

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Inspiration 2005

Making resolutions for the New Year.

PINK, INSERTED SECTION



River Rouge

Book tells the story of the world's most famous auto factory.

LIFE, SECTION B

Old friends

GC alums get back, face current players.



SPORTS PAGE 10
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SUNDAY

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Observer

New laws make identity theft a felony

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The growing problem of identity theft is the focus of a package of 11 bills sponsored by state legislators and signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm Dec. 28.

The new laws take effect March 1. Among key provisions, they extend punishments from a maximum of 90 days to 1 year in jail, and seek to speed

up the process of pursuing criminals.

"Before, it took an attorney to obtain the police report, and victims had to go through a lot of hoops," said state Rep. Laura Toy, R-Livonia. "Sometimes it took months or years. It's been a huge cost to business and consumers."

She said another key provision is re-classifying identity theft from a misdemeanor to felony status.

Toy sponsored Senate Bill 1384 which establish-

es the right of an identity theft victim to obtain a police report. It seeks to rectify the problems victims have had obtaining reports because police were uncertain of which jurisdiction applied to a particular case.

According to the Identity Theft Recourse Center based in San Diego, Calif., two July 2003 studies reveal that 7 million people became victims of identity theft in the prior year. That equals 19,178 per day, 799 per hour, and 13.3 per minute.

The incidence of victimization increased 11-20 percent between 2001-2002 and 80 percent between 2002-2003. Victims spend an average of 600 hours recovering from this crime, often over a period of years. Three years ago the average was 175 hours. "As recently as 2002, Michigan ranked sixth in the nation for identity theft cases," Granholm said. "These new laws will ensure more

PLEASE SEE IDENTITY, A3



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano (left) and Dave Tyler of the county's economic development department stand next to a Huron Township farm that will be transformed into the first phase of the Pinnacle Project in 2005.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pinnacle Aeropark: 'A field of dreams'

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

The farm field that sits at the corner of Vining and Sibley roads in Huron Township looks much as it has for generations, seemingly unaware of the major plans Wayne County officials have in store for it later this year.

Come this summer, officials say the field will begin to be transformed into the long-anticipated Pinnacle Aeropark, a planned 1,300 acre mixed-use development south of Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport. The initial phase of the project will cover 150 acres.

According to Dave Tyler, an executive assistant with the county's department of economic development, the county is investing roughly \$7.5 million to put in infrastructure at the site, including sanitary sewer and water lines, which he said should be in place by the fall. Although county officials have yet to get any commitments from businesses planning to build in the Pinnacle development, they believe having the infrastructure in place will be the motivation some companies are seeking.

"It's kind of like a 'Field of Dreams' - build it and they will come," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

A LONG ROAD

Since its inception under former County Executive Ed McNamara's administration in 1998, the Pinnacle project has

PLEASE SEE PINNACLE, A7

Livonia natives survive tsunami

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Cheryl Junk spent much of the past week close to her telephone.

The Livonia resident and Grant Elementary teacher received a phone call last Sunday that sent her holiday week off into a tailspin.

Her daughter Kristin had been on an extended vacation in Thailand, along with her fiancé Dan Podczervinski, when disaster struck.

An 9.0-rated earthquake erupted under the floor of the Indian Ocean last week causing the tsunamis that struck the nations of Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Somalia and Seychelles.

As of the end of last week, the American Red Cross estimated the death toll in this disaster had reached almost 115,000 people - and was still climbing.

The Junks heard this news by telephone, in the early morning hours of Dec. 26.

"My sister lives in Houston," said Cheryl Junk. "She called me Sunday morning at 7 a.m. and said there was an earthquake in Somalia."

Junk said she didn't make the connection right away because "Kristin wasn't in Somalia."

But once her husband, Mike Junk, turned on the television, it became quite clear.

"It hit a large area," Junk said. "We got out Kristin's itinerary. She was in Phuket (Thailand). That's when we started to panic a little bit."

The Junk's fears were somewhat allayed an hour



Livonia natives Dan Podczervinski and Kristin Junk were on an extended vacation in Thailand, when tsunamis tore through the Indian Ocean last week.

later when Kristin, a 1996 Stevenson High School graduate, made a call home on the satellite phone she'd packed for the trip. She was safe.

At the time the tsunami hit Thailand's shores, the couple were in the middle of a 30-minute boat ride heading out to go snorkeling. According to her mom, Kristin doesn't even like boats.

"The Lord must've been with them," she said. Junk said she believes that being on the boat at that time probably saved her daughter's life. "If she were on the beach, she would've been gone."

According to her daughter's account, Junk said the water became rough during the boat ride and they noticed the crew began to get "panicked faces." Then, those on board saw a "30-foot wave" moving toward them.

"She said they went up with the waves," said Junk.

PLEASE SEE TSUNAMIS, A5

Coyote found photographer in park

Many people only get inspired to pull out their camera when they go on vacation or go to special occasions. When Paul Beroff heard news reports of coyotes here in the suburbs, he was moved to go on photo patrol.

Beroff, a Livonia resident, got a taste of photography while attending Stevenson High; he graduated in the Class of 1988.

Only six months ago, he bought his first digital SLR camera and began spending more time outdoors. "The more time I can spend in the woods the better I feel and this is where I prefer to shoot photos at," he explained.

Word that coyotes had taken up residence in Livonia sent Beroff to the woods at Rotary Park for many hours until a coyote came upon him. It was getting dark that day, not long before Christmas, and he adjusted his camera.

"Something told me to stand up and stretch my legs," Beroff said. "I paused and that's when I saw it (the coyote shown in the photo above). It's a gorgeous animal. I'd never really seen one that didn't look mangy."

Beroff's photography isn't confined to his hometown. A trip to Utah this fall produced a spate of nature shots - many of which can be viewed and purchased on his Web site: www.paulberoff.com.

He says he set up the site and set prices basically to cover his expenses. "It's not an important thing to me (making money on his pictures). I print them out myself and the



PAUL BEROFF

This coyote posed for a photo in Rotary Park, off Six Mile in Livonia.

paper is expensive ... I don't look to make any real profit on them. I do it for fun."

Beroff, who had an exhibit of his works at Livonia City Hall in November, plans to try to shoot more of Livonia's wildlife - deer, especially - around the city.

By Dave Varga

Coming Thursday in Filter

Cold is cool: Give yourself a lift, discover Michigan's ski resorts.

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Budget, politics top stories in county

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Budget woes were at the top of Wayne County stories for 2004.

The belt-tightening county budget was the latest spark in a running dispute between County Executive Robert Ficano and Sheriff Warren Evans.

In August, the Wayne County Commission approved a \$2.1 billion budget which despite increases approved by the commission over Ficano's recommendations, didn't sit well with Evans or new county Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

Worthy called her approved \$28.5 million budget "beyond tragic" and Evans said his \$114 million budget was "devastatingly underfunded."

Evans complained that he has done everything he could to cut costs. "I have cut down on spending. I have done measures to tighten our belts," Evans said in September.

Ficano, the former sheriff, has been critical of how Evans manages his budget.

"The sheriff's department received the largest increase of any county department," Ficano said in September. "This increase was given in spite of the fact that the sheriff has not generated his own projected revenue increases to fund nonmandated services."

Evans argues that he is working with a budget that is the same as Ficano's 2000-01 bud-

get. Continuing problems at the state level also took a bite into revenue-sharing funds for the county, when a plan was approved by the legislature to shift county tax payments in lieu of revenue sharing.

Other county stories were:

■ At the end of 2003, Mike Duggan resigned as county prosecutor to become CEO of the Detroit Medical Center. Kym Worthy, a former assistant prosecutor and circuit court judge, was appointed by the circuit court bench to replace Duggan as interim prosecutor. In November, Worthy was unopposed for election to a four-year term.

■ In May, Ficano appointed Mulugetta Birru, executive director of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, as executive director of the new Wayne County Economic Development Corporation. The EDC replaces the old jobs and economic development department within the executive's office. The corporation is modeled on Michigan's Economic Development Corporation.

■ In August, a new Detroit Wayne County Health Authority was formed in an agreement among Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Ficano and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. The authority was formed to improve health care for the uninsured and underinsured in Wayne County.

■ In December, the state legis-

lature approved the formation of a Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Authority to replace the troubled Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. Supporters argued that the shift to an authority was necessary to maintain federal Medicaid funding. Ficano opposed the new authority, Kilpatrick supported it. On Tuesday, Gov. Granholm vetoed the legislation, saying she wanted the county to continue with improvements to the existing Mental Health Agency.

■ Detroit Metropolitan Airport played host to the Airport Cities Conference. The conference provided Wayne County officials and regional planners a glimpse of what the area around the county-owned airport might look like some. The development of the corridor connecting Wayne County's two airports, Metro and Willow Run, has become the focus of economic development plans.

■ Wayne County's first county executive and former sheriff Bill Lucas, a Republican, challenged appointed sheriff Warren Evans in the November election. Democrat Evans won handily.

■ U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, won reelection to a second term against Democrat Phil Truran, a Novi union local president.

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Local business cautiously optimistic for 2005

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

There are economic factors that stir optimism for local businesses in the new year, however, there are other factors that curb their confidence.

Michigan continues to lag behind the most states in the nation with higher unemployment figures and less growth as the nation moves to recover from the economic downturn from earlier in this decade.

In a statewide economic forecast by the University of Michigan's Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE), it's predicted Michigan will see some job and business growth in 2005, but the rate will accelerate in 2006.

In the real estate market, new-construction homes are moving briskly. In the new high-end Boulder Pines subdivision in northern Livonia, real estate agent Richard Hurley was putting the finishing touches on the sixth sale of nine \$500,000 homes. The homes have been on the market for less than three months.

"We're seeing a slow-growing confidence with consumers and we are all hopeful that confidence will continue to get stronger," Hurley said. "There are a lot of people who are looking for homes, but since there are many homes on the market, they are taking their time."

He acknowledges that many new homes and condominiums in western Wayne and Oakland counties are slowing sales on existing homes because home buyers prefer to buy new construction. He said this could hinder values for existing properties on the market.

"I hope it doesn't lower market value," Hurley said. "I hope it just flat-lines things."

Eric Buzenberg, third-generation owner of the Walker Buzenberg furniture store in Plymouth, is also optimistic about his business prospects for 2005.

"The past couple years, business has been about even for us," Buzenberg said. "People have been cautious but demand is pent up. At some point, they are going to need to buy and we'll be ready."

While sales numbers have remained steady toward the end of 2004, Buzenberg said he was encouraged by the increased traffic in his store in recent months.

Modest sales gains over the past couple years were reported at the Orin Jewelers stores in Garden City and Northville.

"We've got to stay optimistic, but we're definitely in a cautious mode," said Orin Mazzoni III. "Things improved a bit for us in 2004 and he hope that keeps going in the right direction."

The Mazzoni family plans to renovate their jewelry stores, but they will take small steps. Reports of ongoing auto industry struggles and job cuts in metro Detroit move the family to remain careful with their capital investment approach.

"The market here is driven by the auto industry," Mazzoni said. "It's tough to see where things are going in this market's since the unemployment rate here lags behind the rest of the nation."

The RSQE report, released in November, indicates there could be more manufacturing jobs losses in 2005, but there will be marked growth in other industries in the coming years.

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Let's Talk REAL ESTATE
by Jody White
Broker/Owner of Rice Realty

SPOTLESS BATHROOMS — A REAL PLUS!

Very few people will buy a house because they fall in love with a bathroom. However, buyers will react to a bathroom that does not look clean or appears to be in disrepair. They could view the bathroom as a reflection of the overall condition of the property.

Many buyers know that plumbing repairs potentially represent a major expense. They are apprehensive that dripping faucets, loose tiles, and running toilets may be signs of persistent leaks that can lead to the growth of molds and fungus in the walls and flooring. Your pre-sale preparations should include making sure that your plumbing is working properly and that any damage caused by former leaks has been repaired.

Keep the bathroom spotless while your home is on the market. There are many different products that can help you achieve the effect of a desirable bathroom. You might even want to hire a professional to deal with the details, such as re-caulking around the tub and shower, replacing a cracked tile, or applying new paint with mildew retardant. A new shower curtain, bath mat, and nice smelling soap can help give the buyer one more positive reason for liking your home!

If there's a move in your future, I am at your service. Call me at Rice Realty, (734) 421-7423 or e-mail me at Jody@RiceRealty.com. Be sure to visit my website at www.RiceRealty.com

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Military tree

Nine-month-old Alice Mae Thompson gets a look at a Christmas tree dedicated to people in the U.S. military and their families. Holding Alice is her grandmother, Jean Thompson of Livonia, who handmade ornaments using the insignia of various branches of the armed forces and decorated the tree. Thompson's son, Peter N. Thompson, is in basic training in the U.S. Navy. "I know we would not be having a peaceful, free Christmas without their sacrifices," Thompson said of those in the military and their loved ones.



JIM JAGGFELD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Free Seminars on Savings Bonds January 12th

Two free savings bond seminars will be held Wed., January 12th, at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills, MI. Sponsored and hosted by Perri Tax Advisory Group, the seminars will feature local savings bond expert Andrew Perri.

The program, designed for savings bond owners, is entitled "Getting The Most Out of Your Savings Bonds", and will provide detailed information on proper ways to title bonds, current interest rates, your options when bonds mature, and much, much more.

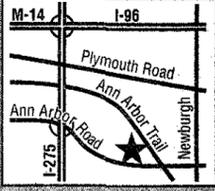
The 60-minute seminars, which include question and answer time, will be held on Wednesday, January 12th, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

A free, personalized savings bond statement will be made available to all attendees.

Costick Activities Center is at 28600 11 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (Between Middlebelt & Inkster) Please call 1-800-925-7931 to reserve your seats.

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Boneless 6-Steak Value Pack N.Y. STRIP STEAKOnly \$4.88 lb.	Florida Natural ORANGE JUICE 64 Oz. Cn. 2/\$4
Fresh Hot or Mild ITALIAN SAUSAGEOnly \$1.88 lb.	Coca-Cola PRODUCTS 2 Ltr. Bottle 99¢

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Handleman puts music in motion for the world

BY SANDRA ARMBRUSTER
STAFF WRITER

TRACKING SALES

Can't find the music you want for the holidays? You may want to talk with Scott Wilson and Greg Mize.

"It's our job to figure that out," said Wilson, who is group vice president of Handleman Entertainment Resources.

Mize, vice president of investor relations, and Wilson work for the Troy company, a firm that last year did \$1.2 billion in the business of merchandising and delivering music worldwide. It's a complex process of tracking each sale in each store by computer, said Wilson.

"Can you imagine how many billions of (pieces of information) that is?" asked Wilson.

That kind of information pays off for Handleman — it has only two major competitors in the business.

But it also pays off for its customers, which are mainly mass merchandisers like Wal Mart, Kmart and Best Buy. Other customers include Zellers, Pamida, Shopko and ASDA, which is in the UK, Wilson said. Smaller retailers, such as Dearborn Music, buy direct from the manufacturer.

"Every day we earn our worth by (delivering music) more efficiently and profitably than retailers can do on their own," Wilson said.

The complexity of the process comes partly from the fact that there are more than 300,000 CDs on the market for purchase. Deciding which CDs to distribute and to which stores is what makes it complex, Mize said. Handleman works with 38,269 titles. It covers distribution for 11 percent of all music sales in the United States, 23 percent in Canada and 9 percent in the UK.

"It's not like choosing soft drinks," said.

And sales are sorted out by computer to each store owned by the companies they do business with. "It's done by cash register sales," Mize said.

The process of tracking and selecting merchandise also ensures that CD buyers get what they're looking for. And it all amounts to geography.

"Ferndale would have more ethnic sales than Oak Park," Wilson said.

"While country music would 'sell through the roof' in Taylor, in Miami, Latin music would be the hot ticket. By Latin music, Wilson said, they mean music actually sung in Spanish and not English translations.

Wilson said that tracking has impacted the sales of Latin music, which he said will sell in different markets depending on such factors as whether it is Mexican, Banda or Puerto Rican.

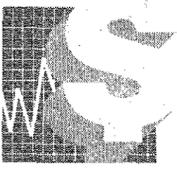
"In Salt Lake a lot of the people are Hispanic," Wilson said. And that means more Latin music is shipped there.

And all that translates into such factors as how much rack space an artist will receive in a particular store. It's a decision made by Handleman. The tracking system also allows Handleman to anticipate and respond to a surge in sales volume through the Rapid Replenishment program, Wilson said. Take the case of Ray Charles. "His death triggered a high degree of interest. If you looked a year ago, he was under the water... Then the movie came out."

With the interest in the singer, "Old albums came to the forefront," Wilson added.

IMPACTING SALES

There's more that affects a singer's popularity than marketing. "After Joshua Groban



@ Work

Business: Handleman Entertainment Resources

Location: Troy

Annual sales: \$1.2 billion

Number of employees: 2,200 worldwide

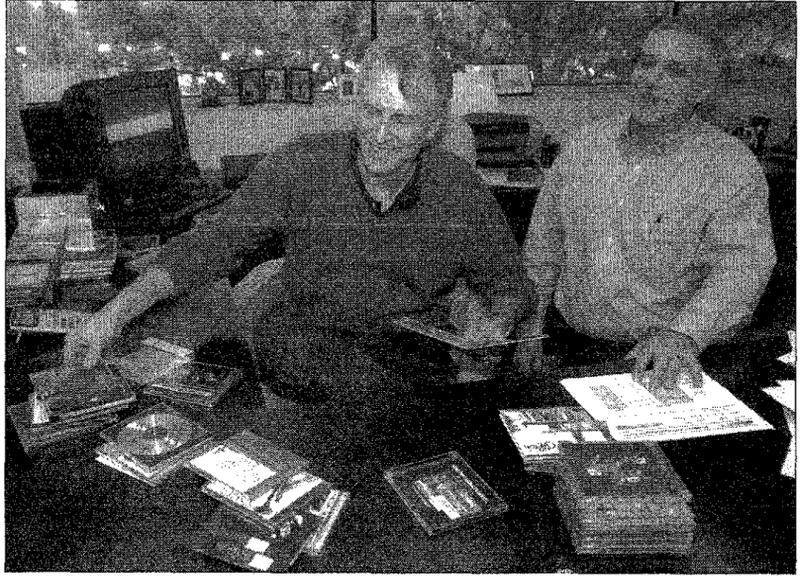
Customers: Include Wal-Mart, Kmart, Best Buy, Pamida, Zellers and ASDA

Business: Manages music category in more than 3,500 stores; represents more than 11 percent of all music sold in U.S., 23 percent in Canada and 9 percent in the U.K.

appeared on Oprah (Show), his sales skyrocketed," Wilson said. Groban appeals to women 35 and older, he added.

Illegally downloading music and burning CDs have had a negative impact on the industry. To respond, music companies have gone to including DVDs of concert tours from the previous year, along with the CDs they are selling. "They make it so the kids want that," Wilson said. It's a lot cheaper to buy the package than to purchase concert tickets, he added.

A Handleman distribution center in Indianapolis turns out 28 units a second, with the company's product-related ticket and, in some cases, plastic security boxes around the CD. They are shipped usually by UPS. When it comes to pricing, however, the decision is solely up to the company. But Handleman will point out the company's



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Wilson (left) and Greg Mize sort through some of the 38,000 music titles the company merchandises.

U.S. Music Industry Sales (in millions of units)

	2004	2003	Variance
Total industry	572.1	560.3	2.1%
Mass Merchants	290.4	192.4	8.9%
Chain	275.6	281.6	-2.1%
Independent	59	64	-7.8%
Non-traditional		28.1	22.3
26.2%			

marketing data on which to base that decision. Mass merchants offer prices that are generally lower than specialty stores, they said.

SALES REPORT

Figures are mixed for the music industry. While chain store sales are down by -2.1 percent, sales at mass merchandisers are gaining by 8.9 percent. Taking the biggest hit are the independents, with -7.8 percent. Wilson said it's a matter of convenience. It's easier to pick up a CD while you're in a store shopping for other things, rather than make another stop.

While holiday sales don't make or break a company, "Sales for the last couple of weeks of December are huge. They're amazing," Mize said. About 35 percent of all sales are from October through December.

Mize says his musical tastes include "really anything." Originally an accountant, his 18-year-old daughter recently turned him on to Alan Jackson, he said.

Country is "very accessible," and is crossing over not only in style but in appeal to the general adult population, Wilson said. "Country adult contemporary music tells a story. And it's

clean." Wilson said working for Handleman has allowed him to meet with artists who "aren't commercially successful, but are just wonderful." One such singer and composer is folk artist Mindy Smith, who "tells her meaning and where her words come from. She has love and devotion."

COMPANY DATA

The Handleman company, which has been in Troy for 15 years, has been around since the 60s. There are about 350 employees in the Troy office on Kirts and 2,200 worldwide, with Handleman occupying about two-thirds of the building.

Besides the distribution center in Indianapolis and offices throughout the world such as Minneapolis. There are regional sales offices in Baltimore, Detroit, Los Angeles, Canada, the United Kingdom, Brazil and Argentina.

"I think of it as getting the best music down to the store," Wilson said.

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IDENTITY

FROM PAGE A1

is done at the state level to help law enforcement and prosecutors crack down on identity thieves and to help victims recover." Among key provisions of the legislation, Granholm's

spokeswoman Liz Boyd said, "Now it uniformly prohibits merchants from including full credit card information on any sales receipts."

The legislation will also:

- Prohibit businesses from denying credit or public utility service to identify theft victims and set penalties for violations.

- Clarify jurisdiction where identity theft is prosecuted.

- Extend the statute of limitations for identity theft to six years.

- Prohibit requiring a customer to provide a Social Security number as a condition for doing business.

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SPORTS

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We're there!

DEATHS

B
Sidney Daphne Barnier, 42, of Plymouth, died Dec. 29.

G
Opal M. Grooms, 92, of Rochester Hills, formerly of Birmingham and Venice, Fla., died Dec. 22.

M
Mark Allen Miller, 34, of Peoria, Ariz., formerly of Livonia, died Dec. 22.

Ruth Marion MacDonald, 85, Dec. 28.

S
Paul E. Schuster, 86, died Dec. 25.

WAYNE CRIME BRIEFS

WESTLAND

Tan salon robbed
A Westland tanning salon employee told police that she was molested by one of three men during a robbery that happened about 9:35 p.m. on Dec. 22.

The incident occurred at Acap's Tan, 8077 N. Middlebelt. The victim told police that one man had a handgun and another had a longer gun, but no shots were fired.

The employee told police that she was sitting behind the counter when the men came in and robbed her. She said one man went behind the counter and grabbed her breasts and thighs.

The bandits escaped with an undisclosed amount of money. They were last seen running north across the parking lot.

One was described as a 6-foot black male, about 20 years old and weighing about 240 pounds. He wore a brown jacket with a hood, dark jeans, and he was armed with a black handgun.

A second man was described as a 5-foot-6 black male, 17 or 18 years



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Life section in Passages on page B5.

old, about 170 pounds. He had what were described by the employee as "Asian-looking eyes," and his mouth and nose were covered with a white cloth. He wore a dark blue jacket with a hood and was armed with a long gun.

The third man was described as a 5-foot-7 black male, 15 to 17 years old and weighing between 130 and 140 pounds. He had short black hair and wore a dark blue jacket.

Gamestop robbery
A manager at the Gamestop store at 34790 Ford Road in Westland told police that two men robbed his store about 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

The manager said the men placed items totaling about \$500 on the counter, and one of them started putting merchandise in a shopping bag before it had been scanned.

The manager told police that when he said something, one man pulled a small handgun from his right pocket. The men then left the store and escaped in what was described as possibly a silver Ford Crown Victoria.

One bandit was described as a 6-foot-4 black male, 27 to 30 years old and about 270 pounds. He wore a black skull cap and a black jacket.

The second man was described as a 5-foot-11 black male, 20 to 22

years old and about 150 pounds. He wore a black-and-white checked flannel shirt.

Store robbed
A woman told police she was threatened at gunpoint during a robbery that occurred about 5:20 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Men's Wearhouse on Wayne Road south of Warren.

Three men walked into the store, and one of them ordered her to her knees at gunpoint while he used keys to open a cash register and take an undisclosed amount of money, she said.

The men then fled the store. All three men were wearing baseball caps and cotton masks. One of them reportedly carried a black gun.

REDFORD

Woman unhurt in attack
A Redford Township woman reported being attacked by a stranger as she arrived at her home on Brady Street south of Seven Mile early Tuesday. No injuries were reported.

It was about midnight, according to a Redford Township police report, when the woman walked up her driveway and into her back yard, where a man grabbed her by the neck and threw her to the ground, she told police.

The woman screamed for her boyfriend, who chased the attacker eastward toward Five Points, where he lost sight of him, she reported.

The woman told police she has had previous problems with strangers in her yard.

Road-rage arrest
A 21-year-old Farmington Hills man was arrested on charges of felonious assault and driving with a suspended license after a Christmas Eve traffic altercation on

Telegraph Road near Glendale. After getting a report that a driver had been threatened with a gun, an officer stopped the suspect, who was driving a 2001 Chrysler 300, on southbound Telegraph shortly before 6 p.m., police said.

The officer found a toy gun, the type used in video games, in the car, police said.

Police said that at first, the driver claimed the victim must have seen him simply pick up the gun after it fell in the car, but then said he grabbed it after being cut off in traffic, because he was afraid the other driver had a gun.

Drug arrest
A 24-year-old Redford man was arrested on a marijuana-possession charge Monday after he was involved in a fender-bender at Six Mile and Beech Daly.

Police said the man, who had been driving a Dodge Dakota, was at fault in the crash, which occurred about 6 p.m. No one was seriously hurt.

The man was sitting on a rock at one corner of the intersection when an officer arrived, police said.

A witness told the officer that the man had hidden something near the rock, and when the officer asked him what he had hidden, he replied that it was "weed" and a scale, police said. The officer found the suspected pot and an electronic scale.

As the man had four suspensions of his license, he was also arrested for driving with a suspended license, police said.

GARDEN CITY

Vehicle thefts
On Dec. 23, a Detroit woman told police she left a car running to warm up outside a home in the 1600 block of Belton. The 1995 Ford Taurus, valued at \$8,000, was gone when she went back outside. The vehicle was owned by a Redford rental car company.

A resident in the 6800 block of Gilman told police Dec. 21 that someone had stolen his 1996 Dodge Caravan. Inside the vehicle, the man said, were tools valued at \$2,085, a \$100 CD player and a new vanity, countertop and sink valued at \$430.

On Dec. 22, a resident in the 600 block of Deering reported her 1994 Dodge Grand Caravan had been stolen.

On Christmas Day, a resident in the 5900 block of Gilman reported that a 1991 Chevy pickup had been stolen. The truck was later recovered in Detroit with a door lock punched and the steering column damaged.

Trailer burglaries
Police received reports that construction equipment trailers stored at 203 Middlebelt had been broken into some time early on Christmas Eve.

From one trailer, tools valued at \$8,100 were reported missing, and items valued at \$1,750 were reported taken from a second trailer.

Another owner reported tools valued at \$7,570 taken from his trailer. Reportedly missing from another trailer were tools valued at \$1,800, while another owner reported losses approaching \$4,000.

Larceny
A Schaumburg, Ill., woman told police Dec. 21 that her purse was stolen from a cart while she was shopping at the Dollar Tree store, 5918 Middlebelt. She estimated the loss at \$125 plus her cellular telephone.

Break-in
Police were called to a home in the 6600 block of Helen Dec. 24 when a neighbor watching the home found a door damaged and indication of activity inside. He said he closed a garage door that was partially open. It was unclear if anything was missing.

Attempted break-in
An employee at J&J Fashion, 251 Inkster Road, reported \$100 damage Dec. 22 after someone removed plywood from an exterior window and punched through drywall covering it inside the store. It was suspected to be an attempt to break into an adjoining drug store that has had several recent break-ins.

Shoplifting
On Dec. 23, an employee at Kmart, 29600 Ford, told police that man walked out the doors with a \$180 vacuum cleaner. The employee said the man got into a waiting vehicle driven by a woman and drove off.

An employee at CVS Pharmacy, 27435 Ford, told police Dec. 26 that a man ran out of the store with a \$26 power toothbrush.

City property damaged
Police were sent to Krauter east of Merriman Dec. 24 after a resident reported a fire hydrant had been damaged.

An officer found tracks indicating a vehicle left the road and sheered off the hydrant. A piece from a black vehicle also was found. The hydrant was inoperable.

Vandalism
Police were called to Garden City Free Will Baptist Church, 29863

Dawson, on Dec. 21 about damage to a steel railing apparently caused by skateboarders. A church official told police the railing had been installed during the summer but the paint was now scrapped off and the footing was broken.

The man told police that the church had been having an ongoing problem with trespassing skateboarders and would prosecute any who are identified.

Accident assistance
After some confusion about the location, two Garden City officers were the first to arrive at an accident on Merriman at Avondale in Westland on Dec. 24. The officers reported that citizens directed them to a vehicle containing two people who had been in a head-on collision.

The driver, a 61-year old Westland man, was trapped inside due to damage to the car door. Smoke was coming from the engine but the officers were hesitant to move the man due to his injuries. A female passenger was able to get out of the car.

When the first Westland officer arrived, something had begun to burn inside the vehicle on the passenger side. The officers decided it was too hazardous to let the man stay in the vehicle and moved him out. Westland Fire Rescue treated the man at the scene.

One of the Garden City officers, who had stayed in the vehicle with the man, reported coughing and mild difficulty breathing due to the smoke inhalation.

CANTON
'Tuber' ticketed
A man of undisclosed age and residence was ticketed for reckless driving Tuesday in the parking lot of the closed Super Kmart at Haggerty and Ford.

A police report said a tow line had been attached to the man's vehicle and was being used to pull an inner tube carrying a friend through the snow, which had not been plowed.

Larcenies
Some reported larcenies from automobiles over the holidays:
A \$30 portable stereo, \$200 cellular phone, purse, and cellular phone charger of undisclosed value were taken from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 46000 block of Aaron's Way on Dec. 23.

A purse and its contents were removed from an unlocked 1998 Taurus parked in the 46000 block of Sherwood on Dec. 23. Gift certificates to various local businesses were also taken from the car.

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Salvation Army mobilizes to help tsunami victims

BY WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

The Salvation Army has put away its red kettles and now is turning its attention to last week's tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean.

"We're not taking in water and supplies, it's simply too far away, but we are taking monetary donations through our toll-free hotline," said Russ Russell, executive director of development for the Salvation Army's Eastern Michigan Division, which is based in Southfield.

That hotline - (877) 725-6424 - was in heavy use even prior to the Asian disaster, helping the Salvation Army in its local \$5 million holiday fund-raising goal.

"The community really reached out to us this year and we're grateful," Russell said.

This year's Red Kettle drive began with news that Target, by new corporate policy, would no longer allow the Salvation Army or other groups to raise funds outside its stores.

"We did start out having to make up some \$300,000 based on what we raised there last year," Russell said.

Final numbers won't be totaled until the end of January, and donations continue to arrive, but Russell said the local Salvation Army division is already "about 80 percent of the way" toward its goal. Money given supports programs throughout southeast Michigan.

The Salvation Army, both locally and internationally, is also taking in money to support victims of the Indian Ocean disaster, in which some 80,000 fatalities have already been reported.

An undersea earthquake Dec. 26 caused a series of tsunamis, which spread death and destruction to at least 12 countries. "We are active in several of the countries that were hit, including India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, but, needless to say, our shelters were immediately filled to capacity," Russell said.

In addition to the Red Kettle Drive and hotline, the Salvation

Army maintains Thrift Stores in a number of local communities.

Money from those stores supports the Salvation Army's drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, Russell said.

Clothes and other household items donated to the stores also help families receiving Salvation Army assistance.

In addition to the Salvation Army, there are several religious organizations in Canton, where there is a significant Asian community, that will also be accepting monetary donations as well as other goods to help the victims.

The Hindu Temple, located at 44955 Cherry Hill, is accepting donations. For more information call the Temple at (734) 981-8730. The Swaminarayan Temple on Canton Center is hosting a local food, clothing and cash drive. In addition, the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, at 40440 Palmer, is also accepting donations. For more information call (734) 467-7704.

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TSUNAMIS

FROM PAGE A1

"They saw the wave hit the shoreline. They saw restaurants and hotels come down."

But, according to Junk, the crew was able to turn the boat around and, upon hitting the shore, all aboard - including Kristin Junk and Dan Podczervinski - actually ran for their lives.

"They basically said, 'Run as fast as you can.'"

Police shuttles escorted the Livonia natives out of harm's way, and eventually out of Phuket. As of Tuesday, the couple had relocated to Bangkok.

"She's been pretty calm through it all," Junk said of her daughter.

The couple expected they would be able to fly out of Thailand on New Year's Eve and head back to their home in Chicago this weekend.

Kristin Junk works as a teacher for Chicago Public Schools. She attended Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and taught at Cass Elementary School in Livonia. She also coached a pompon squad at Stevenson while she was still in college.

"She still knows a lot of people here in Livonia," said her mother.

One of those people is Lorraine Hyman, athletic director at Stevenson High School in Livonia.

"I'm so glad she's OK," Hyman exclaimed hearing the news. "I can't believe it, it's extremely tragic."

Hyman recalled Junk's days coaching at her alma mater, about four years ago.

"She did a wonderful job," said Hyman. "She showed great dedication to the program. She's a dynamite person."

She wasn't at all surprised to hear that Junk became a teacher herself.

"I always thought she was great with the kids. She was very

dedicated to them and to the program. She's one of those people that relates to kids very well. I'm glad to hear she's doing well."

Dan Podczervinski is a 1996 Catholic Central graduate and a graduate of University of Michigan-Dearborn. Also a former Livonia resident, he works as an information technology specialist at an investment company in Chicago.

The two have been dating for about two years and are planning to wed in October.

For now, Junk said she's simply awaiting their arrival home.

"I'll be glad when she's in the United States," said Junk. "It's been very stressful. As a parent you feel helpless. There's not a lot you can do."

What they have been doing is staying in close contact with each other and with the Podczervinski family.

"We've got a lot of support," said Junk.

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Beat winter blues: Grab some snowshoes and 'walk on clouds'

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Rise above the winter blues this year.

Strap on some snowshoes and tackle that snow by walking on top of it.

There's nothing more peaceful than a quiet snowshoe trek through the woods, said Carol Fink, of West Bloomfield.

"I love the freedom of being in the winter woods and the ease of traveling and, of course, the fun," said Fink, who will lead a cross country ski/snowshoe seminar, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. A moonlight snowshoe hike expedition is on tap from 7:30-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at Heritage Park on Farmington Road near 11 Mile.

Not a real technical sport, snowshoeing is a great activity for any age and any athletic ability level. You can snowshoe with a group, with your family or by yourself.

"The beauty of it is that you have the option of doing it by yourself," said Fink. She said you should always leave a site plan with someone if you plan to set out alone.

Snowshoeing is simply walking on the snow. Tubbs and Atlas are snowshoe brands that are popular at Eastern Mountain Sports on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Modern-day snowshoes do not resemble the old wicker aluminum or alloy with tennis rackets. Today, they're made of super light-weight aluminum or alloy with durable, yet flexible synthetic tippers.

Snowshoeing is a close rival to cross country skiing in this area and both are great winter alternatives to downhill skiing.

"I think snowshoeing is growing in popularity around here because downhill skiing



Carol Fink of West Bloomfield treks around the wooded area near her home. Snowshoeing is a great form of winter exercise.

isn't really (feasible), unless you go out of town," noted Kate Stevens, operations supervisor at EMS. "And it's something the whole family can do. Children don't have to learn it to have fun."

Sizing snowshoes is important, Stevens added. They vary in length and are sized by your weight. The adjustable bindings connect to your boots or shoes for a perfect fit. Ski poles are recommended for balance.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't need a ton of snow to use snowshoes. Four to 6 inches is all you need, said Stevens. But fresh powder on top of packed snow measuring a foot or more makes for some fun winter romping through meadows.

"You stay on top of the snow," said Fink. "It's great, you really float. It's like walk-

ing on clouds."

Another bonus: You can snowshoe just about anywhere. Wayne County parks, the metro parks and state recreation areas are open throughout the winter months. Some favorite snowshoeing spots include Hines Park, Kensington Metropark, Stoney Creek Metropark, Island Lake State Recreation Area, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, West Bloomfield Trail Network and the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary.

There's something magical about stepping out into the winter, said Fink.

"The winter woods tell a story," she said. "You can see for miles and miles, the animal tracks, animal homes and droppings. You're outside celebrating winter and it feels so good."

Aside from the mental benefits, snowshoeing is also a great winter workout for your upper and lower body. Using ski poles helps enhance the upper body workout.

"Plus, it's great exercise for your legs, gluts and abs," said Fink. "It's a total body workout — plus you're getting fresh air into your body."

Eastern Mountain Sports, located at 30837 Orchard Lake Road in the Hunter's Square shopping center south of 14 Mile, sells snowshoes. Daylong and weekend-long rentals are also available. Call to reserve a pair or two, (248) 932-5953. For information about the snowshoe seminar or moonlight expedition, call Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation at (248) 473-1800.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Davis, president of PageOne, shows examples of his front pages Where the News Is You.

You're the front page news with PageOne

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Nearly everyone gets a kick seeing his or her name in print.

Chris Davis, a Novi business owner who spent years as a newspaper journalist, decided to take that concept one step further.

Davis, 31, the former editor of the *Northville Record*, decided to launch his own business in April called PageOne.

Davis uses his old reporting, editing and design skills to produce mock newspaper fronts for loved ones who want to give that unique gift.

The 11-by-17-inch newspaper front focuses on stories about the person and in most cases, takes light-hearted jabs at an amusing event in the person's life, said Davis.

"It usually involves some incident that happened 20 years ago and now (the sender) wants to make sure he remembers it for the rest of his life," Davis said.

The mock page front can also be designed to highlight a more somber occasion or recall a person's life, noted Davis.

After a 45-minute interview with the person who best knows the main subject and after getting some photographs of the

person who will be on the page, Davis works his magic in writing stories and designing a front page that's unique to that person. "I'm able to spawn a story that reads well and is appropriate for the page," he said.

Davis said he got the idea for the business while working at the *Northville Record*. He explained that he ended up being the person in the newsroom who designed mock newspaper fronts for co-workers who were leaving their jobs. It's a trick that many newspapers use as a going-away gift for co-workers. He said he even did a mock page front for his wife's 25th birthday. When he presented it to her at the party it ended up being a huge hit. When a friend suggested he do it as a business, Davis said he decided the time was right for a change.

"I've always been a creative person," he said of what he enjoys about being the president of PageOne. "I've always enjoyed making people happy. This is creating something for someone I know they don't already have."

The base price for a personalized newspaper page is \$125.

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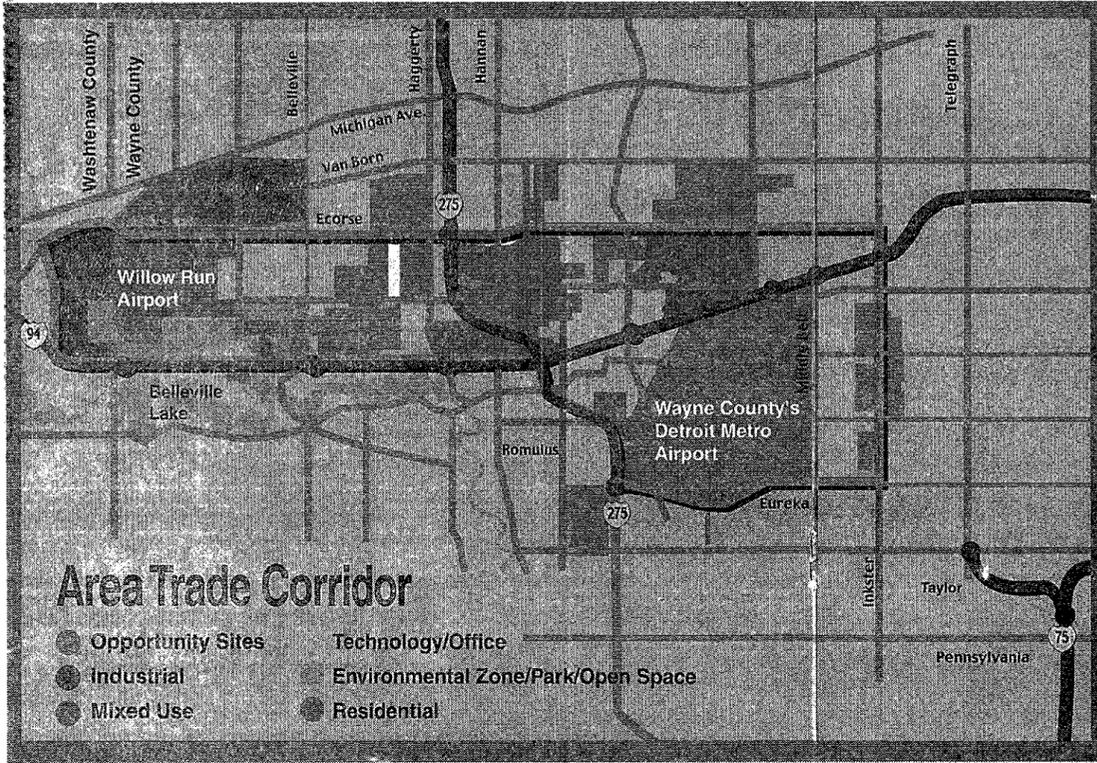
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This map from a Wayne County brochure for Willow Run Airport shows the potential developments sites between the two airports, forming what is called an "aerotropolis." This includes the Pinnacle project area south of Detroit Metro Airport.

Atlanta a model for airport development

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County officials say the concept of the soon-to-be-built Pinnacle Aeropark was modeled after a number of successful regional hi-tech centers, including Silicon Valley in California and North Carolina's Research Triangle Park.

As they proceed with the project, however, they might want to take a closer look at the success of an ongoing development on property adjacent to the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Georgia.

Several years ago, the city of Atlanta, which owns the airport, decided to provide some airport property for development in an effort to stimulate the local economy and make the area around the airport more of a destination - exactly what Wayne County is hoping to do with the Pinnacle project.

airport officials believe will mean a \$6 million infusion to the local economy, because those pilots will stay in hotels, use rental cars and eat at restaurants. The facility opened in March.

According to Diaz, the Alteon deal came together because of a partnership between the private and public sectors. The airport provided the company with six acres to build the facility, while College Park provided a 10-year tax abatement deal, as well as fast-tracked the permitting process to get the facility built as quickly as possible.

Those are exactly some of the options Wayne County officials are tinkering with in their effort to attract businesses to the Pinnacle project.

"When you bring the private sector together with government, and they are willing to work together, things can really happen," Diaz said. "It can be a win-win for everyone involved, especially the airport. And the cities receive a benefit. They receive jobs. Thousands of jobs will be created because of this development."

PINNACLE

FROM PAGE A1

faced its share of setbacks, including a decision last year by the Michigan Supreme Court that denied Wayne County's efforts to seize several properties within the Pinnacle boundaries from people who refused to sell their land.

That decision won't derail the project, according to Tyler, because the land only amounts to 60 acres in a large area bounded by I-275 on the west, Sibley Road to the south, Vining Road on the east and Eureka Road to the north. Since 1998, the county has spent about \$30 million assembling the properties.

Tyler said the ultimate goal of the project is to create a mixed-use site featuring technology centers, corporate headquarters, retail stores, as well as amenities like banks, jogging trails, and a golf course. In addition, he said, plans call for connecting all the businesses that locate in the park to Michigan Virtual University, which will allow employees to take courses online right from their offices.

The Pinnacle concept was modeled after other well-known

regional high-tech centers, like Silicon Valley and the Stanford Business Park in California, and North Carolina's Research Triangle Park, Tyler said.

"They all have certain characteristics we are trying to replicate. A mixed-use environment, with certain guidelines that not only help attract businesses to the area, but also retain them once they're here," Tyler said. "And we intend to go a step beyond these other communities. We are trying to build a 21st century community."

INCENTIVES

The county is offering sites between two and 500 acres, depending on what a particular company may need. Tyler said he sees the potential to have a corporation use 500 acres to build its headquarters at the site, though he said the "bread and butter" will be the medium size companies that need 10 acres. Ficano said there are some proposals on the table between the county and businesses interested in the Pinnacle project, but he refuses to elaborate on who, because nothing has been agreed upon yet. He said the poor economy has hurt the county's efforts, but officials are trying to offset that by making the effort "dirt

cheap" for prospective companies.

In addition to putting in the infrastructure, Ficano said there are a number of tools the county can use as bait, such as creating renaissance or tax-free zones, and offering tax abatements. To do that, he knows he will not only need the support of the county commission, but also that of Romulus and Huron Township, the two communities where the Pinnacle property is located. Any loss of tax revenue, however, will be offset by the creation of jobs and increased economic activity the development will produce, he said.

"To us the attraction is the creation of economic activity, essentially jobs," Ficano said. "We need to show the businesses they are wanted and welcome."

Wayne County Commissioner John Sullivan, who until two years ago represented the area where the Pinnacle project is planned, has been a big proponent of the project since its inception, because he recognizes what it could mean to the area's economy. He said Ficano shouldn't have any problem getting the commission to approve the creation of some kind of tax-free zone, despite his personal distaste of the concept.

"I think we will have to offer some of these incentives, because things are so competitive these days. I personally don't like them. I think the federal government needs to stop all tax abatement programs, so everyone is treated the same," Sullivan said. "All these new companies will come in and they won't be taxed. So what ends up happening is the older businesses in the area end up carrying the burden. I don't like the system, but I realize that's the way things work if you want to attract businesses to the area."

As to when he would like to see the Pinnacle project completed, Ficano quipped "yesterday." But he said it will probably take several decades because of the scope of the project. In the end, he said it will be worth the wait, especially if it spurs other economic activity around both Metro Airport and nearby Willow Run Airport, which is also owned by the county. It is estimated that there are more than 25,000 acres of land ripe for development between the two airports.

"This could be the economic cornerstone of not only Wayne County, but also for all of Southeast Michigan. This could really put us on the map," he said.

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OBITUARY

Mafalda Bucci

Mafalda Bucci, 94, grandmother of Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, passed away Wednesday.

Mrs. Bucci of Livonia was born July 16, 1910, in Italy to Filippo and Esterina Novelli. She was the wife of the late

Paris Bucci

She is survived by her daughter Lena (Anthony) Ficano, grandson Robert (Rosemarie) Ficano and grandchildren, Sabrina and Robert.

A funeral Mass was said Friday at St. Priscilla Church followed by entombment at

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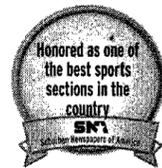
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They take 'shots' at bridging generations

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

At one end of the basketball court, a diminutive guy with a buzzcut canned long jumpers. And then, his dad did the same. Monday's tripleheader involving current Garden City High School basketball players and an array of alumni, parents, teachers and coaches got together to have some laughs and play some hoops, not necessarily in that order.

For example, 1980 Garden City graduate Mike Boyd, a junior varsity player who went on to coach the Cougars' JV during the 1990s, ran like crazy to keep up with the 2004-05 junior varsity during the middle game. He threw up a complete air-ball, and then took off his glasses, as if to blame the spectacles for his errant field-goal attempt.

Of course, the miss didn't mean too much in the grand scheme of things, particularly since Boyd's team took care of business, 70-59.

"I still know all the coaches," said Boyd, taking a breather and waiting for his next action. "A lot of my friends are teachers here. Hey, this is great. I love it. I've been coming to this for four or five years."

What brings Boyd back aren't dreams of burying that next trey, or at least hitting iron.

"It's just about playing the game, reliving the old memories," Boyd said with a smile. "And I look forward to this

because it's probably the only thing I stay in shape from."

On the floor as Boyd spoke were 1976 Garden City alum Brad Lackey and his spitting-image son, sophomore and JV player Brett. The older Lackey watched Brett drain three triples — and then he decided to can a long jumper himself.

"No, I didn't play basketball," said Brad Lackey. "I was on the varsity wrestling team. I was too short to play basketball."

The 40-minute-running-time games between generations were worth all the sweat — and probable muscle pain, several said.

"I like it," Lackey said. "Getting to play against your own son and guys you watch all the time."

Before he could answer another question, he bolted for another couple minutes of running and gunning.

In the opener, the Garden City freshman team played a squad comprised of guys who graduated before 1970 (and not necessarily from Garden City). Among players was John Fleming, a 1966 graduate of an Ohio high school who is football and basketball statistician for the Cougars.

"I had zero points and two assists," said Fleming, whose team defeated the freshmen, 67-52. "Defense is my specialty."

Fleming said the games, organized by varsity coach Greg Williamson, provide a unique opportunity to stay connected with their former school.

"It's a good idea to keep the



PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sharing a laugh on the sidelines during Monday's alumni basketball game at Garden City High School are Scott Shaw (left), who has two sons on the current Cougars varsity team and Dave Riley, who coaches the school's junior varsity. Riley is a Livonia Churchill graduate.

alumni involved in the school," Fleming said. "Once they graduate, they go to college or get a job and they don't come back. This gives them a chance to be involved."

Williamson, who began coaching the Cougars in the early 1990s, welcomed a number of his former players back for the nightcap. The current varsity took on all players who suited up during Williamson's coaching tenure.

Alums included recent graduates Chris Cappelli (2004), Dave Loney (2003), Brandon Audett and Brian Burton (both 2002), Steve Shaw (1997) and Robbie Shaw (1993).

Audett still displayed the keen shooting eye he possessed with the Cougars while spark-

ing his team's 65-52 victory to complete a sweep for the "alumni" squads.

"It's just really good to see all the people come back," Williamson said. "There are some former players I haven't seen for a long time. ... Some are married now, or getting their college degrees."

Because it isn't easy finding alumni from previous decades, the "alum" teams also feature just about anybody who can suit up.

It helps if there is some connection with the high school, but it isn't mandatory.

As for the current varsity players, taking part in such an exhibition could benefit them later.

"This gives reserves a chance

to get some minutes and also play against guys they've heard a lot about in practice," Williamson said.

"Guys such as Brandon Audett, who they get to see for themselves just how good he can shoot."

Coaches for Garden City's freshman and JV teams also take mental notes on how their players fare.

"I think this is the best we've shot all year," said junior varsity head coach Dave Riley following the middle contest. Riley, a Livonia Churchill grad and teacher at Garden City Middle School, played against his team as part of the 1970s/1980s contingent.

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Sidelines

Learn about the Knights

The Dearborn Heights Knights (12 & under) travel baseball team soon will be scheduling try-outs for the 2005 baseball season. The Knights are the PeeWee Reese (11 year old) champions for the Northwest Suburban League. For further information, contact Rich Grucz at (800) 949-9834. On the team's 2005 schedule will be the Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament located near the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Coaches, give us a call

With the winter prep sports season about to resume in full-swing, varsity coaches are urged to report their results to the Observer sports department — win, lose or tie, home or away — on the night of the event.

Please call the following sports editors with game highlights and statistics: Livonia/Westland, Brad Emons, (734) 953-2123; Plymouth/Canton, Ed Wright, (734) 953-2108; Redford/Garden City, Tim Smith, (734) 953-2106.

The deadlines are as follows: for Thursday's issue, information must be received by 11:45 p.m. Tuesdays; for Sunday's issue, information must be received by 11:45 p.m. Fridays. Coaches also can fax recaps to (734) 591-7279.

Earlier to work

The Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey League announced all eight remaining Sunday games will begin at 5 p.m. instead of the originally scheduled 7:30 p.m., said spokeswoman Lauren Segall.

Sunday games impacted by the change are as follows: Sunday, Jan. 2 - Kansas City; Jan. 9 - Muskegon; Jan. 30 - Kalamazoo; Feb. 6 - Quad City; Feb. 13 - Port Huron; Feb. 27 - Missouri; March 20 - Muskegon; April 3 - Elmira.

Meanwhile, in a shootout, Motor City dropped a 2-1 decision to the visiting Kalamazoo Wings Friday night. Garden City native Joe Burton was held scoreless.

Additional coverage

For additional sports coverage from your community, or from around the coverage area of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, please check out our new and improved Web site at www.hometownlife.com, under Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and click on the city of your choice, then sports. The site is updated every Thursday morning and Saturday afternoon.

Holiday feast

Whalers offense fattens up on Brampton, 6-2

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The temptation to overindulge during the holidays was too much for the Plymouth Whalers to overcome Tuesday afternoon.

Fortunately, it was the Whalers' offensive statistics — not their waistlines — that got fat when they feasted on the Brampton Battalion, 6-2, in a Kids' Day matinee game played before 3,446 fans at the Compuware Sports Arena.

The suddenly surging Whalers have now won three consecutive games to push their record to 15-14-4-2. Brampton, which was in first place in the Ontario Hockey League's Central Division prior to the contest, fell to 18-12-5-1.

The action was Plymouth's first since Dec. 19, raising pre-game concerns from coach Mike Vellucci that his team may come out a little sluggish.

"We hadn't played a game in nine days and we only had two practices during that time, so we were a little worried that the team might come out flat," Vellucci said. "We let the guys go home for the holidays every year, then when they come back, we make sure the practices are very upbeat; we don't run them into the ground like some teams."

The strategy paid off for the Whalers, whose hustling play made it appear as if it was the Battalion who may have indulged in one too many fruitcakes over the break.

Appropriately, it was Brampton native and former Battalion player Mike Looby who drew first blood for the Whalers. The sharp-shooting defenseman found himself alone with the puck at the top of the right face-off circle seven minutes into the game. He promptly rifled a shot



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Cory Tanaka tries to stuff the puck past Brampton goalie Kevin Couture during the first period of Tuesday afternoon's Ontario Hockey League game at Compuware Sports Arena.

past Brampton goalie Kevin Couture to make it 1-0. Looby's second goal of the season was assisted by Jonas Fiedler and Mike Letizia.

"I was in the right place at the right time," said Looby, who played for Brampton for two seasons before getting traded to Sault Ste. Marie. "I know quite a few of their players and I played for the same coach (Stan Butler) they have now,

so it was nice scoring a goal against them. But I only have two (goals) this year, so it's nice scoring against anybody."

Plymouth went up 2-0 with 5:37 left in the opening period when Fiedler one-timed a pass from John Vigilante past Couture. The goal, which was also assisted by Mike Knight, came with nine

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, A10

C'ville falls short at tourney

BY PAT ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Clarenceville's assistant coach Corey McKendry's introduction as a head coach this year was a rough one.

With head coach Kevin Murphy out of the state, McKendry assumed coaching duties as the Trojans took on Detroit Mumford on Monday in the University of Detroit Roundball Classic.

Junior Guard Donnie Carson exploded for 26 points, 15 rebounds and six assists for Clarenceville, but the Trojans fell to Martelle McLemmore and the Mustangs 56-54.

"Our guys we're proud of the way they played," McKendry said. "They just made more plays than we did in the end."

Leading by seven after the first quarter, the Trojans slipped up and let Mumford come back and hold the lead for the final three periods.

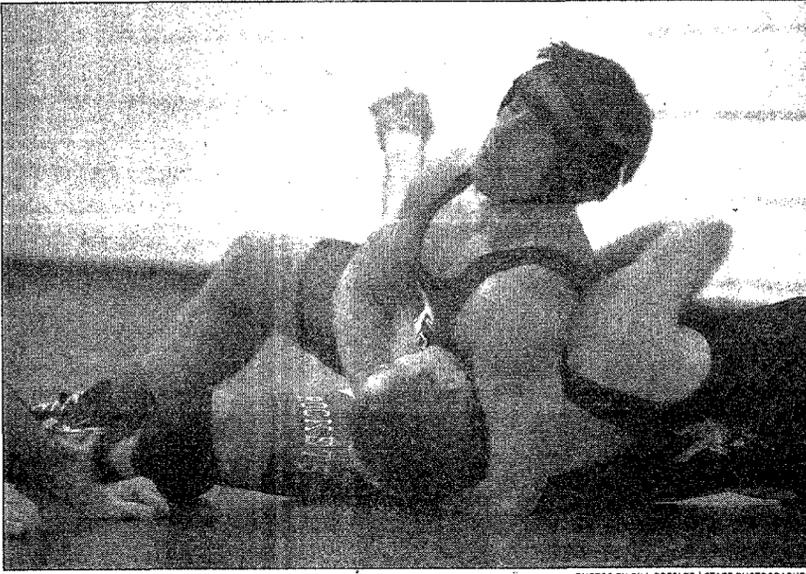
Tyron Williams added 10 points for Clarenceville, hitting a trio of shots from beyond the arc for nine points in the opening half.

McLemmore, a junior forward for the Mustangs, had a double-double with 14 points and 10 boards despite outstanding defense by Allen Garratt.

McKendry mention that his team would hit dry spells and Carson would pick up the load, including scoring 19 of his 26 points in the second half.

"There were times that he would just take the team on his back," said McKendry, "this is the first time he's really shown us that."

Clarenceville is set to take on Ann Arbor Green on Tuesday.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland John Glenn's David Wood applies a head-lock to Romulus wrestler Brian Householder Wednesday afternoon. The Rockets finished fourth with 132 points.

Salem 2nd, John Glenn 4th in Plymouth Elks tournament

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Greenville's cross-state trek to Wednesday's Plymouth Elks Salem Varsity Invitational wrestling tournament was well worth the gas money.

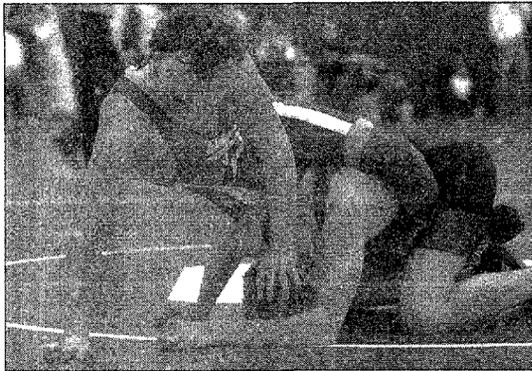
The Yellow Jackets grappled their way to top honors in the individual-format event, earning 184 points to clip runner-up Salem, which finished with 167. Richmond (144) copped third, followed by Westland John Glenn (142), Monroe (131), Dearborn (124) and Melvindale (113.5).

Seventeen teams competed in the holiday invitational, which was sponsored by the Plymouth Elks.

"It was a well-run tournament," said Salem coach Greg Woochuk. "I knew Greenville was going to be tough; they have a solid line-up. We had a couple of our big point-getters out, but I thought we did well, especially Jeremy Henderson, who was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler for the heavier weights."

Henderson made short work of his competition in the 189-pound weight class as he advanced to the finals with a pair of pins and an 11-3 major-decision victory over Saline's Bryce Rajabian. Henderson's dominance continued in the finals when he pinned Lincoln Park's Marc Shaw in 4:31.

The only wrestler who may have had a better day than



Salem's Scott Fysh battles Greenville's Greg Hoeffinger in the Plymouth Elks Salem Varsity Invitational wrestling tournament Wednesday. Hoeffinger's team finished first, just ahead of the second-place Rocks.

Henderson was Greenville's Jordan Garner, who won all four of his 140-pound matches in an average time of 1:33.

Ryan Stump also captured a first-place trophy, going 3-0 at 125. Stump handily defeated Saline's Chris Mullins, 9-2, in the final match.

"Scott Fysh (135) and Matt Keffler (119) also a great day for us," Woochuk said.

Reece Cox was the lone John Glenn wrestler to win his weight class, going 3-0 at 145. Cox pinned Richmond's Jordan McKiernan in 2:53 in the finals.

The Rockets received a second-place effort from Orlando Carswell in the 135-pound class.

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Canton grapplers 2nd at Rice tournament

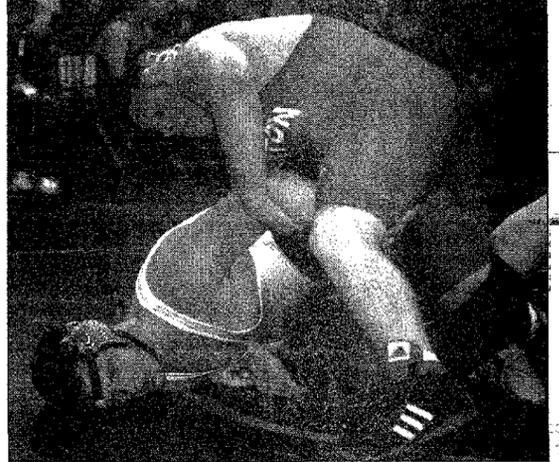
BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

If you missed the exciting championship match of Wednesday's Birmingham Brother Rice Invitational, don't despair — Canton and Livonia Franklin will be squaring off again on Thursday in the Chiefs' Phase III gymnasium.

Canton will be looking for redemption on Thursday after falling, 39-29, to the Patriots in the Brother Rice tournament finale.

"We were a little flat in the match before the finals, but we wrestled decent against Franklin," said Canton coach Casey Randolph. "We lost a lot of close matches."

The Chiefs advanced to the finals by ousting Richmond, 65-12; Troy Athens, 70-3; and Carleton Airport, 45-24. Canton dropped a 40-28 deci-



Canton's Tom Bonnell gets the upper-hand in his match with Richmond's Shane McCleary at the Birmingham Brother Rice Invitational Wednesday afternoon. Bonnell won the 215-pound contest, 8-1, and finished 2-1 for the day. The Chiefs advanced to the finals before falling to Livonia Franklin, 39-29.

sion to West Bloomfield in a cross-over match that was sandwiched between the preliminary matches and the finals.

Sophomore Corey Phillips (135 pounds) and senior Ryan Webb (140) paced the Chiefs by both earning 5-0 records. Phillips improved his overall mark to 22-0; Webb is now 20-0.

Two Chiefs finished 4-1: Konrad Konsitzke (145) and Marwan Faraj (152).

"Konrad's only loss was to West Bloomfield's Chris Kinya, who finished fourth in the state last year," Randolph said. "Some kids wrestled great, others were flat, but overall, I thought we wrestled well."

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MAT RESULTS

- Liam Phelan (MV), 2-2; 5. Zach Brown (G), 4-1; 6. Pat Kruszak (T), 3-2.
- 125: 1. Ryan Stump (S), 3-0; 2. Chris Mullins (SN), 3-1; 3. Mike Leonard (R), 3-1; 4. Andy Biehl (T), 2-2; 5. Hunter Duncan (MO), 4-1; 6. Aaron Kriska (MV), 3-2.
- 130: 1. Kevin Julien (F), 3-0; 2. Loam Chilcote (D), 3-1; 3. Jordan Miller (G), 2-1; 4. Tony Schweiger (R), 2-2; 5. Brennan Phelan (MV), 4-1; 6. Jim Wood (WJG), 3-2.
- 135: 1. Kyle Dupuis (R), 3-0; 2. Orlando Carswell (WJG), 3-1; 3. Scott Fysh (S), 3-1; 4. Kelly Poupard (M), 1-2; 5. Sabah Alnakash (D), 3-1; 6. Steve Eigel (T), 2-2.
- 140: 1. Jordan Garner (G), 4-0; 2. Payton Stanforth (B), 3-1; 3. Andrew Lozon (T), 3-1; 4. Peter Meisner (D), 3-2; 5. Tim Selby (R), 4-1; 6. Alex Baum (N), 3-2.
- 145: 1. Reece Cox (WJG), 3-0; 2. Jordan McKiernan (R), 2-1; 3. Jacob Bennett (S), 2-1; 4. Kyle White (MO), 1-2; 5. Kyle Cvengeros (B), 4-1; 6. Mike Simmons (G), 2-2.
- 152: 1. Nate Cooper (G), 3-0; 2. Justin Jaynes (R), 2-1; 3. Mike Mixon (H), 3-1; 4. Brian Klingenberg (F), 1-2; 5. Val Gui (S), 4-1; 6. Andrew Troubrigle (T), 3-2.
- 160: 1. Jon Warren (R), 3-0; 2. Ben Brodie (G), 2-1; 3. Dan Smith (H), 3-1; 4. T.J. Vendoren (B), 5. Jon Favorite (N), 4-1; 6. Tim Balkus (W), 3-2.
- 171: Ross Barrett (B), 4-0; 2. Garrett Sylvester (D), 3-1; 3. Josh Clarchick (T), 2-1; 4. David Jaime (MV), 1-2; 5. Alex Tulip (H), 4-1; 6. Justin Cameron (N), 3-2.
- 189: 1. Jeremy Henderson (S), 4-0; 2. Marc Shaw (LP), 3-1; 3. Bryce Rajabian (SN), 3-1; 4. Nick Constantine (ND), 2-2; 5. Ian Wilberding (G), 4-1; 6. Nick Ragsdel (MO), 3-2.
- 215: 1. Dan Maggard (MV), 3-0; 2. Kyle Hawkins (MO), 2-1; 3. Shamir Garcia (WJG), 2-1; 4. Jeremy Stilson (G), 1-2; 5. Kevin Clark (H), 4-1; 6. Alex Smith (S), 2-2.
- 275: 1. Tim Lee (MV), 3-0; 2. John Vargas (D), 2-1; 3. Jeff Maddux (M), 3-1; 4. Will Wright (2-2); 5. Marquez Brown (F), 4-1; 6. Alex Strachan (B), 3-2.

Plymouth Elks Salem Varsity Wrestling Invitational Dec. 29 at Salem High School FINAL RESULTS

1. Greenville, 184; 2. Salem, 167; 3. Richmond, 144; 4. Westland John Glenn, 132; 5. Monroe, 131; 6. Dearborn, 124; 7. Melvindale, 113.5; 8. Brighton, 105; 9. Howell, 81; 10. Fraser, 75.5; 11. Novi, 65.
- Most Outstanding Wrestler 103-140 - Jordan Garner (Greenville);
- Most Outstanding Wrestler 145-275 - Jeremy Henderson (Salem).
- 103 pounds: 1. John Cole (W), 4-0; 2. Zac Stevens (MO), 2-1; 3. Brandon Nikula (WJG), 3-1; 4. Jeremy Stankeuwitz (S), 2-2; 5. Al Vellathottam (N), 4-1; 6. Kody Donnelly (G), 2-2.
- 112: 1. Jack Cassidy (D), 3-0; 2. Peter Hansen (G), 2-1; 3. Jerry Boggess (W), 3-1; 4. Jeff Schweiger (R), 2-2; 5. Jeremiah Austin (WJG), 4-1; 6. Bill Ikeda (F), 3-2.
- 119: 1. Mitch Graves (M), 3-0; 2. Matt Keffler (S), 3-1; 3. Mike Bolterstein (B), 3-1; 4.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Bretton James Freed, who lived at 3900 Chase Road, Romulus, Michigan died November 2, 2004.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Karl F. Freed, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 3652 Woodcliff Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 and the named/ proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Dated December 28, 2004
Attorney: J. Ryan Conboy, P-58590, One Moorsbridge, P. O. Box 4010, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, Telephone: (269) 324-5000
Personal Representative: Karl F. Freed, 3652 Woodcliff Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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THURS. 8:30 pm LADIES NIGHT OUT - 4 per team - GRAND PRIZE FUNDI!

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FRI. 12:45 a.m. MIDNIGHT MIXED - Any combo of 4
FRI. 9:15 am MIDNIGHTERS - 4 per team - Any combination
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Whaler Dan Collins maneuvers the puck up the ice during the first period of Tuesday afternoon's 6-2 victory over Brampton.

WHALERS

FROM PAGE A8

seconds remaining on a two-man advantage for Plymouth.

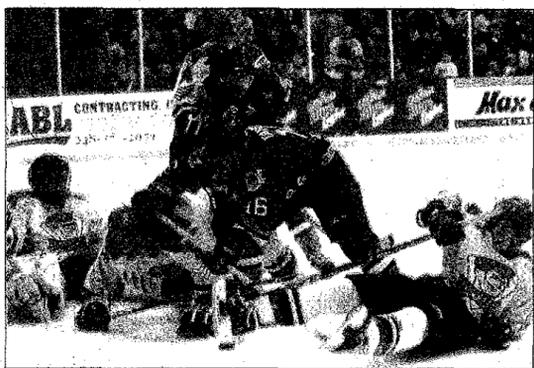
The Whalers killed two penalties in the first period and five of six for the game.

"That's something we've been doing well lately," Vellucci said. "The one power-play they did score on came with just one second left in the penalty, so we were almost perfect in penalty kills today."

The Whalers were out-shot by Brampton, 11-9, in the second period, but they still managed to sustain a two-goal lead thanks to John Mitchell's 11th goal of the season with 11:36 remaining that gave the hosts a 3-0 cushion. Mitchell, who scored following a scramble in the front of the net, was assisted by Letizia and Vaclav Meidl.

Brampton trimmed their deficit to 3-1 three minutes later when Tyler Harrison's high, sizzling slapper eluded Plymouth goalie Ryan Nie.

The icing on the Whalers' holiday victory cake was



Plymouth's Cory Tanaka and Gino Pisellini battle Brampton's Kevin Couture, Nick Duff and Tomas Strynci for the puck during a first-period scramble Tuesday afternoon.

applied by James Neal, who jammed a rebound past Couture, who was mercifully yanked seconds later. Dan Collins and Tim Sestito were credited with helpers on Neal's tally.

After Brampton's Patrick Sweeney scored on a power-play to make it 4-2 with just under three minutes to play, the Whalers closed out the scoring on a 60-foot empty-netter from Mitchell with 1:32

left and a break-away goal by Gino Pisellini 20 seconds later.

Brampton out-shot Plymouth, 26-23.

Nie was steady in net, improving his record to 14-13-4. "The crowd was great," Vellucci said. "The players really get pumped up when they get to play in front of a sell-out crowd like this. It was a good day all-around."

The Battalion may beg to differ.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 4
 A.A. Pioneer at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at D.H. Robichaud, 7 p.m.
 Allen Park at Belleville, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth Christian at Baptist Park, 7 p.m.
 Canton Agape at Britton-Macon, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
 Edsel Ford at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Riverview at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Taylor Truman at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Clarenceville at A.A. Greenhills, 7 p.m.
 N.B. Huron at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 H.W. Notre Dame at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.
 Redford Bishop Borgess at Our Lady of the Lakes, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6
 Roeper at Lutheran Westland, 7 p.m.
 Hamtramck at Clarenceville, 7:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 7
 Salem at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Monroe at Belleville, 7 p.m.
 International Academy of Flint at Plymouth Christian, 7:30 p.m.
 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Allen Park at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Northville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.
 Redford CC at U-D Jesuit, 7:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 7:30 p.m.
 Holy Redeemer at Redford Bishop Borgess, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Jan. 4
 Salem at Plymouth at Compuware Sports Arena, 6:30 p.m.
 Harper Woods Regina at PCS Penguins at Arctic Edge Arena, 6:30 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. Grosse Pointe North at Plymouth's Arctic Pond, 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 5
 Detroit Country Day at Canton -- at Arctic Edge Arena, 6 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Franklin (Edgar), 6 p.m.
 Redford CC vs. U-D Jesuit (City), 6 p.m.
 Stevenson at Royal Oak, 8 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6
 W.L. Northern vs. Redford Unified at Redford Arena, 7:45 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Ann Arbor Pioneer at Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 7:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 7
 Stevenson vs. Salem (Edgar), 6 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Canton at Arctic Edge Arena, 8 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Northville (Nov), 7:20 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Ladywood vs. Mercy (Arctic Pond), 6 p.m.
 Redford CC vs. G.P. North at Compuware Arena (NHL), 7 p.m.
 Chelsea at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 4 p.m.
 PCS Penguins at Walled Lake at Suburban Arena, 5:30 p.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Monday, Jan. 3
 Romulus Summit at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 4
 Cherry HS at Redford Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.
 Oakland Christian at Canton Agape at Discovery Middle School, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 5
 Redford Thurston at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m.

W.L. Western at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6
 Inter-City Baptist at Luth. Westland, 6 p.m.
 Ladywood at H.W. Regina, 6:30 p.m.
 Clarenceville at S'Field Christian, 6:30 p.m.
 Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Bloomfield Hills Roeper at Plymouth Christian, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 7
 Redford Thurston at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Fraser Invitational, 8 a.m.
 Adrian Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
 Clawson Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
 Saline Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
 W.L. Central Tournament, 9 a.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Tuesday, Jan. 4
 Ypsilanti Clio at Redford CC, 5 p.m.
 Clarenceville Quad Meet, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6
 Crestwood, Woodhaven at Redford Union (Tri-Meet), 6 p.m.
 Lincoln Park at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.
 Lutheran Westland at Flat Rock, 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
 Franklin at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
 W.L. Central at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
 Wayne at W.L. Western, 6:30 p.m.
 Salem at W.L. Northern, 6:30 p.m.
 Plymouth at Northville, 6 p.m.
 Allen Park at Belleville, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Avondale Tournament, 9 a.m.
 Fordson Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Roch. Adams Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Wyandotte Invitational, 10 a.m.
 Redford CC Invitational, 10 a.m.
 South Lyon Invitational, 10 a.m.
 Saginaw Heritage Tourney, TBA
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 6
 Redford Union at Redford Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Woodhaven at Plymouth at Canton H.S. pool, 7 p.m.
 Belleville at Ypsilanti, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 W. Bloomfield Invitational, 9 a.m.
 W.L. Western Invitational, 1 p.m.
 Cranbrook Invitational, TBA.
 Rock Kilgore Invitational, noon
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Monday, Jan. 3
 Wayne-Westland at Salem, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6

Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Canton at Rockford Invitational, 10 a.m.
GIRLS PREP BOWLING
Tuesday, Jan. 4
 Ladywood vs. Clarenceville at Country Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6
 Ladywood vs. Mercy at Drakeshire Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Ladywood Holiday Tourney at Woodland Lanes, 2 p.m.
BOYS PREP BOWLING
Tuesday, Jan. 4
 Clarenceville vs. Farmington at Country Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6
 Clarenceville vs. Farmington at Drakeshire Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
PREP SKIING
Wednesday, Jan. 5
 Ladywood vs. W.L. Western at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 6
 Ladywood vs. Hartland at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m.
COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Lapeer Invitational, 1 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Jan. 5
 UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.
 Alpena at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Siena Heights at Madonna, 3 p.m.
 Schoolcraft at Delta CC, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Jan. 5
 UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 5:30 p.m.
 Alpena CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8
 Madonna at Siena Heights, 1 p.m.
 Schoolcraft at Delta CC, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Tuesday, Jan. 4
 Whalers at Saginaw Spirit, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 6
 Whalers at Barrie Colts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 7
 Whalers at Sudbury Wolves, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 9
 Whalers at Saull Ste. Marie, 7 p.m.
 TBA -- time to be announced.

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