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St. Paddy's **Day stories**

With St. Patrick's Day coming up, the Plymouth Observer staff is looking for stories.

Does the holiday mean anything special? Is there a special way you celebrate it? Did anything special happen to you in conjunction with the holiday?

If so, please let us know. Email your stories to editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@ hometownlife.com.



By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Taxpayers and preparers aren't the only ones busy with 2012 federal income tax returns as the Monday, April 15, filing deadline approaches.

Identity thieves are also hard at work, filing phony returns under their victims' names and Social Security numbers as they try to reap hefty but illicit refunds. In Plymouth Township, three cases were reported within a recent four-day period.

Beware of attempts to get sensitive information, A2.

"Tax season is always an opportunity for all sorts of scam artists and criminals to come out of the woodwork and take advantage of people," said Luis Garcia, the Internal Revenue Service's spokesman for Michigan.

The number of IRS investigations into reported tax-related identity theft tripled in the 2012 fiscal year over the previous year, according to an IRS document, from 276 cases to 898. Prosecution recommendations and indictments also rose dramatically, and with 542 investigations, through January, already launched in the current fiscal year, the 2013 numbers seem likely to surpass last year's.

Last year, Garcia said, such investigations halted improper tax refunds that would have totaled \$20 billion.

Tax season, fraud season In Plymouth Township, Detective Sgt. David Hayes said police have seen tax-related identity theft reports before during tax season. Although victims are asked to file reports with local law enforcement, it is the IRS that investigates the crimes.

"We always are very concerned that we don't overlook it and are aware of it," Garcia said. Indeed, the victims in the recent Plymouth Township cases were tipped off to the identity theft by letters from the IRS about 2012 tax returns, which, in two of the cases, the victims hadn't yet

Please see ID THEFT, A2



NCAA tourney ticket contest

We are giving away tickets to the men's NCAA basketball tournament at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The tournament is at the Palace on Thursday, March 21 and Saturday, March 23 and we have tickets for both days. To enter, visit our web site, Hometownlife.com and click on the Don't Miss module on the right-hand side.

This is a Facebook contest so you can share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest. The drawing is Monday, March 18 and you can enter once every day. Good luck!

scholars

The March 22 deadline is approaching for students to submit applications to receive the Student Citizen Scholarships from the **Plymouth Community** and Canton Chambers of Commerce.

The two chambers award the scholarships based on community service only, not grade point. There will be a selection committee who will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, Starkweather Academy and a non-PCCS high school student who lives in the district. Scholarships will be at least \$1,000 apiece. Applications can be downloaded from a link on the front page of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools website (www.pccs.k12. mi.us). To apply, return applications to: Community Relations, 454 S. Harvey St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

Deadline is 4 p.m. March 22.

DIGITAL LEARNING K-12

Meeting kids where they are

Students learn with technology, so district aims to teach that way

By Jill Halpin Correspondent

The need to prepare Plymouth-Canton Community Schools students for life in a digital world

IN THIS SERIES Today: The tax impact

and bridging the digital divide Thursday: Parental acceptance and what other districts are doing

is just one of the driving forces behind a bond issue to be decided by voters May 7, district officials say.

It is imperative that the schools provide students with the skills to be com-

petitive in a technologydriven global marketplace, as well as develop an

Please see TECHNOLOGY, A4



Plymouth-Canton officials believe kids in the technology era learn using electronic devices such as the iPad, and want to move teaching in that direction.

School officials: Bond rate will hold steady

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

When Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators decided to recommend the Board of Education seek a \$114.4 million bond issue in a May election, they decided the

raising the tax rate for district

taxpayers.

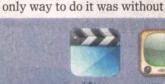
As they embark upon a campaign to convince the voting public they're right, administrators believe they've done just

While acknowledging taxpayers will pay more taxes with the bond than they will without

it, the district's financial staff believes it has devised a plan that won't see the 4.1-mill debt

levy raised. "The board is committed to never going higher than 4.1 (mills)," said Brodie Killian, the district's executive director for

Please see BOND, A5

























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Colbeck: Think differently on roads revenue

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

As Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to increase fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees to raise an additional \$1.2 billion a year for Michigan's roads fails to gain

traction, a local state senator has proposed alternative measures he says can achieve the same ends without burdening motor-

Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, talked up his plan last week, saying a combination of

measures such as reprioritizing expenditures, paying down debt, selling advertising and offering concessions at state facilities, and building better-quality, longer-lasting roads, would result in enough money, and savings, to easily match the revenue Snyder said is needed.

Colbeck, a first-term senator who also represents Plymouth and Plymouth Township, said his ideas haven't been put into bills yet but that the Legislative Ser-

Please see ROADS, A2

ROADS

Continued from page A1

vice Bureau has been asked to draft four related bills. In all, perhaps 18 bills incorporating his road-funding ideas will be introduced, Colbeck said. Colbeck said his main

goal was to start a conversation about the state's spending priori-

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "What we're really try ing to do is get people to. think differently" and consider alternatives to raising taxes. "It's actually pretty exciting to be a part of it."

Colbeck said he is working with several Senate colleagues on the proposal, but declined to name them. "I don't know if they want to plug in on that right now," he said.

Tax alternatives

Colbeck's ideas, as explained in a press release and a phone conversation, include:

· Funneling the state's rising revenue — the general fund is anticipated to grow by about \$500 million — to the Michigan Department of Transportation. Colbeck, calling the increasing receipts an "economic growth dividend," said that if roads are a really a priority, spending increases for other departments, aside from increases to adjust for inflation, should be frozen. "You should be making an investment based on your priorities," he said.

 Paying down debt to save debt-service

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Wayne County road crews fill potholes along Haggerty Road.

costs, some \$238 million a year for road bonds alone and \$833 million overall. This would be done over several years, Colbeck said, and could be done only instead of, for along with, the spending freezes he described.

 Generating revenue from state assets, including selling advertising at state facilities and on state websites, selling contracts for concessions at state parks and highway rest areas, and selling naming rights. He estimated such moves could bring in up to \$462 million a year.

 Ensuring longerlasting roads by having them built with concrete to higher standards, such as the 40year lifespans Colbeck said are the norm in Europe and Canada. While those roads would cost more initially, he said, they would save money in the long run. Road-building contracts, he added, should also include a long-term maintenance provision, which would prompt companies to build higher-quality roads at the outset to avoid having to spend more on maintenance when those roads get older.

Snyder seeks quick cash

Snyder is asking for a 14cent increase in the gasoline tax and a 19-cent increase in the diesel fuel tax, which would bring both taxes to 33 cents a gallon. He also seeks a 60-percent increase in vehicle registration fees.

The Legislature is showing little interest in the plan, however.

Colbeck is adamantly against asking taxpayers and motorists for more money to fix roads. "I think that would put an unnecessary burden on a lot of our citizens," he said.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, said he wants to see Colbeck's proposal in bill form before weighing in on it. But he isn't ready to support increased taxes either, saying those who do need to make a better case. Meanwhile, he said, alternatives are being explored.

"I think people will be more comfortable paying more if they feel like they're getting the best value for their tax dollars, and we're not there yet," Heise said.

A spokesman in Snyder's office said Colbeck's ideas are welcome and will be part of the discussion, but that the state also needs "an immediate fix" for roads.

"Investing now will prevent further decline in pavement quality and greater costs to taxpayers later on," said Ken Silfven, Snyder's deputy press secretary, in an e-mail. "The governor will continue working with his legislative partners so we can tackle this critical challenge in a responsible manner that respects the needs of taxpayers."

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Beware of attempts to get sensitive information

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Identity theft is a yearround problem, but income-tax season is an especially busy time for people who try to scam the government while posing as someone else, according to police and the Internal Revenue Ser-

"This is the time of year when we tell people to be very, very careful," said Luis Garcia, the IRS spokesman for Michigan.

In addition to commonsense steps like guarding your Social Security number and shredding sensitive documents like bank statements, Garcia offered these tips for guarding your identity and avoid having it used in tax-related fraud:

 Beware of email "phishing," that is, attempts to get sensitive information via e-mail. Garcia said such emails, claiming to be from the IRS, will use a carrot or a stick to try and get information: They might promise an additional refund, he said, or say the taxpayer owes a lot more than expected, then ask for the information.

Some might include links to websites that resemble the IRS website (www.irs.gov).

Garcia said the IRS will never send an unsolicited e-mail asking for sensitive information. "You're never going to get an email out of the blue asking for your personal information," he said.

 Similarly, some scammers will try to solicit information through phone calls to taxpayers. While the IRS does sometimes phone taxpayers, he said, that is usually only done after repeated attempts to reach them through the mail have failed.

Taxpayers who receive an unexpected call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, Garcia said, should ask for a badge number and call the IRS, at (800) 829-1040. to verify the call is legitimate before providing any private information.

· Some fraud, Garcia said, involves fly-bynight operations posing as legitimate tax preparers. They may entice taxpayers, he said, by promising big refunds, then falsify information on the returns.

ID THEFT

Continued from page A1

filed, police reports say. The con, Garcia said. typically involves filing returns designed to trigger big refunds, which the scammers attempt to have electronically deposited into their own accounts.

"They're larding them up with all sorts of deductions and credits and expenses that are false," he said.

In Plymouth Township,

police reports show: On Feb. 26, a 45-year old man who hadn't yet filed his taxes reported receiving a letter the day before from the IRS saying his return was under review. When he contacted the IRS, a police report says, he was told a 2012 return had been filed with his name and Social Security number, the only differences being a different middle initial and street address. The man also said that an unauthorized purchase

it card of his about two months earlier.

• Also on Feb. 26, a 52year-old man told police he had received an IRS letter on Feb. 22 saying that his 2012 return was under review. But he hadn't filed yet either, he told police.

• On March 1, a 53-yearold woman who had filed her 2012 return reported that she received a letter from the IRS on Feb. 25 telling her that an investigation had been launched because another return with the same name and Social Security number had also been filed. The woman told police she checked her credit history after that but found no suspicious activity on it.

'It is a priority'

Garcia said he could not comment on specific cases, but that IRS investigations of identity fraud are generally complex and time-consuming, as agents take pains to be thorough.

"We are absolutely going to work with you. It is a priority to speed

this up as quickly as possible, and do it correctly," he said. Garcia said the IRS has 3,000 employees across the country trained to handle taxrelated identity theft.

Early last month, U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade, along with the IRS, the Postal Inspection Service and the Secret Service, announced criminal charges in several cases of identity theft in metropolitan Detroit.

Victims, Garcia said, are asked to fill out an affidavit of identity theft, and may be issued a special code that will allow them to complete transactions with the IRS without interfering with falsely filed returns that are under investigation.

'You will not be held liable for a criminal's use of your identity," Garcia said. "We will deal only with your legitimate return, and you will only be held liable for, or get a refund from, your legitimate return.'

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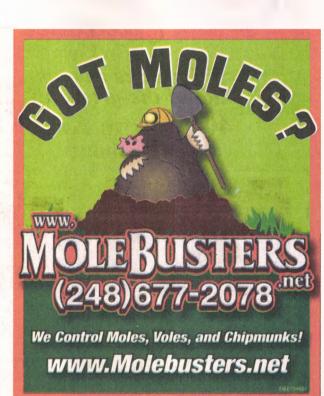
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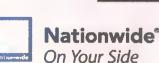
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Plymouth-Canton board picks new chief

Bv Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education's search for a replacement for outgoing Superintendent Jeremy Hughes is

The board voted Thursday to offer the job to Michael Meissen, currently the supervisor of school improvement and student achievement for Milwaukee Public Schools in Milwaukee, Wis. The 6-1 vote took place during a meeting after Meissen finished his second interview Thursday following a daylong tour of the district and discussions with teachers, staff and students.

Meissen will replace Hughes, whose contract expires at the end of June. Hughes has served since taking the job on an interim basis in 2011.

Talking about how Plymouth-Canton moves forward in the face of competitive challenges from private and charter schools, Meissen lauded the district as a high-performer.

"We should have a pur-



The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Thursday voted to hire Dr. Michael Meissen, currently working in the Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Schools, as the district's new superinten-

suit of excellence internally that we want to be the best," Meissen said. "(Plymouth-Canton) wouldn't enjoy the reputation it has if it didn't have the internal drive to be the

best it can be."

Experience counts

Meissen was chosen over the only internal candidate, executive director of business services Brodie Killian, Ultimate, the board settled for Meissen's experience, particu-

larly in the area of curriculum, over Killian's financial prowess and familiarity with the district.

Prior to his current position, Meissen spent six years as the superintendent of the Glenbard

Township High School District #87 in Glen Ellyn, Ill. That district has some 9,000 students and serves nine different municipal-

He's also been a principal at the high school, middle school and grade school levels, as well as having experience as an athletic director.

While six of the seven voted for Meissen, there was a lengthy discussion about the qualities both men bring to the job.

"I'm not coming down hard and fast (for either candidate)," Treasurer Sheila Paton said. "(Killian) has the qualities of being a really strong leader. (Meissen) has the edge because of his experience, especially in the area of curriculum."

Generation X

Secretary Adrienne Davis was the most vocal in support of Killian. She noted his inexperience in school administration, but pointed out he understands school funding in Michigan and said his youth makes him an attractive candidate.

"If we're going in the

direction we're going (financially) in Michigan, (Killian) is respected," Davis said. "There's no learning curve when you're talking about finances. The relationship is established.

"We don't see Generation X engaged in our school district. I think (Killian) would attract them."

Meissen earned his bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1981, got his master's in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 and earned his Ph.D. in educational administration in December 1990.

"I like the fact (Plymouth-Canton) is a district that has a demonstrated record of excellence and wants to continue to achieve greatness," Meissen said. "I want to get into a district with a board that wants to continue working toward greatness. This is a really strong district."

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TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page A1

infrastructure capable of supporting the demands of the new state online testing requirements that begin in the 2014-15 school year, school board President John Barrett

"This is the way of the future, it's the nature of the global world," Barrett said. "We have to give kids what they need to meet the demands of the job market. We need to make sure our students have the critical skills that are now demanded by colleges and employers."

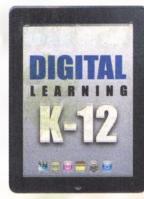
The proposed technology plan is part of a \$114.4 million bond issue that will also allow the district to build a new middle school, replace an aging vehicle fleet and make improvements to some of its facilities.

Approval of the bond issue will give students increased access to educational technology tools by providing each student with a personal digital learning device, allow for upgrades and additions to technology and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) labs in schools across the district and allow for the creation of a district-owned broadband network to accommodate the growing need for wireless and online services, said Brodie Killian, executive director for business services.

"There has been a digital divide in the way students need to be engaged and the way we have been instructing them," Killian said. "We need to arm our teachers and students with the right tools to make them produc-

Right tools

Providing students with personal digital devices, "whether they are iPads



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 10, 2013

or laptops," aligns with a nationwide 1:1 technology initiative aimed at putting technology into the hands of each student to enhance effective teaching and learning, Killian said, adding that he believes students need to have every advantage to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

"Putting digital devices into the hands of the students will provide us with the ability to propel our students into a new era of success," he said.

In addition to providing students with the technology skills they will need in the job market, it is key educators remain current with the way students currently learn, said Jeanne Farina, assistant superintendent for instructional services.

"We need to adapt to the way students learn now," Farina said. "They are plugged in and online. Why would we ask them to turn off and unplug when they come into the classroom?"

Using technology for teaching and learning is "extremely motivating and engaging" for students, allowing for more individualized instruction, as well as giving the students the opportunity to move at their own pace and take charge of their own learning, she said.

Technology allows student to become the drivers of what they want to learn. They now have the ability to take it to levels they could not have before with the simple



Hoben Elementary School Media Specialist Jolie Valentine works with students learning how to use the iPads off the school's new iPad carts.

push of a button, Farina said.

Motivating students

"When students are motivated and engaged, we see increases in student achievement," Farina said.

Plymouth High School student teacher Taylor Pratt agrees. A 20-yearold University of Michigan senior, Pratt is a product of the digital age himself, growing up with technology much like today's high school students.

A recently taught lesson on neurobiology illustrated the immense possibilities that educational technology can provide students, he said.

Rather than watching a teacher flip through a slideshow on the board and listening to the teacher while taking notes, students were given iPads that allowed them access to an app featuring a 3-D brain, which they were then able to manipulate and explore while learning the brain's functions.

"It is just so different from the way that I was taught," he said. "It was hands-on, very engaging."

Using the iPad allowed for a level of individualized learning that (traditional) direct instruction cannot provide, Pratt said.

"Students can learn at their own pace and engage with the material on their own terms," said the political science and psychology major, who will graduate with his teaching degree in April.

Under the district's plan, there will also be an equalization of technology resources throughout the buildings, ensuring that each student "has the same access to technology regardless of which school they attend," Barrett said.

This includes additions to tech labs and STEM labs at the middle school level, which will allow for more project-based learn-

Currently, there are some variations in tech-

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nology access between the schools, creating equity issues between the newer and aging facilities.

Evening out access

Under the new plan, "regardless of where you go to school, you will have the same access," Barrett said.

Plymouth Township parent Tonya Barker said she was encouraged that district leaders "are aware and acknowledge that there have been some issues regarding inequity, and they are ready to address it.'

"I believe that there should be the same technology and same accessibility for all students regardless of the age of the school," she said

Plans also call for the creation of a districtwide broadband network to support the increased use of technology, which will occur with the new state-mandated Smarter-Balanced Assessment, an online test that will be implemented during the 2014-15 school year,

replacing the MEAP. That not only includes providing the hardware on which the students need to test, but providing a network to handle the increased online activity as well.

"In order for the district to align to the new state standards, which require each student to take their tests online, we need to provide the tools and the infrastructure capable of supporting them," said Jim Casteel, the district's director for integrated technology systems.

If voters do not approve the bond, the district will be unable to provide digital devices to all students, Killian said.

"We will strive to include more technology, but it will become the burden of an alreadystretched general budget," Killian said.

Other priorities

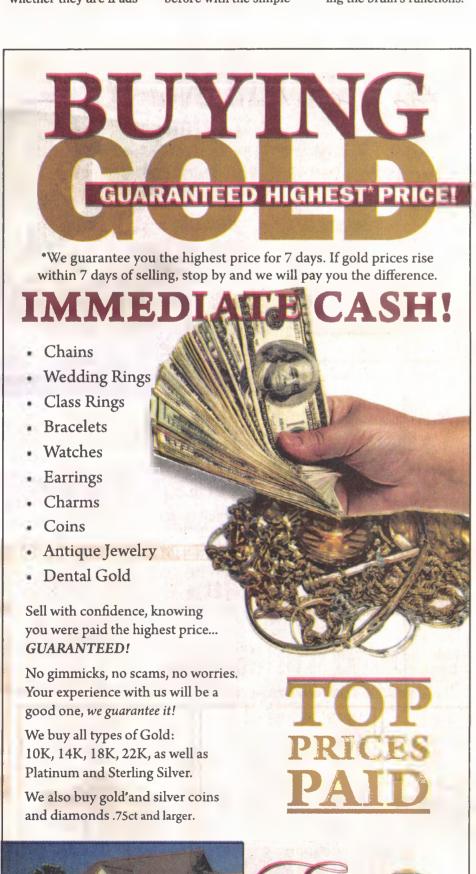
The district also will not replace aging buses or repair the aging infrastructure.

The plan does not include 'wants,'" Killian said. "These are 'needs.' We have made a decision that these are top priorities for our students."

Additionally, the tech upgrades will "give us a competitive advantage and help us attract other families to the district," he added.

There can be no doubt that technology has fundamentally changed the way that people teach and learn, Barrett said.

"The stronger the schools, the better the property values. This will help make the district a leader in educational technology and bolster our ability to attract new families to the district," he said. "All of this is crucial to being leaders in 21st century and continuing to make the district one of the strongest in the state."



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LOVE YOUR LEGS

BOND

Continued from page A1

business services. "We are not raising (taxpayers') tax rate. What was on your tax bill in July 2012 will be on your tax bill in July 2013."

That's one of the reasons district officials pushed for the May 7 bond election. The debt levy millage rate had been scheduled to drop by 0.35 mills — to about 3.66 mills — when taxes are assessed July 1. A later election date, officials said, would mean the district would have to hike that rate back up to 4.1 in order to capture the \$114.4 million in bond.

Steady rate

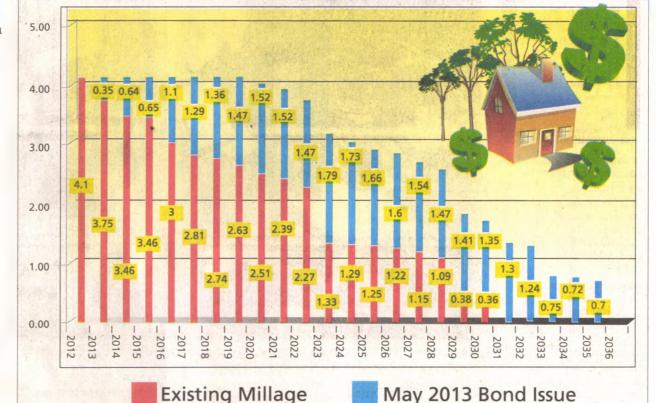
Instead, the district is asking its taxpayers to continue paying the 4.1 mills. For a \$200,000 home with a \$100,000 taxable value, that means the loss of some \$35 in savings taxpayers would have realized in the first year.

"We recognize that, absent the bond issue, the rate would go down," Killian said. "We understand we're asking taxpayers for some sacrifice. But we refinanced as much of our debt as possible (first), and we kept the bond package we're asking for as lean as we could so we didn't have to raise the debt levy."

Without the bond, the district's debt levy would drop every year until creeping below 1 mill in 2030. If the bond passes, the debt levy will remain at 4.1 through 2019, and doesn't drop below 1 mill until 2033.

That means the average debt levy for the bond alone is 1.22 mills, a fact school board Trustee Mark Horvath wants to make sure is clear to the voters. Horvath points out that, over the life of the bond, taxpayers with a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 are going

HOW THE BOND BREAKS DOWN



Over the life of the 20-year bond issue, the average millage rate will be 1.22 mills for the new bond issue. This 1.22 average millage rate will cost taxpayers an average of \$122 annually for a home with a \$100,000 taxable value.

Source: Plymouth-Canton Community Schools



If the May bond passes, Plymouth-Canton officials plan to have an electronic learning device, such as an iPad, in the hands of all of the district's teachers and students within five years.

to pay some \$2,400 more in taxes than they would without the bond.

"The key message is, and what I want to be clear about — and don't get me wrong, this is a great thing — I want to be very clear that this

bond comes with a tax increase. ... It's just not a rate increase," Horvath said. "Your rate will never go higher than it is now, but it's still going to cost about \$2,400 over a 20-year period (for \$100,000 taxable value). There are costs associated with borrowing money and paying that back."

Conservative estimate

Even so, Killian believes the numbers will be better than early projections. He said the projected millage rates were figured using "conservative estimates" about property values, including the use of a small decline this year. Recent reports showing residential property values in Plymouth Town-

DIGITAL
LEARNING
K-1/2

WHAT THE MONEY WILL DO

If approved by voters May 7, the \$114 million

- bond issue will pay:Some \$24.8 million earmarked for technology
- improvements
 Some \$36 million to build a new middle school on district-owned
- property in Canton
 Some \$35 million in facility upgrades
- Some \$19 million to replace an aging vehicle fleet
- The bonds will be sold in two series — \$60.8 million in Series I and \$53.6 million in Series II.

ship, the city of Plymouth and Canton Township on the rise would seem to bear out Killian's confidence.

The bonds will be sold in two series, \$60.8 million in Series I and the other \$53.6 million in Series II. Killian said if the economy performs better than projected, it could benefit the district by pushing some of the "critical needs" currently to be served in Series II into the Series I sale.

"When there is an opportunity to borrow money now, when interest rates are historically low, you should borrow as much as you can," Killian said. "We could borrow more in Series I and less in Series II if the values go up."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899







(CP)

Young local artist gets her first break

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

Jordan Baer of Canton figures she's been drawing since she was maybe 8 or 9 years old, when she started taking part in art camps.

All that work began to pay off — in exposure if not in cash — for Baer, a 17-year-old Plymouth High School junior who recently illustrated the first book of her young career.

Baer, the daughter of Michelle Baer of Canton and Jim Baer of Dearborn, contributed sketches of the four main characters in Monica Jo Carusi's first book, "Cross the Veil and Near Me Dwell," the story of a young girl who can

communicate with her ancestors in the ethereal realm but struggles to talk to her own family and peers in the real world.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 10, 2013

She also designed the book's cover.

"(Carusi) knows my aunt, and I guess my aunt talked about me," Jordan said. "She said, 'Read the book,' so I did and I drew what I thought the people should look like, and (Carusi) liked it. She chose me."

Leaps and bounds

That aunt, Lisa Nelson of Livonia, offered to read Carusi's book and offer some editing and feedback on it. When she read it, she felt like it being Carusi's

first book, it also provided an opportunity for her niece to show what she could do.

"(Jordan) has been taking art lessons and been improving by leaps and bounds, and I thought this would be a great opportunity for her to sketch a few things and see if Monica liked them for her book," Olson said. "She's actually a writer as well as an artist. I thought someday she'd write a book and illustrate it herself. When this opportunity came up with (Carusi), I thought it would be a great chance for her to try and see if it was something she'd like to

Drawing is something Baer has always liked to



Jordan Baer says her art has picked up more color recently, perhaps a result of having her horizons expanded during three summers at the Blue Lake Fine Arts camp.

do, since she did those art camps as a child. When she was about 12, her mom said, she grabbed a baby picture and did a self-portrait. Michelle Baer's house is resplendent with Jordan's artwork.

As time has worn on, Jordan said, her art has improved.

'It hasn't been overnight," said Jordan, who admits she picks up a pen and paper and draws at the drop of a hat. "I think practice makes perfect. I've drawn so much, my style has grown."

Brain waves

In addition to her drawing, Baer does some writing and plays the piano. Her artistic side is something that's been coaxed and prodded by her mom.

"She's definitely got the art side of her brain going," Michelle Baer

While Baer points to pen-and-ink as her favorite medium, her artistic designs have been



Jordan Baer of Canton, a 17-year-old Plymouth High School junior, recently illustrated her first book.

expanded by three straight summers at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

She said the camp experience has her experimenting in areas she'd normally leave

"They really expanded on things I normally wouldn't have done," Baer said. "They like to broaden your horizons. They expand on your artistic ability and get you to be the best you can be."

Her best was enough to convince Carusi to let the teenager illustrate her first book. The author said she'd seen Baer's work and thought it was good. She said she was looking for a teenager's perspective on the

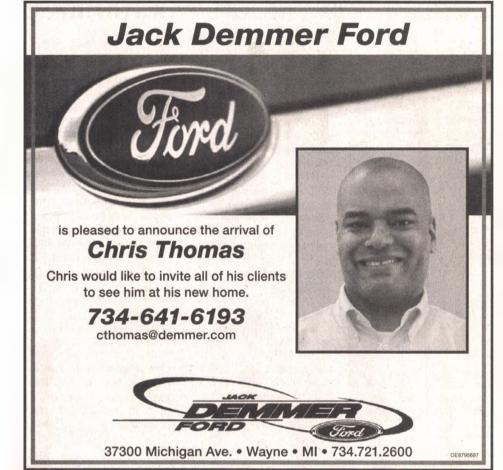
book and figured letting Baer illustrate would give her that.

"I thought, 'she's really good,' and it might be nice, since this is my first book, to give her a chance, too," Carusi said. "I told her, 'I don't want to tell you what to draw, I want you to draw what you see.' I thought she did a great job.'

Michelle Baer said watching her daughter grow with this experience has been "exciting."

"I knew she could draw, and that she had some talent," Michelle Baer said. "I was hoping someone would see that talent and appreciate it the way I do.'

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Fax: 734.728.8789

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Plymouth-Canton students rehearse for the cancer benefit concert they staged Saturday for Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit.

Arts students stage cancer benefit

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

When a class discussion among sophomores in Plymouth-Canton's Arts Academy revealed that many of the students have close friends or family members living with cancer, the students didn't just digest the information.

They decided to do something about it.

So the enterprising young students put together a concert and silent auction Saturday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Partnering with Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit, the event was designed to raise money — but mostly awareness about the struggles of people dealing with can-

"The kids decided to put their talents to work." said Amy Morgan, the district's Arts Academy Leader. "They created a totally student-run show to benefit Gilda's Club, and to benefit people in our local community living with cancer and those closest to them."

The event, "We're All in This Together," included a variety of musical, dance and spoken word performances, as well as

a silent auction of student artwork and items donated by community mem-

Concert-goers showed their support by purchasing the \$15 tickets, placing messages of support in the program, and/or donating items for the silent auction. Those generous donations, Morgan said, meant local individuals and businesses were assisting Gilda's Club in their mission to provide cost-free social and emotional support to people living with cancer, their families and friends.

You can still donate to the cause by contacting Morgan at (734) 582-5595 or emailing Amy.morgan@pccsmail.net

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St. Paddy's party benefits pantry

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

A Canton church-based St. Patrick's party, on the eve of the festive Irish holiday, proves there's much more than green beer and revelry as local charitable groups take seriously their heritage of helping others.

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley south of Cherry Hill, plans to host the sixth annual St. Patrick's party at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Patrick Ryan Division and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Elizabeth Fagan Division.

It's all intended to raise money for the St. Patrick's Church food pantry in Detroit, which every month feeds 350-400 lowincome people in the Cass Corridor area near the church.

"St. Patrick's is the heritage of the Irish, and in the Detroit area we celebrate the Irish quality of hospitality," said Barb Weir, president of the Ladies group. "It's important to us to give to the poor, the hungry and the people who need it more

than we do." The church-based party each year draws an estimated 250-275 people, Weir said. Tickets cost \$25 each and may be obtained by calling (734) 981-1333. Admission also may be paid at the door. The public is welcome.

To be sure, the event includes a corned beef and cabbage dinner, beer, wine and soft drinks, but a festive atmosphere is expected as the church welcomes entertainment by the Kish Celtic Band,

the O'Hare Irish Dancers and a scheduled appearance by Detroit's 55th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade grand marshal, Nora Cassidy.

The parade is today (Sunday) and features the theme "Detroit Irish - Proud of Homeland, Heritage and Heroes." It will honor a local Irishman and fallen hero, Patrick O'Rourke, badge No. 55 of the West Bloomfield police force.

Mike Kelly, a Livonia man who is president of the United Irish Societies, is co-chairing this year's parade with Sam Aldridge of Plymouth. Following the Corktown Races at 11 a.m. that draw thousands, the parade starts at 2 p.m. at Michigan Avenue and Sixth in Detroit.

For more, go to www. detroitstpatricksparade.

Canton hosts county committee

Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-District 10, will host the Commission's Committee on Ways and Means meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 14, at the Canton Township Hall Board Room, 1150 S. Canton Center. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and is open to the public.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for constituents to come out and experience a commit-



Price

for them," Commissioner Price said. "As a Wayne County commissioner, I look forward to providing the citizens in my community the opportunity to

local

govern-

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out there

working

hear the county's plans on tee meethow to be more transparing and ent and balance the budbecome informed on how

Chaired by Commissioner Laura Cox, (R-Livonia), the Committee on Ways and Means reviews financial issues that relate to allocation of resources, which include the budget, compensation, bond issues, retirement, tax matters, and the assessment and equalization of property.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting March 19, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Library Secretary Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street; Plymouth, MI





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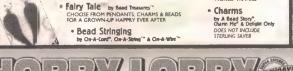
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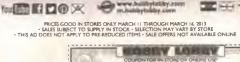
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Canton

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"Around Town" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometown-life.com.

PRICE HOURS

Date/Time: Monday, March 11, 11-1 p.m.; Friday, March 22, 8 p.m.

Location: March 11 at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth; March 22 at the Crescent Academy International, 40440 Palmer in Canton.

Details: Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price will hold office hours at those locations. His constituents are welcome to visit with him at either location. **Contact:** For details, call (734) 729-1000.

MAD HATTER TEA

Date/Time: Sunday, March 10, 2-4 p.m. **Location:** Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: It's tea time ladies! Grab your gals and come to the Plymouth Historical Museum for the annual Mad Hatter Tea where ladies wear their craziest hats! "Mad About Hats--100 years of Wearing Hats, 1860-1960" will be presented by Sandy Root, a Civil War reenactor and period milliner. Before the presentation, enjoy scrumptious delicacies from Joe's Deli of Plymouth and the Museum's signature "Mary's Blend" tea--a taste bud tingling cherry and almond black tea in honor of

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Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase in the Museum's store. Tickets for the Mad Hatter Tea are \$20 for Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by March 1 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date), and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html using PayPal.

Contact: For further information, call (734) 455-8940.

SEWING GUILD

Date/time: First Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: This Plymouth-Canton neighborhood group is open to sewists of all levels. The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer," followed by "3D Flying Geese-hands on" on March 7; "Charity auction" April 11 (note date change); and "Machine or Hand Applique Quilt Blockhands on" on May 2.

Contact: For more information email asgpc@comcast.net

MASTERING MEDITATION

Date/Time: Saturdays, March 16 and 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: The Center - Massage, Yoga Wellness Studio, 1200 Ann Arbor Road in

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Supporting the arts

Jill Engel, Executive Director of the Partnership for Arts and Humanities, presents a certificate of thanks to Scott Johnson, Division Manager, Sauk Trails-Republic Services, for their \$10,000 contribution that funded the P-CCS school's 5th grade field trip, "African American History Through Artist's Eyes." It's the third straight year Republic Services has made the donation.

Plymouth

Details: Dr. Kapila Castoldi offers a free introductory series on mastering meditation. Topics include concentration, relaxation and meditation techniques; creating a meditative lifestyle; self-awareness through meditation. Castoldi has studied meditation under the guidance of Indian spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy for 27 years. It is offered free of charge by the Sri Chinmoy Centre of Ann Arbor as a community service.

Contact: For information call (734) 994-7114.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Date/Time: Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608 in Plymouth.

Details: The Depression Bipolar Support Alliance is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group.

Contact: Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 for directions.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month,

10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30

a.m.
Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church,

14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speak-

ers, crafts, and group discussions.

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or email stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www. stekmops.org.



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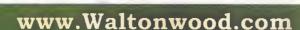
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YMCA launches 'Strong Kids' campaign

LOCAL NEWS

With an emphasis on developing strong community partners, fostering healthy lifestyles and being accessible to every child, the Plymouth Family YMCA launched its Strong Kids Campaign at a community breakfast Tuesday.

"Strong Kids is our annual fundraising campaign, but it is much more than that," said Sage Hegdal, the YMCA Director. "This kick-off also gives us the opportunity to let the community know that the Y is very active with current youth and adult programs, but is also looking toward the future as we develop new programs to better serve the community."

Last year, the Y conducted a survey within the Plymouth, Canton and Northville area to help determine what people are looking for from their



Ellie Russell, (left), 7, and Katie Russell, 9, got up early to attend the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign breakfast.

local YMCA. Results of this effort are essential to the Y, as the organization looks at how they can best serve the area.

"The survey was valuable in many ways," said Hegdal. "We learned, for example, that developing programs to create healthy lifestyles and deal with the growing youth obesity issue are areas we need to investigate. As we do this future

planning, we also keep in mind that we need to bring all kids along with us, and that is where donations to Strong Kids come in."

Donations to the Strong Kids Campaign provide scholarships to young people whose families cannot afford YMCA programs. For families who cannot afford childcare or recreational programs in the summer, for example,

YMCA scholarships cover the cost of summer camp for those in financial crisis. For many parents these scholarships mean peace of mind, knowing that their child is in a safe and engaging environment, Hegdal said.

Speakers at the breakfast provided powerful testimony to the benefits of YMCA programs and activities.

"I first got involved with the Y in high school," said 19-year old Ben Spreitzer, currently a sophomore at Michigan State University. "To be honest, my mom thought the YMCA Youth Volunteer Corp would keep me busy in the summer and give me something to add to my college applications. Once I started

though, I kept going back for more. I got so much out of the volunteer experience, seeing how good it felt to help others and how much fun it was too."

Spreitzer told those at the breakfast that his time with the Y isn't over. Last summer, he worked as a Program Coordinator for the Youth Volunteer Corp and will do so again this year.

"We participate in programs like working in community gardens and helping at soup kitchens. We even volunteered at Bat Zone at the Cranbrook Institute of Science," said Spreitzer.

Scott Russell knows the value of the Y – both as a kid and as a parent.

"My first experience with the YMCA was 40 years ago when I was an

Adventure Guide with my dad," said Russell. "It has come full circle now that I am the dad and participate in Adventure Guides with my daughters Ellie and Katie. I have seen firsthand what a positive impact YMCA programs can have. So I can speak with confidence when I say that giving to the Strong Kids Campaign means you are helping other families have a growing, positive family experience, like the one I had with my father and I am having with my girls now."

To learn more about Plymouth YMCA programs and the Strong Kids Campaign take a look at the website at www.ymcadetroit.org/plymouth or call (734) 453-2904.

Council offers hospice series

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging Hospice of Michigan present a series of workshops designed to teach participants everything they wanted to know about hospice, but were afraid to ask.

"Hospice 101" is an informative presentation designed to answer questions such as what hospice is, what services hospice provides, who can receive hospice care, where hospice services are provided and who pays for hospice care.

Classes in the series include:
"Caring for the Care-

giver, noon, Thursday, March 21 — This talk will walk you through the caregiver kit that Hospice of Michigan has developed. This kit will offer caregivers practical suggestions, tool and resources to assist them with caregiving.

"Have You Had the Talk?" noon, Thursday, April 4 — This talk will walk you through the Have You Had the Talk kit that Hospice of Michigan has developed. This kit offer worksheets, tools and resources to assist you should you ever needed to rely on someone else for your

medical care and decision making. The best time to plan and prepare is when there is no emergency, no crisis, no scrambling.

"Except for Six," noon,
Thursday, April 25 — Hospice of Michigan documentary film called,
"Except for Six." This one-hour film takes a subject most of us would rather ignore and humanizes it. It is a reflection on the time of a person's life that everyone must eventually deal with — the end of it.

The workshops will be held at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer in Plymouth. To RSVP, call (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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Security Disability benefits. Money was taken
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taxes to ensure that they
would receive disability
benefits if they could no
longer work full-time. Sadly, the
government denies approximately 60% of those who apply
for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience represent-Ing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearngs. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attornevs Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is aven set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org . They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates in 2013: March 12 & 26, April 9, May 14 & 28, June 25, July 23, August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and December 10.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman Township Clerk

Special meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Publish: March 10, 2013

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Advertisement for Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will accept sealed bids for the following Project:

ANN ARBOR ROAD CORRIDOR
2013 DDA IMPROVEMENTS
Details are described in the bid documents.

Bids for the above Project shall be accepted no later than 3:00 PM Local Time, on Monday, March 25, 2013, at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read.

General Description of Work: Installation of DDA streetscape improvements, including stamped concrete, ornamental fencing with brick piers, landscape plantings, street trees, an irrigation system, shredded hardwood mulch, topsoil, sod, and pavement and vegetation removals.

General Description of Project Area: The DDA streetscape improvements will be installed along Ann Arbor Road from just west of Sheldon Road to General Drive, in Plymouth Township.

Copies of the bid documents, consisting of a bid specification book and engineering plans, are available only for pick-up (no mail delivery) starting on Monday, March 11, 2013, at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. A non-reimbursable check, in the amount of \$50.00 and made payable to Spalding DeDecker, Associates, Inc., must be deposited for each set of documents obtained.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon receiving a bid award, the contractor shall furnish a performance bond as security for the faithful performance of the Contractor's obligations under the contract. The performance bond must be in the Michigan Standard Form issued by an approved surety company.

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The Township reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject any and all bids in whole or in part, and to waive any defect or irregularity in any bid if it is deemed in the Township's sole discretion to be in the best interest of the Township. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

ANY INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS BID ARE TO BE FAXED NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM ON MARCH 20, 2013, TO:

The Office of Clerk Attn: Ann Arbor Road Corridor 2013 DDA Improvements (Fax) 734-454-1643

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO:

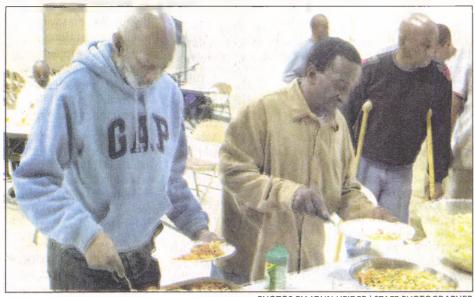
Nancy Conzelman, Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, MI 48170

Publish: March 10, 2013

AT8795544 - 3×7.5



Local Methodist church helps homeless get back on their feet



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Finney (left), Bengamin Bowers (center) and others line up for dinner on Feb. 24 at Northville's First United Methodist Church. The dinner, sponsored and hosted by the church, and volunteers from Northville Kiwanis and Civic Concern, was for a group of homeless people from Detroit's Cass Community Social Services. The group lived at the church through Feb. 28 and have been guests of Novi's Holy Family Church earlier in the month. The church's offer the group beds for the night, meals, eye care, a clothes closet, and various social services to help them get back on their feet.



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By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

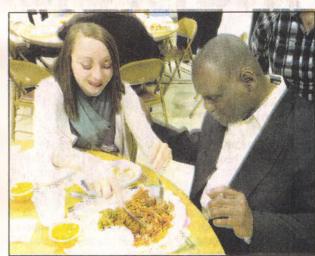
It may only be a week, but it was an important one for the guests of Northville's First United Methodist Church. Around 50 individuals who are currently homeless sought shelter and food with the local church each day from Feb. 23 to March 2 as part of Metro Detroit's Inter-Faith Rotating Shelter.

This shelter service has been administered by Cass Community Social Services in Detroit since 1991, and First United Methodist Church has been part of it since it began 20 years ago. Each year the church located at Eight Mile and Taft roads has been receiving help from its members and other local churches in trying to make a difference in a lot of people's lives.

The co-coordinators of the week for First United are Deborah Southworth and Kandi MacDonald. In one form or another, Southworth has been with the program basically since the start. It's become an annual commitment for her and the church, but it's one, like the many other mission works, they look forward to doing.

Last Tuesday evening was evidence of this. Even with a snow and sleet storm making things difficult on everyone, dinner and shelter were still provided at First United.

"We are so fortunate to have a wonderful congregation and beautiful facility that is sort of made for this," Southworth said. "We have every advantage and we are in a perfect position to help, and if we can keep 50-plus people from being



Katherine Pinnel, 16, helps to cut the food of Tyrone Hamilton on Feb. 22 at Northville's First United Methodist Church as the church hosted a group of homeless people from Detroit's Cass Community Social Services. Hamilton, blind from birth, was not with the group but was at the church to play piano, sing and entertain the gathering.

out in the cold for a week, and make them feel safe and warm and welcome then ... it's what our faith leads us to do."

From October to May, Southworth said churches of all sizes and denominations throughout the metro area select a week to host this shelter for the homeless. After being screened by CCSS and agreeing to abide by the program's rules, the guests are bused to Northville late in the afternoon for dinner at 6 p.m., with evening activities to follow and then a warm bed to sleep in.

More than 100 volunteers help during the week with things like dinner, breakfast, activities and night monitoring. The church puts forward a small amount of money to make the program work, but the many donations make it possible. From clothing and food to haircuts, church and community members come through, according to Southworth.

Northville's Civic Concern and other churches from Northville, Livonia and Plymouth have helped First United during the week. Novi's Church of the Holy Family also hosts its own week.

Southworth said the guests come from a variety of backgrounds and situations. Some of the previous guests have included police officers and senior citizens. This year she said a 19-year-old man has been at the shelter.

"These are people who are homeless, they are not homeless people. We don't define them by their current situation," she said. "They are just people and they have fallen on some hard times. We want to help them out, so they can get back on their feet."

As part of the overall program CCSS provides counselors to the guests to help find more permanent housing and assist with health care, job training and social service benefits to help them become self-sufficient.

Ihuhman@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255



Need for open government has never been greater

By Charles Hill Guest Columnist

t's your government. And it's your money that's paying for it. You deserve to know how that money is being

spent and whether waste, fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest or just bad decision-making is getting in the way of the results you expect for your money.

Customers every day demand accountability from the people who remodel their houses, serve them food, fix their cars, or sell them a TV or a computer. People demand their money's worth, especially when money is as tight as it is today.

Citizens should demand the same accountability - and more - of their government.

Are children being educated in a way that helps them succeed in life for their own good and the good of their fellow citizens? Are the accused treated fairly by police and judges? Are people getting the public safety and other services they should be? Are contracts being awarded to those best equipped to provide a good service at a reasonable price or to a company that costs too much and delivers too little but was chosen for improper reasons? Are people who truly need help get-



Charles Hill

ting that help? Journalists work hard to find answers those

questions and many more. So do parents. So do people who use and pay

for government services.

Some good public servants provide that information readily. But often the search for answers is an uphill battle because other government officials prefer to operate in private so they can do what they want without as much oversight, sometime because they have something to hide, sometimes because they think it's more efficient or easier to operate in secret.

MICOG launched

Now, journalists and citizens have a new ally in their fight for open government, the Michigan Coalition for Open Government. MiCOG is being launched officially this week during Sunshine Week, which is observed each year to promote open government and

freedom of information. The mission of MiCOG is to promote and protect transparency and accountability in the governments at the local, state and federal levels. Its efforts will include

creating educational programs and information to help guide citizens inter-

ested in open government. And, importantly, the coalition also can help get funding for lawsuits by citizens and the media who are fighting for more public access and against violations of the state Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meeting Act. The coalition will review requests for help, and can nominate them for funding from the National Freedom of Information Coalition, which has \$2 million to help pay for open access lawsuits.

How is Michigan doing when it comes to public access to information?

Think of how hard newspapers and broadcasters had to fight in recent years for information about the misdeeds of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and later of some Wayne County officials. Think about how little is known about who finances some political campaigns.

Michigan's failing grade

One measure of how Michigan is doing is the failing grade of F Michigan received in a State **Integrity Investigation** (http://www.stateintegrity. org/) done last year by the Center for Public Integrity, Global Integrity and Public Radio International.

Michigan's overall ranking was 44th of 50 states (http://www.stateintegrity. org/michigan). Individual category scores included grades of F for each of these: executive accountability, judicial accountability, state civil service management, state pension fund management, state insurance commissions, political financing, legislative accountability, lobbying disclosure, ethics enforcement agencies, and redistricting. Other scores were a D for public access to information, an A for internal auditing, and B- grades for both

and procurement. Michigan can do better. and you can help by joining MiCOG. The nonprofit group is open to citizens, journalists, associations and other organizations concerned with open government and freedom of information. Details on MiCOG and how to join are available at http:// www.miopengov.org.

state budget processes

Remember — it's your government and your money that is paying for it. You deserve to know what your government is doing and you can be a part of making that possible.

Charles Hill is the former Michigan Associated Press Chief of Bureau and sits on the board of the Michigan Coalition for Open Govern-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Gov.:

Please stop trying to help a city that does not want your help. Detroit has said they do not want you to interfere with the way they run the city. Please inform them that this was your last offer and they are now on their own.

You have got to stop and let them fail because they have never wanted anything from the state of Michigan but money. Do not give them any more money. They say they have a plan. Let them figure this out for themselves. If they can't fix the problems then let them ask for help. Any monetary help must but be tied to an emergency financial manager.

We have repeatedly saved this city from itself. Look at Cobo Hall. That was their jewel that they said they would never let anyone have. As a group, the counties have turned this awful eyesore and money pit into a thing of beauty and saved the International Auto Show from going anywhere else. But at no time will Detroit ever give anyone credit for what has happened.

We collectively tried to help and save their latest gem, Belle Isle. But they have refused any help and they claim we are being racist. Isn't that what they

said about Cobo?

If you insist on saving this city it must done immediately before it becomes total chaos. Otherwise, please just walk away. "We" have had enough. I know that Detroit is supposed to be the Motor City but when was the last time a car was made in the city? Try devoting your time to other cities that need or want help and will not vilify you for trying.

Stop trying to fix a city that does not want to be

> **Donna Matsen** Farmington Hills



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Students tell lawmakers about Schoolcraft's benefits

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Lilly Franklin of Canton believes her culinary training at Schoolcraft College in Livonia would be further enhanced with a four-year baccalaureate degree from the college.

The college will go beyond the second-year training and expand into more advanced training beyond the traditional a la carte, international cuisine and pastry chef II classes, the second-year student said.

"With a four-year program, we could have a wide range of classes that could be offered to help with the business end of culinary arts," Franklin said. It could help her pursue her dream of opening her own bakery



Lisa Pisaneschi of Westland, a second-year nursing student at Schoolcraft, testifies Friday before the Joint Senate & House Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Colleges.

and cafe.

Franklin and Lisa Pisaneschi, a second-year nursing student from Westland, testified before the

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 10, 2013

Joint Senate & House
Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Colleges on Friday at the VisTaTech Center at

Schoolcraft C students talk benefits of a education aft makers receif of the culinary

Schoolcraft College. The students talked about the benefits of a Schoolcraft education after the law-makers received a tour of the culinary arts and nursing instructional facilities.

Pisaneschi said students have a great chance of passing the state board exam in nursing because "instructors are so precise" at Schoolcraft. "When you walk into a classroom at a clinical site, you have the bar set high," Pisaneschi said. Pisaneschi said she was drawn to Schoolcraft because people she knew told her it was the college to attend to best prepare for the state exam.

The hearing was conducted by state lawmakers who will be studying Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed 2014 budget. Snyder proposed a 2-percent increase for community

Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress wel-



Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress is pleased with the 2-percent increase for community colleges Gov. Rick Snyder has proposed for his 2014 budget.

comed the committee and talked about the proposed budget. "While everyone wants it to be more, I'm not going to say that," Jeffress said. "Two percent is a good number as far as we're concerned. We can live with that."

Jeffress said he was worried about two potential financial hits to colleges: paying more for employee pensions and the Affordable Care Act. A liability of \$100 million from pension costs will impact a college's operational budget in terms of interest expenses. "A chance of getting a break on interest for borrowing is zero," Jeffress said.

If the Affordable Care Act went into effect, costs to Schoolcraft will increase \$3 million. "These costs will be passed onto the students and the public," Jeffress said

Jeffress encouraged lawmakers not to put restrictions on the colleges.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, said the students who appeared were excellent examples of the role community colleges play and "where they fit as institutions in this state." Anderson served on the committee. The meeting was also attended by Sen. Patrick Colbert, R-Canton. State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

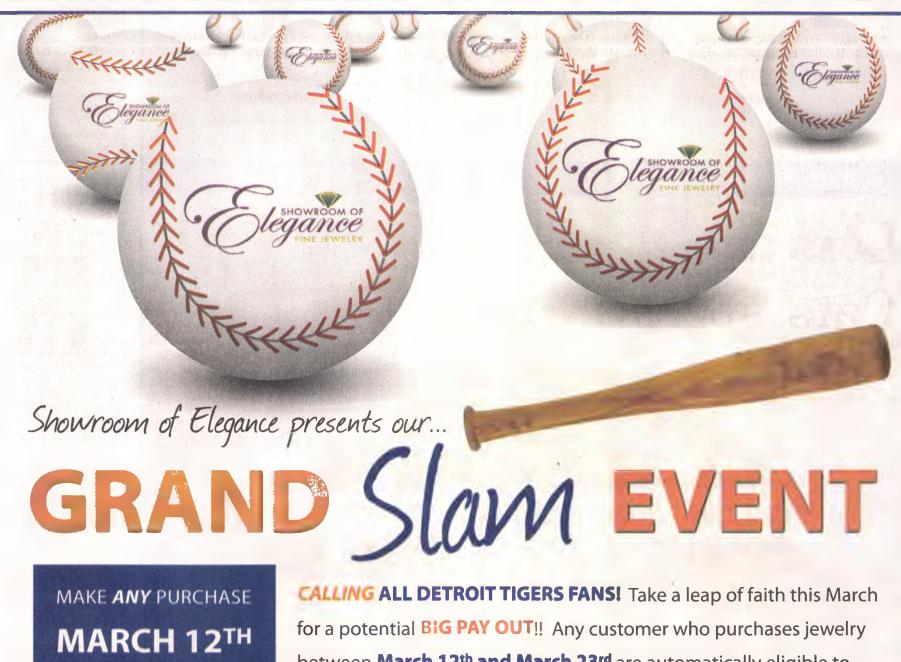
Jeffress said the college was about 18 months away from developing a four-year program in culinary arts. Instructors were working on it now, he said.

Other college officials attended. Curtis Ivery, chancellor of Wayne County Community College, told the committee that the college could serve the community better if the school had more resources. WCCC officials said they were working on new programs and initiatives to better serve students and enter them into the workforce.

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SECTION B. (CP) SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

CLASS D GIRLS HOOPS

Eagles rally, win regional

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Another halftime deficit, another victory for Plymouth Christian Academy.

Thursday night's second-half rally lifted the Eagles to a 41-35 victory over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist in the Class D regional girls basketball championship game played at Huron Valley Lutheran.

PCA (18-6) moves on to the state quarterfinal, set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Battle Creek Central, against defending Class D finalist Athens (21-3).

Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis said the team trailed 21-15 at halftime, but came out determined to overcome the Chargers' tough-to-break zone defense.

'We went into the locker room and I said, 'Hey guys, six points to us is nothing. The last two games we've been down 10, 11 or 12," Gerulis said. "I told them to just go out and play their game."

Turning it up

The Eagles went to a full-court press and forced Inter-City Baptist into turnovers and foul trouble.

"We missed a lot of shots (in the first half), so we full-court pressed them in the second half," Gerulis said. "I didn't want to do it early because I didn't want to get my kids in foul trouble in the first half. I only rotate six kids. We got them to turn the ball over, we got some steals."

PCA outscored the Chargers 15-4 in the third quarter to take a 30-25 led into the fourth. All but three of those points came on free throws, with the only field goal a trey by Jenna Abraham.

"We held the ball a lot in the fourth quarter, trying to pull them out of their zone," Gerulis said. "We just kept the ball up top and moved it to try and get them to go to man (defense) so we could play a little more freely. But the never came out, they stayed in their zone.'

Still, the Eagles kept the lead by taking time off the clock with each possession.

"They were forced to foul us," Gerulis

Karen Windle led PCA with 14 points and contributed eight steals. Every other player chipped in. Helping the cause were Emily Gerulis (nine points, five rebounds, two assists), Jenny Malcolm (four points, six rebounds), Rachel Smith (six points), Mar-

Please see EAGLES, B2

CLASS A BOYS BASKETBALL



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

During one of Friday's typical scrambles, Canton's Greg Williams (No. 22) and Plymouth's Deji Adebiyi (No. 5) battle for the basketball.

Chiefs grind way to title

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

For a while during Friday night's Class A boys basketball district final at Northville High School, Canton seniors Scott Gring and Matt McKoy must have thought they were in the middle of a football game.

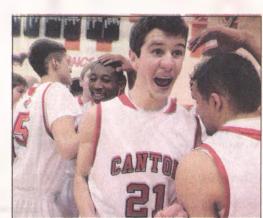
Gring, in particular, went hard into traffic for two offensive rebounds that extended a possession midway through the second quarter with Canton hanging on to fourpoint lead against Plymouth.

Thanks to Gring's hustle, the Chiefs went up 10-4 moments later when Ryan Planey knocked down a jumper from the left cor-

That blue-collar work went a long way toward Canton's 47-32 victory over the Wildcats to win the district title for the first time in six seasons.

Canton (17-6) will now face Ypsilanti at 5 p.m. Monday in a Class A regional opener at Ann Arbor Huron

"The past couple games, I haven't been shooting very well," said Gring, who had eight rebounds. "So I just wanted to go out and attack the boards, that would be the



Canton's Ryan Planey (No. 21) is all smiles while celebrating with teammates following the district title win over Plymouth. Also pictured are Shaine Keyandwy (No. 5), Jordan Nobles and Adnan Bayz (No. 11).

best way to get a put-back or an offensive rebound. That's my game. I do the dirty

So does McKoy, also Gring's teammate on the varsity football team.

Please see TITLE, B3

BOYS HOCKEY D1 QUARTERFINAL

Loss doesn't spoil 'Cats' special year

Observer Staff Writer

Winning Wednesday's Division 1 boys hockey quarterfinal and qualifying for the Final Four would have made the trip to Ann Arbor's Yost Arena particularly sweet for the Plymouth Wildcats and a large contingent of their fans.

But the Wildcats, despite an early lead, were unable to match the tourneyseasoned Shamrocks of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central — ultimately falling 5-

Catholic Central (21-7) now will face East Kentwood (15-12-2) on Friday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth, needing just one more victory to play for the D1 title Saturday evening. (Both games are set for 6 p.m. starts.)

"They're bigger, they're faster, they're just a highly skilled team," said Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento following the quarterfinal played in the legendary barn on the University of Michigan campus. "CC's a different animal but our guys had a great experience at it, I thought we did well."

Making history

Senior forward and team captain Mitch Claggett stressed what a "great experience" the game was, for the Wildcats and the fans who turned out in full force.

"We made school history tonight," Claggett said. "We got the opportunity to come out and play in front of a lot

Please see SPECIAL, B3

GYMNASTICS STATE FINAL

Chiefs come in second yet again

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Canton's march toward a rematch with Grand Ledge on the state's biggest stage in Division 1 gymnastics has been loud and pronounced all season.

But the Chiefs could not quite make that final step, falling 149.350-145.750 at Friday's D1 team finals at Plymouth High School. It marked the second year in a row that Canton finished

second to Grand Ledge. Placing fifth out of 13 teams with 139.875 was Plymouth, while Salem

finished 11th with a total of 136,600 points.

"It went the way I. expected it to go," Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "We had some exceptional performances. We still took first and second place on beam. Melissa (Green) won beam and Maddie (Toal) was second."

Green and Toal registered scores of 9.525 and 9.475, respectively.

Cunningham pointed out some statistics underscoring just how tough Grand Ledge is.

Please see CHIEFS, B3

MU softball spring report

After Friday's tripleheader in the Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational Games, the Madonna University softball team stands 7-9 overall.

The Crusaders lost 4-3 in eight innings to Dickinson State (S.D.), while defeating Ashford (Ky.), 8-4 and Valley City (Calif.) State,

Other wins last week came against William Penn (lowa), 3-1; Viterbo (Wis.), 7-3; Calumet St. Joseph (Ind.), 2-1; and Robert Morris (III.),

Meanwhile, losses have come against Northwestern (lowa) College, 5-3; No. 12ranked Olivet Nazarene (III.), 2-1 and 6-3; Hope International (Calif.), 6-2; University of Great Falls (Mont.), 5-2.

Top hitters for the Crusaders include Kristen Drabek (.349) and Jackie Barley (.343).

Carlee Meek has a team-high nine RBI.

Pitchers Angela Pavilanis and Bree Crampton are both 3-4 with earned-run averages of 2.11 and 4.72, respectively.



MU baseball Florida wrap

The Madonna University baseball team stands 10-5 overall after taking a muchneeded day off Friday from the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational.

On Thursday, MU swept Olivet Nazarene (III.), 9-3 and 6-3, after falling Wednesday to Bethel (Ind.) University,

On Tuesday, MU swept 19th-ranked University of St. Francis (III.), 6-2 and 13-3.

On Monday, Madonna split with Point Park (Pa.), 3-2 and 1-5, while beating Trinity International (III.), 13-1 and losing to Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.), 5-2, March 2.

Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) leads MU in hitting with a .452 average including six extra-base hits, while Spencer Sarel has a team-high 13 RBI and a .364 mark. Freshman Jeff Beckles is also batting .417 (10-for-24).

Pens bounced

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team lost 4-3 to Walled Lake Thursday night in the Division 2 semifinals of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.





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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 10, 2013

Blazers' duo keys regional title win

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood's senior backcourt duo of Andie Anastos and Shelby Walsh can only be described as "Peas and Carrots."

The two meshed wonderfully Thursday night bringing home the Blazers' first girls basketball regional championship since 1992 with a 48-34 victory over visiting Flat Rock.

The victory puts Ladywood, now 17-7 overall, into a Class B quarterfinal matchup against defending state champion Goodrich, 22-3 overall, beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Lake Fenton.

Walsh and Anastos proved to be a one-two scoring punch once again combining for 36 of the Blazers' 48 points against the 22-2 Rams.

Ladywood made a total of 10 three-pointers on the night, including six from Walsh (to account for all 18 of her points), two more from Anastos and one each from Sara Even and Andria Gietl.

'We've been best friends for the past four years here in high school, so I think we just know how to play together," said Anastos, who also finished with a game-high 18. "I've known her like since seventh and eighth grade when we played together. We just play well together. She's one of my best friends and I just love here. That's like a normal game for her. I expect her to score that many 'threes."

Walsh had a pair of 'threes' in the opening quarter as the Blazers led 15-14.

Ladywood then outscored Flat Rock 12-4 in the second period to take



MONROE EVENING NEWS

Ladywood seniors (from left) Kiley Gorski, Andie Anastos and Shelby Walsh are all smiles following Thursday's 48-34 Class B regional girls basketball championship win over Flat Rock. It was Blazers' first regional title since 1992.



MONROE EVENING NEWS

Ladywood's Andie Anastos (left) tries to take Flat Rock's Paige Villemure off the dribble during Thursday's Class B girls basketball regional final.

The victory puts Ladywood, now 17-7 overall, into a Class B quarterfinal matchup against defending state champion Goodrich, 22-3 overall, beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Lake Fenton.

control thanks to 15 firsthalf points from Anastos.

Walsh then went en fuego, connecting on three more triples during the third quarter, as Ladywood put it away with an 18-10 scoring spurt to make it 17-point advantage, 45-28

"Amanda and I have been playing all the way back-and-forth in high school and in AAU together," Walsh said. "So, we just know each other. I think I hit six once in a preseason game before the Catholic League."

Flat Rock got 11 points from 6-1 sophomore Paige Villemure and eight from Haley Boyer.

"It's tough because they're such good ballhandlers, to try and pressure them ... it's a different style with no post," Flat Rock coach Mark Villemure said of the Blazers. "It was a little difficult for us to match up. We were just hoping to keep her (Anastos) in front of us and hope we get some misses and leak out in transition. It seemed like when we got a miss, we didn't execute properly and we had a couple of turnovers that cost us. You can't do that at this stage of the game. When you're in the regional final you've got to be clean.'

Meanwhile, the Blazers broke through the regional barrier after winning 14 of their past 15 district titles.

"It's unbelievable - our group of seniors," Lady-

wood coach Anthony Coratti said. "The only thing worrying me this game was me saying something to screw them up because our seniors had our kids so mentally prepared and we just competed on a very high level on the defensive end, and got us some good looks offensively. It was awesome, but 100 percent of the credit goes to our seniors.

"It's been too long of a time. We've had some great teams roll through here and it's a huge point of pride for our kids. They wanted this regional championship."

The Rams committed 15 turnovers and shot only 14-of-46 from the floor (30.4 percent).

"Going in, we always say, 'It's just about us,' that truly is," Anastos said. "We play good defense and know how to stop a team. We play really good teams, so we knew it all started with our defense and our offense just comes to us."

The victory was particularly sweet because Ladywood did it in its home gym.

"We just like to do it for our school and it brings so much school spirit, I have no words," Walsh said. "We had it written up on the board - 1992 and 2013 - to win that after 21 years. So that was our motivation."

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EAGLES

Continued from page B1

tha Mullett (three points) and Abraham (five

For the Chargers, Rachel Muscat and Alyssa Saene tallied 13 and 11 points, respectively. Makayla Thoune scored

Fired up

According to Gerulis, a big assist for the win went to idled junior Rachael Fuller, who is out for the rest of the season after arm surgery.

"I'm just so proud of my kids, they never got down on themselves when we got down in the first half," Gerulis said. "They were totally motivated at halftime. Rachael Fuller was awesome in the locker room. She's not even going to play, because of having that blood clot and surgery.

"She just gave them a great halftime pump-up speech and they went out on the floor and took care of the game for her. It was really awesome."

The Eagles won the school's first regional championship in girls basketball with the win and have now posted the most victories in a season during Gerulis' eight seasons as the team's coach.

Gerulis added that it was great for the team to win the title for Windle and Abraham - both were on the team as freshmen when PCA lost to Adrian Lenawee Christian in a regional final.

"We lost in overtime by a bucket," Gerulis said. "So those two kids wanted to get back there and win themselves a regional championship. They really fired this whole group up.'

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Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team celebrates after winning the Class D regional championship Thursday at Huron Valley Lutheran. In the back row (from left) are junior varsity coach Rod Windle, Danielle Witkowski, Raina Postma, Rachel Smith, Jenny Malcolm and varsity head coach Carol Gerulis. In the front row (from left) are Rachael Fuller, Martha Mullett, Jenna Abraham and Karen Windle.

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(CP)

TITLE

Continued from page B1

"That's exactly what (football) coach (Tim) Baechler taught me playing football, just being tough," McKoy said. "I just bring that over to basketball and do the exact same thing."

Mixing it up

They aren't the only Canton basketball players who mix in a little football mindset out on the

Sophomore point guard Greg Williams, who scored eight points and tallied six assists Friday, is the Chiefs' quarterback, for example.

Williams also had another tough assignment, one he carried out almost to perfection. He had to shadow Plymouth senior guard Josh Priebe, and held him to just two points in the first half when Canton rolled out to a 10-4 halftime edge

Priebe wound up with 12 points to lead the Wildcats, with most of those coming after the Chiefs had a double-digit lead.

"Plymouth's been playing really well," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "They switched to a 2-3 zone late this year, and it's been solid and it affected us early.

"But we guarded. We defended our tails off tonight, We rebounded well. That's essentially why we won. Greg Williams did a heck of a job on Priebe."

Out of sorts Plymouth (11-12), com-

ing off victories over Northville and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, could not get untracked partly because of such defensive coverage.

"We were out of sorts with our offense. We were doing too much, pressing and forcing,' Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "In a big game we needed to execute and we just didn't get that done tonight. It is what it is. I couldn't be more proud of this group of young men."

With 4:30 to go in the third quarter, the Chiefs were up 19-5, following a basket by Williams.

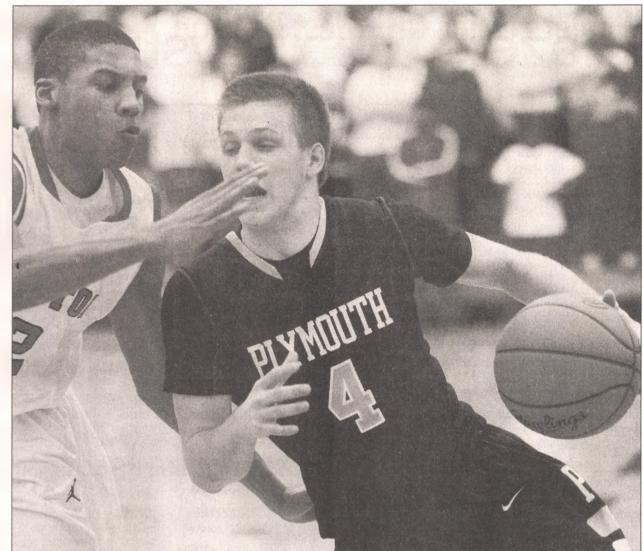
The Wildcats then sliced that deficit to 22-15 with 1:15 remaining on the second trey in two minutes by senior guard Jake Divens (seven points).

Plymouth's Josh Reynolds (five points) came up with a defensive rebound, giving the Wildcats a chance to get even closer. But after losing the ball out of bounds, Planey (13 points) sank a trey from the left corner, opening up a 25-15 advantage going into the fourth.

The closest Plymouth got in the fourth was eight, as the Wildcats had no choice but to put Canton players on the foul

"We won our first district games ever in the history of our program," Soukup said. "The kids didn't quit, heck they could have packed it in there in the middle of the third quarter.

"But they kept fighting until the bitter end, and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Jake Divens (No. 4) tries to get past Canton's Josh Mayberry (No. 2) during Friday's Class A district final at Northville

that's what we've been all about. We're not the most talented group in the world, but we'll battle you for 32.'

Plymouth was hampered by poor shooting all night, however. The Wildcats made just 28 percent of their field-goal tries (11-of-39) and sank just 6-of-19 from the charity stripe.

Trifecta

For Canton, 6-8 forward Jordan Nobles tallied 12 points and six boards before leaving late in the game after getting an elbow above the eye, opening up a gash.

Senior point guard Josh Mayberry chipped in with five points, five rebounds and three assists.

Reddy, in his fourth season as Canton's head coach, said winning the district following the KLAA South Division and Kensington Conference championships "means a lot" to the program.

"Division, conference and now district, that's a heck of a season and it hasn't been done here at Canton since 2007," Reddy said. "I'm

really proud of the kids. You don't do it without good players or a good coaching staff like I have."

And as far as McKoy is concerned, that season at least continues into this week: "It feels great just to make it another week to play basketball."

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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

Although Erica Lucas scored an impressive 9.450 on vault, it was only good for fourth place behind a trio of Grand Ledge gymnasts. Winning that event was Sara Peliter, with 9.600

Other strong efforts were turned in by Jocelyn Moraw (9.550), Green (9.475) and Nicole Lasecki

(9.000) on floor exercise. Moraw also finished with 9.0 scores on bars and beam despite having her left thigh bandaged after falling during one of

her events. "We had to hit and we just had a good meet instead of a great meet," Cunningham said. "I hate to complain about coming

in second in the state. But we had a shot at them." Plymouth's top showings were on floor, with Jane McCurry's 9.200 leading the way. Sarah Uhlian and Brenna Connelly tallied

9.150 and 9.075. Freshman Rebeca Simu finished with 9.025 on floor and 8.900 on balance beam.

First impressions

"I would be happy if we finished in the top 10,"



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The Canton girls gymnastics team finished second at Friday's Division 1 team finals at

Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey said, with one round left in the meet. "This is the first time Plymouth has ever gone to a state meet. And so it's a big first for everything. The girls are wonderful."

Yockey said the team "worked so hard for this, and it's such a new thing for the school, once they get used to being here maybe we'll get here again."

That would be fine with Plymouth freshmen Rachel Auer and Megan

McCurry, who rooted their teammates on.

"It's really different than anything else I've ever experienced with gymnastics but it's really exciting too," Auer said. Concurring was Megan

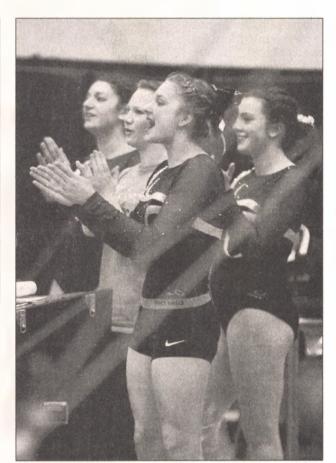
McCurry, Jane's younger sister.

"I'm really proud of the team, we've really worked so hard to accomplish getting to states," Megan said. "We all cheer on our team so well."

One of Salem's top performers was Morgan Soper, who noted that the Rocks "had a few rough spots, but for the most part we're doing good. Today is more about fun, it's about team spirit and

team unity.' Soper tallied 9.125 scores on vault and floor. Also crossing the 9.0 threshold for Salem were Andrea Merlotti (9.075 on vault) and Brittany Ramirez (9.025 on vault).

In third behind Grand Ledge and Canton was Farmington (141.45), followed by Rockford/Spar-



Plymouth gymnasts root a teammate on during Friday';s Division 1 team finals. The Wildcats finished fifth.

ta (140.675), Plymouth, Forest Hills (139.575) and Livonia Red (138.575).

Despite the Chiefs not getting the final curtain call they envisioned, Cunningham still sees a

bright future. "We're going to be bet-ter next year," Cunning-

ham said. "Their aren't many teams in our division at our level that can say that."

SPECIAL

Continued from page B1

of fans. We played CC for the first time, we gave it our all and every kid in there is holding (his) head high knowing we gave it our all and had a great

"It's unfortunate how it turned out, but sometimes things don't go your way. They didn't go our way tonight but we still had a heck of a season."

Plymouth (22-6-3, No. 6 in D1) was the first boys hockey team from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to win a state regional and thus compete in the quarters.

No matter what happened on the ice, that fact was something Vento pointed to with pride.

"It was a fantastic season," Vento said. "I couldn't be prouder of the guys for what they accomplished bringing the first (regional championship) to the Park, getting 22 wins.

"It all started with great leadership from our captain (Claggett) and the rest of our seniors. We made a little bit of history for Plymouth and I'm thinking it's going to continue.'

The Plymouth cheering section got downright raucous just 5:45 into the game, when sophomore forward Michael Scarpello scored to put the Wild-

cats up 1-0. A CC player made an errant clearing pass that Plymouth junior forward Corey Smith intercepted near the blue line.

Smith slid a pass into the low slot for Scarpello, who while twisting into the ice like a corkscrew lifted the puck over the trapper of Shamrocks' senior goalie Der-

ek Moore. "We put the puck up the boards, we had a young winger that moved the puck to the middle of the ice assuming he had a guy open and he didn't hit him tape-to-tape, and

the next thing you're pulling it out of your net," CC head coach Todd Johnson said. "I credit Plymouth's forecheck, their structure. We had to adjust to it and get used to it. We don't see it very often in our league.'

Catholic Central, however, needed just 1:13 to respond.

Following a face-off in Plymouth's zone, junior forward Domenic Mancinelli snapped a feed from senior forward Evan Kearns past Wildcats' sophomore netminder Jared Maddock.

"When you score a goal you like to hold on to the lead for a while," Vento said. "But we knew they were going to come and we knew going in one goal was not going to win it or lose it."

Johnson called the quick equalizer a big moment in the contest, largely because it helped the Shamrocks settle down as they moved into the second tied at 1-1. Plymouth also helped

CC get going by being whistled for a slashing penalty with just 20 seconds to play in the open-

ing frame. That cost the Wildcats when Shamrocks' senior forward and captain Michael Babcock jammed a rebound past Maddock at 53 seconds of the second.

Mix and match

The Wildcats had other penalties to kill off in the middle stanza. Only some stellar goalkeeping by Maddock, who stopped 28 of 33 shots in the game, kept it close until later in

the period.
"You don't get your lines out, you're mixing and jumbling guys trying to kill it off, and you can't get in any flow," Vento said. "You're just trying to hopefully tread water and it's hard to generate any offense, that's for

sure.' Babcock - whose dad, Detroit Red Wings head coach Mike Babcock, was in attendance — finally

upped the CC edge to 3-1 when he scored at 15:17.

The winger cut in from the right boards into the slot, maneuvered in front of Plymouth defensemen and sent a drive over Maddock's blocker. On both of Babcock's goals, senior linemate Charlie Green and junior defenseman Carson Gatt drew assists.

"Obviously, us tying the game early right after we fell behind was critical," Johnson noted, "So now we're back tied, everybody relaxed and coming out in the second period Babs scores two big goals.

"He's a very deserving player, a hard-working guy. Way more skill than people give him credit for."

In the third, CC kept pressuring the Wildcats and tacked on goals by senior forward Danny Middleton (at 7:20) and junior winger Wade Orlowski (on a screen shot at 15:39).

"I thought Jared played

great," Vento said. "As a sophomore, playing in an environment like this, I couldn't say I could blame him on any goal."

CC's win was tempered somewhat by a dislocated left kneecap sustained by junior defenseman Austin Linville following an altercation behind the Shamrocks' goal with just over five minutes left.

Johnson said it didn't appear surgery would be required, but ruled Linville out for the rest of the state playoffs.

For the Shamrocks, that boils down to one or two games at Compuware.

"It's what makes the tournament great," Johnson stressed. "You can't have any emotional lulls. We'll obviously be real high the rest of the night, and real excited, and tomorrow will be a down day and kind of regroup. "Start preparing for

Friday. It's easy on Saturday."

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Whalers clinch OHL West Division

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 10, 2013

It's not often that the Windsor Spitfires do a favor for their archrivals, the Plymouth Whalers.

But that's what happened on Thursday when the Spitfires defeated the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, 7-4.

The Hounds' loss to Windsor mathematically eliminated the Soo from winning the OHL West Division and gave the Whalers their 12th division championship in the team's 23-year history (and first since 2006-07).

The Whalers didn't back into the West Division title. Using an effective combination of balance on all ends of the ice, Plymouth (38-17-5-4) has gone 24-6-0-1 since Dec. 27.

Although the Whalers lead the OHL with 269 goals scored, defense led to the division title. In all but one of Plymouth's victories did the opponent muster more than three goals.

SKATE WITH THE WHALERS

After Sunday's 2 p.m. game against Saginaw, fans will have to chance to "Skate with the Whal-

Parents must sign a waiver for their kids and receive a wristband for each of their skaters from the Fan Assistance Center, located behind section 120. Skates are available for rent.

Rookie goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic (2.11 GAA, .928 save percentage, 17-2-1-1 won-loss record) has been red hot over the second half of the season and was recently named OHL Rookie and Goaltender of the Month for February. In addition, Nedeljkovic is the current Vaughn Canadian Hockey League Goaltender of the Week.

Offensively, Plymouth features eight play-

ers with at least 20-goals scored (Matt Mistele, 32; Garrett Meurs, 27; Ryan Hartman, Tom Wilson, Stefan Noesen and Vince Trocheck, all with 23 each; Cody Payne, 22; Rickard Rakell, 21).

Meanwhile, the Whalers have qualified for the OHL playoffs for 22 straight seasons, which is a current league record. Plymouth will start the 2013 playoffs at Compuware Arena on Fri. Mar. 23 or Sat. Mar. 24 against an opponent to be determined.

Playoff tickets can be purchased in 12-game packages for \$120 for Executive Reserved or \$168 for Center Ice Seating. Tickets for individual playoff game will be available once an opponent and dates have been confirmed.

For more information, please call the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400 or check online at www.plymouthwhalers.com.



The Victory Honda 19-plus women's hockey team celebrates last Sunday after winning the MAHA Senior B championship. VH plays its home games at Arctic Pond in Plymouth.

Finally, Victory!

Overtime goal puts Victory Honda Sr. B women icers into nationals

Victory Honda's Women's 19-plus team completed their sweep through the state tournament, winning the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Senior B championship with last Sunday's 4-3 overtime thriller over Mission in Taylor.

It took triple overtime for Victory Honda to capture its first MAHA championship and with it, the top seed for the upcoming USA Hockey Nationals set for April 4-7 in Oakland, California.

Victory Honda, based out of Plymouth's Arctic Pond Arena, started the weekend on March 1 night playing the Belle Tire Senior team and earned a 5-1 win. VH got goals from Stephanie Voigt, Tricia Macleod, Lauren Lobert, and Alexis Glenn (two goals) while goalie Mel Curran stopped eight of nine

shots for the win.

On March 2, VH posted a 5-0 win over Mission. Goaltender Mary Beth Trainor got the start in that game and was strong in goal to earn the shutout. Glenn and Kelly Gittleman scored on the power play, with Justine Cigna scoring twice and Emily Nelson once.

"We knew Mission's record and who they did play against and we know some of the players on their team," Victory Hon-da head coach Brad Johnson said. "They upgraded in goal as well, so we knew not to take them lightly. I was extremely pleased with our effort as we came out and played, arguably our best game of this entire season."

That win put VH into that evening's match against the O'Leary Hawks, Senior B champions.

Johnson said it was a typical, defensive battle between the rivals.

"We have been playing these ladies (O'Leary) for years now." he said. "We have beaten them before, but always lost to them in the state championship."

O'Leary outshot VH 15-13, but could only beat Trainor twice which would prove to be enough thanks to goals from Gittelman, Nikki Betz and the overtime winner from Jenna Donnelly.

Battling back

Then came the March 3 championship game against Mission, and VH fell into a 2-0 hole after two periods. Mission scored early in the third to go up 3-0 with 11:48

Johnson then called a timeout and the team refocused.

"VH decided that they would not be denied a championship without an epic battle," Johnson not-

The top line of Nelson, Kristen Schwan and Bethany Croskey took over the hockey game and Croskey netted two goals to make it 3-2. Nelson fired in the equalizer with 1:45 remaining to force OT.

Johnson said "unbelievable goaltending" from Mission's Francesca Santi (48 saves) kept the contest 3-3 until the third overtime. That's when Croskey completed her hat trick and sent VH into the nationals.

"Santi did everything humanly possible to give Mission a chance," Johnson continued. "But in the end, it was that top line once again and a completed hat trick from Croskey that would bring an emotional end to a great tournament."

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The goalkeeping of Alex Nedeljkovic (No. 39), shown from a game earlier this season, is a

big reason why the Plymouth Whalers just clinched the OHL West Division title.

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Madonna beaten in NAIA tourney opener

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University men's basketball team – making its inaugural appearance in the NAIA Division II National Tournament – met its match Wednesday in Southern Oregon.

The No. 18-seeded Raiders punched their ticket into Friday's Round of 16 with a convincing 83-66 opening-round victory over No. 14-seeded MU at the College of the Ozarks' (Mo.) Keeter Gymnasium.

Southern Oregon was led by sophomore forward Eric Thompson, a former walk-on from Oregon State and minor league baseball player in the LA Dodgers farm system.

The 6-foot-8 Thompson scored tournament-best 30 points, going 5-for-6 from beyond the arc.

"He's a great player and I thought we didn't do enough to slow him down," MU coach Noel Emenhiser said. "Once he got a rhythm, he was hitting shots - tough shots, open shots - he made everything. But we kind of let him get away from us and get open a lot more than we would have liked to."

Kyle Tedder also drained five three-pointers en route to a 20-point effort, while David Sturner added 10 points and six rebounds.

Tied at 11, Southern Oregon opened up a 25-14 lead behind its threepoint shooting, draining three during a three-minute stretch in the first

The Raiders led 51-38 at the break, while shooting 50 percent (7-of-14) from beyond the arc.

Eagles fall short, 55-36

Plymouth Christian Academy lost 55-36 Wednesday night to Allen Park Inter-City Baptist in a Class D district boys basketball matchup to finish 12-10 for the sea-

Scoring 15 points for the Eagles was Drew Ibach, with Mick Noel

contributing 10. "We kept the first quar-

ter pretty close," Eagles head coach Dominique Washington said. "We wanted to slow the game down and play as close to perfect as possible.

"We only eight turnovers but basically they converted all of those (into points). We played a good game, but they played better. Almost perfect."

COMMUNITY LIFE

Silent art

Orchestra conductor gives women a lesson in her craft

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Nan Washburn makes her job look easy. During a demonstration on orchestra conducting earlier this week, she traced up, down, from side to side, the baton in her right hand sweeping through the air, as her left arm circled gracefully in an opposite direction.

"All of it is about conveying emotion and energy and it becomes a personal art form as a result," said Washburn, the music director and conductor of the Plymouth-based Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra.

"But the basic thing is like a traffic cop. It's tempo, who's coming in, who's playing too loud, starting and stopping, cueing. The left hand is supposed to be free to do other things at the same time. It's that leftbrain, right-brain thing.

"You have to translate it so that it doesn't just look good to you, but it actually produces the sound you want. I realized very early on in conducting that it's not as easy as it might seem."

Washburn taught members of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Greater Detroit Section, a lesson in conducting 101 during her presentation as a featured speaker at the group's Nosh & Knowledge Lunch and Lecture Series in Southfield.

Her students agreed there's more to conducting than waving a baton in the air.

"It was very interesting. My arm was hurting already," said Marlene Goodman of Farmington Hills, after imitating Washburn's moves.

Washburn said she keeps in shape by bicycling and walking, but pointed out that conducting does build muscle. Her legs, rather than arms, are more likely to tire first.

"There are women conductors who like to wear high heels. I don't know how they do that," she said.

Washburn said she trades beauty for "something cushy" when wearing footwear on the podium.

Judy Goldwasser of Birmingham laughed at her own attempt to follow Washburn's lead.

"It's the same way dancing is for me—I can't do it," she said. "Conducting is something we don't know anything about, so it was fascinating."

Shayna Silverman, NCJW Detroit board member and a Farmington Hills resident, arranged for Washburn to speak during the lectures after watching one of her presentations elsewhere.

"I always kept her in mind for programming because I thought she was so wonderful," Silverman said. "I go to the symphony a lot. I definitely will have a new awareness of what a conductor's responsibilities



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marlene Goodman (left) of Farmington Hills, Ruth Klueger of White Lake, and Judy Goldwasser of Bloomfield Township hold invisible batons as they work on their orchestral conducting skills.



Nan Washburn, conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra shows a slide of herself in action, during a presentation last week.

Audience questions

Washburn is in her 14th season as music director and conductor for the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra. She's also artistic director and principal conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. She had already attained undergraduate and graduate degrees in flute performance when she decided to study conducting.

Her presentation on conducting reflects some of the questions she has been asked about her career.

"Mostly it's 'what do you do? If the musicians are looking at their music and they don't look like they are looking at you, you can't be doing anything.' It's something that's a little mystify-

Washburn said good people skills and physical coordination are essential.

"I have to thank my father who taught me softball and all sorts of things at a young age. I never thought that later on I'd depend on being that coordinated today."

Mental agility is impor-

tant, too. A conductor follows a musical score that includes all parts --- woodwind, brass, percussion, strings, solos, piano and harp - on each page. Washburn uses red and blue pencils, along with yellow marker, to highlight changes in tempo, phrasing, note duration and other cues on the musical score.

Like party planning

As music director, she selects performance pieces that underscore the orchestra's identity. For the Michigan Philharmonic, that means lots of contemporary music and ethnic and cultural diversity.

"My programming process isn't that much different than if you think about planning a dinner party and you have different friends that have different likes. You're trying to shape something to appeal to everyone. It's like a big puzzle.

For more about the Michigan Philharmonic, visit www.michiganphil.

See Washburn's website at nanwashburn.com. Learn more about the NCJW Greater Detroit at ncjwgds.org.







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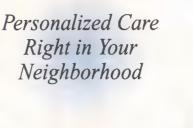
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Get ancestry research tips from museum event

The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold the fifth in a series of genealogical seminars on March 23, to help family historians of all levels research their ancestors.

Loretto Szucs and Juliana Szucs Smith, a mother-daughter duo will lead the workshop, sponsored by Ancestry.com.

Szucs has worked for Ancestry.com for 20 years and had served on national and state advisory boards and boards of five genealogical societies, including the Federation of Genealogical Societies. She also has worked for the National Archives in Chicago, Ill., and authored and edited several books, including The Source, They

Became Americans, and Chicago and Cook County

She'll talk about "Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com" and "Beyond The Federal Census: **Using Non-Population** and State Censuses to Find Your People."

Smith has worked for Ancestry.com for more than 14 years. She began her family history journey trolling through microfilms at the tender age of 11 with her mother. She has written many articles for online and print genealogical publications and penned the "Computers and Technology" chapter of The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy.

Juliana holds a certificate from Boston University's Online Genealogical Research Program, and is working towards certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

She will speak about "Common Surnames" and "What to Do With Your Discoveries."

The seminar begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Seating will be limited. The fee for the day is \$50, includes the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the Museum's special exhibit, "Made in America," during lunch and the afternoon break. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the Museum's website at



Juliana Szucs Smith (left) and her mother, Loretto Szucs, will talk about genealogy, Saturday, March 23, at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

plymouthhistory.org.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main St., one block north of downtown Plymouth.

For more information, call the Museum at (734) 455-8940.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

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

Butterflies

"Monarchs — their Journey South and Journey North," is the topic of the next meeting of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The program will cover the annual migrations with emphasis on Monarchs roosts, people, towns, and tag recovery in Mexico. Parking on Hines Dr. or Ann Arbor Trail.

Admission is \$3 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 223-5510 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

Master Composter

Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOC-WA) in cooperation with Rouge Watershed municipalities offers a series of classes in master composting beginning March 11 at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road at Telegraph. Classes run from 6:45-8:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$40. A Master Composter is a community gardening volunteer who understands how to make compost, soil

health, compost benefits. natural mulches, environmental lawn care, and more. In addition to "Composting ... For Earth's Sake" on March 11, other classes in the series are:

• Soil testing and fertilizer options, March 18

• Healthy lawn care, April

· Youth education and schoolyard gardens, April Sustainable landscapes

and rainwater recycling, April 22

• SOCWA gardens open house, May 4

· Class wrap up, May 6 In order to earn their Master Composter name badge,

volunteers attend six classes, build a working compost pile, complete written assignments, and volunteer 12 hours of time. For more information, e-mail to LFDean@aol.com, visit www.socwa.org, or call (248) 546-5818.

English Gardens

•Learn about perennial gardening at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at a free presentation. Get a list of best garden performers and tips on selecting plants.

•"The Secrets to a Beautiful Lawn" will provide information about keeping lawns green, healthy and growing, at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 23. Free.

•Get tips on pruning and dividing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 27 and 1 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at free presentations.

•A free presentation will offer suggestions on keeping insects, small and large animals at bay in the garden, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3.

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

REUNIONS

Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife. com. Got a class photo or yearbook picture to go with the information? Send it along as a jpg attachment.

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963

50th reunion will be held Sept. 28. Contact Kathy (Toth) Hay at khay@ reinhardrealtors.com or Dianna (Basnaw) Mc-

Daniel at djmcdaniel45@ comcast.net

DETROIT BURT EL-EMENTARY

Classes of 1960-79 A reunion is planned for April 20 at Big Tommy's Parthenon, 40380 Grand River Ave., Novi. A limited number of tickets are available. They will not be sold at the reunion. Presale tickets are \$25; 5-7 p.m. March 15 at Panera at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia.

Pattypure@yahoo.com or

Burtreunion@yahoo.com for more information.

DETROIT GESU CATH-OLIC SCHOOL CLASS OF 1956

A reunion is planned for Aug. 17. Call Jack Sayed at (810) 231-9230.

DETROIT MACKENZIE CLASSES FROM 1964-

Family & Friends Day bowling fundraiser runs 2-6 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at Oaks Lanes N. Middlebelt, Westland. Cost is \$20 per person and includes three games, shoes, pizza and beverage. Open to adults and children. Call Rita Whitley at (313) 281-8001.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1968

A 45-year class reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 7. For information contact Susan Keith Johnson at sgjohnson4@ comcast.net

SOUTH LYON

CLASS OF 1963 A 50th class reunion is

planned for July 20. For more information, contact Barbara Cook at (248) 349-5982.

WAYNE HIGH SCHOOLS

ALL REUNION

The Alumni Association's 29th Annual All Reunion Banquet is 5-10 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m., Friday, May 17, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born,

Wayne. For more info contact Sharon Scott at (734) 722-4651 or sscott@ wcccd.edu. The class of 1964 will be honored at the event.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1983

6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 26, at Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center, Livonia. For more information, e-mail to Linda Harbison at jghs.1983@gmail.com

ONLINE PHOTO GALLERIES

hometownlife.com



OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

MEDIA

Nominations accepted for senior volunteers

The search is on for Michigan's outstanding senior volunteer.

The Salute to Senior Service program, sponsored by Home Instead, Inc., the franchisor of the Home Instead Senior Care network, honors the contributions of adults 65 and older who give at least 15 hours a month of volunteer service to their favorite causes.

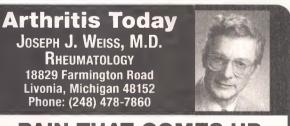
Deadline for nominating an outstanding senior volunteer is March 31. State winners then will be selected by popular vote at SalutetoSeniorService.com. Online voting will take place from April 15-30. A panel of senior care experts will pick the national Salute to Senior Service honoree from among the state winners.

Home Instead, Inc. will donate \$500 to each of the state winners' favorite nonprofit organizations and their stories will be posted on the Salute to Senior Service Wall of Fame. In addition, \$5,000 will be donated to the national winner's nonprofit charity of choice.

'We all know seniors who do so much for our community," said Jeff Huber, president, Home Instead, Inc. "These silent heroes give selflessly, expecting nothing in return. And yet, their contributions often make a difference not only to the organizations they serve, but in changing how the public views growing

To complete and submit a nomination form online for a senior age 65 or older who volunteers at least 15 hours a month, and to view the contest's official rules, visit SalutetoSeniorService.com.

Completed nomination forms also can be mailed to Salute to Senior Service, P.O. Box 285, Bellevue, NE



PAIN THAT COMES UP IN THE NIGHT

Learning from patients the timing of their pain is important for doctors. In conditions of the bones and joints, the presence of pain at night is particularly significant.

For example, a feature of gout is not only that it comes on at night, but that it awakens a person from sleep. That patient experience practically defines that the problem is gout, and allows the doctor to start therapy immediately and undertake only a minimum of tests to confirm the diagnosis

Of nearly equal importance is the patient's experience with shoulder pain. If rolling over on the shoulder during sleep awakens the person with pain, the physician can surmise that the basic problem is a muscle tendinitis. In contrast, a person with shoulder arthritis would find that bedrest brings relief from pain.

Problems such as gout and tendinitis worsen at night because these conditions are in part dependent on body heat. At night, the body's basal temperature decreases; at the same time blood supply to the arms and legs decreases because movement is less. Gout is a crystal that dissolves in the heat and precipitates in the cold. Deep into the night, when body beat is at its least, is the best time for gout to strike.

In tendinitis, the problem is injury. At night with lack of movement and less blood supply to tendons of the arms and legs, areas of injury build up. The result is tendon pain and leg cramps

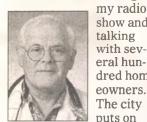
When dealing with problems of bones and joints, physicians first ask where the pain is, but the next question is: when is the pain?



Canton home improvement show is first class

By Joe Gagnon **Guest Columnist**

or the past 12 years I have been spending time with dozens of exhibitors at the Summit in Canton broadcasting



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

show and talking with several hundred homeowners. The city puts on this event in such a beautiful facility and

the police department and city inspectors are right there on site to answer questions from homeowners about a variety of sub-

jects. It really is quite impressive.

They set me up in the show with a nicely-covered table and a banner and I sit there dressed in my doctor smock with a stethoscope wrapped around my neck and answer questions. Newcomers to the area will sometimes ask if I'm there to take blood pressure readings or give medical advice. I never pretend to be a real doctor and am only a doctor of appliances. I would like to thank the many people who read this column and say the nicest things to me. You make it all worthwhile!

Most people know how I feel about the quality of major appliances produced today and all of the negatives I've written about. That was reinforced by the lady who stopped at my booth and told me she had a 1971 Whirlpool washer with a Suds Saver. She has never had service on the machine and she said it has certainly paid for itself in soap savings. Now the save suds feature is no longer working and the part is no longer available and she is very skeptical about buying a new washer.

Other people were listening to her conversation and asked her about this so called Suds Saver. They didn't know what she was talking about and so she explained this money-saving feature that used to be so common. In the old days clothes washers were located in the basement

and every home had a laundry tub. The washer had two drain hoses and you placed a stiff rubber extension right into the drain in the bottom of the laundry tub. One drain hose fit into the top of this extension and the other lay in the tub. You would wash your slightly dirty clothes and the wash water would fill the tub instead of going down the drain. The washer would suck that water back into the washer and you could do another load using the same water. You saved by not having to use so much hot water and the cost of detergent.

Today, the wash system is controlled by electronics that are very expensive in repair costs. The washer controls the

water temperatures and the amount of water that enters the machine. It all has to do with energy savings dictated in Washington. The average life of a clothes washer today is 10 years, not 41 years of trouble-free usage.

Another homeowner asked about her dishwasher which won't operate because the accusensor light keeps blinking. She wanted to know what an accusensor does on a dishwasher. It's a sensor mounted to the side of the pump which senses how clean the water is in a dishwasher. Does the average homeowner really need this feature or is this just an electronic component prone to failure and the cause of a needed service call?

I talked with many people about their problems with clothes dryers. I know that I solved their problems by telling them to clean the dryer vent lines. When it takes too long to dry a load of clothes you should go directly to the plugged up vent line and clean it out completely. Remember, while the vent line is plugged up with lint, you are living in a home that is very prone to disaster. Your dryer is a very serious fire hazard and it's just a matter of time before you see the results. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@ twmi.rr.com.

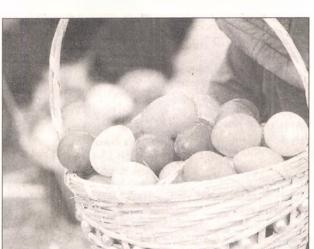
Churches offer Bunny Brunch, egg hunts

Learn about Salvation Army programs while your children meet the Easter Bunny at a Bunny Brunch, Saturday, March 23, at the The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps.

Or hunt for eggs, make crafts and hear stories that same day at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church or Faith Community Wesleyan Church, both in Livo-

Then head to the annual Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, March 30 and let them hunt for some of the 13,000 eggs that will be scattered around the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville.

The events are among many Easter Bunny programs and egg hunts planned locally and throughout Metro Detroit. The Salvation Army Bunny Brunch will run 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plymouth Corps Community Center, 9451 S. Main St. in Plymouth. There is no admission charge.



Don't forget to bring your Easter basket to the Eggstravaganza on March 30 at the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville.

Youth ages 1-12 can participate in crafts and activities and will receive an Easter basket they can fill with treats and completed crafts. Parents and other adult guests will receive information about Salvation Army programs, including Men's and Women's Ministry, Summer Day Camp, Tiny

Tots Pre-School, Youth Programming, Emergency Disaster Services, and Tae Kwon Do.

Families interested in attending the Bunny Brunch should RSVP at (734) 453-5464 no later than Wednesday, March

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps is accepting donations of Easter baskets and individually-wrapped candy, along with money to buy crafts and food. Donations may be mailed to the Plymouth Corps at 9451 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. Contributions also can be dropped off at the center, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.

Volunteers also needed to assist with set-up, cooking, serving food, craft stations, and cleanup. To volunteer for the Bunny Brunch, call Sandy Kollinger at (734) 453-5464, Ext. 24.

In Livonia

Easter Fun Day runs 10 a.m.-noon, March 23 at St. Paul's, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia.

Youngsters, age 12 and under, will hunt for eggs, play games and participate in other Easterthemed activities at this free event. For information, or to sign up, call the church office at (734) 422-1470.

The church also requests donations of white socks, Chapstick, chewing gum, individually-wrapped hand wipes, snack bars, pocket Bibles and pocket-sized tissue packs for Comfort Kits for the homeless.

Youngsters can hunt for eggs, participate in games and crafts, enjoy snacks and hear the Easter story, 12:45-4 p.m. Saturday, March 23 at Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman. The event is aimed at ages 1-11. Parents may stay and join in the fun. Children should bring their own baskets. For more information, call Melissa at (734) 765-

Eggstravaganza

First Church of the Nazarene's annual egg hunt is a party, Easter Bunny meet-and-greet, entertainment show and egg search all rolled into one big event.

Admission is free, but pre-registration is required and closes on March 27 or when it totals 600 children. Pre-register at www.dfcnazarene.org.

Youngsters, age 1-11, will collect eggs in five separate age groups, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the church, located at 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. Participants should bring their own baskets.

Youngsters will get a chance to pose for photos with the Easter Bunny, play games, get prizes, watch a juggler, have fun with puppets and participate in song and dance.

Hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks will be available for everyone.

For a list of other local egg hunts and breakfasts and brunches with the Easter Bunny, visit www.hometownlife.com and click on the Observer Community Life section.

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chelle (Fred) Pulve, Nancy VandenBerg, Cynthia (Dennis)

Lomske and the late Paul Jr. (daughter-in-law Sharon). Dear grandmother of 11, Great grand-

mother of 18 and great great-

grandmother of one. Visitation Fri. 2-8 PM and Sat. 10 AM until

the Sat 11 AM Funeral Service at

Vermeulen Funeral Home, 6401 W Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Inter-

may be made to Muscular Dys-

trophy. To share a memory,

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

VERMINULEN

MILLARD, FRED JR.

ven) Misenheimer, Scott (Lisa),

and the late Stanley (Irene), and infant daughter. Proud grandpa

of Christina, Michelle, Chaz, Heather, Bobby, Amber, Tom-my, Jessica, Jeffrey, Sarah, and

Rachel; and great-grandpa of Athena, Lucy, and Mason. Dear brother of Margaret "Peg" Patter-

son, and the late Susan Forester.

Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Fred proudly served his country as a member

of the 1st Infantry Division, the "Big Red One". He landed with

the first wave on Omaha Beach

on D-day. He received many

recognitions, including two Pur-

ple Hearts and the French Legion of Honor Medal. Funeral Mon-

day I PM at Vermeulen Funeral

Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Ply-

and 6-8 PM. Interment Riverside

Cemetery. Memorial contribu-

tions may be made to Beaumont

To share memories, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

VERMEULEN

FUNERAL HOME

THOMPSON,

EVA C.

Of Farmington Hills, March 4,

2013. The last of her generation

of emigres from Russia, to Cana-

da and then the United States of

America, she will be missed by

her daughter Tracy Thompson Edwards, son in law W Randall

Edwards, many beloved nieces

and nephews, and three cats. A graduate of Wayne State Univer-

sity, she worked as an insurance

underwriter, but the loves of her life were flowers, animals and

especially the earth. She is pre-

ceded in death by: her husband,

John E Thompson; parents, Dora

and Charton Chmiel; sisters So-

Chmiel. Memorials and tributes

may be made to your favorite an-

imal rights organization. Funeral

Services were held Wednesday,

Sundquist Funeral Home, down-

town Farmington, Interment

Wyszynski, and Mary

and brother Harry

6, at the Heeney-

Hospice.

Visitation Sunday 2-4

March 6, 2013; age 88 of

Northville. Beloved husband of Shirley for 59 years. Loving father of (Suzette), Shelley (Ste-

Detroit Memorial Park-

Memorial contributions

Steven

(Cecile)

Claramunt,

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



BABIK, VIRGINIA (JINNY) M. 1954 - 2013

of Westland, Michigan passed away Friday (March 1, 2013) at home after an extended illness. Virginia was born July 19,1954, to the late William and Maxine (Arnold) Rumpa. In 1972, she graduated from Gar-den City East High School. She was an administrative assistant for the Canton Police and Fire Departments. Virginia is survived by her husband of 33 years, Darryl E. Babik, Sr., daughter Julie Babik of Belleville, Michigan, son Darryl Babik of Ypsilanti, Michigan, two grandsons, Kayden Griffin-Babik and Dimitri Babik, sister Sandra (Gary) Rumpa-Mackey, nephew Andrew Mackey, niece Amanda (Jason) Bowker of Delaware, Ohio, and her beloved canine companions Toto and Doro-thy. She was preceded in death her sister Tammy Rumpa, in 2001. In honor of Jinny's love of animals the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Michigan Humane Society.





BOOTH, (Nee LAWSON) **CAROL**

February 1, 2013 Peacefully at home in Birmingham, surrounded by her family. Age 99. Beloved wife of the late John M. Booth for 50 years. Dear mother of Thomas L. (Lois), Carol "Ginger" Beesley (Peter) and Nancy Hanscom (Fred). Loving grandmother of Kimberly Hunt Jarzembowski (Tim), James Robert Booth (Suzanne), Elizabeth Booth O'Toole (Andy) and Timothy Dana Jackson. Great grandmother of Rachel, Lauren and Kristen Jarzembowski, Jake Meade, Ella and Harper Haase and Katie and Mackenzie O'Toole. Memorial service Friday March 15th at 11a.m. at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Rd. (Lone Pine west of Woodward), Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to Christ Church Cranbrook Cranbrook Academy of Art Mu-

A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500 View obituary and share memories at DesmondFuneralHome.com AJ DESMOND SON



BOUTON, ERIC D.

Age 59, of Garden City, passed away peacefully with family by his side on March 4, 2013. He is survived by his wife Brenda, his children Chris (Michelle), Erika, Tiffany (Robert), Jamie (James), his mother Delores, and his beloved siblings, Robert Jr., Mark James, Karl, and Inger. He is also survived by six grandchildren, with one on the way. Eric was preceded in death by his father, Robert Sr. Memorial arrangements to be held at a later date.



BROWN, DOROTHY W.

Age 99, March 3, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Ralph W. Brown. Loving mother of Dorothea (Joe) Prince, R. Paul (Patricia), Kenneth (Sandra) and the late Kevin. Grandmother of 15. Great grandmother of 13 and Great-great grandmother of one with one on the way. Survived by one brother and three sisters. Visitation Friday 3-9 pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Saturday, in state 10 am until the time of service at 1.1 am at St. Paul 20805 Church, Lutheran Middlebelt Rd. in Farmington Hills. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Concordia Lutheran School, 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI 48239.



GEERSENS, HAZEL E. Age 87. Born January 1, 1926 in Detroit, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home in Farmington, Michigan, Tuesday, March 5, 2013. Beloved wife of the late August J. Geersens for 57 years. Hazel is survived by her chil-dren, Douglas (Mary) Geersens and Gail Green; grandchildren, Douglas (Cassie) Geersens Jr., Courtney (Sean) Ellis, Rebecca Geersens and Connor Green; great-grandson, Augustus Oliver Geersens; brother Charles (the late Elbie) Owen; sister Martha (Lorne) Hamilton and many loving nieces, nephews'and friends. To know Hazel was to love her as she was a very caring and giving person - always doing for others. Her generous heart and loving spirit will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Funeral Mass Monday 10 AM (in state 9:30 AM) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23815 Rd., Farmington, MI 48336. Visitation Sunday 2-8PM (Rosary 7 PM) at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). www.thayer-rock.com



LARSON SARAH ANN

Age 86, formerly of Lima, passed at 6:20 a.m., on Monday, March 04, 2013, at Otterbein of Cridersville. She was born June 16, 1926, in Kansas City, Kan-sas, to John Ralph and Neva Grace (Halcomb) Griffith who preceded her in death. Mrs. Larson had been a radio host in Georgia and an administrative assistant for Eastman Radio, in Detroit, Michigan. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star. She loved dogs and reading and enjoyed listening to fine music. She was a graduate of the National Institute for Children's Surviving are Literature. Surviving are a daughter: Victoria (Roger) Rushof LeRoy, Michigan; two grand-children; nieces: Sue Moon of Indian Lake, Patti Combs and Neva Cairco, both of Rock Hill, South Carolina; seven great nieces and nephews and sixteen great-great nieces and nephews She was preceded in death by a sister, Jacqueline Fleenor. her request, Mrs. Larson has donated her body to the Department of Anatomy at the Medical College of Ohio, Toledo. Memorial contributions may be made to the Auglaize County Humane

Society.

Condolences may be expressed at siferd-oriansfuneralhome.com Arrangements are under the direction of Siferd-Orians Funeral Home.





LENZ, SANDRA ANN 57, passed away Sunday, March 3. She is preceded in death by her parents, Mary and Raymond. Loving wife of 20 yrs to Kenneth. Beloved mother of Kelly Collins. Sister of Mary Kay Wiedman, sister in law of Janet Gourley (Robert) and Alan Lenz (Karen). Aunt to several loving nieces and nephews. Family will receive friends at Neely-Turowski Life Story Funeral Home, 45100 Warren Rd (btw Sheldon and Canton Center), Canton, on Friday from 3-9 pm, with a scripture service at 8 pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, 10:30am at St John Neumann Catholic Church,

Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi heeney-sundquist.com TRAME, **ELIZABETH ANN** March 3, 2013, age 61. Beloved wife of Richard O. Loving mother of Kristin. Dear daughter of Lyman (Oddice) Shell. The family entrusted care and services to L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Can-44800 Warren Rd. In state 10 am ton Chapel, (734) 981-1700. Meuntil mass begins. Interment Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. morial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice, 2366 In lieu of flowers family sug-Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Share a "Memorial Tribgests donations be made to the Michigan Humane Society or ute" with the family at: griffinfuneralhome.com

Shultz,

PAYING TORUBUTCE TO THUE JUILIE OF YOUR ILOVIEID ONIE

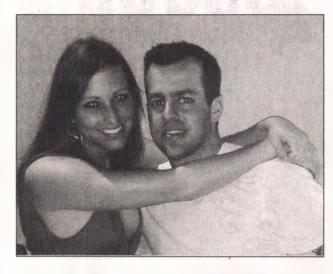


Waldecker-O'Connor

Jaquelyn Anette Waldecker and Tim O'Connor announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Nick and Clarice Waldecker of Farmington Hills, is a 2003 Harrison High School graduate and a 2007 Michigan State University graduate. She lives in Arizona and is a surgical sales associate in sports tissue and biologics for ConMed.

Her fiance, son of Mike and Sandy O'Connor of Phoenix, Ariz., is a native of California and was raised in Arizona. Tim entered the Navy in



2003 as an air crew rescue swimmer. After four years of service he pursued his interest in finance as a mortgage

broker with Wells Fargo. An October 2013 wedding is planned in Scottsdale, Ariz.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

March

AUCTION

Time/Date: 12:30-2 p.m. March 10

Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist. 10000 Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: All proceeds go to support the Food4U food bank that distributes food baskets monthly to 40-80 families

Contact: (313) 937-3170

BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 30 Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft, east of Inkster, Redford

Details: Bethany, an organization serving Catholics and other Christians, offers a singles dance. Tickets are \$13. Beer, wine, pop, snacks and coffee are included Contact: (586) 264-0284

CLASSES

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, March 14 Location: Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills

Details: All classes are open to the public. A \$5 donation is suggested. Refreshments will be served at a 7 p.m. social gathering. Classes for the evening include "Secrets, Fantasies and Intimacy - Rekindling the Bond" with Julea Merlin; "Make Your Organization More Efficient Using Google Docs" (for MS Word /Excel users), with Chuck Eglinton; and "Fiction and Fact: Stories and Reality about the Holocaust" with author Susanna Piontek and her husband, Guy Stern

Contact: (248) 478-7272; www.uuFarmington.org

CONCERT Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday,

March 10 Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills

Details: Olivia Duval, soprano, sings a program of spirituals and art songs, accompanied by Wesley Fishwick at the piano. Admission to the concert is free, although a free will offering will be collected Contact: www.stjohn-elca. org or www.wesleyfishwick.

CONCERT

com

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 22 Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, **Bloomfield Hills**

Details: Josh Nelson, a

popular performer and composer of modern Jewish music, performs. The concert is free and no reservations are required Contact: (248) 851-1100, Ext. 3150

DISCUSSION GROUP

Time/Date: Miniseries shown 8-10 p.m. Sunday, through March 31; discussion from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, through April 3

Location: Kenwood Church, 20200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The church will offer a discussion group on the History Channel miniseries, "The Bible"

Contact: (248) 476-8222 **FASHION ADVICE**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20

Location: Covenant Community Church, 25800 Student, Redford

Details: "Glamour, Glitz and Grace" will include fashion advice and a personal color analysis with Sharon Woryn, a trained image consultant. It's aimed at girls, 10 and up, and women. Light refreshments will be served Contact: RSVP to (313)

FILM

535-3100

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, March 22

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

Details: Free screening of "Believe in Me," a film about a 1960s-era girls basketball coach who inspired his athletes to believe in themselves and to always strive to reach their greatest potential. A loaded nacho bar with all the fixings is offered for a free will donation for dinner with the movie. RSVP for the nacho dinner

Contact: (248) 553-3380

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield

Detail: "The Economics of Happiness" is a film about a world moving in two opposing directions. On the one hand governm and big business continue to promote globalization and consolidation of corporate power. At the same time, individuals are demanding better regulation of trade and finance. Communities are coming together to re-build more human scale. There will be refreshments and a discussion after the film

Contact: (248) 354-4488; www.northwestuu.org

FISH DINNER

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Friday through March 22

Location: St. Aidan Church Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Adult dinner in-

cludes two filets of salmon, cod or a combination for \$9. Child dinner includes one filet of salmon or cod or macaroni and cheese for \$5. Both the adult and child dinners include roasted potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, dinner roll, and dessert. Beverages included for adults are coffee, tea, milk, pop and water. For children they are milk, pop and water. The child's dinner is for age 10 and under. Side dishes of macaroni and cheese are available for \$2

Contact: (734) 425-5950 **LENTEN LECTURE**

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 Location: St. John Neumann

Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton Details: Dr. Patricia Cooney-

Hathaway, author, lecturer, and professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will present "The Spirituality of Vatican II: What it means for the People in the Pew." This is a free event and light refreshments will be served. Call the office to register

Contact: (734) 455-5910 **LENTEN SERVICE**

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, through March

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Details: Inspiring and meditative worship using Holden Evening Prayer. Journeys of faith witnessed by several members

Contact:: (734) 427-1414 or (734) 338-6722

LENTEN SERVICE

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. prayer service, 6:30 p.m. soup dinner, through March 27 Location: Bethlehem Lu-

theran Church, 35300 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills Details: Topics for the Wednesday night program are: "We were formed for God's family," March 6; "We were created to become like Christ," March 13; "We were shaped for serving God," March 20, "We were made for

a mission," March 27 Contact: (248) 478-6520; belcfh@gmail.com

LENTEN SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 20 Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Red-

Details: Free treats served after services. The theme of the series is "Names of Wondrous Love'

Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper followed by service at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through March 20 Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills **Details:** Soup suppers and

Contact: (248) 553-3380

MASS, PIZZA & MASS CLASS Time/Date: Starts at 6 p.m.

with dinner and class at 6:30 p.m., every Thursday during Location: St. John's Episco-

pal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland Details: Everyone is wel-

Contact: (734) 721-5023

MUSICAL

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 23

Location: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 7575 N Hix, Westland

Details: "Lamb of God" is a sacred musical work about the atonement and resurrection of Jesus Christ, composed by Rob Gardner and featuring the Michigan Concert Choir. Admission is free and open to the public. The piece also will be performed at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 24 at First United Methodist Church, 320 W. 7th Street, Royal Oak and at 7 p.m. Friday, March 29,, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 37425 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield

Contact: (734) 354-0573 **PARTY PLANNING**

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, March 17

Location: Temple Beth El's Handleman Hall, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills **Details:** Photographers, party

planners, florists, DJs, videog-

raphers, caterers and more will be on hand at this party planning showcase sponsored by the Beth El Sisterhood. Experts will present tips, demonstrations and ideas for having a party everyone will remember. An added feature this year will be a bridal fashion show at noon in the Temple's sanctuary presented at no charge by Roma Sposa. Visitors to the free event can sample foods and win prizes. All in attendance will receive

a complimentary directory of exhibitors Contact: (248) 865-0633

COOPS Hound Dog Highlights

Science

Science Photo Contest

Mail your photo entry to Scoop The Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 or email to cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Zip:

Name:

Address:

City:

Date of Birth:

Boy or Girl:

Email:

Phone:

Wanted

Do you write, draw,

photographs, or do some-

thing else that you would

like others to know about?

We may share your extraor-

dinary talent in an upcom-

ing Scoop's Hound Dog

Highlights.

Share your talent with us.

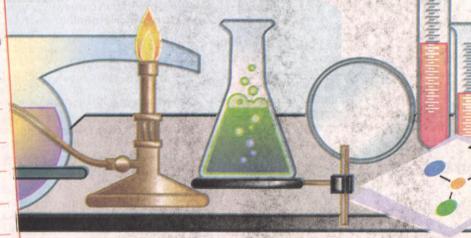
make crafts, take

*Parent's Printed Name:

*Parent's Signature:

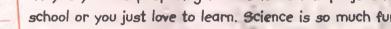
Show and Tell Contest

Tell Scoop why learning about science is fun. Send a picture of yourself and you could win free admission for four to the Michigan Science Center or to the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum.



March is a great time to explore science.

Maybe you are preparing for a science fair project for school or you just love to learn. Science is so much fun and conducting a scientific experience is not only loads of fun but it could be very helpful as well.



Let's try an experiment.

TASTE TEST EXPERIMENT

Did you know that your nose can affect your taste? Smell plays a big part of taste. Close your eyes. Hold your nose while tasting a slice of a potato and an apple. Can you tell them apart? Your nose and mouth are connected through the same airway and therefore you taste and smell foods at the same time. When you can't smell the food that you are tasting it becomes harder to differentiate between foods. That's why food tastes differently when you have a stuffy nose.





THIS TYPE OF STORM BRINGS WITH IT TORRENTIAL RAINS, HIGH

WINDS AND LARGE WAVES.

THIS FIRST NAME IS SHARED

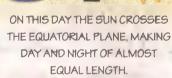
BY TWO OF THE THREE FOUNDERS

OF APPLE COMPUTERS.

ANSWER STEVE

HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER DOES THE AVERAGE ROUND, ABOVE-GROUND POOL HOLD. ANSWER: HURRICANE DEPENDING ON WIDTH

ANSWER BETWEEN & OOO AND 17,000



Michigan Science Center 5020 John R Street

Ann Arbor Hands on Museum 220 E. Ann St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

ANSWER: AUTUMNAL EQUINOX



WHAT IMPORTANT COMPONENT DOES FIRE NEED TO BURN?

YNOMER OXYGEN **Courtesy of Metro Creative**

Join Scoop's **Birthday Club** Name:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Date of Birth: Boy or Girl:

Email:

Phone:

*Parent's Printed Name:

*Parent's Signature:

Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

* Required for Birthday Club

Michael Ledbetter Ryan Sumner Laela Lawrence Grace Lejzorowicz **Ryan Finley**

Livonia Milford Novi **Walled Lake** Livonia

March 3 March 3 March 21 March 27 March 28



facebook.com/Scoop The Newshound Coordinator/Contributing Writer:

Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager Design/Layout: Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

Interested In becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions? Email cbjordan@hometownlife.com



Kristina Kahn, 11 years old of Milford with foster dog Coco.



Briana Karalis, 11 years old, of Livonia with dog, Maggie.



Sarah Wairath, 12 years old of South Lyon, with bunny Buggzy.



Winners from February 2013 Photo Contest

Cory Routen, 13 years old, of Westland with cat

Deadline for submissions:

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, MI 48170 All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Media by close of the business day on

Hospital sleep center moves, doubles in size



St. Mary Mercy Hospital has moved its Sleep Disorders Center from the hospital campus to this building on Farmington Road in Livonia.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold an open house at its relocated Sleep Disorders Center, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19. The center moved from the hospital campus to the Heritage Commons complex, 14600 Farmington Road, suite 101 in Livonia. That's about two miles from its previous location.

The new location doubles the size of the Sleep Disorders Center and has increased the number of private rooms from four to six.

At the Open House, visitors can tour the new building, meet staff and learn more about its services.

St. Mary Mercy has offered.

St. Mary Mercy has offered sleep services since 1998. The Sleep Disorders Center is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and its staff includes registered polysomnographic technologists and physicians certified by the American Board of Sleep Medicine specializing in critical care, pulmonary medicine and neurology.

The center treats many sleep disorders, including obstructive sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy, night terrors, and REM sleep behavior dis-

Sleep studies are offered every day. Call (734) 655-4640 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday to schedule an appointment. Patients can be referred by their doctor or may call for more information.

Study: We're good on flossing

According to the newly released "Look Who's Flossing" Survey by DenTek, a company that sells oral care products, Metro Detroit has a lot to smile about. The area ranks third out of 20 cities surveyed about flossing in a study conducted by an independent marketing research firm in January. Just over 40 percent of those polled in the Detroit area reported that they floss at least once a day.

Detroit-area residents are the fourth most likely in the nation to floss because it is good for their overall health (41 percent). Equally as practical, Detroit flossers are No. 1 in the nation for flossing in their home bathroom.

"We commissioned this consumer opinion survey to drill down into flossing habits and behaviors in America's biggest cities." said Charlotte Havely, vice president of marketing for DenTek. "About 35 percent of people we talked to are frequent flossers, which is very encouraging."

The survey's best cities for flossing are:

- Best flossers: 1. Los Angeles
- 2. Boston
- 3. Detroit
 4. Miami/Ft. Lauderdale
- 5. Atlanta
- Worst flossers:
- 1. Cleveland
- 2. Seattle/Tacoma
- 3. Dallas/Ft. Worth 4. San Francisco/San
- 4. San Francisco/Sa Jose 5. Chicago

So why not floss?
Twenty-seven percent of individuals said they just don't think about it. One in 10 individuals who responded to the survey also said they never floss.

Three quarters of flossers reported floss

ing in their home bathroom, but 11 percent said they will floss anywhere. Thirty-seven percent said they floss for overall health; 25 percent said they do it because it's recommended by their dentist or hygienist; 19 percent floss because it protects their dental investments.

"Health benefits usually come to mind when it comes to flossing, but more and more people are starting to understand the money savings aspect, too. If you take care of your teeth, by brushing and flossing regularly, you can alleviate pain down the road, in your mouth and your wallet," said Havely.

Mizzouri, LLC, conducted the survey of 20 major metropolitan areas in the U.S. to learn more about consumer views on flossing and oral care.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

March

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Valentine Church will hold a blood drive, 8 a.m.-1:45 p.m. in the school gymnasium, 25875 Hope, Redford. For more information contact Cecil Gallagher at cgallredcrblooddrive@gmail. com.

BLOOD PRESSURE MANAGE-MENT

Susan Stiegerwalt, MD, a nephrologist on staff at Providence and Providence Park Hospitals, will talk about keeping blood pressure under control, 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 in the Fisher Auditorium at the hospital, 22255 Greenfield, Southfield. Includes a free blood pressure screening. Call (888) 751-5465.

HEALTH SCREENING

Get free balance, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), hearing, height and weight, lung function, memory, and vision testing at Project Healthy Living, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, March 22, at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Enter through Door A. Bone density screenings will run from 9:30 a.m.-noon. For nominal fees, blood testing and analysis (\$5-\$50) and ultrasounds measuring blockage of the arteries and EKGs of the heart (\$25 to \$199) also will be available.

The event is sponsored by Farmington Area Commission on Aging, the City of Farmington Hills Senior Division, and Botsford Hospital. For more information or to pre-register and pay for the tests and services you want, visit http://projecthealthyliving.org. Or call (248) 473-1830.

JOINT REPLACEMENT

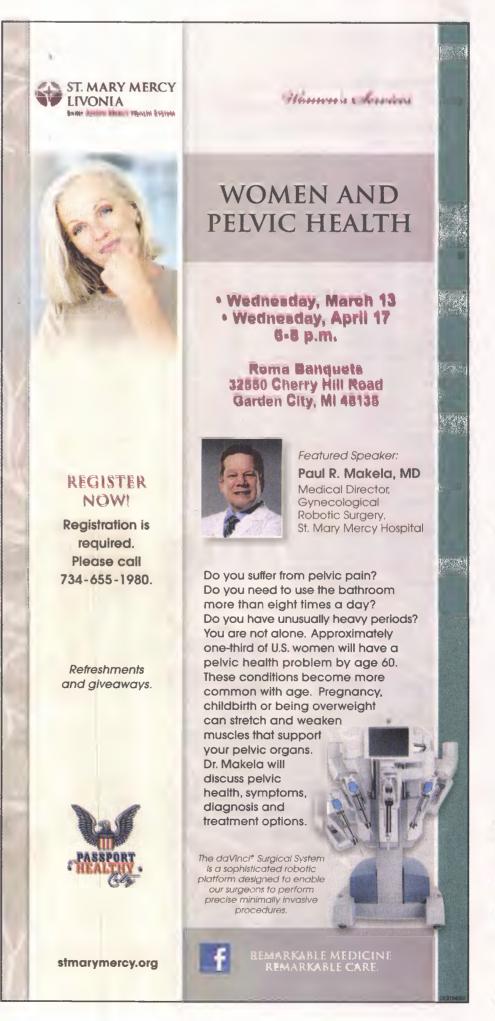
The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars with orthopedic surgeons and expert staff who will answer your questions, discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures, and available implant options. An upcoming session is 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 27 with Jeffrey Mendelson, MD. All meetings are held in Classroom 10 at the hospital, located on Five Mile and Levan in Livonia. Register by calling (734) 655-2345.

LUPUS SUPPORT

The Michigan Lupus Foundation will hold a support group meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

The meeting is designed to assist individuals with lupus and their family and friends to get connected with each other and to get a better understanding of the disease and how to fight it. For more information visit milupus.org or call (800) 705-6677.





JOBS also inside... Homes • Wheels • Pets • Services

Quiz: Is your cover letter like a bad handshake?

Susan Ricker, CareerBuilder Writer

A cover letter serves a specific purpose in the hiring process. While potential employers can turn to your resume to see your work experience, a cover letter is an introduction to who you are and why the prospective employer should invite you in for an interview.

Handshakes are another form of introduction, so think of your cover letter as a handshake. While you may think you're offering a warm handshake, your cover letter could actually be strong-arming you out of a job. Take this guiz to find out what type of handshake your cover letter is most associated with and the impression it's giving to potential employers:

1. Your cover letter's opening sentence is:

- A. "I want to tell you why you should hire me for this open position at your company."
- B. "I'm interested in the open position at your company and would like to submit my job qualifications."
- C. "I was surprised to hear of the open position at your company and was hoping you could look at my resume if or when you get a chance."

2. If you're currently employed, do you mention your job in your cover letter?

- A. Yes, I explain that my current job should pay better, and I'm interested in receiving a better title or promotion.
- B. Yes, I relate my current job to the open position and explain why I'm ready to assume

more responsibilities.

C. No, I don't want the hiring company to think I'm not ready to leave my current job.

3. Your experience matches about 90 percent of the job requirements. Do you address the requirement you don't meet in your cover letter?

- A. Sort of. I tell them how experienced and smart I am and how impressed my past boss was with how quickly I picked things up.
- B. No. I address the requirements I do meet and include my relevant experience; I can mention the other requirement if I get asked about it in a later interview.
- C. Yes. I point out that I don't know how to do it and say I hope I get the chance to learn it.

4. Where in your cover letter do you write about the company of interest?

- A. Briefly in the middle; most of the room was used for boasting about my qualifications and why I'm the best choice.
- B. After the introduction paragraph about my interest and experience, I write a short paragraph about why I admire the company and the values I share with it.
- C. Most of the cover letter is about them. I only included a few sentences about why I'd be lucky to work there.
- 5. How do you end your

cover letter?

- A. Thank you for your time, and I know you'll make the right choice.
- B. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.
- C. Thank you for your time, and it'd be so incredible to hear from you.

RESULTS

Mostly A's: Death-grip handshake

Being assertive and confident are great qualities, but you're coming on too strong. If your cover letter were a handshake, you'd break a few bones with that death grip. Keep your cover letter balanced with the qualities that would make you a great pick for the job as well as why you're interested in working there. You want to build a

relationship with the potential employer, not muscle them into a decision.

Mostly B's: Confident and approachable handshake

You may be getting a call for an interview soon, because your cover letter made a great first impression, just like a confident and approachable handshake. You clearly understand what it takes to write a great cover letter: expressing a genuine interest in the position and the company and relating your past experience to the new role. By presenting yourself as a strong candidate, you set the stage for a more in-depth conversation about if the job is a good fit for both parties.

Mostly C's: Dead-fish handshake

. You'll need to muster up more courage in your cover letter, because your writing is the equivalent of a cold, limp handshake. It's wonderful that you're impressed by the business and you're trying to be polite, but that won't help the hiring manager understand who you are and why you're a good fit. A cover letter is an introduction, but it's also a tool to help the company make an informed hiring decision. Focus on the key points that company should know about you - why should they hire you over everybody else?

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder. com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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- instrument 15 Pirate's coin 17 Workbench
- tool 18 Moose feature
- 19 Garbo and Bergman 21 Iris locale
- Toon Olive 23 Restaurant handouts
- Now 30 Thai neighbor
- 31 Bad hair -32 Puffin kin 33 Was fizzy
- Likewise 38 Be on the sick list

12

15

39 Almost-grads 40 Fair maiden

- 43 Flaises 47 Opera set in Egypt
- 48 Send 50 Bridle piece
- 51 Rochester's
- Jane
- 52 Mineral deposit
- 53 Popular salad 54 Acom, to an oak 55 Sparkler

DOWN

- 1 Wagner's Earth goddess
- Androcles' pal Comme il Back streets
- 5 Michael or Dudley 6 Major leaguer
- Kind of deprivation 8 Mean
- dwellings 9 Term paper abbr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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- 10 Winning
- margin Joey and Kiki
- 16 Roquefort hue 20 Severn tributary
- 24 de cologne 25 San Francisco hill 26 Water lily leaf
 - Attend a banquet 28 Wrench target Boxing win Erases from

23 Diamond org.

- memory 34 Chiquita
- product 35 Carry-out drink topper 36 Talked on and
- on 37 Egyptian
- goddess Percentage One of the Mavericks Stead
- Valhalla honcho
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Word Search — Getting Crafty



Hobby

Knitting

Model

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Craft

Crocheting

Decoupage

Building

Coins

Cooking

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Scrapbooking

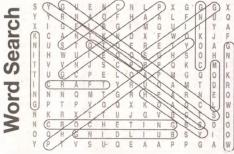
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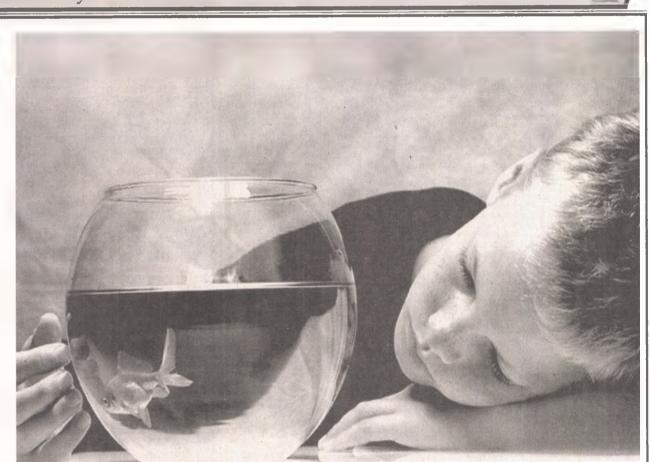
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Car Report

Advertising Feature

C-Max is achieving Ford's goal: Taking big bite out of hybrids



By Dale Buss

Ford's new C-Max hvbrids are achieving the corporate aim of eating into the dominance of Toyota Prius in the segment, so Ford is doubling down with an extension of the popular TV-advertising cam-

paign that launched the vehicle.

Ford's share of the U.S. hybrid market grew by nearly 9 percentage points between December 2011 and December 2012, mostly from the October launch of C-Max, the company said, while Toyota's share of hybrids dropped by 8 percentage points even though last year was the first complete year on the market for the company's expanded line of Prius models.

Additionally, initial sales data show that C-Max is stealing hybrid sales away from other brands at an impressive clip: Its conquest rate is about 64 percent, with Prius and the Honda CR-V ranking as the top nameplates abandoned by customers in favor of C-Max.

"We clearly sought to go head-to-head with Prius" in introducing C-Max, Ford's first nameplate reserved only for electrified vehicles, C.J. O'Donnell, marketing and strategy manager for Ford Electrified Vehicles, told me. "C-Max is, all around, just a better car."

To that end, of course, Ford's first ads for C-Max last fall made direct comparisons in fuel economy, passenger roominess and other areas with Prius V, the slightly larger version of Prius that Toyota introduced last year.

Soon, C-Max advertising — retaining the "La Linea" character introduced in

its first spot — will pivot to some playful poetry readings designed to highlight C-Max features. C-Max pops up in the new ABC reality cooking show The Taste and will be a key part of challenges on the March 8 episode. The car also will be visible this season in the course of Ford's regular sponsorship of American Idol on

"Unlike typical launches, we're going to continue to invest in 2013 in C-Max to extend the launch," O'Donnell said. "Spending in media and creative and on grass-roots efforts will remain strong for nine to 12 months since the introduction rather than the typical three to six months."

O'Donnell said that Ford is encouraged by the fact that the C-Max Hybrid and the C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid, launched at the same time, have been helping the company exceed its usual market share in important electrified-vehicle markets such as California.

At the same time, about one-third of C-Max sales are occurring in the Midwest, typically among the worst markets for hybrids - but, of course, the historical

"Leading with this technology

strength of the

Ford franchise.

is a great entree to markets where we're striving to improve share, on the East and West coasts, but it's great to be able to use it to retain our strength in the Midwest also,' O'Donnell said.



Battery packs for C-Max come together at Ford's plant in Rawsonville.

O'Donnell said that one of the most gratifying aspects of the sales patterns for C-Max so far is that the car has been able to steal significant numbers of customers who owned CR-V, Honda's compact SUV. "It's packaged with enough versatility to compete with that segment," he noted.

In fact, within the Ford brand, many C-Max buyers migrate down in size from previous versions of Escape and Escape Hybrid — even though there's a significantly refreshed new Escape SUV availa-

> ble now — as well as move from the Ford Focus compact sedan.

While Toyota has focused its electrified-vehicle efforts on conventional hybrids, and General Motors has emphasized its Chevrolet Volt plug-in hybrid, after a long and unspectacular record of offering conventional-hybrid versions of some of its most popular conventional models Ford has begun determinedly fielding a wide variety of new electrified vehicles. At

this point they include not only the two C-Max models but also the Focus Electric.

"As a company, we're now second [in electrified vehicles] and pecking at Toyota because of the range of our products," O'Donnell said. "We don't have a single entry that we're trying to put all our weight behind. We provide choices to customers in what electrified product best suits their driving styles and personal needs."

Still, about 70 percent of electrified vehicles sold by Ford this year will be conventional hybrids, he said: about 25 percent will be C-Max or Focus Energi plug-in hybrids; and the remaining 5 percent will be Focus Electric.

Ford accelerated its plans for C-Max as it reported that its U.S. February sales grew nine percent with 195,822 vehicles sold. That marked Ford's best February sales in six years - with cars up six percent, utilities up 21 percent and trucks up four percent.

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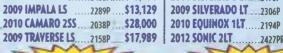
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