

# Medical office vacancies climb



**INSIDE**  
Stocks, 6B  
Comics, 8B  
Puzzles, 11B  
TV listings, 11B

# SPORTS

The Detroit News Tuesday, November 24, 2009 | Section B



**Winless trip (0-4) magnifies weaknesses**  
PISTONS, 3B

# Cabrera joins Tigers' trade talks

Red Sox likely lead the candidates for 26-year-old slugger

BY LYNN HENNING  
The Detroit News

Opening bids for Curtis Granderson and Edwin Jackson have plainly been underwhelming, or Dave Dombrowski, the Tigers president and general manager known for a fast trigger-finger, would by now have dealt at least one of two star players on the block during what could be a vol-

atile offseason for the Tigers.

Nor has anything irresistible been offered for first baseman Miguel Cabrera, who might be as available as Granderson, Jackson, or seemingly any Tigers player as the team attempts to pare payroll and prepare for a fresh start heading into a new decade.

"I'm not getting into any names," Dombrowski said Monday, when asked about Cabrera, who would figure to be just the brand of hitter the Boston Red Sox would welcome to Fenway

Please see Tigers, Page 4B



John T. Grellick/The Detroit News

The Tigers still love Miguel Cabrera's bat, but his salary might be too much in Detroit's battered economy.

## One No. 1 for Cabrera

Detroit — The Tigers' Miguel Cabrera was the American League's 2009 Most Valuable Player — according to just one of 28 voting writers of the Baseball Writers' Association.

The other 27 writers voted for Minnesota's Joe Mauer, who easily won the award. Cabrera finished fourth in the voting.

The one voter who put Cabrera first on his ballot was Keizo Konishi of the Seattle chapter. Konishi works for the Kyodo News. Two writers from each

chapter vote for MVP.

Cabrera was named on all 28 ballots. In addition to his one first-place vote, he received one second-place vote, five thirds, eight fourths, four fifths, three sixths, two sevenths, a ninth and three 10ths.

Other Tigers receiving votes were Justin Verlander (one sixth-place vote and one ninth) and Placido Polanco (one ninth).

Tom Gage

## Pay to party with James

What will it cost to get up close and personal with Cleveland Cavaliers star **LeBron James**?

If you are a guy, it will cost you \$75. It's just \$50 for the ladies to gain VIP admission for tonight's LeBron James Pre-Thanksgiving Party at Eden Night Club in Ferndale.

James is in town for Wednesday night's game against the Pistons at The Palace, but he's also throwing his first major bash in the Detroit area that is being billed as "Thanksgiving with the King."



James

# Stafford unlikely versus Packers

But Lions rookie hopes to play despite his shoulder injury

BY JOHN NIYO  
The Detroit News

Allen Park — And for an encore, Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford likely will take a seat on the bench.

Fresh off a record-setting performance in a thrilling 38-37 win over the Browns on Sunday, Stafford is expected to miss Thursday's nationally-televised Thanksgiving Day game against Green Bay.

Coach Jim Schwartz acknowledged as much Monday, after Stafford missed a walk-through practice because of a sprained AC joint in his left (non-throwing) shoulder. Schwartz wouldn't disclose the severity of the shoulder separation, but he did say an MRI revealed no significant damage.

"He's sore, and I would say if that continues, he'd be unlikely to play," said Schwartz, adding that Daunte Culpepper will get the start if Stafford can't play. "I mean, there's a chance that goes away in

Please see Lions, Page 4B



Daniel Mears/The Detroit News

Matthew Stafford, who got hit by C.J. Mosley after his pass in the final seconds Sunday, is holding out hope he'll play Thursday.

## Lions make TV

The Lions' annual Thanksgiving Day game against the Packers on Thursday is officially a sellout, the team announced Monday, so the game will be shown on local television (Fox2).

The Packers have returned a portion of their ticket allotment, so seats are still available for Thursday's 12:30 p.m. game.

## Packers at Lions

**Kickoff:** 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Ford Field, Detroit

**TV/radio:** FOX/WXYT 97.1

**Records:** Packers 6-4, Lions 2-8

**Series:** Packers lead 87-64-7

**Line:** No line (Stafford injury)

PREDATORS 3, RED WINGS 1

# A work in progress



Mark Humphrey/Associated Press

Chris Osgood sulks after Martin Erat wrapped up the Predators' win with a third-period goal.

Predators rise above Wings as they work on 'our process'

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY  
The Detroit News

Nashville, Tenn. — Here's how this thing works: To the Nashville Predators, beating the Red Wings, 3-1, Monday was a huge deal. It's their sixth straight win, their seventh straight at home, and it moves them past the Wings and into third place in a bunched-up Central Division.

To the Wings, the goal isn't to win the Central Division or be the best team in November — it's to be in position to win a Stanley Cup.

"For us, we're not thinking about 22 games," goaltender Chris Osgood said before the game.

"We try to think about playing well down the stretch, playing well as a team and being ready going into the playoffs. If we win the Central, we win it. If we don't, we're still ready and rolling going into the playoffs."

That said, the Predators are feeling pretty good about themselves, having beaten the Wings five of the last seven meetings.

"I don't even worry about the Central Division, I just worry about us," coach Mike Babcock said. "I am worried about us getting better each and every day and keep competing."

"We're playing lots of kids and what jumps out at me is Abby (Justin Abdelkader) was 2-for-7 in the circle (faceoffs) and Helmer (Darren Helm) was 4-for-8. So we're chasing the puck all night. That's a couple of kids get-

Please see Wings, Page 2B

**Weber contrite:** Defenseman wishes he hadn't hurt Lijja. 2B



Jonathan Daniel/Getty Images

Jimmy Clausen and Notre Dame might pay a visit to Ford Field.

## Pizza Bowl eyes Notre Dame

Little Caesars Pizza Bowl executive director **Ken Hoffman** notices the bowl projections on various Web sites, putting Notre Dame in the bowl game against Central Michigan or Northern Illinois.

Hoffman loves the thought of having the Irish at Ford Field in the Dec. 26 game. He knows it's a realistic possibility.

"I think having Notre Dame in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl is definitely a possibility," Hoffman said Monday. "It would be amazing for this region. I don't know if Notre Dame is going to a bowl game at 6-6. It's something we'd certainly be interested in if they would be interested, too."

Notre Dame (6-5) ends its regular season Saturday at Stanford.

The Little Caesars Pizza Bowl has tie-ins with the Mid-American Conference and Big Ten. The bowl is No. 7 on the Big Ten's pecking order.

## Top recruit visits Michigan

Tony Jefferson, the No. 1 athlete football recruiting prospect in the country according to ESPN Insider, enjoyed his visit to Ann Arbor Saturday.

Jefferson, the top-ranked athlete in the ESPN150, was among several visitors at Michigan's 21-10 loss to Ohio State.

"It was a lot of fun," Jefferson told ESPN of his official visit to Michigan. Jefferson, 6-foot, 195 pounds from Chula Vista, Calif., is a verbal commitment to UCLA.

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Dale G. Young/The Detroit News

Tom Izzo is tied for most career victories at Michigan State, but he takes nothing for granted.

# Izzo is at 340 and won't let up

BY ERIC LACY  
The Detroit News

East Lansing — Tom Izzo is one game away from becoming Michigan State's all-time winningest coach and still doesn't feel like his job is safe.

"I fear it every day," said Izzo, with 340 career victories. "It's not always a bad fear, it's more of a motivating fear; it's more of a 'Don't let it slip' fear."

Izzo's refusal to be satisfied, as he's tied with mentor Jud Heathcote for program victories, is what keeps his engine revved.

Even after a national title, five Final Four appearances in 11 years and five Big Ten titles, Izzo doesn't buy the notion MSU has reached elite status.

That explains why he has continued a frantic pace on the recruiting trail to extend and enhance a legacy that doesn't appear to be ending anytime soon.

## Great at State

Michigan State's career leaders: in men's basketball wins

Coach	W-L	Pct.
Tom Izzo (1995-present)	340-137	.713
Jud Heathcote (1976-1995)	340-220	.607
Benjamin F. VanAlstyne (1926-49)	231-163	.586
Forrest A. Anderson (1954-65)	125-124	.502
Gus Ganakas (1969-76)	89-84	.514
Chester L. Brewer (1904-10)	70-25	.736
John E. Bennington (1965-69)	54-38	.587

"I swear to you, it takes 10 years to build a program and a bad season or two to change it," Izzo said. "That fear is not bad, it's not a negative, it just

Please see Izzo, Page 3B