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SPECIAL EDITION

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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!

Party at Post 32

Today is the last day to purchase tickets for the New Year's Eve party at American Legion Post 32 in Livonia. Cost of \$50 per person includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, music, dancing, champagne at midnight, pizza and party favors.

The revelry starts at 6 p.m. and goes to 2 a.m. The public is invited. Tickets are available at the post, 9318 Newburgh Road. Call (734) 427-5630 for more information.

Ice skating

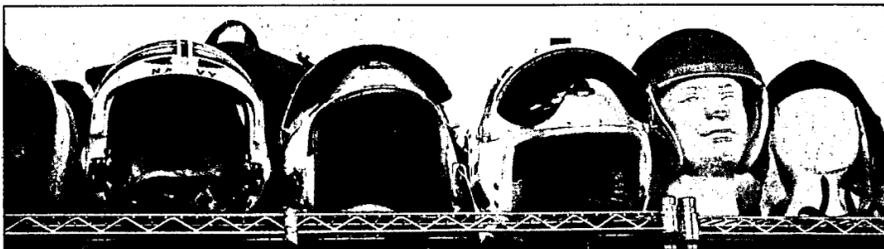
The Garden City Civic Arena offers glow skate 7-9 p.m. Saturdays and is expanding its public skating times during the holiday break.

Glow skate costs \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Skate rental is \$2. Glow skate admission includes a free glow necklace.

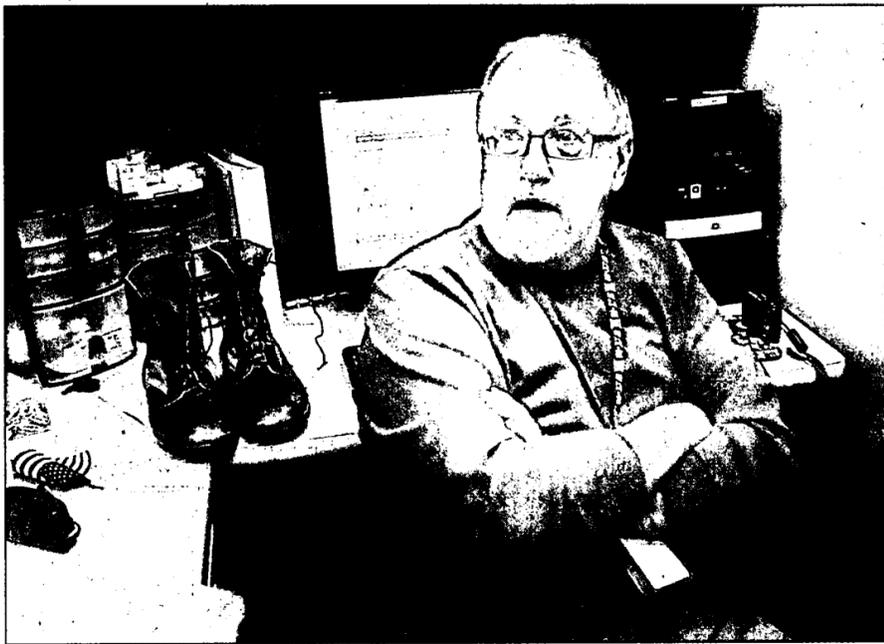
Public skating will be offered 1:30-3 p.m. Dec. 27-28 and Jan. 2-4. The cost is reduced for those skating sessions only, and is \$2 per child age 5 and under, \$3 for adults age 16 and older and \$1 for rental skates. The arena is located in Garden City Park on Cherry Hill east of Merriman. For more information, call (734) 793-1882.

Chamber dinner

The annual Redford Chamber of Commerce dinner will take place Jan. 31 at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26335 W. Chicago. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Seats are \$40. To register, call the chamber office at (313) 535-0960.



Unique clothing drive



Merv Wygant (above) of Plymouth is working on identifying a pair of combat boots that were donated to the Yankee Air Museum. Flight helmets (top) sit on a shelf in the collections room.

Air museum seeks uniforms from Iraq, Afghan veterans

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Personal info helps tell story, A12.

You might think Scott Gerych is a greedy man. With a collection 300-400 vintage military uniforms, the Grass Lake resident wants more. He's looking for uniforms and personal effects from veterans of recent U.S. military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But he doesn't want the military clothing for himself. He's looking to add to the collection at the Yankee Air Museum where he has been working with his father, Merv Wygant of Plymouth, since February to organize and catalog donations.

"There's a huge need to have them in the collection," said Gerych. "This isn't just an air museum, it's about global warfare from the time of aviation."

The museum lost its entire collection of artifacts in a fire in 2004 and has been slowly rebuilding. Up until a few months ago, donations had been stored in boxes in the collections room of the museum located in a hangar at the east end of Willow Run Airport.

More room
By moving the museum library to a nearby school-

house, the department has been able to expand and "almost all of the boxes" have been opened. The uniforms now hang on racks by the year they were received, starting with 2004.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to sort them further to identify even more," Gerych said. "The collection goes from World War I to current, but we want more World War I stuff to go with the Spad, which is almost done, and we need jungle fatigues from Vietnam. We have a lot of uniforms and some enemy uniforms, but we'd like the personal stuff, anything that will

Please see UNIFORMS, A12

Divine Savior's poinsettia tree honors Sandy Hook victims

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Each year, when parishioners walk into Divine Savior Catholic Church for Christmas Mass, they first thing they see is a Christmas tree made of 70 red and white poinsettia plants.

It started out with the Westland church members purchasing the poinsettias to remember loved ones. Over the years, the focus shifted to a beautiful display of the holiday plants.

That changed this year. Troubled by the senseless massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Donna Olmstead decided to add something to the dis-



Livonia residents Gina Newman (standing) and her sister Heather straighten poinsettias used to create a Christmas tree in the vestibule of Divine Savior Catholic Church in Westland.

Please see POINSETTIA, A2

One size doesn't fit all

Specialty courts create local solutions to local problems

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Physically, your local court is housed in one building, but inside there are probably a wide variety of 'specialty courts' operating with jurisdiction over one specific area of criminal activity.

Michael Bryce, director of University of Detroit Mercy Law Clinic, says the movement is about 10 years old, and Michigan has been involved in it at least eight years if not more.

These courts include Drug Court, Juvenile Court, Elder Court, Domestic Court, Tribal Court, Homeless Court, Gun Court, Teen Court and others.

"The specialty court movement, to some degree, was the Renaissance Lawyers Society trying to figure out ways to resolve problems and issues that weren't necessarily litigation-based," said Bryce, director of University of Detroit Mercy Law Clinic. "It



Parker



Lowe

Please see COURTS, A6

Parents charged in infant's death

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Two Westland parents are facing murder and child abuse charges in the death of their 3-month-old child.

Josh Wilson and Kelli Worth, both 21, are jailed on charges of felony murder and second-degree child abuse in the death of their son Joshua.

Paramedics and police were called to the Palmer Terrace Apartments on South Venoy near Palmer about 1:15 p.m. Dec. 19 about a baby not breathing.

"The baby had shallow breathing and died at 5:11 p.m. at the University of Michigan Hospital," Westland Police Sgt. David Dinsmore said. "The baby had been taken to Annapolis (Oakwood) Hospital, then a survival flight to the University of Michigan."



Wilson



Worth

Please see DEATH, A5

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Heroes and helpers

Police officers hit the aisles to help kids shop for their families

By Joanne Maliszewski
Observer Staff Writer

The smiles said it all as children fulfilled their Christmas shopping lists with the help of Farmington Hills police officers early Saturday morning.

The officers — some just coming off their night shifts — gathered at Target on Grand River Ave. through their Heroes and Helpers program to help children with Farmington Youth Assistance finish their holiday shopping.

"I had always heard about the program throughout my career," said Farmington Hills Detective Tom Allen, who initiated the program a year ago. "I thought, 'I would like to do that,'"



Heroes and Helpers includes Farmington Hills police officers (from left) Chris Steuer, Marc Kielezowski, Ryan Yudt, a Target representative, Tom Allen, Virginia O'Neill, Sgt. Greg Hughes, Stacy Trott, Kevin Rowell and Nicole Morton.

Heroes and Helpers is funded with a grant from the Target Corp. The Grand River Ave. store opened its doors early

last Saturday to allow the officers and kids to have the place to themselves. "We try to gear this to shop-

ping for non-essentials," Allen said.

Rhiannon, 11, shopped for her mom, two grandmothers and sisters. While her younger sister, Zoe, would pass with her shopping cart, Rhiannon had to quick cover the presents.

Joshua was in the home improvement aisles, looking for small tool set for his dad, while Morganne, had big decisions to make in the doll aisle.

Within an hour, shopping carts were full of toys, scarves for the moms and grandmothers, video games and some books.

Barb and Rick DuRei with the FYA were on hand to guide the process, as were parents. Barb DuRei is a member of the FYAs Camp Riley advisory board

and Rick DuRei is a FYA board member.

"This is awesome. It is one of my favorite things to do," said Rhiannon's mom, Rachelle Doughty, who is also a Camp Riley unit leader.

Camp Riley is a summer program in which children learn through imaginative and fun ways. For example, children learn geometry by using water blasters to show various angles and arcs, Barb DuRei said.

"Camp Riley teaches social skills and gives the kids an opportunity to play and learn," said camp volunteer Valerie Miller, mom of Kaila, 12, who was among the young shoppers.

jmaliszewski@hometownlife.com | (313) 550-8558



Rebecca Kilian of Livonia has been helping assemble the poinsettia tree for four years.

POINSETTIA

Continued from page A1

play — 26 plants bearing the name of a student or teacher who was killed and a small picture of something they liked.

"I couldn't sleep at night after it happened," the Westland resident said. "I read all the articles online, I read about all of the victims. That's when I decided to design a memorial to them."

Olmstead made the decision last Wednesday to turn the tree into "a memorial condolence offering from our church family to all the families that need comfort following this tragedy." She researched articles on each of the children and a small picture of one of their interests is included on the tag that was attached to the containers.

The church gets the

flowers from Graye's Greenhouse in Plymouth, where Alyce Humphrey "baby-sits" them.

"She takes good care of them for us," Olmstead said.

Those plants not used to create the Christmas tree are decorating the altar of the church that draws members from Westland, Livonia, Canton and Plymouth.

Work on the tree started just after the conclusion of the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass as volunteers readied the church for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. While Olmstead was affixing the cards to the plants, Gina and Heather Newman of Livonia and Rebecca Kilian of Livonia were arranging them on a seven-tiered plant stand in the vestibule.

"We got them started and as I was putting the labels on plants, they were coming back for



A small teddy bear sits between plants honoring 6-year-olds Ana Marquez-Greene and Dylan Hockley.

more," Olmstead said. "We pushed them to get done. They're great kids, they've been doing this for four years."

The girls were moved by the display and its purpose this year.

"It really hit me a lot. Kids are an important part of our society," Heather Newman said. "We need to honor them."

Olmstead plans to send photographs of the poin-

settia tree to newspapers in Newtown in hopes they will publishing them to extend Divine Savior's condolences to the families.

"I love first-graders. I taught first grade in religious education," Olmstead said. "It's such a wonderful age. We hope this will bring peace to the parents."

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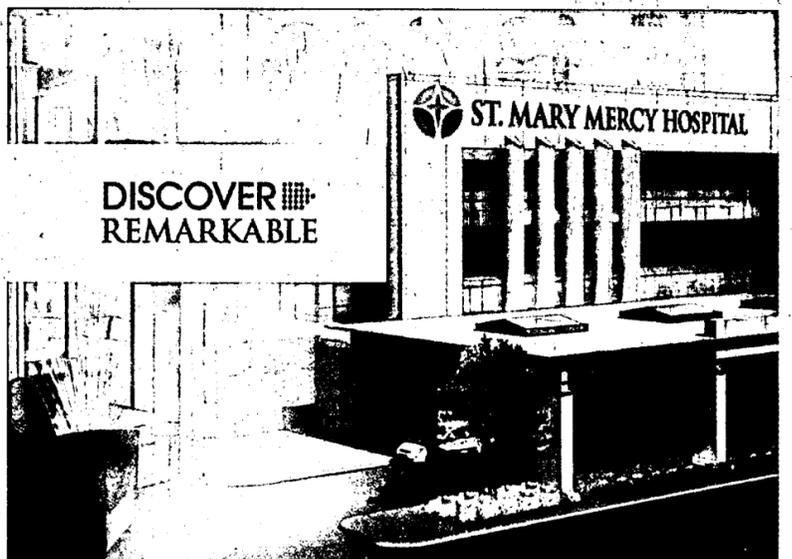
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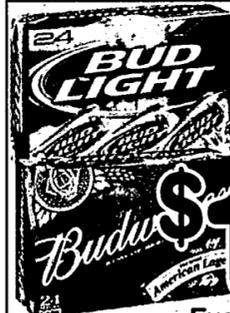
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Winter fires are the deadliest

By Tom Kiurski
Guest Columnist



Tom Kiurski

Winter residential fires account for an average of 945 deaths, nearly 4,000 injuries and \$1.7 billion in property loss each year, based on statistics compiled by the U.S. Fire Administration. Winter residential building fires are defined as those fires that occur in the months of January, February and March. Studying these reports can help keep you safer in the dangerous winter months.

These winter fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 to 8 p.m., and then decline throughout the night. This three-hour period in the early evening accounts for 21 percent of winter residential build-

ing fires. Being that this time period is peak for families coming home from work and school, cooking and warming up by the fire, we shouldn't be surprised by the timing.

Whenever you cook, keep children away from the cooking area, and keep the cooking attended. While you don't have to watch every minute of a simmering pot, you should turn a timer on, or bring a spatula with you, if you are planning to leave the room for any amount of time. This forces you to remember to check the cooking often. Cook on back burners so children can't pull pots down on

themselves and bumped pans don't spill down on the people passing by.

December is the highest month for fire incidences, followed by January and February. Again, with December being a busy time for visiting, celebrating, drinking and lighting candles for decoration and ceremony, it isn't too surprising.

Candles should be kept out of the main pathways in the house, to avoid bumping and knocking them over. They should be 12 inches away from combustibles, or any items that can blow easily into them. Place candles on sturdy holders so that they will not easily tip over, and only light them when a responsible adult is in the room who can keep an eye on them.

Causes of winter fires are

many, but the leading cause of fires throughout the year is cooking-related. We tend to cook regularly, and sometimes take shortcuts when it comes to safety in the kitchen. Following cooking is heating fires, and fireplaces and space heaters are the main culprits. Regular annual fireplace cleanings and inspections are a must, and space heaters must be kept three feet away from combustibles and only be operated in the room that a responsible adult is in. Some of the newer space heaters have tip-over switches that turn the unit off if accidentally knocked over.

By far, the most important part of any home fire safety plan is to have plenty of working smoke alarms in the home, and carbon monoxide alarms as well. Smoke alarms should

be placed on every level of the home, and outside of any sleeping areas. They can easily be placed in bedrooms for maximum protection. Just as important as having them is making sure they work properly. Test the smoke alarms monthly, and change the batteries annually.

Carbon monoxide detectors pick up the unburned gases given off by fuel-burning appliances, such as stoves, dryers and furnaces. These unburned gases are hard to detect so the alarms are very important.

Take a few minutes and make sure your home is safe for the upcoming winter months ahead. Your family will be glad you did.

Tom Kiurski is training coordinator for the Livonia Fire Department.

AREA POLICE BRIEFS

Livonia

Truck strikes home on Inkster Road

A Chevy pickup drove off Inkster Road Christmas Eve and struck a home in the 19100 block of Inkster Road.

The driver of the pickup truck was taken to an area hospital and tests were run on him, as he appeared incoherent, said Sgt. John Gibbs of the Livonia Police Department traffic bureau.

No drugs or alcohol are suspected in the case, and police believe the 54-year-old man may have suffered a medical emergency.

The truck struck the home and a Nissan Versa parked in the driveway. No one was injured inside the home when the accident took place at about 9:30 a.m. Monday. Police were still investigating the crash.

Canton

Home break-ins reported

Canton police confirmed two home

break-ins occurred Saturday — one on Haggerty between Ford and Cherry Hill roads and the other on Cranbrook, southwest of Palmer and Sheldon.

The incident on Haggerty occurred 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said. A resident reported items missing such as a television, a laptop computer, an iPod and a cell phone.

In the other incident, a resident who lives on Cranbrook arrived home Saturday shortly after midnight to find her home had been broken into, with items such as televisions, a small amount of cash and jewelry taken, Schreiner said.

Redford

Crime Stoppers tips encouraged

Redford police are praising an area resident for leaving a tip with Crime Stoppers that led to the arrest of a woman wanted for a robbery in Redford that took place in 2003. The arrest is the second in a month prompted by a tip left with Crime Stoppers. Anyone with information regarding incidents in Red-

ford is encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP and leave an anonymous tip.

Indecent exposure on Schoolcraft

Police are searching for a man wanted in connection with an indecent exposure over the weekend on Schoolcraft east of Inkster.

The man, who police say is about 50 years old, heavyset and has a mustache and beard, was driving an old black minivan with silver running boards and rust. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Redford police at (313) 387-2500.

New school building vandalized

Redford police say it appeared juveniles broke into a building being transformed into a school Dec. 17 in the 25900 block of Grand River and vandalized it.

The building, which is being turned into Detroit West Academy, had a broken window where the suspect entered. The tennis court was ransacked and covered with streamers, file cabinets

were dumped out, light bulbs broken and curtains torn. It did not appear anything was taken from the building.

Attempted break-in at Redford business

An attempted break-in was reported Dec. 17 at a business in the 27200 block of Seven Mile in Redford.

The suspect attempted to enter the building sometime that day by pulling open a door on the side of the business. A bar was secured on the door, preventing entry. No other signs of attempted break-ins were listed.

Farmington

Driving while license suspended

At about 4:43 p.m. Dec. 13, an officer on patrol stopped a commercial motor vehicle in the area of Eight Mile and Farmington roads for not having a logo/identification on the vehicle as required. Further investigation revealed that the driver had a suspended license and two warrants for his arrest. The man was

Please see POLICE, A5

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POLICE

Continued from page A4

arrested for driving while license suspended.

Operating while intoxicated

On Dec. 15, an officer stopped a vehicle on Drake near Grand River for improper lane use. The driver was returning home to Muirwood Apartments in Farmington from a Christmas party in Dearborn Heights and admitted to consuming vodka at the party. A preliminary breath test registered 0.16 blood-alcohol content, and the driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Farmington Hills

Smash and grab

No one was hurt Sunday afternoon when two unidentified men smashed a jewelry display case, grabbed what they could and ran out the door at Sam's Club, 32625 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills.

"No one actually saw them," Farmington Hills Police Chief Chuck Nebus said.

But a videotape picked up the two men at the display case. The video shows one of the men pulling a hammer from

underneath his clothing and smashing the case. It shows the men grabbing jewelry and stuffing it into a bag that one pulled out of his pants, Nebus said.

Customers and employees chased the men into the parking lot. They got into a Chrysler Town & Country turquoise-colored minivan and took off. The minivan did not have a license plate.

Based on the speed in which the minivan left the parking lot, police suspect that a third person, who was driving, is involved.

The men are described as black males between the ages of 20-25. One is short at 5 feet, 4 inches, and slimly built. The second is described as medium height at 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet tall.

"They may be responsible for other smash and grabs," Nebus said. "We are talking with other police departments."

Police are asking anyone who has seen a turquoise minivan without license plates to contact the Farmington Hills Police command desk at (248) 871-2600.

Gun shot

Farmington Hills police responded to the Hunter's Ridge condominiums on Orchard Lake Road close to 10 p.m. Friday to a report of a gun shot. No one was injured, but

police found that a bullet hit a car windshield in the condo parking lot.

Stolen money

A 20-year-old Livonia man lost \$500 when he met a couple of men who had responded to a Craig's List ad to buy an iPhone 5 just after 6 p.m. Friday at the Citgo gas station at 10 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

The Livonia man placed an ad on Craig's List seeking to buy a phone. The texted response he received directed him to the gas station to meet the sellers.

At the gas station, the Livonia resident approached the newer model gray Pontiac Grand Prix with tinted windows and asked to see the phone. A man who remained in the car gave it to the Livonia man who, when he looked at it, said it needed a password. When he asked for the password, the unidentified man in the car asked to see the money. The Livonia man showed him the \$500, but the man in the car immediately drove away with the money and the phone.

The Livonia man reported to police that the men in the Grand Prix did not appear to have any weapons.

Police ask anyone who sees the Grand Prix, with the partial license plate

871, to contact the Farmington Hills command desk at (248) 871-2600.

Garden City

Vehicle vandalized

The Garden City police found no damage on a 2004 Dodge Durango vandalized Dec. 12 in the 32000 block of Bock.

The owner said that though the vehicle was locked, someone broke in and stole his DVD player.

He was able to provide a serial number for the unit.

Police weren't able to process any evidence at the scene.

Plymouth Township

Vehicles egged

Several parked vehicles were egged during a vandalism spree on the township's south side Sunday night and early Monday. Police are investigating.

The vehicles were parked on Green Valley Road, west of Sheldon and north of Ann Arbor Road, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

The first incident was reported shortly before 1 a.m. Monday, and the responding officer noted all other vehicles parked

on the same street had also been egged, police said.

A witness told police the vandalism may have been done by three young women driving a dark Ford Motor Co.-brand sport-utility vehicle. Police spotted several empty egg cartons littering the area, along with bags from a CVS drug store.

An officer contacted a 24-hour CVS store in Canton Township, and an employee reported selling nine cartons of eggs to three young women there about 11:30 p.m. Sunday, police said.

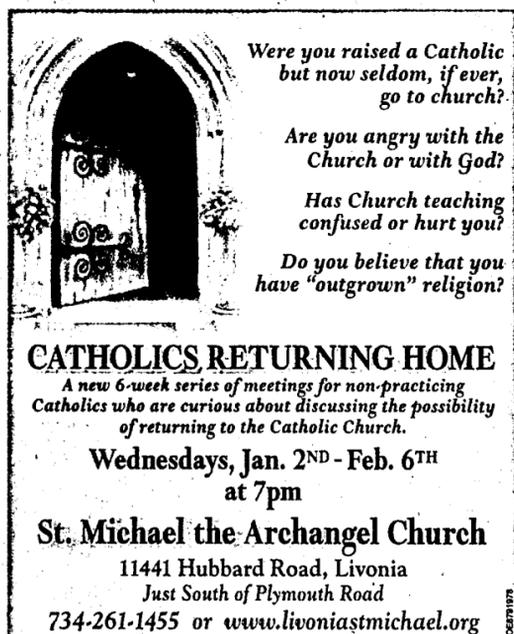
Fuel heist

An estimated 200 gal-

lons of diesel fuel were reportedly siphoned from nine delivery trucks at Imperial Beverage, on Plymouth Oaks Boulevard south of M-14 and east of Sheldon, on Dec. 16 or Dec. 17, police said.

The theft occurred between about 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 and 5 a.m. Dec. 17, a manager told police. In addition, the padlocks on the box trucks had cut off, but no product had been left on the trucks, police said.

A window on one truck was smashed and a briefcase, with a driver's log and phone chargers in it, was stolen, along with a navigation device, police said.

DEATH

Continued from page A1

The baby's parents were arrested at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital and arraigned Dec. 21 in Westland 18th District Court; not-guilty pleas were entered.

"The baby was bruised from head to toe — front, back, sides, arms, legs," Dinsmore said. "The

baby had a ruptured spleen. There was ongoing abuse."

A second Westland couple, Antonio Brandon, 23, and Nicole Roberts, 19, are scheduled for trial Jan. 30 in Wayne County Circuit Court charged with killing their 2½-month-old son Kayden Brandon, early Dec. 5, 2011. The pair are also charged with abusing Kayden's twin brother

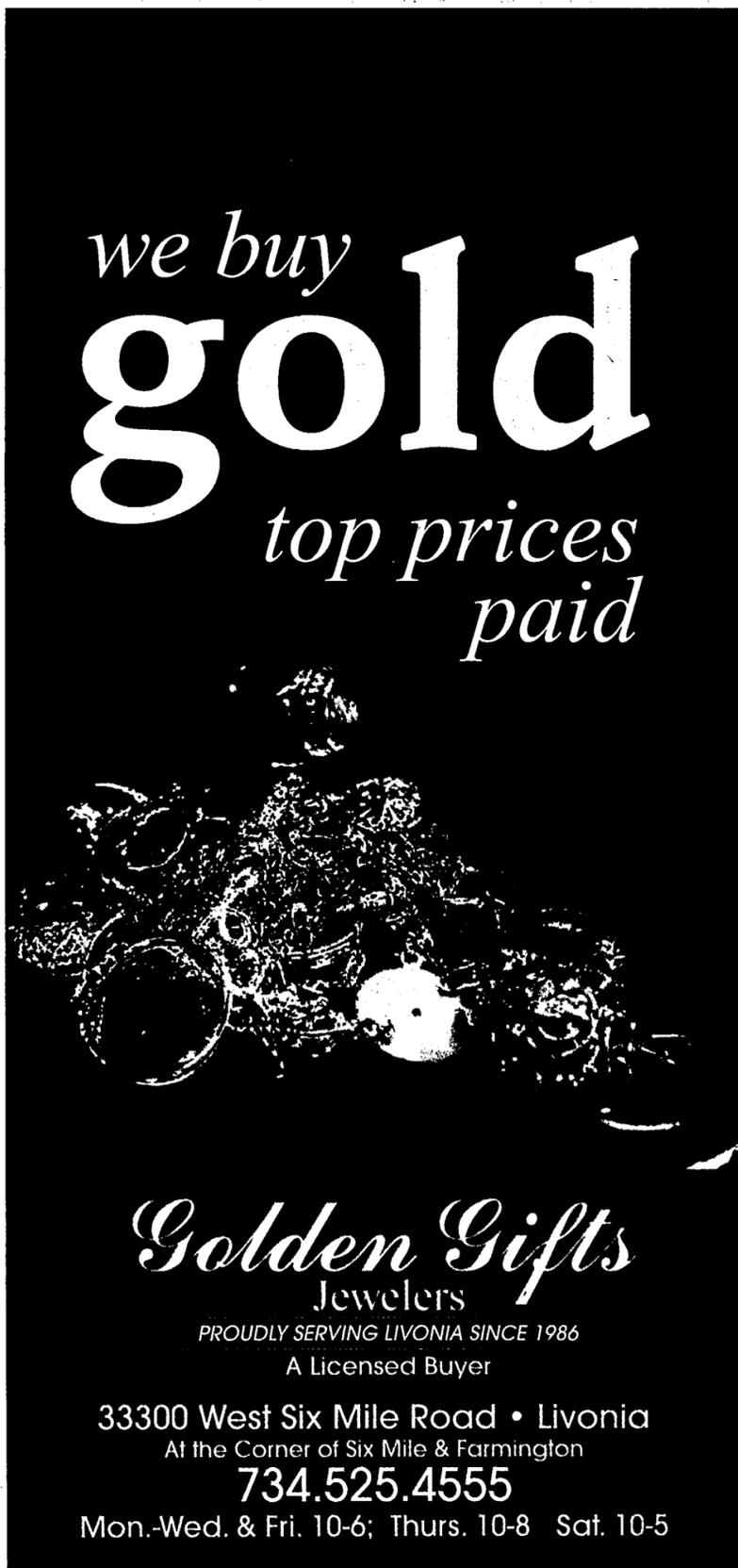
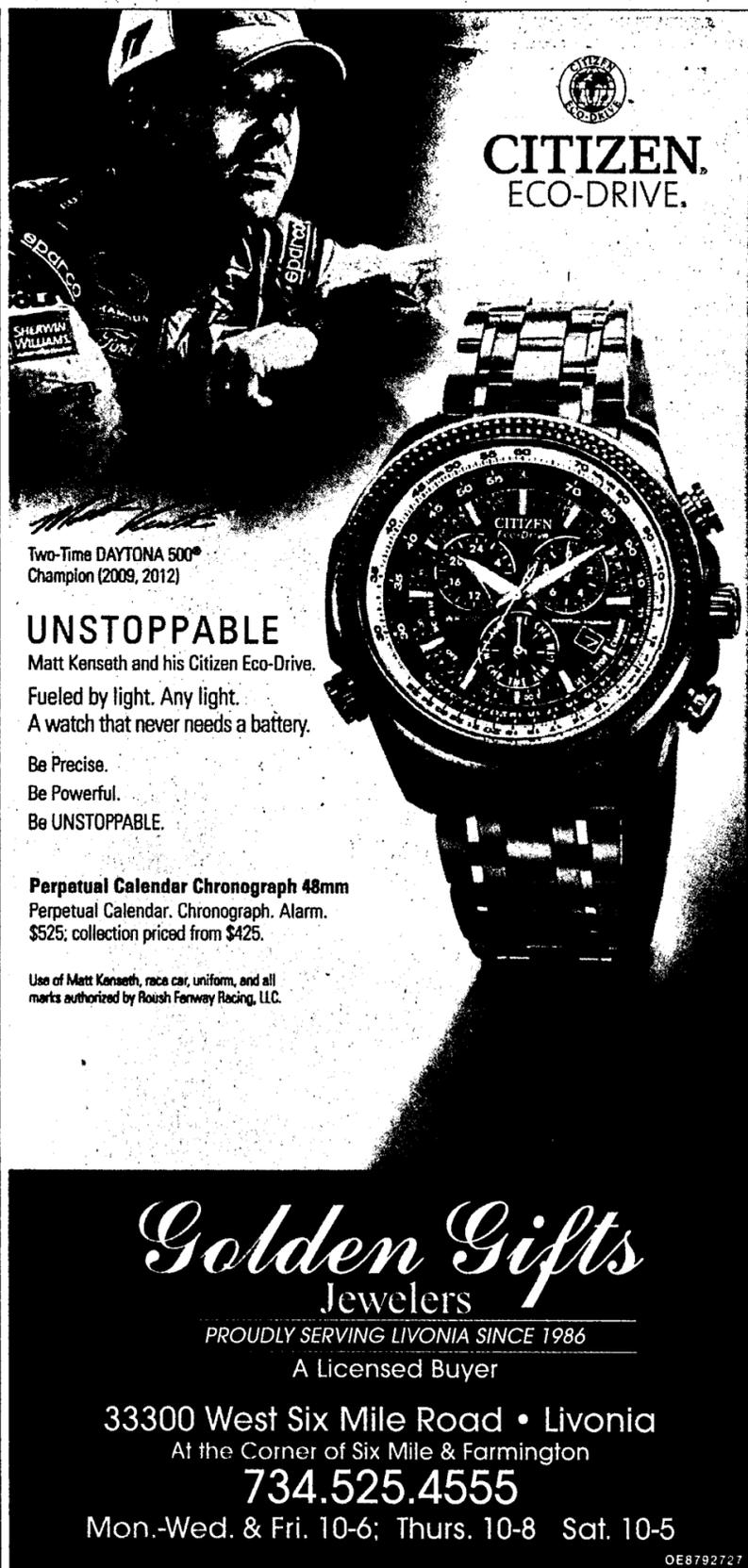
er Cameron.

Brandon is charged with first-degree murder and child abuse. Roberts is charged with involuntary manslaughter and child abuse — that she was aware of the abuse and allowed it to continue. Both have been jailed since their arrest a year ago.

The death of Kayden, who weighed 10 pounds, was ruled a homicide

with asphyxiation and blunt force trauma as the causes. Testimony from the Wayne County medical examiner found the infant had a range of fresh and healing injuries, including deep tissue bleeding in his arms and neck muscles, broken ribs and bleeding in his chest cavity.

Irogers@hometownlife.com (313) 222-5428

Court offers second chance for veterans

By Cal Stone and David Veselenak Staff Writers

The 17th District Court in Redford operates a variation on Sobriety Court with its Veterans Treatment Court, offering veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system a coordinated response to the unique problems they are facing.

Military personnel often face intense and traumatic war experiences while they fight for our country. Sadly, the trauma continues even after they return home as they relive the war-zone — fear, horror and feelings of helplessness persist. Anxiety, irritability and emotional numbing are often experienced by veterans. As a result, problems with alcohol and drug use are common as a way of coping.

Dedicated in November 2011 by Judge Karen Khalil, it became the fourth Veterans Court in the state and the first in Wayne County's suburbs. Khalil works closely with the VA and local veterans groups, prosecutors, veterans' defense counsel as well as probation staff and mentors to provide veterans with the tools they need to lead productive and law abiding lives. "We're dealing with a class of defendants that are totally different," said attorney Richard Graham, who represents



Judge Karen Khalil meets with defense attorney Richard Graham, probation officers Michael Stetz and Muriel LaForge and Detroit Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator Nannette Colling before going into the courtroom to discuss cases before the Veterans Court.

all defendants in the Redford-based Veterans Court. "They're coming back with post-traumatic stress disorder. They're using (drugs) to suppress memories rather than to get high."

Defendants in the court have the chance to meet with their probation officers, representatives from Veterans Affairs and other support groups before court. After they meet in the morning, they go to the courtroom and have their case reviewed by 17th District Court Judge Karen Khalil.

Elvrett Bowers, 62, of Detroit, came to the court in May after a judge in Detroit recommended him. He got into an argument with his wife, and was sent to veterans court.

After staying off of substances for 25 years, he found himself giving in and the end result landed him in front of Khalil.

"It gets your head straight," the Vietnam veteran said. "I highly recommend it."

The court brings veterans in with other former military members, giving a sense of camaraderie among peers. The 15 current veterans enrolled in the court vary in age and come from all branches of service, but they do have something in common — counting on each other to get through the system and move on with their lives.

"You feel odd talking to (other) people about it," Bowers said. "You feel comfortable here."

Khalil said it wasn't always that way. At the beginning, it was common for veterans to ignore each other. But it wasn't long before the dynamic changed.

"Now, you see the foundation of the community," she said. "We've seen a community form."

Judge Brian MacKenzie, of the 52-1 District Court in Novi, says unlike Sobriety Court, Veterans Court is "not pure addiction; it's a hybrid of addiction and mental health."

He said most of the participants have suffered PTSD, brain injuries, or are paranoid schizophrenics.

PTSD (post traumatic stress syndrome) is an anxiety disorder that can occur following traumatic events. Military combat is most definitely traumatic. Estimates of PTSD from the war in Afghanistan are between 6 and 11 percent and 12 to 20 percent in Iraq. Many of our returning vets are at risk of homelessness, broken families and substance abuse.

"One guy got a virus in Iraq and it ate his brain," said MacKenzie. "He was on meds and reacted to alcohol and got arrested. He's a really great guy,

and we got him all balanced out now."

Every participant in Novi's program has to get a physical, which MacKenzie says has resulted in three lives being saved.

The Veterans Administration is a big player in this specialty court, and a VA rep is at every meeting in Novi with a secure laptop containing the offender's records.

Farmington Judge Marla Parker said the 47th District Court has an interest in the Veterans Court area but not enough volume to run a full program. They're keeping statistics on their veteran offenders, working with the VA, and will refer individuals to a Veterans Court if necessary.

Like the Sobriety Court in Novi, Veterans Court operates on a team concept in the 52-1 and is also 18 months long. The probation officer is different, however. He's Mike McGlown, a former lieutenant in the Army.

The fees attached to all drunk driving cases in the 52-1 help cover the staffing of both its Sobriety Court and Veterans Court. Any additional costs in either specialty court, such as the \$13 tests taking at facilities like Jail Alternatives for Michigan Services (JAMS), are up to the offender to cover.

Participants have interlocks in their cars which forces them to breathe into a camera-equipped

machine that registers alcohol. There's a home version, too, as well as tethers that test for alcohol and location.

The 52-1's Veterans Court was also the 18th in the country and formed in 2009.

"And no one has been re-arrested out of about 75," said MacKenzie. "Five washed out and went to jail, and they haven't been re-arrested either."

At the November 2011 graduation ceremony, Kurt Mosher joined 10 other military veterans who successfully completed the program.

"If I had done this when I was 20, I would have been a lot smarter man," Mosher said of his experience. "It got me the help I needed."

Mosher went on to mentor kids and volunteer in the Veterans Court.

Dean Hayden, a former U.S. Marine who was arrested for drunken driving, said initially he was reluctant about the program, but found it has given him "the opportunity to get my life back."

Hayden said he was able to get benefits from the VA he didn't know he had, and has a different outlook on life.

Student correspondents Michelle Ramos and Jononta Hicks contributed to this story.

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Sobriety Courts lead movement

By Cal Stone Staff Writer

One of the most successful types of specialty courts is the Sobriety Court, and the 52-1 in Novi has one of the oldest in the country. When it was created in 2001, it was only the 18th in the U.S.; now there are 16 in Michigan alone.

Harvey Hoffman in Eaton County is the longest serving Sobriety Court judge in Michigan, and the 52-1's Judge Brian MacKenzie is second.

MacKenzie calls his Sobriety Court a "straight-up addiction program" for offenders with high blood alcohol content arrests and/or second-time offenders. And, simply put, the Sobriety Court's role is to make the community safe.

"Out here," explained MacKenzie, "drunk drivers are the most dangerous people in terms of who is most likely to kill your family."

Offenders can receive a regular sentence or volunteer to participate in

the 18-month program and sign an agreement and waiver of rights.

Although the second nine months are more normal, those first nine months are an intense phase, said MacKenzie.

Participants are tested for alcohol every day; they attend a 12-step counseling program twice a week; and they meet with their probation officer once a month in a group setting.

"It's a challenge for them to get tested by 8 a.m.," said MacKenzie.

Those who fail to are 'sanctioned,' which usually means jail time — "and we will go through your house (to check for alcohol)," said MacKenzie. "It hasn't been done a lot, but it's been done."

Those who succeed are given positive reinforcement — maybe tickets to a sporting event or movie passes.



MacKenzie



Parker

"It may not be much, but it's something," said MacKenzie.

"Some of these people have never succeeded at anything."

The 52-1 District Sobriety Court operates under a 'team' concept — the Sobriety Court Advisory Board — consisting of the judge, prosecutor, probation officers, defense attorney, coordinators, law enforcement officer, treatment counselors and a victim/community advocate.

This team communicates and tries to reach a consensus on the offenders. The judge leads the discussion and, if need be, is the deciding vote.

"It's easy unless they're (participants) not doing well," said MacKenzie. "Our team is good, and there's always consensus."

Sobriety Court participants who successfully complete the pro-

MADCP

Karen MacKenzie, wife of 52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie, is the executive director of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals. At the MADCP's website (<http://madcp.dreamhosters.com/>) you can find an interactive map of all the Michigan Drug Courts.

gram are recognized at an annual graduation ceremony.

35th District Court

Judge Michael J. Gerou handles the Sobriety Court in 35th District Court which serves Canton and the cities and townships of both Northville and Plymouth.

While the Sobriety Court staff in the 52-1 court is partially funded by grants, the 35th receives no grant funding.

"And quite frankly, we don't want any," said Gerou. "We didn't want to

Please see SOBRIETY, A8

COURTS

Continued from page A1

was a different approach than the standard I'm-against-you-and-you're-against-me approach. That movement grew and is also connected to therapeutic jurisprudence, which has a similar kind of ultimate goal."

The 52-1 District Court in Novi was one of the first on board, and 18th in the country.

"That really is remarkable," said Bryce. "If you look at Sobriety Courts, you'll see that the prosecutor, defense attorney and judge take a different approach and try to help people with these situations in a way that's different."

Veterans Court, Bryce said, deals with different issues. "We helped create the one in Ingham County, which I think is the first in the state that adopted that kind of approach," he said. "It's not intervention. Attorneys aren't juxtaposed against each other, but rather trying to work out a particular result."

Ingham County's was formed in February 2010, according to Tammy Kudialis, director of Project Salute and the Veterans Appellate Clinic at UDMercy.

"Instead of punishment, you get treatment," she said.

The veterans get a mentor and access to Veterans Administration programs to help them deal with issues. They also get oversight, which means they come before to court at regular intervals to meet with the judge and make sure they're on the right track.

They also get connected to pension and disability benefits through Project Salute which provides outreach and assistance for veterans and trains attorneys to handle benefit claims pro bono. Now in its fifth year, Kudialis has helped more than 4,000 veterans, trained some 1,200 attorneys, and currently has 120 cases placed throughout the country.

Localized

"The concept behind specialty courts is that local courts should try

and come up with local solutions to local problems," said Judge Ronald Lowe, who has served the 35th District Court for seven years. "What you've seen with Sobriety Court is a variety of things — some use it primarily for alcohol, some use it for some type of drug."

He said the drug and alcohol courts are doing "remarkable things" and even noted a Meth Court to deal specifically with that drug.

The 47th District Court in Farmington operates a Sobriety Court, and Judge Marla Parker calls it one of the most rewarding aspects of her job.

"People's lives change right in front of you," she said.

Parker noted that at a recent Sobriety Court graduation ceremony, the guest speaker was a graduate in 2007.

"He's still sober," she said. "He talked about how much his life has changed, and it was pretty amazing."

But not every court can afford to offer a wide variety of specialty courts and may just have one or two, according to Judge Brian MacKenzie, of the 52-1 District Court. "Novi has a lot," he said. "The breadth of our programs is pretty unique."

52-1 District Court serves the communities of Novi, South Lyon, Wixom, Walled Lake, Milford, Highland, Commerce Township, Lyon Township, and Wolverine Lake.

Lowe noted that some judges have agreed on a system of "sharing" their specialty courts, sending offenders to a specialty court they might not operate and in return taking offenders from other courts to go through their specialty court.

"That is in infant stages and having a lot of growth problems," said Lowe. "If I send them to jail, who is paying? There are a lot of logistical problems. But it's demonstrative that District Courts are trying to find solutions."

"But," he added, "there is a story in each one of them."

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Teen Court lets offenders hear it from peers

By Cal Stone Staff Writer

Northville's Brian Morrow, deputy chief of the juvenile division in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, has seen first-hand the positive effects of handling cases in different specialty court formats like Teen Court.

Teen Court is a juvenile diversion program in which trained, high school-age jurors sentence real delinquency cases that have been screened by the Prosecutors Office specifically for this program. In every case, the juvenile offenders that are selected to come before the Teen Court have no prior records of delinquency and have committed relatively minor misdemeanors.

Earlier this year, Morrow received the county's

Anthony C. Wayne Award for developing the award-winning juvenile program that is

having a positive effect on reducing recidivism among first-time offenders.

"Unfortunately in Wayne County, we have a lot of juveniles that are committing crimes on that high end of the spectrum," he said. "That program has taught me that alternative forms of retribution can work."

The teen jury is totally responsible for fashioning an appropriate sentence. It will typically include requirements such as the payment of any restitution, community service, letters of apology and individual and



Gerou



Morrow

substance abuse therapy when facts necessitate it.

The offender cannot commit any new offenses while under the term of supervision dictated by the teen jury, which usually lasts three to six months. If the offender successfully complies with the jury's sentence, the case is dismissed without him/her having a juvenile record for the offense.

Under Morrow's supervision, the Prosecutors Office began the Teen Court program in 2006 and currently operates four teen courts — one in the 34th District Court in Romulus and three which are held in Detroit Public high schools (Denby,

Southeastern and Central).

District courts

Judge Ronald Lowe, of the 35th District Court (includes Plymouth, Canton and Northville), oversaw the creation of a Sobriety Court, but he also implemented the jurisdiction's Teen Court.

"The advantage is simple — it's a positive use of peer pressure," said Lowe. "I tell them straight up that hearing it from their friends is far better than hearing from an old fart in a black robe."

He says it's an empowerment of teens, who end up coming out stronger proponents of what the court is doing than someone who hasn't been through it.

Lowe, who is the president-elect to the Michi-

Please see TEEN, A8



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SOBRIETY

Continued from page A6

set up a program that's dependent on grant money. We've prioritized cases we think need more attention."

More resources are dedicated to repeat offenders, and there is an intensive probation fee. The 35th Sobriety Court, unlike the 52-1's, does not do home checks for alco-

hol either.

Again, participants volunteer for the Sobriety Court, and begin with suspended jail time. There are four stages, and as each is completed, the daily requirements and testing decrease.

"In the first stages, they get a grip on sobriety and testing," said Gerou, "and the latter parts they have to complete community service."

Likewise, participants

see the judge in the first two stages and then the court's probation officer, Jim Hand, in stages three and four.

"Our program was designed to take 15 at a time, but that has tripled and quadrupled in its nine years," said Gerou.

One of the reasons is that legislation that went into effect last year allows offenders to get a restricted driver's license.

"Before, we didn't have as many (participants) because it's a lot of work," said Gerou.

Like the 52-1, the 35th district court program utilizes the team concept and behavioral modification system.

"You control the keys to the jailhouse," said Gerou. "If you have a good report, you earn credit off your jail time. You come back and see me monthly and sign an agreement of what you'll do the following month. Then it's reviewed the following month with the probation officer."

Gerou said consequences for failure typically are predictable at first — jail for a few days and longer if it happens again. The third failure usually results in the participant being discharged from the Sobriety Court pro-

gram and serving whatever time is remaining on their initial sentence.

Gerou said the program is going "very well," especially considering the high-risk population it deals with. At last check, the success rate was over 70 percent. Compare that to a 55-percent success rate for all the offenders the 35th puts on probation.

"We have had some great success stories," said Gerou.

And those are noted at a monthly day-long event with a certificate, congratulations, sharing of stories, and passing of wisdom along to those entering the program and those who have slipped up and went to jail.

47th District Court

Farmington Judge Marla Parker's Sobriety Court has been operating since 2005 and has graduated 56 participants in twice-a-year ceremonies.

"The difference in ours is we have a two-year probation," said Parker. "I think every court is a little different. Some of it is the court's culture; some is how the program was initially designed and structured."

The key similarity in all three of the court's

programs, however, is accountability and the goal of giving more applause than sanctions to the participants.

For a long time, the 47th District Court boasted of no-recidivism among participants, but that ended a month or so ago.

"Still, it's much better when you look at the rate for people who don't go through a program. It's 60 to 80 percent (recidivism). It's really high," said Parker.

Like the 52-1 and 35th Sobriety Courts, participants in the 47th District Court have to volunteer. "You do have to agree to be part of it," said Parker, "but the other options aren't so hot!"

She said her Sobriety Court has very specific eligibility requirements. At the time of arrest, the offender's blood-alcohol content must register .15 percent or greater. They must also have a prior record of alcohol related offense(s).

A key requirement is that the drunken drivers must be residents of Farmington or Farmington Hills. Parker said that's because many offenders don't have licenses, and it's not realistic for people to commute long distances to

appear in her court.

"And we want to serve citizens of our community first," she said.

16th District Court

The 16th District Court in Livonia uses drug and sobriety courts to get offenders' lives back on track. Judges Kathleen McCann and Sean Kavanaugh are involved in overseeing the progress of offenders, according to Probation Director Natalie Stojcevska.

Judges and probation officers examine whether the offenders are considered "high risk." "That is if they have a high blood alcohol content or run a high risk of re-offending," Stojcevska said. "That can be a first-time offender with a high BAC or a repeat offender."

The court also employs a program geared toward 17- to 21-year-old at risk offenders who are involved in drug and alcohol use. "It is run outside of those other programs and it puts the younger offenders under intense supervision," Stojcevska said. The program provides guidance and education.

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TEEN

Continued from page A6

gan District Judges Association, said that when he first took the bench, district courts didn't handle juvenile cases. Rather, they were assigned to probate judges on a juvenile docket. But there has been much growth, especially in western Wayne County.

At John Glenn High School in Westland, a classroom has been transformed into a courtroom

— including a judge's bench, jury box and witness stand — and 18th District Court (jurisdiction is Westland) judges go there to listen to selected cases in Teen Court.

Paul Motz, director of Westland Youth Assistance, finds actual misdemeanor court cases — everything from shoplifting to assault — that are appropriate for Teen Court. The majority of the offenders, called respondents, are middle schoolers and there are

some high schoolers.

Students in the high school's business and personal law class serve as the jury, questioning the defendant and witnesses and then coming up with a sentence after defendants admit their guilt to juvenile authorities.

As part of the sentence handed down by the Teen Court jurors, the respondent is placed on diversion. If he or she complies with the terms of the diversion, the case is dismissed and doesn't appear on the respon-

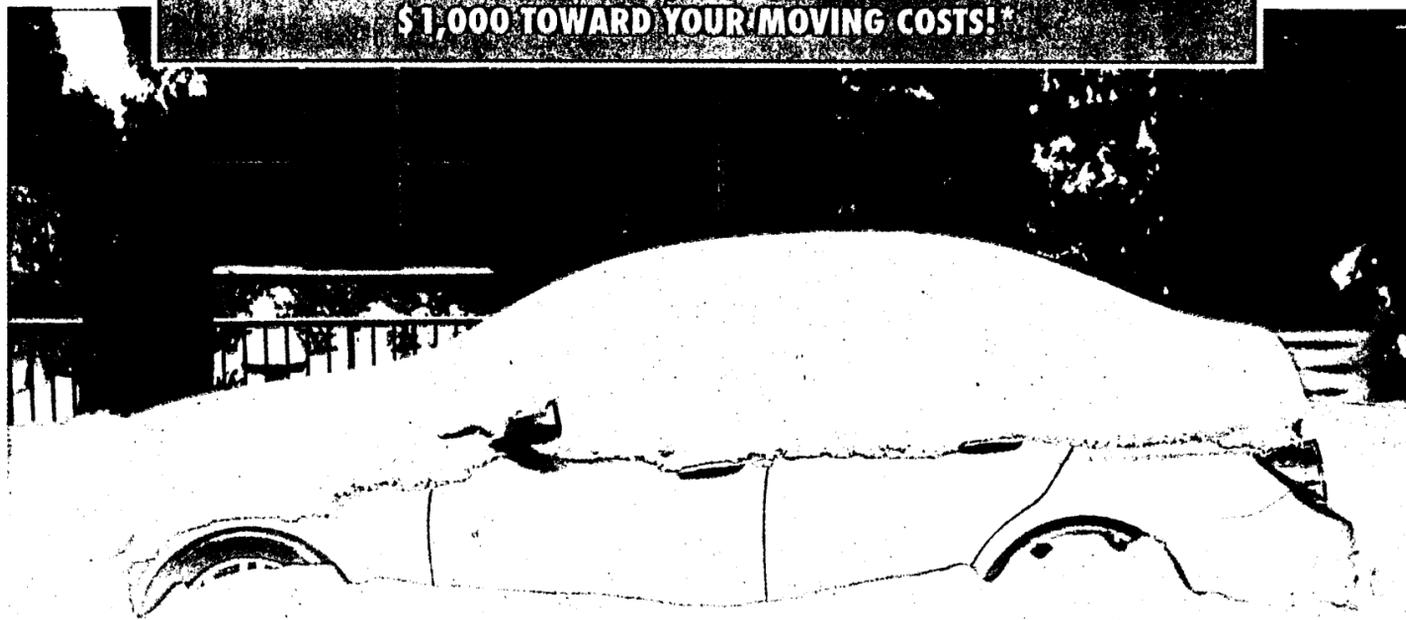
dent's juvenile record.

"This is a great partnership certainly between the court and the school district," said Greg Baracy, Wayne-Westland schools superintendent. "I'm impressed by the students' questions and their maturity level. This is a great learning opportunity."

Staff writer Sue Mason contributed to this story.

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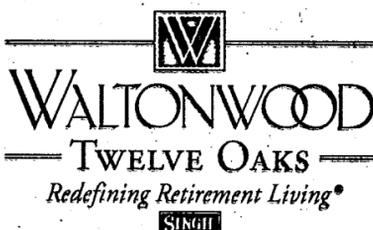
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Parkside Credit Union employee Rachel Reynolds (left) and Heather Gatewood, marketing coordinator, are surrounded by the gifts provide for 28 boys at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford for Christmas.



Parkside brings Christmas to boys at Methodist Home

Many hours were spent walking the aisles of local toy stores looking for MP3 players, walkie talkies and Bayblades so the boys from the Methodist Children's Home Society could wake up on Christmas morning with their wishes fulfilled.

This holiday season, the employees of Parkside Credit Union played Secret Santa for 28 of the boys who reside on the Methodist Home campus in Redford. The Methodist Children's Home has been caring for children in need for 95 years. They currently help boys who have been abused and/or neglected, creating a safe haven for them.

The boys Parkside purchased presents for range in age from six to 17. A trunk-load of gifts was dropped off on Friday, Dec. 14, at the Meth-

odist Home and opened by the children on Christmas morning.

"We're excited to say that the boys' wish lists have been filled," said Heather Karschner, development and marketing associate at the Methodist Children's Home. "We want to say 'thank you so much' to those who made our Donation Drop-Off Day a success!"

Parkside staff had a blast shopping for the boys. Many of the toys were items they had never heard of. The shopping trips were definitely filled with education on what toys are hot this year, and the Parkside staff was excited to help the residents of the Methodist Children's Home Society this Christmas and throughout the coming year, according to

Karschner.

A staff member from Parkside added that "it makes you feel good to know that your contribution will put a smile on these children's faces."

Parkside Credit Union, a Michigan-based non-profit financial institution, has been serving the community since 1953, with offices at 36525 Plymouth Road, Livonia, and 1747 S. Newburgh, Westland. Parkside offers a full line of financial products and services to its members and provides convenient account access with thousands of nationwide fee-free ATM and service center locations as well as mobile, online and telephone solutions.

For more information about Parkside Credit Union, visit www.parksidecu.org.

What you may have missed in December

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

If holiday parties, baking and entertaining the in-laws have eaten up your holiday season, you've likely missed some of the biggest tech stories and trends of the year. With the holiday hassles in the rear-view mirror, you can now catch up on what you've missed.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

Social Media

The story that garnered the most social buzz in December was Instagram's unpopular terms of service change. The popular photo-sharing application changed its terms of use in mid-December leaving many users outraged that their filtered photos of dinners and cloudscapes would be sold for money.

After nearly two days of angry tweets and deleted accounts, Instagram decided to readjust the terms of service. This much is now obvious, Instagram and parent company, Facebook is not beyond exploiting hipsters to make money.

Facebook also announced a number of other initiatives to help increase its bottom line in 2013 and beyond.

The popular social network will begin embedding video ads into users newsfeeds and is also considering to allow private messages to users that are not friends for a dollar per message.

Facebook is even developing technology to compete with one of the most popular apps of 2012 - SnapChat. SnapChat is a photo messaging app that automatically self-destructs photos shortly after they are sent. As you can imagine, the application's unique functionality makes it popular among teens for sexting.

There is some good news, however, Facebook is also adjusting its privacy settings once more in an attempt to make privacy easier for users.

Among the changes are the ability for users to prevent their timeline info such as pictures and status updates from being indexed by search engines. The new changes also helps users determine which Facebook users can search them or find their profile. Unfortunately, the changes do little for users who want to remain more private or unsearchable.

Additionally, those fed up with Facebook and Instagram all together may have a new option to share photos. Twitter recently announced photo color filtering - an obvious attempt to steal users away from Facebook.

Hardware

Now that the biggest shopping season of the year has come and passed many manufacturers and retailers are planning deep discounts. Google for instance is rumored to be slashing the price of its popular Google Nexus Tablet. The unit may soon be going for as low as \$99, that's \$100 less than the current price.

January's annual Consumer Electronic Show is also typically an indicator of new models of televisions, computers, cameras and other gadgets hitting the markets. As a result, surpluses of last year's gifts usually go down in price as well.

If you are still in the market for electronics or have holiday bonus money to spend, you may want to wait until the end of January or early February to make your purchase.

For those looking to keep a closer eye on the 2013 International Consumer Electronics Show - the event runs from Jan. 8-11. During the show, products from all categories will be unveiled including health and fitness gadgets, home health care products and even land line telephones (hey, that's not new technology).

Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

Presbyterian Village joins national health initiative

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan has been selected to partner in a national initiative to create strategies that improve quality of life for senior residents while producing cost savings to the health and long-term care systems.

Developed by LeadingAge and Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (Enterprise), the Learning Collaborative will engage 12 teams of senior housing organizations and service providers to develop and refine housing and healthcare models over a two-year period.

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future is also participating in the effort, providing strategic policy support to the teams.

"PVM is honored to be selected to participate in the Learning Collaborative. We bring 67 years of

expertise to this important national issue," said Roger Meyers, president and CEO. "PVM is committed to service excellence. Our efforts in this initiative will improve quality of life for seniors locally and across the country."

Through the Learning Collaborative, teams will explore components of housing with services strategies, such as partnership development, operations, financing mechanisms, outcome measurement, data collection systems and processes, and policy and regulatory changes. The Learning Collaborative model highlights peer-to-peer education, harnessing the vast expertise among the participants.

"At a time when our senior population is growing more rapidly than ever before, and public resources for affordable

housing and services are shrinking, it is vital that we take the necessary steps to support innovation, identify successes, and encourage the adoption of these emerging successful models," said Terri Ludwig, president and CEO of Enterprise.

"Serving the most vulnerable and low-income populations is one of our greatest responsibilities," said Larry Minnix, president and CEO, LeadingAge. "This Learning Collaborative will provide an opportunity for us to identify the essential elements and practices of effective housing plus services models so we can serve these populations to the best of our ability."

For more information on the collaborative, visit www.enterprisecommunity.org/learningcollaborative or www.leadingage.org/learningcollaborative.aspx.



Jane & Phil Button recently moved to Oakwood Common

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BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Joins law firm

Karen L. Boore, a Livonia resident, has joined the law firm of Miller Canfield

as an associate in the Real Estate Group in the Troy office. She focuses her practice on commercial development, economic development incentives, construction law and commercial leasing.

Prior to joining the firm, she served as an intern for U.S. District Court Judge John Corbett O'Meara of the Eastern District of Michigan. She also interned with Wayne County's Economic Development Growth Engine.

Boore received her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Michi-

gan Law School and her B.B.A., with high distinction, from the University of Michigan, Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

Re-elected to board

Joleen Immerfall of Wayne has been re-elected for a third consecutive term to the Blue Cross Complete of Michigan Board of Directors to represent Blue Cross Complete members. Blue Cross Complete serves Medicaid members.

Immerfall, a Blue Cross Complete member, has served as a board member since 2007. She was elected by Blue Cross Complete members. Her third term begins on Jan. 1.

"Serving as a board member gives me the opportunity to learn about the benefits Blue

Cross Complete offers its membership, and address member concerns with my peers," said Immerfall.

Immerfall looks forward to continuing to be the members' voice and is especially interested in what Blue Cross Complete does to improve lead screening rates among children.

A devoted grandmother, wife and mother, Immerfall has been a licensed practical nurse and also served as past president of the Council of Catholic Women in Washtenaw County. In April, BlueCaid of Michigan changed its name to Blue Cross Complete of Michigan to recognize its affiliation with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and expanded its service area to include all areas within Wayne County.

OUR VIEWS

Be smart and safe Don't let alcohol ruin holidays

Let's start this off with a very sobering statistic: In 2010, 17 million people admitted to driving drunk. If they had their own state, it would be the fifth largest in the U.S.

Yes, this is that editorial that most media companies feel obligated to write every year around this time. Frankly, by now we were really hoping to be preaching to the choir. Unfortunately, that's not the case.

The holiday season, which is considered Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, is a traditional time for families and friends to get together to enjoy food, laughs, fellowship, gifts, memories and love.

Often, alcohol is included in these celebrations. We don't condone or condemn it. But when those who imbibe decide to get behind the wheel and risk ruining and taking lives, that's a different story.

Yes, it's true that overall the number of annual drunken driving deaths has been cut in half since Mothers Against Drunk Driving formed in 1980.

However, MADD also reports that there has been an increase in the proportion of drunk driving deaths around the holidays. The percentage of Christmas holiday highway deaths jumped from 32 percent to 37 percent from 2008 to 2010. Likewise, New Year's holiday deaths went from 41 to 48 in that time period.

For some reason, people still aren't getting it — especially those who have already been down that road. About one-third of all drivers arrested or convicted of driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence of alcohol are repeat offenders.

Statistically, we know that males are more likely than females to drive under the influence of alcohol. And we know that the ages of 21-25 make up the highest percentage, with rates declining after 25.

But, regardless of gender or age, the average person metabolizes alcohol at the rate of about one drink per hour. It doesn't matter what you're drinking, either. A 12-ounce beer, a glass of wine, a standard mixed drink — they all contain about .54 ounces of alcohol. Impairment is based on amount of alcohol, not type.

And alcohol, unlike food, doesn't have to be digested slowly. If you drink faster than alcohol can be eliminated, it accumulates in your body, which means higher levels of alcohol in your blood.

Now this part is important to remember — only time will sober a person up! So don't fool yourself into believing that drinking strong coffee or energy drinks, exercising or taking a cold shower will help. Neither will eating a pizza, turning up the car radio or rolling down the windows.

If you know you're going to be drinking, plan ahead so you're not driving. Designate a sober driver. Take alternative transportation (i.e. a cab, a limo, a bus). Call a relative or friend to pick you up.

Or, just stay where you're at. Hosts who throw parties with alcohol should be prepared to offer lodging to their guests who have had too much to drink. (In fact, it's a good idea to gather car keys when guests arrive.)

Recent events have made all of us realize just how precious is life. Every day, about 28 people die as a result of drunk driving crashes. The time to end this is long overdue. Simply stated: Enjoy the holidays, but please don't drink and drive.

TYPES OF CHARGES

According to Michigan law, violations for Operating While Intoxicated include:

- Alcohol or drugs in your body substantially affected your ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.
- A bodily alcohol content (BAC) at or above 0.08. This level can be determined through a chemical test.
- High BAC means the alcohol level in your body was at or above 0.17. This level can be determined through a chemical test.



COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your one wish for the country in 2013?



"A better economy. That's probably what everyone wants."

Robert Rowe
Canton



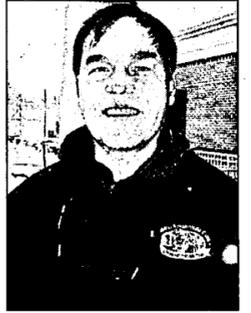
"The economy to get better, first and foremost. Then maybe people will be nicer to each other."

Pawona Lewis
Canton



"Fiscal responsibility. We need to get it solved."

Ruth Rosenberg
Canton



"I want to see President Obama's agenda be successful in terms of the fiscal crisis and gun control. These two items seem to be paramount, and I wish us well."

Brian Hermes
Plymouth



"For everybody to come together. Quit blaming the people in the other party and just figure it out."

Kathy Theodore (with grandson Nathan)
Plymouth



"After Sandy Hook, I'd like to see a little more gun control."

Jeff Brown
West Bloomfield



"Peace."

Jim Forsthoefel
Plymouth



"For Obamacare to get overturned."

Teri Sage
Livonia



"I'd like the country to return to more values. Because I'm a Christian, I think we need to get back to a belief in God, valuing life and respecting others."

Rebecca Byars
Garden City



"To live in peace. For world peace."

Margaret Hughes
Westland



"Restart and refocus in America to get jobs in this country and bring down unemployment, rather than losing jobs to other countries."

Heather Dixon
Livonia



"My hope is that it will be better in 2013 ... less political, less confusing."

Suzie Skorupa
Westland



"Peace and happiness."

Summer Saffold, 15
Farmington



"Justin Verlander wins his second MVP. It would be good for Detroit, and the Detroit economy would revive, and that would be good for the country."

Jason Poblacion
Farmington Hills



"Less violence, more harmony. We need more patience with each other."

Christine Bezy
Farmington



"I hope that America will have more jobs; we'll be at peace overseas, and our country will be on the way up, not down."

Barbara Bridges
Garden City



"My hope is that the country can pull together and do the things that need to be done. It won't be easy."

Billy Pate
Garden City



"I hope that the economy grows, that people can see without colored eyes and get rid of the meanness."

Bonnie Sue Olds-Asbury
Wayne



"I'm hoping that the government can work together to resolve the issues. They need to set aside their problems and work together."

Lorene Waybrant
Westland



"Hopefully, they can make a decision about the fiscal cliff. As a small business person, if they don't we're screwed."

William Long
Wayne

Weary travelers find a friend in airport Ambassadors

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Tom Beyersdorf remembers well the day he stood in a Tokyo train station looking at a dazzling display board when a voice said, "Can I help you?" The assistance he received was much appreciated and led to an important decision — someday he would "pay it forward."

The retired executive director of Gift of Life Michigan, Beyersdorf has traded in his business suit for the red vest of an ambassador at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, helping travelers and guests navigate the 17th busiest airport in the country.

"Airport junkies like me like hanging out here, it's fun out here," the Northville resident said. "I get to help people who are confused or distressed or even blind. You have to put yourself in their frame of mind to do it."

Beyersdorf is part of a cadre of 65 volunteers who belong to the Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit's Airport Ambassador Program. They work an average of four hours a week, manning five booths — two in the North Terminal and three in the McNamara Terminal — and serving as an information conduit for travelers.

"I think the ambassadors are very important," said James Kelly, executive director of the Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit. "They're on the front line of customer service at the airport. They're here to serve the public and help the airport to achieve its goals."

There to help

More than 30 million people pass through the Detroit Metropolitan Airport each year, and it is the ambassadors who are there to help them. Seniors, people with special needs, children traveling alone, business and foreign travelers can count on the ambassadors for assistance. They also connect lost passengers and families and provide resources for people who are stranded at the airport.

"Any holiday is a busy time and bad weather can have an impact," Kelly said. "Our people help people get to where they can be comfortable."

The program also is part of an international network. The ambassadors wear a red vest so people can find them, Kelly said. He added that the ambassadors get more than 200,000 requests each year for assistance. With Metro Airport serving as a primary gateway to Asia for Delta Airlines, a lot of requests come from China. One request came several weeks ago to help a couple who spoke no English and faced a three-hour layover in Detroit. Photos were supplied so the ambassadors could locate them quickly.

"We've been asked why we get so much contact from China," Kelly said.

"Our name pops up in a blog over there."

The Travelers Aid Society has been around since the early 1900s. It helped families during the Depression, worked with the USO during World War II and is now helping those who are homeless. It's been involved with the airport since 1948, serving as a link between travelers, Wayne County Airport Authority and the entire airport community.

"The airport has something designed for returning veterans," Sharon Kelly said. "It was something we did, but we couldn't keep it up. A group of veterans has created a lounge for returning veterans."

'Love people'

Many of the volunteers are retirees like Beyersdorf and Sharon Kelly of Trenton. Kelly has been an ambassador for more than eight years. She worked in fleet service for Northwest Airlines and decided to come back to the airport after retiring.

"I love people, I love helping people," she said.



Ambassadors Tom Beyersdorf of Northville and Sharon Kelly of Trenton work the information booth in the baggage claims area of the North Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

"It's what makes me feel good. You have to like people and have patience. If you don't, don't volunteer."

Good was how she felt after recently helping a woman who had lost her passport. Kelly went with her to look for it all over the airport.

"We found it in the nick of time," she said. "She

was from India and wanted to go home. She was in tears, and when she found it she was so happy and grateful. She hugged me."

"Instead of telling her what to do, I went with her," she added.

Kelly admits she has learned a lot from Beyersdorf. He's good at giving directions and looking up

AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Volunteer airport ambassadors are needed by the Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit to assist people at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Volunteers can work as much as they want. The information booths are open 12 hours a day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Most volunteers work four hours per week. A lot of what they do is answer basic questions, such as "Where do I claim my luggage?" or "How do I get to my rental car agency?" but they also help a lot of very stressed travelers who have much bigger issues.

Among the benefits is free parking, even when a volunteer isn't working. Volunteers also receive an airport badge that not only gets them through security without a boarding pass, but provides discounts on food and at the gift shops at any airport in the country. Discounts can range from 10 to 20 percent.

For more information on the Airport Ambassador Volunteer Program, contact the Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit at (313) 962-6740, toll-free at (800) 207-1771 or by email at volunteer@tasmd.org. The organization's website is www.TravelersAidDetroit.org.

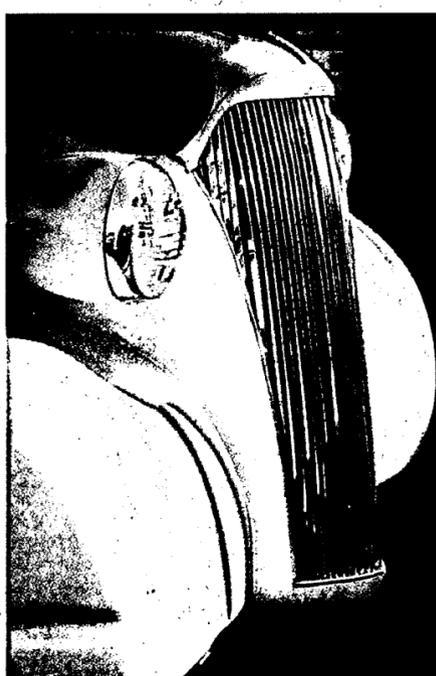
things on the Internet. "He's taught me a lot about bus schedules," she added.

And being a part of the Ambassadors Program doesn't preclude a person from getting help.

James Kelly was on his way back from a conference and was in Chicago

when he was approached by a Travelers Aid volunteer.

"I was coming home from a Travelers Aid conference and after 14 hours, I wanted to get home," he said. "I heard someone tell me, 'You look like you could really use some help.'"



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UNIFORMS

Continued from page A1

give the story that goes with the uniform."

The Spad is a French SPAD XII World War I fighter that a group of volunteers have been building from scratch using the original blueprints. The plane will look as it did as part of 103d Aero Squadron in 1918, complete with the Hat in the Ring emblem.

Gerych sounds like a walking encyclopedia when talking about the uniforms. His interest in collecting began when he was nine years old. His grandfather, a World War II veteran, took him to gun shows and would "buy me stuff to keep me quiet."

A veteran himself, Gerych was studying for his master's degree in history and was required to do community service during one semester. His father-in-law wanted to volunteer at the museum and one thing led to another.

Gerych wanted to work on airplanes, but that was in flux, so he went into collections. It's been "very interesting" and he's learned a lot, he said. Now the two men are working on making the museum's catalog system better.

"When we find something in the collection, we search to see if a number exists for it, sometimes we find it was brought in and not cataloged," said Wygant who was working on a pair of Vietnam jungle boots. "They're not in the system, so I have to track them back."

Painted jacket

In addition to uniforms, the collection includes such things as a hard-to-get painted bomber jacket belonging to J.D. Asmussen who was credited with seven kills as a member of the crew of the Yankee Queen.

The collection also includes World War I avi-



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Scott Gerych and volunteers in the collections room are working to organize the 300-400 uniforms that have been donated to the Yankee Air Museum.



The museum will be reorganizing displays that will take visitors from World War I through the Iraq and Afghan wars.

ator uniform Henry Rex Waddell, who was a personal secretary for the Ford family, Marie Mountain Clark who was a Women's Air Force Service Pilot during World War II, and her husband, John Alden Clark, a B-17 pilot.

Waddell's uniform is in a display case near where the World War I fighter is being built.

The museum also has

several North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong uniforms. And in boxes in the collections room are items such as Nazi banners. While some people don't think the flags should be shown, it was the flag and flew in Germany in the 1930s through 1945, Gerych said.

"One thing my father-in-law says is that if it wasn't for Germany and

Personal info helps tell story

Knowing more about the clothing and artifacts donated is important to the Yankee Air Museum which is participating in the Veterans Oral History Project.

The information provides a story of the uniform beyond what can be determined by looking at the patches which can tell the last name of the person who wore it, what unit the person was in, where he or she served and in what branch of the military.

A case in point: the uniform and artifacts of a World War I aviator Henry Rex Waddell which is on display in the museum near where volunteers are building a French SPAD.

A native of Port Lambton, Ontario, Waddell was enrolled in the University of Michigan School of Engineering when he left in 1915 to join the Canadian Regiment and become a Royal Flying Corps pilot and flight instructor in England. He also piloted a Handley Page bomber and patrolled the North Sea before being reassigned to France just before the Armistice began on Nov. 11, 1918.

After being discharged from the service, he worked for a nickel mining company in Ontario before taking a job at Henry Ford's Dearborn

Publishing. He was transferred by Henry Ford to his office in 1924 and the next year was introduced by Ford to his future wife, Etha Peabody. The couple was married in 1926.

Waddell went on to serve as the personal secretary of the Fords and later joined Ford Archives where he worked until he retired in 1979.

The museum also has uniforms and personal artifacts donated by Marie Mountain Clark, who was a Women's Air Force Service pilot during World War II, and her husband, John Alden Clark, who served in the 8th Air Force 100th Bomb Group and flew 32 missions over Germany.

While those are some of the "stars" of the collection, the museum also is looking for donations from others.

Veterans and their families who would like to make donations can bring items can contact Pete Stowe who is at the museum Tuesday through Thursday. Call (734) 483-4030, Ext. 255, to schedule an appointment.

The Yankee Air Museum is at 47884 D St., west of Beck Road, in Van Buren Township. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



J.D. Asmussen's bomber jacket is painted on the back with a picture of the Yankee Queen and seven swastikas representing his number of planes shot down.

Japan, we wouldn't have had a bomber plant in Detroit," said Gerych. "They started the war and we responded."

While Gerych would like younger veterans of recent wars to consider making donations, he can understand them wanting to pass it down to their kids. He recommends that they take care of their items. The collections room has the distinct aroma of moth balls and some of the wool uniforms are moth eaten.

People can call and make an appointment to drop off items, and museum volunteers will go out and pick up donations.

"We're not just looking for uniforms, we really need the average soldier stuff - uniforms and personal effects," Gerych said.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The donation from Henry Rex Waddell included his World War I uniform, leather and wool aviator caps and goggles.

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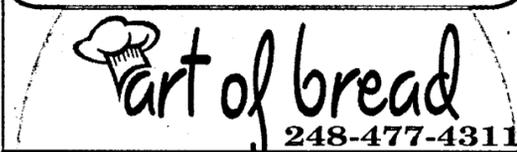
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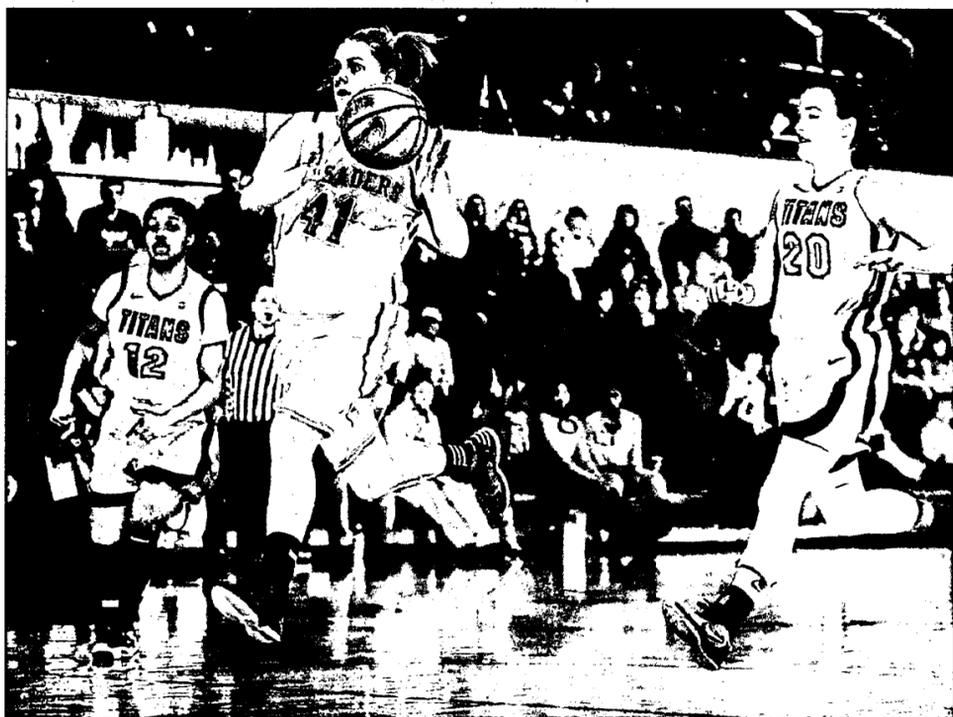
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TIM BUSCH | TBSPORTPIX.COM
Madonna's Kaylee McGrath (41) goes in for the uncontested layup being pursued by Detroit's Demeisha Fambro (left) and Megan Hatter (right) during Saturday's game at Calihan Hall.

Out of its league

Madonna no match for Lady Titans

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University women's basketball team bit off more than it could chew, facing its third NCAA Division I opponent of the season Saturday.

The Crusaders, who made respectable showings in losses to Eastern Michigan University, 75-64 (exhibition), and Bowling Green, 68-57, got demolished Saturday by host Detroit Mercy, 90-43, at Calihan Hall.

Detroit, led by the nation's leading scorer Shareta Brown's

game-high 28, improved to 7-4 overall.

The Crusaders, getting 11 points apiece from Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) and Michelle Lindsey, fall to 6-5.

The Lady Titans came out and hit their first seven shots from the floor during the first 4:48 to take a 16-8 lead and the rout was on.

The Lady Titans went up 42-20 at halftime as Canton native Rosanna Reynolds, a 5-foot-10 freshman point guard from Dearborn Divine Child, had 13 points, while Brown added 10.

Detroit's dominance was most evident in the paint, as it out-scored MU 56-16.

Brown, a 6-1 sophomore from Grand Blanc, made 13-of-15 shots from the floor to lead five Titans in double figures.

"It was all Brown, they got 56 points in the paint," Madonna coach Carl Graves said. "Literally, our last three practices, that's all we worked on, so I was really disappointed. She (Brown) finishes with contact. I thought we were in good posi-

Please see MADONNA, B4

Govantes earns first in County

See complete tournament results, B2.

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

You can never count Immanuel Govantes out of a match.

And that was never more evident than Saturday, as the senior from Farmington rallied to pin Novi Detroit Catholic Central's

Myles Amine with 10 seconds remaining in the second period to earn the 130-pound weight class title at the 53rd annual Oakland County Wrestling Championships held at Lake Orion.

"Immanuel was behind in match points with all three of his matches Saturday," Farmington coach Al Beyar said. "He will always give you his best effort, and with his athleticism, you always have a chance to win the match with a pin."

Govantes, now 17-1 overall, was selected as the meet's lower weights MVP and became the first Oakland County champion for the Falcons since Matt Michalski captured back-to-back titles in 1994-95.

Catholic Central, the top-ranked team in Division 1 and defending MHSAA champion, captured the team title with 347 points, with Oxford (278), Rochester (264.5), Clarkston (239) and the host Dragons (207) rounding out the top five in the 39-school field.

Individual champions for CC included Trevor Zdebski (119), Evan Toth (125), Drew Garcia

Please see WRESTLING, B2

Barber earns USA position

Miami (Ohio) University freshman forward Riley Barber (Livonia), the Central Collegiate Hockey Association's leading point producer, has earned a roster spot on the U.S. Junior National team that will compete Dec. 26 through Jan. 5 in the International Hockey Federation World Junior Championship in Ufa, Russia.

Barber is the seventh Miami player to earn a Team USA spot at the World Juniors. The sixth-round pick of the Washington Capitals previously helped Team USA to a gold medal at the 2012 U-18 World Championships.



Govantes

Prep harrier going to CIU

Farmington High School senior Drew Lindman has signed a national letter of intent with Columbia (S.C.) International University



Lindman

to run cross country for the Rams.

Lindman was a four-year varsity runner for the Falcons, ending his career at the Division 1 state meet in November with a personal best time of 16:35 that placed him in the top half (120th) of the competition.

From a field of 45 applicants, Lindman was selected the winner of the McQuilkin Scholarship to attend CIU, a member of the National Christian College Athletic Association.

Falcons pay back Flyers in OT, 2-1

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Farmington High turned the tables Saturday night on its rival North Farmington-Harrison Flyers for a 2-1 overtime boys hockey victory at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

With 4:48 remaining in OT, Farmington senior assistant captain Cooper McLean picked up the puck along the left boards, moved just inside the faceoff circle, and scored the game-winner off an assist from Austin Meltzer.

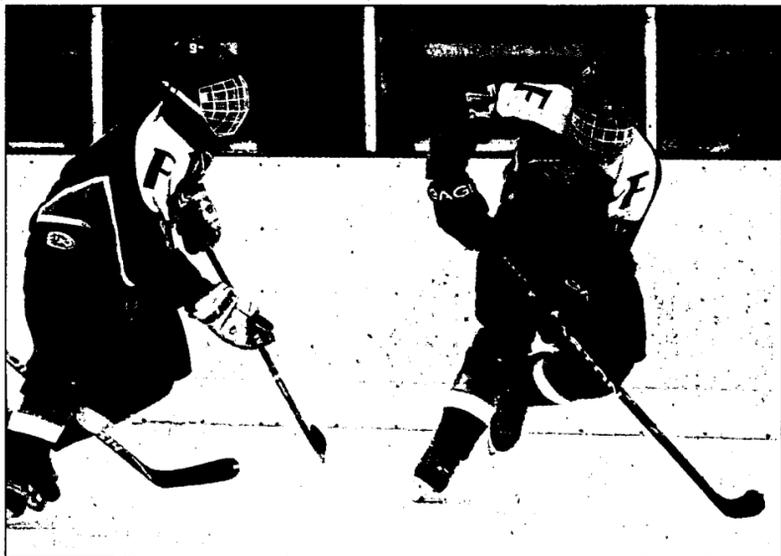
The Falcons, who improved to 5-4-1 overall and 1-0-2 in the Oakland Activities Association's Red Division, avenged a 3-0 setback to the Flyers on Nov. 21 when they were outshot 48-17.

"It was a great night for hockey in Farmington — two evenly matched teams that played their hearts out," Farmington coach Mark Vellucci said. "It was a big crowd and they got their money's worth."

After a scoreless opening period, Farmington senior Nick Gensheimer unloaded a shot from the high slot and scored 43 seconds into the second period off an assist from McLean to make it 1-0.

But the Flyers (6-4-1, 2-1-1) evened the count at 1-1 on senior Noah Downs' goal from the high slot off a rebound from assists by Sean Devlin and Roman Firestone at 11:22 of the second period.

Farmington goaltender John Lethemon sparked in net by making 27-of-28 saves, including three in



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Cooper McLean (77) scored the winning goal in Farmington's 2-1 overtime victory over the rival Flyers Saturday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

the overtime. Meanwhile, the Flyers' Hunter Myers stopped 24-of-26 shots, including two in OT.

"Both goalies were very good," Vellucci said. "Both Cooper (McLean) and Nick (Gen-

sheimer) were standouts up front and we basically went with four defensemen all night, led by D.J. Rankin."

The Falcons took eight penalties to the Flyers' three, but were able to fight off every North-

Harrison power play opportunity, including one in OT.

"Special teams won the game for us," Vellucci said.

bemons@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6851

GC alumni hoops game

The Garden City girls basketball program will host its annual alumni game Thursday, Jan. 3, in the high school gymnasium. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and opening tip is set for 6:30 p.m.

All former Garden City High School girls basketball players are invited to participate in the doubleheader, which will pit former Cougars against the current JV squad in the opener and current varsity players in the nightcap.

For more information, email head coach and former player Michele Tyree at tyreem@gardencityschools.com.

MU adds trio

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger announced the signing of three players for the 2014 season, including Thomas Daffern and Sean Ritchey, both of district champion Grand Blanc, along with Alec Padilla of Romeo.

As a junior, Daffern played infield and hit .378 with six homers and 12 doubles en route to all-KLAA and all-district honors, while Ritchey, an outfielder and catcher, posted a 17-game hitting streak while batting .375 and making all-KLAA and all-district honors.

Padilla, a 6-foot-4-right-handed pitcher, posted a 1.92 earned-run average as a junior, leading Romeo Conference and district titles.

Chargers tie, unbeaten streak goes to five

Livonia Churchill ran its unbeaten streak to five games, but had to settle for a 3-3 KLAA Kensington Conference boys hockey tie last Friday night with host Northville at Novi Ice Arena.

Churchill, now 5-4-1 overall and 3-2-1 in the KLAA's South Division, took a 2-0 first-period lead on goals by Brad Milks (from Riley Brown and Evan Gibboney) and Nick Misiak (from Brown and Milks).

Northville (5-3-2, 2-2-2 KLAA Central) tied it with a pair of goals in the second, with Ben Crabil notching a power-play goal from Ryan Bloom and Alex Morgan, followed by Alex Shuart's

BOYS HOCKEY

short-handed goal from Buddy DeBrabander with 11 seconds left.

Churchill regained the lead, 3-2, just 41 seconds into the third on Tommy Carey's power-play goal from Brown and Milks.

Northville responded with a power-play goal at 3:30 (from Alec Melucci and DeBrabander).

Churchill freshman goaltender Alec Calvaruso made 14 saves, while Northville's Jake Pawloski had 22 stops.

FARMINGTON 2, LAKE ORION 1: Junior Nick Kozoro's goal with 1:49 remaining in overtime Thursday won the game for the Falcons (4-4-1, 1-0-2).

The victory counts as an

overall win for Farmington, but it goes down as a tie game in the OAA Red Division.

Kozoro was assisted on the even-strength goal by DJ Rankin and Drake Cole.

The game was scoreless until 9:17 in the third period, when Farmington junior Roman Firestone scored on a power play from Austin Meltzer.

The Dragons (3-6-1, 1-1-1) sent the game to overtime with Connor Moesta's power-play goal with 1:59 to play in regulation time.

The Falcons had a 37-35 edge in shots on goal. John Lethemon made 34 saves for Farmington, Logan Aldrich 35 for Lake Orion.

SALEM 10, FRANKLIN 4: On Dec. 19, Jake Fedel notched a hat trick leading the Rocks (5-2, 3-2) to a Kensington Conference crossover victory over host Livonia Franklin (3-5-1, 1-3) at Edgar Arena.

Noah Miller and Jason Newel

each added two goals for Salem, which led 3-0 after one period and 6-2 after two.

Alek Zultowski, Jake Sealy and Kyle Downey also tallied a goal each for the Rocks.

"Salem played well and finished," Franklin coach Dennis Gagnon said. "We had several good chances, but were unable to finish. We gave up way too many quality chances in the red zone in front of our net. That's something we will work on — taking away the opponents' stick in front of our net."

Franklin scored twice in the second period — Richie Wiczorek (from C.J. Cromie and Ryan Pace) and Adam Stadler (from Josh Dudek and Daniel Pedersen).

The Patriots got two more in the third period — Greg Bo (from Bailey DiClemente and Wiczorek) and Tyler Morrison (from Alex Stavar and Pace).

Franklin goaltender Sean Reeves-Carson, making his

first start, faced 34 shots, while Anthony Veresan was in goal for Salem.

CRESTWOOD/GC UNIFIED 6, AIRPORT 0: Unified senior forward Matt Kirunchyk notched a hat-trick to lead the Chargers to an emphatic victory over Airport in a game played Tuesday night at Canfield Ice Arena.

Both teams unleashed 25 shots.

Justin Sims, Matt Sandburg and Joey Testane also lit the lamp for the winners. Kirunchyk, Lucas Johnston, Steve Bennett, Scott Bleim, Micki Nanovski, Wil McDonald and Chris Greco recorded assists.

The Chargers led just 2-0 after two periods before turning on the after-burners in the third.

Greco made 25 saves to record his first prep shutout.

"We limited any quality

Please see ICERS, B2

Crossroads Ceili

Add Irish dancing, music to your holiday entertainment

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Mick Gavin wants to help you get your New Year's celebration started early — and with an Irish flair. The Redford resident, who teaches Irish fiddle, will bring family, friends and fellow musicians together Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29, at The Ark in Ann Arbor, for two nights of Celtic song and dance in a post-Christmas, pre-New Year's concert known as Crossroads Ceili.

The Ark calls the gathering "a great way to mark the turning of the year."

Gavin says it's a passion that started 16 years ago when The Ark's director suggested he stage a concert between Christmas and New Year's Day. Gavin dubbed the event Crossroads Ceili after the tradition of Irish villagers who met at crossroads for fairs, markets and performances.

"It wasn't originally two days, but we had

so many people show up when we first started that one night there were 300 people waiting outside the door. We needed two nights," he said. "I think we're going to have a huge turnout again this year."

The musicians engage the audience in singing along to a few Christmas songs — and last year they did *Auld Lang Syne* — but most of the concert is pure Irish folk music, performed by Gavin and friends, informally known as "the Crossroads Ceili gang," along with nationally known acts.

The local musicians and dancers he'll bring together this year include Michael and Colleen Gavin — Mick Gavin's son and daughter-in-law — on fiddle, banjo, flute, and tin whistle; all-Ireland champion fiddlers Holland Raper and Kelsey Lutz; all-Ireland gold medal winning harpist Siobhan McKinney; Ray Maguire on flute, whistle guitar and songs; five children



Brian Cunningham, director, producer and lead dancer of the Atlantic Steps, will perform at Crossroads Ceili in Ann Arbor.

from the Dollowy family of Plymouth, on fiddles, banjo and step-dance; and Lance Wagner on piano.

Big party

"It's really a community group. There are some students, like the Dollowy kids. I like them to come as a family and I have other students as well," said Gavin, who has known many of the musicians since they were children, having either taught them or per-

formed with their parents.

"It's amazing the way people know each other through music and they actually learn tunes and stories from each other. This year we'll be doing *The Long Journey Home*," he said, referring to the song written by Paddy Moloney of The Chieftains and Elvis Costello. "We're trying to get the (Dollowy) girls to do *Caledonia*. We'll probably have guest dancers from the audience. It's not a free-for-all, but it's

open for performers who are legit, who are accomplished. I try to make it a party, like a big Christmas ceili.

"It's coordinated around Bua. They are going to be calling the shots."

Nationally-known band

Gavin is especially proud of Bua, the featured quartet from Chicago, Ill., that includes his son, Sean, on flute, uilleann pipes, and whistle. The band plays Irish tra-

16TH ANNUAL CROSSROADS CEILI

When: Doors open 7 p.m., concert starts 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29

Where: The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor

What: Mick Gavin and Friends perform Celtic music and share the stage with nationally known headliner, Bua. Shows also feature dancer Nic Gareiss, dancer Brian Cunningham, and soprano Katie Else

Admission: \$15. Get tickets online at theark.org; by phone at (734) 763-TKTS; in person at the Ark box office, 316 Main or the Michigan Union, 530 S. State, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 761-1451 or (313) 537-3489

ditional music and tours extensively. Gavin hopes to have Bua's CDs on hand at the shows.

In addition to Sean Gavin, Bua includes Brian Miller on guitar, bouzouki, backing vocals; Devin Shepherd on fiddle; and Brian O'Hair on vocals, sean-nós dance, concertina.

"I have great admiration for the youngsters in Bua because of their approach. They play the tunes in unbelievable traditional Irish fashion. The songs are historic, they are ancient, from another day. A lot of credit is due for their digging so deep."

Other featured performers will include Nic Gareiss, who has danced as a featured soloist with such bands as The Chieftains, Solas and Dervish; Brian Cunningham, an "old-style, traditional" dancer; and Katie Else, a vocalist from Detroit who has toured with River-



Bua headlines the Crossroads Ceili concert, Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29 at The Ark in Ann Arbor.



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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. Thursday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2013; 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29; and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30

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-Sun-

day, 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.;

Please see GET OUT!, B7

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GET OUT!

Continued from page B6

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 Nativ. Tri-cia Lloyd will serve as host. Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFPresident@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



Peter Oprisko will sing a tribute to Frank Sinatra Jan. 12, 2013 at the Farmington Players Barn.

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://recg.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

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Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

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Contact: (248) 541-5717

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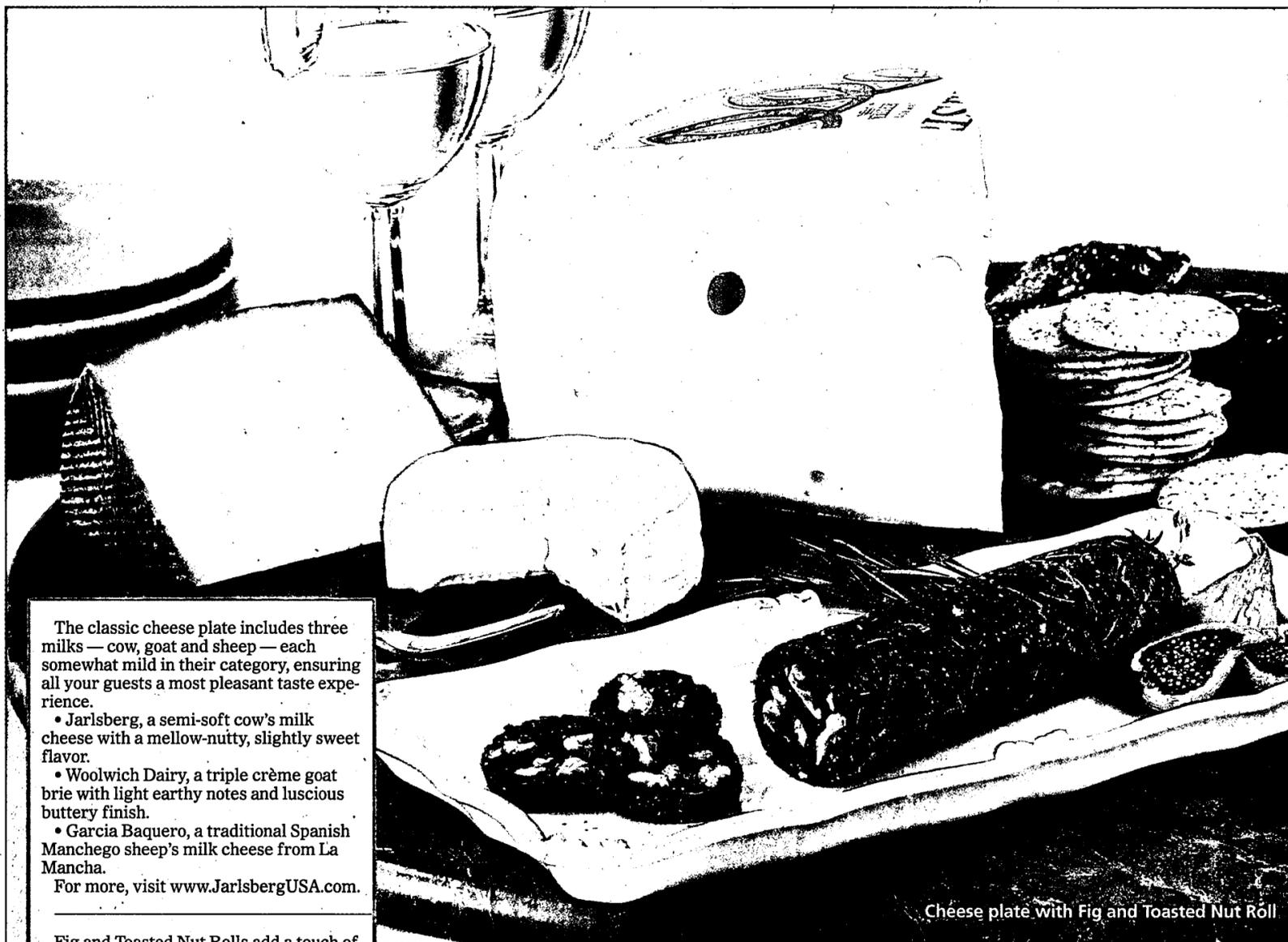
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Cheese plate with Fig and Toasted Nut Roll

Amazing PARTY BITES



Fig, Beef and Olive Empanaditas

Fig, Beef and Olive Empanaditas

Makes 28 to 30 empanaditas

- ½ pound lean (15 percent fat) ground beef
- ½ cup finely chopped green bell pepper
- ½ cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped or pressed
- 1 cup chopped stemmed Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid figs
- ½ cup finely chopped pimento-stuffed olives
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 ¼ teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 ¼ teaspoons dried crumbled oregano
- ½ to 1 teaspoon hot sauce
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 refrigerated pie crusts for 9-inch pie (1 ½ packages, 14.1 ounces each)

1 egg, lightly beaten with 1 tablespoon water
Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add beef, bell pepper, onion and garlic. Cook, stirring often and crumbling meat into small pieces, until meat is browned and cooked through. Remove from heat and stir in figs, olives, tomato paste, cumin, oregano, hot sauce and salt. Blend well. Cool.

Preheat oven to 375°F.
Let dough rest at room temperature 15 minutes. Working with one pie crust at a time, unfold dough on lightly floured surface. With 3 ½-inch-round cookie cutter, cut out 8 dough circles from each crust. (Save dough scraps; combine and roll to cut out 6 additional dough circles.)

Brush rim of each circle with beaten egg. Place 1 tablespoon filling in center of a circle and fold to make a half-moon shape. Press edge to seal; flute edge if desired. Place on a lightly oiled baking sheet. Brush tops with egg mixture.

Bake 1 sheet at a time for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.

Hosting a New Year's party? Add some magic to the festivities with these enticing bites. The cheese and fruit plate is simple yet stylish and acts as a tantalizing table centerpiece. The appetizers — stuffed and studded with luscious bits of fig, cheese and seasonal spices — are the perfect party size.

Fig and Toasted Nut Roll

Makes 28 to 30 servings

- 14 ounces Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid Mission figs (2 cups)
- 2 teaspoons finely grated lemon or orange zest
- ¾ cup toasted, blanched whole almonds, toasted walnut pieces, roasted marcona almonds (without skins) or roasted mixed nuts without peanuts

Remove and discard fig stems. Cut figs into quarters. Place in bowl of food processor with lemon or orange zest and process until figs are finely chopped and form a paste, stopping to scrape bowl once or twice as needed.

Turn fig mixture out of bowl onto a piece of parchment paper. If nuts are large, cut into halves or quarters. Work nuts into fig mixture, distributing evenly and covering nuts completely with fig mixture. Form mixture into a compact 8-inch-long log. Wrap parchment paper around log, folding in ends to seal. Place in a plastic bag and seal bag. Chill for 12 to 24 hours.

To serve, unwrap and cut with sharp knife into thin (about ¼-inch) slices. Serve with cheese.

Stuffed Fondue Meatballs with Fig Honey Balsamic Glaze

Makes 18 meatballs

- 1 large head garlic
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, peeled and sliced into ½-inch rings
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoons sweet Riesling wine (or balsamic vinegar)
- ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper
- ½ pound each ground pork sausage and ground beef
- 1 tablespoon Fig Honey Balsamic Glaze mixed with ½ teaspoon each salt, pepper and allspice (or nutmeg)
- 1 1½-ounce piece of Jarlsberg, cut into 18 ½-inch cubes

Make Fig Honey Balsamic Glaze (recipe follows). Preheat oven to 375°F. Cut across the top of garlic head, then place cut side up in heavy aluminum foil. Pour olive oil over exposed cloves, before enclosing garlic in foil, and place in oven to bake 45 minutes.

Place onion rings in a baking dish. Toss with 1 tablespoon each olive oil and wine (or balsamic vinegar); sprinkle with salt and pepper and bake 45 minutes at 375°F. At ½-hour mark, toss onion rings with 1 tablespoon more wine (or balsamic). When garlic and onions are cool enough to handle, remove garlic cloves from skins and combine with



Stuffed Fondue Meatballs with Fig Honey Balsamic Glaze

onion in food processor, pulsing to coarsely chop to produce ½ cup. Reserve ¼ cup for another use.

In large mixing bowl, gently combine pork sausage and beef with glaze plus ¼ cup roasted garlic/onion mixture. Using 1 tablespoon measure to scoop meat (a 1-ounce portion), place Jarlsberg cube in center before shaping into 1 ¼-inch-sized meatballs.

Place meatballs about 2 inches apart on foil-lined baking sheet and bake at 375°F for 15 minutes. Transfer meatballs into small serve-style baking dish and drizzle with remaining glaze.

Fig Honey Balsamic Glaze

- ½ cup honey
- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- 8 Calimyrna dried figs, stemmed and quartered
- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon allspice (or nutmeg)
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme

In saucepan, mix honey with water, vinegar, figs, brown sugar and allspice. Simmer on very low heat about 45 minutes — adding rosemary and thyme for last 15 — until liquid is reduced to half (the consistency of molasses). Remove herbs before separating liquid glaze from figs. You should have generous ¼ cup.

Note: Process figs until smooth and, if you'd like, add reserved ¼ cup onion/garlic mixture. Use as a spread, or add to stews and sauces.

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 EPA figure
4 Equinox mo.
8 Made with cream
12 I knew it!
13 First name in fashion
14 Online auction
15 Humorous verse
17 Marmalade chunk
18 Evade
19 Helms or Owens
20 Wholly absorbed
23 Edible seed
24 Appear
25 Painters' gear
29 Gridiron stats
30 Saguaro
32 Buddy
33 Flabbergast
35 Hairy humanoid
36 Diver's milieu
37 Most downcast

DOWN

1 — de mer
2 Honor society letter
3 Herd of whales
4 Pancake topper
5 Oust
6 Hunt's partner
7 For shame!
8 Go over again
9 White wader
10 Dismisses

Answer to Previous Puzzle

```

P L O D H Y P E T S E
E Y R E Y E G G W A N
A R C S D W A R F I N G
R E A P E R S E A G E R
O V A S S N
E L A T E T I S S U E S
L A Y P V C M O A
I C E A X E S L A P E L
M A C M T S
W A X E N A U D I T O R
R E M N A N T S M I D I
I R E D O E S O R E O
T O N U R E Y V E S T
    
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11 Jekyll's alter ego
16 Red-waxed cheese
19 "Star Wars" knight

20 This, in Barcelona
21 Rorem and Beatty
22 Take 10
23 Serving of butter
25 Arith. term
26 Fencer's weapon
27 Charlie Brown epithet
28 Gill opening
30 Salad veggie
31 Whichever
34 Fish-eating hawk
35 Festive log
37 Daniel or Debby
38 Holds up
39 Certain trumpeter
40 Late-night Jay
41 Feedbag morsels
42 Chimney
44 Mav's foe
45 LP spinners
46 Cash substitute
47 Society column word

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			8					
9	4				6		8	
8	6	4	9					
		9	3					
5	4	9	7	6		8		
7	8	3	5		1		2	
		7				3	6	
		8	3			5	1	7
5		6	7					4

Level: Beginner

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

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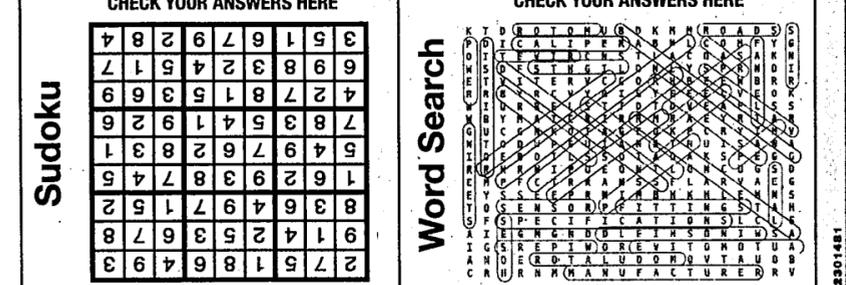
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4	8	9	2	8	1	5	6	3
3	5	1	6	7	9	1	5	8
6	9	3	2	4	5	1	7	8
9	6	6	3	6	8	1	5	3
6	2	6	4	1	9	2	8	7
3	1	8	3	1	6	7	9	5
4	5	8	3	6	2	9	1	7
2	1	5	2	4	6	7	9	8
7	8	3	6	7	8	5	1	4
3	4	9	3	6	7	8	4	9

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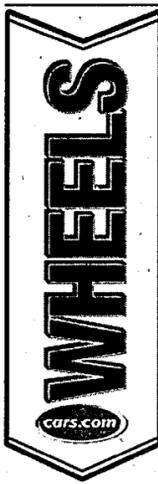
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GMC

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Auto Misc.

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