



A TASTE ADVENTURE FOR THE **HOLIDAYS** FOOD, B8

Dear Santa... All I want for Christmas **READERS' LETTERS TO SANTA, A8**

PRICE: \$1 • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 • hometownlife.com

Jazz time

Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, presents the American-made tradition of jazz at Jazz @ the Elks the last Tuesday of every month in a beautiful club setting.

This month's featured act is the talented and humorous group Ron Kischuk and Friends. The event takes place 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27; cost is a \$5 donation at the door.

For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or go to www.plymouthelks1780.com.

Chorale tryouts

BeckRidge Productions announces its upcoming season for **Cherry Hill Singers and** BeckRidge Chorale. **Cherry Hill Singers** is a non-auditioned choir whose rehearsals begin Monday, Jan. 16 at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church (321 Ridge Road in Canton).

BeckRidge Chorale is an auditioned choir and auditions will be held Jan. 3, 10 and 17. Their rehearsals are Tuesday nights and begin Jan. 17 at Plymouth First United Methodist Church (45201 N. Territorial in Plymouth).

Contact Kelly Fifield at kelly@beckridgechorale.org to schedule an audition or for more information about either choir.

Arts event

The Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities hosts its spring fundraiser, "Rock-n-Roll Valentine's," Friday, Feb. 10, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The event starts with a 7 p.m. reception; the concert, featuring local favorite Steve King and the Dittilies, starts at 8 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at www.cantonvillagetheater.org. They are \$30 each or \$25 if purchased by Jan. 10.

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Fire tax question headed to ballot



There were extra chairs out — and a few empty seats — at a special Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meeting Monday, during which the board held a public hearing on a ballot proposal to create a special assessment district to raise money for the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

The fate of a proposed special assessment district that would raise money for the Plymouth Community Fire Department, debated for months as a way to replace revenue that will be lost when the city of Plymouth leaves the joint department, is in the hands of Plymouth Township voters.

The township Board of Trustees voted Monday to put the issue on the Tuesday, Feb. 28, primary ballot. The vote was a response to a petition drive by supporters of

the 23-member department and a Wayne County Circuit Court judge's ruling Dec. 1 that the petition drive had met the requirements of state law and the board had a duty to act on it.

"That's the only reason," said Trustee Steve Mann, who made the motion to put the question on the ballot. "I'm not interested — I don't think this board is interested - in raising taxes." Mann and the five other board members present voted for putting the question on the ballot; Clerk Joe Bridgman was absent.

The ballot proposal, if approved, would create a spe-

cial assessment district, or SAD, of all the taxable property in the township and give the board the authority to annually levy a tax of up to 10 mills for fire department equipment and facilities, and an unlimited amount for operations and maintenance, beginning next December.

Changes promised

Mann, an attorney and former township supervisor, said changes are coming to the department - mostly because of Plymouth's departure from it. The city is leaving the 16-

Please see FIRE, A6



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh Isenhardt is the social media pastor for NorthRidge Church.

Churches turn to Facebook, Twitter to help tell Gospel story

By Karen Smith Observer Staff Writer

God used angels more than 2,000 years ago to announce the birth of Jesus.

Today, churches are using Facebook, Twitter and other modern technology to help spread the Gospel message.

Though the message is the same — God loves everyone so much he sent his only son to save them — the way that message is delivered has changed over the centuries.

"We definitely see social media as one of the languages of the culture (now)," said Josh Isenhardt, 30, social media pastor at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township. This generation considers Facebook a modern-day town square. "Why wouldn't we have a presence there?"

NorthRidge, Bell Creek Community Church in Livonia and Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills are among the local churches that are implementing some of the latest technologies.



NorthRidge Church is using social media to aid in spiritual formation. "Ultimately, we want to see people grow to be more like Christ," Pastor Josh Isenhardt said.

Virtual campus

NorthRidge added a virtual campus this year. It has a brick and mortar campus in Plymouth Township, and meets in schools in Saline and Howell.

In the virtual campus, members from around the country and world simultaneously visit the church's website (northridgechurch.com) at 7 p.m. Sunday to watch a rebroadcast of the weekend service and participate in a live-time chat room, even praying for each other.

"Church online is for those

people who are not ready to step into the physical loca-

tion," Isenhardt said. Bell Creek Community Church, which meets at Franklin High School in Livonia, used Twitter for the first time this year to remind people to pray during the week. The church tweeted the word "pray" to those who had signed up to be reminded during a series the church held on prayer.

"We found that it was very effective, and it's something we're going to keep doing," said pastor Fred Wright, 43. "It was amazing how many of our folks signed up."

Twitter a witnessing tool

Grace Chapel started using Twitter as a witnessing tool this summer during a mission trip to Kentucky, said Daniel Rose, 35, assistant pastor.

Members were tweeting on Please see CHURCHES, A5

Hearing delayed in child porn case

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

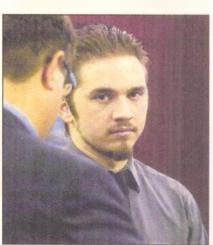
A Monroe man facing computerrelated child pornography charges remains free on bond after agreeing Monday in 35th District Court to postpone his preliminary hearing in the case.

J. Henry Lievens, the attorney for suspect Tavis Greene, said defense time for evidence discovery. Judge Ron Lowe rescheduled the hearing for Thursday, Dec. 29, in district court.

Greene, 24, was arrested Dec. 9 and arraigned the next day on six counts of using a computer to communicate with another to commit a crime, three counts of distribution of child sexually abusive material and three counts of possession of child sexually abusive material.

Authorities said investigators found evidence of child pornographic materials - and that some children in those materials appear as young as 10 — on a computer belonging to Greene. The investigation had been conducted jointly by the Wayne County Sheriff's Depart-

Please see DELAY, A4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER The preliminary hearing for Tavis Greene, charged with multiple pornography-related counts, was delayed until Dec. 29.

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Paper-cutters Sue Emens (left), Roger Buelow and Tina Porcari were among the more than 80 volunteers who helped wrap more than 900 gifts for military veterans. The event took place Saturday at the Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, and the gifts are being distributed to veterans in need through hospitals and homeless shelters.

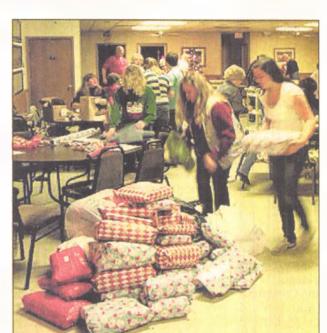
Volunteers' efforts remember vets in need

More than 80 volunteers wrapped more than 900 gifts Saturday at Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780 as part of the Elks' 34-year-old program of distributing Christmas gifts to military veterans in need.

The volunteer wrappers included Elks members and their spouses as well as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and family members and friends. Money for the gifts came from donations from individuals and organizations, and some of the presents were also donated, including as lap blankets and afghans from members of Divine Savior Church, and toothbrushes and toothpaste from local dental practitioners Tom Mores and Peter Leone.

The gifts were to be distributed through the veterans hospitals in Detroit, Ann Arbor and Battle Creek, as well as to homeless veterans through three different shelters.

The gifts include toilet-



Volunteers wrapping Christmas gifts for veterans Saturday included Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, plus Elks and their spouses and family members. The gift packages included the lap blankets being stacked here.

Christmas Eve:

5:00 and 7:00 pm

Family Oriented Worship

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

with Communion

Christmas Day:

10:00 am

ries, mints and playing cards.

"They were there when we needed them; it's our turn to be there when they need us," said Stewart Israel, the local Elks' chairman for veterans

Welcome to Christmas

St. Michael

Lutheran Church

affairs. "This is a happy time of year for most of us, but it can be the most depressing time if you're sick, lonely, or homeless. They need our thanks and gratitude. They need to be remembered."

designed to announce

AROUND PLYMOUTH

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Dates/Times: Dec. 24-26, Dec. 31-Jan. 2 **Location:** Plymouth District Library **Details:** The Plymouth District Library will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The Library drop-box off the parking lot is open all the time. Materials can be renewed or put on hold anytime through the Library's website - plymouthlibrary.org

DRUM CLASSES

Date/Time: Wednesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 1, 5-6:30 p.m.

Location: Artico House, adjacent to the Plymouth Community Arts council, 724 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Join instructor and professional drummer Pat Paul Sorise at the Plymouth Community Arts Council for a new series of Drum Classes in the New Year. First will be Beginner Drum Set 100 (5-5:45 p.m. for ages 7 to adult), which will introduce students to holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, how to count and play quarter and eighth notes and introduce/play the drum set. For the advanced and experienced drummer the PCAC will open a new section of Advanced Drum Set 200 (ages 7 to adult, 5:45-6:30 p.m.). This class will identify drums/cymbals, wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns.

Contact: To learn about other great opportunities at the PCAC or a complete list of classes offered visit www.plymoutharts. com or stop in the PCAC at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth, or call (734) 416-4278.

GUEST SPEAKER

Date/Time: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1:30-3 p.m. **Location:** Plymouth District Library

Details: The PCCA Writing Club will host guest speaker Jeff Jahn, owner of Keepsake Family Tree Video, who will present a documentary that he produced and other mixed media. He describes his business as "Telling the Stories of the Not So Rich and Not So Famous on Modern Media." He will demonstrate what can be done with old photos, 8mm film and videotapes to build a family history to put on DVD for preservation, restoration and narration of memorable events that families want to share.

Contact: RSVP by calling 453-1234 x236

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30

Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www.



Poinsettia power

Theresa Woodward, who works at NSS Technologies in Plymouth, couldn't wait to get to Pinter's Flowerland in Belleville to walk through the greenhouses and look at almost 30,000 poinsettias in a variety of beautiful colors. Woodward said likes the variety of colors, high quality and longlasting plants that will decorate her home. Pinter's has been a family owned and operated business for over 80 years, and has a location in Redford Township.

stekmops.org.

MAGIC SHOW

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m.
Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill,
50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

Details: Las Vegas magician and Michigan native Aaron Radatz returns to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Radatz presents his one-man show of magic and comedy with a holiday flavor that is geared to entertain the entire family. Performing at this venue has become a holiday tradition for Radatz. Tickets range from \$17 to \$22 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5300.

TIME MACHINE

Date/Time: Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill,
50/100 Cherry Hill in Capton

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Details: Celebrate the past and toast the future when veteran rockers, "Time

the future when veteran rockers, "Time Machine," will ring in 2012. Make this New Year's celebration one to remember as you take a journey back through classic rock history with covers from your favorite bands, including the Stones, Beatles, Bob Seger, Alice Cooper, Bad Company, Fleetwood Mac, Kid Rock and Van Morrison. The \$45 ticket includes a strolling buffet, two sets of classic rock music on stage, desserts, favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

Contact: (734) 394-5300 or visit www. CantonVillageTheater.org.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Bronze winners

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials were recently notified that 15 of its elementary schools have been recognized with Healthier U.S. School Challenge Propose Avgorde

lenge Bronze Awards.

This is a national initiative to promote healthier school meals, physical activity, fitness opportunities and nutrition education for students. Last year, Dodson Elementary earned the award, and District food service staff and Board of Education members visited the White House (in October, 2011) to be honored by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Only 16 Michigan schools earned this distinguished award this year. Other than P-CCS schools, Forest Hills Public Schools' Knapp Forest Elementary School was the only other Michigan school to earn the honor.

All 16 P-CCS elementary schools have now earned the award.

Community Education

It is time to register for winter 2012

classes through Plymouth-Canton Community Education. New classes for children and adults begin in January. There are enrichment courses in arts, crafts, exercise and much more. To register, go to pcceregister.com or call (734) 416-2937.

TAG screening

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is now accepting nominations to screen students for admission to its Talented and Gifted program for the 2012-2013 school year.

The district will be expanding the number of available positions in the program and is encouraging testing for students who are considering this option. To apply for admission to the program, a student must reside within the P-CCS district boundaries and be in grades two to seven. Screening for the program involves two phases of standardized testing. Nomination forms are available on the TAG website at http://tag.pccs.k12.mi.us and must be completed and submitted online by Feb. 6, 2012.





CITY OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USES OF 2012-2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Plymouth is announcing its objectives and possible uses for developing projects using Year 2012-2013 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

OBJECTIVES:

To provide benefits to senior citizens.

To provide benefits directly to persons of low/moderate income and/or areas in which at least 51% of the residents are of low/moderate income.

To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG funded programs

PROPOSED YEAR 2012-2013 PROJECTS:

The City anticipates receiving approximately \$56,779 in CDBG funds for the contract year 2012-13, and has identified the following potential projects and corresponding estimated allocations for use of these funds:

ADA and/or Public Facility Improvements Public Services- Senior Transportation Administration/Planning \$40,313 \$10,788 \$ 5,678 TOTAL \$56,779

à.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects listed above, and to suggest other projects. All projects must meet one of the Federal CDBG objectives.

A public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed uses of 2012-2013 CDBG funds, and additional suggestions for use of said funds, will be held at the Plymouth City Commission Meeting on Monday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk

Publish: December 22, 2011

Feds snub Canton's 275/Ford plan — again

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

For a frustrating third time, federal officials have snubbed a \$20.3 million proposal to reshape the I-275/Ford Road interchange in Canton and ease traffic congestion around one of Michigan's most accident-prone

Barring yet a fourth round of so-called TIGER grants — Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery — Canton officials concede they will have to pin their hopes on a state-funded solution, which has indeed gained momentum amid bipartisan support from Michigan legislators.

"I'm disappointed we didn't get TIGER III, but we're not going to give up," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the Michigan Department of Transportation already is moving forward with a traffic and environmental impact study of the I-275/Ford Road interchange that should be completed by 2013.

"They don't fund a study unless there is going to be a project," Faas said.

The overriding question is when, and officials can't say with certainty.

However, the project is expected to gain more momentum when the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, likely in March, is expected to add the long-awaited project to its list of regional transportation projects.

"By the end of 2012 we have a very good chance of getting the project shovel-ready," LaJoy said.

Project endorsedOfficials from Canton,

neighboring communities

and Lansing — including the full state Senate and the House Transportation Committee — have formally endorsed the need to fix the beleaguered interchange and ease conditions along traffic-clogged Ford Road.

"Now we're on the radar," LaJoy said.

The project as touted would add new ramps from the southbound I-275 exit to allow motorists to travel either north or south on Haggerty without getting onto Ford Road. It also proposes a northbound service drive along the east side of the interstate from Cherry Hill Road to north of Ford.

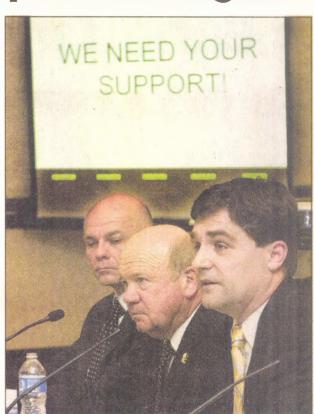
The traffic and environmental study comes next, Faas said, followed by eventual phases for design and construction.

Canton officials got the word last Friday that the I-275 project had been overlooked yet again in third-round TIGER grants. Moreover, federal officials announced just one TIGER grant for all of Michigan — an effort in St. Clair County to pave a gravel road and improve the Smiths Creek Road Bridge to improve access to a landfill that houses the nation's first "septage bioreactor," which uses garbage and sewage to create energy.

Other choice

An estimated 2,300 people a day are projected to use that road, compared to at least 50,000 motorists who travel Ford Road every day. Federal officials allocated \$3.6 million for the St. Clair County project, far less than the \$20.3 million sought for the I-275 proposal.

Faas had said early on the competition would be fierce as federal officials approved some \$527 million for project proposals that reached a startling \$14.3 billion.



Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas (from left), Supervisor Phil LaJoy and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, talked state legislators into supporting the project, but the feds still aren't convinced and turned it down

Plymouth United Way awards basic needs grants

In response to increasing requests for rent and utility assistance, Plymouth Community United Way recently awarded grants to nonprofit organizations that help lowincome residents of Plymouth and Canton. The challenging economic times have created a crisis for local families desperate for food and basic human

The Salvation Army-Plymouth Corps received \$20,000 to help families in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville. On average, The Salvation Army receives 8-to-10 calls

a day to prevent shutoffs and evictions.

"The grant will help us to assist 27 individuals with rent or utilities that we wouldn't have been able," said Maj. Daniel Hull. "At this time in the economy there is great need. There has been less utility assistance funding this year. We're getting a number of calls from people in shutoff who turn to the Salvation Army and the grant enables us to respond."

Cuts to the federally and state funded Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Assistance Funds (LIEEF) have hampered the ability of organizations like The Salvation Army, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, St. Vincent de Paul and THAW (The Heat and Warmth Fund) to assist residents. Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency asked for and received a grant for \$5,000 for emergency utility assistance and energy education classes to help low-income residents in Plymouth and Canton lower utility bills.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. John Neumann Conference is using its \$7,000 to provide rent, food, clothing and utility assistance to those in need in the Canton community.

Earlier this year, a number of nonprofits received grants from Plymouth Community United Way including St. Vincent De Paul at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth (\$7,000), Southeast Michigan Homeless Veterans (\$1,500), New Hope Center for Grief Support (\$3,000), Personalized Nursing Lighthouse (\$5,000), and St. Christine's Food Pantry (\$5,000).

Along with awarding grants, Plymouth Community United Way raises funds year round for partner agencies including First Step, Angela Hospice, The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, and Plymouth Community Council on Aging. The nonprofits offer a variety of services from food pantries to bus transportation for seniors, housing for adults with developmental disabilities, and programs and a safe shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Visit www.plymouthunitedway.org to learn about a variety of ways to give and volunteer, or call (734) 453-6879.



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Hearing moved in child abuse case

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

A 4-month-old Canton boy allegedly abused by his father had been removed from a life-supporting ventilator, the maternal grandfather said Wednesday morning, two weeks after the baby's father was accused of pushing the child's head against the floor of a residence on Michigan Avenue near Sheldon.

"He's not doing any better," Sal Alongi, the grandfather of little Hunter Sewejkis, said at press time Wednesday. "He's fighting on right now, but it's still a matter of time."

Hunter suffered a fractured skull and extensive brain damage during a Dec. 7 incident that led to criminal charges against 25-year-old Anthony Lawrence Sewejkis, who has admitted he "messed up bad."

Lora Weingarden, a lead

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The preliminary hearing for Anthony Sewejkis was delayed until Jan. 5.

attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, has told 35th District Judge Ronald Lowe that Sewejkis, already charged with first-degree child abuse, will face higher charges if the boy dies. Her comments came Monday morning as a preliminary exam for Sewejkis was adjourned until Jan. 5.

Alongi said young Hunt-

er's family has kept vigil at the University of Michigan Hospital, where

the boy was taken from

another hospital after

authorities say he was

abused while Sewejkis

was home alone with him.
"We've been through
all kinds of emotions,"
Alongi said Monday,
standing outside the
courtroom. "We've been
standing by the hospital

bed, praying and hoping for the best. We're praying for a miracle."

Alongi, father of the boy's mother, Leanne Garlick, described her as "not well" and said she was shocked by the crimes Sewejkis is accused of committing.

"She had no idea that he was capable of anything like this," Alongi said.

Hunter has undergone surgeries to alleviate swelling after he suffered a fractured skull.

"The left side of his brain is completely dead," Alongi said, adding that the boy suffered hemorrhaging. He said the child survived the last few days because doctors used lifesupporting machines to keep him alive.

"We're going to follow this through to the end," Alongi said, adding that he had only one wish for Seweikis: "Rot in hell."

Sewejkis: "Rot in hell."
Standing outside the courtroom not far from Alongi, Kim Belmont,

CRIME WATCH

Sewejkis' aunt, said she and other relatives also are asking for prayers. "We believe in miracles," she said.

Sewejkis already has been charged with first-degree child abuse, and he could face 15 years in prison if he is convicted of that charge. Belmont said she doesn't believe Sewejkis would intentionally hurt Hunter.

"He's very scared," Belmont said of Sewejkis.
"He's very worried about his son. He loves his son very much. He would trade places with him in a minute."

Sewejkis kept his right hand over his face much of the time as he sat in court Monday morning, dressed in a green jail uniform.

His preliminary exam
— a hearing to decide if
he should stand trial in
Wayne County Circuit
Court — was adjourned
until Jan. 5 after defense
attorney Dennis Shrews-

bury said he needed time to review evidence related to the case.

Sewejkis broke into tears during his Dec. 9 video arraignment in front of 35th District Judge James Plakas.

"I messed up bad," said Sewejkis, who was jailed with a \$500,000 cash bond.

Canton police had received a phone call from a hospital about 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, that it appeared Hunter had been abused.

"It has been alleged that (Sewejkis) caused a fracture to the skull of his son by pushing his head to the floor," Canton Detective Tim Wright said during the arraignment.

Wright said a prior referral had been made to Child Protective Services.

The mother wasn't at home when the incident occurred.

dclem@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2238

DELAY

Continued from page A1

ment and the Michigan State Police. Greene was arrested at the Plymouth Township home of a friend with whom he had been staying.

Greene, who works in information technology, will be able to use his work computer while on bond on the condition that his supervisor consent to a search of it by police and prosecutors at any time, according to an arrangement worked out between Lievens and Lora Weingarden, an assistant Wayne Country prosecutor.

Greene, who had several supporters in court Monday, is free on a \$100,000 cash or surety bond. Each of the 12 counts he faces is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Shoplifting bust

A 39-year-old Inkster man was arrested on a shoplifting charge Dec. 13 after witnesses told police he tried to steal two containers of infant formula from the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road.

The incident occurred about 4:30 p.m., a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. Security stopped the man when he tried to leave the store without paying, then called police. The containers had been concealed in the man's jacket, the witnesses told police.

The man reportedly admit-

ted to trying to take the formula, police said. Police confirmed a warrant for the suspect out of another community, accusing him of failing to appear in court for a hearing.

Eatery assault

Police are investigating a Saturday morning assault at an all-night diner on Main Street in Plymouth.

The incident occurred around 2:30 a.m. at the Grecian Cafe. A 25-year-old man who appeared to be intoxicated punched a 21-year-old man for apparent reason, said Plymouth Lt. Jamie Grabowski.

The victim suffered a facial cut and said he would seek treatment on his own, Grabowski said.

Vehicle break-ins

 Two toolboxes, a welding unit and a navigation device were reported stolen Dec.
 13 from a Ford pickup truck parked outside a house on Aspen Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and I-275.

The cap on the pickup's bed appeared to have been pried open, a township police report said. The break-in occurred between the late afternoon of Dec. 12 and just after 8 a.m. the next day.

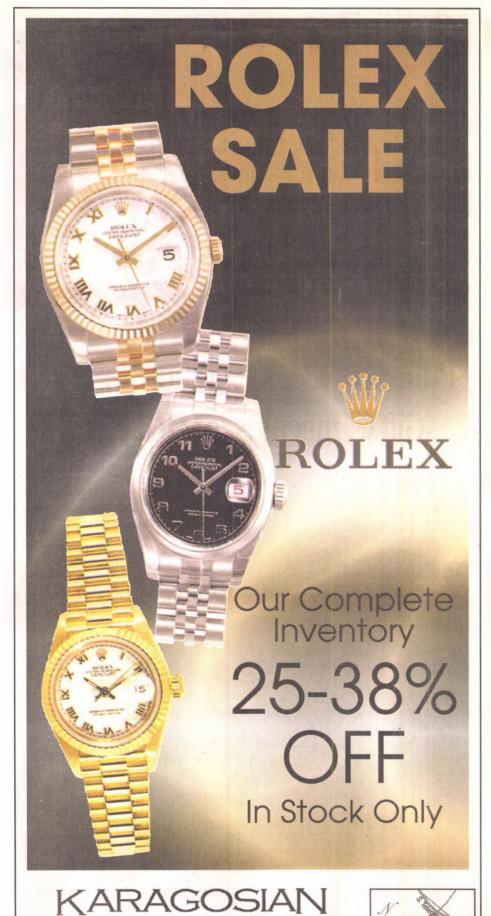
• An employee at the Dunkin Donuts on Ann Arbor Road east of I-275 lost a piece of stereo equipment and an indashboard navigation device when his car was broken into Saturday night.

The man told township police he parked the Hyundai Tiburon outside the shop just before 9 p.m. Saturday and noticed shortly after 2:30 a.m. Sunday, as he took out the trash, that it had been broken into.

Police said a passenger-side window on the minivan had been smashed.

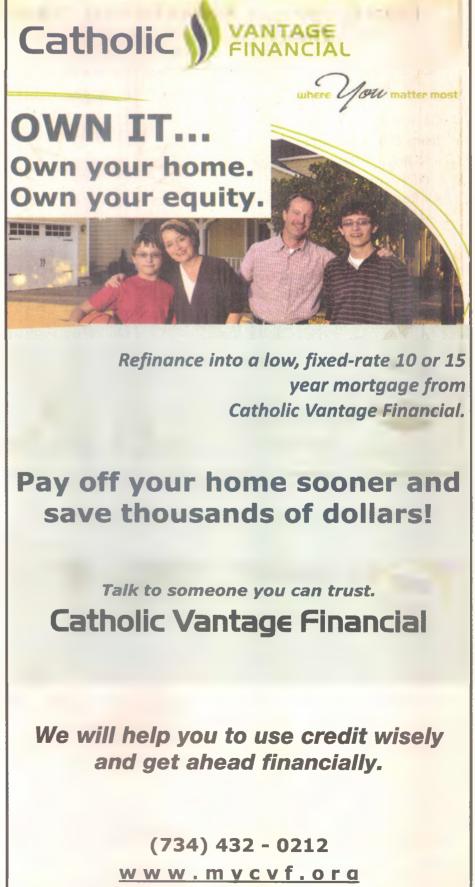
— By Matt Jachman

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CHURCHES

Continued from page A1

their personal accounts about their experiences renovating three homes and holding a literacy, math and science camp, he said. That sparked conversations with others about what they were doing and why.

Now the church will use Twitter to let people know about its Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, blasting out tweets and then depending on members to re-tweet them to their

"It's a very easy way to get a large number of eyes on a small bit of information," Rose said.

Twitter has also helped build interest in Coffee-Doubt, a group for Christians, atheists, agnostics, theists and others that meets twice weekly in coffee shops to discuss spiritual issues, Rose said

"We've seen a few people come join us because of conversations over Twitter," he said.

Grace Chapel has Facebook pages for the church as a whole, the youth ministry and CoffeeDoubt.

Rose said Facebook links people who already know each other, while Twitter links people who don't know each other.

The church's website (graceepc.org), he said, connects people who don't know about the church to the church, often through Google or another search engine. The website includes podcasts of each week's sermon that people can listen to on their computer or download to their iPhone.

Spiritual formation

At NorthRidge, Facebook raises awareness of what God is doing through the church, builds community and



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pastor Josh Isenhardt says the goals at NorthRidge Church are to use social media to raise awareness, grow community, encourage engagement and foster spiritual growth.

gives people a place to share their burdens, Isenhardt said.

But, the next step is using it for spiritual formation. "Ultimately, we want to see people grow to be more like Christ," Isenhardt said.

To that end, the church posts two or three questions a week based on the weekend's message. "We keep bringing it up to the forefront of their minds," Isenhardt said. "We want them to carry the truth from the weekend through the rest of the week."

Wright said the church's website (bellcreek.org) is still its most effective technological tool because it connects people looking for a nondenominational church in the Livonia area to Bell Creek. He said the church has worked hard to make it easy for people to find and navigate the website, where they can learn about the church's beliefs, listen to a sermon and submit a prayer request. The next step, he said, is ramping up the content to include articles on topics like raising children as a sin-



Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills uses Twitter to help build interest in CoffeeDoubt, a group for Christians, atheists, agnostics, theists and others that meets twice weekly in coffee shops to discuss spiritual issues.

gle parent and strengthening marriage. "The website is designed to deliver good content," Wright said.

Website gets most results

Rose said Grace Chapel's website is better than Facebook and Twitter for getting people into the church on Sunday morning, but, he said, they are just scratching the surface with what technology can do. For example, the youth's Facebook page has an evite component so youth can easily invite their friends to church events. "A lot of the high school students use Facebook almost as a planner," he said.

The next step, he said, is using Facebook more interactively as an extension of the Sunday sermon or Sunday school.

Garden City Presbyterian (gardencitypresbyterian.org) is using Facebook to promote its monthly Christian concert series and other special events, said Herschel Ele, pastor/head of staff. It hasn't yet started using Twitter.

However, the church's new electronic sign on Middlebelt just south of Ford Road has been more effective than any other technology in getting people in the doors, he said. That's probably because people have to intentionally connect to Facebook or the church's website to get information about events instead of just happening to be driving by, he said.

"If people are intentionally connecting, they've probably already decided they're going to come to whatever is going on here anyway," said Ele, 64.

Other ways area churches are using modern technology include egiving, where people can have their tithes directly taken out of their bank accounts, and Google calendar, where people can easily add events to their iPhones or Smartphones.

Personal invites best of all

Yet with all the modern technology available to churches today, nothing will take the place of people personally talking to their family and friends about Jesus and inviting them to go to church with them, Rose said. "At the end of the day there's one best way (to spread the Gospel message) and that's being involved in the life of your neighbors."

Nor can people live the Christian life in isolation, Isenhardt said. They need to be in the physical presence of other believers, encouraging, praying with and hugging each

In those ways, the church hasn't changed since Christ's birth more than 2,000 years ago.

> ksmlth@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2098

December a month of holidays

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a savior more than 2,000 years ago, as told in the Gospels and foretold in the Old Testament, according to Christian scholars.

No one knows for sure what day Jesus was born, but his birth is celebrated on Dec. 25.

Other holidays are also celebrated in December.

Jews celebrate Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, and commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.

This year, the eight-day observance started Dec. 20 and continues until Dec. 28. At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on till the eighth night of Hanukkah, when all eight lights are kindled.

Kwanzaa is an African- and Pan-American holiday celebrating family, community and culture. This year, Kwanzaa will be observed Dec. 26

to Jan. 1. The month ends with New Year's Eve when revelers of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds welcome the start of a new calendar year.





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Many turns, bumps, in fire department saga

Bv Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

The city of Plymouth is leaving the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which has provided firefighting and emergency medical service to the city and Plymouth Township for about 16 years, as of Sunday, Jan. 1.

Plymouth officials have made arrangements for a fire department partnership with Northville, and are giving Huron Valley Ambulance a larger role in medical emergencies.

In the township, officials say the PCFD will operate with less money and, likely, fewer firefighter paramedics. The township, which manages the department, faces the loss of about a quarter of the department's annual revenue - more than \$900,000 — and between 25 percent and 30 percent of its work load with the city's depar-

But discussions over the future of the PCFD, which has been hurt by lower property tax collections and a drop in state aid, began over two years ago. Here are some highlights:

• January 2010: Three firefighters are laid off after the township and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1496 fail to reach agreement on concessions. Other township employee groups had made concessions involving pay cuts, furlough days and greater out-of-pocket medical

• August 2010: A \$68,000 study of public safety services in Plymouth includes five reorganization proposals. Firefighters question the results of the International City/County Management Association study.

• October 2010: After discussions between city and township officials, the Plymouth City Commission votes to withdraw from the PCFD after 2011, giving the township a year's notice, as required by the agreement that established the department.

• December 2010: A deadline for a deal that would keep the city in the PCFD passes, and leaders in both communities begin to look for other options.

• Township officials turn down a chance at a federal grant of more than \$800,000 after firefighters file an application for it. The money could be used to temporarily save firefighter jobs and hire more

firefighters, but officials say there are too many strings attached and potential financial obligations the township could not meet.

• February 2011: The City Commission approves agrees to a partnership with the Northville Fire Department, which relies on nonunion, part-time, on-call firefighters. The plan requires more firefighters be trained and hired, that the city reopen and refurbish its fire stations, and that the city buy trucks and equipment. City officials expect to save at least \$400,000 a year.

• March 2011: Some township residents become advocates for the department, seeking ways to save firefighter jobs as officials explore options for cutting costs. A Board of Trustees meeting is packed with people asking questions about the department's future.

• August 2011: The Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township files about 3,500 petition signatures in an attempt to put a special assessment district proposal before township voters. The SAD would raise money for the PCFD. The bid is rejected when it is determined the threshold for an SAD pub-

lic safety ballot initiative that the ownership of 10 percent of the land in the proposed district be represented by petition-signers — had not been

• November 2011: CAG members re-file petitions with more signatures and affidavits regarding property ownership. Township Clerk Joe Bridgman, using assessing data and mapping software, determines the signers own 10.9 percent of the taxable land in the township. The board, however, doesn't act to put the question before voters, citing several legal issues.

 Discussions between township officials and Local 1496 intensify, and the two sides begin a binding arbitration process that continues. Firefighters say they are willing to make concessions that would save \$350,000 a year; township officials say those savings aren't enough. Firefighters propose being allowed to do more patient transports during medical emergencies, saying that could bring in \$400,000 or more a year, but township officials reject the idea, saying it would take firefighters out of the community for too long and end up costing more.

• December 2011: In a court action launched by CAG, Wayne County Circuit Judge Wendy Baxter rules the 10-percent threshold has been met, throwing the issue back to the township board, which schedules a public hearing on an SAD ballot question and proposes the question go on the Tuesday, Feb. 28, primary ballot.

Earlier, Judge Michael Sapala had ruled he had no evidence the threshold had been met; CAG members then filed a deposition by Bridgman in which he explained how he made his calculations, and Baxter took testimony from him.

 CAG attorney Marvin Stempien seeks a court injunction, principally over the ballot question's language. CAG's petitions asked for a 1-mill, five-year tax, but the township's position is that a public safety SAD assessment can only be limited to 10 mills for equipment, and has no limit for operations and maintenance, and no time limit.

Judge Gershwin Drain denied Stempien's motion after a hearing Monday.

The Board of Trustees votes 6-0 Monday to place the SAD question on the February ballot.

FIRE

Continued from page A1

year-old partnership beginning Sunday, Jan. 1, and the change will mean the loss of more than \$900,000 a year in department revenue and a reduction of between 25 percent and 30 percent in its workload.

"Come early 2012, there are going to be changes in the fire department, and the firefighters need to get ready for that," said Mann.

Mann also called legal claims by the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township, which took the

township to circuit court over the CAG petition drive, "frivolous." That drew a sharp response from Marvin Stempien, an attorney who filed briefs and argued on CAG's behalf in court.

Stempien has repeatedly framed the issue as one of voters' rights and the right of citizens to petition their government.

"Any time someone tramples on the constitutional rights of citizens, I will stand up and defend them as a member of the Michigan bar," he said.

The board's vote came after a public hearing on the ballot question that was required by the state

law under which CAG's petitions were filed. Many voiced support for firefighters but, pointing to difficult economic times, said they were against raising taxes; many also called for compromise.

Numbers questioned

Firefighters and their supporters pointed to what they called opportunities for saving money, and raising it, that the township has not taken, and questioned officials' budget assumptions, which were also discussed.

The budget outline required in the SAD process for informational purposes but not required to be adopted if voters approve the district — calls for a fire department budget in 2013 of nearly \$6.3 million. That compares to a budget this year of not quite \$4 million and a 2012 budget, anticipating a smaller department and the loss of revenue from Plymouth, of around \$3 million.

'Scary' numbers? Funding the department, after money from other sources, would require a tax increase of 2.44 mills, or \$2.44 for every \$1,000 in taxable value, the budget showed. That would cost the owners of a \$220,000 house about \$268 a year,

Mann asked about the

Sam is 54 years old. His youngest

daughter just went

off to college. Now

he's in the market

for a big screen tv.

sharply higher 2013 budget, and Edwards said it was based on current staffing plus the addition of 20 part-time, on-call firefighters. He attributed the increase to capital expenses, which are expected to go up, some inflation, and money for legacy costs, such as for retiree health care, that are not currently funded. The department's legacy costs total nearly \$13.6 million, Edwards said.

Firefighters' pitch

Firefighters renewed their call for township officials to allow them to do more patient transports to hospitals in emergency medical situations, which, they say, could raise at least \$400,000 a year. They also repeated that they're willing to take concessions that amount to \$14,000 a year per firefighter; township officials have said those savings now aren't enough.

"We've been offering concessions for the last two years, and this is our compromise," said firefighter Greg Mangan, treasurer of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1495.

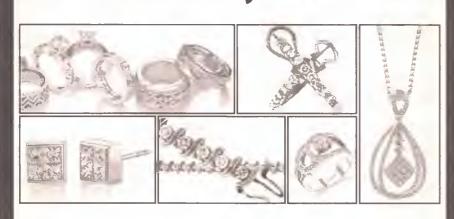
Mangan said department staffing is already down 25 percent from its peak, and that PCFD firefighters are on track this year for about 3,700 fire and ambulance runs, up from 2,564 in 1995, the department's first year.

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Be wary of investment advice for the coming year

LOCAL NEWS

By Rick Bloom **Guest Columnist**

s I was doing my reading and research this weekend, one topic that kept coming up was the best investment moves for 2012. I can't tell you how many articles there were all dealing with what investors should do in 2012. What I thought was so humorous was that someone would read an article that would say, for example, the best move for 2012 is to buy gold, and then there would be another article that would say the best move for 2012 is to sell

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that there were conflicting ideas as to what would be a good move for 2012. In addition, I read numerous articles that recommended a particular stock or mutual fund as the best investments for 2012. Although I find these articles interesting and I do sometimes learn something from them, I think the more important issue is how we should react when we read these articles.

I've always questioned any articles that claim that a particular investment is the best one to buy. My question always is, the best investment for whom?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

To me, one of the key mistakes that so many of these articles make is that they fail to address who the investment is best for. If you're an investor needing current income,

the investments in your portfolio may be totally different than someone who is saving for a retirement that may be 30 years down the road.

Take, for example, an individual stock such as Ford. In order to buy Ford stock, someone had to sell Ford stock. It doesn't necessarily mean that one investor made the right decision and the other one made the wrong decision. In fact, they each could have made the right decision because they based their decision upon their goals and objectives. When you read these articles, the key point to remember is that even though they identify what they believe is the best investment move in 2012, the advice should be considered as generic and may not apply to your own individual situation.

One of the problems that many investors have is they've listened to too many people. They will go to a party and listen to what someone says about investing and automatically change their portfolio to reflect what that person said. As investors, you have to be cautious as to whom you take investment advice from and make sure that the investment advice relates to your own individual situation. In addition, you also have to make sure that the person you're listening to knows what they are talking about.

One thing that I have learned over the years, especially with the growth of the Internet over the last decade or so, is that there is a lot of bad advice out there. Some people who are providing advice in the financial world today are truly clueless as to how things work. I've read some articles lately and, based upon the advice provided, I honestly don't know whether I should laugh or cry. The bottom line is there are a lot of people that give advice; the question is whether it is actually good advice

When you receive financial advice, I cannot stress enough how important it is that, whether in my column, another article or from someone at a party, you relate it back to your own individual situation. We live in

a world where no two families have the same financial situation. It used to be in this country, 50 or 60 years ago, that many people were in the same situation.

Fast forward to today and everything is so different. For example, think about how easy mortgages were to obtain 50 or 60 years ago. Back then, you had your choice of either a 30year or a 15-year mortgage; pretty much, that was it. Fast forward to today and there are literally hundreds of different mortgage programs available. The mortgage program that is best for you may not be the mortgage program that's best for your neighbor. Also, think about how much

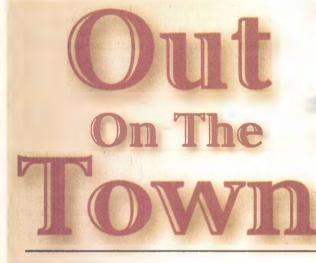
the investment world has changed. When you go back 50 years ago, most people didn't invest their money and, if they did, there weren't that many investment alternatives. Fast forward to today, and every one of us literally has tens of thousands of different investment vehicles that we can choose from. When I got started in my career, there may have been 500 or so mutual funds. Today, there are literally tens of thousands of mutual funds. The bottom line is our world has become more complex and so

has our own personal financial planning situations. That is why it is so important that you always relate financial information advice to your own individual situation.

Is there a move for 2012 that make sense for everyone? Sure, and it is the same "move" that everyone should have made in 2011, 2010, 2009, etc. be involved with your financial situation. It would be nice if we could put our finances on automatic pilot and not think about them, but we can't. In today's ever-changing world, it is more important than ever that we be involved in our personal financ-

I wish I could tell you that the area of personal finance is getting easier, but it is not. As time goes by, everything becomes more and more complex. I wish it wasn't this way, but it is and you and I have to accept it. As we get ready to enter 2012, my best piece of advice is to keep involved, ask questions and always stay within your comfort level. Good luck!

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



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Dear Santa.... All I want for Christmas

Dear Santa,

I would like to ask you for a few things. First I would like a bean bag chair, xia xia crabs also I would like lots of gift cards. As you can see, these are the things I would like for Christmas. Sincerely,

Lily Grelak

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 22, 2011

Dear Santa,

These are some things that I would like, please. Oh, and my mom would like an iPad if you can.

- 1. American girl doll ball roon treats table
- 2. Kaya's Tepee and sadle
- 3. Rebecca's couch
- 4. Julie's table and chairs, and fondue set, school locker, lunch box, birthday goodies, room accessories
- 5. doll storage cabinet
- 6. Kananis paddleboard set, luau set, beach outfit, shave ice stand, ukulele

7. American girl doll earlings, another American girl with medium skin, wavy black-brown hair, and blue eyes, baby grand piano, glasses, soccer outfit, stable and supplies, snowshoe set, breakfist in bed set, cocnut pet set, fresh and clean shower, bubble bathtub, bath wrap set & charm, bathroom vanity, bows, clips, curlers, headbands, bobby pins, hair care kit, sporty skate set, school desk set, ski gear, baking table and treats, baking accessories, fiesta picnic set and hanging storage.

- 8. new boots (fashion boots not winter boots)
- 9. science kit
- 10. magic kit
- 11. lava lamp
- 12. new winter hat from Justice (doggy please)
- 13. Comic books
- 14. Gogo my playful pup
- 15. paper james drums or piano
- 16. craft kit

P.S. all 7 things are American girl stuff only get me one American girl on number 7 (if you can).

Grayce Jucha

Dear Santa,

Hi this is Emily Jocha. How are you doing? Here are some things that I would like for Christmas.

Fancy boots, flat iron, crimper, big chair, slipers, Legos, crafts, earings, books, soccer things, iHome for my iPad, motorized scooter.

I was also thinking that you could give one or two toys to the less fortunate. Some of my ideas were clothes, shoes, pillow, money, shelter, barbie (for girls), food, blanket, cards (for boys).

Thank you for thinking of me and ohters.

MERRY CHRISTMASI Sincerely,

Emily Jucha, age 10

Dear Santa,

You are the best! Will you please bring my mom some books and my Dad a watch. please bring my sister a new soccer ball. I want a Lego game, please. Have a good Christmas. Your friend,

Gabe Becker.

P.S. Please wake me up when you get here.

Dear Santa,

Have a safe trip!! I love you to the moon! Please bring my brother a G.I. Joe! please bring my mom a dress!

Isabella Carson

P.S. How is Rudolph?

Dear Santa,

You are great. Plese gohnt my Bolsts a D.S. please great my other bolst a X-box Ebo. Plese bring my mom a dress. Plese bring my dad a tie. Coull you plese give me a dog. Have a safe trip! Your friend,

Kayla Hoffmeyer

P.S. I'm go to lovse you some cook-

Dear Santa,

You are cool. Could you please bring presents to my brother. actually we all want them a iPod. Could you please wake me up.

> Your friend, Joshua Discher

Dear Santa,

You are best guy in the whole world!!! Could you giv my mom a ring and could you giv my dad a video game and cod you giv me a star wars toy. Have a safe trip! Your friend,

Ouinn Walker

Dear Santa,

You are nice. Have a nice trip. Please get my sister a American Girl Doll. I will give you cookies. Please give my mom earrings. Please bring my Dog a stuffed animal. Happy trip. Your friend,

Caden Wingrove

Dear Santa,

You are awesome. Could you please bring Julian a remote control car and bring me legos. Could you bring us a fish? Have a safe trip! Your friend,

Xavier Jones

Dear Santa,

Hey Santa, can you drop a chew toy for my pupply? How are you dowen? I love you. Could you please bring Justin bevrs new cd?

Take care of the reindeer.

Micah Finley

Dear Santa,

You are nice! My mom nets earrings. My Dad nets Tis. I will like a Des. Do you like cookies? Your friend,

Rushi Yalamanchili

Dear Santa,

You are so nice! Cod you ples brig my family dog fritz los of tres. I love you. Ples kep me on the nice list for ever and ever.

Your fred.

Emma Hubbard

Dear Santa.

You are AWESOME. Could you please bring my brother a new little toy car. Could you please bring my Dad a tie. Could you please bring my mom new earrings. Could you please bring me a diary codd diary. I'll leave you cookies.

Your friend,

Arnav Saini

Dear Santa,

you rock. Could you please bring my brother a real dog? Can you please bring me a G.I. Joe? I will give you

cookies. Your friend,

Blake Cunningham

P.S. Make sure Rudolph's nose is bright.

Dear Santa,

You are a nice Santa. I will leave you cookies. you are a loving Santal Please bring my Dad a beautiful watch and my mom a Wii. I want a dog! Your friend.

Paige Green

Dear Santa,

You are so nice! Could you please bring my sistr a blue spngbob car. Could you please bring me a secrit jrnl. I'll leave you cookies.

Your friend,

Jaspreet Kaur

P.s. I hop you have a safe trip!

Dear Santa, You are nice. Could you please bring my sister a new

soccer ball and my mom a new muge and my Dad a tie and I went a drum sate. Have a good Christmas. Your friend. **Griffin Ellis**

P.S. Peace out. I love you.

Dear Santa,

You are so so nice! Can you please get my brother a toy story toy. Am I on the nice list? I wat a nerf for tast bastr.

Please bring my mom a necklace. Please bring my dad

Your friend.

Dear Santa,

Bryce Garbacz

P.S. Have a saf trip!

a snowblower. Please bring my brother a toy monster truck. Please bring me a Ipad. Please bring me a 3DS. Merry Christmas!

Gunnar Austin

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a TV. Pleas bring my Dad a dog. Pleae bring my brother a Xbox. Please bring me a video game. I will bring you cukes. Merry Christmas!

Chase Winekoff

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom new pajamas. Please bring my brother a book. Please bring me a doll and a dress and new shoes.

Merry Christmas!

Joanna Frederick

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a new cup. Please bring my dad a new video game. Please bring my dad some mor tools. Please bring me some mor lego sets. Please bring me some x-ray vision glasses.

Khallb Cardenas

Dear Santa,

Please bring myi mom perfume, earrings, and socks. Please bring my dad a dress shirt, socks and paints. Please bring me xia xia, koo koo bird plush, Christmas color blanks. Merry Christmas Santal

Sydni Wolverton

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a new book. Please bring my dad laptop. Please bring me a cat. Please me a purse. Please bring me Ipad. Merry Christmas!

Allha Cheema

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a scary movie. Please bring me a amazing Disney Princess castle. I will make you a ginger bread man and woman cookies.

Merry Christmas!

Gabriella Fick

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom som flowers. Please bring my dad mor tools. Please bring my brother a toy. Please bring my sister a toy. Please bring me a toy.

Merry Christmas.

Tim Chandra

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a coffee cup. Please bring my Dad some new tools. Please bring me a trash pack toy, a video game and hotwheel video car.

Merry Christmas!

Jacob Munie

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a coffee cup. Please bring Dad a new lawnmower. Please bring my brother a airhog plane. Please bring my sister a new doll. Please bring me a skateboard.

Henry Gray

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a coffee cup. Please bring my Dad a dog. Please bring my sister a ship in a bottle. Please bring me a new video game and a DS3 and Mario cart 7. Merry Christmas!

Jacob Kloostra

Dear Santa,

Please bring my mom a new dress. Please bring my brothers new toys. Please bring me a monster truck toy.

Aaron Broughton

A

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The importance of teams in successful organizations

This is the first of a three-part series on the importance of teams. See Thursdays, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, for parts two and three

By Martina Bogdanoska Guest Columnist

n today's business environment, working together doesn't always mean under one roof. It means knowing one another, executing complementary tasks and continually exchanging information



Martina Bogdanoska

adays, teamwork is very important for normal operations within organizations. Building teams is a good instrument for the creation of

Now-

environments that allow for collaboration and cohesion among members who will drive the organization forward through joint support and transfer of knowledge and experience. All teams are groups,

but not all groups are teams. From an organizational point of view, groups could be any mix of people that accidentally have something in common. A team is considered always as something more than just a simple grouping.

Cooperation and teamwork among colleagues is a very important element for the successful operation of the organization. It is especially important to understand that every profession has its own compe tency and that more professions should work together, in a team, on a basis of mutual understanding for the expertise of others.

Good teams focus their energy toward a common goal, toward a common realization of that goal and toward a sense of mutual responsibility. An environment that fosters teamwork via communication among team members in a manner that supports mutual trust and respect are of crucial importance for the efficiency and effectiveness of the team.

Team leader

Every team needs a leader. That leader is the person who takes responsibility for the team, assigns tasks and communicates progress of team actions. The leader instructs and motivates members and manages the development of a warm working atmosphere. To achieve that working atmosphere, it is necessary to have trust and respect between the members. It is necessary to have rules that will be accepted and respected from all. Working enthusiasm is maintained if the members are guided only with the desire of success and achievements. As a the team grows in maturity, it becomes more effective, works better and achieves better results.

If the team develops a sense of community and collegiality and if all members are guided by "all for one, one for all," the team will function efficiently and effectively.

Therefore, from the very beginning of the team's creation, it is nec-

TEAM WORK

The practice of companies around the world to implement teamwork in the past 20-30 years reveals two major reasons for team work. 1. Deterioration of organizational effectiveness, especially when it can't be corrected because of the complexity of the goal and assignment. 2. Pressure from the outside environment, which it cannot be influenced through the individual efforts of employees because of the complexity of the pressure. In one successful team, the spirit of the team should be created such that all members will work for the good of the team. To achieve its goal and to realize a given task, the team should encourage every member to develop his or her skills. In that context, we can speak of a team as a group of people that can successfully accept and realize every given task. Successful means qualitative and timely executive of a task with full and economical usage

essary to clearly and unambiguously define goals, to communicate those goals to all team members and to get confirmation that everyone understands those goals. In many cases, the failure of a team is a result of misunderstanding of goals from the begin-

of available resources.

No matter how expert and competent its team members, groups often do not function as a team because they have team members who act in different directions. To become a team, team members must direct all of their individual energies toward one joint goal. In other words, synergy should become operational.

Efficiency

Existence of this synergetic or joint action is considered a major reason for its use in teams and the knowledge base it promotes leads to a team efficiency that is greater than the collection of individual efficiencies. To become a team, one group needs a lot of time and effort because the members have certain needs, expectations and interests when they form the group.

To be a team member means to show loyalty to the goals and efforts of the team. This might require someone to sacrifice personal achievements in favor of the

The team is something more than just a simple grouping. For the team, it is necessary that some entry criteria are established to differentiate between who is and who is not a part of the team.

Martina Bogdanoska

is pursuing her research doctoral degree in the field of human resource management within health care. She is an inspirational academic interested in transforming health care through innovative thinking. She holds a doctoral degree in dentistry and a master's degree in health manage-

Next week: Why people favor working in teams.

Elves dedicated to children's happiness

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Howard DeElf: Our business is making children happy, and what business could possibly be better? We do this in concert with Santa, matching toys, games, electronic devices, dolls, and all other manner of enjoyment for children of all ages around the world with his famous "list." We do this only after, of course, he checks it twice for those who've been naughty or nice. (Quite frankly, though, he's pretty lenient).

Observer: How did you first decide to get into the business?

Howard DeElf: Well, my brother Hermey actually got me interested in being one of Santa's elves. He was really dedicated to the craft, until his interest in dentistry was piqued. When he was promoted to Santa's dentist, some of the other elves approached me about following in his footsteps. I've always been good with my hands, and I thought making toys for the good little girls and boys around the world would be a way for me to give something back.

Observer: Why did you choose Santa's Workshop at the North Pole?

Howard DeElf: Well, when you're an elf, and you want to make toys, where else are you gonna go? Toys R Us? Santa's Workshop is the major leagues of the toy-making world. Every elf who starts off whittling wooden dolls in his garage dreams of one day making it to the Big Time.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Howard DeElf: Well, first of all there aren't all that many businesses where your soul purpose is making children happy. That's unique in itself. But the way it all comes together, from the way all the elves work together to how Mrs. Claus fattens Santa up for the season to the reindeer using their annual reindeer games to train for that one big night, is really impressive, if I do say so myself. Of course, you get the occasional reindeer laughed at and called names, or the stray elf who gets ridiculed for his career choices, but all in all, we're a huge, cohesive team striving to make that one holiday a year the merriest of all.

Observer: How has it changed since it opened?

Howard DeElf: The overall business hasn't changed in generations. It's still all about the kids. It's the kids who've changed. Where a child may have wanted a Chatty Cathy doll or a Matchbox car years ago, now they all want the high-tech stuff. Computers, radios, cameras, video games, "smart" phones ... it seems like if there's an "i" in front of it, the kids want it these days. Steve Jobs really made this work a lot harder.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your

Howard DeElf: The economy hasn't



Santa and his helpers are getting ready for their biggest day of the year.

affected the business from our end; we still get so much work we're never sure how we're going to get it all done, though in the end we do. The economy has changed it for the people we serve, though, making it tougher for their parents to provide for

Observer: Do you have an

amusing anecdote to share?

Howard DeElf: Well, there was the time I had an appointment with Hermey, and he gave me too much novocaine. When I went back to the line, my mouth was still numb, and the other elves had trouble understanding me. That was the year we had a whole shift's

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Business Name: Santa's Workshop **Business Address: The**

North Pole Your name: Howard

Number of Employees: Seasonal

Hours of operation: 24/7 (there's no other way to keep up with demand)

Your Business Specialty: Making millions of toys for girls and boys.

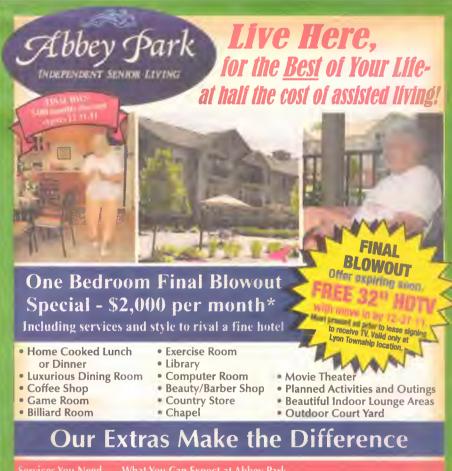
worth of Barbie dolls that ended up with Ken heads.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Howard DeElf: Be true to yourself, be true to your customers, and learn as much about every aspect of the business as you can. And don't let them tell you you're too small, or too slow, or your nose glows too brightly to do the job. And learn how to use social networking. You wouldn't believe how many Letters to Santa he gets e-mailed now.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Howard DeElf: We will continue to grow, continue to adapt to the changes in the world and continue to make as many children as happy as possible.



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Gospel message still the same

Local churches are using the latest technology in new ways to help spread the Gospel mes-

NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township has a virtual campus people can attend online to worship with others around the world. Bell Creek

Community Church in Livonia uses Twitter to remind people to stop what they were doing and pray during the week during a series on prayer. Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills has an e-vite component on its youth ministry Facebook page so kids can easily invite their friends to church events.

While the methods have changed, the message hasn't.

The story of God's love in sending his only son to earth to die on the cross and take the punishment for everyone's sins, as told in the Bible, is one that has withstood the test of time.

The Bible remains the best-selling book of all time.

This Christmas, more than 2,000 years after Jesus was born, believers around the world will still celebrate his birth.

Times have changed, but the story of the birth of a Savior in a stable on a starry night so many centuries ago is one that continues to touch hearts and change lives.

Merry Christmas!

Give the 'perfect gift' this holiday season

The American Red Cross is encouraging people to give the "perfect gift" this holiday season by donating blood.

One blood donation can give up to three families more time — hours, days, even years — and more memories. Yet it doesn't cost the donor a single penny just an hour of his or her time.

According to a national survev by the American Red Cross. about one in five (19 percent) respondents plan on giving blood this holiday season.

Blood donations often decrease this time of year as weather woes increase and family schedules turn tumultuous. Yet, the need is constant. Every two seconds,

someone in this country needs blood. On average, 44,000 blood donations are needed each day to help trauma victims, surgical patients, burn victims, patients with blood disorders and many others.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital. 36475 Five Mile, Livonia is hosting a blood drive 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday. It's one of many being held this holiday season in the Metro Detroit area. Donors will receive a holiday cookie. Walkins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

To schedule an appointment, call (800) GIVE-LIFE. To find another blood drive near you, visit redcrossblood.org.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you want for Christmas?



"An iPad, an X-Box and video games."

Casey Farren



"I want a dog, a shih tzu. I have one, but I want another."

Chris Cook Livonia



"I want a Nintendo DSI because I can take pictures and make designs."

Rachel Groen Garden City



"I want an iPod Touch. You can play games on

Jacob Kerner Livonia



"Lincoln Logs and some magnet tiles!" Nicholas Carlson, 6



'Mobigo and more Legos!" Charlie Carlson, 43/4

Plymouth



"I don't even know yet. I really want Lincoln Logs."

Will Reed, 5 Plymouth



"An iPod 2 because you can learn new stuff on it ..."

Colin DeHetre Garden City



"A Nintendo DS with DS games!"

Dasha Hodyas



"Toys! A gigantic stuffed animal!"

Sydney Levy Canton



Liam Hallman, 8

Laila Miller,9

Beech Elementary



"A (Nintendo) DS. You can play games. I'd also like an iPod."

Julia Berger, 6 Farmington



"A (Nintento) DS, because it has games on it."

Brea Osborn, 6 Farmington



"An iPod Touch, an XBox360 and an MW3 for XBox."

Devon Osborn, 10 Farmington



"A Christmas tree, a plastic one." Swasthika Prajosh, 6 Farmington



'A Monster High Doll."

"A TV for my room because all my other friends have one."

Alex Salisbury, 9 Westland



"A cure for cancer. I want that because that's how my grandpa died."

Delshaon Knolton, 9 Westland



"I want homes for the homeless. I want them to have houses like us and not have to sleep outside."

Letisia Kape, 9 Westland



"A new puppy because I like puppies.' Cassie Allen, 9 Westland

District saw much success this year

By John Jackson **Guest Columnist**

uch has occurred and been written about the P-CCS **Board of Education this** past year. Some of that dealt with board behavior and controversial issues such as a proposed school closing and not renewing the superintendent's contract, and much of it was not very favorable.

However, as the year ends, there is much to be proud of and share. As the year began, a major challenge was the initial budget deficit for the 2011-2012 school year. Lansing cut the district's funding by \$470 per student, raised the retirement charge, and a num-



lion operating def-John Jackson icit. This caused the board to use nearly all the fund equity (savings) to balance the

budget by June 30.

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much as a

projected

\$18 mil-

Since those days, this board has balanced the budget and restored the fund equity of more than \$12 million. As was often pointed out, there was no truth to the campaign rhetoric alleging a \$28 million deficit. There is, however, a potential \$5 to \$8 million dollar deficit for next year. The good

news is the district is in a much better position to address it.

The academic achievements of the district's students continue to be exceptional. The MEAP scores are substantially above the state and Wayne County averages. ACT scores rose and exceeded state and national averages. Plymouth-Canton continues to be an academically highperforming district.

A Plante-Moran CRESA feasibility study is underway. It will provide the data for making important decisions on districting, building utilization and other important ele-

New programs are being aggressively

explored (e.g., elementary world language, talented and gifted magnet school, high school academies, Schoolcraft College dual enrollment, all-day kindergarten and much more). Another unique partnership occurred in June with the finalization of the agreement for Plymouth-Canton to provide food service for Livonia Public Schools as a revenue producer for P-CCS. Likewise, the district began providing teachers to local parochial and private schools under the "shared services" program, which provided additional revenue

In May, the district was fortunate to hire Dr. Jeremy Hughes, former Dear-

for our District.

born Superintendent and State of Michigan Deputy Superintendent, as Interim Superintendent. This fall, the Board and Dr. Hughes discovered there was mutual interest in extending his contract through June 2013, and the "Interim" was removed from his title.

All labor contracts were settled in September with landmark concessions by the district's employee groups resulting in more than \$5 million of concessions and contributions to offset the deficit. The District is fortunate to have such dedicated, caring employees.

The district's food service program at Dodson Elementary was recognized with the Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge Bronze Award in October at a White House reception hosted by Mrs. Obama. In December, the same program recognized the other 15 elementary schools for the award.

As the four out-going board members turn over the school board reins, my wish is for the four new board members to build on these successes and create an even better district through their efforts. Our children are counting on you. Thanks to the voters of the district for the opportunity to serve.

John Jackson is president of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education.

School board

As we close out 2011. I want to thank our Board members, especially President John Jackson, Vice President President Steve Sneideman, and Trustee Nancy

I can't begin to thank

of service you have given to the third largest public school district in Michigan. Each and every one of you will be sorely missed - for all that you have given to us, all that you have taught us, and, the legacy that you leave with our children.

John C. Stewart state representative, 2000-06 Plymouth

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

thanks

Plymouth-Canton School Dianne Gonzalez, former Eggenberger.

all of you for the years

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All Saints Catholic School Brownies Kendall McCaig (left), Meghan Stefanek and Annika Olson take part in the troop's field trip to Three Brothers in Plymouth.

All Saints Brownies celebrate cultures

What link do potato pancakes, kielbasa, chocolate coins, lo mein noodles and fortune cookies share?

Those were the items on the menu for Brownie Troop 41288 from All Saints Catholic School in Canton on Dec. 13, when the girls and some of their family members shared an after-school snack as a way to learn about various cultures.

The goal: To learn about the heritage and traditions of ethnic groups who comprise the Michigan Mosaic. Specifically, the girls were learning how people from around the world settled in this state and brought their culture with them. Many of these traditions are most strongly reflected in ways people celebrate end-of-year holidays.

The Brownies visit-

ed Three Brothers restaurant in Plymouth and started their meeting with a mini Polish platter sampler. Many Polish-Americans are Roman Catholic and celebrate Christmas with Oplatek. which is a thin wafer shared at the table among family and friends. Kielbasa is often commonly served as part of Christmas dinners in Polish-American homes.

As the girls ate, troop co-leader Michele Burke explained how Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah and provided background on Chinese New Year. The girls each received a toy dreidel with an explanation of how to play with it, as well as information packets about Kwanzaa and Chinese New Year traditions.

"My favorite part was the great food," said Brownie Kendall McCaig. "I loved the noodles." added Riley Tople, another Brownie in the troop. "They were delicious."

"We wanted to share information about Christmas, which the girls are familiar with," Burke said. "But we also wanted to teach them about the ways people all over the world celebrate different holidays that hold special meaning to them. We are grateful to Three Brothers for helping us host this event.'

The session was part two for the troop in the members' quest to earn their Michigan Mosaic badge. In an earlier session, the girls made crafts and learned how children in various cultures play games.



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6 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

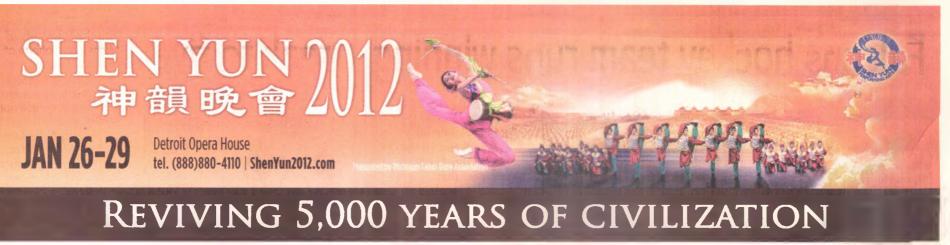
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since 1942, that still cannot compare to what I saw tonight. I will give this production 5 Stars, that's the top! The best word to use was 'mind blowing'!" - Richard Connema, critic for Talkin' Broadway



'It was an extraordinary experience... the level of skill, but also

the power of the archetypes and the narratives were startling. And of course it was exquisitely beautiful." - Cate Blanchett, Academy Award-winning Actress



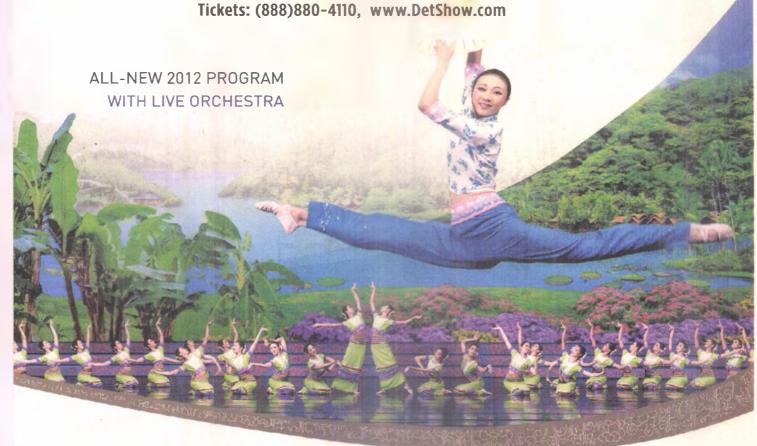
"It's absolutely beautiful, it was so inspiring, I think I

may have found some new ideas for the next Avatar. It was a very unique performance."

- Oscar-Winner Robert Stromberg, Production Designer for Avatar and Alice in Wonderland

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— Amerigo Fabbri, Dean, Yale University

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— Joy Behar, Co-host of ABC's The View

Shen Yun Performing Arts is touring the leading venues in over 20 countries on 5 continents, including the Lincoln Center in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.

SECTION B. (*) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

Rockets almost

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

spoilers

It was Inkster's night of coronation as the Lady Vikings celebrated their Class A state girls basketball title of a year ago by raising their championship banner.

But Westland John Glenn, after waiting patiently during all the 15-minute pre-game pomp and circumstance, nearly crashed the party before succumbing, 56-53, after building a seven-point fourth-quarter lead.

Glenn was outscored 16-10 in the decisive fourth quarter. 'They're defending state

champs for a reason," Glenn firstyear **GIRLS BASKETBALL** coach

Kovatch said of the Vikings, who improved to 5-1 with the win.

"They're a very, very good basketball team and they played until the end. They deserved to win, but I'm proud of my girls. Couple shots here-and-there, a couple of free throws — it would have been a different outcome. But I'm not going to take anything away from Inkster. They're an excellent, excellent team."

Glenn missed four critical free throws, including front ends of a one-and-one during the final 1:18 and committed three costly turnovers during the final two min-

ShaKeya Graves hit a runner in the lane with 33.3 seconds left to put Glenn back up top 53-52, only to have Inkster guard Jamie Madden (16 points, four steals, five assists) hit a free throw and then

Please see ROCKETS, B3



Redford Thurston's Xzavier Bowen pushes the ball up the court as Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard's Jason Houle (21) hustles back on defense.

Close misses cost Thurston

By Ed Wright Observer Staff Writer

Getting to the rim wasn't an issue for Redford Thurston's boys basketball team Tuesday night at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

Filling the rim — well, that was another story.

Plagued by poor marksmanship in the paint, the Eagles spoiled a spirited defensive effort in a 57-50 setback to the host Irish.

Thurston slipped to 2-3 while Gabriel Richard enjoyed its first victory in four games this

"Overall, I thought it was our best game of the season so far,' said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "I thought we played well in the first half, but we missed a lot of easy shots. We were down at the half (32-27), but we very easily could have

"In the second half, I thought we lost our patience. We fell behind and we started taking some bad shots. We need to work the ball around a little better. Defensively, I thought we played well and we rebounded better than we have all season.

The kids played hard."

A two-minute stretch at the end of the first half epitomized the Eagles' night. A missed layup and two missed put-backs on one trip down the court was followed by a misfire on a close-range banker on the next possession.

The Irish took advantage of the Eagles' shooting woes by seizing a 48-37 lead after three quarters. Thurston never got closer than seven down the

"(Gabriel Richard) is a good,

Please see THURSTON, B3

Furgason is **All-American**

Canton senior defender Connor Furgason, an integral member of the Chiefs' 2011 Division 1 boys soccer championship team, recently was named to the 2011

National Soccer Coaches Association of America **Boys High** School All-America Team.



Furgason is the first boys soccer player from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to be earn All-America honors.

He will be recognized at the annual All-America Lundheon, to be held in the Kansas City Convention Center's Grand Ballroom on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Balogh, GCHS get accolades

Farmington High **School senior Trent** Balogh and the Garden City High School football team have received academic all-state honors from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association.

Balogh is one of 27 players in the state and the only Observerland player — on the academic all-state first team.

The 27 automatically qualified for the first team by scoring 295 or better on the MHSFCA's 300-point scale. All of them also scored highly on the ACT: two scored 36, two 35, eight 34, five 33, six 32 and four 31.

The average GPA is 3.991. Balogh, an offensive and defensive lineman, was recently accepted into the University of Michigan's College of Engineering.

Garden City senior Jarrett DeHetre is an orable mention.

He helped the Cougars earn one of four all-state team positions in Division 2 with an

Walled Lake Western, Lowell and Holly are the other teams. Farmington (3.655) was one of 24 teams nominated in Division 2.

average GPA of 3.945.

Fishing meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

The featured speaker will be Michigan Department of Natural Resources research biologist supervisor Liz Hay-Chemielewski, who give insight into the condition of Lake Erie along with the bag limit for walleye in 2012.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations are needed. For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

Charity pucks

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club and Detroit Red Wings Alumni will face off 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Arctic Edge Ice Arena on Michigan Avenue in Canton. All proceeds from the game will be directly donated to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. More information is available at detroitmoose.org.

Falcons hockey team runs winning streak to five

By Dan O'Meara **Observer Staff Writer**

After starting the season with six losses and a tie, Farmington High School's hockey fortunes have taken a turn for the better.

The Falcons have won their last three games — the latest being a 6-1 rout of visiting Rochester Stoney Creek - and improved their record to 3-6-1.

"Our schedule at the beginning was pretty tough, playing top-ranked teams like Brighton, Stevenson, Churchill, South Lyon and Canton," coach Mark Vellucci said. "Those are five really good teams, and they always have good programs.

"We had a new team and knew we probably were going to have a tough beginning. We're learning to compete and play the right way. We're improving every day in practice, and we're taking it to the games now."

Senior Zach Massa scored a three-goal hat trick and earned a fourth point with an assist Saturday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Sophomore Kris Hamilton and Massa scored even-up goals in the first period, and senior Mike Manzo assisted on both.

The Falcons scored the first three of the second period. Massa and sophomore Nick Heffron capitalized on power plays, and senior Blake Holm-

es netted the fifth goal.

Stoney Creek's Cameron O'Shea added a late tally (1:42), and Massa scored the only goal of the third period on another power play.

Adam Lockner also had two assists for the Falcons (2-1-0 in the OAA Red Division), Nick Kazoro one.

Farmington senior goalie Josh Cliff made 17 saves; Callen Stewart faced 26 shots for the Cougars (1-6-0, 0-5-0).

"A key to our success is we've been outshooting other teams," Vellucci said. "We're getting production from a lot of people and different lines.

"We're playing so much better in every area. Our power

Please see HOCKEY, B2



CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

'It was pretty

good competition

was kind of good

all night. All six

teams won an

event, so that

to see.'

Senior Zach Massa scored a hat trick for Farmington against Alpena.

Pats grab county invite

By Brad Emons **Observer Staff Writer**

Christmas came seven days early for the Livonia Franklin wrestling team.

The Patriots surprised even their own head coach in capturing the Wayne County Invitational wrestling tournament held Saturday at Westland John Glenn.

Bolstered by three individual champions and one runner-up,

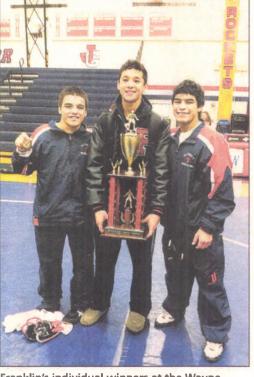
Franklin scored WRESTLING a team-high 163.5 points to overhaul Wayne Memorial's 132.5 for

the team title. Rounding out the top 10 in the 27school field was Brownstown Woodhaven (126.5), Plymouth (125.5), host John Glenn (108), Northville (100), Dearborn Heights Crestwood (84.5), Highland Park (84), Melvin-

dale (80) and Canton (78). Finishing strong

Franklin got individual titles from brothers Danny and Gabe Martinez at 119 and 125, respectively, along

Please see WRESTLING, B4



Franklin's individual winners at the Wayne County Invitational wrestling meet held Saturday at Westland John Glenn included (from left) Danny Martinez (119 pounds), Jordan Atienza (140) and Gabe Martinez (125).

'Fun' relays launch boys swim season

By Tim Smith **Observer Staff Writer**

Several Observerland boys swimming and diving teams dipped their collective toes into the early season water at Friday's

annual Plymouth Wildcat Relays, hosted by Salem High School. Monroe won the fifth

annual event with 84 points, with Canton's 62 good for second. Fourthplace Plymouth and sixth-place Redford Thurston tallied 46 and 28 points, respectively.

DOUG SCHADE The Wildcat Relays Plymouth swim coach helps bridge the sched-

uling gulf between the official start of the season (early December) and the beginning of dual meets, which for most teams won't take place until after the holidays.

Another plus of the event is it provides a vehicle for coaches such as Plymouth's Doug Schade to get a better read on how the season might unfold.

Please see SWIMMING, B2

First-place Whalers enter Blazers remain hot hiatus on a losing note

With several key players at various preliminary camps for the upcoming World Juniors, the Plymouth Whalers entered the holiday hiatus in first place in their division after splitting a pair of road games last weekend.

Plymouth blanked Oshawa 5-0 on Friday before losing 5-1 the following night at Belleville. Entering the holiday break, the Whalers own a 22-9-2-1 record (47 points), which is tops in the West Division of the OHL's Western Conference.

The team won't return to action until 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 at Compuware Arena against London.

By then, head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci will know how many of the five potential World Junior players will be back in the fold if any

Goaltender Scott

Wedgewood made the Canadian team, while defenseman Austin Levi (Farmington Hills) and forward J.T. Miller are at the preliminary camp for the U.S. squad. The final U.S. roster will be announced Thursday by USA Hockey.

Forward Rickard Rakell and defenseman Dario Trutmann have made the Swedish and Swiss teams, respectively. Both played against Oshawa but missed the Belleville game while traveling to their prelim camps.

In the win over the Generals, Rakell scored his 17th goal of the season to give the Whalers a 2-0 lead after one period.

Adding two goals was forward Andy Bathgate (12 goals) with forward and Farmington Hills product Alex Aleardi netting his 17th of the season. The fifth goal was tallied by forward Stefan Noesen (11 goals).



Plymouth Whalers rookie forward Danny Vanderwiel, shown from earlier this season, scored his first OHL goal Saturday at Belleville.

Stopping all 30 shots for the shutout was Plymouth netminder Matt Mahalak while forwards Garrett Meurs and Jamie Devane each chipped in with two

Saturday at Belleville, Plymouth rookie forward Danny Vanderwiel scored the first goal of his OHL career late in the first period to tie the game at

But the Bulls cruised from there, scoring twice in each of the final two

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

play is starting to come around; we're not giving up short-handed goals, and our 5-on-5 team defense is a lot better."

Farmington will try to extend its winning streak and end the 2011 portion of its schedule with a victory tonight against crosstown rival North Farmington-Harrison.

Game time is 7 p.m. at FHIA. The teams tied, 3-3, after Farmington rallied from a 2-0 deficit on

"Our tie against them was kinda like a win for us, and I'm sure they're going to want to get revenge on us," Vellucci said. "It's going to be the type of game two archrivals play. It'll be intense and emotional.

"The last time we played it was a good hockey game; hopefully, we're going to give everybody their money's worth again. Every time we play it's usually a good game, and it comes down to the third period.

YUPPERS TOP FLYERS: North Farmington-Harrison (5-4-1)

was dealt a pair of defeats during a trip to the Upper Peninsula's Copper Country last week. The Flyers lost to the Houghton Gremlins on Friday, 5-1, and to the Calumet Copper Kings on Saturday,

"It was a great weekend of very good hockey and a wonderful experience for all of our players," Flyers coach Ken Anderson said. "Even though we ended up on the short end of the score, we had great competition and great team camaraderie. The trip will benefit us when we come back home and return to league play.

Calumet's Sam Lanctot scored the winning goal and broke a 4-4 tie with nine minutes remaining in the The Cooper Kings had a

4-3 lead after two, but Justin Brereton knotted the score for the Flyers (assisted by Michael Tobar)

It was 2-2 after one period. Eric Stanis and Kyle Wood scored the North-Harrison goals from Eric Miller, Jake Ladouceur and Eamon Devlin, who scored in the second period (from Wood) between a pair of Calumet goals.

On Friday, Houghton led 2-0 after one period and added a third goal on a second-period power play.

The Flyers also scored on a power play later in the second (9:50) on a tipped puck by Devlin from Brereton and Stanis.

The Gremlins answered back with a fourth goal 15 seconds later, and they got their fifth near the end of the third

After dropping its first five games of the season, Livonia Ladywood has put together a three-game winning streak in the Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League.

The Blazers' latest victory came Saturday night at Plymouth's Arctic Pond with an 8-4 triumph over Warren Regina.

Ladywood, which improved to 3-5 overall and 3-5 in the league, got two goals apiece from Hannah Pereira and Lane Kolpacke.

Other Ladywood goal scorers included Virginia Matherly, Erin Doyle, Jackie Kristofik and Rana Freij.

The Blazers, who led 4-2 after one period and 7-2 after two, also got three assists from Freij and two each from Pereira and Matherly.

Other assists went to Katie Folk and Doyle. Regina (4-2, 3-1) got goals from Maria Smith, Sarah Hackert, Megan Taylor and

Sierra Kett Ladywood goaltender Sarah Koch made 20 saves, while Regina's Alex Hudas had 17 stops.

On Friday, Ladywood downed Northville, 4-2, at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena as Koch made 24-of-26 stops.

After a scoreless opening period, Ladywood scored three times in the second period to take a 3-0 lead on goals by Freij (from Brittany Galvin), Pereira (unassisted) and Rachel Fradette (a power play from Galvin.

Northville's Chole

Page and Allison Holden each scored to cut the deficit to 3-2, but Pereira empty netter clinched the win.

Avery Allman made

22 saves for the Mustangs (4-2, 3-1).

BRIGHTON 7, STEVENSON 1: Five different Bulldogs scored, including two apiece from Tom Kivisto and Alex Sauchak, to lead the Bulldogs (7-1, 5-1) to a KLAA Central Division victory Saturday night over host Livonia Stevenson (7-2, 3-2) at Edgar Arena. Michael Gessler also contributed a goal and two assists for Brighton, which led 1-0 after one period

and 4-0 after two. "It was a great team ef-fort from the back to the front," said Brighton coach Paul Moggach, whose team outshot the Spartans, 29-17. "I think we got contributions from everybody. When we play the game we know how to play we can be a real good team." Scott Schueneman also collected a goal and an assist, while Karsten Heppler and Zach Carr each tallied of pair of assists to round out Brighton multi-point

scorers Mario Tomei scored for the Spartans on assists from Chris Catalano and Thomas Ross.

"We expected them to come out hard in the third," Moggach said, "but once we got those back-to-back goals to start the third it really kind of threw the game the other way." Brighton freshman Jimmy Milletics stopped 16 shots to get the win in net. Connor Humitz started in goal for the Spartans before being lifted for Mike Kanitra in the third

period. **WOODHAVEN 4, CAN-**TON 2: On Friday, host Brownstown Woodhaven got out to a four-goal lead en route to a non-conference win over the Chiefs at the Ice Box. Canton (5-3), outshot 27-22, got goals from seniors

Duggan Tear (unassisted) and Taylor Baker (from Tear and Brad Ceci). Sophomore Robbie Beydoun made 23 saves for

Chiefs look to keep winning

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Last winter, Canton's Victor Zhang made statechampionship waves, sparking the Chiefs to KLAA South Division and **Kensington Conference** titles in the process.

Entering his senior year, Zhang and several other point scorers from the 2011 Division 1 state meet will look to keep the Chiefs splashing toward another successful season.

"It will be an exciting season," Chiefs head coach Dave Le said. "We will be competitive within the conference and expect to compete for another division championship."

Canton's 2010-11 team finished 5-1 to win the conference, including a 4-1 mark to take first in the KLAA South.

Leading the way will be Zhang, state champion in



One of Canton's key returnees is senior Victor Zhang, who won the 100 backstroke at last season's Division 1 state meet.

the 100 backstroke with a personal best of 51.55 seconds.

But he also is outstanding in the 50- and 100-freestyle events and 100 breaststroke while being part of the 400 free relay. In the latter, Zhang — along with senior returnees Jay Jin, Adrian Simion and junior returnee Mike Carlson -

scored points by placing 14th at the D1 state meet.

With all four of those talented swimmers back for 2011-12, Canton's 400 free relay should again be reckoned with.

Jin, meanwhile, placed 23rd at the state meet in the 200 IM with a time of 2:03.27 and will be a key performer in that event

along with the 100 backstroke, Le noted.

Handling diving duties will be Ryan Kilgore, who the coach said "should continue where he left off."

Le said depth will play a factor in how well the team performs. Swimmers who he expects to help the cause are juniors Michael Wilyard, Bryan Tolinski, Nathan Benjamin, Ryan Sheeler and Travis Alber along with sophomores Jay Akolkar and Jack Chaney.

"We (also) have several freshman who are showing a lot of potential early in the season," Le added.

Canton got off to a good start with a second-place finish at last week's Plymouth Wildcat Relays. Next for the team is the Salem-hosted Rock Kilgore Invitational on Jan. 7, with the first KLAA dual meet Jan. 12 against Plymouth.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 20 PLYMOUTH 10 Dec. 20 at Novi Bowl

Glenn scorers: Jordan Hornes, 233-265-498; Mitch Dean, 203-214-417; Steven White, 256-Mark Kassab, 193; split score, 203. Team totals: 1,088-1,006-2,094 (16 points); Baker games: 212-151-363 (4 points). Plymouth scorers: Brandon Congdon, 231-200-431; Eric Thompson, 228-176-404; Rob Korstjens, 188-196-384; Evan Grimme, 206-171-377; Rvan Riva 211; split score, 145. Team totals: 998-954-1,952 (4 points); Baker games: 189-194-382 (6 points). Glenn's dual match record:

Division. **GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 22 PLYMOUTH 8**

6-0 overall, 4-0 KLAA Central

Dec. 20 at Novi Bowl Glenn scorers: Caitlin Lenard, 199-213-412; Jessica Pate, 169-193-362; Yvette Ayers, 165-132-292; Montana Graszak, 148; Olivia Cabildo, 147; Bre Riblett, 118; split scorer, 129. Team totals: 809-804-1,613 (18 points); Baker games: 164-132-296 (4 points).

Plymouth scorers: Emily Fraser, 170-156-326; Caitlyn Webb, 153-148-301; Tiffani Patterson, 135-137-272; Lauryn Vincent, 138; Megan Blanck, 123; Megan Brewer, 119; split score, 115. Team totals: 719-675-1,394 (2 points); Baker games: 152-156-308 (6 points).

Glenn's dual match record: 5-1 overall, 4-0 KLAA Central

WAYNE MEMORIAL 27 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 3

Dec. 14 at Super Bowl Wayne scorers: Lorrissa Willet, 96-200-396 Tiffany Mar 149-157-306; Kira Learch, 137-160-297; Tiffany Ozog, 102-131-233; Sarah Shurge, 93-133-226. Team totals: 677-781-1,458; Baker games: 128-131-259 (10

Clarenceville scorers: Bridget Moricz, 159-197-346; Nikki Iuliano, 126-118-244; Stephanie Quinn, 99-122-221; Caitlyn Kissandi, 90-102-192. Team totals: 560-197-1,215 (3 points); Baker games: 118-110-228 (0 points). Wayne's dual match record: 2-3

WAYNE MEMORIAL 20 PLYMOUTH 10 Dec. 13 at Novi Bowl Wayne scorers: Tiffany Markham, 163-169-332; Lorrissa Willett, 153-143-296; Kira Learch, 100-165-265; Tiffany Ozog, 118-128-246; Sarah Surge, 94-110-204. Team totals: 628 715-1,343 (10 points); Baker games: 163-145-308 (10 points). Plymouth scorers: Megan Blanck, 156-134-290; Caitlyn Webb, 136-150-286; Tiffani Patterson, 141-129-270; Lauryn Vincent, 100-112-212; Serena Oliver, 109. Team totals: 665-640-1,305 (10 points); Baker games: 111-102-213 (0 points). Wayne's dual match record: 1-3 overall, 2-1 KLAA Central Division.

SWIMMING

Continued from page B1

"It's kind of a fun way to start the season," Schade said. "The boys like it. It was good for us. We've been in the water now for a couple weeks so it was good for us to just see where we're going to start out this season."

All six high schools represented at the event won at least one of the 10 events (all were relays except for the 1-meter diving event).

"It was pretty good competition all night," Schade added. "All six teams won an event, so that was kind of good to see."

Schade said Plymouth's 200-yard butterfly relay team of Adam Liakos, Cameron Earls, Ben Yang and Nick Weber deserved special mention for finishing first with a time of

Thurston's quartet of Dylan Crompton, Luke Crompton, Julienn Williams and Tajhmahal Robinson weren't far behind (third, 1:53.08). That same group of

Eagles did take the top spot in the 200 breaststroke relay, with a mark of 2:06.76. Canton actually nailed

down the most first-place finishes, with three.

In the 400 freestyle relay, Canton's Victor Zhang, Mike Carlson, Adrian Simion and Jay Jin easily took first with a time of 3:21.93, nearly 21 seconds ahead of Monroe's entry.

Winning the 400 medley relay were the Chiefs' tandem of Jin, Kyle Bindas, Simion and Zhang (3:56.08).

The third Canton firstplace showing was in the 200 medley relay. Needing 1:47.83 to win that race were Jin, Michael Wilyard, Zhang and Carl-

PLYMOUTH WILDCAT RELAYS Dec. 16 at Salem H.S. TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Monroe, 84 points; 2. Canton, 62;

3. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 56; 4. Plymouth, 46; 5. Tecumseh, 44; 6. Redford Thurston, 28. 400-yard freestyle relay: 1 Canton (Victor Zhang, Mike Carlson, Adrian Simion, Jay Jin), 3:21.93; 3. Plymouth (Adam Liakos, Cameron Earls, Ben Yang, Nick Weber), 3:42.87; 6. Thurston (Simon Hill, Nick Dowden, Marcus Cervantes, Adrian Croft), 4:09.31.

400 medley relay: 1. Edsel Ford, 4:01.44; 4. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Michael Wilyard, Jonathan Marceau, Matt Gran), 4:27.75; 5. Plymouth (Alex Wilson, Todd Maslyk, Alex Johnson, James Gholston), 4:43.20.

200 butterfly relay: 1. Plymouth (Liakos, Earls, Yang, Weber), 1:49.09; 3. Thurston (Dylan Crompton, Luke Crompton, Julienn Williams, Tajhmahal Robinson), 1:53.08; 6. Canton (Jay Akolkar, Nathan Albin, Travis Wiggins, Gran), 2:19.88.

1-meter diving: 1. Zach Nofziger (Monroe), 173.90 points; 2. Ryan Kilgore (Canton), 157.05; 3. Connor McManus (Plymouth), 144.05. 400 medley relay: 1. Canton (Jin, Bindas, Simion, V. Zhang), 3:56.08; 3. Plymouth (Liakos,

Earls, Yang, Weber), 4:15.88. 200 breaststroke relay: 1 Thurston (D. Crompton, Crompton, Robinson, Williams), 2:06.76; 3. Canton (Alex Bourdreau, Carlson, Jay Krebs, Wilyard), 2:15.65; 5. Plymouth (Maslyk, Johnson Ryan Heinze, Gunnar Savalox), 2:27.16.

200 backstroke relay: 1. Monroe, 1:54.26; 3. Ćanton (Simion, Josh Joy, Chris Jenner, Jack Chaney), 2:12.17; 4. Plymouth (Mike Pool, Alex Wilson, Andrew Harris, Gholston), 2:12.97

500 freestyle relay: 1 Monroe, 4:43.12; 4. Plymouth (Weber, Liakos, Earls, Yang), 4:58.17; 5. Canton (Nick Valli, Travis Alber, Nathan Benjamin, Nathan Albin), 5:44.67; 6. Thurston (Kevin Metushi, Dowden, Hill, Cervantes),

Jonathan Marceau, Jenner),

200 medley relay: 1. Canton (Jin, Wilyard, V. Zhang, Carlson), 1:47.83; 4. Thurston (Robinson, Williams, L. Crompton, D. Crompton), 1:54.11; 5. Plymouth (Wilson, Maslyk, Johnson, Heinze), 2:03.43. 200 freestyle relay: 1. Tecumseh, 1:36.29; 3. Thurston (Dowden, Williams, L. Crompton, D. Crompton), 1:38.39; 5. Plymouth (Heinze, School Baseball). Maslyk, Pool, Wilson), 1:44.66; 6. Canton (Drew Wade, Alber,

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pitching clinic **Detroit Tigers pitching**

coach Jeff Jones will be the featured instructor at the pitching clinic hosted on Sunday, Jan. 22 by the Livonia Stevenson High baseball program.

Jones will be joined by former pro pitcher Dave Marcon, owner and scout of Indy Pro Showcase, along with the Stevenson coaching staff.

Session I (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. until noon followed by Session II (ages 13-18) from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Stevenson fieldhouse.

The cost is \$40 (checks should be made payable to the Stevenson High

For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail

Berry3724@aol.com. Arctic Edge is located at 46615 Michigan Ave. (south side) near Canton Center Drive.

Softball camps

Coach Al White of Madonna University will stage a series of winter softball camps for ages 7-18 including:

Fundamentals (session 1) - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 after Dec. 1);

Fundamentals (session 2) - noon to 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com; or e-mail White at awhite@madonna.edu.

You can also call the MU softball office at (734) 432-5783 or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. LOCAL SPORTS

Foster's 39 paces North

Senior Do'rrell Foster scored a career-high 39 points Monday night to lead host North Farmington (2-2) past Melvindale **Academy for Business** & Technology, 71-63, in a non-league boys basketball game.

The 6-foot-6 Foster, who was scoreless in the third quarter, made 21of-23 free throws and two triple baskets as North evened its record at 2-2 overall.

"He really slowed down and let the game come to him," coach Todd Negoshian said of Foster. "Early in the season, it being his senior year, I think he was forcing some things.

"He played well, got to the glass and defended well. All the way around, he stepped up and played a solid game.'

North led at halftime 38-26, but AB&T rallied with a 17-9 advantage in the third quarter. It was 58-all when Foster sank a pair of free throws, and the Raiders never trailed after that.

Caleb Hogans scored 17 points, including three triples and six of eight free throws, for North. Foster also had 11

rebounds and Hogans five assists. Jeron Rogers added six points and seven rebounds. The Raiders were 30-of-40 at the foul line.

Terran Ramsey netted 28 points and Steven Meeks chipped in 14 for the Gators (3-2), who sank 26 of 36 free throws.

"Cameron Darden stepped up and gave us huge minutes off the bench in his first game seeing significant time," Negoshian said of the junior forward. "He really played well and did all the things we need him to do for us to be success-

WAYNE 61, RIVERVIEW 55: Dezmon Burleigh scored a game-high 21 points, including five-of-six free throws in the final quarter, propelling Wayne Memorial (3-2) to a non-conference victory Monday over the host Pirates (2-2). Brian Smith added 18 points for the victorious Zebras, who overcame 11-of-24 free throw shooting. Jordan Lowry also chipped in with eight points. Michael Cooper's three-point er with 40 seconds remaining helped seal the victory. Corey Turner and Chris Krach paced Riverview with 12 and

The Pirates made only 3-of-10 foul shots.
GARDEN CITY 56, WOOD-HAVEN 48: On Tuesday, the host Cougars (1-3) notched their first victory of the season

10 points, respectively

thanks to strong games from seniors Tyler Steele (14 points, five rebounds) and C.J. Hill, who pumped in 12 points against Brownstown Wood-haven (2-2). Garden City led 29-25 at the half before building a 43-30 cushion after three.

"We ratcheted up our defense a little bit in the third quarter," said Garden City head coach Greg Williamson. "We played with more intensity than in the first half. Junior point guard Tyler Gonzalez had a stellar night,

four assists. Williamson also praised the play of Matt Stark (six points, three steals) and Kevin Brown, who recorded three steals in his first game since being promoted from the junior-var-

contributing seven points and

sity squad.

ANNAPOLIS 62, C'VILLE **45:** Zackary Fields scored 17 points, while Colton Mallia and Jacob Butzin each added 13 to lead Dearborn Heights Annapolis (2-2) to a victory Tuesday at Livonia Clarencev

Sam Brown led the Trojans, who made only 6-of-18 free throws on the night, with 17 points. Austin Douglass chipped in with eight. Clarenceville led 17-8 after one quarter, but fell behind 30-25 at halftime and 49-35

after three quarters.
SEAHOLM 42, FRANK-LIN 39: Senior center Jake Barham's 17 points and 11 rebounds were not enough Tuesday as host Livonia Frank-lin (0-3) fell to host Birmingham Seaholm (3-2).

"We had far too many turnovers and missed free throws (6-of-11) were only part of our downfall tonight," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We had the lead most of the game, but did not handle the pressure that came with it. It was a tough loss, a sloppy

points and five steals from Tommy Smith, had a chance with 10 seconds left to take the lead and couldn't convert. throws with 3.4 seconds left and the Patriots' half-court try

On Tuesday, visiting Redford Union (1-4) led 47-40 midway through the fourth quarter before succumbing to a late Dearborn Edsel Ford (4-0)

"We took a few undisciplined shots in the fourth quarter and Edsel Ford capitalized, RU coach Randall Taylor. "We moved the ball pretty well offensively most of the night

The Panthers played without leading rebounder Tre' Goynes, who received a onegame suspension after getting ejected from Friday night's victory over Garden City. RU received an inspired performance from Javonte Davis, who scored a team-high 23 points — 12 the result of four triples — before fouling out with just over two minutes left in the contest. Dwight Pooler also had a

game." Franklin, which also got eight

Seaholm, led by Brett Houghton's 11 points, hit two free at the buzzer didn't go. EDSEL FORD 61, RU 55:

and our defense played O.K. until the fourth quarter."

solid game for the Panthers, chipping in with 10 points. The Panthers led 18-13 after one quarter and 31-26 at the break.



Redford Thurston's Marguis Johnson (5) applies some inyour-face defense on Ann Arbor Richard's Kamari Davis.

THURSTON

Continued from page B1

disciplined team, so when they got the lead, especially late in the fourth quarter, I knew they'd be able to hold the ball on us," Bates said. "I thought we'd put together a run in the fourth quarter when we pressed, but you have to score to press and we didn't score enough."

Junior guard Xzavier Bowen led the Eagles' balanced scoring attack with 14 points. Diante McGowan scored 10 on four-of-five shooting while Marquis Johnson and J'Sean Jones both twined nine.

Senior guard Devin Ryles ripped down eight rebounds for Thurston. Rayvlon Croon notched six boards.

Junior guard Kamari Davis was the main man for the Irish, tallying 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Sophomore forward

Jason Houle, who hails from Plymouth, and sophomore swingman Evan Fosha also poured in 14 a piece. Fosha added eight rebounds a break-away slam to cap the hosts' big third quarter.

Senior forward Mark Tanski was solid inside for Gabriel Richard, netting four points and six rebounds.

"I thought Diante played his best game of the season," Bates said. "And Marquis had a real good game. He's probably our best defender. He plays hard and he plays with heart."

Both teams nailed 18 of 54 field-goal attempts, however, the Irish were more proficient from beyond the arc and at the free-throw line where they swished 19 of 24 attempts. Thurston hit just half of its 18 freebies.

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ROCKETS

Continued from page B1

come up with a key steal as she scored off a layup with only 6.2 seconds remaining to put the Lady Vikings ahead to stay, 55-

Oh so close

Glenn, inbounding from underneath its basket, tried a full-court pass that sailed out of bounds. Inkster's Paris McLeod then hit a free throw with 5.8 seconds to go put make it a three-point cushion and Glenn's Brooklyn Holbrook's three-point shot as the buzzer sounded missed the mark dropping the Rockets to 3-1

"We were trying to drive to the basket, we were trying to draw a foul and get put on the line even though we weren't making our free throws," said Kovatch, whose team went 2-for-8 on the night.

It was 29-all at halftime, but it was the Joslyn Massey show as the 6foot forward from Glenn, bound for Purdue University, scored all 16 of her points and controlled the glass while outplaying Michigan-bound Kelsey Mitchell, who finished with eight points.

"Joslyn Massey --- Oh, my gosh, she's so athletic," Inkster coach Ollie Mitchell said. "Her and Kelsey (Mitchell) are best friends. They just love each other to death. They are very, very competitive."

Massey took only two shot attempts in the second half, both coming in the third quarter.

"We had to find out where she (Massey) was around the court," the Inkster coach said. "As you could see we did the best we could. She got hands on the ball, but we made sure we got bodies around her. So it was a little tougher for her to get clean rebounds. We made Kelsey hustle up on the other end to get her a little fatigued so Kelsey worked her down on the offensive side."

But other Glenn players stepped up throughout the game including Graves, who finished with 10 points, along with Kierra Jordan (9), Kaira Barnes (8) and Abbey Wright (8 off the bench). And the Rockets were

missing one of their key starters, 5-11 senior guard Erica Covile, a Temple University signee who sat out after reinjuring her surgically repaired knee during last Friday's win at Novi.

Her status for the rest of the season is up in the air

"Erica Covile is a great basketball player, but also have a team full of really, really good basketball players," Kovatch said. "And I'll go to battle with whoever we got. I'm very, very proud of them. We're not making any excuses."

Each team had 19 turnovers on the night, while Glenn had the edge in field goals (25-22). But Inkster had a decided advantage in free throws (11-of-17) and Glenn connected on only one three pointer.

"Normally we can hit three or four of those, but we were off tonight," Kovatch said. "We have a great bench. We can go nine solid players deep. With Erica Covile we're nine solid players deep that I'm comfortable playing and I have confidence in all those players."

Kovatch, who replaced Mark Anderson, now an Inkster assistant, as the Rockets' coach following last year's 19-4 season, said he made a strategical mistake.

"We tried to go man-

to-man the whole night," Kovatch said of his defense. "We were good. I made a poor adjustment. I switched to a zone. I thought they (Inkster) were going to drive and draw a foul. I went to the 2-3 (zone). That was a mistake in retrospect. I would have stayed with the man the whole time. I think by making that decision we let them back in game."

Whew

Meanwhile, Mitchell, who replaced Peggy Carr as Inkster's coach following a 25-2 state championship run, felt fortunate to get out of his home gym with a win.

"If we're scoring 65-to-70 points a game, we're happy," he said. "But our problem was we didn't stop some people. It was just a tremendous battle. I believe that whoever comes out of that district (at Romulus), whether it's us or John Glenn, look for one of us to go to the Breslin Center (at Michigan State). That is a tremendous team and they'll get nothing but better. And we're going to do the

same. "We're going to take this win, build on it, and try to get better."

In the waning seconds, Glenn's 5-10 junior transfer from Ann Arbor Skyline, Kierra Jordan, went down with an apparent ankle injury and had to be lifted off the court.

"We were looking for one big body and we're fortunate she came to John Glenn," Kovatch said. "She could be a missing piece for us in a long run. We could be seeing these guys (Inkster) in districts. The way I see it we'll see them in districts and it will be another great high school

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GC finishes off Wayne

An infusion of thirdquarter enthusiasm fueled Garden City's 58-46 victory over host Wayne Memorial Tuesday night in a non-conference girls basketball clash.

The victory improved the Cougars' record to 3-2 while the Zebras tumbled to 1-5.

"The girls came out in the second half with great intensity and effort," said Garden City head coach Barry Patterson. "It was back-and-forth all night until late in the third when we strung together eight straight points."

The Cougars' catalyst was senior guard Justice Dean, who went on an 8o run of her own during the game's pivotal thirdstanza stretch. Dean finished with 18 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Sophomore Ashley Bland paced the Zebras with 19 points. Tiara Childers also sparkled for Wayne, scoring 10 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

Garden City led 18-9 after one quarter before the Zebras stormed back to knot the game at 28all at the half. The Cougars seized control of the contest in the third quarter when they outscored their hosts, 16-7.

In addition to Dean, Minta Whitaker (nine points), Aleiah Smith (nine points, 15 rebounds) and Hillarie Werda (eight points, 10 boards) excelled for the winners. Garden City connected

on all but one of its eight free throws. Wayne was 12 for 23 from the line. **MERCY 55, GROVES 28:** The visiting Marlins raced to a 20-2 lead after one quarter Tuesday and held the Falcons to single-digit points in every period.

Sarah Benson scored 10 points, Sam Bauer and Candice Leatherwood eight each and Tyler Parlor seven. Farmington Hills Mercy (5-1) led at halftime, 32-11. Jordan Blackwell had eight points for Birmingham Groves (3-3). "Recently, we've been get-

ting off to very slow starts, so it was nice to get a good start and a nice lead," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "That set the tone for the night. The good part was all 13 girls played in each half and 10 scored.

"It was a nice game to fin-ish up before the Christmas break. We're happy to be 5-1, but we need to keep working to get better because the next game we play (Jan. 3) will be a Central Division game STEVENSON 51, CABRINI

38: Senior guards Jorden York and Molly Knoph scored 17 and 13 points, respectively, leading Livonia Stevenson (3-1) to a non-conference victory Monday at Allen Park Cabrini (2-2).

The Spartans, who jumped out to a 22-5 first-quarter lead, also got 10 points from sophomore center Charlesann Roy. Danielle Lollo and Valerie

Bertani tallied 18 and 10, respectively, for the Monarchs. Stevenson made 6-of-8 free throws, while Cabrini hit

FERNDALE 58, C'VILLE 53: Micaela Ellis poured in 19 points Monday as the visiting Eagles (2-4) turned back Livo-nia Clarenceville (1-6). Clarenceville led 13-7 after one quarter, but Ferndale went on a 20-8 second period run to take a 28-20 halftime lead. Sophomore center Ayanna Buckley scored 13 and junior guard Jodi Ankiel added 12 for Clarenceville, which made only 12-of-29 free throws. Ferndale connected on just

9-of-30 from the line. PLY. CHRISTIAN 67, GEN-**ESEE 27:** On Friday, visiting Plymouth Christian Academy (3-2) jumped out to a 13-0 first quarter lead and never looked back to beat host Genesee Christian.

PCA, which led 32-11 at halftime, was paced by Karen Windle (19 points, 11 steals), Emily Gerulis (12 points, seven steals), Jenny Malcolm (nine points) and Martha Mullett (nine points, including 7-8 from the free-throw line). Windle and Gerulis each

grabbed five rebounds **ADAMS 37, HARRISON** 29: On Friday, host Rochester Adams (3-1, 2-0) outscored Farmington Harrison (0-4, 0-2) by a 17-6 margin in the second quarter and stayed in front through the second half to earn the OAA White Division

victory. Tiera Parker scored 14 points and Marissa Cotton eight for the Hawks. The Highlanders got nine points from Taylor Houghtlin and eight from Lexi Lewandowski Adams won despite missing

17 of 24 free throws. Harrison was 10-of-18 at the foul line.

Crusaders' win streak snapped

The longest winning streak by a Madonna University men's basketball team in program history ended at nine on Saturday in the finals of the **BLT Sportswear & Appar**el Crusader Classic.

Now the trick is to start another one.

Goshen (Ind.) College got 26 pints and eight rebounds from tournament MVP Matthew Martin en route to a 64-51 triumph over host Madonna in a battle of nationallyranked teams at the MU **Activities Center.**

The Maple Leafs, ranked No. 11 in the latest NAIA Division II Coaches Poll, improved to 13-1 overall.

Geoffry Gilot, who also made the all-tournament team, added 14 points, while Garner Small came off the bench to add 13.

Sophomore guard Travis Schuba, another alltourney selection, led the No. 21 Crusaders (9-5) with 21 points, including 6-of-12 from three-point

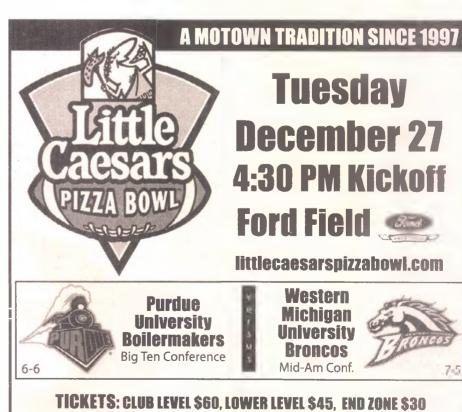
No other Crusader notched double figures as

sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) dished out nine assists, but had nine turnovers of his team's 13 turnovers.

Matt Jenkins grabbed a team-high seven boards.

"It was a great game," said MU coach Noel Emenhiser, whose team shot only 32.2 percent from the floor (19-of-59) and 7-of-15 from the foul line (46.7 percent).

MU is off until Friday, Dec. 30 when it travels to Denver, Colo. to face host Johnson & Wales.



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Salem grapplers show progress

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 22, 2011

Salem wrestling coach Pete Israel is seeing positive signs from his team early this season, including Saturday's "Dave Melton Memorial Duals" held at Huron High School in New Boston.

The Rocks defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer and Grosse Ile, losing matches against Yale, Huron and always-tough Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Spearheading Salem's solid showing was Tyler Gross at 160. He went 5-0 to follow up his win at

the recent Salem Varsity 10 Tournament.

"Tyler is progressing well this season and continues to make improvements," said Israel, adding that Alex Brown (4-1 at 189) "is starting to build some momentum and I am expecting good things to happen."

Capturing three wins each were Matt Lang (145, 152) and Tony Agostini (215) while 112-pounder Alex Arble earned two good wins.

Next up for the Rocks is the tough Plymouth Elks Tournament, set for Dec. 30 at Salem.

Meanwhile, Israel praised his JV wrestlers for their performances at Saturday's first Wayne County freshman/JV meet, where 23 teams participated.

Top performers included: freshmen Garen Takessian, fifth at 145; Charlie Woody, seventh at 119; Josh Streeter, second at 135; Justin Cook, third at 140; Matt Piotroski, fifth at heavyweight; James Toms, second at 119; Ralph Johnson, fourth at 145 in the JV division.

Run N' Gun secures first

Unbeaten Run N'
Gun still tops the Redford Recreation Basketball League standings following Sunday's games — but just
barely.

It took RNG (5-0) two overtimes to dispatch the feisty McBallers (1-4), 72-70, Sunday afternoon in one of four league contests. Brian Woodland spearheaded the winners' effort with 26 points. Drew Bradford (17), Dewey Rambin (11) and Rob Thomas (10) also played well for RNG.

Three players orchestrated the McBallers' upset bid: Anthony Simmons (17 points), Derrick Wilson II (15) and BJ Jones, who tossed in

Dirty Dozen (4-1) remained within one game of first place when it outran the Arsenal, 93-83. Lionel Sullivan torched the nets for 29 points while Dariun Bynum scored 22 for the winners. Kobe Landry led Arsenal with 20.

RT Runner (4-1) also stayed in the hunt for a

REDFORD REC BASKETBALL

title thanks to an 89-76 triumph over Chuck's B & G. Marcus Barton led all scorers with 24 points while Gerald Binford had a 21-point night. Dan Kurtanitis led Chuck's with 21 points. Mike Bright added 15.

All Sport (3-2) started Sunday's four-game slate with an exciting 87-81 win over the Heavyweights (0-5). Mike Beatty was on fire for the victors, pouring in 29 points. Cornelius Webb also sparkled with 20 points. Dajuan Will added 16.

George Johnson was almost unstoppable for the Heavyweights, pumping in 33 points. Reginald Hodo and Leroy Blyden scored 16 points each in the losing cause.

Beatty tops the league scoring leaders list with a 28-points-per-game average. Sullivan is averaging 26.8 per contest while Kevin Davis is scoring at a 25.3-points-per-game clip.

WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

with another at 140 by
Jordan Atienza. Heavyweight Omar Haymour
also added a second.
"We had a good final
round," Franklin 12thvear coach Daye Chiola

to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at that put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at that put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at that put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the every match well pinned some people at the put us over the to do and they did just enough. We didn't with the every match well pinned some people at the every

round," Franklin 12thyear coach Dave Chiola said. "The nine who were still in it, eight of them won. Five of them were pins, and two of them were majors, which were a lot of points.

"The kids we have that are tough did what they were supposed to do. Matt Horne was unseeded at 189 and took fifth. And some of our guys that lost in early rounds were able to go below and pin people."

Danny Martinez, a junior, decisioned Ali Ayache of Crestwood for the 119 title, 3-1, while Gabe Martinez, a senior, won by major decision, 8-0, over Keshav Patel of Canton at 125. Atienza, a sophomore, won by major decision over Said Youssef of Plymouth at 140.

"I thought we'd get four into finals and get

three champs," Chiola said. "Those guys did what they were supposed to do and they did just enough. We didn't wrestle every match well, but pinned some people and that put us over the top. Everybody had kids out of the lineup. We actually have a pretty good tournament team, but in duals we'll struggle. We have some top kids, but also some inexperienced kids. But we'll see, some of the guys are getting better

and some surprised me."
Wayne Memorial, nicknamed the Wolfpack,
came away with titles at
189 (Devin Korzetki) and
215 (Dimitrus Renfroe).

"All the credit goes to my wrestlers," Wayne coach Steve Vasiloff said. "We've been tough on them this season, constantly telling them about all the potential this team has and pushing them to reach it. At first, there was some resistance, and then they started to believe."

Korzetki earned upper weights MVP honors.

"He came into the tournament as the fifth seed and knocked off all the top guys to win the tournament," Vasiloff said. "Yet, we took second as a team because everyone wrestled well. I've always said I'd rather have a good team from top-tobottom than a team with one or two phenomenal wrestlers. And I'm glad to see we are getting there as a team."

'Cats freshman shines

Meanwhile, Plymouth captured crowns at 103 (Brandon Harris) and 112 (Trey Berry).

Harris, a freshman, decisioned Melvindale's Mohammed Yousef in the finals, 14-11.

"Brandon had a good day at 103," Plymouth coach Quinn Guernsey said. "Even though he's a freshman, he's not a rookie to the sport. But with that being said, he's still a freshman. The kid he beat in the finals was either a junior or a senior, so that's still asking a lot to beat a junior or senior in your first invitational meet. So he handled himself well and we're proud of him

"Trey just kept doing what Trey's done all year. He's undefeated on the year and has had some pretty dominant wins. He's been working since all last season to become one of the more elite wrestlers in the area. and also the state where he showed that kind of potential on Saturday in the finals against a pretty good kid, a state placer from Allen Park (Jake Polenciewicz).

"We're pretty proud of how our team did. We only had 10 guys that competed, but we had a lot of guys perform to their level, which we weren't sure about. I wasn't sure how good they were, but they actually proved it out on the mat. It was a good feeling to have those juniors and sophomores step up and show the success they're capable of having."

Canton, missing three key wrestlers out with various injuries, was led by 135-pound champ Alec Pantaleo, who recorded the quickest pin in the finals against Quentin Santiago of Wyandotte Roosevelt in 1:36.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 22
Steve. at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Edison at North Farm., 7 p.m.
Franklin Rd. at PCA, 7 p.m.
Fordson at RU, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 22
Edsel Ford at Franklin, 7 p.m.
GC at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

John Glenn at Belleville, 7 p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY
Thursday, Dec. 22
North-Harrison vs. Farmington
7 p.m. at F.H. Ice Arena
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 22
John Glenn Quad, 5:30 p.m.
RU at Romulus, 6 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Crestwood at RU, 4 p.m.
Thurston at Dearborn, 6 p.m.
Garden City at Belleville, 7 p.m.



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Dec. 22-31

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25 Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills **Details:** Family service at 5 p.m.; candlelight service at 7:30 p.m.

Contact: (248) 553-3380

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25; 7 p.m. Dec. 31 and 9:30 a.m. Jan. 1,

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Red-

Details: The theme of the Christmas Eve service is "Once Again My Heart Rejoices." It will be a word and song service featuring favorite Christmas carols. All children will receive a special free gift. The Rev. Gregory Gibbons' sermon on Dec. 25 will be "Dreaming of a White Christmas? It's here!" Contact: (734) 968-3523 or

Jan. 1-11,

CATHOLIC PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15 Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

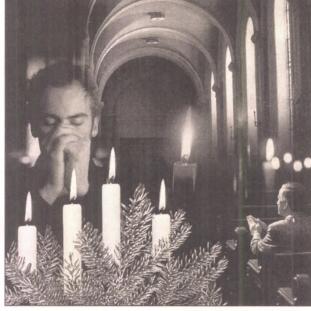
Details: "Catholics Returning Home," is a six-week series of meetings designed to answer questions and provide a forum for nonpracticing Catholics who might be interested in discussing a possible return to the church. Each session will be facilitated by former lapsed Catholics in a very casual, non-threatening environment, with plenty of opportunities for practical and open questions, answers, conversation, and discussion

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207

GRIEF RECOVERY

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8

Location: Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, near



2 p.m.

Plymouth

Location: St. Kenneth

Church, 14951 Haggerty,

Details: Mass followed by

refreshments, social time.

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Contact: Pat at (734) 895-

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Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second

Location: 34567 Seven Mile,

between Farmington and

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developmental disabilities

and special needs. Includes

songs, Bible lessons, crafts

and activities, prayer, snacks

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler

at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail

to pastorscott@emmanuel-

Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Location: 34541 Five Mile,

Details: "Four Views of the

Also ongoing: "Life's Heal-

ing Choices" Study Group, 6

p.m., fourth Sunday through

September, is for men and

from hurts, hangups and

Contact: (734) 464-7990

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7

a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney

Island, 21200 Haggerty,

habits of the past.

Men's Bible study

women who want freedom

Sundays through May 8

End Times" adult study

Faith Bible Church

Details: Open Arms

activities for widowed men

Details: The six-week support program, Living with the Loss of a Spouse," offered by Widowed Friends, will cover issues related to the grief process, including Ioneliness. A trained peer member will facilitate. Cost is \$20. Widowed Friends is a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit

Contact: Register by calling Joan at (248) 478-1084

NEW SERVICE

Time/Date: 10:10 a.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 8, 2012 **Location:** Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road in Plymouth

Details: A new 55-minute contemporary worship service called Impact will feature a praise band, lots of upbeat music and a powerful message in a relaxed atmosphere. Child care will be offered

Contact: (734) 453-5280 **THESIS**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 2, 2012

Location: Gesu Catholic Church, 17180 Oak Drive,

Details: Helen Marie Berg, senior at Catholic University, will present her thesis: "In Unity, There is Hope: A Story of a Detroit Parish." She will tell the story of how Gesu Catholic Church and School has changed as Detroit has

Contact: (313) 862-4400 or visit http://gesudetroit.org

Jan. 12-31,

2012

WIDOWED FRIENDS Time/Date: 2:30 p.m., Jan. 22, 2012; check-in starts at

at (734) 464-9491 **New Life Community** Church Time/Date: Jobs seminar,

Contact: John Shulenberger

Northville Township

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, Bel-

Contact: (734) 846-4615 **Nicole's Revival** Time/Date: 10:30 a.m...

Monday-Friday

Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford **Details:** Scripture study Contact: (313) 534-9000

Passages Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



CHASON, SARA JANE DALGLEISH

Age 56, of Dallas, Texas, passed away Wednesday, December 7, 2011, surrounded by her loving family. Sara was a professional vocalist. She was both a performer and a patron of the Arts. Born in Michigan and grew up in Bloomfield Hills where she met her husband David in the 7th grade Advanced Math Class. Sara and David were married for 33 years and had two children, Benjamin and Rebecca. Sara attended Brown University, obtaining an A.B. in Psychology, The University of Michigan School of Music, obtaining Bachelors in Music Voice Performance, as well as Wayne State University, obtaining a R.M.T. in Music Therapy. She vas a member of the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda, Chi Chapter, National Association of Teachers of Singing "NATS", American Music Therapy Association, Musical Arts Club, Pro Musical, Lyric Stage, Fort Worth Opera, Junior League of Dallas "JLD" NSCDA in TX and National Institute of American Doll Artists "NIADA". Sara taught private oice lessons at Highland Park High School, as well as in her private voice studio. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made in Sara's name to: Lyric Stage, www.lyricstage.org/donations.shtml. Sara is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Dr. David P. Chason, M.D. of the home, son; Benjamin G. Chason of Dallas, TX, daughter; Rebecca D. Chason of Dallas, TX, parents; Mary Jane and Charles Dalgleish Jr., of Bloomfield Hills, MI, brother; Charles K. (Anne) Dalgleish of Vienna, VA and sister; Elizabeth Dalgieish (John) O'Brien of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Memorial Service was held December 14, 2011 at Oaklawn United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. Mrs. Interment was Rectland Memorial Cemetery December 12, 2011.

In memory of

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROGER F. **BARTLETT &** SHIRLEY

Shirley, his wife passed away after a long illness this year; Roger a short time after. His neighbors on Kinloch and Woodworth at Cambridge will miss him. He will long be remembered

KAUMP, ROBERT O. Jr.

December 15, 2011, age 50, of Canton. Bob was a loving husband of 30 years to Kathleen. Beloved father of Adam (Cindy), Andrew, Aaron, Alexander, Austin, and Aimeegrace. Dear son of Robert (Jeanne) Kaump and Sharon (Fred) Behnke. Dear brother of Karen (Greg) Marcum and Lynn (Tom) Taphorn. Also survived by several cousins, nieces, and nephews. A celebration of his life will be planned at a later date. To leave condolences, please see

http://vermeulenfuneralhome. com/a/obituaries.htm



NYOUIST, EILEEN G.

December 18, 2011 Age 93 Long time resident of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Clarence. Dear mother of Nancy (Ken) Norris, Daniel (Nancy), and Kenneth (Sue). Sister of Kay Coburn and Cissy (Tony) Krzstofik. Grandmother of six and great grandmother of twelve. Secretary with the Wayne-Westland School Board and the city of Westland. Memorial service at Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Thursday 6pm. Family will Westland, receive visitors from 1-6pm. Cremation rights were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com.

WEBB, RALPH R.

December 18, 2011, age 80. Beloved husband of Mattie. Dear Father of Ralph R. (Michelle) Webb Jr. and Gillie W. (Denise) Webb. Grandfather of Jason, Kevin and Harrison Webb and Morgan (Adam) Rogers. Services were held on Wednesday. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

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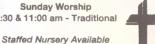
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrate the holidays with Irish music, dance

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

The fiddles, pipes and dancing shoes will come out for the 15th annual Crossroads Celi, two nights of Irish-style holiday celebration, next week at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

"This production at the Ark has been my doing for the last 15 years," said Mick Gavin, who teaches Irish fiddling from his home in Redford. "It's an annual event between Christmas and New Years. Years ago in rural Ireland and sometimes even these days in remote parts of Ireland, people met at the crossroads. They met in villages for fairs, to sell chickens, eggs ... but they met at crossroads and put up a platform and usually had pipers and dancers.

"They still have that in parts of Ireland as a tradition."

In keeping with that tradition, Gavin has recruited both local musicians and dancers and an international touring band, Bua, to heat up the stage with step dancing and Irish tunes.

The doors open at 7 p.m. and the shows will start at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 29-30 at the Ark, located at 316 S. Main in downtown Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$15 general admission, available from The Ark ticket and Information hotline at (734) 763-8587, and at www.theark.org.

Special guests this year are Bua and Nic Gareiss.

Bua, a quartet from Chicago, Ill., that includes Gavin's son, Sean, on flute, uilleann pipes, and whistle, plays Irish traditional music and tours extensively. The band released its third CD in October.

Gareiss, of Mt. Pleasant, has performed as a featured soloist with such bands as The Chieftains, Solas, and Dervish.

"He has incorporated many styles of dancing in the Celtic world ...oldstyle, Appalachian clogging, French Canadian step dancing and Scottish dancing from Cape Breton," Gavin

Bridget, Ella, Duggan and Dermot of the Dollowy family of Plymouth also will be on hand to dance, and play fiddle and banjo.

Other performers will include Kelsey Lutz on fiddle, Michael and Colleen Gavin — Mick Gavin's son and daughter-in-law — on fiddle, ban-jo, flute, and tin whistle, Terence and Siobhan McKinney on uilleann pipes and harp, and Lance Wagner on fiddle and piano.

"In keeping with tradition, we'll have lots of songs and some comedy songs," Gavin said. "We'll have some songs that go back to the famine days and some songs in the Irish language."

Look for a few Christmas carols performed in the Irish tradition, too.

For more information visit www.theark.com or crossroadsceili.weebly.com



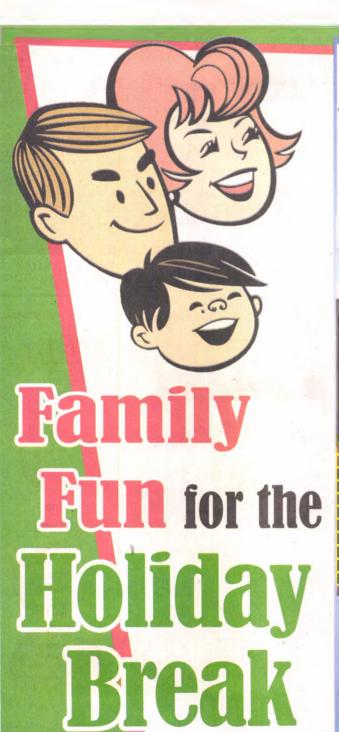
Bua will perform with local musiciansat the annual Crossroads Ceili Dec. 29-30 at the Ark in Ann Arbor.



Mick Gavin (right) presents Crossroads Celi at the Ark in Ann Arbor. Among the musicians who will perform at the event are his sons, Michael Gavin (left) and Sean Gavin on pipes. Sean is a member of the band, Bua.



Siobhan McKinney and Jaimie Lutz perform on harp at a previous





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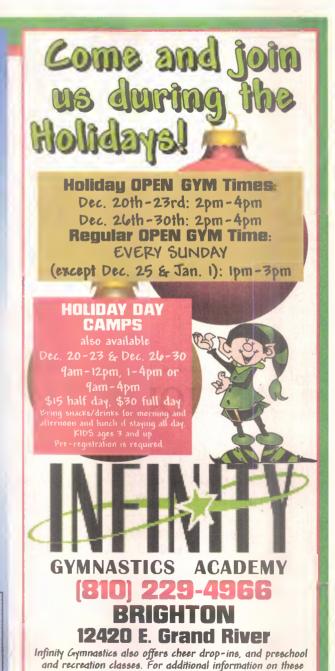
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Academy wish you and your family

a very happy holiday!

Art

ART & IDEAS

Time/Date: Through Dec. 24; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or by appointment

Location: 15095 Northville Road, in Plymouth

Details: "Downtown Foot Art" includes works by the gallery's artist-in-residence, Shage Kalaj. She focused on historical buildings in downtown Plymouth for her series of works which she sketched and painted with her feet in the outdoors over the summer Contact: (734) 420-0775

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sun-

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

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

Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12, 2012 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8, 2012; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18, 2012 Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Through Jan. 13, 2012

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: Call for entries to the 6th annual Member Exhibition that runs Feb. 3-18, 2012

Coming up: "Etch, Sketch and Stilettos," an exhibit of the work of Topher Crowder, runs Jan. 6-28, 2012. The artist is inspired by animated Saturday morning cartoons, vintage postcards, and 1960s/1970s comic books

Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMU-NITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: Through Dec. 22

Location: 774 N. Sheldon. Plymouth

Details: Works in colored pencil, ink, pastel and watercolor by members of Pam Grossmann's adult drop-in drawing classes. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-5

Contact: (734) 416-4278

Comedy

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

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

10 p.m. Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomedy.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre



Topher Crowder's "Yves Saint Laurent Patent Leather Tribute Peep Toe Platform" will be on exhibit along with his other works, beginning Jan. 6, 2012 at Northville Art House.

complex, Southfield

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

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or

www.ticketmaster.com JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m.
Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays,
Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth

Road, Livonia

Details: Joey's Comedy
All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy,
Dec. 28-31; Charlie Wiener,
Jan. 4-7, 2012; Dave Waite,
Jan. 11-14, 2012; Norm
Stultz, Jan. 18-21

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

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

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

Dance

MOON DUSTERS

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

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members; upcoming special dances include a New Year's party. Call for details Contact: Joe Castrodale,

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

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23
Location: 760 Penniman

Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Elf," \$3

Coming up: "The Big Year," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, 2012, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30; and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31; "Puss In Boots," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2012; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8, 2012; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12,

2012; all seats \$3 Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com
REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2012 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 7, 2012

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

Details: "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," tickets \$4 **Contact:** (313) 537-2560

Museums

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

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

Details: Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31; the play, "There Goes the Neighborhood," runs Jan. 7-8. Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted

Contact: (313) 494-5800

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

Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills

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

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

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Dec. 31 Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "A Red Ryder Christmas Story" features vignettes of scenes from the film, "A Christmas Story," information about the history of Red Ryder BB guns, which were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth, and artifacts of the 1940s. Santa visits the museum every Saturday in December. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17

Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK Time/Date: Dec. 18;

Crossroads Ceili, Bua and lic Gareiss, Dec. 29-30; The Fred Eaglesmith Traveling Show, Dec. 31; Black Jake and the Carnies, Jan. 6, 2012; Jill Jack Birthday Bash, Jan. 7; 2012; Deep Fried Pickle Project, Jan. 8, 2012; Bitch & Ferron, Jan. 8, 2012; Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound, Jan. 11, 2012; An Dro, Jan. 12, 2012; Mountain Heart, Jan. 13, 2012; Theo Katzman: Songwriting Workshop, Jan. 14, 2012; The Yellow Room Gang, Jan. 14, 2012; Bearfoot, Jan.

15, 2012 Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

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

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. the third Saturday of the month

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



The Michigan Philharmonic's next concert features its chamber orchestra and a new work by composer Andre Myers on Jan. 15, 2012.

Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The show includes open mic performances and Circle of Friends, this month's featured performer. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families and offer free admission to monthly concerts

Contact: Mike Mullen at (248) 719-3464

FARMINGTON HILLS YOUTH CHOIR

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 22

Location: Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Selections will range from "Believe" from "Polar Express" to "Carol of the Bells" and Avril Lavigne's "Keep Holding On." Admission is \$5; children 3 and under are free

Contact: (248) 473-1859 MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Jan. 15, 2012

Location: St. John's Seminary Chapel, Plymouth

Details: "Miniature Masterpieces" features music, such as Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun," and Mahler's "Song of a Wayfarer," performed

to the Afternoon of a Faun," and Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer," performed by the chamber orchestra. A new work, "Changes," by Michigan-born composer, Andre Myers, also will debut. Tickets are \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10, student Contact: (734) 451-2112; www.michiganphil.org

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: Fourth Tuesday; next show is 7-10 p.m. Dec. 27

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: \$5 donation at the door. Ron Kischuk and Friends perform. The group includes Ron Kischuk on trombone, Marion Hayden on bass, Gary Schunk on keyboard and Judie Cochill on vocals

Contact: (734) 453-1780

MOTOWN BEAT

Time/Date: Jan. 14, 2012 Location: Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills Details: "From Broadway

MOT,"
Coming up: Blackthorn,
March 9-10, 2012

to Hollywood with the

Contact: https://recreg.fh-gov.com or (248) 473-1848

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY

Time/Date: Rehearsal starts at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 9, 2012; come early to register and pay for scores Location: First United

Methodist Church, 45201 Territorial Road, Plymouth **Details:** The Society kicks off its rehearsal schedule. New experienced sing-

ers are welcome, without audition. The Society will perform "Requiem" by M. Durufle, "Regina Coeli" (KV 127) and "Ave Verum Corpus," both by W.A. Mozart, on Sunday, May 6, 2012 at the church Richard Ingram conducts the group. The Michigan Sinfonietta Orchestra will

concert.

Contact: (734) 455-8353
or plymouthoratoriosociety.org

join the Society for the

Something different

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

p.m. dally **Location:** I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

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

Elks jazz program changes dates

Jazz@The Elks, the popular monthly jazz program at the Elks Lodge in Plymouth, will feature local jazz artists the last Tuesday of the month beginning in January 2012.

Shows previously had been scheduled the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The next performance features Ron Kischuk and Friends from 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, at the Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road. The group includes Kischuk on trombone, Marion Hayden on bass, Gary Schunk on keyboard and Judie Cochill on vocals.

Admission is \$5 at the door. For more information call (734) 453-1780 or go to www. plymouthelks1780. com.





Add richer flavor to your holiday dishes with avocados

Family, friends, food and parties — entertaining during the holiday season can be a lot of work, but your party meals don't have to be complicated. Sometimes all you need is one ingredient that adds a little luxury and a lot of flavor, like avocados.

Thanks to the climate and rich, volcanic soil, Mexico produces an especially velvety avocado. Available year round, the Mexican avocado season peaks during the winter months. Take advantage of their creaminess this holiday season and top off a myriad of hors d'oeuvres and dishes for an instant splash of color and flavor. Here are some dishes to get you started:

· Upgrade a simple bruschetta with small chunks of avocado for a richer flavor.

· Slice an avocado and serve on a cheese and cracker plate for easy snacking.

• Bake an English muffin with melted cheese and sundried tomatoes then top with chunky avocado for sophisticated pizza bites.

Add diced avocado to a side of grains for a varied tex-

Avocados not only add color and flavor to your meals, they are nutrient-dense and provide a good source of fiber, as well. Their good unsaturated fats lower cholesterol and satisfy hunger truly making them the crowning touch to any dish.

Crab Cakes with Avocado Aioli

Recipe courtesy of Pati Jinich of PBS's Pati's Mexican Table Yield: 8 crab cakes, 4 servings

2 avocados, fully ripened, halved, pitted, peeled

¿ cup mayonnaise, divided

2 Serrano chiles or jalapenos, finely chopped, divided

1 garlic dove, sliced

& cup fresh lime juice

Salt and ground black pepper 1 egg, lightly beaten

& cup breadcrumbs 2 tablespoons white onion, finely chopped

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 pound jumbo lump crab meat, cartilage and shell removed

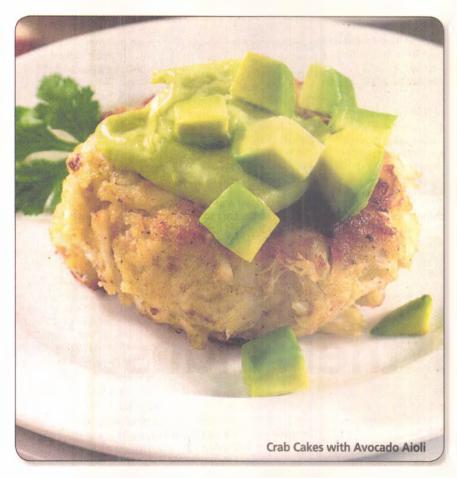
1 tablespoon butter

In medium bowl, mix egg, bread crumbs, remaining ¼ cup mayonnaise, 2 tablespoons lime juice, 1 chile, onion, mustard and ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper.

Fold in crabmeat until combined. Shape about ½ cup crab mixture into a 1-inch thick cake; place in nonreactive baking dish and refrigerate at least 4 hours or

To cook, pat crab cakes dry with paper towels. In large skillet, heat butter and oil over medium-high heat. Add crab cakes; cook until crisp and golden brown, about 5 minutes per side.

Slice remaining avocado; serve crab cakes garnished with avocado slices and Avocado Serrano Aioli.



Avocado Serrano Aioli

Coarsely chop 1 avocado.

In blender, combine avocado, ¼ cup mayonnaise, 1 chile, garlic and 2 tablespoons lime juice; puree until smooth.

Add salt and pepper to taste; cover and refrigerate until ready to serve, up to 12 hours.

The "New" Deviled Egg

Serves: 16 halves

8 hard-cooked eggs

2 fully ripened avocados from Mexico, halved pitted, peeled and diced

2 tablespoons lemon juice 1 tablespoon grated horseradish, drained

½ teaspoon salt ¼ teaspoon ground or cracked black pepper

& teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne) Peel eggs; cut in half lengthwise. Remove yolks to medium bowl; arrange whites on serving platter. To bowl of volks, add avocados and lemon juice; mash until smooth, mixing well. Stir in horseradish, salt

Fill egg white halves with heaping tablespoon of mixture, piling high; sprinkle with herbs, if desired.

Mexican Shrimp Cocktail with Avocado Serves: 4

½ pound medium size shrimp, cooked, shells and tails off

2 firm ripe avocados from Mexico,

halved, pitted, peeled and cubed Chipotle Cocktail Sauce, (recipe follows)

2 plum tomatoes, diced

& cup finely diced onion

1 serrano chile, finely diced 1/2 cup finely chopped cilantro

1 cup finely shredded lettuce

1 lime, cut into wedges 4 chilled martini glasses

Divide shredded lettuce in the martini glasses and add a lime wedge to the rim. Add shrimp, avocado, tomatoes, onion, Serrano chile and cilantro to the sauce; stir to coat well. Pile cocktail mixture on top of the shredded lettuce in each martini glass.

Chipotle Cocktail Sauce

& cup fresh lime juice

¼ teaspoon Kosher salt

1-2 whole chipotle chiles in adobo, seeded and deveined

1 small garlic clove 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper sauce

& teaspoon ground black pepper Chop chipotle chiles with garlic and salt until there is a smooth paste. Place ketchup, lime juice, cayenne pepper sauce and black pepper in a small mixing bowl. Add chipotle paste and stir with a whisk to blend well. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes to

Serve with crisp tortilla chips or saltine crackers.

let flavors develop before

For more tasty ways to top off vour meals with avocados, visit www.avocadosfrommexico.

— Family Features

A taste adventure for the holidays

Globe-trotting may not be on your holiday agenda, but you can get inspired and bring a variety of flavors to your holiday table. With these ideas, you can take party guests on a taste adventure around the world - without ever leaving home.

Dips and Spreads

Set out a selection of veggies to dip, and broaden your food horizon with a selection of breads such as naan, toasted grain breads and pita wedges.

• Flavored hummus — Update the classic favorite with a delicious roasted pine nut hummus, or please the classic crowd with spinach and artichoke flavor.

• Greek yogurt-based dips — Greek yogurt is thick, creamy and delicious, and makes an excellent base for dips. It can be mixed with sundried tomatoes, roasted garlic, spinach and artichoke — the flavor possibilities are endless, and it's a healthy alternative to traditional sour cream based dips.

• Salsa — Salsa is always a favorite. Freshen things up with home-made or store-bought refrigerated salsas. Offer a selection from sweet to spicy.

Small Plates

Help your guests discover a variety of fresh and delicious dishes by setting out an array of small plates. Allow people to taste many different options and find new favorites.

 Dolmas — Grape leaves stuffed with rice, onions, currants, pine nuts, mint and spices. They can often be found in the deli section of the grocery store.

• Empanadas — Spicy, meat-filled little pastries that can be dipped in your favorite salsa.

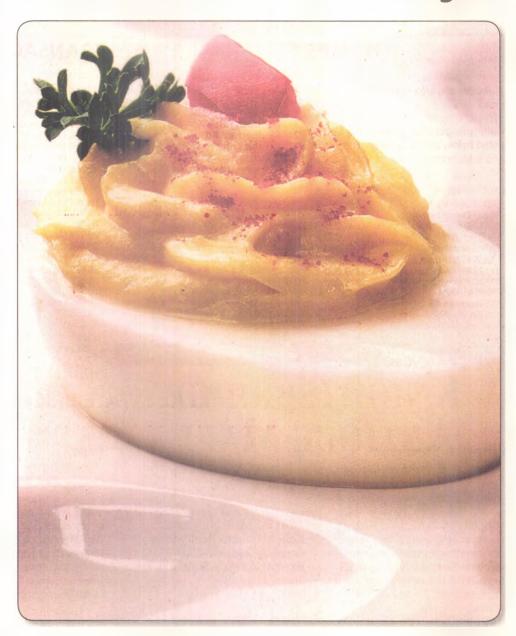
 Spiced Nuts — Roast some almonds or walnuts and toss with olive oil, a little salt, a flavorful herb and spice mixture. Try bold flavors like rosemary, cayenne or aleppo pepper.

 Mini vegetable pizzas — Top grilled pita bread with hummus and a variety of grilled vegetables with crumbled feta or drizzled olive oil. Slice into quarters so guests can enjoy different versions.

• Bruschetta — The delicious tomato and basil flavors of Bruschetta on top of toasted French baguette slices is a crowd favorite. Prepared Bruschetta can be made ahead of time and stored in the refrigerator to make prep quick

Try this simple Hummus Deviled Eggs recipe, too. You can let guests serve themselves, or set out individual servings in shot glasses or tasting

To get more adventurous recipes for your holiday party, visit www.sabra.



Hummus Deviled Eggs

½ cup, plus 1 tablespoon hummus

2 tablespoons olive oil

🖟 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

¼ teaspoon salt 3 teaspoons relish

Paprika for garnish

Place eggs in pot and cover with cold water. Bring to boil over high heat. Turn off heat; let sit for 14 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon; run cold water over eggs. Cool eggs 10 minutes.

Remove shells when cool. Cut in half; scoop out yolks and reserve in bowl of food processor.

Add humus, olive oil, pepper and salt to yolks; puree in food processor. Add relish; pulse 3 to 5 times to incorporate. Put yolks and mixture in piping bag. (Use tall glass and fold edges of piping bag over glass to make it easier to transfer mixture.) Pipe about 1 teaspoon of mixture into each egg white half; sprinkle with paprika.

Courtesy of Family Features

South

side of

Chicago:

pluses

By Robert Meisner Guest Columnist

Q: I understand that Chicago now has a Riverwalk on the south side of the river which then leads into the Lakefront. Are there any business opportunities that you are aware of in that area? A: Indeed, Chicago

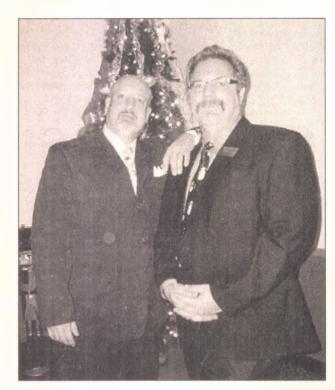
does have a Riverfront

side and in some areas

Michigan. There are a number of restaurants

area along the south

along the north side of the river leading into the mouth of Lake



Realtors Gary Reggish (left) and Tony Schippa visit at the holiday party in Livonia.



Party goers have a great time at the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors holiday party in Livonia. Left to right are MaryAnn Palise, Meriem Kadi, Sharon McCann, Lisa Reggish, Pam King and Ilene Patterson.

Yule party a festive time for Realtors, their industry friends

A good time was waiting Thursday, Dec. 1, at the American Legion Post 32 on Newburgh in Livonia.

The Farmington-based Greater Metropolitan Association of Realfors held its annual holiday party.

There was also a party Wednesday, Dec. 7, for eastsiders at Club Venetian in Madison Heights.

At the Livonia evening party, collections were taken for Arc of Northwest Wayne County and Warm Hearts,

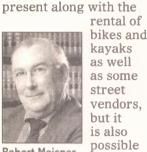
1855 Tradition Dr

two charitable projects of the association, said Pauline Olszewski, administrator,

The Livonia party had 189 people, Realtors and affiliate members such as inspectors and appraisers.

"They had a great time,"

Olszewski said. "It's basically just networking for the members." The parties also serve as a thank you to the members from the association, she added.



consider

Robert Meisner

opening up some sort of business in that area should the opportunities avail themselves for walk-in traffic on a seasonable basis. Of course, you will need the proper permits from the city and you will have to do a cost business plan analysis in order to determine whether or not it is a feasible opportunity. There are a number of residences going up around this area which formerly was a railroad yard and now finds itself inundated with high rise condos and apartment buildings.

Q: I am renting a condominium from someone wno bought a nome and cannot sell his condominium, plus I needed a place near my daughter's house. I have been there for almost two years and pay my rent. One of the owners had a plumbing problem and the dues went up \$25 a month for all owners to cover the thousands that it cost to do repairs. Am I required to pay the increase

A: Not necessarily unless your lease arrangement provides that you have to pay any increase in dues (assessments) to the association. That is, if your rent is based on a flat fee per month, irrespective of the dues (assessments), you have no obligation to pay additional sums. If the landlord tells you otherwise, you ought to consult with an experienced real estate attorney.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@ meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE hometownlife.com

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 12-16, 2011, at the wayne County Register of Deeds office.

Listed below are cities, ac and sales prices.	ddresses,
CANTON	
7745 Admiralty Dr	\$113,000
7950 Charrington Dr	\$157,000
41455 Copper Creek Dr	\$90,000
4116 Coronet Ave	\$125,000
6315 Courtland Dr	\$206,000
1625 Crestview Dr	\$217,000
46856 Eastbourne Rd	\$340,000
47102 Easthousene Rd	\$225,000

1625 Crestview Dr	3217,000
46856 Eastbourne Rd	\$340,000
47193 Eastbourne Rd	\$326,000
6667 Edgewood Rd	\$155,000
45914 Fountain View Dr	\$279,000
49499 Great Falls Rd	\$135,000
49068 Hawksburry Rd	\$118,000
1804 Hendrie	\$325,000
4145 Kimberly Dr	\$187,000
6856 New Providence Way	\$43,000
1240 Old Colony Ln	\$207,000
4733 Pond Run	\$191,000
49164 Poppleton Ct	\$335,000
2865 River Meadow Cir	\$181,000
776 S Haggerty Rd	\$147,000

45576 S Stonewood Rd

\$147,000

\$176,000

GARDEN CITY	\$423,000
31624 Brown St	\$56,000
32951 Kathryn St	\$50,000
6326 Lathers St	\$40,000
33221 Rosslyn Ave	\$73,000
LIVONIA	
38176 Ann Arbor Trl	\$25,000
32817 Barkley St	\$158,000
37317 Bennett St	\$138,000
14124 Berwick St	\$110,000
38240 Bloomfield Dr	\$155,000
11326 Brookfield St	\$90,000
16294 Country Club Dr	\$165,000
15947 Deering St	\$57,000
20569 Ellen Ct	\$294,000
14474 Ellen Dr	\$136,000
16118 Fairway St	\$240,000
18413 Floral St	\$50,000
39096 Grennada St	\$123,000
29975 Hathaway St	\$129,000
14151 Ingram St	\$135,000
27549 Lyndon St	\$60,000
38235 Mallory Dr	\$210,000
17960 Mayfield St	\$196,000
31508 Merriwood Park Dr	\$85,000
35600 Minton St 18748 Nola St	\$100,000
31710 Norfolk St	\$115,000 \$165,000
9911 Oporto St	\$55,000
20205 Parkville St	\$99,000
TOTOS I MINAIIIC SC	422,000

	29003 Rayburn St 17254 Rougeway St 14541 Stonehouse Ave 38471 Summers St 17493 Westbrook Dr 28947 Westfield St
	31341 Westfield St
	20335 Whitby Dr
- 1	NORTHVILLE
	16124 Brook Trout Ln
	16392 Brook Trout Ln
	16132 Crystal Downs E
	39580 Dun Rovin Dr
	39639 Dun Rovin Dr
	48780 Freestone Dr
	48941 Freestone Dr
	16425 Mulberry Way
	17226 Stonebrook Dr
	46670 Stratford Ct
	19197 Surrey Ln
	16995 Sycamore Ct PLYMOUTH
F	
	42126 Brentwood Dr
	11816 Brownell Ave
	735 Burroughs St
	13659 Fairview Ln
	1097 Hartsough St
	1799 Lexington St
	0430 Manieteca De

9420 Manletree Dr

49840 Pointe Xing

45633 Primrose Ct

\$206,000 \$63,000	
\$110,000	
\$210,000	
\$128,000 \$130,000 \$425,000 \$245,000 \$188,000 \$103,000 \$255,000 \$500,000 \$420,000	
\$50,000 \$321,000	
\$104,000 \$187,000 \$196,000 \$1,225,000 \$105,000 \$200,000 \$339,000 \$100,000 \$260,000	

47648 W Ann Arbor Trl	\$410,000
12150 Centralia	\$25,000
9535 Hemingway	\$60,000
26720 Joy Rd	\$13,000
17720 Lennane	\$47,000
15573 Leona Dr	\$50,000
19985 Seminole	\$34,000
26716 Student 26310 W Seven Mile Rd	\$47,000 \$25,000
WESTLAND	\$25,000
6948 Bison St	\$89,000
35695 Castlewood Ct	\$53,000
7412 Central St	\$15,000
36568 Deer Run Ct N	\$85,000
35451 Dove Trl	\$65,000
31652 Fairchild St	\$80,000
434 Filbert St 7719 Gary Ave	\$61,000 \$50,000
35830 Hazelwood St	\$52,000
30831 Lonnie Blvd	\$86,000
2256 N Hix Rd	\$30,000
6916 N Wildwood St	\$90,000
741 Patricia Place Dr	\$160,000
1455 Portland St	\$63,000
6223 Twin Oaks	\$83,000
1643 Westchester St	\$80,000
1253 Woodbourne St	\$24,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 6-9, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS 17880 Beverly Rd 17928 Dunblaine Ave 30557 Georgetown Dr 18451 Hillcrest St	\$104,000 \$330,000 \$260,000 \$319,000
15780 Kirkshire Ave	\$135,000
15855 Kirkshire Ave	\$135,000
31173 Pickwick Ln	\$115,000
31330 Pickwick Ln	\$213,000
BIRMINGHAM	\$214,000
355 Baldwin Rd	\$428,000
499 Bennaville Ave	\$600,000
909 Bennaville Ave	\$525,000
482 Cambridge St	\$360,000
1030 Lakeside Dr	\$585,000
1878 Maryland Blvd	\$370,000

1888 Pembroke Rd BLOOMFIELD HILLS	\$599,000
1986 Dell Rose Dr	\$310,000
1427 Kirkway Rd	\$1,150,000
2406 Rutherford Rd	\$60,000
1281 Water Cliff Dr	\$830,000
3709 Darlington Rd S	\$304,000
440 S Cranbrook Rd	\$138,000
1825 5 Woodward Ave #	
434 Thetford Ln	\$525,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	4,
2412 Bradway Blvd	\$593,000
3835 Carriage Ln	\$270,000
2220 Devonshire Rd	\$98,000
6185 E Surrey Rd	\$260,000
412 N Glengarry Rd	\$425,000
4049 W Maple Rd	\$25,000
5707 Woodwind Dr	\$305,000
5726 Woodwind Dr	\$315,000
873 N Cranbrook Rd	\$400,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	\$400,000
2221 Applebrook Dr	\$345,000
5409 Plantation Dr	\$283,000
3148 Royal Blvd	\$35,000
FARMINGTON	+33,000

35810 Smithfield Rd
36228 Smithfield Rd
Farmington Hills
35745 Castlemeadow Dr
37566 Cherry HI
38938 Country Cir
37530 Emerald Forest Di 28716 Eton Gln
37565 Glengrove Dr
32560 Hearthstone Rd
26811 La Muera St
29645 Mayfair Dr
28401 New Castle Rd
28519 Newport St
29244 Oak Point Dr
28788 Piedmont Dr
25409 Ranchwood Dr 36226 Trenton Ct
FRANKLIN
29855 Forest Dr
MILFORD
825 Abbey Ln
541 Cumberland Trl
1785 Melody Ln
NOVI

\$219,000 \$157,000	4
\$195,000 \$385,000 \$50,000 \$226,000 \$225,000 \$270,000 \$132,000 \$215,000 \$130,000 \$175,000 \$160,000 \$300,000 \$270,000 \$180,000	53 22 11 4 13 50 12 55 51 12 11 W
\$146,000 \$325,000 \$243,000	8

42945 Brookstone Dr 22427 Cranbrooke Dr 50297 Drakes Bay Dr 313 Elm Ct 24599 Enchanted Dr 24251 Lynwood Dr 195 Pleasant Cove Dr 41821 Quince Dr 1155 South Lake Dr 30193 Viewcrest Ct SOUTH LYON	\$243,000 \$90,000 \$13,000 \$170,000 \$280,000 \$209,000 \$88,000 \$33,000
1190 Fountain View Cir 27530 Milford Rd 59378 Pacers Path Southfield	\$68,000 \$139,000 \$225,000
19751 Filmore St 28540 Glasgow St 17337 Westover Rd WHITE LAKE	\$75,000 \$26,000 \$86,000
1934 Margie Dr 8956 Sandy Ridge Dr 9185 Sandy Ridge Dr	\$196,000 \$230,000 \$234,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www. metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residen-

tial real estate. Attend a free onehour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obli-

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

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. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

On Facebook

RE/MAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from RE/MAX experts. The new site is



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

a chance for the public to ASKRE-MAX and get clear, expert answers in real time

Visit www.facebook.com/ASKRE-



CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Family man
- Well-aware of
- Tear to pieces only as
- directed 13 Job application
- 14 Two-piece
- cookie 15 Like some gas
- (hyph.) 17 Ess molding
- 18 Jet routes
- 19 Captivates 21 Place to surf
- 23 Lab course 24 Discombobulate
- 28 Coach
- 32 Geological
- period 33 Twitch
- 35 Mr.
- 39 Rich
- 44 Bigger than med.
- 42 Mil. branch
- Hammarskjold 36 Pine source
- Shaman's findings Dorm sharer Proof word

45 Longed for

weapon 54 Disadvantage

56 Strays 57 Eager, plus 58 Plunging neckline

59 Graph lines

61 Mouse alert

Overcast

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Crossing the

Cancel out

Coat rack

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Senior member

DOWN

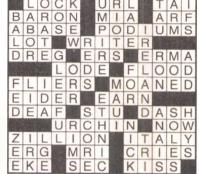
5

60 Singer Horne

53 Clublike

49 Sponsorship

10 Not e'en once 11 Female rabbits Answer to Previous Puzzle



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- 16 Morning
- moistures 20 Fake it
- 22 Venture money at
- Vegas
- 25 Old card game 26 Famous numero

24 Not very many

- 27 Sugarloaf locale
- 29 Fruity drink 30 Be able to 31 Alt.
- 34 An NCO 37 Coercion
- 38 W-2 info 40 Entebbe's
- land 41 Cask sedi-
- ment 43 Award for bravery 45 Nonprofit org.
- (brandies)
- 47 Ranch segment
- 48 Took the plunge 50 Confer upon
- 51 fixe 52 Look for
- 55 Prevail

at QuillDriverBooks.com

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books

43

Fun By The Numbers



Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Word Search

C	Н	R		S	Т	M	Α	S	C	Н	E	M	0	M
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christmas december decorate

family food gifts

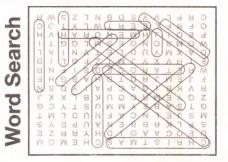
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.875	0	3.125	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group	(800) 785-4755	3.5	0.5	3	0.5	J/A/V/F
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Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.375	O	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	4.25	0	3.5	'0	Α
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.375	0	J/A/V/F
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Signature Mortgage Michigan	(810) 588-4424	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A//F
Talmer Bank & Trust	(800) 462-2786	4	0	3.25	0	JANF

Above Information available as of 12/16/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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724: 7 horse B & S. 24 inch

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KITTENS & CATS: For adop

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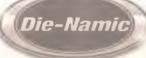
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- 1. Call 1-800-506-5115
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- Chat with local singles right now Call 248-397-0123 to learn more
- Need help? Some Tips? Go to www.People2People.com/help



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rice dinorm, beaches, nature, cal

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Fig. 1 (2014) FOUR BET THE OHE?

Fig. 2 (2014) FOUR BET THE OHE?

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RESPECTFUL

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LET'S IMEET FOR COFFEE SM. 72, 5°5′. 1600bs. NS, works out offers Sealing SWF, 64-6s, for friendship, possible LTR. Let's gat together and self over a cup of coffinel 17334629

SEEKE A REAL LADY SSM, SE, 6'C'. 1600m, NM, analos scorem, 22-46, amy, down-to-earth, curvey, for translating and more. Westaids Debts. 12738750

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Help Wanted-General

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The City of Wayne

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Applications Applications
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personnel.html

Apply in person to: Painters Supply & Equip 1054 W. Ann Arbor Rd. Plymouth. Completed applications ust be received in the connection of the control of the co DRIVERS: TOW TRUCK Exp. d only. Various shifts 4:30 p.m. on January 2012. Resumes witho Contact Karen or Walter: 734-455-1130 **ENGINEER-**

Audio Software eloper, Research In Motion poration (US), Canton, MI. elop speech enhancement The City of Wayne is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision cell phone audio subsystems mplement the algorithm on implement the algorithm on the Dightal Signal Processor (DSP) used on BlackBerry devices. Utilize MATLAB prog devices. Utilize MATLAB prog skills to develop leading edge algorithms which improve speech communications in noisy environments. Write a simulation model of each algorithm subcomponents using



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We are seeking a self-driven, experienced, organized Sales/Marketing Manager for the Midwest region, to be based in Southeast Michigan. A minimum of 5 years exp. required participating in

Help Wanted-General

required participating in food shows, marketing and sales promotiona planning, branding. Experience managing and developing distribution networks strongly pre-

ferred. A degree in mai

keting, and experience with product selling and a working knowledge of organic foods is strongly preferred. Good compute skills a must. Travel up to 100 days per year with some weekend commit-ments. Competitive benefit 313-769-6298 package offered and compensation will be commensurate with

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

CLASSIFIED EARLY DEADLINES The Classified Department of the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies Newspapers will be closed Monday, December 26th & Monday, January 2nd, so our employees may observe the Holidays.

Edition of Sunday, Dec. 25th Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads Classified Liners

Edition of Thursday, Dec. 29th Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads Classified Liners

Edition of Sunday, Jan. 1st Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads

Classified Liners

Classified Liners Edition of Thursday, Jan. 5th Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads

Deadline Thursday, Dec. 22 @ 5 pm Friday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm Friday, Dec. 23 @ 4 pm

Deadline Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon Friday, Dec. 23 @ noon Tuesday, Dec. 27 @ 4 pm

Deadline Thursday, Dec. 29 @ 5 pm Friday, Dec. 30 @ 3 pm Friday, Dec. 30 @ 4 pm

Deadline Friday, Dec. 30 @ noon Friday, Dec. 30 @ noon Tuesday, Jan. 3 @ 4 pm Help Wanted-Dental

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248 686 0119

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