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HOLIDAY LIGHTS: VISIT THE WAYNE

**COUNTY LIGHTFEST THROUGH DEC. 31** 

## **Stewart to run for state Senate**

Former state representative from Plymouth will challenge incumbent Colbeck for 7th District seat

**By Brad Kadrich** Staff Writer

Nearly eight years after finishing his third term as a state representative, Plymouth attorney John Stewart is planning to try to get back into the state Legislature.

Stewart, who served as state representative for the 20th District from 2000-06, will challenge incumbent state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, for Colbeck's 7th Senate District seat in the 2014 election.

Stewart, who served in the House as a Republican before



Colbeck

switching to the Democratic party, will challenge Colbeck as a Democrat this time around. Stewart ran unsuccessfully for the same seat as an independent four years ago.

Stewart paid his \$100 filing fee to the Wayne County elections division last month. As of Tuesday, he was the only candidate to have filed.

"I'd love to run for state Senate," Stewart said. "I think I'm the moderate and I think I can win it.'

Stewart, who has practiced law out of the same Main

Street office for nearly 30 years, said he believes the district - redrawn for the 2014 election – is more moderate now than it has been. Colbeck's district currently includes Plymouth, Canton, part of Northville, Wayne, Belleville and downriver communities. For the 2014 election, the downriver communities have

See STEWART, Page A2

## **Pedal-powered** cabs planned for Plymouth

Local couple pushing for ordinance to be passed

> By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Central Plymouth is prized for its walkability and bicycles are abundant in town, but residents and visitors should soon have another people-powered transportation option - pedicabs

The Plymouth City Commission approved Monday the first reading of a proposed ordinance that would allow pedicabs - rickshaws, bicycle cabs, tricycle cabs and the like, generally for one to three pas-

sengers – in the city. The law requires insurance, pedicab safety gear such as seat belts, headlights and taillights, outlines a registration process for operators and prohibits pedicabs from traveling streets with a speed limit of more than 30 mph. It also in-cludes rules for "cab stand" pickups and for loading and unloading passengers. The proposed ordinance was modeled after ordinances in other



Dan "Danta Claus" Stechow of Canton, one of the organizers of "Elf Night," drew elf names for prizes Sunday at Sean O'Callaghan's in Plymouth. Here, he and helper Sophia Gabriel give a prize to Cassidy DeVergilio. TOM BEAUDOIN

## **PARTYING ELVES HI7**

## DOWNTOWN PLYMOUT

#### Group dresses up in costumes for night of fun before watching 'Elf'

**By Matt Jachman** Staff Writer

Santa's helpers took a break from Christmas preparations to spend Sunday night on the town in Plymouth. More than 40 "elves," large and

small, wore elf hats, adopted elf names, ate elf food at Sean O'Callaghan's and dropped in at the Penn Theatre for a showing of the comedy *Elf*, starring Will Ferrell as a normal-sized human, raised as one of Santa's elves, who reunites with his father in New York City.

The organizers were Dan Stechow and Lori Cale, a couple from Canton Township who dressed up Sunday as Mr. and Mrs. Claus or, in elf-speak, Danta and Mrs. Saucy Claus.

"There's something wonderfully weird about seeing dozens of laughing people in costume walking down the

See ELVES, Page A3

communities that allow pedicabs.

The idea came through the Downtown Development Authority after Andy and Diane Webster of Plymouth Township approached the DDA in September. Andy Webster, a minister not currently affiliated with a church, told commissioners they see pedicabs as a niche business that would be a new amenity for downtown and fit well with the city's many festivals and public

See CABS, Page A2

## Local economic forecast: Mostly sunny

#### **By Matt Jachman** Staff Writer

The region and the state have made economic progress since the downturn that began in 2007 and more is on the way, locally and nationally, next year.

That was the general economic forecast for 2014 as a credit union president and a state legislator spoke to more than 70 people during a Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce breakfast Wednesday morning

Bill Lawton, president and chief executive officer of the Plymouth-based Community Financial Credit Union, took a humorous approach in relaying a list of economic indicators, joking that he thought of himself as an economic weatherman.

"Things are always changing, just like Michigan weather," Lawton told the crowd at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Rep. Kurt Heise, a Republican who represents Plymouth and Plymouth Township in the state House of Representatives, approached the economy from a lawmaking point of view, saying that a projected state budget surplus of up to \$1 billion could lead to tax relief, but also that voters may be asked to weigh in on how to pay to upgrade

the state's roads.

#### 'Strong recovery'

The state "has turned the corner" economically and is "very much in recovery mode right now," said Heise, who is in his second term in the House.

"We're like a patient who has gone through major surgery and is making a strong recovery," he added.

Lawton, citing several sources, predicted 3-percent economic growth nationwide for 2014, compared to about 2 percent this year. Housing values should also also con-

#### See FORECAST, Page A2

## **Rock the Clock!**



The first ever Rock the Clock Run in downtown Plymouth is slated for Sunday, Dec. 29, with proceeds to help send children with Type 1 diabetes to a Fenton-based summer camp to learn about living with the disease. Charlie Stamboulian (left) and Kyle Meteyer, along with Nick Allen, have put together the event. Businesses around Kellogg Park have jumped on board to help the cause. For more on Rock the Clock, turn to page B1. ANN ESPINOZA



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### STEWART

#### Continued from Page A1

been eliminated. The district will now include Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Wayne and Livonia.

"The moderate advantage is even more true now that the district has shifted," Stewart said. "I am the only one who has represented all of those communities (the 20th included the west side of Livonia in 2000-02).

"I've walked every house door-to-door in Wayne."

Stewart said Colbeck's votes - on the pension tax in committee and on the expansion of Medicaid - show he "doesn't represent the people he was elected to represent."

Stewart had been delaying his entry into the race until state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, made a decision. The term-limited Slavens has been rumored to be considering seeking a Senate seat. Stewart, who had been waiting for Slavens' decision, said it no longer affects his status.

"I will not withdraw if (Slavens) files," Stewart said. "I filed knowing I could withdraw, but I don't like to. That's not my pattern."

For her part, Slavens said Tuesday she's concentrating on doing her job.

"I'm focused on my work in the House," Slavens said. "I'll make my decision on that after the first of the year.'

Which leaves Stewart planning a campaign against Colbeck, whom Stewart said "is a great campaigner." But Stewart believes his support of public education and his experience as a small businessman will carry him past a potential primary against Slavens, whom he believes is too liberal, and against Colbeck.

"It will be a very difficult race (against Colbeck), because he really knows how to work his base," Stewart said. "This district won't elect a liberal. The people know me and they know I'm not a liberal.'

bkadrich@hometownlife.com 313-222-8899 Twitter: @bkadrich

## Grant sends Fife & Drum Corps to camp

The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps is going to band camp thanks to a grant the organization recently received from the Community Foundation of Plymouth.

CFP Advisory Committee member Abe Munfakh presented PFDC Ways & Means Chairman Lisa LiGreci with a \$2,800 check, which will be used to subsidize band camp for all of the Corps members.

"Band camp is essential to prepare the Corps for the 2014 performance season, especially for our new recruits," LiGreci

### FORECAST

Continued from Page A1

tinue to rise, national unemployment should fall below 6.5 percent and the stock market should go up by 10 percent to 15 percent next year, he said. "If it doesn't, don't see me," Lawton joked.

One source, he later said, predicts a stronger first half of 2014 and a slower second half, but also strong growth in 2015 and the two years after that.

"We have a unique opportunity to take advantage of the positive national trends" as well as state and local trends,

#### CABS

Continued from Page A1

events.

#### 'Fun transportation'

"Ideas like this are pretty unique and what make Plymouth a great place to live," Trustee Oliver Wolcott said.

"With Plymouth being only 2.2 square miles, it's going to be fun transportation for people wanting to travel from one place to another downtown ... as well as connect downtown to



Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps Ways & Means Chairman Lisa LiGreci (left) and fifer Isabella Comsa accept a grant check from Community Foundation of Plymouth Advisory Committee member Abe Munfakh (center).

said. "Thanks to the Community Foundation of Plymouth for making this all possible.' **PFDC Musical Direc-**

he said.

To illustrate the improving local economy, Lawton said that in March 2010, 2.079 of its members were depositing unemployment benefits, compared to 485 last month, even though membership has grown. Though many of those no longer getting benefits have found jobs, some may have seen their unemployment aid expire, he cautioned.

Housing values in the Detroit area remain a sticking point, however. Lawton said: Of the 20 top metropolitan areas in the Case-Shiller Index of home prices, the Detroit area is the only one in which average values

other areas of the city, whether it be Old Village, the neighborhoods or other destinations," Tony Bruscato, the DDA operations director, wrote in an email.

The vote in favor of the ordinance was unanimous; Trustee Dan Dalton raised the issue of possible noise from pedicab radios or music players and trustees agreed that issue could be addressed through changes to the ordinance proposal before a second and final vote, which will likely occur during the commission's Monday,

tor Jim Predhomme spoke of the importance of band camp.

"Band camp is an exciting and important

have not returned to the levels they were at in the year 2000

"Even though we have increased a lot, we are still behind," he said.

Heise said the state's unemployment rate is still too high and that he rejects the idea that 7percent national unemployment is "the new normal." Michigan's unemployment rate is about 9 percent.

"We still need to make sure the folks who need a job can find a job," Heise said.

#### **Detroit bankruptcy**

Heise also said the entire region will be affected by the outcome of Detroit's municipal

Jan. 6, meeting. Andy Webster said he envisions pedicabs with music playing loud enough for passengers to hear, but not loud enough to annoy other people nearby.

#### **Cab-hailing tech**

He told the commission customers will be able use text messaging and the social media website Twitter to call for pedicabs. The Websters said after the meeting that they plan to order two pedicabs to start with and that they would each operate one, with an time for the Corps each year," Predhomme said. "It's our first opportunity to get outside and start marching. It's also the first time our drummers can put their practice pads aside and actually play their drums. The Corps members truly begin to form a cohesive unit during the band camp weekend.'

PFDC Band Camp is a three-day weekend held in April at the Michigan Christian Youth Camp in Attica, Mich.

The grant is enough to pay for food, lodging and instructor salaries for the entire Corps.

bankruptcy case and that Kevyn Orr, Detroit's emergency financial manager, is on the whole doing a good job. Heise parts company with Orr on some issues, particularly on plans for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, which serves more than 100 area communities.

"We will not progress as a region if Detroit continues to suffer," Heise said.

Lawton later said his principal forecast sources were the Institute for Trend Research, the **Credit Union National** Association, and LPL Financial.

mjachman@hometownlife.com

eye toward expansion if demand for the service warrants it.

The Websters said their pedicabs will have canopies and available blankets and thus will not be strictly for warm weather, but that they wouldn't operate when the weather creates hazardous road conditions.

The Websters said they plan to order the equipment soon and that it should arrive in about three weeks.

mjachman@hometownlife.com 313-222-2405 Twitter: @mattjachman

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### **ELVES**

#### Continued from Page A1

street. The holiday season needs a little strangeness, don't you think?" Stechow said.

#### Downtown 'perfect' "It really was cute,"

said Catherine Withrow of Canton who, among friends with humorous elf names like "Pappy Appleshorts," "Squeezy Hamsterface" and "Sassy Stripey-Pants," was simply dubbed "Dave" for the event. "It truly kind of kicked off the whole holiday season for me." Lighted up for the holidays, downtown Plymouth was "gorgeous" and the ambiance "perfect," Withrow said.

Stechow explained in an email that he and Cale were inspired by "Santa-Con" pub crawl events that feature participants dressed as Santa.

"In 2011 we found ourselves in Grand Cen-



Dan Stechow and Lori Cale's "Elf Night" party moves to the Penn Theatre for a showing of "Elf," part of the Penn's holiday season series. TOM BEAUDOIN

tral Station with over 5,000 Santas. We loved it so much, we wanted to make a little merry here at home," said Stechow, who lived in Manhattan for 25 years.

They hope to make "Elf Night," as they're calling it, an annual event.

O'Callaghan's, a block

from the theater, served food like "Reindeer Sliders" and "Shepherd's Boy Pie" and adult beverages like "Bloody Merry Christmas." Names were drawn for prizes such as snowman paddleball, a hand-held Santa pinball game and a 2014 calendar featuring puppies. The Clauses and the elves then walked down Penniman to the theater.

"When the group of us walked across the street to go to the Penn Theatre,

I'm sure it attracted some attention," Withrow said. 'Adds to festivities'

Jane McKimmy of Canton (elf name: "Sunny

Tim Dwyer of Beverly Hills wins the coveted "Elf Collector Series Glass Collection," the evening's grand prize. TOM BEAUDOIN

Bunster") attended with husband John and their sons, Ian, 14, Shane, 13, and Evan, 10. The family is friends with Stechow and Cale and her children.

"We had a really great time. I wasn't expecting all the festivities," said Sunny, er, McKimmy. "We were really tickled pink to have all this fun stuff going on around there." Next time, Mc-Kimmy said, she'll be prepared with a full elf costume.

Ellen Elliott, executive director of the Friends of the Penn Theatre, which runs the 72-year-old movie house, was unfazed by the dozens of elves who arrived Sunday. It's not unusual, she said, for people to visit the Penn in groups for showings of Christmas movies. It's a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Story and Christmas Vacation are popular for group outings, she said.

"It adds to their festivities," Elliott said. "We caught on to that a few years ago."

mjachman@hometownlife.com 313-222-2405 Twitter: @mattjachman

### Elks wrap up gift drive for veterans

The Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780 on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township became an assembly line Saturday morning as more than 50 volunteers with tape, scissors and wrapping paper put together 850 Christmastime care packages for ill veterans and veterans who are down on their luck.

Elks and their family members, along with Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, wrapped and bagged up the donated socks, toiletries and playing cards that were to be distributed to homeless veterans through two veterans shelters in Detroit and one in the city of Wayne and to other veterans through the Veterans Affairs hospitals in Ann Arbor, Battle Creek and Detroit. Each gift package contained 14 items.

There were also 25



Stewart Israel is chairman of the Plymouth Elks Lodge's annual Christmas gift drive for homeless and ill veterans.

afghans, made by women from Divine Savior Catholic Church in Westland, that were to go to some veterans, with priority given to those who have lost limbs, dialysis patients and women veterans.

The gift drive is an annual project of the local Elks lodge, with gifts – and the money to buy the some of the items needed – donated from a variety of sources, including Walmart, individual Elks members, local dentists and the Livonia post of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

The project has been going on for 35 years, said Stewart Israel, its chairman.

"It shows we remember, we care and we're doing something tangible to express our thankfulness in their time of need," Israel wrote in an email. "We needed them to protect our freedom and now they need us."

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# Woman guilty of larceny from dementia patient

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

A Westland woman has pleaded guilty to one of two counts of larceny in a building following allegations she stole jewelry from dementia patients while working as a health care employee at Crystal Creek, a Canton assisted living center.

Gail Lynn Good, 45, could face penalties ranging from probation to four years in prison when she is sentenced Jan. 14 by Wayne County Circuit Judge James Chylinski.

Authorities agreed to drop a second charge of larceny in a building after Good agreed to plead guilty to one count, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

Good was charged after



Good

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said police investigated allegations in late September and early October that gold necklaces, one with a diamond, had been stolen from elderly women who have dementia. The case unfolded while

Good was working at Crystal

Creek, on Lilley north of Warren. She has been released from custody while she awaits her sentencing.

Baugh has said relatives of the victims notified the assisted living center's administration, which then contacted police.

Baugh said the necklaces had been taken to jewelry shops in Westland, where one was recovered, but the other already had been melted down.

Baugh had described the jewelry shops and Crystal Creek as cooperative while Canton police investigated Good, who was arrested on the job in October.

**CANTON CRIME WATCH** 

dclem@hometownlife.com 313-222-2238 Twitter: @CantonObserver

#### **PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH**

#### Mail theft

Two children's books, purchased as Christmas presents, were reported stolen Saturday from the mailbox of a house on Crabtree Lane, in the area of Five Mile and Haggerty, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The books had been ordered to be shipped by mail, the complainant told police, but only the torn, empty packaging for them was found in the mailbox on Saturday.

#### **Purse theft reported**

A Westland woman reported the Dec. 7 theft of her purse and its contents, including cash and credit cards, from Compuware Arena, on Beck north of M-14 in the township.

The woman told police she had set the purse under her bleacher seat while attending her 6-year-old son's hockey game that evening. Upon arriving home, she discovered she no longer had the purse and returned to the area, she told police. She and arena staff were unable to locate it, a police report said.

#### **Repeat vandalism**

A passenger-side window on a new Dodge Durango pickup truck was broken earlier this month while the truck was parked outside a collision shop on Mill Street north of Ann Arbor Road.

The vandalism occurred at the Dick Scott Dodge collision shop between the evening of Dec. 10 and early the next afternoon, a police report said. The frame of the broken window was also damaged; police said the fence surrounding the lot had been cut and pried open.

It was the second windowbreaking incident there within two weeks and the fourth within a 10-month period, the shop manager told police.

– By Matt Jachman

#### Laced chocolate

Canton police Monday arrested a 17-year-old Plymouth boy after a brownie he fed to a 17-year-old Canton girl made her ill.

According to Canton police, the girl got sick in class and reported to the school nurse. The Canton Police Department resource officers started an investigation and notified the police detectives.

When detectives talked to the boy, police said, he admitted to possession of marijuana-laced chocolate bars. Police said they recovered dozens of chocolate bars in the boy's possession.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials declined to comment, other than saying the girl was taken to a hospital Monday, treated and then released a few hours later.

The investigation is ongoing.

#### **Pot possession**

A Canton Police officer on routine patrol in the area of Michigan Avenue and Willard noticed a silver Chevy Monte Carlo switching lanes without signaling to make a "Michigan left" and pulled the car over.

A check of the license plate showed the registered owner with a suspended license and warrants out of both Plymouth and Canton townships, according to the police report.

When the officer pulled the car over on eastbound Michigan Avenue, the driver got out of the car. The officer handcuffed him and placed him in the rear of the patrol car for security reasons, according to the report. The driver had parked the car on the shoulder, but it was blocking Willard.

The officer told the driver he would park the car for him and, when he got in the driver's seat, the officer noticed a plastic bag filled with what appeared to be a green, leafy substance on the passenger floorboard. According to the report, the officer asked for permission to search the car, but was denied by the driver.

The driver told the officer he'd been "returning from the city" and that his cousin had been sitting in the passenger seat. A subsequent search turned up a gold watch and a Paypal card belonging to the driver's cousin.

The driver was transported to the Canton Police Department and cited for possession of marijuana.

#### **Telephone harassment**

A Canton woman told police her ex-boyfriend had been sending her threats via text, email and phone calls.

She said the ex-boyfriend, with whom she has a child, sent her some 50 emails in a week's time and had sent her 50 text messages and made 25 phone calls in one 24-hour period.

She told police she didn't want him prosecuted, but wanted the threats to stop. She also told police the boyfriend was on parole. Police advised the woman of the procedures for obtaining a personal protection order and also advised her to call the boyfriend's parole officer.

#### **Retail fraud**

While responding to the Meijer store on Michigan Avenue for a retail fraud in progress, a Canton officer was notified the suspects had left the store in a burgundy HHR. The officer, arriving on scene, noticed the vehicle pulling out of the parking lot and pulled it over.

According to police reports, while talking to the vehicle's occupants, the officer noticed the interior of the vehicle was filled with toys and clothing. The driver told police they'd been shopping at Meijer, according to the report. The officer contacted the loss-prevention officer at the Michigan Avenue Meijer, who accurately described the occupants of the vehicle as those involved in the retail fraud.

While searching the car, officers also found clothing from both Dots and Old Navy. When Dots employees were notified, they told police there were also missing items from the store. According to the report, Old Navy staffers said they hadn't noticed the suspects, but would check their security video.

All three occupants were taken to the Canton Police Department and questioned and, according to the report, all three made written statements that admitted to taking items from Meijer, Dots and Old Navy.

– By Brad Kadrich

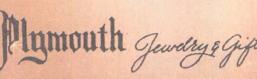




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# FINDING THE SPIRIT

Institute puts 'St. Nick' into historical context

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

A. Michael Deller had been performing as Santa Claus for nearly a decade before the St. Nicholas Institute opened Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia.

But when the institute, with its vision of, according to its website, empowering "faith-filled candidates with the tools needed to convincingly portray both St. Nicholas and the 'elfin' Santa Claus in a wide variety of venues," whether religious or secular, it caught Deller's attention.

"The institute ... would have an emphasis on St. Nicholas, the actual person, and his history and how some of his beliefs and passions in life have come through to the person we know as Santa Claus," said Deller, perhaps best known as the Santa in the now-defunct holiday parade in Livonia. "That sounded really interesting to me. I thought it would be interesting to see what they provided." The institute revolves around St. Nicholas who, according to institute founder the Rev. Joseph Marquis, is "remembered and revered among Catholic and Orthodox Christians and is also honored by various Anglican and Lutheran churches."



Students take part in the four-day St. Nicholas Institute at Sacred Heart in Livonia. The institute was founded last year.

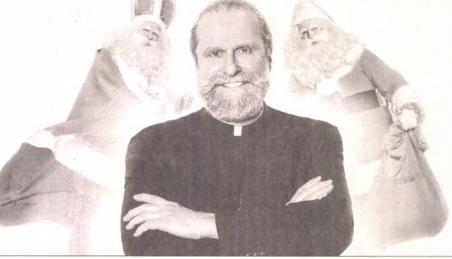
### Charitable inspiration

According to information provided on the institute's website, Nicholas was born in Patara of Lycia (present-day Turkey) during the third century, of devout and wealthy parents who provided him with a Christian upbringing and education. Especially well-known, according to Marquis, is his charity and love for children. He used his great wealth to relieve all who were in need: families, widows, orphans and children. For this same purpose he founded, as bishop, a poorhouse, hostelries and a hospital.

According to Marquis, charitable groups such as the Salvation Army, the Goodfellows and the St. Vincent DePaul Society "owe a lot" to St. Nicholas.

"I look at St. Nicholas as a role model for Christians as a focus of solving need, not taking bows for charitable works," Marquis said.

He was the personification of Christian love and affection. As such, he is honored by the entire Christian world, both the Eastern and Western Churches. In the West,



The Rev. Joseph Marquis, pastor of Sacred Heart in Livonia, founded the St. Nicholas Institute last year.



A. Michael Deller, as Santa, visiting with his grandchildren during an appearance at Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy last month.

especially, he is considered the great patron saint of children and in modern times as the cheerful giver of gifts, Santa.

That's the benefit institute participants find the most interesting.

"We teach about the historic figure behind Santa Claus," said Marquis, the pastor at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, home of the institute. "We're showing the historical context of St. Nicholas. Understanding who St. Nicholas is helps us more accurately portray San-

l- ta."

#### **Longtime Santa**

Marquis should know about that, since he's been doing it for 42 years. He's an Emmy Award-winning Santa, a member of the Santa Claus Hall of Fame who used to portray Santa in the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown Detroit.

He's done parades and home visits, mall appearances and hospital visits.

One story stands out in his mind of a little girl dying of cancer in a hospital in Ann Arbor. Her grandfather appealed to Marquis to visit her as Santa in the hospital and to give the girl a new, blue dress she had want-

ed. When he arrived, Marquis found the entire hospital staff had dived into the spirit of the occasion. The hospital was totally decorated for Christmas and staff members were all in Christmas costumes – and the visit happened in the summer.

Marquis passed through the entire children's ward, visiting with all the patients and final-



A. Michael Deller got his start as a Santa in the now-defunct holiday parade in Livonia.

ly ending up in the girl's room. Her eyes widened with delight at the sight of Santa and she was all smiles when she opened the dress.

Marquis said when the crowd got around to singing Silent Night, "there was a presence in the room and a peace descended" – and a stark realization hit him.

"This was the real reason I was called to do Santa," Marquis said. "If this is the only person I ever do Santa for, it's worth it."

#### **Year-round spirit**

It's worth it for Deller, too. A retired librarian, Deller has done story times at libraries, he's done family visits. He's also the Santa at a banquet center near Mount Clemens every year. And he takes with him the lessons learned at the institute.

"(The institute) hasn't really changed how I portray Santa, but it deepened my understanding of how this all came together and came to be," Deller said.

"For many of us, it was helpful in knowing what we needed to find or use in order to give a faithful appearance and presentation of the bishop known as St. Nicholas."

The first institute last year drew 17 students from 10 different states. This year's grew to 30 students from 15 states.

For Marquis, it's about spreading the word that the Christmas spirit isn't relegated to just the Christmas season.

"The beautiful thing is, the spirit is available any day of the year," he said. "That's the spirit I'm trying to give the 'Santas' who come through here. The one message they walk away with is, 'The most important child I ever see is the next one.""

bkadrich@hometownlife.com 313-222-8899 Twitter: @bkadrich



hometownlife.com

## Salvation Army thrift stores seeking donations

As the new year approaches, the Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center is seeking yearend donations at the nonprofit's 34 metro Detroit family thrift stores.

Now through Dec. 31, patrons are invited to drop off their gently used clothing, linens, home goods and more to receive a 2013 tax receipt. Army officials say it's as easy as driving through the donation line at any of the Salvation Army's local thrift stores.

The Canton store is located at 43403 Joy (near Joy and Morton Taylor). For hours, call 734-416-1925.

Donations of gently used clothing, linen, household appliances, furniture, toys, shoes, purses and housewares are accepted at all Salvation Army thrift stores. All donations to the Salvation Army are taxdeductible. Donate before Jan. 1, 2014, to receive a tax receipt that can be applied toward 2013 taxes. Stores will be open until midnight Dec. 31 for last-minute 2013

tax year contributions. Salvation Army Thrift Store shoppers will also have the chance to step into the new year with a new look thanks to the Salvation Army's annual New Year's Day Sale. All 34 metro Detroit Salvation Army thrift store locations will offer 50 percent off clothing, as well as hourly spot sales across several departments, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1. For more information

and to find a Salvation Army thrift store, visit www.salarmythrift.com.



The Canton location is one of the many Salvation Army thrift stores seeking donations.

3 DAYS ONLY! THURS, DEC 19-SAT, DEC 21 HOLIDAY HOURS: THURS-SAT 7AM-CLOSE SIG OFF

With *Gifts* to fit every elf and reindeer on your list, this will be the most *Fa-La-La-Fabulous* Christmas Ever!





50% select sweaters for him & her

### Minimum distributions — the law for those 70½

A t a recent talk I gave, one of the topics of conversation was required minimum distributions. At age 70½, investors are required to take distributions from their retirement accounts. It's a good time to highlight issues dealing with required minimum distributions in the first year.

Whether an IRA, 403(b) or 401(k) plan, at age 70½ taking distributions is the law. The amount one is required to take changes every year and is based upon a formula that has frequently changed throughout the years.

Although the law says that you must begin taking minimum required distributions in the year you turn 70½, there is an exception to the rule. You can delay your first year distribution until April 1

of the next year. For example, if you turned

first



turned 70½ Dec. 1, you would not have to take your MATTERS

required minimum distribution until April 1, 2014. However, there is a downside to this. Even though you can delay your distribution, you have to make your 2014 distribution by Dec. 31, 2014. A double distribution in 2014 could cause some tax issues such as being thrown into another tax bracket and also losing deductions.

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### JCP**CA\$H**

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Prices effective Dec. 19–21, 2013, unless otherwise noted. Items are subject to availability and may not be available in all JCPenney stores or at Jcp.com. "Original" and "regular" prices are offering prices that may not have resulted in sales, and intermediate markdowns may have been taken. "Original" prices may not have been in effect during the past 90 days or in all tade areas. JCPenney reserves the right to limit returns or exchanges without a valid receipt. Percentages off original or regular prices, as shown, unless otherwise noted. Actual savings may exceed stated percentage off. "Sale" events exclude Best Value merchandise, "Original" and Best Value items will remain at advertised prices after event. **Ene jewein** off. "Sale" events exclude Best Value, diamond vauit, care plans trunk shows, services, gift cards, special orders, current orders and prior purchases. 20-50% offers on any apply. Reply Y to confirm your opt-in. Up to 8 msgs/month from 527565 to the mobile number you provide. Signup is not required to purchase sole. Sole of gift cards takes of gift cards takes and shoping that cards. See card. 525 off \$25 coupon with purchase of gift cards takes of gift cards takes on apply to watches. \*\*\*Gift cards offer: Reserve a \$25 off \$25 coupon with purchase of gift cards takes not apply to mobile number you provide. Signup is not required to purchase sole of select fine jewelry and Bijoux Bar jewelry. Also does not apply to watches. \*\*\* Message and data rates may apply. Reply Tit confirm your opt-in. Up to 8 msgs/month from 527565 to the mobile number you provide. Signup is not required to purchase sole of select fine jewelry and Bijoux Bar jewelry. Also does not apply to watches. \*\*\* Message and data rates may apply. Reply Tit cards takes of gift cards takes and shipping tharges. 20-50% offer confirm your opt-in. Up to 8 msgs/month from 527565 to the mobile number you provide. Signup is not required to purchase sole of first confirm your opt-in. Up to 8 msgs/month from 527565 to the mobile number you

#### Exceptions

The second issue is another exception that only applies to required minimum distributions from salary deferral programs such as a 401(k) plan. This exception only applies if you are working for the company that you have a salary deferral program with and you own less than 5 percent of the company. If you meet these criteria, you can delay your required minimum distribution from that plan. However, you still have to take your required minimum distribution from your other accounts such as an IRA.

The penalty for failure to comply with required minimum distributions is severe. If you fail to take a required minimum distribution on a timely basis or if you do not take the proper amount, the IRS can assess you with a 50-percent penalty. It is possible to get these penalties waived; however, it is not easy.

**JCPenney** 

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Check your custodian's calculation to make sure they are accurate. Remember, you are the one who will be responsible for any penalties or interest that the IRS may assess. Good luck.

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

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# Track Santa as he circles the globe

Have you ever wondered how Santa gets around the world in just one day?

According to North American Aerospace Defense Command, Santa doesn't feel time like regular people and, in his reality, he's traveling for much longer than 24 hours.

Children all over the world are fascinated by his journey and the folks at NORAD have graciously allowed us to share its tracking service with our readers.

Go to our website, Hometownlife.com, Dec. 24 to track Santa as he circles the globe. Children in these parts will want to know when he gets to North America so they can set out milk and cookies or whatever goodies are planned to welcome Santa.

Just look to the right side of our site for the



NORAD Santa Tracker, click on the link and be prepared for fun.

#### **PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

#### **Blood drives**

Dates/Times/Locations:

» Monday, Dec. 23,
 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post,
 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth
 » Monday, Dec 23, 9:30

a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton » Tuesday, Dec 24, 8

» Idesday, Dec 24, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Hampton Inn Suites, 1950 Haggerty, Canton

» Tuesday, Dec 24, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, 3950 S. Lotz, Canton

» Thursday, Dec 26, 1-6:45 p.m., Resurrection Church, 48755 Warren, Canton

**Details:** The American Red Cross hosts blood drives at the above times and locations. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcome.

**Contact:** Diane at 313-549-7052 or Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

#### **Open mic nite**

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. Location: The Joanne

Winkelman Hulce Center



The Salem Junior Varsity Rockettes took first place in the contemporary pom division and first place in the hip hop division at the 2013 Michigan State Spirit Showdown, held Saturday at Brighton High School. Team members include (front, from left) Sarah O'Donnell, captain Becky DeWater, coach Jes Wilhoite, captain Erica Garczynski and Morgan Poulos, along with (back, from left) Alyssa Marshall, Maddie Martinsky, Emily Bates, Tiffney Cicotte, Basia Bokuniewicz and Hannah Parent. Also on the team are Kara Rocheleau and Kelcie Rocheleau.

for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, in Plymouth.

**Details:** The BaseLine Folk Society presents its festive "Total Open Mic" night. Artists can begin signing up at 6:15 p.m. This month will be complete open-mic with performers to perform two songs, original or cover. There's no featured guests this month. Host for the evening is Kenny Lang, a BaseLine favorite who has performed more than 40 years. BaseLine Folk Society is a group of talented musicians promoting and preserving the fine art of traditional acoustical folk music. Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers.

**Contact:** Email the president, Scott Ludwig, at BFSpresident@aol.com.



#### **Enjoy Great Family Entertainment** The Village Theater at Cherry Hill Celebrating 10 Years!

#### December

- **19-22** Central City Dance Christmas Spectacular Various Times
- 28 Aaron Radatz Holiday Magic Show 7pm
- 31 Star Tributes from Las Vegas Matt King as Elvis with Live Orchestra 4pm, 7pm

#### January

- 11 TLC Productions StageLab24: Several One-Act Plays (Studio) 8pm
- 17 Detroit Symphony Orchestra Mozart and Bach 8pm
- **18** Partnership for the Arts Simply Diamond 2pm
- 20 Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 5:30pm
- 23-26 Forever After Productions Shrek the Musical Various Various Times
- 24-25 Spotlight Players Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater Death at Dinner 6:30pm
- 31 Spotlight Players I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change 8pm

#### February

- 1-9 Spotlight Players I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change 2pm, 8pm
- 12 PCCS Showcase: Field Elementary Talent Show 7pm
- 14 Star Tributes from Las Vegas Valentine's Day 7pm
- 15 Michigan Philharmonic Fabulous Fifties 7:30pm
- 21-22 Spotlight Players Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater Death at Dinner 6:30pm, 8pm
- 22 Estella Chambers Live!!! An Affair to Remember! 8pm



Be there when the curtain rises during the Village Theater's 10th Season. Get your tickets today at www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

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## FREE WORKSHOP

**JANUARY 11 Milford Public Library** 10:00am - 12:00pm

**JANUARY 20 Plymouth Cultural Center** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**JANUARY 14** Livonia Satellite Office 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**FEBRUARY 5 Brighton Public Library** 10:30am - 12:30pm

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**Call to RSVP or Register Online:** www.MiEstateLawyer.com

A11 (CP) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## BUSINESS

BRAD KADRICH, EDITOR BKADRICH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8899 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Mutt Hutt bakes up all-natural pet treats

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

After years of working with humans in the restaurant business, Tim VandenBosch and Kathe Geer are going to the dogs ... and cats and, quite soon, birds.

They are partners in the Mutt Hutt Bakery on Ford Road in Westland, which specializes in allnatural, handmade gourmet dog treats. Pet owners can treat their favorite pooch to truffles, cupcakes, bagels, even a cheeseburger and french fries, which are not only good to eat, but good for them.

"We care about our dogs and our customers' dogs," said Geer, a Canton resident. "I have yorkies and they get the best of the best. If a customer walks out of here with treats, they know that if they're good enough for my dogs, they're good enough for theirs."

Business partners, Geer and VandenBosch, who lives in Holland, Mich., bring a history of working in food service. Geer has owned three restaurants and Vanden-



Kathe Geer displays a tray of jelly-filled bismarks. Her products look good enough. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bosch owned one. Together, they owned one in Holland that they sold when they decided to start making gourmet pet treats.

All-natural products The bakery uses allnatural products. There are carob and peanut frosted sports bones for all of the favorite teams and even a slice of pizza made with whole wheat flour, canola oil, yogurt and carob chips. There are also brownies and s'mores and wheat and gluten-free products for dogs with sensitive stomachs and food allergies. "We're expanding our



Mutt Hutt has sports bones for your pooch. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

line all the time," Geer said. "We've added cat treats and we've had a lot of people asking if we'd start doing bird treats. I never thought about that, but it will be coming soon."

Located on Ford Road south of Wayne Road, next to the Griffith Veterinary Hospital, the bakery is getting a lot of the hospital's patrons coming in to the store.

"The vets love our products and send their patients over here; one of the vets even eats our french fries," she said. "I think it's hilarious, but you really can eat anything in here. You just have to get past the mindset that it's a dog treat."

"We have a guy who drives from Sterling

#### **MUTT HUTT BAKERY**

Business address: 36329 Ford Road, Westland Your name: Tim Vanden Bosch of and Kathe Geer of Canton, owners

Business opened: July 2013

Business hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday

Business specialty: A gourmet dog bakery, where all treats are handmade and all natural Contact: 734-629-8860, topdogs@mutthuttbakery.com, online

at www.mutthuttbakery.com, www.facebook.com/MuttHutt

Heights every few weeks and buys \$100 worth of treats every time," she added.

The bulk treats are available by the pound, while the frosted items are priced by the piece. The bakery has gift baskets like its popular All American that includes french fries, a cheeseburger, slice of pizza and a hot dog for \$6.99, plus cat treats, toys and designer pet coats.

Mutt Hutt also operates an online store at www.mutthutt bakery.com and ships to anywhere in the 50 states.

It also does wholesale and is looking for retailers who want to carry its products. One is the Lucky Dog Luxury Daycare and Boarding in Garden City.

#### **Big opportunities**

Geer likes having the business in Westland. The city is big enough for big opportunities, but small enough to embrace businesses like the Mutt Hutt Bakery. She also can't say enough about working with the city in getting the business open.

"They've been incredible," she said. Geer also stresses that

pet owners can expect the fresh baked treats from the Mutt Hutt.

"Our mission is very simple: to always have the highest quality, handmade, nutritional fun treats for dogs," Geer said.

"Owners know that the products from Mutt Hutt are the best they can give their animals."

#### PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

butter truffles, yogurt-



**Plymouth Orchards wins statewide contest** 

Alicia Estrada, Mary Krause and Mary Emmett of Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill took home first place in the 17th annual Michigan Apple Cider Contest.

The cider contest took place at DeVos Convention Center, with 34 cider makers participating in the competition. Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill took home second place in last year's contest.

"This competition started 18 years ago to promote Michigan apple cider and provide educational opportunities for cider makers," said Bob Tritten, district fruit educator with Michigan State University Extension and founder of the contest. "I would like to thank our nine judges, especially Harold Thome, who has served as a judge for every year of the contest. We have

come a long way since the inception of this competition and, in my opinion, Michigan cider is the best in the world."

Second place in the 2013 contest went to cider maker Jim Hill of Hill Brothers in Grand Rapids. Third place went to Jim and Becky Engelsma of Engelsma's Apple Barn and Cider Mill in Walker. Engelsma's was the first-place winner in the 2012 contest.



#### **Mitten tree**

Bereavement Coordinator Ann Christensen and Program Director Brenda Kassees pose by the 2013 Mitten Tree in the lobby of Compassionate Care Hospice, based in Canton. More than 100 items were donated by staff and volunteers, many knitted or crocheted with love. The items were collected Monday by Elizabeth Bennett, a board member of "Help's on the Way," the charity for which the hospice collects these items. For information about hospice services or volunteering with this organization, call 888-983-9050.

#### **Hats for homeless**

Killer Crowns Hat and T-Shirt Shop in Canton is hosting a hat drive for the Hats for Homeless program sponsored by the United Way.

On Saturday, Dec. 21, for every winter hat or pair of gloves purchased in store, Killer Crowns will donate a similar item to the Hats for Homeless program. If the store meets its goal of 100 items donated, Killer Crowns will donate an additional \$400 in cash to the charity.

Killer Crowns Hat & T-Shirt Shop is located at 42711 Ford Road in Canton, just west of Lilley, between Outback Steakhouse and Hobby Lobby.

#### Jersey Mike's

Jersey Mike's Subs opened its doors Wednesday in Canton. Franchise owner and area director Peter Shipman is hosting a grand opening and free sub fundraiser through Sunday, Dec. 22, to support the Plymouth-Canton school district's Athletic Department.

Anyone who has a fundraising coupon can get a free regular sub for a minimum \$1 contribution. Fifteen thousand coupons are being distributed throughout the community.

Started at the Jersey Shore in 1956, Jersey Mike's continued its growth in 2012, opening 92 new restaurants throughout the country, a 33-percent increase in new store growth over 2011.

"For the first five days that we are open, we will be raising money for a very integral aspect of our community, the P-CCS Athletic Department," Shipman said.

"In many ways, Canton is a vital hub of the suburban Detroit area and we are very fortunate to be opening our doors here. Canton is a great place for us to plant our roots." Store hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. You can contact the store at 734-844-2121.

#### Marketing agreement

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel announced that a marketing agreement has been signed with Talmer Bank and Trust.

This strategic arrangement opens up more opportunities for Talmer Bank and Trust to provide mortgage services to clients of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel across all of its offices in southeast Michigan and in west and mid-Michigan.

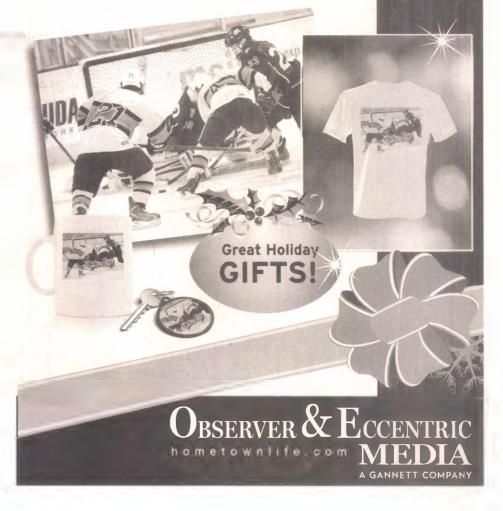
"After a comprehensive and exhaustive search for a dependable mortgage partner, we decided on Talmer Bank and Trust because it is a local bank that shares the very same core values and commitment to the community as we do," said Kelly Sweeney, CEO, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel.

## \* Gifts and Keepsakes

As seen in the Observer & Eccentric Media Just select a photo found on hometownlife.com and click the "Purchase Image" shopping cart.

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#### A12 (P) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

**OUR VIEWS** 

## Remember the true meaning of the season Give thanks for all of life's blessings

Christmas is a time to celebrate humanity. As you can tell by the bitterly cold weather this week, the first major snowstorm last weekend, the increased traffic on the roads and the crowds at your favorite mall, the Christmas season is upon us.

But those are the tangible — to some, distasteful — trappings of the seasons. For people of the Christian faith, it is one of the

For people of the Christian faith, it is one of the most significant times of the year. It marks the coming of the Messiah — the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians all over the world celebrate this great milestone with prayer and reverence.

But this time of year is also important to the followers of other religions. Jews, for example, recently finished celebrating Hanukkah, the eight-day "Festival of Lights," which ended Dec. 5. The season is marked by the candles of the menorah and Jews celebrate their ancient heroes and the survival of their culture with festive foods, games and blessings.

foods, games and blessings. Although Hanukkah is considered to be a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, it has taken on more significance, especially in America, because of its proximity to Christmas.

It is also at this time of year that many African Americans begin to celebrate Kwanzaa. Although not a religious holiday, Kwanzaa, which runs from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, is a time when followers come together and celebrate family, community and tradition.

So in reality, the Christmas season means different things to different people, especially in America, where so many different cultures have been thrown together. The common denominator seems to be that it is a time of celebration, to hold dear the things that we might take for granted the rest of the year.

In recent years, some people have complained that there has been a war on Christmas. A debate has raged about whether the meaning of Christmas has been watered down by huge department stores or the political correctness police. It's an unfortunate debate, particularly at this

It's an unfortunate debate, particularly at this time of year, because it seems to run counter to all the virtues that are celebrated during Christmas.

It is supposed to be a time of rejoicing and a time to reflect on the common bond of humanity. There are so many people around the globe, including right here in our own back yard, who are

#### **COMMUNITY VOICE**

#### Would you support a property tax to transform Central Middle School into a community center with a pool, gymnasium, fitness center, auditorium and more?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"Yeah. That'd be good. Keep the kids off the streets, out of trouble." Kim Gurney Plymouth



"I read an article about it. I think it's nice to have something for the kids to do. ... When it comes to a millage, I would have to become more educated." Frank Stanton

Plymouth Township



"I think I would support it. ... I think Plymouth needs an area where the kids can go and swim." Tom Grover Plymouth



"I suppose I would. Sure. It sounds like a reasonable thing." Jim Foss Plymouth Township

#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### **Good coverage**

Kudos to the *Observer* for giving front-page coverage to three important matters in the Dec. 12 edition:

» The township recreation survey.

» The township vote on the PARC proposal.

» The township board's approval of the \$13 million 2014 budget.

These critical areas will have significant impact on the lives of all of us in the Plymouth "metropolitan" area.

Bill Huppenbauer Plymouth

#### Upset by headline

I am the owner of Pet Suite Retreat on Michigan Avenue in Inkster, not so far from Garden City that you wouldn't have either heard of us or driven by our facility at some point over the past 13 years that we've been in

#### business.

I am a bit upset by the tag line of your article "New resort is suite retreat" for obvious reasons. We have a good number of clients from the Plymouth-Canton area and I don't want them to be confused.

As the kennels at All American are not really "suites" as they are at Pet Suite Retreat (ours are 10 by 12 rooms), you could just as easily and perhaps more accurately used "sweet retreat" instead.

> Karen Knopper Pet Suite Retreat Inkster

#### Tirade no surprise

Once again, another rightwing zealot has Rick Snyder and his Tea Partiers scrambling for cover.

According to published reports, Dave Agema, Michigan's Republican National Committee representative, has made more anti-gay comments and set off a firestorm. Agema has never kept his opinion and distaste for gay people a secret. This time he said homosexuals wanted to get married so they could use their partner's insurance because they have AIDS. Due to past slurs and lies, this latest tirade comes as no surprise.

So, I would ask Mr. Snyder and company, why is a known homophobe your national committee man?

This whole sordid story reminds of a tale I once heard. A woman found a snake that was almost frozen to death. She took him home, warmed him in front of the fireplace and fed him tea and honey. When the snake thawed out, he fatally bit her. When the woman screamed, "Why?" the snake replied, "Lady, you knew I was a snake when you brought me home."

James Huddleston Canton

## Lansing: Don't short-change higher education funding

not as fortunate. Many are dealing with poverty, hunger or war.

In America, we are fortunate to have the freedom to celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. That in itself is reason enough to celebrate this holiday season. So whatever Christmas means for you, please

So whatever Christmas means for you, please take a few moments during this wonderful season to think of those in the world who are not as fortunate. And give thanks for all that we are blessed with here in America.

Merry Christmas.

While Christmas is the time to welcome Santa, it's also a time of rejoicing and a time to reflect on the common bond of man. TOM BEAUDOIN



**Brad Kadrich**, Community Editor **Susan Rosiek**, Executive Editor **Grace Perry,** Director of Advertising There's no doubt about one thing: Michigan needs a better educated work force, more now than ever.

Yet one of the abiding mysteries of the past dozen years is the strange reluctance of our state's leaders to invest in our future by investing in our citizens' brainpower at colleges and universities.

"Reluctance," in fact, isn't the right term. Thinly veiled hostility is more like it. That's a puzzle, because on the surface it looks like short-changing higher education is cutting off our nose to spite our face. After all, Michigan employers say they've got jobs for 70,000 people, if only they could find applicants with the proper skills.

Statistics compiled by the House Fiscal Agency showed that unemployment for high school grads without a college degree is 10.6 percent, compared to 4.1 percent for those with a bachelor's degree.

Indeed, last week, the House Fiscal Agency – a nonpartisan body – issued a report concluding that students at Michigan universities could blame state politicians for something like 60 percent of the college tuition increases over the past 13 years.

That's because, as the report shows, the lawmakers have cut appropriations by a total of \$325 million since 2000. That's a 40percent reduction when adjusted for inflation!

That's almost the biggest decline in support for higher ed in the nation. Indeed, according to a state Higher Education Executive Officers report, Michigan is outranked only by Rhode Island and New Mexico in cutting higher education budgets.

#### State support

When I first joined the University of Michigan's Board of Regents in 1987, state support represented around 75 percent of total revenue; tuition and fees accounted for around a quarter. Today, it's exactly the reverse.

Talking with Lansing insiders about Michigan universities reveals a wide range of views,



some very critical of higher ed, some supportive. One well-connected insider put it in a nutshell: "Today's Lansing environment is terrible for universities."

Some think the schools have brought that on themselves. "They consider themselves unaccountable," another said. "They're asked for metrics, for tuition restraint, for greater link between courses offered and the needs of the Michigan work force. They say don't bother, they're autonomous – and that's that."

The state Constitution says public universities, especially the Big Three – University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University – are independent of the Legislature or governor in setting policy.

That doesn't sit well with elected lawmakers who figure they're the ones who should be at the top of the food chain.

Nor does it help soften legislative attitudes when universities appear to be wasting public resources on turf competition among universities; cited repeatedly were Central Michigan and Western Michigan universities, both with dueling billboards in the Lansing area.

Couch-burning and other disorderly conduct in East Lansing after Michigan State beat Ohio State this month doesn't help, either.

#### **Political problem**

Universities also suffer from a structural political problem: Relatively few families in a given legislative district have students at college at any one time, whereas many families have kids in that district's elementary and secondary schools. "They started to cut the universities," one source told me, "and there was no political backlash. If there's no pain in cutting, why not keep doing it?"

Despite the record of solid support for higher education during the years Republican John Engler was governor, the "let's cut 'em" attitude seems pretty much evenly distributed between Republicans and Democrats. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who started her term in office with a "listening tour" around the state, reported most people told her to cut higher education and she did, by around 18 percent over eight years. Her successor, Gov. Rick Snyder, cut higher education funding by 15 percent in his first year in office.

That's a puzzle. Granholm holds degrees from the University of California-Berkeley and Harvard Law School, while Snyder has three degrees from the University of Michigan. Of all people, they both should know the value of a great education.

However, while I got an earful of grumbling in Lansing, I also got the impression that legislative attitudes are much better than they were a couple of years ago. Some senior legislative leaders realize that while it's easy to mortally wound a good university, it's very hard to resurrect it. All in all, I wouldn't be surprised to see serious attention being given to higher ed funding in the state's next budget.

There's no doubt in my mind that one of Michigan's few world-competitive advantages today are our universities, especially U-M and MSU. Given today's realities, it would make enormous sense for our state's economic future to have the universities, the governor and the Legislature sit down and reason together.

Former newspaper publisher and University of Michigan Regent Phil Power is founder and chairman of the Center for Michigan, a nonprofit, bipartisan centrist think-and-do tank. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of the Center. He welcomes comments at ppower@thecenterfor michigan.net.

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#### A14 (CP) 0 & E Media | Thursday, December 19, 2013

LOCAL NEWS

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Sara Olson of Canton brought her son Gavin to the birthday party. He came dressed as a pilot in honor of his great-grandfather, Col. Jack Sims, who flew a B-25 in the Doolittle raid over Japan. TOM BEAUDOIN

## Fans celebrate B-25D war bird's 70th birthday

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Jim Rucker made a promise to Gavin Olson. As co-pilot of the Yankee Air Museum's B-25D bomber, the "Yankee Warrior," Rucker promised the 7-year-old Canton resident that the plane will still be around for many years to come.

"My job is to make sure it's still here when you're ready to fly it," the Northville resident said. "I'm flying it now so you can fly it later."

Gavin and his family were among several hundred people who packed Bay 8 of Hangar 1 at Willow Run Airport on a recent Sunday afternoon to celebrate the 70th birthday of the "Yankee Warrior." The Mitchell bomber rolled of the assembly line Dec. 8, 1943, in Kansas City, Kan The youngster came dressed for the occasion, wearing a blue flight suit and helmet and aviator sunglasses. He even had the aviator lean when standing around. "His great-grandfather, Col. Jack Sims, flew with the Doolittle Raiders," his mother Sara Olson said. "The helmet belonged to his greatgrandfather. He is his absolute hero. He was a co-pilot of B-25 B14 on the raid." It was B-25 bombers that Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle used April 18, 1942, during a carrierlaunched raid on Japan. The "Yankee Warrior" wasn't one of them. It saw service during World War II in Italy, flying eight missions from the island of Corsica until being sent back to the States in May 1944.

ful, on the ground, it's a challenge," he said.

The air museum acquired the bomber in 1987 and restored it to its military war bird status. Volunteers have been able to document the plane's travels from Kansas City to Europe to Canada and finally Willow Run Airport. The crew of six helps maintain it and keeps it in flying condition.

"What makes this plane special is that it's a B-25D with a combat history," Rucker said. "When we say it's a war bird, it truly is a war bird. There are only 24 still flying in the world today."

Air museum officials and volunteers were war broke out. He flew 17 missions off Okinawa and remembers a mission in which, at the last minute, the target was shifted 100 miles.

"As we were flying over Japan, we saw a little cloud forming on the ground below us; when we came back it was way above the ground and was mushroom-shaped," he said. We didn't know until two days later that it was an atomic bomb, the one they dropped on Hiroshima. We didn't know what atomic bombs were; the ones we dropped were explosive."

He also recalls being ordered to load the bomb bay with the beer a supply ship had brought for

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#### The war bird

The Olson family came to the party to see the bomber. They had been at the hangar in October, when the volunteers showed off the portion of the Willow Run Bomber Plant it hopes to buy to turn into a permanent home for the museum.

"Gavin came dressed in costume and ended up in their newsletter," Olson said. "He wants to grow up to be a pilot and fly a B-25. He wrote about it in school."

Rucker has been flying for more than 40 years, but has only been a pilot of the B-25 for two years. He described the plane as loud and very responsive in the air. On the ground, it's "grassroots flying."

"In the air, it's wonder-

recognized at the event, as well as veterans, an original Rosie the Riveter from the Willow Run Bomber Plant and two original B-25 pilots – Earl Hart, 94, of Westland and

Art Love, 97, of Ida. Hart was 21 years old when he enlisted in the military. He and two buddies decided to sign up before being drafted so they wouldn't end up in the infantry. Hart and one friend enlisted in the Air Force, while his other buddy signed up for the Navy.

#### 'Good and bad'

Listening to Jerry Lester, public relations officer for the "Yankee Warrior," talk about the bomber brought back memories, "both good and bad," for Hart.

"We got shot up bad a couple of times, but some were milk runs," said Hart, who flew a total of 55 missions in the Pacific Theater. "We had two bad missions; one was to hit on a Japanese airfield on the tip of Bougainville. I don't know who dreamed up that mission, but we were supposed to come in low over the water and strafe and bomb the airfield."

He recalled one crew member saying they must have hit something big on the ground because of the explosion he saw. Hart didn't tell him that it was one of their planes.

"When we came across the runway, the Japanese opened up with everything they had; we lost 45 percent of our aircraft on that mission," he said. "I came off that airfield and I was alone. I came home by myself."

Love came to the hangar Sunday "just to see the plane." He was drafted into the service in 1941 and signed up for the Air Force after the the men and fly around until it was cold. He did, but the result wasn't what the men had anticipated.

"You couldn't drink it, it tasted horrendous," he said. "I don't know if it was because it got warm and then we chilled it, but it tasted bad. And there were a lot of guys waiting, with their tongues hanging out."

#### **Flying high**

In a brief ceremony, Lester explained the history of the plane and how fortunate the museum is to have it. Volunteers like Rucker fly all over the country as a way to raise money for the museum. In its hangar for the winter, the war bird will be back in the skies during the 2014 flying season and, along with the museum's B-1 bomber, will be available to the public for rides. The cost is \$450 for the B-25 and \$475 for the B-17

Olson is hoping to book a ride on the B-25 next year.

"I got to fly in one a year ago at a Doolittle reunion in Columbia, S.C.," she said. "I hope to get my husband Kirk and Gavin up in it next year."

The museum is located at 47884 D St., Belleville, and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information about the Yankee Air Museum, the airplane rides and its current fundraiser to buy a portion of the former Willow Run Bomber Plant, visit the website at www.yankeeairmuseum.org or its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/yankeeairmuseum, or call 734-483-4030.

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### **INSIDE:** ENTERTAINMENT, B6-7 • FOOD, B8 • CLASSIFIED, B10-11

SECTION B (CP) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

FIGHTING TYPE 1 DIABETES

## **SPORTS TIM SMITH, EDITOR TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM**734-469-4128

# Crunch time at Kellogg

## Downtown Plymouth park to host Dec. 29 Rock the Clock Run

#### By Tim Smith Staff Writer

When Kyle Meteyer's brother, Gerad, passed away in 2007 due to complications from Type 1 diabetes, it understandably crushed him.

ably crushed him. After all, Gerad Meteyer was only 34 and he had been a relatively healthy, very active young man who was a varsity athlete at North Farmington High School.

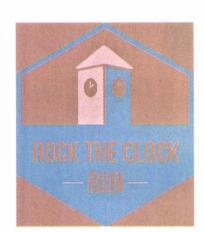
What happened to Gerad prompted former Salem varsity boys track and field coach Kyle Meteyer to establish a foundation in his brother's memory to send kids to Camp Midicha, an American Diabetes Association-operated camp in Fenton, Mich., where Gerad was a counselor.

And now, Meteyer — with longtime running buddies Nick Allen and Charlie Stamboulian — won't rest until youngsters with Type 1 diabetes have the chance to learn about battling the disease while relishing in all the sights, sounds and sensations of summer camp.

They have banded together to organize and launch the firstl Rock the Clock Run (8:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, in downtown Plymouth). Proceeds from the 5K run/walk will help kids of all ages get scholarships to the camp.

#### Something good

"As heartbreaking as it (Gerad's death) was, we wanted to do something," Meteyer said. "It was a catalyst for us to do something good and so we started the Gerad Meteyer



Foundation to provide scholarships to Camp Midicha.

"It's a camp that's exclusively for children living with Type 1 diabetes. It's very expensive for them to attend it, and we knew there really was no resources for families that didn't have the money to send their kids. So we thought, let's start a foundation that provides money for these kids to go on scholarships to the camp."

Through ADA camps, youngsters combine typical camp "fun stuff" with valuable education about how they and their families can game plan to make healthy lifestyle choices.

"Before they have dinner at some camps they say a prayer," Meteyer said. "At other camps they say 'Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub.' At this camp, they test their blood sugar."

He emphasized that children are not afflicted with Type 1 diabetes (formerly known as juvenile diabetes)

See RUN, Page B3



Charlie Stamboulian (left) and Kyle Meteyer stand at Kellogg Park. That's where the Rock the Clock Run starts and finishes. ANN ESPINOZA

"Before they have dinner at some camps they say a prayer. At other camps they say 'Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub.' At this camp, they test their blood sugar." KYLE METEYER.

Rock the Clock Run co-organizer

the ADA, campers: Learn at their own pace; discover ways to manage diabetes and start developing skills to help take care of oneself; build self-confidence and prepare, if ready, to start accepting more responsibility for diabetes self-management; take steps toward selfcare. Type 1 Diabetes: In the ADA definition, Type 1 diabetes stems from the body not producing insulin, a hormone needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. Only about 5 percent of people with diabetes have this form of the disease. It usually is diagnosed in children and young adults, and was previously known as juvenile diabetes. Register/Info: To participate in the Rock the

Clock Run/Walk, register online at www. rocktheclockrun.com by Dec. 27. Cost is \$35 (\$40 on race day). To send questions about the event, email them to info@rocktheclockruncom. Rock the Clock pint glasses will be

#### **ROCK THE CLOCK RUN**

What: The first Rock the Clock Run. When: Sunday, Dec. 29, with race time slated for 8:30 a.m.

Where: The 5K (3.1 miles) run/walk begins and ends at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, near Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail. Registration tents will be stationed that morning outside the Sun & Snow business from 7-8:15 a.m. from Type 1 diabetes. Gerad was by all accounts a relatively healthy, active young man who was a varsity athlete at North Farmington High School.

Honoring Gerad: Gerad Metever also was a

Why: Nick Allen and Charie Stamboulian organized the race (then enlisted Kyle Meteyer to help promote it) in order to generate proceeds for the Gerad Meteyer Foundation. That money will help send children with Type 1 diabetes to Camp Midicha. The GMF was created following Gerad's 2007 death at age 34 from a low blood sugar incident stemming youth counselor at Camp Midicha, a Fentonbased camp operated by the American Diabetes Association. An award is set up in his name, given to the camp counselor who makes the biggest positive difference in campers' lives each summer.

**Camp Midicha:** At the ADA camp, youngsters get to experience all the traditional "fun" activities (swimming, horseback riding, archery) while receiving valuable age-appropriate diabetes knowledge and providing plenty of "teachable moments." According to presented to the top 5 finishers in each age group (age 3 up to senior citizen). Free long sleeve moisture wicking shirts will be given to all registrants.

**Sponsors:** A number of downtown Plymouth businesses are all in for Rock the Clock, including Sun & Snow, Kilwin's, Faurecia Engineering Worldwide, Greek Islands Restaurant, Sideways, Running Fit, Sun Heating and Air Conditioning, Jimmy Johns, Tri-Covery Massage of Novi and Dunkin Donuts.

#### **ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**

## Tyler made for Sensky

### Canton High School junior steps into Plymouth Whalers' lineup

#### By Tim Smith Staff Writer

It might only be an audition of sorts.

But to the newest Plymouth Whaler, 16-year-old defenseman Tyler Sensky of Canton, that really doesn't take away from what promises to be a whirwind couple weeks in the Ontario Hockey League.

Sensky — a junior at Canton High School from the Honeybaked Midget Majors — began last week inking a contract with the Whalers, to fill in until Dec. 31 while blueliner Yannick Rathgeb is with Team Switzerland at the World Junior Tournament.

He ended it playing for the Whalers Friday night at Sarnia and Saturday at Compuware Arena against Peterborough. He had family members and friends in the stands during the Whalers' 3-2 shootout loss.

"They're all here watching and supporting me and I can't thank them enough for it," said Sensky, who actually is a grizzled vet when it comes to playing hockey on the Compuware Arena ice.

That's because he has six years of experience in the Compuware youth hockey system, including 2012-13 with the Compuware U-16s. Plymouth general manager/coach Mike Vellucci drafted Sensky in the 12th round of the 2013 OHL draft.

"Yannick went to the World Juniors



Tyler Sensky (No. 5) skates during Saturday's game at Compuware Arena for the Plymouth Whalers. Sensky is a junior at Canton High School who will remain with the OHL team until the end of December. RENA LAVERTY |PLYMOUTH WHALERS

with Switzerland and so we signed Tyler this week," said Vellucci, following the Peterborough game. "He's a great player and he's going to be a good player for us for a lot of years.

"He can only play 10 games for us (or up to Dec. 31) but next year he'll be a permanent thing ... Rules are we can't have that many 16-year-olds so he's got to go back and finish the (second) half of the year there. and then play for us next year."

#### Face time

One clearcut sign Saturday that Sensky isn't yet a full-fledged OHLer was his black-painted face cage attached to his helmet. All of the other

See SENSKY, Page B2

## Deep lineup sparks 'Cats

WAYNE COUNTY

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Entering Saturday's Wayne County Wrestling Tournament at Wyandotte, Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey reminded his athletes to fight first and worry about where they finish later.

With that all-for-team approach, the Wildcats won the tourney with 200 points, eclipsing runner-up Westland John Glenn and Dearborn Heights Annapolis by 50 points.

In fifth, with 108.5 points, was Canton with the Salem Rocks placing 14th (42 points).

"We knew going in that we wouldn't shock the tournament with a huge number of champions," Guernsey said. "We thought we'd get three, but Franklin, John Glenn, Canton, and Annapolis could also get that many.

"All week we'd talked about our team depth, we needed guys who weren't championship contenders to still place. The tournament was won by our guys who fought for the highest spots on the podium that they could get. Every guy on our team contributed to this win."

To that end, 12 of 13 wrestlers brought to the tourney secured points.

The Wildcats did have three individual champions, as many or more than the other four teams mentioned by Guernsey.

Still-undefeated Brandon Harris won by a technical fall over Riverview's Kyle Sparks to finish off a strong 3-0 tourney.

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#### **BOYS HOCKEY WRAP**

## Spartans top Plymouth, Northville back-to-back

#### **By Brad Emons** Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson continued its season-long gauntlet of a schedule Monday night and the Spartans were able to pass another test impressively.

The No. 1-ranked and defending **MHSAA Division 2 state champions** walked out Monday night out of Novi Ice Arena with an impressive 5-0 win over Northville, which came into the game ranked No. 4 in Division 1.

"The key to the win was in our preparation," coach David Mitchell said. "Going in we knew Northville was a very solid team. They'd only given up six goals in eight games, so we knew we'd have to earn everything we got."

Senior Tyler Irvine had two goals and two assists in the victory.

Linemate Dominic Lutz opened the scoring with his 23rd goal of the season just 36 seconds into the open period off assists from Irvine and Devin Kelly

Irvine then scored on a power play from Cole Christie and Lutz at 14:55 of the same period to make it 2-0.

The Spartans added two more in the second period to take a 4-0 advantage - Alex DeFlorio from Jon McDonald at 2:00 followed by Irvine's second at 14:07 from Andrew Nowak and Lutz.

Michael Sinclair added a power play goal to cap the scoring with 4:10 left in the third period from Christie and Lutz.

Stevenson, which moved into first place all alone in the KLAA Central, outshot the Mustangs by a wide margin, 48-20.

Spartan goaltender Andrew Rozenbaum made 20 saves to post the shutout, while Jeremy Onofrio made 43 for Northville, which slipped to 6-2-1 overall and 4-1 in the KLAA Central.

"Team-wise we had all guys going. Defensively we were strong and Andrew Rozenbaum was strong in net. We got a couple of goals from our top line, then a couple of other lines chipped in. From start-to-finish we played a complete hockey game. It was a good win." STEVENSON 3, PLYMOUTH 1: Livonia Stevenson (8-1, 3-0)

STEVENSOR 3, PETMOUTH 1: Livonia Stevenson (8-1, 3-0) got a goal and two assists from Dominic Lutz in Saturday's KLAA Kensington Conference crossover victory over the visiting Wildcats (3-4, 2-2) at Edgar Arena. "It was a very good, hard fought hockey game between two good teams," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Plymouth played hard, ran a solid system and are extremely well coached so we are very happy to get the win." The Spartans led 1-0 after one period on Lutz's 22nd goal of the season at '20 form linemates Tuler living and Devin Kally

season at 3:20 from linemates Tyler Irvine and Devin Kelly. At 13:03 of the second, Kelly made it 2-0 from Irvine and Lutz But Plymouth answered on Mike Scarpello's goal from John

But Plymouth answered on Mike Scarpelio's goal from John VanDenBergury just one minute into the third. But Irvine's goal at 6:39 of the final period from Drew Hunter and Lutz gave Stevenson a two-goal cushion. Plymouth goaltender Jared Maddock made 32 saves, while Stevenson's Andrew Rozenbaum had 17 stops. "We thought we had some good chances to score, but their goaltender Jared Maddock was outstanding," Mitchell said. "And when we broke down, our netminder, Andrew Rozenbaum, was definitely good as well. "Again, a solid win against a solid team."

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL** HVL's Schaffer breaks 1,000-point mark

#### **By Brad Emons** Staff Writer

Despite a pair of defeats in the Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary boys basketball tournament, it wasn't totally a lost weekend for the Westland Huron Valley Lutheran.

In Saturday's consolation final, a 70-41 setback to Howardsville Christian, the Hawks' senior forward Ryan Schaffer connected on a three-pointer with 1:02 remaining in the second quarter to surpass the 1,000-point mark.

The 6-foot-1 Schaffer

finished with a teamhigh 21 points as the Hawks slipped to 0-2 overall.

"That is great accomplishment early in his senior year with the rest of season still to be played," said Huron Valley Lutheran coach Jim Ott, whose team shot just 18-of-47 from the floor (38.2 percent).

Howardsville (1-1) led by only two at intermission, 25-23, but pulled away in the second half outscoring HVL 45-18.

Nathan Parks and Justin Jergens scored 26 and 21, respectively, for Howardsville, while Jon Wilde added 12.

In Friday's 57-28 first-round loss to the host Cardinals, HVL shot only 10-of-48 from the floor (20.8 percent), including just 4-of-22 from three-point range.

**Casey and Peter Ross** paced the winners with 21 and 17 points, respectively.

Schaffer scored a team-best 14 for the Hawks, while teammate Jordan Rundstadler added seven.

"It was an ugly offensive night, we just can't score," Ott said.

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#### **ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**

LOCAL SPORTS



Ryan Hartman (No. 21) scores Plymouth's first goal at Compuware Arena, one-timing the puck past Peterborough's Andrew D'Agostini (No. 30). RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

## Hartman's two goals not enough for Whalers

#### **By Tim Smith Staff Writer**

Saturday's Plymouth Whalers game at Compuware Arena demonstrated how this has not been an easy season for the Ontario Hockey League team.

The Whalers recently welcomed back center Ryan Hartman from an injury, and he scored two goals - including a power play marker with 2:24 remaining in the third period of the game against Peterborough to make it 2-2. Plymouth ultimately lost 3-2 in the shootout.

But during the second frame, top goal scorer Carter Sandlak (who has 17 markers) was lost to an upper body injury after slamming into the end boards behind Petes netminder Andrew D'Agostini

"It's not fun getting guys hurt but other guys got to setp up and play," Whalers coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "He (Hartman) had two nice goals and we need somebody to score because we don't score a lot of goals.'

Hartman opened the scoring with just 27.9 seconds remaining in the first period with his 12th of the season. A crisp, cross-crease feed by linemate Zach Lorentz was slam-dunked by the Chicago Blackhawks prospect (who soon will leave for the World Junior Tournament).

Plymouth (11-19-0-4) held the 1-0 lead for most of the second stanza, as Whalers' goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (28 saves on the night) and D'Agostini (29 saves) came up with some nifty glove and pad stops

A bad break for the Whalers resulted in the tying goal by Josh Maguire with 3:41 left in the period.

A shot from the left point by Connor

and Peterborough en-SENSKY

Boland caromed in off Maguire, stationed just outside the blue paint.

Peterbourough (13-18-0-3) went up 2-1 with four minutes to play in the third. Stephen Nosad sent the puck across to Michael Clarke between the circles and Clarke drove a low shot inside the right post.

Hartman's goal on a one-timer from above the left circle secured the point for Plymouth.

Defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto threaded a sharp pass from the right half-wall to Hartman. Also assisting was winger Matt Mistele.

"The power play actually looked good in the third," Vellucci said. "When we were desperate we played good, moved the puck and actually had a lot of chances.

"I think (Victor) Crus Rydberg also had a great shot and their goalie made a great save."

Following an overtime session where Clarke hit the left post, the Petes prevailed in the shootout on goals by Nick Ritchie and (for the winner) Jonatan Tanus.

Plymouth's only shootout marker came on a high shot by Lorentz.

The game also marked the home debut in a Whalers uniform by 17-yearold defenseman Tyler Sensky (see related story), a Canton High School ju-nior who last week was signed to fill in while Yannick Rathgeb is with Switzerland's World Juniors.

Sensky must be returned to the Honeybaked Midget Majors as of Dec. 31, Vellucci said.

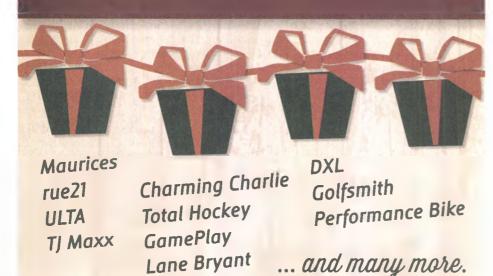
Sensky's OHL debut came in Friday night's 3-2 loss at Sarnia. Scoring for Plymouth in that contest were Hartman and right wing Connor Chatham.

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### **Continued from Page B1**

players wear visors.

"Yeah, it's a league rule that I have to wear the cage," said Sensky, shortly after experiencing the OHL perk of signing posters for young hockey players visiting the Whalers' dressing room. "I don't think (the cage) bothered my vision that much, but I have to (wear) it."

Sensky did a good job considering the circumstances, Vellucci said.

"This was a tough game (for Sensky) to jump right in and play," Vellucci said. "He played good defensively. he moves the puck well and he's strong. I don't think he'll be a great offensive guy but he's got some offensively ability, too."

According to Sensky, the games against Sarnia abled him to get a closeup look at the Ontario Hockey League style of play. He wasn't surprised or intimidated.

"It's a lot faster, the guys are a lot better, they can handle the puck a lot better, too," Sensky said. "More physical (than Honeybaked games)? Oh yeah, the guys are bigger, stronger. It's a harder game, in general."

Helping him adapt to the Compuware environment against the Petes was having logged so many practice and game hours inside the arena on Beck south of Five Mile roads for youth, travel and AAA squads.

"It's always nice because it's the home rink, I've been here all my life," Sensky went on. "Plus it's a lot fasterpaced hockey, faster hockey, better hockey. Yeah, I think I'm stepping up. I always need

getting into it.

#### **Cool response**

Since he was signed to help out the Whalers this month, Sensky has been a bit of a celebrity around Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"My classmates all know, they're all congratulating me," Sensky said. "They all think it's pretty cool, which, it's super cool.'

And by being with the Whalers, he'll have the chance to play in the OHL doubleheader on Sunday, Dec. 29, at Comerica Park (in conjunction with the Hockeytown Winter Festival).

How cool would that be?

"I love it (the opportu-nity)," Sensky said. "Who could ask for more playing outside at Comerica with the Whalers."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



#### LOCAL SPORTS

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### RUN

#### Continued from Page B1

due to poor diet or not getting enough physical activity. Their bodies simply cannot produce sufficient insulin to break down sugar, starches and other food into energy.

About 5 percent of all people with diabetes have the Type 1 form, according to the ADA.

"One of the biggest misconceptions about Type 1 diabetes is they can't as children participate in sports," Meteyer said. "Nothing could be farther from the truth. It's (to) manage what their eating, making sure that they're well-fed before a sporting event.

"My brother played in three sports when he was in high school, football, diving and track and field. He just had to make sure he consumed enough calories to support that kind of activity, because it's all about your blood sugar."

#### Still teaming up

That the trio of close-knit friends would unite to spring Rock the Clock might not surprise anybody who knows them.

Meteyer and Stamboulian became close friends in fourth grade and went on to go to North Farmington (the 2000 graduates were on the Raiders' track team).

Allen, a track and field standout at Salem (he graduated in 1999), went to Wayne State University and eventually became roommates and cross country teammates with Stamboulian.

"Nick's younger brother also has Type 1 diabetes, and so it's close to Nick's heart as well," Meteyer said. "The purpose of it is not only to raise money but spread awareness of it, because a lot of people are totally unaware of what Type 1 diabetes is exactly and how it can really affect people.

"It's more than just having

#### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

## Chiefs slow down Novi star in 35-27 triumph

#### By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Canton varsity girls basketball coach Brian Samulski fully knew putting the defensive clamps on Novi senior guard Kerri McMahan



Rock the Clock Run proceeds will help send kids to Camp Midicha, where Gerad Meteyer (pictured) was a counselor.

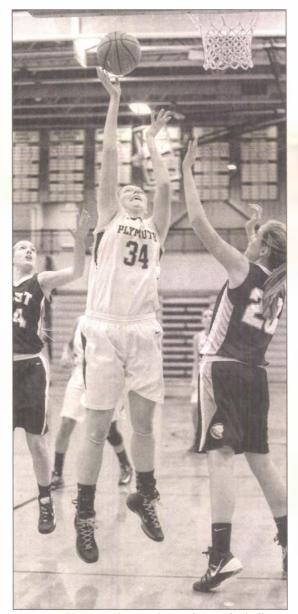


Nick Allen were teammates at Wayne State University.

to get a shot and taking your blood sugar every day. It really can affect your health in a big way. That's what Camp Midicha is set up to do, help kids understand how to take care of their health from a very young age."

Stamboulian and Allen coorganized the running aspect of Rock the Clock; they immediately brought on Meteyer (on behalf of the Gerad Meteyer Foundation) to help promote it.

"Charlie and Nick started organizing the race because they're extremely knowledgeable about the world of road races," Meteyer explained. "And they wanted to do some-





Downtown Plymouth businesses such as Sun & Snow are really coming through for the Rock the Clock Run, say Charlie Stamboulian (left) and Kyle Meteyer. ANN ESPINOZA

"A lot of people have asked 'What's the clock in Rock the Clock?" Part of our vision was an annual event, close to New Year's. It should be a really cool thing."

CHARLIE STAMBOULIAN, Rock the Clock Run co-organizer

thing good for the community."

They thought that downtown Plymouth would be the perfect place to stage the event — which is hoped to lure more than 500 runners along with family and friends.

"It's just heartwarming to see everything come together," Stamboulian said. "To see race day, all the people down here from Kyle's family, from Nick's family, from my family.

"From all the local families supporting a great cause, having a good time, running or walking, doing something that I've loved to do my whole life." He noted that the fact the

Rock the Clock Run starts and

ends in Kellogg Park "is nice, because it's around all the surrounding local businesses that are supporting the race. Plus, downtown Plymouth is a thriving area right now."

With a smile, Stamboulian said that his parents signed up for the race "and they might not even run or walk. They just want to support it."

#### 'He'll be out there'

Once it was decided to have Kellogg Park — featuring a nifty clock tower — as the site of a race taking place just before New Year's Eve, the friends quickly knew what to call the event. "A lot of people have asked "What's the clock in Rock the Clock?" Stamboulian said. "Part of our vision was an annual event, close to New Year's. It should be a really cool thing."

The unveiling of the Rock the Clock Run definitely would have lit up Gerad Meteyer's face, too.

"He loved kids," said Kyle Meteyer, beaming. "He would be absolutely thrilled to see this going on.

"And a little part of me says he'll be out there on race day running the race himself."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

## Big night for Taylor keys Canton to another win

Canton senior forward Javon Taylor's powerhouse start to the 2013-14 varsity boys basketball season continued in a big way Tuesday as he scored 23 points to spearhead the Chiefs to a 57-43 win over host Novi. The 6-6 Taylor made 8guard Jake Lenders. Contributing 11 points was senior guard Connor Cole.

Brooks also pulled down eight rebounds while junior forward Allante Wheeler and senior center Mike Hoover each tallied six boards.

ARBOR PREP 64, PCA 51:

was the best way for his team to get a win Tuesday night.

And that's what happened as the Chiefs held McMahan to 13 points (she had been eclipsing 20 points in the the previous games) as host Canton tallied a 35-27 KLAA crossover victory.

The Chiefs were relentless in the first three quarters, allowing a total of 13 points. Canton held an 18-9 halftime advantage, then took a 21-13 edge into the final stanza.

Both teams scored 14 points in the fourth.

"I thought we defended really good in the first half, took care of the ball, got good shots," said Samulski, whose team improved to 2-2 overall. "... Their full-court pressure and their half-court zone I thought we did a nice job attacking that.

"And it gave us some good opportunities and we were able to hold on."

Rachel Winter's hot start on offense to open the contest also didn't hurt. She scored five of her team's nine points in the first and finished with 12 points.

Also registering 12 points was Paige Aresco (along with six rebounds) despite battling the flu.

"I had to keep taking her in and out of the game," Samulski said. "Her effort and what she put into the game was unbelievable after being so sick yesterday."

Chipping in with 10 points, six boards and four blocks was Taylor Hunley while Shannon Perry (four rebounds), Natalie Winters (three steals) and freshman Erin Hult also helped the cause.

The loss was Novi's first of the season in four contests.

Next for Canton is Thursday's conference crossover at undefeated Livonia Stevenson.

#### Wildcats roll on

Plymouth trailed 38-35 to visiting South Lyon East after three frames Tuesday night, but firstyear head coach Nick Brandon knew his team wouldn't fold the tent.

The Wildcats, behind big fourth quarters from seniors Shelby Cheston, Jada Woody and Kylie Robb, outgunned the Cougars 21-9 in the final stanza to earn a 56-47 KLAA crossover victory.

"It was another come-from-behind win for us," said Brandon, whose team takes a 4-0 record into Thursday's contest at South Lyon.

Cheston led Plymouth with 20 points and scored eight of those in the fourth. She helped in other categories, too, with nine rebounds and eight blocks.

University of Toledo-bound Woody chipped in with 16 points (including a huge trey in the final stanza to put the Wildcats in front). Adding four late free throws to seal the win was Robb (seven points).

Brandon pointed to the "mental makeup of our team right now" as a key reason for the team's early success this season.

"Which is toughness, confidence, never quitting on each other," he added. "This team has Plymouth's Shelby Cheston (No. 34) puts the ball up during Tuesday's game. JOHN KEMSKI J EXPRESS PHOTO

bought into that attitude from the first day I took over."

Contributing 11 points was junior post Leah Kliczinski, who Brandon said played "easily her best game of the season so far. We're really proud of her effort tonight."

Junior wing Kendall Rose helped out with six rebounds while junior point guard Paige Slominski added two points.

South Lyon East (3-2) junior forward Gabi Bird scored 15 points to pace the Cougars.

**SALEM 55, WAYNE 33:** The Rocks (4-1) poured it on early with a 22-9 first quarter at Wayne Memorial and never looked back Tuesday night.

Salem built leads of 30-16 at halftime and 43-25 following three frames.

Shara Long led the Rocks with 15 points, with Jamyra Wilson and Ashley Baker each scoring nine. Adding six points was Hayley Rogers.

"We played everybody so many minutes we really didn't have a dominating rebounder," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said.

The Rocks will host Westland John Glenn 7 p.m. Thursday.

**ST. CATHERINE 49, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 28:** Jenna Rogers scored 13 points and Alex Hudson added 12 Monday to lead Wixom St. Catherine of Siena Academy past host Lutheran High Westland (1-4).

Megan McGrath added nine points for the victorious Siena Stars, who led 27-14 at halftime and 40-21 after three quarters.

Leaf Refenes led the Warriors with 11 points, while Claire Gordon added seven points and seven rebounds. Lutheran Westland shot only 10-of-36 from the floor (27.8 percent) and only

Lutheran Westland shot only 10-of-36 from the floor (27.8 percent) and only 8-of-15 from the free throw line (53.3 percent), while committing 26 turnover of-10 field goal tries and drained all seven tries from the foul line as Canton improved to 4-0 overall.

Senior forward Jordan Nobles also had a solid contest, with nine points and nine boards — eight on the defensive glass.

They again were the prime factors for the Chiefs, who led 24-20 at halftime and blew it open with a 21-13 edge in the third. But they had plenty of help.

In all, eight Canton players reached the scoresheet. Contributing nine points was sophomore forward Logan Ryan while junior forward Shaine Keyandwy added seven.

Grabbing five rebounds for the Chiefs was sophomore forward Jalen Cochran.

With the loss, Novi remained winless at 0-3.

The Chiefs return to action 7 p.m. Thursday at home against Livonia Stevenson.

PLYMOUTH 44, S.L. EAST 36: The visiting Wildcats took it to South Lyon East Tuesday night, behind Deji Adebiyi's 16 points and 13 by Randall Aikins.

Plymouth (3-0) got off to a quick 6-0 edge and that prompted South Lyon East to turn to a zone defense to slow down the Wildcats' attack.

That tactic didn't work all that well, because Wildcats coach Mike Soukup said his squad extended the lead as the game went on anyway.

"It was a slower paced game because they played zone against us," Soukup said. "But we were able to whittle them down and they finally had to come out of that zone and play us man-to-man in the last quarter."

Adebiyi also had six rebounds. Adding five points and six boards was Josh Reynolds while Kevin Justice registered four rebounds.

**SALEM 60 WAYNE 50:** Host Salem (2-1) defeated Wayne Memorial in Tuesday's KLAA crossover boys basketball matchup.

Leading the Rocks with 15 points each were junior forward Tyler Brooks and junior Another big game by Daniel Jipping was not enough for host Plymouth Christian Academy, falling Tuesday to visiting Ann Arbor Prep.

Jipping led the Eagles with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Also in double figures for PCA were Lucas Albrecht (12 points) and Michael Slater (10 points, 10 rebounds).

PCA will visit Everest Collegiate on Friday.

LUTH. WESTLAND 59, W'NAW CHRISTIAN 34: Jake Davenport poured in 20 points and P.J. Guse added 13 to lead Lutheran High Westland (3-0) to a nonconference win Tuesday over Saline Washtenaw Christian.

The Warriors led 31-20 at halftime and stretched their lead to 45-25 after three quarters.

Davenport also had eight steals, three blocks and seven rebounds, while Guse contributed four steals.

**CANTON 60, HENRY FORD 56:** Thanks to a 21-3 third quarter, the Canton Chiefs (3-0) were able to hold off a late rally by Detroit Henry Ford to claim Saturday's game at Milan.

Davon Taylor had another monster game for the Chiefs, scoring 25 points while adding 12 rebounds.

Also strong in the nonconference win was Jordan Nobles (18 points, 10 boards). Nobles dominated the third, scoring 13 of his points during that frame.

That helped the Chiefs overcome a halftime deficit of 28-22.

"We had a shaky first half but did enough to stay in the game," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "The third quarter was the best basketball we played all week, we defended, and got great shots the whole quarter.

"Thats a really good win for us against one the best teams in Class B this year. I continue to be proud of the guys for making winning plays down the stretch."

Also having an excellent game for Canton was Shaine Keyandwy, with 11 points and nine rebounds.

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#### PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

#### WAYNE COUNTY WRESTLING TOURNEY

WRESTLING TOURNEY Dec. 14 at Wyandotte TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 200 points; 2. Westland John Glenn, 150.5; 3. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 149.5; 4. Livonia Franklin, 148; 5. Riverview, 126.5; 6. Canton, 108.5; 7. Brownstown Woodhaven, 103; 8. Belleville, 91.5; 9. Wayne Memorial, 87; 10. Dearborn Fordson, 62. 11. Dearborn Vienter Carebraned, 61.11. Nexthelle Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 61; 12. Northville, 54.5; 13. Lincoln Park, 51; 14. Salem, 42; 15. Romulus 54.5; 13. Lincoln Park, 51; 14. Salem, 42; 15. Romulus Summit Academy North, 36.5; 16. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 36; 17. Dearborn, 33.5; 18. Dearborn Divine Child, 33; 19. Hamtramck, 29; 20. Romulus, 27; 21. Wyandotte Roosevelt, 26.5; 22. Redford Thurston, 23; 23. Livonia Clarenceville, 21.5; 24. Grosse Ile, 21; 25. Highland Park, 13; 26. Dearborn Heights Robicbaud 10. Robichaud, 10

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 103 pounds: John Siemasz (WJG) decisioned David Knapp (DHA), 6-4; **3rd place**: Collin Reed (PJy) dec. Moody Nasser (DHC), 11-7, **5th**: Michael Wright (Riv.) pinned Antonic Herrera (LF), 1:31, **7th**: Kyree Boatman (Bell) p. Akash Rai (Salem), 0:47. **112**: Brandon Harris (PJy) won by technical fall over Kyle Sparks (Riv.), 15-0; **3rd**: Tyler Castillo (LP) dec. Harrison Samoy (Canton), 14-8; **5th**: Jacob Emery (Wyan.) p. Cyle Snead (WJG), 0:48; **7th**: Jim Behe (N'ville) p. Lustin Fisher (DHR), 2:40. **119**: Mohamad Youssef (Ply.) dec. Chase Spanos (WJG), 10-6; **3rd**: Tim Way (WM) won by forfeit over Austin Koehler (Bell.); **5th**: Lamont Cannon CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

(HP) dec. Shawn Cohan (DHA), 8-1; 7th: Wasan Kasem (Ham.) dec. Ahmad Abou-Ghaida (DEF), 2-1 125: Kevin Huynh (WJG) p. Nathan Atienza (LF),

125: Kevin Huynh (WIG) p. Nathan Atienza (LF), 5:13; 3rd: Shunbe Wang (N'ville) won by major dec. over Rayshar Blow (Ham), 13-3; 5th: Will Dunn (DDC) dec. Devin McClain (Wood.) 3-1; 7th: Chris Brown (Bell.) dec. Tyler Mulligan (Wayne), 9-6. 130; Hassan Ajami (DF) p. Nick Robertson (LF), 3:10; 3rd: Dylan Dwyer (Ply.) won by injury default over Spencer Compo (N'ville); 5th: Armoni Gibson (Rom.) dec. Jessie Taylor (DHA), 7-2; 7th: Stahj McCou (HP) won by major dec over Devin Mom. McCoy (HP) won by major dec. over Devin Mem (Bell.), 9-1

menng (Beil), 9-1. **135:** Ben Griffin (Canton) won by tech. fall over Jamonty Houze (Bell), 17-2; **3rd:** Teddy Lossing (Riv.) dec. Austin Hussing (DHA), 4-2; **5th:** Collin Vargo (Wyan.) dec. Kevin Charara (N'ville), 8-7; **24:** Device Under the State of the State of the State of the State State Device of the State of the State of the State of the State State Device of the State of the State of the State of the State State Device of the State of the State of the State of the State State Device of the State of the 7th: Bruce Haslitt (Salem) p. Jacob Barwickowski

7th: Bruce Haslitt (Salem) p. Jacob Barwickowski (GI), 1:54.
140: Jon Conn (Ply.) p. Austin Avison (Wood.), 1:23; 3rd: Ty Jasman (Canton) dec. Haider Al-hussain (DHC), 3-1; 5th: Brandon Bellant (Bell.) p. Treveon Lane (Ham.), 4:34; 7th: Jordan Mills (Wayne) dec. Seth Dunn (Salem), 9-7.
145: Brandon Garcia (Riv.) dec. Sofus Nielson (Ply.), 10-5; 3rd: Quinn Chapman (LP) dec. Caleb Brown (Bell.), S-3, 5th: Hamad Abed (Salem) dec. Tim Nicholson (Wayne), 8-2; 7th: Brandon Crabtree (RT) p. Kamar Pleasant (Ham.), 0:18.
152: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) won by tech. fall over Nick Frazier (LF), 23-8; 3rd: Adeeb Alcodray (DHC) p. Domanick Slagle (C'ville), 5:11; 5th: Jarrod

### WRESTLING

#### Continued from Page B1

At 119, in what Guernsey said was the toughest weight class to navigate through, Mohamad Youssef defeated two-time regional qualifier Austin Koehler of Belleville in convincing, 7-0 fashion.

That merely gave Youssef the chance to go up against John Glenn's Chase Spanos and the Plymouth senior prevailed 10-6.

#### **Grit pays off**

Plymouth also won at 140 with Jon Conn improving to 11-0 with a pin of Woodhaven's Austin Avison in 1:23.

"His final match pitted him against Austin Avison of Woodhaven who couldn't fight off Jon's early onslaught and was pinned in the first period," Guernsey noted.

Canton's Ty Jasman came in third in that weight class, with his 3-1 decision over Haider Alhussain of Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

**Dezelski All-Region** 

The Chiefs did have firstplace finishers at 135 and 152, with seniors Ben Griffin and Alec Pantaleo the respective victors

Griffin won by a tech fall over Belleville's Jamonty Houze (17-2), topping a field including Bruce Haslitt of Salem (who pinned Grosse Ile's Jacob Barwickowski for seventh place).

Pantaleo also won by tech fall, a 23-8 decision over Frankln's Nick Frazier.

But to Guernsey's weeklong chalk talks with his team, it wasn't all about firsts. Plenty of Plymouth performers earned valuable points with various seconds and thirds keying the team's championship.

Falling just short of winning their weight classes were Sofus Nielson (145) and Hussein Youssef (171).

Nielson dropped a 10-5 decision to state qualifier Brandon Garcia of Riverview, but "despite the loss Nielson continued to show improvement throughout the day and season.

Ammons (Wood.) won by major dec. over Dakota Martin (Riv.), 9-0; Aaron Heinonen (Wayne) dec Tyler Dempsey (DEF), 5-3 (overtime).

Table Joens Attended (P), 3-3 (overhille).
160: Jordan Atienza (LF) won by tech, fall over
T.J. Barnes (Summit), 19-4; **3rd**: Joey Shaver (P)y.)
won by injury default over Jared Hagan (DHC); **5th**:
Marcus Wright (Riv) p. Devin Grim (DDC), 2:58; **7bb**: Zadet Meere (P) when her methods at the set of the 7th: Zander Moore (LP) won by major dec. ove

Terrance Perkins (Warne), 18-7. **171:** Hunter McCoy (DHA) p. Hussein Youssef (Ply.), 1:47; **3rd:** Matt Cylis (N'ville) dec. Sonny Botello (LP), 3-1; **5th:** Jamil Jomaa (Dbn.) p. Josh Wojtowicz (Riv.) 4:43; **7th:** Zak Nichols (Wayne) p Mitchell Retting (LF), 2:11.

Michel neuron (Lir, Z.1). 189: Derek Hillman (Wood.) won by major dec. over Diallo Matsinella (DHA), 13-3; 3rd: Brandon Underwood (Bell.) p. Tarek Tamimi (Ply.), 0:32; 5th: James Pomerico (Wayne) dec. Dan Huber (LF), 14-10; 7th: Alex James (DHR) p. Laymon Gidding-Whatley

215: Jakob Cain (DHA) dec. K.J. Wooley (Canton). (all Charles and Charles (Call won by major dec. over Daryl Conley (Su

18-4. **285**: Jordon Brandon (WJG) p. Aaron Mauldin (Wayne), 5:11; **3rd:** Ali Wahab (DHC) p. Hussein Kadouh (DF) 3:47; **5th:** Melvin Ivey (RT) p. Michael Jordan (Ply.), 0:49; **7th:** Kyle Terrell (Riv.) p. Jordan Hottum (LP), 0:25.

At 171, Hussein Youssef "looked strong once again but fell just short of a championship when he ran into twotime state qualifier Hunter McCoy of Annapolis.'

Plymouth third-place finishers included Dylan Dwyer (130) and Joey Shaver (160), with other placers including 189-pounder Tarek Tamimi (fourth) and heavyweight Michael Jordan (sixth).

#### Park performers

Other solid performances from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park wrestlers included those turned in by Harrison Samoy (fourth at 112) and 215-pounder K.J. Wooley (second at 215, losing 4-3 to Annapolis' Jakob Cain in the final) of Canton.

Salem's Akash Rai and Seth Dunn placed eighth at 103 and 140, respectively. while Hamad Abad earned an 8-2 decision over Wayne Memorial's Tim Nicholson in the 145pound weight class.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## United skaters have early success

The members of the Farmington United figure skating team are (front row, from left) Natalie Bearss, Megan Harris, Bridget Race, Amanda McConnell, Veronica Stafford, Olivia Keils and Carolyn DaBrowa and (back row, from left) Hafsa Khan, Sabrina Elia, Sydney Helwig, Allyson Lobsinger, coach Susan Moran, Kara McGlashan, Lilly Reid and

**The United Farmington** figure skating team had an excellent start to its 2013-14 season Friday with its 'A' and 'B' teams taking first place in their initial district competitions

Michaela Keils.

**FIGURE SKATING** 

BESTAN

United Farmington, which includes skaters from all three high schools, is part of District 1 with Northville, Mercy, Novi, Plymouth-Canton and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

Each team has an 'A,' 'B' and 'C' team based on the skating level of each participant, with 'A' being the most skilled.

There are three district competitions. When the results of all three are compiled, the top three teams in each level advance to the state championships in March.

In the first district meet,

United Farmington's 'A' team was first in moves and jumps and third in spins at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The 'B' team was first in all three events, while the 'C' team, which finished fourth overall, was third in moves and fourth in jumps and spins.

The United Farmington skaters are Megan Harris from Farmington High School, Carolyn DaBrowa and (captain) Bridget Race from Harrison and Natalie Bearss, Sabrina Elia, Sydney Helwig, Tolu Igun, Michaela Keils, Olivia Keils, Hafsa Khan, Allyson Lobsinger, (captain) Amanda McConnell, Kara McGlashan, Lilly Reid and (captain) Veronica Stafford from North Farmington. The team is coached by Susan Moran.

#### SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### **Canton gymnasts** topple Huron Valley

The Canton varsity girls gymnastics team Saturday defeated Huron Valley, 139.875-130.05, improving to 4-0 on the season.

**Nearly reaching 140 points** without co-captains Erica Lucas and Melissa Green again showed the Chiefs' top-notch depth, head coach John Cunningham said.

Sparking the Chiefs were all-around winners Jocelyn Moraw and Maddie Toal, each registering 35.9 points. Moraw scored 9.0 on vault, 9.05 on uneven parallel bars and 9.15 on balance beam while Toal won beam and floor exercise with scores of 9.25 and 9.1, respectively. Hailey Hodgson took second on vault (9.15) and floor (8.975) and third on beam (8.95) and all-around (34.775). Other Canton performers included Ellie Bachman (fourth on beam, 8.5) and Stephanie Cox (fifth on vault, 8.65).

also named to the Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete team for the second time.

MU ended the 2013 season with a 10-9-1 record.

#### **MU softball camps**

Madonna University women's softball coach Jerry Abraham will offer a hitting camp from 9-11 a.m. (Session 1) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (Session I) Saturday, Dec. 21 at the MU Activities Center.

The cost for each session is \$30 per player.

There will also be a funda-



Claire Dezelski (Livonia Ladywood) of Dominican University (III.) recently led the Stars to a 24-10 record, along with a berth in the NCAA Division III National Tournament. The All-Midwest Region selection, a native of Northville, averaged 3.98 kills per set as the Stars captured the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference title. Dezelski topped 20 kills twice on the season, including a season-high 29-kill effort in a victory in over UW-La Crosse. The senior posted a team-best 22 double-doubles, including a 10-kill, 11-dig effort in the Stars' first-round NCAA setback to No. 5-ranked Elmhurst College (III.).

#### **PREP WRESTLING**

## **Chargers win Hawk Havoc tourney**

Livonia Churchill made it two-for-two Saturday, earning another dual meet wrestling tournament title in the young 2013-14 season by capturing the Farmington Hills Harrison Hawk Havoc Invitational.

The Chargers, now 10-0 overall, were coming off a team title in their season opener a week earlier at the Waterford Mott Invitational.

Churchill posted victories over Farmington (40-33), Livonia Stevenson (42-33), Orchard Lake St. Mary's (48-35), Royal Oak (60-18) and host Harrison (47-32) en route to the title.

Four different Churchill wrestlers went 5-0 on the day led by senior captain Josh Perez (125 pounds), Zac Leck (140), Chase Gardner (145) and Baker Hadwan (215).

Perez led the way with four pins, while Gardner and Hadwan added three each. Leck contributed two pins.

Meanwhile, Colin Englehart (189) captured all three of his matches with two pins, while Josh Mussen (103) went 4-1 with two pins.

Freshman Ethan Englehart (112) added three wins with his only loss a 15-4 major decision setback to Michael Volyanyuk of Harrison, last year's Division 1 state runner-up at

#### 103 pounds.

Ryan Delp (160) also finished 3-2, while Brian Walrad (130), who jumped up a weight class to avoid any voids, added two victories.

#### Spartans finish 3-2

Livonia Stevenson took three of five matches in Saturday's Harrison Havoc with victories over the host Hawks (45-28), Royal Oak (61-25) and St. Mary's (40-36).

The Spartans fell to tourney champ Chur-chill (42-35) and Farmington (37-34) with both losses coming down to the final match.

"I thought we did a very nice job wrestling with a few key guys still out," Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan said. "Our young guys are getting some valuable experience that should help us at the end of the season.'

Connor Vaughan (171) went a perfect 5-0 on the day to pace the Spartans, while Emmanuel Austin (135) and Sandro Lytwyn (141) each finished 4-1. Tyler Denski (285) also won both his matches.

Stevenson, Farmington and St. Mary's tied for second with 3-2 records followed by St. Mary's and Harrison, 1-4 each, and Royal Oak at 0-5.

#### Softball camps

» The Livonia Churchill Chargers holiday hitting camp for girls in grades 3-8 will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 21, at the high school fieldhouse.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$25.

For more information, email Churchill varsity girls softball coach Steve Gentilia at Churchillsoftball@gmail.com or call 734-776-1716.

» The second annual Eddy Kettlehut Softball Defense Camp (all ages through high school) will be from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 26, and 9-11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Precision Baseball, 7835 Market Drive, Canton.

The cost for the two-day camp, which features the former University of Detroit Mercy assistant coach, is \$90. Also appearing will be Amy Dunleavy (Ferris State) and Kayce Nieto (University of Utah).

For more information, call 734-459-5921 or 248-891-1241 or email coachtomd@comcast.net.

#### **Ferrick All-America**

Madonna University senior midfielder Amanda Ferrick (Warren Cousino) was recently named NAIA All-America honorable mention in women's soccer.

A four-time All-Wolverine-**Hoosier** Athletic Conference honoree, Ferrick closed her career with her third selection to the All-WHAC first team in 2013 and posted three assists.

For her career, Ferrick recorded nine goals and 15 assists for 33 points.

A two-time Academic All-WHAC selection, Ferrick was

mentals camp from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25 (cost \$150) at the MU Activities Center.

MU will also offer a pitching camp from noon to 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 (cost \$150 per player).

For more information, email Abraham at jabraham@madonna.edu or call at 734-432-5612. You can also visit Madonna-Crusaders.com.

#### WYAA volleyball

**Registration for Westland** Youth Athletic Association girls volleyball (ages 9-17) is under way.

Games and practices will be at Marshall Upper Elementary School. League age-groups include 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17.

To register, visit wyaa.org. For more information, email wyaavolleyball2013@comcast.net.

#### **Free throw contest**

The annual Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the contest is free.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation. Contestants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

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

#### **Pitchers-catchers**

The Hawks Camps for Champs, a five-week pitcher and catcher progression camp will be from 1-2 p.m. (ages 6-12) and 2-3 p.m. (ages 13 and up) each Sunday at the Henry Ford Community College Athletic Memorial Building.

Upcoming camp dates include Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23.

The cost is \$30 for each session or \$100 for five pitching or catching sessions

To register, visit www.henryfordcamps.com.

For more information, call Steve Brown at 313-657-3200 or email sjbrown@hfcc.edu.

Livonia

Church

Livonia

is available.

Location: 11771 Newburgh,

Details: Adult Day Ministry

offers an adult daytime care

program with a specialty in

variety of health, social and

setting. Not a drop-in center

734-464-0990' www riverside-

rpadm@riversideparkchurch.org

parkchurch.org; or email to

» St. Andrew's Episcopal

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon

Location: 16360 Hubbard,

Contact: 734-421-8451.

Details: A weekly drop-in Food

Cupboard (nonperishable items)

Saturday morning

Contact: 734-367-4220 or

support services in a protective

planned program that includes a

dementia care. Includes a

#### DECEMBER **ADVENT SERVICES**

#### Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 18

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: The theme for meditations is "Waiting for the

Savior." Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

#### **BLUE CHRISTMAS** SERVICE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile. one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: This service is designed for people who struggle with the holidays, who are grieving, dealing with the loss of a loved one or the loss of a job. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service Contact: 734-513-4121

#### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24, family Christmas Eve service; 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day service Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: Free gifts for all children and visitors

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

#### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Time/Date: 4 p.m. children's service; 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road. Livonia

Details: Children's service includes story, costumes, communion and singing; candlelight and communion at remaining two services

#### Contact: 734-422-1470 **CHRISTMAS EVE** WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City. Details: Late night worship is

candlelight service Contact: 734-427-3660

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE** WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24

Location: First United Methodist Church, 3 Town Square, Wayne

Details: Candle service; barrier free

Contact: 734-721-4801 **FILM** 

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills Details: The Muppet Christmas

#### Dec. 21

Location: Lake Pointe Bible Church, 42150 Schoolcraft, Plymouth

#### Details: Living Nativity Contact: 734-420-0515

#### **NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP** Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: New Year's Eve service Contact: 313- 532-8655 or 734-968-3523

#### **JANUARY 2014 YOUNG FIVES** PROGRAM

Time/Date: Jan. 6, 2014 Location: St. Paul's Preschool and Day Care, 20805 Middlebelt, **Farmington Hills** Details: New Young Fives program begins. Preschool/day care runs 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.Mon-

day-Friday for ages 2 1/2-5. Contact: Karen or Robin at 248-474-2488 **WIDOWED FRIENDS** 

#### Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday,

Jan. 19, 2014 Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group of th Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men and women to celebrate Mass, followed by friendship and refreshments Contact: Pat at 734-895-6246

#### ONGOING **CLASSES/STUDY**

**Men's Bible study** Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m. Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

**New Life Community Church** Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays. Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville Contact: 734-846-4615 **Our Lady of Loretto** Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Details: Scripture study Contact: 313-534-9000 St. Michael the Archangel Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday. Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads the study of Acts of the Apostles

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

Ward Presbyterian Time/Date: / p.m. Mondays

#### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

Contact: 248-374-5920

MEAL

Thursday

Hills

Canton

MOMS

Church

ners

Road, Livonia

734-658-2463

and third Tuesdays

Road, Redford

**FAMILY COMMUNITY** 

Location: The Salvation Army,

27500 Shiawassee, Farmington

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every

Friday by appointment only

Location: 44815 Cherry Hill,

Contact: Call pastor Ranay

ment at 734-270-2528.

Brown to schedule an appoint-

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran** 

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Location: 14175 Farmington

Details: Mothers of Preschool-

ers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers

of infants through kindergart-

248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at

**Dunning Park Bible Chapel** 

Location: 24800 W. Chicago

moms can build friendships,

receive mothering support,

or Kristen at 734-542-0767

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

**Details:** All Creatures ULC

sponsors the service, which is

conducted in an informal set-

ting. Pet blessings are available

Nardin Park United Method-

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Details: Participate in an open

Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile,

time of praying silently and

aloud together as well as re-

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh,

Livonia. Enter through the back

Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896.

Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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

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

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon,

Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church

at 734-464-8906

Friday

Saturday

sponding to personal requests.

Five Mile, Livonia

after the service.

Farmington Hills

PRAYER

ist Church

Contact: 313-563-0162

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911

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

Details: MOPS is a place where

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at

second Tuesday, September-May

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

Details: Free meal

**FOOD BANK** 

**New Hope Church** 

#### SINGLES

**Detroit World Outreach** Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 304 **Details:** Divorce Overcomers

aroup is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes quest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome. Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

**First Presbyterian Church** Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social

time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays. Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4

mile north of Five Mile, Livonia Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others. Contact: 313-534-0399

### Ward Evangelical Presbyteri-

for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Contact: 248-374-5920

every Shabbat Location: 5075 W. Maple, West

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

**Apostolic Christian Church** Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. dailv

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia Details: Adult day care program

at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act. Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

» Detroit World Outreach Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202 Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in

Farmington Hills Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

#### Contact: 248-433-1011 » Merriman Road Baptist

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

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City Details: Metro Fibromvalgia support group meets; donations Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

#### » Riverside Park Church of God

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday



How to reach us

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

#### **BABINCHAK.** DOLORES

Age 76 ,December 16, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Frederick. Loving mother of Michael Edward, Frederick Jr. (Sally) and Debbie. Private services were held. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

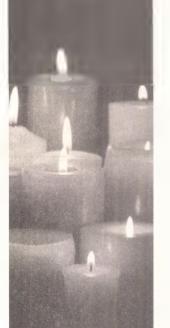


#### WRIGHT, ROLAND R.

Age 79, of Farmington Hills, died December 13, 2013. Roland is the devoted father of Randall Wright, Martin Wright, Debra Godin, Starla Adly, Julie Marino and Eric Wright. Loving grand-father of Alicia, Charles, Heath-er, Cheyenne, Austin, Melissa, Megan, Gyra, Sara, Nicole, Steven, Aiden, Owen and Avery. Great-grandfather of 17 and great-great-grandfather of one. Fond brother of Linda Campbell. Also survived by his dogs, Jack and Precious. Sadly, Roland was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie; children Edward Wright and Laura Fisher; and siblings, William Wright, Nell Wright and Mildred Sissom. Funeral Serv-ices were held Monday, December 16, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btwn 9-10 Mile Rds., just N. of Grand River), down-Farmington (248-474town 5200). Interment North Farmington Cemetery, Farmington Hills. Memorial gifts suggested to the Westland Humane Society, 900 Newburgh Rd., Westland, MI 48185

ZURN, MARTIN K. Passed away December 13, 2013. Services will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Hart-land on Friday at 12:00 p.m.

> Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



an Church Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Sunday Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Single Point Ministries.

practical help and spiritual hope. Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084

**PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE** Sona Circle

**Congregation Beth Ahm** Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m.

Bloomfield

## Contact: 248-737-1931 or email

#### nancyellen879@att.net. **SUPPORT**

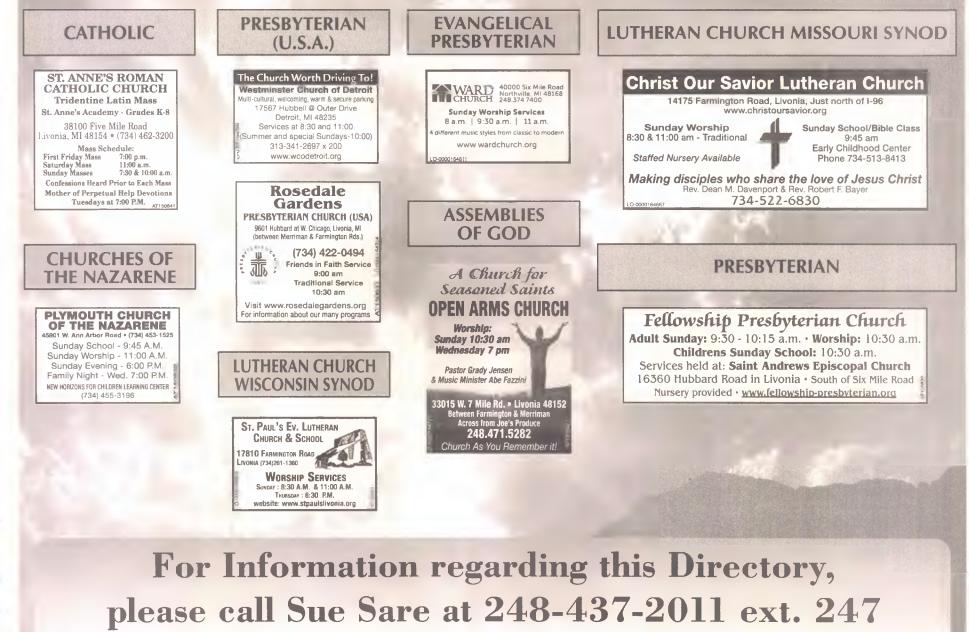
dinner Contact: 248-553-3380 NATIVITY Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Canton Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed. Contact: 734-459-3333

behavior problems, drugs alcohol, overeating, gambling. Contact:-313-255-2222, Ext. 244 » Farmington Hills Baptist Church

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#### B6 (CP) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 **OBSERVER &** ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN

## High profile: Madonna film students screen their works at Masonic Temple

#### **By Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer

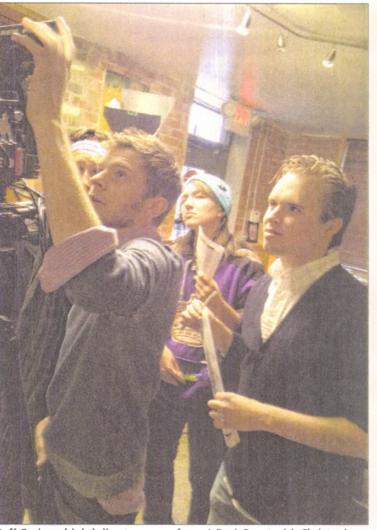
Aspiring cinematographer Tyler Henker is only a sophomore in Madonna University's Broadcast and Cinema Arts program, but he has filmed music videos, commercials, a fictional story — and worked on nearly 30 other projects over the past year and a half through its Capstone film class

"The class is set up so that you start low and work your way up," said Henker, of Canton. "I started off as a PA (production assistant) on the first shoot and came back on the second shoot as the AC (assistant camera). During a good portion of 2012 I worked in the camera department and was cinematographer on four projects: A Motor Honey music video, a BLT (Sportswear) commercial, Paulina Jayne one of the biggest country artists - her music video, and Forever Saturday, a short film.'

The public will get a chance to see those and other film projects created by Henker and his Capstone classmates at a red carpet premiere, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at The Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit; (313) 832-7100. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and a party will follow the film showcase at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Get advance tickets at tinyurl.com/CapstoneFilmClass-Premiere. The red carpet premiere will feature commercials - some that are currently airing on television locally - music videos and five short films that Capstone film class produced over two years.

#### **Hard work**

"I went to the 2011 premiere and saw their work and basically what I saw was what they did that entire year," said Jeff Graham, a Capstone student and Madonna senior from Farmington Hills. "I thought they must have put tons of



Jeff Graham (right) directs a scene from A Dark Roast with Christopher Merbley, director of photography, while Lauren Mora, second assistant director, looks on in the background.

blood, sweat and tears into what they did. That's what I'm hoping the audience will see this year. We put so much blood, sweat and tears into these projects. I hope they enjoy it. We worked hard on it.

Graham, a graphic design major, signed up for the Capstone class as a part of his minor studies in broadcast and cinema arts. Like Henker, he worked as a production assistant on his first few class projects and then moved on to production design, enabling him to incorporate his experience as an artist, in Forever

Saturday and The Hunting of the Jackalope, two short films

'I was going to shops and looking for props and making props. It's like a shopping spree and a scavenger hunt." Graham said. "After I did production design, I directed my own film called A Dark Roast, a silent film noir. I didn't know if I wanted a silent film or film noir, I decided why not do both?

"I learned so much. It's a lot of hard work but it's the experience of a lifetime. I never thought I'd get this experience out of college."



Director of Photography Tyler Henker (center) sets a shot with director Benjamin Berg (left), and gaffer lan Wolffe, on the set of Forever Saturday.

#### **Professionally run**

Teacher Jennifer Champagne, who taught the class for three years, said she ran Capstone like a professional production company. She also called on class alumni and production colleagues to help mentor each new group of film students.

"My main goal is to make sure they are employable," said Champagne, a producer and 18-year veteran of the film industry. "When they show that they are professional and know their craft, I start referring them out (for jobs). They get out of the class what they put into it.

"I hire many of them myself because I have trained them. I'm tough, but the industry is tough.'

She set many of the 2012-13 projects in Detroit. Student crews have filmed at Masonic Temple, the Max Fisher Theater, The Bottom Line Coffee House, Town Pump and more. "A lot of these students

want to move to New York or L.A., however, they've never left the suburbs. If you want to live in those areas, you need to understand what city life is like," Champagne explained. "We're at a time when Detroit is reinventing itself, there's an incredible artist community there. I think students should take a hand in that.'

The red carpet premiere will cap Champagne's threeyear teaching stint at Madonna. She plans to resume her own professional film projects full time, but won't cut ties with her students.

"I claim these kids for life and will continue having a relationship with them." She hopes the audience at the upcoming film showcase will recognize the "voice and talent" her students demonstrate in their work.

"I hope they are proud of these students. I hope they have a fabulous time and recognize Madonna as a leader in filmmaking."

## (moo cluck moo)

### Gospel version of Handel's



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(moo cluck moo)

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## Messiah aims to get toes tapping

#### **By Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer

When Pat Minnick joined the Rackham Symphony Choir 16 years ago, its singers performed Handel's Messiah nearly every Christmas season.

"We did a darn good job," said Minnick, who sings alto with the choir and coordinates music events at Schoolcraft College, Livonia.

A few years later, Rackham's director, Suzanne Mallare Acton, heard about a soulful, jazz/gospel arrangement of Handel's classic work and suggested the choir give it a try.

"We all turned our noses up at the thought of doing a jazz Messiah,' Minnick recalled.

Twelve years later, Minnick can't imagine Rackham welcoming the season without it.

"It is just absolutely fun to perform. It's true to the original score. It's just that the rhythm changes and it uses jazz motifs and gospel. The melodies are always recognizable. The arrangers did a marvelous job," Minnick said.

Rackham's Too Hot to Handel is set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Detroit Opera House. 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets range from \$20-\$68 and are available at www.michiganopera.org. Soloists Rodrick Dixon, Alfreda Burke, and Karen Marie Richardson. will perform along with the choir. The Too Hot to

Handel orchestra will include Marion Hayden, Alvin Waddles, Dave Taylor and other Detroit jazz legends.

"It's just so powerful. You've got the full orchestra and jazz players," Minnick said. "You've got trombones they never get a chance to play Messiah — and you've got organ and rhythm instruments. It's just exciting. And you don't have to be quiet. You can shout, clap, yell Hallelujah and they do."

Although the singers dress in formal attire, they get caught up in the jazzy gospel sounds, too.

"We don't stand still. It is impossible," Minnick said. "The show is diffi-

See MESSIAH, Page B7



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### **MESSIAH**

Continued from Page B6

cult to explain to people who haven't experienced it. You almost have to go and see what I'm talking about."

#### Challenging piece

Andrea Tawil, an attorney and a Livonia resident, will experience the show for the first time on Saturday as a soprano in the choir. She joined the group in January and has only sung the piece in rehearsal.

"I've done the classic Messiah, but I've never done gospel before. This has been an amazing experience," said Tawil, who sang in the choir at Churchill High School and later in a glee club at the University of Michigan.

"It's challenging in two ways. Even if you haven't done it before,



Suzzane Mellare Acton directs the choir.

most people have heard the pieces from the original *Messiah*. You want to sing the original. Then the other difficult part is not having done gospel before. It has to be technically perfect but sound free-flowing and unrestrained. It has been challenging, but in a good way. I love the sound we're getting out of it."

#### Joining the choir

Tawil was watching a choral show on television last Christmas when she decided it was time to re-charge her interest in choir. She scheduled auditions with two groups, including Rackham.

"I was terrified when I did it. I sang my piece and they had me do some arrangements, highs and lows," Tawil said. She was invited to join and stay for rehearsal.

"Talk about hitting the ground running. The first thing we were doing was the Voices of Light. There is a silent movie about Joan of Arc. In the '90s a composer wrote a choral score to go behind it. They do it every few years. We were doing the performance while the movie played."

#### More than song

Minnick said Mallare Acton often "pushes the envelope" combining the choir with a multi-media presentation, dance, narrators or film.

"The thing that keeps me at Rackham is the director," Minnick said. "Every rehearsal is a voice lesson. She has high expectations for everyone who sings there."

Minnick had sung in school and church choirs for many years before auditioning for Rackham. The group consists of approximately 85 singers. It rehearses weekly at First Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak and membership is by audition.

"Church choirs do a lot of things connected to the service. With the kind of repertoire we do, we're able to do a lot of big things. We always sing with orchestra."

For more information about Rackham Symphony Choir, visit rackhamchoir.org.



## RESTAURANT

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Lasagna
Eggplant Parmesanfull pan \$75half pan \$45
Kielbasa & Sauerkrautfull pan \$75half pan \$45
Baked or Broasted Chicken 100 pieces \$105 200 pieces \$205
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**B8 (CP)** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



**SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR** SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Resourceful cooking creates

or most home cooks, using a French coffee press to create a tasty soup broth or a microwave to make a delicious custard might seem unconventional. However, during a time of year when many are cooking warm, comforting meals inside their kitchens, these ideas on making the most of small appliances and available ingredients start to make perfect sense.

"Pressure cookers are becoming a popular kitchen tool - you see them everywhere, said chef Kevan Vetter of the McCorrmick Kitchens. "Many people, however, might not know what to do with one - or that it's actually really easy to get different kinds of flavors and meals from it.

"Cooking in 2014 and beyond is going to be

about maximizing the appliances you have on hand, and using ingredients in multipurpose, creative ways to get the big flavors we all crave. For example, there's a good chance you have something as simple and affordable as tea in your kitchen cabinets — did you ever think about using it as a cooking liquid, a savory spice rub or even adding it to a mari-nade?"

According to Vetter, these tips and others like them were inspired by the Clever Compact Cooking trend from McCormick's Flavor Forecast 2014: 125th Anniversary Edition. The trend, which highlights the inventive ways urban home cooks with limited space are still creating bold flavor, has helped cultivate a new kind of cooking -and a thoughtful, efficient way to explore flavors.

New ways to create big flavors: » Savory step — Make Vegetable Pho with Tea using a French coffee press. It's the perfect base for a vegetable version of Vietnam-ese pho, a comforting noodle soup.

» Microwavable desserts — Prepare Easy Lemon Tea Infused Custard with Candied Apricots in individual serving cups in the microwave. The bright flavor from the lemon tea is perfectly complemented by ground ginger and candied apricots.

» Pressure cooking 2.0 — Cook Cajun Spiced Chicken Risotto in a pressure cooker for a creamy dish with just the right bite to the rice; no stirring needed.

Visit www.FlavorForecast.com for more flavors, trends and recipes to try in 2014.

#### **CAJUN SPICED CHICKEN RISOTTO**

Risotto cooked in a pressure cooker comes out creamy with just the right bite to the rice, and no stirring is needed. Green tea adds a mild herb flavor to the cooking liquid in this Cajun-seasoned risotto.

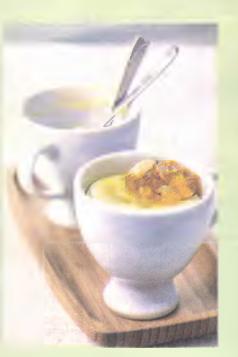
Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 15 minutes Makes 8 (1-cup) servings

2 tablespoons McCormick **Gourmet Cajun Seasoning 1 tablespoon garlic salt** 



#### EASY LEMON TEA-INFUSED CUSTARD WITH **CANDIED APRICOTS**

This custard is deceptively easy to achieve – you don't even need an oven! The lemon tea steeped custard and candied apricots are both prepared using a microwave, and can be on the table in less than 30 minutes. Prep Time: 10 minutes



- 1 teaspoon ground coriander seed
- **1** pound boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 ½ cups diced onions (1-inch dice)
- 3 cups water
- 6 green tea bags
- 2 cups Arborio rice 1 ½ cups diced assorted
- colors bell peppers (1-inch dice)
- 8 ounces andouille sausage, sliced diagonally into ½-inch thick slices
- 1 cup diagonally sliced green onions

#### 1. Mix Cajun seasoning,

garlic salt and ground coriander. Sprinkle chicken with 1 tablespoon of the seasoning mixture. Heat oil in open pressure cooker on medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook and stir 3 minutes or until browned. Add onions; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened. Add water and green tea packets. Bring to boil

2. Stir in rice, bell peppers, sausage and remaining seasoning mixture. Close lid. Bring pressure cooker to full pressure on high heat. Cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes.

3. Run cold water over pressure cooker to release the pressure. Remove lid. Remove tea bags. Stir in onions.

Test Kitchen Tip: Be sure to read the instruction manual that comes with your pressure cooker to familiarize yourself with the features of your cooker.

#### **VEGETABLE PHO WITH TEA BROTH**

This flavorful, tea-based broth steeps in a French coffee press with spices. It serves as a perfect base for a vegetable version of Vietnamese pho, a comforting noodle soup. Prep Time: 20 minutes Makes 4 servings

- 1 package (8 ounces) shirataki noodles 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Chinese Five Spice 1 teaspoon ninced garlic 1 teaspoon onion powder ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper 2 tablespoons loose Lapsang Souchong Tea 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce 4 cups boiling water **Garnishes**: 2 green onions, thinly sliced %cup thinly sliced red bell pepper ¼ cup julienned carrots ¼ cup thinly sliced shiitake mushrooms or wild mushrooms 4 sprigs fresh cilantro
- Lime wedges

1. Rinse noodles with hot water in colander. Divide among 4 soup bowls. 2. Place spices, tea leaves, hoisin sauce and water in 8-cup French press. Let stand 3 minutes. Using the French press plunger, strain stock. Pour clear liquid evenly into bowls. Sprinkle with desired garnishes.

Test Kitchen Tip: Shirataki noodles can be found in Asian markets, health food stores, or in refrigerator case in the produce aisle of some supermarkets. If unavailable, substitute 4 ounces rice noodles, cooked as directed on package

.ook lime: 15 minutes Makes 4 servings

- Lemon Tea-Infused **Custard**: 1 %cups heavy cream
- 4 lemon-flavored herb tea
- bags, such as Bigelow I Love Lemon Tea
- 4 eggs
- ¼ cup sugar ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- **Candied Apricots:** %cup finely chopped dried apricots
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons water ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- % cup sliced almonds

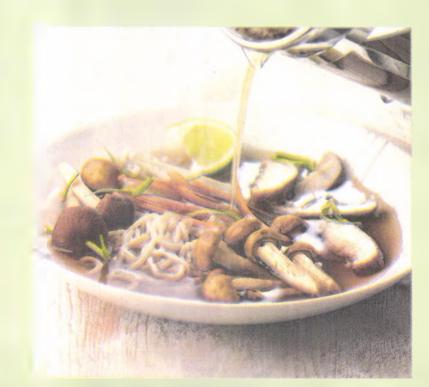
1. For the Lemon Tea-Infused Custard, microwave cream and tea bags in medi-



2. Meanwhile, for the Candied Apricots, place apricots, sugar, water and ginger in small microwavable bowl. Microwave on high 1 minute. Stir in almonds; cover. Set aside.

3. Beat eggs and sugar in large bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Gradually whisk in cream mixture. Pour into 4 (6-ounce) microwavable ramekins or cups. Microwave on medium (50 percent power) 7 minutes or just until custard is set. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes.

Serve warm with Candied Apricots. Test Kitchen Tip: Check your tea bags for metal staples. Be sure to remove before microwaving.



#### **REAL ESTATE** B9 (CP) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**JULIE BROWN, EDITOR** JCBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-6755 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Realtor group chief urges change in mortgage market

As lawmakers debate how best to reform the secondary mortgage finance market, they must ensure that any new system retains access to safe, secure and affordable sources of mortgage capital for creditworthy consumers in all market conditions or risk a major disruption to the economy, warned the National Association of Realtors recently in testimony before the Senate Committee on Bank-ing, Housing and Urban Affairs.

On behalf of the leading advocate for homeownership and housing issues, NAR President Gary Thomas recommended essential reforms to the current housing finance structure that will benefit consumers.

"Realtors support a stable secondary mortgage market with strong, reasonable lending standards and access to

credit. We believe that the current system can be transitioned into a marketplace that is bound by an explicit government guarantee and a sustained flow of private capital while protecting taxpayers from unnecessary risk," said Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif. "We fear that without the government's backing, the only mortgage products available in the secondary market for the average homebuyer would not be aligned with their best interests

NAR supports the bipartisan "Housing Finance Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2013," which provides for an explicit government guarantee and includes many of the elements outlined in the association's principles for secondary mortgage finance reform that NAR presented to the administration in early 2011.

During his testimony, Thomas expressed concern about emerging barriers to homeownership facing middle class and first-time buyers that could potentially derail the housing recovery. "Apprehensive bankers are leery about issuing new loans as a result of proposed risk retention rules and ability-to-repay requirements that are set to go into effect next year. At the same time, rising interest rates and growing student loan debt is limiting consumers' access to credit and contributing to an already tight lending environment.

Realtors urged policymakers to prioritize strong underwriting standards over high down payment requirements that would put homeownership out of reach for otherwise creditworthy buyers.

Rather than adopt a complex Qualified Residential Mortgage rule, NAR believes the agencies should follow the strong standards set by the **Consumer Financial Protec**tion Bureau for the related Qualified Mortgage Rule.

Thomas warned against other proposals that would restrict lending, such as lowering loan limits and putting private capital in a 10 percent first-loss position, which could inhibit private investors from participating in the secondary mortgage market, especially during periods of economic distress

"Our goal is to help Congress, and our industry, design a secondary mortgage market model that will serve America's best interests today and into the future, and ensure a strong housing market and economic recovery," said Thomas.



NAR President Gary Thomas appears before the U.S. Senate committee.

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#### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 12-16, 2013, at the Oakland

7268 Glengrove Dr 2393 Heronwood Dr 1167 Hill Line Trl

\$275,000 33634 Heritage Hills Dr 35124 Knollwood Ln \$860,000 \$575,000 28707 Lake Park Dr

\$261,000 24408 Cavendish Ave E 28385 Declaration Rd \$178,000 \$210,000 21894 Dunnabeck Ct

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\$88,000

\$37,000

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\$138,000

\$2,000

\$70,000



Robert Meisner

## Keep up-to-date on flood legislation

Q: Could you give me some basic information about the Biggert Waters **Flood Insurance Reform Act** of 2012 (BW Act)? A: The BW Act requires that

most properties insured through the National Flood Insurance Program be charged rates reflecting the full risk of flood loss. The premium increases apply immediately to flood insurance policies covering businesses and when residential properties are sold or a lapsed policy is renewed. Additionally, the BW Act re-quires that flood insurance rate maps be updated on an expedited schedule. Apparently, due to BW Act reforms, many homeowners are facing significant increases in their flood insurance premiums. It may be that these increases are so substantial that owners can no longer afford to maintain flood insurance coverage. Obviously, this is a substantial problem for homeowners in areas where flood insurance coverage is required by federal law for mortgaged properties. To help Congress better understand the impact of BW Act reforms, the law required that FEMA determined how flood insurance rate hikes would affect homeowners living in areas where flood insurance coverage is mandatory. The BW Act additionally required that FEMA study how substantial increases in flood insurance premiums would affect overall participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. There is new legislation that has been submitted in an effort to set aside substantial flood insurance rate hikes, but you are best advised to consult with your local congressperson or senator as to how it may impact on you.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of " Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. " Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of " Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities. addresses. and sales prices.

#### **BEVERLY HILLS**

16905 Buckingham Ave \$158,000 \$285,000 20250 Coryell Dr 17010 Dunblaine Ave \$245,000 20024 Ronsdale Dr \$338.000 31146 Sunset Ct \$343,000 **BINGHAM FARMS** \$290,000 30215 Oakview Wav 23615 Overlook Cir \$259,000 BIRMINGHAM 1494 E Melton Rd \$212,000 \$415,000 809 Henrietta St 680 Landon St \$425,000 975 Mohegan St \$778,000 928 N Adams Rd Unit 1 508 Oakland Ave \$319,000 \$273,000 455 Smith Ave 1674 Webster St \$205,000 **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** 1050 Frankel Ln \$243,000 \$538,000 4366 Risdon Ct 2536 Robindale Ln \$190,000 3017 Anthony Ln \$725,000 \$605,000 486 Dunston Ct 2049 E Hammond Lake Dr 494 Fox Hills Dr N # 7 \$230,000 3922 Mount Vernon Dr \$1.040.000 3104 Ouarton Rd 684 Rudgate Rd **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** 2536 Alveston Dr 1526 Ardmoor Dr 3721 Darlington Rd S \$430,000 5965 Darramoor Rd 122 Eileen Dr

1671 Hoit Tower Dr 2696 Kentmoor Rd 566 Lahser Rd 545 Newburne Pointe 4572 Ranch Ln 2854 Rossmoor Cir 4506 Walden Dr 5356 Woodlands Estates 5138 Woodlands Ln 42536 Woodward Ave **COMMERCE TOWNSHIP** 4235 Bluebird Dr 2287 Calibouge 3364 Circle Dr 1446 Commerce Shrs 710 Devon Ct 8339 Dickert St 2931 Gabriel Dr 2041 Golfcrest Dr 3100 Greenlawn Ave 2760 Orenda St FARMINGTON 36648 Heatherton Dr 34515 Oakland St 35988 Smithfield Rd **FARMINGTON HILLS** 23443 Barfield St 28840 Bella Vista Dr 31805 Bond Blvd \$61,000 38400 Chessington 21933 Crescent Ct 21945 Crescent Ct 28953 E King William Dr \$950.000 21663 Flanders St \$222,000 30379 Fox Club Dr \$331,000 22975 Fox Crk 35523 Fredericksburg Rd \$240,000 37394 Glengrove Dr \$179,000 37618 Glengrove Dr

\$333,000 29333 Medburn Ct \$380,000 30973 Oak Valley Ct \$275,000 29521 Pine Ridge Cir 26766 Plumgrove Ln \$459,000 25300 Ridgewood Dr \$875,000 29537 S Meadowridge \$205,000 30445 Springland St \$455.000 \$1,325,000 31094 Sudbury St 33195 Tulipwood Rd \$350,000 32900 W 10 Mile Rd 28841 W King William Dr \$82,000 FRANKLIN \$515,000 31074 Oakleaf Ln \$254,000 32455 Susanne Dr \$70,000 LATHRUP VILLAGE \$179,000 18160 Cambridge Blvd \$340,000 18100 Coral Gables Ave \$300,000 18225 Coral Gables Ave \$130.000 MILFORD \$375,000 3105 Central Blvd \$150,000 237 Dorchester Ct \$155,000 440 Hickory Ridge Ct 696 Oak View Ln \$240,000 619 Olivia Dr \$243,000 1134 Riverstone Cir \$219,000 629 Summit Ridge Dr 1148 Tennyson Dr \$127,000 NORTHVILLE \$140,000 332 Debra Ln \$178,000 21274 Eastfarm Ln \$138,000 52311 Ferndale Dr \$230,000 43764 Galway Dr \$221,000 21605 Parkwood Ln \$340.000 1100 Washington Cir \$160.000 21153 Woodfarm Dr \$325,000 NOVI \$218,000 30780 Ardmore Ct \$270,000 27524 Belgrave Pl \$280,000 22633 Bertram Dr \$290,000 22824 Bravdon Ct

\$200,000 44659 Ellery Ln \$262,000 44661 Ellery Ln \$130,000 42709 Faulkner Dr 24709 Jamestowne Rd \$168,000 \$383,000 50502 Langley Dr \$175,000 27065 Maxwell Ct \$250,000 27089 Maxwell Ct 51218 Mayfair Ter \$279,000 \$172,000 22264 Meridian Ln 42675 Sandstone Dr \$285.000 \$330,000 47194 Scarlet Dr S 23739 Stonehenge Blvd \$624,000 42545 Wimbleton Way \$444,000 **SOUTH LYON** 61343 Dean Dr 61210 Greenwood Dr \$111,000 \$120,000 51980 Red Cedar \$220,000 52107 Red Cedar 23288 Shinnecock Dr \$69,000 52258 Trailwood Dr 873 Westhills Dr \$280,000 \$63,000 941 Wood Run \$238,000 SOUTHFIELD 21826 Eight 1/2 Mile Rd \$405,000 \$288,000 30230 Canterbury Dr \$165,000 19661 Filmore St 20270 Mada Ave \$380,000 27655 Pierce St 30039 Pleasant Trl \$266,000 \$225,000 23902 Plumbrooke Dr \$50,000 15564 Shellev St \$250,000 WHITE LAKE \$298.000 9381 Beechcrest St \$130,000 8080 High Point Trl 9375 Mandon Rd \$205,000 44 Myrick St \$150,000 8884 Sussex St \$307,000 \$380,000 \$375,000

#### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 3-6, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities. addresses. and sales prices.

#### CANTON

42674 Beechwood Dr 44160 Brandywyne Rd 3810 Brighton Ln 4245 Brookstone Dr 147 Cherry Hill Pointe Dr 8747 Columbia Cir 50753 Federal Blvd 45658 Fountain View Dr 43578 Fredericksburg St 50213 Jefferson St 4164 Kristine Ct 49016 Manhattan Cir 45475 Muirfield Dr 45499 Muirfield Dr 4729 Pond Run 1534 Rand Rd 49074 Rockefeller Dr

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45166 Saltz Rd 44195 Sheridan St 717 Stonehenge Dr 4275 Strathmore Ln 7270 Wadebridge Dr 42023 Woodbridge Dr 46495 Woodside Dr **GARDEN CITY** 32176 Dover St 30003 Maplewood St LIVONIA 9654 Arcola St 15405 Brookfield St 37170 Curtis Rd 38958 Donald St 39295 Donald St 9951 E Clements Cir 9290 Florida St 34315 Haldane Dr 9040 Hanlon St 14109 Harrison St 14055 Hix St 11027 Ingram St 14148 Ingram St

1700 S Sheldon Rd

\$58,000 35450 Joy Rd \$130,000 32611 Lyndon St \$240,000 19269 Norwich Rd \$222,000 9627 Shadyside St \$185,000 34257 Wadsworth St 16410 Wayne Rd \$425,000 \$155,000 18526 Westbrook Dr \$365,000 28912 Westfield St 30025 Westfield St \$73,000 NORTHVILLE 46528 Seven Mile Rd \$112,000 19409 Althea Ct \$144,000 20180 E Whipple Dr \$150,000 42287 Ludlow Ct \$365,000 39551 Muirfield Ln \$156,000 41296 Rayburn Dr \$152,000 16481 White Haven Dr \$85,000 PLYMOUTH \$140,000 1020 Cherry 11798 Deer Creek Run \$310,000 \$95,000 41461 E Ann Arbor Trl \$125,000 41339 lvywood Ln \$148.000 14169 Meadow Hill Ln \$150,000 730 Penniman Ave \$150,000 42955 River Bend Dr

\$260,000 41770 Schoolcraft Rd \$190,000 REDFORD \$257,000 25301 Five Mile Rd \$125,000 9217 Columbia \$75,000 8900 Dixie 20531 Lennane \$253,000 \$172,000 9952 Nathaline \$155,000 9651 Seminole 9159 Tecumseh \$140,000 10132 Tecumseh \$313,000 WAYNE \$129.000 33751 Forest St \$330,000 WESTLAND \$218,000 37543 Colonial Dr \$315,000 6785 Moccasin St \$325,000 1650 N Berry St \$270,000 34424 Parkgrove Dr 7860 Rivergate Dr \$350,000 8639 Shari Dr \$402,000 6391 W Morgan Cir \$85,000 33630 Warren Rd \$189,000 7380 Woodview St # 1 \$138.000 \$260,000 \$215,000

#### BRIEFS

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If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Organizers will discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

#### Seminar on Tuesdays, Thursdays

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m., held at various locations.

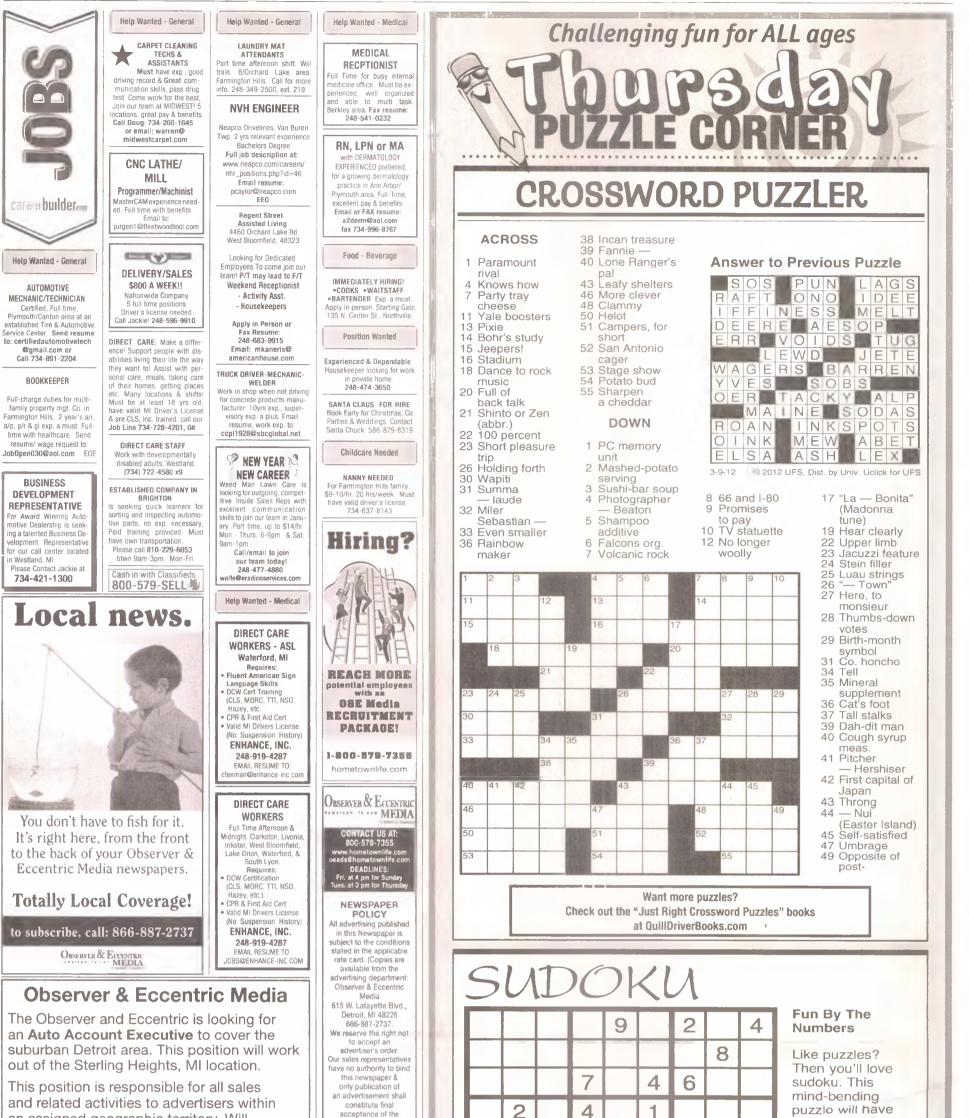
**RSVP** with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

#### **Free foreclosure tours**

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

#### B10 (\*) 0 & E Media | Thursday, December 19, 2013



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

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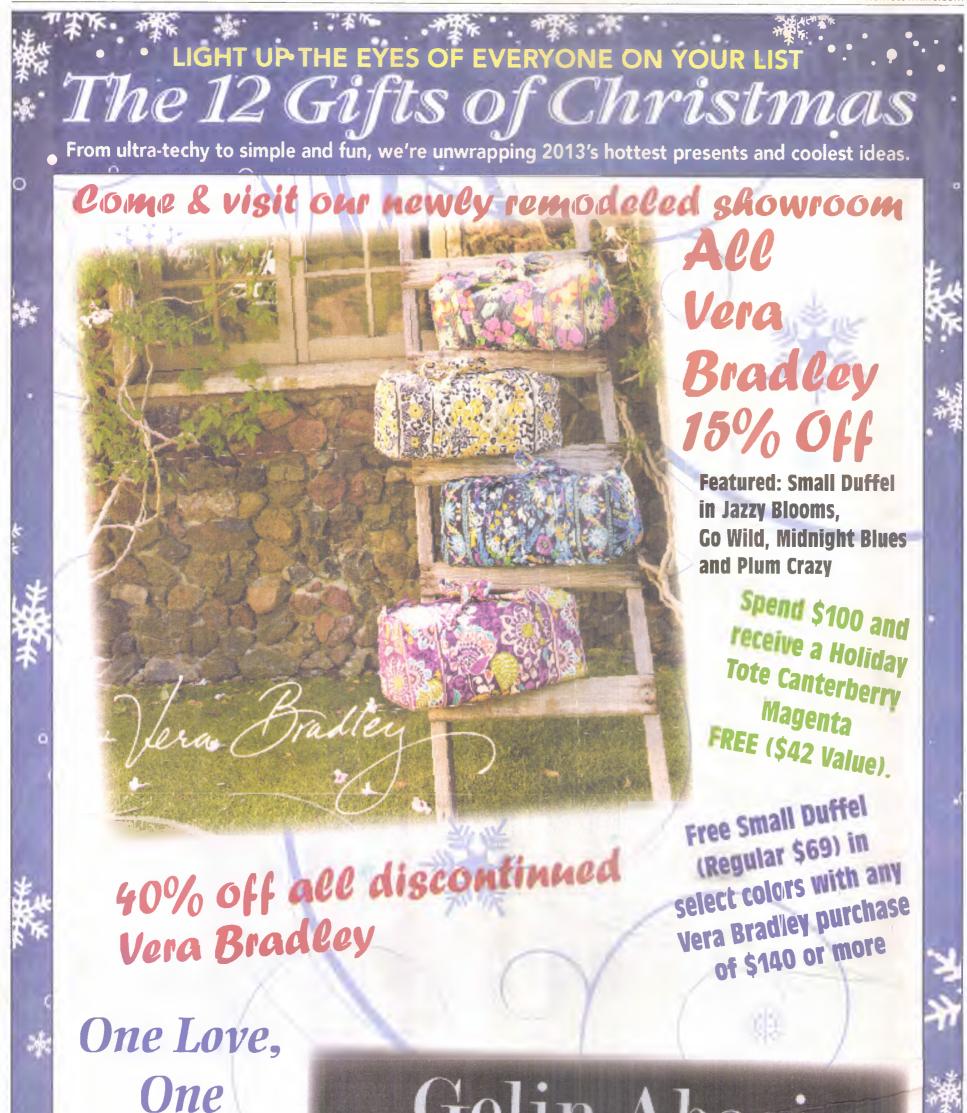
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