



Sen. Patrick Colbeck (left), R-Canton, with Leonard Sanford of Plymouth.

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## Best essay

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service Inc. recognized MPAS' 2013 Essay Contest winners, including first-place winner Leonard Sanford of Plymouth.

In addition to the luncheon, the winners of MPAS' annual essay contest had lunch and photos taken with their legislators, visited the House floor and were recognized during the House session. Following the reception, the winners were recognized during the MPAS board meeting.

"It was a pleasure getting to meet Leonard and hear his story. He is an incredibly dynamic young man," said Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton.

The essay contest solicits real, motivating stories about people with disabilities who have successfully advocated for themselves or others. Entries were judged by members of the MPAS board of directors.

## Band recruits

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is looking for new members to join their ranks of marchers, color guard and percussionists for the upcoming season.

PCMB members and staff host informational meetings March 18, April 23, May 9 and May 29 at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth High School band room. Interested students only need to attend one of the four meetings. Parents will learn about all the efforts to support this nonprofit effort dedicated to the high school participants at the Park.

Current eighth-graders and other incoming student musicians and dancers interested in joining the PCMB are encouraged to attend one of these informational meetings.

## NCAA tourney ticket contest

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

The drawing is Monday, March 18, and you can enter once every day. Good luck!

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# New city post office location an open question

By Matt Jachman  
 Staff Writer

As the U.S. Postal Service announces the possible sale of the post office on Penniman, lobbying is under way to keep postal service available downtown.

In a March 4 letter to Mayor Dan Dwyer, Marla Larsen Williams, a U.S.P.S. real estate specialist, said a suitable offer for the Pursell Station had been made, and that the deal does not include a lease-back of space to continue post-office counter service there. The 21,000-square-foot building, built in 1935, has been on the market for nearly three years.

Fans have said they understand the need to consolidate, but that they want to keep postal services downtown for walk-ins. The U.S.P.S. has plans to lease another

space for the services now offered on Penniman — stamp and merchandise sales, P.O. boxes and package and letter receipt — but three of the five sites under consideration are not downtown. Of the two downtown locations being considered, one is at the Mayflower Center on Main Street and the other is at the vacant convenience store at Penniman and Harvey.

### Personal issue

"It's unfortunate that they have to lose that building. ... It's something personal for me because I go there every day," said Ellen Elliott, a longtime resident and executive director of Friends of the Penn Theater. The group, she said, has a postal box there.

Elliott said she wants to see the service stay within walking distance.

"I think it's just that necessary component of a healthy, diverse downtown," she said.

Postal officials are seeking public comment on where the Pursell Station should relocate, and Elliott is trying to get people to comment in favor of keeping it downtown. In addition, the Plymouth City Commission on Monday is expected to take up a resolution in favor of keeping a downtown post office location.

"Certainly we would miss the post office being downtown," said Tony Bruscato, operations director of the Downtown Development Authority. "One of the major advantages is it brings a lot of activity downtown and a lot of people downtown, and we certainly would like to see them continue with a downtown location."

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FILE PHOTO  
 The U.S. Postal Service has an offer for the Pursell Station, on Penniman in downtown Plymouth, and is considering other locations for counter service, two downtown and three outside downtown. The building dates from 1935.



Dan Gruenwald, who played three different Munchkins in the new movie "Oz The Great and Powerful," with "Wizard" Randy Brodzik at the Emagine complex in Novi on the movie's opening night. Gruenwald's employers, Plymouth Township-based Red Viking and Superior Controls, rented a theater for the night, and the actor and his fiancée watched the movie with close to 250 colleagues and their family members. Brodzik is principal owner of the companies.

# Hitting the yellow brick road

'Oz' actor gets 'overwhelming' reception from colleagues

By Matt Jachman  
 Staff Writer

Dan Gruenwald was still enjoying his star status Tuesday after a whirlwind few days celebrating his roles in *Oz The Great and Powerful*, a sequel to the 1939 classic *The Wizard of Oz*.

Gruenwald, who manages the shipping and receiving department for a pair of related engineering and manufacturing companies in Plymouth Township, played three different Munchkins in the new *Oz*, and his employer rented a theater at the Emagine complex in Novi on opening night, March 8, so he could enjoy the movie with more than 200 colleagues and their family members.

"It was definitely overwhelming," said Gruenwald, of Livonia, at his workplace on Tuesday. "I'm still on Cloud Nine as we speak."

The event was supposed to be a surprise for Gruenwald — ostensibly a date night with fiancée Pam Tru-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
 Dan Gruenwald acts in the new movie, "Oz: The Great And Powerful." When he's not acting, the Livonia resident manages the shipping department at Superior Controls/Red Viking in Plymouth Township.

jillo — but it "leaked a little bit," Gruenwald admits. "If it hadn't gotten leaked, I probably would've fainted," he said.

### Boss as Wizard

"I didn't expect the turnout," Gruenwald said of the packed theater. "I didn't know the owner of the company would dress up as the Wizard of Oz."

That would be Randy Brodzik, principal owner of the companies, Superior Controls and Red Viking, which share space in a business park on Five Mile west of Sheldon.

"I decided to just have a little fun with it," said Brodzik, who wore a frock coat and a top hat for the occasion.

Brodzik and Gruenwald see their companies' story in one of the themes of *Oz The Great and Powerful*: the residents of the movie's Emerald City, they said, succeeded when they worked together.

"We succeed as a group because we cooperate as a group, as a team," Brodzik said.

Superior Controls' engineering employees are settling into new digs across the lobby from their Red Viking counterparts,

Please see ACTOR, A2

# Area Catholics: Papal pick a 'good choice'

By Brad Kadrich  
 Staff Writer

The selection of a cardinal from the Western Hemisphere to be pope, the first non-European papal choice in hundreds of years, is being seen by some locals as a positive new direction for the Catholic Church.

As the world watched and white smoke billowed out of the Vatican, Argentine Jorge Bergoglio — to be known as Pope Francis — was elected pope Wednesday afternoon.

Pope Francis, who has spent his career in Argentina, is known for modernizing the traditional and conservative Argentine Catholic Church.

The Rev. Tom Slowinski, the pastor at Canton's St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, said the new pope's humble lifestyle could portend some structural, if not doctrinal, changes in the church.

"Obviously it's the first time we've ever had a pope from the Americas or from the south, as well as the first time for a Jesuit," Slowinski said. "There's a greater likelihood you'll certainly get a different perspective."

### 'Different life'

According to Slowinski, Pope Francis lived a "very different life" from many cardinals. For instance, he said, the new pope chose to live in an apartment setting in Argentina, took public transportation to work and walked the streets, working with the region's poor and needy.

Slowinski said in countries such as Argentina, the church works directly with "people who are dying of AIDS or who are homeless or starving."

"It's the church that actually provides the food and medicine," Slowinski said. "It speaks much more

Please see POPE, A2



VATICAN PRESS  
 Local Catholics agree the choice of Pope Francis is a good one, citing his humility and caring for people.

3  
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dan Gruenwald talks with Fred Martinez in the shipping department at Superior Controls/Red Viking in Plymouth Township. Martinez is a Westland resident.

**ACTOR**

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in a building Red Viking has occupied for two years, and Brodzik said the night at the theater proved "a great opportunity to bring both sides of the organization together" to socialize in conjunction with the move.

Gruenwald wasn't done celebrating on Friday. Later in the weekend, he gathered with family members and friends at another theater, this one in Canton Township, to watch the movie again. There was also a house party for 90-some people.

"That was pretty overwhelming, too," he said.

**'Pretty magical'**

Gruenwald, who had acted before on the radio, plays a "hero" Munchkin, a "barber" Munchkin and a "rebel" Munchkin in the new *Oz*; he has no lines, he said, but is on the screen for a good bit of time.

Filming was done in summer 2011, and Gruenwald was given a two-month leave so he could get to the set in Pontiac every day. But he didn't even know until recently that his work escaped the cutting-room floor (or its digital equivalent).

"The paychecks I got, but I didn't know what was in the movie until the trailers came out," he said.

During filming, Gruenwald said, he got to meet several of the stars, including James Franco and Michelle Williams, and the director, Sam Raimi, a Hollywood veteran who grew up in the Detroit area.

"I had a few conversations. You could see how he works," Gruenwald said, explaining that Raimi gets his vision of a scene in front of the camera. "It's pretty magical."

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**Police warn of scams with relative in trouble**

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

Police in Plymouth are warning of scam attempts in which senior citizens are asked to forward money to someone posing as a relative in trouble.

A Plymouth resident was targeted in such an incident within the past few weeks, said Lt. Jamie Grabowski, but didn't follow through with the request and lost no money.

"Every couple of years this kind of happens," Grabowski said, explaining that the relative-in-need ploy is a common con around the country.

The target is asked to wire money to the phony relative, he said.

The Plymouth man, the lieutenant said, had been called by someone claiming to be a niece in California who had been arrested for drunken driving and in need of money. A second call came in from someone posing as an attorney who was representing the woman, he said.

The man's niece was contacted, however, and reported being in no such trouble, Grabowski said.

Grabowski said the scammers in such attempts offer their would-be victims some legitimate

information, which can throw people off.

"There's some legitimate info these callers are giving, and that's what the concern is. That's why people believe," he said.

Residents who receive such calls, he said, should check with other relatives, before agreeing to send any money, to verify the story being told is accurate. Residents can also call police to investigate if they are uncomfortable with, or suspect fraud in, those kinds of requests.

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**POPE**

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loudly than reading them a biblical passage or a church teaching. That's where it's really felt, and I think that experience forms you. It gives you a different perspective.

"It's a perspective (the Catholic Church) hasn't had," he added. "The presence of the church is most substantially felt when people experience its help. In a number of ways (with the new pope), you could see maybe a great outreach on the part of the church to those who are in need."

Jim Vanvlerah of Plymouth attends Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. He said he'd heard the church was perhaps looking for someone a little younger (Pope Francis is 76).

**Positive reaction**

"I think it's a good choice," Vanvlerah said. "I wish he was a little

younger, but he seems like a people person, so that could be good."

Matt Durham of Plymouth knows only what he reads, but what he's read has been positive, he said.

"It seems like a good choice," said Durham, a non-Catholic. "It's something different for the Catholic Church. Everything I've heard about him is good. He worries about the poor, and he's a charitable person."

The Rev. Ken Chase,

pastor at Canton's Resurrection Parish, said the simplicity of Pope Francis' life may have already begun to affect some change.

"The tone has already changed," Chase said. "His way of doing things, in a very quiet, low-key way, has already started to affect things in Rome. There are already quite a few firsts associated with him, and I think it has enthused people in a way they haven't felt in a long time."

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# County meeting gets heated over spending

## POST OFFICE

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By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

A sometimes-heated dispute over wasteful spending, budget deficits and a lack of transparency took center stage Thursday afternoon in Canton as a probing Wayne County committee lobbed its frustration at county administration officials.

Residents and government officials packed a township hall meeting room as the Wayne County Commission's Ways and Means Committee brought its latest session to Canton, capturing attention as the panel sought to rein in spending for a county mired in debt.

"I think this is a very good idea — the more transparency, the better for us," resident Chuck Lebert said.

Commissioner Shannon Price, R-Canton, grilled administration officials over a proposed six-week, \$70,000 contract to hire a Willow Tree Early Education Team LLC consultant to author a five-year, \$50-million-a-year grant application for Head Start programs in Detroit.

Critics indicated the consultant's pay could approach \$400 an hour — more than Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, said the county pays its top-tier lawyers. Cox

chairs the Ways and Means Committee.

### Defending pact

Administration officials and Commissioner Burton Leland, D-Detroit, defended the contract, saying Wayne County needs to step in as financially troubled Detroit moves away from Head Start. Leland said it's possible the consultant's fee could bring in \$250 million over five years to support Head Start programs.

"That, I think, is a very good return on our investment," he said. "I think we should look at the big picture here."

Price, however, questioned why administration officials sought to hire a company — without seeking bids — that he said has only been in business for 11 months.

"That's a huge red flag," Price said.

Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, questioned why more details about the proposal hadn't been provided to the Ways and Means Committee.

After a debate, the committee tabled the issue after a vote failed to forward the matter on to the full commission without a formal recommendation.

### Early nod

However, the committee learned that Wayne Coun-



Price

ty Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak apparently had given an earlier nod for the consultant to a separate Youth Services Committee, raising questions about what happens now with the contract. Cox indicated the full commission still has to vote on the issue.

Meanwhile, the Ways and Means Committee grilled officials from a dozen county departments over deficit spending in January, saying overspending occurred by Children and Family Services; Corporation Counsel; Wayne County Clerk; Register of Deeds; Public Services, Road and Engineering; Health and Human Services; Economic Development Growth Engine; Probate Court; the Prosecutor's Office; Wayne County Sheriff; Treasurer; and nondepartmental management and budget.

Some departments were millions of dollars over budget. Price appeared upset after being told the Prosecutor's Office was \$4 million over budget for the year as it hopes to win a lawsuit filed against Wayne County over an alleged failure to adequately fund the

office. Price called it "insulting" that some county departments refused to comply with deficit-reduction rules.

### Addressing deficit

Administration officials have indicated they are developing plans to try to address deficits.

Meanwhile, Scott Hagerstrom, Michigan state director for Americans for Prosperity, continued to push for more transparency in Wayne County budget matters, saying county officials should put their finances online for public viewing. Price and others have called for similar measures under so-called "sunshine" laws.

Said Hagerstrom: "We believe the best disinfectant is sunshine."

Hagerstrom said Detroit's newly appointed emergency manager should face similar scrutiny.

"This is the people's money," he said.

As the 10th District commissioner representing Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, Price said he was glad Canton had a chance to host the Ways and Means Committee.

"It allows the taxpayers to see how we're spending their money," he said.

### Not easy

Ed Moore, the U.S.P.S. communications director for the Detroit area, suggested it may not be that easy.

"The Postal Service may desire to be in a specific location, but that doesn't mean that there is available space at that location that complies with Postal requirements," Moore wrote in an email.

Moore would not disclose the offer price or the entity that made the offer, saying there is no sales contract at this point. The building is listed for \$990,000.

Moore also said the U.S.P.S. is not aware of the potential buyer's planned use for the site.

He also could not give a timetable for the closing of the deal, but said there will be no gaps in service when the post office is moved. The building is named for the late Carl Pursell, who represented the Plymouth area in the U.S. House of Representatives for many years.

Moore reiterated a pledge that Larsen Williams made in 2010, when the building went up for sale, that the mural in the post office lobby, *Plymouth Trail*, will be preserved. The mural, by Carlos Lopez, will remain U.S.P.S. property and will be moved to an appropriate site, such as a museum, library or municipal building, he said.

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## Support to the Max

### Salem senior battles cancer for fourth time

Editor's note: This story is reprinted with permission from The Perspective, the student newspaper serving the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park

By Derrick Vergolini  
Special to the Observer

The greatest comebacks aren't made on a field, or a court or a diamond. The greatest comebacks go far beyond sports. They're the comebacks that take mental strength and power within an individual.

Max Merget was happy to be marking off a full decade of being cancer free on Jan. 11. The Salem senior endured three brain tumors before he was 8 years old, all requiring life-threatening surgery. Despite the odds, he was able to bounce back and make a recovery all three times.

But fate decided there was room for a fourth. "I was in shock. There are no words to explain how I was feeling that I had to go through this again," said Max, when his doctor called him and his family into her room to deliver the news on the day of his ten year anniversary.

"For us, it was hard to take, but we kind of understood. He dealt with cancer when he was three and we were told from when he was three that this could go on for quite some time," said Rob Merget, Max's father.

Max has a tumor called



JENNIFER A.H. EDWARDS | C.S. MOTT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Max Merget and his story have been featured in an advertisement for the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

an ependymoma. This type of tumor is capable of returning over and over again in the same spot (on the left side of Max's brain). As rare as this cancer is, it is usually found in the spine, which makes his case all the more rare. But Max has overcome cancer every time before with the help of the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and the technology they have to offer.

So Max and his family decided to turn the negative that recently showed up in his life into a positive.

Max Merget is teaming up with his "home away from home" at the hospital to help raise money for brain cancer research. Each school store at the Park is selling wristbands that say 'Sup-

port Max' for \$5. All of the money will go to Mott to fund cancer research.

"There are children in the hospital right now currently and in the future and we're just trying to develop research and technology for these kids," said his dad.

Also written on the bracelets is Max's website, MaxYourBrain.org. "There's a link on the website to donate for people who actually want to donate a lump sum," Max said.

The goal is to raise money for advances in technology that will give young cancer patients the opportunity to have the comeback that Max was able to have. The bracelets alone have already generated over \$1,000 for the cause, but there will



BRIAN QUINTOS  
THE PERSPECTIVE

'Support Max' bracelets are being sold to raise money for Mott Children's Hospital for brain cancer research.

be more to come. Max is donating the gifts he gets from his graduation party to Mott as well.

"It makes me feel good. My dad always has good words of wisdom. He told me when we were coming home from the hospital that, 'It's how you portrayed yourself that got you this many people to support you,'" said Max.

Bracelets are also being sold at Milford, Farmington, Farmington Harrison and Belleville High Schools as well as Dodson and Bird Elementary. They're even making their way out to Washington D.C. to be sold.

Max will be getting treatment for his tumor later this month and has nothing but confidence going into it.

"Let's do it. Let's take care of it. Let's do all the right steps. I'm not going to let this one get me down. Why would I let this one bring me down?" he said.

Max anticipates yet another comeback. This time, he's trying to help kids just like him have a comeback of their own.

### Annual 5K to benefit students

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's National Honor Society hosts the third annual Super Jesse 5K 8 a.m. Sunday, May 5, on the high school campus.

This event was created in 2011 in honor of 16-year-old P-CEP student Jesse Lindbauer, when a sinus infection turned into an abscess which ruptured, causing a traumatic brain injury. The SJ5K run was created in order to bring community support to the family and raise money.

This year, the race will support three P-CCS students:

#### Jayden Gohl

Jayden was born with hydrocephalus, a rare medical condition in which fluid builds up in the brain. Jayden was not expected to live past 6 months, but he beat the odds and is now 4 years old. Jayden has been through seven brain surgeries and countless doctor appointments. Jayden needs to be watched around the clock and his mother, Lauren, faces challenges providing for Jayden since she cannot have a full time job.

#### Erinne Williams

Erinne is a 15-year-old student at Plymouth High School and has lived with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a motor neuron disease similar to ALS since before her first birthday. Since her diagnosis, Erinne has been through 19 pneumonias, 11

surgeries, and 21 hospitalizations. She is confined to a wheelchair and forced to use a breathing machine.

#### Max Merget

Max is a senior at Salem High School who has battled brain cancer since he was 3. In January 2013, Max was diagnosed with cancer for the fourth time. The previous three times Max beat the cancer, and he is optimistic about beating the cancer for a fourth time.

The 5K takes place at the Canton varsity field. Registration is underway; registrations received prior to April 5 will include a race shirt. Registration forms can be found on the SJ5K Facebook page; on the P-CEP website (www.pccs.k12.mi.us); or, in Canton, Plymouth and Salem main offices.

Event fees are \$25 for adults over 18 and \$20 for all others. An optional \$5 will be accepted for the maxyourbrain Foundation, as well as a bag of returnable cans on race day.

For questions about the race or volunteering, contact Devin Slominski at devinslim@comcast.net or Madeline Viergutz at sj5krun2013@gmail.com. For questions about becoming a sponsor, contact Andrew Kelty at Akelty28@yahoo.com. All donations and sponsorships can be made out to "NHS SJ5K 2013" and mailed to Pam Davis, 46370 Spinning Wheel, Canton, MI 48187.

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# W-W board considers expanding schools of choice program

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board will consider updating the district's existing intra-county schools of choice program at its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday.

The board will consider including grades 9-11 on a limited basis in the program. Wayne-Westland currently accepts students from outside the district in kindergarten through eighth grade.

"This is a decision the board will have to make," said School Superintendent Greg Baracy. "This is not something new. As finances and enrollment have continued to decline, we have discusses some limited schools of choice to preserve the programs we currently have in place."

He added the district at best is looking at a maximum of 50 students per high school, if the changes are approved by the school board.

The district announced the proposed change in a letter to the operators of the Wayne Pride Facebook page which last week created a stir with a posting asking for information about Inkster High School becoming a charter school and its students being moved to Wayne Memorial.

Baracy said the information was sent to Wayne Pride as "an honest effort to inform residents of the mis-information that has

been reported in several Facebook pages."

"I can say unequivocally that we are not taking over Inkster High School, we have been told a management company is being solicited to run it," he said. "This isn't an Inkster issue, this is an issue of filling vacant slots to help Wayne-Westland maintain programs."

Currently, the boundaries of Wayne-Westland Community Schools serve students from Wayne, Westland, Romulus, Inkster, Canton and Dearborn Heights. It has some 1,100 children from Inkster who live with the Wayne-Westland boundaries. Baracy expects students from surrounding districts would be among those interested in attending Wayne-Westland school.

Under the schools of choice provisions, all students applying must complete an application form and an Affirmation of Prior Discipline Record. The district will not approve applications, if a student has been expelled, released or suspended from school for disciplinary reasons during the previous two years. The district does not provide transportation for schools of choice students.

The school board meets in the board room at the administrative offices on Marquette, between Wayne Road and Newburgh in Westland.

srmason@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-6751  
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

# Munchkins and Winkies and Quadlings, oh my

By Julie Yolles  
Correspondent

For movie fans on Sunday, no telling when the line will start for *Oz: The Great and Powerful* and the road to the Emerald City at the Uptown Palladium in Birmingham.

To see the line of green-haired, -faced, -outfitted people wrapped around the corner of the Palladium last Friday night, you had to look high, low and all in between to see the hoards of fans and cast members who came out to see the nationwide opening night-premiere of *Oz: The Great and Powerful*, which raked in more than \$80 million last weekend.

Now these weren't just any fans. Many were extras in the films, or fans of the extras. Among them was Canton resident Kristin Riley, who played a Munchkin and a handmaiden for Glinda the Good Witch. She wears a pink dress and period eyeglasses in the film.

At 3'5", 31-year-old Riley has MOPD II, which is a rare subset of primordial dwarfism. Her brother, Kevin Riley, died from an aneurysm from the same condition 10 years ago. She came to the opening night premiere at the Birmingham Uptown Palladium to help create awareness and raise money for CoDA - the Coalition for Dwarf Advocacy show.

Still others in the

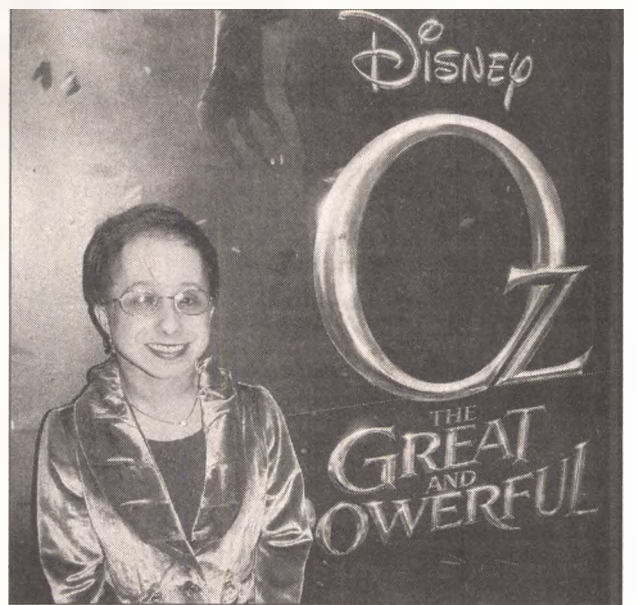


PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

Team Munchkin fans came out to share in the excitement of the nationwide opening and special Birmingham Uptown Palladium screening including, from left, Molly Waters and Sally Waters from Chelsea, Kristin Shultz-Brown from Ann Arbor, Colleen Walters from Chelsea and Sherrie Sakewski from Canton.

crowd were Birmingham Groves Class of '77 friends of fellow classmate and *Oz* Director Sam Raimi. Many came to support their co-munchkin, actor Martin Klebba, and his friend and fundraiser coordinator Colin McConnell's effort to create awareness and raise money for CoDA - the Coalition for Dwarf Advocacy.

Klebba and Matt Roloff of *Little People, Big World* fame formed CoDA six years ago to help fund dwarf children adoptions, many from third world countries. The screening and afterglow party at the San Marino Club were all a part of their efforts and great success.



Canton resident Kristin Riley played a Munchkin and a handmaiden for Glinda the Good Witch in *Oz: The Great and Powerful*.

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# Museum volunteer authors book on Plymouth legends

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

When a publisher of local histories asked Leis Dazuet-Miller to suggest someone to author a book, her thoughts turned to the Plymouth Historical Museum, where she had been a volunteer for several years.

Thinking her contacts there could come up with a good candidate, she shared the request with Elizabeth Kerstens, the museum's executive director, who said Dazuet-Miller should tackle the book herself.

"It did strike my curiosity," said Dazuet-Miller during an interview at the Plymouth Coffee Bean. "I thought that it would be an interesting project."

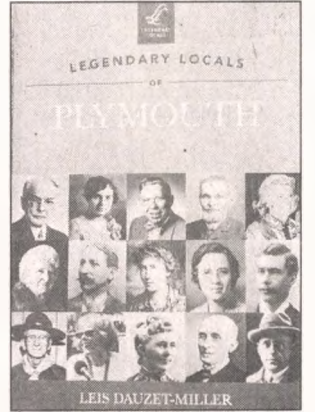
But Dazuet-Miller, who helps in the classroom and the office and runs before-school day care at Allen Elementary, was reluctant — until she learned she could include both historical and contemporary figures in Plymouth's entry in Arcadia Publishing's *Legendary Locals* series.

"I wanted to strike a balance," said Dazuet-Miller, explaining that she wanted to include some of the lesser-known Plymouth figures who had a big, though perhaps unexplored, influence on the area's development. "I really wanted to showcase some people and groups that I was familiar with but maybe didn't know their history," she wrote in an e-mail.



Leis Dazuet-Miller talks about the process of writing her book.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



*Legendary Locals* looks at some of the people familiar from Plymouth history, like businessman and politician George Starkweather and World War II pilot and Daisy Air Rifle chief Cass Hough, but it also examines lesser-known figures.

ties in *Legendary Locals*: landmarks (the Penn Theatre, the Mayflower Hotel, many schools), art (the sculptures at Plymouth Township Park) and organizations (the Plymouth Fire and Drum Corps, the Kiwanis Club and other service groups) also meet the definition of "legendary."

Dazuet-Miller said she hadn't written anything in a long time, but her return to college in the fall of 2011 — she is working toward a master's degree in educational leadership — helped her with that.

"It's a very solitary experience, I found that," said Dazuet-Miller of the process. "You have to really quiet your mind."

## Heroes past and present

Dazuet-Miller's *Legendary Local of Plymouth* was written last summer, fine-tuned and edited in the fall and released in January. A Plymouth Township resident, Dazuet-Miller is married with two children.

*Legendary Locals* looks at some of the people familiar from Plymouth history, like businessman and politician George Starkweather and World War II pilot and Daisy Air

Rifle chief Cass Hough. But it also examines lesser-known figures, such as Sidney Davis Strong, who was village manager in the 1920s and planned much of the city's infrastructure, and Harold Guenther, founder of C.D. Sparling, a maker of bathroom safety products such as tub benches and grab bars that is still a going concern on Farm-er Street.

There is a chapter devoted to the women of Plymouth, such as Ruth Huston Whipple, the first

woman mayor, and the Dunning, mother Bessie and daughter Margaret, who still lives in the city at age 102. The philanthropy of the Dunning family contributed much to Plymouth's cultural scene.

"I think the city would look so much different if it didn't have their vision," Dazuet-Miller said.


Margaret Dunning was among several living "legends" Dazuet-Miller interviewed for the book. Others includ-

ed Debra Madonna, a massage therapist and the organizer behind the Miracle League of Plymouth; Joanne Winkleman Hulce, a former professional singer and a force in the arts community; and Nan Washburn, conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra (formerly the Plymouth Symphony).

## Legendary landmarks

Dazuet-Miller included more than personali-

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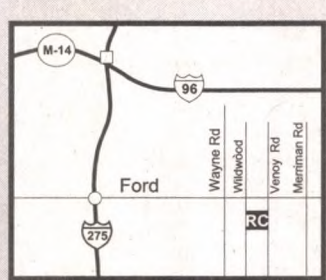
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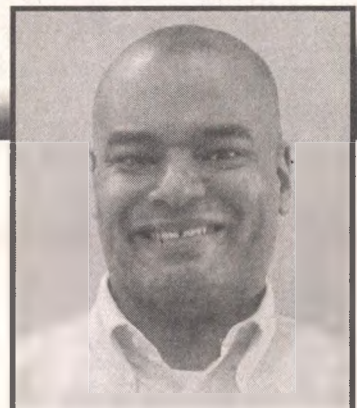
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**Jill McCormack** of Canton was awarded the Presidential Scholarship at Eastern Michigan.



McCormack

McCormack, a freshman, has a 4.0 grade-point average, and her essay won acceptance into the "Undergraduate Symposium" earlier this month.

McCormack attended All Saints Catholic School and then was graduated from Salem High School.

**Coca-Cola Scholar**

Canton High School senior **Angela Sun** has been selected as a member of the 2013 Class of Coca-Cola Scholars. As one of 252 high school seniors selected nationwide to receive a scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Sun will begin college next fall at the school of her choice due to the generous support of The Coca-Cola Company.

On April 18, Sun will join other finalists as they travel to Atlanta, the international headquarters of The Coca-Cola Company, to compete for 52 four-year college scholarships of \$20,000 and 200 four-year scholarships of \$10,000. Over the four-day weekend, the finalists will interview with a National Selection Committee, tour local landmarks, engage with former Coca-Cola Scholars and participate in a range of activities

including a community service project. Including the 2013 Class of Scholars, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has provided more than 5,000 young scholars nationwide with nearly \$50 million since the Foundation's inception. The program is open to all high school seniors in the United States.

**Hope College**

Several area students from Hope College are studying off-campus during the 2013 spring semester, including **Hannah Zomeraand** of Canton.

Zomeraand, the daughter of Michael and Barbara Zomeraand, is studying in The Chicago Semester Program in Illinois.

**Grand Valley**

More than 1,000 students earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in December 2012.

Students who graduated at the conclusion of the Fall 2012 semester in December include:

- Canton: **Alicia A. Baran, BS; Lauren M. Bernacik, BS; Laura A. Daniels, BS; Emily A. Ellison, BA; Leah M. Girard, BS C; Nicholas E. Girimont, BS; Melanie C. Gross, BBA M; Kristin L. Hartwig, BS; Katherine E. Hopman, BS; Brooke Julien, BSN C; Keely D. Kowalski, BSN; Zachary Sean McCurley, BS; Kathryn L. Mindick, BA; Katherine E. Rymond, BS.**
- Plymouth: **Brian D. Lent, MPAS; Daniel D. Mac Donnell, BS; Casey L. O'Guinn, BBA M; Ashley J. White, BS.**

Temple hosts free community health fair

Several physicians and specialists affiliated with Oakwood Healthcare, Inc., are again reaching out to the Canton community for a free health fair.

The 11th annual event, which takes place on April 14 at the Hindu Temple on Cherry Hill Road east of Canton Center, is sponsored by the Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (MAPI), the temple, and Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

"Since 1953 our way of doing business has been not to wait, but to touch the lives of the people we serve before illness, injury or bad information bring them into the hospital," said Rick Hillbom, chief operation officer of outpatient services for Oakwood. "Our clinicians and administrators have

always taken the initiative to find out what preventive health services and education our neighbors in each community might need, and then go out directly and personally, into the neighborhoods and neighborhood institutions, to deliver those services and programs."

The health fair will feature more than a dozen doctors from the Oakwood Healthcare System who will provide a wide range of services and free screenings and consultations. There will be blood pressure checks, hearing tests and blood screenings provided — all free of cost.

Attendees can meet with a primary care physician and follow-up with specialists at the event, such as cardiologists, urologists, endocrinolo-

gists, internists, ophthalmologists and dentists, among others. They can also sign up for a diagnostic blood screening on April 7 and have the results discussed with them on April 14.

Sarju Shah, an Oakwood doctor with a practice on Haggerty near Ford Road, said he has been involved in the event since 1995.

"The value to the community is immeasurable, especially in this economy," said Shah. "The people who attend get good care."

The health fair takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hindu Temple in Canton at 44955 Cherry Hill Road and is limited to the first 350 registrants. To register, call the temple at (734) 981-8730 or visit [www.mapiusa.org](http://www.mapiusa.org).

Mom Prom to be held at Summit on the Park

Ladies, it's time to pull out your old prom dresses or bridesmaids gowns for a good cause - the First Annual Canton Mom Prom to benefit Gleaners Food Bank. This special celebration for all women, not just moms, will take place on Saturday, April 13, from 8-11 p.m. at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

No dates are required or are allowed at this special 21 and over dance.

Canton's Mom Prom will feature dancing, hors

d'oeuvres, drinks, special raffle prize drawings, plus fun contests including the 'Tackiest Dress' and 'Aqua Net Contest' for the best hair in the room. In addition, an official Prom Queen will also be crowned.

No dress code is required, but ladies are encouraged to wear old prom dresses, bridesmaids and wedding gowns, and thrift store finds.

The first Mom Prom was founded in 2006 by Canton Resident Betsy Crapps, who has since tak-

en this fundraising event nationwide, where women are invited to a 'ladies night out' in their local communities that will benefit an area charity.

Tickets are on sale now for \$40 and include two drink tickets and snacks. A cash bar will also be available. Get yours now at [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org) or at the Summit on the Park Front Desk.

For more information about Canton's Mom Prom, please call (734) 394-5460 or visit [Cantonfun.org](http://Cantonfun.org).

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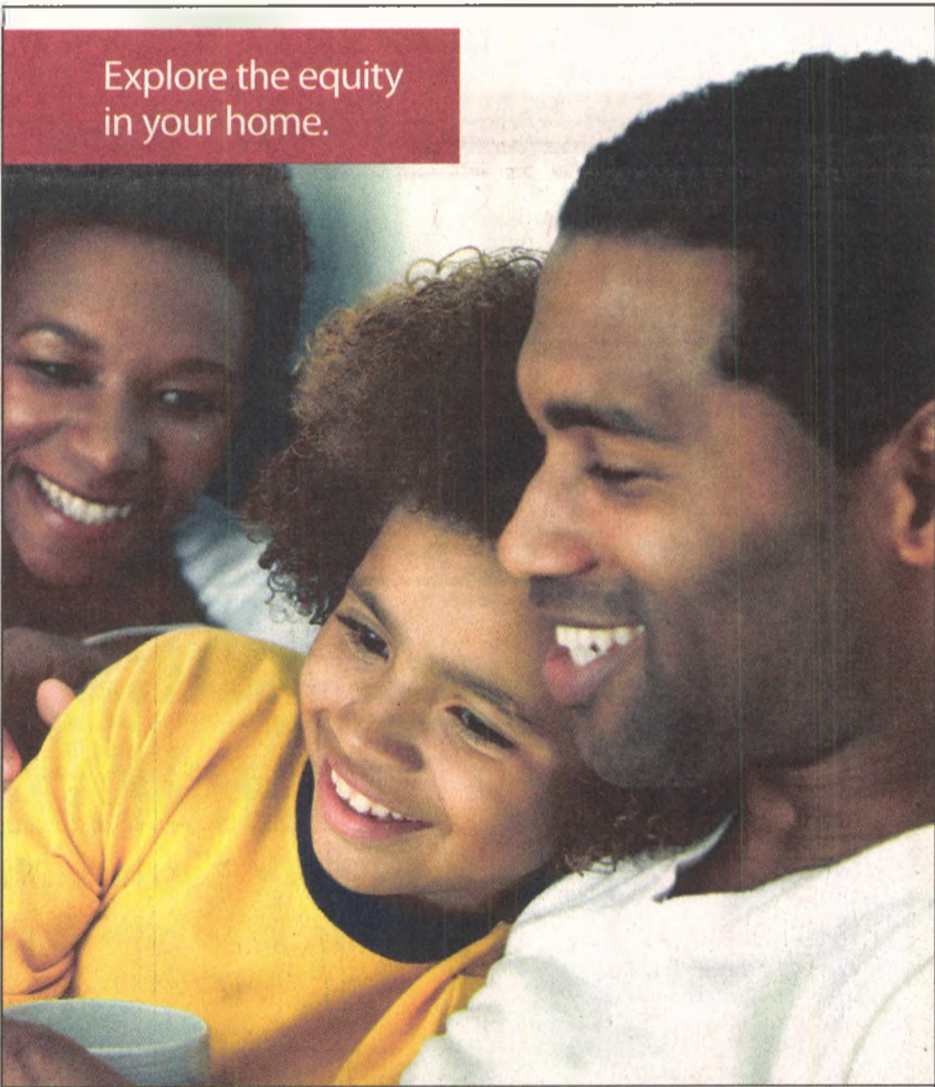
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AROUND TOWN

"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@hometownlife.com.

**DIVA DAY**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Location:** Downtown Plymouth  
**Details:** The fifth annual Diva Day features free hot-pink boas for the first 500 Divas. Downtown Plymouth boutiques, salons and restaurants will present special offers, unique refreshments and chances to win Diva Day prizes. Participating shops include: Basket Kreations; Beauty Haven; Bella Mia; Bohemian Home; Candy Trail; Core Sports Pilates Fitness Studio; Creatopia Pottery Studio; Dazzling Daniela; Dearborn Jewelers; Eclectic Attic; Genuine Toy Co.; Gigi's Mode; Hands on Leather; Iolaryan; Magnolia, A Fresh Flower Market; Merle Norman; Old World Olive Press; Opndohr; Pawisitive Pet Massage; Simply the Best Boutique; Spa Agio; Sun & Snow; Sunny Js; That's Awesome; TranquillTea. The event is free to attend.  
**Contact:** For more information call (734) 453-1540 or visit [www.plymouthmich.org/events](http://www.plymouthmich.org/events).

**EGG HUNT**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth Township Park  
**Details:** The Plymouth Lions Club again hosts its Easter Egg Hunt. Organizers say parents should bring the kids, their baskets and cameras. The hunt will be divided into age groups 0-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-10. There will be a collection box available for hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones. Donations are welcome.

**MILLER WOODS TOURS**

**Dates/Times:** Sundays, April 14, 21 and 28, 2-4 p.m.  
**Location:** Miller Woods (Powell Road, east of Ridge between N. Territorial and Ann Arbor Road)  
**Details:** Free, guided tours will occur in April to see the native spring wildflowers in Miller Woods. Tours depend on when the flowers are blooming, but are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 21 and 28. Check the website at [millerwoods.com](http://millerwoods.com) for up-to-date tour dates. Tours start every half hour. Park on side of road. Sorry, no dogs allowed in the nature preserve.

**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER**

**Date/Time:** Sunday, March 17, noon  
**Location:** VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill in Plymouth  
**Details:** VFW Post 6695 hosts a St. Patrick's Day dinner, featuring corned



**Shoplifting suspect**

Police are seeking the woman above, shown in a still from a security camera, for questioning in two shoplifting incidents at the Genuine Toy Co. on Forest in downtown Plymouth. She is suspected of visiting the store on Feb. 27 and on Wednesday, police said, and taking merchandise both times, concealing it in a bag she carries with her. During at least one visit, police say, the woman also bought something. Anyone who may be able to identify the woman is asked to call police Detective Josh Carroll at (734) 453-1234, ext. 258, or email him at [jcarroll@ci.plymouth.mi.us](mailto:jcarroll@ci.plymouth.mi.us).

beef and cabbage (\$7.50) or a corned beef sandwich with a pickle (\$5.50). Serving starts at noon and runs 'til the food is gone.

**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 Block-hands on" on May 2.  
**Contact:** For more information email [asgpc@comcast.net](mailto:asgpc@comcast.net)

**MASTERING MEDITATION**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, March 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
**Location:** The Center - Massage, Yoga Wellness Studio, 1200 Ann Arbor Road in 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](mailto:achristensen@cchnet.net).

Museum hosts genealogical seminar

The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts the fifth in a series of genealogical seminars designed to help family historians of all levels research their ancestors.

The workshop, set for Saturday, March 23, is sponsored by Ancestry.com and features the mother/daughter duo of Loretto Szucs and Juliana Szucs Smith. Loretto (Lou) Szucs has worked for Ancestry.com for 20 years; worked for the National Archives in Chicago; served on national and state advisory boards and boards of five genealogical societies; and is author or editor of more than a dozen books.

Lou will be speaking on "Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com" and "Beyond The Federal Census: Using Non-Population and State Censuses to Find Your People."

Juliana Szucs 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, Lou. She has written many articles for online and print genea-

logical publications and wrote the "Computers and Technology" chapter of The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy.

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

Juliana will be speaking on "Common Surnames" and "What to Do With Your Discoveries."

The seminar runs 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The fee for the day, \$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 [http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/Genealogy-Seminar\\_ET119.html?SortBox=201303](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/Genealogy-Seminar_ET119.html?SortBox=201303).

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, one block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, call the museum at (734) 455-8940.



Juliana Szucs Smith and Loretto (Lou) Szucs headline the genealogy seminar sponsored by the Plymouth Historical Museum.

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# Don't pay down mortgage just to be debt-free

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** Dear Rick: I am in my mid-60s and I've just retired. My wife retired a couple of years ago. Our Social Security and my pension will cover all our needs. Other than our mortgage, we do not have any liabilities. We owe approximately \$125,000 on our mortgage and have approximately 15 years to pay it off. The interest rate is only 4 percent. We currently do not have any IRAs, but we do have about \$100,000 in a low-paying CD that matures in another month or so. We were thinking of taking the money from the CD and paying down on the mortgage. This would allow us to be debt-free in a few years. The downside, of course, is that that's



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

virtually our entire savings. I think it's a good idea, but my wife thinks it's a mistake. Any thoughts?

**A:** I agree with your wife. I think it would be a mistake to use all your savings to pay down on the mortgage.

Even though being debt-free is an admirable goal, you would potentially put yourself in a very difficult financial position if some sort of emergency arose. I do not recommend using the proceeds from the CD to pay down the mortgage.

As an alternative, something to reduce the length of time on your debt is to make a couple of extra payments a year. If you can do that, it will knock years off your mortgage and, at the same time, allow you to retain your savings in case of emergency.

As to money in the CD, I believe you need an emergency fund. In your situation, I recommend six months of living expenses kept liquid with the remaining portion invested for your future. Someone in their 60s is not old and they need to have a rising income. Your pension and Social Security will not keep up with the increased cost of living. Therefore, you need to have some money

growing and re-investing for your future.

Unfortunately, money in a CD does not grow in real dollars. When you consider the after-tax return you're receiving on your CD, you will see that it doesn't keep up with your increased cost of living. That is why your long-term money CDs are not an appropriate investment. You need to set up a growth portfolio that has domestic and international stock funds.

Being debt-free in retirement is a good thing. However, you can't be in a position where all your money is in your home and you have no other resources. Putting all your money in

your home is just like putting all your money in one stock; it doesn't make sense. By having investments outside of your home, it allows you to diversify and better meet the challenges that we all face financially.

I love the idea of working to become debt-free. However, in accomplishing that goal you can't put yourself in a situation that a financial emergency can swamp you.

Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).

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**Friday March 22, 2013 8 am to 4 pm**

Educational materials provided by the American Venous Forum will be available, as well as refreshments. If you are interested in learning more about your leg vein health, call today.

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# Ex-firefighter celebrates 90th birthday with ride in '53 fire truck

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

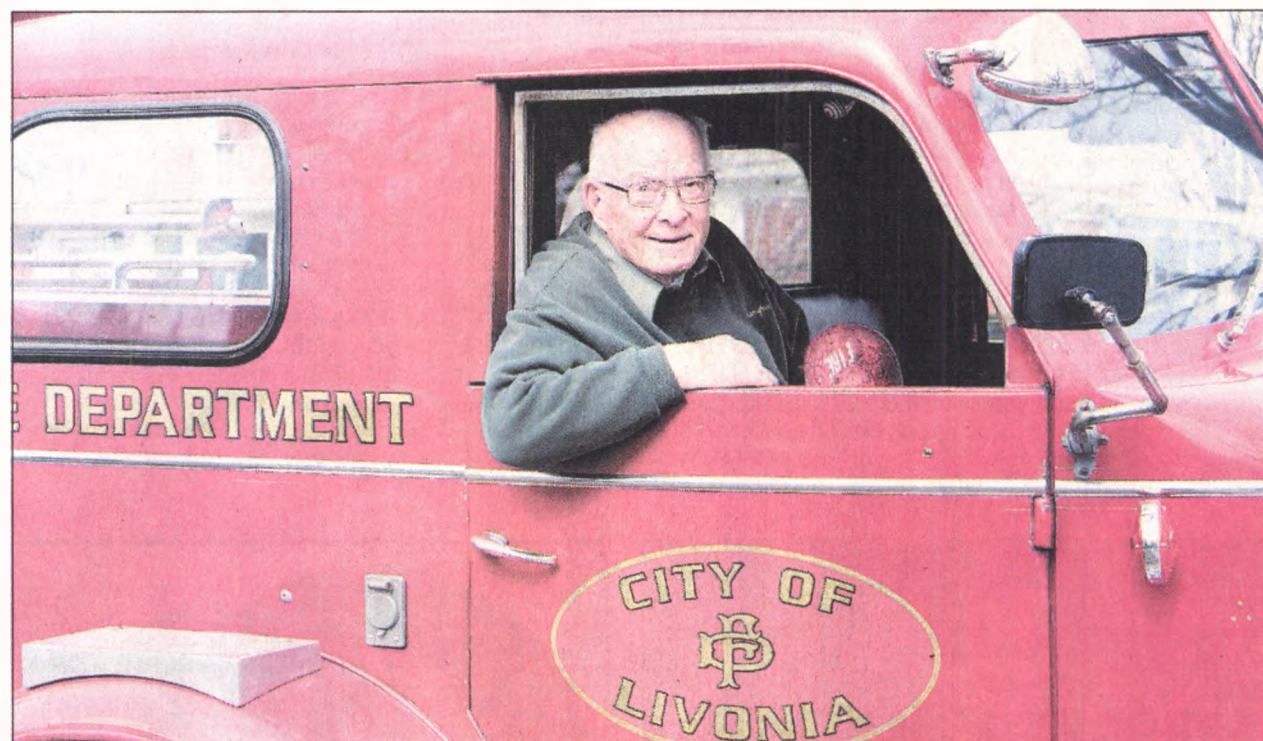
Donald Folsom reached a milestone in grand fashion last Sunday.

Folsom rode inside a 1953 fire truck, a duplicate of one used by Folsom 60 years ago as a Livonia firefighter. He rode from his Livonia home to the Mama Mia restaurant on Plymouth Road, where he celebrated his 90th birthday with about 75 family members and friends.

The fire truck was purchased for \$5,000 by the Livonia Historical Commission last year from the Michigan Firehouse Museum in Ypsilanti.

The truck was once used by Ferndale firefighters. The museum already had a similar vehicle, so it was available, according to Dick Folsom, Donald's son.

"It had a brake shoe that was sticking, but the engine was beautiful," said Dick Folsom, who searched for fire truck apparatus over the years and located that and another fire truck. The historical commission also purchased an actual 1953 Livonia fire truck, but that one isn't running and needs repairs to the tune of an estimated \$80,000. That one was discovered seven or eight years ago by Dick Folsom, who told former Livonia Fire Chief Alan Brandemihl Jr., who helped arrange the purchase of that truck with the Livonia Historical Commission. That truck is expected to be displayed for viewing only at a future date, as it



VAHAN NAZARIAN

Donald Folsom, who retired from the Livonia Fire Department in 1979, rides in a 1953 fire truck on his 90th birthday.

costs too much for it to be repaired or driven, officials said.

The money for the purchases was raised through activities at Greenmead, such as flea markets, teas, commission activities at the Highland Games and car shows. "No tax money was spent," said Sue Daniel, of the Livonia Historical Commission. "It will help members of the community learn and know about its history."

#### A changed mission

Livonia Fire Chief Shadd Whitehead said the truck gives the public the opportunity to see how far firefighting and rescue operations have evolved and improved.

"Our mission has changed so much," White-

head said. "Back then we only carried water, hoses and extinguishers. With all the equipment we wear today, such as self-contained breathing apparatus, we'd have trouble today getting inside the cab of that truck. The cabs today are about half the size of that entire truck. I think it is really neat visually to have something like that: to see and compare with what we have today."

The former Ferndale truck also serves as a reminder of Livonia's history. Livonia was the site of the largest industrial fire in American history in 1953.

"The truck is a replica of one that helped firefighters eradicate the largest industrial fire in U.S. history, which was

the impetus for Livonia to have a full-time fire department," Mayor Jack Kirksey said.

The Hydra-Matic fire of 1953 still ranks as the worst in dollar loss in the history of the auto industry. On Aug. 12, the fire completely destroyed the facility, killing six people, injuring scores of others, and resulting in \$80 million in damages and the loss of automobile production from five different manufacturers variously estimated in a range of 100,000 to 300,000 units.

The fire started when construction workers using an oxyacetylene cutting torch ignited a conveyor dip pan. The pan contained a highly flammable liquid used as a rust inhibitor for transmission

parts. One of the six people killed was a Livonia firefighter who suffered a fatal heart attack.

#### Hydra-Matic fire remembered

Donald Folsom remembered that fire. Back then he was a 30-year-old firefighter, the second official firefighter in Livonia and responsible for calling the volunteers. Fifteen departments responded to the fire, which lasted six days.

"I remember riding it and doing double duty on it," Folsom said. "It changed everything. Buildings were like cars. They just built them; they didn't care about quality."

The fire spread quickly as wooden floors, commonplace inside facto-

ries at that time, were oil-soaked. Buildings contained no sprinkler systems. That fire led to stricter fire codes and, today, some factories even employ their own fire crews.

Emergency response has changed, too. "Back then all we had was the resuscitator," Folsom said. "We didn't go to accidents and now, today, firefighters have the jaws of life. I often wonder how many died then who nowadays would live."

Folsom was the second official firefighter in Livonia Township. He rose through the ranks, retiring in May 1979 as a battalion chief.

Folsom saw the restored truck before he rode in it. Donald Folsom offered to contribute to the truck, too, by paying for the lettering to be added on the sides of the truck, Dick Folsom said.

"It's great," Donald Folsom said. "Maybe it can be used in parades and have a sign to tell everyone what year it is. It's pretty neat to be in the spotlight like that." Folsom also wore a firefighter's helmet from the 1950s.

Dick Folsom said his father was moved by the day's activities, especially when three U.S. Marines gave him a certificate of acknowledgement for Donald's service in 1942-45 as a U.S. Marine. Donald Folsom saw action in the Second Marine Division in the battles of Tarawa, Siatan, Tinian and Okinawa, Dick said.

"He was just overwhelmed by that," Dick Folsom said of the Marine recognition.

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# Exercise in preparedness

## Hospital property serves as test ground for emergency response

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

The main goal for the 13 Southeast Michigan First Responder Specialty Teams conducting a training event in Northville Township Tuesday was to learn from their mistakes and weaknesses now rather than later in the event of a real catastrophe.

Regional SWAT, HAZMAT and bomb squads got together in Northville Township to train together at the closed Psychiatric Hospital property in a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary training event. The all-day training event included some 300 responders.

Brian Kahn, emergency preparedness coordinator for the City of Livonia, called the exercise a chance for all of the different teams to get on the same page.

"For us the goal is to gain the knowledge that can be used to prepare for and help resolve an emergency incident in an efficient and quick manner," he said.

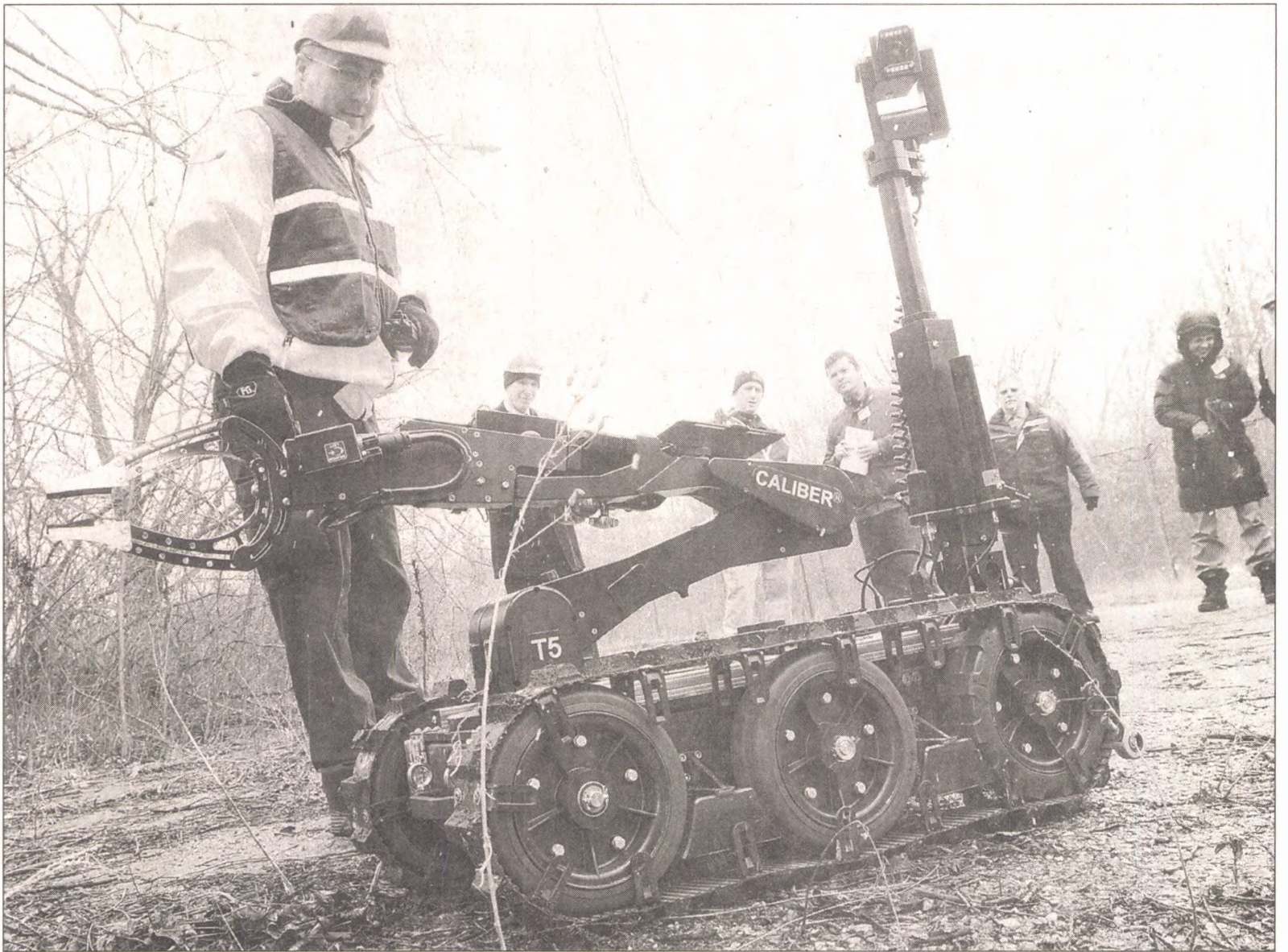
The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the ability to respond to a major terrorist event involving multiple active shooters, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) or bombs and hazardous material situations involving chemical weapons. Recent situations in this region that involved major emergency responses were the Dundee tornado and a building explosion in Wayne a couple of years ago.

The training exercise involved a variety of simulations from situations with an officer missing and shots fired to terrorists making bombs. These scenarios were set up in and around the abandoned buildings on the property with props making the scenes very realistic.

According to Michael Magda, a HAZMAT specialist with Livonia Fire/Rescue, the SWAT teams worked on reacting to the shooting by making contact with the suspects inside the building and then securing the scene once bomb making materials were discovered.

At that point, the HAZMAT and bomb squads were called in with high-tech equipment at their disposal, which included an \$180,000 robot that can climb steps, breach doors and remove materials, plus it has five cameras.

Magda said emergencies are constantly evolving, so it's always good to train for a variety of situations.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The teams had a pair of remote-controlled robots that they used during the operations to search for and disarm explosive devices hidden around the hospital grounds.



Northville Township firefighter Brian Siriani gets some information from a firefighter locator system during the March 12 southeastern Michigan law enforcement training day at the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital grounds.



A pair of explosive ordinance disposal team members walk through the woods on the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital property on their way to working on safely dis-arming a bomb.

Challenges that day were some of the typical ones, including communication and coordinating so many different teams and assets.

"This is a great way for us to train on different scenarios in conjunction with each other," said Northville Township Fire Chief Richard Mari-

nucci. "We do not want to be seeing things for the first time when we actually need to call upon these resources in order to resolve an emergency. This allows us to improve upon areas that need it."

For Operations Chief Shadd Whitehead, Livonia's fire chief, the key word of the day was

"interoperability". This is the ability of diverse systems and organizations to work together.

"We try to make this as close to the real things as possible," he said. "We're learning a lot each time we do this."

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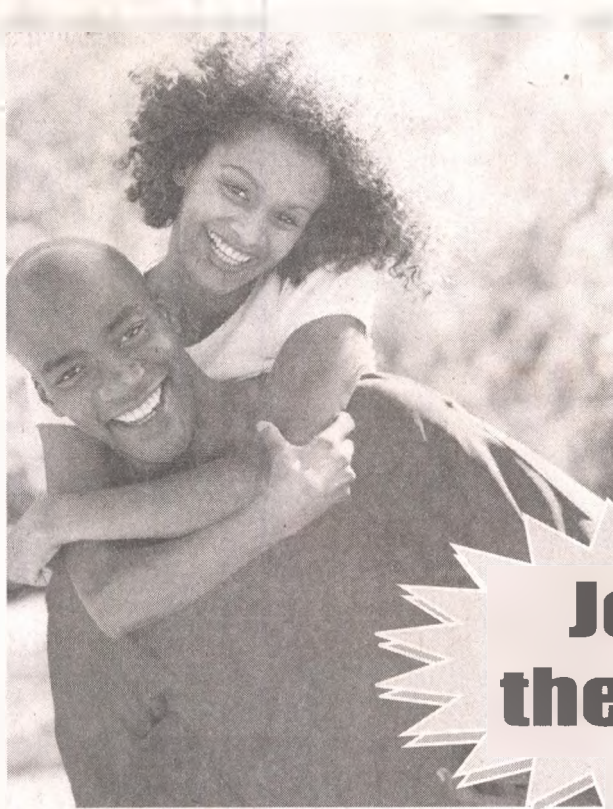
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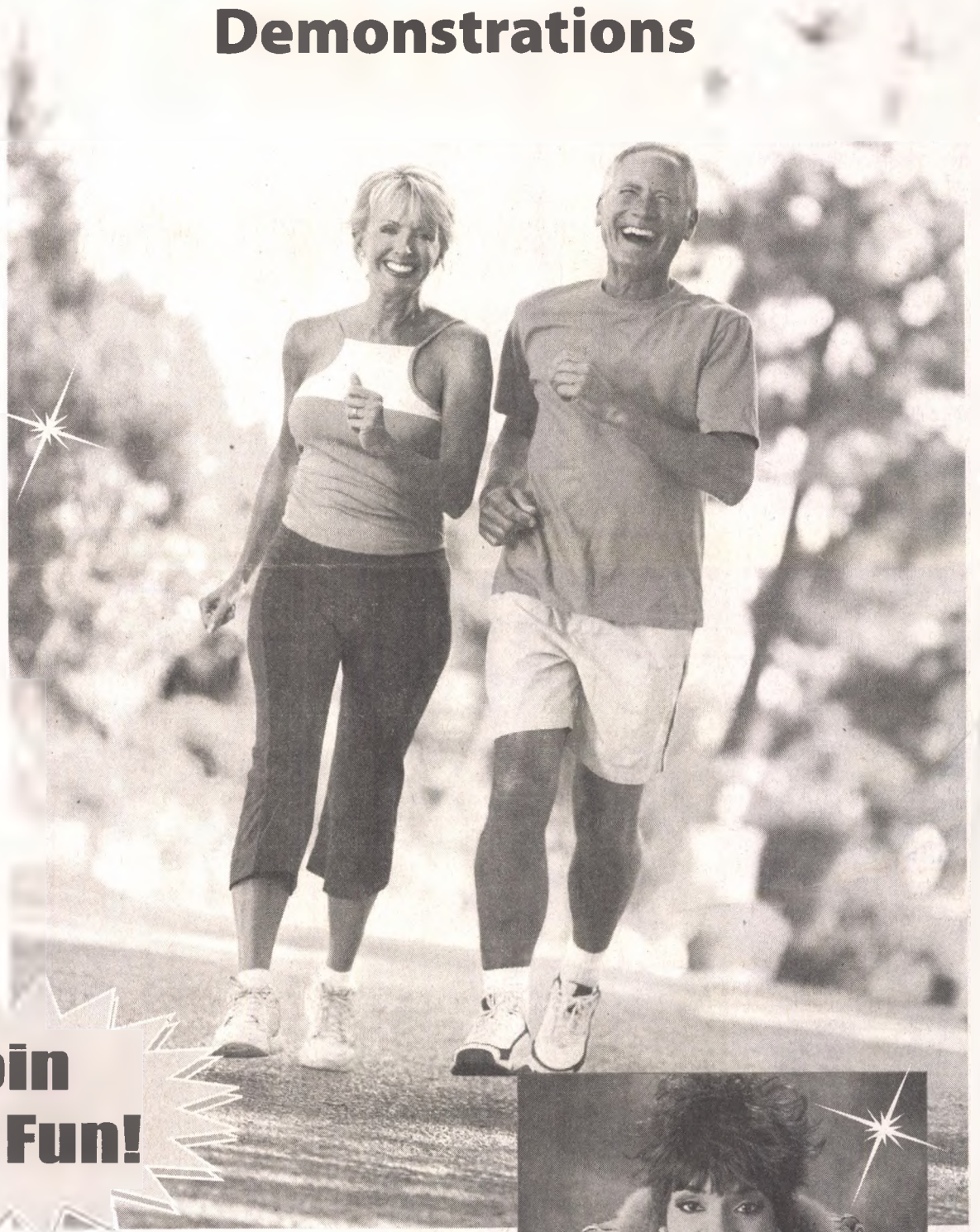
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# Runner completes 50-state marathon quest

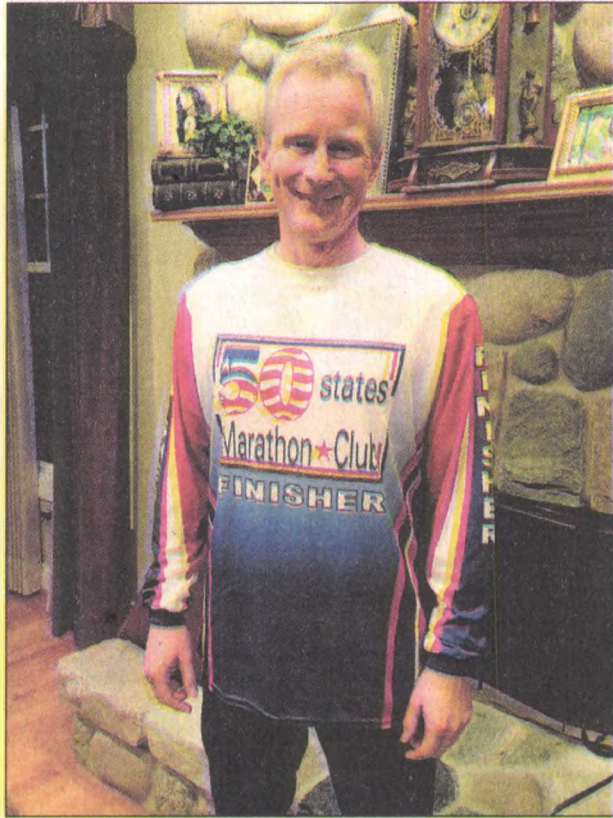
By Pamela A. Zinkosky  
Correspondent

Completing a single marathon is no small feat. So, it's a pretty big deal that one Northville resident recently completed his 50th marathon.

Peter McCullough, MD, a cardiologist for St. John Providence Health System in Novi, completed marathon number 50 last June in Kona, Hawaii — the end of a eight-year quest that involved running one marathon in each state. On Feb. 22 in Fort Worth, Texas, the 50 States Marathon Club presented him with an award for his accomplishment.

"An interesting factoid is that there are more people who have summited Mount Everest than have run marathons in all 50 states," said McCullough, who is the 18th of 20 Michigan residents to complete marathons in all 50 states.

Since 1983, 774 50 States members have claimed to run their 50 marathons — some are yet to be certified by the Houston-based organization. The group has more than 3,000 members around the country who've either completed or are working toward completing marathons in each state. There are 81 Michigan members.



Northville resident Peter McCullough, a cardiologist for St. John Providence Health System in Novi, recently completed a marathon in Hawaii. The race was the conclusion to his eight-year quest to run a marathon in all 50 states. He is now a member of the 50 States Marathon Club.

McCullough, 50, said he started running as an adult and ran the Detroit Marathon in 2004. While there, he saw some 50 States members with T-shirts listing the states where they'd completed marathons.

"I thought after I recovered that this might be something I would like to

try," he said.

He explained that running 26.2 miles is a big enough event that people who do it multiple times want to have a different experience each time, which is easily accomplished by running in different parts of the country.

"I came to the mental realization that I real-

ly didn't want to run the same marathon twice," McCullough said.

It took 12 years of running just about every day — even during Michigan winters — for McCullough to reach his goal.

"The hardest step is the first step out the door," said McCullough, who said he typically runs in the mornings because it makes him feel invigorated for the rest of the day.

McCullough ran six to 15 marathons per year, which means the biggest break he took between running events was two months.

"It's actually easier to do the marathons with some type of frequency," McCullough said. "It's easier just to stay fit at a certain level and not let all that training down between runs."

A typical week for McCullough throughout his marathon-running stint involved running five to six miles almost every day with one long run that could be anywhere from 10 to 20 miles. Marathon runners usually don't run the whole 26.2 miles during their training, he explained.

"Under race conditions, your body can stretch up to that 26.2 miles," he said.

McCullough isn't the fastest runner — his fast-

est marathon time was about 3 hours and 40 minutes — but he always finished his races and ran the entire time, he said.

"I've always likened running to taking a test in school, where it takes preparation," McCullough explained. "The race makes the commitment whole. No one wants to show up unprepared. A DNF or 'did not finish' is the worst thing to see in race results."

The road for McCullough has not always been easy. He's sustained a torn meniscus in his knee, plantar fasciitis and other injuries, but he's always gone back to running after healing up.

In addition to enjoying the travel and variety of running courses, McCullough said he's enjoyed the camaraderie racing has provided. "I like to see other racers. There's a lot of interesting people out there."

For example, he's met Dean Karnazes, who ran 50 marathons in 50 days; Larry Macon, who holds the Guinness World Record for running 157 marathons in one year; and many others who run despite obstacles like limb amputation.

"It was quite a journey," McCullough said.

While McCullough plans to continue running, he said his Kona, Hawaii

run, which completed his 50-state goal, was his last marathon. The cardiologist has seen research that marathons, which force the body to pump blood at a high rate for several hours, can cause injuries to the heart.

"The heart at rest pumps three to five liters per minute," McCullough said. "While running, it pumps 25 to 30 liters per minute."

Running a marathon forces the heart to work too hard for too long, he said, and it can cause scar tissue that may later lead to a heart attack.

For now, McCullough said he'll enjoy running shorter races with his wife Maha, who's completed five marathons; his 16-year-old son Sean, an accomplished half-marathoner; and his 17-year-old daughter Haley, who ran the 5K race along with Maha in Kona.

McCullough's 50 state award will be displayed proudly in the family's Northville home, he said.

"We have a wall of honor in our house with 300 to 500 medals on it. The rule for the wall is everything counts."

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# Players show what high school sports should be about

By **Rebecca Bailey**  
Guest Columnist

There were many rallying moments through the 32-minute quarterfinal Class D girls basketball game between Athens and Plymouth Christian Academy.

The tough game was won by Athens, and their victorious jubilation on the court was equal to the disappointment in the heart of the fans of Plymouth Christian. The players shook hands through the traditional line up and then ...

Defying the disappointment in their hearts and defying the natural response to demonstrate that disappointment, the PCA captains invited the Athens players to join them for a prayer at center court.

And to everyone's great surprise, the Athens girls locked hands around center court with

the girls from PCA. The noise of victory and chatter, disappointment and criticism died as PCA senior Karen Windle's still small voice rose in the big arena.

Windle thanked the Lord "for the opportunity," blessed the team that had won, asking the Lord to give them the ability to do their very best as they continued on to the semifinals, and she gave thanks that she and her team were able to play for His Glory.

In that now very quiet gymnasium, she stated their love of God and the crowd could hear the sweet, "Amen." Then, both teams hugged and wished each other well.

Stunned was the reaction of the Athens crowd at first, and then massive applause erupted for the demonstration of sportsmanship that later many would remark had never been

witnessed before.

Some moments are so powerful that they impact everyone who experiences them as well as those who only hear about the moment second-hand. Parents and students from Athens High School have been sending notes to Plymouth Christian Academy to congratulate them on their amazing show of sportsmanship. To view just a sampling, go to <http://news.plymouthchristian.org/daily/files/announcements/AthenFansResponses3-13-2013.pdf>

Also, Jon Beal, a parent of a player from Athens' girls varsity basketball team created a video to commemorate the incredible moment: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODsM1HAJviw>

Rebecca Bailey is the parent of a Plymouth Christian Academy student.



Foes turned friends as Plymouth Christian Academy and Athens basketball players joined hands at center court for a post-game prayer after Athens' win.

# Taking on challenges of next two years

By **Sen. Carl Levin**  
Guest Columnist

I have decided not to run for re-election in 2014.

This decision was extremely difficult because I love representing the people of Michigan in the U.S. Senate and fighting for the things that I believe are important to them.

As Barbara and I struggled with the question of whether I should run again, we focused on our belief that our country is at a crossroads that will determine our economic health and security for decades to come. We decided that I can best serve my state and nation by concentrating in the next two



State Sen. Carl Levin was among officials on hand for the unveiling of the Rosa Parks stamps at the Museum of African American History last month.

years on the challenging issues before us that I am in a position to help address; in other words, by doing my job without the distraction of campaigning for re-election.

Here are some of those issues. Years of bipartisan work by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations that I chair have shed light on tax avoidance schemes that are a major drain on our treasury. The huge loss of corporate tax receipts caused by the shift of U.S. corpo-

rate tax revenue to offshore tax havens is but one example of the egregious tax loopholes that we must end. Thirty of our most profitable companies paid no taxes over a recent three-year period although they had over \$150 billion in profits.

Tax avoidance schemes that have no economic justification or purpose other than to avoid paying taxes may be legal but they should not be. These schemes add hundreds of billions

of dollars to the deficit. They lead to cuts in education, research, national security, law enforcement, infrastructure, food safety and other important investments in our nation. And they add to the tax burden of ordinary Americans who have to pick up the slack and accelerate the economic inequality in our country. I want to fight to bring an end to this unjustified drain on the Treasury.

Second, I want to ensure that the manufacturing renaissance that has led Michigan's economic comeback continues. We've made progress in building the partnerships we need to help U.S. manufacturers succeed, but the next two years will be crucial to sustaining and building on that progress.

A third item I want to tackle is a growing blight on our political system that I believe I can help address: the use of secret money to fund political campaigns. Our tax laws are supposed to prevent secret contributions to tax exempt organizations for political purposes. My Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations needs to look into the failure of the IRS to enforce our tax laws and stem the flood of hundreds of millions of secret dollars flowing into our elections, eroding public confidence in our democracy.

Finally, the next two years will also be important in dealing with fiscal pressures on our military readiness. As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am determined

to do all I can to address that issue. I also believe we need to pursue the rapid transfer of responsibility for Afghan security to the Afghans. And, as our troops come home, we must do a better job of caring for those who bear both the visible and invisible wounds of war.

These issues will have an enormous impact on the people of Michigan and the nation for years to come, and we need to confront them. I can think of no better way to spend the next two years than to devote all of my energy and attention to taking on these challenges.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan. He announced March 7 he would not seek re-election in 2014.

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## Schoolcraft publications win top national, regional awards

Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education and Professional Development Department in collaboration with the college's Marketing Department won top honors at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) national conference in March.

The 2012 Kids on Campus schedule won gold awards and The Dish, a special culi-

nary brochure/magazine, won silver awards in both the five-state regional Medallion awards, and the national Paragon marketing awards competition for community colleges.

Schoolcraft College has won numerous gold and silver awards in these and other categories, but this is the first time the department has been awarded the top two spots in both

the regional and national marketing competitions.

The Kids on Campus program is a summer camp that offers kids classes in areas from academic skills to arts and crafts, culinary arts and science.

The increasingly popular program is held at Schoolcraft College during a four-week period beginning the second week in July.

## Emergency food available March 21

The next distribution of emergency food by Plymouth Community United Way is scheduled Thursday, March 21.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned and non-perishable items.

All recipients must be pre-registered. This is a

supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to pre-register. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) must provide documentation including proof of income and res-

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Distributions continue the third Thursday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth.

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# Swing shift

Wildcats' Thompson getting 'schooled' as she gears up for college golf career

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Throughout four seasons with Plymouth High School's varsity girls golf team, Sarah Thompson kept her eye on the ball while focusing on the big picture.

During her prep career and in the months since, the 17-year-old Thompson is hitting it on the screws — both on the links and in her personal quest to play college golf.

Thompson keeps finding enough time in her schedule — as well as boundless energy — to keep sharpening up her mental and physical golf game ahead of her college career at University of Detroit Mercy.

"It's always something I've wanted to do," said Thompson, about playing women's college golf. "I finally made it. It will be different, but I think it will be good for me."

Also good for her is going to UDM, where is signed her national letter of intent in November.

"She really bonded well with the girls, she spent some time with them," said Sarah's dad, Thomas Thompson of Canton. "She likes them, she likes the coach (Terri Anthony-Ryan). It's a good program, it's local."

And since signing with UDM, her training efforts have intensified — much of it with trainer and PGA Teaching Professional Paul Haase of Miles of Golf in Ypsilanti.

Haase (a Class A PGA member since 1975) helped Thompson hook up with Anthony-Ryan (also the PGA pro at Beech Woods Golf

Course in Southfield).

"When I first got that (college scholarship) I was really happy because I was taking the next step," Sarah Thompson noted. "That's something I've always wanted to do. Paul has really helped me a lot through that, too."

"He has a lot of connections, he knows a lot of coaches. He kind of got my name out there a little bit for me."

## Team player

Thompson emphasized that experiencing a winning environment in high school will only be aces for her as she moves forward in her college career.

With Plymouth, winners of the 2012 Division 1 championship, Thompson averaged 76.6 over 18 holes and earned D1 All-State honors for the second straight season. She teamed up with all-stater Kelsey Murphy as championship catalysts.

"Yeah, I'm used to the competitiveness and being on a team," she stressed. "So when I go over to U-D where they have other great players as well, where I'll be fighting for a spot, I know that I'll be mentally tough for it."

The biggest transition Thompson will face is getting used to playing 36 holes over the course of one day, which is how things are done in college golf.

Augmenting the instruction from Haase is work with a physical trainer out of Plymouth (Billy Gazsi) who will help Thompson be as strong and flexible as she needs to be to handle the



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Plymouth High School senior Sarah Thompson spends a lot of time at Miles of Golf in Ypsilanti to gear up for playing collegiate golf.



Miles of Golf PGA Teaching Professional Paul Haase and Sarah Thompson look at the computer screen to compare images of two different swings.

extra holes she'll encounter.

"They don't always do 36-hole tournaments," Haase said. "High schools never do 36 holes

in one day. Sometimes in college, they do it in one day. So this summer she's going to play collegiate tournaments which have 36-hole tournaments.

"She is going to get the practice of doing that in the summer, and that's what it's for."

Please see THOMPSON, B3

## Girls wanted for T3 squad

Canton-based Triple Threat Training is opening the doors for sixth-grade girls interested in joining T3, a brand new travel basketball team.

Spokesman Dominique Washington said sixth-graders would play in eight to 10 tournaments throughout the local area.

A parent information meeting is slated for 7 p.m. Friday, April 5, at High Velocity (located on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center Road), where more details about practice times and tournament locations will be presented.

Parents wanting more information can send an email to Triple-ThreatTrainingMI@gmail.com or call (734) 341-1336.

## C'ville spiker to Marygrove

Ashley Murphy, a 5-foot-10 senior outside hitter from Livonia Clarenceville, has signed an NAIA letter of intent to play volleyball this fall at Marygrove College.

Murphy, a third-team All-Observer selection, competes in four different varsity sports, including volleyball, basketball and track and field.

She is the third signee for Marygrove coach Jamie Baker.

"Ashley will be an asset at the net with her strong block and powerful attacks," Baker said. "She is a diverse player that can play any front row position, and adds an element of surprise to the game."

"Her incredible work ethic, combined with her knowledge of the game, will make her another very valuable part of the Mustang volleyball program."

## SOFTBALL

She's thrilled about college chance

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Jessica Webster loves hitting softballs over the fence and rooting for University of Michigan teams.

The Canton High School senior (a first-team all-stater in 2012) will have the chance to do both in college — albeit at Michigan-Dearborn



Canton senior Jessica Webster recently signed her national letter of intent to play softball at University of Michigan-Dearborn. Pictured at the signing ceremony are (from left) Wolves softball coach Sarah Rotta, Jessica, and her parents Patti and Norm.

and not the main campus in Ann Arbor.

Webster also will play for the Wolves, not the Wolverines. But she considers one spot as good as the other.

"I was ecstatic, getting the opportunity to play for any college team, but

Please see WEBSTER, B2

"I had a couple of other people interested. Aquinas gave me an offer. Madonna was interested."

JESSICA WEBSTER  
Canton senior

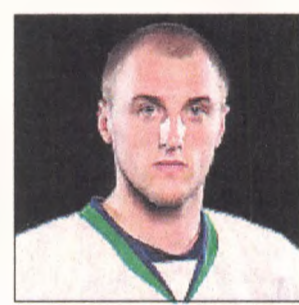
# Whalers' Noesen looks to finish strong

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

There is a potential galaxy of future National Hockey League stars on the Plymouth Whalers, including forward Stefan Noesen.

Yet the 2012-13 season has been a roller coaster ride of sorts for the 6-2, 205-pound right wing, now in his fourth season with the Ontario Hockey League team that calls Compuware Arena home.

"You know it's up and down but that's all right," said Noesen, selected 21st overall in 2011 by the NHL Ottawa Senators. "I'm trying



Stefan Noesen is one of 11 Plymouth Whalers with ties to NHL teams.

to play a good two-way game, so I think that's what I've been focusing on."

Noesen has endured some setbacks this season, however. The NHL lockout took away his chance to impress

the Senators' brass at training camp and he returned to Plymouth's camp in September.

Then came a suspension that cost him the opportunity to skate for Team USA in the World Juniors Tournament, followed by a short stint at Ottawa's January camp and a seemingly endless stretch of games where the puck would not go in for him.


Only after he scored a shootout goal Feb. 15 against Kitchener to lift the Whalers to a 3-2 road win did Noesen stop gripping the stick so tightly. After 49

Please see NOESEN, B3



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CLASS A GIRLS BASKETBALL FINALS



John Glenn's Raine Bankston gets fouled by Grand Haven's 6-foot-5 Abby Cole during Friday's Class A semifinal at MSU's Breslin Center.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Lady Rockets run out of fuel

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Abby Cole loomed large in more ways than one in Friday's Class A girls basketball state semifinal against Westland John Glenn at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

The Rockets launched a total of 71 shots, but the 6-foot-5 Cole proved to be a human eraser by blocking a Final Four record 12 of them to go along with 23 points and 19 rebounds to lead defending champion Grand Haven to a 55-46 win.

Glenn ends its greatest girls basketball season at 24-2 overall, while the Buccaneers extended their season record to 27-0 overall and spot in Saturday's MHSAA championship game against Grosse Pointe South.

It was a David-vs.-Goliath matchup with the Buccaneers, who boasted a towering front line of Cole, 6-1 junior Taylor Craymer (20 points) and 5-9 senior Hannah Wilkerson (nine points).

Glenn countered with four guards — all 5-7 and under — along with 5-9 small forward Kierra Jordan.

But Cole, who will play volleyball this fall for Michigan, was the main reason why Grand Haven overcame a 23-19 halftime deficit and advanced to the final.

"The bottom line is that Abby Cole disrupted everything that we normally do," Glenn coach Eric Kovatch said. "She's one hekuva ballplayer. I'm sure there are a lot of coaches wishing she'd play college basketball instead of college volleyball. I think that got a lit-



John Glenn's Indie Gliespie-Perdue (right) and Kierra Jordan tie up Grand Haven's Courtney Springer in Friday's state Class A girls semifinal at MSU's Breslin Center.

tle into our heads the first half."

### Pressure points

Glenn's three-quarter court pressure defense created plenty of havoc as Grand Haven committed 13 first-half turnovers.

The Bucs, however, were able to cut their second-half miscues down to nine.

"They were tough," Grand Haven coach Katie Kowalczyk-Fulmer said of Glenn. "We watched them on tape against Detroit King (quarterfinal) and you can't recreate that quickness and what they do in practice. We tried. That was a concern for me, handling their pressure, because they have such quick hands and they anticipate so well. We struggled with that big-time in the first half. We talked at halftime, 'We've got to be strong with the ball. We got to run through every pass and

face, and rip it through.'" Grand Haven cut the deficit to 36-34 after three quarters as Cole nailed her first 3-pointer of the season.

After Sha'Keya Graves (nine points) hit a 3-pointer to make it 41-40 with 5:30 left, Grand Haven took the lead for keeps just 10 seconds later on a basket inside by Craymer.

But despite hitting only 2-of-17 shots in the final quarter, Glenn still had a chance as late as 1:14, when Graves connected on another long triple to trim the deficit to 48-46.

Grand Haven's Amanda Merz then answered with two free throws just four seconds later and Glenn fired an airball on its next possession.

Forced to foul and down by four, the Rockets ran out of fuel as Grand Haven put the game away by making 7-of-10 free throws in the final 54 seconds.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Salem baseball clinics

Youngsters wanting to spruce up their baseball skills can do so at the 2013 Salem Varsity Baseball Clinic, set for Saturday, March 23 in the Salem High School gymnasium.

Session 1 is 9 a.m. to noon, for kids ages 7-10; Session 2 will take place from 1-4 p.m., for those ages 11-15.

Cost for three hours of instruction from the 2013 Salem coaching staff (led by Dale Rumberger, 2012 Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee and veteran Rocks' varsity coach) and current varsity players is just \$30. That includes a snack and T-shirt.

For more information, email salem-rocksbaseball@gmail.com or contact Jeff Vergolini at (734) 612-7027.

### Caddie scholarships

Jacob Colley (Livonia Stevenson) and Sean Larson (Plymouth) are among 23 high school seniors from the Michigan to be awarded the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship, a full tuition and housing college scholarship.

Evans Scholars are golf caddies who were selected based on four criteria: Strong caddie record, excellent academics, demonstrated financial need and outstanding character.

Colley and Larson, sponsored by Western Golf and Country Club (Redford) and Meadowbrook Country Club (Northville), respectively, received scholarships to either University of Michigan or Michigan State University. The scholarship is valued at more than \$70,000 over four years.

Also awarded a scholarship was Redford's Jonathan Martindale, a student at Washtenaw Technical Middle College sponsored by Oakland Hills Country Club.

The Western Golf Association, headquartered in Golf, Illinois, has sponsored the Chick Evans Scholarship Program through the Evans Scholars Foundation since 1930. It is among the nation's largest privately funded scholarship programs.

## Tryouts extended for Canton girls lacrosse

Tryouts for the Canton High School varsity girls lacrosse team have been extended until Friday, March 22 as the Chiefs are looking to bring in players for the coming season.

The sessions will take place 5-7 p.m.

Monday through Friday at Discovery Middle School. No experience is required.

Contact coach David Bower (734-634-8797, cantongirlslacrosse@pccsmail.net) for more information.

## WEBSTER

Continued from page B1

especially U-M because I'm a big Michigan fan," Webster said. "So it's real exciting to get the opportunity to play for them."

Her breakout season in 2012 obviously caught the eye of UM-Dearborn head softball coach Sarah Rotta, who recently attended Webster's signing ceremony along with Jessica's mom and dad (Patti and Norm).

Last year, the third baseman registered a .505 batting average along with 10 home runs and a 1.010 slugging percentage — all Canton team records.

Rotta liked the idea of signing a power hitter who can bring it with the leather, too.

"I think after I had that season and people saw my abilities, more colleges were attracted," Webster said. "I had a couple of other people interested. Aquinas gave me an offer. Madonna was interested, but I decided U-M was a better fit."

And that wasn't without a pitch from legendary Crusaders head coach Al White, who had a sit down with her "to talk about the possibilities. But I liked U-M a lot better."

Such hard-hitting accomplishments

with the Chiefs weren't the only highlights of her recent softball resume.

Webster is a member of the Queens of Diamonds Wild Elite 18U summer travel team. In July, the squad will compete at the USSSA 18U Class A World Series, to take place at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Florida.

Meanwhile, Webster is looking forward to her final season of high school softball, with other players who likely have college careers in their futures.

Senior Catherine Porter committed to play at Division III Trine University in Indiana, while junior Hannah Warren apparently will go to Central Michigan University.

"It's definitely really exciting to see my teammates also get opportunities to pursue their dreams," Webster said.

But for now comes the rest of pre-season workouts and the chance for Webster to tack on more slugging displays in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

"I just want to keep excelling, so I can leave a legacy when I graduate," said Webster, who would like to pursue a degree in communications at UM-Dearborn. "I am so excited for this season to begin."

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## Shamrocks fall short



RENA LAVERTY

Compuware Arena hockey fans saw opposite extremes of emotions after Brighton defeated Novi-Detroit Catholic Central 2-1 on March 9 in the Division 1 boys hockey final. Here, all Michael Babcock (No. 25) of the Shamrocks can do is look the other way while the jubilant Bulldogs celebrate.

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THE THOMPSON FILE



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

During Plymouth's 2012 girls golf season, which ended with a Division 1 championship, Sarah Thompson prepares to drive a tee shot.

**Who:** Sarah Thompson, 17, senior at Plymouth High School.  
**Top 'Cats:** With the Division 1 champion Wildcats in 2012, Thompson averaged 76.6 for 18 holes, good for her second consecutive All-State selection.  
**Kudos:** A four-time all-KLAA performer, Thompson also is a three-time All-Scholar athlete. Other accomplishments include setting a school record with a 3-under 68 at Knollwood Country Club to win the Next Tee Invitational and garnering medalist honors at the 2012 KLAA tournament, with a 73.  
**UMD:** Thompson signed her national letter of intent to play women's golf at the University of Detroit Mercy. The Titans' home course is Western Golf & Country Club in Redford Township. She plans on pursuing a career in physical therapy.  
**Other:** The Canton resident belongs to Polo Fields Country Club in Washtenaw with her family. Her parents are Thomas and Carol Thompson of Canton. Her older brother is Mark, a 2011 Plymouth grad who played on the boys golf team.  
**Coach says:** "She is a winner. She was a very good high school player and she will come here looking to compete for a spot immediately," said UDM head coach Terri Anthony-Ryan.  
**Miles of Golf:** Thompson's personal instructor is PGA Teaching Professional Paul Haase out of the Kendall Academy at Miles of Golf in Ypsilanti (www.miles-of-golf.com).

THOMPSON

Continued from page B1

Staying on task

There's much more to gearing up for college golf than just doing summer tournaments, however. Sarah's dad regularly drives her to Miles of Golf for training sessions at the facility's Kendall Academy with Haase. "It's always to get her better," said Haase, about what the plan was at a recent workout. "But like today, we worked on her swing path because it was just a little bit too much inside-out. But it's always taking them from where they're at to try to make them better." On a cold, windy late-February afternoon, Sarah stayed inside under the heating lamp while drilling golf balls through open stall doors out into the vast expanses of

snow-capped green space located behind the facility. "I know on days when it's colder and windier I should get out there and get used to it," she said. "It used to bother me, a little bit. I wouldn't necessarily want to go out and practice. Now I'm more willing to go out there because I know it will benefit me more." After emptying a couple buckets, it was time to check out the computer screen on Haase's desk to review her swing from start to finish and compare it to a previous practice session. "I was working on hitting it lower, having a low ball flight," Thompson said. "On windy days you have to hit it lower for it to go straight." They also collaborated on what is known in the trade as burst training, which Haase described as like the bal-

listic motion of cracking a whip. Haase and Thompson flung medicine balls at each other. "Anything to make the arms go fast," Haase explained. "It's not a long motion, it's a quick burst that you want from golf, like cracking a whip." **Comfort zone counts** Also a major plus for Thompson as she sharpens up for the college game is familiarity with Haase, someone who has worked with her and other family members for a number of years. "When it comes to picking an instructor you always want to be comfortable with him," Thompson noted. "Paul's been working with my entire family, my brother, my dad and my mom. "We know him very well, he works with me



PGA Teaching Professional Paul Haase gives Sarah Thompson some putting instruction during a recent training session at Miles of Golf in Ypsilanti.

and I know he has all the best intentions, he makes room for me and he'll come out to my tournaments and watch me. "That's really important, because he can see me actually play instead of just hitting golf balls and putting here." Haase, indeed, does not merely point his students to the heated tees. It's all about quality of practice for those promising golfers on the preps-to-college trajectory. "I've had students who say 'I hit a thousand balls every day,'" Haase explained. "And yet somebody else is getting

better and they're hitting fewer. It's the quality of the practice. "That's what we've talked about, too. It's keeping track, and keeping records, of our practice." With a smile, Thompson said her teacher has a way of making technical points easy to grasp. "If I have any trouble I can always call him, or text him," she said. "He will make time for me, especially when we're doing lessons he makes it very simple for me to actually understand it and then do it. "It's not as technical as a lot of people can be.

He makes it very understandable for me which is nice." One point Thompson needs no instruction on is the benefit of working hard. She's tirelessly honing her craft, whether at Miles of Golf, the Oasis in Livonia (where she likes to hit buckets of balls) or any venue in the area. Can having such a strong work ethic turn Sarah Thompson into a college star who might even consider golfing professionally? It very well could be in the cards.

NOESEN

Continued from page B1

games (entering this weekend's final two contests of the regular season), the 19-year-old from Texas has 23 goals and 25 assists for 48 points.

Playoffs come first

That's a definite drop-off in production. He scored 38 times in 2011-12, but Noesen has team success and being as much of a complete player in mind as the Whalers gear up for their 22nd straight playoff season. "Points will come, they're always there," Noesen said. "Right now I just need to focus on the playoffs." Plymouth is shooting for its first OHL title since 2007, and with 11 NHL prospects in tow (including Noesen, Rickard Rakell, Mitchell Heard, Vince Trocheck, Tom Wilson, Garrett Meurs, Austin Levi and goalie Matt Mahalak among others) the West Division champions have plenty of weapons. "Experience should help us in the long run," he said. "We have a very deep team, we have guys on the fourth line that are drafted fifth round. It's just a roster full of deep players.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ottawa Senators' prospect Stefan Noesen is looking to spark his current team — the Plymouth Whalers of the OHL — to a long postseason run. I think we're going to go a long way." For Noesen, the way this year has gone is something he intends to file away and put to good use someday. For starters, he'll know what to expect when he skates at Ottawa's 2013 training camp. "Those guys are bigger and faster, definitely, not to mention stronger," Noesen said. "Some of those guys, you come here (OHL) and guys are kind of scraw-

ny. But you go up there and everyone's thick and well-built. "So it's a good learning experience to go up there and know what I have to do to make the next step." That's why he plans on bringing some extra weight and muscle to the preseason party. Bringing a OHL ring certainly would be a plus, too.

tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

OHL HOCKEY

Heard's hat trick sparks Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers kept fueling their offensive fire ahead of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs with Wednesday's 8-0 romp over host Sault Ste. Marie. A hat trick by Mitchell Heard keyed Plymouth's attack, with the Whalers scoring at least twice in each period at the Essar Centre. Also scoring were Matt Mistele (two goals), Vince Trocheck (his 49th of the season), Cody Payne and Garrett Meurs. Stopping all 29 shots he faced for his second shutout of the season was goalie Matt Mahalak, who improved to 21-11-4-3. Plymouth (40-17-5-4, 89 points) went up 1-0 when Heard scored on the power play with 11:23 remaining in the first period. Assisting were Stefan Noesen (two assists) and Trocheck (one goal, two assists). Before the horn sounded, the Whalers had a three-goal cushion. Mistele finished a scoring play started by linemates Heard and Meurs and Trocheck tallied a power-play marker at 15:36 (from Meurs and Noesen). For Trocheck, it was his 25th goal since joining the Whalers in January. With his two assists, he now leads the Ontario Hockey League with 104 points (including his output with the Saginaw Spirit) entering the final weekend of the regular season. The OHL West Division champi-

ons scored two more goals early in the second against Soo netminder Matt Murray, who stopped 37 of 45 shots. Mistele's 34th goal of the season (from Michael Whaley) and Heard's second of the night (from Gianluca Curcuruto) opened up a 5-0 lead going into the final stanza. Plymouth's firepower continued unabated in the third. Payne registered his 23rd marker of the season at 1:07 and Meurs chipped in his 31st from Trocheck at 12:13. Wrapping up the barrage with his third of the contest and 16th of the season was Heard, who spent the first half of the season with Lake Erie of the American Hockey League during the NHL lockout. Heard, property of the NHL's Colorado Avalanche, was returned to junior when the lockout ended. The Greyhounds dropped to 35-25-3-3 (76 points) with the loss and remain in second in the OHL West going into the weekend. Before the Whalers open up post-season play next weekend (this is the 22nd straight year in which Plymouth qualified for the OHL playoffs), the team wraps up the regular season 2 p.m. Sunday in Windsor against the last-place Spitfires. Plymouth and Windsor also played Saturday night at Compuware in a game that took place after this issue of the Observer went to press.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Mercy icers win it all

By Dan O'Meara  
Staff Writer

After a heartbreaking end to the previous season, the Mercy Marlins liked the conclusion to the 2012-13 girls ice hockey campaign a lot better. They won their first Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey Association crown March 9, defeating the Walled Lake Wild in the Division 2 tournament final, 3-2. The joyous celebration at Eddie Edgar Arena was a sharp contrast to the tears and disappointment a year earlier when Mer-

cy lost the championship game by the same score to Plymouth-Canton-Salem in triple overtime. "It was easy as the coach to get them motivated on days when you could tell they weren't," Mercy coach Brandon Malinowski said. "All I had to say was, 'Don't let what happened last year happen to you this year,' or something along the lines of 'Don't fall short again.' "They just knew what I was talking about, and they quickly kicked into gear." Senior forward Mad-

die McClain, a candidate for Miss Hockey with 45 goals, scored the last two for Mercy in the championship game. She got the game-winner with four minutes remaining after the Wild had tied the score with a penalty shot earlier in the third period. Walled Lake had a short-handed breakaway that led to the penalty shot being awarded. Freshman goalie Katy Kouvaris stopped the shot, but the referee said she left the crease too early and gave the Wild another attempt, which it made.



The members of the Mercy hockey team are (front, with trophy) Katy Kouvaris, (kneeling, from left) Elizabeth Carlson, Jacquelyn Murphy, Grace Martin, Anna Mondrusov, Madeline McClain, Jacqueline LaPres, Morgan DeBrincat, Caitlin Conner, (standing, from left) assistant coach Tony Valdes, Caitlin Somerville, Anna Julien, Cayla Edmond, Riley Ruffing, Hannah Larkin, Emma Zeumer, Julia Henderson, Julia McAree, Athletic Director Nancy Malinowski, Rachel Bomya, assistant Joe MacDonald, head coach Brandon Malinowski, assistant Chad Behrik.

COLLEGE BASEBALL PREVIEW

# Armed & ready

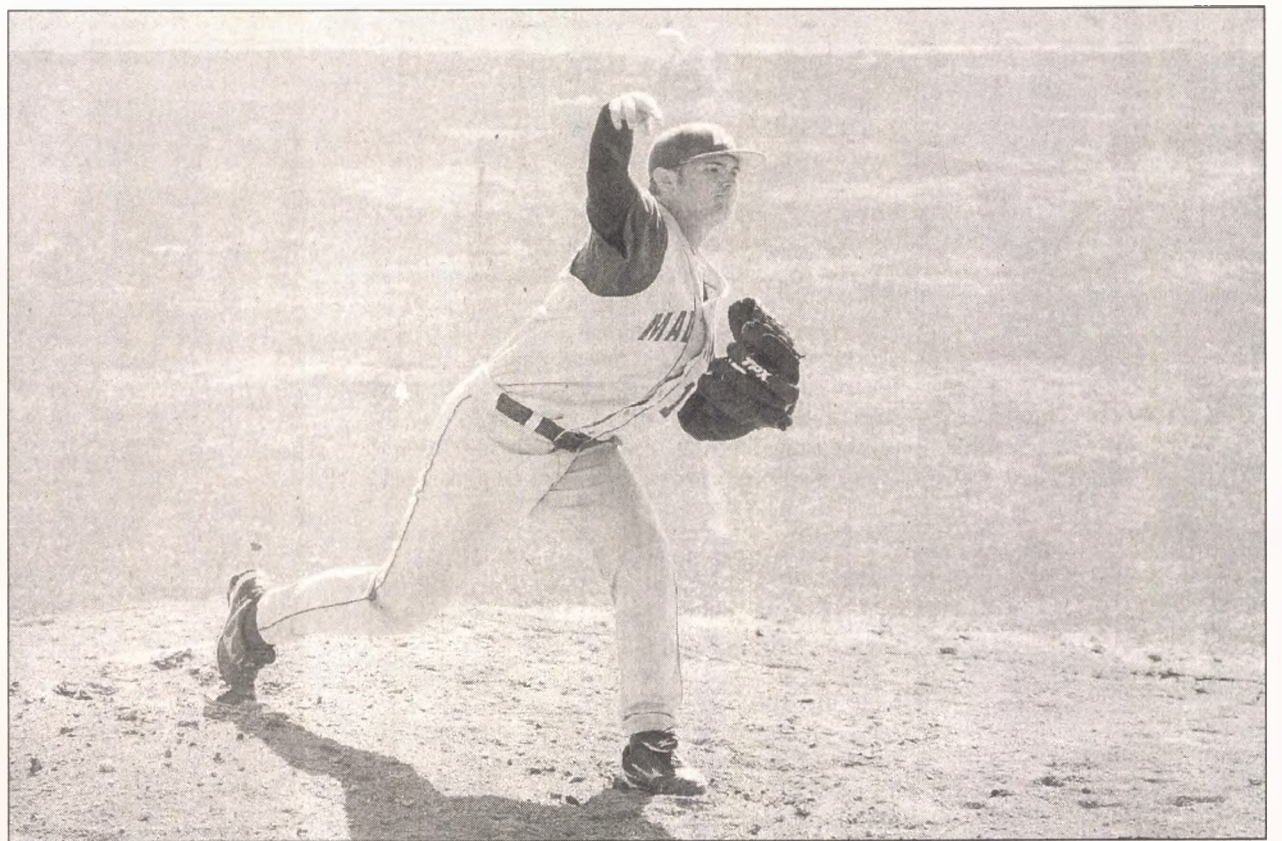
## Pitching staff strength of '13 MU baseball team

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Greg Haeger has already gotten a sneak preview of his 2013 Madonna University baseball team. And so far the 17th-year coach likes what he sees in the 24th-ranked Crusaders. MU got in four games, Feb. 8-9, in Tennessee Valley Invitational highlighted by a 4-3 victory over No. 3-ranked Lee (Tenn.). "Our defense in Tennessee was fantastic," Haeger said. "To step outside and play in February – for a Michigan team – were very pleased with. We did not make a single infield error." MU, coming off a 32-21 season and an 18-10 record in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, lost first-team All-WHAC outfielder Dan Harder to graduation after hitting a team-best .383 with eight homers and 36 RBI.

**Staff intact**  
But the entire pitching staff remains virtually intact led by senior right-hander Jeremy Gooding (Livonia), a Dearborn Divine Child product who went 7-5 with a 1.58 earned run average

en route to All-WHAC honors. Also returning is on the hill are Matthew Cook (7-4, 2.55 ERA), Josh Deeg (5-3, 4.66 ERA), Josh Vandemark (5-1, 3.24 ERA) and Westland John Glenn product Robert Fraser (1-1, 5.32 ERA) – all senior right-handers. "We have eight senior pitchers," Haeger said. "We're pretty set on the mound and we like what we have. There's 17 pitchers on this staff right now. Of the guys that aren't starting that are coming out of the pen, we've been using two guys to close out games – Russell Stempel and Austin Delmotte." The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Delmotte, a senior from Romeo, is coming off Tommy John surgery. "Delmotte is a hard thrower, a mid-90s (MPH) type kid with an amazing fastball," Haeger said. "Stempel is a slider, curveball type guy. They've performed pretty well for us so far." Redshirt junior Donny Holland, who hit .289 in 38 games last year, will assume the full-time catching duties. "We're thin behind the plate," Haeger said. "That's where we've been working hard recruiting to build back up. Don-



Livonian Jeremy Gooding, a Madonna University senior, threw a no-hitter and was named NAIA National Pitcher of the Week.

MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

ny caught every inning of every game in Tennessee. He's an outstanding defensive catcher. We have three freshmen behind him – Brett Ramirez out of Salem, Taylor Grzelakowski out of Fraser and Blake Amhowitz out of Walled Lake Western. Brett will see playing time in Florida and we're trying to figure out what we'll do with the other two." Junior shortstop Victor Barron (.295) anchors the infield, which also includes senior first baseman Spencer Sarel (.276) along with third baseman Justin Cook, a senior transfer from Texas Southern who hit .309 in

his only season. "Justin Cook is a very good defensive third baseman, bats in the middle of the lineup and has been a nice addition to our team," Haeger said. "Victor Barron ... consistency is what we're looking out of him. He played well for us in Tennessee." (Freshman) Shane Dokey is making a position change. He was a shortstop-center fielder at Brighton. We've brought him over to the right side of the infield. He's learning, doing a great job, very athletic kid. "We're using two first basemen. Spencer Sarel is starting most of the

games and John Lairo (freshman) is coming in on some defensive situations. We're pretty pleased with what we're doing on the infield defense." The outfield includes all returnees led by seniors Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison), who hit .359; Alex Charles (Birmingham Brother Rice) and Brad Lineberry (Plymouth), the latter whom went 9-for-15 with five RBI on the Tennessee trip. The Crusaders will play 13 games in nine days starting Friday at the RussMatt Invitational at Lake Myrtle Park. Haeger, who earned his

500th win last season, has a simple formula for success. "It's baseball, if you pitch you win," he said. "Josh Vandemark, in his first outing, didn't pitch well and we got beat. The next three games we had three great victories including knocking off the No. 3 team in the country. "If we pitch it, we have a shot. Our offense needs to continue to improve. We have enough, but we have to continue to improve in order to be one of the elite teams in the NAIA."

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## Red Wing fever

Garden City woman maintains a Red Wings room at home

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Catherine Nardi remembers exactly when she started collecting bobble heads, banner, pucks and sticks.

It all began when the 51-year-old Garden City woman donned a #30 Osgood jersey — the one she plans to be buried in some day.

"I just accumulated so much stuff over the years," said Nardi, looking around the hockey souvenir room that also doubles as an office and study area in her home. "I started collecting everything and then said, I need somewhere to put it. I thought, you know, I think I'll redo this room. And the next thing you know ..."

Her passion for all things Detroit Red Wings has earned her the title, "Ultimate Fan" from friends like Bob Morrissy of Garden City. Morrissy and Nardi attended St. Raphael school together while growing in their hometown. They lost touch over the years while Morrissy attended college and then worked out of state. When he returned to Michigan last year, they reconnected and have become "BFF's" (best friends forever) who enjoy having fun together, including watching Red Wings games.

"I've never seen as big a fan as her," Morrissy said. "Ask her any question about hockey and she knows it. We go to games and she's barking out...she's yelling. She's just got that passion. From a guy's standpoint, that's pretty cool."

Nardi, who works as a commercial loan underwriter for Comerica Bank, has attended many playoff matches, one Stanley Cup finals game and all



Catherine Nardi of Garden City l-o-v-e-s the Detroit Red Wings.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

of Detroit's Stanley Cup victory parades in the past 20 years. She got a chance to shoot pucks on the ice during a contest at intermission about 10 years ago and held the Stanley Cup when it visited Comerica after a Red Wings win.

Nardi also attends games with her "Hockey BFF," Susie Hurt, who lives "around the block" in the neighborhood. Hurt wears a #40 Zetterberg jersey. They sport matching Red Wings tattoos on their shoulders, have painted their faces with octopi icons for playoff games and have cried together as they watched a victory banner hoisted in Joe Louis Arena after the

Wings won the Cup in 2007-08. "We had goose bumps," she recalled.

Nardi said she became addicted to hockey more than 20 years ago while dating a man who played the sport.

"I had to go to all of his games and practices. I knew nothing about hockey at the time. The more I started watching, I started understanding it."

It didn't take long before she was hooked.

"You should see me at the games. My hockey BFF says I have the loudest 'Who Who' in the NHL," she said, with a laugh. "Hockey is fast paced and exciting. I like that. I like

that adrenaline rush. I guess it's about the Detroit pride, too. I work in downtown Detroit and I'm really adamant about promoting downtown Detroit."

Nardi generally buys the cheapest seats available so she can afford go to more games, but says she has watched the action from about everywhere in the arena.

"I've had four rows off the ice. I've sat in the (Comerica) suite. I usually am in the first or second row from the very back."

When she's not at the Joe she can be found watching the televised game at home.

Nardi said she's excited about the Red Wings' move into a new

division in the Eastern Conference, which will take effect next season. On Thursday, the NHL's Board of Governors approved a division realignment that will have the Red Wings playing against Boston, Buffalo, Florida, Tampa Bay, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

"There will be no more late night games, which is exciting for me because I'll be able to watch more," said Nardi, who takes graduate classes in addition to working full time. "This week all the games are late night.."

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10:00 AM - NOON**

# Changing pet foods for Passover? Check out this store

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Premier Pet Supply is taking the guess work out of pet foods for Passover.



The Beverly Hills store, which draws customers from Farmington Hills, Southfield and other surrounding communities, has posted signs on shelves indicating which foods are Passover-friendly and free of leavened products, including barley, oats, rye, spelt and wheat. Owner Mike Palmer asked Rabbi Jason Miller of Kosher Michigan to visit his store and approve the appropriate foods, including dog, cat, small animal and bird feed.

During the eight-day Passover holiday, which begins March 26, Jews



Signs placed near Passover-friendly pet foods carry the Premier Pet Supply logo and the Kosher Michigan certification seal.

are forbidden from eating, possessing or deriving benefit from "chametz."

According to Chabad.com, chametz includes food made of "grain and water that have been allowed to ferment and rise ... any food that contains grain or grain derivatives can be and often is chametz."

Although there are chametz-free pet foods on the market, Miller said identifying minor ingredients in pet food can be challenging.

That's where Premier Pet Supply hopes to lend a hand.

"We have a large Jewish clientele and we real-

ize the need in the community to help our Jewish friends when it comes to Passover," said Jeff Nagarah, store manager. "We figured it would be easier to take a more proactive approach and do the research for them. We found that most of our grain-free foods are a good fit."

The store and Miller worked hand-in-hand identifying the foods. On Thursday, Nagarah placed signs — bearing the Star of David, Kosher Michigan's icon and Premiere Pet Supply's logo — on shelves identifying the certified kosher for Passover foods.



PHOTOS BY SHARON DARGAY

Jeff Nagarah, manager of Premier Pet Supply in Beverly Hills, hangs a "kosher for Passover" sign on a shelf of dog food.

"We can point customers in the right direction. These foods are okay and aren't breaking tradition."

**Slow diet change**  
Narah said pet owners who plan to change

their dog's or cat's diet for Passover should begin making that switch soon.

"When you change a dog's food, you don't want to do it cold turkey. You don't want to upset their stomach."

Begin by slowly adding the new food to the animal's bowl, increasing the amount every day and decreasing the old food in the mixture.

I asked Rabbi Aaron Bergman of Adat Shalom in Farmington Hills to weigh in on the idea of feeding pets Passover-friendly foods for the holiday.

"I tend to make sure that the pet is healthy and safe over the holiday. That is my first priority," he said. "If the pet can tolerate kosher for Passover foods like tuna or fish or chicken, then that should proba-

bly be used."

Bergman said a pet that must maintain its regular diet can be "fictionally" sold to someone who's not observing Passover, just as other prohibited items are "sold" before the holiday. They may be reclaimed after Passover.

"The pet, of course, stays in the home, but this way it can eat what it would regularly eat," he said.

Ilene Honiss, president of Bet Chaverim in Canton, praised Premier Pet Supply's efforts.

"I think it is a very considerate thing the pet store is doing, especially as many consider their pets as such dear loved ones," she said.

Premier Pet Supply is located on Southfield Road just north of 13 Mile; (248) 647-4310.

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**WHEN NOT TO PROCEED**

A doctor, on seeing a patient, expects that the appointment will conclude with the doctor doing something: prescribing a medication, ordering an x-ray, taking blood for testing, referring the patient to a specialist, or undertaking a procedure.

However, in instances of a joint swollen with fluid, particularly the knee joint, the patient-doctor meeting may end with nothing being done. The swollen knee remains the same.

First reason for doing nothing is that the doctor previously removed fluid in the knee and injected steroid, but there was no effect; the patient received one or two days relief then the swelling returned. If the procedure gave little benefit then repeating it is of no value.

Another reason why a physician would refrain from injecting a knee is to reinforce a recommendation that the patient needs to see an orthopedist for knee replacement. Some patients are satisfied to obtain scant improvement in place of facing an operation. The only way that the doctor can move the patient to change is to refuse to keep injecting the knee with steroids.

If a patient has cellulitis or a skin infection near the knee, the doctor may put off injection as the needle going through the infected area could carry bacteria into the joint.

Finally, a reason for the doctor to do nothing is that the patient refuses the treatment recommended and offered. On a number of occasions I have cared for a patient with a bad limp and a markedly swollen knee, who only wanted pills. No matter how logical and practical the recommendation for aspiration, the patient wanted no part of it. Of course, that is a patient's right.

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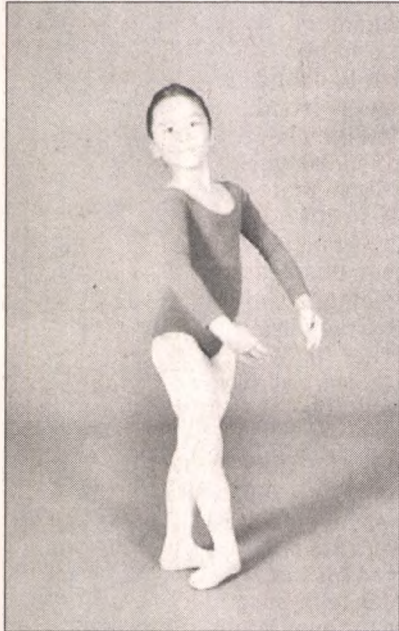
## Local dancers will attend summer ballet schools

Two young local dancers completed their first audition season with perfect results.

Madeline Boynton, 12, of Redford, and Kaitlynn McKenna, 9, of Livonia, auditioned for several prestigious professional ballet summer intensives and were accepted to all.

Madeline was accepted to the schools of Ballet Met in Columbus, Ohio, Cincinnati Ballet Theatre, and the Gelsey Kirkland Academy in New York City, N.Y. Madeline, the daughter of Mike and Shelly Boynton, is in the seventh grade, and is homeschooled. She studies ballet with Karen Milligan of the Milligan School of Ballet, taking class three times a week. For the past two years, Madeline has danced the role of an angel in the Ballet Met production of *The Nutcracker* at the Detroit Opera House. In addition to ballet, Madeline will perform a praise dance, under the auspices of Timberlane Dance of Northville, at a Palm Sunday service. In June, her family, including sisters Emily, Cecily, and Lydia, will make the trip to Columbus, so that Madeline can study at Ballet Met.

Kaitlynn also successfully audi-



Kaitlynn McKenna



Madeline Boynton

tioned for the two schools for which she was old enough to attend. She was accepted to Ballet Met and the Gelsey Kirkland Academy. Kaitlynn has been studying with Karen Milligan since she was three years old, when she began her pre-ballet classes. She is now

in her third year of ballet study. In addition to ballet, Kaitlynn studies Wing Chun Do at Ambrose Academy in Livonia, and recently earned a blue belt. Kaitlynn is the daughter of Kevin and Janet McKenna, and is in the third grade at Kennedy Elementary School.

## Movie premiere



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

Sherrie Saksewski (right) from Canton was among the "Team Munchkin" fans who shared in the excitement of the nationwide opening of "Oz: The Great and Powerful," at a special Birmingham Uptown Palladium screening on March 9. The screening helped raise awareness and money for CoDA, the Coalition for Dwarf Advocacy. Other fans included, Molly Waters (left) and Sally Waters from Chelsea, Kristin Shultz-Brown of Ann Arbor, and Colleen Walters of Chelsea.



Canton resident Kristin Riley attended two premieres of the movie "Oz: The Great and Powerful" last weekend — one in her hometown and the other in Birmingham. Riley, who played a Munchkin and handmaiden for Glinda the Good Witch in the film, attended a breakfast, film screening and fundraiser for the Potentials Foundation in Canton on March 9. The Foundation helps families affected by certain forms of dwarfism. She's shown here on March 8 at a screening of the film at the Birmingham Palladium.

## GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

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

5510 or visit [www.sembabutterfly.com](http://www.sembabutterfly.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, 33175 Ann 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-

### Miller Woods Tours

See native spring wildflowers blooming at Miller Woods in Plymouth Township during free, guided tours from 2-4 p.m., leaving every half hour, Sunday, April 14, 21 and 28. These dates are weather dependent because the flowers don't always bloom when expected. Check the Miller Woods website, [www.millerwoods.com](http://www.millerwoods.com), starting in April for last-minute changes to the dates when flowers are in bloom. Entrance to the nature preserve is on Powell Road, just east of Ridge Road, between N. Territorial and Ann Arbor Roads. No dogs are allowed in the nature preserve.

### English Gardens

"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.

## Debutantes performed traditional dance at ball

The Hungarian Arts Club presented its annual White Rose Ball last month at the Dearborn Inn Marriott. The ball presents young debutantes of Hungarian descent into society and awards a scholarship to a student also of Hungarian descent who is studying the fine arts.

The music was provided by Harmonia, which performs waltzes and czardas and has an entire repertoire of music from the heart of Europe.

This year's debutantes were Morgan Antal-

Black, Sydney Nemeth, Sara Risch, Megan Sellars, Brooke Thanasiu and Madison Tyler. The debutantes and their escorts practice for four weeks prior to the ball to perform the traditional Palotas. The Palotas or "palace" dance has its origins in the 15th century court. It became the traditional opening ball dance of all the formal balls in Hungary.

This year's scholarship winner was Natalia Slatery from Concord, Mass. Natalia is a high school senior who draws, paints

and sculpts.

The ball's honorary chairperson was Endre Csoman, national vice president of Fraternal William Penn Association. He is a recipient of many honors including Fraternalist of the Year (PA), Hungarian Heritage Award, and this year the Hungarian Honor Society's Officer Cross by the Republic of Hungary.

For information on the 2014 ball, the scholarship or on becoming a debutante, call Linda Enyedý at (248) 352-0927.

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security 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 representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. 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. Attorneys 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 even 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 yet.

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 benefits.

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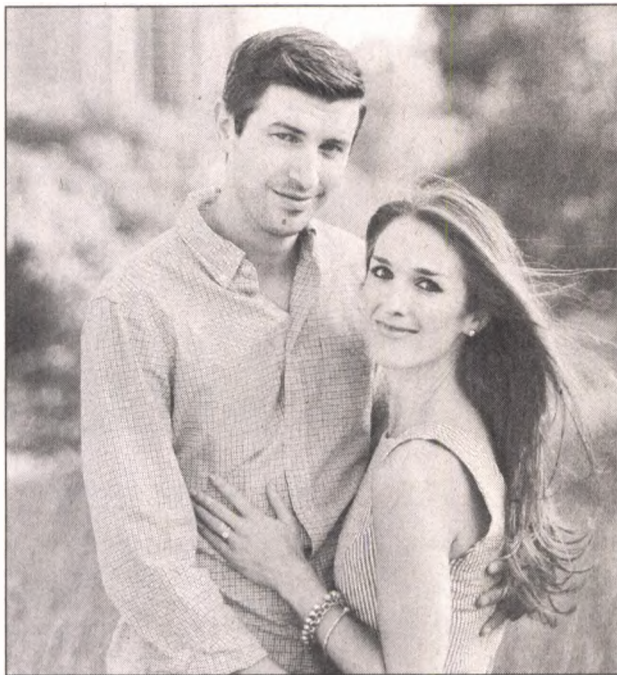
# Milestones

## Mutch-Daly

Katherine Mutch and Matthew Daly announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Craig and Patricia Mutch of Grand Rapids, attended Grand Rapids Christian High School and earned a B.S. degree in apparel and textile design from Michigan State University. She is a brand designer at Sears Holdings Corporation.

Her fiancé, son of Joseph and Kathleen Daly of Livonia, attended Detroit Catholic Central High School, earned a B.A. degree in journalism and mass communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a juris doctorate degree from Indiana University School of



Law - Bloomington. He is an attorney at Protocol Link, Inc.

An August 2013 wedding is planned in Grand Rapids.

## Yansak-Tuttle

Brittany Yansak and Andrew Tuttle announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Paul and Jan Yansak of Grand Rapids, received her masters of social work from Michigan State University in 2012 after completing a bachelors of science in business at Central Michigan University. Brittany is a social worker for Whitehall Healthcare Facility in Deerfield, Ill.

Her fiancé, son of Mark and Kathy Tuttle of Livonia, is a 2005 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. He received his bachelor of science in business from Central Michigan University in 2009. Andy currently works in purchasing as a replenishment coordinator for



Xpedx in Aurora, Ill. An October 2013 wed-

ding is planned at the Rattlesnake Club in Detroit.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

## GOUGH, JEROME R.

Age 72, of Livonia, passed away March 5, 2013. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.



## KNIGHT, CHRISTOPHER BRUCE

47, of Plymouth passed away March 11, 2013 after a courageous nearly two year battle with cancer. Beloved husband of Susan (Miller) for 18 years. Dear father of daughters Kylie and Alyssa. Son of Pamela (Randy) Webster and Gordon (Kathy) Knight. Brother of Kelly (Robert) Webster. Son-in-law of Gary (Janice) Miller. Chris also leaves behind many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews as well as many, many friends. Chris was preceded in death by his cousin Jason Rambo and grandfather Gene Bischof. Chris graduated from Canton High School in 1983 and attended Eastern Michigan University. Chris remained in Plymouth/Canton and built a successful real estate business. Chris' love of Plymouth and the Plymouth community inspired his commitment to the growth and success of the downtown area. Chris' career spanned 28 years during which for many years Chris was the top Coldwell Banker sales agent in the Midwest. In 2011 his sales team achieved the status of #1 Coldwell Banker sales team in the nation. Chris' greatest love was spending time with his family, friends and watching his daughters play soccer. His many loves included golf, spending time at his cottage in Charlevoix, traveling and cheering on the UofM football team. There will be a Funeral Mass Friday (March 15, 2013) 10:30AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, with visitation at church beginning at 10AM. Friends may also visit Thursday 4-9PM at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorials in Chris' name may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Arbor Hospice. Share memories at schrader-howell.com



## LOEFFLER, ELAINE

Age 91 of Plymouth passed away on March 14, 2013. Beloved wife of George for 68 years. Loving mother of Marcia Ridings, Donald (Janice), Lynn (Lynn) Gregg, and Nancy (Robert) Somson. Proud grandmother of Karen (Brad) Brunner, Allison (Kurt) Thompson, Christopher and Kelly Gregg, Rebecca, Matthew, Alicia and Molly Somson. Great grandmother of Mark and George Brunner, Caroline and Leah Thompson. Funeral Service Monday 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. The family will gather for visitation with friends Sunday 2-5 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Lutheran Church, 25630 Grand River Ave., Redford, MI 48240. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



## MESZAROS, JR., ALEX J.

March 9, 2013, age 70 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Carol. Loving father of Greg (Diane), Tracy (Jeffery) Smith and Mark (Julie). Dear grandfather of Zachary, Haley, Austin and Tristan. Also leaves one brother Paul. Funeral Service was held Tuesday at First Methodist Church of Plymouth. Arrangements handled by Vermeulen Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association. To share a memory with the family, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



## ROSSO, THERESA ANN

Age 54, of Farmington, passed away March 10, 2013. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.



## STARE, IRENE KINSEY

Passed away on March 13th at her home in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Mrs. Stare was the widow of Dr. Fredrick Stare, founder of the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health. She was also widow of noted research ophthalmologist Dr. V. Everett Kinsey of Troy, Michigan. In January, Mrs. Stare celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by friends and family. She was born on January 24, 1913 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Thomas Mackey and Nellie Grieb. Before moving to Wellesley in 1984, she resided for many years in Troy and Grosse Pointe, Michigan. During the 1940s, Mrs. Stare worked in Boston as an editor at Nutrition Reviews. An accomplished violinist, Mrs. Stare was an enthusiastic supporter of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Meadowbrook Music Festival, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the New England Conservatory of Music. Mrs. Stare took special pleasure in supporting the careers of young musicians and delighted in organizing performances in her home. Mrs. Stare married Professor Stare in 1984. During their many years together, they traveled regularly and drew great pleasure from gardening at their home. Mrs. Stare was a loving stepmother and a doting grandmother to her seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews. In her final years Mrs. Stare drew great strength from the friendship of her wonderful neighbors. Her family is grateful for the attentive care she received from Dr. Richard Curtis, Ms. Gladys Scott, Mr. Dirk van Harrewijzen, the Natick Visiting Nurse Association, and her dedicated home health aids. A memorial service will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be sent to the Natick Visiting Nurse Association, 209 West Central Street, Suite 313 Natick, MA 01760 or to The Tuesday Musicales of Detroit, 81 South Edgewood Drive, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236. Memo: Irene Stare Violin Award Fund.



## STOOPS, BEVERLY ELAINE

Born June 12, 1922 - Died March 11, 2013

Beverly E. Stoops, nee Martin, age 90, born in Pleasanton Township (Bear Lake), Manistee Co., Michigan on June 12, 1922 passed away March 11, 2013. Beverly was a resident of Plymouth Township, Michigan. Loving wife of the late John Stoops for 66 years. Dearest mother of Gwendolyn (William) McCann of Auburn Hills, Michigan, Martin (Char) Stoops of Waterford, Michigan and Brent (Debbie) Stoops of Plymouth, Michigan. Proud grandmother of Janyl (Brian) Finnerty of Sudbury, MA, Jennifer (Kenneth) Schrock of Austin, TX, Tracy (James) Tackett of Waterford, MI, Jason (Kristin) Stoops of Northville, MI, and Matthew (Jessica) Stoops of Livonia, MI. Great grandmother of Katherine, Alexandra, and Brendan Finnerty, Lauryn, Trevor, Dylan, and Logan Schrock, Alexander Helzer, Gabriella, Sophia and Charles Stoops, and Ella and Jackson Stoops. Sister of Donna (Bud) Guthard of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Beverly graduated from Bear Lake High School in 1940 and married John Stoops in Pleasanton Twp, MI in 1941. John and Beverly settled in Detroit in 1941, and later lived in Farmington, MI, Bloomfield Hills, MI and Naples, FL. Beverly was a dedicated wife of 66 years to John Stoops, and a loving mother. She cherished her time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, and was proud of their accomplishments. Beverly enjoyed traveling the world, playing golf, entertaining, solving crossword puzzles, watching the Tigers, and playing Pinochle. Visitation will be Thursday 5-9pm, Friday 1-9pm, and Rosary 7pm Friday at the Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, in state on Saturday 9:30am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth with a funeral mass at 10:00am. Entombment at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia, Michigan. Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Police Officers Association Benevolent Fund. Attn: Matthew Stoops, at 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.



## WRIGHT, BEVERLY ANN

Of Canton, died March 7, 2013. Memorial will be held at a later date. www.davidbrownfh.com.

### In Memoriam



## Happy 32nd Birthday, BRIAN BRYANT

March 16, 1981  
We love and miss you very much.  
Love, Your family

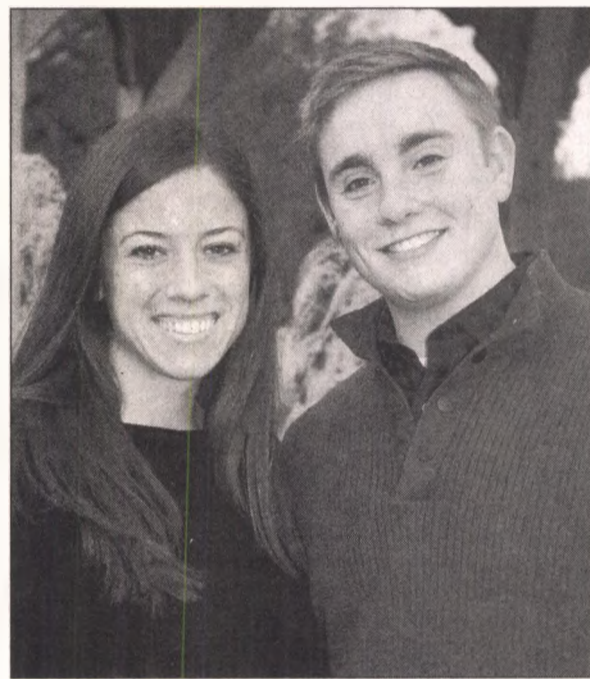
## Mason-Stuessy

Kelly Mason and Alexander Stuessy announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Kent and Karla Mason of Farmington Hills, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and holds a B.A. in communication studies, with a minor in international studies.

Her fiancé, son of Kevin and Wendy Stuessy of Cherry Hill, N.J., is a graduate of the University of Michigan and holds a B.B.A. from the Ross School of Business, with a minor in history. Both currently work in advertising in Chicago, Ill.

An October 2013 wedding is planned.



# Canton sets 'Mom Prom' at Summit

It's time to pull out your old prom dresses or bridesmaids gowns for a good cause. The First Annual Canton Mom Prom will benefit Gleaners Food Bank. This special celebration for all women, not just moms, is set for 8-11 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Summit at the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

No dates will be allowed at this special 21 and over dance.

Canton's Mom Prom will feature dancing, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, special raffle prize drawings, and fun contests including the 'Tackiest Dress' and 'Aqua Net Contest' for the best hair in the room. An official Prom Queen also will be crowned.

No dress code is required, but women may wear old prom dresses, bridesmaids and wedding gowns, and thrift store finds.

Betsy Crapps of Canton founded the first

Mom Prom in 2006 and has since taken the fundraising event nationwide, where women are invited to a 'ladies night out' in their local communities that will benefit an area charity.

Tickets are on sale now for \$40 and include two drink tickets and snacks. A cash bar also will be available. Buy tickets at www.cantonfun.org or at the Summit on the Park Front Desk.

For more information call (734) 394-5460.

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## 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) McDaniel at djmcdaniel45@comcast.net.

### DETROIT BURT ELEMENTARY

#### 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 CATHOLIC SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1956

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

### DETROIT MACKENZIE

#### CLASSES FROM 1964-67

Family & Friends Day bowling fundraiser runs 2-6 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at Oaks Lanes, 8450 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 1963 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.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

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

### March

#### 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

#### BRUNCH

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 24

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

Details: Palm Sunday brunch will be served between the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

services

Contact: (248) 553-3380

#### CONCERT

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





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GOING ON NOW AT YOUR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN FORD DEALERS!

## 2013 FOCUS SE FWD

MSRP: \$20,090<sup>3</sup>WILL MATCH  
UP TO  
\$75026 city / 36 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

\$175

PER MONTH  
LEASEFor 24 months for  
A/Z plan  
customers<sup>1</sup>  
\$925 Cash Due  
at SigningSecurity Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.

- 2.0L Ti-VCT direct-injection I-4 engine
- Exclusive MyKey<sup>®</sup> owner controls feature
- SYNC<sup>®</sup> voice-activated communications and entertainment system<sup>4</sup>
- Dual-stage front airbags

## 2013 ESCAPE SE FWD

MSRP: \$26,290<sup>3</sup>WILL MATCH  
UP TO  
\$75023 city / 33 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

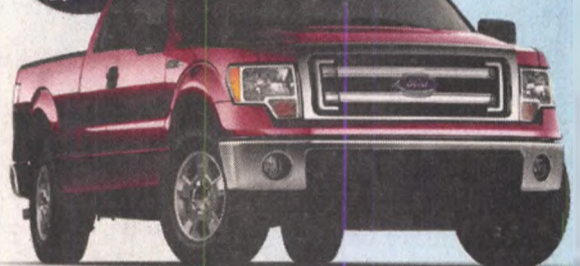
\$207

PER MONTH  
LEASEFor 24 months for  
current A/Z plan  
lessees<sup>1</sup>  
\$957 Cash Due  
at SigningSecurity Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.

- 1.6L EcoBoost I-4 Engine
- 6-speed SelectShift Automatic<sup>®</sup> Transmission
- AdvanceTrac<sup>®</sup> with Roll Stability Control<sup>™</sup>
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio with 6-Month Prepaid Subscription • SYNC<sup>®</sup> Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment system<sup>4</sup>

## 2013 F-150

SUPERCAB XLT 4X4

MSRP: \$40,775<sup>3</sup>WILL MATCH  
UP TO  
\$75017 city / 23 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

\$255

PER MONTH  
LEASEFor 36 months for  
current A/Z plan  
lessees<sup>1</sup>  
\$1,005 Cash Due  
at SigningSecurity Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.

- 5.0L V-8 Engine
- Sync, Tow & Chrome Package
- 18" Chrome-Clad Aluminum Wheels
- AdvanceTrac<sup>®</sup> with Roll Stability Control<sup>™</sup>
- Trailer Sway Control

## 2013 EDGE SE FWD

MSRP: \$29,600<sup>3</sup>WILL MATCH  
UP TO  
\$75019 city / 27 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

\$236

PER MONTH  
LEASEFor 24 months for  
current A/Z plan  
lessees<sup>1</sup>  
\$986 Cash Due  
at SigningSecurity Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.

- 3.5 Ti-VCT V6 Engine
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac<sup>®</sup> with Roll Stability Control<sup>™</sup>
- AM/FM Stereo/Single CD-Player with MP3 Capability • Personal Safety System
- 17" Painted Aluminum Wheels

## 2013 TAURUS SEL FWD

MSRP: \$30,395<sup>3</sup>WILL MATCH  
UP TO  
\$75019 city / 29 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

\$271

PER MONTH  
LEASEFor 24 months for  
current A/Z plan  
lessees<sup>1</sup>  
\$1,021 Cash Due  
at SigningSecurity Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
- MyKey<sup>™</sup> • Perimeter Anti-theft Alarm
- AdvanceTrac<sup>®</sup> with Roll Stability Control<sup>™</sup>
- Sync<sup>®</sup> with My Ford<sup>®</sup> Touch<sup>4</sup>
- Dual-Zone Electronic Automatic Temperature Control

## 2013 EXPLORER XLT FWD

MSRP: \$36,140<sup>3</sup>WILL MATCH  
UP TO  
\$75017 city / 24 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

\$268

PER MONTH  
LEASEFor 24 months for  
current A/Z plan  
lessees<sup>1</sup>  
\$1,018 Cash Due  
at SigningSecurity Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
- Sync<sup>®</sup> with My Ford<sup>®</sup> Touch<sup>4</sup>
- Reverse Sensing System
- Rear View Camera • Trailer Sway Control
- AdvanceTrac<sup>®</sup> with Roll Stability Control<sup>™</sup>

## 2013 FUSION SE FWD

MSRP: \$24,495<sup>3</sup>WILL MATCH  
UP TO  
\$25022 city / 34 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

- 2.5L Duratec I-4 Engine
- SYNC<sup>®</sup> With MyFord<sup>®</sup> Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System<sup>4</sup>
- SIRIUS XM Satellite Radio
- AdvanceTrac<sup>®</sup> with Roll Stability Control<sup>™</sup>



\$228

PER MONTH  
LEASEFor 24 months for  
current A/Z plan  
lessees<sup>1</sup>  
\$478 Cash Due  
at SigningSecurity Deposit Waived. Taxes, title  
and license fees extra.
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(1) Not all lessees qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low-mileage lease. Some payments higher; some lower. Residency restrictions apply. Payment based on maximum match down payment from customer and \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash for RCL/RCO customers, with the exception of the Focus, who currently lease a Ford product and lease again through Ford Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 4/1/13. See dealer for details. (2) MPG EPA estimated with equipment as shown. (3) MSRP excludes document fee, destination/delivery charge, taxes, title and registration. Optional equipment not included. Residency restrictions apply. (4) Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. (5) Matching Down Payment program up to \$750 on 2013 Fiesta (excludes "S" model), Focus (excludes "S" and "ST" models), Taurus (excludes "SE" model) Escape, Edge, Explorer and F-150. Up to \$250 on Fusion (gas only). The maximum down payment has been figured into advertised lease payment. Residency restrictions apply. This program is available through 4/1/13. Not all consumers will qualify for financing. See dealer for exact details.