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History humor

A straight-faced Mike Wright joked wryly during a Monday budget study session about fellow Plymouth City Commission member Ron Loiselle's long service on that body. As discussion turned to water rates and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, City Manager Paul Sincok noted Plymouth joined the Detroit water system on a split vote in 1969. That was 44 years ago. Not missing a beat, Wright said, "How'd Loiselle vote?" drawing laughs from others at the table. For the record, Loiselle is in his 28th year on the commission.

Mother's Day

In parenting lore, mothers and fathers are frequently heard telling their children, "Wait 'til you have children one day!" And then those children inevitably find themselves channeling their own parents once they have children of their own. Email your examples to *Plymouth Observer* editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com for a story that will appear on Mother's Day. Include a JPEG photo of you and/or your mom, if you'd like (just make sure to identify the folks in the photo). We'll use as many of the examples and photos as we can. Deadline is Tuesday, May 7.

Honor your special woman

Salute the special woman in your life during the month of May. Send us a photo of you and your mom, grandmother, step-mom, aunt, godmother or that special "mom-like" woman who has made a difference in your life. Send the photo to bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Be sure to identify (first and last names please) you and your mom and where you live. And tell us in two sentences or less why your person is special to you. This Salute to Woman photo gallery is sponsored by Indigo Salon and Day Spa in Canton. Five lucky winners will receive a \$20 gift card to Kohl's or Meijer in a random drawing of all names and photos submitted. Deadline to submit photos and names for the random drawing is midnight Sunday, April 28.

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City water bills likely going up

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Water bills in Plymouth would go up this summer under a budget proposal being considered by the Plymouth City Commission. Discussions at a Monday budget study meeting indicated officials are looking at boosting the combined water and sewer rate by 18 cents per thousand gallons of water used, which would bring the total to \$10.89 per thousand. That's an increase of less than 2 percent. The hike, a part of the 2013-

14 city budget proposal, is in response to expected increases in the wholesale rates charged to the city for water and sewage treatment service, plus the increasing cost of running Plymouth's water and sewage system, including \$735,000 in planned system improvements. City officials anticipate a 4.2-percent increase in the wholesale cost of water from Detroit, and a 3.7-percent increase in the cost of sewage transmission and treatment, a system that is overseen by Wayne County. The 18-cent hike means an

increase in the typical Plymouth residential water bill of \$3.24 per quarter. Average water use is about 18,000 gallons per household every three months, meaning that, at the rate of \$10.89 per thousand gallons, the typical household would be charged \$196.02 a quarter for water and sewer service. Meter and "ready-to-serve" charges would push that bill to more than \$200. City Finance Director Mark Christiansen noted both Detroit and Wayne County are moving toward greater budget reliance on fixed charges to commu-

nities in the water system, rather than on volume-based rates, which fluctuate according to the amount of water used in each community. Detroit is expected to charge Plymouth about \$864,000 for water in the 2013-14 budget year, for example, and more than \$300,000 of that is a fixed charge. Just two years ago, according to figures provided by Christiansen, Detroit's fixed charge was under \$190,000. Plymouth's proposed water and

Please see WATER, A3



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Festival Singers were among the choirs who earned an "excellent" rating at districts to earn a berth at the state choral festival.

Sounds of success

Choirs take their talents to state festival

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Headed into the final choral competition of his career, Plymouth High School senior Chris Bir isn't as nervous as he once would have been. But he's just as determined to go out on top. He gets the chance today (Thursday), as his Chamber Choir joins four other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park choirs at the state choral festival at Holt High School. The boys-only choir joins the girls-only choir, the Madrigals, along with the Dulcissima, Allegro and the Festival Singers in the competition. All five choirs earned a berth with either superior (Madrigals, Dulcissima) or excellent ratings at the recent Northville High School district competition. "Because this is my fourth year, it's not as nerve-racking as the first time," said Bir, a Plymouth resident. "Being my last competition, I'm gunning for being the best of the best." That won't be unusual for most of the choirs. Choir director Jennifer Kopp is in her 13th year at the helm of the P-CEP choir program, and she's tak-



Dulcissima, here performing "Alleluia," at a recent concert, is one of five Plymouth-Canton Educational Park choirs to qualify for the state choral festival at Holt High School.

ing on the singers than districts. At district, she said, choirs had to sight-read two pieces of music they'd never seen, and get past four judges. Looking at music At the state competition, the sight-reading component isn't there, and it's just a matter of singing. And the best part, she said, is the clinic element, where one of the judges works with choirs and provides tips on new ways to look at the music. "I always learn from that," the veteran director said. "And so do the students."

AUDITION TIME

What: Auditions for Allegro, the advanced freshman choir at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park
Who: Incoming eighth-graders
When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 18
Where: Choir room, Salem High School
Details: Find information on the choir website, www.PCEP-choirs.org

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Please see CHOIRS, A10

Picnic chief quits over transparency

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Bob Doroshewitz, a member of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, has resigned as chief organizer of the township's annual Fourth of July picnic, a job he had for three years. Doroshewitz said the move came after he failed to win board support in February for what he called common-sense steps to set a budget for the event and document income and spending. The picnic and the annual fireworks show the night before are paid for through private donations and corporate sponsorships, including in-kind donations of picnic items. "It comes back to basic transparency," Doroshewitz said Tuesday. However, Treasurer Ron Edwards, who chaired the picnic before Doroshewitz and does fundraising for both the picnic and the fireworks, said responsibility lay with Doroshewitz. "Mr. Doroshewitz is full of crap," Edwards said Tuesday, explaining that both a budget and accounting procedures are in place. "He's the one making all the purchases. He should know what he's spending," he said.



Doroshewitz

Guidelines sought Doroshewitz, who sought fellow trustees' support during the Feb. 12 board meeting, said he had two major concerns: the lack of a paper trail for money coming in and going out for the picnic, and the lack of a "do not exceed" budget that would guide his picnic spending. "Every stakeholder has a right to know where the money's coming from and where it went, including donors and residents," he said. The situation, he said, leaves he and his wife, Tammy, who helps with the event, open to accusations of wrongdoing, and also possibly on the hook for any out-of-

Please see PICNIC, A3

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Bentivolio tours Canton training center

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Kerry Bentivolio was all smiles Monday as he toured Tognum America's MTU Training Center in Canton during a tour of the various diesel engines on which MTU staffers conduct training.

Tognum America manufactures, sells and supports MTU-branded diesel and gaseous-fueled propulsion systems for ships, heavy land, rail and defense vehicles, and for the oil and gas industry. A variety of those engines is set up in the 30,000-square-foot training center on Executive Drive in Canton, where a team of seven instructors trains distributors, staffers and some military members on the operation and repair of the engines.

Bentivolio, the first-term 11th District U.S. Representative and former Army man, admired the handiwork put into the engines.

"That right there is productivity," Bentivolio



PHOTOS BY ELMA RILEY | TOGNUM AMERICA
Congressman Kerry Bentivolio (left) listens as Wolfgang Griener, senior manager at the MTU Training Center in Canton, explains the MTU Series 4000 oil-gas pump engine.

said. "The wealth of this country is its productivity. You know how many people that puts to work? That's jobs right there."

Bentivolio spent about an hour with officials from Tognum, getting

an overview of the company whose history goes back more than a century. Formerly part of Detroit Diesel, Tognum American Inc., now headquartered in Novi, moved the MTU center to Canton in August 2011.

Tognum America, which employs some 300 people — mostly in sales,

engineering and finance — at its Novi headquarters, has seven instructors at the Canton center, where employees of distributors, members of the military and others train on the diesel engines inside the center.

More than 1,000 students from Tognum's 24 distributors around the



U.S. Congressman Kerry Bentivolio (right) talks with Thomas Koenig, president and CFO, Tognum America Inc., and sales director David Oliphant.

U.S. train at the MTU every year, reaching one of four levels of qualification in classes that last four or five days.

"That's a pretty busy class load for us with seven instructors," said product trainer Rick Grezak of Plymouth, who's been with Tognum for 15 years, the last three as a trainer. "When business is a little slow, our distributors are sending guys in for training instead of laying them off."

In April, the company announced the arrival of its largest engine, an MTU Series 8000 marine engine used in mega-yachts, commercial marine and defense applications. At more than 11 feet tall and 21 feet long and weighing nearly 102,000 pounds, it's the biggest engine MTU produces.

It's being used for in-depth maintenance and repair training courses on the engine, being used in a variety of vehicles, most notably the U.S. Navy's new class of Joint High Speed vessels and combat ships.

"The addition of the Series 8000 to the MTU Training Center enables us to offer training to Navy and Coast Guard personnel, as well as ship-

builders, here in the U.S. for the first time," said Wolfgang Griener, the MTU Training Center's senior manager. "Previously, such training was only available in Germany. Our new series of courses will provide our North American customers with the information and hands-on experience they need to keep their equipment performing at optimal levels."

Griener said the Canton center was critical to MTU Training Center's ability to accomplish that mission.

"Canton is key to our customers because we provide training on all the products we sell in the U.S.," Griener said. "We're flying people in from all over, and this is very close to the airport."

Bentivolio said he accepted Tognum's invitation as a means of getting better acquainted with the businesses in his district. He said Tognum America and the MTU Training Center "represent jobs for the future."

"My biggest heartbreak is seeing 'For Sale' signs instead of 'Help Wanted' signs," Bentivolio said. "I want to change that in my district."

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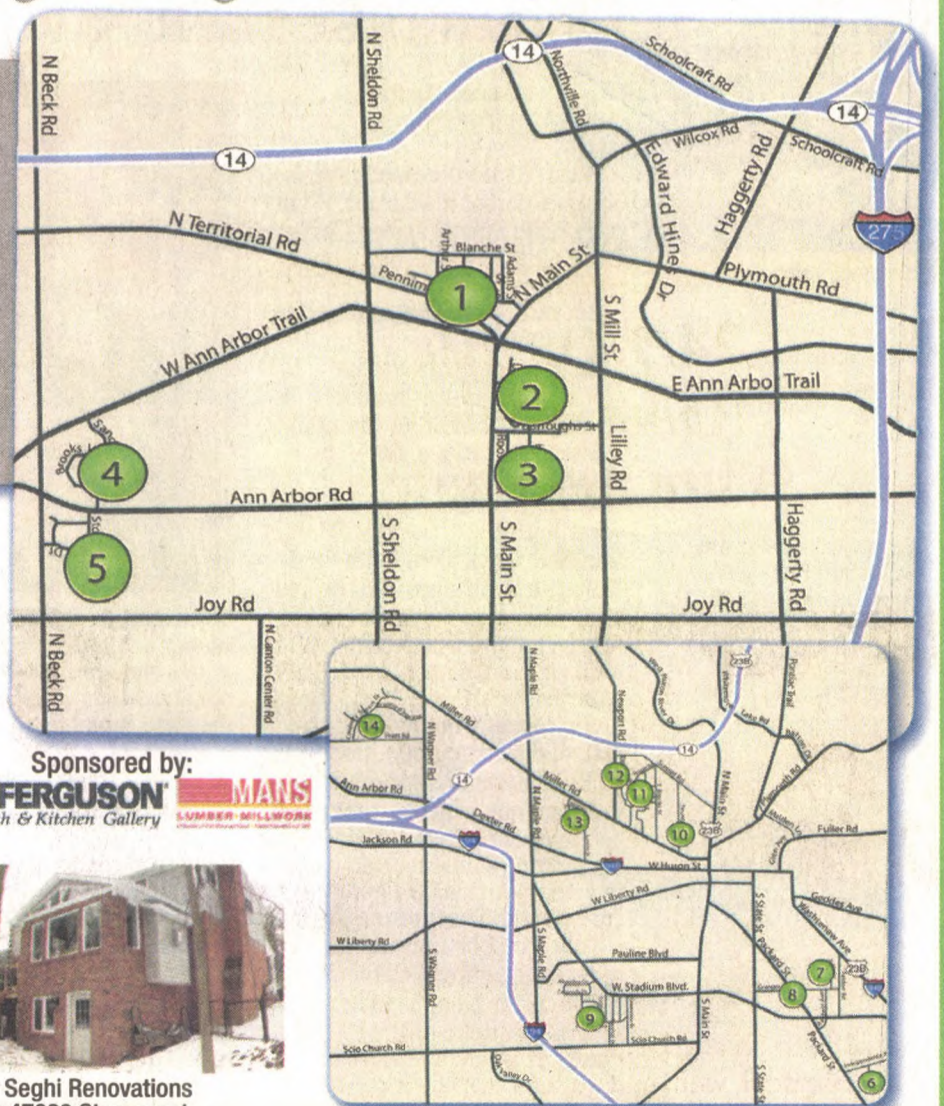


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City looks to make up budget shortfall

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A plan to add a 1-percent "tax administration fee" to tax bills is gaining no traction on the Plymouth City Commission, leaving officials searching for ways to plug a \$200,000 gap in the city's 2013-14 budget.

The nearly \$7.5 million general fund budget proposal, for the fiscal year beginning in July, was built with the assumption the city would impose the fee, which is allowed by the state and designed to go toward the cost of administering the local tax system and collecting taxes. At 1 percent of property taxes, or \$35 for the owners of a home with an annual tax bill of \$3,500, the fee would raise an estimated \$200,000 a year.

But it proved unpopular at a commission budget study session Monday evening.

'Something's gotta give'

"If that doesn't get approved, something's gotta give," said Mayor Dan Dwyer, who is against levying the fee. Only Commissioner Mike Wright spoke in

favor of the fee, saying taxpayers would also see the need.

"People who live in Plymouth appreciate what we've got going here," Wright said during the meeting at the Department of Municipal Services building. "I think they would understand we have a revenue problem, and we have expended every possible effort to contain costs."

Some others objected, saying the fact that the fee would be 1 percent of each tax bill — meaning it would vary according to each property owner's taxes — means it is a tax, not a true fee.

"Unless it's a flat fee, it's a tax," said Commissioner Meg Doolley, who also remarked that it costs no more to send a tax bill to the owner of a pricey house than it does to send a bill to the owner of a modest house, but that the owner of the more expensive house would pay a higher fee, based on the tax bill, which is based on property values.

Tax vote?

Commissioner Ron Loiselle suggested the revenue question be put to voters in the form of a proposal for a Headlee

override. If approved, an override would allow officials to reset the city's millage rate to a higher level, overriding the Headlee "roll-backs" that have limited the growth in property tax revenue, across Plymouth, to the rate of inflation. The Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution became law in 1978.

While other commissioners agreed with Loiselle's premise that a tax increase should be decided by voters, none voice support specifically for a Headlee override proposal.

City Manager Paul Sincok urged caution with any Headlee question, saying it would need solid support from the commission. A past commission put a Headlee override on the ballot on a split decision a few years back, he said, and the proposal was soundly defeated at the polls.

The commission scheduled another budget study session for 6 p.m. Monday, May 6, at city hall, just ahead of the regular commission meeting planned for 7 p.m.

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PICNIC

Continued from page A1

pocket expenses. Doroshewitz said his out-of-pocket costs in the past, however, have been reimbursed, but that he wants certainty.

Doroshewitz said it's hard to plan and spend for a major event when donations are being collected even on the day of the picnic.

"All I know is what is collected on the day of the picnic," which was about \$3,100 last year, he said. "I haven't actually seen the list of donors, and here's what they donated."

Spending cited

But Edwards said the annual budget is \$10,000, and that Doroshewitz knows that. He pointed to a spreadsheet indicating that picnic spending has exceeded picnic



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Township Trustee Bob Doroshewitz resigned as the organizer of the annual Plymouth Township Fourth of July picnic.

donations in each of the three years, starting in 2010, that Doroshewitz ran the event, resulting in a cumulative shortfall of around \$1,600. The shortages were covered by a

surplus, both from picnic and fireworks donations, that has been carried forward from past years, Edwards said.

Edwards dismissed the idea that donations collections make planning the picnic difficult.

"You can always guess how much money you're going to raise the day of the event," he said. "You can ballpark it."

Picnic financial records are kept in Clerk Nancy Conzelman's office.

No replacement picnic chairman has been named since Doroshewitz's resignation.

"We want to see these events continue, and we're happy to do whatever we can to transition that," Doroshewitz said, adding, "We can't take responsibility for it under those conditions."

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WATER

Continued from page A1

sewer budget for 2013-14 is \$4.65 million. The commission is scheduled to vote on the budget at its

Monday, June 3, meeting, following a public hearing on the spending plan.

The city's new fiscal year begins in July.

Plymouth Township is also facing increases in wholesale water and sew-

er rates, but officials there haven't decided how much of those increases should be passed on to consumers.

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Organizers: Auction 'went very well'

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Amid school fight songs, rivalry razzing and maize-and-blue vs. green-and-white apparel, University of Michigan and Michigan State fans brought a celebratory mood Saturday to the Canton Chamber of Commerce's main fundraiser of the year.

Although a final tally of earnings hadn't been finished, organizers say Canton's business community — not a university — is certain to emerge as the clear winner as the crowd gathered at Livonia's Burton Manor for the chamber's auction.

"The auction went very well," chamber President Thomas Paden said. "Everybody was wearing their school colors. It was high energy from beginning to end."

Paden estimated 360 people attended the fundraiser, a slight uptick from 340 a year ago. Organizers are hopeful of surpassing last year's \$40,000 mark — money the chamber uses to support chamber programs, services and benefits.

"I think it went really well," Tammy Brown, chamber board president, said. "We had higher attendance, and the atmosphere was great."

Long before U-M advanced to the championship game against the winning Louisville Cardinals in the NCAA men's basketball tournament, chamber members and supporters had used the rivalry between the Wolverines and MSU Spartans as a springboard for the latest auction.

The event's major sponsors even joined the fun, with M.S.A. Inc., a Canton-based delivery service company, representing U-M, while Jack Demmer Ford, Inc., supported Michigan State. (For the record, it is believed both companies eagerly accept customers from both universities.)

Attendees paid \$75 per person to attend the auction, dubbed "The Great Divide: U of M vs. MSU."

Money was earned from raffles and auctions. Paden said more than 200 prizes were distributed.

Prizes included trips to Cabo San Lucas and Boyne Mountain, diamond earrings and numerous other items. Moreover, Paden said a couple of lucky winners won a pot of money.

"Two people went home with \$1,000," he said.

The night included a strolling dinner and an open bar. Paden said the earnings will help pay for chamber operations, educational workshops and other events to benefit the Canton business community.

"This is our big fundraiser of the year," Paden said.

With no real sports title on the line, it seemed U-M and MSU fans could rally collectively behind what Paden has called Team Chamber. That's one statement that could unite U-M and MSU fans for one night.

"Overall," Paden said, "it was a success."

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PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN
Dr. Mark Alsager and wife, Dr. Judi Fleischaker, owners of Alsager Animal Care Center in Canton, get their raffle tickets ready at this year's Canton Chamber Dinner Auction.



Linda Robin, owner of Showroom of Elegance in Canton with winner of the "Lottery Basket," Coreen Bank of Canton. Showroom of Elegance sponsored the U-M basket that was raffled off.



John Wisniewski, president of Canton Computers, bids on the "Grub Crawl in Style" item. He ended up winning the item, donated by the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Entertainment Express.



Sherri and Russ Wilkins of Canton check out one of many items that were available to win at this year's Canton Chamber Dinner Auction.

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Detroit cop from Canton still facing trial decision

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Clifton Jermaine Whatley, a suspended Detroit police officer and Canton resident, could learn as early as May whether he will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court amid charges he orchestrated a series of robberies across southeast Michigan, including a Feb. 6 holdup inside the Canton Family Dollar store on Joy Road near I-275.

Whatley's preliminary examination continues May 9 in Taylor 23rd District Court, a clerk said. Whatley, 35, remains jailed with a \$1 million cash bond following accusations he violated laws he was sworn to uphold as a Detroit police offi-



Whatley

cer for more than a decade. His hearing began Friday.

Whatley could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted of three counts

of armed robbery, two counts of bank robbery, one count of conducting a criminal enterprise, four counts of unlawful imprisonment and one count of felony firearm.

Wayne County authorities have said Whatley organized and orchestrated robbery-related incidents from May 2012 to March 2013 in Canton, Westland, Taylor, Harper Woods and Melvindale.

"It is alleged that Clifton Whatley has robbed victims in five of our Wayne County communities," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said in an earlier statement. "We will vigorously present our case in court."

Whatley's longtime friend Layman D. Armstrong, 35, also is facing charges of armed robbery, bank robbery and felony firearm for his alleged role in a Taylor business robbery in May 2012.

Whatley's arrest came after one of his relatives, 19-year-old Raymond Maurice Whatley, and co-defendant Eric Anthony Reed, 21, were charged in a suburban crime spree that authorities say included the robbery of the Canton Family Dollar store and conspiracy to rob a Westland Cash Advance

store on Merriman Road, among other locations.

Reed and Raymond Whatley have been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court, where their case is pending as they remain jailed with cash bonds totaling over \$500,000.

Reed faces additional counts of felony firearm and second-degree criminal sexual conduct out of Canton — charges Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said arose after Reed was accused of fondling a female employee during the Family Dollar robbery.

"There was inappropriate contact between the suspect and a female in the store," Schreiner has said.

Reed and Raymond Whatley are accused of seizing cell phones from employees and

money from the store.

Meanwhile, Canton police Lt. Debra Newsome has credited the Michigan State Police corruption unit and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for helping in the unfolding investigation that led to the arrest of Clifton Whatley.

Interim Detroit Police Chief Chester Logan said in a recent statement that alleged actions leading to charges against Clifton Whatley will not be tolerated.

"We are committed to ensuring that the members of the Detroit Police Department conduct themselves in a manner that is worthy of the public's trust," Logan said.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238
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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Fraud scheme

A 22-year-old Plymouth Township man is out \$704 after falling victim to a fraud earlier this month.

The man told police he received a phone call April 11 from someone who claimed to be from the U.S. government and told him he was eligible for grant money. But first, the caller said, according to the victim, he would have to wire money to a charity fund.

The man was given the name of someone in Sri Lanka, to whom he wired \$204 from a Western Union office in the township, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The victim was later called a second time, he told police, and this time the caller told him to wire a \$499 "securi-

ty deposit." He did so, and also gave the number to his bank account, the report said.

The victim went to police the next day, police said, saying he had contacted the government agency to which the caller referred and was told calls like the ones he described had not been placed.

The victim changed the number to his bank account.

Theft from truck

A \$900 pair of factory-installed shock absorbers were reported stolen April 17 from a township man's pickup truck.

The victim told police the Ford F-150 pickup was parked in the driveway of his house on Joy Road east of Ridge

Please see PLYMOUTH, A11

Police nab break-in suspects

Canton police nabbed two suspects early Monday following allegations they broke into a Verizon store on Michigan Avenue near Beck.

The incident led to charges Wednesday afternoon against Ypsilanti defendants Naki-ta Allen Franklin, 20, and Dion Antonio Davis, 22.

A Canton police officer on routine patrol came across the two men breaking into the store, police said. The men fled on foot, but police captured them with assis-



Franklin



Davis

tance of the K-9 units from Ann Arbor and Michigan State Police.

Their capture followed an exhaustive search of the area.

Franklin was arraigned in 35th District Court on charges of breaking and

entering a building with intent, a 10-year felony; interfering with electronic communications, a two-year felony, and one count of being a second-degree habitual offender, which can enhance any penalties.

Davis was arraigned on the same charges except for the habitual offender count, which was fourth-degree.

Judge James A. Plakas set bond for both defendants at \$500,000 with a preliminary exam set for May 3.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Threatening calls

Canton police investigated an incident involving a woman who was accused of making threats during a phone call she made to Regency at Canton, on Geddes west of Canton Center.

The woman called the short- and long-term rehabilitation center to discuss the care her mother was receiving, a police report said. During the conversation with an employee, the woman reportedly threatened to kill someone, said she knew how to make bombs and said she knew police.

The woman was reported to have made similar threats during a call to Mercy Hospice.

Police investigated the incident and learned that it wasn't believed the woman was serious. However, the police report indicated the suspect has been placed on supervised visits to Regency at Canton during restricted hours.

Homeless arrest

A 27-year-old Canton man, described as homeless, was arrested for unlawful entry after police say he illegally was staying in a vacant house on Cherry Hill Road between Canton Center and Beck, a police report said.

Police went to the home around 3:45 p.m. last Thursday after a neighbor reported that the homeless man had been staying in the house for awhile and that he had a bicycle he was keeping under some bushes, the report said.

The doors to the house had been padlocked, but the police report indicated the man had broken out a rear window of the home to gain entry. The man reportedly told police he had gone to the house to get out of the rain.

Home break-in

A Canton man's daughter reported someone broke into the family home on Sussex, northwest of Warren and Morton Taylor, while the parents were away.

The daughter reported to police that some-



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Please see CANTON, A11

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STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia residents Michael Pominville and Nick Defenthaler from Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills enter the Spring Expo at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Active adults get info, answers at O&E's Spring Expo

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Zoltan Karassy of Plymouth was glad the *Observer & Eccentric Media* presented its Spring Expo (formerly known as the Senior Expo) in April this year instead of May.

"I golf in May," Karassy said Tuesday at the 10th annual event, held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

An April date made it more convenient for him to get to the expo, which he attends every year to get information from the more than 50 exhibitors specializing in an array of services ranging from health care and finance to transportation, housing and home improvements.

Knowledgeable exhibitors

"Everyone is so friendly, and they have all the answers," he said, praising the food as well.

McDonald's of Novi and Northville and Awrey Bakery of Livonia provided morning refreshments.

Nancy Schneider of Westland brought a small bus load of members from her church, Faith Baptist in Dearborn Heights, where her husband, Marvin, is associate pastor. A retired registered nurse recommended the expo. It was their first time there.

"It's definitely worth it," she said. "I think it's lovely, very well-organized."

Barbara and Paul Pomeroy of Livonia have attended the expo annually for about three or four years. "We look to see what's updated for senior care because one day we're going to need it," Barbara Pomeroy said.

Ruby Giessler of Novi started attending last year and plans to be back again next year. "It's very informative," she said, adding she was looking for information on senior and assisted living in case she and her husband need it in the future.

Paul Szymusiak of Farmington Hills was gathering information not only for himself and his wife but also for their parents. "This is great," he said of the event, which they attend every year. "Very informative."

'Great exposure'

Amie Schulz, sales manager of Brookdale Senior Living, was thrilled by the number of people stopping by their booth. "There's so many people here," she said. "That's why we come back to this every year because it's great exposure."

She said attendees were talking about all the great classes offered like Healthy Eating presented by Priority Health and Zumba Gold, presented by American Health and Fitness.

Schoolcraft College, a co-sponsor, gave a presentation on continuing



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gospel singer Vickie Winans entertained the crowd at the Spring Expo.



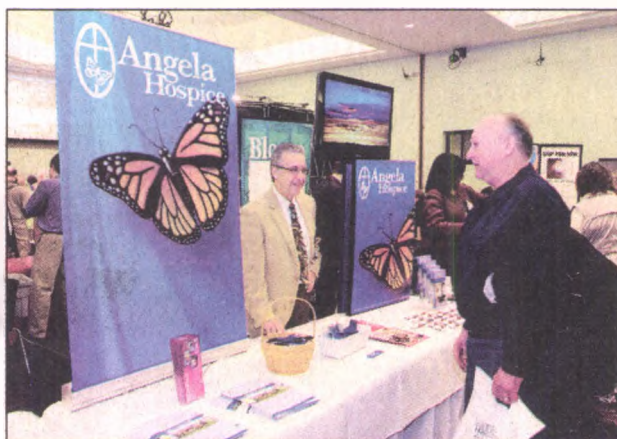
STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marla Schloss from West Bloomfield and Gwen McPhee from Detroit were the first people in line for the Spring Expo at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zumba Gold lessons were led by instructor Julie Dumblenton and enjoyed by Nancy and Bob Plocinik of Livonia.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bob Alexander representing Angela Hospice located in Livonia chats with John Callan from Plymouth.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Claudette Benzinger from Westland has her spine analyzed by Dr. Wendy Slinkard of HealthQuest, located in Farmington Hills.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Information about the event was projected on large screens.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The "Are Your Veins Blue?" seminar was led by Dr. Lisa Pavone of the U-M Livonia Vein Center.

education and professional development.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital of Livonia sponsored the entertainment, a performance by award-winning gospel artist Vickie Winans.

St. Mary Mercy's booth was manned by John Elkins, senior services liaison. He wanted to get the word out about two new programs at the hospital, a free Healthy

Aging Conference 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 15, and the Senior Assessment and Resource Institute, which opens July 1. Seniors can get a two-hour consultation, covered by insurance, that is customized to meet their needs.

"It's going great," Elkins said of the expo, adding the number of people he talked to this year was double the number last year. "People are very interested in what we have to tell them about. People are aware of things they can do to detect any difficulty in advance of it happening."

Close-by venue

Jennifer Lombardo, patient scheduling coordinator for the University of Michigan Livonia Vein Center, said she was answering a lot of questions about compression stockings and treatment options for spider and varicose veins. She said the location of the expo works for their center, located right up the street from Schoolcraft College at Eight Mile and Haggerty roads.

Mosin Askari, director of Comfort Dental Spa in Farmington Hills, the exclusive golden-level sponsor of the expo, said he liked this year's improvements, which included dropping the word senior from the name to attract active adults of all ages. "I think the management is doing a great job," he said. His only suggestion, he said, would be to move the event from a weekday to the weekend. "The timing is so only seniors can come," he said.

Health Quest, the official chiropractor for the Detroit Lions, was offering complimentary spinal analyses. "This is always fabulous," Sandy Kresch of Health Quest said of the expo. "It's always well-organized and well-attended. That's why we do it." She said that because Health Quest is a returning exhibitor at the expo, a lot of attendees remember them from year to year.

More importantly, "a lot are patients" now, she said.

Keep an eye on new tax laws for this year

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Most people believe that since they've filed 2012 tax returns, they don't have to think about taxes for another year. Unfortunately, that is not the case. To be efficient and to make the tax laws work for you, you do have to think about taxes 12 months a year. It is important to have an understanding of our tax laws.

This year, several new tax laws will impact many filers. Some of the changes are due to the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which was signed into law this year as a compromise to the fiscal cliff issues. Other new tax laws go into effect because of Obamacare. Following is a sampling of some tax law changes.

Health care act

This year, because of Obamacare, a new 3.8-percent Medicare investment tax will be imposed on investment income regarding such things as interest, dividends and capital gains. This new tax is not for everyone, but does impact single taxpayers with adjusted gross income that exceeds \$200,000 and for married couples with adjusted gross income that exceeds \$250,000. This tax is in addition to the new Medicare tax on



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

earned income. Earned income is income from your wages. This new Medicare payroll tax is 0.9 percent and it applies to the same taxpayers as the new Medicare investment tax.

Another change this year in the tax law deals with the medical expense deduction. In the past, there was a 7.5-percent income threshold for deducting non-reimbursed medical expenses. This year that number is increasing to 10 percent. It applies to all taxpayers up to age 65. Taxpayers older than 65 can continue to use the 7.5-percent number until 2017. The result of this change is that less people will be able to deduct medical expenses on their tax returns.

Talking about deductions, one nice thing the IRS did for 2013 is reduce the record keeping requirement for home office deductions. If you qualify for a home office deduction, you can use a new optional deduction which is calculated at \$5 a square foot and is capped at \$1,500 a year. This relieves taxpayers of burdensome record keeping.

High-income taxpayers

The year 2013 will also bring other increases for high-income taxpayers. The ordinary income tax bracket is raised to 39.6 percent for those single with taxable income over \$400,000 or married with income over \$450,000. In addition, when you reach those thresholds, your capital gain rate will rise from 15 percent to 20 percent.

Also in 2013, certain tax breaks were renewed, such as the qualified tuition deduction and the ability to contribute up to \$100,000 of your minimum required distribution directly from your IRA to a charity.

I believe the goal is to have more money in your pocket. Therefore, don't do anything for tax reasons alone, do things that make good economic sense.

You don't have to be an expert on tax laws. However, being informed about taxes will help you be more efficient and ultimately means more money in your pocket — exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Local siblings are sisters on, off stage

What do priests, gangsters, and sisters all have in common? They will all be featured as the Spotlight Still Got It Players present *The Gangster Priest* by Pegg Herring opening May 22 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Among the actors onstage will be real-life sisters Sally Dixon of Canton and Linda Trygg of Westland.

Dixon joined the Spotlight Still Got It Players last season during the group's production of *Flapper*. Trygg has long been a member of the senior acting troupe and encouraged Dixon to audition. Now the two real sisters are side by side, playing sisters Baby and Ellie in this production.

The two not only act onstage, they are also a vital part of the production team, creating costumes of the era for the cast members. Dixon, being in media design, also lends a hand at designing scenery for the production.

"It is quite unique to



Canton's Sally Dixon hits the stage with Jack Galazka and Terry Viviani when the Still Got It Players present "The Gangster Priest" next month at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

find to equally talented siblings who enjoy each others company as much as these two ladies do," artistic director Debbie Lannen said. "Their laughter is very contagious."

An ancillary group of the Spotlight Players, Still Got It Players is designed for the seasoned actor (age 50 and up). As actors grow older, their character choices become a bit more limited, so this group strives

to offer appropriately aged characters within their productions.

Performance dates and times for *The Gangster Priest* are 1 p.m. May 22-23; 7 p.m. May 24; 2 and 7 p.m. May 25; and 2 p.m. May 26.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$13 for seniors and students, and are available online at www.spotlightplayersmi.org or www.canton-mi.org/village theater.

Parker part of PCAC exhibit

The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents the artwork of 11 year-old Vincent Parker, Jr. in the PCAC Front Wall gallery through the month of May.

In addition to Vincent's Front Wall artwork, the May exhibits will feature high school senior artists competing for the Damaris Fine Arts \$1,000 and \$500 college scholarships, as well as PCAC Emerging Art-

ists, student artists age 6-14 who take classes with drop-in drawing and painting instructor Pam Grossmann and pottery instructor Jeff Burda.

The opening reception for The Damaris Fine Art Award and Emerging Artist Exhibit will be 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, May 4. Student artists will be recognized, and the scholarship awards will be presented by PCAC Board President Debra Madon-

na and Dick Schulte. The Schulte family generously funds the scholarships in memory of their matriarch, former art teacher, artist and PCAC supporter Damaris "Dee" Schulte.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Gallery hours, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Road in Plymouth.

Red Cross offers fundraising chances

The American Red Cross is offering two opportunities this summer to help high school seniors and high school-

sponsored groups earn money by hosting a blood drive.

Interested participants should contact Diane Risko

as soon as possible by calling (313) 549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org for further information.



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Treasurer of the organization, Craig Jones, is with Slasor, located in Farmington. John McCormick, of Squeaky Clean Ducts Inc. in Canton.

Trade show draws 300 to Livonia

The annual spring trade show sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America was held April 18 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia.

Approximately 300 people attended the show, which brought together local heating and cooling contractors, suppliers and vo-tech students. There were 30 exhibitors featuring products and services for HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration) contractors, educational seminars, demonstrations, competitions, raffle prizes and free food.

"It is always a big hit in our trade," chapter Director John R. Hall said of the show. "It is also a feather in the cap of the Livonia business community, too."

For more information about the organization, visit www.semiacca.org.



President Ed Bartram, of Diversified Heating and Cooling in Farmington Hills, and Gary Shelley of AirTemp Mechanical in Redford, talking with Allen Lifton of Madison Heights, selling promotional items.



John Hall opens the event.

CHAMBER CHAT

Showcase Plymouth

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is accepting registrations for exhibit space at the annual Showcase and Taste of Plymouth, set for Monday, May 6, from 5-7:30 p.m., at the Inn at St. John's.

Exhibit space prices are \$110 or \$135 (premium) and includes a 6-foot by 3-foot skirted table.

Showcase and Taste of Plymouth attracts 650-750 attendees from the community and member businesses, 95 total exhibitors including 20 restaurants, Community Service Awards presented to 20 honorees and each exhibitor can bring three people.

The Inn at St. John's is located at 44045 Five Mile in Plymouth. Anyone interested in exhibiting can contact the chamber at (734) 453-1540

or e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org by April 26.

AD luncheon

Athletic directors for the University of Michigan (David Brandon) and Michigan State University (Mark Hollis) headline a joint meeting of the Plymouth Community, Livonia, Northville and Westland chambers of commerce Friday, April 26, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

While they lead programs that are heated rivals, both men work to support the Big Ten Conference and NCAA. Both leaders will share comments about their current projects, challenges and answer questions.

The cost to attend this event is \$30 for members or \$40 for non-members. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., the program starts at noon.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Business news

From the desks of the folks at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

- Spring is officially here when the Farmer's Market begins. The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce says look for your favorite vendors as well as plenty of new ones this season. It all begins Saturday, May 4, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth is celebrating its 63rd anniversary in business. Through April 27, all in-stock merchandise is 20 percent off, some exclusions apply. Selected items are 30- to 40-percent off.

- Lindsey Burns is the new sole owner of Bohemian Home, an eclectic array of vintage and new furniture, jewelry, household products and objects d'art on Forest Ave. in downtown Plymouth.

Burns, who started a part-time job at the store on Forest Avenue in September 2010, bought half the business from co-founder Carol Eisenstein early last year, and the other half from Nancy Boltik, Eisenstein's founding partner, less than a year later.

Environmental award

The Environmental Management Association recently awarded its annual Environmental Achievement Award to the South Macomb Disposal Authority.

"One of the most rewarding and exciting parts of my association with the EMA is the passion for the environment that many students exhibit at the Science Fair and to see private company innovations that are displayed by our EAA winner. I am annually impressed by all," said Larry Russette.

The other finalists for the 2012 Environmental Achievement Award included Algal Scientific Corp, a biotechnology company located in Plymouth, that has developed a process to turn algae to be used as a food supplement for livestock.

Sensory friendly

In honor of Autism Awareness Month, Sky Zone Canton will host their first ever Sensory Friendly Night Monday, April 29.

The event will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No music will be played and jump shoes will be optional. One hour jumps

will be just \$5 for special-needs children and young adults as well as their families and caregivers to enjoy an evening of bouncy fun.

Sky Zone will also hold a 50/50 raffle and the general public is welcome to jump at the regular price with a \$5 donation from each ticket. All proceeds raised will go to support research for autism.

"Trampolines can be a valuable therapy tool for children with autism and sensory disorders. In an effort to cater the Sky Zone experience to these individuals and families, we are looking forward to creating a completely sensory friendly environment," said Colleen Fitzgerald, owner of Sky Zone Canton. "This is about creating a special time for these families, while raising awareness amongst the community."

Autism Awareness Month was established in the 1970s to bring attention to the disorder and educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

Sky Zone Canton is located at 42550 Executive Drive in Canton. For more information on Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park visit www.skyzone.com.

Wine Month

Vintner's Canton Winery celebrates Michigan Wine Month through April.

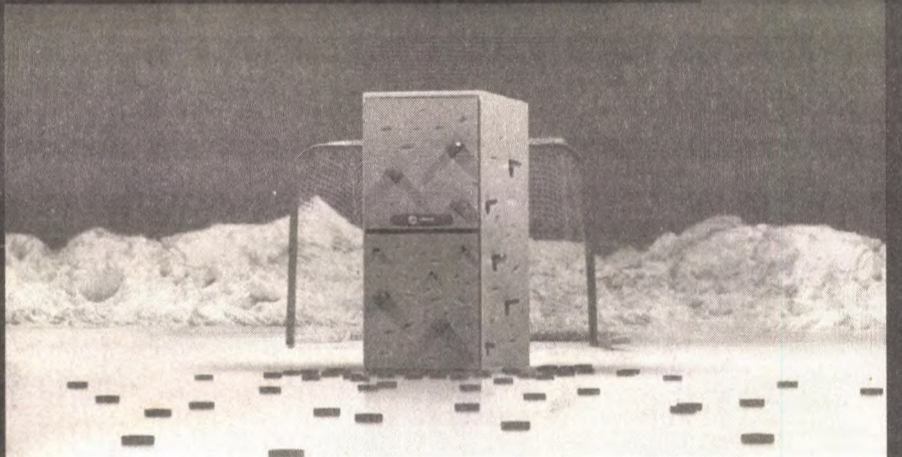
During the month of April and each month through September, Vintner's Canton will be offering a "fabulously fruity" wine at \$1 off each bottle.

Beginning with Wildberry Chianti as the wine of the month for April, the following wines will be available at a reduced price: May - Peach Chardonnay; June - Strawberry White Merlot; July - Blackberry Malbec; August - Black Cherry Pinot Noir; and September - Green Apple Riesling. All wines are available at the winery on a regular basis but during the month they are featured, prices will be reduced \$1 a bottle.

Each purchase during April will enter the buyer into a drawing to be held April 30 for a batch (25 bottles) of Gold Medallion Wine.

For more information, visit the winery's website at www.vintnerscanton.com. Vintner's Canton Winery is located at 8515 N. Lilley (in the Golden Gate Plaza).

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CHOIRS

Continued from page A1

Kopp said the success of her choirs comes from within the students themselves, and their willingness to work together and push each other to succeed. She pointed out she has students passionate enough to be going on to be music majors at college working with singers who just “want to be rock stars,” and the teamwork pays off.

“They’re passionate about music, and they want to do their best,” Kopp said. “They support each other to that end.”

Most of the singers, though, place the credit for success directly on Kopp. Plymouth High School senior Olivia Wallace, who sings in Madrigals, is in her fourth year in the program. She knows it’s a good choir — “We have a lot of talent in the room,” Wallace said — but credits Kopp for bringing it all together. She said the director not only gives them the music to sing, but tells a story that paints the picture of what the music is about.

“She pushes us out of our comfort zone,” Wallace said. “She doesn’t tell us how we should sing it, but why we should sing it that way. When she gives us the story to put behind the music, it gives us a vision of what the music should say.”

With respect

Cara Gross, a junior at Plymouth High School, has been around music her entire life — “I’ve been singing since birth,” she said, laughing — as the daughter of Michael Gross, who among other things directs the Beck-



Allegro, the advanced freshman choir led by associate director Valerie Said, earned an “excellent” rating at districts.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

according to Bir. “What really helps us is we have a lot of student leadership,” he said. “When a teacher is telling you things, you can sort of dehumanize him — ‘It’s just a teacher’ — but you can’t do really that with another student.”

Regardless of how the choirs perform in Holt, they each have one more thing on their plate: A May 11 trip to Cedar Point, where all seven choirs will compete against choirs from around the country — and then spend the day in the amusement park.

Kopp just smiled: “It’s going to be fun.”

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899 | Twitter: @bkadrich



Backstage, Jennifer Kopp (right) and Valerie Said direct Dulcissima to take the stage at a recent concert.



Choir Director Jennifer Kopp has taken at least one choir to the state choral festival in all 13 of her years at the helm.

Ridge Chorale. Gross, who sings with both the Madrigals and Festival Singers, said the best thing about Kopp is she treats the students “with respect.”

“She treats us like adults ... that gives us the self-motivation to believe we know what we’re talk-

ing about,” Gross said. “We’re such a team that if one of us feels better than or lesser than the others, we don’t have the balance we need. We’re all great friends, and that brings us together as a choir.”

The choirs also benefit from a great deal of leadership from within,

Public Budget Hearings will be held for the following Public School Academies:

Canton-49100 Ford Rd., Canton-734-453-9517-May 8, 5:30pm
Achieve-3250 Denton Rd., Canton-734-397-0960-May 16, 4:30pm
South Pointe Scholars-10550 Geddes Rd., Ypsilanti-734-484-0118-May 9, 5:00pm
Plymouth Scholars-48484 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth-734-459-6149-May 20, 6:30pm

Copies of the Budgets for the listed Public School Academies will be available at the school office.

Publish: April 25, 2013

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY, May 7, 2013

Notice is hereby given to Plymouth Township residents that a special election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following local school district proposal:

GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$114,400,000

A copy of the full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan 48170; Phone (734) 416-2700.

POLLING LOCATIONS ARE:

Precinct 1	St. Kenneth's Catholic Church	14951 N Haggerty Rd
Precinct 2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft Rd
Precinct 3	Township Hall	9955 N Haggerty Rd
Precinct 4	Fiegel Elementary School	39750 Joy Rd
Precinct 5	Isbister Elementary School	9300 Canton Center Rd
Precinct 6	West Middle School	44401 W Ann Arbor Trl
Precinct 7	Church of the Nazarene	45801 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 8	Praise Baptist Church	45000 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 9	Living Word Church	46500 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 10	NorthRidge Church	49555 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 11	Risen Christ Lutheran Church	46250 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 12	Pioneer Middle School	46081 Ann Arbor Rd W

Applications for Absentee ballots may be obtained during regular business hours, which are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from our office located at:

Township Clerk's Office
9955 N Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

On Saturday, May 4, 2013 the Clerk's Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to issue Absentee Ballots to qualified voters in person.

On Monday, May 6, 2013 qualified voters may be issued an Absentee Ballot in person, and shall vote them in the Clerk's Offices until 4:00 p.m.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available on audio tape and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the Township Clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S STATEMENT: I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of March 8, 2013 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Effective
County of Wayne 1	1/03/2009	1 mill	2019
Wayne County Jail	08/07/2012	1 mill	2021
Wayne County Parks	1/02/2010	0.25 mills	2015
Plymouth Canton Community Schools:	09/2004	18 mills	2014 *(non homestead)

Nancy Conzelman, Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: April 25, 2013

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL ELECTION will be held in the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan on TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on a bond issue as follows:

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Fourteen Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$114,400,000) and issue in one or more series its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, for the purpose of:

Partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, equipping and re-equipping school facilities; erecting, furnishing and equipping a new middle school; erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to and partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, equipping and re-equipping East, West, Discovery and Pioneer Middle Schools; acquiring, installing and equipping educational technology for new and existing school facilities; purchasing school buses; constructing, equipping, developing and improving athletic facilities, play fields and playgrounds; and developing and improving sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2013 is .35 mills (\$0.35 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- net increase in current debt millage levied for all bonds. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty (20) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.22 mills (\$1.22 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

YES
NO

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, **RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ**, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of March 08, 2013 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY Wayne County, Michigan City of Plymouth (Plymouth Canton School District)

Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Year Increase Effective
County of Wayne	November 3, 2009	1 mill	2019
Wayne County Jail	August 7, 2012	1 mill	2021
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	0.25 mills	2015
Wayne County Community College	November 6, 2008	1.25 mills	2020

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Plymouth-Canton	September, 2004	18 mills	2014 (non homestead only)
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Raymond J. Wojtowicz
Wayne County Treasurer

POLLING LOCATIONS

Polling Locations for the City of Plymouth will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. and are as follows:

PRECINCTS #1, 2, 3 & 4 **PLYMOUTH CULTURAL CENTER**
525 FARMER STREET, PLYMOUTH

Applications for Absent Voter Ballots for the City of Plymouth registered voters may be obtained at the City of Plymouth Clerk's offices, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, during regular business hours - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Absent Voter Ballots will be issued to qualified absent voters in person at the Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2013. On Monday, May 6, 2013, qualified register voters can apply for a ballot and vote them in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. You may vote by absent voter ballot if you:

1. Are unable to attend the polls without assistance
2. Are 60 years of age or older
3. Expect to be absent from your city or township for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
4. Are in jail, awaiting arraignment or trial
5. Have been assigned to work as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than where you are registered; or
6. Are unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: April 25, 2013

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CANTON

Continued from page A5

one entered the house between 9 p.m. Sunday and noon Monday and stole guitars, coins and guns.

The incident was under investigation.

Flying object

A 51-year-old Canton man contacted police to report his Ford Focus was struck by an unknown object while he was driving north on Haggerty Road near Michigan Avenue about 6:50 p.m. April 18. He filed a police report Monday.

The man said he had driven past a group of youths when he heard a loud boom on the driver's side door of his vehicle. He said he didn't see the group throw anything and wasn't sure what it was.

Home intruder

Police arrested a 48-year-old man amid reports of a home invasion that occurred at a residence off Haggerty Road south of Michigan Avenue, a police report said.

Police were called

about 10:45 a.m. Monday when a resident said his home alarm went off and he found a man standing in his living room, a police report said.

The man told police he recognized the man as a neighbor woman's boyfriend. The suspect was arrested following an investigation by police, according to the police report.

Vehicle damage

An Ypsilanti woman's 2009 GMC Acadia became a target while she was shopping at Target.

The 31-year-old woman had parked her vehicle in the parking lot of the Target store at Michigan Avenue and Beck in Canton for a 15-minute shopping stop, a police report said. When she returned at 7:45 p.m. Monday, she found a large dent in the middle portion of the driver's side.

The woman notified police of the incident.

Liquor theft

Some people apparently are protective of their liquor.

A 22-year-old woman who lives in the Sher-

wood Village mobile home park, southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty Road, contacted police to report her younger brother had stolen a pint of Absolut from her bedroom.

The woman told police she had hidden the liquor and found it missing on April 16. A police report indicated the brother was cited for simple larceny after he admitted taking the Absolut.

Walmart arrest

Police arrested a 25-year-old Taylor man following reports he tried to steal two cell phones and an MP3 player shortly before 4 p.m. April 16 at the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz, a police report said.

The report indicated he used a knife to open the cell phone packages and hide them in his clothing. He tried to leave the store but was apprehended by employees, who called police.

A police report indicated the man had prior larceny convictions out of Taylor and Detroit.

— By Darrell Clem

Canton woman starts Peace Corps service

Mercedes Vromant, 55, of Canton has been accepted into the Peace Corps and left for Georgia Sunday to begin training as a social entrepreneurship and social development volunteer.

She will make a difference assisting private and public businesses, local and regional governments, nonprofit organizations, women's and youth groups, and educational institutions as a business adviser.

Vromant is following in the footsteps of her son, Steven, 26, a Peace Corps Volunteer currently serving in Namibia. He'll complete his service later this year.

"I am going to Georgia with an open mind," Vromant said. "There are so many things that are unknown, and it is part of the challenge in life to manage the change



Vromant

as they come."

Peace Corps is only the latest adventure for Vromant, who has been

traveling internationally her entire life. Originally from the Philippines, she moved to Liberia with her family at age 14 and completed high school. She moved back to the Philippines for college, earning her bachelor's degree in tourism from the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

She returned to Africa and met her husband, who is Belgian, in Liberia. They immigrated to the U.S. in 1987, but later spent two years in Germany. Since 2004, her family has lived in Canton.

Her past jobs include working with a Japanese construction company and American rubber plantation, both in West Africa; as a flight attendant; and most recently, as a contract analyst for General Motors in Detroit. As a Red Cross Volunteer, she traveled to New York to help in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. She also volunteered for AIDS Partnership Michigan in Detroit.

Vromant said she hopes her service will "respond to the ever-changing environment and challenges of business, culture and the global market."

Vromant joins the 316 Michigan residents currently serving in the Peace Corps. More than 6,866 Michigan residents have served as volunteers since the agency was created in 1961.

PLYMOUTH

Continued from page A5

when the theft of the rear shocks occurred between 6 p.m. April 16 and 8 a.m. the next day.

Mirrors swiped

Both side-view mirrors on a car were reported stolen April 2 from a car parked in the township.

The car was outside a home on Princeton Drive, in the area of M-14 and

Haggerty, a police report said. The theft occurred between 3 p.m. April 1 and 3 p.m. April 2, the victim told police. The car doors were found open, but nothing else was found to be missing or disturbed.

Radio stolen

A stereo unit was reported stolen April 4 from the dashboard of a car parked outside apartments in the township. The driver-side rear

window on the 2011 Chrysler 200 had been broken out, a police report said, and the touch-screen stereo taken. The car was parked at the Twin Arbor Apartments, on Greenview Place in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and I-275.

The theft occurred between the late afternoon of April 4 and around 9 a.m. the next day.

— By Matt Jachman

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OUR VIEWS

Plenty of ways to make the world better

There were two repeated themes on Twitter following the explosions that rocked Boston and the world near the finish line for the renowned marathon April 15. One was the frantic search to find friends and loved ones, such as with the tweet that pleaded for help in finding a woman who did not speak English and was missing.

The frustration and feeling of helplessness was palpable as the evening wore on. It was something we all experienced. But there was another theme that emerged on Twitter that night, and it was the recognition that there are heroes among us.

Not only were they the first responders, but also the everyday folks who, instead of running somewhere, anywhere for safety, turned instead toward the blasts and did what they could to help. They may not have been able to drive fire trucks, to perform surgery, to ferret out the people who caused the destruction, the hurt, but what they did made a difference for a lot of people.

It is something to think about as this is National Volunteer Week (April 21-27).

There are heroes, too, right here among us in the Canton and Plymouth communities. They are the first responders, obviously, but they also are the teacher who befriends a child who doesn't quite fit in, the homeowner who hands a postal worker a cup of coffee on a cold day, and the shopper who returns a purse left in a shopping cart to the store.

Yes, these are acts of kindness, but they also are markers for ways in which we can all be heroes in our own part of the world. And this Saturday and beyond, there are a number of opportunities to make that difference by giving up just a couple of hours.

Locally, the annual Plymouth Community United Way is conducting its annual "Rake-N-Go" effort to help seniors and disabled folks do household chores such as raking leaves and other "handyman" work around Plymouth and Canton homes, an opportunity to give back to your community this Saturday. Volunteers are gathering at the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps (on Main just south of Ann Arbor Road). For details or to help, call the United Way at (734) 453-6879, Ext. 5.



The Plymouth Community United Way's Rake-N-Go event to help seniors and disabled persons takes place Saturday.

The Miracle League of Plymouth is always looking for volunteers to be umpires or "buddies" to the special-needs youngsters playing baseball on Bilkie Family Field. You can get involved by e-mailing info@miracleleagueplymouth.org

Or you can simply walk, in Plymouth or Canton (or even both, if you're so inclined).

The Canton Relay for Life, one of the most successful cancer fundraisers in the state, takes place May 18-19 in Heritage Park in Canton. Find out everything you need to know about it at www.relayforlife.org/cantonmi.

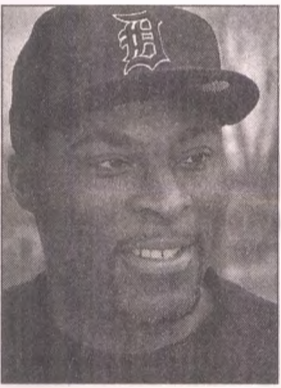
The Plymouth Relay for Life moves back to Central Middle School June 22-23, after two years at West Middle School. This event is still growing, and is looking for all the volunteers it can get. Interested? Get details at www.relayforlife.org/plymouthmi.

No medals of heroism will be awarded, you won't be looking for those anyway. Volunteers understand the best reward is knowing you made your part of the world a better place to live.

COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you think the Detroit Tigers will do this season?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



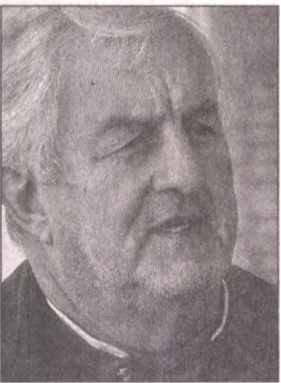
"I think they go back to the championship. Team's better. I think they made the best acquisition in baseball with Torii Hunter."

Ime Akpan
Plymouth



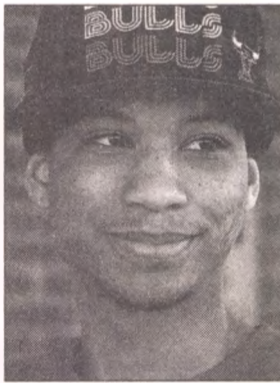
"I think if they show up, then they have a pretty good chance. They need to be there at every game."

Susan Heitman
Salem Township



"Oh, pretty good — just the lineup they have and the money they spend. Good experience."

Tom Masterson
Plymouth Township



"I'm not really a baseball fan. It seems like they're a good team."

Matt Johnson
Canton Township

Helping the earth more than 24-hour event

Monday, the world paused to celebrate Earth Day. What began as a nationwide protest has become a global event, with more than 1 billion people in more than 180 countries around the world participating in initiatives and events to spur action to protect our planet.

The late Sen. Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, came up with the idea for Earth Day in 1969. He envisioned a large-scale environmental demonstration, much like the anti-Vietnam teach-ins on college campuses, to catch the attention of the federal government. And it did.

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. Twenty million people across the United States participated in rallies celebrating nature and decrying activities that put it at risk. That event brought about the founding of the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency that year and within five years, the banning of the insecticide DDT, passage of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the setting of emissions and efficiency standards for vehicles, among other things.

Four decades later, reducing, recycling and reusing is very much part of the American way of life. People understand that "going green" isn't a catchy phrase, it's a matter of survival of the planet. They recycle at the curb or at centers, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

They turn out to help clean up waterways and restore them through events like the annual Rouge Rescue. In the 25 years since the Rouge Rescue started, more than 46,000 cubic yards of trash and debris and 63 vehicles have been removed from the river. As a result, the river's health has improved and the sensitive stonefly can now be found in its waters.

Cleaning up the river also has opened it up to recreational opportunities like canoeing and kayaking.

Earth Day shouldn't happen just once a year. Every day is a good day to do something for the earth like participating in the cleanup of Tonquish Creek, a tributary of the upper branch of the Rouge, on Saturday, May 4.

Gaylord was correct in his observation that "the wealth of the nation is its air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats and biodiversity" and that they are "the sustaining wealth of the world." Great strides have been made to preserve them since the first Earth Day. But a lot remains to be done. We now know that every little bit does matter in reversing the effects of decades of neglect. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and get involved. The earth needs our help now, not later.

LETTERS

Stunned by reply

I recently sent a letter to Kerry Bentivolio, the newly elected representative for our 11th Congressional District. I urged him to help pass legislation in Congress to curb gun violence.

I received a three-page response from him and was stunned and very disappointed to read his reply. He basically dismissed every reasonable approach to resolving the problem, including banning assault weapons, limiting high-capacity magazines and even requiring universal background checks. His response actually sounded like it came directly from the NRA.

Bentivolio has no intention of considering any rational or sensible legislation. Is he telling us that it is OK to allow criminals and the mentally ill to buy guns and high-capacity assault weapons without background checks? Who is he representing?

The people of Plymouth are looking to Congress to pass laws that will protect them and their children from tragedies such as Sandy Hook. We need to be aware of how our representative stands on vital issues. I urge him to put aside politics for once and do the right thing!

Jackie Peters
Plymouth

Moving forward

Proposal A, approved two decades ago, made two promises to public schools which were never

kept: Annual inflation increases and the leveling of per-student funding across school districts. Even when the School Aid Fund was flush, Lansing (especially the last 10 years) chose to continue its choke-hold on money due our schools, causing districts like Plymouth-Canton to take drastic measures like raising class size.

Combining that with the necessary draining of district emergency reserves, there is no longer the ability to make even minor improvements through its operating budget. Therefore, I recommend support of the bond issue in the May 7 election.

Ours is a leading Michigan community. To continue as a destination where people want to live, work and play we must invest in our infrastructure. Just as constant upkeep of our homes is necessary to maintain its value, we all own these shared resources (buildings, vehicles and technology) and must invest in them.

So when community leaders request assistance to ensure we remain on top, our job is to provide that help. We must replace the infrastructure that is years out of date (buildings, buses). We must add the safety features required in this difficult historical period (cameras, alarms). And we must add the modern features (1:1 computing, DVR, WiFi, STEM curriculum) that keep us, at a minimum, abreast the communities which surround us.

Thinking three-dimensionally about our public schools is required. Again, the last decade forced the district to raise class size to balance its waning budget. Raising class size, thus diluting its product, is a "going out of business" strategy. I am pleased that practice was ended two years ago, but the damage was done.

Therefore, concurrent with passing this bond, we must insist the Board of Education do its part as well. It's time to reverse those decisions that impacted our district the most. Empty classrooms exist because they sit next to overcrowded ones. Lowering class size will benefit both our students and employees, who have already helped with concessions for seven straight years now. Reasonable numbers of students in each class raises employment in our community, and provides students with greater access to instruction. Any empty classrooms will be filled.

Combined with the jump in home starts the last year, the demand for modern classrooms will be here in months, not years. We must be prepared. Please support this measure on May 7.

My comments represent me and not any organization of which I am a member.

Steven Sneiderman

Canton Township trustee and former president, PCCS Board of Education

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

SUMMER OF '68

Date/Time: Sunday, April 28, 1 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth
Details: Tim Wendel, author of the award-winning book, "Summer of 68: The Season that Changed Baseball and America Forever" will speak at the Plymouth District Library. This non-fiction work captures the tumultuous atmosphere in America that year. In the sports world, 1968 was viewed as 'The Year of the Pitcher', a season that saw such legends as Bob Gibson, Denny McLain, Don Drysdale, and Luis Tiant set new standards for excellence on the mound. Americans watched all of this and more as they experienced one of the most divisive and turbulent years in history amid the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy. Wendel's book has been selected as a 2013 Michigan Notable Book. The Michigan Notable Book program recognizes 20 books each year, selected by the Library of Michigan, that focus on Michigan people, places or events. Register for this free program at the Plymouth District Library -734-453-0750, ext 4 or plymouth-



DAVID L. MALHALAB | MNS PHOTO

Showing off stamps

Whitney White, of the Westland USPS office, was busy at the 44th Plymouth Stamp Show, selling collectible stamps and other postal items, at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland last week end. The show attracted philatelic dealers and attendees from all over the Midwest for Michigan's largest stamp show.

library.org
Contact: For more information on this program go to www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan
JAZZ @ THE ELKS
Date/Time: Tuesday, April 30,

7-10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.
Details: The Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 brings back another

series of Jazz @ The Elks in a beautiful club setting on the last Tuesday of every month. This month's performance features Nuevo Jazz Detroit. This very popular Latin Jazz Group includes Duncan Jones on Keyboard, Don Lewandowski on Bass, Patrick Fitzgibbon on Vibes and Steel Drum, Chuck Golemba on Drums, and Jerry LeDuff on Congas. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

REVERSE CAREER FAIR

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 1, 1-5 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth-Canton GOALS Vocational Training Program sponsors this "reverse" career fair, where employers can find employees. Organizers point out every adult candidate has 80 hours of availability, clean background checks, "soft skill" trained, and are available on a work trial with no risk or cost to the employer. Among the skills are customer service,

landscaping, janitorial, logistics/stocking, administrative assistants, food prep, food service, child care, pet care, recreation and assisted living care. At the fair, students from the program will set up stations highlighting their skills.

Contact: For more information, visit www.GOALSpccs.com, email GoalsPCCS@gmail.com or call (734) 331-0041.

SPRING POTTERY SALE

Date/Time: May 4 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.); May 5 (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Location: Village Potters Guild studio, 340 N. Main in Plymouth (behind The Crossings restaurant).

Details: The Village Potters Guild is holding its annual spring sale. Functional and decorative pottery created by members of the guild will be available at this yearly event. Tableware, tiles, jewelry and a wide range of decorative and framed pieces will be sold.

Contact: For more information or directions to the studio for the sale, visit www.villagepottersguild.org or call (734) 207-8807.

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Miscues hurt Chiefs in loss

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The early season continues to test how well Canton's varsity baseball team can handle adversity.

After junior starting pitcher Brent Mattson suffered a season-ending torn ACL, the Chiefs found out Monday that starting left

fielder Jake Boucher will miss several weeks due to illness.

"Mattson is a Division 1 pitcher," Canton head coach Mark Blomshield said. "He was going to get a scholarship here, shortly."

There also was adversity on the field in Monday's KLAA matchup against visiting Northville, with Canton pitchers walking nine batters, hitting two others and being victimized by two passed balls.

Still, the Chiefs battled and were one clutch hit away from there being a different outcome than the 3-1 defeat.

"I'm just proud of the way the guys fight," Blomshield said. "We lost two games, 3-2 to Stevenson, 3-1 tonight. We put ourselves in position to possibly win a game. It's just hard to overcome nine walks. It's amazing they only had three runs, to be honest with you."

Canton ace pitcher Mike Stafford threw 108 pitches in 4½ innings, giving up just two hits but walking six (while fanning eight).

The Mustangs got to him for a run in the first inning and that held up until the bottom of the third.

Jake Raymo laced a double to right-center. With one out, he was forced at third to leave runners on first and second with two outs against Northville starting pitcher Jake Hansen.

The Chiefs came through when Nick Schnur singled to left to score James Hall.

Things began to unravel in the top of the fourth, when three walks by Stafford loaded the bases with one out.

Stafford escaped the jam, but not before having his pitch count escalate.

Northville pushed across the winning runs in the fifth, with a pop fly down the right-field line dropping into get it started.

After a wild pickoff throw by Stafford advanced Eric Fox to second, he moved to third on a grounder.

To no avail

Blomshield employed a pulled-in, five-man infield, including left fielder Tom Parrelly, in a bid to retire bat-

Please see **BASEBALL, B3**

OHL WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

That's the puck somewhere under the equipment of London goalie Anthony Stolarz (No. 43) during the second period Tuesday. Jamming away for Plymouth are Garrett Meurs (No. 16), Tom Wilson and Rickard Rakell (No. 24) while Alex Broadhurst and Scott Harrington (No. 6) protect Stolarz. A review of the play resulted in a no-goal call.

Bummer of a Knight

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Compuware Arena's "Cardiac Kids" got everybody's blood pumping Tuesday night.

The way Game 3 of the OHL Western Conference finals ended, however, the Plymouth Whalers and head coach Mike Vellucci's collective blood pressure undoubtedly went through the roof.

London — having blown an early 3-0 lead thanks to the Whalers' four-goal rally over the first 12 minutes of the third period — bounced back to net three goals late in the stanza to earn a controversial 6-4 victory.

The defeat put Plymouth down 2-1 in the series, entering Wednesday's Game 4, which took place after this issue of the *Observer* went to press.

"We just have to move on from this," said Whalers' center Rickard Rakell, who tied the game at 3-3 at 10:59 of the third period. "We got to play for 60 minutes. Everybody on the team feels they could play right now, they have so much energy."

"They just want to get back there and get the next one."

Vellucci did not mince words afterward, directing his ire at officials who he thought got in the way of two "very good" hockey teams with a series of questionable calls. Two Plymouth goals were waved off in the second period, for starters.

Frustration

"These are kids," stressed Vellucci, during the post-game press conference. "They work hard, they play the game hard, they give everything they've got and

make sacrifices every week-end. Instead of going out they work, they train."

"They work so hard that if you give them the kind of cards they were dealt tonight, it was not fair for them. I understand their frustration. They're kids. They deserve better, and this league deserves to put competent people on the ice."

This was no run-of-the-mill playoff game from start to finish.

- It featured two shorthanded goals by Knights' pesky center Bo Horvat during the same Plymouth power play, midway through the first.

- Plymouth also had two apparent goals in the second period waved off, to the chagrin of Vellucci and most of the 2,775 fans in attendance at Compuware.

Please see **WHALERS, B3**

Drive 4 UR School

Blackwell Ford in Plymouth is partnering up with the Salem Linebackers Booster Club for the "Drive 4 UR School" program, slated to take place 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 16.

The goal is to raise \$6,000 for the Salem high school football program, by test driving a Ford vehicle that day. Blackwell will donate \$20 to the program per test drive, with that money earmarked to help purchase new equipment, improve football facilities and provide necessary supplies for players.

Blackwell Ford is located at 41001 Plymouth Road. For more information, call Blackwell Ford at (734) 453-1100 or e-mail Salem Linebackers Booster Club vice president David Kwiecinski (dkwiecini@ford.com) or Jim Whyte, Blackwell's new vehicle general sales manager (jimwhyte@blackwellford.com).

Miles for Mankind Run

The first Miles for Mankind Run is looking for people of all ages interested in participating in a 5K, 10K or Munchkin Mile Saturday, May 11, at Hines Park in Westland.

All proceeds from the event, spearheaded by Plymouth Christian Academy junior Adam Powlous and his family, will go to provide education for poverty-stricken children in Guatemala.

Fees to run (effective through May 3) are \$35 for the 10K, \$30 for the 5K and \$20 for the Munchkin Mile. Fees will go up \$5 beginning May 4 until race day.

Go to milesformankind.com to download a registration form and to find out more about the cause. Or send an e-mail to milesformankind@gmail.com. Special guest on May 11 will be Buddy Shuh, of *The Biggest Loser*.

The race will kick off at the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park.

Salem kickers get leg up on Chiefs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last week's brutal weather conditions wreaked havoc with schedules for high school squads in all sports, including Salem's varsity girls soccer team.

The Rocks were forced to play Friday night against Northville in wintry conditions (a 1-0 defeat) and bounce back to play a rescheduled contest Saturday morning against Canton. Salem took a quick 1-0 lead at wind-swept Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and — with the good fortune of a missed penalty kick — hung on for a 2-1 victory.

"I think it was really hard," said Rocks head coach Scott Duhl, whose team improved to 4-2-1. "A lot of us had heavy legs today. But one of the things we struggled with last night was just playing forward."

"We scored a couple goals just by being the aggressor and playing forward today."

On the board

Scoring early in the first half was junior forward Elizabeth Miller, cleaning up the rebound of a shot taken by senior midfielder Nancy Krutty. The initial shot from



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Natalie Winters (No. 10) and Salem's Caroline Simko (No. 16) race for the ball during Saturday's varsity girls soccer contest.

the right side of the box deflected over to Miller in the middle for a tap-in from inside the 6-yard box.

Before halftime, Salem junior defender Olivia Kaye connected on a penalty shot to put the Rocks up 2-0.

"The first half was rough," Canton head coach Jeannine Reddy said. "We didn't go after the ball, we were losing every 50/50 ball, we weren't passing to each other. We weren't moving."

Part of the problem was the strong wind that the Rocks had at their back for the opening 40 minutes.

In the second half, the Chiefs (1-4 overall) had the elements in their favor and played a much better half.

With 31:41 remaining, Canton cut the deficit to 2-1 when freshman forward Madeleine Lucas drove a 22-yarder from the left side of the box that caromed off the right

Please see **SOCCER, B2**

Rodes to success

Senior golfer sparks Wildcats at Milliken Millwork Invite

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Nick Brandon began his tenure as head coach of Plymouth's varsity boys golf team, he spotted senior Kyle Rodes and figured him to be a leader on and off the course.

Early returns back up Brandon's assessment. Not only have the Wildcats won two of three tournaments to open the season (entering KLAA dual match play this week), co-captain Rodes is the main catalyst — earning first-place medalist honors Sunday at the Milliken Millwork Invitational at Indianwood Country Club with a 1-under 71.

That was on Day 1 of the two-day Indianwood event, where teams play the venue's two 18-hole courses for separate competitions. On Sunday, the Wildcats finished second out of 20 teams with a 317 total, three strokes behind Lakeland.

Plymouth came back Monday to score a 301 for first out of 16 teams. The second round was played on the par-70

BOYS GOLF

"old" course.

"He's been a leader for us since Day 1 of me arriving on the scene to take over this program," said Brandon, who succeeded Chris Moore at the helm. "What I thought he was more than anything else yesterday (Sunday) was a leader."

"The conditions were very challenging. The wind was up, it was a cold day and a tremendously difficult golf course. What stood out about Kyle's performance was how in control he was of his game."

He wasn't alone with excellent performances. On Monday, senior co-captain Ryan Rieckhoff tallied a 74 with Evan Chipman (77) and Chris Kozler (78) also having strong showings.

Sunday, on the par-72 "new" course, Rieckhoff and John Tatti registered scores of 81 and 82, respectively. Kozler finished with an 83.

Confidence grows
According to Rodes,

Please see **GOLF, B2**

Wildcats skill camp set

The Plymouth Wildcats football skills camp is set to take place Monday through Wednesday, June 24-26, at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity turf field.

Sessions are as follows: 5-7 p.m. for youngsters entering grades five-nine; 7-9 p.m. for those in grades 10-12 this fall.

- Speaking of Plymouth football, a mandatory parent/player meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, in the cafeteria. Ninth-graders will meet 6-7:30 p.m. followed by players entering grades 10-12 from 7:30-9 p.m. Mandatory paperwork will be issued and team expectations explained.

For information on the skills camp and parent/player meetings, go to www.plymouth-wildcatsfootball.com to download a camp brochure or for more information. Questions can be directed to Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk at (734) 765-1766.

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

post and into the cage behind Salem senior goalkeeper Ali Eggenberger.

Then, just over two minutes later, the Chiefs were awarded a penalty kick when a Salem defender got her hands up in the box.

Lucas, however, rolled the ensuing bid wide left and the Chiefs could not get the tying goal the rest of the way.

"We caught a huge break," Duhl said about the missed PK, adding that he didn't get a good look at the infraction itself. "The referee thought that she had her hand up in the box. It's just a teaching moment for us and we just got to help them defend with their arms down by their sides in the box."

Making progress

Salem put some pressure on Canton senior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Jatzcyk in attempts to pad the lead. Jatzcyk was up to the task, sliding out aggressively to deny a rush by Rocks senior forward Emily Barfuss with 14 minutes to go.

"She (Jatzcyk) made some great saves," Reddy said. "We've been talking to her about how to talk (to her defense) and come out more. She did that today. She played a really good game today."

According to Duhl, it was key for the Rocks to take advantage of having the wind behind them in the first half.

"The wind's been across the field, but from time to time it did seem like we had it in the first half



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem goalkeeper Ali Eggenberger corraling the ball Saturday while Canton freshman forward Madeleine Lucas (No. 12) closes in. Putting defensive pressure on Lucas are Kathryn Binsfeld and Olivia Kaye (No. 8) of the Rocks.

and we were against it a little bit in the second half," Duhl said. "Preferably, I'd like it to close the game. But the fact we were able to get two goals with the wind, I think we did a good job defending late. I was real happy with the end result."

Reddy said freshmen Lucas and Natalie Winters have carried the team offensively during the season's opening weeks, but she saw progress late against Salem. "We were winning balls," Reddy said. "We were able to find Maddie and Natalie up top to create a lot of chances. We were able to use our center mids."

CANTON 3, CHURCHILL 2

Madeline Lucas scored all three goals to lift the Chiefs (2-4, 2-0) to a KLAA South Division win Tuesday over visiting Livonia Churchill (3-4-1, 1-1-1).

Churchill junior Kelsey Parrinello scored twice with

Lauren Wynns and Kathleen Rubenson picking up assists. Canton led 1-0 at halftime and went up 3-1 in the second half before Parrinello's goal cut the deficit to 3-2. The Chargers then hit a post with the potential game-tying goal with three minutes left.

"There was a stretch for 10 minutes in each half where we did not step up mentally or physically," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said. "Canton out-muscled us for every ball and were more physical. That's where we lost the game."

Alexis Tzarfaroglou went the first 75 minutes in goal for Churchill before Christina Vakratsis came on for the final 15.

PLYMOUTH 8, FRANKLIN 0

Stephanie Dillon scored four goals and Madi Lewis chipped in with a hat trick as the Wildcats (6-0, 2-0), ranked No. 1 in Division 1, invoked the eight-goal mercy rule with 1:41 left Monday against host Livonia Franklin (2-3-1, 0-1-1). Franklin goalkeeper Andrea Schweitzer proved heroic in defeat making 12 saves.

"She had a remarkable game, just spectacular and made some great saves," Franklin coach Dean Kowalski said. "If not for her it could have been 8-0 at halftime."

GOLF

Continued from page B1

who said he played at Indianwood Country Club as a sophomore and junior, his success so far this season can be attributed to hard work during the off-season. The workouts improved his technique and confidence.

"I think what's really come together is I practiced a lot over the winter to get my muscle memory down," Rodes explained. "I just feel I have more a lot more control over my swing than I ever have, (along with) tempo and confidence."

"I just feel confident in my swing and trusting that the swing I'm making is the one I need to make."

That confidence is spreading throughout the team.

"Even after we win we're still trying to take away how we can win by even more or get better," Rodes said. "We're never completely satisfied. But we definitely go out to every tournament expecting to get a victory. That's our goal every time we go



Plymouth senior co-captain Kyle Rodes (left) is all smiles after garnering medalist honors Sunday at Indianwood Country Club. At right is Indianwood head pro Dave Zink.

out and play."

Rodes added that he is better than ever at quickly moving on from a bad shot, and he tries to instill that mindset in his teammates. "Just play your own game, not worry about what the other guys are doing. Typical take it one-shot-at-a-time."

The Wildcats, apparently, are expanding on that philosophy to go after their opponents one tournament or dual meet at a time.

PLYMOUTH 144, CHURCHILL 176

On Tuesday at Fox Hills Classic, the Wildcats got off to a winning start to their KLAA schedule against Livonia Churchill. Kyle Rodes earned medalist honors with a 33, with Ryan Rieckhoff, Chris Kozler and John Tatti

each scoring 37s for the day. Contributing to the win were Evan Chipman and Ryan Melnick, with nine-hole rounds of 40 and 41, respectively.

HOLIDAY INN INVITE: The Canton varsity boys golf team tied for seventh place out of 24 teams at Monday's Holiday Inn Express Invite at Red Run Golf Club.

Canton finished with a 326 score, trailing first-place Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (306). Leading scorers for the Chiefs were Donnie Trosper, Alex Champagne and Brent Perry, who each tallied 81s. Tyler McMahan shot an 83 while Carter Schenk checked in with a 93.

"The weather finally cooperated and the course was in fine shape," Canton coach Tom Alles said. "We struggled on the greens a bit but overall did well as a team to tie for seventh place."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Golf May 5 for Miracle League of Plymouth

The 12U Canton Cardinals travel baseball team is going to bat for The Miracle League of Plymouth and community members who like to golf are invited to do the same.

On Sunday, May 5, at The Inn at St. John's, the Cardinals will host a charity golf outing.

Cost is \$120 per golfer for the four-person scramble format. That fee takes care of 18 holes of golf, lunch and dinner and prizes.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will be earmarked for the Miracle League, which "provides opportunities for all children with special needs to play baseball regardless of their abilities."

The Inn at St. John's is located at 44045 Five Mile Road in Plymouth.

For additional information, contact Paul Cassatta at (734) 377-1380 or paulc826@gmail.com or go to the Cardinals website to download a registration form (sites.google.com/site/cantoncardinals700/).

Young gridders sought

The Washtenaw Saints Football Team, of the Christian Athletic League of America, is looking for interested young men (grades 6-12) to join the team for the upcoming 2013 fall season.

There are no tryouts and everyone will get a chance to compete. Practices start in July and will be run out of Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor. To be added to the contact list contact coach John Weisberg at (734) 926-4513 or by e-mail at weisbergjohn@aol.com.

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CE8796502

Whalers' Wilson knows the score

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Tom Wilson finished up high school at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, he knew what was up.

Likewise, Wilson the hockey player is all over what transpired Tuesday night at Compuware Arena.

The Plymouth Whalers' power forward has a full understanding of what the team needs to do to get past a heartbreaking 6-4 loss to London in Game 3 of the OHL Western Conference finals.

"For sure, we got the bounce a couple nights ago in double overtime (Plymouth's 4-3 win in Game 2) and they got a couple bounces tonight," Wilson said. "Those are both emotional games, and that's what playoffs is all about. We're going to bounce back and get right back at it (Wednesday) night."

In order for the Whalers to once again even the series, they will need to avoid Tuesday's pitfalls, he continued.

"Two shorthanded goals, it's not the way you want to start," Wilson said. "Turnovers are huge, the London Knights have so much skill up front and if you turn the puck over they're going to score. We knew that, we did and they capitalized."

After the Knights took a quick 1-0 lead when Ryan Rupert scored on the power play, the home



Tom Wilson (No. 10) of the Plymouth Whalers celebrates after scoring a goal during the recent playoff series against Owen Sound.

team had a chance for the equalizer midway through the opening period.

But London's opportunistic penalty kill went to work. Bo Horvat twice intercepted the puck in the neutral zone and skated in for goals just 1:09 apart.

Things did not improve for the Whalers in the second, either. Although Plymouth carried the play, London shut the door — with the help of two goals being waved off.

In the third period, however, the Whalers' "us-

against-them" mentality paid off with four unanswered goals. Wilson scored the first two.

He chipped a shot over the glove of London goalie Anthony Stolarz, receiving a perfect centering pass from Garrett Meurs at 1:37.

With 14:16 left, Wilson scored again. His initial bid hit the left post, but the puck bounced back to him in the low slot. Then, despite falling to the ice, he buried a low shot inside the left post.

Bringing it
Wilson jumpstarted the

rally just two days after scoring the hat trick in Game 2. He smiled when asked if he senses a need to carry the team on his shoulders.

"I'm a really competitive kid, I love playoff hockey and I want to play as long as I can," Wilson said. "I just love going out there and a lot of the guys look to me to bring the energy."

"I'm just going to do what I can to put the pucks in the net or get a big hit, whatever we need in the game."

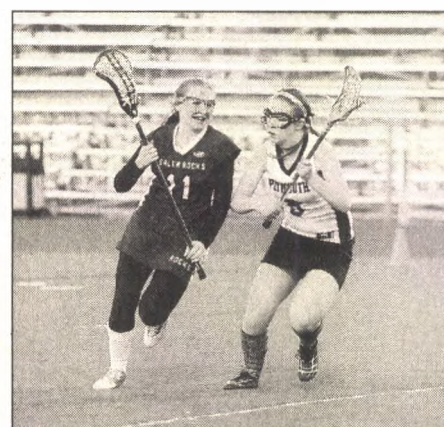
He smiled again when talking about how loud and boisterous the Compuware Arena crowd was on Tuesday — despite less-than-capacity attendance (2,775).

"When we came back it was electric, our fans are great," he added. "A lot of the teams will say, 'Put 10,000 in.' But the fans that we have are loud and it's a pretty loud building when they get going."

Wilson obviously would like nothing more than to have a chance to return to Compuware for Game 6, which would be 2 p.m. Sunday.

Of course, the Whalers will need to win another game for that to happen. The series continued with Wednesday's Game 4 (results not available as of press time) and returns to London for Friday's Game 5.

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Carrying the ball during Monday's cross-campus varsity girls lacrosse game is Salem junior Jenna Carter (No. 11). At right is Plymouth's Elizabeth O'Donohue.

JEFF CARTER

Rocks crush 'Cats, 10-4

Salem played an all-around strong game Monday to defeat Plymouth 10-4 in a varsity girls lacrosse match at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Rocks thus earned their first-ever win over the Wildcats.

"Our girls really got to the ball off the draw and controlled the game," Salem head coach Dave Medley said.

Doing the damage for Salem were Kiersten Vala and Rose Krasofsky, with single markers by Jenna Carter and Bridget Kerwin.

Senior defenders Leah Schrauben, Alissa Amell, Gracie Savage, Shannon Fitzpatrick and Megan Wood helped limit Plymouth's shots to 11.

Stopping seven of those 11 shots was senior goalie Sarah Bowerman.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Scoring for Plymouth were Natalie Nowicki, Michelle Burke, Elisabeth DeClaire and Jilian Laroy.

Making 10 stops was goalkeeper Megan Wieloch.

LADYWOOD 17, REGINA 5:

Juniors Jessica Snyder and Megan Leon tallied five and four goals, respectively, leading unbeaten Livonia Ladywood to a 17-5 girls lacrosse victory Monday at Warren Regina.

Senior Jaclyn Snyder also added three goals and senior goalie Stephanie Mackley made 15 saves as the Blazers improved to 5-0 overall and 4-0 in the Catholic League.

Kayla Parks scored twice for the Saddlelites, while goalie Maggie Golia made 12 saves.

SALEM 14, WEST BLOOMFIELD 2:

In a non-conference varsity girls lacrosse matchup Friday at PCEP, Shannon Fitzpatrick scored four goals while Rose Krasofsky and Joslyn Longe each netted three.

Salem attack routs Chiefs

The "Lee-Willer Show" was a smash hit Friday as Salem rolled to a 13-5 win over Canton in a varsity boys lacrosse contest at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

That's because Brandon Lee scored five goals for the Rocks while Noah Willer chipped in with four to pace the attack.

Salem led 4-3 at halftime and the game remained close entering the fourth quarter at 8-6.

In the final stanza, however, the Rocks scored all seven goals — two each by Lee, Willer and PJ Rogers and a solo tally by Joel Martin.

Also scoring for the Rocks was Parker Godfrey, in the first.

Tim Popp scored twice for the Chiefs, with Carson Pakula (from Jay Krebs) and Kyle Topper (from Popp) also finding the mark.

Players with assists for Salem included Jake Perkins (two), Phil Sutfin, Joey Krause and Rogers (four).

Earning the win in goal for the Rocks was Justin Oldani. The win improved Salem's record to 6-1.

BASEBALL

Continued from page B1

ter Zach Wilds while preventing the runner from scoring. It didn't matter because Stafford's low pitch got past catcher Nick Romanowski to bring home Fox.

Stafford's day ended when Wilds doubled. Three batters later, against reliever Nick Hazergian, a line single to right by Taylor Turner upped Northville's lead to 3-1.

Canton threatened in the sixth and seventh, but could not capitalize.

Singles by Schnur (2-for-3) and Hazergian (1-for-3) gave the Chiefs a chance in the sixth. That bid was foiled by Northville's defense.

With two outs and the runners in scoring position, Raymo (1-for-2) drove a rising liner to center that Thomas Huber jumped up to reel in.

Canton also had two runners on in the seventh, following singles by Parrelly (1-for-3) and pinch hitter Alex Clark.

Center fielder Weston Price (1-for-4) then hit a one-hopper up the middle that Hansen snagged before throwing to first base for the final out of the game.

"I was a little bit encouraged by the way we swung the bats," Blomshield said. "I thought we squared it up pretty good. We just hit a lot of at 'em balls."

"Their pitcher did a nice job. You throw strikes, you keep your team in it."

The rest of the week will test the Chiefs, with doubleheaders Thursday and Friday at Novi and Plymouth, respectively.

four Livonia Franklin errors Monday, to earn a 7-1 KLAAC crossover victory.

Earning his second win of the year for the Rocks was starting pitcher Nick March, who pitched into the fifth, allowing just one run. Finishing up were Tyler Brooks and closer Jeremy St. Laurent.

Salem went up 3-0 in the third inning and tacked on a single run in the sixth and two more in the seventh to improve to 4-1 overall and 1-1 in the KLAAC entering Wednesday's KLAAC Central Division twinbill against Northville.

At the plate, sophomore left fielder Brandon Gillen went 2-for-3 with three RBI. Other RBI were registered by Josh Penn, Justin Sydowski, Jack Driscoll and Kyle Penn.

PLYMOUTH 7, NOVI 2: On Monday at Plymouth, the Wildcats squared their record at 3-3 (1-1 in the KLAAC) with this victory over Novi (3-3, 1-1).

Plymouth benefited from five Novi errors, but strong pitching from Brian Schmid also was key. He went four innings, allowing no runs and three hits while striking out five for his first win of the season.

"Schmid was on his game today," coach Bryan Boyd said. Matt Janke had a double and scored a run with other contributors including Seth Hubbard (RBI double), Jamar Eiland and Shawn Sudz (two runs each).

"This is a good win for us against a very good program," Boyd said. "We didn't play our best today, but took advantage of opportunities they gave us. That's what good teams do."

PCA 11, SUMMIT ACADEMY 1: Plymouth Christian Academy pitcher Tanner Hay had a dominant performance Monday, giving up one run on three hits while striking out seven in 4 1/3 innings to win the six-inning varsity baseball contest.

Sparkling the offense was Daniel Jipping, who singled, tripled and homered. Johnny Lauch delivered a key double in the fourth to break the game open for the Eagles.

Also contributing on offense were Matt Read (two hits), Josh Slater and Reuben Galang (two RBI each) and Nick Andres (one hit).

Following Hay to the mound was Lauch, who hurled the final 1 2/3 innings.

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WHALERS

Continued from page B1

Still, the Whalers roared back from adversity to score four goals against London goalie Anthony Stolarz (38 saves) in the third, two by forward Tom Wilson (who registered a hat trick in Plymouth's 4-3 double-overtime win on Sunday).

Rakell tied the game with a low laser from the right circle at 10:59 and center Mitchell Heard stuffed a wraparound at 12:01 to finally put Plymouth on top and get the home fans up and rocking.

Then it was what Vellucci called a "soft" penalty against defenseman Connor Carrick at 15:08 that led to a power-play tally by forward Max Domi just 10 seconds later.

Domi roofed a shot past Plymouth rookie goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic, who made 22 saves.

A subsequent goal at 16:06 by Seth Griffith put the Knights back in front 5-4 to stun the crowd and Domi's empty netter at 19:03 wrapped up an eventful evening.

That is, except for three game misconducts doled out against Plymouth in the final minute as the Whalers' frustrations bubbled over.

London head coach Dale Hunter described the emotion-packed, up-and-down contest as typical playoff hockey.

"That's hockey, it happens all the time," said Hunter, about the momentum swings. "One goal gets you going, you got to put together a good shift to counter that. Then you get the momentum back."

Horvat said the Knights showed "no panic whatsoever" due to the Plymouth rally.

"We got some rebound goals to bounce back from as soon as they scored," Horvat noted. "And that's what helped us carry on for the rest of the game."

Slow start

According to Vellucci, his team came out tentative in the first period and that put the Whalers behind the 8-ball.

"I thought obvious-



Duking it out during the second period Tuesday are London's Nikita Zadorov (No. 65) and Plymouth's Sebastian Uvira (No. 17).



Keeping his eye on the puck during the first period Tuesday is Plymouth Whalers' goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (No. 39). Ready to help if needed is defenseman Nick Malysa (No. 4).

ly we started off really slow, giving up two short-handed and a power-play goal," Vellucci said. "We showed a lot of grit and determination coming back. And we go (take) a lead and then a really soft call."

"Our guy (Carrick) got hit from behind and a soft call, I guess you can't blame the officials because they're incompetent."

The Whalers actually were victimized by a string of other calls, including two apparent goals being waved off during the span of a Plymouth power play with London leading 3-0.

With 7:13 remaining, the Whalers thought they jammed the puck over the line during a scrum in the London crease. Following a lengthy review, the officials ruled no goal because the whistle had blown on the play.

Plymouth forward Sebastien Uvira, with about six minutes remaining in the period, lifted a rebound over Stolarz. The net was knocked off its moorings to wipe out that goal but not wipe out the Whalers' resolve.

Vellucci added that he'll "probably get fined, but at this point you can't send two incompetent people to do a big game. Two very good hockey teams there playing great and have those horrible calls one after another."

Although the Whalers outshot and outchanced London by a wide margin in the second only to come up empty, Vellucci helped his team get ramped up for a comeback between frames.

"I actually told them how it's going to be fun when we win this game," And that's what they almost did.

PLYMOUTH 4, LONDON 3 (2OT): Just seconds away from facing a two-game deficit in the Ontario Hockey League Western Conference final, the Plymouth Whalers forced overtime on Tom Wilson's third goal of the game.

Spectacular goalkeeping by Alex Nedeljkovic — who stopped 61 of 64 shots, including 20 in the first overtime — helped the Whalers stay afloat in the Sunday afternoon tilt at Budweiser Gardens.

Finally, at 10:16 of the second OT, Rickard Rakell scored the game-winning goal on the power play, from Gianluca Curcuruto and Garrett Meurs, to give Plymouth a 4-3 win and even the series at 1-1.

London never trailed until Rakell's winning marker stunned the crowd of 9,016.

Three times the Knights took a lead and each time it was Wilson to reply with the equalizer.

Wilson scored at 7:38 of the second period from Sebastian Uvira and Curcuruto (three assists) to answer Bo Horvat's first-period tally.

About five minutes later, however, London regained a 2-1 edge on a goal by Chris Tierney and the Knights enjoyed that lead entering the third.

However, Plymouth's power play came through against London goalie Anthony Stolarz (41 saves) when Wilson found the mark at 6:53 of the third, from Rakell and Curcuruto.

The Knights went up 3-2 at 10:06 when Max Domi tallied a power-play goal, but Nedeljkovic made sure London would not light the lamp a fourth time.

That proved crucial because Wilson tied the game at 3-3 at 19:12 of the third. Assisting on Wilson's hat-trick goal were Connor Carrick and Stefan Noesen.

London outshot Plymouth 20-10 in the first overtime, but Nedeljkovic shut the door.

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Taking aim

Plymouth sophomore pitcher Mikayela Marciniak sends a pitch toward home plate during Monday's KLAA crossover softball contest. Plymouth prevailed 10-0 over Novi in the battle of the Wildcats to improve to 4-2 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

'Gutsy' Rocks knock off Novi

Dave Gerlach had high praise for his Salem varsity girls track and field team following Tuesday's 73.33-to-63.66 dual meet victory over Novi.

"We beat a team that hasn't been beaten in a dual meet in six years," Gerlach said. "It was one of the most gutsy Rock-solid performances in my 18 years of coaching."

Gerlach's team, now 3-0 in the KLAA, fea-

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

tured what he described as "huge performances" from a number of girls.

The "athlete of the meet," he noted, was Khyli Ray. She took first in the 100 and 200 dashes and as part of the victorious 400- and 1,600-meter relays.

Also winning four events was Kayla Kavulich, with victories in the

400, 800, 1,600 and 3,200 runs.

Other standouts included Nancy Krutty (hurdles), Anya Cho (1,600 and 3,200 runs), Elizabeth Tripp (1,600 relay), Sheikina Johnson (100, 200, 400 relay, 1,600 relay), Shannon Flynn (1,600 relay, 800 run), Alex Davis (400, 1,600 relay), Dana Blanship (discus), Rebecca Falzon (discus) and Shara Long (shot put).

Canton's Warren gets it done with arm, bat

Canton's varsity softball team routed Northville 10-0 Monday in a KLAA crossover game shortened to five innings due to the mercy rule.

Pitching a truncated no-hitter for the Chiefs (2-0) was Hanna Warren, who struck out eight Mustangs. She helped her own cause at the plate, too, with a 3-for-3 day including a homer and three RBI.

Other hitters contributing to a 13-hit attack were Paige Aresco — who doubled and tripled in four at-

bats and drove in two runs — and Delainey O'Donnell (2-for-2, two RBI).

FRANKLIN 5, SALEM 4: Lauren Michaels' sharp two-out single to center field scored Katelynn Devers with the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh Monday to give host Livonia Franklin (2-0, 2-0) the Kensington Conference crossover victory over the Rocks (0-2, 0-2).

Michaels finished with two hits and three RBI, while Devers also singled twice, scored three times and had a stolen base.

"The (Salem) catcher had the ball as Devers avoided the tag sliding pass home then reaching back with her hand to touch the plate," Franklin

coach Linda Jimenez said. "This was a great comeback, being down four in the fourth inning. Devers' slide was amazing."

The Patriots also got a 2-run single from Mackenzie Lukas and an RBI single from Morgan Larkin.

Winning pitcher Courtney Garbarino (2-0) scattered six hits over seven innings. She struck out one and did not allow a walk.

"Courtney showed much poise after the fourth inning," Jimenez said.

Losing pitcher Kristi Zink gave up seven hits, walked one and struck out two in seven innings of work.

Elliott Mitchem collected two hits and scored a run for Salem.

Crusaders sweep, stay atop WHAC

Madonna University maintained its grip on first place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference baseball race Sunday by sweeping a doubleheader against host University of Northwestern Ohio, 7-5 (10 innings) and 3-1.

MU, now 27-7 overall and 14-1 in the WHAC, completed the sweep as starter Evan Piecho (Livonia Stevenson) improved to 4-1 by allowing just one earned run on four hits over five innings.

Josh Vandemark came on to earn his first college save with two scoreless innings in relief.

Alex Charles and Justin Cook each knocked in a run for MU.

Northwestern Ohio (18-19, 12-10) got two hits from Ben Smith, while starter Engel Diaz (1-2) went the first 4.2 innings to suffer the loss.

After squandering a four-run lead in the bottom of the ninth, MU had to go extra innings and used a two-run single from freshman right fielder Christian Holder in Game One.

Holder finished with two hits and a career-best four RBI, while senior center fielder Alex Charles went 3-for-4 with a RBI and a run scored.

Senior left fielder Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison) matched Holder with two hits.

Madonna starter Jeremy Gooding (Livonia/Dearborn Divine Child), who did not get the decision, went eight strong innings allowing just one earned run on three hits and four walks. Reliever Matthew Cook (6-1), who was roughed up for four earned runs on five hits in the final two innings, got the victory.

Reliever Junior Santos (0-1) took the loss for the Racers, while Cesar Loiz and Geoff Bowers each collected two hits.

MU ends losing streak as Meek hurls 3-hitter

The Madonna University softball team's bats continue to be cold in Sunday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference opening game suffering, a 5-1 setback o Aquinas College.

But the host Crusaders rebounded with a 3-0 win in the nightcap as Carlee Meek pitched a complete-game three-hitter to snap a four-game losing streak at University Field.

Meek (10-1), faced just 24 batters and did not allow a walk in seven innings.

Emma Cook, Erin Mayes and Amber Rafko each knocked in a run as the Crusaders improved to 26-16 overall and 8-5 in the WHAC.

Rebecca Shineldecker (6-9) took the loss for the

Saints, who slipped to 18-13 and 4-4.

In Game One, Aquinas pitcher Carlie Giarmo limited the Crusaders to three hits and four walks over seven innings to improve to 8-3. Giarmo struck out six.

Losing pitcher Bree Crampton (13-12) allowed four earned runs on five hits over the first four innings before Meek came on in relief and held the Saints scoreless over the final three.

Caitlyn Keuvelaar had the lone RBI for MU, while Irma Cruz and Renae Tubergen each knocked in two runs for the Saints.

DAVENPORT 4-3, MU 0-2: In a WHAC twinbill Saturday, host Madonna University (25-15, 7-4) lost twice to Davenport University (26-11-1, 9-3) at University Field. Sam Cole blanked MU on

three hits in the opener. She struck out one and walked four over seven innings en route to a 4-0 shutout.

Losing pitcher Bree Crampton struck out a career-high 13 in suffering the loss. She allowed two earned runs on seven hits and four walks.

K.C. Dunne went 2-for-3 with two RBI to pace the Panthers. In Game Two, Davenport got the game-winning run in the top of the eighth inning to pull out a 3-2 victory.

Cole (17-6) came on in relief of starter Kyleigh Linebaugh in the sixth inning to earn the victory.

Carlee Meek started for MU, allowing two earned runs on nine hits over five innings. Crampton (13-10), who pitched the final three innings allowing one run and fanning seven, took the loss.

Kristen Drabek went 3-for-3 in the loss, while Katie Fenech went 2-for-3 with three RBI including a homer.

Carli SanMillan (Livonia Ladywood) went 3-for-4, while Kelly DuCharme knocked in a pair of runs for Davenport.

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

DUAL MATCH RESULTS

SALEM 6 STEVENSON 3
April 23 at Salem
No. 1 singles: Ashley Walker (S) defeated Aimee Moccia, (1), 6-4, 7-6 (3); **No. 2:** Chelsea Yu (S) def. Caroline Hay, 6-1, 6-2; **No. 3:** Laura Shureb (LS) def. Tiffany Chan, 7-6 (3), 6-4; **No. 4:** Kylie Enright (S) def. Batool Hussain, 6-4, 6-1.
No. 1 doubles: Sam DiGiovanni-Arryn Dochenetz (LS) def. Julia Miereles-Kalaya Thomas, 6-3, 6-1; **No. 2:** Josie Abdalbaki-Shelby Seay (LS) def. Abi Collingwood-Kylie Flynn, (1), 6-4, 6-0; **No. 3:** Rachel Hershock-Kendall Berghofer (S) def. Julia Grammatico-Maddie

Chimenko, 6-3, 6-0; **No. 4:** Natasha Consul-Courtney Simpson (S), def. Sam Cyrus-Sarah Morse, 6-1, 6-2; **No. 5:** Ashmi Nagar-Madison Kulik (S) def. Caitlin McCamant-Clarissa Smith, (5), 6-1, 6-2.
Dual meet records: Salem 3-2, 2-2 KLAA Central.

PLYMOUTH 5 CHURCHILL 4

April 22 at Churchill
No. 1 singles: Keerthi Chekuri (P) defeated Rylie Fallu, 6-1, 6-2; **No. 2:** Miranda Cerny (P) def. Mara Karageozian, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3; **No. 3:** Treveni Arvkar (LC) def. Kirthi Duraiswamy, 6-2, 6-2; **No. 4:** Marlowe Susselman (P) def. Allison

Hill, 6-4, 6-1.
No. 1 doubles: Claire Rose-Rujuta Patil (LC) def. Sarah Gamble-Swetha Duraiswamy, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; **No. 2:** Lauren Conley-Emma Mullenax (P) def. Sneha Patil-Erin Strayhorn, 7-5, 6-1; **No. 3:** Jessica Banini-Madison White (LC) def. Amber Tseng-Teahn Horton, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; **No. 4:** Mym Facto-Shannon Huff (P) def. Maggie Trinka-Lexi Fata, 6-2, 7-5; **No. 5:** Dallas Rohraff-Kelly Snyder (LC) def. Amber Maroudis-Aissa Lopez, 2-6, 6-1, 7-5.
Dual meet records: Plymouth, 3-0 overall, 3-0 KLAA South Division; Livonia Churchill, 1-2 overall, 1-1 KLAA South.

DUAL MEET RESULTS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 91 CANTON 37

April 23 at Canton

Shot put: 1. Amber Warren (Canton), 32 feet, 2 inches; 3. Emily Norscia (LC), 30-10.
Discus: 1. Norscia (LC), 119-6; 3. Pummill (LC), 93-2.
High jump: 1. Ashley Cochran (LC), 4-10; 3. Juliet Hope (LC), 4-6.

Long jump: 1. Natalie Spala (LC), 14-11.75; 2. Cochran (LC), 14-10.5.

100 hurdles: 1. Molly Jarvis (LC), 16.68; 3. Spala (LC), 18.35.

300 hurdles: 1. Jarvis (LC), 48.28; 2. Spala (LC), 50.94.

100 dash: 1. Elyssa Hofmann (LC), 13.52; 2. Janel Green (LC), 13.87; 3. Chanel Gardner (LC), 13.92.

200: 1. Lucia Azcunaga (LC), 29.11; 2. AnnMarie Lumette (LC), 29.76.

400: 1. Sydney Anderson (LC), 1:00.73; 2. Julia Szuba (LC), 1:04.82; 3. Kourtney Strong (LC), 1:05.36.

800: 1. Olivia McIntee (Canton), 2:35.21; 2. Erin Emmanuel (LC), 2:38.05; 3. Jenna Hickson (LC), 2:38.44.

1,600: 1. Michelle Azar (LC), 5:30.27; 3. Lauren Bernhardt (LC), 6:13.94.

3,200: 1. Vivien Okechukwu (LC), 12:04.06.

400 relay: 1. Churchill (Crossman, Gardner, Green, Hofmann), 51.18; 2. Canton, 54.65; **800 relay:** 1. Churchill (Green Anderson, Jarvis, Hofmann), 1:46.91; 2. Canton, 1:54.19; **1,600 relay:** 1. Canton, 4:26.24; 2. Churchill, 4:36.77; **3,200 relay:** 1. Churchill (Emmanuel, Hickson, Alexis Lombardo, Szuba), 10:49.24; 2. Canton, 11:28.24.

Dual meet records: Churchill, 3-0 overall, 3-0 KLAA South Division; Canton, 0-3 overall, 0-3 KLAA South.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 70.5 PLYMOUTH 66.5

April 23 at Franklin

Shot put: 1. Tionne Johnson (P), 34 feet, 2 inches; 3. Sophia Modes (LF), 29-6.

Discus: 1. Johnson (P), 92-1; 2. S. Modes (LF), 86-9.5.

High jump: 1. Katherine Harris (P), 5-0; 3. (tie) Maddie Osborn, 4-6.

Long jump: 1. Taylor Rieckhoff (P), 15-7.25; 2. Natalie Modes (LF), 15-0.25.

Pole vault: 1. Jane McCurry (P), 10-6.

100 hurdles: 1. Kelly O'Brien

GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

300 hurdles:

1. O'Brien (LF), 49.7.
100 dash: 1. Madison Agnew (LF), 12.6; 2. Bryah White (LF), 13.1.

200: 1. Agnew (LF), 26.6; 2. Julie Wonch (LF), 26.7.

400: 1. Wonch (LF), 1:02.8.
800: 1. Natalie Douglas (LF), 2:35.0.

1,600: 1. Douglas (LF), 5:44.9; 2. Ellary Marano (LF), 5:51.4.

3,200: 1. Brianna Lax (P), 12:23.8; 2. Marano (LF), 12:35.1; 3. Natalie Martinez (LF), 12:41.5.

400 relay: 1. Franklin (Jasmine Crowley, Michelle Wilson, N. Modes, Agnew), 52.7; 2. Plymouth, 54.7; **800 relay:** 1. Franklin (Wonch, O'Brien, N. Modes, Agnew), 1:50.5; 2. Plymouth, 1:55.0; **1,600 relay:** 1. Plymouth (Gabby Alfer, Ashley MacBrien, Jewel Davis, Jada Woody), 4:20.3; 2. Franklin, 4:21.6; **3,200 relay:** 1. Franklin (Mandy Prokryfky, Katelyn Kovach, Marano, Douglas), 10:22.3; 2. Plymouth, 10:26.0.

Dual meet records: Franklin, 3-0 overall, 3-0 KLAA South Division; Plymouth, 0-2 overall, 0-2 KLAA South.

WARREN REGINA 76 LIVONIA LADYWOOD 52

April 22 at Ladywood

Shot put: 1. Amy Lewandowski (LL), 33 feet, 7.75 inches; 3. Krystyna Kitlinski (LL), 28-5; **discus:** 1. Lewandowski (LL), 100-6; 2. Sarah Wojnarowski (LL), 97-9; **high jump:** 1. Gabby Buscemi (WR), 4-8; 3. Hannah Gove (LL), 4-6; **long jump:** 1. Marissa Lesch (WR), 14-7.5; 2. Callan Tigani (LL), 14-2.5; **100-meter hurdles:** 1. Lesch (WR), 18.36; 2. Gove (LL), 18.65; **300 hurdles:** 1. Lesch (WR), 53.37; 2. Gove (LL), 54.53; **100 dash:** Joi Reddick (WR), 13.91; 2. Devon Yearn (LL), 14.19; **200:** 1. Amber Riethmiller (LL), 28.93; **400:** 1. Cassie Bloch (WR), 1:01.35; 2. Pilar Furlong (WR), 1:07.0; **800:** 1. Jenny Ponkowski (WR), 2:36.64; 3. Sinead Cox (LL), 2:48.76; **1,600:** 1. Elizabeth Bloch (WR), 5:51.37; **3,200:** 1. Alex Teasdale (P), 12:31.72; **400 relay:** 1. Ladywood, 53.84; 2. Regina, 54.07; **800 relay:** 1. Ladywood, 1:55.36; 2. Regina, 2:05.67; **1,600 relay:** 1. Ladywood, 4:32.57; 2. Regina, 4:36.93; **3,200 relay:** 1. Regina, 11:16.57; 2. Ladywood, 11:36.85.

Ladywood's dual meet record: 0-3 overall; 0-3 Catholic League (Central Division).

QUAD MEET RESULTS

April 23 at Luth. Westland TEAM STANDINGS:

Lutheran Westland, 92.5 points; 2. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian, 84; 3. Allen Park Cabrini, 39.5; 4. Harper Woods, 30.

Shot put: 1. Anajai (HW), 31 feet, 4 inches; 2. Leah Refenes (LW), 29-9.5; **discus:** 1. Refenes (LW), 91-7; 3. Janine Erickson (LW), 76-8; **high jump:** 1. Wurm (Oakland), 4-6; **long jump:** 1. Haggard (Oakland), 14-0.5; **pole vault:** 1. Alissa Flury (LW), 8-0; 2. Elizabeth Matthews (LW), 7-6; **100-meter hurdles:** 1. Snyder (Oakland), 17.4; 2. Flury (LW), 17.9; 3. Sabrina Morrison (LW), 19.7; **300 hurdles:** 1. Flury (LW), 53.8; **100 dash:** 1. Cooks (HW), 27.1; **400:** 1. Wood (Oakland), 1:06.5; 2. Matthews (LW), 1:08.1; 3. Chelsea Kovacs (LW), 1:11.1; **800:** 1. Jenna Wisner (LW), 2:35.0; 1. Cooks (HW), 27.1; **400:** 1. Wood (Oakland), 1:06.5; 2. Matthews (LW), 1:08.1; 3. Chelsea Kovacs (LW), 1:11.1; **800:** 1. Jenna Wisner (LW), 2:35.0; 3. Emma Buffone (LW), 7:22.0; **3,200:** 1. Lucido (Oakland), 13:04; 3. Buffone (LW), 16:04.0; **400 relay:** 1. Oakland Christian, 54.4; 3. Lutheran Westland, 59.0; **800 relay:** 1. Lutheran Westland (Kovacs, Morrison, Abby Schaffer, Matthews), 2:02.2; **1,600 relay:** 1. Lutheran Westland (Kovacs, Morrison, Wisner, Matthews), 4:47.5; **3,200 relay:** 1. Oakland Christian, 11:55.0.

Lutheran Westland's dual meet record:

5-2 overall.

APRIL SHOWERS RELAYS

April 20 at Dexter GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS:

1. Saline, 115 points; 2. Dearborn Divine Child, 70; 3. East Kentwood, 67; 4. Brighton, 46; 5. Macomb Dakota, 33.6; 6. Detroit Renaissance, 28; 7. Dexter, 19; 8. Davison, 13; 9. (tie) Livonia Franklin and Toledo Central Catholic, 11.6 each; 15. Canton, 5; 19. Livonia Ladywood, 2 (20 schools).

Franklin placers: 2. sprint medley (Kelly O'Brien, Michelle Wilson, Madison Agnew, Julie Wonch), 1:51.; 5. long jump (Natalie Modes, Brianna Gutowski), 28 feet, 17.5 inches; high jump (Sheila McKinley, Wonch), 9-0; 6. 400-meter relay (Jasmine Crowley, Wilson, Modes, Agnew), 53.1.

Ladywood placers: 6. shot put (Amy Lewandowski, Krystyna Kitlinski), 59-0.

BOYS TRACK RESULTS

DUAL MATCH RESULTS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 76 CANTON 61

April 23 at Canton

Shot put: 1. Olaniyi Owagbemi (Canton), 42 feet, 5 inches; 2. Zack Barrick (LC), 41-1; 3. Demarco McKinney (LC), 39-0.

Discus: 1. Barrick (LC), 111-1; 2. McKinney (LC), 110-5; 3. Seth Suida (LC), 101-7.

High jump: 1. Jamal Dixon (Canton), 6-2; 3. Romello Brown (LC), 5-8.

Long jump: 1. Dixon (Canton), 20-6.75.

Pole vault: 1. Jacob Hage (LC), 14-0; 3. Stephen Fedak (LC), 11-8.

110-meter hurdles: 1. Zach Zoltowski (LC), 16.65; 2. Kenzel Jefferson (LC), 16.93.

300 hurdles: 1. Zoltowski (LC), 42.28; 3. Jon Shatter (LC), 43.96.

100 dash: 1. Colby Morris (Canton), 11.59; 2. Malik Johnson (LC), 11.98; 3. Darius Lambert (LC), 12.01.

200: 1. Morris (Canton), 23.55; 2. Hunter Rimatzki (LC), 24.27; 3. Parys Brown (LC), 24.73.

400: 1. Andre Abram (LC), 54.62.

800: 1. Matt Cohan (LC), 2:05.61; 2. Brendan Meakin (LC), 2:09.69; 3. Jon Alessandrini (LC), 2:10.26.

1,600: 1. Ben Yates (LC), 4:47.15; 3. Alessandrini (LC), 4:47.15.

3,200: 1. Evan Dunklee (Canton), 10:19.93; 2. Andrew Malik (LC), 10:22.76; 3. Colin Murphy (LC), 10:38.19.

400 relay: 1. Churchill, 45.08; 2. Canton, 45.33; **800 relay:** 1. Canton, 1:33.08; 2. Churchill, 1:34.53; **1,600 relay:** 1. Canton, 3:40.05; 2. Churchill, 3:44.56; **3,200 relay:** 1. Churchill, 8:50.51; 2. Canton, 9:41.88.

Dual meet records: Churchill, 3-0 overall, 3-0 KLAA South Division; Canton, 0-3 overall, 0-3 KLAA South.

PLYMOUTH 69 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 68

April 23 at Franklin

Shot put: 1. Kyle McMillan (P), 44 feet, 8 inches; 2. Asa Hattar (LF), 43-6; 3. Juan Gamboa (LF), 41-7.

Discus: 1. Tony Vella (LF), 122-2; 2. Hattar (LF), 104-5; 3. Gamboa (LF), 104-0.5.

High jump: 1. Nathan Harris (P), 5-10; 3. Charlie Roth (LF), 5-6.

Long jump: 1. Jordan Bickham (LF), 19-8.5; 2. Brett Gutowski (LF), 18-7.5.

Pole vault: 1. Alex Teasdale (P), 11-6; 2. Damon Currier (LF), 11-0.

110-meter hurdles: 1. Richie Wiczorek (LF), 17.8.

300 hurdles: 1. Wiczorek (LF), 43.2.

100 dash: 1. Dan Duncan (LF),

Traveling memorial headed to Farmington Hills

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

A sea of American flags will turn the front lawn of the Farmington Hills Church of God into a memorial next month for U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The 6,600 flags are a traveling exhibit called "Field of Flags" that began in 2005 at a church in Somers, Conn.

"It has travelled up and down the East Coast.

We're the first church east of Pennsylvania to get it," said Chris Weaks, a member of the church and coordinator of the event.

The flags will be on display through Memorial Day. The Rev. Gordon R.G. Steinke, pastor of Farmington Hills Church of God, will lead the opening ceremony, 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the church, 25717 Power Road, Farmington Hills. The events will include bagpipes, a 21-gun salute,

a recognition of soldiers' families and planting of 200 flags that represent fallen troops from Michigan.

A closing, sunset ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, May 27.

Weaks said the exhibit is open to the public and that community groups and other churches interested in holding their own memorial event at the site may call him at (734) 546-7818 or the Farmington Hills Church of God office

at (248) 546-7818.

"We're not basing it on religion or politics," he added. "We're trying to keep it for remembering the soldiers and honoring the families."

He said the event's mission is "belief" in human freedom, "honor" for those who have served and "sacrifice" to love others.

The display will be available daily from May 4-27 for personal reflection.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

April

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/Date: 1-7 p.m. Friday, April 26

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Contact: For appointments call (734) 722-1735 or (800) RED-CROSS

CAMP ENROLLMENT

Time/Date: Now through May 31

Location: Consuming Fire Christian Center, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland

Details: Enrolling kids and teens, age 5-15, for six-week Bible/Homework Enrichment Camp that will run July 8-Aug. 16. Full day sessions are \$700 and a half-day is \$480. Families get a \$25 discount for added siblings for the full day rate; \$10 discount for the half-day rate. A non-refundable \$100 registration fee at the time of enrollment secures a place. Cost includes the registration fee, snacks, materials for class, tutoring in most subjects and assessment testing

Contact: Melanie Staten or Sylvia Brown at (734) 266-2293

CELEBRATING FAMILIES

Time/Date: After all Masses from April 27-28

Location: St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: "Celebrating Families: Building Blocks of Society" will include a Catholic bookstore's display, refreshments and supervised LEGO play area for kids

Contact: (734) 425-5950; www.staidanlivonia.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28

Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, between Freedom Road and Grand River Ave., Farmington

Hills

Details: Annual Marie Walck Memorial Hymn Festival will include works by Beethoven, Bach, Handel and others sung by a mass choir composed of members of the St. John Chancel Choir, the DTE Singers, and guest singers from churches throughout the Metro area. Admission is free, although a free will offering will be collected

Contact: Wesley Fishwick at (248) 474-0584

CRAFT SHOW

Time/Date: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 27

Location: St. Matthew Church, 5885 Venoy, north of Ford Road, east of Merriman, Westland

Details: Variety of crafts, treats and more. Vendors representing different services and wares will be on hand, too. Lunch, bake sale and snack bar available. Sponsored by St. Matthew Women's Missionary League

Contact: Ruth Flunder, (734) 788-9357

FILM

Time/Date: 6:45 p.m. Friday, April 26

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

Details: Free screening of the movie, "Up," a 2009 3D computer-animated comedy-adventure. A meal of sloppy joes, baked beans, chips, and brownies will be offered for a free will donation

Contact: RSVP at (248) 553-3380

FILM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27

Location: Livonia Church of Christ, located on Merriman, just north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Free viewing of

"Courageous" for adults and the Disney movie, "Brave," for children

Contact: (734) 427-8743

FILM

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: The church and AAA Pregnancy Resource Center, show the film, "October Baby," which tells the story of a woman adopted by loving parents after a failed abortion. Free child care will be provided. Snacks will be available. The film is not recommended for children under 13

Contact: (734) 459-3333

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 25-26

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: A bag sale for \$2 per bag is set for 3 p.m. Friday

Contact: (734) 427-3660

SINGLE PLACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main, Northville

Details: **Coming up:** Play Euchre, Mexican Train and other games. Snacks and soft drinks provided. Ice cream will be available. \$5 donation. Single Place is designed for mature singles

Contact: www.singleplace.org

May

ASCENSION SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Service celebrates Jesus' ascension and will be followed by a free ice cream social

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

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 11

Location: New Life Church, 33111 Ford Road, Garden City

Details: Rent a space and keep the profit from your sale. Space rental is \$25

Contact: (734) 326-7000

CONCERT

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday, May 12

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The Concert Choir of Michigan Lutheran Seminary will present a concert of sacred songs. The 31 singers, under the direction of Leonard A. Proeber, have toured annually since 1955, with appearances in more than 30 states, Canada and Europe. No admission charge, but a free will offering will be accepted

Contact: (313) 532-8655

LADIES BRUNCH

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 11

Location: Covenant Community Church, 25800 Student, one block north of Five Mile near Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Robin Sullivan of WMUZ 103.5 is the guest speaker. Reservations deadline is May 8. A love offering will be taken at the event to help offset costs


Contact: RSVP to (313) 535-3100

Passages


Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances View Online
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**Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper
Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper**




BRIGGS, ROBERT HAROLD
Age 60, passed April 16 2013. Proceeded in death by wife Barbara Saczyk Briggs, parents Harold & Frances (Warner) Briggs, daughter Rachel, grandson Zachery. Dear Father to Michelle & Jim Obuchowski and Kris & Jackie Robertson. Brother to John Briggs, Laura & David Loviska, Grampa to Brody, Jenna Bean, & Sophie. Uncle to Stephen M. Christian Jr., Stephanie Irwin (Mike), and Nick Batey. Loved by Courtney Christian, Michael Irwin, Kayla Irwin Ashley Christian, Mr. T. and PePe, and many friends and relatives.



BROOKMAN, ARTHUR
Age 79, formerly of Detroit, MI died April 20, 2013 in Saratoga, CA. 1951 graduate of Cass Technical High School. 1955 Graduate of Michigan Technological University. Husband of the late Ruth Keskinen-Brookman, father of Jay (Sara) Brookman, Marc (Leslie) Brookman, & Brenda (Mike) Sinclair, Grandpaw to Wesley & Chase Brookman, Grandpa to Brent & Clifford Brookman, and Gramps to Anna & Mickey Sinclair. Husband of Myrna Brookman. Step dad to 4 and grandpa to 8 in Boise, ID. Memorial service will be held April 20th, at 11 am. 2013 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 19100 Allendale Ave, Saratoga CA. Memorial donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

HENSON, VIOLA
April 21, 2013; Age 90 of Westland. Dear mother of Richard. Half sister of Carman Grandy. Funeral services from the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Saturday 3pm. Visitation at the funeral home Saturday noon to 3pm. Cremation to follow. Family suggests memorials to Michigan Humane Society in lieu of flowers.
Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com



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Worship - 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

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Classical, sacred music

Plymouth Oratorio Society sings work by Handel

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Oratorio Society will sing its only concert of the year, next month at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

"It's the only choir I know of that is a one-semester choir," said Richard Ingram, conductor. "It's a pretty unusual group."

"Each year it's been between 80-95 singers and they come from all walks of life. They meet the first Monday in January and every Monday after that until the first Sunday in May when they do a concert with orches-

tra. It's a group I've really loved getting to know. There's been lots of different repertoire and they've been willing to try new things they've never tried before. So, it's been a fun group to be part of."

Ingram, who is in his seventh season with the Plymouth Oratorio Society, will lead the singers through an oratorio, *Judas Maccabaeus*, by George F. Handel, at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. The Michigan Sinfonietta Orchestra will accompany the group. Admission is free, although a free will offering will be taken.

It will be one of the few times in its 27-year history that the choir will sing an oratorio — a lengthy choral work that is similar to an opera in that it tells a story, but it doesn't include scenery or action. Oratorios generally focus on religious themes.

Years ago, the Society performed a portion of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Passion According to St. John* and a part of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, before turning its attention to requiems, Masses and other pieces. For its 25th anniversary in 2011, the group sang *Elijah* again, performing most of the work. That same year Ingram began planning for another oratorio performance and chose the Handel piece. It focuses on Judas Maccabaeus, who led the Israelite army in a rebellion for religious freedom against the Syrians in 166 BC.

"Handel was a composer who invented the oratorio in the 18th century," Ingram said. "This one he premiered in 1747 and he kept revising it until the year he died, 1759. So, he kept changing some things, adding some things. It's one he tin-



Members of the Plymouth Oratorio Society rehearse for their upcoming spring concert.

tered with a lot and during his lifetime it was the second most performed oratorio behind *Messiah*.

"These days you don't hear many performances of *Judas Maccabaeus*. I knew some of the choruses from it, but most of the music I didn't know. So, for me as a conductor it was fun to learn something new."

Appealing melodies

Ingram suspects *Judas Maccabaeus* appeals to singers and audiences alike because of its "beautiful melodies." He said Handel's music is as popular today as it was in the 18th century.

"It's just such exciting, sort of happy music," he described *Judas Maccabaeus*. "In this particular piece, there also is some very sad music that goes along with the story line. It's a piece with good contrast, lots of duets, solos as well as chorus. It has a little bit of everything."

"I think a lot of the



Ingram

appeal of *Messiah* the listeners will find with *Judas Maccabaeus*, also."

Ingram, who also conducts the choir at Huron High School in Ann Arbor, has begun planning for a collaboration with the Michigan Philharmonic next season. The Plymouth Oratorio Society will sing *Te Deum* by 19th century composer, Antonin Dvorak during a Michigan Philharmonic concert in early 2014. The group will sing it again at its spring 2014 concert, along with a few

shorter works. Ingram said the opportunity to sing with a live orchestra, such as the Michigan Philharmonic or Michigan Sinfonietta, helps the Plymouth Oratorio Society draw new members and keep its existing singers.

"People normally don't get that chance with the church choir and most of the people in this group are also in other community groups or in their church choir. This provides them the opportunity to do a bigger piece than they could do in the other situations. It's also a real thrill for the singers to have such a big sound, with an orchestra and large chorus."

"It's a pretty exciting performance experiences, not just for the listeners, but for the singers themselves."

For more information about the Plymouth Oratorio Society, call (734) 455-8353 or visit plymouthoratoriosociety.org.



Members of the Plymouth Oratorio Society rehearse every Monday night, from January to their concert in May.

GET OUT!

Arts Crafts

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs: Then and Now, through June 16; Shirin Neshat, includes eight video installations and two series of photos, through July 7; print-making by Ellsworth Kelly, May 24-Sept. 8 Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org



Photography by Claudia Retter is on display this month at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

GALLERY@VT

Time/Dates: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through April 28

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: The photography of Claudia Retter
Contact: (734) 394-5300

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Dates: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through April 27

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Line & Brush: Two FigurativeVisions" shows the work of friends and art instructors, Amy Foster and Vianna Szabo. Foster is a master draftsman who loves line and gesture while Szabo's passion is paint and color. In conjunction with this exhibit, the artists will offer two-day workshops at the Northville Art House. Amy Foster will offer portrait drawing fundamentals, April 20-21 and Vianna Szabo will teach painting gesture portraits,

April 27-28. Limited space is available. See the Art House website at www.northvillearts.org for more information

Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Dates: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through April

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: "Spaces & Places," is the PCAC's 4th annual open juried exhibit

Contact: (734) 416-4278

THREE CITIES ART

Time/Dates: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 26-27; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, April 28 and 1-4 p.m. Monday, April 29; wine and cheese reception is Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Location: Westland Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road, Westland

Details: A juried art exhibit, held in conjunction with the DIA's Inside Out Program, will include oils, watercolors, pastels, collage, photo art, and more. To learn about the styles and techniques used by the artists, sign up for free guided tours of the art at the library check-out desk

Contact: Marilyn Meredith at (313) 231-3939 or e-mail marilynmeredith@wowway.com

UPPER HALL GALLERY

Time/Dates: Pub hours are 3 p.m.-midnight, Monday-Thursday; 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday; noon-midnight, Sunday; through April

Location: Inside Liberty Street Brew Pub, 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth

Details: Tim Gralewski's serigraphic artwork

Contact: Kate Paul at (734) 469-4880



"Becka Waiting" and other works by Vianna Szabo are on exhibit this month at Northville Art House.

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 26-27; 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 28

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Safe Haven," \$3

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Dates: 8 p.m. April 27

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: Buster Keaton Festival, accompanied by the Rev. Andrew Rogers; \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. The theater will close for May and June and reopen in July

Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

Music

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Dates: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month.

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Includes open mic performances and a featured group or musician. Admission is \$5, including performers. Individual and family annual memberships also are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFS-president@aol.com

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

Time/Dates: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 10-11

Location: Mercy High Auditorium, 29300 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: 33rd annual spring concert, "Even Stephen" features the 80-voice chorus directed by Steven SeGraves and accompanied by assistant director Susan Garr. The M4 Choir from Meads Mill Middle School in Northville also will perform. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Get advance tickets from the Costick Center at 26800 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills or call (810) 632-4067

Contact: Shelly Addison at (248) 250-1447

FARMINGTON HILLS LIBRARY

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sunday, May 12

Location: 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Attorney-turned-boogie-woogie-pianist, Matthew Ball

will perform. Hear classics like "Swanee River," "Over the Rainbow" and "Deep in the Heart of Texas," done boogie-woogie style in this free, one-hour program

Contact: (248) 553-0300

JAMMIN' TO END FAMINE

Time/Dates: Doors open at 7 p.m. Friday, April 26

Location: Marian High School Auditorium, 7225 Lahser, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Tom Birchler of Livonia and his brothers, Dave, Keith, Jim and John hold their annual concert to benefit "Kids Against Hunger." Performances by The Paisley Fogg, a 60s-style rock group; The Grunyons, with jazz a cappella; and Moose Wampler and the Overdays, with 50s party rock. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. They're available at the door or in advance by contacting Tom Birchler

Contact: (248) 722-1820 or e-mail to tbirchler@mi.rr.com

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Dates: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans. The next performance, on April 30, features Nuevo Jazz Detroit, with Duncan Jones on keyboard, Don Lewandowski on bass, Patrick Fitzgibbon on vibes and steel, Chuck Golemba on drums and Jerry LeDuff on congas

Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Dates: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Bill Mallonee with Ryan Dilaha, April 25; Twangtown Paramours with The Potter's Field, April 26; Acoustic Eidolon, April 27; Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin, May 3; Orpheum Bell and Lac La Belle, May 4; Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and Floyd King and the Bushwackers, May 5. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted

Contact: (734) 464-6302

Something different

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

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

Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free

Contact: (248) 541-5717

Historical

GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Time/Dates: April 27-28, May 4-5 and 11-12

Location: 20900 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn

Details: Tickets are on sale now for "Day Out with Thomas: The Go Go Thomas Tour 2013," which gives youngsters a chance to climb aboard Thomas the Tank Engine and take a 25-minute ride. The event includes Thomas-related activities, such as storytelling and arts & crafts. Train rides depart every 30 minutes, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are \$11.75 for members, 1 and older and includes free admission to Greenfield Village. Ticket prices for non-members are \$11.75 for children, 1-4; \$27.75 for youth, 5-12; \$33.75 for adults, 13-61; and \$32.75 for seniors, 62 and up

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Dates: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through June 9

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: New "Made in America" exhibit highlights America's contributions to industry, with a special emphasis on Michigan-made products. Visitors will find iconic American-made products throughout the Museum's "Main Street," including a 1931 Ford Model A pick-up truck belonging to Margaret Dunning, the Museum's major benefactor. Other notable items include eight pedal cars from the collection of Greg Gladki of Westland. Many more items from the Museum's collections are scattered throughout the exhibit, giving visitors a full sense of American ingenuity. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17

Contact: (734) 455-8940

Taste, compare gluten-free foods at annual fair

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sharon Manning doesn't have to eat gluten-free. But because her husband and children do, the Farmington Hills woman keeps products containing wheat, barley, rye, malt and oats out of her kitchen.

"My house is completely gluten free," said Manning, whose husband and children have celiac disease, an autoimmune disease that affects the small intestine. There's no cure for celiac disease and treatment consists of following a life-long gluten-free diet.

That can be a challenge for anyone who eats processed or convenience foods, enjoys baked goods or snacks, dines out or cooks at home. Many foods and ingredients, from soy sauce to pasta, malted milk to condensed soups contain gluten.

Knowing what kinds of gluten-free options are available and which stores carry them can make shopping, cooking and eating easier for individuals with celiac disease or gluten intolerance.

That's why the Tri-County Celiac Support Group (TCCSG) sponsors an annual gluten-free food fair. Manning, a member of the group is in charge of the annual event this year.

The fair runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at The First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Vendors



will be on hand with samples of their gluten-free products which also will be available for purchase. Several raffles will be held throughout the day for gift baskets, cook books, fitness memberships and more. Admission is free to TCCSG members, and \$10 for non-members.

Strength in numbers

"We encourage people to become members. The larger our group is, the more weight our voice has as a group to go to a market and say, will you carry these (gluten-free) things? We're trying to make sure the entire gluten-free community is aware of us,"

Manning said.

She attributes the increased availability of gluten-free products in southeastern Michigan to TCCSG, noting that the group is vocal about the needs of the celiac community and encourages grocery stores to carry gluten-free products.

"Hillers has been so respon-

sive and that puts pressure on some of the bigger chain stores," she said.

Hillers' Market, which has stores in Livonia and Farmington Hills; Plum Market, with stores in Ann Arbor and West Bloomfield; Celiac Specialties, in Farmington Hills; and Rumi's Passion, in Livonia, are among the vendors expected to attend the fair.

Bonding experience

Manning describes the event as family-friendly and encourages parents to bring their children along.

"For my children, they not only love going some place they can finally taste everything — going to COSTCO is no fun when you can't taste anything — but it's bonding. They've made friends while attending the food fair. There is something liberating for children who are celiacs when they know other people get it, other kids have the same restrictions they do."

According to TCCSG, celiac disease occurs in approximately one in 135 individuals. Symptoms can include bone or joint pain, weight loss, anemia, bloating, depression, fatigue, diarrhea or constipation. Celiac disease can lead to other disorders, such as cancers and additional autoimmune diseases if a patient fails to follow a gluten-free diet.

For more information about the food fair, visit www.tccsg.net. For questions, e-mail maorlando39@gmail.com

Grilling goes sweet and savory

With spring temperatures finally on the upswing, it's time to haul out the grill or fire up the gas-fueled barbecue.

When it comes to a great cookout, you want to keep things simple and tasting fantastic. And that starts with just the right recipes.

The mild taste of pork tenderloin is perfect for pairing with the bold flavors of the Apple Butter Glaze in this recipe. The sweet and tangy taste of apple butter is nicely balanced with mild Vidalia onions, zesty Dijon mustard and a dry white wine.

When grilling, keep a couple of things in mind:

- Cook the tenderloin over indirect heat — the cooler side of the grill — so that it cooks slowly and evenly. This also keeps the glaze from scorching.
- Turn meat with tongs, never with a fork. Piercing the meat releases its natural juices — and you'll end up with a dry entree.

If you prefer poultry, try Apple Butter BBQ Sauce with Chiles and Cilantro on chicken or Sweet & Spicy Wings. For beef, brush Apple Butter Marinade on a steak and grill. While you're tending to the barbecue grill, munch on cheese or pretzels slathered with Apple Butter Mustard Dip.

For a savory side dish with a hint of sweetness, try these Honey Apple Butter Baked Beans. Three kinds of beans are baked with apple butter and honey with a hint of heat from cumin and cayenne pepper. Cap it all off with fresh fruit and Pumpkin Walnut Dipping Sauce.

Get more delicious recipes for your cookout season at www.musselmans.com.



Grilled Pork Tenderloin with Apple Butter Glaze

Grilled Pork Tenderloin with Apple Butter Glaze

Servings: 4
Cooking Time: 25 – 40 minutes

1 cup apple butter
2 tablespoons Vidalia onion, finely chopped
½ cup Dijon mustard
½ cup dry white wine or white cooking wine

Salt and pepper to taste
Vegetable oil
2 boneless pork tenderloins, trimmed (1 – 1.5 pounds each)

In medium bowl, whisk together apple butter, onion, mustard and wine. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

In small sauce pan, bring apple butter mixture to a boil, stirring constantly. Set aside a few tablespoons of the glaze to drizzle on the cooked meat before serving.

Preheat grill to medium high. Brush pork with oil and season with salt and pepper.

Over direct heat, brown tenderloin on all sides, about 5 minutes total. Brush meat with glaze and, if grill allows, move to indi-



Honey Apple Butter Baked Beans

rect heat. Turn every 5–6 minutes to prevent glaze from scorching, brushing occasionally with additional glaze. Cook meat to an internal temperature of 160°F (cooking time will vary from 25–40 minutes, based on thickness of tenderloins and type of grill).

Remove from grill, brush again with glaze and let rest for 10 minutes. Slice into ½-inch thick slices, drizzle with reserved glaze, and serve immediately.

Honey Apple Butter Baked Beans

Servings: 8
Cooking Time: 50 – 60 minutes

1 cup apple butter
½ cup honey
½ cup ketchup
½ cup water
2 tablespoons minced dried onion

1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon salt
¼–½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 can (15.5 ounces) great northern beans, drained
1 can (15.5 ounces) black beans, drained, rinsed
1 can (15 ounces) red or pinto beans, drained

Heat oven to 375°F. Mix all ingredients except beans in large bowl. Stir in beans.

Pour into 2-quart baking dish or casserole. Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Apple Butter BBQ Sauce with Chiles and Cilantro

Makes 6-8 servings

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion, cut into small dice

1–½ cup apple butter
½ cup apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
2 tablespoons finely chopped canned chiles en adobo
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
½ teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped

Heat oil in a large saucepan. Add onion and sauté until tender, about 5 minutes. Except cilantro, add remaining ingredients and bring to a simmer 10-15 minutes. Stir in cilantro. (Can be cooled, covered, and refrigerated for a couple of weeks).

Serving Suggestions:

- Brush on chicken or pork during last few minutes of grilling.
- Heat with your favorite meatballs for an instant appetizer.
- Stir into cooked ground beef for BBQ Sloppy Joes.
- Heat with cocktail wieners for a quick appetizer.

Apple Butter Marinade for Beef

Makes 6-8 servings

½ cup apple butter
½ cup tomato juice
3 tablespoons white vinegar
1 large clove garlic, minced
1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning

½ teaspoon salt
¼–½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 tablespoons bourbon (optional)

Mix all ingredients in medium bowl. Use as a marinade for up to 2 pounds of beef steaks or kabobs. Marinate meat in the refrigerator for 2 hours to overnight. Brush marinade over meat as it grills

or broils. Discard any remaining marinade.

Tip: Make a separate batch of marinade to use as a sauce on the cooked meat.

Sweet & Spicy Wings

Makes 16 servings

1 cup apple butter
½ cup hot sauce (use your favorite brand and level of heat)
½ cup ketchup
½ teaspoon celery salt
2 pounds uncooked chicken wings, cut in 2 sections, or chicken drumettes

2 tablespoons butter, melted
Mix together the apple butter, hot sauce, ketchup, and celery salt in a medium bowl. Reserve ¼ cup of the sauce as a dip; cover and refrigerate. Place the wings in plastic zip storage bag with the remaining sauce. Seal the bag and coat all the wings. Refrigerate 2 hours to overnight.

Heat oven to 375°F. For easy cleanup, line baking pan (about 10-by 13-inch) with foil. Remove wings from the marinade bag and place in a single layer in the pan. Reserve the bag of marinade. Bake wings for 30 minutes. Turn wings and baste with the remaining marinade. Bake an additional 30 minutes or until wings are fork-tender. Discard any remaining marinade in the bag.

Warm the ¼ cup of reserved sauce with the melted butter and serve as a dipping sauce with wings.

Serving Suggestion: Substitute fresh chicken tenders for the wings. Broil or grill.

Courtesy of Family Features

Builder survey shows signs of optimism

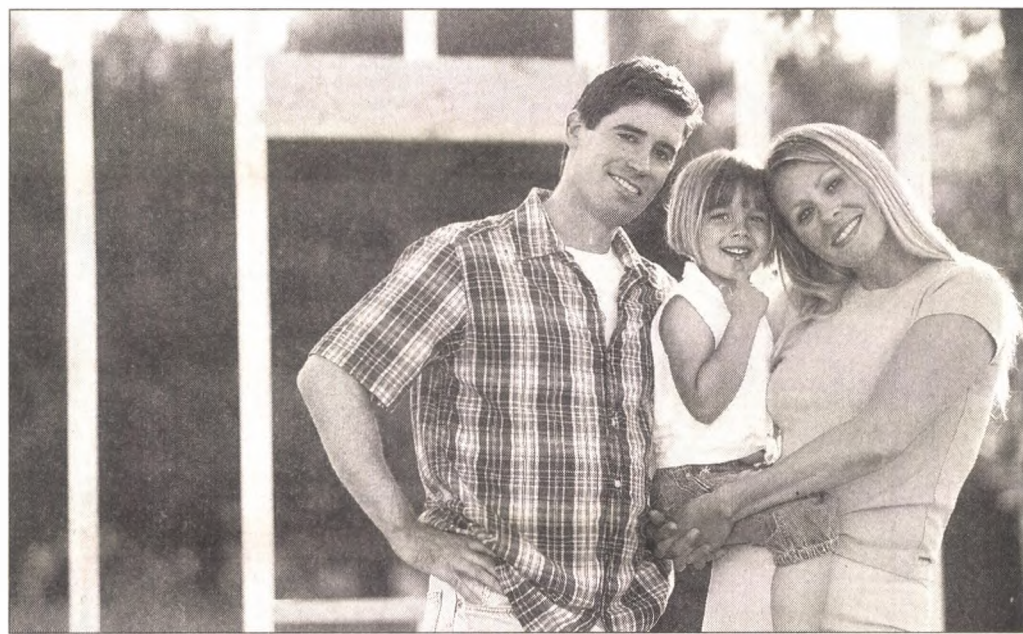
A statewide survey shows a strong surge in optimism among homebuilders and remodelers which bodes well for a stronger housing market in 2013. The Michigan Housing Index (MHI), which is conducted by the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBA Michigan), recorded its highest total in the three-year history of the survey.

"The survey confirms what we have been hearing from homebuilders and remodelers for the past several months," said Robert Filka, HBA Michigan CEO. "There has been considerable pent-up demand among consumers as they have waited for market conditions to improve. Many potential buyers recognize that now is a perfect time for them to enter the market."

The latest Michigan Housing Index covers the time period of January through March 2013. The first quarter 2013 index for builders was 59, which was up sharply from 38 in December of 2012, and 44 recorded in March 2012. Following is a year-to-year comparison of the MHI Index:

	March 2013	December 2012	March 2012
Builders Index	59	38	44
Remodelers Index	58	38	45

The Michigan Housing Index (MHI) is a quarterly summary of building and remodeling activity compiled by HBA of Michigan. The survey asks builders about the number of homes currently under construction and in the planning stages. Builders are also asked to evaluate their prospects for future customers. Totals are calculated in an index that is reported quarterly to provide a tracking mechanism for the industry's process. The survey breaks down



builder/remodeler sentiment into three categories:

- Less than 45 (pessimistic)
- 45-55 (cautious optimism)
- Above 55 (optimistic)

"It is significant to note that the Michigan Housing Index total for the first quarter shows that builders and remodelers have for the first time in the history of the survey moved into the solidly optimistic category," said Filka. "There is still a long ways to go before we can say that housing is all the way back, but the trend lines are certainly encouraging."

A noteworthy trend in the MHI survey for the first quarter was the growing amount

of interest that builders are experiencing among consumers purchasing more expensive homes, particularly in the \$200,000-\$500,000 category. There has also been a modest uptick in consumer interest for homes in the \$500,000-\$800,000 category.

"During the economic downturn, most of the homes that did sell were under \$200,000," said Filka. "The fact that more homebuyers are now looking at higher priced homes is another indicator of a recovering housing market."

The Michigan Housing Index combines results of a monthly survey of Michigan build

Determine source of radon

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: A condominium unit in our complex tested high for radon. The radon reports show that the radon has entered into the unit through the concrete floor; accordingly, the owner has asked the association to mitigate it. Is the association responsible for mitigating radon found in the unit?

A: The answer boils down to whether the issue of mitigation rests upon where the radon was found or from where it came. Obviously, if the position of the association or their documents is that if the radon is in the unit, then the co-owner is responsible for where the radon is found and it would be unit owner's responsibility to mitigate it.



Robert Meisner

On the other hand, if the radon came from the ground which is a common element, one could argue

that it is the association's responsibility since it was the source of the radon and the concrete floor was presumably a common element through which the radon traversed. You are best advised to get a consultation with your community association-condominium lawyer.

Q: We have a time share complex in Florida which is a condo and we are suspicious of how the finances are being handled, but are told that the head of the board will not give specifics even to other board members. The onsite managers are an ex-maid there and her ex-husband. Elections were just held and a new member proposes to get to the bottom of the finances, but if she gets stonewalled, what is her recourse and, what is ours?

A: Presumably, you have a right to look at the books and records of the association and if you are stonewalled, get a lawyer and threaten a lawsuit to seek a review of all of the documents. Unfortunately, sometimes persons in a position of authority in condominium associations steal money and/or otherwise abuse their position. If you have any sense of impropriety, get a lawyers as soon as possible and investigate the situation. Being stonewalled is no excuse not to take action.

Q: We are a mixed use project and I am wondering if we are FHA eligible in terms of loans.

A: FHA considers a project ineligible if any single live-work unit in the building exceeds their 25 percent cap on nonresidential space. Therefore, even if only one unit has space allocated to work "that exceeds 25 percent of the space of that unit," it would render the whole project ineligible.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 26, 2012, to Jan. 11, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

2441 Berwick Dr	\$168,000
705 Burlington Rd	\$181,000
45402 Cypress Ct	\$320,000
632 Filmore St	\$278,000
49968 Hancock St	\$335,000
44419 Heather Ln	\$195,000
45521 Morningside Rd	\$280,000
757 N Beck Rd	\$221,000
41801 Princess Dr	\$265,000
47449 Raminder Ct	\$21,000
45588 S Stonewood Rd	\$182,000
427 Sandalwood Rd	\$349,000
44070 Southampton Dr	\$142,000
2826 Stanton St	\$258,000

41736 Wayside Dr	\$120,000
1758 Wentworth Dr	\$210,000
44425 Westminister Way	\$180,000
GARDEN CITY	
32137 Balmoral St	\$66,000
31026 Beechwood St	\$106,000
122 Central Ct	\$45,000
32128 Chester St	\$26,000
29554 John Hawk St	\$85,000
994 W Rose Ave	\$107,000
LIVONIA	
35580 Ann Arbor Trl	\$183,000
14343 Arcola St	\$125,000
11011 Auburndale St	\$156,000
36144 Barkley St	\$115,000
14705 Blue Skies St	\$117,000
12416 Cardwell St	\$58,000
36268 Club Dr	\$30,000
8869 Danzig St	\$103,000
8907 E Deborah Ct	\$123,000
35061 Ellen Ct	\$215,000
35061 Ellen Ct	\$215,000
34551 Fairfax Dr	\$240,000
30328 Fairfax St	\$109,000
9030 Henry Ruff Rd	\$50,000

9718 Horton St	\$33,000
11314 Hubbard St	\$166,000
37124 Kingsburn Cir	\$365,000
27525 Lyndon St	\$125,000
14676 Melrose St	\$77,000
30606 Minton St	\$117,000
9911 Roseland St	\$60,000
15322 Sunset St	\$90,000
NORTHVILLE	
17001 Algonquin Dr	\$385,000
19047 Angell Blvd	\$595,000
18888 Bayberry Way	\$526,000
44574 Broadmoor Cir N	\$450,000
19709 Cardene Way	\$1,000
16729 Lyonhurst Cir	\$290,000
46221 Pinehurst Dr	\$520,000
715 Randolph St	\$70,000
218 West St	\$229,000
18350 Woodbury Ct	\$650,000
PLYMOUTH	
48567 E Hillcrest Ct	\$375,000
45868 Green Valley Rd	\$300,000
748 Harding St	\$150,000
41930 Lindsay Dr	\$125,000
48631 Meadow Dr	\$335,000

12952 N Beck Rd	\$308,000
730 Penniman Ave	\$189,000
1341 Sheridan St	\$310,000
REDFORD	
11422 Crosley	\$25,000
15654 Fox	\$60,000
17717 Gaylord	\$45,000
15912 Kinloch	\$24,000
26272 Margareta	\$45,000
18657 Negaunee	\$23,000
26309 W Seven Mile Rd	\$17,000
15509 Wakenden	\$29,000
24620 Westgate Dr	\$32,000
WESTLAND	
380 Bedford Dr	\$85,000
7346 Central St	\$20,000
6797 Chirrewa St	\$69,000
1335 Craig Dr	\$130,000
35668 Fernwood St	\$71,000
37608 Garden Ct	\$40,000
38062 Hixford Pl	\$50,000
29524 Julius Blvd	\$32,000
319 Shotka St	\$62,000
7538 Terri Dr	\$38,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 10-17, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

32251 Arlington Dr	\$210,000
21630 Normandale St	\$250,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
22987 W 13 Mile Rd	\$120,000
BIRMINGHAM	
1815 Bowers St	\$145,000
1393 Cedar Dr	\$435,000
691 Harmon St	\$260,000
691 Harmon St	\$380,000
1856 Hazel St	\$140,000
557 Henrietta St	\$170,000
1720 Washington Blvd	\$750,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
172 Kirkwood Ct	\$660,000
2512 Loch Creek Way	\$449,000
7425 Parkstone Ln	\$198,000
1788 S Hill Blvd	\$128,000
6828 Vachon Dr	\$248,000
1197 Winchcombe Dr	\$130,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
911 Dedham Ct	\$215,000
3065 Devon Brook Dr	\$105,000
3289 Devon Brook Dr	\$270,000
4693 Hedgewood Dr	\$210,000
2384 Klingensmith Rd	\$57,000
5608 Lahser Rd	\$285,000

1895 Pine Ridge Ln	\$225,000
5543 Westwood Ln	\$305,000
5131 Woodlands Dr	\$260,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
4740 Driftwood Dr	\$380,000
8119 Farrant St	\$352,000
7958 Marshalsea St	\$75,000
2133 Palmetto	\$265,000
4984 Parkgate Dr	\$365,000
4479 Ravinewood Dr	\$465,000
1825 Sleeth Rd	\$386,000
5941 Strawberry Cir	\$309,000
711 W Commerce Rd	\$28,000
3740 Wild Oak Bnd	\$141,000
FARMINGTON	
35252 Drake Heights Dr	\$205,000
22830 Lakeway St	\$65,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
36996 Aldgate Ct	\$290,000
28824 Appleblossom Ln	\$260,000
26514 Badalament Ct	\$185,000
32250 Baintree Rd	\$177,000
31242 Bycroft St	\$213,000
30917 Cedar Creek Dr	\$229,000
28124 Danvers Dr	\$155,000
30170 Fiddlers Grn	\$214,000
37080 Fox Gln	\$355,000
24424 Glen Orchard Dr	\$243,000
36555 Howard Rd	\$425,000
31476 Hunters Circle Dr	\$124,000
30807 Lamar St	\$150,000
25959 Lynford St	\$150,000
25607 Orchard Lake Rd	\$37,000
25600 Ridgewood Dr	\$185,000
26364 Springland St	\$85,000
31991 Staman Ct	\$130,000
31137 Tiverton St	\$150,000

28594 Venice Cir	\$155,000
25446 Witherspoon St	\$285,000
33819 Yorkridge St	\$279,000
FRANKLIN	
30150 Forest Dr	\$740,000
25625 Tweed Dr	\$497,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18136 Sunnybrook Ave	\$110,000
MILFORD	
2288 Childs Lake Rd	\$169,000
814 E Liberty St	\$260,000
2682 E Maple Rd	\$185,000
1473 Horseshoe Cir	\$225,000
736 Mill Pointe Dr	\$234,000
931 Riverstone Ct	\$252,000
NORTHVILLE	
38866 Cheshire Dr	\$233,000
51925 Chertis Ct	\$399,000
203 Debra Ln	\$224,000
20950 Normandy Ct	\$80,000
21750 Woodside Ct	\$215,000
NOVI	
50630 Amesburg Dr	\$653,000
50735 Amesburg Dr	\$588,000
50750 Amesburg Dr	\$549,000
45767 Bristol Cir	\$389,000
25836 Cheyenne Dr	\$440,000
47324 Cider Mill Dr	\$214,000
28026 Hopkins Dr	\$152,000
24351 N Le Bost	\$122,000
22775 Renford St	\$44,000
24318 Terra Del Mar Dr	\$534,000
28468 Traci Trl	\$130,000
30216 Viewcrest Dr	\$251,000
30226 Viewcrest Dr	\$256,000
39774 Village Wood Cir	\$50,000
39853 Village Wood Ln	\$40,000

23965 Westmont Dr	\$470,000
SOUTH LYON	
24839 Brompton Way Ct	\$40,000
1272 Coach House Ln	\$40,000
54865 Glenwood Ct	\$40,000
59801 Mallory Ln	\$374,000
24384 Ravine Dr	\$2,000
61121 Saddlecreek Dr	\$293,000
53731 Springwood Dr	\$25,000
23506 Spy Glass HI N	\$330,000
52473 Trailwood Dr	\$100,000
52797 Trailwood Dr	\$65,000
52797 Trailwood Dr	\$2,000
23942 Winged Foot Way	\$356,000
SOUTHFIELD	
30260 Balewood St	\$193,000
17620 Cornell Rd	\$67,000
28020 Everett St	\$15,000
29545 Fairfax St	\$44,000
20506 Mada Ave	\$33,000
18195 Onyx St	\$103,000
20160 Secluded Ln	\$65,000
20580 Secluded Ln	\$95,000
29715 Somerset Dr	\$126,000
25430 Southfield Rd # A201	\$38,000
29123 Wellington Rd E	\$43,000
29625 Woodland Dr	\$108,000
WHITE LAKE	
79 Grandview Cir	\$105,000
930 Pembroke Dr	\$239,000
8365 Pontiac Lake Rd # 1	\$26,000
760 Ranveen St	\$437,000
9387 Steephollow Dr	\$272,000
8092 Sutton Ct	\$142,000
8206 Timber Trl	\$148,000
2235 Wiggen Ln	\$207,000
8054 Wildwood Ln	\$217,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Condo operation information

The Meisner Law Group, P.C., announced attorney Robert M. Meisner will be conducting a four-week course Tuesday evenings in May from 7-9 p.m. covering "Advanced Condominium Operation, The Essentials for Success."

This seminar is designed for board members and officers, managers, developers, and association members

living in or working with a condominium, subdivision, cooperative, or community association. Explore the many legal issues involved in the successful operation of an association. Cost is \$95 (\$85 per person when two or more enroll from the same organization).

For registration information, contact The Meisner Law Group, P.C. at (248) 644-4433 or (800) 470-4433, via e-mail at: bmeisner@

meisner-law.com, or visit the seminar page on the website: Meisner-law.com.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures and what it takes to get started.

Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also dis-

cuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved. Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Additional parking across the street in back.

Please call the office at (248) 782-7130 or e-mail june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

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