-0. The loss drops Cincinnati State to 2-12 overall and 2-8 in Region XII. The Lady Ocelots travel this Saturday to Delta College to face Owens (Ohio) CC in a Region XII semifinal match. (Game time is at noon.) The winner faces either Jackson CC or Delta for the Region XII crown beginning at noon Sunday at Delta.

First pro goal

Former Plymouth Whaler Tyler Brown tallied the first goal of his professional career Friday night. Brown, now playing for the Adirondack Phantoms of the American Hockey League after four seasons with the Whalers, scored in the second period of his fifth pro game.

Canton spikers tie for 3rd at KLAA tournament

Novi reigns supreme after Saturday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association girls volleyball in the Gold bracket tournament. The Wildcats defeated host White Lake Lakeland in the finals after elimination-round victories over two teams that finished in a tie for third place, Canton and Livonia Stevenson.

Canton defeated Walled Lake Central in the opening round, then followed up with a victory over Brighton in the quarterfinals before being defeated by Novi in the semis. Stevenson reached the semifinals with a 25-20, 25-23 win over Livonia Churchill, which reached the quarterfinals with a first-round win over Grand Blanc.

Stevenson's pool play victories came against Walled Lake Central (25-18, 25-18), Brighton (25-13, 25-20) and Plymouth (25-18, 25-17). **Silver bracket** Salem, meanwhile, lost 25-21, 25-22 to South Lyon in the silver bracket finals. The Rocks began pool play with a win over

Waterford Kettering and two splits against Howell and Hartland. Then as the fifth seed in the playoffs, Salem defeated South Lyon East (25-14, 25-9) and Howell (27-25, 25-12), followed by a 22-25, 25-17, 15-13 victory over Wayne Memorial in the semifinals. "Overall we were up and down all day," Salem head coach Amanda Nies

said. "It was nice to make it to the finals." Overall leaders for the Rocks were Brooke Berberet (*2 kills), Kara Hewett (25 kills, 22 digs, 15 aces), Erika Hatcher (24 kills), Quinn Fillingier (156 assists, 30 digs), Katie Vincent (71 digs), Katie Heitmeyer (57 digs, 12 aces), Emily Lipa (59 digs) and Breanne Beaver (eight solo blocks).



STEVE KAHRIS

Canton senior Bryan Berinti (No. 5) chases a 50/50 ball along with Novi's Don Nakashima (No. 16) during the Division 1 varsity boys soccer final.

Chiefs win on OT goals

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Canton found a tiny opening to get back into Saturday's Division 1 boys soccer district final against host Novi. And the No. 2-ranked Chiefs plowed right through, tying the contest 1-1 on a free kick goal by junior forward Daniel Ovesea with just 8:02 remaining in regulation. Then during each of the two mandatory 10-minute overtime sessions that followed, the Chiefs scored — by senior for-

Please see SOCCER, B2

Always together

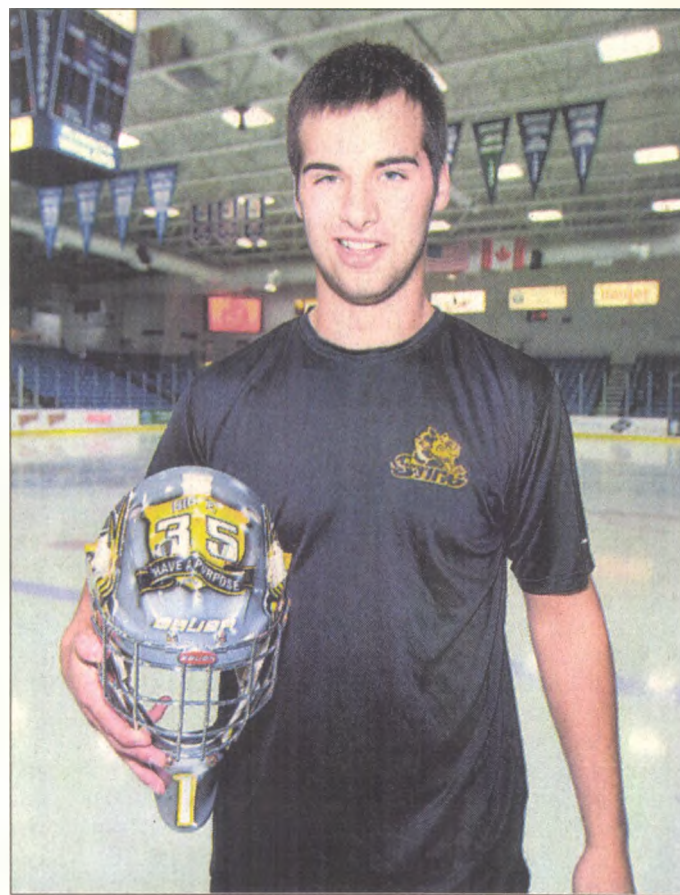
Goaltender wears heart on his mask for fallen friend Ian

'Whether it be in hockey or life, make sure you're really doing something. Do it or a reason.'

BRANDON HOPE
OHL goalie

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Brandon Hope and Ian Jenkins had a lot in common, both highly motivated goaltenders with dreams of making it to the National Hockey League. They started young, played in net for Honeybaked AAA teams in Oak Park. They even spent time as instructors for the Bandits Goalie School. Last but not least, they were the best of friends. Everything crumbled in May when the 15-year-old Jenkins died four days after an accident in Milan, where he fell out of a pickup truck and fatally struck his head. "They went the same path,



RENA LAVERTY

Brandon Hope, a Canton native and goalie for the Ontario Hockey League's Sarnia Sting, proudly displays the helmet he wears as a tribute to close friend and fellow goaltender Ian Jenkins, who died earlier this year. The mask includes Jenkins' No. 35 and his philosophy to 'Have a Purpose' in life.

Please see HOPE, B3

STAFF GRID PICKS

District Round	Wright	Smith	O'Meara	Emons
Friday, Oct. 28				
Brother Rice (7-2) at Plymouth (8-1), 7 p.m.	Canton	Canton	Plymouth	Canton
Brother Rice (7-2) at Livonia Churchill (6-3), 7 p.m.	Churchill	Churchill	Cass Tech	Cass Tech
Brother Rice (7-2) at Harrison (9-0), 7 p.m.	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison
Brother Rice (5-4) at North Farmington (7-2), 7 p.m.	Brother Rice	North Farmington	Brother Rice	Brother Rice
Brother Rice (6-3) at Redford Thurston (8-1), 7 p.m.	Lahser	Lahser	Thurston	Thurston
Brother Rice (6-3) at Allen Park (7-2), 7:30 p.m.	Garden City	Allen Park	Allen Park	Allen Park
Saturday, Oct. 29				
Brother Rice (5-4) at Detroit Henry Ford (7-2), 1 p.m.	Henry Ford	Henry Ford	Henry Ford	Henry Ford
Brother Rice (5-4) at Luth. Westland (6-3), 1 p.m.	Luth. Westland	Luth. Westland	ABT	ABT
Last week	9-3	9-3	9-3	12-0
Total	86-32	80-38	94-24	101-17

GRIDDERS

Continued from page B1

... you get. You deal with it, I mean we were probably going to have to play them sometime anyway."

Both PCEP teams are in Region 2-District 1 along with two 8-1 teams, Northville and Detroit Catholic Central. All four teams are ranked in the Top 10.

Region 2-District 1 teams are Brighton (8-1), Monroe (7-2), Ann Arbor Pioneer (7-2) and Temperance Bedford (6-3).

The way the districts were lined up also was a bit mystifying to Sawchuk.

"I don't understand how it happened, with

three 8-1 teams and one 7-2 team in one district," Sawchuk said. "And then they have, the district Churchill is in, there's four 6-3 teams."

"... For the team that did a really good job and had a good record, they shouldn't have to play an upper echelon team (immediately)."

Sawchuk, however, said unless the system is changed teams must abide how the matchups play out. "It's their system, whatever they say you just have to deal with it."

"Brighton and Pioneer are probably pretty happy with the draw," Baechler stressed. "I know there's a big faction of coaches trying to get it — even if it's in a 50-mile radius — seeded in a bigger realm."

You want the best teams playing later on."

Payback?

Regardless, the coaches said their teams are looking forward to another meeting with their Park rival.

"They're excited," Baechler said. "I got a lot of tweets last night" following the selection show.

Sawchuk said the Wildcats are "pretty fired up" about the matchup.

"Canton's obviously a very good football team and we'll have our hands full. As they will too," Sawchuk stressed. "It should be a fun game on Friday night, whatever way it goes."

"I hope there's a lot of people there to watch." The Chiefs probably will be looking for some

payback from the Wildcats.

In the 2010 playoffs, Plymouth handed the Chiefs their only loss of the entire season in the district finals.

This season, on Oct. 7, Canton let a late 30-21 lead get away as the Wildcats rallied in the final minute for a 31-30 victory.

"It's basically blocking and tackling better than we did in Week 7," said Baechler, about the task at hand for his team. "They (Wildcats) are a great team. Both teams played good enough to win."

"I felt we had it in that last minute, but they made three plays in the last minute and we didn't. All we can do is learn from it."

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Lions on the prowl

The Canton Lions junior varsity football team stayed undefeated with last weekend's 39-15 win over the Belleville Cougars.

With the win, the Lions improved to 7-0 entering Sunday's big rivalry game against Plymouth Steelers at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park set for 2 p.m. Whoever wins the contest will be undefeated and grab the conference title.

Sunday is shaping up to be a big day of football. Three other games on the docket between the Lions and Steelers are as follows: 10 a.m., junior freshmen; 12 noon, freshmen; 4 p.m., varsity.

Against Belleville, the JV Lions scored often and in many different ways. Jason Arnold started the scoring in the first quarter with an eight-yard touchdown run, followed by a 40-yard interception return by Miles

Davenport.

The Lions put added pressure on the Cougars in the second quarter with Jason Arnold's second touchdown from 20 yards out and a 30-yard TD pass from Evan Voyles to Victor Abraham.

The second half scoring included two touchdown runs, one from Miles Davenport from 2 yards out and a quarterback sneak by Evan Voyles from the 1-yard line.

The line play of the Lions was very strong and led by Matt Wayne, David Mason, Ruben Williams, Alan Farmer, Kyrece Smith and Kyle Amick.

Defensively, the Lions shut down the Cougars all day except for two trick plays that led to scores. The leaders on the defensive side of the ball were Joey Glunt, Colton Wieloch, Jack Underwood, Victor Abraham, Mason Lamarand and Bradley Tyszkiewicz.

Warriors reach playoffs

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Lutheran High Westland earned its sixth victory and first playoff berth in school history last Friday with a 48-6 win at Dearborn Heights Star International Academy.

Now it's onto the playoffs in a Division 8-Region 4-District 1 matchup against Melvindale Academy of Business & Technology (5-4) beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday at Lutheran Westland.

The Warriors' defense, led by linemen Dawson Davenport and Ed Abramovich, will have to contend with AB&T's speedy and elusive 5-foot-5 junior quarterback Darryl Notay Hines.

"Their quarterback is Denard Robinson's little brother," Lutheran Westland coach Paul Guse said. "His moves are slippery and you can't find him behind the offensive line. We'll try and do like everybody else and try and contain him."

The Warriors will also have to contend with running back Jadell Douglas and slotback Kevin Darden.

"They're quicker than everybody I've seen," Guse said. "Number 44 (Douglas) is a good running back, too and number three (Darden) is a slot back who'll they'll use as a wide receiver. We know we've got our work cut out for us."

catches.

The Warriors' defense, meanwhile, limited Star International to 103 total yards.

The Falcons had a total of six turnovers to Lutheran Westland's one.

Richter had a pair of interceptions and a fumble recovery. Cleveland Tarp and Boehm also picked off passes, while Davenport added a fumble recovery.

PREP FOOTBALL

Sour ending

The playoff-clinching victory by the Warriors was overshadowed by fracas following the game as the Warriors' P.J. Guse was taken to the hospital with a Grade 3 concussion and contusions.

On the game's final play, game officials threw a penalty flag for unsportsmanlike conduct while the back-up quarterback was taking a knee after a Star linebacker bulled over the Warriors' center.

Game tape footage provided to *The Observer* on Tuesday by Star International administrators revealed the back-up quarterback was knocked to the ground once by a Star player and hit again while after trying to get off the ground. The quarterback then ran off the field.

Footage also revealed a Lutheran Westland assistant coach knocking a Star player to the turf and reportedly taking a punch to the eye before order was restored.

The tape revealed that no players came off the bench from either team.

Star administrators reported the incident to the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

"We will be no means excuse our players' action," said Star International assistant principal and athletic coordinator David Milner. "Each player involved in the fight is being dealt with seriously in terms of sportsmanship expectations here at the school, and are being suspended pending further investigation."

Star principal Ahlam Moughania also said she had planned to meet with the parents of two other players on Wednesday.

"It's not acceptable and we don't condone that behavior," Moughania said.

Lutheran Westland athletic director Mike Inger said he planned to meet with Star administrators this week to review the game footage along with his principal Steve Schwecke.

Meanwhile, Paul Guse declined further comment on the situation.

Run attack

The Warriors (6-3) earned a spot in the playoffs by racking up 376 total yards, including 270 on the ground in the lopsided win over Star International.

Lutheran Westland led 27-6 at halftime thanks to touchdowns runs of 1 and 8 yards by Bobby Miller, along with an 8-yard TD run by Martin Kemp and a 15-yard TD run by Jacob Richter.

Star International (0-9) tallied its lone score in the second period on an 82-yard kickoff return to cut the deficit to 20-6.

In the third period, Sylvester hit Miller on an 87-yard TD pass and Miller added his third score of the night on an 8-yard run.

Mitchell Boehm picked off a fourth-quarter Star International pass and the Warriors scored their final TD when Cole Niemi pounced on a fumble in the end zone.

Leading rushers for the Warriors included Kemp (16-for-97), Miller (11-for-85) and Richter (10-for-61).

Sylvester was 2-of-6 passing for 106 yards with Miller making both

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

wards Shean Krolicki and Mitch Posuniak — and aggressive goalkeeping by senior Steven Murphy finished the rest as Canton earned a 3-1 victory.

"We have a magical trio going on right now," said Canton head coach George Tomasso, noting that a recent string of games against state-ranked opponents helped prepare his squad for one of the most competitive districts in the state.

Four of the teams (Canton, Novi, Salem and Northville) were ranked in the Top 10 as the districts began on Oct. 17.

Now, Canton (20-1) will have that "ride" take them to Saline for the start of a D1 regional. The Chiefs play 7 p.m. Wednesday against the winner of the Dearborn and Ford district.

Heavy pressure on Canton came out aggressively at Meadows Stadium, forcing the issue and being rewarded with five early corner kicks. But the Wildcats did a good job matching up on defense and the game remained scoreless until the 28th minute.

Novi sophomore forward Don Nakashima got off the ground and beautifully headed in a corner kick from junior midfielder Matt Wilson.

The Wildcats (16-4-0) had several chances to extend the lead in the second half.

But Murphy grabbed a low shot taken by senior forward Chase Jabbori and later barely got a piece of senior forward Alex Ferrini's bid, with the ball hitting the crossbar and sailing out of play.

"They made the plays when they needed them and we didn't," said Novi head coach Brian O'Leary, whose team could not nail down a third consecutive district title. "When it was 1-0 we had three chances down here, golden chances, and we didn't score on any of them. I'll bet you if it was 2-0 it was game over."

Then came the break Canton needed, when an official ruled a hand ball against the Wildcats to pave the way for Ovesea's



Celebrating Saturday after winning the Division 1 boys soccer district final are the Canton Chiefs. Canton defeated Novi 3-1 in overtime at Meadows Stadium in Novi.

PHOTOS BY STEVE KAHRIS

free kick — taken just outside the 18-yard box directly in front of the Novi goal.

Ovesea drilled his shot into the top right corner, for his team-leading 18th goal of the season.

Blasting it through

"There were about seven people in the wall, and they thought Tyler (Winnipeg) was going to kick it on my team," Ovesea said. "So they lined up more to the left and they gave me a gap and I just blasted it right there."

He added that he was surprised the ball got through the wall and found the target.

"My free kicks all year weren't on and today they were on."

With the game still deadlocked after regulation, the teams prepared for the two 10-minute OTs (which must be played to completion whether or not a goal is scored).

It was Ovesea who again was in the mix for the Chiefs on the game-winning tally, with 3:05 to go in the first extra stanza.

He sent a crossing feed from the left side of the box over to where Krolicki was stationed, near the right post. Krolicki headed the ball back the other way, inside the far post under the bar.

"Shean Krolicki got in a great spot," Tomasso said. "He did an amazing job to get a touch on the ball across the goal and it went far post, over the goalie and under the crossbar. You can't ask for anything better."

With about 6:30 left in the second OT, Murphy raced far out of his



Clearing the ball with a bicycle kick is Canton senior defender Nathan Bergeson (No. 10). Watching are Canton's Daniel Ovesea (No. 9) and Novi's Chris Park (No. 2).

goal area to get to the ball before Jabbori could.

Then it was Murphy's turn to make the winner stand. The aggressive and assertive keeper beat Jabbori to another ball, this one about 10 yards inside the box, with five minutes left.

"Chase Jabbori obviously is very fast, he's one of the most talented players in the state up top," Murphy said. "My defense played great all game. I just knew that with a lead I couldn't give it up."

"I was going to do whatever it took to keep the ball out of the net."

Extra goal ices it

That defense sparked an insurance goal in the final two minutes.

Senior defender Conner Hicks blocked an attempt by Novi senior forward Dan Lumley to send the ball toward Canton's goal.

The ball bounced in the other direction, where speedy Posuniak got to it before Novi's goalie was able to.

Posuniak streaked down

the pitch and chipped the ball into the wide-open goal to ice the victory.

"We were battling to win the 50/50 balls, we wanted to ... not let the ball go forward," Tomasso said. "We got to block it and Mitch Posuniak used his speed burst at the end of the game to get by the goalie and finished a wonderful goal."

According to Tomasso, his team executed the game plan perfectly after taking the lead.

"It was more to play as smart as we possibly can and eliminate every mistake we possibly can," he said. "The boys were tired, they were cramping up."

"For the most part we eliminated every one of our mistakes after the (winning) goal was scored and we did a good job to get one counter goal after that."

Now, the Chiefs will see whether the magic follows them over to Saline.

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HOPE

Continued from page B1

but Ian's got cut short and that ripped Brandon's heart apart," said Debbie Hope, Brandon's mom. "He wanted to do something to make sure Ian had the opportunity to live his dream."

And here's how. Hope, a 17-year-old goaltender for the Sarnia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League and Canton native, had his mask designed to include a tribute to Jenkins.

Painted on the yellow mask is Jenkins' uniform number (35) and mantra to "have a purpose" in life. Had Jenkins lived, he'd be manning the nets for the OHL's London Knights.

Golden message

That saying also is the slogan for The Big E Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in Jenkins' memory. "I put the logo for his foundation supporting underprivileged hockey players on top of my helmet," Hope said. "I thought it was a good tribute to Ian."
Designing the mask was artist Andrew Manning of London, Ontario, who Hope said jumped at the chance to honor Jenkins. "Ian was bar none probably one of the best people I've known off the ice," Hope said following a recent game against the Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena. "He was just a great guy and led by example about everything. He lived life by having a purpose. "So I thought it would be a good tribute to him and his family to help spread the word. Whether it be in hockey or life, make sure you're really doing something. Do it



Brandon Hope, a Canton native and goalie for the Sarnia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League, wears his tribute mask to Ian Jenkins during a recent game.

for a reason." The tribute also makes it possible for Jenkins' dream to come to fruition — albeit symbolically. "Brandon promised Ian's mom, Gloria (Monasanto), that after Ian passed that Ian would play in the OHL," Debbie said. "That Ian would be with him, on (Brandon's) helmet, in every single game. And that's why he put it on there. "It's almost like a tag team now. Brandon believes Ian is with him when he's out there in the net."
The Hope and Jenkins families also have a growing friendship. "I'm really close to their (Jenkins) family," Hope said. "I go to church with them during the off-season."
Concurring was Hope's dad, Robert Hope, who along with Debbie had just watched their son play two periods for the Sting in a 5-4 overtime win over the Whalers. "We had dinner with them (the Jenkins family) a week and a half ago. We go to the same church (Northridge)," Robert said. "The siblings, they

still stay in touch with Brandon."

The big picture

Who knows where Hope's hockey journey will take him? Robert noted the tragedy and aftermath underscore the need to always keep things in perspective throughout life. "It's a character thing," Robert said. "It's a personal thing that (Brandon) recognizes there's much more to it than just the success of hockey." But it's undeniable how much hockey meant to both young goaltenders. This season and for as long as Hope is able to keep going, it will be with Jenkins always in his heart and thoughts. "That's his mission," Debbie said. "He wants to honor Ian every time that he's out in that net. That's why he wears that mask." Jenkins would be proud. In fact, one suspects that, somewhere up there, Jenkins is joyously doing a butterfly slide as he watches down on Hope.

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Eagles' Crown 1st overall at MIAC meet

It was a clean sweep Friday for the Lutheran High Westland girls and boys cross country teams at the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference meet hosted by Auburn Hills Oakland Christian.

The Warriors captured the girls title with 40 points followed by Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (57), Oakland Christian (65), Birmingham Roeper (95), Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (118) and Taylor Baptist Park (126).

Plymouth Christian Academy, Sterling Heights Parkway Christian, Ann Arbor Greenhills and Southfield Christian had incomplete team scores. PCA's Terra Crown, a sophomore, was the individual winner in 21 minutes, 04.3 seconds on the 5,000-meter course. Finishing 24th for the Eagles was Megan McHugh.

Lutheran Westland placed three in the top 10 to repeat as team champion led by senior Erin Lyle, second (21:19.67); senior Jess Rice, fourth (21:47.56); and junior Erin Hardin, sixth (21:51.21). Junior Angela Morrison placed 17th in 23:35.46, while junior



Plymouth Christian Academy sophomore Terra Crown is all smiles after finishing as the overall medalist on the girls side at Friday's MIAC meet.

Jessica Drife took 23rd (24:46.54).

The Warriors' non-scorers included freshman Michelle Greening and senior Kelsey Kruger in 26th and 27th, respectively, with times of 25:03.06 and 25:06.77.

PCA boys 2nd

On the boys side, Lutheran Westland beat PCA for the team title, 61-76. Rounding out the field was Oakland Christian (80), Birmingham Roeper (91), University-Liggett (117), Newport Lutheran South (123), Greenhills (134) and Lutheran Northwest (160). For PCA, Ethan Levack

placed 10th and earned a second team all-conference award. Eagles coach Jennifer Lemieux was named top coach for the MIAC boys division. Senior Jake Fairbairn led the Warriors with a third-place showing in 18:15.03.

Other Lutheran Westland scorers included junior Eric Smith, ninth (19:01.8); junior Daniel Bunge, 11th (19:10.6); senior Caleb Kempf, 23rd (20:11.88); and junior Peter Sillanpaa, 24th (20:13.05).

Other non-scoring finishers for the Warriors included Ian O'Banion (41st) and senior Philip Welte (55th).

Salem coach sees progress

The Salem boys cross country program is on the upswing thanks to a young and growing nucleus of runners now gaining key experience.

Salem head coach Steve Aspinall praised his team for finishing fifth out of 12 schools on Oct. 20 at the KLAA Kensington Conference meet at Huron Meadows Metropark.

"We ran smart and confident and ran well as a result," Aspinall said. "Every single guy in the varsity race ran a personal best or season best, some by over 20 seconds. "I thought we could finish anywhere from fourth to eighth and we finished fifth, so we ran well."

Regionals next

Aspinall said he hopes

that performance will carry over to the Division 1 regional championship, to take place Friday and Saturday at Salem's home course (Willow Metropark in New Boston).

The KLAA South Division champion Canton Chiefs and Plymouth also look to have strong showings this weekend.

Leading the way for Salem at the KLAA meet was junior Steve McEvilly. He placed seventh with a time of 16-minutes, 34-seconds to move to No. 11 on the school's all-time junior list. He earned 1st team all-conference honors for the second time in his career.

Earning 3rd team all-conference honors was junior Riley Doxtader,

who finished in 17:04. He is 24th on the all-time junior list at Salem.

Also scoring were sophomore Donavon Drouillard (17:20), junior Jeremy Drouillard (17:34) and freshman Lewis Campbell (17:40). Sophomore Evan Bruyere ran a personal best 17:53 and Mason Mills ran a season best 18:18.

Donavon Drouillard lowered his personal best time from 17:51 and was called the team's most valuable performer at the meet by Aspinall.

"Donavon is learning just how good he can be," Aspinall said. "And his work ethic and determination will cause continued improvement over the next couple of years."

Whalers surviving road test

The road-weary Plymouth Whalers won two of three contests last weekend, with two more away games to go before returning to Compuware Arena.

Plymouth throttled Erie 5-1 on Friday, before falling 4-0 the following night at Niagara.

On Sunday, the Whalers scored five goals in the third period to blow out host Mississauga, 8-4.

Still without standout forward Stefan Noesen

(day-to-day, upper body injury), the Ontario Hockey League squad showed offensive firepower in two of the matches.

Against Erie, netting two goals was Tom Wilson with single markers by Mitchell Heard, Jamie Devane and Garrett Meurs.

Farmington Hills native Alex Aleardi and J.T. Miller each scored twice in Sunday's win over Mississauga while Plymouth goaltender Scott Wedge-

wood stopped 27 of 28 shots for the victory.

Earning the win over Erie was goalie Matt Mahalak (21 saves).

The Whalers played Wednesday at Saginaw in a game that took place after this issue of the Observer went to press. On Friday, Plymouth visits Sault Ste. Marie.

Finally, the Whalers (8-5-2-0, 15 points) play another home game 7 p.m. Saturday against the Kingston Frontenacs.



The All Saints Catholic School No. 1 varsity volleyball team reached the CYO semifinals at Livonia Ladywood. It was the first appearance in the Final Four for any team from the Canton school.

All Saints cap big year in CYO Final Four

On Oct. 19, All Saints Catholic School's No. 1 varsity volleyball team lost to St. James of Novi in the Detroit Catholic Youth Organization semifinals at Livonia Ladywood.

But it marked the first time any team from ASCS had gone to the Final Four in the history of the Canton school.

Over 250 families, friends, teachers and students attended the match at Ladywood, outnum-

bering the fans from the other three teams combined.

It was quite a remarkable season for the girls. The team went 19-1 (undefeated in league play, 10-0), and captured the CYO Division K championship.

During the playoffs, the squad racked up the District 3 and Region 2 championships and followed up with the Final Four appearance.

All 10 girls on the team

will be moving on to high school next fall, with this season's memorable run fresh in their minds.

Players were Hannah Cohen, Faith Ellis, Tess Ganich, Hailey Hodgson, Hadley McCausland, Brianna Risi, Taylor Smith, Sara Soltis, Hannah Stefanek and Emily Tanski.

The coaching staff included Anne Ellis and Kathy Ganich, who wished to thank the community for its support this season.

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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Celtic, not spooky

Farmington Hills-based Finvarra's Wren will present an evening of lively jigs, reels, songs and stories around the theme of "Samhain," 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton.

Samhain is the Irish name for Halloween.

"Halloween originated in Ireland, so it seems appropriate to sculpt an Irish music show around the theme," said singer Jim Perkins, who formed the group with his wife, Sherry Burns. "It's a family holiday, and we are a family band, so it makes sense." Other members of Finvarra's Wren include Perkins' son, Asher Perkins, on accordion and concertina, and daughter, Alison Perkins, on fiddle and tinwhistle. Perkins plays guitar, and his wife adds dulcimer, vocals and bodhran, an Irish goat skin drum.

"We intend to have a rollicking good time," Perkins said.

General admission is \$15 with a discount for children and seniors. Advanced tickets are available by calling (734) 394-5460 or by visiting <http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater>.

Haunted Opera House

The Detroit Opera House will hold its third annual Halloween party

and fundraiser, Haunted in the House, from 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Friday, Oct. 28. The event last year drew a crowd of more than 900 and raised \$40,000 for Michigan Opera Theatre's opera and dance programming, as well as educational outreach.

The historic former movie palace's grand lobby and lounges will be transformed into floors of eerie fun, including dancing to beats from DJ Tom T, specialty drinks, and a performance by the Detroit Circus. Costumed attire is encouraged, with cash prizes awarded at midnight for best individual, couple, and group costumes. Shutterbooth will provide spooky souvenir photos, and Tubby's Southgate and Sander's Fine Chocolatiers will bring midnight treats for all.

A VIP lounge will feature a private DJ and an open bar and hors d'oeuvres from Lakeland Catering until 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 the day of the event. VIP tickets are \$75 and \$80 the day of the event. VIP tickets include an event preview, VIP lounge, and valet parking. Guests must be 21 or older. Tickets and more information are available at www.HauntedInTheHouse.com, by phone at (313) 237-SING or in person at the Detroit Opera House ticket office, 1526 Broadway in Detroit.

Artist takes foot and brush to canvas

Shaqe Kalaj will talk about creating art — with her foot — during an opening reception to an exhibit of her works, 5:30-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 at Art & Ideas Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio, 15095 Northville Road, in Plymouth.

"Downtown Foot Art," an exhibit of her paintings, runs Oct. 27-Dec. 24.

Kalaj, the artist in residence at Art & Ideas, focused on local historic buildings such as the Wilcox House, when she painted and sketched in the outdoors over the summer. She used only her feet to manipulate her pens and brushes and discovered effects that wouldn't result from using her hands.

"If I just used my hand, the paintings would look too 'perfect' and not

nearly as interesting," she said.

Kalaj said working outdoors in Plymouth and Northville with her feet "was kind of a performance" and sparked "a lot of great conversations with local people."

Using an alternative limb also demonstrated the potential that handicapped persons have for making art.

"Someone with a disability who lacks the use of one part of their body can certainly create interesting art using another part, and shouldn't hesitate to try."

See Downtown Foot Art from 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or by appointment.

For more information, visit www.artandideas-gallery.com or call (734) 420-0775.

Actors bring 'Dracula' to life at Schoolcraft

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

James Hartman read three versions of *Dracula* last summer before choosing a script for his 59th theater production at Schoolcraft College — and his third show in 24 years about the blood-sucking vampire.

He picked the work by Deane and Balderston, which debuted on Broadway in 1927 with Bela Lugosi in the title role. It was revived on Broadway 50 years later, winning a Tony and a Tony nomination for Frank Langella, who played Dracula.

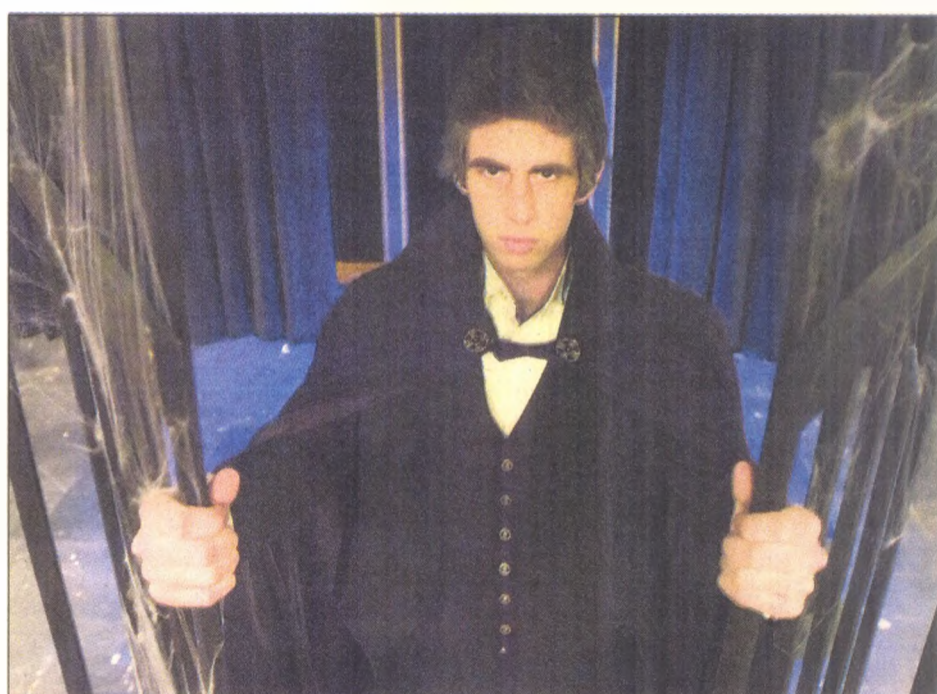
"What really appealed to me was the fact that it's better written. It's a story line that you can follow," said Hartman, professor of theater and drama at the college. "The others to me seemed kind of hokey, kind of goofy. This actually is a fairly well-written play with developed characters."

The play, which opens Friday, Oct. 28, on the Schoolcraft College stage for a three-weekend run, focuses more on the characters around Dracula than it does on the title role.

"In this, Dracula is not the central figure. Van Helsing is the lead. Dracula is the third smallest part," Hartman said. "We get more of a story line between Lucy and her fiance, and how their relationship is affected by Dracula's appearance. We get more understanding of Dr. Seward, his running a sanatorium and taking in patients with mental problems."

Classic story

The play is based on the Bram Stoker novel about the vampire count who relocates from Transylvania to England and encounters opposition from a group led by Van Helsing. Before he



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Dreaver is Count Dracula. When he's not in Transylvania he lives in Canton.

"DRACULA"

What: Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston's version of the play about the vampire Count Dracula

When: 6:30 p.m. dinner with 8 p.m. show Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 4-5; 8 p.m. show only, Nov. 11-12

Where: Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: Tickets are \$24 for the dinner theater the first two weekends; \$12 for the show only the last weekend. Tickets available through the Schoolcraft College bookstore

Contact: (734) 462-4596

1987, the same year that he began building a degree program in theater at the school. He doesn't recall how he staged that production and another that followed several years after.

"I don't want to copy anything I've done before," Hartman said. Any repeated shows are created from scratch with new sets, costumes and direction.

"I like repeating a show, usually with a period of ten years in between. The interesting thing about repeating a show is I discover new things about the characters. With *Dracula* that happened. I discovered a lot of nuances in the roles that hopefully will be brought out through the actors."

Variety of plays

The cast is a mix of students and non-students. Auditions are open to the public.

The *Dracula* cast includes several students who will make their stage debut Friday, as well a dentist who has performed in five previous shows with Hartman.

"We do comedy, mystery, tragedy. We do Shakespeare. I've always felt that part of my responsibility as a collegiate director is to help educate the audience, not only train actors." His next production is *Romeo and Juliet*, in March 2012.

Dracula cast members from Livonia are Jake Edward Beitzel, who plays Jonathan Harker; Nathan Shaw, as Dr. Seward; and Michelle Danaj, as Miss Wells, the maid.

Scott Dreaver plays Count Dracula and Kristen Campbell is understudying the role of Miss Wells, the maid. Both are from Canton.

Rebecca Himm of Northville plays Lucy Seward; Kevin Meloche of Westland is understudying the role of Jonathan Harker; Dalibor Atanaskoski of Dearborn Heights plays Abraham Van Helsing; Thomas Peck of Garden City is understudying the role of R.M. Renfield; Aaron Ruettinger of Fenton plays R. M. Renfield; and Benjamin J. Gresko of Howell plays Butterworth.

Donate A Boat
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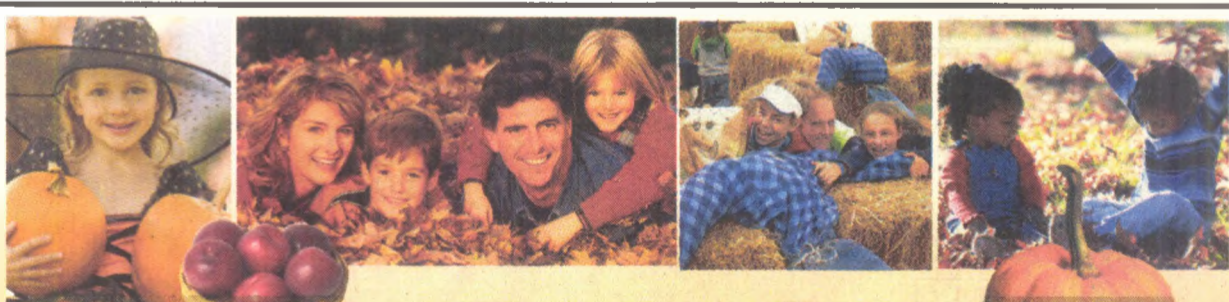
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Art

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Nov. 4-Dec. 10
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: The seventh annual Northville Holiday Art Market opens with a reception from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, and will include refreshments and hand-crafted work in painting, printmaking, glass, mosaic, fiber, photography, jewelry and mixed media for sale by well-known local artists. A used book sale is set for the lower level gallery during the reception. Hours for the market are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. On "First Fridays" only in November and December hours are 1-9 p.m.

Coming up: An Antiques and Fine Arts Appraisal clinic with Robert DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Art Galleries, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18. The registration fee is \$10 per item with a limit of 3 items per guest. Walk-ins without prior registration will be admitted on the day of the event if time allows. Guests may bring items such as antiques, collectibles, family memorabilia, furniture and artwork. Large or fragile items should be submitted by photograph. Coins, stamps, and jewelry will not be appraised at this event. Register in person, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday or call Northville Art House **Contact:** (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Thursday in November

Location: 744 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth

Details: Drawings by Marilyn Meredith of Three Cities Art Club

Ornament class: Help instructor Lisa Howard make ornaments for the PCAC's pine in the Downtown Plymouth Holiday Walk of Trees, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6. The class is aimed at ages 6 and up. Suggested



A reconstructed vintage faux fur neck scarf by Lisa Mancos and other unique items priced for holiday gift giving will be sold at the seventh annual Holiday Art Market, Nov. 4-Dec. 10 at Northville Art House.

donation is \$5. All materials will be provided. Call the PCAC office to register **Contact:** (734) 416-4278

Comedy

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mid/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomey.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays,

Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Tom Simmons, Nov. 2-5; Tim Kidd, Nov. 9-12; Chris Barnes, Nov. 16-19; J. Chris Newberg, Nov. 23, 25-26

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Tim Gaither, Oct. 27-29; Michael Loftus, Nov. 3-5; Robb Little, Nov. 10-12; Kathleen Madigan, Nov. 17-19; Dave Landau, Nov. 25-26; Alex Ortiz, Nov. 30-Dec. 3

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Dance

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

SUCCESSFULLY SINGLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 29

Location: Burton Manor Ballroom #8, 27777 Schoolcraft, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Dancing to the "Monster Mash" and Top 40 Hits by DJ Pam Hornbeck. Lots of devilish tricks, delightful treats, fiendish finger foods, door prizes, raffle and more. Prizes given for best costumes. \$12 at the door for members; \$15 for non-members.

Contact: Janet Blair at (248) 289-6406



Brad Zimmerman performs his one-man show through Oct. 30 at Andiamo in Novi.

Family

BAKERS KEYBOARD LOUNGE

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays

Details: Jazz for Kids Program

Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit

Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboard-lounge.com

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays

Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily through October; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in November

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

Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free

Contact: (248) 541-5717

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 29-30

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Mr. Popper's Penguins," \$3

Coming up: "The Help," 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Nov. 3-4 and 10; 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 5-6

Shock-tober: "Abbott and Costello Meet the Killer," Oct. 27. All shows start at 7 p.m. and cost \$3

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Oct. 29

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

Details: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" with Lon Chaney and Patsy Ruth Miller; \$12 for adults; \$8 for children under 12. Dave Calendine plays organ for this silent movie

Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5

p.m. Sunday
Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

Details: Heidelberg 25 through Nov. 27; Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31 Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free

CRANBROOK

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday

Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.

Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday, through Dec. 18

Location: In the heart of the University of Michigan campus, 434 S. State, Ann Arbor

Details: "Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" will explore the story of a site excavation initiated by U of M in the 1920s and 1930s. It will illuminate the historical records of a single village community, located 80 kilometers southwest of Cairo in the Egyptian countryside, during Egypt's Greco-Roman period

Contact: (734) 764-9304

Music

THE ARK

Time/Date: The Verve Pipe, Oct. 28; Ollabelle, Oct. 29; Hayes Carll, Oct. 30 Gregory Alan Isakov, Nov. 1; Open Stage, Nov. 2; Tom Chapin, Nov. 3; The RFD Boys, Nov. 4

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

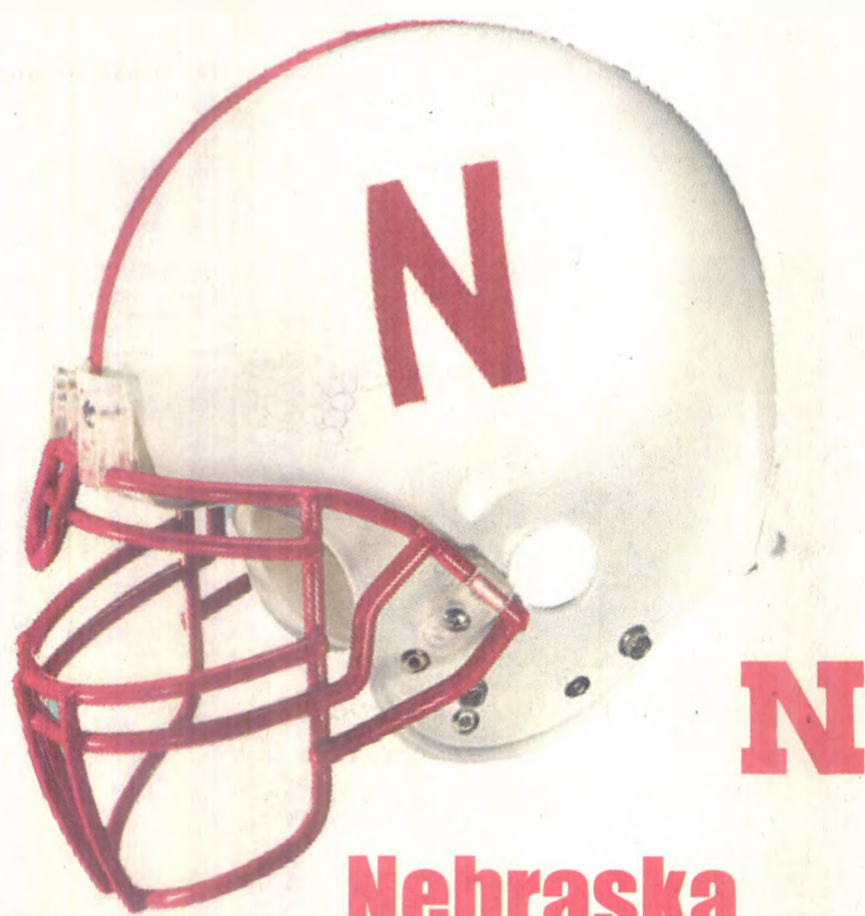
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Werewolves won't bite, but you will

To raise a few hairs at your Halloween bash, add a collection of werewolf treats that are sure to satisfy your hungry pack. Party guests will be digging their fangs into Wickedly Wonderful Werewolf Pops and Werewolf Furry Finger Cookies. So, bring your appetite because the Wilton Test Kitchen has baked up a cauldron of confections for this spooky season ... take a bite.

Wickedly Wonderful Werewolf Pops

Makes about 8 pops

Round Cookie Pop Pan
2 tablespoons margarine or butter
2 cups miniature marshmallows
3 cups crisp chocolate-coated rice cereal

8 8-inch Cookie Sticks
Dark Cocoa Candy Melts
Yellow Candy Melts
Brown candy-coated chocolates
Candy corn

Spray Round Cookie Pop Pan and spatula or wooden spoon with vegetable pan spray.
In large microwave-safe bowl, melt margarine and marshmallows together; stir to combine. Add cereal; stir until well coated. Press into prepared pan, leaving top edge uneven. Insert Cookie Sticks. Let cool; remove from pan. Repeat with remaining cereal mixture, reheating mixture in microwave if needed to make it easier to work with. Reserve any leftover cereal.

With knife, cut dark cocoa Candy Melts into fourths; with melted candy, attach 2 to the top of each pop, pointed side up, for ears. Cut ¼ off yellow Candy Melts; attach 2 larger pieces with melted candy for eyes. Attach candy-coated chocolate pupils and nose. Cut pointed end from candy corn; attach for teeth with melted candy. Add additional small pieces of cereal mixture for eyebrows. Arrange pops in seasonal container.



Clockwise from upper left: Wickedly Wonderful Werewolf Pops, Frightfully Fun Werewolf Cake and Werewolf Furry Finger Cookies

bowl covered with a damp cloth until ready to use. For best results, keep icing bowl in refrigerator when not in use. Refrigerated in an airtight container, this icing can be stored 2 weeks. Re-whip before using.

Werewolf Furry Finger Cookies

Makes about 3 dozen cookies

Finger Cookie Pan
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1½ cups granulated sugar
1 egg
1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
½ teaspoon almond extract (optional)
2½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons cocoa powder
Flaked coconut
Brown icing color
Black spice drops
Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly spray Finger Cookie Pan cavities with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer at medium speed until well blended. Beat in egg and extracts; mix well. Combine flour, salt and cocoa powder; add to butter mixture. Beat until well blended. Press dough into prepared pan cavities, filling ¾ full.

Bake 9 to 10 minutes or until light brown around edges. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Turn pan over; lightly tap pan to remove cookies. Cool completely on cooling grid.

In resealable plastic bag, place coconut with icing color; knead until color is evenly blended. Dry on parchment or waxed paper. Attach in small clumps on cooled cookies with melted candy. Roll out spice drops on surface sprinkled with granulated sugar; cut into fingernail shapes. Attach to cookies with melted candy.

— Courtesy of Family Features

Frightfully Fun Werewolf Cake

Makes about 16 servings

Pound Cake (see below)
3-D Cuddly Bear Set
White Rolled Fondant
2 dowel rods
Chocolate Buttercream Icing (see below)

Rotary Cutter
2 each Bright Green and Purple Sugar Sheets; Edible Decorating Paper
Piping gel (optional)
1 each Bright Yellow, Light Pink, White and Black Sugar Sheets; Edible Decorating Paper
Flaked coconut
Brown and black Icing Color

Bake and cool pound cake recipe in 3-D Cuddly Bear baking pan following pan instructions. Cool completely. Roll two 3-inch by 1-¼-inch fondant logs; insert dowel rods, leaving 2 inches of dowel rod exposed. Insert into cake for arms.

Spatula ice cake and arms with chocolate buttercream icing, building up ears to a point at top of head. With Rotary Cutter, cut two purple shirt shapes and two green pants shapes from Sugar Sheets! Attach to front and back of bear, wrapping around to meet, using piping gel, if desired. Cut out pink triangles for ears, yellow eyes, black circle pupils and nose, black mouth and white triangle fangs; attach.

Tint coconut with brown and black icing color; press into icing for fur. Tint small amount of chocolate icing black; add tip 22 pull-out star claws on ends of arms.

Pound Cake

1 package (18 ounces) favorite cake mix
1 package (4-serving size) instant pudding and pie filling mix
4 eggs
1 cup water
½ cup vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray one 13-inch by 9-inch by 2-inch pan or two 8-inch by 2-inch round pans or two 9-inch by 2-inch round pans with vegetable pan spray. In large bowl, combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, water and oil; beat at medium speed with electric mixer for 2 minutes. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 30-35 minutes for round pans; 35-40 minutes sheet pan. Cool in pans 10 minutes; remove from pans to cooling grid and cool completely.

Chocolate Butter Cream Icing

Makes 3 cups of icing

½ cup solid vegetable shortening
½ cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened
½ cup cocoa or three 1 ounce unsweetened chocolate squares, melted
1 teaspoon clear vanilla extract Easy-Add clear vanilla extract
4 cups sifted confectioners' sugar (approximately 1 pound)
3-4 tablespoons milk

In large bowl, cream shortening and butter with electric mixer. Add cocoa and vanilla. Gradually add sugar, one cup at a time, beating well on medium speed. Scrape sides and bottom of bowl often. When all sugar has been mixed in, icing will appear dry. Add milk and beat at medium speed until light and fluffy. Keep



Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar presents wine and paired food selections on Friday, Oct. 28.

CITY BITES

Time for pie

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) is selling \$15 certificates good for one full-sized 9-inch pie from Grand Traverse Pie Company in Plymouth. Five dollars from each certificate goes to the PCAC and its Plymouth Uptown Players Youth Theater Program. Order certificates now through Nov. 3 at the PCAC, 774 Sheldon and pick them up after Nov. 11. For more information, call (734)-416-4278.

Wine with dinner

LIVONIA — Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, 17400 Haggerty, Livonia, will present a dinner and wine pairings with 90-point wines from Schramsberg Vineyards, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. Tickets are \$85. The menu will include appetizers, Roasted Pumpkin Bisque, Butter-Poached Filet Mignon, and Pomegranate Creme Brulee. Make reservations at (734) 542-9463.

Heavenly pasties

LIVONIA — Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, will take telephone orders for pasties from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday, Oct. 31. Pasties cost \$4 each and can be picked up from 1-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 4-5. Call (734) 422-0149

Food Circus

ANN ARBOR — See a segment taping of the JTV food series, Food Circus with Adrien Sharp, 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, at Whole Foods Market, 3135 Washtenaw Ave. Tickets are \$60 and including seating in the kitchen during filming, a meet and greet with a photo opportunity after the filming, a gift bag from Whole Foods, and a ticket to the 2012 Michigan Shakespeare Festival Season. Buy tickets at www.MichiganShakespeareFestival.com.



Anniversary pale ale

Friends of the Rouge supporters show off the hops they harvested locally for use in brewing a new beer that honors the organization's 25th anniversary. Liberty Street Brewing Company in Plymouth will release the new beer Nov. 6 during Friends' third annual Rouge Brew, a beer tasting led by Rex Halfpenny of the Michigan Beer Guide. Cost to attend the event is \$35. It includes beer tasting, a souvenir pint glass and snacks provided by Papa Romano's in Plymouth. All proceeds will support Friends of the Rouge, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River. Register online at www.therouge.org. Contact Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or monitoring@therouge.org with any questions.

Correct weight guess will win a dressed turkey

It's all about pumpkins this week at Roperti's Turkey Farm in Livonia.

Tom Roperti, with the help of his mom, Christine Roperti and his step-dad, Wesley, grew seven huge pumpkins at their family-owned turkey farm this year. It took three men to roll each pumpkin onto a pallet, and a tractor to pull the pallet to the farm entrance, where the pumpkins were moved into place.

That was the easy part of the farm's annual "Guess the Weight of the Giant Pumpkin Contest."

The trickier task now is up to you.

If you can guess the weight

— or closest to the weight— of the biggest pumpkin without going over, you'll win a fresh dressed turkey for Thanksgiving.

No purchase is necessary to win, but all entries must be received by Monday, Oct. 31. The winner will be announced on Nov. 1.

Here's a hint to get you started: Tom Roperti grew his first giant pumpkin in 2009. It weighed more than 500 pounds.

Roperti's, known for organically-raised, free range, corn-fed turkeys, is located at 34700 Five Mile.

For more information, call (734) 464-6546.

New restaurant adds dinner items to menu

Maple House Restaurant, a new diner in Farmington Hills, will expand its menu and hours when it begins dinner service on Friday, Oct. 28.

Owners Tiffany and Aaron Barsaleau will feature five dinner items that will change periodically, along with the restaurant's regular breakfast and lunch menu. New hours will be 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday, and 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday.

The Barsaleaus, who have culinary degrees from Schoolcraft College, met several years ago while working at Andiamo's of Bloomfield Town-

ship. Aaron was the banquet chef at Andiamo's for three years and has worked at Small Plates in Detroit and Steve & Rocky's. Tiffany worked at several Andiamo's locations before meeting Aaron. After marrying, Aaron made the move to Ciao Amici's in Brighton, where he became an executive chef.

They opened Maple House Restaurant this month at 25938 Middlebelt, in the Kroger Plaza at 11 Mile.

Their breakfast fare is available any time during business hours and includes such specialties as fresh biscuits and homemade sausage gravy with two eggs and a

choice of meat for \$5.99; stuffed pancakes with a layer of sweet pastry cream and a choice of fruit, granola or chocolate chips for \$4.99; pecan-encrusted French toast for \$4.49 or peanut butter banana French toast with piped nutty peanut butter and topped with slices of fresh banana, also \$4.49. For a different kind of omelet, try the BLT for \$6.99.

The lunch menu includes a variety of burgers, sandwiches, salads and lunch plates, along with a kid's menu.

For more information call (248) 579-6431 or visit www.maplehouserestaurant.com.



Tiffany and Aaron Barsaleau are ready to serve an expanded menu at their new restaurant in Farmington Hills.

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LIVONIA ESTATE SALE-Living rm furniture

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Living Estate Sale

Garage/Moving Sales
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LAWN SWEEPER: 33 inch, 42 inch bagger

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
SNAP ON TOOL BOX

Sporting Goods
Pool table - Beringer 8 ft. Pelted wood base

Tools
CUTTING TORCH, gauges, hose and tanks

Cats
6 MONTHS: Female, 10 months old, needs loving home

Dogs
GERMAN SHEPHERD
Spacious 3 yr old female

Household Pets
BUNNY - 3 yrs old, black, loppy-eared bunny

Found - Pets
FOUND CAT - Ford/Middlebelt, Garden City

Lost - Pets
6 Yr. Old Female Boxer

Help Wanted-General
ESTIMATOR/PROJECT MANAGER

ALUMINUM MIG WELDER/FABRICATOR
Entry level. Will train. Welding experience required

MAINTENANCE PERSON
Full-time for an apartment community in Westland

MAZAK CNC TURNING PROGRAMMER & LATHE HAND

MEDICAL BILLER
Part time for local medical billing office seeks motivated team oriented medical billing specialist

BUS DRIVERS
METS is hosting a job fair Weds. Nov. 2nd from 9:00am-12:30pm

CAREGIVER
For autistic boy in Farmington area. Afternoons, Weekends.

CARPET CLEANING, STRETCH & REPAIR TECH.
Experience preferred. Hourly wage. (248) 207-4937

CASHIER, FT or PT. Also Stock & Clean Up Person

CONDOMINIUM MGMT
Fast paced Farmington Hills Property Management Co

DIRECT CARE
PT position. If you are a caring heart and love to work with people who need your help

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Work with developmentally disabled adults. Canton. (734) 722-4580 jw

DIRECT CARE WORKER
PT positions avail. Positive attitudes a must. Must have clean driving record

DELIVERY
Valid Driver's License Req. Co. Vehicle Provided. \$600-\$800/Week

Help Wanted-Office Clerical
Clerical Position Part-Time

RECEPTIONIST, PT
Days 9am-3pm, Mon-Fri. Duties: Answering multi-line phone system, filing & data entry.

JOBS
builder.com

Help Wanted-General
ALUMINUM MIG WELDER/FABRICATOR

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home

AUTO MECHANIC
General Repair. Mon-Fri 7:30-5:30. No Sat's. Full benefits.

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Help Wanted-Dental
Orthodontic Lab Technician

Help Wanted-Sales
Canvassers Wanted

Medical Receptionist
Looking for an experienced Medical Receptionist for a busy pediatric office.

PSYCHIATRIST
Part time psychiatrist (12 hours per month) to work at an out-patient mental health clinic.

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Call 1-800-510-4786, and use a major credit or debit card

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