

12/30

HAPPY NEW YEAR

KERRY BENTIVOLIO HEADS TO WASHINGTON

LOCAL NEWS, A4

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CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

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Special edition

Your Observer newspaper today contains news from your hometown, plus news of the surrounding area. It is one of three special holiday editions published just this time of year. Special editions will continue through Thursday, Jan. 3. Happy holidays!

Homeless help

A snowstorm didn't stop the Geneva Presbyterian Church senior high youth from spending the night outside Wednesday with their adult advisers to raise awareness of homelessness. They had a fire inside a barrel and a few umbrellas.

Through Jan. 3, the group is now collecting winter clothing and outerwear, blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries for the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit for its Open Door program. The items may be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the church, 5835 N. Sheldon north of Ford, or placed in drop boxes outside the church entrance.

Recreation Center party

Friends and family can gather for swimming, inflatables, rock climbing, holiday crafts, face painting for kids, food, music and more beginning at 4 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center. The cost is: \$7.50 per pass holder, \$8.75 per resident or \$10 per non-resident.

Preregister at the center, 15100 Hubbard Road, Livonia. Call (734) 466-2900 for more information.



'We've seen a lot of stories of judges behaving badly, especially in Wayne County.'

KURT HEISE

'Some of the gun owners say put more guns in the hands of people and we're going to be safe. I just don't buy that argument.'

GLENN ANDERSON



Legislative agenda

GOP expects to address regulatory reform, higher ed and corrections

By Ken Abramczyk Staff Writer

Michigan Republican lawmakers believe their work isn't finished yet.

Last week's legislative sessions were tumultuous as lawmakers passed controversial right-to-work laws and took aim at personal property taxes. Lawmakers also passed legislation to create a regional transit authority, a replacement emergency manager bill and prohibit young drivers from talking on cell phones while driving.

"It was a very historic, contentious and profound week in Michigan history," said state Rep. Kurt Heise of Plymouth.

House and Senate Republicans expect in 2013 to continue to work with Gov. Rick Snyder to

tackle issues and policies they believe are hindering business and job creation.

House Republicans lost five seats in the Nov. 6

general election, down to 59 lawmakers, but they still carry a majority.

The GOP has a 26-12 majority in the state Senate.

The Observer contacted several area lawmakers from Oakland and Wayne counties to discuss what they believe will be on the agenda in 2013.

John Walsh John Walsh of Livonia, who serves as House

Please see GOP, A13

Battered in lame-duck session, state Dems have big 2013 agenda

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

Democrats in the Michigan Legislature will have their work cut out for them in 2013.

Between issues they say need to be addressed to improve the state's economy and the well-being of local communities, and the desire to push back on some of the measures the Republican-controlled Legislature hurried through a lame-duck session earlier this month, they have a long to-do list for the coming year.

Many goals several area Democrats have set for themselves highlight philosophical differences that often separate the parties — on taxes and spending, on the economy, on the way public schools should be run. That will like-

ly mean a tough road for Democrats: In the state House of Representatives, they will be outnumbered 59-51 despite picking up a net five seats in the

November election, while in the Senate, Republicans hold a commanding 26-12 majority. Still, Democrats say they're ready to fight.

"The last two years under Republican leadership have been the years of corporate present-giving," said Rep. Vicki Barnett of Farmington Hills, who is beginning a third term in the 37th District. "We really should've been

Please see DEMS, A12

State-Wayne offers vintage theater experience

By Kurt Kuban Staff Writer

The marquee at the State-Wayne Theater has been a landmark in the city of Wayne and a beacon to those driving by on Michigan Avenue for decades. Like the theater itself, the marquis radiates a little brighter these days.

The theater, built in 1945, is now being managed by the Farmington-based Phoenix Theatres group, which also operates theaters at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and The Mall of Monroe in Monroe. Since the company took over back in August, more than \$60,000 has been spent to renovate the vintage four-screen theater in downtown Wayne. They've given the State-Wayne a noticeable face lift, adding new carpet, paint, re-doing the candy bar, and updating the unique marquis. According to Phoenix



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left, Phoenix Theatres President Cory Jacobson, of Southfield, and Vice President of Operations John Scanlan, of Northville, discuss the changes they've made since taking over management of the historic State-Wayne Theater in downtown Wayne, including cleaning up the murals in the lobby.

Theatres President Cory Jacobson, more than 500 of the marquis's 1,600-plus light bulbs were not working when they took over.

Getting it fixed up was a priority. "The marquis is so cool. It's kind of the identity of the theater," he said. "You can't help but

notice it when you drive by." Probably the most important change to the theater, however, has been the installation of modern digital projection and Dolby sound equipment, which now gives the theater the ability to show first-run films the way they are intended, including in 3-D when warranted.

At the same time, the theater maintains its unique art-deco design and many features patrons have come to expect from the classic theater, including the locally-famous mural of a neon dragon, who is affectionately known as "Puff".

"The old theater we first stepped into had mono sound and 35mm film. It was the same equipment they had in the late '60s and early '70s," said Jacobson, a Southfield resident. "When someone comes in here now,

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THEATER

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they have the best of both worlds — this wonderful old theater experience along with high-quality digital movies and the latest Dolby 7.1 sound system. We've gone from being behind the times to being the most up to date theater in the community."

Phoenix has also brought in a new culture to the theater, which has been owned by the city of Wayne since the early 1990s. And that is exactly what Wayne City Manager Robert English was hoping when cementing a multi-year management contract with the company earlier this year. The company took over operations Aug. 1.

Whole nine yards

English said the city was facing the prospect of either having to update the theater or close it down because the major film studios were no longer going to be issuing films in 35mm, meaning the State-Wayne's old film projectors would soon be obsolete. So English approached the Phoenix group about a year and a half ago to get their advice on converting to digital and the relationship kind took off from there.

"We knew something had to be done if we were going to make a go of it," English said. "The city leaders decided this theater is too important to the community. We didn't want that building to be dark. If we were going to make a commitment to the theater, we realized we needed to go the whole nine yards. We've updated everything. The only thing we couldn't do was add stadium seating."

Before Phoenix agreed to the deal, however, management spent a



The State-Wayne Theater in Wayne features a historic marquee that has 1,600 light bulbs and dates back to 1946. STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

good deal of time looking over the theater, and even bought tickets to some movies so they could get an idea of how it operated. It didn't take long for them to figure out there was a lot of work to do, but also tremendous potential.

"I fell in love with it. It reminds me of the theaters I used to manage in Milwaukee, and the theaters I grew up with," said Jacobson. "It's a unique theater. You don't find theaters like this anymore in our state, and frankly in the country."

Jacobson has managed theaters big and small, and has been in the industry for decades. He left Milwaukee for Detroit back in the 1990s while working for United Artists Theaters. He decided to start his own company back in 2001 because he felt the industry could be improved. Some of the changes he has implemented include moving the ticket purchasing inside where patrons also purchase popcorn, soft drinks and candy. He said it saves custom-

ers time. Another change was moving the candy out from under the traditional glass counters and into racks located in the lobby, which also speeds up the process.

"We've treated candy bars like Rolex watches for years. It's not that kind of product," Jacobson said.

Customers also fill their own soft drinks, like in most stores and fast food restaurants. He says they were the first theaters in the state to do this.

Thumbs up

John Scanlan, who is vice president of operations for Phoenix, said people have definitely noticed the difference.

"Customers have given us the thumbs up. A lot of them have commented on the sound system, and the changes," said the Northville resident. "Now we just have to get more bodies in here."

Scanlan said the hope is that they will have the same kind of success they've had at Laurel Park, where revenue is up more than 60 percent

since they took that theater over in 2009.

That is music to the ears of Wayne leaders like English, who realize a well-run theater could be a catalyst to bringing people into the city and a big part of a downtown revitalization. They point to the recent opening of the latest *Twilight* film, which was the most successful opening weekend the theater has had since the city took ownership nearly two decades ago.

"I am overly pleased with what Cory and John have been able to do. They've done an outstanding job," he said. "If we can get people back in there, I'm confident they'll keep coming back."

The State-Wayne Theater is located at 35310 Michigan Avenue in Wayne. For the movie line, call (734) 384-1200. The customer service line is (734) 326-4602. Visit www.phoenixmovies.net/index.asp for showtimes. Tickets can also be purchased in advance via the website.

kkuban@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011 ext. 245

Other area theaters offer nostalgia, too

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

(248) 474-1951
www.thefct.com
www.facebook.com/FarmingtonCivicTheater

Traditionally the week between Christmas and New Year's Day is one of the busiest of the year for the movie industry. Theatergoers all over the area will be busy, especially with so many new movies opening.

The newly renovated State-Wayne Theater in downtown Wayne is just one of many classic neighborhood-type theaters in the area that are still open and showing films. While these theaters might not have all the amenities of the more modern multiplexes, they make up for it with an ambience of days gone by. In most cases they are located in traditional downtowns, and are treasures to the residents of those communities.

Here is a list of just a few in the area:

• **Birmingham 8**
211 S. Old Woodward Avenue, Birmingham (248) 723-6230
www.uptownentertainment.com/Birmingham8.aspx

The Birmingham 8 is a historical landmark located in the heart of downtown Birmingham. Originally built in 1927 as a single screen movie house, the theater was rebuilt and restored in 1996 as an eight-screen multiplex theater that plays host to a mix of first run films and smaller independent productions. In addition to its classic elegance and historical charm, the Birmingham 8 now features Sony Digital Cinema 4K projection, 3D technology, and comfortable, modernized upholstered seating.

• **Farmington Civic Theater**
33332 Grand River Avenue, Farmington

The theater shows popular movies at bargain prices.

• **The Lyon Theatre**
126 East Lake Street, South Lyon (248) 446-9090
www.thelyon.com

New ownership took over The Lyon Theatre in December of 2008, when the lobby has been completely renovated, and new Dolby Digital Surround Sound and theatre projection systems were added. The theater, which has just one screen, is known for showing new films at affordable prices. Management only selects films that have been positively reviewed, well-received by audiences, and/or recognized with significant awards. Matinee prices are \$4, while evening tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for seniors, students and children. The Lyon also maintains low prices on its concessions.

• **Main Art Theatre**
118 North Main Street, Royal Oak (248) 542-5198
www.landmarktheatres.com/Market/Detroit/MainArtTheatre.htm

Please see THEATERS, A5

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D.C.-bound

Bentivolio's congressional term starts on Jan. 3

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Life has changed in the past couple of months for Kerry Bentivolio.

Just a bit. The Tea Party favorite, former school teacher and builder known for raising reindeer, honeybees and chickens at his Milford Township home is seemingly giddy as he talks about face time with Speaker of the House John Boehner and Congressmen Fred Upton and Eric Cantor — fellow Republicans he has met with in recent weeks as he prepares for his own two-year term in the U.S. House of Representatives, beginning Jan. 3.

"It's surreal," Bentivolio said — the same word he used earlier this year as he was thrust into front-runner status for the 11th District, when former Rep. Thad McCotter resigned amid a petition scandal.

A self-described "regular guy," Bentivolio is still getting accustomed to Washington, D.C., of having Capitol Police who he's never met address him by name, of setting up an office in the Cannon Building and a second home in an apartment complex blocks away.

He's dined with Steve Forbes. He's had briefings on budgets and ethics, house rules and floor protocol. And he's thrilled to be named to the Small Business Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

"The common analogy



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. Congressman Kerry Bentivolio, shown near the grapevine arbor at his Milford home, is gearing up for his two-year term in Washington, D.C. Congress reconvenes Jan. 3.

is 'drinking water from a water hose,'" he said of the whirlwind weeks. "They keep it coming at you, they just keep piling it on."

Two standing rules

Yet as different as his world has become of late, Bentivolio said his focus is intact.

"I have two standing rules: To be in the district as often as possible based on the congressional calendar, and to give my constituents a real congressman. They deserve that," he said.

For his first "rule," he has leased an office at 770

Welch Road in Commerce Township, near M-5 and Maple Road. The space is set to open in early February. He's also establishing a mobile office to take to various cities and townships in his district.

"We'll park it in Canton for a week or two, move it to Livonia, Troy, Auburn Hills, Birmingham, White Lake, Highland. I'm reaching out to folks about issues and concerns — and it will be bipartisan. If I can help and they are in my district, I'll listen," he said.

Visits to his office in D.C. are welcome, too. "I've instructed my

staff that they can interrupt what I'm doing if someone stops in to say 'hi,'" he said.

Bentivolio plans to "hit the ground running" when Congress reconvenes after the December break. One of his priorities, he said, is "getting to the bottom of Benghazi-gate" — referring to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, which killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

There are lingering questions regarding its misrepresentation by U.S. officials for weeks afterward, as well as mis-

takes the Obama administration may have made in handling the deadly assault, he said.

"I'm not letting this go away. I'm going to bring this to the carpet — I want to know what went on, why they were left in the lurch. And then I'm going to tell the public and let the public deal with it. If someone dropped the ball, we are going to find out," Bentivolio said.

Open dialogue

Bentivolio also wants to "show people the light" when it comes to the barrage of new taxes that

will soon come into effect with the Affordable Health Care Act, commonly called Obamacare.

"There are 23 new additional taxes, and people aren't talking about it. I want people to know what's happening," he said.

And as a member of the Small Business Committee, Bentivolio has already set the wheels in motion by putting together a plan to invite business owners and business leaders to have open dialogue about job creation and challenges they face. He hopes to have input from each city and township in his district.

As a politician who campaigned against big government as well as excessive federal spending and borrowing, Bentivolio said his work at the national level will continue to reflect those views, as well as his staunch support for the First Amendment.

"I'll question everything and always give people the straight scoop — and I'm willing to work with anyone," he said. "But I am just one voice, just one voice out of 435 (House members)."

And he's determined not to lose his enthusiasm — or commitment to his district.

"I'm having the time of my life. This is so exciting," Bentivolio said. "But this is all about service and getting the job done. That's what this is all about."

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DICK SCOTT CHRYSLER JEEP RAM

THEATERS

Continued from page A2

The classic theater in downtown Royal Oak, which has been operated by Landmark since 1997, has three screens with DLP Digital projection and sound. The theater was originally built in the early 1940s as a single-screen theater. The Main is in a great location, and is surrounded by a number of galleries, restaurants and other businesses that draw eclectic crowds to Royal Oak. Today, the theater features a great selection of independent films and foreign language cinema, and serves a variety of concessions including Great Lakes Coffee.

• Penn Theatre
760 Penniman Avenue, Plymouth
(734) 453-0870
www.penntheatre.com
Located in the heart of charming downtown Plymouth across from Kellogg Park, the historic Penn Theatre has a single screen and can seat 405 people. Operated by the non-profit Friends of the Penn, the theater shows current second run movies, independent films, classic film festivals, school field trips, occasional live musical performances and facility rentals for community groups and corporate events. The Penn opened in 1941 and changed ownership many times before closing in 2003. Friends of the Penn formed in 2005 and with the help of local businessman Don Soenen, who purchased the build-

ing, reopened the theater in September of 2006. It is considered a community jewel by local residents.

• Redford Theatre
17360 Lahser Road, Detroit
(313) 537-2560
http://redfordtheatre.com

Originally opened in 1928 and billed as "America's Most Unique Suburban Playhouse," the Redford Theatre in 1977 was purchased by the non-profit Motor City Theatre Organ Society, which has restored the old movie house. The 1,571-seat Redford was designed in Exotic Revival style with Japanese motifs, and in 1985 was accepted into the National Register of Historic Places. Known for its wonderfully-rehabilitated pipe organ and huge 20 foot by 40 foot screen, the theater has been meticulously restored by an army of volunteers. The Redford is an elegant old theater. The interior — proclaimed to be one of the city's ten best interiors by the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects — and the old pipe organ provide a very unique movie going experience.

Current film programming at the Redford consists of a bi-weekly movie series that ranges from silent films through the classic musicals of the 1940s-1960s to films from the 1990s. Spring and fall festivals featuring films of the Three Stooges have grown in popularity.

The theater will be showing Alfred Hitchcock's classic "Strangers On A Train" Jan. 4-5.

Dee Dee Dittmar helped organize Livonia Town Hall

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Violet "Dee Dee" Dittmar was well-known in Livonia for her volunteer work.

As she served on the committee of Livonia Town Hall in its early days more than 40 years ago and continued as its president this year, she managed to organize and schedule celebrity guest speakers.

"Not only did it raise a lot of money for some great charities in our community, it brought a wealth of entertainers to our community," said Jim McCann, a Livonia city council member and a longtime friend of the Dittmar family.

Dittmar died Thursday at her Livonia home. She was 82. Funeral arrangements were not yet completed as of early Friday afternoon at the Neely Turowski Funeral Home.

Dittmar always enjoyed the volunteer work she did. When she was honored by the *Livonia Observer* with a First Citizen award at the Leadership and Awards Celebration in January, she told the *Observer* she helped organize the Livonia Town Hall series "to do something for herself."

"I wanted that for my



Dee Dee Dittmar was honored by the Livonia Observer with a First Citizen award at the Leadership and Awards Celebration in January.

own enjoyment," Dittmar said. "With the Human Relations Commission and the Town Hall, I do enjoy them because I never get bored."

McCann nominated her for that award for her "upbeat personality and energy" on boards and leadership positions, and "always looking to make a positive difference."

Dittmar was known for her engaging, disarming personality. "She was the voice in the room heard above all others," McCann said. "She was a fun, fun person to be around."

McCann's parents knew the Dittmars when Jim's father, former 16th District Judge Jim McCann, taught in Dearborn with Dee Dee Dittmar, the councilman said. The families lived just doors away from each other and Mayor Jack Kirksey in Livonia. McCann's father appointed Dittmar to the Human Relations Commission when the commission was first formed.

Her volunteerism shined on the Town Hall series, McCann said. "She was the one who would make sure the checks

were paid for the ads, she set up the speakers and would pick them up at the airport."

Dittmar was well-known at the Community Resources Department, where Linda McCann, who is married to councilman McCann, directs that department and worked with her on community events.

Dittmar served on the Town Hall committee in the early days of the series, which she said was initiated by parents of Bentley High School students looking to raise funds for the American Field Service program. When that program faded, the Town Hall series started raising funds for other programs such as the Livonia Symphony, Seedlings Braille Books for Children, Livonia Civic Chorus and the Visual Arts Association of Livonia.

Dittmar chaired the Human Relations Commission which, along with Madonna University, conducted its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Livonia City Hall.

Dittmar loved to read, so she also devoted her time to the Friends of the Library, serving on the board for the past five

Please see DITTMAR, A7

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AREA POLICE BRIEFS

Canton

Child death case moves forward

A former Canton mother and her boyfriend are inching closer to a potential trial for the drug overdose death of her child, 19-month-old Silas Rodgers. Andrea Nicole Rodgers, 20, and Ryan Keith Moody, 25, are expected to appear Jan. 4 in Wayne County Circuit Court for a calendar conference, a routine development as a case is moving toward disposition. The couple stood mute Dec. 13 and a not-guilty plea was entered for them in circuit court. Rodgers and Moody are charged with involuntary manslaughter and second-degree child abuse for the June 9 death of the toddler inside the Maben Road home where the couple formerly lived. During a preliminary examination in late November in 35th District Court, Canton Detective Tim Wright testified that the toddler died after he ingested Suboxone — a drug used to treat addiction to other substances such as heroin. Authorities have said the drug, prescribed to Moody, was improperly stored when Silas managed to get it and ingest it. If convicted, the couple could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison.

Livonia

Christmas fire investigated

The Livonia Fire Department continued an investigation into a fire at a home on Riverside Christmas night. A Christmas party was taking place at the home when children who were downstairs in the basement ran upstairs to alert adults on the first floor of smoke, according to Fire Marshal Dan Lee. Smoke detectors also went off, which alerted them of the fire. Livonia firefighters were contacted shortly after 8 p.m. The fire was extinguished by firefighters, Lee said. "It was contained to the basement; there was no fire damage on the first floor," Lee said. There was some smoke and water damage, and minimal structural damage, Lee said. The home's occupants managed to get out of the house. One of the guests at the home was treated and released at a local hospital for smoke inhalation. Lee said the cause of the fire was still under investigation.

GPS stolen

A GPS unit was stolen on Dec. 21 from the dashboard of a Chrysler Town & Country van while it was parked at a medical office on the 38000 block of Ann Arbor Road. The GPS was ripped from the dashboard, and several CDs and DVDs were also stolen from the vehicle. The door's lock had been punched in order for the thieves to enter the van and steal the items.

Fire started at business

Livonia police and firefighters responded to a report of a small fire at Levan Wine Palace, 36147 Plymouth, at 8:10 p.m. Dec. 21. Police and firefighters responded and found that small flames were burning at the base of the front wall of the business near the front door. Wood paneling outside the building had caught fire. The paneling was located near a cement garbage can, located outside the front door, that served as an ashtray for smokers.

Car stolen

A 2002 gray Dodge Intrepid was stolen the afternoon of Dec. 23 from the parking lot at Busch's Market, 37830 Six Mile. The owner reported that he had sports equipment in the trunk, sunglasses and CDs. He also had his car registration and his garage door opener in the vehicle. Lt. Tom Goralski said motorists should not keep garage door openers and regis-

trations in the vehicle because it makes an easy access to the home for thieves. If the opener can be seen, the thief often will steal the vehicle. "Sometimes thieves will steal the vehicle just to get into the home," Goralski said. "That didn't happen in this case, but those items should be kept out of the vehicle."

Farmington

Underage drinking

Police stopped a car for speeding on eastbound M-5 near Farmington Road on Dec. 22. The driver was cited for speeding and a 20-year-old passenger who had been drinking at a party was cited for minor in possession, after submitting to a preliminary breath test with a result of .09.

Drinking and fighting

On the afternoon of Dec. 20, three people were arrested at Chatham Hills Apartments, 36135 Grand River, after police received a report of people fighting and arrived to break up the fight. Police learned that a resident there had two friends over to drink and play cards when the fight broke out between the visitors. In trying to separate the two, one of them kicked an officer and attempted to flee. The resident later admitted to pointing a starter pistol at the two combatants in order to intimidate them and get them to stop fighting. All three were arrested and a warrant request was sent to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for consideration on charges of felonious assault, resisting and obstructing a police officer and simple assault.

Residential B&E

On the afternoon of Dec. 19, a resident of Wilmarth Street reported returning home to find a broken window on the door of the sunroom, but no items taken. There were also pry marks around the door frame and handle. The resident is in the process of moving and did not spend the night at the house.

Possession of marijuana/warrants

On Dec. 17, a traffic stop was made of a slow moving car on westbound M-5 near Halsted. An odor of marijuana was detected and a search showed that the male passenger had a baggie of marijuana in his pocket and two baggies of marijuana in a boxing glove in the back seat. He was arrested for possession of marijuana, as well as warrants out of the West Bloomfield and Royal Oak police departments for interfering with a police officer.

Farmington Hills

Larceny

A 27-year-old apartment resident on Jefferson Ct. reported to police that a Fed Ex package she knew would arrive was stolen from outside her front door Dec. 22. The woman told police she called Fed Ex, whose representatives informed her that the package had been delivered. She also told police that a neighbor said the package was at her door, but was later gone.

Cigarettes taken

The manager for the Citgo gas station at 29420 10 Mile Road called police when she discovered that the building had been entered by someone who smashed the window open Dec. 20. Police investigated and with the manager's confirmation discovered that 63 cartons of cigarettes had been stolen.

Auto parts stolen

A. J. Danboise at 31015 Grand River called police Dec. 19 when it was discovered that someone had removed and stolen catalytic converters that were in four Ford Econoline vans and a GMC pickup truck. The converters were valued at \$3,500.

Breaking and entering

A 21-year-old resident on Polk Ct. called police when it was discovered that someone had broken into the home and took two television sets, a DVD player and laptop computer collectively valued at \$1,700.

Door kicked in

A neighbor on Harlowshire contacted police after he noticed an unknown car had been parked in a nearby driveway and the front door kicked in. A laptop and jewelry of unknown value were reported missing Dec. 12.

Garden City

Unauthorized debit card use

A 55-year-old Garden City woman called the Garden City police Dec. 24 after she discovered withdrawals totaling \$600 were made using her debit card. The victim told the police that she had not authorized the transactions and had not provided her PIN to anyone. The withdrawals were made at local businesses and police have learned there is video of the transactions. The matter remains under investigation.

Retail fraud

Loss Prevention Officers at K Mart, 29600 Ford Road, contacted Garden City police Dec. 23 after observing a shopper removing price tags from merchandise and then concealing that merchandise. The 42-year-old Garden City woman was confronted by police officers and nearly \$400 in concealed merchandise was recovered, including a new pair of boots the suspect was now wearing. The woman was arrested and taken to GCPD where she was issued a violation for retail fraud.

Stolen car

A 1996 Mercury Grand Marquis was reported stolen from the lot of the Garden City Towers located at 6120 Middlebelt on Dec. 22.

The owner told police he had parked the vehicle at 3 p.m. the previous day and discovered it missing at 7 a.m. the next morning. Both sets of keys have been accounted for, according to Garden City police.

Drunken driving

A 22-year-old Dearborn woman was arrested Dec. 22 for operating while intoxicated after an officer observed her in the area of Ford and Hartel in Garden City travelling at 60 mph in a 40 mph zone.

The woman was unable to produce an driver's license and it was discovered her driving privileges were suspended. She was taken into custody for OWI and DWLS her vehicle impounded and was lodged at the Garden City Police Department.

Property damage

Garden City police responded Dec. 21 to investigate a car alarm at 4:30 a.m. in the 30900 block of Bock. After checking the vehicle with the owner, no evidence of criminal activity was discovered.

The vehicle owner later contacted police to report he did discover a door handle had been damaged. The victim also reported that, while there was nothing missing, the suspect had apparently left his or her own coat in the vehicle. The coat was turned over to police.

A homeowner in the 31200 block of Block called Garden City police Dec. 20 after discovering someone had broken into the home and stolen \$3,000 in jewelry.

The victim told police that the family had been away from the residence most of the day and discovered the crime upon their return. The police found that a window had been forced open to gain entry.

Theft

About \$700 in tools and a cell phone were discovered missing Dec. 20 from a garage in the 30900 block of Elmwood in

Garden City. The resident told police he had locked, but not dead bolted a pedestrian door to the garage the night before and discovered the theft at 6:30 a.m.

Another resident in the area also contacted police to report there had been search activity in his garage overnight but nothing was taken.

Theft

A resident of the 31000 block of John Hawk called Garden City police Dec. 20 after discovering an air compressor and snow blower with a total value of about \$500 had been taken from his garage overnight.

The victim surmised that entry had been gained through a side door with a very weak locking mechanism. The police were able to obtain the serial number for the snow blower and it was entered into the nationwide database as stolen property.

Redford

Redford Clinic broken into

Police are investigating a robbery that took place Dec. 21 at the Redford Clinic, 25241 Grand River.

Police were called to the clinic after an alarm sounded at the clinic during the early morning hours of Dec. 21. The front door was found pried open with the locking mechanism broken. No one was found inside the clinic, and nothing was found missing from inside, although several drawers and cabinets were opened.

Home broken into

A home in the 11300 block of Appleton was reportedly broken into around Dec. 21 for the second time in two months.

The homeowners contacted police and told them the home was broken into via the front door. The home was intact when police arrived. The home was broken into in October where copper piping, a hot water heater and a furnace was taken.

RTFD rescues dog

Redford police and the fire department responded to a house fire on Dec. 22 in the 19200 block of Garfield.

The homeowner told police he woke up to a strong smell of smoke. He got out of his bed, and grabbed one of his dogs to get out of the house. His other dog ran upstairs, and he was not able to find it. Firefighters entered the home and rescued the dog. The fire, which the RTFD deemed not suspicious, was then put out.

Handgun, wallet stolen

A vehicle parked in the 13900 block of San Jose was broken into Dec. 22 and had several items stolen.

The vehicle, which was unlocked, contained the victim's wallet and a handgun in the trunk. The victim told police someone entered the car while it was in his driveway. The gun was entered into LEIN and a statement was taken from the victim.

Plymouth Township

Wheel caps stolen

The center caps on all four wheels of a Chevrolet Silverado were reportedly stolen Dec. 16 or Dec. 17 while the vehicle was parked in the driveway of a house on Winesap Drive, a Plymouth Township Police department report said. There was no damage to the Silverado.

Reindeer vandalized

Someone drove a vehicle over a lighted reindeer figure in Plymouth Township on the night of Dec. 16, police said. The vandalism occurred outside a house on Terry Street.

Scrapper strikes

Someone cut the catalytic converter from underneath a Chevrolet Cavalier in Plymouth Township on Dec. 23, a police report said. The car was parked at the time outside an apartment on Risman Drive.

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be **no fee charged until after the case is won.** The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Livonia native retires from 'The President's Own' band

Marine Band principal clarinet Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Kadala, a Livonia native, has retired after 28 years of active duty service with "The President's Own."

Her retirement was effective Dec. 14.

Kadala began her musical training at age 11. She graduated in 1979 from Churchill High School. In 1984, she earned a bachelor's degree in music performance at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor, where she studied with John Mohler. Kadala won a Marine Band clarinet audition and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in January 1985. She was appointed principal clarinet in 1992, becoming the first female to hold this position.

With the Marine Band, Kadala was a frequently



Kadala

featured soloist and performed at the White House, in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and across the country during the band's annual concert tour. She was featured as a tour soloist in 1994, 1997, 1999 and 2003, and has performed numerous other solos with "The President's Own" including Aaron Copland's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra and Morton Gould's Derivations for Clarinet and Winds, which was included on the Marine Band's 10-disc set, The Bicentennial Collection.

During the retirement ceremony, Kadala received the Meritorious Service

Medal. According to her commendation letter by Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps: "Whether performing at the White House, on the concert stage, on the parade deck, or at Arlington National Cemetery, Master Gunnery Sgt. Kadala's contributions to the musical reputation of the Marine Band are matched only by her dedication to and compassion for her fellow Marines. By virtue of her exceptional leadership, steadfast devotion to duty, and uncommon virtuosity in a position of great musical responsibility, Master Gunnery Sgt. Kadala reflected great credit upon herself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Kadala currently lives in Alexandria, Va.

DITTMAR

Continued from page A5

years. She served as a volunteer at the Friend of the Library's book sales and donated time to work at the book store to raise money for the library's programs.

Dittmar also was one of two founding members of Friends of Greenmead. That group has raised thousands of dollars on garden walks and Christmas walks to help pay for restoring Newburgh Church, rebuilding Blue House, refurbishing Hill House and beautifying the Greenmead Historical Village grounds.

Her personality impressed those who met her for the first time or were longtime friends.

"Dee was always very

approachable and always very nice," Jim McCann said. "Even when I was in college, I could stop by there and visit with them. I always felt comfortable going over there and having a drink with Dee Dee and (her husband) Norby. I was a 24-year-old kid, but Dee Dee was so easy to get along with."

McCann also remembers Dittmar for her late-night singing on a balcony at a cottage up north with family members, which left neighbors not too pleased. "She always liked to sing *God Bless America*," McCann said.

The next-door neighbor put up a "for sale" sign the following week.

Kirksey said her family reflected her gregariousness that was Dittmar's trademark. "She

took it to a fine art. She was so upbeat and full of life, and so positive about everything," Kirksey said.

On commissions, Dittmar and Kirksey met to discuss commission activities and events on a business level that often required what the mayor called "candor."

"But it was always a nice experience talking with her," Kirksey said.

McCann said her death is the loss of a true volunteer in Livonia.

"She was one who always felt she was part of this community," he said. "I'm glad she got that (First Citizen) before we lost her."

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In May, we joined our neighbors and business and government leaders to collect two tons of canned food for Angel's Place, which provides community living opportunities for developmentally disabled adults.

In August, we partnered with the Goodfellows, Dennis Wright and Alpha USA, a 50-year nationally respected business, to coordinate and distribute over 300 back-to-school kits for families that needed a hand.

September saw us partnering with our Livonia Public Schools as a sponsor for Back-to-School festivities at Stevenson High School. Our donation of the printing for the event's posters and banners enabled the Livonia Community Foundation to set aside even more funding for our public schools.

On September 27, we partnered with John Hiltz of OHM, Steve Futrell of Technology Solutions and Brian Parel of Schostak Brothers & Co. to host the Livonia Symphony's 40th Anniversary Celebration.

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Move over Spielberg

Midwest Emmy nominee's short video goes viral and catches 'TV Guide' nod

By Joanne Maliszewski
Observer Staff Writer



Weber

Think it's easy to go viral? Ask Owen Weber. He will tell you he has dabbled, fiddled, worked hard and honed his comedic and film and video skills for quite a few years. And then it happened.

His one minute, 13-second video, "Charlie Brown's School of Dance," has, indeed, gone viral from the *Huffington Post* website to *Mashable.com* and other smaller sites and blogs in between. And now Weber and his short video have been recognized by *TV Guide* as one of its Top Videos of the Week.

Wait. Before you click on the video play arrow, notice *TV Guide's* introductory paragraph:

"Do you suffer from 'chorophobia,' a.k.a. the fear of dancing? Not to worry. This instructional video, featuring all the sweet moves of the Peanuts clan, will get your hips shaking and your toes tapping in no time, with steps like 'the wafting odor' and 'the zombie M.C. Hammer.'"

Short. Sweet. And an effective parody of the Peanuts gang that has earned more than 160,000 views.

"It was timed really well," said the Farmington Hills native. "You have to have relevancy to the season. And length is

key to having a successful video."

Steven Spielberg take notice! Weber, who shoots, directs and produces advertising video for a division of Comcast in Chicago, is a stand-up comedian, comedic writer, incredibly skilled in video and film and is working his way up the long ladder.

He doesn't expect to be plucked up out of the crowd of young filmmakers. Not that he would turn it down. He doesn't imagine himself as a male Lana Turner discovered at a soda shop or Opie turned Academy Award winner Ron Howard.

But he has his goals and his path. "I am at the beginning of a long journey. This (video gone viral) is an encouraging thing to bring some sem-

blance of success."

Wanting to be a filmmaker or TV show maker - with his characteristic comedic edge - isn't easy. He knows it. But he's sticking to his dreams, even after a horrible internship and little money - so little that eating stale bread was more the norm than the unusual.

"The internship at least gave me the chance to get some video work so I could do a demo to get a job," said Weber, who was back in Farmington Hills visiting his family during the holidays.

Weber has always been interested in comedy, has long been writing comedic material and has a degree in film, advertising and communication arts from Michigan State University in 2005.

Right now though, he is ecstatic that his video, posted some two-to-three weeks ago, has been noticed not only by thousands of viewers, but has caught the enterprising eye of world-famous *TV Guide*.

But his humility is far too understated. Visitors to his website, owenweberlive.com will see it's pretty clear this young man has some accomplishments of which to be proud.

First of all, Weber is a three-time Chicago Midwest Emmy nominee, a 3-time CAB award winner and a five-time Telly award winner. Not bad for his budding film career.

On the comedy side of his career, we're not talking about someone who just likes to entertain his friends and family with quick-witted tidbits. To quote his website: "I manufacture jokes. Then they go through a rigorous testing process. Some make it to market. Many are recalled."

"Owen Weber is a Detroit native who has spent the last six years in Chicago performing live and creating comedy shorts."

"He has worked with nationally touring comics like Chelsea Handler (E!'s *Chelsea Lately*), Greg Vaccarello (The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The King of Queens), Steve Iott (A&E, Comedy Central) and Ben Creed (Comedy's Dirtiest Dozen). Owen can current-

ly be seen doing standup and improv at a variety of venues across the Midwest."

One more thing. Anyone who reads *US Weekly's* Fashion Police page, should carefully look below the stars and outfits and notice the name Owen Weber. As a freelance comedy writer, Weber offers his quips on the latest divas and their fashions.

The love of comedy began a long time ago. But it wasn't until his senior year at MSU when he really took it public. He auditioned for a stand-up comedy competition aptly named, "Last Spartan Standing."

"I thought it was now or never," Weber said. He was one of the finalists and moved on to the next level. At the actual competition, he expected an audience of maybe 50 at the most.

Weber was the first one on. "I had never done this before and I got second place." From that he was booked at a comedy club in Novi and later Grand Rapids and was represented by an agent.

All these years later, Weber knows he's on the right track. "I have a good mix of film and comedy. You've got to laugh," he said. "For my future there is more of the same and I know I am capable of doing something people want to watch."

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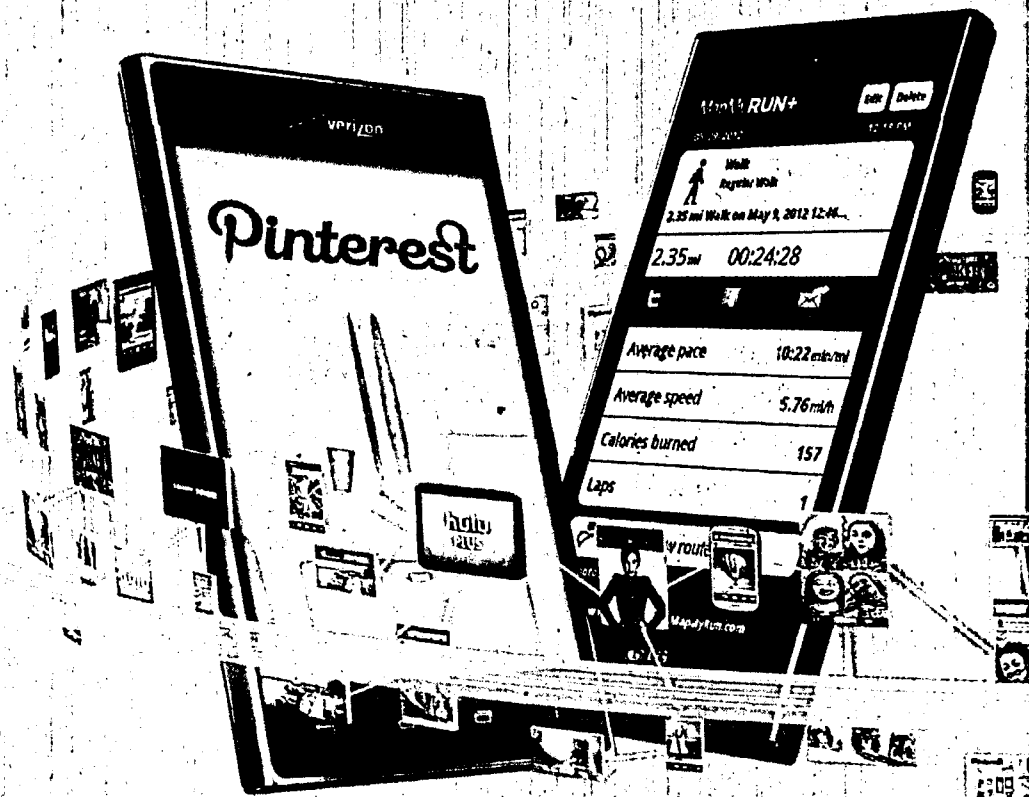


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Thrift Stores hold New Year's Day sale

Step into the new year with a new look and a fresh start with the help of the Salvation Army's annual New Year's Day Sale. All 33 metro Detroit Salvation Army thrift store

locations, including stores in Canton, Garden City, Livonia and Redford, will offer 50 percent off clothing from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 1.

In addition to 50 percent savings on clothing, shoppers will have opportunities to pick up great deals on accessories, home goods and other items with bonus sales announced at individual stores throughout the day in other departments.

Proceeds from all stores benefit The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Centers, independently funded, 180-day residential rehabilitation program for adults.

"Completely self-funded, the ARC draws its entire operating budget from the revenue of the 33 Salvation Army Thrift Stores located in southeast Michigan. For more information, visit www.salarmythrift.com or call (313) 965-7760.

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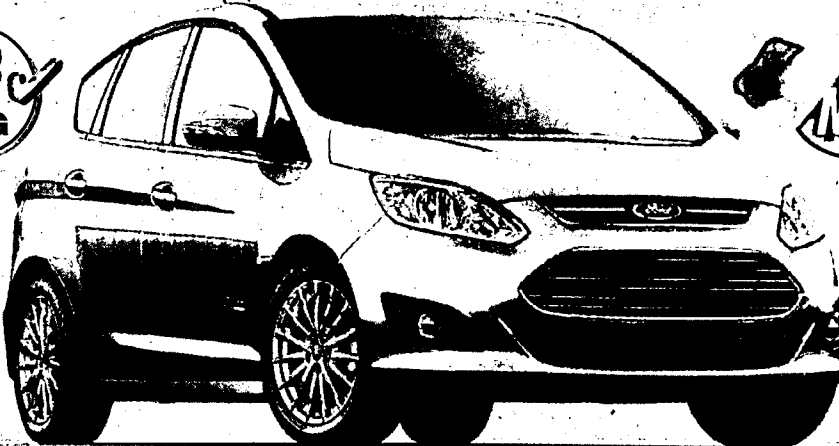
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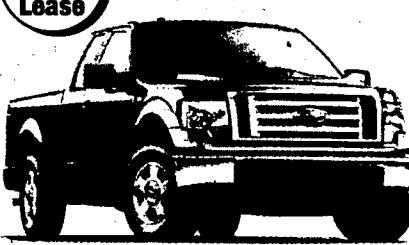
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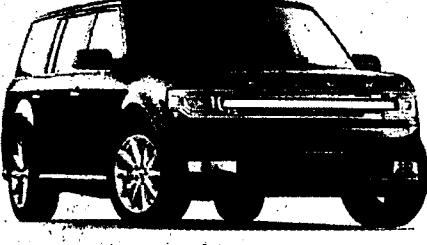
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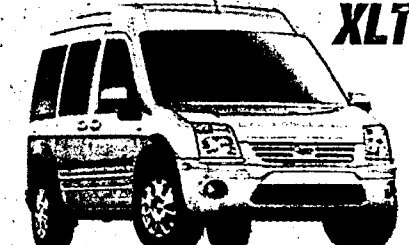
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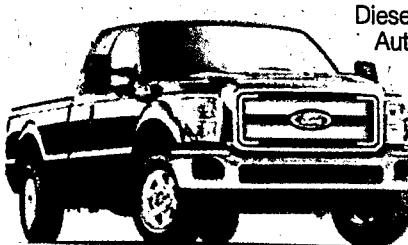
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Pursue rights after high-pressure sales pitch works

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I got talked into doing something — buying a variable annuity — that I regret. I realize it was a mistake. When I told my son what I had bought he pointed out some things that I didn't know and after having second thoughts, I want my money back. I contacted my agent the day after I bought the annuity and he said nothing could be done without incurring a substantial penalty. My son wants me to hire an attorney because of the high-pressured sales tactics and that the policy doesn't make sense for me. Is there anything I can do on my own without having to hire an attorney? I feel incredibly stupid.

A: First of all, don't feel stupid. These things happen. The



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

reason many sales people use these high-pressured tactics is because they work. My general advice for everyone is that when a salesperson is putting pressure on you, that is a sure sign that you need to take some time and think about your decision. That being said, all is not lost and you do have an opportunity to potentially reverse the transaction.

When you purchase an annuity in Michigan, you have the right to

cancel the transaction generally within 10 days of receiving the policy. Since you have not yet received your policy, the 10-day rule would protect you. Since you do not have confidence in your agent, I would recommend that you contact the home office of the company for their procedures how to cancel the policy. You generally have to notify them in writing so I recommend that you send notification by first-class, certified mail, return receipt requested. In addition, if they accept emails send one. By doing all of this, you should be able to cancel the transaction and receive your money back.

High-pressure sales tactics have been around for generations. Sometimes salespeople use aggressive tactics because people may need that push to complete the transaction. Other times it's just to pressure someone into doing something that they really don't want to do. Why they do it does not matter to me. My general rule is if I start feeling any pressure from a salesperson, I immediately terminate the meeting and tell them I need more time to make a decision. Of course, in many situations the sales people will try another approach to try to get you to sign. Once again, you have to be firm and

terminate the meeting.

Aggressive salespeople are not confined to the financial world; they are in every part of our society. However, that doesn't mean that we have to subscribe to it. There are many salespeople in every facet of life who do not employ aggressive tactics. Instead, they try to educate the client and help them make the right decision. Those are the salespeople that you have to use.

In the financial industry, there are many advisers that work on a fee-only basis. They charge a fee for their service and receive nothing

from any investment they recommend. As far as I am concerned you'll have a much better chance of being successful by using a fee-only adviser without the cloud of conflicts of interest that exist with many financial salespersons.

If you've been taken advantage of by an aggressive salesperson, particularly in the financial industry, you have rights and you should never hesitate to pursue them.

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

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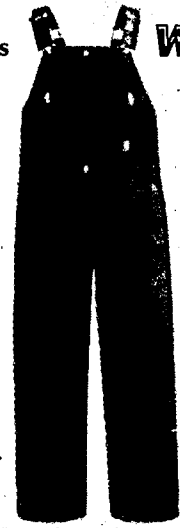
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Local hockey coach enthralls youngsters with his tales

By Susan Steinmueller
Observer Staff Writer

When Paul Lubanski visited his hockey star son in Alaska, he was intrigued by how moose wander around the neighborhoods there.

He wove it into his first children's book, *Bonky, a Moose and the Magic Hockey Stick*, which he read Thursday at the Farmington Hills Community Library.

"My youngest son lived in Alaska the last three years and the moose wandered freely in the little town," he said, explaining to the young audience how he got the idea for the book, before reading the tale.

He showed them a photo he snapped of a moose in a snowy subdivision chewing the bark of a tree. "The moose don't bother you ... unless you sneak up on them, they'll leave you alone," he said.

Lubanski, a 28-year Farmington Hills resident, is a hockey coach, hockey journalist, professional skills instructor



Paul Lubanski takes a picture with audience members at the Farmington library where he read his book 'Bonky, a Moose and the Magic Hockey Stick.'

and motivational speaker. The book was published by turnaround media of New York City. It's geared for children 10 and under.

A winning tale

It tells the tale of Bonky, a young boy who lives in Alaska and yearns to be a top hockey player, as was his father.

A moose called Albert becomes his best friend and helps him reach his goal with a magic hockey stick crafted from antlers. Bonky also learns to

believe in himself and his dreams. That includes being reunited with his dad, a pilot who disappeared while serving in the armed forces, but who comes back just in time to see Bonky win a key game.

Lubanski said the book in some way is a "give back" to those who let him play sports and follow his dreams while growing up.

The story was a winner for an audience of some seven young children and their parents who lis-

tened intently.

They included Bryan Pizzuti of Farmington Hills, his son Benton, 8, and his daughter Amaya, 9, both Beechview Elementary students.

Benton said his favorite part was when Bonk "scored the winning goal." Amaya said she liked best "how the moose can talk."

Bryan Pizzuti said his son skated in Tim Horton's TimBit Learn-To-Play Program in Farmington Hills for ages 3-10, which is led by Lubanski. "He's a good coach," he said.

Team player tips

Lubanski also discussed how to be a good team player.

He asked the audience what a good teammate would do and one answer was "skate fast."

"Yes, but why? Because they are trying their hardest ... and trying for the team," he said.

He said they should strive to be a good person, and encourage and help friends. That will

translate into being a good team player who helps their teammates, he said.

"Win, lose or tie — you try to find the good things that happened in that game. We're all going to have our bad days," he said.

Adults will notice a good team player, and "that will give you a chance to move on."

Lubanski and his wife Cathy have three grown children.

He said his passion for competing teaching and coaching was fueled by his dad and grandfather.

Family of athletes

His father, Eddie Lubanski, was a record-setting former professional baseball pitcher who became a world champion bowler. His story was recently told in the book *King of the Pins: Eddie "Double 300" Lubanski*.

His youngest son Brett, 21, is now a freshman center at Holy Cross of the Atlantic Hockey Conference.

Lubanski's son Eric and

daughter Allison are also standout athletes he said.

Lubanski himself played hockey competitively for many years, beginning in high school in Oak Park, and continuing at Michigan State University.

Over 30 years he has coached individuals and teams at all levels of both ice and roller hockey. He also led several championship baseball teams as a manager for the North Farmington-West Bloomfield youth baseball organization.

He has two online youth ice hockey consulting businesses.

Lubanski has just published his second book, *Just Leave it To Coopie!*, which is about his dog.

On Saturday, March 16, he will be at the Plymouth Library Local Author Fair, which is open 1-3 p.m. to the general public.

Lubanski's books are available by visiting www.amazon.com, on hard copy and Kindle.

ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com
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Farmington eyes new computers; interlocal agreement with the Hills pending

By Susan Steinmueller and Joanne Maliszewski
Observer Staff Writers

Farmington and Farmington Hills will enter into an agreement to merge technology services, which will provide new computers and support in Farmington City Hall.

The cities submitted an EVIP - Economic Vitality Incentive Program - grant to the Michigan Department of Treasury to help support the effort. EVIP grants reward consolidation of services between cities.

In the past two weeks, both city councils approved grant submission and a general outline for a five-year service agreement. The councils will later approve an agreement.

The entire project is estimated at approximately \$200,000, with \$70,000 paid by Farmington and the remaining \$130,000 by the EVIP grant, said Farmington City Manager Vince Pastue.

"The grant will be given on a reimbursement basis, Pastue said. "We haven't put a schedule together with the Hills staff."

The cities must show progress on their joint effort before grant money is distributed, said Mike Lasley, Farmington Hills Central Services director.

The effort will totally revamp Farmington's computer systems. "We'll bring Farmington to the same network platform standard as Farmington Hills."

Work together

Tighter municipal budgets, the need to save money and the EVIP incentive are prompting increased partnership between the cities. In addition to the technology agreement, the cities are working together on the Grand River Improvement Corridor Authority, a winter snow and ice pilot program for some of Farmington's roads and the combined public safety dispatch services.

"We have continual discussions. We are all looking for opportunities to save money," Lasley said.

Pastue agreed. "We've already work together. The departments get along and have a lot of discussions. It is one of those things in which success breeds success. I think we will see more of this and not just with Farmington Hills."

Farmington department heads are anxious to have a new computer system. They described current systems crashing when some attachments are opened, slow processing time and systems not keeping up with new programs available to others.

"Just from the standpoint of efficiency, when you're working and the computer says you are no longer working online and you have to shut down, it becomes a distraction," Public Safety Director Bob Schulz said.

He said public safety would potentially like to use new technologies, such as a crime mapping program, that can't currently be used effectively.

Kevin Christiansen, economic and community development director, said he looks forward to using an expanded geographic mapping system (GIS), which would allow data for each parcel of property to be stored and "layered."

"Certainly an expanded GIS system for record keeping perspective is invaluable," he said.

Well-served

Pastue said that the city has been well-served for 18 years by one individual, who was contracted to fill the city's information needs.

"Given the complexity and security of today's information systems, greater and more immediate support is required," he said.

Pastue said the collaboration with Farmington Hills also makes sense because both cities are involved with many of the same state and county agencies, such as CLEMIS and LEIN for public safety; Oakland County treasurer and equaliza-

tion for property tax collection, assessment data, and property records; and Oakland County clerk and Michigan secretary of state for election files.

The grant covers expenditures to allow the consolidation of these services, Pastue said.

This would include training for Farmington

staff with the new system.

Farmington Hills staff will administer the system conversion.

Pastue said when compared with larger well-run cities nearby such as Farmington Hills, Novi and Livonia, "Farmington will be spending less per capita for essentially the same basic services."

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Continued from page A1

focused on hard-working men and women and working families."

"We can't continue to prioritize big business and CEOs over the people themselves," said representative-elect David Knezek, whose 11th District includes Garden City and portions of Livonia and Westland.

Dollars and cents

Barnett and Knezek were referring to the \$1.8 billion cut in business taxes that came with the 2011-12 state budget and the elimination of the Michigan Business Tax, and to the cuts in aid to local communities, which have been significant over the past decade.

On taxes, Knezek, Barnett and other Democrats believe the new pension tax, designed to make up revenue lost when the

MBT was axed, should be abolished.

With a small budget surplus now, the state can afford to do away with the pension tax, Knezek said. "When we're running a surplus, there's no need to be further burdening" retirees.

"We want to make sure people have extra dollars in their pockets so they can stimulate the economy," said Rep. Dian Slavens of Canton Township.

The phase-out of the personal property tax, passed during the lame-duck session and signed Dec. 20 by Gov. Rick Snyder, is also of concern to Democrats. The PPT is a tax on business and manufacturing equipment; the new law is supposed to provide a means for replacement revenue, up to 100 percent when the money goes toward public safety. The phase-out will not take effect without voter approval in 2014

of the creation of a statewide authority to administer the replacement funds.

Democrats say the PPT replacement should be 100 percent no matter what.

"Cities have been taking big hits for many years now," said Robert Kosowski, a House member-elect from Westland who will represent the 16th District, which includes the city of Wayne, which has a large manufacturing base and relies heavily on the tax.

"We've got to replace it at 100 percent," said Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton of Huntington Woods, whose 27th District includes Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge.

Rep. Phil Cavanagh of Redford Township said



Barnett



Kosowski



Knezek



Lipton



Slavens



Cavanagh

that when numbers from local communities' budgets were plugged into the PPT replacement formula as examples, before the bill passed, the replacement money didn't add up to what had been touted, but there was a rush to get the legislation through. There is general agreement that it needs to be revisited, he said.

"Nobody was happy with the way it came out," said Cavanagh, who will represent a new 10th District that includes all of Redford and a strip of northwest Detroit. "If this thing plays out, there are going to be a lot of hurt municipalities."

Building the economy

Democrats counter the Republican emphasis on reducing the tax burden for businesses to create jobs by saying that good schools, good services and safe communities factor in the equation when businesses consider expansion and relocation, and that people need disposable income to increase demand for the goods and services businesses provide.

"Tax breaks will not create jobs. People with money buying stuff creates jobs," Barnett said. Businesses also need tax stability and predictability, she said.

"Michigan's corporate tax rate is one of the lowest in the country," Knezek said. "Why is it that we haven't seen this massive influx of businesses and jobs?"

Michigan's corporate tax climate ranks seventh among the 50 states in an index from the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan think tank. The ranking improved dramatically with the tax changes enacted in 2011, the foundation says.

Barnett said she will continue her push to have Michigan recognize benefit corporations, a corporate structure in which a company's mission includes a commitment to a public good as well as to making a profit. She introduced such legislation during her first term and reintroduced it in her second, with a similar bill in the Senate, but movement has stalled.

Without formal recognition, she said, such companies in Michigan could face legal liabilities. Several other states, including Illinois, have jumped on the benefit corporation bandwagon.

Cavanagh said he will reintroduce a measure that would prohibit public employees from so-called "double dipping," that is, retiring with a defined-

benefit pension and then being rehired in the same or a similar job.

"We're reading about some of these officials writing their own retirement plans and then coming back to work," and essentially doubling their salaries, he said. Cavanagh said he wants to "get the conversation going" and is optimistic his bill will get a hearing. He sees the measure as a job creator, as new employees could be hired instead of the retirees.

K-12 schools

Lipton, who is beginning her third term, suggests more money needs to be spent on elementary and secondary education. "We are at the lowest per-pupil fund since Proposal A," she said, referring to the 1994 measure that changed school funding, "if you adjust for inflation." She added that school aid "falls woefully short."

Lipton would start with restoring the more than \$300 million taken from the school aid fund to help balance the 2011-12 budget. She contends the money was improperly shifted through a "constitutional loophole" that she would like to tighten.

Lipton, Knezek and other local Democrats also want to restore limits on charter schools. Charters that get a share of state funding but can cherry-pick students and don't have to meet the same standards as public schools, they say, are siphoning dollars from traditional public schools to companies with a profit motive.

"I believe it's one of the most fundamental things to a democracy, to have public education available to all children," said Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, whose 6th District also includes Garden City, Livonia and Redford Township.

Education reform

Local Democrats are also against broadening the powers of the state's Educational Achievement Authority, a district created to manage poorly performing schools. The issue was discussed recently in the Legislature, but no measure was passed; opponents say the proposal threatens local control of schools.

"Our school districts have done a great job, our superintendents, our teachers, and it's time for our teachers to take back control of what they're teaching their kids," Kosowski said.

Barnett said the EAA is run outside the state's Board of Education and school superintendent and gives too much power to the executive

branch. "I think it's a real problem, and it should alarm everybody in the state," she said.

Knezek mentioned three steps in public education he'd like to see taken: broadening opportunities for early childhood education, providing incentives for teachers to obtain advanced degrees and moving toward year-round school.

Barnett said she is working on a proposal that would make college much more affordable, something she said would be attractive to companies and their employees.

Laundry list

Other priorities for area Democratic legislators include:

• Mental health system: Barnett wants to improve insurance coverage for mental health problems in the state's health care system. Anderson wants to explore the idea of having special courts for criminal defendants with mental health issues that would steer them to treatment rather than incarceration if appropriate.

Cavanagh is angling for a spot on the House's health policy committee, which will be instrumental in making decisions about a new Detroit-Wayne County mental health authority that needs to be up and running by October and will have a budget of about \$600 million. The body will replace the current city-county mental health agency.

• Law and order: Anderson wants restrictions on where weapons can be carried, either concealed or openly; he applauded Snyder's veto of a lame-duck measure that would have allowed people with permits to bring concealed guns into schools and churches.

"Some of the gun owners say put more guns in the hands of people and we're going to be safe," said Anderson, a gun owner. "I just don't buy that argument."

• Push back: Anderson, reacting to the flurry of controversial bills Republicans passed this month, said he is planning to propose an amendment to the state constitution that would limit legislators' power during lame-duck sessions. An emergency would have to be declared — by the governor and at least two-thirds of each chamber in the Legislature — before a significant issue could be voted on in a lame-duck session, he said.

"When you see a highly active lame-duck session, you scratch the surface and you find that there are many pieces of bad legislation that get through," he said.

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH MEDICAL MARIHUANA ACT MORATORIUM ORDINANCE NUMBER 1016 - Amendment 1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BY ADDING A NEW SECTION, WHICH NEW SECTION SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS ARTICLE 9: MEDICAL MARIHUANA ACT MORATORIUM OF CHAPTER VII: CRIMINAL CODE; TO EXTEND THE MEDICAL MARIHUANA ACT MORATORIUM; PROVIDING FOR APPEAL; PROVIDING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND RECOMMENDATION; PROVIDING FOR TOWNSHIP BOARD FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF ACTION; PROVIDING FOR SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

VII-9.00. Moratorium/Medical Marihuana Act Uses.

It is the finding of the Plymouth Charter Township Board that the possession, transport, delivery, use, packaging and storage of a drug listed on the Federal Controlled Substances Act is a criminal act. Prior to the Michigan Court of Appeals decision on Ter Beek v. the City of Wyoming, Court of Appeals docket number \$306240, and in response to the passage of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, (MMA), Initiated Law of 2008, the Township Board adopted a Zoning Ordinance provision similar to that held to be void in the Ter Beek case.

An application for leave to appeal the Court of Appeals decision in Ter Beek has been filed by the City of Wyoming under Michigan Supreme Court docket number 145816. That application has not been acted upon as of the date of drafting this ordinance. A 90 day moratorium on permits and approvals for uses under the MMA was established by the Board of Trustees under Resolution #12-09-25-30 as necessary for the Township to maintain the status quo pending further decision by the Michigan Supreme Court, and to conduct necessary analysis, public hearing, drafting, and adoption of Zoning Ordinance amendments providing for the use(s) of marijuana authorized by the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, all as provided under the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA 110 to 2006.

(A) Moratorium. A six month extension of the moratorium established by Township Board Resolution is a reasonable amount of time for undertaking such action and is hereby established for applications for any permits or approvals for uses under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act. During the six months, the Planning Commission shall study the issue and make its best effort to, after public hearing, recommend a reasonable zoning approach.

(B) Appeal. An individual shall have the right to file a claim regarding the hereby established moratorium. The claim shall include an explanation describing and substantiating the basis for the alleged wrong occasioned by the moratorium. The claim shall be heard by an Administrative Body made up of the Planning Commission Chair, the Chief Building Official, and the Township Board representative on the Planning Commission.

(C) Administrative Appeal Process. Within 14 days of receipt of the claim by the Township Clerk the Administrative Body shall conduct a public hearing with notice of the time, date, location and purpose being posted no less than five days prior thereto and the hearing being conducted otherwise in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, at which hearing the claimant may make a written and oral presentation to the Administrative Body. Within seven days the Administrative Body shall issue and deliver to the Township Clerk a written recommendation addressed to the Township Board, signed by the members of the Administrative Body, which recommendation shall contain the collective or individual opinion(s) of the Administrative Body members regarding disposition of the claim. Upon receipt by the Clerk of the recommendation from the Administrative Body, at the next regular or special board meeting the Township Board shall review the recommendation and may take any of the following actions, provided said action complies with all township ordinances:

- (1) grant a waiver of the moratorium as to the stated claim;
(2) deny the claim;
(3) grant in part and deny in part the claim;
(4) refer the matter back to the Administrative Body for further consideration or hearing;
(5) refer the matter to the Planning Commission and/or the Planning or Building Department for further review and recommendation;
(6) any other relief found reasonable and necessary under the circumstances

(D) Written Findings on Appeal; Service. The Township Board shall adopt written findings and statement of action which shall within 5 business days of the publication of the minutes of the Board meeting be served by regular mail on the claiming party at the address shown on the claim.

VII-9.02. Violation and Penalty.

Unless otherwise provided, any person, corporation, partnership or any other legal entity who violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or imprisoned for not more than ninety (90) days, or both, at the discretion of the Court.

REPEAL.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, except as herein provided, are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion thereof.

SAVINGS CLAUSE.

The repeal or amendment herein shall not abrogate or affect any offense or act committed or done, or any penalty or forfeiture incurred, or any pending litigation or prosecution of any right established or occurring prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, as amended.

PUBLICATION.

The Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take full force and effect upon publication.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Ordinance was duly adopted by the Township Board Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth at its regular meeting called and held on the 11th day of December, 2012 and was ordered to be given publication in the manner required by law.

Nancy Conzelman Township Clerk

Introduced: November 13, 2012
Adopted: December 11, 2012
Posted: December 22, 2012
Publish: December 30, 2012

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Jennifer Champagne, and DOES 1-25 YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Frank Krueger

NOTICE: You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you don't know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a non-profit legal services program. You can locate these non-profit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO: Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.

Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.aucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca.

Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de costas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org) o en el sitio web de las Cortes de California (www.suorteca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las costas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tíese que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desearchar al caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3014.

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de tel fono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es: George G. Romain, SRN 141743, Law Office of George G. Romain, 12121 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90025, Telephone: (310) 481-6761.

DATE: (Fecha): April 6, 2012

John A. Clarke, Executive Officer/ Clerk, (Secretario) by: Darretta Smith, Deputy (Adjunto).

CASE NUMBER: BC482069

GOP

Continued from page A1

speaker pro tem, chaired the House Judiciary Committee and was vice chair of House Tax Policy Committee, believes discussions will continue about the repeal of personal property taxes, regulatory reform and the state's 2014 budget, including how to increase spending for higher education and create incentives for universities that graduate students who meet academic requirements in a timely manner, as well as begin initial talks about cutting correctional costs.

"We will open up an early agenda to address the regulatory environment; then in February the budget process begins for next year," he said.

Walsh wants to examine efficiencies and how to reduce overhead costs at universities. Walsh wonders why administrators have increased while the number of teaching faculty has remained unchanged. "I'd like to take a look at setting aside more dollars in the classroom and whether we can assist in that area," he said.

Walsh wants to look at sentencing guidelines and how to better train inmates to avoid recidivism. He believes criminals should serve their sentences, but added: "We have not been providing the right training at the right time for them to get a job."

Kurt Heise

Heise hopes to continue as a vice chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Lawmakers will not know about their new committee assignments until the first week of January.

"For me, the next two years will be refocusing on the economy and jobs," he said. Heise expects discussion of the repeal of personal property taxes to continue. "Everyone agrees that we have to fine-tune it," he said.

Local governments were guaranteed reimbursement of 80 percent — not 100 percent, which is what they wanted — but the personal property tax will not be killed unless voters approve a ballot initiative related to the replacement revenue in 2014.

Heise said the current plan is a 10-year plan through 2022. "What we approved last week is a much more realistic plan than what we had two weeks ago," he said Dec. 17. "It will depend on the statewide election expected in 2014. If voters reject it, it stops."

Businesses with assets of less than \$40,000, such as print shops, salons or barber shops, will see relief, Heise said. "If I am a small business paying personal property tax under \$40,000, I don't have to pay on equipment," he said. "That's a big tax cut for a small

business."

Heise expects the House Judiciary Committee will deal with court reform in terms of efficiencies currently pursued by local governments and school districts in merged services and collaborative efforts to cut expenses.

"We've seen a lot of stories of judges behaving badly, especially in Wayne County," Heise said in reference to poor attendance and ethical decisions. He would like to see the court system examined for combined services: "We need to see where people's time and talents are being spent."

Money for indigent defense and medical marijuana issues also are expected to be tackled, Heise said. Policy for corrections will be driven by the governor, but lawmakers will earmark funding for it, he said.

Hugh Crawford

State Rep. Hugh Crawford of Novi expects that educational reform will be on the agenda early in 2013, along with regulatory reform.

The Educational Achievement Authority will be discussed. "It addresses the lowest 5 percent of the schools in the state," he said. "Fifteen schools in Detroit are EAA, and there will be a statewide cap of 50 schools."

"I think it will help kids. I visited a couple in Detroit and I was impressed with the kids and with the teachers compared with what I had heard last year."

With the personal property tax repeal, reimbursement of local governments "is obviously a big issue," Crawford said. "We have to make sure that they are not harmed. They can add money locally."

Regulatory reform will be front and center on Crawford's plate if he continues to be on that House committee. The Office of Regulatory Reform has issued reports to that committee that may result in hundreds of bills introduced to address what officials believe are over-regulated areas.

John Pappageorge

State Sen. John Pappageorge of Troy believes much of the legislative discussion depends on Gov. Snyder's State of the State address Jan. 16. "The big thing will be the budget process," Pappageorge said. "There's never enough money for what you want to do."

Pappageorge believes lawmakers need to look at infrastructure and transportation budgets. "There are three things that most of the general population of my district care about: the gas tax, toll roads and potholes," he said. "That's the dilemma. We have to figure out how to get more resources here and make infrastructure a priority."

Funding teacher retire-

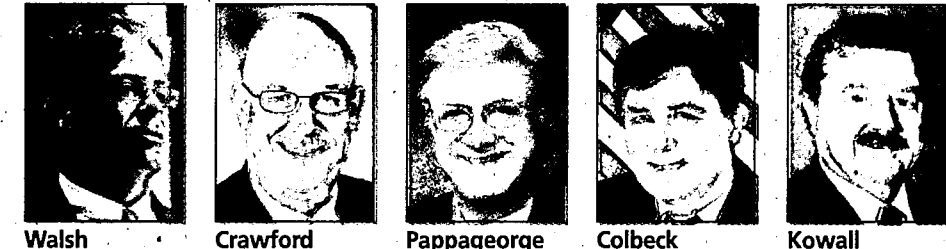
ments will be another topic and work will continue on the EAA issue. On tax policy, Pappageorge believes most of the "big stuff" was taken care of with the personal property taxes and workers comp costs.

Patrick Colbeck

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck of Canton believes the state needs to promote reforms it has completed over the past two years.

"I'd like to follow up the reforms and bring jobs," he said. He'd like to make sure returning military veterans land jobs.

Colbeck, who served on the Senate Education Committee, also wants to see educational policies promote local control. "We're going to bring people who complete these reports before the Educational Policy Committee, ask them how they are using the information in these reports and see if they are neces-



Walsh

Crawford

Pappageorge

Colbeck

Kowall

sary," he said. "We want to let the teachers do what they are trained to do, and that is teach."

Colbeck wants to make sure government is more customer relations-oriented to businesses looking to move into Michigan. "We want to let them know where the properties are and where the skilled labor is," he said.

Colbeck believes that companies can find out that information quickly on the Internet and he wants the state to market itself and let companies know to locate in Michigan with a favorable tax climate. "Time is money in economic development," he said.

Mike Kowall

Mike Kowall, state senator from White Lake, said his main focus will be getting people back to work through the port authority legislation, which will help bring in more business.

Port authority bills have worked well in other states, Kowall said, using them to bond out for projects including everything from grain elevators to short rails. Ohio built a headquarters for Goodyear tires using this mechanism.

Kowall wants to see the Brownfield Development Act returned. In Oakland County alone, it could bring 1,865 jobs.

Kowall said Snyder appointed new employees in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. "They are going through every rule, every regulation, to determine whether they are worth keeping or getting rid of," he said. "This is a major effort."

Kowall wants to see stricter penalties against people caught transporting Asian carp. He wants to hit the transporters with not only jail time, but hit them in their pocketbooks by confiscating their fish tanks. "Those are very expensive," he said. "It is along the same line as drug forfeiture laws."



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Livonia

WIDOWED SUPPORT

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16
Location: G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Widowed of all ages are welcome to attend a social hour at 5 p.m. and a dinner buffet served promptly at 6 p.m. Cost of \$18 includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards, games and conversation until 9:30 p.m. Reservations required by Jan. 11.
Contact: (313) 562-3080

Plymouth-Canton

NEWCOMER LUAU

Date/Time: Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:15 p.m.
Location: Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford in Canton.
Details: Canton area residents interested in escaping the cold for the warm vibe of Hawaii are encouraged to attend an adult Luau hosted by the Canton Newcomers and Neighbors club. The evenings' agenda includes: tons of socializing, Hawaiian music and themed games, a best-dressed for the island contest, a raffle to benefit St. Christine's Soup Kitchen, a tasty treat from Shish House and more.
Contact: RSVP to Noreen at nrybar@yahoo.com

com or (734) 981-0486. To order a complimentary January newsletter, and/or learn more about the club's upcoming events of interest, visit www.cantonnewcomersand-neighbors.org.

MEDICARE COUNSELING

Date/Time: Jan. 2 and Feb. 6
Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 Canton Center in Canton.
Details: United Home Health Services offers the community free counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor. The MMAP counselor can help review Medicare and Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D drug insurance, assist with Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify & report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse issues, and explore long term care insurance options. No reservations necessary.
Contact: If you have any questions please contact United Home Health Services at (734) 981-8820. You may also access the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html

POTTERY CLASSES

Date/Time: Starting Jan. 8
Location: Village Potters Guild, 340 N. Main in Plymouth.
Details: The Village Potters Guild begins with 15 week classes open to adults who

are just beginning their interest in clay all the way through to those who are very experienced in pottery. There are 2 classes offered on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Instructors will provide demonstrations and hands-on assistance in hand-building and wheel throwing techniques as well as glazing. Specialized sessions for raku, pit firing or maybe horse-hair firing will also be included during the term. The guild also offers an independent study class that meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Artists with intermediate to advanced skills are welcome to participate in this student directed class.
Contact: For more information or to register for classes, contact Debbie at (248) 417-2484 or visit the website at www.villagepottersguild.org.

PCAC EXHIBITS

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

Wayne-Westland

LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. through Dec. 31
Location: Enter Lightfest off Merriman Road north Warren Road.
Details: Enjoy a breathtaking drive through Hines Park and the Midwest's longest holiday light display at the Wayne County Parks annual Lightfest. The more than four-mile, colorful drive-through light display runs daily. The cost is \$5 per vehicle cost.
Contact: For more information, call (734) 261-1990.

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November
Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.
Contact: Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or

by e-mail at pibbotso@aol.com or Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

HEALING HEARTS

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month
Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Donations only.
Contact: For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

HIGHER ROCK CAFE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. the fourth Friday of the month
Location: The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer
Details: Higher Rock Cafe is an evening of Christian music, fellowship, games and concessions. There's no cover charge.
Contact: For more information visit Higher Rock Cafe on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WayneWestlandHRC or call (734) 722-3660.

FREE WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 6-7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month
Location: Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy, Westland
Details: Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop. Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.
Contact: To register for the workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to lindamiller@nationalfaith.org.

Garden City

SENIOR FITNESS

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City
Details: The Senior Fitness Room is available to those age 50 and older. There's an annual membership is \$55 per year or get a daily pass for \$1. Senior aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in for \$3 per day.
Contact: (734) 793-1870

PURPLE HEART

Time/Date: 8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month
Location: VFW Post 7575 Hall, 33011 Ford west of Venoy, Garden City
Details: Meetings are open to combat-wounded veterans.

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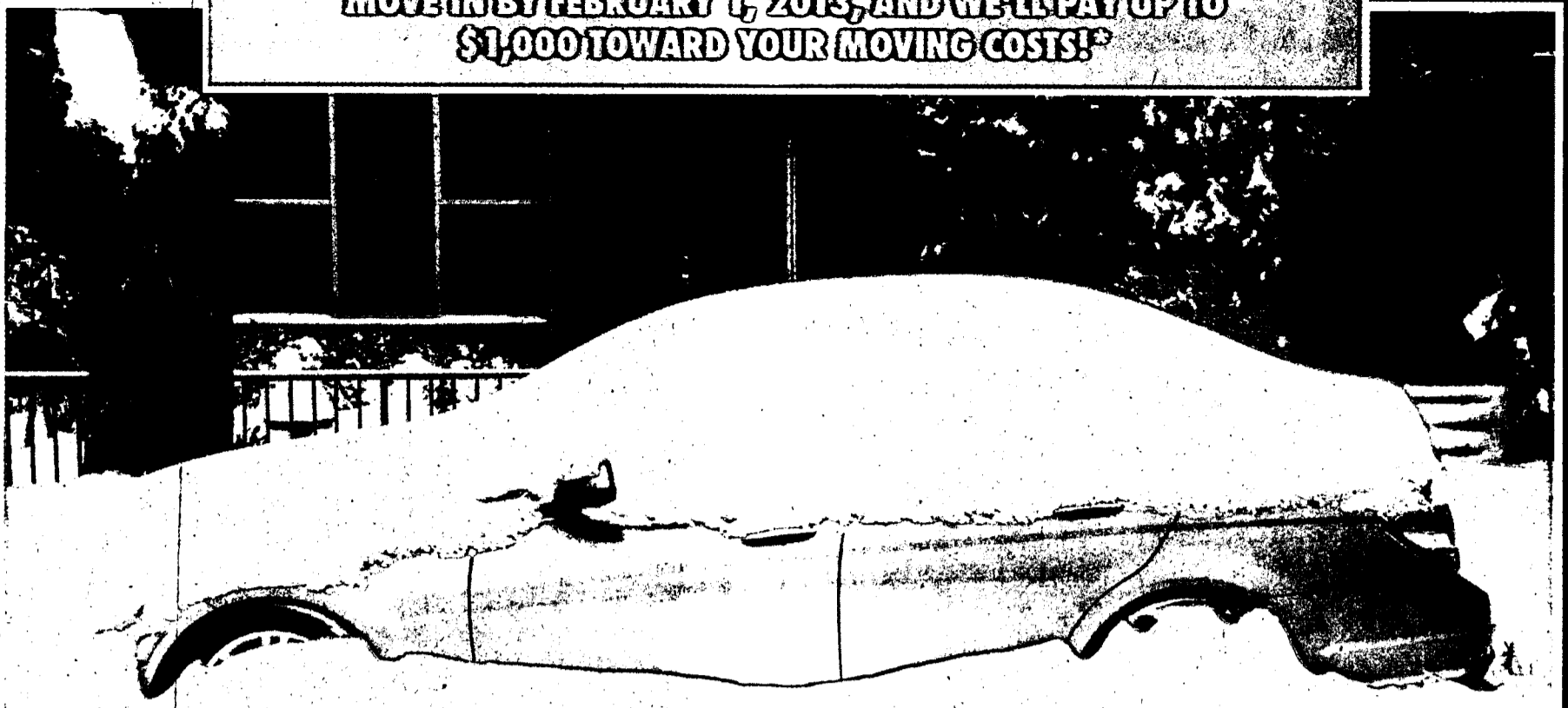
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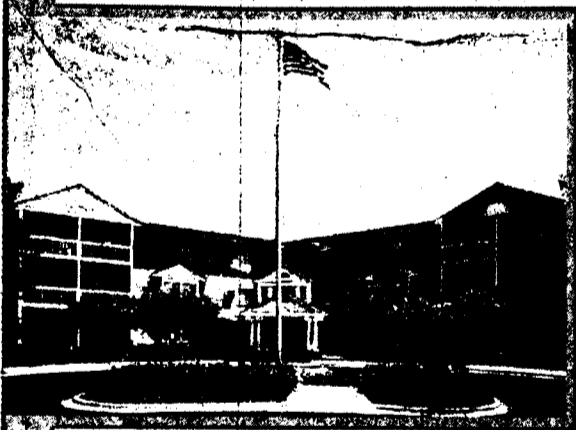
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Actual Testimonial from Kimmy K., Dearborn Heights, MI.

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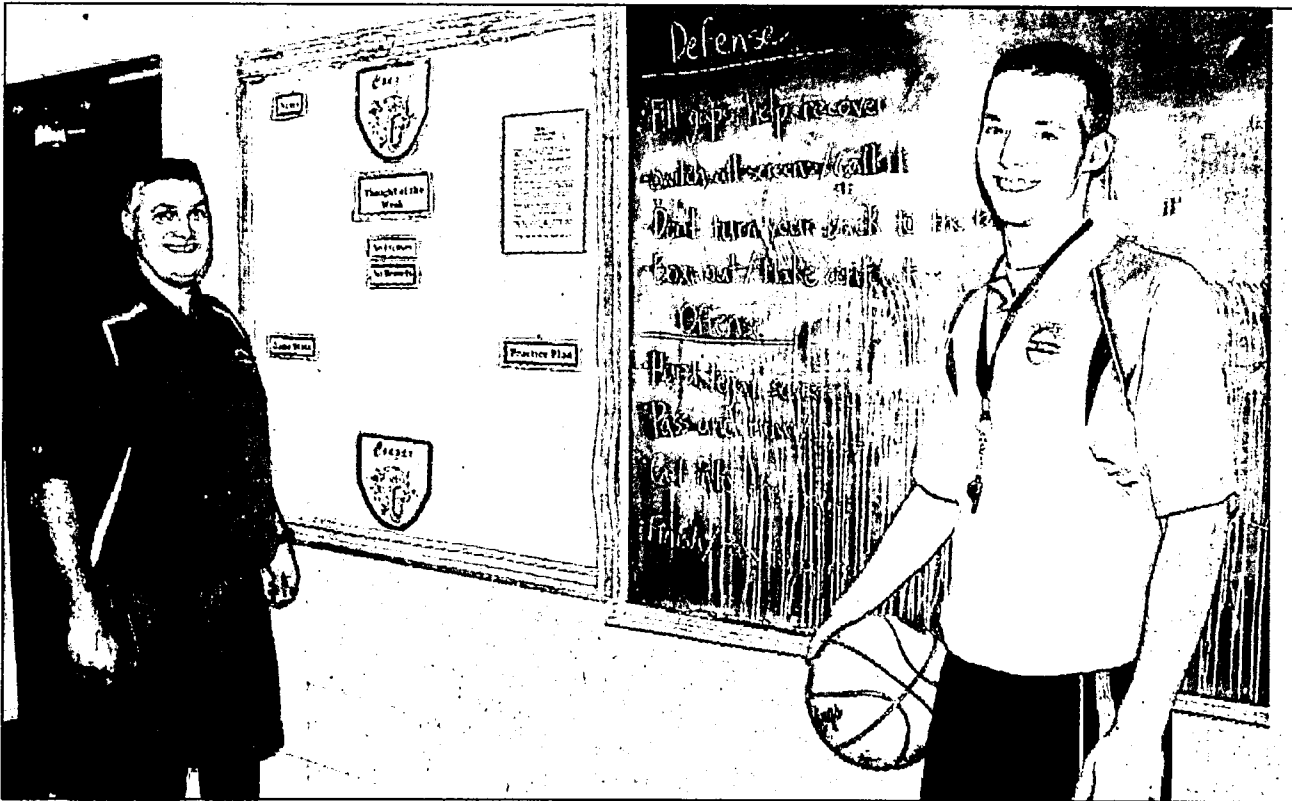
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Coaching Garden City's varsity boys basketball team is a family affair for head coach Ron Pummill (left) and his oldest son Ron Jr.

Sweet ride Rockets earn 2 wins on trip

It wasn't easy, but the Westland John Glenn boys basketball team completed a successful two-game swing to the west side of the state by beating Grand Haven, 41-38, Friday night at Muskegon Reeths Puffer High School.

The Rockets, who improved to 5-1 overall, got a game-high 17 points from junior forward Isaac Everette.

Senior guard Nick Daniels, bound for Oakland University, contributed 14 in the win.

The Rockets, who beat Muskegon the previous day, 54-53, on Dre Black's three-pointer with only 3.5 seconds left, used a 13-7 third-quarter run to down the Buccaneers, who slipped to 3-2 overall.

Sean Steffel led Grand Haven with 16 points. The Rockets made 7-of-12 free throws, while Grand Haven made 7-of-8.

FRANKLIN 56, LAKELAND 44: Michael Gluth and Andrew Lebbos scored 13 points apiece Friday leading host Livonia Franklin (2-4) to a consolation round win over visiting White Lake Lakeland (1-4) in the Patriot Invitational.

Franklin trailed 29-25 at halftime, but took the lead with a 16-11 third-quarter run and put the game away with a 15-4 surge in the final period.

Olushakin Cole and Alex Armstrong added nine and eight points, respectively, for the Patriots, who committed a season-low seven turnovers.

The 6-7 Gluth and Tyrone Rayford also combined for 14 rebounds.

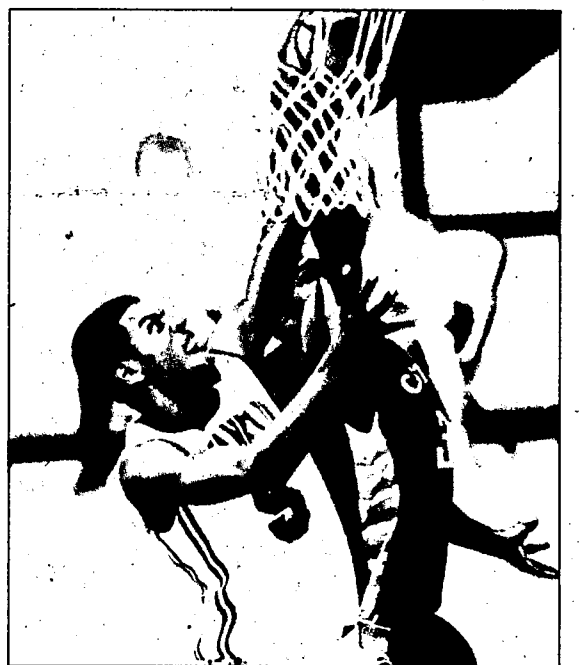
Colton Jarrett paced the Eagles with a game-high 16 points.

JOHN GLENN 54, MUSKEGON 53: Dr. Dre has certainly produced his share of hit records.

And Westland John Glenn junior Dre Black made a name for himself on the local hoop scene by hitting a dramatic three-point shot with only 3.5 seconds remaining to give the Rockets (4-1) the win over the Big Reds (3-2) at Reeths-Puffer High School.

Glenn got a team-high 13 points from junior forward Isaac Everette, while junior center James

Please see HOOPS, B4



Livonia Franklin's Tyrone Rayford goes for a rebound against Crestwood during the Patriot Invitational.

FAMILY TIES

Basketball embedded in GC coaches' DNA

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

For 15 consecutive Friday nights in 1995, 5-year-old Ron Pummill Jr. slept on a couch near the landing of the staircase that led to the second story of his family's Garden City home.

"On Saturday mornings during basketball season, my dad would get up early and go play pickup ball with a bunch of his friends and I slept by the stairs so he wouldn't forget to take me with him," Pummill, now 21, vividly remembered Thursday morning.

One morning the younger Pummill was sleeping so soundly that his dad decided to let him sleep in — a mistake Ron Sr. wouldn't make twice.

"I woke up when I heard his car backing out of the driveway," the younger Pummill said, smiling. "As he drove down the street, I started bawling because I was so bummed I wouldn't get to go with him."

During breaks in the pickup games played at what is now Garden City Middle School, Ron Jr. would dribble out onto the court and attempt to conquer gravity by launching a basketball at the 10-foot-



Michele (left) and Sara Tyree look over a practice plan Thursday afternoon in the Garden City High School gymnasium.

high hoop.

"He was so small that his shots would fall short every time, but he kept shooting; he never gave up," Ron Sr. recalled. "I'll never forget this: Toward the end of the final week, Ron dribbled out there and — with everybody

watching — made his first basket on a 10-foot hoop. All the guys started cheering and he looked back at us with the biggest grin."

At that moment, an unbreakable father-son basketball bond was forged.

As the Pummills

recounted the unforgettable story, they stood in the Garden City High School gymnasium, each wearing a whistle around his neck.

A short time after Ron Sr. was hired as the Cougars' new varsity boys basketball coach this summer, he brought Ron Jr. on board as his No. 1 assistant, fulfilling a lifetime dream for both.

Sister act

The 13-year age gap that separates Michele Tyree and her younger sister Sara has been bridged nicely over the years by the sport of basketball.

"I had season tickets for the Detroit Shock back in the day, so I'd take her to a lot of those games," Michele Tyree said. "And when Sara was in middle school, I was coaching here, so I got her involved in the winter league that Marshall Henry set up. Ted Fournier (currently the Garden City girls junior varsity coach) was one of her coaches."

Sara Tyree not only enjoyed the sport, she thrived in it, excelling for Westland John Glenn before moving on to play for Schoolcraft College

Please see FAMILY, B3

Whalers rally, stop losing skid, 4-2

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Alex Aleardi figured if he kept shooting Thursday, sooner or later something good would happen — both for him and his team.

The Plymouth Whalers forward from Farmington Hills figured correctly. In a Kids Day matinee at Compuware Arena against Saginaw, Aleardi's equalizer in the second period sparked a three-goal

surge that rallied the Whalers to a 4-2 victory.

It was an important comeback for the Whalers, who snapped a seven-game losing streak.

"It was a good play," Aleardi noted. "Mitch Jones held the puck in and (Danny) Vanderwiel made a nice little chip pass to me and I cut across the middle."

"In the first period I hit low post on the same shot and this time I was able to bury it."

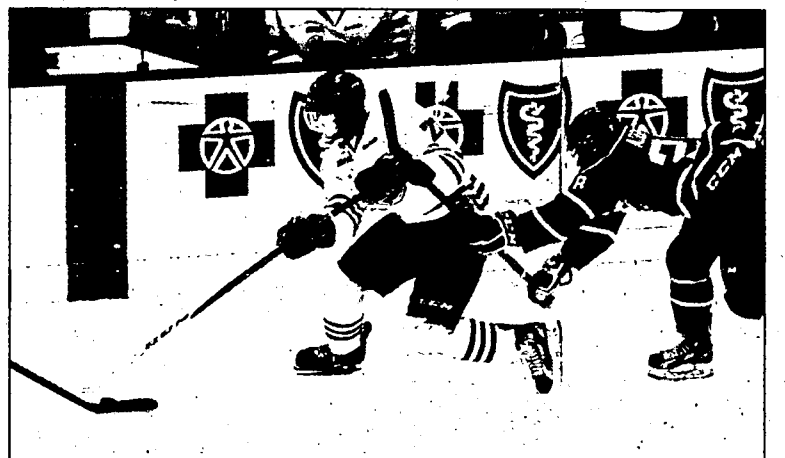
The goal, with 10:32 to play in the middle stanza, made it a 2-2 contest. It came 26 seconds following a power play tally by Saginaw's Garret Ross.

Aleardi ripped his shot from the left circle past Spirit netminder Nikita Serebryakov for his 14th goal of the Ontario Hockey League season.

In the lead

Plymouth (15-11-5-3, second

Please see WHALERS, B3



Plymouth's Connor Sills advances the puck along the boards against Saginaw's Jeremiah Addison.

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Thurston's 'X' factor

PG Bowen energizes Eagles hoops squad

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Redford Thurston senior point guard Xzavier Bowen is living, breathing, slick-dribbling proof that you don't have to be 6-foot-6 with the wingspan of a 747 to dominate a basketball game.

Bowen compensates for his 5-8 stature with a motor that runs like a Ferrari's and a set of hardwood instincts that have been sharpened by more than 10 years of playing top-level hoops.

Earlier this month against a lean, long and athletic team from Detroit University Prep, Bowen posted what has become a typical stat line for him: 15 points, seven rebounds, six assists and five steals.

A week earlier against Livonia Stevenson, the Eagles' version of the Energizer Bunny put up 15 points and 10 assists.

While impressive, Bowen's physical skills aren't the only assets he brings to the table for Thurston, which has bolted to a 4-1 start.

"Xzavier is really showing a lot of leadership skills this year," Thurston head coach Brian Bates said. "He's a three-year varsity player, so his teammates look

up to him. He leads by example.

"He's probably one of the best ball-handlers in the area, too. When the game is tight, we want the ball in his hands."

Early riser

Bowen has been playing against top-flight talent since he can remember. Recruited to play for the highly regarded, Southfield-based The Family AAU program in third grade, he has been competing in national tournaments since he was 8.

"They would always put us in a higher age group than what we should have been in, so I was always playing against older kids, which gave me an advantage once I got to high school," Bowen said. "When you play against really good competition like I did when I was younger, nothing bothers you once you get to high school."

Among his most memorable basketball feats as a youngster included a half-court, buzzer-beating, game-winning shot in a national tournament in Indianapolis, and a 56-point explosion while playing for the Redford Township Junior Athletic Association Bulls as an 11-year-old.

"Most of my (56) points in that game were 3-

pointers, which is funny because I wasn't even that good of a 3-point shooter back then," Bowen said. "Everything I threw up was going in that day."

Bowen didn't have to look far to find a mentor and role model during his formative years.

"My sister, Domonique, took me under her wing," he said. "She was one of the best players in the state when she was in high school, but she hurt her knee at the end of her junior year, so she missed her senior year. I've always looked up to her."

Never rest

Bowen credits his uncanny dribbling prowess and off-the-charts basketball IQ to a year-round basketball-playing regimen.

"I've been playing non-stop since I was young," he said. "I try to play at least two hours every day and some days in the summer I play nine or 10 hours, depending on whether or not I can find an open gym."

His advice for younger players who may not have been blessed with an abundance of height is two-fold.

"You have to play with a lot of heart and aggressiveness if you want to

make it," he said. "Don't give up just because you're not real tall. Don't let your size be a disadvantage. Have a nose for the ball and go get it."

Bowen attended Livonia Franklin during his freshman year of high school before transferring to Thurston prior to his 10th-grade year. Right out of the gate, he was the starting point guard as a sophomore for the Eagles.

"That was a pretty intense season," Bowen said. "Even though I was playing with a lot of people I knew, I still had to prove myself every game because I was only a sophomore."

As a junior, Bowen helped lead the Eagles to their first Class A district title in four years.

This year, the sky is the limit for Thurston, he said.

"If we come together as a team, we could make it to the Breslin Center," he said, referring to the site of the Class A championship game.

Future Racer?

Bowen's ultimate hoops dream is to play collegiate basketball for Kentucky-based Murray State University — the school his all-time favorite player attends.



Redford Thurston's Xzavier Bowen is pictured doing what he does best: splitting an opponent's defense to get a good look at the basket.

or way down." Wherever he attends college, Bowen intends to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

ewright@hometownlife.com
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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Jan. 3
Farm. at Harrison, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 4
Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
S. Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.
Pontiac at N. Farm., 7 p.m.
PCA at L. N'west, 8:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Jan. 3
PCA at L. N'west, 5:30 p.m.
Farm. at Lake Orion, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 4
Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at S. Lyon, 7 p.m.
Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
Harrison at Adams, 7 p.m.
Mercy at A.A. Richard, 7 p.m.
Lady. at Regina, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Jan. 4
Churchill vs. Grand Rapids CC
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Plymouth vs. Mott
at Lakeland Arena, 8:20 p.m.
Midland vs. Canton
at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
Northville vs. Salem
at Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 5
Ladywood vs. Northville
at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m.
NF-Harrison vs. Mott
Lakeland Arena, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. Stevenson
at Edgar Arena, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at N'ville, 7 p.m.
Farmington vs. Clarkston
at Ice Box, 8 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 5

Burton-Bendle Inv., 9 a.m.
Roch. Adams Inv., 9 a.m.
L'Anse Creuse Inv., 9 a.m.
Novi CC Invitational, 9 a.m.
Howell Duals, 9 a.m.
Wyandotte Inv., 9:15 a.m.
C'ville Team Tour., 9:30 a.m.
Lakeland Inv., 10 a.m.
W. Bloomfield Inv., 10 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 3

Monroe vs. Plymouth
at Canton H.S., 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 5
Salem Invitational, noon.
W. Bloomfield Inv., TBA.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Jan. 5

Rockford Inv., 9:30 a.m.
PREP BOWLING
Friday, Jan. 4
N. Farm. at Troy, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 5
Ladywood Invitational
at Super Bowl, 12:30 p.m.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Jan. 5
Allen Park Inv., 10 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 2

Lawrence Tech at MU, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 5
Siena Heights at MU, 3 p.m.
Wayne Co. at S'craft, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 2
Lawrence Tech at MU, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 5
Siena Heights at MU, 1 p.m.
Wayne Co. at S'craft, 1 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Monday, Dec. 31

Whalers at Windsor, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 2
Whalers at Guelph, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 4
Whalers vs. Owen Sound
at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 5
Whalers vs. Guelph
at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA — time to be announced.

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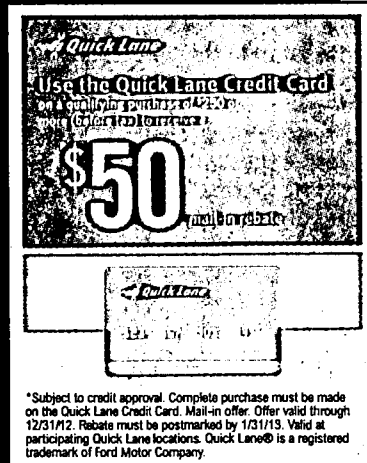
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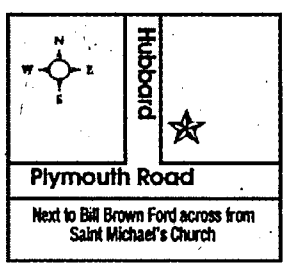
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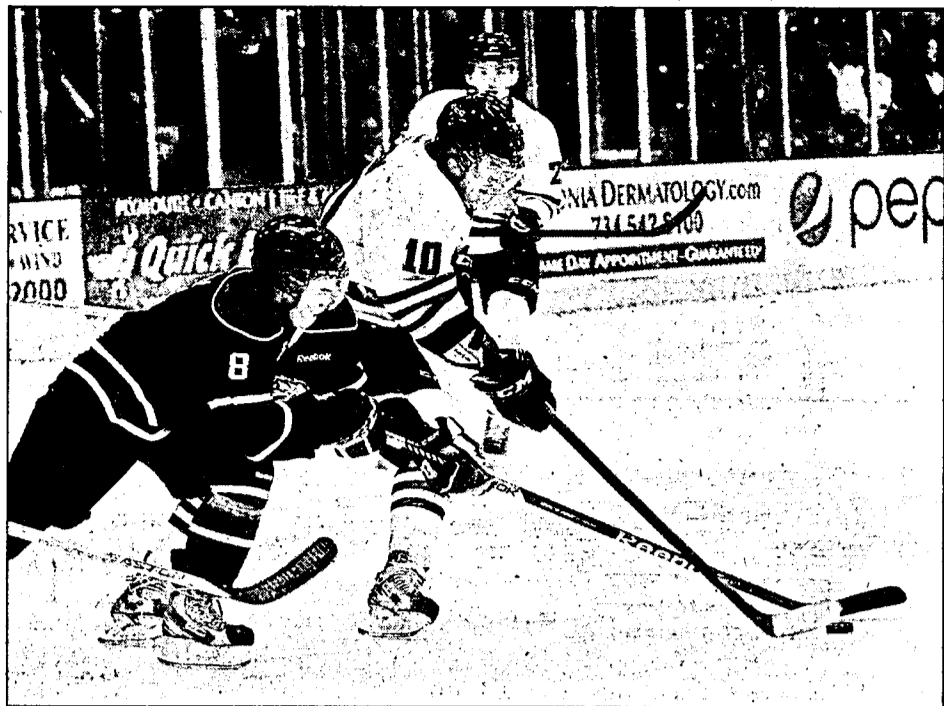
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Plymouth Whalers forward Tom Wilson (No. 10) wards off the checking of Saginaw's Andrey Alexeev (No. 8) during Thursday's matinee at Compuware Arena.

WHALERS

Continued from page B1

in the OHL West Division) then broke the tie nearly two minutes later on the power play, to the delight of 3,008 fans.

A nifty, three-way passing play resulted in the goal. Defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto fed Aleardi who redirected the puck in front to Tom Wilson for the tap-in.

Whalers goalie Matt Mahalak (46 saves) kept his team in front with several clutch stops late in the second and he also stepped up during a crucial penalty kill midway during the third.

During a power play midway during the third period, Saginaw (14-17-3-2) amped up the offensive pressure but could not net the equalizer. The Spirit got five shots through to Mahalak and several others that Plymouth's D-men got in front of.

"We needed him (Mahalak) to make those saves at key times," Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci said. "And, a lot of guys blocked shots, (Colin) MacDonald, (Nick) Malysa and (Connor) Sills."

The Whalers added an insurance goal with 3:29 left when defenseman Connor Carrick forced a turnover in the neutral zone, skated down the left wing and sent a shot that eluded Serebryakov (31 saves).

Saginaw had the jump early, having a 15-7 shot advantage at one point during the first and going up 1-0 on a short-handed goal by Eric Locke.

"They scored a short-handed goal that deflated us a little bit," Vellucci said. "But we just had a good talk between the first and the second and we came out better."

Plymouth finally got on



Looking for a teammate to pass the puck to Thursday is Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi (No. 40), of Farmington Hills. At left is Saginaw's Dylan Sadowy.

the board at 4:41 of the middle frame, thanks to a gritty effort by the line of Matt Mistele, Wilson and Cody Payne.

Payne circled the net and tried to stuff the puck past Serebryakov at the right post. With the goalie unable to freeze it, Mistele jammed it over the line.

The Spirit regained the lead at 9:02 with a power play marker. Ross one-timed a centering pass from Eric Locke.

Working for it

But Aleardi's quick response helped keep the Whalers — who last played Dec. 15 — from potentially dropping an eighth straight game.

"We only had one practice," said Aleardi, referring to the team's lengthy holiday break. "Everybody's been on break, some guys haven't skated yet. So coming back and getting this win means a lot."

Vellucci said hard work was a key ingredient to his team finally tasting victory. Plymouth's last win was Nov. 30 against Ottawa. The Whalers, to their credit, did pick up four points during the subsequent stretch thanks to overtime or shootout losses.

"Four of them (seven losses) went into overtime, some were on the road and we were short-handed some bodies," Vellucci explained. "But we plugged through and had a good game tonight. We've outchanced and outshot everybody (during the slump), we just didn't get the goals when we needed to."

Plymouth will need to keep plugging away during a tough stretch of the schedule with two of the team's top three scorers competing at the IIHF World Junior Championships (Ryan Hartman, Team USA; Rickard Rakell, Team Sweden) and the third serving a suspension (Stefan Noesen).

Saturday's game against London (originally slated for Comerica Park) will be followed by road games against Windsor and Guelph.

The Whalers return to Compuware for games Jan. 4 and 5 against Owen Sound and Guelph, respectively. London, Guelph and Owen Sound are three of the four top teams in the OHL Western Conference as of Thursday.

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FAMILY

Continued from page B1

and Indiana University-South Bend.

This past spring, when Michele Tyree was selected to succeed Barry Patterson as the Cougars' varsity girls basketball coach, she asked Sara to be her top assistant.

"It's been fun," Michele said about coaching with Sara. "A lot of people ask us how we can coach together being sisters, so we joke around and tell them that we never lived together, so we get along really well."

"A lot of times we have this sister thing going," Sara added. "We'll show up at practice wearing the identical outfit. And there have been a lot of times when we're thinking the same thing that the other one is telling the team."

Having played basketball at Garden City and coached at the school for more than 20 years, Michele Tyree has bled blue and orange for as long as she can remember. She has carried on her predecessors' game plans that include a hustling man-to-man defense and motion offense.

Michele welcomed Sara's input with open arms, given her younger sister's vast experience in the sport.

"For the most part, we share the same philosophy," Michele said. "She played at a different high

school and for two college programs, so she's been exposed to varied philosophies, whereas I only played for Garden City and coached here. I think we both have learned a lot from one another."

Sara adapted quickly to Garden City's system of basketball.

"When I came in as a coach six or seven years ago, the first thing I wanted to do was learn what they ran and what their overall philosophy was," Sara said. "So I adapted everything I had already learned to what they wanted here, and I think it's gone really well."

Coaching the first game together last month was a surreal experience for both of the Tyrees.

"We looked over at each other at times and smile, or exchange a high-five when the team did something well," Michele said. "It's been a great experience so far."

Like father ...

Ron Pummill Sr. can't help but smile when he thinks about the shared passion he and his son have for coaching basketball.

"The thing I love the most about coaching basketball is trying to make my players as good as they can be and trying to make them as passionate about the sport as I am," he said. "So as a parent, to be able to coach with my son who shares the same passion for basketball as I have is, well, it's hard to describe."

Following a stellar high school career at Garden City, Ron Jr. took his advanced hardwood skills to Schoolcraft College and Concordia University in Ann Arbor. He also competes on the Cardinals' golf team.

"Although I wouldn't consider myself ancient," Ron Sr. said, cracking a grin, "it's nice to get Ron's take on things since he's played in college and he's played for several really good coaches."

Following the Cougars' first five games, the Pummills have regularly solicited the opinions of their significant others: Ron Sr.'s wife Justine and Ron Jr.'s fiancée Shannon.

"This coaching thing is really a family affair for us," Ron Sr. said. "We love to hear what other people think of the games, just to get a different perspective. My older daughters have videotaped games for us, so we're all in."

Looking ahead, Ron Jr. said he would love to follow in his father's footsteps as both a physical education teacher and a head basketball coach in high school.

"It's definitely what I want to do," he said. "And I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to coach with my dad this year because even though I've played for a lot of great coaches over the years, he's the best."

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Inaugural GC pole vault invite is set for April

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Garden City assistant track-and-field coach Chris Griffith is making sure the area's pole vaulters will have a forum to show their stuff this spring.

Griffith has spearheaded the formation of the inaugural Garden City Pole Vault Invitational, which is set to unfold Saturday, April 20 at the Garden City High School stadium.

There will be both boys and girls divisions at the event that Griffith hopes draws vaulters from throughout the metropolitan-Detroit area.

"We want the best vaulters in the area to come together at the mid-point of the track-and-field season so they can gauge where they stand before regionals," said Griffith. "Hopefully, this invitational will draw vaulters from Dearborn, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton and surrounding communities. It will serve as an Observerland-like event, but just for the pole vault."

The top six individual vaulters in each

division will receive a trophy. There will also be a team trophy for schools that enter at least three vaulters.

The entry fee for a boys or girls team is \$25. If a school enters a boys and girls team, the cost is \$40.

The girls' height will start at 6 feet, 6 inches, which will be raised to 7-6 on the second attempt and six inches for each ensuing height until two competitors remain.

The boys' height will start at 8 feet before being raised to 9 feet and then in six-inch intervals.

The boys competition will start at 9 a.m. The girls competition will begin one hour after the boys competition ends.

For more information on the invitational or to enter a team, contact Griffith at griffith.c@hotmail.com; or Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips at PhilliR@gardencityschools.com or (734) 762-8363.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

K-of-C contest

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with all age-group contestants recognized for their participation in the event, which will progress through local, district and state competition.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call Dave Lengel at (734) 516-4930 or email dlengel2@yahoo.com.

Softball camp

Madonna University will hold a series of winter softball camps (ages 7-18) including:

Fundamentals (Camp I) — 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26; Fundamentals (Camp II) — noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. (Cost for each is \$125 by Dec. 1; or \$150).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com.

Learn to Skate

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its Learn to Skate (winter session III) beginning the week of Jan. 14 through the week of March 4 at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road.

The eight-week program (25 minutes per session) is \$62 (residents) and \$76 (non-residents).

Classes offered include: ages 4-and-up — 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:20 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills (no sticks, equipment or pucks used) — 6:25 p.m. Mondays; and 3-year-olds only — 5 p.m. Mondays.

There is limited skate rental available at no charge.

Livonia Parks and Recreation, a member of the Ice Skating Institute, also offers various levels of instruction, private lesson, teams and competition opportunities. Private lessons are available for all levels.

For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

CHS Hall of Fame

The 11th annual Livonia Churchill Athletic Patron Hall of Fame induction will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21 at the Italian-American Hall, 392000 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Among the inductees are the 2007 Class A state champion girls volleyball team, former Churchill baseball player Rod Hawraney and parent volunteers Don and Jane DeRoo.

Tickets are \$35 per person (if purchased by March 1) or \$40 (after March 1).

The evening includes Hor'deurves, cash bar, dinner and program (from 7:30-9 p.m.)

For more information, call Rob Suida at (313) 617-5448; or email rjsuida@cmsgen-ergy.com.



Garden City pole vaulter Olivia Bosen (pictured during a meet this past spring) will be competing in the inaugural Garden City Pole Vault Invitational in April.

Falcons fall in Holiday Tourney

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Farmington High coach Terrance Porter is searching to find the right formula to get his boys basketball team turned around.

The Falcons had some positive moments Friday night in Northville's Holiday Tournament, but dropped their fourth game in five starts against the host Mustangs, 44-33.

Farmington made only 31.2 percent of its shots from the floor (15-of-48), but did not attempt a free throw while Northville connected on 11-of-15.

"We got some shots we wanted, but we missed some wide open shots and didn't convert a couple of layups that we had an opportunity to convert," Porter said. "Those are shots you have to make. I don't think we shot a free throw today. We have to find ways to score off of our defense when we're not shooting well."

It was 10-all after one period and Northville outscored the Falcons 10-7 in the second period to take a 20-17 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, Farmington went ice cold against North-

ville's half-court zone defense making only 1-of-14 shots from the floor.

"Our ball movement was not particularly good today," Porter said. "Our player movement wasn't particularly good. Our guys were standing still. In order to beat a zone you've got to have good ball movement, good player movement. In certain possessions today we didn't have that."

Northville (3-2) led by as many as 15 in the third quarter, but had to repel a Farmington run in the final period as Valentino Kalaj's nailed a three-pointer with 5:16 left in the game cut the deficit to 34-26.

But the Mustangs, behind a game-high 23 points from 6-foot-7 junior forward Andrew Meacham, went on a 10-0 run during 1-minute and 54-second span to earn the victory.

"I thought it was a good game," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "We knew Farmington could present some challenges. They're extremely athletic. They can make open shots. They hit a few."

"But I was really proud of our effort. They (Farmington) made a run and our

guys answered that with a 10-0 run, which I thought was the difference in the game down the stretch."

Stewart Henzi, a 6-5 senior forward, and Malik Bazzi, a 6-3 junior forward, each added eight points for the Mustangs.

All of Henzi's points came in the second and third quarters.

"Stew's a guy who comes in every day and does his work, does his job in every game," Gudith said. "You know what you're going to get. He works his butt off on offense and defense. Terrific rebounder, and yes, made a few good plays on offense."

Kalaj, a senior guard, led the Falcons' scoring attack with 15 points, while 6-4 sophomore center Justin Banks added 12.

But only two other Falcons found the scoring column - Bradley Harris (four) and Kenneth Hammond (two). Northville, with six players standing 6-5 or better, shot 16-of-39 from the field (41 percent).

"That was an emphasis to limit them to one shot because we knew they were bigger than us," Porter said. "We tried to use our quick-

ness and our speed, but if we didn't rebound, we didn't have the ball and couldn't use it. Their size did hurt us a little bit, but not so much to the fact that our inability to score in that third quarter."

The victory enabled Northville to reach the championship final Saturday night against Waterford Mott (3-2), which earlier in the day pulled away in the second half to beat Livonia Clarenceville, 58-36.

Khalil Malone led the Corsairs (3-2) with 21 points, while Brandon Whitsitt added 14. The Trojans (0-8), who trailed by only four at halftime, 29-25, got seven points from Austin Douglass and James Hill had six.

Saturday's consolation final pitted Farmington against Clarenceville.

"We got to make shots and score the basketball," Porter said. "That's the name of the game at the end of the day. You've got to have more points than your opponent. Defensively, we need to improve and put the ball in the basket. We're looking to go into the new year with a win."

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Rocket girls cagers grounded by Rogers

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Unbeaten Westland John Glenn was looking for a quality non-conference opponent during the holiday break and got more than it bargained for Thursday night at the Motor City Roundball Classic held at Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day.

The Rocket girls couldn't overcome a 22-9 first-quarter deficit against Toledo Rogers and suffered a 62-53 setback.

Rogers, now 7-2 overall with one of its defeats a 25-point setback to two-time defending Division 1 Ohio state champion Twinsburg, got a game-high 18 points and four assists from 5-foot-2 point Cha'Ron Sweeney.

The Lady Rams beat Glenn to the punch in the opening period using a three-quarter court trapping press to build a 13-point lead.

"That's one of our little special defenses that we throw in and it was giving them a lot of problems," Rogers coach Lamar Smith said. "So we kept doing it, not all the time, but mixing it in-and-out."

In the second quarter, Glenn got 10 points from Raven Bankston to close the gap to 32-27 at halftime.

But in the third quarter, the Rockets went cold again going 4-of-17 from the field as Rogers stretched its lead to 46-31 with 2:36 remaining on a basket by Keasia Pearce.

Glenn made a fourth-quarter comeback pulling to within four on three different occasions, but a basket by 6-2 freshman Toriana Easley with 1:06 remaining gave the Lady Rams a six-point advantage, 56-50, and helped secure the win.

Williams, a 6-1 junior, finished with 12 points and nine rebounds, while Sasha Dailey Easley added 11 points.

Akienreh Johnson and Sasha Dailey helped control the glass grabbing 14 and 11 rebounds, respectively.

"They killed us on the boards," Glenn coach Eric Kovatch said. "We went man (defense) for awhile and then zone, and

we didn't box out well in either. That's something we're going to have to address all year because our height."

Raven Bankston finished with a team-high 15 points, while twin Raine added 13. Junior guard Kaira Barnes added 10.

But the Rockets shot only 19-of-60 from the floor (31.6 percent) and leading scorer ShaKeya Graves, saddled with second-quarter foul trouble, shot just 3-of-15.

Glenn made just 9-of-19 free throws, while Rogers was 17-of-26.

"We haven't practiced a whole lot over Christmas break," Kovatch said. "Don't want to make any excuses, but we missed a lot of simple shots. We didn't as a coaching staff prepare them as well as we should have. We've only had one practice since last Thursday. Our girls have been out of the gym and a little rusty, but they played hard. From where they started - we were very in it until the end."

But the player that gave Glenn the most fits with her penetration dribbles and slick passes for wide open layups was Sweeney, who is bound for Eastern Michigan. The Earl Boykins female clone also made 8-of-10 free throws and had three steals.

"Cha'Ron is one of the toughest and she's our leader this year," Smith said. "She's the only senior we have and I'm very proud of her. She showed how a point-guard should control the team and run a team."

Glenn's next game is Friday, Jan. 4 against KLASA South Division co-favorite Canton, which is coming off a big win over Farmington Hills Mercy.

"Obviously we have stuff to work on, but we scheduled a quality opponent to see where we stand," Kovatch said. "This game is to get us ready for the big push in the KLASA and defend our (Association) championship. Our girls are tough mentally and we're going to put this in the right perspective, learn from it and move forward."

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HOOPS

Continued from page B1

Pruitt chipped in with 12 points. Black, the hero, contributed 10.

DeShawn Thrower paced Muskegon with a game-high 23 points, while D'Vonte Dockery added 13.

Glenn led 18-10 in the second quarter before Muskegon went on a 9-0 run.

It remained close throughout the second half with Glenn making 6-of-6 free throws in the final period including four straight from senior guard Richard Roberts.

Muskegon made 10-of-17 foul shots, while Glenn was 8-of-12.

SALEM 71, CHELSEA 47: Chris Dierker and Kevin Mack scored 15 and 14, respectively, leading the Rocks (4-1) to an opening round victory Thursday over the host Bulldogs (1-4) in the Chelsea Holiday Tournament.

Nate Sass also contributed 10 for Salem, which led 38-26 at halftime and 62-35 after three quarters.

Zach Rabbitt scored a game-high 23 points for Chelsea.

Salem will play Ann Arbor Pioneer (4-2), a 65-37 winner over Pinckney, in the championship final at 8 p.m. Friday at Chelsea.

CRESTWOOD 62, FRANKLIN 44: Bilal Abduljami tallied a game-high 23 points and brother Imran added 13 to propel Dearborn Heights Crestwood (4-1) to an opening round victory Thursday over host Livonia Franklin (1-4) in the Patriot Invitational.

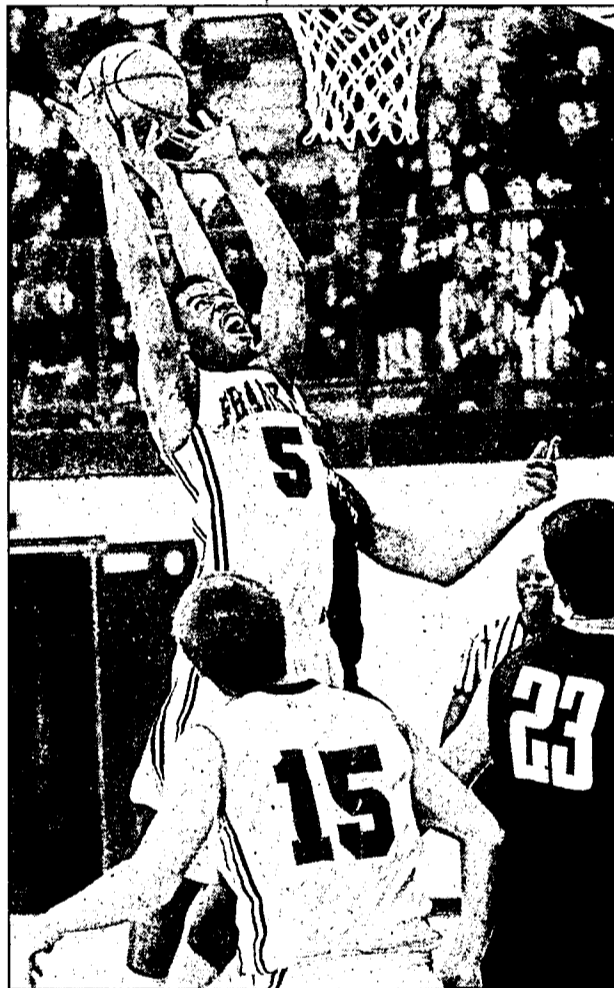
Franklin led 12-9 after one quarter, but went ice cold in the second period being outscored 13-2.

Crestwood then stretched its 22-14 halftime lead to 43-30 after three quarters.

The Patriots made only 16-of-51 shots from the floor (31 percent) and only 11-of-22 free throws (50 percent).

Tyrone Rayford and Andrew Lebbos each scored 11 points for Franklin.

The Patriots were out-rebounded 32-23 and committed 18 turnovers to Crestwood's nine.



Livonia Franklin's Tyrone Rayford skies for a rebound during an opening round game of the Patriot Invitational.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Ladywood basketball team Scrooged in Classic loss

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Grinch That Stole Christmas apparently won't leave Livonia Ladywood's basketball alone.

I was bad enough the Blazers fell Thursday night in the Motor City Roundball Classic to state Class A runner-up Grosse Pointe South, 49-34, at Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.

But the big blow occurred during the second minute of the game when the Blazers lost their top scoring and rebounding forward, senior Kiley Gorski, to an apparent left knee injury.

Ironically, the 5-foot-10 Gorski was making her return to the lineup after missing the last four games while rehabbing an ankle injury suffered in the season opener.

"She (Gorski) had only played three quarters of our five games this year," said Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti, whose team slipped to 4-2 overall. "She hadn't played the last four games. She goes out and gets hurt in the first minute and hurts her knee. We're hoping for the best, but it doesn't look good. You feel for the kid. She's a senior and she wants to play basketball in college."

Ladywood managed to stay close for a half trailing by only five at

intermission, 25-20, but the Blue Devils pulled away by outscoring Ladywood 17-1 in the third quarter.

The Blazers went stone cold during that stretch by missing all 12 shots from the floor.

"We just couldn't put the ball in the basket," Coratti said. "It is what it is. They (South) play great defense and they wear on you. We didn't respond as well as could have."

After hitting 6-of-12 shots in the second quarter, the Blue Devils went 7-of-15 in the third to take a commanding 42-21 lead.

"I thought in the first half we turned it over," South coach Kevin Richards said. "A lot of it was just trying to rush and trying to force it inside. I thought our spacing was bad and it resulted in a lot of turnovers for us."

"I thought we pressed the first half and the second half we just let it happen."

Senior center Claire DeBoer scored 10 of her game-high 17 points in first half to lead South (6-1), while guard Cierra Rice contributed 12.

"We had better spacing (third quarter) and had a couple of shots fall from outside," said Richards, whose team's only setback was in the season opener to Chicago Whitney Young (ranked No. 2 nationally). "And they (Ladywood)

didn't have a matchup for Claire (DeBoer) inside."

Andie Anastos, Ladywood's senior point-guard, finished with a team-high 15 points, including 11 in the first half. Senior guard Shelby Walsh added 12 and senior forward Sara Even had seven.

"She (DeBoer) is a lot to handle," Coratti said. "And with their perimeter kids you've got to think who you're going to double (team). Andi did a pretty good job, but that girl (DeBoer) is good. She's going to Bucknell (University)."

Ladywood opens Catholic League Central Division play Friday, Jan. 4 at Warren Regina.

"The result today wasn't great, but our kids took a small step forward in competing against a very good team," Coratti said. "I like our chances going into the (Catholic) league. We're playing some great teams and against some very good players in what I think is the best league in the state."

But the potential loss of Gorski certainly dampens the holiday spirit.

"She's capable and you feel for her," Coratti said. "She just loves basketball. She had the ankle issue. She worked her tail off to get back and now she does this. It sucks."

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MU women's cagers win in Florida

Livonia Stevenson's Kaylee McGrath, a senior center, scored a game-high 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds to catapult the Madonna University women's basketball team to a 78-58 win Friday over host Ave Maria (Fla.) at Golisano Field House.

The Crusaders, who improved to 7-5 overall, also got 16 points off the bench from Rachel Melcher, who made 8-of-10 free throws.

Michelle Lindsey contributed 13 points and seven boards, while Heather Pratt added 10 points.

The Crusaders, who rallied from a 29-28 halftime deficit, hit 9-of-21 shots from three-point range and wound up making 23-of-50 (46 percent) for the game.

MU converted 25 points off turnovers and led by as many as 20 in the second half.

Ave Maria (5-5) got 16 points from Emily Huber, while Erin Murphy and Teya Spooner-Serdar added 10 apiece.

MU closed out its three-game swing Saturday and Sunday in Naples, Fla. against Auburn-Montgomery and University of Virginia-Lynchburg, respectively.

Lady Raiders fall to 'D' champs

Bri'janae Durrough's game-high 22 points and eight rebounds went in vain Thursday afternoon as North Farmington fell to two-time defending Class D state girls basketball champion Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes, 36-32, in the Motor City Roundball Classic hosted by Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.

The Lakers (4-2), got a team-high 17 points from Lexie Robak, while Anna

Robb chipped in with nine.

In addition to Durrough, only two other players scored for the Raiders with Kaitlyn Kendall notching six and Jessica Carruthers adding three. North (4-4) made 4-of-8 foul shots, while Lakes hit 3-of-4.

The Raiders led 9-6 after one quarter, but trailed 18-13 at halftime. Both teams scored 22 second-half points.

Get a taste of pottery painting at Soup Swap fundraiser

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

What tastes better than a bowl of hearty soup on a cold winter day?

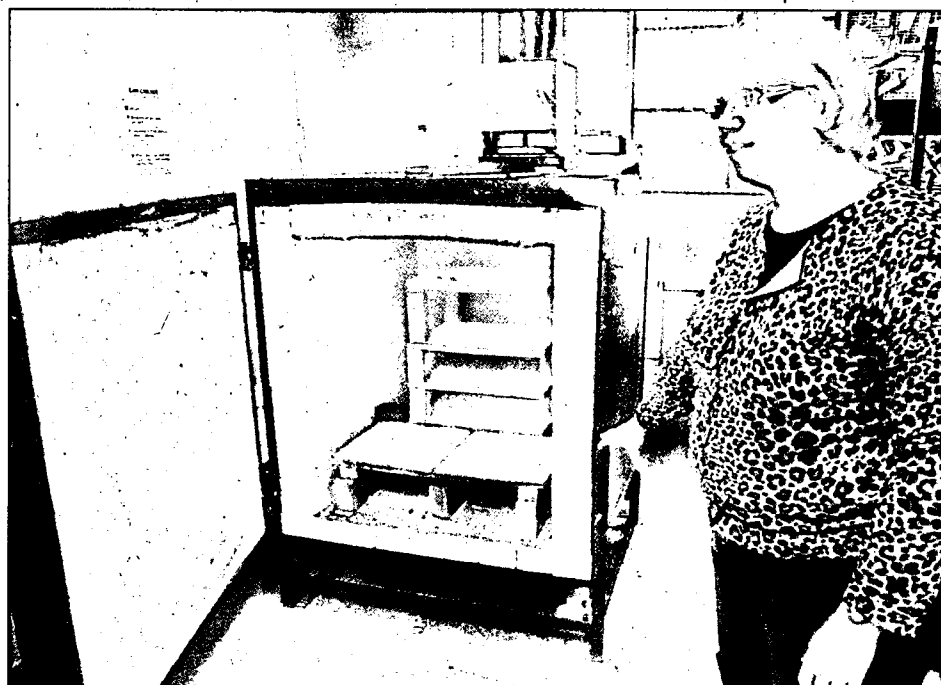
Sipping it from your own hand-decorated bowl — and knowing the experience has helped local nonprofit organizations.

The Village Potters Guild in Plymouth hopes to give 150 individuals a chance to do just that through its first "Soup Swap" next month. The two-part event will include a series of bowl-decorating workshops that culminate in "swap" day, when participants pick up their completed bowls and donate canned goods in exchange for hot soup.

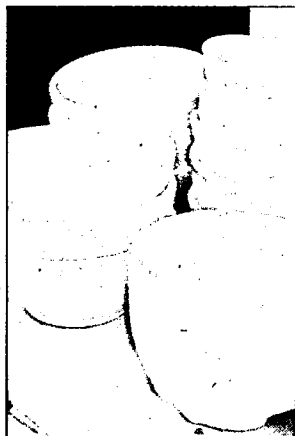
"I did the same project when I was working with the Chelsea Center for the Arts," said Leslie Greeneisen, Guild member and a Canton resident. "We were starting our pottery program there and needed new (kiln) shelves and I ran across this whole national soup swap day. I thought, how can we twist this around and turn it into a great community event and still benefit the organization?"

"It was so successful there that we decided to try it here."

Participants will pay \$15 and sign up for one of nine workshop times and dates next month. Clay bowls, created and decorated by Guild artists, will be available for decorating at each workshop. Participants will paint on colorful designs and Guild members will coat each finished piece in clear glaze and fire them in kilns. Glazes are food



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Leslie Greeneisen hopes to replace the worn shelves in this gas-fired kiln with money raised by the 2013 Soup Swap.



Members of the Village Potters Guild made these bowls for the 2013 Soup Swap fundraiser. They are ready for painting and glazing.

safe, dishwasher safe and microwave safe.

Pencil to paint

Carolyn Hook, Guild president, demonstrated the painting process recently while working



Carolyn Hook, a member of Village Potters Guild, demonstrates how to paint a design on pottery. Individuals who sign up for a 2013 Soup Swap workshop next month at the Guild will get a chance to paint their own design on a bowl.

on a set of mugs in the pottery studio.

"The way I do it is I take a pencil and get the

design figured out," she said, referring to the pencil marks on her bisque mug. "And then I think what kind of colors do I want to use? Then I start laying in the colors. I'm using under glazes. I'm painting the designs with them and then I'm going to finish it in a clear glaze."

She suggests that Soup Swap participants have a design in mind when they arrive at their bowl-painting workshop.

The bowls will be ready for pick up on Soup Swap day, Saturday, Jan. 26. At that time, anyone who brings canned goods for The Salvation Army, can swap them for hot soup prepared by The Chefs' Club Over the Grill Gang or the Culinary Team from Plymouth Canton Educational Park.

2013 SOUP SWAP

What: Village Potters Guild presents a series of bowl-painting workshops that culminates in a special "swap" day during which participants receive soup in exchange for donating canned goods to The Salvation Army.

Workshops: Participants pick out a bowl and paint on a design. Guild members will glaze and fire each piece and have them ready for pick-up on swap day. Pick any of the following painting sessions:

- 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013
- 5:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, 2013
- 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013
- 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, 2013

Location: Workshops and Soup Swap day will be

held at the Village Potters Guild, 340 N. Main, located behind The Crossings Restaurant, in Plymouth.

Cost: Workshops are \$15 per person and \$10 for additional bowls. Families pay \$15 for the first two members and \$10 each for additional family members. Not interested in the workshop? You can buy a Guild-decorated bowl for \$14 at the swap.

2013 Soup Swap: The Chefs Club Over the Grill Gang and the Plymouth Canton Educational Park Culinary Team will make and serve soup, 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 at the Guild. Swap canned goods for soup. Workshop participants pick up their bowls.

Contact: The Village Potters Guild at (734) 207-8807.

Fundraiser

The Culinary Team will receive a portion of proceeds from the event. The Salvation Army will receive canned goods. The Guild hopes to raise \$1,200-\$1,500 for new kiln shelves. Ceramic shelves are stationed inside each of the Guild's seven indoor kilns and two outdoor kilns. They hold the pottery as it is fired, but can break or warp over time.

"We're self-sustaining. Self-funded. With increased expenses, like everybody else, our budget is falling short," Greeneisen said. "And we have more needs than we can cover. So, we're trying to come up with activities for people to become involved

with that will help generate some revenue. This (Soup Swap) was something that was tossed around to try to raise money for new kiln shelves. We're in desperate need for new shelves."

Classes help pay for Guild expenses, too. Winter-spring classes start Jan. 9, 2013.

Sessions in basic and continuing pottery run 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, through April 17. An independent study class is offered 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, beginning Jan. 8, 2013.

Tuition is \$350 by check and \$360 by credit card. For more information call the Guild at (734) 207-8807 or visit www.village-pottersguild.org



Experience the New St. Mary Mercy

Inspired by you. Created for you.

At St. Mary Mercy Livonia, we're re-inventing the way you and your family experience a hospital stay with our new three-story addition that boasts a state-of-the-art Emergency Center and two floors of 80 total private patient rooms.

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Located in Detroit's Meeting Place, Across from the Compuware Building and Hard Rock Cafe.

For reservations & further info, call 313-963-9393

A grand gala at the Grand



Farmington Hills residents, Dr. Milena Cankovic, (left) laboratory director of Detroit Henry Ford Hospital, and Vesna Prepolec.



Bloomfield Hills resident Dr. Robert Stachler (left) of Henry Ford Hospital, with Canton resident Dave Williams of corporate sponsor George W. Auch Corporation, and Simone Vitale of Royal Oak, the event's emcee and band leader.



Both physicians at Henry Ford Hospital, Dr. Michael Johnson of Sterling Heights (left) and Dr. Adam Schlichting of Livonia, enjoy the gala.

PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

By Julie Yolles
Social Scene Columnist

We wrap up the 2012 Social Scene season with the grandest of them all — the Henry Ford Hospital Grand Ball that was held at the MGM Grand.

Nearly 1,000 guests came in their glitziest holiday attire to help raise nearly \$450,000 for Henry Ford's clinical programs. Henry Ford Hospital closes out 2012 with many successes, including the launch of the \$12 million



Social Scene
Julie Yolles

the healthiest and happiest of what's to come in 2013.

Innovation Institute which will focus on helping to shape the future of health care. And with that segue, here's to

For consideration of coverage in this column, please send event happenings, including invitations and press kits, to Julie Yolles, Social Scene Columnist,

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 371 Greenwood, Birmingham, MI 48009. Contact her at jyolles@comcast.net or (248) 642-9465.

Thrift stores seek donations to bolster inventory

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Salvation Army Thrift stores need a little help keeping shelves stocked.

They're asking supporters to make an extra effort to donate gently-used clothing, linen, household appliances, furniture, toys, shoes, purses and houseware items.

Although sales increased 11.5 percent in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, donations were down 7 percent during that same period and down 2 percent from October-November.

"Without product, it eventually will effect our sales," said Jacquelyn Idzior, director of operations at The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC).

Dwindling sales would affect the organization's ability to run substance abuse rehabilitation centers in Detroit and Romulus, which depend on revenue from The Salvation Army's 33 thrift stores in southeastern Michigan.

"Individuals dealing with substance abuse problems are able to go through a six-month work therapy program. They work in our stores or warehouses and they go to counseling sessions and specialized meetings for whatever they are dealing with. We try to stress the importance of spirituality. Having faith in the Lord is what catapults you through problems in life."

The centers offer 85 beds for women in Romulus and 315 beds for men in Detroit.

"Our budget is \$60 million for both centers. That's why we need donations from the public," Idzior said. "We try hard to have excess (product) that we bring back to the

warehouse and hold until stores are in need of it. But when overall donations start to wane, it affects what we can put away and it affects the quality we are able to offer to the public."

She said stores might resort to stocking shelves with slightly ripped or stained clothing if donations continue to decrease. Garments and accessories make up half of store sales.

"We still have product and are able to supply our stores, but usually every year, January, February and March are very tough. People don't donate at that part of the year."

Local stores will be open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30 and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, for last-minute donations. Individuals will receive a tax receipt that can be applied toward 2012 taxes for any donations made before Jan. 1, 2012.

Idzior said that although donations recently have decreased, The Salvation Army has continued to grow stores.

"We opened a store in Monroe and expanded in Chesterfield," she said, adding that a Taylor store will open in March 2013.

Plans also call for expanding stores in Livonia and Southfield next year.

- Area stores include:
- 43403 Joy, near Sheldon, Canton; (734) 416-1925
 - 28982 Ford Road, near Middlebelt, Garden City; (734) 261-7175
 - 33600 Plymouth Road, near Farmington Road, Livonia; (734) 425-7573
 - 27170 Grand River Ave., near Eight Mile, Redford; (313) 255-0777
 - 26235 Greenfield, near 10 Mile, Southfield; (248) 552-9585
 - 114 E. Fourth, near Main, Royal Oak; (248) 542-6661

ATTENTION: FREE DROP OFF!
Electronic Waste, TVs, Computers, Phones, etc.
A.W. Lee Recycling
39711 Warren Rd. • Canton
East of I-275 at Railroad Tracks
M-F 8:30 - 4:30
734.981.6016

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*see website for more details
HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE FOR EVERY ROOM OF YOUR HOME
CHOOSE YOUR STYLE, WOOD TYPE & STAIN
Bring in this Ad & Receive FREE Upgrade to In-Home Delivery
For local orders within 50 mile radius of Amish Tables. Curbside delivery charges still apply. Exp. 12/31/2012
AMISH TABLES
236 N. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 927-1110 | amishtables.com | amishfh.com

Celebrate Sensibly

These Local Businesses and the Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers would like to wish everyone a **Safe and Enjoyable New Year's Eve.** Please remember to celebrate sensibly, be sure you have a designated driver and bring everyone home safely!

<p>AMERICAN HOUSE 24400 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336 (248) 471-9141 ahfarmington@comcast.net www.americanhouse.com</p>	<p>METS - MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION Services Providing Quality Student Transportation Services To Local School Districts & Throughout Michigan For More Information & Employment Opportunities Call 517-647-7765 www.contractbusdrivers.com</p>
<p>ASHFORD COURT SENIOR RESIDENCE 37501 Joy Rd. Westland MI 48185 (734) 451-1155 www.ashfordcourtwestland.com</p>	<p>MIDWEST SCREW PRODUCTS 11975 Globe St. Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-1800</p>
<p>BILL & ROD'S APPLIANCE INC. 15210 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 425-5040</p>	<p>MILFORD HEALTH CARE CLINIC, 1265 M. Milford Rd. Milford, MI 48381 (248) 685-3600</p>
<p>CENTURY 21 DYNAMIC REALTY 6900 N. Wayne Rd. Westland MI 48185 (734) 728-8000 info@century21dynamic.com Century21dynamic.com</p>	<p>MILFORD PHARMACY 1191 Milford Rd. Milford, MI 48381 (248) 685-8363</p>
<p>CHUCK'S SERVICE CENTER 285 North Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 453-7773</p>	<p>MONAGHAN'S TOWING 21680 Fern Oak Park MI 48237 (248) 546-0875</p>
<p>COLE, NEWTON & DURAN Certified Public Accountants 33762 Schoolcraft Rd., 2nd Floor Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 427-2030 www.cndcpa.com</p>	<p>NORTH REDFORD TOWING & TRANSPORT 25215 Glendale Redford, MI 48239 (313) 531-1303 www.nrtowing.com</p>
<p>GLOBAL OFFICE SOLUTIONS 22759 Heslip Dr. Novi, MI 48375 (800) 331-8990 www.globalofficesolutions.com</p>	<p>PRO CONCEPTS Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling (734) 308-0676 Proconceptsdesign.net</p>
<p>LIVONIA SAVE OUR YOUTH COALITION 33000 Civic Center Dr. Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 338-9580 www.livoniasaveouryouth.org</p>	<p>TAIL WAGGER'S 1990 28402 Five Mile Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 855-4077 www.tailwaggers1990.org</p>

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 16, 2013

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for January 16, 2013 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on February 20, 2013 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Publish: December 30, 2012

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

SHOULDER PROBLEMS

How long should a person wait before seeing a doctor because of shoulder pain? The answer depends on the nature of the pain and the degree of disability that ensues.

If the pain is intermittent during the day and does not disturb sleep at night, then waiting for time to heal the problem is reasonable. If pain lingers through the day and/or pain occurs at night in bed, disrupting sleep, then one should make a doctor's appointment.

If impairment is present, then a physician's appointment is in order no matter how minimal the pain.

The most common cause for shoulder pain is a supraspinatus tendonitis, the public knows the problem as "shoulder bursitis," but that term is a misnomer. The importance of correct terminology is to emphasize that a tendon is causing the pain. A shoulder tendonitis usually resolves, but does so slowly, so the person should be prepared to experience pain for 1-2 weeks and a gradual improvement in unfettered shoulder movement.

The doctor often wants x-rays of the shoulder. Examination will reveal loss of movement if present, and a difference in the contour of the involved shoulder as compared with the normal one. However, changes may be subtle; x-ray can bring out problems like osteoarthritis or a rotator cuff tear better than examination could do.

Treatment for shoulder pain ranges from pain medication like aspirin or Tylenol, to physical therapy using heat or cold and combined with deltoid strengthening exercises. Tendon injection is a good way to treat the problem if the cause is a supraspinatus tendonitis.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Stonefly search

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) seeks volunteers to help with the 12th annual search for stoneflies on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013. Finding a stonefly living in the river is a good indication that the river is healthy because these small insects require cold, clean water. Last year, 73 volunteers found these "nuggets of gold" at 14 of 32 sites. This year's search will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team leaders go in the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank. Children five years and older are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult; groups of up to 6 people can be accommodated.

Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 11, 2013 on the FOTR website, www.therouge.org or by calling (313) 792-9621.

Master Gardener

MSU Extension is accepting applications for the next Master Gardener classes. Beginning in January 2013, this 12-week course teaches the student basic horticultural principles and environmentally-sound gardening practices. Course topics include introduction and volunteerism, plant science, soils for plant growth, flower gardening, woody ornamentals, turf/lawn care, vegetable culture, small fruit culture, tree fruit culture, plant health care, indoor plants and household pests. Cost is \$300, along with a \$25 registration fee. For more information and/or to download application visit: <http://www.mgwwc.org/Pages/MSUExtensionOffice.aspx> or call Anita Calender at (734) 729-3632 Ext. 103.

Livonia Garden Club

Vince Kogo, an urban chicken farmer, will talk about raising chickens, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information visit www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardenclub/.

Bible and flowers

"Holy Flowers," will focus on the origin, history and uses of Bible-related flowers and how they can form the basis for a theme garden, 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013 at the Canfield Center, 1801 N. Beech-Daly Road, Dear-

born Heights; (313) 563-5753. Sponsored by the Dearborn Heights Garden Club. Bring a lunch. The program is free.

English Gardens

- Get tips for indoor gardening at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013.

- Make a seasonal garden filled with long-lasting green and flowering plants for \$29.99 at a "Make It and Take It" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013. Register at www.englishgardens.com

- Learn what it takes to start seeds indoors at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013.

- A free presentation on fresh flower arranging is planned for 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013.

- Make a Spring floral arrangement, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013. Cost is \$29.99. Sign up at www.englishgardens.com.

- Get tips on attracting birds to the garden in a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26.

- Youngsters, 3-12, can make a pine cone bird feeder for \$5 at a workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. Register at www.englishgardens.com.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor; (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

60-minute classes
Master Gardeners West-

ern Wayne County (MGW-WC) will offer a series of hour-long seminars in February 2013 at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, in Wayne. Classes start at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$10 each or \$30 for all four classes if registered in advance. All proceeds fund gardening grants and scholarships. To register, e-mail to mgwwcorg@gmail.com.

- Pat Mann of Greenfield Village Herb Associates will talk about fairy gardens, including history and popularity, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013. Learn how to create your own fairy garden.

- Heirloom Tomatoes - From Seed to Sauce, will include tips on seed selection, growing techniques, use in the kitchen and recipes. Paul Rodman, community garden expert and an Advanced Master Gardener, will lead the class, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013.

- Roy Prentice, farm manager of the MSU Tollgate Education Center in Novi, will teach the basics of pruning trees and shrubs, including pruning for health, form and improved vigor, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013. Participants will gain knowledge of common pruning tools and obtain helpful references.

- Bob Bransky, photographer and Master Gardener/Master Composter, will teach outdoor and garden photography, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013. Learn how to take outstanding pictures, including camera basics, composition of a great picture, closeup photos of plants.



Gifts from the heart

The Loving Hearts and Hands Knitting and Crochet group from The Italian American Club of Livonia recently filled colorful gift bags with hundreds of hand-made items. Members meet monthly to make afghans, lap blankets, shawls, scarfs, hats and more. The bags have been donated to needy residents in Livonia-area nursing homes and St. Mary Mercy Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center.

Nature organization offers trees

The Arbor Day Foundation will give 10 flowering trees to each new member who joins the organization in January 2013.

New members will receive two white flowering dogwoods, two flowering crabapples, two Washington hawthorns, two American redbuds and two golden-rain trees.

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

They will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Feb. 1, 2013



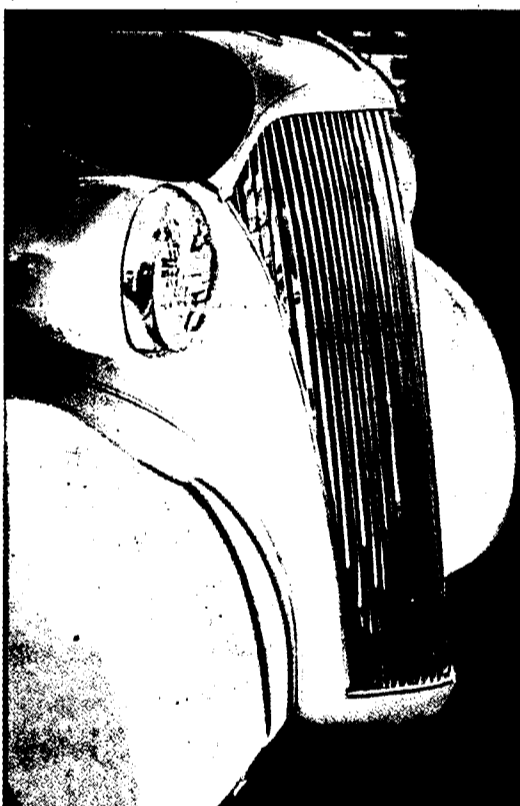
White dogwood tree

and May 31, 2013 with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or

they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and *The Tree Book*, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Neb., 68410, by Jan. 31, 2013. New members also can join online at arborday.org/january.



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WITH GUARANTEED
LIFETIME INCOME**

FEATURING SPEAKER
CARISSA HAGEN

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, RIVERSOURCE ANNUITIES

SAVE THE DATE MONDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2013 | 11:15 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Auto workers, have you been offered the option to receive a lump-sum payment from your employer? If so, please join us at our upcoming informational event.

Luncheon to include choice of:

- \$ Filet Oscar *grilled filet topped with jumbo lump crab & herb sauce*
- \$ Tuna Mignon *seared rare with poppy seed dressing & tomato & mushroom sauce*
- \$ Seared New Bedford Scallop *meyer lemon sauce, dates, baby carrots, sautéed mushrooms*
- \$ New Zealand Double Lamb Chops *albacore with asparagus & mushrooms*



luscious gourmet delights

Seating is limited, please RSVP today.

Call Mary at 734.432.6490 or email to Mary.A.Zak@ampf.com



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\$5.25 BARGAIN TWILIGHT
DAILY 4:00-6:00 PM
excludes Digital 3D & 3D films events

SHOWTIMES 12/28 - 1/3 No passes

TITLES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Ⓜ PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG)
11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

Ⓜ DJANGO UNCHAINED (R)
11:30, 3:00, 6:20, 9:45

Ⓜ 3D MONSTERS, INC. (G)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:00

Ⓜ JACK REACHER (PG-13)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

FR/SAT LS 11:40

Ⓜ THIS IS 40 (R)
1:00, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40

Ⓜ 3D THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
11:10, 6:10

D-BOX ADDS MOTION SEATING
MAGIC TO MOVIES- D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE: 11:10, 6:10

Ⓜ THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 2:40, 9:35

D-BOX ADDS MOTION SEATING
MAGIC TO MOVIES- D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE: 2:40, 9:35

LINCOLN (PG-13)
12:05, 3:15, 6:25, 9:30

SKYFALL (PG-13)
FR/SAT LS 11:10

RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG)
11:00 AM

MOVIE GIFT CARDS
available at the box office

FREE \$1 CONCESSION COUPON
With every \$10 Movie Gift Card purchase.
For a limited time.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

December

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Contact: (734) 422-0149

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: The New Year's Eve service will include communion

Contact: (248) 553-3380

January

DIVORCE, GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 3, 2013

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: Two new support groups, "Through the Fire" an eight-week divorce recovery group, and "Hope for Tomorrow" an eight-week grief support class, are offered. Both of these programs have been developed and will be led by the Rev. John Straub and his wife, Suzanne, who have more than 10 years teaching experience. Pre-registration deadline is Dec. 16

Contact: (248) 553-3380

DUELING PIANOS

Time/Date: Doors open 7 p.m., show starts 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013

Location: St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road, Westland

Details: Light refreshments, 50/50 raffle and cash bar. Tickets are \$20 and available at the church office

Contact: (734) 421-6130

GREEN FILM SERIES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17

Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham

Details: PRI's John Hockenberry goes inside the organizations that fought the scientific establishment to shift the direction of the climate debate. Film is followed by a discussion with Kathryn L. Savoie, PhD, an authorized presenter of the Climate Reality Project, trained directly by former vice president Al Gore. Free admission. Sponsored by the church's Green Ministry

Contact: www.ccbucc.org

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Tour the school, talk to other parents and staff during this open house for

the school, which includes classes for preschool through middle school, CYO sports, bus transportation for Livonia residents, and flexible payment plans. Registration packets will be available at the open house

Contact: www.saintgenevieve.org or call (734) 425-4420

SPECIAL SERVICE

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6

Location: Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: In the midst of dealing with the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, economic hardships, a broken relationship, or a grim medical prognosis, the holiday season can be filled with sadness, rather than joy. When the hustle and bustle of Christmas is through, January can feel bleak. "Light in Our Darkness," will be an evening of prayer and song. Participants may acknowledge the hurts in their lives and pray for God's light to enter into their darkness.

Contact: (248) 553-7170

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 5 p.m. cash bar, 6 p.m. dinner

Location: G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, one block south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Cost is \$18 and includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards, games, and conversation

until 9 p.m. Reservations by Jan. 11, 2013

Other activities: Celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013 at St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth; stay after for fellowship and refreshments

Contact: Carol at (313) 562-3080 for dinner; Pat at (734) 895-6246 for Mass

Ongoing

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

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

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer

Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and

Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday.

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of the Gospel of St. Luke. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation

Contact: (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Contact: (248) 374-5920

CLOTHING BANK

Canton Christian Fellowship

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m. second Wednesday

Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty

Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need

Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Please see CALENDAR, B9

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS' CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
www.fhgov.com

DATE: January 14, 2013
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall, City Council Chambers
31555 Eleven Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
ITEM: Zoning Text and Map Amendment 4, 2012

The Farmington Hills City Council will give formal consideration to a proposed text and map amendment of the Farmington Hills City Code, Chapter 34, "Zoning", and related Zoning Map. The amendment proposes to:

- Update, amend and re-format Chapter 34, "Zoning" and related Zoning Map for purposes of incorporating Clearzoning formatting and clarifying certain provisions.

Any person who is interested in this amendment is invited to either attend and participate in the public hearing, or submit written comments concerning this amendment at or before the hearing to Edward R. Gardiner, Director, Planning & Community Development Department at the above address. The proposed and existing text may be reviewed at the Planning Office at the above address on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Edward R. Gardiner, Director
Planning & Community Development Department

Phone: 248-871-2545
E-mail: egardiner@fhgov.com

Publish: December 30, 2012

A78729201 - 3x5

Grants support Finnish cultural projects

Finlandia Foundation National, the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the U.S., is accepting applications for its grants and scholarships programs for 2013.

Non-profit projects related to Finnish and Finnish-American culture are eligible for grant monies. In 2012 Finlandia Foundation National

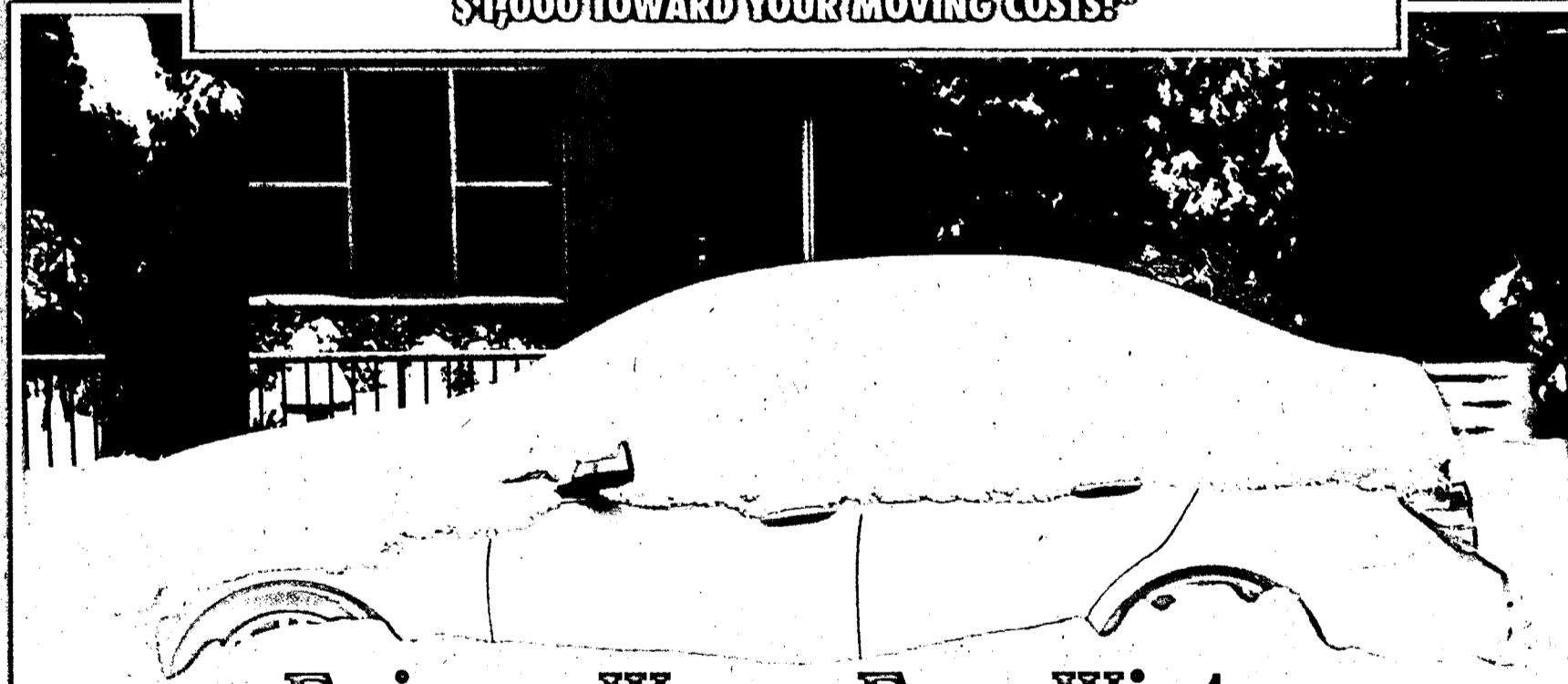
awarded a total of \$65,000 to support 31 projects, from dance and musical performances to an art exhibit, films and festivals.

Fulltime undergraduate (sophomore or higher) students and graduate students at accredited post-secondary institutions are eligible to apply for scholarships.

The 20 recipients in 2012 were American, Finnish and dual citizen Finnish-Americans pursuing a range of studies in the U.S. and Finland.

Guidelines and applications for grants and scholarships are available at www.FinlandiaFoundation.org. The application deadline for both is Feb. 1, 2013.

MOVE IN BY FEBRUARY 1, 2013, AND WE'LL PAY UP TO \$1,000 TOWARD YOUR MOVING COSTS!*



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42600 Cherry Hill

*Independent Living only. See community for complete details.



www.Waltonwood.com

CALENDAR

Continued from page A8

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

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

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal
Contact: (248) 477-1153, ext. 12

FOOD BANK

New Hope Church

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

Location: 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 10:11-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m. first and third Thursday, MOPSnext. Both programs run September-May.

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPSnext supports mothers of school-aged children. **Contact:** Rebekah Creeden at (734) 522-6830 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPSnext details.

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

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

Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as non-denominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs.

Contact: (313) 563-0162

PRAYER

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.

Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church.

Details: Music, singing,

prayer

Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656 or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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

Location: 7000 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: (734) 459-3333

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturdays

Location: In the church rectory conference room, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: St. Monica's Prayer Group is open to all women who want to support one another in praying for their children, regardless of age.

Other prayer sessions: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday, includes parish prayer and Eucharistic adoration, with Benediction service following.

Contact: (734) 261-1455, ext. 200

PRESCHOOL

Ward Preschool

Time/Date: 2011-12 school year

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Enrolling now for children turning 3, 4 and 5 years old by Dec. 1.

Contact: (248) 374-5911 or e-mail carol.nowacki@wardchurch.org

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome.

Contact: The facilitator at (313) 283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7:30-7:45 p.m., social time; 7:45-8 p.m., opening; 8-9 p.m., program Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4-mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.

Contact: (313) 534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Sunday

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation.

Contact: (248) 374-5920

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

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

Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11

p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: (734) 261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling.

Contact: (313) 255-2222, ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: (248) 433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

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

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibromyalgia.com; or call Ruthann with questions at (734) 981-2519

Riverside Park Church of God

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

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Adult Day Ministry offers an adult daytime care program with a specialty in dementia care. Includes a planned program that includes a variety of health, social and support services in a protective setting. Not a drop-in center

Contact: (734) 367-4220 or (734) 464-0990; www.riversideparkchurch.org; or e-mail to rpadm@riversideparkchurch.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (non-perishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of non-perishable items also accepted for the cupboard.

Contact: (734) 421-8451.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement:

Construction of **STRATTON HILL SUBDIVISION ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** to be located in the City as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Stratton Hill Court	Drake Road	Cul-de-sac

That plans and specifications outlining the improvement and the location thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination, along with the costs of said project, which are proposed as follows:

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT:	\$ 123,300
PERCENT OF COST ASSESSED TO DISTRICT:	80.77%
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST TO DISTRICT:	\$ 99,600
AVERAGE COST PER BASE UNIT TO BE ASSESSED:	\$ 9,900.60

That the City Council has tentatively designated the proposed special assessment district to include the following properties:

T1N, R9E, SECTION 04, INCLUDING TAX IDENTIFICATION PARCEL NUMBERS:

22-23-04-301-010 through 020

That the City Council will meet in the City Hall Council Chamber, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the **14th of January, 2013, at 7:30 p.m.**, to hear and consider any comments in opposition or in favor of said improvement.

If the City Council approves the making of the improvements, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the improvements. Act 186 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1973, as amended, provides that the special assessment must be protested at the hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any dispute involving the special assessment. **The hearing for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll will be held, if at all, at some time in the future pursuant to notice given as required by law. Appearance and protest at such hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.** An owner or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

PHONE: 248/871-2420

Mailed: December 28, 2012
Published: December 30, 2012 and January 3, 2013
Farmington Observer

PAMELA B. SMITH,
CITY CLERK
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

5X8 OE08792615

Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

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Observer & Eccentric
HOMETOWN NEWSWEEKLIES
www.hometownlife.com

Help Wanted - General

CAREGIVER: Southfield area, Mon-Fri, 3:30-7:30pm, for Developmentally Disabled Children. Afternoons, Part-time, \$8.50/hr. 248-636-2461

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT. schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri 9-5: 734-728-4572 or email: phoneworkinfo@aol.com

DIRECT CARE WORKER, PT Positive attitudes a must. Must have clean driving record. Start at \$7.61/hr. 734-394-5620

Heavy Truck Mechanic FT, weekdays with health benefits, paid vacation & incentive bonuses. Candidates must be proficient in drivetrain work. 734-423-3140

LEASING CONSULTANT For retirement community in Westland. Enthusiastic, pleasant, energetic, a real go-getter. Training provided. Full-time with \$at's. Compensation includes benefits and 401k. Fax resume: 734-729-9840 E.O.E.

Reach
even more potential employees with an Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Recruitment Package!
For details call 1-800-579-7355

Help Wanted - General

MAINTENANCE Full-time maintenance person needed for retirement community in Westland. Requires general knowledge of preventive and regular repairs, including plumbing, electrical and HVAC. Fax resume to: 734-729-9840, EOE

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

FRONT DESK ASSISTANT Northville law firm seeking full-time front desk assistant. Candidate must be motivated, highly organized, have strong communication and computer skills. Law firm experience preferred. Please list salary requirements. Send or email resume to: Callie A. Demski
Moretto Law Group, P.C.
41000 W. Seven Mile Road, Suite 200
Northville, MI 48167
callie.demski@moretolawgroup.com

Help Wanted - Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT Experienced only for friendly Farmington office. Ortho experience a plus. Email resume: briancaortolis@gmail.com or Fax: 248-478-9398

DENTAL ASSISTANT - with Exp For personable, high-tech office in South Lyon. You must meet us! Fax: 248-437-1924

Help Wanted - Medical

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Medical office seeks experienced medical receptionist. Must have strong computer and medical insurance knowledge. Full time w/ excellent pay and benefits Ann Arbor area. Email or Fax Resume to: azdemski@aol.com (734) 996-8767

Food - Beverage

COOKS With Pizza Exp.
Wait Staff / Bartender Apply in person: Starting Gate, 135 N. Center St., Northville.

Help Wanted - Domestic

DIRECT CARE STAFF Novi area. Full time w/benefits. Exp req'd. Afternoons, Midnights. 248-636-2461

Innovative, fast-growing, global non-automotive mfg manufacturer in state of the art Wixom factory looking to fill openings. Excellent benefits and lucrative 401k.

QUALITY MANAGER Ideal candidate has black belt six sigma, ISO 9001 Auditor certification, and expertise in measuring equipment. Ability to communicate effectively with customers and lead continuous improvement teams. Perfect opportunity for energetic quality engineer looking to take the next step.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS Injection Molding and CNC Ideal candidates will have 5 years direct experience in an industrial or machine shop, Lean Manufacturing knowledge and application experience, and ISO 9001 Quality systems knowledge. CNC experience and knowledge of CNC set up and programming or; in depth knowledge of Injection Molding, GD&T and metrology, in a close tolerance low and high volume operation.

CNC TECHNICIAN Will be responsible for Set up of CNC Equipment, profile of an operator in state of the art Wixom factory. Will seek continuous improvement for all aspects of machining, safety and quality issues. Ideal candidate will have 5-7 years direct experience in an industrial or machine shop, CNC experience and knowledge of CNC set up and programming.

INSIDE SALES REPRESENTATIVE Responsible for telephone sales and customer order management for customers worldwide in a fast paced environment. Ideal candidate will have 5 years inside sales experience in a general industrial environment and excellent communication skills. Perfect opportunity for an organized energetic salesperson.

Email resume with job title to: oeresume@hometownlife.com

Marchesano-Pomerson

Claire Evelyn Marchesano and Anthony Michael Pomerson announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Tom and Gwenn Marchesano of Plymouth, is a full time student at Grand Valley State University. Her fiancé, son of Michael and Donna Pomerson of Canton, attended Olivet College and is employed as an insurance agent at Laginess Insurance Agency in Plymouth. A June 2013 wedding is planned in Northville.



Bermudez-Knochel

Juliann Bermudez and Luke Knochel announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of William and Ann Ostlund of Livonia, plans to graduate in May 2013 from Madonna University with a double major in mental health psychology and sign language interpreting. She recently was accepted into Madonna's graduate clinical psychology program. Her fiancé, son of Dana and Beth Knochel of Livonia, graduated from the University of Michigan - Dearborn in 2011. He is a tax accountant at



Rehmann and has enrolled in an MBA program at Walsh. A July 2013 wedding is planned for Livonia.

Passages
Obituaries Memories & Remembrances

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



McEWEN, STEVEN G.

Of Ann Arbor, passed away Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at University of Michigan Hospital. He was 51 years old. Born May 14, 1961 in Royal Oak. He was the son of David J. and Shirley D. (Stevens) McEwen. Steve was a graduate of Seaholm High School as well as Michigan State University. He earned his Masters Degree in Accounting from Walsh College. On May 13, 1995 he married Stacey L. Nelson. Steve was a member of Grace Bible Church and a member of Travis Pointe Country Club. He loved doing anything with his 3 boys and was an avid golfer. Steve was a devoted husband and father. Steve is survived by his wife Stacey and their three sons Ian, Jack and Spencer of Ann Arbor; one brother John McEwen and his wife Kris of Royal Oak; two sisters Jane McEwen of Macomb and Susan Johnson and her husband Rob of Avon Lake, OH; his parents David and Shirley McEwen of Troy and ten nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in Steve's honor may be made to Children's Heart Project at www.samaritanaspurse.org. Please visit Steven personal website to share a memory or sign the guestbook at: www.niefuneralhomes.com

NIPPA, SALLY A.

Age 80. Beloved wife of the late Robert. Loving mother of Tom (Michelle) Nippa, Tonya Pszcolka and the late Jeff Nippa (Crystal Young). Grandmother of Sarah (Anthony) DiPietro, Matthew (Laurel) Pszcolka, Kati (Andy) Schweigman, and Salem, Celina, Ciara Nippa. Great Grandmother of Teresa Lin DiPietro. Dear sister of Al Buck and the late Dr. Paul Buck, Sue Hickey, and Bruce Buck. Daughter of the late Paul and Ruth Buck. Also leaves many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Memorial Service Saturday, January 5, 2013 at 11:00 am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 20805 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Condolences to: CharlesStepFuneralHome.com.



PARKS, ELIJAH, JR.

Age 87, December 27, 2012 of Garden City. Beloved husband of the late Minnie. Loving father of Pat Alvarado and Bev (Bill) Tomi. Dear grandfather of Joe (Michelle) Alvarado, the late Ruben Alvarado, Billy (Erica) Tomi, Tracy (George) Gaudenzi. Great-grandfather of Alex & Tia Alvarado and Jenna, Lucas & Savannah Tomi. He was a navy veteran of WWII serving aboard the USS Enterprise and a Purple Heart recipient. Funeral service Monday 11 am at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Visitation Saturday 5-9 pm and Sunday from 1-9 pm. Please share memories at: www.rggharris.com



NEILSON, RUTH MARIE (NEE APPEL)

Age 94, of Farmington Hills, died December 19, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Howard F. Neilson. Loving daughter of the late David and Madeline Appel of Muskegon; and predeceased by a sister, Madelyn White of Royal Oak. Ruth graduated from Muskegon High School before attending Albion College, where she met her husband of 58 years. She was an avid sports fan of Muskegon High School, Albion College and the University of Michigan. She raised her family in Pleasant Ridge and enjoyed summers in Charlevoix during retirement. She is survived by her three sons, Howard R. "Skip", David L. (Karen), and Jeffrey T. (Lisa). Grandmother of Lisa (Rick) Casciaro, Christy (Matt) Kauffman, Bradley Neilson, Elizabeth Neilson, and Mary Katherine Neilson. Great Grandmother of Aiden and Gavin Casciaro and Kellen, Ella and Zarin Kauffman. Memorial Service to be held on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in her name to Albion College. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak, 248-541-7000. Share your memories at sullivanfuneraldirectors.com



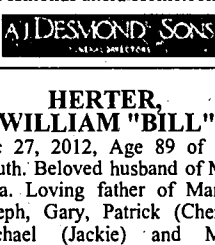
PELTON, DOROTHY B.

Longtime resident of Waterford, died after period of decline from Alzheimer's disease on December 20 at the age of 80. Born Dorothy Jeanette Branaman on August 17, 1932 in Lansing, Michigan. Married in 1954 to Maurice Pelton, and is survived by their three sons, Gary (Rebecca), Donald (Kelly), and Eric (Connie), nine grandchildren, and brother John (Nancy) of Miami, Florida. Graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1954 from Michigan State College with a Bachelor of Music degree. Taught music in the Birmingham Schools and music and mathematics in the Pontiac Schools. An active musician throughout her life, played flute in The Detroit Flute Choir, Birmingham Concert Band, and MSU Alumni Band and taught scores of flute students. Member for 46 years at Central United Methodist Church in Waterford, where she sang in the chancel choir, played organ, piano, and flute, and directed youth choirs. Participated in mission and work trips to the Gulf Coast and Central America and volunteered for Meals-On-Wheels. A memorial service and lunch reception is planned for 11:00 a.m. Saturday January 5, 2013 at Central United Methodist Church. Family will receive visitors at the Church on Friday January 4 between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. Memorials may be made to Michigan State University expressly designated for the Maurice D. and Dorothy B. Pelton Endowed Scholarship in Music Studies. Contributions to Michigan State University should be sent to College of Music Advancement Office, 333 W. Circle Dr. #102, East Lansing, MI 48824. Memorial contributions may also be made to Central United Methodist Church. Arrangements by COATS FUNERAL HOME - WATERFORD. To send a private condolence go to www.coatsfuneralhome.com.



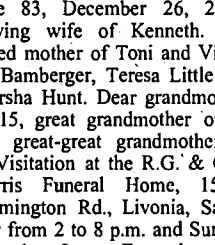
BUTLER, JAMES M.

December 27, 2012 Age 67. Beloved husband of Vicki (nee Kyte) for 45 years. Dear father of Jane Butler (fiancé Ryan Anderson) and Pete Butler (Elyse). Special grandfather of Blair. Brother of Meghan Kuhlman (Gary), R.H. "Tod" Jr. (Sharon) and Harry Price (Debbie). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), Monday 12noon until Celebration of Life ceremony at 3p.m. Memorial tributes to Boys & Girls Club of Troy, 3670 John R, Troy, MI 48083. View obituary and share memories at DesmondFuneralHome.com



HERTER, WILLIAM "BILL"

Dec 27, 2012, Age 89 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Marcia. Loving father of Marcia, Joseph, Gary, Patrick (Cheryl), Michael (Jackie) and Mark (Assiya) Herter, Cheryl Ferguson, Maureen (Tom) Battistone and Kathryn Stemberger. Dear brother of Rosemary Proctor. Proud Grandfather of 18 and Great Grandfather of 3. Memorial Services to be held at a later date. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



LARUE, RUTH IRENE

Age 83, December 26, 2012. Loving wife of Kenneth. Beloved mother of Toni and Victoria Bamberger, Teresa Little and Marsha Hunt. Dear grandmother of 15, great grandmother of 26 and great-great grandmother of 2. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Saturday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 8 p.m. Funeral service will be held Monday at 11 a.m. Please share a memory of Ruth at www.rggharris.com



PERCIFIELD, GREGORY JAY

Born Mar. 6, 1967. Died Dec. 15, 2012. Burial was in Green Lawn Cemetery at Nashville, IN

GET OUT

Arts Crafts

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission
Exhibits: Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013; Faberge: The Rise and Fall, The Collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, through Jan. 21, 2013; Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3, 2013
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

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

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 3, 2013; 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "Argo," \$3
Coming up: "Wreck It Ralph," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4 and 10, 2013, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 5-6, 2013; "Cloud Atlas," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 12-13
Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 4, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 5, 2013
Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit
Details: "Strangers on a Train," \$4
Coming up: "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," 8 p.m. Jan. 18, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 19, 2013; prizes will be awarded to all Marilyn Monroe look-alikes
Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

Music

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The next performance on Jan. 19, 2013, will feature John Natiw. Tricia Lloyd will serve as host. Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also are available
Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013
Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: The Chamber

Music Society of Lincoln Center performs; tickets are \$46 for adults and \$36 for Jewish Community Center members
Contact: (248) 661-1900; www.theberman.org

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013
Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, Beverly Hills
Details: Anthony Marwood plays violin and Aleksandar Madzar is on piano for this program that will include works by Debussy, Schubert, Beethoven and Gordon Kerry. Tickets range from \$15-\$60
Contact: (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ChamberMusic-Detroit.org

FARMINGTON PLAYERS BARN

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013
Location: 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Peter Oprisko presents "Fabulous Frank," a tribute to Frank Sinatra. The show will feature timeless classics such as "Fly Me to the Moon," "New York, New York," and "Strangers in the Night." Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for students and seniors. They're available at <https://recreg.fhgov.com>, by calling (248) 473-1848 or at the Costick Center at 28600 W. 11 Mile. Some tickets may be available at the door
Contact: (248) 473-1848

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans
Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Harper and the Midwest Kind Acoustic Show, Jan. 5, 2013; Floyd King and the Bushwackers with the Campfire Compadres, Jan. 11, 2013; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and The Potter's Field, Jan. 13, 2013; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, Jan. 18, 2013; David Nefesh and Jef Reynolds with Anthony Retka, Jan. 19, 2013; Lindsay Lou and the Flatbells, Jan. 25, 2013; Billy McLaughlin, Jan. 26, 2013. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted
Contact: (734) 464-6302

WOODWARD CORRIDOR MUSICIANS

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13
Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Chamber music concert features "Site for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio" by Claude Bolling and "Trio in E-flat major, Opus 27," by Frantisek Skroup. Admission is \$10 for adults. Students in K-12th grade are admitted free
Contact: WoodwardCM.org; (248) 546-5818 or LFDean@aol.com

Something different

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.
Contact: (248) 541-5717

FISHING SHOW

Time/Date: 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, 2013; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013
Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi
Details: Vendors, demonstrations, hands-on fun with fishing. Family activities include a casting contest, fishing from a trout pond, a virtual fishing simulator, and much more. Admission is free on Thursday only for those who bring six cans/boxes or four pounds of non-perishable food items to donate to the annual Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger food drive. The food will be donated to the American Red Cross and area food banks. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children, 6-14; under 6 is free. On-site parking is \$5
Contact: (800) 328-6550; www.ultimatefishingshow.com

KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, through Feb. 10, 2013
Location: 434 S. State, Ann Arbor
Details: "Conserving Antiquity" focuses on the essential but often hidden work of preserving art and artifacts. Visitors will step behind the scenes and experience the work of conservators, which blends scientific research and hands-on treatment with the study of art, archaeology and history.
Contact: (734) 764-9304; www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 13, 2013
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: "A Dickens of a Christmas" celebrates the life of Charles Dickens. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. daily through Dec. 31
Location: Along Hines Drive in Westland. Enter Lightfest at 7651 Merriman in Westland
Details: Drive-through holiday light display; \$5 per vehicle
Contact: (734) 261-1990

Theater

MUSIC HALL

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013
Location: 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia presents "Guess How Much I Love You" and "I Love My Little Storybook." Tickets are \$7 for kids and \$17 for adults or \$30 for a family pack of four tickets
Contact: www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8501; www.musichall.org

Hospital offers same-day mammogram results

Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital is offering screening mammogram results at the time the exam is performed.

Several appointments are reserved daily for patients who want to wait for the radiologist to read and report on their digital mammograms. Patients also can receive screening mammogram results by phone within 24 hours, and usually receive a letter with their results within 48 hours.

"Providing the results of screening mammograms to patients in the same appointment as the exam is a rare service in this region," stated Denise Collins, M.D., service chief for Radiology at Henry Ford West Bloomfield

Hospital. Patricia Miller, M.D. division head of Breast Imaging, Radiology, at Henry Ford Health System, said most facilities don't offer such quick results for annual screening mammograms.

"An annual mammogram is recommended for women, beginning at age 40, for early detection of cancer, regardless of family history," Miller said. "Breast self exams also are very important, and women of all ages should perform them monthly."

Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital is located at 6777 W. Maple Road, in West Bloomfield.

Mammogram appointments may be made online at www.henryfordwestbloomfield.com/mamm or by calling (248) 325-3828.

Study shows heart health varies nationwide

Americans' cardiovascular health varies greatly from state to state, according to new research in the Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA).

The study is the first to assess cardiovascular health at the state level.

"Since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is funding state heart disease and stroke prevention programs, we thought it would be helpful to have cardiovascular health information on the state level, to help better focus our efforts," stated Dr. Jing Fang, M.D., M.S., an epidemiologist with the CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention in Atlanta, Ga.

Using 2009 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System — a telephone survey of more than 350,000

people in the 50 states and Washington, D.C. — researchers collected information on the American Heart Association's seven major heart-health factors: blood pressure, total cholesterol, smoking, body mass index, diabetes, physical activity, and fruit and vegetable consumption.

Researchers found:

- The percentage of the population reporting ideal cardiovascular health — defined as having optimal levels of all seven factors — was lowest in Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Mississippi and highest in Washington, D.C., Vermont and Virginia.

- Three percent of Michigan's population reported having ideal heart health.

- About 10 percent of the total population reported having poor cardiovascular health, with two or fewer heart-health

factors at optimal levels.

- In general, people living in western and New England states reported having a higher percentage of ideal cardiovascular health.

"Americans reported having on average more than four of the seven risk factors for heart disease," Fang stated. "We also found large disparities by age, sex, race/ethnicity and levels of education."

- Those who were 65 or older reported the lowest percentage of ideal heart health and the 35-54 age group reported the highest percentage of ideal heart health.

- Women said they were faring better than men.

- Whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders reported highest rates of heart health while African-Americans, Native Americans and Alaska Natives fared

most poorly.

- Those in the highest education group reported better health than the other groups. Estimates in the report may help health professionals set goals for reducing risk for heart disease and stroke and for improving cardiovascular health.

"This study gives us important information about the factors and behaviors that need the most improvement in each state to achieve the American Heart Association's goal of improving cardiovascular health for all Americans," Fang said.

The American Heart Association aims to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent, by the year 2020.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

January

MICHIGAN BARIATRIC INSTITUTE

The Institute offers free monthly educational seminars, from 6-7:30 p.m. about Bariatric weight loss surgery. Tallal Zeni, MD, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Jacob Roberts, DO, bariatric surgeon, will lead the sessions on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, Feb. 7, 2013 and March 14, 2013 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, North Auditorium, located on the hospital campus at Levan and Five Mile, Livonia. The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers three options for Bariatric weight loss surgery, including laparoscopic gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and adjustable gastric banding. Bariatric surgery is a minimal surgical approach to treating obesity and is performed laparoscopically, resulting in minimal pain, less scarring, shorter hospitalization and recovery time. For more information, call the



Roberts



Zeni

Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) 949-9344, located at 14555 Levan Road, Suite 311, Marian Professional Building, Livonia.

SINUS RELIEF

Warren L. Brandes, D.O. will present a free community lecture about advanced technology that helps people suffering from chronic sinus symptoms, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, at Botsford Hospital's Community Room in the Administration & Education Center, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Balloon Sinuplasty gives long-term relief by effectively opening blocked sinus passage-

ways and is minimally invasive and FDA-approved. Call (877) 442-7900, option #1 to register.

VOLUNTEER VOICES

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extends an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Times and dates of sessions in January vary. Call Len McCulloch at (248) 474-2763 ext 22. Or visit www.therapychoirs.org.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham

branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadowntown.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

From a House to Home

When Elaine Cash decided it was time to move to a senior community, she found what she was looking for in her own backyard at Abbey Park at Mill River. Born and raised on a farm just three miles away, Elaine watched the construction of Abbey Park and carefully considered the advantages offered by the community.

As the final stages of building were completed "It got me thinking," she said. "I decided, on my own, this was the answer."

Elaine knew it was time for a change; the family home that she and her husband, Jim, built in 1950 was no longer practical. The Cash Family has lived in

Lyon Township, a picturesque rural setting noted for the warmth of loving neighbors, for six generations. Moving into Abbey Park keeps Elaine close to friends and family and provides security, support and reassurance to loved ones concerned about her living alone.

While Elaine made the move to satisfy the concerns of her family, she is quick to acknowledge that she is very happy in her new home. "I am blessed to have made a best friend here," Elaine said. "I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here."

MY VERY PLEASANT SURPRISE

Just minutes from Ann Arbor, Novi and Brighton, Abbey Park's convenient location - on Milford Road across from Coyote Golf Club and just minutes from I-96 - enjoys a beautiful countryside setting, with state of the art amenities in addition to quick access to three major hospitals.

Within just a few days of Abbey Park's opening in January 2009, Elaine and her three children enjoyed a lunch and tour of the facility. She was surprised and "very impressed," with her initial visit. Elaine appreciated the beautiful landscaping of the grounds and courtyards, an elegant lobby featuring fountains, fireplaces, and a grand piano along with the welcoming

smiles of a few old friends and some new neighbors.

With any move there are decisions to be made, and so after offering the family home to her granddaughter, Elaine's first step was to find the perfect apartment in her new community. With nine floor plans ranging from one bedroom/one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets, all apartment options at Abbey Park include

a balcony or patio. Monthly rental fees include heat, water, electricity in addition to 24-hour staffing, medical monitoring, daily housekeeping, weekly laundry service, delicious meals served in the beautiful Grand Dining Room, continental breakfast and over 45 activities - including two happy hour events and live entertainment - to enjoy each week.

There were additional surprises, too: the community was luxurious and elegant but also very affordable. The meals served in the elegant dining room by attentive staff and prepared on site, were delicious. "The food is like a nice restaurant," Elaine said, and said that the employees and residents are, "Like another large family." There's a calendar full of weekly shopping trips, monthly casino excursions, Bingo, ice cream socials and destination outings, such as trips

"I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here."

Elaine Cash, Abbey Park resident



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash enjoying the beautiful grounds of Abbey Park at their annual car show.

to Frankenmuth and holiday shopping trips. Within the community, there is a theater, library, computer center, fitness center, hair salon and physical therapists on site. Medicare-certified optional personal care services are also available.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE MY NEW HOME

Elaine was quick to credit the leadership of the staff with the spirit of community and a calendar full of celebrations. "To me, [Administrator] Tamra Ward and [Hospitality Director] Charles Duty are 'Abbey Park,' plus of course, their wonderful, friendly, caring staff." Elaine's social calendar is full of parties and events. There's a champagne brunch

Left: Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash is surrounded by family at last year's Christmas party.

every Sunday, birthday parties, Grandkids Halloween Carnival, Grandparent's Day Luau, Oktoberfest and Abbey Park's Festival of Trees. There's a delicious menu for each holiday and celebration dinners are open to family and friends. Abbey Park at Mill River offers a Facebook page that is updated after each event for the enjoyment of the residents and their loved ones.

Soon after her move to Abbey Park at Mill River, Elaine met owners Dr. Benjamin Stein, Joe Norber and Edward Rosenbaum during one of their weekly site visits. "I told them how much I loved it here," Elaine said "I am a walking commercial for Abbey Park."

Elaine celebrated her third anniversary as a resident at Abbey Park in September and enjoys being part of the Abbey Park family. "I have loved every single day here," she said.



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