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Donations buy gifts for struggling military families

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The holiday spirit was apparent at the Genuine Toy Co. Wednesday evening as Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission members went Christmas shopping for children from military families experiencing hard times.

The shopping spree at the downtown Plymouth toy store was paid for by the \$1,525 the commission raised over the past year. Genuine Toy owners Charles and Elle Dare gave the project a 20-percent discount, bringing the value of the purchases to

more than \$1,800.

Spokesmen for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 said the toys, games and other gifts will be distributed to eleven local military families, most with a parent on active duty. There are about 25 children, ages 2-17, among those families, they said.

"There isn't a better cause," said City Commission member Ed Hingelberg, the city's liaison to the PCYAC, as he gave PCYAC members a pep talk.

"The veterans have done so much for people in our community, it's good to give

back," said Plymouth High School senior Lara Stojanov, a two-year PCYAC member. Lara had four boys, ages 8, 9, 14 and 16, and three girls, one age 7 and two age 12, on her shopping list.

Plymouth High student Austin Danis, who works part time at a neighboring business, was helped by the project, buying presents for a brother, 7, who otherwise wouldn't be getting much, he said. Their mother, he said, will "flip" when she sees the gifts.

Austin bought a Lego set and a small snow shovel so his brother can shovel

Please see DONATIONS, A3



Lara Stojanov, left, a senior at Plymouth High School and a member of the Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission, consults with Katelyn Sabada, an assistant manager at Genuine Toy Co., as Lara and other PCYAC members buy Christmas gifts for children in area military families that are undergoing difficult times.



Merchants around downtown Plymouth have again built gingerbread houses for display, and shoppers can vote for their favorites. This one is at Bella Mia.

Gingerbread houses

In what has become a popular downtown attraction, the merchants of Plymouth have once again built gingerbread houses to be displayed this year. People can visit the stores to see the houses and vote for their favorites. The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce website (www.plymouthmich.org/events/Gingerbread-Houses-on-Display_ET265.html) also has pictures of all the houses.

For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-1540.

Turkey needs

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps needs some 200 turkeys or hams for this year's Christmas distribution, which takes place Dec. 18-19.

Turkeys should be frozen with a 15-pound average. Hams can be large or small, canned or fresh. Donations will gladly be accepted through Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Plymouth Salvation Army Corps is located at 9451 S. Main (just south of Ann Arbor Road) in Plymouth. It serves the Plymouths, Canton, Northville and Belleville.

For more information, contact Laurie Aren at laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org or (734) 453-5464, ext. 29.

Time to remember



TOM BEAUDOIN

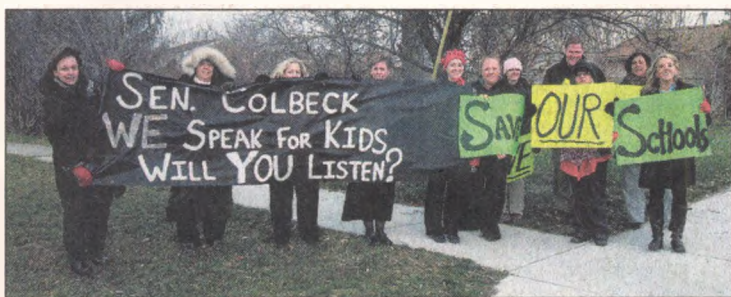
Jennifer Lashbrook of Livonia finds the ornament dedicated to her son, Brad Lashbrook, on the Compassionate Friends Christmas tree in Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Brad was killed in a car accident in 2010 on Eckles Road in Livonia. For more on Sunday's Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil, please see page A10.

Teachers protest RTW, education makeover

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

While the controversial right-to-work legislation drew all the attention in the last week, Plymouth-Canton teachers tried Tuesday to draw some attention to legislation coming down the road that could affect them as much, or more.

While they're concerned about the new right-to-work laws, the legislation that concerns them the most is a revamping of the way public schools are funded and who can get public-school funding, and an extension of the Education Achievement Authority's reach. The EAA was formed



Hoben Elementary teachers staged a protest Tuesday against changes Gov. Rick Snyder wants to make to public education in Michigan.

last year to give supervision to Detroit Public Schools, and Gov. Rick Snyder's push would extend that to any district in the bottom 5 percent of performing schools.

"Gov. Snyder has begun a campaign against public edu-

cation and the need to privatize it," said Debbie Erickson, a teacher at Hoben Elementary School. "This will benefit corporations but not children. Corporations are interested in

Please see PROTEST, A2

Township OKs \$12.4 million 2013 budget

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A new Plymouth Township budget for 2013 came with an upbeat assessment of the township's economic picture.

The nearly \$12.4 million general-fund spending plan for the next fiscal year was approved by a 7-0 vote at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting, the first since a new board was elected last month. The budget is nearly \$700,000, or about one half of 1 percent, below this year's amended budget of just over \$13 million.

Nevertheless, officials cited an increase in property values and business activity in suggesting the township is leaving behind the effects of the Great Recession.

"What we've endured the last four years, we're coming out of," said Treasurer Ron Edwards. He mentioned expansions and renovations at the township's Kroger supermarket, and at Hines Park Lincoln and Don Massey Cadillac, plus bottled-water giant Absopure's recent purchase of a vacant building, as examples of business growth.

"Things are looking pretty good," Edwards said. Officials thanked township employees for taking concessions and keeping expenses down over several years, when revenues were down because of decreasing property values and cuts in state aid.

"We've put a lot of pressure on a lot of people around here to make our numbers come out," Edwards said.

The 2013 general-fund budget is based on a total township tax rate of 4 mills, or \$4 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. That will generate an estimated \$6.95 million, the largest single source of revenue for the general fund, Edwards' budget projections show.

Other revenue sources include state revenue sharing (nearly \$2.2 million), interest earnings and rent

Please see BUDGET, A3

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Folk society show benefits Goodfellows

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth's BaseLine Folk Society is marking two firsts in its eight-year history.

The group of musicians and fans dedicated to the performance of traditional folk and acoustic music is planning its first all open-microphone night for Saturday at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

In addition, the November BaseLine show was a benefit for the Plymouth Goodfellows, and more than \$550 was raised to help the Goodfellows' No Child Without a Christmas campaign. It was the

first fundraiser the group had done since it was founded in 2005.

Saturday's show will offer up to 14 slots for performers to sign up to do two or three tunes each, compared to the eight open-mic spots typically available at its concerts on the third Saturday of the month.

The event begins at 7 p.m., with open-mic sign-up between 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Admission is \$5 a person.

The night will be hosted by the folk duo Maggie and Alex Zakem, who have been performing together for more than 30 years and are regulars at BaseLine. They per-

form old and new songs and instrumentals from American and Irish traditional music, including bluegrass, music of the Appalachians, and pieces from contemporary writers.

BaseLine also recently launched a Facebook page, with information, photographs, and a schedule. The group's season is September through May; individual season passes are available for \$25 and family passes for \$50.

The PCAC is at 774 North Sheldon, at Junction, south of M-14.

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PROTEST

Continued from page A1

profit and unfortunately you cannot make a profit on children. Education needs to be in the hands of people who are educators. This is what's best for children."

While many teachers traveled to Lansing Tuesday to protest the right-to-work legislation — passed by the state House and Senate and signed by Snyder late Tuesday — the small group of Hoben teachers decided to stage their own little protest at home.

They took a couple of signs up the street and stood for awhile at the corner of Saltz and Canton Center, drawing

appreciative honks from passing motorists.

The protest was an effort to get state legislators to listen to them and, if possible, to change direction of the education legislation. State Sen. Patrick Colbeck was a particular target, with his name featured prominently on the group's sign.

Teachers feel there's a disconnect between Colbeck and public school teachers.

"(Colbeck) avoids talking to educators," Erickson said. "He won't return phone calls, he won't face the schools or the teachers."

Colbeck disputes the contention he's out of touch with public educators, saying the impending legislation is proof.

"I don't know how much more response you can give to public education," Colbeck said. "The big focus has been making sure the focus of education is not on buildings, but on students."

But the teachers called Snyder's right-to-work push, and the speed with which it happened, the "last step at trying to dismantle unions and take away the power we have to keep our jobs."

"We believe in what's best for kids," said Hoben teacher Donna Pahl. "Teachers who are dedicated need to be paid well and treated with respect. We are professionals and should be treated like it."

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AROUND PLYMOUTH



Welcome to town

Owner/Broker Shelby Fulkerson and Sales Consultant Cassie Hannahs of Hub LLC, cut the ribbon on their new business at 829 Penniman in Plymouth. They are a real estate brokerage and consulting firm that services business and individual clients in all aspects of purchasing and development. They were joined in cutting the ribbon by associates, clients and Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

"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.

COLBECK HOURS

Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 6-7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and his district manager Ryan Eggenberger will hold office hours in Plymouth. Colbeck and Eggenberger will be available to talk with residents and to assist with any problems related to their interactions with state government. No appointment is necessary.

Contact: For more information or to contact Colbeck, visit www.morninginmichigan.com or call (734) 335-0673.

PCAC EXHIBITS

Date/Time: Through Jan. 2; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursdays.

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces its December 2012 Exhibits: In the Main Gallery, a solo show, "An Exhibit of Drawings & Paintings by Jean-Paul Abou-Dib." Mr. Abou-Dib is a graduate of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, with a Masters Degree in Painting from Wayne State University.

His paintings and drawings feature the human form in the style of classic realism, rendered in charcoal, graphite and paint. The December Front Wall exhibit will feature drawings, paintings and photography by the PCAC adult art students of instructors Denise Cassidy (acrylics classes), Pam Grossmann (drawing and painting classes), and Christina Evans (photography and painting classes).

Contact: Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information or visit our website at www.plymoutharts.com for more information.

COOKIE WALK

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to noon

Location: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh, in Westland.

Details: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church will hold a cookie walk/bake sale. Holiday cookies, spinach pies, sweet Greek bread and Greek pastries will be available.

COLORING CONTEST

Date/Time: Now through Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8:30-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Location: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, 40875 Plymouth Road

Details: Lou LaRiche Chevrolet will be holding a coloring contest. The age groups are 0-3, 4-6 and 7-9.

The winner from each age group will be awarded a \$50 Toys R US gift card. One entry permitted per child. While you are here, take a picture with Nick from the Chevrolet commercials.

Contact: Call 734-453-4600 for more information.

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth

Details: Meetings of the Plymouth-Canton Neighborhood Group are open to sewists of all levels. The Jan. 3 meeting features "Creating and Applying Bias Binding." The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer." The March 7 meeting features "3D Flying Geese."

Contact: For more information, email ASGPC@comcast.net

MOPS MEETINGS

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

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.stekmops.org.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email achristensen@cch.net.

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Plymouth man gets probation in fatal motorcycle crash

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

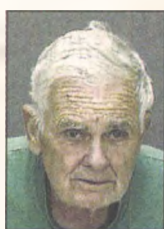
A Plymouth man has avoided jail after pleading no contest to charges including driving drunk and killing a Garden City man.

Robert John Montgomery, 79, was sentenced to four years probation on Dec. 7 on charges of driving under the influence of liquor causing death and a second charge of causing serious injury while under the influence.

Other conditions of the probation are that Montgomery report monthly, pay fees and costs and undergo testing for alcohol use.

Gary West, 56, of Garden City was killed in the July 24 accident at Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Park Drive. His wife, Susan, 54, was critically injured in the accident.

Police said Montgom-



Montgomery

ery had a .11 blood alcohol level at the hospital following the accident. The legal limit for drunken driving in Michigan is .08.

The accident happened just before 9:30 p.m. Police said the motorcycle ridden by the Garden City couple was southbound on Hines Drive. As the motorcycle approached Ann Arbor Trail, police said a four-door sedan traveling northbound attempted to make a left turn onto Ann Arbor Trail.

Police had four witnesses to the accident who saw Montgomery make a left turn in front of oncoming traffic, including the Wests on the motorcycle.

The motorcycle dropped to the pavement and began sliding. Police said the motorcycle struck the turning vehicle, causing both rider and passenger to be ejected.

Susan West suffered injuries to her shoulders, legs, arms and multiple broken ribs in the accident. Unlike his wife, Gary West was not wearing a helmet when the crash occurred.

The couple, Garden City residents for 28 years and the parents of three adult children, were known to ride their motorcycle on Hines Drive regularly.

There had been no plea agreement made in connection with the no contest plea. Montgomery was sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Margie Braxton.

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BUDGET

Continued from page A1

(\$695,000), license and permit fees (\$567,000), intergovernmental charges (\$540,000) and the city of Plymouth's contribution toward the public safety dispatch and jail service the communities share (\$305,000).

On the expenditures side, just over \$7.7 million is budgeted for public safety — police, firefighters, emergency dispatch and the lockup. That's down from \$8.25 million for the current year; the savings come largely from changes at the Plymouth Community Fire Department, from which six firefighters were laid off in March and two more retired in August.

The township has reor-

ganized the department, closed a fire station, and is relying on a mix of full- and part-timers during the busiest hours, plus the assistance of the Huron Valley Ambulance paramedic service.

More than \$2.9 million is slated for general government, down slightly from the current year. No other areas are budgeted for more than \$1 million each, with capital purchases, at nearly \$724,000, coming the closest.

Trustee Chuck Curmi noted the police budget doesn't include money for moving to the public safety model of providing firefighting and emergency medical response services — that is, having police officers cross-trained as firefighters and medical first-

responders. The model has been discussed as a possibility as officials look to further streamline the fire department.

Supervisor Richard Reaume responded that the budget is a working document subject to amendments if the need arises.

Curmi was elected to the board last month after serving four terms between 1992 and 2008; Reaume was elected to a third term as supervisor, and Edwards to a fifth term as treasurer.

The 2012-16 board also includes Trustee Kay Arnold, who is beginning her sixth term, third-term Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, second-term Trustee Mike Kelly and freshman Clerk Nancy Conzelman.

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DONATIONS

Continued from page A1

el snow for their grandmother, who lives nearby. He thanked Hingelberg profusely outside the toy store, and the two hugged.

"I'm trying not to get teary-eyed, because this is so awesome," Austin said.

Hingelberg said the fact that the gifts are purchased at a local business, rather than from a big-box store, is an added benefit to the community. He also praised the Plymouth Police Officers Association, the union representing Plymouth's police officers, which helped the PCYAC with a recent \$500 donation.

"To me, that's a symbol of a community that really comes together," he said.

The PCYAC is a seven-member service organization that occasionally consults with local officials on issues pertaining to young people.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Shotgun threats

Reports of a domestic dispute involving threats with a 12-gauge shotgun sent Canton police to the 45800 block of Bartlett, northwest of the Sheldon Center-Canton Center intersection, about 1:30 p.m. Sunday, a police report said.

A man told police his stepson had pointed a shotgun at him before running from the residence. Police went to the home and spoke with the stepfather and a cousin of the suspect. The shotgun in question was found in the floor of the garage, and a police report indicated there were numerous firearms, some of them hunting-style guns, in the house.

The stepfather told police his stepson's mother had died a few months earlier, that he had lost a girlfriend and has a drinking problem. The alleged victim said the stepson walked toward him with a rope and a shotgun, ordering him to tie himself up because the stepson was taking the van, the police report said.

The stepfather told police when he got out of his chair to leave the house, the stepson leveled the shotgun at him and said it was loaded. The stepfather grabbed the gun, struck the stepson, and the two struggled as the stepson was struck with the butt of the gun, the police report said.

The two ended up in the garage, where the stepfather began to unload the shotgun before he stood on it to prevent the stepson from trying to get it, the report said.

Police secured all firearms inside the residence, and the stepson was facing possible charges.

Aborted theft

A suspect aborted his attempt to steal two televisions after threatening he had a gun and fleeing from the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz, a police report said.

The incident happened about 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Canton police went to the Walmart store after receiving reports of a retail fraud in progress. Officers were advised the suspect had tried to steal two TVs and assaulted a loss prevention employee who tried to stop him.

The suspect fled through the front door, put his hand in the waistband of his pants and threatened he had a gun, the police report said. He was described as a heavyset black male wearing blue pants, a sweatshirt and a black cap.

Beer haul

A suspect inside the Kroger store northwest of Michigan Avenue and Canton Center fled in a car following allegations he was trying to steal beer from the store.

The incident happened about 3:40 p.m. Sunday, a police report said.

The man was seen putting beer bottles in his pants leg by employees who notified police, the report said. The suspect was approached by workers and asked to go to the main office, but he was accused of grabbing the wrist of a female employ-

ee, twisting it, pushing her away and running out the door as bottles of Dos Equis beer began falling out of his pants leg, the police report said.

The suspect was described as a Hispanic male wearing a black jacket with a white stripe around it. He had what was described in the police report as a pockmarked face.

He was last seen entering a black Subaru and driving off at what witnesses said was a high rate of speed.

Valve theft

A landscaping worker who services a sprinkler irrigation system notified Canton police Monday to report the theft of a vacuum breaker valve prior to 4 p.m. Monday in the area of Cherry Hill and Queen Anne, east of Beck Road.

The 25-year-old man told police he closed down the irrigation system in early October and returned to the site Monday to notice the irrigation control box had been opened. He reported the vacuum breaker, valued at \$1,000, was missing.

Well-being check

Police went to the 1000 block of Dundee, northeast of Palmer and Lilley, after receiving a call around 11:45 p.m. Sunday to check on the well-being of a 29-year-old woman there. Prior to arrival, officers were advised the woman had a felony warrant out of Washtenaw County.

When police arrived, the woman indicated the call about her well-being had been exaggerated. However, she was taken into custody and turned over to Washtenaw County authorities.

Liquor lifted

A 40-year-old Garden City man admitted he rode his bicycle to the Kroger store northwest of Michigan Avenue and Canton Center in an attempt to steal two bottles of liquor because he is an alcoholic, a police report said.

The incident happened about 1 p.m. Saturday.

An employee saw the suspect leave the store after tucking liquor bottles under his coat, stopped him and brought him back to the office, a police report said.

The suspect allegedly admitted to police he had tried to steal the liquor and told authorities he is alcoholic, the report said. He was arrested by police, who learned the man also was wanted for unrelated warrants out of Detroit, Southgate and Romulus.

Mailbox mangled

Police went to the 7700 block of Charrington, northeast of the Sheldon Center-Canton Center intersection, after reports that a vehicle struck and damaged a mailbox and failed to stop.

The incident was reported about 8:45 p.m. last Thursday.

Police nab scam suspect

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton police nabbed a suspect Monday afternoon amid allegations he fraudulently bought merchandise from a Hobby Lobby store in Indiana and returned it to the company's Canton store for a cash refund, authorities said.

The suspect, a Detroit man, could be facing criminal charges arising from what Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner described as a two-state retail fraud scam.

Canton Hobby Lobby employees summoned police after they recognized the suspect based on information provided by an Indiana store, Schreiner said.

"They recognized him as a suspect who was known to purchase merchandise at an Indiana location using what

was believed to be fraudulent checks," Schreiner said.

The suspect is believed to have gone to the Canton store to obtain cash for the merchandise.

The suspect was carrying a concealed handgun when he was arrested, but he apparently had a gun permit and he didn't use the weapon during the Hobby Lobby incident, Schreiner said.

"It appears the suspect had a pistol permit," he said.

However, Canton police found what Schreiner described as store merchandise and a stun gun in the suspect's car.

Schreiner credited the Hobby Lobby store's Canton employees for their vigilance in spotting the suspect and contacting police.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Counterfeit cash

Police recovered 22 apparently counterfeit \$50 bills on Dec. 3 after a man tried to spend some of them at a Plymouth Township gas station.

The incident occurred shortly after 5 p.m. at the Shell station on Ann Arbor Road just east of I-275, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The man who tried to use some of the bills to buy a pack of cigarettes and a soft drink had left the scene before police arrived, the report said.

A gas-station clerk told police the man handed him what looked like a \$50 bill for his purchases, but that a scanning machine the station uses to detect counterfeit rejected it.

Two more bills the man tried to use were also rejected, the clerk said, and the would-be customer, while not

acknowledging they were phony, handed over 19 more such bills.

The clerk said he called police with the man standing next to him, but that the man then left in an unknown direction.

Tires slashed

All four tires on a Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck were punctured recently as the truck sat parked at a township apartment complex. The vandalism occurred between Dec. 1 and Dec. 3, a police report said.

The complainant told police his truck was parked at the Plymouth Heritage Apartments on Heritage Drive, west of Sheldon and south of North Territorial, when the tires were punctured and flattened. Police noted all four tires had multiple punctures.

— By Matt Jachman

— By Darrell Clem

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FIRST Technical Challenge Motivate Award Winners (circular from top left) Ryan Wu, Jack Nugent, Varun Kumaravel, Connor Flanigan, Austin Liu, Nick Huang, Ritika Parikh, Shilpa Pindolia, Manasi Sharma, Taylor Ufford, Chintan Modi, Sonia Bhakkad, Nathan Tseng.

Discovery hosts state robotics meet

The East Middle School RoboRockets were awarded an invitation to the State FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Championship tournament on Dec. 15 after they successfully qualified based on their performance at a Nov. 30 competition in Temperance.

And they won't far to travel. The state competition is being held at Discovery Middle School in Canton.

In Temperance, East also earned the Motivate Award, a serious award in FIRST robotics that shows that the team not only has enthusiasm, but is positive and reflective of the principles of FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics.

The judges were impressed by the RoboRockets' involvement of their entire school in a logo contest as well as a PSA (Public Service Announcement) video they produced.

This rookie FTC team has been together for three

years, formed originally under the leadership of Kristi Berry at Miller Elementary, and competed previously in the First Lego League (FLL). Their efforts and performance last year eventually led them to the FLL World Competition in Orlando, Fla., where they placed seventh for robot performance in a field of more than 20,000 teams from 60 countries.

This year, the team chose to take on the higher level competition, First Tech Challenge, the first time any P-CCS team has competed at this level.

FTC is designed for 7-12 graders who want to compete with their engineering, mathematics and programming skills, head-to-head, using a sports model. Students are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format. Teams, including coaches, mentors and volunteers, are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles. Awards are

given for the competition as for well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments.

Approximately 70 teams competed for a position in upcoming the State tournament. This year's challenge is to place rings on a three-dimensional tic-tac-toe board while fending off attacks from potentially unfriendly challengers in the competition ring.

The successful team at this tournament will be awarded a berth at the World Tournament this spring in St. Louis, Mo. The RoboRockets are backed by generous support from Burroughs Corporation and Women's Giving Circle from the Canton Community Foundation. RoboRocket team members include Sonia Bhakkad, Connor Flanigan, Taylor Ufford, Manasi Sharma, Nick Huang, Nathan Tseng, Shilpa Pindolia, Ritika Parikh, Chintan Modi, Ryan Wu, Jack Nugent, Varun Kumaravel, and Austin Liu.

WCCCD brings college classes to W-W high schools

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Students at Wayne Memorial and John Glenn high schools are earning college credit without leaving their buildings as the result of an agreement worked out between the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the Wayne County Community College District.

The idea of students earning college credits while still in high school isn't new. High school students have been able to take classes at colleges for many years through dual enrollment. But the Wayne-Westland program rolled out this fall brings college-level classes

es to the high schools.

"The response has really been phenomenal," said Paul Sallah, deputy superintendent for instruction. "What's great about this is it goes above and beyond what other districts are doing. We're always trying to do more for our kids."

One hundred students signed up for the classes which include two sections of speech that are being offered at Glenn. The classes don't require students to take an extraneous exam but they do have to qualify to can take them. The classes transfer for college

credit, Sallah said.

A change in the law has expanded who can take the college classes, so students can begin taking college classes as early as their freshman year.

"We're very excited about partnering with WCCCD and the program," he added. "WCCCD offered the best tuition rates and was very eager to work with us." Sallah credited School Superintendent Greg Baracy in hammering out the agreement. The school district and college was able to pull the program together "very quickly" last summer.

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Jonathan Lazar, Tadario James and Kevin Villemonte sing 'I'll be Home for Christmas.'

PHOTOS BY TOM BEALDOIN

'Glory' delights sold-out crowds

Laurie Aren of Westland is one of the newest members of the NorthRidge Church choir.

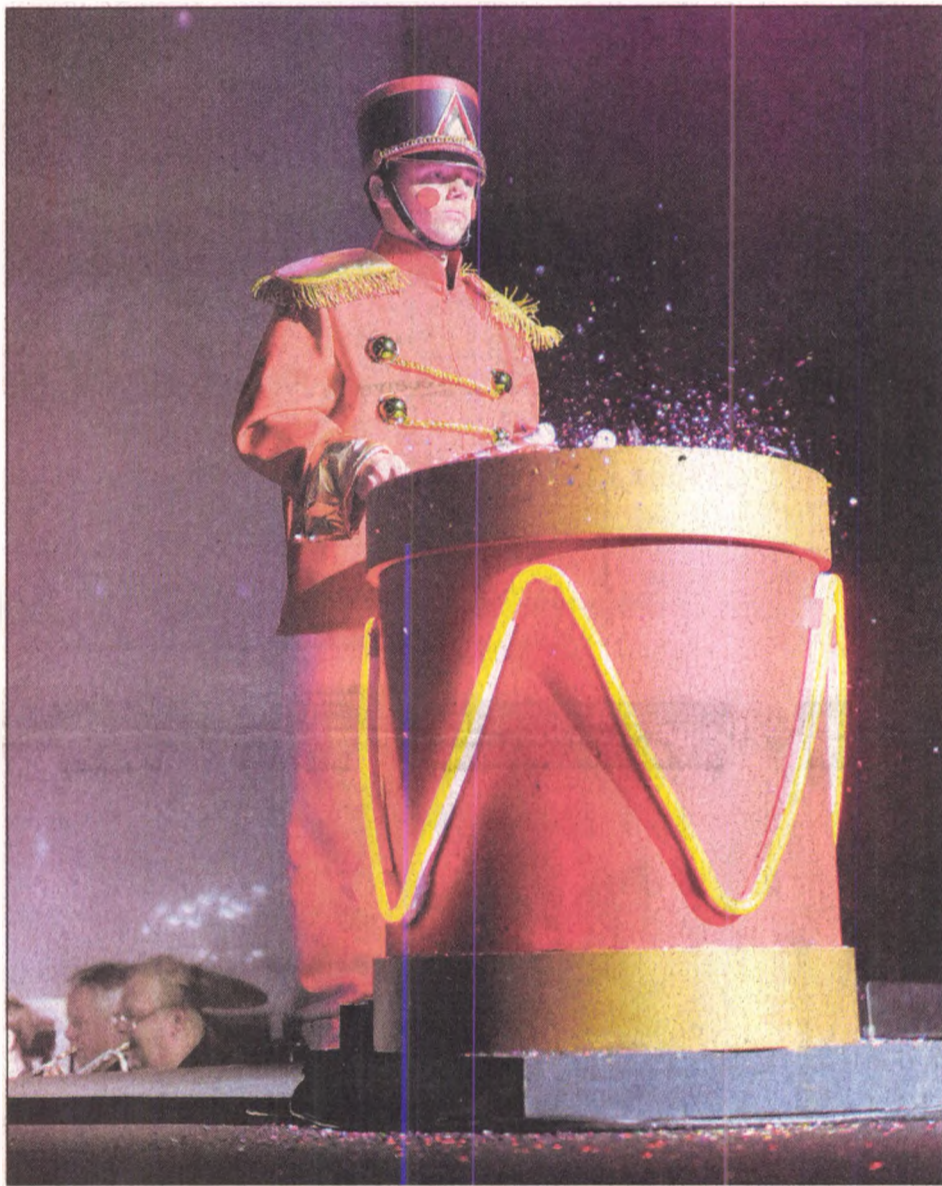
But that didn't keep her from noticing how close-knit the group is, and how much closer it gets going through rehearsals for the church's annual Glory of Christmas spectacular.

This year's 20th annual show, "Simply Jesus," was no different, and Aren, director of community and family outreach for the Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, felt comfortable right from the beginning.

"The sense of family that develops through the process is amazing," Aren said. "There was laughter, tears, prayers and some light-hearted teasing ... just like with any family."

The annual production, put on by NorthRidge Church near the holidays, is a Broadway-style production.

It played to sold out audiences in 10 performances over the last two weeks.



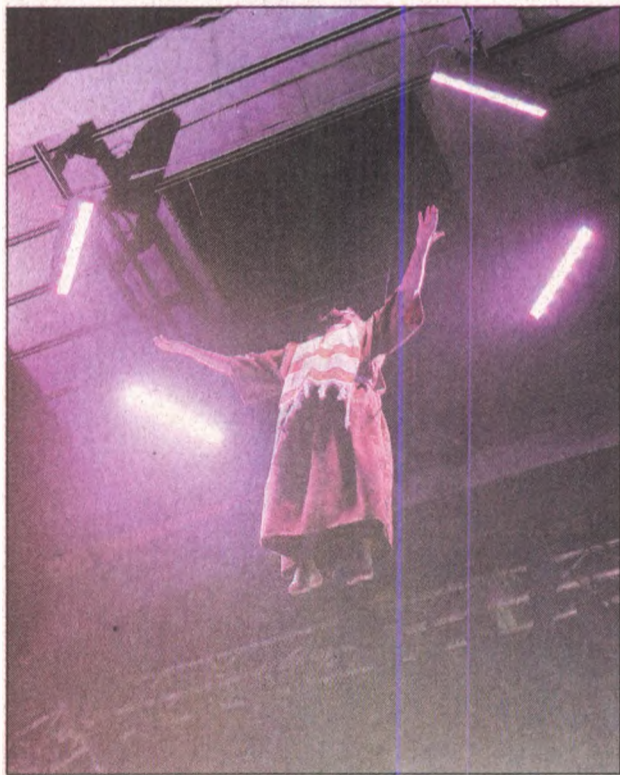
The Toy Soldier (Anthony Pitera) drums up the audience at 'The Glory of Christmas.'



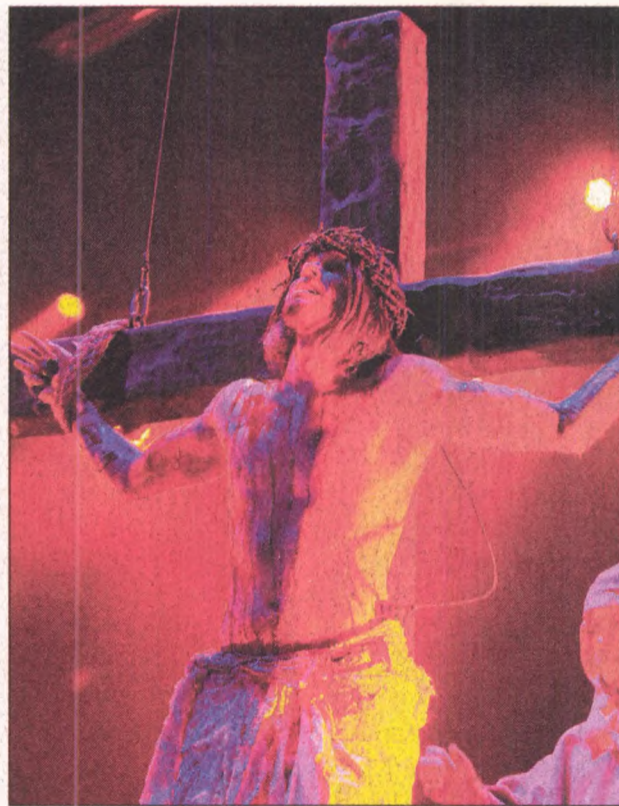
Mrs. Claus and Santa Claus get the sold-out audience excited about Christmas.



Mary (Milena Mandelli) prays after finding out she will be the mother of Jesus.



The ascension of Jesus (Kurt Gendjar) comes near the end of the 20th anniversary production themed 'Simply Jesus.'



Jesus (Jared Withrow) is crucified.



Karissa Urban skates as 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' is sung.



The baby Jesus is adored in the manger after he is born.



Joseph (Jordan Ciciotti) takes the trip to Jerusalem with Mary (Milena Mandelli) as the baby Jesus will soon be born.



Four-year-old Alayna Miller brings tears to the eyes of the sold-out show as she sings 'Happy Birthday, Jesus.'

Smith joins O&E Media team

Wendy Smith sees all of the various business and boutiques, restaurants and shops that populate the business district in Plymouth, and she gets excited.

That's because Smith, the new Plymouth-area advertising executive for O&E Media (parent company of the *Plymouth Observer*), thinks she can help those businesses get their messages out.

"I am amazed by the beautiful boutiques and restaurants in the downtown area, as well as the growing businesses on the perimeter of town," Smith said. "I am hopeful my many years of experience as a development and marketing director in the non-profit sector will allow me to assist the local retailers and organizations in designing a cost-effective and manageable marketing plan to help grow their busi-



Smith

ness." Smith, who started as the Plymouth advertising executive in November, is a long-time resident of Ann Arbor who is active in many of the region's arts and music events when not busy with one of her four children.

She attended Kalamazoo College, then got her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. Her latest job, before joining O&E Media, was at U-M in the university's College of LSA development, marketing and communications office.

"I am especially excited to have the opportunity to further explore the beautiful town of Plymouth and the nearby neighborhoods," Smith said.

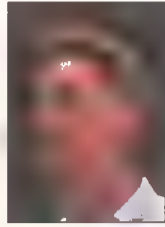
Newest trainer

Plymouth-based Facility Results continues to strengthen its niche in NFPA 70E and electrical safety training through the recent addition of master electrician, trainer and author Charles R. Miller to the team. Miller rounds out the experienced six-member Facility Results training team, which is already known for its depth, knowledge, and ability to successfully convey the value and real-life benefits of implementing electrical safety best practices.

Based out of Lebanon, Tenn., Miller spent 20 years as a successful business owner and electrical contractor. Since then, he has focused his time and energy on writing and teaching to promote knowledge and proficiency among engineers, electricians, and tradespeople in the field.

Miller has passed more than 40 Master Electrical Exams (with a score of 93 or higher) and 7 Electrical Inspector Exams. As an

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS



Miller

author and illustrator, he has an extensive list of electrical-safety-related publications to his credit, including some published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Miller also sits on two NFPA committees, including the committee for the NFPA 70E standard.

Business news

From the desks of the folks at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

- Three Dog Bakery has teamed with Jill Andra Young Photography for Photos with Santa for your pets on Sunday, Dec. 16, from noon to 3 p.m. at the bakery. No appointment is necessary. The bakery is located at 550 Forest in downtown Plymouth.

- Moving into the Forest Ave. location of Kp Sweets will be Pure Radiance Laser & Esthetics of West

Bloomfield. The licensed staff showers skin with GentleLase technology to reduce the prevalence of unwanted whiskers.

- Denny Pennington, owner of the Westchester properties along Forest Ave., says he has several second-floor offices available for lease. If you are interested, call Denny at (586) 506-1225.

- Santa's visiting hours in Kellogg Park are noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 15-16; 6-8 p.m. Dec. 21; noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 22; and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 23.

- The next distribution of emergency food by Plymouth Community United Way is scheduled Thursday, Dec. 20. The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned and non-perishable items.

All recipients must be pre-registered. This is a supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to pre-register. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) must provide documentation including proof of income and residency before receiving food on distribution days.

Distributions continue the third Thursday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth. For information and to register, call Pat at Plymouth Community United Way (734) 453-6879, ext. 2, or send email to pat.vandusen@pcuw.org.

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Hot tech gifts priced right for the holidays

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

Having the some of the newest, best and coolest technologies under the tree this holiday season doesn't have to come at a premium price. From cameras to game systems and even the best smartphones, there are plenty of tech gifts on sale for under \$100.

Sony Cyber-Shot DSCW650 – For \$89 at participating ABC Warehouse retailers you can purchase this 16.1 megapixel digital camera featuring 720p HD video recording. Features include an automatic shot stabilizer, smile detection, 5x optical zoom and panorama shooting options. ABC Warehouse also offers accessories for point and shoot cameras and high zoom cameras such as bags, memory cards and tripods.

A 4GB micro SD card is as low as \$6.99 while 2GB SD cards are from \$5.99. Camera bags start at \$9.95.

MP3 Players – For the music lover on your list, how about an iPod shuffle or similarly sleek MP3 player? A 2GB Apple iPod shuffle retails for approximately \$29 while an 8GB Sandisk Sansa Fuze+ is \$64.99. Other MP3 players can be found as low as \$14.99 at electronic retailers.

Cell phones – Upgrade a loved one's phone plan or treat yourself with a new smartphone. Verizon is currently offering a vari-



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

ety of holiday deals on popular phones such as the impressively, thin Droid Razr (\$99) or the Apple iPhone 4

which is free with a two-year agreement.

Samsung BDEM57C Smart Disc Blu-Ray Player – Enhance your movie watching experiences with this Wi-Fi enabled blu-ray player for \$69 at ABC Warehouse.

Computers and computer accessories – It is difficult to find a reputable laptop or tower for under \$100 but a quality monitor could cost as little as \$99. ABC Warehouse has a current special on an 18.5 inch Samsung LED monitor for \$99. Online and other brick and mortar retailers will likely have similar deals on monitors. Wireless keyboards, optical mice, computer speakers, shredders and even web cams can be found for \$25 or less.

Vintage gaming systems – Video game resale shops and eBay have a plethora of old school units for sale. An original Nintendo (NES) with controllers, cords and popular games such as Super Mario Bros. can be purchased for about \$45 plus shipping.

A Super Nintendo bundle with controllers, cords and games can be

found for about \$80-\$100 while a classic Sega Genesis unit from the early 90s can be bought for around \$70. Original Playstation units are for sale for as low as \$25 while Nintendo 64 systems are selling for about \$60.

Other gadgets - eBay is also a hot spot for vintage video games for all units and even current games for Playstation3, Nintendo Wii, WiiU, Xbox 360, Nintendo DS and Playstation Vita.

Other small gadgets – Digital picture frames are a popular item around the holidays. They can be purchased for as low as \$25 depending on the make and model. ABC Warehouse even sells a key chain with a digital picture frame for \$6.99.

Automatic start, car starter kits are a nice idea in the cold months. If you are handy and can install one yourself, consider buying one online. You can snag one for as low as \$70.

Then there are the holiday favorites such as remote control cars, electronic games and more. If you aren't sure what to buy, here's one last suggestion: an electronic version of Catchphrase (\$22.95 at Target). The game requires three AAA batteries but is suggested for ages 8 and up.

Northville resident **Jon Gunnells** is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0v.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ryan Kolb started working around the dealership when he was 10 or 11.

Lincoln dealer polishes image with expansion, upgrades

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A dramatic new look and added space at Hines Park Lincoln in Plymouth Township comes as Ford Motor Co. puts renewed emphasis on its luxury car division.

Hines Park, on Ann Arbor Road east of Haggerty, just finished a months-long expansion and renovation that gave it a bigger showroom, new office space for the sales force, an enlarged service area and a customer lounge with a cafe and a customer work area with wireless Internet access and, soon, an available printer, fax and scanner. The official move-in was Sunday and Monday, and employees were still getting settled in the new space during a tour on Tuesday.

"What we're going for is not the typical dealership experience," said general manager Ryan Kolb of the project. He compared the remodeled building — with high ceilings and windows, silver- and wood-toned finishes, more customer perks and an airy feeling — to an upscale hotel.

"That's the kind of look we're going for — more focus on hospitality and good service," he said.

Hines Park was founded in Plymouth in 1970 by Kolb's grandfather, George Kolb, and has been at its current location for 40 years. The last major renovation there was in 1995, Kolb said.

The dealership's new look conforms with the style Ford is seeking for its Lincoln dealers, Kolb said, but Hines Park is the first Lincoln dealer he's aware of to have completed the transformation. The work also added a new, larger service drive-in area plus offices for service advisers, and an indoor new-car delivery area, where staff will introduce buy-



Hines Park Lincoln's remodeling began in March.

ers to their vehicles. There was a net gain of about 500 square feet. The used-car part of the business, formerly in a separate building, will be under the same roof.

Hines Park had set up shop temporarily, during construction, in the former Saturn of Plymouth dealership, which is nearby.

Kolb said Ford is rebranding Lincoln in the luxury car market with this month's renaming of the division to the Lincoln Motor Co., its name when Ford purchased it in 1922. Lincoln "took a back seat" at Ford in the 1990s, when the company acquired brands like Jaguar and Volvo, he said.

"We're trying to move more into the luxury segment," he said. The effort goes beyond the renaming, he said, to include a new Lincoln design stu-

dio in Dearborn and new employees, with experience at other luxury brands, who will focus solely on Lincoln.

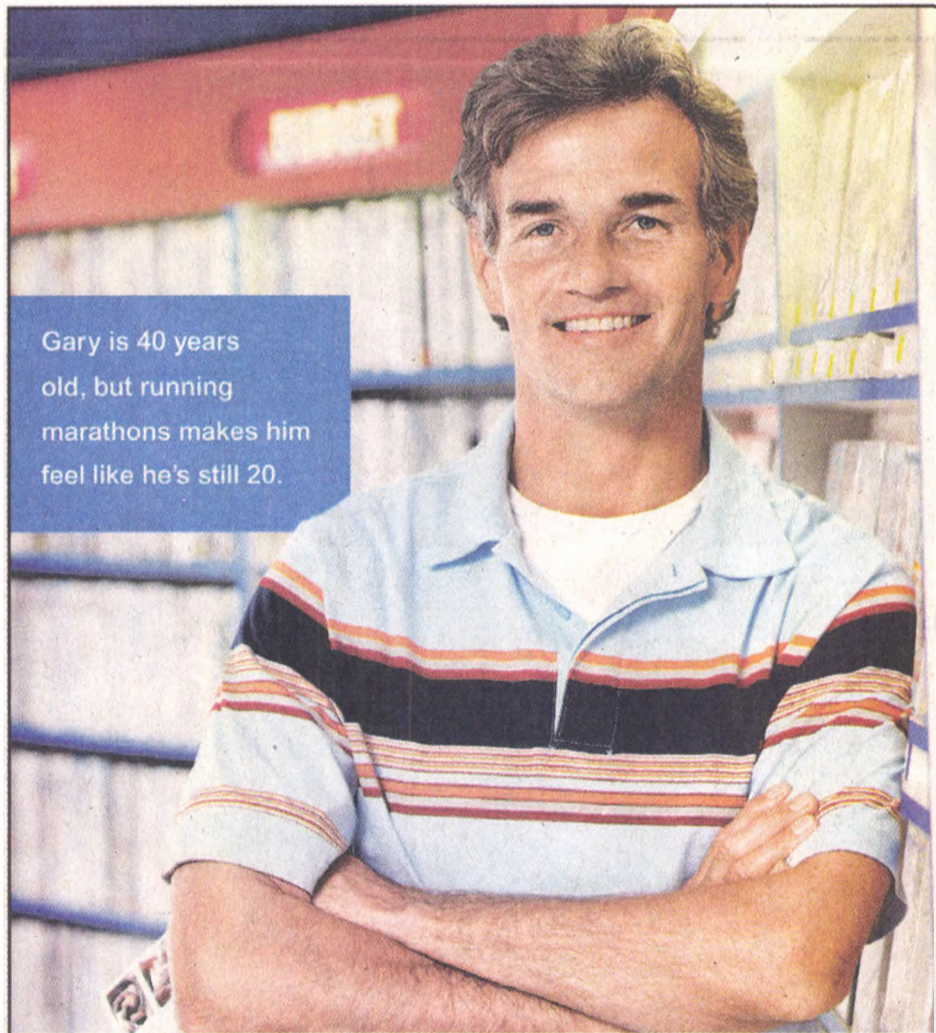
Lincoln currently offers five models and plans to expand that to seven by 2015. Kolb said he is looking forward to the introduction in a few weeks of an all-new "gorgeous" MKZ sedan.

"That should give us a little boost," he said.

Kolb said Hines Park lost some sales when Ford dropped the Mercury line, but is starting to make up that volume in Lincoln sales. Consistently one of the top-selling Lincoln dealerships in the country, Hines Park sold just over 2,000 new vehicles last year, Kolb said.

The firm currently has 111 employees.

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Sunday, Dec. 9, is moving day. Ryan Kolb moves a chair to its proper place.

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Obama praises plant's expansion, decries new right-to-work law

By David Veselenak
Observer Staff Writer

President Barack Obama praised Detroit Diesel during an appearance in Redford Monday after it was announced the engine plant would invest \$120 million to create 115 new jobs.

"One hundred and fifteen good new jobs right here in this plant, making this happen," Obama said after touring the facility. "It's good for this plant, it's good for this community."

The plant is expected to begin manufacturing transmissions and turbochargers for trucks.

"Since 1938, Detroit Diesel has been turning out some of the best engines in the world," he said. "Generations of Redford workers have walked through these doors. Not just to punch a clock. Not just to pick up a paycheck, not just to build an engine, but to build a middle-class life for their families."

Obama addressed Michigan's move to become a right-to-work state during his speech, coming out against the legislation signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The largest applause came when Obama said the right-to-work issue was nothing more than a political football.

"These so-called 'right to work' laws, they don't have to do with economics; they have everything to do with politics," he said. "What they're really talking about is giving you the right to work for less money."

Obama's visit is the



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
President Barack Obama enters Detroit Diesel in Redford Monday followed by members of the Secret Service.

third by a president in Redford's history. Both Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton also visited. Obama was last in Michigan in April for a fundraiser.

He said the plant's investment is good for American manufacturing. "Soon, you guys will be building all the key parts that go into powering a heavy-duty truck, all at the same facility."

He said he hopes the plant continues to bring business to the surrounding areas.

Daimler Truck North America President and CEO Martin Daum addressed the changes before Obama took the stage, including a branding decision to drop the "Diesel" from the plant's name, wanting to show

the plant can make more than diesel engines. The company will rely on using just "Detroit" in its product line, even though their diesel engines are still what the company is best known for.

"Today is the last day of the past, and the first day of the future. We did a lot of things right together to come to that moment," Daum said. "We have now a core brand name."

Obama praised the investment, saying the move furthers Michigan as a leader of industry and will continue to help Redford and surrounding communities, keeping more employed and providing customers for local businesses, including restaurants, gas stations and other small businesses.

The surrounding businesses could have seen devastating conditions if the auto industry and suppliers such as Detroit Diesel had been closed down because of the recession, he said.

"All of you, the men and women who built these companies with your own hands, would have been hung out to dry," he said. "And everybody in this community that depends on you, restaurant owners, storekeepers, bartenders, their livelihoods would have been at stake, too."

The presidential visit was attended by several hundred people, including workers at the plant and local government officials. Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, Wayne County Executive Rob-



Detroit Diesel employees Tricia Patti, of Livonia, and Michelle Powell, of Oak Park, took pictures during the speech.



The audience clearly liked what President Barack Obama had to say in Redford Monday.

ert Ficano and Congressman David Curson were in attendance. U.S. Reps. Hansen Clarke, John Conyers, Gary Peters and Sander Levin, as well as U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, also attended.

Kobylarz said the move by Detroit Diesel is a "great investment" into Redford, and shows the commitment the company has to Redford.

The increase in workers is not expected to take

place until sometime next year or 2014, Kobylarz said, because some things still need to be worked out.

"It's one of the larger investments Daimler has made into that particular facility," she said. "Those are very strong commitments on behalf of the organization. Anytime we can insure good paying jobs for our community, we need to make sure those come home."

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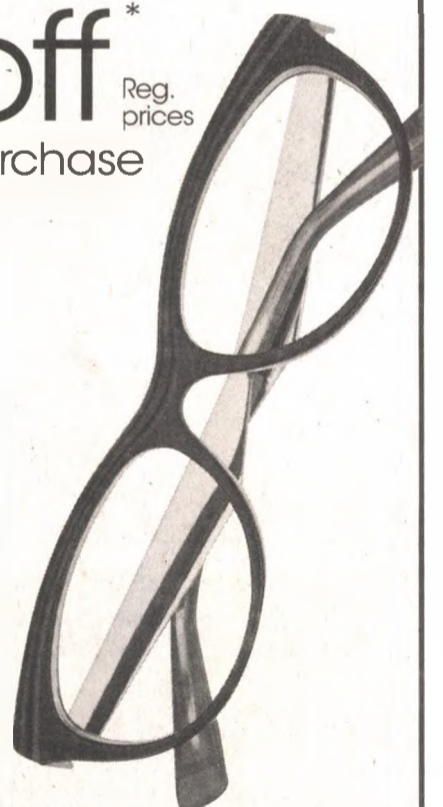
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Nankin Mills ushers in holiday with fest

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Dreary weather throughout the day didn't dampen the spirits of families who gathered at Nankin Mills Saturday for the 25th annual Family Holiday Fest and mill lighting, hosted by Wayne County Parks and the Friends of Nankin Mills.

"I wanted to see the lights and this popped up on the Internet. I decided to bring the kids," said Amber Bishop of Plymouth, who was at the mill with her daughter, Alivia, son Jaxon and friend Sarah Due, also of Plymouth. "They had a lot to do, I didn't expect that."

Her children also were excited to see Santa Claus who arrived to help flip the switch to light up the mill.

The Holiday Fest included crafts as well as games and a scavenger hunt that introduced youngsters and their families to the displays throughout the museum.

"The reason we do this is because we like to bring in people who might not come," said



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Families gathered outside the mill for a sing-along and do a count down to light up Nankin Mills.

Denise Braun of the Friends group. "The youngsters search for candy canes and look over the displays. We hope they come out and

do some fun things with their families and find all kinds of interesting things, so they'll want to come back." The crafts and games

lasted for just over an hour before participants gathered on the lawn of the mill for a Christmas sing-along. The Old Friends — Mike Chrisom,

Helen Epskamp and Pat Grimes — led the crowd in singing such holiday favorites as Must Be Santa, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the

Snowman and Deck the Halls.

Braun was pleased with the crowd for the event. "We had a good turnout," she said.



Alivia Bishop of Plymouth is intent on making a snowman at the Family Fest.



Santa Claus visits with Wyatt Cope of Westland in Nankin Mills after helping light the building for the holidays.

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OUR VIEWS

AG was right

Actions correct in petition fraud scandal

Attorneys for two of four staffers charged in the petition signature fraud scandal involving former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter are disappointed Attorney General Bill Schuette didn't go easier on their clients.

Tim Dinan, the attorney for Don Yowchuang, 33, of Farmington Hills, who worked as deputy district director for the former congressman, said he was very surprised Yowchuang was not offered any plea bargain based on his cooperation with the investigation. Yowchuang pleaded no contest to 10 counts of forgery, a five-year felony, and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Mark Mandell, the attorney for Paul Seewald, 47, of Livonia, who worked as district director for the former congressman, said justice was not served. He said drug offenders and domestic abusers who commit far worse crimes than misdemeanors are allowed to complete probation to clean their records, yet Seewald is not — even though he has never had a traffic ticket and has dedicated his whole life to Livonia youth football and public service.

Seewald pleaded guilty to nine counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

A sentencing hearing for Seewald and Yowchuang is scheduled for 9 a.m. Jan. 18.

The remaining charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony, remains pending against both Yowchuang and Seewald. Judge Margie Braxton of Wayne County's 3rd Circuit Court will hold a hearing Jan. 9 to consider a motion filed by the defendants to quash the charge. The attorney general's office has indicated it will oppose the motion in court.

McCotter was not charged, as investigators said there was no direct evidence of his involvement.

We applaud Schuette for not accepting plea deals and find Mandell's comment inappropriate. Yes, no person was abused, but the public's trust certainly was.

Since being elected, however, Schuette has sent mixed messages when it comes to enforcing election laws. We are still puzzled his office didn't even give current House Speaker Jase Bolger a slap on the wrist for his role in an election-rigging scheme in which he helped Democrat Rep. Roy Schmidt switch to the Republican Party at the last minute, all the while recruiting a fake Democrat candidate to keep any real Democrat from competing against Schmidt. Schuette, a Republican, said there was no basis to charge Bolger with any crimes, despite overwhelming evidence he played a role in trying to rig the election. And in fact, Bolger has since apologized for his role. The scheme ultimately backfired and voters chose a write-in Democrat, Winnie Brinks, to represent the 76th District on the west side of the state.

So we are pleased Schuette seems to have developed some newfound concern for the integrity of our elections. Better late than never.

The bottom line is we must protect the integrity of elections in this country. They are the foundation of our democracy. If we can't trust that our elections are free of corruption — and that our officials are in office because the majority of voters wanted them there — we are no different from countries run by dictators or the select few already in power.

Seewald's attorney had a point that his client had no criminal record, but it's important that elected officials — and their staffs — are above board and maintain integrity in all of their professional and personal conduct.

We expect them to follow the law, not act as though they are above it.

Schuette had to send a message to prevent cases of petition fraud in the future.

We're glad he treated this case with the seriousness it deserved.

COMMUNITY VOICE

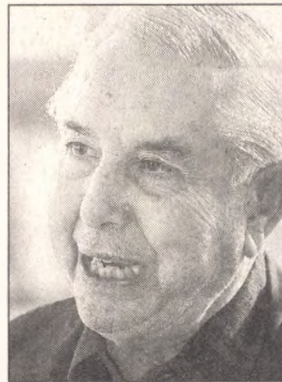
Are you planning to make any New Year's resolutions for 2013?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"No. Because I would never keep them anyhow."

Yvonne Begian
Grosse Pointe



"Not really. I'm a Christian. I go by the Bible, the word of God. ... Just fundamentally on the word of God ... that's my resolution."

Daniel Beetler
Salem Township



"I don't really make resolutions. I'm just grateful that I'm here every year and hope everything gets better for us."

Shirley Cashero
Plymouth Township



"The same one I make year after year after year. The very same one: Be a kinder, gentler person."

Jacqueline George
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Not surprising

What happened in Lansing with the right-to-work legislation should come as no surprise to anyone.

A large percentage of the Republican (Tea) party members of the House of Representatives were either term-limited or were not re-elected. They knew this would never pass in the new session.

However, these teabaggers have done a commendable job for the rich business leaders who bought and paid for them. Just the tax savings alone is enough for them to be amply rewarded — \$2 billion earlier this year, another \$440 million they slipped through this fall and another \$500 million when they kill the business personal property tax.

Now, the way it works is this, after leaving office, they will go to work for the entities that they have showered this \$3 billion on. Depending on how important they were to the movement, they will command salaries in the six- and seven-figure range.

I hate to say I told you so, but I really don't. I warned what would happen if we let these right-wing zealots take over our government, especially the likes of Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Rep. Kurt Heise.

I hate to contemplate what awaits us over the next two years in regards to women's rights, aid to local government and help for the unemployed, under-employed, middle class

and the poor.

James Huddleston
Canton

The forgotten man

America of the free has transformed into an America of the dependent as President Barack Obama's election promise to "fundamentally transform America" is fulfilled. The guiding principle is now "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

Obama's class warfare and envy rhetoric have proven this point. This is a fundamental shift from the idea that each of us may "pursue" a better life, as established in our founding, to one that demands a "right" to economic security and happiness. In this rush to create entitlements and a dependent society, we tend to forget who will pay.

Near the time of our founding, Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville noted that eventually people in a democracy will discover they can vote for politicians who will provide what they demand from others. During WWII, Austrian economist Friedrich Hayek wrote in "The Road to Serfdom" that planned collectivist economies, like Obama's, a necessary trade off of personal freedom with a coercive centralized government. Following the Great Depression and during WWII, FDR promoted an economic "second Bill of Rights" giving the right to the necessities of life at

public expense.

Buried deep within this ebb and flow of history is "the forgotten man." This is the person who dutifully works to provide the wealth and resources consumed by government planners and the dependent in society. In 1883, Yale professor William Sumner first lectured on "the Forgotten Man." In this brilliant essay he described a hardworking individual who pays, but is "never thought of" for his contribution. Later during the Great Depression, FDR cynically appropriated the phrase referring to the forgotten man as those needy and necessarily dependent upon government. It's time to return Professor Sumner's original definition to the public consciousness. The forgotten man is a victim of Obama's policies.

If you need evidence, look around. Government policies such as the Community Reinvestment Act corrupted the financial institutions and destroyed home values. My relatives lost a great deal in value off their "old GM" stocks and bonds after the GM bailout. I have seen people in my extended family out of work on the public dole. In the larger moral battle, charity should be with the individual, not with the coercive power of the state. Out of respect and fairness to the forgotten man, I see no reason to compromise and accept Obama's transformational regime.

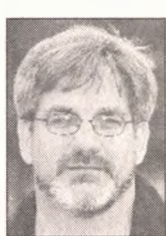
Robert Smith
Milford

STAFF COLUMN

Legislators did disservice to local voters

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Without any background in labor law, I have no idea (outside of what I've read) what effect the right-to-work legislation pushed through by state Legislators, and signed Tuesday by Gov. Rick Snyder, will have on unions in Michigan.



Brad Kadrich

But it's pretty easy to jump to the conclusion it could kill them, or at least their influence in state politics (which I suspect is the whole idea in the first place). The claim by Republicans that the legislation leaves in place the right to collectively bargain is specious, at best, in my mind.

Right-to-work may very well be the right way to go. I don't profess any expertise on that point. But whether you agree with taking Michigan in a direction fewer than half of the states have felt it necessary to go, there's still a nagging question, at least in my mind:

What was the rush? Obama obviously put the right-to-work boosters knew they might not have the votes come January and so got the Legislators to whom they've contributed to push it through now. That

may be.

But doing it this way, pushing it through with absolutely no debate, without a single hearing, just smacks of arrogance. Republicans in the legislature just said, with their actions, "We're doing this because we can." And Gov. Snyder's lame response — "I didn't want the issue, but here it is anyway, so I have to deal with it" — is disingenuous. Why not deal with it by saying to Republicans, "OK, let's deal with it the way we always do ... committee hearings, debate, a conversation."

The question residents — voters — in Plymouth and Canton should be asking themselves is this: "Where were my legislators? Where were the people I elected to represent me?"

Truth is, if you're in favor of this legislation, then state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, were right there with you. However, if you're against it, they both sold you down the river, threw you under the bus (insert your own cliché here).

The same is true of those of you who feel these things should be debated, or at least discussed, before they're passed through both branches of state government.

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, was not only against the legislation, she was against the pro-

cess, telling the Observer it is "especially shameful" to do it in the lame-duck session.

When asked what he thought of the right-to-work issue, Heise told the Observer he thinks what Snyder thinks. He said he trusts the governor, as "an astute businessman."

Colbeck said he's supported the issue from the time he was elected two years ago. Asked about Democrats' complaints that the issue hasn't had time for study, Colbeck responded, "I've been studying it for over a year." As one of the smartest guys in the room, and a proponent of the movement in the first place, that's not surprising. But not everyone has. And the fact Colbeck has been studying it for more than a year shouldn't preclude those who need time to catch up from getting it.

I think Heise supported it because his governor said he should. I think Colbeck would have supported it no matter what.

And whether you agree with the right-to-work movement or not, both of them did their constituents a disservice by not just laying down and watching this desecration of the political process happen, but by actively shoveling dirt into the grave.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth Christian Academy's Matt Sumner (No. 21) prepares to rebound the ball should a free throw miss on Tuesday. Doing the same are Our Lady of the Lakes players Garrett Ross (No. 30) and Nick Robak (No. 12).

As the Eagles fly

PCA tips off season with energetic victory

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Chomping at the bit for their season to start, Plymouth Christian Academy's Eagles came out all charged up Tuesday against Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes. They kept up their energy level throughout the back-and-forth varsity boys basketball game, rolling to a 79-72 victory over the visiting Lakers.

How energetic was the home team in their season opener? Consider that PCA senior guard Mick Noel missed one fourth quarter dunk only to roar back moments later with a successful slam to put a charge into the home crowd.

"On the first one my legs kind of went out when I went up, so that was pretty embarrassing," said Noel, who led PCA with 18 points. "But

Alex (Huber) got the steal on the second one, tossed it up to me and I just decided to go up and put it down."

That dunk brought the Eagles to within 60-58 with about 5:30 remaining in the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference-Blue Division matchup.

Big shots

Huber also came up big in the fourth, connecting on successive treys from the left wing to turn a 63-60 deficit into a 66-65 lead with 3:50 left. PCA (1-0) never fell behind the rest of the way.

"That's what he does," said Eagles head coach Dominique Washington about the senior guard. "He's our best shooter. I tell the guys, 'Don't think about the shot, shoot the ball knowing your going to make it.'"

"He missed a couple early and I just told him 'Hey, keep shooting, they're going to fall.'"

A balanced attack also sparked the Eagles, who bounced back after falling behind 13-5 and 18-11 in the

Please see PCA, B3

Salem girls lax meeting

There will be a player/parent information meeting for all returning Salem girls lacrosse players and other student-athletes interested in learning to play the game.

The meeting will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19 in room W2112 at Salem High School.

Salem will be adding its first junior varsity team this spring and coaches would like to recruit new players.

Contact and additional information can be found at www.salemgirlslacrosse.com.

Naubert top WHAC player

For the second time this season, Madonna University junior point-guard Bobby Naubert was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week in men's basketball (ending Dec. 9).

The 5-foot-10 Naubert averaged 17 points, eight rebounds, 6.5 assists and 3.5 steals for the Crusaders, who finished 1-1 for the week including an 81-74 upset Saturday of No. 12-ranked Cornerstone.

In that win, Naubert posted a double-double with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

Please see HOOPS, B3

Buzzer beater helps Salem ward off Skyline

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

A jump shot by Salem's Nate Sass at the end of the fourth quarter Tuesday night enabled the Rocks to escape Ann Arbor Skyline with a 49-47 boys basketball win. It was a seesaw con-

test. After Salem (2-0) raced out to an 18-5 lead after the first quarter, Skyline answered in the second by outscoring the Rocks 10-5 to pull to within 23-15 at halftime.

After an even third, the Eagles rallied down the stretch — Skyline scored 20 points in the fourth —

'We just weathered the storm and did a pretty nice job of finishing up and keeping our composure.'

BOB BRODIE
Salem coach

to knot the game at 47-47.

That set the stage for Sass's late heroics.

"We brought it down and KJ (Mack) came off a screen from (Chris) Dierker and kicked it

over to Nate," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "He knocked down a 15-foot jumper as the buzzer sounded. It was a pretty exciting finish."

Dierker was outstanding again, with 19 points and 15 rebounds (includ-

Please see HOOPS, B3

BOYS BOWLING PREVIEW

Chiefs look to keep rolling

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It's a new season but a familiar cast for Canton's varsity boys bowling team.

Four of the five bowlers who competed last season in the state Division 1 team finals (which Macomb Dakota won) are back as the Chiefs look to take the next step.

Coach Karl Brubaker's lineup again features senior Alex Champagne, juniors Mikey Richards and Josh Pozan and sophomore Aaron Madsen. The lone member of that quintet who isn't back is 2012 graduate Kurt Kowalski.

Canton (7-7 overall, 6-6 in the KLAA Central Division in 2011-12) experienced quite a playoff run that Brubaker is hopeful will provide a trump card when the going gets tough in 2012-13.

After finishing third in the qualifying block with 3,307 points, the Chiefs upended Wayne Memorial and Utica in the quarterfinals and semifinals.

"While it is no guarantee we will get that far again this year, we are excited about that chance," Brubaker said. "We have a strong JV roster and some of the boys

Please see CHIEFS, B4



Alex Champagne is one of four Canton returnees who bowled in the team finals last season.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Victory-Pens ice combo shows promise

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

They're literally scoring a "Victory" for women hockey players in Plymouth and Canton.

Victory Honda is sponsoring a first-year USA Hockey-sanctioned women's Senior B team, and it's giving female players ages 19-32 a definite option if they want to keep playing the sport after graduating from high school or college.

The new team is also enjoying a definite connection to the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins' varsity girls hockey team, with several current coaches or former players on board for Victory Honda's 2012-13 debut.

Victory Honda's head coach is Brad Johnson, who is a Penguins assistant coach.

Among players on his roster are the rest of the high school team's current coach-

es — namely Mary Beth Trainor (the PCS head coach and Victory Honda's No. 1 goalie) along with assistants Emily Nelson and Nicole Natelborg (a former Penguins player).

"It just kind of worked out," said Johnson, following a recent game at Arctic Pond in Plymouth. "You got the whole PCS coaching staff involved with this program."

The PCS-Victory Honda network didn't spring up overnight.

"Obviously, they've all played together for a number of years," Johnson said. "Emily and Mary Beth have played together now for three years and that's how Emily got involved in the PCS program, from them playing hockey together."

"And then, of course, Nicole Natelborg is helping out this year (on the Penguins' coaching staff) and she just graduated."

According to Nelson, the emerging link between Victory Honda and the Penguins is something that could exist for the long haul.

"Potentially it would be cool," Nelson noted. "The nice thing is because it's local a lot of kids sticking around could definitely come up through the ranks. We'd clearly love to have people we know on our team. It's all about having fun and playing with your friends."

Raising the bar

Well, not entirely. Actually, the level of play is much better than in any so-called "beer league."

Most players competed after high school on Division-I college club teams in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (Nelson skated four seasons with Michigan State University's club team). Several played in the NCAA.

Their drive to excel hasn't

diminished since college, either.

A number of them moved over from Troy's Team Ices, because Johnson said "the competitiveness of that team" wasn't up to an acceptable level for the players.

"We decided to go and start another travel team and Victory Honda was very gracious," he continued, "giving us the opportunity to play within their organization."

Victory Honda is playing a 24-game schedule, mostly confined to southeast Michigan. Even relatively short bus trips and overnight stays in hotels are excellent exercises in team bonding that remind them of earlier years.

"I love it, mostly the away games," said 25-year-old Royal Oak resident and former Penguins player Kristen Schwan. "(That's) because you get to spend a lot of time

Please see ICERS, B2

All members of the PCS Penguins coaching staff are doubling up this season either playing or coaching for Victory Honda's new Senior B women's travel team. From left are Emily Nelson, Mary Beth Trainor, Brad Johnson (Victory Honda coach) and Nicole Natelborg.

Generals score late to nip Whalers

Scott Sabourin's second goal of the game at 15:37 of the third period snapped a 3-3 tie and the Oshawa General came from behind to defeat the Plymouth Whalers, 4-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night before 2,658 at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth remains in second place in the OHL West with a record of 14-9-4-3, two points behind first place Sarnia. Oshawa improves to 17-11-1-2 and is in second place in the OHL's East Division.

Besides Sabourin's pair, Cole Cassels (6) and Sebastian Uvira (3) scored for Oshawa and



RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth Whalers forward Cody Payne (No. 8) tries to disrupt the vision of Oshawa goalie Daniel Altshuller during Saturday night's game at Compuware Arena.

third star Scott Laughton added a couple of assists. Oshawa goaltender Daniel Altshuller stopped 34-of-37 shots for the victory.

Stefan Noesen (17), Rickard Rakell (13) and Tom Wilson (7) scored for Plymouth and second star Matt Mistele earned two assists. Plymouth goaltender Matt Mahalak stopped 33-of-37 shots.

The Whalers hit the road all of next week, playing in Sudbury on Friday (7:20 p.m., 88.1FM WSDP) and next Saturday in Barrie (7:15 pm, 88.1FM WSDP) before breaking for the Christmas holidays.

Plymouth's next home game is Thurs. Dec 27 at 2 p.m. at Compuware Arena against Saginaw.

Four-goal game lifts Penguins

A brilliant offensive performance by Jordan Patterson catapulted the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins to a 4-3 win over Northville Saturday night at Novi Ice Arena.

Patterson, a senior forward, netted two unassisted goals to key the Penguins (2-3) to the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League victory. The Division 2 Pens upended the D1 Mustangs.

"Not only did Jordan play a great game, the entire team played very well," PCS head coach Mary Beth Trainor said. "We had a few defensive breakdowns but overall the girls played great."

"We definitely outshot them which is something we have been stressing to

GIRLS HOCKEY

the girls."

Patterson got it rolling with an unassisted goal just 3:32 into the Division 2 matchup.

The Mustangs tied it up with 10:30 left in the first on a goal by Marisha Hackett (two goals, one assist). But Patterson struck again just before the end of the first period, this time from Emily King and Amanda Hoehn.

Both teams scored once in the middle stanza, with Patterson's third marker (also unassisted) putting the Penguins up 3-1 with 5:31 left. Northville answered two minutes later when Hackett beat PCS junior goalie Becky Lough.

Patterson upped the lead to 4-2 with 4:35 left in the third, from Ashley Saunders and Cortny McAdoo.

That proved to be a big insurance goal, because Emilee Abraham's power-play goal at 13:04 made it a 4-3 game. Lough preserved that edge with some crucial stops.

Johnson cited several others for their strong performances, namely Gabby Godre, Jenna Carter and senior Beth Johnson — moved up to forward from defense due to Morgan Cusumano being sidelined by illness.

The Penguins will face another Division 1 opponent, Grosse Pointe South, 7 p.m. Wednesday at Detroit City Arena.

Offense clicks for Salem

Jack Driscoll scored a hat trick last Thursday to spark Salem's 8-5 victory at Clarkston.

Contributing two goals each for the Rocks were Alek Zultowski and Noah Saad, with the other goal netted by Kory Johnston.

Making 19 stops for the win was goaltender Anthony Veresan, the recipient of an offensive bonanza.

"It was a sloppy win for us," Salem coach Ryan Ossennmacher said. "This was our first game of the year on an Olympic sheet of ice and it caused us some problems defensively with our positioning."

"Offensively we played well with nice puck

movement. (But) we will need to play better over the next couple of weeks in order to compete in our KLA league games."

After the Wolves opened the scoring, Salem responded on goals by Saad (on the power play) and Driscoll within a 55-second span midway through the frame to put the Rocks up 2-1.

Before the end of the period, Driscoll scored another power play goal, set up by Jake Fedel (two assists) while Zultowski's first of the night from Jake Sealy (two assists) made it a 4-2 lead.

Salem took a 7-4 lead into the third, following tallies by Zultowski, Driscoll (from Nick Dan-

is) and Johnston (from Cam Nixon).

A power-play goal by Saad with 8:20 left (from Zultowski) concluded the scoring.

Also chipping in with two assists were Danis and Jason Newel.

Salem (3-1) was slated to visit Livonia Stevenson Wednesday night in a KLA Central Division tilt that took place after this issue of the Observer went to press.

PROJECT PRICE ONLY \$7,400: An article in Sunday's Observer about Salem's new boys hockey locker room at Plymouth Cultural Center should have stated the cost of the project was \$7,400.

Hines Park Lincoln in Plymouth sponsored the majority of the project.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

DUAL MATCH RESULTS
OXFORD 51 CANTON 16
 Dec. 8 at Canton
 130: Ben Griffin (C) pinned John Hassenzehl, 16.0 seconds; 135: Edwin Schlickemeyer (O) p. Ryan Siegler, 0:56; 140: Marc Przyblyski (C) decisioned Adam Schlicht, 9-2; 145: Noah Kinne (O) p. Ty Jasman, 0:52; 152: Rocco Borg (O) p. Jacob Lorenz, 1:02; 160: Wesley Maskill (O) p. Dylan DeClue, 0:12; 171: Tom Spicuzza (O) p. Jevon Hill, 5:14; 189: Liam Logan (O) dec. Allan Beckman, 7-1; 215: Ken Wooley (C)

dec. Ben Line, 4-3; 285: Grant Krause (O) p. Adam Armesto, 0:40; 103: Alex Hrisopoulos (O) p. Harrison Samoy, 0:59; 112: Bailey Kammerer (O) p. Ryan Apley, 1:08; 119: Richard DeMarois (C) major decision over Daniel Curtis, 10-2; 125: double forfeit.
Canton dual match record: 1-1.

CANTON 53 KETTERING 21
 Dec. 5 at Waterford Kettering
 285: Ken Wooley (C) pinned Kemonty Bruce, 1:16; 103: Brandon Reiland (WK) won

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ICERS

Continued from page B1

with teammates. ... Just being in hotel rooms, it kind of takes you back to your 12-and-under, 15-and-under days growing up."

Miles traveled could increase in tandem with victories in the standings, too.

The state finals are slated for March in Taylor, against teams such as Belle Tire, Team Mission

and the O'Leary Hawks. Dangling in front of them as a tantalizing carrot is a trip to nationals in California should they be one of the state's two top squads.

Close to home
 Yet just as appealing as such a mega trip is the chance to play in their backyard.

"I think it's pretty cool that we've brought a team to this area, especially for the 19-and-under girls," said Schwan, a member of the Penguins' D1 finalist

team in 2005-06. "They'll have a place to play if they decide not to (immediately) go to school."

One such player is Natelborg, 19, who graduated in June after helping PCS win their league's D2 title last season.

"It's nice to see how much she (Natelborg) has grown since her senior year and she fits in extremely well with our team," Nelson said. "And especially transitioning from forward to defense, she's done a good job."

"I think she's having a good time, I think the pace fits her better than high school."

Maybe that's so. But future Penguins alums joining Victory Honda in seasons to come will likely find something in common between the teams — hockey at any level is a great way to make lifelong friends.

That's like going top shelf.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>BOYS BASKETBALL
 Friday, Dec. 14
 N'ville at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Canton at Salem, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 Ply. Christian at Lenawee Christian, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>GIRLS BASKETBALL
 Friday, Dec. 14
 Canton at Salem, 6 p.m.
 Plymouth at N'ville, 7 p.m.
 Grosse Ile at Lady., 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 Ply. Christian at Lenawee</p> | <p>Christian, 5 p.m.
 PREP HOCKEY
 Friday, Dec. 14
 Ladywood vs. Port Huron at McMorran, 7:15 p.m.
 South Lyon vs. Salem at Ply. Cultural Ctr, 8:30 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 Lake Orion vs. Plymouth at Arctic Edge, 5 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. W.L. Northern at K'ton Valley I.H., 7 p.m.</p> | <p>PREP WRESTLING
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 Redford Union Tourney, TBA.
 Hawk Havoc Invitational at Farm. Hills Harrison, 9 a.m.
 Wayne County Tourney at HYPE Recreation, 9 a.m.</p> <p>BOYS SWIMMING
 Thursday, Dec. 13
 Tecumseh vs. Plymouth at Canton, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
 Friday, Dec. 14
 (Crusader Classic at MU)</p> <p>Johnson-Wales vs. Roch., 5:30 p.m.
 Madonna vs. Grace, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 (Crusader Classic at MU)
 Rochester vs. Grace, 1 p.m.
 MU vs. Johnson-Wales, 3 p.m.</p> <p>WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 MU at Davenport, 1 p.m.</p> <p>ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
 Friday, Dec. 14
 Whalers at Sudbury, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 Whalers at Barrie, 7:30 p.m.</p> |
|--|---|--|

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Take a finger-snapping walk through winter wonderland

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Expect to hear favorite holiday tunes at Schoolcraft College's Winter Wonders concert, Monday, Dec. 17.

But don't plan to hum along — unless it's in scat.

With Riccardo Selva's hands on the reins, *Jingle Bells'* one-horse open sleigh will dance to a Count Basie beat. "Isn't that cool? Count Basie. We're doing that exact arrangement," said Selva, playing an audio clip of the song on his computer last week. Selva, head of Schoolcraft's jazz program, will direct the College Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo through a program of seasonal and standard jazz arrangements at the concert, which is set for the DiPonio Room in the VisTaTech Center.

He promises an "extravaganza" of big band instrumentation and improvised music that will turn up the heat on a few traditional carols.

"This was written by Gordon Goodwin. *Yo Tannenbaum*. It starts out with this familiar, traditional song," he said, playing a snippet of what sounds like *Oh Tannenbaum* on his laptop. The song's rich brass melody quickly gives way to wailing saxophone riffs and finger-snapping drum beats. "It's that traditional thing and then it goes into this kind of snarky



Schoolcraft college jazz musicians perform at Allen Park Presbyterian Church.

sound. This is really hard music. This is a hard piece to play."

But Selva's musical groups, which include students in the for-credit program at the college and professionals signed up through continuing education, are up to the task. Since Selva took over the jazz program in 2009, the groups have toured Chicago, Ill., played in Ohio, staged concerts on a regular basis throughout southeastern Michigan, shared sets with guest artists, such as Wayne Bergeron and Paul Keller, and even recorded in a studio.

Practice, perform
"The way you get good at it is first by preparing, but then you have to perform. You can't just live in a practice room. You have to get out there and do it," said Selva, who



The Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble performs in Chicago, Ill.



Riccardo Selva, directs one of his jazz groups at Schoolcraft College.

holds a PhD in saxophone from Northwestern University. "The more you perform, the better you get."

"When I asked the members, what do you want to do, do you want to come here once a week and toot on our horns or do you want to give it our best shot at a quality, exciting, active and unusually cool, awesome program, they said unusually cool, awesome

program. I said, look, my passion is to build quality, but I want to respect your vision for this program and they were all on board. They said let's do it. We're behind you. We're committed to doing this busy performance schedule."

There is no audition process for the two performing groups, which include a mix of ages and skill levels. Approximately 25 musicians play in Jazz Ensemble and another 20-25 are in the improvisation group. Some musicians per-

form in both bands. The groups include professional drummers, a high school student, a visually impaired man — "he's a talented guy" — a lead trumpet player with a degree in engineering and an autistic student, among others.

Using all talents

"I have jazz addicts here. They love it. I want to utilize people as much as possible and make them a part of the group, and at the same time make the group sound good," Selva said. "Most people understand that and are fine with that if they are learning and growing and it's enriching them."

Selva, who interviewed jazz pianist and composer Dave Brubeck for his dissertation on saxophone and sacred music, is toying with the idea of staging a Brubeck tribute for

WINTER WONDERS CONCERT

What: Schoolcraft College's Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo perform traditional, contemporary and holiday jazz arrangements, directed by Riccardo Selva, Ph.D.

When: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17

Location: Diponio Room in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, located on Haggerty, between Seven Mile and Six Mile, in Livonia

Admission: Free; donations will be accepted at the door for student scholarships in the college Jazz Program

Contact: Riccardo Selva at (847) 721-7299, rselva@schoolcraft.edu; or the Schoolcraft College Music Department at (734) 462-4403, www.schoolcraft.edu/music

the jazz program's annual Spring concert next year. Brubeck died Dec. 5.

"I received another grant, an \$8,000 grant for a guest artist. I would bring in some people who would facilitate Dave Brubeck's music."

Selva said he also may complete his Archangel Suite for jazz ensemble and chorus this Spring. The piece highlights the three iconic angels of the Bible, St. Michael, St. Raphael and St. Gabriel. The Jazz Ensemble has performed two of the angel works.

"My sketch of the movement (for St. Gabriel) is done. I just have to write it. St. Gabe's is on the way," Selva said. "Maybe I'll do it at the Dave Brubeck tribute concert. That would be awesome."

For more about the jazz program visit www.schoolcraft.edu/music.

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The HarmonyTown Barbershop Chorus performs at St. Mary Mercy Hospital Sunday, Dec. 9. The group's annual Christmas show is 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Livonia Public Library.

Barbershop singers get into holiday spirit

Look for a few special numbers — including the Beach Boys' classic, *Little Saint Nick* — at the HarmonyTown Chorus Christmas show, "Holiday Harmonies," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Livonia Public Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

Mark Prichard, Chorus vice president, promises "a rollicking good time."

"Our goal is to bring a smile and warm your hearts and we do it with song and some poignant readings to fit the season," he wrote, in an e-mail

to the Observer. "We will also have an audience sing along and will encourage all to lift their voices in joyous melody."

The Novi High School A Capella Chorus and the quartet, Impulse, also will perform.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and teens and \$3 for children, 12 and under. They're available by calling (734) 743-1764 or by visiting www.wesing-barbershop.com. Tickets also will be available at the door. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m.

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Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org
 - NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE**
Time/Date: Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Small Works," an all-media juried art exhibit, and "Celebrate!," a Northville Camera Club exhibit are featured through Dec. 15. Northville Art House's Holiday Gift Shop also underway
Contact: (248) 344-0497
Plymouth Community Arts Council
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through Jan. 2, 2013
Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: An exhibit of paintings and drawing by Jean-Paul Abou-Dib, a graduate of the College for Creative Studies, with a master's degree in painting from Wayne State University
Contact: (734) 416-4278
 - PENN THEATRE**
Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 14-15 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "Taken 2," \$3
Coming up: "The Polar Express," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 22-23; "Argo," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2013; 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29; and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30
Please see GET OUT! B7

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Analysts, DBAs & CIS Mgrs Needed! Work in Farmington Hills, MI & various unanticipated locations throughout U.S./multiple openings) using 1 or more of following skills: Oracle, SAP, UNIX, Solaris, SQL, SQL Server, DB2, NET, C/C++ - Visual C++ Access, HTML, XML, JSP, J2EE, EJB, Java, WebSphere, WebLogic, C#, VB Script, ASP, Crystal Reports, Hibernate, LoadRunner, etc. Bach or Master's degree in related field equ. of same) in related field &/or relev exp req'd, depending on position. For some positions requiring exp. app must have exp using 1 or more skills listed above. For certain positions we accept degree equiv in educ & exp or any equally suitable comb of educ, training &/or exp qualifying applicant to perform job duties. Travel/location to various unanticipated work locations throughout U.S. req'd. Send resume & specify position seeking to: VED Software Services, Inc., 37811 W. 12 Mile Rd., Ste 201, Farmington Hills, MI 48331. EOE

Project Engineer II

Controls & Electronics for diesel engine manufacturer in Plymouth, MI. Requires Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering or related field and two years experience in planning & executing functional integration & optimization of powertrain software & control systems into vehicle platform including reviewing engineering projects for compliance with engineering principles; performing controls software development; completing technical studies, vehicle testing, data analysis and validation and planning and executing research and development activities. The position is located in Plymouth, MI with 10% travel. Send resume to AVL Powertrain Engineering, Inc., Attn: Neil Carter, 47603 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170-2438. Please indicate PECE in subject line.

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Resident Engineer III

For Plymouth, MI to serve as contact to GM engineering; use knowledge of electronic theory & materials properties to design/implement electronic infotainment products & interfaces; ensure clear communications; coordinate customer design reviews & internal/supplier meetings; release & track parts in GM systems; define/modify/create specifications, dimensional drawings, vehicle schematics, product assembly documents, service procedures, owner manuals & component validation test plans; document/communicate part failures; determine root cause & implement solutions; attend & support launches; develop calibration requirements. Requires Bachelor's degree in an Engineering field; 5 yrs. progressive post-Bachelor's experience engineering electronic infotainment components for GM vehicles; using GM release system protocols & CALDS systems; conducting design reviews, testing, diagnosis & troubleshooting in-vehicle networks using GMLAN, LIM & MOST test tools; following the GM development process; and investigating warranty and/or design issues. Background must include service as a GM Resident Engineer working on electronic infotainment components. 40% travel required to Warren & Milford, MI and Oshawa, Ontario. Mail resume to Kim Brothers, Fujitsu Ten Corp. of America, 47800 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170.

ROUTE DRIVER, Exp'd.

Clean record to service locations in the Detroit Metro area. Call: 734-524-5100

Software Engineer II

For Plymouth, MI to serve as first point of contact with customer & product development team in Japan regarding design, development, testing & debugging of Human Machine Interface (HMI) software for automotive infotainment systems; design HMI state machines & screen layout; implement HMI software with HMI design tool using C & C++ languages on ultron operating system; develop device driver code for display & camera; instruct product development team on customer requirements; negotiate software-related specifications; perform system tests; support product launches. Requires Master's degree in C.S. Electrical Engineering, Information Technology or closely-related field; 2 yrs. experience using C and C++ to code embedded software; using oscilloscope; developing embed systems using kernel, device drivers and CPU architecture; debugging embedded software using JTAG debugger; and developing standard LCD and camera interface drivers. Will also accept Bachelor's degree in said fields plus five yrs. stated experience. Background must include using C and C++ to code embedded software for use in automotive infotainment systems and utilizing standard graphics API (OpenGL ES and Open VG). Mail resume to Kim Brothers, Fujitsu Ten Corp. of America, 47800 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Help Wanted - Medical

ESTHETICIAN - LICENSED

Part-Time. Troy location. Fax resume: 248-305-5880

OFFICE MANAGER

For busy dental practice in West Bloomfield. Experience preferred. Call Dr. Pnabe 248-924-5277 jenstst75@gmail.com

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - Medical

RN

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Help Wanted - General

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6734 Whitehurst Canton 48187. Sat & Sun, 12/15 & 16. Queen Anne Dining Room Set, Oak Desk, Plafzgraf Dinner Ware and other items!

ESTATE SALE: Sat., Dec 15th, 8-5pm CASH ONLY!

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FORMAL DINING:

Bernhardt, Lg china, server, table, 2 ext. 8 chairs. Formal glass top coffee table, dark gold, lg gold mirror. All estate, call: 586-574-9037

FURNITURE:

Microwave cabinet w/storage, \$100. Oak, round dining table, 2 leafs, 2 chairs, 42", \$250. Hoyer, over 100 yrs old, best offer. Olympic queen mattress, best offer. Entertainment center/or bar \$150. 313-532-9681

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Christmas Trees

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Help Wanted - General

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Help Wanted - General

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Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

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Help Wanted - General

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