



The Community Crier

The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth Canton, MI Community

50¢

Vol. 18 No. 45

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December 11, 1991

Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, Mich. 48170

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223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, Mich.



Santa art...

This is the grand prize winner in the 1991 Crier holiday coloring contest. It was designed by Holly Bailey. For more on Holly and the contest see pg. 13.

Local youths perish in Livonia fire

BY STEVE O'LEARY AND ANNA MURRAY

Services for two Canton children killed over the weekend in a fire were held this morning at St. Thomas A'Becket Church.

Five-year-old Nikolaus Mattiello and his 10-year-old sister Angela, both students at Hoben Elementary School, were visiting their father and grandmother in Livonia when fire erupted in the house Friday.

Both children died of smoke inhalation early Saturday morning, according to Livonia Police.

Police said that at the time of the fire the children and their grandmother, Marie Mattiello, 72, were alone in the house on Merriman Court, near Merriman and Seven Mile roads.

Please see pg. 26

Could stadium have been in Northville?

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER
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The Tiger Stadium location rumor game is on again at Sheldon and Five Mile roads — but with a new twist.

Wayne County, which has been wrestling to build a new stadium within its boundaries, owns the former Wayne County Boys Training School 933-acre site which is the proposed location of Huntington Falls upscale residential-research-office-recreational development.

Although the county agreed to sell the site to the Huntington Falls Limited Partnership, led by Robert A. DeMattia, the economic slump has postponed the deal. The county granted a one-year extension on the deal until April, 1992. "We are negotiating," DeMattia said. "It's a timing issue."

However, with Wayne County trying to land the stadium while negotiating between Tiger's owner Tom Monaghan and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, the county-owned site could have become a

Please see pg. 26

Canton DDA's future rides on agreement

BY KEN VOYLES

A new agreement is being considered by the Canton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to end a lawsuit between developer Norm Newman and the township.

But the agreement could mean the end to any future development north of Ford Road, in the heart of the Downtown Development District, and only allow for beautification of the district's perimeter.

The agreement, debated last Wednesday

by the Canton DDA, will again be the focus of discussion when that group meets tonight (Dec. 11).

Tom Yack, Canton's supervisor and a member of the DDA, said a decision

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City resident acquitted in spring arson blaze

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER

A Plymouth man was found not guilty of arson of his dwelling Tuesday afternoon.

Kelly Clark, 38, had been charged Aug. 2 with the March 4 fire of his home at 305 Farmer St.

That blaze destroyed the upstairs apartment of a tenant (who died soon after

from injuries sustained in an unrelated motorcycle accident) and severely damaged Clark's downstairs unit as well.

State Police investigators charged that a "medium distillate" found on the floor upstairs was used to set the blaze.

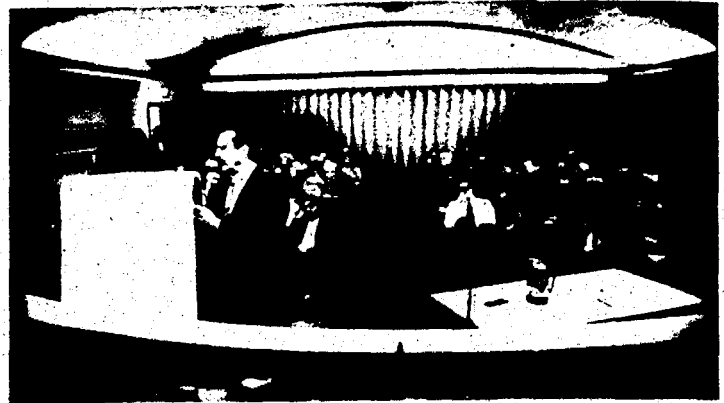
Clark's attorney, Stephen Boak, noted that after a lengthy examination his client was bound over to circuit court by 35th

District Court Judge John MacDonald. The trial yesterday resulted in an acquittal from Wayne County Circuit

Court Judge Dominick Carnovale, took less time and the prosecution called fewer witnesses.



City of Plymouth fire fighters work to put out a blaze on Farmer Street in March of this year. (Crier photo)



Doyle Hyett, of Hyett Palma Inc., moderates full-house discussion about the future of downtown Plymouth at City Hall Monday night. (Crier photo by Eriq Lukaski)

Residents ask for diversity Plymouth in year 2000?

BY ANNA MURRAY

What will downtown Plymouth look like in the year 2000? This was the

question posed by the consulting firm hired by the D.D.A. to Plymouth residents and merchants.

Moderator Doyle Hyett of Hyett Palma Inc., the Washington-based consulting firm, called it a "visioning session."

The vision generated by the 90 people who attended the open meeting was of a diverse downtown, with a wide range of shops and activities including restaurants, night-life, a music store, a shoe store, a bakery, a hardware store, an ice cream parlor and an electronics store.

The customers shopping this downtown of the future would be of all different ages and walks of life. Teens would cease cruising and stop in at the youth center. No shopper would have trouble crossing the street or finding a place to park.

But despite the hopeful ideas generated by many residents, others said they were dissatisfied with the process.

"Nothing came out of it that hasn't come out before. And we had to pay for it," said 35-year Plymouth resident Wilma Newton.

Newton added that issues other than retail need to be addressed in the redevelopment of downtown. Newton also criticized the DDA.

"The DDA itself could have done this. They should be having some really in-depth sessions," she said.

Others were satisfied. Creon Smith, of the Mayflower Hotel, called it "a good start."

Plymouth Mayor Bob Jones said, "There was a lot of good input. I was pleased to see everyone was open. Our next step is to have other open sessions before decisions are made."

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The Community Crier

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Postmaster, send change of address notice to The Community Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170.

Church homeless plans turned down by Twp.

BY ANNA MURRAY

Long ago Mary and Joseph were turned away from the inn. Now those seeking shelter are being turned away from Plymouth Township.

Twice this year First United Methodist Church has requested permission from Plymouth Township to house the homeless and has been denied both times, most recently this past week.

Ted Kuhns, outreach chairperson of First United Methodist wrote two letters to the township, one on July 30 and the other on Nov. 4.

In the letters the church asked if it could house 65 homeless people for seven nights from Jan. 26, 1992 through Feb. 1.

According to Kuhns, the homeless would stay each night from 7 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. and would not be permitted to leave the church. During the day they would be returned to a drop-in shelter in Detroit operated by Cass Community Methodist Church.

First United Methodist would provide food, shelter, security guards and activities, according to Kuhns. No shower facilities would be needed, he said, because such services are provided by the drop-in shelter during the day.

In his letter Kuhns said the problem of homelessness has reached an emergency level. He said the church wanted to help but had no intention of becoming a homeless shelter.

The township responded with a letter from Law, Hemming, Essad and Polaczuk, a law firm representing the

township.

The letter stated that an emergency situation could not be declared unless those affected are within the township borders. The declaration of an emergency would allow the township to set aside zoning requirements.

"Your church has been constructed as a place of assembly and not as a multiple family dwelling," the letter said.

The letter further stated that to use the church as a temporary shelter would be "inconsistent with the surrounding neighborhood."

"We cannot just allow people to do what is in violation of zoning and safety codes," said Township Supervisor Jerry Law. "Then the township would be liable for whatever happened."

Law suggested that if the church wanted to change the zoning that they come before the township planning commission. "I'm not against the homeless," said Law, "but I have no power to supersede township ordinances."

First United Methodist Church Pastor John Grenfell did not wish to go on record criticizing the township, but said he was disappointed that the church would not be able to go through with its plans.

Rev. David Church is pastor of the Newburg Methodist Church in Livonia, which has a shelter program similar to the one First United Methodist is seeking.

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Law could open PO to homeless

BY ANNA MURRAY

The ever-present question of where to house the homeless during the cold winter months may hit closer to home than many people think.

According to a little-known federal law, the homeless could be housed in the U.S. Post Office building in the City of Plymouth.

The Stewart B. McKinney Act, better known as the "homeless act," allows for the use of surplus federal property to house the homeless.

If a group came forward asking to use the post office, said Sam Chambers, head of the Wayne County Department of Social Services, the postmaster general would be required to agree or face a challenge under the law.

"Not a lot of people are sufficiently aware of it to utilize it," said Chambers.

Crier holiday deadlines explained

Due to the upcoming holidays The Community Crier will publish two Saturday editions this month. The final three editions of the year will be next Wednesday (Dec. 18) and then Saturday, Dec. 21 and Saturday, Dec. 28.

Deadlines for next Wednesday's edition are all on Monday, Dec. 16. Display advertising is 3 p.m., while classified advertising is 4 p.m. Items for the news pages of The Crier are due by noon that day.

Deadlines for the Saturday, Dec. 21 edition are all Thursday, Dec. 19. Display

advertising must be in by 2 p.m., while items for the news pages are due by noon that day.

Deadlines for the Saturday, Dec. 28 edition are set for Thursday, Dec. 26 (the day after Christmas). Display advertising is due by 3 p.m., while classified advertising must be turned in by 2 p.m. News briefs are due by noon that day.

The Crier and COMMA, offices will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25 and again on New Year's Day.

Carrier collections for The Crier will be Monday, Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Fred Hill, left, leads the Briefcase Drill Team during the July 4th parade. Hill formed the internationally famous group several years back. (Crier photo)

City booster, businessman shuts down clothes stores

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER

After almost 24 years in business — as "John Smith" and then as "Fred Hill" in men's clothing and as "me and mr. jones" in women's apparel — Fred Hill is closing his doors.

Famous for his marketing vigor, Hill, a city resident, led the Briefcase Brigade to international media fame, served as president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Plymouth Community Fund (United Way) drive, and lately as head of the Thanksgiving Celebration in Kellogg Park.

"Evolution has taken comparative shopping," Hill lamented as he announced his decision last Wednesday to a small group of merchant-city officials-media friends.

Tears were shed at the meeting; others expressed anger at the market-economic conditions that drove Hill to close two of his three stores (the "me and mr. jones petite" store on Ann Arbor Trail will remain in business).

Ironically, the store next door to Hill, Orlandi's men's fashions is also closing. Two doors the other way, Del's Clothing closed. Although a new tenant has agreed to take the Del's space, the building owner says his lease is tied up in federal bankruptcy court and thus three major retail spaces on the downtown's prime

retail block will present papered windows to holiday shoppers and Plymouth International Ice Spectacular crowds.

"I wish I could change that," Hill said of the three empty storefronts. "How do you say you're sorry (for having to close)?" he asked.

Hill said his briefcase team would still march, he would continue on the Downtown Development Authority and "I'll still be here. On Sunday, I'll be welcoming in Santa and on Saturday night my (GOB) signs go up."

Future plans for Hill may include real estate and promotions work, he said.

"There used to be two car dealers, two theaters in downtown," Hill pointed out.

The mix of clothing stores included many signs taken down in the downtown area since Hill opened "John Smith" in 1968 -- Norman's, Lent's, Famous, Clubhouse (another Hill store), Harvi's, Armbruster's Bootery, Kay's, Shoe Attic, Tadmore's, Judith Anne, Towne Classics, Way to Go Casuals, Alvin's, Willow Tree, Sack's of Forest, Young Sophisticats, Fisher Shoes, as well as Del's and Orlandi's and others.

"I hope to say this is just a little blip," Hill sighed. "All that stuff goes on..."



Community opinions

The Community Crier



THE NEWSPAPER WITH ITS HEART IN THE PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY

821 Penniman Ave.
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PUBLISHER:
W. Edward Wendover

GENERAL MANAGER:
Phyllis Redfern

EDITOR:
Ken Voyles

REPORTERS:
Jim Totten
Steve O'Leary

SPORTS REPORTER:
Anne Sullivan
Jay Keenan

PHOTOGRAPHER:
Erik Lukaskik

BUSINESS ASSISTANT:
Margaret Glomski

BOOKKEEPER:
Barb Hartman

OFFICE & CIRCULATION MANAGER:
Jill Lockhart

RECEPTIONIST:
Geneva Guenther

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:
Larry McElroy

ASST. ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:
Jack Armstrong

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS:
Michelle Tregembo Wilson
Brent McVeigh

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SALES DIRECTOR:
Rebecca Doll

ART & PRODUCTION DIRECTOR:
Karen Guyor

ASST. ART & PRODUCTION DIRECTOR:
Shawn Guideau

GRAPHIC ARTISTS:
Kevin Martin
Liz Scoggins

Cost of expansion murky Library issue like Mettetal

EDITOR:

Last week I received in the mail an "explanation" of the need for expansion of the Plymouth Library.

Although I was glad to see the library board take the initiative to inform the tax-paying citizens, I was disappointed in no mention of the cost of the project or the alternatives. The alternatives were simply stated -- not feasible.

What would the cost be of relocating city hall to the post office and the library expanding into the existing city offices? This is what the citizens need to know, not just the fact that it is not feasible.

I have a gut feeling that this library expansion issue is

very similar to the past Mettetal Airport issue. It seems that a minority wants the expansion and again it will take a vote of the people to show our elected officials and library board that they simply can't spend money on projects that may not be needed.

I have two children and yes I'm concerned about their education, but perhaps we should be looking into alternatives with the school library system before we go spending millions of dollars.

The library board will be meeting Dec. 16 and I urge you to attend and voice your opinion.

CRAIG MAURO

Canton leaders destroy ambiance

EDITOR:

Is Canton Calling You Home?

From our point of view Canton officials have shown dogged determination to destroy our home and way of life as well as doing equally great or greater harm to the environment and the remaining vestiges of a quiet, peaceful and serene area within the Township of Canton.

In the Dec. 4 edition of The Community Crier, a country scene was shown which has been placed on a township brochure entitled "Canton Is Calling You Home."

Taking great exception to this I phoned The Crier and asked him what is the point of this contest? Because it

seemed to me that Canton government officials are, in my opinion, nothing less than hypocritic, misleading, and deceitful in trying to imply that the scene represents a viable lifestyle in Canton while at the same time they have done everything in their power to turn over the pictured countryside to big money.

At this very time they are tearing up this unequalled area of Canton to put in more over crowded and deteriorated streets, over crowded schools, as well as increased economic and social problems.

The leadership of Canton isn't interested in maintaining the quality of life they like to depict on the front page of their brochure. What they are interested

in, is selling and destroying it so that a few can have huge financial gains while the rest of us end up paying for it not only with dollars but also with our homes, our lives and future.

I personally find their attitude to be nothing greater and nothing less than odorous, rankling and deceitful.

There is of course much, much more to what is going on here but it would take a book to tell it all. However, I feel that your readers are entitled to know at least some of the basic facts about what real life in northwest Canton is like.

Perhaps a more suitable caption would be "Now YOU See It, Now YOU Don't!"
HANS AND LYNDIA NEUROTH

Million dollar error slights Plymouth DDA

You ever made a \$19 million mistake? Of course not. Who's ever had a chance to deal in those kind of numbers?

Well, yours truly made a \$19 million error in his column last week when referring to the City of Plymouth's DDA (Downtown Development Authority) warchest.

As part of my rantings on the city commission's apparent inability to find out what is happening with the library's future I mentioned that the DDA's pot o' gold is at \$21 million.

It ain't so, Joe. In fact, the city's DDA fund is only at \$1.7 as of June this year.

That total has been accumulated since the DDA was initiated in 1983.

The \$21 million figure is the total assessed value of the DDA area. Taxes from some \$9 million of that can be captured for the DDA's use.

The DDA's \$1,702,483 in funds will

be used for a streetscape design for Plymouth, but DDA members say that that is just the tip of the iceberg. The money will go for more than just trees and benches -- an infrastructure repair plan is a key part of the design.

But essentially the DDA has backed off on proceeding with its streetscape plans until after an overall strategy can be put together looking at the entire district.

According to Dave Pugh, a planning commission and DDA member, the streetscape effort doesn't make a lot of sense without an overall strategy for downtown.

In the margin

By Ken Voyles



Well, ain't that the truth. With Plymouth's downtown commercial district in obvious trouble (sorry Fran!) it is clearly time to be thinking of ways to arrest the declining number of businesses in downtown.

Fred Hill's announcement last week also came as a shock -- the prime city commercial space along Main Street across from Kellogg Park now includes three closed businesses.

Could things get any worse? Not hardly. Just remember, next year is an election year, and when in doubt blame



Community opinions



AIDS article enlightening, informative

EDITOR:

I would like to commend The Crier and Steve O'Leary for running the article "Student interest in AIDS heightens."

There is neither lack of information about AIDS nor a lack of "appropriate" educational materials on AIDS here in the United States.

Embarrassment, fear and a lack of information on where materials and answers may be obtained are the major problems with AIDS education in our schools. The article did a good job pointing these out.

However, the article failed to mention any alternative sources of information to tackle these problems. Here are just a few:

Wayne County Health and Community Services, 313-467-3300; Wellness Network Inc., Huron Valley, 313-572-9355; AIDS Hot Line for Teens, 1-800-234-TEEN (this number is staffed by trained high school students); National AIDS Information Clearinghouse, 1-800-458-5231; and National Institute of Drug Abuse, 1-800-662-HELP.

There is also a textbook - AIDS Answers for Teens, The Learning Works, 1989. This text is aimed at students in grades seven to 12.

These resources are not only for teens but their parents as well. Many of the organizations can provide useful guidelines on how to talk to your child about AIDS.

GREG CARL,
CENTER FOR COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE CONTROL, REGION 5
AIDS DIVISION, MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH, THAILAND

Helping hands, help kiddies

"No Kiddies without a Christmas" was the rallying cry of the Goodfellows in The Plymouth-Canton Community Saturday. In Plymouth, (above) Ken Wheeler peddled papers on Main Street while Barb Turnbull sells a paper to Brian Watkins. The Plymouth Goodfellows reported raising \$4,899.97 -- up from last year. Canton Goodfellow Jack Runkle (below) shows his style of animated fundraising. The Canton group's \$4,900 was down slightly, they reported. (Crier photos by Eriq Lukasik and Colleen West)

There's still time to send donations to this worthy

cause:

PLYMOUTH GOODFELLOWS
P.O. Box 606
Plymouth, MI
48170
CANTON GOODFELLOWS
1150 S. Canton Center Rd.
Canton, MI
48188
THE COMMUNITY CRIER



Support appreciated

EDITOR:

We would like to thank all of our friends and relatives for your warmth and support following the death on Nov. 29 of Jean Marie Jabara, a devoted wife and mother.

Your condolences for her passing and your joyful memories of her life have been invaluable for our family during this most difficult time.

In addition, we appreciate your generous contributions to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Scleroderma Research Foundation.

We are going to miss her.

JIM, MIKE, AND MARTY JABARA

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The address to the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is: 26111 Evergreen, Suite 100, Southfield, MI, 48076-4448. The address to the Scleroderma Research Foundation is P.O. Box 200, Columbus, NJ, 08022.)



Community opinions

Closing just a 'blip'

Ironies abound for Fred Hill

With malice toward none

By W. EDWARD WENDOVER



Ironies abound.

Fred Hill, downtown Plymouth's Principal Pizzaz Provider, announced he was closing his doors after 24 years. So some 12 hours before he was in charge of welcoming Santa Claus on Main Street, the Going Out of Business banners went up across the street on his home store.

Only one week before, the Fred-inspired Plymouth Thanksgiving Celebration was on national cable television for the second year in a row and the Fred-led Briefcase Drill Team was featured during TV coverage of the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade.

(Ironically too, not a single city commissioner attended the downtown Thanksgiving ceremonies, Fred noted.)

Fred was planning his GOB sale at Fred Hill's Haberdashery and "me and mr. jones" even as his efforts to promote downtown required a smile on his face. (His "me and mr. jones petite" shop will stay open.)

As Fred called together a few friends to announce his own stores' wake, the city's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was planning this past Monday night's forum on how to plan for downtown's retail future.

Hill's Main Street store now boasts a window-filling banner that matches two other large Main Street clothing stores -- Orlandi's next door and Del's two stores down. This sight will greet the happy holiday shoppers and Ice Sculpture Spectacular crowds in January. It was some two years ago when two large "For Rent" banners on Ann Arbor Trail sparked a story and photo in *The Crier* which raised Fred's dander.

(It's also ironic when a haberdashery eulogy is written by a sockless journalist.)

Indeed, there are lots of ironies.

It should be expected when downtown's main cheerleader's stores go belly up.

Ironic too, the "festival, festival, festival, festival, neat things, warm fuzzies, petunias around the fire plugs, festivals, festivals, festivals, festivals" mentality has offended some merchants into refusing to participate in Chamber-sponsored or Festival-frenzied events.

Other merchants have jumped on the "huzzah" events and otherwise not spent a nickel on old-fashioned advertising of their own store's identity and service... Willow Tree, Alvin's, Del's -- to name a few -- now belong to the "used to be" non-advertised clothing shops of downtown. Fred's advertising programs -- once award winning -- had all but disappeared in recent years.

As Fred explained to his assembled friends -- the comparative shopping clothing district in downtown Plymouth is gone "by evolution."

He described his stores as "dinosaurs."

Of course, as Fred points out, there used to be two theaters, two car dealers, variety stores and lunch counters downtown too.

"I'm sorry that this (closing) can hurt Plymouth," Fred said. "I wish I could say this is just a little blip."

The answer to the retail cycles of a downtown are being fought everywhere.



Fred Hill, in happier days, shows what the well-dressed haberdashery owner looks like. (*Crier* photo)

Fred's closing is, as he hopes, a "blip."

But "blips" like his are the type that find old-timers still referring to the Hillside Inn, Selle Buick, Huston Hardware, Bart's Nursery, Dennis' Market, or Fiesta Rambler. The warm part-of-Plymouth-Canton-personalities associated with those businesses are always a part of history to those who knew and did business with them.

Fred hopes to stick around -- in real estate or marketing -- and he promises to keep up the briefcase antics and his civic contributions.

But a part of Fred was his haberdashery.

Especially the dash.



me and mr jones

ALL INVENTORY FROM BOTH STORES HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED TO THE FRED HILL LOCATION - 336 S. MAIN STORE!

GIGANTIC GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

HERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THE MANY, MANY ITEMS ON SALE! UNFORTUNATELY SPACE DOES NOT ALLOW US TO LIST THEM ALL HERE.

SALE STARTS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH at 9:00 A.M. SHARP!

ALL SALES FINAL

SALE \$79⁹⁷

BRAND NAMES YOU KNOW
BURBERRYS - JONES NEW YORK
POLO UNIVERSITY CLUB - KAREN KANE
HART SCHAFFNER & MARK - GEGER
LONDON FOG - DIANE GILMAN
AUSTIN REED - KENNETH GORDON
HATHAWAY - SUSAN BRISTOL
JA II - LIZ CLABORNE
BOSTON TRADER - NAUTICA

ALL SALES CASH - VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

CASUAL PANTS

"WOW" GROUP 100% COTTON
REG. \$35⁹⁷ - \$37⁹⁷
SALE \$24⁹⁷
32-40W ALT AT COST

SWEATERS

BY CROSSINGS
REG. \$85⁹⁷ - \$95⁹⁷
SALE \$59⁹⁷
ONLY 40 UNITS

LADIES SWEATERS

SUPER GROUP
REG. \$95⁹⁷ - \$115⁹⁷
SALE \$59⁹⁷
S.M.L. 22 UNITS

BLOUSES

DON'T MISS THIS GROUP
REG. \$67⁹⁷
SALE \$33⁷⁷
18 UNITS AT THIS PRICE

GANT SPORT SHIRTS

LS. SPORT SHIRTS
REG. \$45⁹⁷ - \$49⁹⁷
SALE \$29⁹⁷
COTTON CHAMBRAY

DRESS SLACKS

WOOL FLANNELS THIS GROUP
REG. \$89⁹⁷
SALE \$59⁹⁷
ALT AT COST

KENNETH GORDON

"A GREAT SKIRT BUY"
REG. \$69⁹⁷
SALE \$34⁷⁷
ONLY A FEW GOOD SIZES

JONES NEW YORK ALL NEW SHIRTS

SALE \$47³⁷

SPORT COATS

BY POLO UNIVERSITY CLUB BURBERRYS & JA II
REG. \$265⁹⁷ - \$385⁹⁷
SALE \$176⁴⁷ TO \$256³⁷
BIG GROUP

SUITS SUITS

BY AUSTIN REED POLO UNIVERSITY CLUB
REG. \$425⁹⁷ - \$435⁹⁷
SALE \$279⁹⁷
ONLY 50 UNITS ALT AT COST

LADIES BLAZERS

BY CHRIS KELLOG
REG. \$145⁹⁷
SALE \$86⁹⁷
THIS IS A NICE GROUP

"SUPER DRESSES"

REG. \$155⁹⁷ - \$195⁹⁷
SALE \$92⁹⁷ TO \$116⁹⁷
A BIG GROUP

"WOW"
SALE \$169⁹⁷

LONDON FOG

ALL WEATHER COATS
REG. \$285⁹⁷
SALE \$199⁹⁷
MOST SIZES ONLY 15 UNITS

HATHAWAY

LS DRESS SHIRTS "WOW GROUP"
REG. \$37⁹⁷
SALE \$21
MOST SIZES

MUNSINGWEAR

MENS UNDERWEAR
REG. \$6⁹⁷ - \$15⁹⁷
SALE \$5¹⁷ TO \$11
GREAT GIFTS

OUR ENTIRE STOCK AND FIXTURES ALL WILL BE SOLD!

STORE HOURS:
THUR., DEC. 12TH 9AM - 9PM
FRI., DEC. 13TH 10AM - 9PM
SAT., DEC. 14TH 9AM - 5PM
SUN., DEC. 15TH NOON - 5PM

A GREAT TIME TO BUY FOR CHRISTMAS!



Friends & neighbors

As opposed to typical text learning West students learn real-life skills

BY STEVE O'LEARY

The students in Susan Kolbas' seventh grade Quest and Skills for Adolescence class at West Middle School see it as a way to help them learn how to deal with everyday life — now, and in the future.

And that, says Kolbas, is the whole idea behind the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools program.

"I want to try and get the kids to discuss the things they see and experiences they or their friends may have," she says. "And believe me, it's quite surprising how much the kids know at this age."

"My dad always preaches to me how bad smoking is, and how I should never do it, but then he smokes around me. It makes me angry," one girl says during class discussion.

Kolbas, who doesn't preach, but rather gives the students the tools and knowledge to make their own decisions, tells the girl that she agrees, the father is acting hypocritical, but that there is a way to deal with it: simply go to another part of the house when he smokes.

Yes, the girl agrees, that is a valid option.

"I never preach to the kids. I may tell them what I would do in a certain situation if they ask, but I don't tell them what they should do," said Kolbas. "I think what's great about this program is that we're helping the kids get the skills together to make good decisions."

The majority of each class is made up of a discussion group, where all of the students move their desks in a large circle and throw out answers to questions from Kolbas or each other. They often act out situations they or Kolbas come up with, as one student takes the part of the "good" and one of the "bad."

The current lesson centers on peer pressure.

"The kinds of peer pressure that are positive leave you feeling good. Sometimes, with negative peer pressure, you're left with a feeling of guilt, angry, stress, things like that," Kolbas says.

"Then an example of positive peer pressure would be if you wanted to quit school, and your friends talked you out of it," one girl said.

"Right," the other kids agreed.

There are 18 students in Kolbas' seventh grade class. Most of them are eager to participate, but some are still shy about speaking aloud. She doesn't try and force them to talk, but class participation plays a role when grading time comes, she says.

For the last 10 or 15 minutes of class time, the students write in their workbooks.



Quest and Skills for Adolescence teacher Susan Kolbas goes over simulated experiences her seventh-grade class may face during their life experiences. She tries to give

them the tools to make good decisions. (Crier photo by Steve O'Leary)

"Sometimes we break down into small groups, and the kids who are reluctant to talk in front of the larger group often open up then," Kolbas said.

During part of the group discussion, Kolbas plays the part of a teen tempted to smoke a cigarette. Two students participate, taking the side of "good" and "bad."

Following the acting out of the situation, Kolbas' character decides not to smoke, based on the discussion.

"What this class is all about is that I'm asking you students to think about these things now, because you'll be facing them soon if you aren't already," Kolbas says.

Another situation acted out has to do with drinking, prompting one girl to remark "Some kids I know of drink until they puke. That's just sickening!"

Kolbas and the students then discuss the difference between social drinking and "drinking to get drunk," and how some people can have one drink and stop while others can't.

"It all comes down to being responsible," she says.

When asked, the students said that the

class is their favorite — that they learn a lot of things they'll be able to use in life to be better prepared.

And the students aren't the only ones with praise for Kolbas: her class has been selected as one of five model skills for living sites in the state and was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Education to purchase computer software and other teaching materials.

"It's expected that teachers from around

the state will be coming in to view the class," Kolbas said. No one has contacted the school yet, she said, because the notice is just being circulated to teachers across Michigan.

"We are extremely pleased and excited to have been chosen as one of only five model sites in the state," West Middle School Principal Judy Stone said. "We think we have a really great program here and we're very happy to be able to share it with others."

Device to help handicapped Schoolcraft gets donation

Last Friday, the Plymouth Rotary presented a new \$1,400 Symphonic Ear to Schoolcraft College for exclusive use by hearing impaired students.

The presentation was made by Maynard Fleming, Tom Kennedy, Fred Beitner, Eric Carne, Dick Kaye, Marie Morrow, Dave Schaff and Jack Tornge, all members of the Plymouth Rotary Handicapped Committee.

Receiving the phonic ear on behalf of the college were Dean Ron Griffith, Ann King, Mary Broen, Jim Scallen and Michelle Bedwell. The presentation was made in the Mayflower Meeting Room.

The portable sound amplifying device will allow three new handicapped students a month to hear verbal instructions in the classroom.

Tell it to Phyllis

By Phyllis Redfern



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. With or without snow, the bright colored lights are shining at us from every direction.

I love everything about the holiday season. Oops, I almost got carried away for a minute -- but I really do love almost everything about this festive time of year. Everyone is in a holiday mood and it's time for laughs and hugs and smiles.

The house looks great wearing its holiday decorations and I don't even mind unpacking five million little snowmen, santas, elves and all the other decorations. I'm not very good at getting rid of any Christmas things and since we always add a few each year, we have quite a conglomeration of things to decorate our house with. The kids get a little embarrassed when I put up something they made in first grade, but those are some of the things that make Christmas special. Even the ornaments on the tree have fun memories and stories behind them.

With wrapping paper and tape on the floor in one room and a few empty boxes in another, it's okay if the house is kind of a mess because it's a Christmas mess. There's supposed to be pieces of ribbon and yarn around, that means there are people making things for other people.

This is the one time of year I actually enjoy being in the kitchen. Christmas cookies and candy can be fun to make -- if they come out like they are supposed to.

Of course you need the time to do everything you want to and that's one of the biggest problems. I don't understand how the 25th of December can come earlier every year. There's less than two weeks to go and I still have so much to do. There's the shopping and baking and I haven't even started wrapping gifts. Oh no, I can feel the panic start -- take a deep breath and relax. Remember you have the same panic feeling every year and somehow everything is ready by the time the big day rolls around.

Besides we're supposed to be having fun and enjoying all these things. I had a great time last weekend watching my brothers put the outside lights up at mom's house. It was quite comical watching them bury the kitchen step stool in the mud while hanging on to the window shutter to keep from falling. I'm glad I didn't get into trouble for the muddy stool and the broken shutter.

Who cares if the greeting cards go out in January again this year? The holiday season is in full swing, so let's get on with the fun.

Canton fatal 6th this year

BY KEN VOYLES

A 34-year-old Belleville man died after injuries sustained during an accident in Canton Thursday evening.

Richard Earl Bellanger died at 12:17 a.m., Friday at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, said Canton Police.

Bellanger had been struck Thursday evening at about 9:08 p.m. while traveling southbound on Canton Center Road just south of Ford Road.

Police said Bellanger apparently spun out of control and ended up in the northbound lane of Canton Center where he was struck by a tow truck towing another vehicle.

Bellanger was rushed to Annapolis and pronounced dead shortly after midnight, said police.

Speed was not a factor in the accident, said police, who added that Bellanger was not wearing a seat belt.

Weather conditions may have been a factor in the accident, with a light snow in the air and snowy, slushy road conditions, said Tammie Colling, Canton Police's community relations officer.

Colling said the use of alcohol may

have also been a factor in the accident, but police are still investigating.

Bellanger is the sixth accident victim to die in Canton this year, said Colling. There have been a total of five accidents resulting in deaths in the township this year, she said.

New Liberty festival set for Canton

BY KEN VOYLES

The Canton Challenge Festival is dead, but have no fear a new festival has sprung from the ashes -- the Liberty Festival -- and will make its first appearance next June in the township.

Canton officials announced the new festival -- named by members of a township staff committee -- Friday.

Please see pg. 25

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Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Family Night 7:00 pm
Pastor William Barber, Jr.
Asst. Pastor Robert J. Eddy
"The Church on the Grow"

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(Missouri Synod)
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Family Sunday School Hour 9:45 am
Rev. K.M. Mehl, Pastor
K. N. Hinrichs, Vicar

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Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am
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Plymouth Christian Academy 459-3505

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Nursery Available All Services
Sunday School (ages 2-19) 10 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10 am
Praise Celebration (Sunday) 8 pm
Bible Study & Kids Clubs (Wed.) 7 pm
Roderick Trusty, Pastor
Brian Tucker, Assoc. & Music Pastor
Bill Lawless, Youth Pastor
Liz Graves, Administrative Assistant
"It's Happening Here"

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton
459-0013
Worship Service & Church School
9:00 am, 11 am
Dr. Kenneth D. Lister, Interim Pastor



What's Happening

To list your group's event in this calendar, send or deliver the notice IN WRITING to: The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI, 48170. Information received BY NOON FRIDAY will be used for Wednesday's calendar (space permitting).

CANTON CHAMBER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS SERVICE

The Canton Chamber of Commerce celebrates 20 years of service with its 4th Annual Dinner/Auction and Raffle at Fellows Creek on Jan. 25, 1992. Cash donations of \$200 will receive special recognition. This is the chamber's major fundraiser. To donate to the auction or help the chamber call 453-4040.

RED CROSS COURSES OFFERED

The new American Red Cross office in Canton is offering a variety of courses over the next two months, including CPR, standard first aid and more. To register or for further details call the Plymouth-Canton Center at 422-2787.

BANJO DUO AT CULTURAL CENTER

The popular banjo and guitar playing duo, The Song Sisters, will be presenting a family concert at the Plymouth Cultural Center Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. Registration required. Call the Plymouth District Library to register, starting Dec. 9. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Plymouth District Library. Call 453-0750.

ANNUAL ORANGE, GRAPEFRUIT SALE

The Canton and Salem high wrestling and swimming teams are planning their 14th annual orange and grapefruit sale. Navel oranges and pink grapefruit from Florida: small boxes, 20 pounds, \$13; large boxes, 40 pounds, \$22. Mixed boxes available also: small boxes, \$14, and large boxes, \$23. The fruit will be delivered the week of Dec. 15. Call Ron Krueger at 451-6600, ext. 247, or Dan Chrenko, 451-6600, ext. 332, to order by phone.

PARENT ACADEMY SESSION

The Parent Academy will present "Effective Parenting" Dec. 12 at the Canton High Little Theater from 7-9 p.m. David Breeden, psychotherapist, will be the speaker. The lecture is free and open to all parents in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. For information call 453-3441 or 455-8417.

SCHOOLCRAFT WINTER REGISTRATION

Schoolcraft College in-person winter registration will be held Jan. 6-8 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Winter classes begin Jan. 11. For further information call 462-4426.

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE AT MADONNA

The Madonna University men's baseball team will be selling Christmas trees in the east parking lot every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, through Dec. 24. Michigan grown and cut Scotch Pines, Blue Spruce, and Fir trees will sell for \$12 and up. Christmas wreaths will also be available. For more information call 591-5029.

CANTON CRICKETS LOTTERY

The Canton Parks and Recreation pre-school program, Canton Crickets, will hold a lottery for a limited number of openings in its 1992 winter session. Lottery drawn today through Dec. 20. Visit the parks and recreation office to pick up a lottery number. For Canton residents only. Winners notified Jan. 6-10. For further information call 397-5110.

"CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD"

"Christmas Around the World," a show presented by the Plymouth Figure Skating Club, will be held Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. in the Plymouth Cultural Center. Ticket sales at the door. Adults are \$3 and children \$2. Show features members of Plymouth Skating Club and Academic Garden pre-schoolers.

CITY SANITARY SEWER REHAB PROGRAM

The City of Plymouth has started work on its sanitary sewer rehabilitation program. Sewers throughout the city will be cleaned and grouted. Notices will be sent in advance to residents and business owners prior to work being done on their streets.

CHRISTMAS KIDS ONLY WORKSHOP

Canton's Parks and Recreation is hosting a Christmas Kids-Only Workshops Dec. 21 at 10 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Held at the Canton Recreation Center. The cost is \$14 per child. The event is open for first graders through teens in Plymouth-Canton. Registration began this week. For further information call 397-5110. Includes making gifts, decorating and refreshments.

KIWANIS ANNUAL TRAVEL SERIES

The next Kiwanis Travel and Adventure Series session features Tom Sterling's "Footloose in Newfoundland." It will be held Jan. 8 at 8 p.m. in the Salem High auditorium. Season tickets are \$18, or \$4 for single tickets. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth. Call 455-5100 for tickets or information.

"FOR THE DURATION" EXHIBIT

The Plymouth Historical Museum "For the Duration" exhibit opened Dec. 7-8 and features a look at World War II. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. For further information call 455-8940.

TOYS FOR TOTS DROP-OFF SITE

There is a Toys For Tots drop-off site in Canton. Donations needed of new, unwrapped toys. The U.S. Marine Corps will distribute the collected toys to needy children. The Canton site, like others, is at First Optometry.

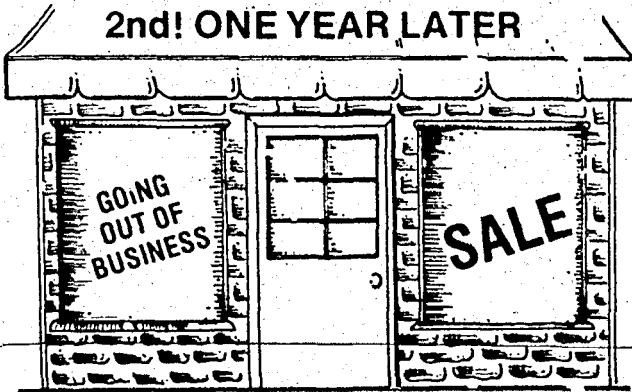
"THE WONDER OF THE SEASON"

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth presents a Christmas pageant "The Wonder of the Season" Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. Performance includes 35-piece orchestra and recreation of the "Christmas drama." Tickets must be obtained in advance. Call 453-5280. They are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. For information call 453-5280.

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LUMINARY SALE BY SYMPHONY LEAGUE, GARDEN GROUP

The Plymouth Symphony League and Trailwood Garden Club will sell holiday luminaries Dec. 14 and 21 at Kroger's on Ann Arbor Road and the Westchester Mall in downtown Plymouth. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$3.50 for kit of 10 candles and white paper bags. For further information call 459-0978 or 459-1999.

ANNUAL TOY COLLECTION

Mel's Golden Razor on Forest Avenue in the City of Plymouth is holding its 14th annual Toy Collection for needy kids. New or used toys for Christmas. Collection runs until Dec. 19. To help call 455-9057. Mel's is located at 595 Forest.

PSO, BALLET COMPANY PRESENT "NUTCRACKER"

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra (PSO) and the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company will join forces to present "The Nutcracker" Dec. 13-15 at Salem High auditorium. Performances will be held at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12 for adults and seniors and \$8 for students in K-12. For further information call 451-1212. Tickets available at: Beitner Jewelry, Bookstall on the Main., Canton Recreation Department, Evola Music, Giftfiddler, Joanne's Dance Extension, Dearborn Music and at the box office. For other details call 397-8828 or 455-4330.

CANTON CHAMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual Holiday Party Thursday from 7-10 p.m. at the Sunflower Village Hanford Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford Rd. Donations this year will be made to Gene Santa Reaves Christmas Fund. The event is open to area business owners. Dinner will be provided and entertainment. The cost is \$12 per person. Reservations by calling the chamber at 453-4040.

SUBURBAN BAR HOLIDAY PARTY

The Suburban Bar Association's sixth annual holiday gathering will be this evening (Dec. 11) at 6:30 p.m. in Ernesto's. Members, spouses, friends and staff invited. Social hour at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. Christmas caroling also.

ICE SCULPTURE GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

The Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular, which runs from Jan. 15-20, will offer a Gingerbread House contest this year for adults and children. For just \$3.50 adults and \$1 children participants can enter their own creation into one of six categories. The houses will be judged and then put on display in the Westchester Mall throughout the ice festival. Entry forms and rules are available from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce or from the Westchester Mall shops in Plymouth. For information call 459-1475 or 459-3264.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The Mayflower-Lt. Gambles Post No. 6695 VFW will host a New Year's Eve Party Dec. 31 from 8:30 p.m. on at the VFW Post Home on Mill Street, Plymouth. Tickets are \$30 per person. RSVP deadline is Dec. 27. Proceeds will be used for community and veterans service work. Tickets includes dinner and dancing plus favors and other amenities. For information call 459-6700 or 453-0715.

"ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS"

"Once Upon a Christmas," the East Middle School's annual chorus concert will be presented Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the school gym. Admission is free. The choruses will perform a variety of holiday classics and a group of East teachers will do a song and dance routine as well.

SANTA COMES TO FIEGEL SCHOOL

Santa Claus arrives at Fiegel Elementary School at 9 a.m. Dec. 14. The public is invited to join the holiday activities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes a bake sale, Santa Secret Shop and children can decorate a cookie for 25 cents or make a gift in a craft workshop. Pictures with Santa available until noon.

MOM GROUP MEETING

MOM (Meet Other Mothers) group meeting will be held Dec. 13 at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth at 9:30 a.m. MOM is a support group for mothers. For further information call 348-8057 or 421-6745.

PRAISE CHOIR SING-A-LONG

St. John Neumann Church's Praise Choir invites residents to come and sing their favorite holiday songs Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in the church on Warren Road, Canton. Children can bring jingle bells, finger cymbals, etc., and their parents and grandparents. Parents can bring pen flashlights to use as candles and one dozen cookies to share. Christmas aglow immediately following with punch and cookies.

PRE-SCHOOL OPENINGS AT NEW MORNING

There are openings for three and four year olds in the pre-school program at New Morning School in Plymouth Township. For further information call 420-3331.

ME AND MY SHADOW

It is time to register for the winter session of Me and My Shadow classes at New Morning School in Plymouth Township. For further details call 420-3331.

CANTON ECONOMIC CLUB

The Canton Economic Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at Geneva Presbyterian Church. The cost for lunch, which is open to the public, is \$12. The meetings start at noon. To make a reservation or for further information call the Canton Community Foundation at 454-5427.



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Judge halts 'Robin Hood' legislation

BY STEVE O'LEARY

The controversial tax-base sharing plan known as the "Robin Hood" law has been temporarily shot down by a Wayne County judge.

If the ruling is upheld, it would save the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools District \$749,322 this year alone.

The Northville Public Schools, also

involved in the suit, could save \$27,274.

A temporary restraining order was issued Thursday by Circuit Court Judge Roland Olzark, which temporarily blocked six districts from complying with the law.

In addition to Plymouth-Canton, the districts include Northville, Dearborn, Livonia, Grosse Pointe and Crestwood.

Last month, a similar order for 12 Macomb County districts was issued by Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Robert Chrzanowski.

The drive was led by Frank Guido, attorney for the Wayne County Taxpayer's Association and a member of the Dearborn School Board. Taxpayers from each of the districts filed a 107-page lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law.

Denise Makuch was the taxpayer filing the lawsuit in Plymouth-Canton, while Stephen Whitaker filed in Northville.

A hearing was scheduled for 4 p.m. Tuesday to see if the state will agree not to penalize districts involved in the lawsuit, regardless of the outcome, Guido said.

District attorney Dennis R. Pollard, in a letter to the Board of Education, said he would attend Tuesday's meeting and "monitor closely the progress of any agreement between the plaintiff taxpayers and the state of Michigan to insure that your district's interests are properly protected."

The restraining order will remain in effect until at least late December, but Guido expressed optimism it would stay in effect until the courts resolve the matter, which he said would likely happen quickly.

"Because of the nature of this, it will likely be given a high priority, which means it should be settled in two or three months," Guido said. "Then, there will be the inevitable appeal, no matter which side wins."

The tax-base sharing law requires out-of-formula, or "wealthy" districts, to turn over a share of their revenues to the county, who would redistribute the monies to in-formula, or "poor," districts.

The law was approved by the legislature in September.

Ironically, the lawsuit names the six school districts as defendants in the case.

"Because of the time line, that was the only way we could block the payments,"

Guido said. "The first payment -- of one-half of the total amount due -- was due Nov. 15, but because of some mixup at the state level with the paperwork, hadn't been paid yet. But the districts each had their pens to the checkbook. It was that close."

In fact, one of the districts, Dearborn Heights Crestwood, had already paid their share.

"We were too late for them, but fortunately, their share wasn't too much," Guido said.

"To say the least, the districts are passive defendants," he said. "The problem is, the districts are required by law to comply, even though they don't want to, and this was our only way of stopping them from having to pay."

Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent John Hoben does not share Guido's optimism about the eventual outcome of the case.

"I think this is just a delay," he said. "I think it's inevitable that we will have to pay, but that's just my opinion."

Hoben did say he was happy to hang onto the money and collect the interest, but was cynical about the district coming out ahead.

"Most often, the money from interest follows the other money," he said.

The total for the six districts is approximately \$3.5 million, according to Guido.

"What the state has done is play 'Pontius Pilate' in this and washed their hands of the burden of paying for education, shifting the burden to out-of-formula districts rather than face their responsibility," Guido said.

"Essentially, this isn't tax-based sharing, it's tax-based stealing," he said.

Drug bust at GM

Two Canton residents were among seven individuals arrested two weeks ago at General Motors' Powertrain Transmission Plant in Ypsilanti on federal narcotics charges.

The arrests followed a year-long undercover operation designed to eradicate drug sales on-site at the Ypsilanti facility, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Wallace Fleming.

The warrants issued were for the arrest of Frederick Whitehead, 33, and Terry Lee Young, 34, both of Canton.



Public notices

The Board Report

A brief review of actions at the regular Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education meeting of December 9, 1991

The meeting began with an "Extra Miler Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Award" presentation to Kate Otto. In presenting the award, Board Vice President Roland Thomas said, "Kate has worked very hard to bring a dream to realization--the restoration of Geer School."

Kari Miller, a school nurse, was named an "Extra Miler." Miller, who has worked in the District for 11 years, was honored for the strong devotion she displays in performing her job as a school nurse.

The Superintendent reported that the District's tax-base sharing payment to the Wayne County RESA is pending a tax suit by an individual against the District. A temporary restraining order is expected to be issued by Judge Roland Olzark enjoining the District from making the payment. A hearing on the matter is scheduled on December 10. Dr. Hoben noted that if it is decided that the District must make the tax-base sharing payment, the District probably will incur the cost of any interest earned on the money.

Raymond Hoedel, associate superintendent for business and operations, discussed the 1991-92 budget. Hoedel said the District is facing some very difficult and uncertain times brought on by constantly changing legislation. Tax-base sharing is expected to cost the District \$749,322. Other adverse changes which have cost the District money include the state capping its portion of FICA payments, reduction of projected interest earnings, loss of payment from the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency for special education students and reduction of adult education funding from the state. All of these changes occurred after the District had adopted its 1991-92 budget.

As a result of the setbacks, the District's projected fund balance for June 30, 1992 is \$2,323,691, which is \$1,772,572 less than the actual fund balance of \$4,096,263 on June 30, 1991. Already enacted for the 1992-93 school year is a freeze on all assessments at the 1991-92 level, except for additions and losses, which will be accounted for in the assessment roll in 1992.

The Board approved the Consent Calendar which included:

- payment of bills in the amount of \$4,300,767.79.
 - the retirement of Marilyn Dane, East Middle School teacher.
 - the hiring of Russell Justice, physical education teacher at Pioneer.
- The Board approved:
- its ongoing resolution for a summer property tax levy of one-half of school property taxes.
 - the 1991-92 tuition rate to be set at \$24.29 daily.
 - appointments to the Board of School Canvassers. Appointed to serve from January 1, 1992 through December 31, 1995 were the democratic representative, Mr. Dennis F. Shrewsbury, and the republican representative, Mr. Samuel J. Durante.
 - changes to the Schools of Choice Committee. Added to the committee are Richard Egli, Marcia Elsner, Mitchell Howard, Jean Knopf-Deroche, Laura Kosteva and John LaFonde. Deleted is Cal Haddad.
 - a resolution in support of concerns expressed by parents at Bird Elementary School. The Board endorsed a review by the Wayne County Department of Public Service of the sidewalk areas leading to Bird School.

This report is brought to you as a means of communicating your Board of Education's actions. If you have questions about these actions or would like further information about your schools, call 451-3188.

Move expected tonight Church to ask for delay

BY ANNA MURRAY

Our Lady of Good Counsel is expected to ask the City of Plymouth Planning Commission to table its proposal to change the use of the convent to a school annex.

The commission is meeting tonight (Dec. 11) at 7:30.

The move will defer the dispute between the church and its neighbors over a proposed expansion of the church

facilities.

At last month's planning commission meeting the church expected its proposal to be accepted, having received a letter to that effect from City Engineer Ken West.

But Carol Levitte, a lawyer representing the homeowners contested the approval, and the city agreed with her objections. Our Lady of Good Counsel received notice of the change from

Please see pg. 25

HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO!
HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HO!

Letters to Santa 1991

Dear Santa:

How is Rudolph?
I like his nose.
It is red and shiny.

Translation: How is Rudolph? I like his nose. It is red and shiny.

Kathy
(age 6)

Dear Santa:

NO
NO
NO

Dear Santa:

I hope it will be warm
I wish I had a dog
I hope the dog get a home
I hope you can wack me and
my brat. UP can you be fat

P.S. Please W.A.C.

Dear Santa:

I want a pen
and a sword
Thank you,



The Crier
plus

Please help my Dad find a job.
Joseph Miles

I love u you. Thank you for all the toys you give me.

Love,
Lauren Norris

I am 5 years old please make sure you don't forget the poor kids.

Erin Marge Smelsers

I hope you eat all of Mrs. Claus's cooking so you will still be fat this Christmas. How are the elf's doing? Are the reindeer ready to fly this year.

Sarah Kijek

How old are you?

Drew Parling

I would really like only one thing and that is a POLO shirt. I wanta green one and I would like you to get it for me.
Thank you!

Kari Ross

How do reindeer fly?

Brendan Dacey

I hope I can be good and clean up my toys so you can bring me some presents. I love you and I hope you have a good trip.

Elizabeth Georgoff

I like what you bring for me. I am glad God made you because you are special. I have tried to be a good girl this year.

Emily Georgof

Bonk:

Alex Enright

How do you deliver to the homeless? Do you just leave it by them, or do you give them anything.

Pat Bechdol

Hi my name is Ryan. I really hope the homeless get homes, food, new cloth and a good city to live in and make good friends.

Ryan M. Clinton

I want twister a game, Polly Pocket, m Ghost writer, Pretty crimp and curl, A shelter for homeless people, and for everybody to have a nice Christmas, and thats all.

Nicole Martin

I want for Christmas is the Barbie camper, Pretty Krimp incral, everyone in the world likes this Christmas and the coppier and the Kodak set.

Megan Kelly

I have a new baby brother. Could you bring a rattle or baby toy for him? I've been a good girl, and I want a Bert doll and play farm.

Nicola Rossi

I want a GI Joe Shy Hawk, Dockers school clothes. I want some candy canes, rollerblades and a new bike and Grip ball.

Peter Neuroth

Some of the things that I want for Christmas are; My own phone, a mini pocket T.V., and a Color Blaster.

Brittany Parling

I would like a gold fish. And a real live dog. And candy. Tons of things. Snow. And a Teddy bear. A hair brush. A kitten. A book.

Abbey Morse

I love you.

Amanda Rowley

For Chritmas I want something everybody should want world Peace! But for presents I want a computer a Keyboard and a telascope maybe a sweater.

Kerry Patten

My Christmas wish for Magic Johnson to get better and live a long time so he can be with his family and friends. Santa make a miracle happen Please.

Teddy Cowger

How are you? I love Christmas we think of Jesus. I like presents I want Pretty Crimp n' curl, Baby Alive, Rainbow Heart, and a ballerina that turns around.

Sarah Hynes

What I would like for Christmas is to stop pollution and war. They are not good at all. All they do is hurt, sometimes kill people, that is my wish

Rachel Bostic

I hope you have a good Christmas time sending toys to the boys and girls, and I hope you have a nice time eating my snack.

Jay Pawlowski

I love you and Elissa loves you, too. Will you bring us a bug and a turtle and a duck, please? Merry Christmas.

Kaitlin Forster

I would like for you to give my grandpa a new heart and life, please.

April-Alford

Please bring me everything I want for Christmas! I know you'll proably be hungry so I'll leave you some cookies and milk! And some carrots for the deer!

Rachel Cook

I want for Christmas some new clothes. Last Chritmas was good, because I got the things I wanted. I also would like a new bootibag, jewelry, and porcelian dolls.

Holly Owen



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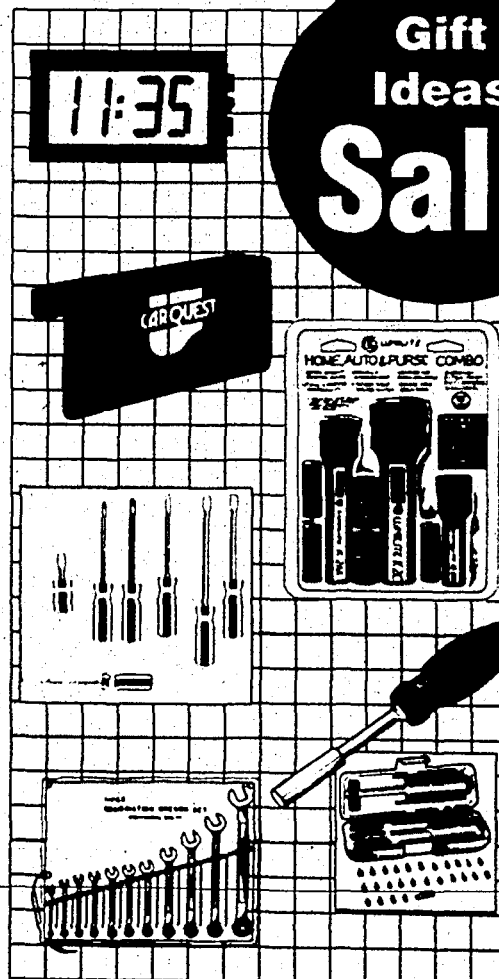
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PETER NEUROTH



RYAN HYLKO



HOLLY BAILEY



LAUREN BAKOWSKI



ELIZABETH GEORGOFF

Crier coloring contest draws over 200 young artists

Yet again there was some fierce competition in the holiday coloring contest -- it's the 12th annual -- sponsored by The Community Crier and drawing young artists from all over The Plymouth-Canton Community.

The grand prize winner this year -- you can see her creation on page one of this newspaper -- is...Holly Faith Bailey.

This is the first time Holly, a 12-year-old Canton resident, has entered the coloring contest. A seventh grade student at East Middle School, Holly's winning entry was done using colored pencils.

The grand prize winner features a fireplace and milk and cookies for the jolly old fellow.

Holly said she would like to be teacher when she grows up, but for now she is concerned about the homeless.

In her message to Santa, Holly wished for peace on Earth and food and shelter for the poor.

"Christmas is the time when Jesus was born and of presents," she said.

Other winners this year included:

Elizabeth Georgoff, four, in the pre-school to kindergarten category. Georgoff, of Plymouth, is enrolled in the Kiddie Campus at Salem High. She used markers for her entry. This is also the first time she has entered the coloring competition.

Ryan Hylko, seven, in the first-second grade category. Hylko, of Canton, is in the second grade at Field Elementary School. He is also a first time artist in the annual event. His work was done using crayons.

Peter Neuroth, eight, in the third-fourth grade category. Neuroth, of Canton, is a repeat winner. Last year the Isbister Elementary School student

won in the first-second grade grouping.

Neuroth's rendering was done with crayons, markers, and colored pencils. In the corner of his drawing, Neuroth drew himself watching Santa deliver his goodies.

Finally, our fifth-eighth grade category winner this year is Lauren Bakowski. Bakowski, 10, of Canton, has entered the coloring competition three or four times in the past, but this is the first time she has won. Her art work was done using colored pencils and features one of her mother's many cuckoo clocks.

The contest honorable mentions this year included: Christine Broda, Kim Reynolds, Devin Burnstein, Adam Sonnastine, and Tommy Stafford, all of Plymouth.

There were some 200 entries in this year's contest.

The winners will receive gift certificates.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

If you really want to make me happy you could make poor people richer. Also you could get every body whatever they want. I also want good grades for school.
Sincerely, Gary Sharland

When you go on your trip Do you take chapstick or chloraseptic so you don't get sick? Are you or any of your reindeer afraid of Heights?
Love, Dennis Tuckowski Jr.

Hi. How are you? I am fine I would like a phone, some clothes and I think thats all. Merry Christmass.
Alysia Dunn

For Christmas this year I would like some new clothes and some Music tapes of my Favorite groups. I would also like Peace in the world. Love Always,
Jeanne Randinius

Hi! My name is Melissa-Kelly. I'm in the 6th grade I would like some nintendo games for Christmas. I know you aren't real. But Have Merry Christmas.
Your friend, Melissa Kelly

I would like the movie Ghost a good watch and a black hat and stuff in my stocking.
Thank you, Jenny Praw

I wish for Christmas that all people could have as great a Christmas as I will.
Love, David Selewski

Thank You for the good toys last year. Please give me a Cabage Path, and games.
Love, Michelle Smith

I hope on Christmas you are warm. How are you? And please bring me Bo Jackson and Battletoads.
Love, David Lenz

I hope you have a nice Christmas. I would like a new bike. Someday I would like a phone and and a phone book. A barba doll sound a dwse.
Jessica Saliba

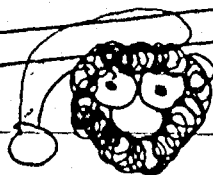
I would like a train.
James Dunn

I hope that the poor would get blankets, clothes, food, and a nice home and have a happy life.
Phillip Rogerson

All I want is peace.
Kim Roughley

Please let there be peace throughout the world and the hungry children be fed.
Sincerely, Kelly Sharland

Dear Santa:
Hi! My name is Melissa-Kelly. I'm in the 6th grade I would like some nintendo games for Christmas. I know you aren't real. But Have Merry Christmas your friend
Melissa Kelly



Ho Ho Ho... Melissa Kelly

How can you stand all the cold weather at the North Pole?

I want X-men, ninja turtles, turtle-blimp, technodrome and bad guy turtle car. Do reindeers fly?

Jordan Becndol

Santa can I have GI Joe battle car, turtle car with weapons, and a little puppy dog. What time will you come? I want my pal, too.

Jamie Bechdol

I want for Christmas leg of firefighters boat.

Jesse Varga

MERRY CHRISTMAS I HOPE YOU HAVE A NICE CHRISTMAS IF THE BOY'S AND GIRLS ARE BAD DO THEY GET ANY PRENTS?

Elizabeth R. Alexander

You have a good weekend. You get me some Barbies (a Whole bunch) Please.

Sarah L. Alexander

I want a hovercraft now don't foget my list.

Mikey Spencer

I wish my brother would go away so everybody could see how wonderful I am.

Kara Strech

I want alot of nintendo games. Which my mom said she cant afford them. I whould like them please.

Walter C. Justice Jr.

I wish someone would help people realize that the world isent going to clean itself.

Nate Strech

I would really like lipstick and nail polish. Also a wedding Barbie, power wheels.

Andrew would like a turtle please.

Mary Churilla

I would like stencils for Christmas. I would also like waffle blocks.

Bryan Finrock

I would like a go-go walking pup and some toys for Michael and David.

Jamie Hutchison

I would like a guitar for me and for my mom some clothes

Hailey Bartlett

I have been a good girl. I would like glasses, Ghost busters, scissors, and my own crayons.

Meagan Finrock

I would like a prehycr crimp and Curl Doll

Natalie Grand

I would like a race car for Christmas. I would also like a toy fire truck with toy firemen.

David Hutchison

I would like to give my mom some new flowers for Christmas.

Shannon Sytsma

I would like TCR race track for Christmas.

Zachary Rottell

Can you protect over my Uncle Dan, my Godfather who died last week?

I would like a chinese fan for Christmas.

I love Uncle Dan a lot.

Jessica Templeton

how hard is it feng around the world? Do your raindeer help you a lot? Are you always swiffed on the morning of December 26?

Nick Larivieri

How are you doing? For Christmas I would like the things on my list and everyone to receive what is on their lists.

Tiffany Karol

I would like 2 things: 1 That everyone gets what there allowed to get. 2. That I get small presnets, not big. How are you doing? I'm fine. Have a great christmas! Kristofer Karol

My Christmas wish is to win the contest, for I can uy a gift for my foster sister. She is coming to stay with me for two weeks for Christmas.

Jamie Ann Terry

I would like a new bike (Ten Speed) and peace on earth.

Courtney Hutchings

Dear Santa I love you. I have been a good girl.

I Would like a pirate ship please.

Chelsey Golightly

I would like a Nutant module please. I have been a very good boy. We will leave you some milk and cookies hope you enjoy them.

Kent Golightly

I would like 1,000,000 dollars and also a dog.

Suzanne Theodore

How are your reindeer doing? Please ring me some turtles and a technodrom. Your friend.

David Stockman

How are your reindeer? Are Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman o.k.? Will you please bring me a new crane toy and a G.I. Joe glider. Your friend.

Mark Terry

I want a GoGo Puppy, a crime and Cari doll, a Jewelry box and some presents for my gerbilis. I will leave some Christmas cookies for you.

Natalie Clark

please give the poor people some clothes. Please bring me the technodrome and the turtle's sewer den.

Love, Ryan Johnson

I want baby magic

Amanda French

I don't want alot of things for Christmas. I just want to have fun and remember what Christmas is about, Jesus's birth.

Cathy Landoc

Merry Christmas. I want little Miss Singing mermaid, Baby Wanna Walk an Tearful Cheerful.

Amanda Murley

I want a turbo fist and a cuple Nintendo games. Santa I love you very much. I hope I win wish me good luck.

Donald Bell

For christmas I would Like scamps, Littel mis singing mermaid, Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas....and a Happy New Year! I would also like some snow! thanks!

Michelle Bostic

I want this Christmas, Leto's. How are you?

Britin Pollack

Thank you for the great gifts you Been giving me for the past nine-years I wish all the kids and you to have a happy holiday.

Steven Fogaras

Thank you for the toys threw the years. I believe in you. I hope every Child was good this year. Have a Merry Christmas!!!!

Sarah Fogoros

I would mostly like for my grandpar-ents Mrs. and Mr. Klenczar to have more money for bills. And for my grandfather to walk again.

Elizabeth Klenczar

I would like a police costume with a hat, walkie-talkies and handcuffs. I would like a drum and the Lego choo-choo train, and a new bike. Merry Christmas!

Brian Whiting

I would like Robin Hood the movie and I would like a big jet and the Ninja Turtle Tank. I'm gonna leave a penny out for you. Merry Christmas!

Michael Prew

Love you. When you come I will watch for you.

Lauren Rodgers

I wish that my m9m and dad would get back together for Christmas because their Diveris I miss both of them.

Love, Chelsea Tripp

I have been a good girl! For Christmas I would like baby wanna-walk and maybe a waterbaby. That's all. Thanks

Love, Sandy Tuckowski

This year I would like an American Girls Collection doll. Some books, New Clothes. Some barbie stuff, And some barbies dolls, And some surprises. Hope you have a Merry Christmas to you.

Lesley Whiting

I want a Remot control car for Christmas.

Steven Poirier

I would like a Big teddy bear. And also lots of beautiful christmas ornamnts.

Please include a leather belt like my Dads Some new winter boots would be Fine and a spinning top and Five Pint sets in my stocking. Thank You Santa See You Soon.

Darrell Zacharias

Please bring me a MAGIC NURS-ERY BABY, a Barbie house and a SINGING MERMAID DOLL. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Melissa Rivard

Thank you Santa for my special toys. How do you fit down the chimney?

David Porter

I like you a lot. I love the presents you and your elfs build and paint for me. I bet I will love the presents you give me this Christmas.

Carrie Williams

Katie Callie — Love Dear San—ta what would you like for Christmas? Have a safe trip Christmas eve.

Katie Callie

What I want for Christmas are the Twin Baby Dolls. But what I want most are the homeless families to get homes and have a Merry Christmas.

Angela Piscitelli

How did you become Santa Clause?

Lauren Fouch'e

Do you have any extra toys for the homeless. Would you please call ME!

Andrea Wood

I wish that I will win and I will get all the presents that i want. PS thank you or having the coloring contest. from

Zack Schaff

For Christmas I would like a wire hamster cage, Light Boy for Game Boy, clothes, mystery, science fiction, and adventure books, and turtles the arcade game for Nintendo.

Amy Sannanstine

I would like the Lego Whirlland Wheel Super Truck and the Lego Black Seas Barracuda. I will leave you cookies and some carrots for the reindeer.

Adam Sannanstine

How can you stand all the cold weath-er at the North Pole?

Jeremy DeFrance

Santa: I don't care what you get me. Make it a surprise

All I want for Xmas is a pink vacuum and an Oopsie Daisy Baby.
Lindsay DeFrance

I can't wait until Christmas. I hope all of your elves and reindeer are fine. I hope you had a good year. I love you.
Nicole Marrone

I hope that everyone's Christmas is as happy as mine always are. Please bring me Beverly Hill's 90210 things and a carousel horse.
Lauren Bakowski

I've become that age when you don't really know what I want for X-mas. If I had 100 presents, I'd give them to kids who can't afford them.
Sincerely, Erin Wysocki age 11 1/2

Please bring an extra present to my house, for my uncle John who is coming here from Engand. I want a crimp and curl doll and phone.
Merry Christmas
Love Claire Kazen XOXOX

This year I would like a pair of white reebok tennis shoe, tapes, sports equipment, any kind of race car, and anything else.
Melanie Dunn

I am thankful for my mom and dad the food we eat and I wate drugs to stoped being used.
from Jessica Geiser

This is an impossible wish I know. It would make me feel better though, if you try to find homes for all the poor people living on the streets.
Your thoughtful friend,
Christine Broda

I would like all the wqorld to be peaceful and all the people to stop fighting.
Chris Martin

I've been a good boy all year. All I would like is roller blades for my dad and me (my dad was good too.)
Your good boy
Myles D. Kernohan

Please give needy children a Christmas to look forward to. They deserve a wonderful Christmas just like us. Make their faces light up with joy because it's Christmas. Thanks! Merry Christmas!
Neha Shah

I hope you had a good year. Please bring me a survivor shoot, and a Sega genesis, and money for the poor and toys for my brothers.
Love Ryan Hylko

My wish for Christmas is that ther will be peace on earth. Let the poor people have food and be given homes. Have a very merry Christmas everyone!
Holly Faith Bailey

I wish I could have a care bear.
Jennifer Horst

Thank you for last years presents. list
double dragon,
Books,
clothes,
Super Nintendo
Nick Yadrick

For Christmas I would like my family to be together. And for the homeless to have homes.
Thank You
Kim Reynolds

What would we do Without those wonderful toys, that bring all the children Christmas Joys? Thank you Santa for making all our dreams come true, so Merry Christmas to Plymouth, and Merry Christmas To You!
Devin Burnstein

I have been a real good boy! Please come to my house on Christmas Eve. I will leave a special surprise for you and your reindeer!
Love, Tommy Stafford

I want all the people in the world to find peace and happiness on Christmas.
Michelle Russell

I hope all your reindeer are doing fine this year. I really don't want that much for Christmas this year. The biggest thing I want is a Super N.E.S.
Love, Chris Casey

I don't care what you get me. make it a surprise.
Jessica Swartzentrower

I know you're really busy but I need to ask you one favor pleas help everyone have a merry Christmas.
Matt Stachura

I Have not been great all year But I Have been good. Santa I Believev in you Santa.
Ashley Porter

Thank you for the good toys. For Christmas I want a doll called clip and curls, and a duck called Quackers.
Love, Tiara Paciocco

I hope it snows a lot so we can have a white CHRISTMAS
Your Friend, Greg Broda

I would like a kickball. I will have some caror and milk and cocy for you and the Raindeer.
Tim Casey

Have a good trip to Michigan. Please can you bring me ome pajamas and some school clothes. If you can, please bring the poor some money.
Love, Angel Moffett

I really went some dolls: a Poicelain dolls, American doll, And something else.
Jessica Dean

I hope you have a good Christmas. Please give me a new puppy and a new pack of markens. I will Leave some cookies and milk.
Love, Angela Florn

How are you doing? I am doing FINE. I am do I good.
Love Mary Dayton

I wish that my Grandpa won't be sick ever again. I want my tooth to fall out I want Bathub Barbie.
Love, Tracy Odrowski

I want Bath Time Barbie for Christmas, please. I hope you are feeling good this year and I hope you can give the Poor People Some food and gifts.
Love, Marlena DeBeliso

Thank you for my presents last year. I loved them. And I want to ask you for a present this year. I want a stuffed kity.
Love, Lauren Carroll

I have been a real good boy! Please come to my house on Christmas Eve. I will leave a special surprise for you and your reindeer!
Love, Tommy Stafford XOXO

I've been a good girl most of the time. Do you think I could get a new hot pink bike with a kick stand but no training wheels. Your most good girl.
Kolleen Kernohan

I will bring my toy magazine when I come to see you at the local park and show you a few things for Christmas that I like have a good Christmas Santa.
Nicholas Blackford

I LOVE YOU. I WANT A BLANKET WITH SANTA ON IT.
Sarah Shelton

I whold like some clothing, food and shoes for the needy and I whold like blankets for the needy. And all I whad like is a good Christmas.
Amy Rogerson

I like Christmas because you get to be with your family. I think Christmas is the most special holiday.
Brianna Kingsberry

I wish my Dad could be here for Christmas. He can't be here for Christmas be cause he died in a car accident. I also want a puppy for Christmas.
Danielle Desiree' Gust

I want ice skates and clothes for Christmas. PS. Remember to eat your Milk and cookies!
Megan Marie Carroll

My special wish for Christmas is that pollution is stopped and there is peace on earth, and that rain forests are saved. I also want a stuffed dalmation puppy.
Karen Holmes

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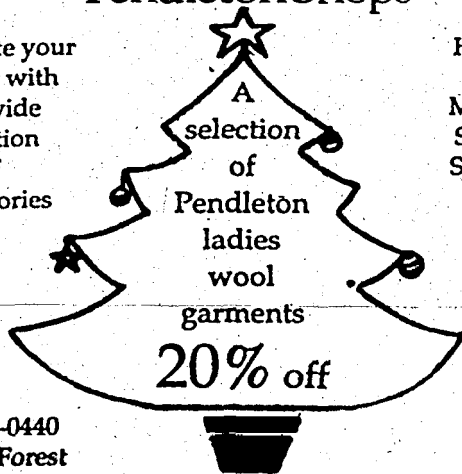
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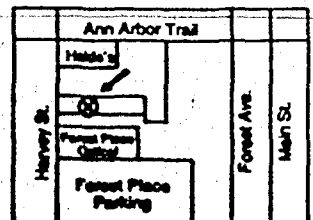
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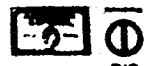
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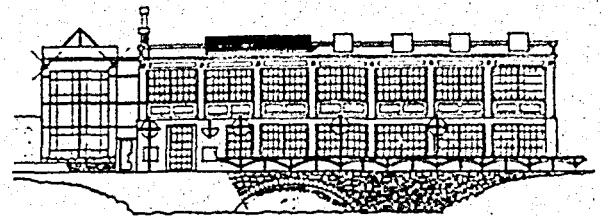
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December 13

The Nutcracker
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8pm
by Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company & the
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December 14

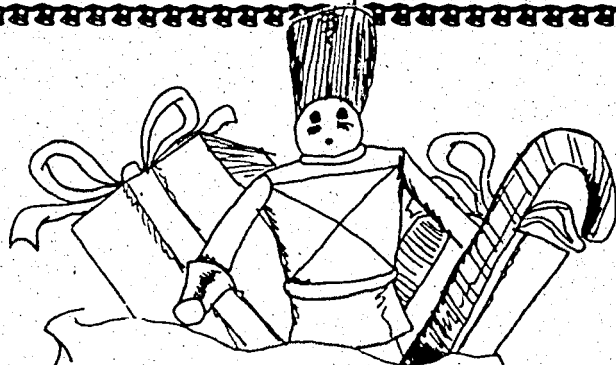
The Nutcracker
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December 14

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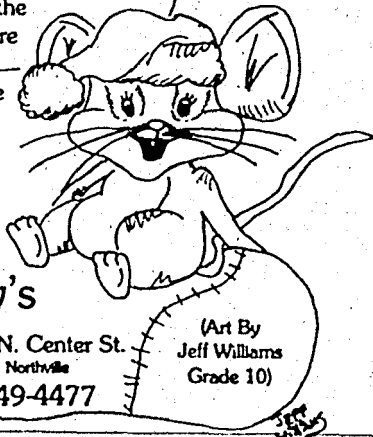


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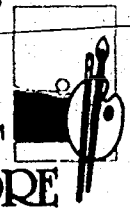
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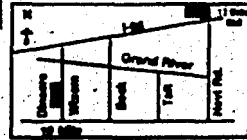
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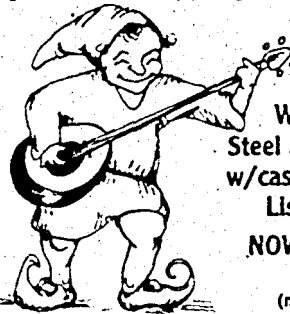
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I have been a good boy this year. These are the presents I want for Christmas. is, a computer and a Ken Bike and a book and a times Math Desk with the computer.
Don Tuckowski

This year I want splinter, Belop and rocksteady. Go-Go my walking pup, a Nintendo game and for gameboy.
Mary Beth Trainor

I would like Jet fighters flash traks and a model boat with a remote control motor.
Andrew Kee

I would like you to get me 1 doll or 2 dolls from Meijer, or you might have them at you your workshop. love,
Elizabeth Rodgers

I would like Fashion faces or plates, Dream builders, and Home Alone and other things in my stocking.
Your friend,
Katy Prew

I really would like some American Girl Stuff. and a porcelain doll.
Danielle Portelli

For Christmas I would like a ghost writer My Christmas wish is. Let your spirit be lifted! Knowing the miracle of Christmas is hear.
Katie Hubert

What I want for Christmas is a race car and a football and X-men figures and GI JOES and the pump shoes and the tec-nadrome for ninga turtles love,
Jeff Shelton

I relly dont now if you real... Some people say your not not real and some ay your not Well if you are real I hope you get through those Chimnies.
Mandy Sutton (or Amanda)

Merry Christmas I would like very much to win this contest. I would like to get two Newkids posters, sponge rollers for your hair a curlint iron and some stationary.
Keely Marie McCourt

I want Yo you, a crimp & curl dolly & a cash register. I love going to breakfast with you. I am goinh to leave a picture I made for you & Mrs. Claus
Love, Alexandra Clark

I would like an electronic Suvivor shot, a hockey game, turtle stuff, guitar, tournament tble, nerf bow and arrow, telescope, and a jet. Merry Christmas Santa.
P.S. A Pair of Roller Skates would be nice
Stephen Portelli

I wish it would snow every day and that I could get presents every day. Why is it so long till Christmas?
Tom Reese

Please bring me Li'l Miss Singing Mermaid, Baby Wanna Walk and a cupcake doll. I've been really good!
Angela Napolitno

I'll see you Christmas Eve. And I'll give you some cookies and candy cane.
John Napolitano

My sister and I have been good girls. Please bring as surprise dolls. We love you. Have a safe trip on Xmas.
Love, Allison McDuff

I would like a car, a ball, truck, and a new baby sister!
Love, Nicholas MacDiarmid

I have been a good boy this year. These are the presents I want for Christmas: a coloring book, lots of candy canes, and crayons.
Love, Jimmy Tuckowski

How are you doing? Please get me Roller Blades and, Mini Typhoon II. Good bye.
Love, Brad Rissman

I want a Game Boy and Saga Genesis.
Love, Brandon

I hope you have a good trip. Please help the poor. I am going to Leqve you cookies and milk.
Love, Sara Schupra

I hope you've had a good year. Please will you bring me Mini Typhoon II, and goalie gloves. I hope you have a good time.
Love, Randy Palis

I hope you are not sick? Please bring me a Nintendo and Mouse Trap. I hope you have a good year. Your friend,
Kara Christenson

How is Rudolph? Please can you bring me a dog and a cat. How are you elves?
Love, Sarah Haske

How are you? Can you bring me a Robin Hood and Merry men. And how is Mrs. Santa Claus?
From, Steven Ziarko

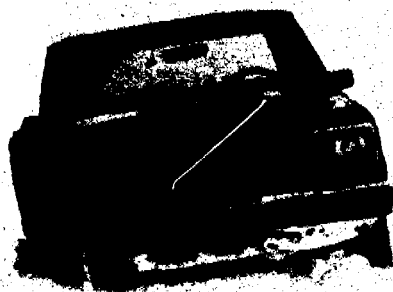
I hope you have a good year. Please can you get me Mini Typhone II, goalie gloves, and goalie pads. I hope you have a good time.
Love, James Wisniewski

I hope you have fun. Please help the poor. Is it fun giving the children presents?
Love, Jenna Hamilton

How's Rudolph? Please can you bring me a puppy. You are a good Person. Good by.
Love Kari Kenny

I hope you've had good Year. Please can you bring me clothe, toys, and a good pair of shoes. I hope you will have a good trip.
Love, Kelly Byrne

Let it snow!



Frieda O'Leary, of Northville, won The Crier's Snowfall contest recently. This year's first official snowfall fell on Dec. 2.



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Our Lady seeks delay

Continued from pg. 12

Assistant Engineer Jim Penn the day of the meeting.

"I think we were done a terrible disservice by not being notified in advance," said Bill Leonard, business manager for Our Lady.

Leonard said he would not attend tonight's meeting but would notify the commission by phone that he wished to table their proposal.

"I think it's totally improper for objections to be raised in the way they have been," he said. "We feel discriminated against."

The city said the church's application was not specific enough and needed more information about how the convent would be used, driveway dimensions and property lines.

Leonard said they would not submit plans again until they were ready with a complete outline of their expansion, which includes the construction of a parish center.

Levitte, lawyer for the homeowners, said that traffic from Our Lady has created an intolerable parking nuisance for homeowners in the area.

Levitte filed suit on behalf of the homeowners against Our Lady earlier this year to prevent the church from changing the use of the convent until it filed complete site plans.

But, according to Levitte the site plans filed recently by the Church did not specify if the convent would be used for classes. "It's not a fire trap, but it doesn't

meet code," she said. "It doesn't have sprinklers."

The request tabled at last month's meeting also sought approval for additional parking and for a utility shed on Our Lady's property.

Levitte said the church has never sought the proper permits for changing the use of its buildings or for increasing parking space.

Festival replaces Challenge

Continued from pg. 9

"We talked about a lot of different ideas," said Bob Dates, recreation supervisor and chair of the 10-member committee looking for ways to replace the Challenge Festival. "Originally we looked at the July 4th weekend. That's how we got the name. Then we changed the date but decided to keep the name."

"Everyone seemed to like that name," Dates added.

The Liberty Festival will debut the weekend of June 26-28 and will feature a classic car show, arts and crafts, a fine arts show, an antique show, children's games and activities, concessions, the annual youth sports festival and continuous music in the new Canton amphitheater.

Fireworks will highlight the festival on Saturday night. A major meal, possibly a family barbecue, is being considered for Sunday as well.

"We're still looking at a lot of other possibilities," Dates said. "We will have less of an emphasis on athletics."

All of the events will be held in the Canton Recreation Complex behind the Administration Building along Canton Center Road.

Tom Yack, Canton's supervisor, said the more successful aspects of the Challenge Festival would likely be incorporated into the new Liberty Festival.

"We learned some valuable lessons from that festival," said Yack, who added that the new festival will be more spectator driven. "The Challenge Festival was more participant driven than for spectators."

Yack admitted that he would like to have seen the festival still staged during the July 4th weekend, but added that next year will be the first for the new festival and changes would always be possible in the future.

"I think we've tried to take some of the more successful events from the previous festival and ask those folks to be incorporated into that weekend," said Yack, who cited the Gospel Song Fest part of the Challenge Festival, as an example of what might be carried over to the new event.

The annual Canton Soccer Tournament will continue to be held during the Memorial Day weekend, said Dates.



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Porterhouse Meats
1058 S. Main St.
Plymouth 455-6770

Homeless

Continued from pg. 2

Church said his church did not make a formal application to be allowed to shelter the homeless. "It's a program of the church under our umbrella," he said, and therefore did not need special permission.

Church criticized Plymouth Township saying, "One is just cynical enough to wonder about the ulterior motives."

The Newburg Methodist program and the one proposed by First United Methodist are part of an outreach, sponsored by Cass United Methodist Church in Detroit. The goal is to keep the homeless sheltered by having each church house them for a week.

According to some church council members, other local churches including St. Kenneth's, St. John Neumann, St. Edith's and Our Lady of Good Counsel have been investigating similar programs.

Arts show set

Native West in Plymouth will sponsor its second annual Winter Arts Festival on this weekend, Dec. 13-15, from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. at Native West, 863, W. Ann Arbor Trail.

The event is being billed as an American Indian Art Show

Special guests will include crafters, jewelry makers, artist and traders such as Bill Rabbit, Bing Crosby, and Danny Zender.

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**Drawing to be held Friday, December 20th at Noon
Entry forms also available at all stores**



Remembering Pearl Harbor

Well over 100 people attended a ceremony in memory of Pearl Harbor Saturday morning at Kellogg Park. Alice Fisher (left) and Al Stanwood of the VFW place a wreath on a monument. (Crier photo by Brian Watkins)

Canton DDA plan

Continued from pg. 1

needed to be made at tonight's meeting regarding whether or not to accept the agreement or let the lawsuit to continue.

A court hearing is scheduled Friday on the lawsuit, and it is likely that an extension will be requested with the agreement now on the table.

The DDA "saga" took a new turn earlier this year when a plan drawn up by both parties was later rejected by Newman. Yet another plan was designed, this time by Newman's architect but that plan was unacceptable to Canton.

Yack said that the latest plan seemed to put all of the commercial sections of the DDA on Newman's property.

"At that point we told the attorneys to try and reach an agreement to keep the DDA alive," Yack told the DDA last week.

Under the agreement being considered, the DDA would be able to make public improvements to the perimeter of the district (it runs along Ford Road, east of Sheldon, to the Target store) to encourage development and provide a focal point, said Yack.

If the plan is agreed upon Newman's lawsuit would then be dropped.

"Basically the plan being drawn up strips out the interior of the DDA," said Yack. "It would be a beautification, but maybe there are benefits that could be increased for the DDA by linking up to the southside.

"It's a plan for Ford Road," Yack continued, which abandons the interior of the property north of Ford Road.

Other members of the Canton DDA wondered if the agreement being considered is nothing more than a beautification plan for Ford.

Future interior improvements to the district could be negotiated, said Yack,

once work on the perimeter is completed.

"It gives us a mechanism to move forward," he said. "The language allows for discussion of future interior improvements."

If the Canton DDA accepts the agreement it will have to adopt it within 90 days.

"To be honest with you I just got fed up," said Yack. "We were going absolutely nowhere.

"This is an attempt to keep the DDA alive and do some positive things and sit back and wait and just buy some time," he added.

Yack also told the DDA that there was every indication Newman would proceed with the lawsuit.

He said that if Canton lost the suit the DDA would be disbanded and money collected returned. But if Canton won the suit, he added, the DDA would be able to enforce its own plan for the district.

Yack also said that the agreement, if adopted, might "set the pace" for other areas of Canton.

"I don't think we can look at this corner of Ford Road and say that's all of Canton," he said.

Several DDA members expressed concern that the agreement would leave development in the interior to a "free for all."

They also said they were unhappy that the plan "voids" the group's market studies and previous efforts over the seven years the DDA has been in existence.

Yack said that even if the DDA approved the plan the Canton Board of Trustees would also have to be involved in the agreement since the entire township is named in Newman's six-month old lawsuit.

DDA members were also expected to huddle with township attorneys during tonight's meeting to discuss the litigation.

Canton youths die in fire

Continued from pg. 1

When the elder Mattiello discovered the fire she ran to neighbors, Margarita and Alexander Marks, who called 911, said police. She suffered only singed hair and minor burns and was treated and released from Botsford Hospital.

Livonia Police said the fire started at 11:49 p.m. on Friday night. The 911 call was placed at 12:12 a.m., and emergency vehicles arrived on the scene at 12:30 a.m., according to police.

Firefighters battled the blaze until approximately 3 a.m. and remained on the scene until 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Both children were given CPR at the scene before being taken to Botsford Hospital, where Nikolaus was pronounced dead-on-arrival.

Police indicated he showed no signs of life at the fire scene. Angela was transferred to Children's Hospital where she died soon after.

The children lived with their mother Christine, who lives in Canton. She is separated from her husband Anthony, who has weekend visitation rights and lives with his mother.

The father picked up his children Friday night, but was not at the home when the fire broke out, said police.

Livonia Fire Marshal Arnold Klinger said the cause of the fire was creosote build-up in the chimney. Creosote is a flammable substance caused by the sap excreted from burning wood.

The one-story home was completely destroyed in the fire, said police.

Angela was on the competition "Canton Stars" pom pom squad at the Masters of Dance in Canton. She also did modeling and was in the school choir.

Nikolaus had just started kindergarten in September.

Other survivors include: grandparents J. Donald and Theresa Cosenza, of Plymouth; great-grandparents James and Katherine Kaufmann, of Florida; seven uncles and eight aunts; and several cousins.

Rev. Ernest M. Porcari officiated at the funeral services. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the St. Thomas A'Becket-Mattiello Fund, 555 S. Lilley, Canton MI, 48188.

Stadium in Northville?

Continued from pg. 1

bargaining chip.

Until yesterday afternoon.

That's when the State House passed the Senate-approved stadium finance bill that allows Wayne County to fund the proposed new stadium -- if voters agree, but only in the county's most populous city.

But up until then, two sites at Sheldon and Five Mile were possible.

Just as when the vacant St. John's Seminary site -- on 175 acres kitty-corner to the Huntington site -- was rumored as a stadium site a year ago, local opposition is almost certainly a hurdle. "There's nobody out here who wants (the stadium) out here," said Northville Township Supervisor Betty Lennox.

"I don't see any advantages at all," she said. "The road structure out here wouldn't support it. Sheldon is a two-lane road, Six Mile is limited access. Detroit already has the infrastructure."

Plymouth Township Clerk Esther Hulsing said, "Plymouth Township would not be happy to see the stadium go in across the road."

"As a Northville Township resident," DeMattia said, "I think they'd have a heck of a time getting (this stadium location) through."

The former Wayne County Boys' Training School property does touch two roads with M-14 Expressway exits -- Sheldon and Beck -- and borders the state's Scott Correctional Facility (women's prison). Its 933 acres would be large enough to house a stadium.

When the St. John's location was rumored, the Plymouth Township Board passed a resolution urging the stadium be kept in Detroit; Northville Township has not yet done that.

But in July, Northville Township passed a stadium ordinance which would

require a zoning change to industrial or planned unit development (PUD) for Huntington to be considered. (The Huntington Falls proposal suggests a PUD zoning change, but an actual plan has not been filed with Northville Township.)

"We certainly have had no conversations with anyone from the stadium authority," DeMattia emphasized. "I don't think a stadium is a compatible use with the office-research development that we've come to see along M-14 and I-275 in Plymouth and Northville Townships.

"I believe the stadium belongs in downtown Detroit where it can serve all the tri-county area," DeMattia said.

Wayne County Deputy Executive Mike Duggan opposed the Huntington site for a stadium -- or any out-county site. "We are trying to restrict urban sprawl.

"And besides now the financial package in the bill only allows it in Detroit," he said.

Talks between the Huntington group and Wayne County are "progressing," DeMattia said.

"We are holding talks at the present time as to timing parameters (on the Huntington Falls property acquisition)," he said. The original plan for Huntington's \$2 billion, 10-year development estimated a recession would occur at some point during the building cycle.

Maurice Breen, Plymouth's county commissioner, said Tuesday that he had not heard of the Huntington land idea, but added that he would object to it since it would go against what both Plymouth and Northville townships want in the area.

Breen has also complained, however, that the commissioners have been left out of the Tiger stadium discussions.

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Places to be

Nutcracker danced locally

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra (PSO) and the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company will sponsor a joint production of the Nutcracker Ballet Dec. 13-15.

More than 130 musicians and dancers from The Plymouth-Canton Community are involved in the production, including Dawnell Dryja of Canton, the reigning Junior Miss Dance of America, and Densil Adams, principal dancer for Dancer's Unlimited Repertory Company.

Young and old alike will marvel as the magic dream of Clara is recreated on stage to superb orchestral accompaniment. Follow Clara as she journeys through the Land of Snow to the Magic Kingdom where she is honored by the Sugar Plum Fairy and the King.

The PSO, in its 46th season, is conducted by Russel Reed, while Dawn Greene is artistic director of the ballet group.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13-14 and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Salem High School auditorium.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students, and are available at Beitner Jewelry, Joanne's Dance Extension, Evola Music, Canton Recreation Department, Giftfiddler Music, Bookstall, Dearborn Music and directly from the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. Reserved seating must be purchased in advance.

For more information call 451-2112.

Club skates for Christmas

The Plymouth Figure Skating Club is presenting a special holiday show this year -- "Christmas Around the World" -- Dec. 13 from 8-9 p.m. on the ice at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Tickets for the show will be sold at the door. They are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

The special show features members of the figure skating group and pre-schoolers from Academic Gardens.

For further information call 455-6620.

Chamber holds festivities

The Canton Chamber will hold its Annual Holiday Party on Thursday from 7-10 p.m. at the Sunflower Village Hanford Club House, 45800 Hanford Rd.

This year, the chamber members and guests will be bringing donations for "Santa's Christmas Fund," founded by honorary member Gene "Santa" Reeves.

Attendees will be bringing sweaters, caps, mittens, stuffed animals or the most beneficial gift of monetary donations, made out to "Santa's Christmas Fund."

The 89-year-old Reeves will be

helping to distribute the presents to the needy at, among other places, Bryant School for the Retarded, Dorsey Street Community Center, Foster Grandparent Association, respite centers, and area group homes.

The event is open to area business persons. Dinner and entertainment are provided when you purchase a ticket at \$12.

For tickets, reservations or more information call the Chamber office at 453-4040.

Gingerbread at ice show

There will be a gingerbread house display and contest this year as part of the annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular.

The Plymouth Ice Spectacular, which runs from Jan. 15-20, is adding the gingerbread display and contest for the first time this year.

For just \$3.50 for adults and \$1 for children, participants can enter their own creation in one of six unique categories. The houses will be on display daily from

10 a.m. until 8 p.m. in Westchester Mall throughout the ice spectacular.

The six categories are: churches and castles; storybook or fantasy land; open (any type of architecture); Plymouth Community; cookies and such (edible, but non-gingerbread creations); and children's creations (ages 10 and under).

Entry forms and contest rules are available from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce or from the Westchester Mall shops on Forest Avenue in Plymouth.

Decision expected this month WTUA to refinance bonds?

BY KEN VOYLES

Members of the Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA) commission met Monday to decide whether or not to refinance the WTUA water bonds in an attempt to save from \$7-\$13 million.

According to Deloris Newell, executive director of WTUA, the authority members have directed their attorney to pursue the refinancing paperwork. She expected a formal decision by WTUA by the end of the year.

"It is of great interest to the commission to save the three communities as much money as they can," said Newell.

Tom Yack, chairperson of WTUA's

governing commission, said that the organization was trying to be flexible with its bonds.

"We can only once refinance and given the current situation with bonds this is the best market," said Yack. "This is the time to do it so why not take advantage of it."

WTUA bonds total some \$91 million, said Yack.

Newell said the WTUA commission originally considered a bond refinancing plan "quite a while ago" but now faces the actual decision.

"How much we could save changes every day," Newell said.

She added that "everyone was ready to move" on the refinancing.

Decision on 3rd judge due?

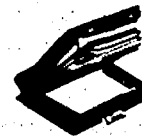
Officials of the 35th District Court advisory group are expected to meet Thursday (Dec. 12) and decide whether or not to seek a third judgeship for the court.

The group, along with the court's building authority (made up of the same representatives from the townships of Canton, Plymouth, Northville and cities of Plymouth and Northville), must decide on the judgeship question by early next year if the court is to hold an election in 1992.

The group will also discuss courtroom renovation work and the court's budget for next year.

Court judges James Garber and John MacDonald have said that the advisory group must decide whether to ask the state for a new judge for the 35th by January so that legislation can be pushed forward.

Garber, who has sat on the court since 1978, has said he will not seek reelection to the bench when his term expires in 1994.



Getting down to business

HVA has 10th anniversary

Huron Valley Ambulance is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an open house today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the headquarters at 2215 Hogback Rd. in Ann Arbor.

The open house includes a tour of the headquarters and a demonstration of emergency equipment. HVA provides ambulance service for Plymouth.

Canton resident Jerry Grady has been recognized by Great Plains Software for excellence in computer installation service.

Grady is an account executive with Follmer, Rudzewicz and Co., an accounting firm in Southfield. Twenty-eight-year old Grady is one of six recipients of the award in the United States and Canada.

Traci Gottschalk has been appointed director of Parks and Recreation in Northville. Gottschalk, who graduated from Eastern Michigan University, has been with the Community Recreation Department since 1985. She previously served as the senior coordinator for the City of Plymouth.

Canton resident Annette Lentz has received the Crystal Circle Award from

University Microfilms International. The award recognizes excellence in the sales of research materials.

Lentz has worked for Ann Arbor-based UMI for five years and is pursuing a degree in business. She is one of two recipients of the award.

Plymouth resident Lee Purcell has become a licensed architect in Michigan. Purcell has worked in the design department for the architectural firm of Albert Kahn Associates, and recently passed the examination to receive his architectural license. Purcell holds a bachelors degree in architecture from the University of Detroit.

Paul Fessler, a resident of Plymouth, has been appointed the director of nuclear training for Detroit Edison's Fermi 2 power plant. Fessler has worked in the nuclear division of Detroit Edison for 15 years. He holds bachelors and post-graduate degrees in nuclear engineering and business administration from the University of Michigan.

Fessler was a member of the an international nuclear inspection teams which have visited power plants in Lithuania and Germany.

Canton cops hunt for missing needles

BY KEN VOYLES

Canton Police continue to search for medical supplies that turned up missing over the weekend.

A box labeled "bio-hazardous waste" and containing a small number of used hypodermic needles was taken from an unlocked vehicle parked at the Crossings Apartment complex on Joy Road near I-275, said police.

According to police, a woman who lives at the apartment complex and works for Caremark Inc., which has a local

office in Plymouth, reported the box missing Sunday morning.

The needles were in a box which contained unused hypodermic needles, syringes, alcohol swabs and another box containing the used needles.

Police said some of the items taken were recovered along the I-275 bike path, but the needles remain missing.

Canton Police have requested the Michigan State Police K-9 unit to assist in searching for the medical supplies. Anyone with information is asked to call

Canton Police at 397-3000.

Steve Mazur, a spokesperson at Caremark's Lincolnshire, IL office, said the missing needles were used to draw blood samples. He said the needles were not used on any patients with the AIDS virus.

Caremark is a service company that helps homebound patients.

Mazur said the firm is offering a \$500 reward for any information leading to the recovery of the medical supplies. Anyone with information should contact Greta Robbins at 454-0800, ext. 221.

Doc's conviction overturned

The Michigan Supreme Court has overturned the conviction of Dr. Charles Ray Fisher, a Canton doctor serving a life sentence for the 1984 suffocation death of his wife.

The court ruling came Nov. 25 and concluded that Fisher was denied a fair trial by the admission of hearsay evidence regarding the victim's state of mind.

The court said that the "likelihood of

prejudice" in the evidence — the diary of Ella Maria Mercado Fisher — should have been excluded because the "relevance of the evidence was substantially outweighed by the prejudice."

The ruling reversed the judgments of the Court of Appeals and Detroit Recorder's Court.

The court remanded the case to Recorder's Court for a new trial.



Community deaths

Craze, a homemaker

Vera Katherine Craze, 92, of Plymouth, died Nov. 28. Services were held Nov. 30 at the Schrader Funeral Home with Rev. Robert L. Miller officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkley.

Mrs. Craze was a homemaker and had lived in Plymouth for nine years.

She is survived by her daughter, Nancy Barkley, of Plymouth; her granddaughter, Susan Bodrie, of Novi; and great granddaughter Jennifer Bodrie.

Memorials may be made to the Lupus Foundation of Michigan.

Fisher, Ford employe

Life-long Plymouth resident Clyde Carl Fisher, 96, died Nov. 26. Services were held Nov. 30 at the Schrader Funeral Home with Rev. Philip Rodgers Magee officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Fisher was born in Plymouth in 1895. He worked for Ford Motor Company for 37 years before retiring. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth his entire life. He also belonged to the Senior Citizen's Club of Plymouth, the Northville Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star, the HI-12 Club, and the Plymouth Grange.

He is survived by his wife, Zaida Fisher, of Plymouth; son, Kenneth Fisher, of Westland; sister, Camella Bartlette; grandchildren, Susan Petrylka, of Plymouth, James Fisher, of Perskie, PA, Christine McLain, of Marshall, and Nikola Clawson, of Marshall; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Foundation and the American Heart Association.

Nikodem, retired nurse

Mary Lillian Nikodem, 95, of Plymouth, died Nov. 26. Services were held Nov. 30 at the Schrader Funeral home with Rev. William Pettit officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mrs. Nikodem was a retired nurses' aide at the Detroit Osteopathic Hospital in Highland Park. She came to Detroit from Florida in 1915 and moved to Plymouth in 1971. She was a member of Divine Savior Catholic Church.

She is survived by grandsons, Jonathan Thibodeau, of Detroit, and Edgar J. Thibodeau, of California; daughters-in-law Maxine R. Thibodeau, of Detroit, and Gazella Thibodeau, of California.

Souter, a homemaker

Helen H. Souter, 89, of Plymouth died Nov. 26. A memorial services was to have been held at a later date.

Mrs. Souter was a homemaker who came to Plymouth in the early 1930s from Toledo, Ohio. She was a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Plymouth.

Mrs. Souter is survived by her son, William W. Cowgill, of Plymouth; daughter Ellen Childs, of New Hartford, CT; grandchildren, Susan Cohen, of North Carolina, Jeffrey Cowgill, of Brighton, Porter Childs and Allison Childs, of CT; and three great grandchildren.

Local arrangements were made by the Schrader Funeral Home.

Holland, Ford employe

James E. Holland, 66, of Canton, died Nov. 19. Services were held Friday, Nov. 22 at Pawlus Funeral Home with Rev. J.D. Stump officiating. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens West.

Mr. Holland was employed with Ford Motor Company for 30 years.

Survivors include: wife, Shirley Blanchard, of Holland; son James Dennis; daughters Sherry Lynn and Brenda Ann; grandson Brandyn James; seven brothers and three sisters.

Local arrangements were handled by Pawlus Funeral Home.

Garvey, GM worker

Frank R. Garvey, 81, of Plymouth, died Nov. 21 at the Westland Convalescent Center. Services were held Saturday, Nov. 23 at Lambert-Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home with Rev. George Charnley of St. John Neumann Catholic Church officiating. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mr. Garvey was a retired engineer at General Motors.

Survivors include: wife Maureen P. Garvey, of Plymouth; son John Garvey, of Plymouth; daughters Carol L. Shaffner, of Brighton, Mary L. Berglund, of Plymouth, and Patricia Ann DeCelle, of Brighton; and nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Local arrangements were handled by Lambert-Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home.

Taddia, manager

Marguerite B. Taddia, 63, of Plymouth, died Nov. 16. Services were held Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Vermeulen Memorial Trust 100 Funeral Home with Rev. George Charnley of St. John Neumann Catholic Church officiating. Burial was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Taddia was the manager of a hotel/motel business.

Survivors include: husband Bob, of Westland; daughter Lisa Cieslak, of Canton; sons Dean, of Westland, and Robert D., of Romulus; brothers George Alexander, of St. Clair Shores, and Harry Poells Jr., of East Point; mother-in-law Eride Taddia; grandchildren Angela, Richard, Alisha, Michael, and Christopher; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Local arrangements were handled by Vermeulen Memorial Trust 100 Funeral Home.

Kral, registered nurse

Aileen Mary Kral, 84, of Plymouth, died Nov. 21. Services were held Saturday, Nov. 23, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with Rev. James Wysocki officiating.

Mrs. Kral attended the Pines in Chatham, Ontario, and graduated from Providence Hospital as a registered nurse in 1932. She moved from Detroit to Palm Beach, FL, in 1970, and moved to Plymouth in 1989. She was an honorary life member of of the Donne Gal — Monaghan K of C.

She was also a member of the Providence Hospital Nurses Alumni Association and of the Palm Beach Gardens chapter of the Women of the Moose.

Survivors include: sons Thomas Kral, of Plymouth, and Gerald Kral, of Bloomfield Hills; daughter Carol Budzinski, of Dearborn Heights; and grandchildren Kevin Kral, Karen Sauer, Nicole Kral, Allan Kuster, Dawn Berl and Kurt Kuster.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice of Livonia.

Local arrangements were handled by Schrader Funeral Home.

Bus drivers question procedure of police

Bomb scare at East Middle forces evacuation

BY STEVE O'LEARY

What was thought to be a bomb found in a locker at East Middle School last week was determined Tuesday to be nothing more than water in a Pepsi bottle — a possible science experiment — mixed with cork and string, said Plymouth's acting Police Chief Robert Scoggins.

Still, the bomb threat called into the school led to some chaos and confusion, forcing the evacuation of the building and canceling classes for the day as dogs trained to sniff out explosives and bomb squad experts patrolled the halls instead of students and teachers.

When school began at 7:15 a.m. last Wednesday, students in East Middle School looked forward to yet another ordinary school day.

But it was no ordinary school day for those children. Within an hour of their arrival at school, the day had turned topsy-turvy because of someone with a warped mind. Chaos erupted and they were soon on their way home, some wondering if they would ever see their school again.

Police later said a possible bomb of some sort had been found in an unused locker — a bomb in the shape of a Pepsi bottle.

"That was all we had to go on," Scoggins said Tuesday. "It was suspicious looking device, especially with the phone call, and to be quite honest, we're rather err on the side of



Local and state police units, including a bomb squad and dog team, were rushed to East Middle School Wednesday morning. The device believed to be the bomb was placed

in a special casing (far left) designed to carry explosives. (Crier photo by Steve O'Leary)

safety. I'd do the same thing again, no doubt."

One East student called a local newspaper office late Wednesday to ask if her school had been "blown to bits or what?" She was in tears as she asked.

The Pepsi bottle with the then-unknown liquid inside had, by way of numerous teenage imaginations, been transformed into something just this side of a nuclear warhead.

On Monday, Plymouth Police had not yet heard from the Michigan State Police as to the contents of the possible bomb.

"I received word this morning that the bomb may have been nothing more than a science project," said Scoggins. "I

understand that a similar kind of container was being used in a project, so that is a possibility."

"This case is far from closed," Scoggins said Tuesday. "Even though we now believe the bottle is not connected with the bomb scare, there is still the fact some sick person called in a threat of this kind. We are looking at numerous leads at this time."

Scoggins said the worry over the container, now believed to be a science project, was not one to be glossed over.

"I'm convinced we did the correct thing. The bomb squad told me that they have seen a container of this sort lately filled with Drano, which does explode when lit," Scoggins said. "They were concerned about it, which heightened my worry about it."

According to police, the call to the school Wednesday morning was answered by Denise Marie Gerisch in the school office.

"Listen up, so you don't screw up," police said the adult male caller told Gerisch. "I have put three bombs in the school. The first is set to go off at 10:05 a.m. I will call back at 9:05 to give my demands to police to show I'm not f---g around."

Scoggins said the call was taken seriously, since it was apparently an adult male and not a student playing a prank. Special phone tracking equipment was put on the office lines but the caller never followed up.

Police began a sweep of the building, and officer Ronald Kaminski found the plastic Pepsi bottle, filled with the liquid, a cork and yellow string with wax on one side. He immediately took it from the building and put it outside.

"He made a split-second decision that he would remove it from the building," Scoggins said. "He thought that was the fastest and safest way to get the threat as far away from the children as possible. I would have done the same thing."

The students, meanwhile, had all been ordered to the cafeteria where principal Tom Workman explained the situation and how it was necessary for them to leave in an orderly fashion.

Workman said he also stressed that each child should know what they were to say to their parents or neighbors, if that's where they went after school.

When the state police arrived on the scene, complete with bomb squad and canine units, the school was cordoned off. A search failed to turn up any other possible bombs.

State police officers put the possible bomb in a special casing designed to carry explosives.

Police and fire officials at the scene declined to comment on the situation.

But, at the transportation yard next door to the school, bus drivers who had just completed driving students home were more than willing to talk.

Police and school officials were unanimous in their praise of the speed and efficiency of the operation, but some bus drivers disagreed.

"There were believed to be lives at stake, yet they kept the children in the school, apparently going on the word of a crazy person — you have to be crazy to do something like this — that the first bomb wouldn't go off until 10:05," one driver said.

"He's crazy to do something like this, so why trust his word on the timing? I would have gotten those children out of the school as quickly as possible and then sorted things out. Get them away from the danger first though, for God's sake."

"It was mass confusion out there," another driver said. "The police had the driveways blocked — it was just a mess. I even overheard one of my kids on the bus remark that they didn't have it very organized."

Officials stood their ground and said things went perfectly and there were no unnecessary delays or problems.

"We aren't looking at this as a prank. We intend to prosecute if at all possible," he said.

Scoggins said he has numerous theories as to who would do something like this, but he prefers to keep them to himself at this time due to the nature of the investigation.

He did say his gut feeling was that the caller was trying to disrupt the police department rather than the school, but he is pursuing every possible avenue.

Classes went on as scheduled Thursday.

"This is something that happens in Detroit," one bus driver said. "But not in Plymouth. Never in Plymouth."

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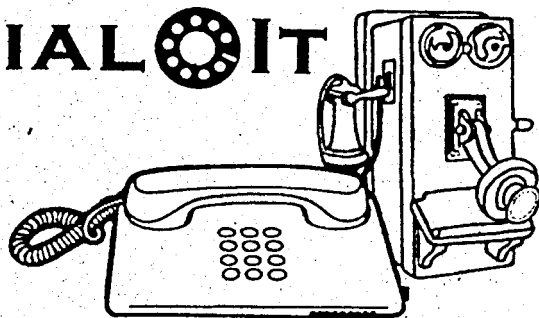
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Sports

Hoopsters make history

Chiefs end season in state finals

BY ANNE SULLIVAN

For the first time in the history of the basketball program at Canton high, the Chiefs made it to the state Class A quarter finals.

That special spot in the school's athletic history goes to the 1991 girls basketball team.

To get there, the hoopsters defeated Grand Ledge 52-41 in the semi finals at Lansing last Wednesday.

But Friday night the Chiefs' season came to a close in Battle Creek, when they were defeated by defending state champs, Detroit Martin Luther King, 63-46.

King went on to capture the state championship for the second year in a row.

"King is an elite group," said Canton coach Bob Blohm. "I think they are the best team in the state this year, even though Murray Wright didn't get to play. I don't think the results would have been different. (Murray Wright was disqualified for playing with ineligible players.) King showed us, and all Class A teams, what it takes to be Class A state champs. They are strong offensively, defensively, and with rebounding."

The Chiefs, a young, strong team ended their season with a 21-5 record. "I think we had an outstanding season," said Blohm. The Chiefs captured the Western Division Championship for the seventh year. They finished second in the Western Lakes Activities Association Conference, behind Salem. The Chiefs captured their district and regional championships and made it to the state quarter finals.

"I can't be displeased with a season like that," said Blohm regarding the accomplishments of his team.

"We played consistent from the 15th game through the 26th game," said Blohm. "The players have developed

individually and there has been team growth, development and improvement."

The Chiefs will only graduate two seniors from this team, and the starting lineup in the state playoffs will be returning next season.

Junior Stephanie Gray made the Western Lakes All-Conference team, and sophomore Britta Anderson was named to the All-Western division team. Junior



Alyson Nouane drives to the basket at Friday's state finals. (Crier photo by Eriq Lukasik)

Christie Saffron received an honorable mention to the All-Western team.

"I think they were overwhelmed at times," said Blohm regarding his teams first trip to the state quarter finals. "They (King) are a great team. They are strong

and quick. They pass well and have a good defense, that's why they're here.

"We were beat by a very good team."

Both teams came onto the court strong, and Canton was the first to score on a free throw by Anderson. The Chiefs carried the lead for a little more than six minutes in the first quarter. But with less than two minutes left in the first, King took the lead, and never looked back. They ended the first quarter with a five point lead over Canton, 13-8.

The middle two quarters were the turning point in the game.

King outscored Canton 2-1 in these quarters. The Lady Crusaders defense successfully two- and three-womaned the Chiefs shooters in the second and third quarters, limiting the Chiefs scoring to 17 points in both quarters.

King pumped in 23 points in the second quarter and held the Chiefs to nine, ending the half 36-17.

When the second half started, King dominated the court. They stretched the

lead to 25 early in the quarter, and tossed in 12, to Canton's eight, ending the third 48-25.

Even though the Chiefs trailed by 23 when the fourth quarter started, the Canton squad did not give up. The Chiefs played a determined game of basketball until the final buzzer sounded.

The squad attempted to make a run back at King, tossing in 21 points, scoring more points in the final quarter than they had in the first three. But it wasn't enough. The Lady Crusaders had done their job, tossed in 15 additional points, and walked away with the win, heading for the state finals.

"We can learn a lot from this game," said Blohm. "Our offensive execution was exception, and our intensity was good. We're a tough, young team, and we'll bounce back."

Gray lead the Chiefs in scoring with 17. Amy Westerhold tossed in 10, and Anderson had nine. Lisa Nicastri added six, and Kelly Holmes contributed four.



Dodging her Grand Ledge opponent, Stephanie Gray aids last Wednesday's win that catapulted Canton to the quarterfinals. (Crier photo by Eriq Lukasik)

Stephanie Gray is consoled by a friend after the Chiefs were knocked out of the state finals. (Crier photo by Eriq Lukasik)



Canton diving captain Nick Atwell prepares for the season at diving practice last week. (Crier photo by Eriq Lukasik)



Canton tankers need depth

BY JAY KEENAN

Hooker Wellman is trying to make sure that the learning process continues long after the school day end for the Canton boys swim team.

PREVIEW

The Canton coach, who welcomes a handful of reliable veterans from last year's team which finished fourth in the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) conference meet, would like to see his team mellow more depth as the season progresses.

"We have a good returning team and we have a lot of young guys," said Wellman. "But we have a lot of holes to fill, though - a lot of empty spots. There are a lot of spots where kids have got to learn to swim either different strokes or swim the strokes they know faster."

"We don't have any real strong spots right now. Our depth needs to develop," he added. "We're not too bad up front with our best kids, but we need to have kids develop behind them. And we just don't have that right now."

The Chiefs, who posted a 7-6 mark in dual meets and a respectable second place finish in the Western Division of the WLAA last year, are expected to get a lot of points out of the versatile Mike Orris.

Orris, a sophomore, has the ability to

swim every event, according to Wellman. "He swims everything fast," the Canton mentor said.

Senior co-captain Nick Atwell, who placed in the top six in the diving category of the conference, also returns. Mark Ealovega, another senior captain, will bolster Canton in the butterfly and freestyle sprinting events.

Wellman is also counting on big years from two other seniors - Matt Tertel and Pat Lancaster. Tertel can swim the individual medley and the long distance freestyle races. Lancaster serves as the Chiefs' short distance virtuoso in the backstroke and freestyle.

Sophomore Jeff Clark adds strength to the freestyle sprints and junior Craig Steshetz will be looked upon to score in the breaststroke and freestyle races.

Another sophomore, Joe Foster, who swam a lot during the summer and improved, according to Wellman, shows possibilities in the butterfly events.

"We've got some guys with background and some that worked out in the off-season," Wellman said.

Canton, which currently has approximately 42 swimmers out for the team, will make due this season with a youthful look. The Chiefs have about 18 freshmen, according to Wellman, and graduated 10 seniors from a year ago.



Salem's wrestling captains this year are, from left, Doug Wing, Scott Martin, Dan Bonnett and Jeff Shumate. (Crier photo by Eriq Lukasik)

Salem grapplers rebuild

Youthful team gets ready

BY JAY KEENAN

Ron Krueger finds himself facing a situation he hasn't had to encounter for quite a while.

The Salem wrestling coach, whose team has won the Western Lakes Activities Association in all but one season since the conference was formed in the early 1980s, will try to mold together a team which has less varsity experience than Krueger been accustomed to in recent years.

PREVIEW

"This is definitely probably the most inexperienced team I've had in a long time except for my seniors," said Krueger, whose team captured the WLAA a year ago and finished 11-1 in duals. "I've got about five seniors, but after that, the experience level is a lot lower."

Krueger, who is currently juggling to find an early season line-up, said his team has potential but must overcome several injuries and a tough schedule.

"Right now the younger kids are coming along good, but the type of schedule we wrestle - we wrestle a good type of state competition and now we're even trying to get into the national competition - we are going to be very young and as a result it's going to hurt us a bit," Krueger said.

Salem graduated several fine wrestlers from a year ago. Those voids that must be filled included Chad Wilson (125 pounds),

Jeff Coleman (135-140), Bob Hansen (152), Charlie Apigian (160-171) and Ken Coker (heavyweight).

Dan Bonnett returns for his senior year and will wrestle at or near the 125-pound class. He sported a 35-5 record at 119, and was first in his district and missed the state meet by one match.

Senior Scott Martin, who was 38-12

and also won his district at 112, will likely be at either at the same spot or 119, depending on how Krueger shuffles the line-up.

Krueger also plans to move up senior Jeff Shumate (36-13, fourth in the districts) from the 135-140 zone to either 145 or 152 pounds.

Despite the teams youth, Krueger has some veterans to work with. "Our older kids are really dedicated and working hard," Krueger said. "They're going to do real well, I think."

Sophomore John Moran, who set a team record for most wins as a freshman with a 29-16 mark at 103 pounds and finished fourth at the districts, will probably grapple this year at 112 or 119.

Krueger is also counting on help from senior Josh Viau (14-13), who will see action around the 145-152 pound mark. Viau, probably miss a few matches at the start of the season.

Junior Dan Phillips gained some valuable varsity experience last year (32 matches) and could be a threat at 135 or 140.

Pete Tempbroeck, a junior, had 19 matches a year ago and is contesting in the area of 160-171 pounds.

Phil Haynes, another junior, faced 34 varsity opponents and will grapple in the vicinity of 180-189 pounds after he recovers from an injury.

The Rocks will sorely miss junior Wade Langdon, who recently had a shoulder operation suffered from a football injury.

Junior Jamie Breithaupt is vying for a spot at heavyweight, while Mike Workman and first-year junior wrestler Brian Killian are contesting for spots in the lower weights.

The Rocks will open their varsity season on Saturday at the St. Edwards quad meet.

\$1.50 for the first 10 words. 20¢ each additional word. Deadline: Monday, 4pm. Call 153 6900

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MIKE ALLISON is driving. But don't worry, it's in California.

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We have so little time. And once departed, May return no more. O. Khayam

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What are we going to do on Main Street without that bilthe spirit - came in hand - kicking up his heels?

MARY R.: thanks for the wonderful cookies. - The Squirrel in the back yard.

GARY - GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!

DEE MORGAN - could go out of the antique business and make a fortune selling her apple pies.

BRUCE MIRTO IS OLDER

DEB - do you need a new snooze alarm?

Faith is a bird that feels the light (or possibly "night") and sings . . . I would appreciate it so much if you could complete this quotation and tell me its source.

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-Jessica, Sally and Ed

Curiosities

TERRY LORENZE - I wore your puritan costume and knocked 'em all dead! (I may not have been the best looking Puritan enjoying Thanksgiving in Plymouth, but I certainly was the oldest.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all.

Mystic Yoga? What's "Mystic Yoga," Ken Voyles?

CAROLYN MIRTO - thanks for the Chinese treats - Beauregard

SANTA CLAUS - Are you listening? Katie, Stephanie and Grandma G. would like to receive "Felicity" and her "schoolmaster's chair" for Christmas. We really deserve to have something nice happens to us!

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MICHELLE

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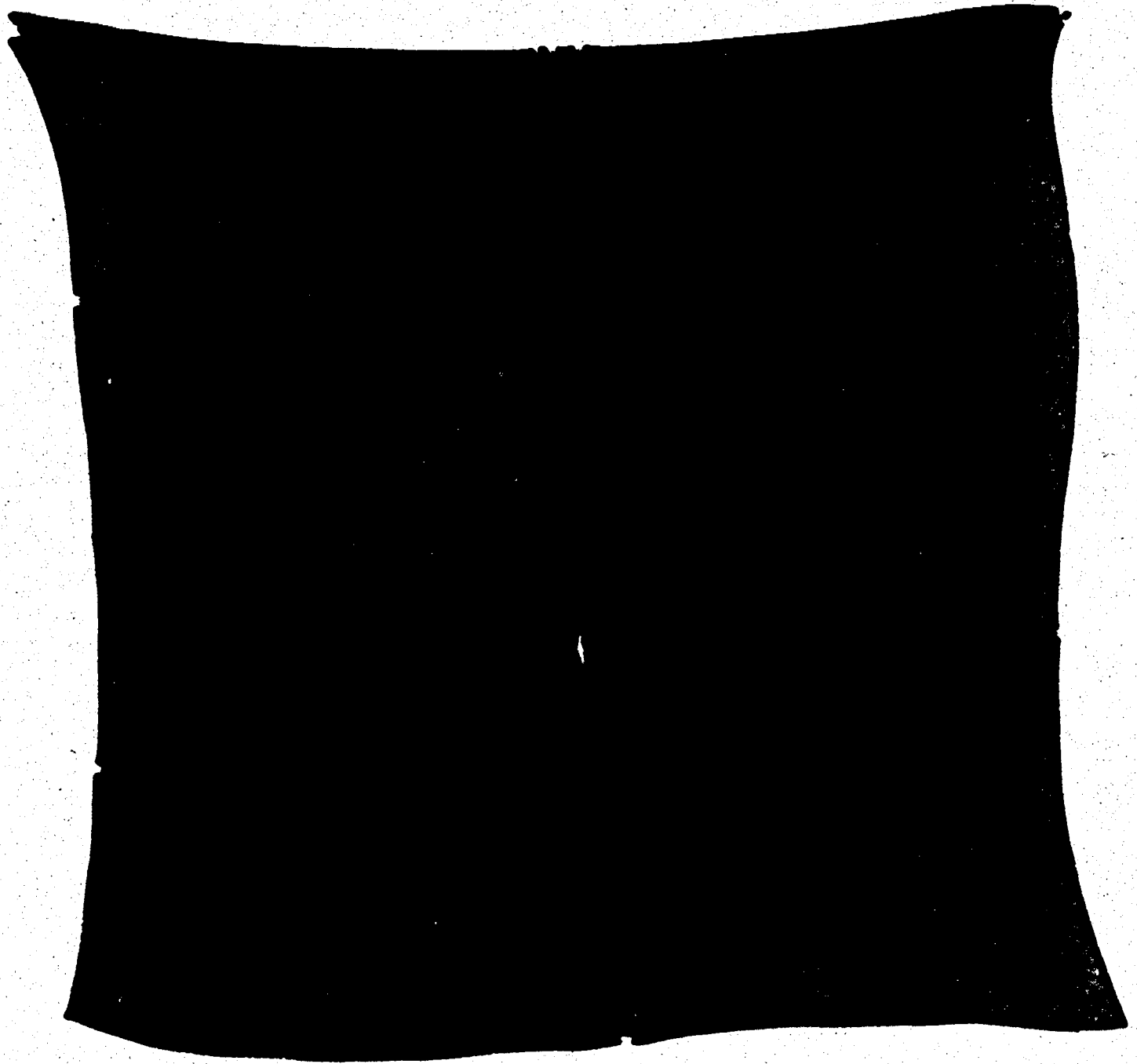
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