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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.

So here's what the *Plymouth Observer* wants to know in advance of Mother's Day: What rules, sayings, advice or other parenting methods do you channel from things your own mother said to you when you were a kid? Whether it was "Do as I say, not as I do" or "Wait 'til your father gets home!" we'd like to hear about it.

E-mail 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.

Town hall

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials will present the district's Education and Racial Equity policy at a town hall meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, in the large board meeting room at Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center in Canton.

The meeting, sponsored by the Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion, will explain how the policy was written, how it will affect the community and what students and parents can expect to see as the policy is implemented. A question-and-answer session will follow the discussion.

Anyone wanting to find the policy (Policy No. 2660.03) can visit the district's website at www.pccs.k12.mi.us.

For more information, e-mail plycandci@gmail.com.

LWV meeting

The League of Women Voters will hold an informational meeting about some of the proposed changes to Michigan's public schools on Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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District waits as bond vote looms

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Once an informational flier went home with students Friday, it was all over but the waiting for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials hoping they did enough to convince voters to pass a \$114.4 million bond Tuesday.

Administrators and Board of Education members have been working since late February, when the board passed bond language and approved the May 7 election date, to talk to as many

Other districts seek bonds, A10.

people throughout the district as they could reach to provide details of how passage of the bond will affect the district.

"We certainly have made a valiant effort at getting the word out, with signs and fliers, conversations, emails," said board President John Barrett. "We are hopeful, obviously, because this is much-needed to keep the district competitive in the 21st century."

In slightly more than two months since the bond language

was OK'd, officials estimate they've made their bond presentation some 30-40 times. They've spoken to PTO groups, township boards, chambers of commerce and service clubs. Some of those efforts have proved tangibly successful — several members of the Canton Township Board of Trustees and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce have come out in support — while others have had less obvious results.

For instance, the district conducted two well-publicized town hall-style meetings last

week, and attendance — nobody showed up for one at Canton High School, while only a half-dozen turned out at the Plymouth Cultural Center — was sparse, at best.

"The Canton meeting was on our own 'turf,' and we typically do better off-site at a meeting center," said Jeremy Hughes, the district's superintendent. "Thinking positively, I hope it means people are already informed and have made up their minds."

Please see BOND, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth Cultural Center's new geothermal system, installed by Ryan Jahnke of Thermo Source in October 2010, cut the facility's natural gas bill by more than 80 percent and is set to save even more.

City finds savings in geothermal system

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Cultural Center's new geothermal system, which cut the facility's natural gas bill by more than 80 percent, is set to save even more as the city enters a guarantee period with the company that put it together.

The \$1 million system was installed in 2010 and Thermo Source, the Sylvan Lake energy consulting company that designed it and was the general contractor for

its construction, is promising energy savings of \$96,580 a year.

The three-year guarantee period began Wednesday; if annual savings fall short of that mark, Thermo Source will cut the city a check for the difference.

The system works by capturing heat energy from water as it's chilled for arena ice, then using it elsewhere in the building: to heat the building during cold weather, to heat water for locker room showers and to heat water

for the Zamboni ice-grooming machine.

Energy recycling

"Instead of paying for energy multiple times, we're reusing energy we already paid for," recreation director Steve Anderson said Friday.

Excess heated water is cooled naturally in the system's closed loop of 45 geothermal wells, where the temperature is a constant 56 degrees, then recalled for

Please see GEOTHERMAL, A2

Field poised for city run; 2 term-limited

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

With the filing deadline less than two weeks away, four candidates, including two incumbents, have announced their bids for four seats on the Plymouth City Commission.

The terms of four people on the seven-person commission, the city's primary legislative body, expire late this year, and with two of those commissioners barred by term limits from seeking re-election, the commission will have at least two new members after the November election.

Incumbents Mayor Dan Dwyer, elected to a four-year term in 2009, and Commissioner Diane Bogenreider, elected to a two-year term in 2011, both say they are in the race. Only Bogenreider has filed candidacy petitions, however.

Daniel P. Dalton, who is on the city's Economic Development and Brownfield Commission, and Oliver Wolcott, chairman of the Downtown Development Authority, also have taken out petitions, but have not returned them to Clerk Linda Langmesser's office.

Deadline looms

The filing deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 14. Would-be candidates must be registered Plymouth voters and need the signatures of at least 25, but no more

Please see FIELD, A3

Cultural experience



Artist Kyla Suchy of Plymouth paints the "Birth of Venus" on the veranda of D&M Art Studios in Canton as part of a "meet-and-greet" event promoting Canton's third annual Acts of Culture Week. The celebration winds up today (Sunday) with a "Cinco De Mayo" performance by the Michigan Philharmonic. For details, please see the story on page A3.

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Small aircraft lands on Ann Arbor Trail

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

An ultralight "gyrocopter" made an emergency landing in eastern Plymouth Township early Friday afternoon. There were no injuries.

The one-person aircraft had just taken off from Mettetal Airport in Canton Township when it landed on Ann Arbor Trail near Butternut Avenue, which is just

west of I-275, around 1 p.m., officials said.

Police Chief Tom Tiderington said the male pilot avoided hitting any vehicles on the road, and the gyrocopter was quickly moved to the side of the road. Ann Arbor Trail did not have to be closed to traffic, the chief said.

Tiderington did not know the pilot's home town. It was not immediately

known what forced the pilot to land. The aircraft had been hauled away within 90 minutes of the landing.

Tiderington said the Federal Aviation Administration was contacted but didn't come out to investigate, as the aircraft did not meet the agency's definition of an airplane.

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No one knows
the local community
like a local.

Letter carriers set for annual food drive

The National Association of Letter Carriers will celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive on Saturday, May 11, and collect non-perishable and non-expired food and toiletry items.

All food collected by the Plymouth and Canton mail carriers will be distributed to those in need in the Plymouth-

Canton community.

Organizers are encouraging residents throughout Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton to place food and toiletry items in a bag by their mailboxes, allowing neighborhood letter carriers to collect the donations.

All types of food are needed, but in particular, canned

meats (tuna/chicken), canned fruit, Spaghetti-O's (and other canned meals), cereal, peanut butter, jelly and juice are in high demand as well as all toiletries.

"We are grateful to the mail carriers of Plymouth, Canton and Belleville for allowing The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps to receive this food,"

said Russ Jones, Canton resident and chair of the Plymouth Corps' Advisory Board. "Since 2006, the mail carriers have collected almost 275,000 pounds of food in our community, for our community."

"We really need the community to get behind our mail carriers by placing non-perishable, non-expired food by the mail-

box on May 11 (rain or shine). Your mail carrier will pick it up when he or she delivers your mail," he added.

Another way residents can help is by reminding neighbors, Facebook friends, Twitter followers and fellow church members to join in. Word of mouth is the best way to support our mail carriers and neighbors-in-need.

GEOTHERMAL

Continued from page A1

use in the building's cooling needs, such as air-conditioning.

Anderson gave an update on the system to the Plymouth City Commission during a recent budget study session.

He said a shortfall in projected savings, and the guarantee period that puts Thermo Source on the hook to make up any shortfall, prompted the company to fine-tune the system, at its own expense, over the past months in order to increase efficiency. Improvements have included an \$85,000 dehumidification system and a \$25,000 rewiring project that linked all geothermal-related equipment to a

separate meter in order to take advantage of a 20-percent geothermal rate discount offered by DTE Energy. About 75 percent of the building's electricity usage is due to the running of the geothermal system, Anderson said.

It's in the electricity savings, Anderson said, that the system fell short of projections, and Thermo Source has been trying to correct that situation.

And natural-gas savings have been huge. Over a 12-month period since the system was switched on, Cultural Center gas bills have averaged \$1,017 a month, vs. \$5,811 a month for the 12-month baseline period before the system was installed, Anderson said. That's a savings of nearly \$58,000 a year.

'Just gravy'

In addition, Anderson is estimating savings in system maintenance costs to total \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year, savings that are not included in Thermo Source's guarantee. "That's just gravy for us," he said.

The geothermal system replaced 40-plus-year-old equipment that required a lot more maintenance. "We had to replace it with something," Anderson said.

The system is the first of its kind to be installed at an ice arena in Michigan.

Anderson told commissioners that "the quality of the ice has never been better," and, in a memo to the commission, explained that summertime ice installation involves cooling

the 20,000-square-foot rink's 10-inch concrete floor from about 85 degrees to 17 degrees in a matter of days. "We have a huge amount of heat to remove in a very short period of time," he wrote.

Mayor Dan Dwyer said Thursday that the system has proved to be a good investment, and complimented Thermo Source for standing behind its product and working to increase the system's efficiency.

The geothermal system was paid for through the city general fund, which is being repaid through the recreation fund.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth recreation director Steve Anderson said the Thermo Source system is paying off. "Instead of paying for energy multiple times, we're reusing energy we already paid for," he said.

BOND

Continued from page A1

Approaching everyone

The district even took to potentially unfriendly waters by meeting with local Republicans in two different settings, and approach the local Rattle With Us Tea Party group. Hughes approached Mark Hutchins, a Republican active in the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, and asked for help setting up the meetings with the Republicans after

the district was initially approached by the Plymouth Democratic Club.

"We thought we shouldn't be seen as courting one particular group," Hughes said. "We knew it was doubtful they'd support this, but we just wanted them to have the correct information."

Brodie Killian, the district's executive director of business operations, met with the Rattle With Us Tea Party group. After that meeting, the group issued a statement saying there were opinions on both sides within

the group.

"The Rattle With Us Tea Party will not officially support, or oppose, the May 7 PCCS bond proposal," the statement read. "Our members, like the community, are divided on the merits of this proposal. Our organization works to provide relevant information to our members, and the community, empowering them to make their own decisions at the ballot box."

Some questions

Not everyone has been supportive. Plymouth

Township trustees had several questions about the bond, and Plymouth resident Paul Garon recently started a campaign to defeat it.

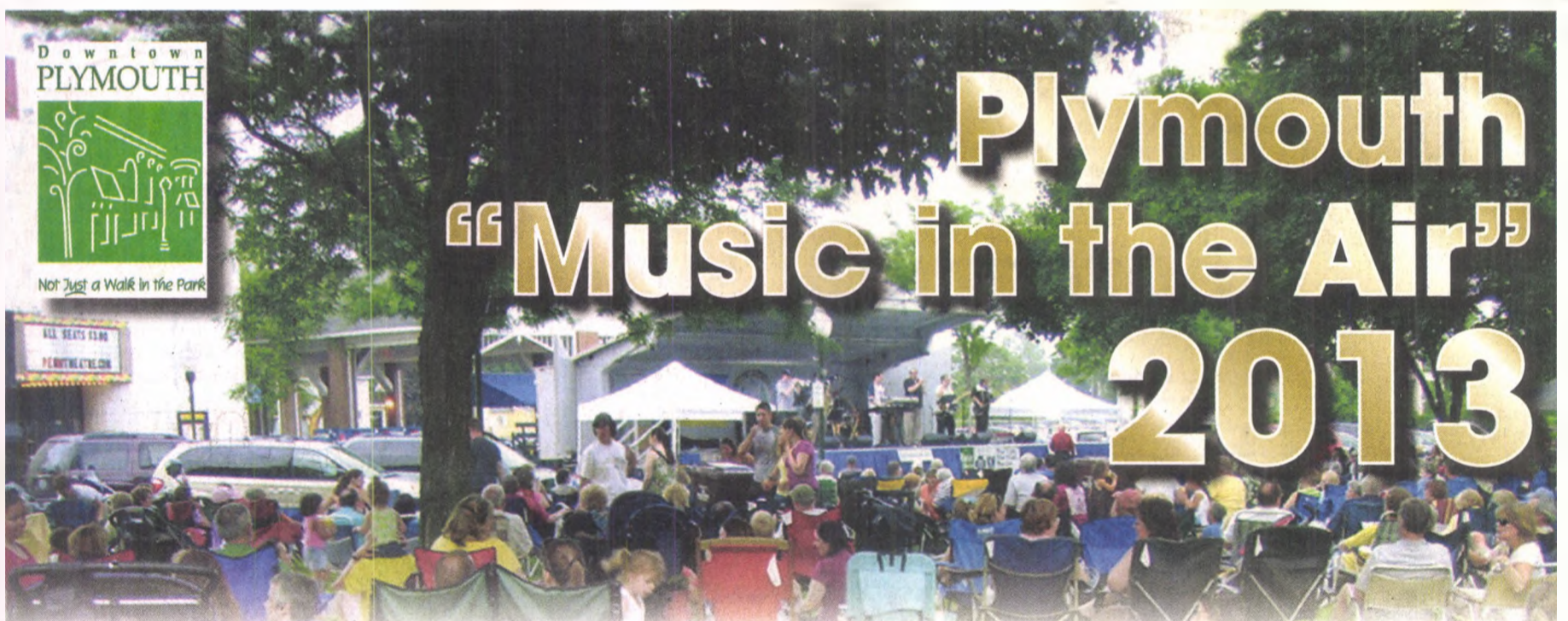
An anti-bond website (www.savepccs.com) has been actively opposing it. The website, which contains no attribution and does not disclose its political affiliation, questions everything from the need for the bond to the timing (suggesting the board should have waited until new Superintendent Michael Meisen comes aboard July 1).

The site also questions the cost of building a new middle school, suggests giving every student an electronic learning device could be psychologically harmful, and suggests the district investigate cyber classrooms before investing in a new middle school.

Despite that opposition, Barrett is "hopeful" the district did enough to inform voters. He pointed out several nights saw four or five presentations being made simultaneously by district representatives.

"I don't know what more they could have done," he said. "I'm not sure more time would have helped, because opposing forces would have had that same time to get out and oppose it. This will bring the STEM programs to all of our middle schools, and make the district even more competitive than it is now as we move forward into an extremely competitive educational environment. To me, it's a no-brainer."

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May 31 - The Crutches
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June 7 - Sound Alternative
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June 14 - Shawn Riley
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June 21 - Mainstreet Soul
(A funky good time)

June 28 - Steve King
(Classic Rock - Michigan's "Official" State Band)

July 5 - Rusty Wright
(Flint's own slide guitar master)

July 19 - Gia Warner
(Detroit Music Awards nominated Best Rock and Pop Vocalist)

July 26 - Fifty AMP Fuse
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August 2 - Global Village
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August 9 - Randy Brock
(Classic Rock/ Blues - Detroit's #1 Blues Guitar Master)

August 16 - Annabelle Road
(Detroit's Hottest Country)

August 23 - Magic Bus
(Think Woodstock)

August 30 - Lady Sunshine
(It ain't over til)

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L I N C O L N

Contract raises pay, insurance costs, for township police

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A new contract gives Plymouth Township's police officers a raise after a years of flat salaries and concessions, but also saves the township money on insurance costs.

The deal was effective April 24, after being approved the day before by the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees. It had been ratified by the Plymouth Township Police Officers Association, a unit of the Police Officers Association of Michigan, earlier in April. About 20 officers are covered by the contract.

The three-year contract is retroactive to the beginning of 2012 and expires at the end of next year. The raises, however — 2 percent for 2012

and 2 percent for 2013 — are not retroactive; Michigan's Public Act 54 of 2011 forbids such retroactivity in wages and benefits.

The deal also includes a 3-percent raise for 2014.

With the raises, current pay rates range from just under \$42,500 annually for a new officer to about \$70,100 for an officer at the top of the pay scale, said township Supervisor Richard Reaume. Officers generally work 12-hour shifts, with their regular work weeks over a year averaging 42 hours each.

The contract also requires officers, and retirees, to pay 20 percent of the cost of their health-care premiums. That will mean about \$3,000 a year for an active-duty officer for insurance for the officer and a spouse, and

about \$4,300 a year for a department retiree and his or her spouse. The savings to the township will be about \$30,000 a year, Reaume said.

Previously, active officers had not been paying toward premiums, and retirees paying \$640 a year, Reaume said.

The contract also dropped longevity pay for new hires. Longevity pay is an annual bonus, of up to \$1,000, paid to veteran officers based on their years of service.

The deal doesn't include provisions for moving to a public safety system, in which police officers would be cross-trained as firefighters and medical first-responders, a model township officials had discussed for more than a year.

Prior to the agreement, officers' pay had been frozen at the 2008 level,

and for half of 2010 and all of 2011, their pay had been cut through the use of furlough days, Reaume said.

The supervisor said he was pleased with the contract. The two sides had been negotiating since late 2011.

"It got the negotiations behind us, it gave them some pay raises, and it got some compensation for the taxpayers," Reaume said.

Officer Bill Fetner, president of the PTOA, could not be reached Friday.

The township is still in negotiations with the Plymouth Township Command Officers Association, which represents township police sergeants.

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FIELD

Continued from page A1

than 50, registered voters on their petitions.

Dwyer, who also was on the commission for eight years beginning in 1999 before sitting out two years, said he wants to continue to work with the commission on two major issues: the "unfinished goal" of providing more public parking for downtown visitors, and deciding the future of the Central Middle School property, which may be closed by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools if a new middle school is built. A \$114 million bond proposal, intended to raise money for a new school and other capital improvements, will be decided by school district voters Tuesday.

"It's a pretty important piece of property to the city," said Dwyer, who expects the bond proposal to pass. "I want to be around for that dialogue."

Dwyer, a former Michigan Department of Corrections official, is the administrator of the Washtenaw County Trial Court.

Bogenreider, who worked in the human services field before retiring, also said she wants to contribute to solving the downtown parking issue, and to continue discussion on how the city can best oversee bars and restaurants that sell liquor following state administrative changes that appear to give local authorities less influence in licensing matters.

"You want to have a say in what happens in your own city," she said.

Bogenreider said she initially ran for the commission because she thought it should have a diversity of opinion, and said she likes that diversity.

"I think it's good to have the variety, because it

really makes you stop and think," she said.

Jumping in

Dalton, an attorney for 23 years and a partner in the Bloomfield Hills firm Dalton & Tomich, has experience in business, municipal and land-use law. He is making his first run for elected office.

"I think it's good to have new people come in with new ideas and new approaches to problem-solving," Dalton said. His experience could prove important to the city when it comes to land-use issues, he said.

In addition to his Economic Development/Brownfield Commission service, Dalton formerly served on the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Wolcott, who had planned to run for the commission two years ago but withdrew, is an account executive and political marketing consultant for CBS Radio in Detroit. He grew up in Plymouth, he said, and wants to see it continue to flourish.

"To that end, I believe having a strong voice at the table for the young families and professionals coming to the city is important," Wolcott wrote in an e-mail.

Like Dwyer and Bogenreider, Wolcott mentioned increasing downtown parking as a goal. "I'm confident we'll get there," he said.

The terms held by Commissioners Ron Loiselle and Gerald Sabatini are also expiring this year, but each is in his third consecutive term and cannot seek re-election this year.

The commission election is Tuesday, Nov. 5. If more than eight candidates enter the race, a primary to narrow the field will be held in August.

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Concert closes culture week

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

It started with last weekend's Plymouth-Canton K-12 art show, and it closes with today's (Sunday) Cinco De Mayo concert featuring the Michigan Philharmonic.

But in between, a sizable crowd of arts supporters gathered Thursday at D&M Art Studio in Canton to help celebrate the third annual Canton Acts of Culture Week with what owner Sharon Dillenbeck called a "meet-and-greet with a twist."

CULTURAL FINALE

What: Michigan Philharmonic's "Cinco De Mayo" concert

When: Today (Sunday), 2 p.m.

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

Why: Working in partnership with the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage, the concert is the finale of the third Acts of Culture Week

Also: Community members can also participate in a silent auction at The Village Theater with all proceeds benefiting The Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, a 501(c)3 organization which is committed to encouraging the development of cultural arts.

Tickets: \$20, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for students, available at the door

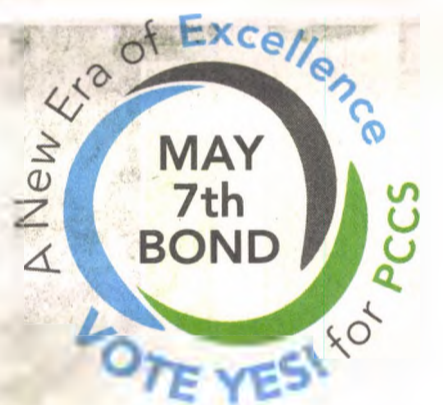
Dozens of people gathered to taste wine, have their faces painted and

build a work of art with squirt guns. The week, sponsored by

the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts, and Heritage, is designed to help celebrate and promote awareness of the arts.

Those who attended the meet-and-greet at D&M Thursday got to taste wines provided by Vintner's Cellar Canton Winery, took advantage of the studio's face-painter, viewed the art on display in the studio.

The most fun came out on the veranda, though, where a large canvas stood waiting for "artists" using squirt guns filled with paint to craft their "masterpiece."



Vote YES May 7th

Join us in supporting P-CCS

Community Groups and Organizations

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- Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Education Association
- Plymouth Democratic Club
- Canton Democratic Club

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- Rochelle Baron
- Dennis Bila
- Jill Engel
- Dr. Robert Evans
- Sally Evans
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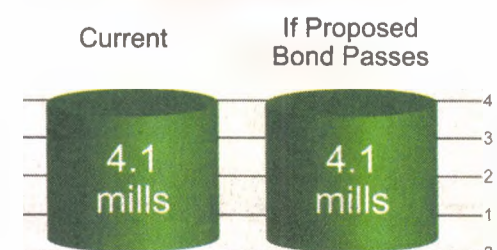
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- Mike Pappas
- Steven Sneiderman
- Pat Williams
- Michael Wright
- Tom Yack

7 Reasons to VOTE YES for PCCS on MAY 7th!

1. Necessary infrastructure and facility improvements throughout the district—benefiting every school and every child without diverting vital resources from the classroom.
2. Enhanced security to protect our most precious asset, our children.
3. Technology upgrades essential to keeping our children competitive in the demanding 21st Century job market.
4. State-of-the-Art STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Labs at all middle schools.
5. New buses to ensure our students arrive at school safely and ready to learn.
6. A new, modern middle school in Canton that more efficiently and effectively serves the district's population.
7. Equitable educational opportunities and learning environments for all of our students, a guiding principle of the Plymouth-Canton Community.

Most importantly, this bond proposal leaves school TAXES UNCHANGED! All funds will work locally, maintaining PCCS as a top-ranked, destination district—one that will increase property values by continuing to attract quality teachers, administrators and residents to the Plymouth-Canton Community.

Zero Increase in Current Millage Rate



In this era of global competition, skills gaps and talent wars, it is essential for schools to provide workers at levels for business to compete. We believe the items encompassed in this bond proposal speak directly to the Chamber's mission and our collective need for better prepared citizens and employees to create a vital economic climate ...

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

"I recommend support of the bond issue in the May 7 election. The Plymouth-Canton community is a leading Michigan community. To continue as a destination where people want to live, work and play, we must invest in our infrastructure."

Steven Sneiderman

Canton Township Trustee and former President, PCCS Board of Education

"The market for public education right now is very competitive and Plymouth-Canton needs to keep up with that. The bond will allow us to attract more families in our area and it will improve property values."

Representative Kurt Heise

"I urge you to vote yes. If Canton and Plymouth are going to thrive, they need to be competitive scholastically. This bond maintains our current level of taxation to accomplish these improvements. This is not an increase over current levels."

Melissa McLaughlin - Canton Township Treasurer

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Dodson Elementary School students shared their own poetry during the recent Poetry Reading at Barnes and Noble. Among the students to share were Andrew Laesch (from left), Leilani Reyes, Connor Smith and Bhavya Davuluri.

Dodson poets share their verse

Despite torrential rain and nasty weather, organizers are calling the sixth annual Poetry Reading night held by Dodson Elementary School at Barnes and Noble a wonderful success.

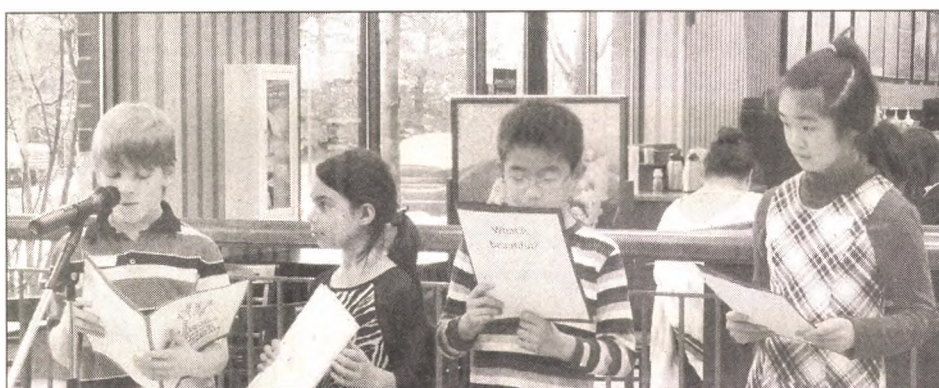
Fourth graders from the classrooms of Cynthia Grahl, Lisa Wysocki, Kris McLaughlin, Cathy Tyler and Leslie Corgan shared their own original poems with the appreciative crowd made up of family members, other school families and patrons of the store.

Guests enjoyed a variety of forms of poetry as the students took turns at the microphone. There was also a challenging scavenger hunt through the children's book section of the store with clues about various forms of literature and hints about the teachers' favorite books. Winners of the two raffles received Barnes and Noble gift cards on the Dodson School live news broadcast the following morning.

"We are very proud of our young Dodson poets," said Jeanne Farina, the district's assistant superintendent for instructional services, who attended the event. "The skills they demonstrated in creativity, vocabulary usage and public speaking will serve them well throughout school and life. The Dodson principal and staff are to be commended for the great work they have done to make this annual event a great success. I can't wait to attend next year."

Fourth grader Maddie Block said it was "exciting to share my three favorite poems."

"I have been writing poetry since first grade," Maddie said. "I really



Dodson Elementary School students Carl Christenson (from left), Alison Bradley, Ricky Ohtani and Hana Tsuzuki were among fourth-graders to share their poetry.

liked my 'If I Were a Pencil' poem. I keep a notebook at home just to write poetry."

The Barnes and Noble staff were very complimentary about the Dodson students and their exceptional poetry and behavior during the event as well.

Dodson students are also known for being published nationally for their outstanding poetry. Each year more than 300 students have their work chosen for the Young American Poetry Digest and the Creative Communications Publication. The school is ranked in the top five nationally for published poetry. The school lobby features group photos of these published authors.

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FRI-MON/WED/TH 12:10, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:35
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ON CAMPUS

Hope College

Hope College will award degrees to seniors on Sunday, May 5, during the 148th annual Commencement exercises. The ceremony will be held at 3 p.m.

Candidates from Canton (parents in parentheses) include **Briana Beyer** (Rev. Jon and Carissa Beyer); **Raige Jowski** (Frank and Elvira Jowski); **Lauren Maslyk** (Thomas and Robin Maslyk); **Hannah Mielke** (Bruce and Jennifer Mielke); **Chelsea Shimer** (Joseph and Kathryn Shimer); **Sherri Smith** (Brenda Smith); **Wayne Titus** (Wayne and Melissa Titus); and **Hannah Zomermaand** (Michael and Barbara Zomermaand).

Candidates from Plymouth include **Sophia Daley** (David Daley and Dr. Annemarie Linares); and **Emily Meade** (John and Mary Anne Meade).

The following students were honored at the annual Honors Convocation ceremony:

- **Hannah Mielke** of Canton received the Political Science Department Book Award.
 - **Lauren Maslyk** of Canton received the Exercise Science Major of the Year Award.
 - **Mary Elizabeth Winther** of Canton received the Theatre Department Sophomore Award.
- Phi Beta Kappa inductees include **Lauren Maslyk** and **Wayne Titus IV** of Canton.

Eastern Michigan

Joshua Hurst of Canton graduated April 28 with a bachelor's degree in international affairs and a minor in military science from Eastern Michigan University. During his four years at college, he was on the Dean's List every semester.

Attending school on a full scholarship from the Army's ROTC program, he was ranked 71st in the nation of almost 6,500 cadets.

Along with his many awards, he also held the top position of cadet battalion commander his senior year at Eastern, and was awarded the International Affairs Student of the Year.

After his commissioning from the ROTC as second lieutenant in the Army, he will begin his Basic Officer Leaders Course in Military Intelligence at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. A 2009 graduate of Canton High School, Josh is the son of Kathy and Dan Hurst and brother of Melissa and Matthew.



Hurst

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Supporting bond will keep schools strong

By Sheila Paton
Guest Columnist



Sheila Paton

Voters in the Plymouth Canton Community Schools District will have the opportunity Tuesday to keep our schools strong by voting to approve a technology and facility bond. A "yes" vote on the ballot measure would allow the district to borrow \$114.4 million. The money from the bond would fund four critical needs:

- Replace approximately 100 buses over the next 10 years. As buses reach 10 years of use or 150,000 miles, replacement becomes necessary to avoid increased maintenance costs and downtime. The district has 25 buses that have been in use for 10 years.
- Provide funds to perform capital improvements on the district's 25 school buildings and grounds. Voters last approved a facility bond in 2004. Almost 10 years later, additional needs have arisen,

including replacing roofs, boilers and resurfacing parking lots.

- Provide access to current technology for every student and every teacher while updating the technology infrastructure to allow the new learning tools to be used effectively. Technology has dramatically changed the way our 18,000 students approach learning, and therefore the way our 1,100 teachers teach. At the same time, colleges expect that incoming students demonstrate a knowledge of technologically advanced tools. Further, many employers require that successful job candidates understand and utilize a variety of computer applications. To responsibly serve our students, we need to expose them to the technology they will be required to use in their further education and careers.

- Construct a middle school in southern Canton to replace the aging Central Middle School and provide long-term middle school capacity where the population resides. Some 73 percent of middle school students reside in Canton, while 80 percent of our middle school buildings are in Plymouth and Plymouth Township. The 2010 Census showed Canton Township grew to 90,173 residents, while the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township have a combined population of 36,656. Demographic trends and land availability indicate that future population growth is likely to be in Canton Township.

The need is clear, but it is also appropriate to ask how much the improvements will cost our taxpayers. Importantly, approval of the bond will not change the current millage assessed to property owners. In fact, the ballot language specifically states passage of the measure would result in a "-0-net increase in current debt

millage levied for all bonds." Of course, the money is not free. The ballot language goes on to state that the "average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 1.22 mills." What this all means is that, should the bond pass, taxpayers would continue to pay the same 4.10 mills as is in effect today. Over the life of this bond, if approved, that same homeowner would contribute on average about \$122 per year — or about \$0.33 per day.

I believe there is a general consensus that strong schools help establish a desirable community and therefore support home values. A study performed by Wharton Business School directly linked passage of a school bond to home values. The study found that after a bond passed, homeowners saw a 6- to 7-percent increase in their property values by the third year after the election relative to pre-election prices. This increase was not present in school districts where bonds

failed. Translated to a \$200,000 home, the owner would see a \$12,000 rise in value.

The bond proposal has received widespread support from elected officials and business groups. Both State House Representative Kurt Heise and State House Representative Dian Slavens have endorsed the measure. The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce also unconditionally supports the bond.

This is a critical election for our community. One vote can make a difference and your vote could be that one. History in our own district has shown that school elections have passed or failed by very small margins. In 1997 when the proposal to build Plymouth High School was on the ballot it passed by only 96 votes out of 11,370 total votes cast.

I ask you to join me in voting for the bond on May 7.

Sheila Paton is a parent of two students in the district and the Board of Education treasurer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rest of the story

I am both a life-long Plymouth resident and a retired teacher (38.5 years) from the P-CCS, having spent my last 24 years at Central Middle School (I also graduated from the former Plymouth High School, which is now Central, in 1967).

My wife, Cathy, also taught for 34 years, primarily at Canton High School, but spent four of those years at Central Middle School. Needless to say, we both had a positive experience both at Central and during our employment with P-CCS.

With regards to the upcoming school bond election, both Cathy and I are strong supporters of all but one of the inclusions of this proposed vote. Our concern is that the P-CCS district has said nothing publicly about what it proposes to do with the Central building and property if the bond passes and a new middle school were to be built in Canton Township.

Will the entire property/building/athletic field be sold? Will the athletic portion of the building (gymnasium and pool) be updated and utilized by the community as maybe a YMCA facility? Will the athletic fields, tennis courts, Field of Dreams and football stadium be available to the community, either for sale to the City of Plymouth or to an organization to maintain and run/lease/etc.?

There are many others in the community I have spoken with who have similar concerns. Why is the P-CCS not sharing its plans with vot-

ers? You may recall that when the P-CEP football stadium had artificial turf installed years ago, the district told the community the field would be available for rent and that the funds received would be invested until the turf needed replacement "down the road."

This never came to fruition, as no one was ever put in charge of the task. When the new Plymouth High School was built, the community was told by the P-CCS that they could use the indoor track, above the gymnasium, yet their former principal put that offer "to sleep" very quickly. In fact, he would not even let P-CEP students use that track unless they wore "Plymouth High School" apparel while in that portion of the building.

It appears to us that the P-CCS is again not sharing, as Paul Harvey used to say, "the rest of the story" with regards to Central Middle School and its surrounding property. Prior to the voting date, voters need to have an idea where their money is going and what will be happening to their property the district appears to be walking away from.

Brian F. Foust
Plymouth

Need more counselors

I want to thank Maggie Wunderlich for writing an article about our need for additional counselors in the P-C school district. This need is especially crucial at the three high schools.

According to the numbers, it

states there is one counselor for every 415 students. Let's think about this for a moment and paint a more accurate picture. Our students do not attend one high school, they attend three. There are also students with special needs, such as ADD, ADHD or learning disabilities. I have been told that more than one-third of the high school students are also medicated. How many of those 415 kids that each counselor currently oversees fall into these categories?

Therefore, how are only 15 counselors going to be able to "correctly" guide and get to know our students, as well as know the background and teaching style of teachers in all three schools for proper placement? This kind of support is imperative from the day these kids walk into P-CEP until the day they leave.

Having more counselors on staff will also allow more time to be spent with students on issues besides scheduling. For example, seniors seeking scholarship applications or college recommendations and want more than five minutes of their counselor's time. This limited time is not the counselors' fault, it is the responsibility of our district to hire additional staff.

This is why I strongly urge that P-CCS hire more counselors and have at least the ASCA recommendation level of one counselor to every 250 students for our unique high school setting of more than 6,000 students.

Jill Engel
Canton

OUR VIEWS

School bond deserves 'yes' vote

Plymouth-Canton school officials are finished pushing their \$114.4 million bond proposal, having distributed their final informational flyers Friday, and are now hoping they've done enough to convince voters the bond is necessary.

Voters going to the polls Tuesday should give the school district their support.

A yes vote can provide equity in education for all middle students in the district, help move the district closer to the leading edge of technology usage, make necessary repairs to district facilities and help replace an aging vehicle fleet.

If approved, the bond will keep the district's debt levy tax rate at 4.1 mills and preclude a drop to 3.66 that will come July 1 if the bond doesn't pass. That means, according to officials, that while taxes won't go up for voters, a "yes" vote will mean the loss of some \$35 in savings a homeowner with a \$100,000 taxable value would have seen this year. The tax rate will fluctuate over the life of the bond, but is expected to average some 1.2 mills.

The bond proposal deserves the "yes" vote district officials are seeking. It will, most importantly, allow the district to address equity in education issues for middle schools students.

Finally, the district is trying to do something about Central Middle School. It's true some "old-timers" and purists think Central is still a viable educational facility, but that opinion begs the question: When's the last time any of those folks have been in the building in the dead of winter or the heat of summer?

Every educational expert in the district — including the teachers who actually have to teach in it — is clamoring for a better learning environment for those students, and the only way it's going to happen is through this bond.

Sure, naysayers will complain about spending millions on technology that will be obsolete in a few years, but in this warp-speed "iLearning" environment, when technology is really irrelevant almost as soon as it's rolled out, what's the alternative?

The bond proposal has drawn significant support. The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce supports it, as do state Representatives Kurt Heise, (R-Plymouth Township), and Dian Slavens, (D-Canton). District officials presented their case to the Canton Township Board of Trustees last month and, while the board as a whole doesn't get into political endorsements, six of its seven members have endorsed it as individual residents.

Plymouth Township board members have been more hesitant to say much about it. Their public objections are the tax savings it will cost residents and a question about the need for building a new middle school when enrollment is declining.

Despite the fact nearly 80 percent of the district's middle school students live in Canton, it would be interesting to see how the Plymouth Township board would vote if the district planned to build the new middle school north of Joy Road.

This ballot proposal is an important issue that will affect everyone in the school district. The Observer believes it merits support and encourages voters to do just that Tuesday.

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THE VALUE OF JOINT INJECTIONS

There is little argument that a swollen and painful knee will benefit from aspiration of the joint fluid and injection of a cortisone preparation such as Kenalog. But many people would question knee injections repeated every several months. When is such a schedule acceptable; how long can a doctor continue it?

The decision of how often to inject a knee joint does not come from a textbook stating every 3 months or 2x a year. The judgment to repeat an injection comes from the answer to the question: did the last injection give benefit. If both patient and physician agree that the previous procedure helped, then it is in order to repeat the injection again.

Answering the question of how long to keep to a schedule of repeated injections is more difficult. In actual medical practice, what happens is over time such as a year to 18 months, the person with the bad knee needs appointments closer and closer together.

Injecting the knee allows a person to remain active, but more activity causes knee cartilage to further wear. What the doctor needs to determine is the point at which the knee is beginning to deteriorate so that even with activity the patient must limit exercise and walking. When that point comes, the time is best for knee replacement. For leg muscle tone remains good enough to allow maximum benefit from post knee replacement rehabilitation, but knee joint deterioration has gone far enough to justify replacement.

What repeated joint injection does is allow the individual to maintain activity while awaiting the time the impaired knee is no longer a fit companion.

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Clearing up confusion regarding children/stepchildren

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: A few years back after my second husband passed on, I had my estate plan redone. My second husband and I did not have children together; however, we each did have adult children going into the marriage. My estate plan basically leaves everything to my adult children and nothing to my husband's children. I feel they were taken care of when he passed on. Recently, a friend of mine told me that if I did not leave something to my stepchildren, that they could sue my estate. When I did my new estate plan, the attorney did put a paragraph in disinheriting my stepchildren. My friend says that I should have my estate plan amended to leave them something. I don't want to spend the money again, but I also don't want any problems. Do you think I need to have my estate plan amended?

A: There is always some con-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

fusion about what the law requires with regard to inheritances to children. First, you are under no legal obligation whatsoever with regard to stepchildren. You have no legal obligation to leave them anything and, therefore, your current estate plan is sufficient. The language that your attorney put in your estate plan was not necessary; however, it does make it clear that you're not leaving anything to your stepchildren. As far as I'm concerned, this is sufficient and there's no reason to have your estate plan amended.

There is some confusion when it comes to inheritances regarding your natural or legally adopted children. The law does

not require you to leave them anything; however, there is a presumption in the law when you do not mention a child that you have forgotten them and, thus, they are entitled to something from the estate. That is why when you want to disinherit a child for any reason, the best course of action is to have a paragraph in the estate document specifically disinheriting them. Some people think that you have to leave a child a minimal amount, but you don't. The key is you need to mention the child in your estate documents so that it cannot be argued that you forgot about that child.

Most people think that you disinherit a child because you're either disappointed with them or you no longer have a relationship. There are other reasons why parents disinherit a child and it could be nothing more than that child you are going to disinherit doesn't need your

money. You may be in a situation where you have two children; one child has done very well while the other one has not and you may choose to leave your estate to the child that needs the resources as opposed to the other child. In addition, there is nothing in the law that says you have to treat children equally. In many situations parents choose to give more or less to one child based upon need or other factors. I can't tell you how many times I've written someone's estate plan to provide unequal distributions for the children. As far as I'm concerned, it is your money and you should do with it as you think is proper, not what anyone else may think. Therefore, if you're in a situation where, for whatever reason, you do not think the distribution to your children should be equal, then you should include that in your estate plan.

When you take a step back and

think about it, there is really one reason and one reason only that you do an estate plan and that is not because you want to avoid taxes or probate; rather, you do an estate plan because you love your family and you want to make it as easy as possible for them upon your death. To accomplish that, it is important to have an up to date estate plan. Therefore, if you haven't reviewed your estate planning documents in a while, why not review them to make sure that they are still what you want? If the estate plan does not reflect your wishes, then for your family's sake, as well as yours, you should amend your documents. 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@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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YMCA program helps exercise minds, bodies

On Saturday, April 27, the Plymouth Community YMCA celebrated the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day with a free community event that encouraged kids in Plymouth, Canton, and Northville to get moving, learning, and living healthier.

Healthy Kids Day, the Y's national initiative to improve families' health and well-being, took place at 1,900 Ys across the nation and kick-started healthier behaviors for the summer, a critical out-of-school time for children's health.

YMCA officials point out many U.S. children do not get the daily recommended hours of physical activity, time spent reading, and daily amounts of healthy foods. According to the latest findings of the YMCA's Family Health Snapshot – a survey of parents that gauges their children's activity levels during the school year – only 19 percent of children get 60 minutes of physical activity, only 17 percent read books for fun, and only 12 percent eat at least eight fruits and vegetables daily.

"At the Plymouth Community YMCA, we know parents struggle to keep their kids physically and intellectually active every day. We want to help ensure fewer kids are at risk of childhood obesity and more kids excel in school," said Sage Hegdal, Executive Director. "The YMCA's Healthy Kids Day gets kids moving and learning while also helping families get a jump on creating a healthier summer,



Ten-year-old Morgan Brown of Canton took part in the YMCA's Health Kids Day.

and ultimately a healthier future."

Research shows that without access to out-of-school physical and learning activities, kids fall behind academically and gain weight twice as fast during summer than the school year. The YMCA's Healthy Kids Day helped parents begin thinking early about what their kids need to grow and achieve all summer long.

The Plymouth Community YMCA's Healthy Kids Day featured fun, active play and educa-

tional activities, such as basketball games, soccer games, face painting, a bounce house, healthy snacks, information about healthy family homes, and community safety. The Y will continue to offer fun activities throughout the summer, such as sports and day camp, which will keep kids physically and intellectually active during their out-of-school break.

For more information, contact Sage Hegdal at (734) 453-2904 or visit ymcadetroit.org/Plymouth.



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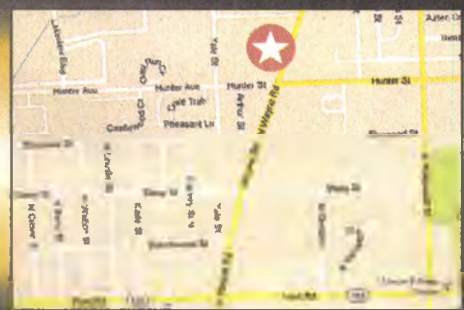
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Other school districts seek bonds

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools isn't the only area school district asking taxpayers for money to improve facilities and/or upgrade technology before the next school year begins.

Livonia Public Schools officials has a \$195 million bond proposal on Tuesday's ballot. Farmington Public Schools will place a \$222 million bond proposal before voters in August and Northville Public Schools had a \$20.87 million bond approved by voters last November.

"There is more competition now than ever in the area of education," LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa said. "As we have seen through our summer school tours we provide, parents shop for schools. The more families we attract to our

community, the more revenue we will have from the state, the more programs we can offer to all students, and consequently the students will be better educated and prepared, which is our goal."

Liepa said passage of the bond will benefit not only students, but the entire community.

"The more families we can attract and retain here means maintaining a vibrant community, which adds value to homes, brings business into our community and helps support all local services, which here in Livonia we take great pride in," he said. "This bond issue is an investment in our future and for the reasons noted can really be a boost for our community and something we can really be proud of."

The bond, if approved, would fund facility upgrades, technology

upgrades and renovations to the three high schools' auditoriums and fine/performing arts classrooms, as well as buses and furniture. The cost would be approximately \$19 per month or \$228 per year for a resident with a home valued at \$178,000, the median home price in the school district, the first year of the 30-year bond.

The bond would increase LPS's tax rate for debt from 2.2 mills to 4.6 mills.

Northville's \$20.87 million bond, which will be paid back over nine years, was approved in November by a wide margin: 13,484 to 9,541 votes.

There was no increase in the existing debt-retirement rate of 4.3 mills because the district was in process of retiring some previous debt.

Officials for the 6,000-student district said they sought the bond because

they were falling behind competing districts technology-wise.

Plymouth-Canton would pay back its \$114.4 million bond over 20 years, maintaining its debt-retirement tax rate at 4.1 mills. The district's debt rate was scheduled to drop to 3.65 mills on July 1. Instead, it will remain at 4.1 if the bond is approved.

Farmington Public Schools would pay back its \$222 million bond over 25 years, raising its debt-retirement rate from 2.56 mills to 4.16 mills.

That district, which has approximately 11,000 students, is seeking to repair and upgrade infrastructure of K-12 schools; improve safety measures for school building entrances, and purchase new instructional technology and furniture.

ksmith@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2098 | Twitter: @Karen587

Canton woman earns Girl Scouts award

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan announced Jennifer Baker of Canton received a national volunteer award.

Baker received the Thanks Badge II, which is given to adult Girl Scout members who have shown leadership in such areas as increasing membership growth and retention, and improving innovating program opportunities. Volunteers who earn these awards demonstrate exceptional dedication and service as Girl Scouts volunteers.

Since Council realignment, GSSEM officials said, Baker has embraced both the new curriculum and her new Girl Scout sisters. She has served on the



Baker

Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) Champions Committee, as an adult facilitator, and as a member of the Advocacy committee and the Alumnae Activities committee.

Recently Baker applied and was selected to serve on GSUSA's Girl Scout University Learning Cadre, developing materials that will be shared throughout all of Girl Scouting. She gave up valuable vacation time to attend the GSU Cadre Conference as well as many conference calls and webinars.

MMA stars cutting hair for charity

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

No one is surprised Eric Bacynski is getting his hair cut again.

After all, Bacynski has done it every spring for years, as part of his effort to help support the St. Baldrick Foundation, dedicated to raising awareness about childhood cancer.

But this year he's being joined by some somewhat surprising guests — several Mixed Martial Arts fighters.

The MMA stars will be getting their locks trimmed 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Fantastic

Sam's in Plymouth Township.

"It'll be me and five to 10 MMA fighters shaving their heads," Bacynski said. "They're all be bald going into their big fight." That fight is scheduled for Joe Louis Arena in Detroit May 18.

Bacynski said the MMA fighters have raised some \$1,500 for the annual St. Baldrick's fundraiser.

Fantastic Sam's is located at 1456 S. Sheldon (in the shopping plaza at the northwest corner of Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon).

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AAUW TRIVIA NIGHT

Date/Time: Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15.
Location: The Barn at Colony Farms on Colony Farms Dr. in Plymouth (south of Ann Arbor Rd. between Beck and Ridge Roads.)
Details: The Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women is hosting Trivia Night. Have fun with friends and family by putting your knowledge of facts and factoids to a good use. Optional games will include Mulligans, Survivor, and Dead or Alive. Refreshments will be available and money prizes will be given for 1st and 2nd place. Proceeds will benefit the AAUW Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$20 per person. For tickets and more information call Sharon at 734-453-5009. Reservations required. Advance purchase recommended as space is limited. There will also be a collection of men and women's toiletry items for Freedom House in Detroit. Appetizers and desserts will be served.
Contact: For more information contact Becky Copenhaver at bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com or (734) 981-6023.

SALEM DRIVE 4 UR SCHOOL

Date/Time: Thursday, May 16, 11:00 AM- 8:00 PM
Location: Blackwell Ford, 41001 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, MI, 48170
Details: Test drive any vehicle at Blackwell Ford and they'll donate funds to help support Salem High School. Blackwell Ford and the Salem Linebackers Booster club are partnering to help raise up to \$6,000 in support of the Salem High School football program as part of Blackwell Ford's Drive 4 UR School program. Help raise money for the Salem football team by test-driving a Ford vehicle. For every person who test drives a new Ford vehicle at this one-day event, Blackwell Ford will donate \$20 to Salem's football program (limit one donation per household). Funds raised from this event will help the Salem football team "Go Further" through the purchase of new equipment, improve current facilities, and provide necessary supplies for players in training. So, students, parents, faculty, administrators, Salem alumni, and Plymouth-Canton residents, please come and test drive a Ford vehicle and help support Salem's football program.
Contact: For additional information, contact Blackwell Ford at (734) 453-1100.

TOUR MILLER WOODS

Date/Time: Sunday, May 5, 2-4 p.m.
Location: Miller Woods; entrance is on Powell Road, east of Ridge and north of Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.
Details: The Friends of Miller Woods are offering an additional spring wildflower walk Sunday, with tours leaving every half hour. The guided tours are free and last about one hour in length. No dogs are allowed in the nature preserve.

BLOOD DRIVES

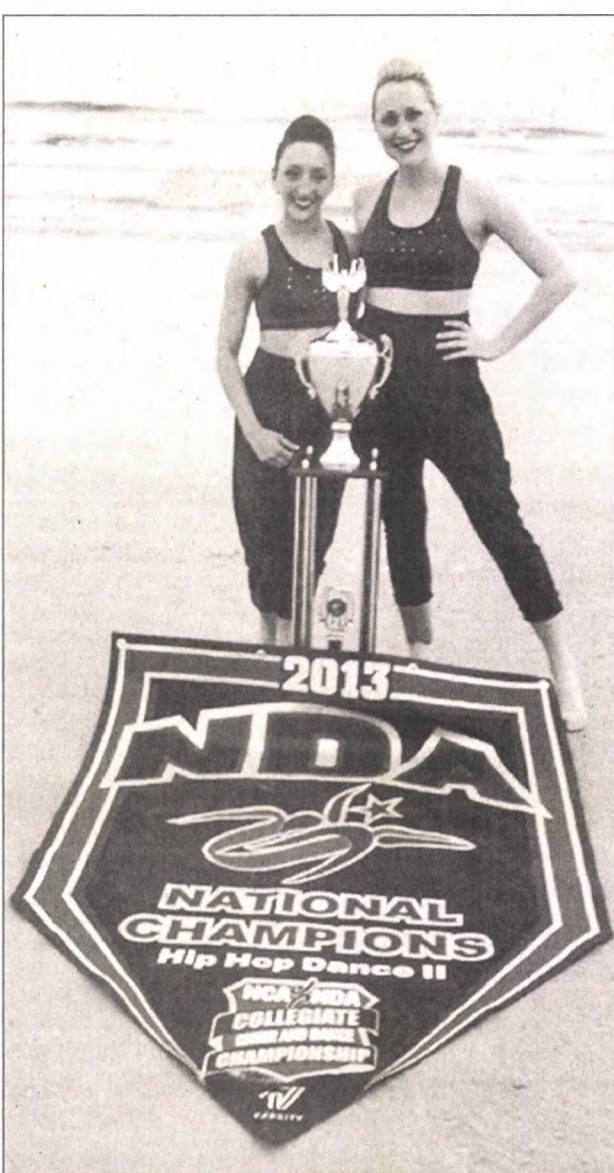
Dates/Times:
 • Monday, May 13, 1:30-7:15 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church
 • Friday, May 17, 4-7:45 p.m., Pioneer Middle School
 • Tuesday, May 28, 1:30-7:15 p.m., St. Michael's Lutheran Church
 • Wednesday, May 29, 12:30-6:15 p.m., Tonda Elementary School
Details: The American Red Cross sponsors blood drives during the above times at the scheduled locations. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcome.
Contact: To make an appointment for any of these drives contact Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Crafters wanted for Delta Kappa Gamma's 29th Annual Craft Show. Proceeds from the show will be used to support college scholarships for local students focusing on careers in education.
Contact: Call or email Judy at (734) 347-1001 or jbstone716@comcast.net or Alice at 248-348-9610 or dachrenko@hotmail.com

CRAFTERS WANTED

Date/Time: Sept. 6-8, during Fall Festival hours
Location: Plymouth



Alumni excellence

Salem High School Class of 2009 alumni Alyssa Kolb and Ally Warner, now graduated seniors from Grand Valley State University, recently took first place in the 2013 NDA Collegiate National Championship for Hip Hop (Div.II). Along with winning the Division II championship, they also won the Innovative Choreography Award, as well as 3rd place in the Open Division Competition. Kolb and Warner danced at GVSU all four years and have two national titles to their credit. Kolb has also spent the past two years at team co-captain.

Details: Organizers say it's not too early to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. The spaces are limited and are filling up quickly. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.
Contact: For more information contact Colleen Brown craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com or (734) 455-1614.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID COUNSELING

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 5, 1-3 p.m.
Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 Canton Center, Suite 250 in Canton
Details: United Home Health Services offers free counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program) Counselor. The counselor can help understand Medicare/Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply

for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D drug Insurance, understand Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse issues, and explore long term care insurance options. No reservations necessary.

Contact: United Home Health Services at (734) 981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. second Monday of every month
Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland
Details: Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts who will provide a safe place to talk and share with others, a place where you can learn how to cope with all of the new and frightening experiences. Learn from others as they share ideas, resources and support. Donations appreciated.

Contact: For questions or more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or by email at prettymonarch@comcast.net.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Date/Time: Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m.
Location: Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608 in Plymouth.

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

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

DIABETES SUPPORT

Date/Time: 2nd Thursday of the month, 2-3:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main
Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.
Contact: Call Fern Vining at (734) 454-0859.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton
Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

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

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.
Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth
Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

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

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MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Seedlings Braille Books for Children celebrates volunteers

Seedlings Braille Books for Children recently celebrated with their top volunteers at their Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at The VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The dinner recognized more than 60 volunteers for their hard work, time and dedication to Seedlings. Seedlings' top award, the Fran Hoetger Award for Outstanding Service to Seedlings, was presented to Midge Jewell of Plymouth. Jewell has been a volunteer for eight years with Seedlings and has averaged more than 130 hours of service per year assembling braille books for blind children.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a Livonia-based non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the



Midge Jewell, left, accepts Seedlings' top award from Director Debra Bonde.

opportunity for literacy by providing high-quality children's literature in braille. Last year, more than 25,000 braille books were made and shipped to blind children across the country and around the world from their

Livonia office. Those interested in becoming a volunteer or learning more about Seedlings may call (734) 427-8552.

For more information on Seedlings, visit <http://www.seedlings.org>.

Hospice of Michigan, Angela Hospice partner to expand pediatric care

Hospice of Michigan, the oldest and largest non-profit hospice program in the state, has received a grant that will allow it to bring its Pediatric Early Care program to Southeast Michigan by collaborating with Livonia-based Angela Hospice.

PEC is appropriate when a child is diagnosed or is living with a potentially life-limiting illness, continues to receive curative treatment and is not yet eligible for hospice services. HOM provides a wide range of PEC services, including compassionate support and education for the whole family, to help maintain the child's comfort of body, mind and spirit.

HOM will collaborate with Angela Hospice to offer prenatal counseling and hospice referrals when appropriate

for the patient. Angela Hospice was one of the first hospices in Michigan to offer pediatric care to families of children with life-limiting illness. In 2001, Angela Hospice became the first organization in Michigan and only the second in the United States to offer prenatal counseling, serving parents who are facing the knowledge that their unborn baby may not survive or may be born with a life-limiting illness.

Collaboratively, these programs offered by HOM and Angela Hospice comprise a full continuum of pediatric services to Southeast Michigan. Referrals to the PEC program will come from many institutions in Southeast Michigan, including area hospitals, pediatricians and other health

care providers. The general public is also encouraged to refer patients and families to the program.

"When we reflect on hospice care, we typically think of the support needed for elderly patients and their families. Yet, families who are facing the realities of a very sick child or baby also need a tremendous amount of support," said Angela Hospice Executive Director Mary Beth Moning. "We are pleased to be partnering with Hospice of Michigan as they expand the breadth of their PEC program. Our goal is to provide the best support possible for children and their families, and together we'll be able to help even more children and families in our community."

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 224.18 of, Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, seven or more freeholders have Petitioned the County of Wayne ("County") to absolutely abandon and discontinue the following public road right-of-way:

All that portion of Yost Road (varying width) in the Northwest 1/4 and Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, Town 3 South, Range 8 East, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, and the Southeast 1/4 of Section 33 and Southwest 1/4 of Section 34, Town 2 South, Range 8 East, Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan, being more particularly described as:

Beginning at a point on the line common to said Sections, distant Easterly 225.00 feet from the Northwest corner of said Section 3 along said common line; thence proceeding Easterly along said line to a point 43 feet West of the centerline of Sheldon Road (width varies). Containing approximately 2144.78 feet of roadway, more or less.

Therefore, it has been decided a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. at Wayne County Department of Public Services, Engineering Division, 400 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

A Hearing Examiner of the County shall hold said Hearing and obtain all necessary facts and information concerning the advisability of either granting or denying said Petition, and shall report all findings of fact to the Board of Wayne County Commissioners.

True copies of this notice are to be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. 283 of 1909, as amended.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
Engineering Division, Real Estate, Attention: Sandra Martin
400 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226
313.224.7772

Publish: May 5, 2013

AT8797336 - 3x4.5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Ridgewood Hills S.A.D.
Charter Township of Plymouth
May 1, 2013

Sealed Bids for Ridgewood Hills S.A.D. will be received at the office of the Charter Township of Plymouth until 10:00 am local time, on May 15, 2013, by the office of the Township Clerk located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. The approximate quantities of major items of work involved are as follows:

Cold Milling HMA Surface	37,000 Syd
Pavement Repair, Patching	7,700 Syd
Subgrade Underdrain	6,000 Ft
HMA Leveling	5,300 Ton
HMA Top	3,100 Ton
Aggregate Base	2,500 Ton

The Contract Documents for this project are on file and may be examined on and after 12:00 pm, May 1, 2013, at the following locations: the office of the ENGINEER, Orchard, Hiltz, & McCliment, Inc., 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150; area offices of McGraw-Hill Construction/ReproMAX, 36060 Industrial Road, Livonia, MI 48150; Reed Construction Data at www.reedpr.com; the Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), 43636 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-3204; and Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Copies thereof may be obtained on or after 12:00 pm, local time, May 1, 2013, at the office of the ENGINEER, Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc., 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. A fee of Forty dollars (\$40.00) non-refundable will be charged for each set of Contract Documents. An additional fee of Ten dollars (\$10.00) non-refundable will be charged for each set of Contract Documents that are mailed.

Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond for a sum no less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the Bid will be required with each Bid.

The OWNER reserves the right to accept any Bid, reject any Bid, or waive irregularities in Bids.

No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receipt of the Bids.

No pre-bid meetings are scheduled for this project.

Patrick Fellrath P.E., Director of Public Utilities
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: May 2, 2013

OE0879772 - 3x5.5

Business Expo

Thursday, May 9, 2013
Laurel Park Place Mall & Detroit Marriott Livonia

Presented by **BILL BROWN**

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Business Breakfast Roundtable

The Business Breakfast Roundtable will take place from 8 - 9:30 a.m. at the Detroit Marriott Livonia at a cost of \$15 per Chamber Member.

The panel will include: Wayne County Commissioners Laura Cox and Richard LeBlanc, Detroit Free Press Business Columnist Tom Walsh and Detroit News Columnist/Editor Nolan Finley.

Schoolcraft College

TDS metromcom

Livonia Expo Hall

Free admission to Expo Hall that features more than 100 exhibitors, new cars, and giveaways from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout Laurel Park Place Mall.

The Expo Hall and participating businesses can be found on the Livonia Chamber of Commerce's website, www.Livonia.org

MADONNA UNIVERSITY

Edward Jones

LIVONIA SPREE

First Investors

Health Care Forum

A Health Care Forum will take place from 2 - 4 p.m. at Detroit Marriot Livonia, where three independent benefits consultants will give you an unbiased, honest assessment on how health care reform will impact your business. Free admission. Pre-registration required. Seating is limited.

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Enjoy samples from at least 10 local restaurants and network during the popular nightcap portion of the Expo program from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Detroit Marriott Livonia. Admission is \$20 per person.

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For More Information:
Call 734.427.2122, Email sweeney@livonia.org, or Visit www.Livonia.org

STOW & GO SELF STORAGE AUCTION NOTICE

Pursuant to state law, Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held at STOW & GO SELF STORAGE, 41999 ANN ARBOR ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI on May 11, 2013 at 10:00 am, on past due tenants listed below. The entire contents of the following units will be auctioned, and sold to the highest bidder on each individual unit. CASH ONLY! DESCRIPTION IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF ITEMS, MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN MORE OR LESS ITEMS.

- Unit #009- BRENDA BUCKNER, 42538 ASHLEY CT, CANTON, MI 48187**
Christmas decorations, and misc. boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit#412 • DONALD HOFFMAN, 650 PROVINCETOWN LAKE, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Washer & dryer, misc. furniture and misc. boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit#229- MARK GLEGOLA, P.O. BOX 5487, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Bass Boat, 20 ft boat on trailer with tracker outboard motor, misc. furniture, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit#320- MELVIN MORRISON, P.O. BOX 851516, WESTLAND, MI 48185**
Luggage, file cabinet, weight bench, single cot, workmate, desk, fish equipment, misc. boxes and other misc items.
- Unit#567- PAMELA FREE, 615 N. MILLS ST., PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Shelving unit.
- Unit#405- KEN GILLIS, 340 PENNELL, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167**
Misc. furniture, golf clubs, step ladder, jigsaw, cookware. Single mattress, Xmas tree, battery charger, bread maker, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit#621- ROB CLOUGH, 9450 S.MAIN #101, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Large dresser, camping chairs, propane tank, luggage, framed pictures, misc. boxes and other misc. items.
- Unit#694- NICOLE GNATEK, 1014 S. CAMPBELL, ROYAL OAK, MI 48067**
Metal file cabinet, recliner, glass table with 4 chairs, TV, bed frame, mattress set, misc. xmas decorations, coffeemaker, misc. boxes and other misc. items.
- Unit#481- JESSICA CLOR, 20492 NORBORNE, REDFORD, MI 48240**
Misc. furniture, fan, air conditioner, lamp, mattress, misc. boxes and microwave, and other misc. items and misc. boxes
- Unit#581- ALEX HENNING, 464 N. MILL STREET, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Computer monitors, power saw, golf clubs, train set, weights, Marshall amp, remote car, misc. boxes and other misc. items.
- Unit#712- DON COLALUCA, 1600 N. TERRITORIAL, #16, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Table & chairs, vacuum, mattress, fans, computer table, lamp, misc. boxes and other misc. items.
- Unit#60SE- TEUM G. SOUKAMNEUTH, 525 ANN ARBOR, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Air Conditioner, pictures, cooler, fan, toasters, restaurant equipment.
- Unit#706- ONALEE SULEWSKI, 1450 ANN ARBOR #24, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Misc. boxes.

SALE DATE IS MAY 11, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M.

Publish: May 2 and 5, 2013

AT8797866 - 3x8



The Spotlight on Youth cast for "The Velveteen Rabbit" features several actors from the Plymouth-Canton area.

Youth troupe puts on 'Velveteen Rabbit'

Spotlight on Youth is bringing "The Velveteen Rabbit" to the stage in the Biltmore Studio at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Organizers chose the Biltmore, which only seats 100 people, because "every seat gives the audience a feeling of being up close and part of the action on stage."

Michigan playwright Susan Berg of Lake Orion adapted this version of the story for the stage.

"The heart of the story has an ageless truth ... Simply stated, love is what makes us real," Berg said. "I have written nine adaptations of classic fairy tales and all of them have been produced. When the copyright for 'The Velveteen

Rabbit' expired and it became public domain, I thought a modern story would be a nice change of pace."

Novi resident Barbara Bloom will direct the play, which she said was "perfect for children ages 5 and up."

"(Berg) has adapted this classic tale to share about a young boy who is beginning to grow up and how he wonders if he is too old for his toys," Bloom said. "He loves his toys and as we come to find out, love is what makes a toy 'real.'"

The cast features actors from around the area, including Alexis Berent (Nana and fairy) of Canton; Renee Bourcier (Rabbit 1) of Canton; Daniel Brabow (Horace) of Livonia; Grace Coccion (Sailor) of West-

land; Vincenzo Coccion (Jerry) of Westland; Camryn Mastny (Calypso Cal) of Canton; Emma Mastny (Clown) of Canton; Marissa Radtke (Montana) of Plymouth; and Mary Benton (Rabbit 2) of Canton.

The play hits the stage with 7 p.m. performances May 9-11 (and a 2 p.m. matinee on May 11).

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

The \$10 tickets are available by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater or www.spotlightplayersmi.org or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door.

River Day set for June 1

Canton's annual River Day event will be held on Saturday, June 1, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lower Rouge River Recreational Trailhead, located off Morton Taylor Road and Michigan Avenue.

The event will take place rain or shine and volunteers of all ages including residents, students, and scout troops are encouraged to participate.

River Day activities at the trailhead will include learning about the environment; especially healthy rivers, trail clean-up, removing invasive species, a demonstration by Leslie Science Center, a nature scavenger hunt, trail hikes, an inflatable bouncer and birdhouse building.

Volunteers should come dressed for the weather; jeans and boots are recom-

mended. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring gardening tools from home, make sure they are clearly labeled with your name and address on it.

Registration will begin promptly at 8 a.m., scout troops planning to participate need to call Canton's Engineering Services Division in advance at (734) 394-5150, so the proper number of badges/patches can be ordered. Volunteers will be provided with a River Day T-shirt and a small lunch on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the River Day activities, Canton will help celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Morton-Taylor single-track bike trail system with guided "no drop" trail tours throughout the day. This is an excellent opportunity for cyclists to ride through

and discover different sections of the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail.

The "no drop" tours will start at the west end of the main parking lot - the tour will encompass six miles of trail in between all the gravel pathways. Participants will also have an opportunity to talk with the trail designer/builder Gary Anderson about how this trail has developed over the last 5 years. The "no drop" bike tours are open to anyone, 12 and older.

River Day is hosted by Canton's Engineering Services Division and sponsored by Friends of the Rouge, Absopure, WadeTrim, the Michigan Mountain Bikers Association, ITC, WTUA, CH2M HILL, and OMI. For more information on River Day or to pre-register for the event call (734) 394-5150.

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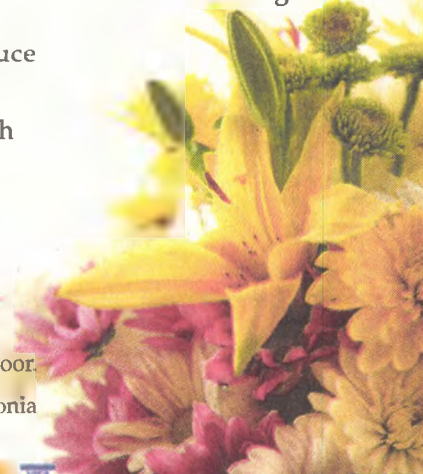
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John Glenn opens doors for USO dance

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Lynda Bendelow-Ruark has discovered a few things in looking through her father's foot locker — photographs of him with the fighter he flew during World War II and Civil Defense maps of places like Albany, N.Y.

A teacher at John Glenn High School, Bendelow-Ruark brought the maps to school Thursday to share with the committee that is putting the finishing touches on a USO Dance that will be held at the Westland high school on Wednesday, May 8.

"It was very important to him," said Bendelow-Ruark of the foot locker. "His unit shipped out without him and he didn't want to start over with another, so he decided to be a pilot."

The foot locker, old photographs, patches representing the different military units that saw action during the war, remembrance boards and propaganda posters will be on display in the hallways and in the cafeteria here



Members of the John Glenn High School staff helping plan the USO Dance are Sgt. Maj. Benjamine Brown (back row, from left), Linda Willman, Steve Conn, Michele Anderson, Brad Jennings, Jeff Wesley (front row, from left), Tim Hardin, Kas Butler, Linda Fiema, and Lynda Bendelow-Ruark.

members of the "Greatest Generation" will be the guests of honor.

The dance is free and open to the public and is being held on the 68th anniversary of the victory in Europe Day which observes the defeat of the Nazis and an end to the war in Europe.

The dance will be 6-9 p.m. and include dancing and the John Glenn band and choir performing World War II era music. The JROTC will do a ceremony to honor veterans

as well as the traditional laying of the wreath for fallen veterans. Chef Tony Paquette of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's Culinary Arts Program will provide hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Yearlong project

The dance is the culmination of a project that began almost as soon as teacher Michele Anderson received a \$6,545 grant from the Michigan Humanities Coun-

cil in May 2012. Twelve months later, Anderson admits that planning the dance "is worse than planning a wedding."

"With a wedding, you call a caterer and you know there will be tablecloths and forks," she said. "We have to worry about everything."

Students in the U.S. History and American War classes have interviewed 18 veterans and defense workers and their families, as part of the project. The veterans come from as close as Westland, Garden City and Wayne and includes personalities like a local Rosie the Riveter, Janice Kelly of Northville. They are the guests of honor for the dance, however, all veterans are invited to attend.

Radio personality Jim Harper will be the emcee for the night which will feature a special performance by crooner Matt Walch and a special display of vehicles on the lawn of the high school from the Detroit Arsenal of Democracy Museum.

Anderson credits Sandra Borioe of West-

land, a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary at Detroit VFW Post 4553. She helped get the word out to other VFW posts to alert veterans about the interviews and the dance.

"We go them from all over because the VFW did its job," she said.

She's also gotten help from the Westland Rotary Club and American Legion.

Their stories

In getting the grant, Anderson's goal was to make sure the veterans' stories are told and that students "understand what they did." And even with the project coming to an end with the dance, students will have two veterans to interview after the fact. They found out about the project too late to be interviewed before that dance.

As to how many will attend, Anderson said Principal David Ingham has assured her they can hold up to 1,000 people. Hopes of good weather will open up the patio area and hallways to accommodate a large

crowd.

"When I wrote the grant, I said that if I had 300 people I'd consider it a success, right now we have had 100 RSVPs," she said. "We'll have at least 100 band and choir parents and a lot of staff members plan to come. I think we'll easily hit 300."

Anderson is keeping decorations simple. Organizers won't be able to get into the cafeteria until after lunch, around noon. Centerpieces will be tissue boxes wrapped in red paper that will be both decorative and provide tissue for tearful moments. The boxes will have a veteran and their story on two sides, patriotic stickers on the other and small flags tucked in the box.

"We want it to look nice, but it'll be simple," said Anderson.

For more information about the USO dance, call Anderson at (734) 419-2300, Ext. 5227, or send her an e-mail at andersonm@wwcsd.net.

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

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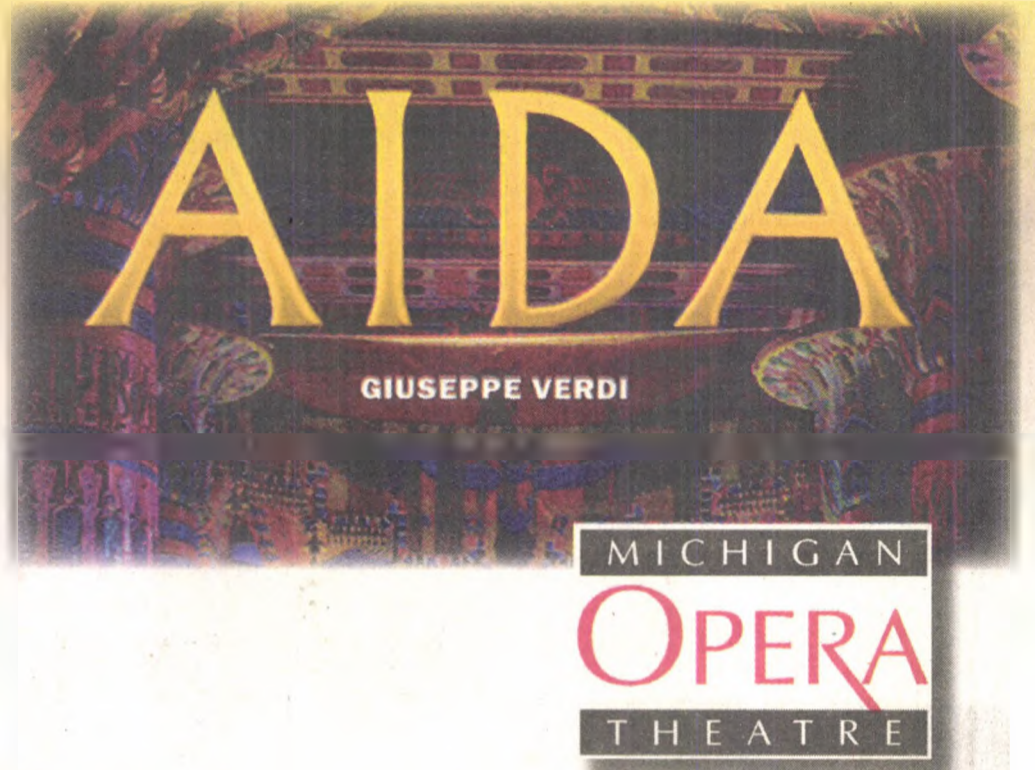
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SPORTS

'Cats swing for the top

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

April showers brought plenty of scheduling chaos for Plymouth varsity girls tennis coach Rob McLaren and his players.

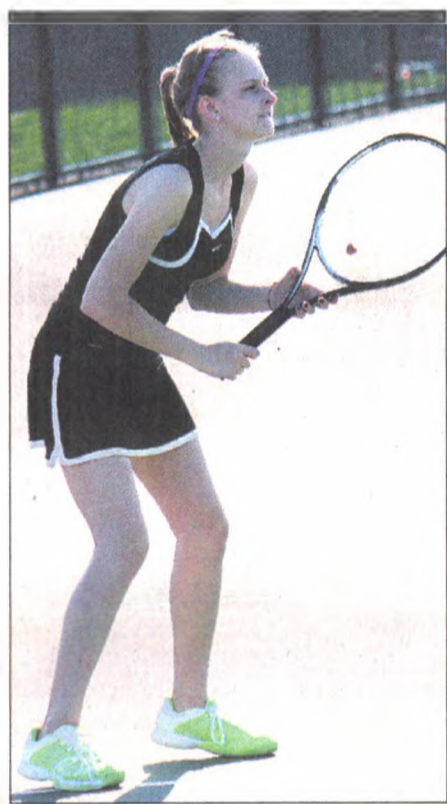
But the Wildcats have emerged no worse for wear from the postponement of eight dual matches and the complete loss of eight team practice dates.

In fact, Plymouth clinched the KLAA South Division on April 22 with a 5-4 win over Livonia Churchill and there's more work to be done under the sunny skies of a new month.

The Wildcats are 5-3 overall and 5-2 in the KLAA South, following Wednesday's 8-1 loss to visiting Brighton in a crossover dual meet of conference division winners.

That didn't diminish what the team

Please see WILDCATS, B3



Plymouth senior girls tennis captain Hannah Cobane waits to return a serve Wednesday against Brighton.



Salem freshman Chelsea Yu — a standout this season at 2 singles — is one of several youngsters who have stepped into the Rocks lineup and performed well.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rocks show promise

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem came up just short Thursday in a KLAA crossover varsity girls tennis dual meet against Hartland at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Rocks were edged out by a 5-4 tally to drop to 5-4 overall and 5-3 in the KLAA.

As far as Salem head coach Lin Ware was concerned, the result very easily could have been flip-flopped on the merits of a hard-fought battle at 1 singles between Rocks' senior Ashley Walker and Hartland freshman Rachael Reichenbach.

In that flight, Reichenbach came away with a 6-2, 6-0 win that was a lot closer than the score indicated.

"We always play Hartland close," Ware said. "They have a good team and Ashley's match, in particular, she



Salem 2 doubles tandem Abi Collingwood and Kylie Flynn wait for the next serve during Thursday's dual meet against Hartland.

played a great player and it was an unbelievable match.

"I don't think the score reflects exactly how she played."

There were other Salem players to bring it, including freshman Chelsea Yu at 2 singles who Ware said "has had a great season, maybe two losses this year."

Yu earned a 6-1, 6-1 win over junior Rachel Byron.

Sophomore Kylie Enright prevailed in three sets over junior Clare Holden at 4 singles (3-6, 7-5, 6-4).

Salem also won twice in doubles play. Victories were registered by the 3 doubles

Please see ROCKS, B3

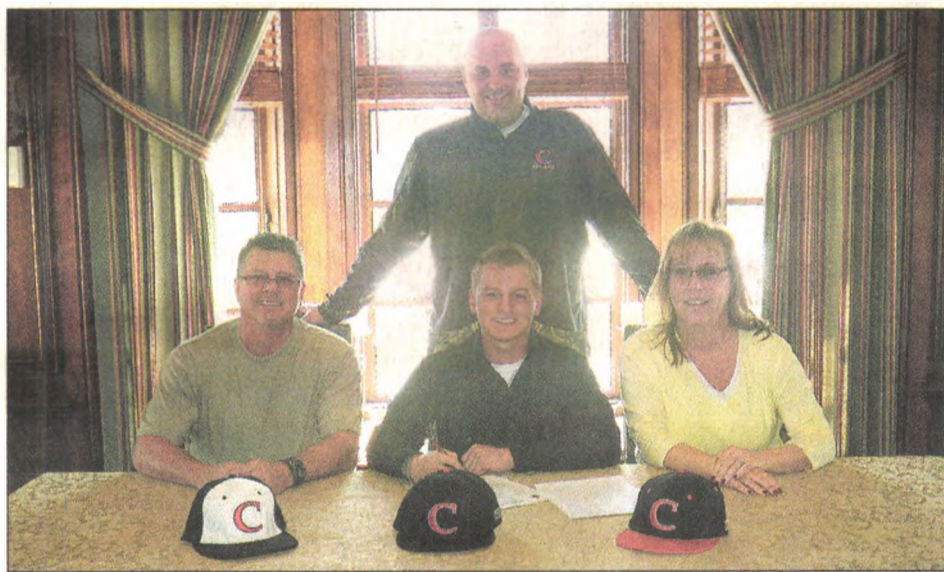
Sparkplug Waack looks to light fuse with Cards

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Plymouth's varsity baseball team needed to jumpstart its offense in Thursday's doubleheader at Livonia Churchill, it was 5-6 sparkplug Brandon Waack to get it going with a bunt single.

Waack keyed a seven-run rally that gave the Wildcats a 8-5 win over the Chargers, also splitting the KLAA South Division twinbill. More importantly, it provided the latest example as to why Waack endeared himself to Concordia University baseball coaches so much that the senior recently signed a national letter of intent to play there.

"I'm happy that I get to play ball for the next four years," Waack said. "It's just exciting because I know some kids don't get to play college baseball. It makes me happy,



Brandon Waack (seated, middle) is flanked by dad Ray Waack and future stepmom Christine Hughes during a recent signing ceremony to play baseball at Concordia University. Standing behind Brandon is Cardinals baseball coach Kyle Rayl.

because I get to reach my goals."

According to his dad, Ray Waack of Canton, Thursday's rally would have brought a smile to Concordia head coach Kyle Rayl, who is making

baseball fields at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park part of his recruiting ritual these days. Already at Concordia is pitcher and 2012 Plymouth grad Justin Thompson.

Taking notice

"Concordia coaches have been coming out to watch Plymouth games and Canton games, because they know there's some really good talent and it's close to

home," Ray Waack said. "They get most of their talent from Indiana and elsewhere."

Brandon Waack cited Rayl's own baseball makeup as one reason he felt comfortable opting to go to Concordia instead of schools such as Central Michigan, Ferris State and Grand Valley State.

"I like the way he is, coach Rayl is an energetic coach and the kind of player I am," the younger Waack said. "I guess it fits me better and fits me well."

Another plus is Thompson already playing for the Cardinals, easing Waack's transition from preps to college ball.

"I thought it would be a good fit for me to go back and play with him," Brandon said. "I'll meet other teammates, but I already have a (Plymouth) teammate there that I can

Please see SIGNS, 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.

MWGA clinics

The Michigan Women's Golf Association's Short Game Skills and On-course Management clinics are set for 4 p.m. May 11 at Hickory Creek Golf Course in Superior Township (just west of Canton).

The clinics will be taught by Hickory Creek PGA golf professional Tami Bealert. Entry deadline is May 8 and the cost is \$50.

To register or for more information, visit www.mwga.org, or call Lu Stockton, MWGA director, Seminars & Clinics, at (734) 546-1023.

The MWGA's upcoming events include: Match Play Competition at Whispering Willows (May 11), Match Play Competition at Tanglewood (May 19), 2-Person Four-Ball, Women & Mixed Teams in Farmington Hills (May 25) and President's Stroke Play at Oak Pointe CC (June 8).

Bucks open up May 14

The Michigan Bucks of the Premier Development League will face the Dearborn Stars in their record 14th Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, the nation's oldest sporting competition celebrating its 100th year, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, in a first-round match at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for youths 16 and under. Children 5 and under are free. Special discounted pre-sale tickets for only \$6 will be available online at www.bucksoccer.com; or by stopping by the Bucks office at Ultimate Soccer Arenas.



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Young sluggers pace Wildcats, Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth's Brittany Miller and Salem's Jamie Squires continue to slug their way to the top of the KLAA softball charts.

Both clubbed homers with teammates on base to help their teams win games last week.

Miller smacked a grand slam Wednesday against Westland John Glenn as the Wildcats won twice via the mercy-rule route (10-0 and 16-0).

The next day, sophomore Miller went 2-for-4 to help Plymouth (9-2 overall, 7-0 in the KLAA South Division) edge Livonia Churchill 7-5 in the opener of a doubleheader.

As for freshman Squires, her three-run

MORE SOFTBALL
Canton blanks Patriots in twinbill. See page B5.

home run in Game 2 of Wednesday's home twinbill against South Lyon sparked the Rocks to a 14-2 win in five innings.

That followed Salem's 7-5 loss in the opener despite Gabbi Zott's 3-for-3 day and two hits by Squires and Kara Hutchinson.

"Long as the bats keep moving we have the potential to be a solid contender," Salem head coach Bonnie Southerland said. "We might be young but we've got some seriously legitimate players."

The Rocks (10-5 overall, 6-3 in the KLAA Central Division) came out swinging in Game 2 and tallied

"Long as the bats keep moving we have the potential to be a solid contender"

BONNIE SOUTHERLAND
Salem head coach

14 hits — led by Kristi Zink, who registered hits in all three of her at-bats.

Squires singled in addition to her homer and Maranda Armstead, Emily Marcero, Lexi Epley and Zott each chipped in with two hits to back the strong pitching of Marisa Hunley.

"The girls are hitting very well right now," Southerland added. "The defense is solid. It's any-



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Following through on her grand slam Wednesday against Westland John Glenn is Plymouth sophomore Brittany Miller.

one's division at the moment."

Wildcats sweep

Plymouth, meanwhile, swept the Chargers Thursday as sophomore pitcher Mikayela Marciniak gave up just two hits and no walks while striking out seven in a 1-0 win.

Marciniak also was in the middle of the lone rally. She singled, as did junior Celeste Miller and junior Brooke Senkbeil to plate the winning run.

In Game 1 against the Chargers, Plymouth senior pitcher Elaine Gerou singled in the winning run in the eighth inning and earned the win following a solid pitching performance (no walks, six Ks).

In addition to Miller's two hits, the Wildcats were bolstered by Senkbeil's 3-for-4 showing at the plate. Also 3-for-4 was Kayla Rebin.



Watching the trajectory of her three-run home run Wednesday is Salem freshman Jamie Squires.

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Salem can't finish sweep

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Whenever host Salem grabbed some momentum in Game 2 of Wednesday's twinbill against visiting South Lyon, the Lions snagged it back the next half-inning and it cost the Rocks in a 10-5 defeat.

Miscues also helped fuel the Lions, who were able to avoid a double-header sweep in the KLAAs Central Division matchup.

In the top of the first, the Lions went up 2-0 with the aid of a throwing error on a South Lyon sacrifice bunt.

Salem (3-4) responded with a run in the bottom half, largely on the hustle of Kyle Penn. He singled and promptly got picked off first, but beat the throw to second. Penn subsequently advanced to third on a fly ball and came in when the throw hit his helmet and bounced away.

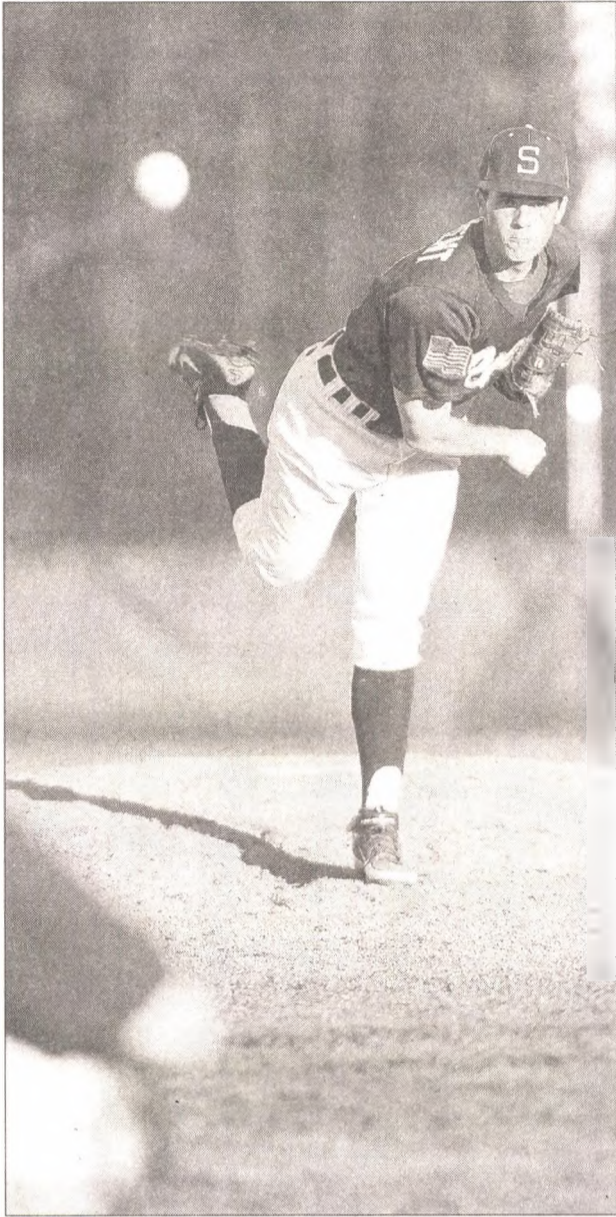
The Rocks evened it up at 2-2 in the bottom of the third when senior outfielder and Saginaw Valley State University recruit Demetrius Dunlap laced a 2-0 pitch on a line over the fence in left. Dunlap also excelled in the field, making two diving catches of liners during the contest.

Unfortunately for Salem, the Lions regained the lead with two runs in the fourth against Rocks' starting pitcher Josh Penn in a rally bookended by costly dropped balls in the infield.

South Lyon (4-4) increased the margin to 5-2 in the fifth on a double by Cody Conrad and — with Jeremy St. Laurent taking over on the mound — an infield single by Eric Stephenson.

That's how the game stayed until the Rocks staged their own error-aided rally, scoring three runs in the sixth to make it 5-5.

Base hits by Brandon Gillen, Austin Silletti and pinch hitter Justin Sydowski loaded the bas-



Salem relief pitcher Jeremy St. Laurent delivers the baseball toward home plate during the Rocks' 10-5 loss Wednesday against South Lyon.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

es and head coach Dale Rumberger brought Derrick Vergolini (who started the game at second base) back into the game to run for Sydowski.

Junior shortstop Jack Driscoll hit an infield chopper that the South Lyon third baseman threw wildly to first on, scoring three runs — with Vergolini racing home with the equalizer.

But the Rocks immediately ran into trouble in the seventh, with the Lions scoring five unanswered runs off relievers David Proctor and Nick March.

Stephenson smacked a two-run double to left-

center to break the 5-5 tie and Niko Woods singled to score two more runs.

South Lyon pitchers scattered nine hits, with Salem catcher Colin Savage collecting two of them (single, double). The only other extra-base hit, other than Dunlap's homer, was a first-inning double by Josh Penn.

In the opener, Salem won 6-1 behind the complete-game pitching of Tyler Brooks, who gave up just one unearned run and three hits.

South Lyon took an early 1-0 lead but the Rocks took over with five runs in the fourth. Key hits in that decisive frame

included a double by Josh Penn and RBI single by catcher Lucas Salinas.

PLYMOUTH 6-7, JOHN GLENN 1-1: Westland John Glenn (10-4, 3-3) could muster only six hits on the day in a KLAAs South Division double-header setback Wednesday against the host Wildcats (6-5, 4-3).

Jamarl Eiland went 2-for-3 with four RBI and winning pitcher Brian Schmid helped his own cause going 2-for-3 with two runs in a 6-1 Plymouth victory.

Schmid went all seven innings, allowing just three hits and a walk. He struck out four. Losing pitcher Brendon Wetmore gave up nine hits and struck out eight in six innings.

Adam Singleton went 2-for-3 with an RBI for Glenn. In Game Two, Brendan Swanson went 2-for-4 with two RBI as the Wildcats prevailed, 7-2.

Matt Janke and Schmid also added two hits apiece. Winning pitcher Nate Percy went the first six innings, allowing just three hits.

Losing pitcher Brandon Smeltzer went six innings allowing five runs on nine hits. He struck out three and walked three before giving way to Daniel Ammons.

Wetmore had an RBI single in the loss.

CANTON 15-6, FRANKLIN 11-2: Nick Hazergian had a big day at the plate and won the second game on the mound as the Chiefs (10-3, 4-3) swept a KLAAs South Division double-header Wednesday at Livonia Franklin (5-9, 0-7).

Hazergian went 3-for-3, including a 3-run homer and double as the Canton outslugged Franklin in the opener, 15-11.

Mike Stafford, in relief of starter Jacob Heller, got the victory in Game One.

In Game Two, Hazergian went six innings, allowing two runs on six hits and five walks in a 6-2 Canton victory. He also struck out eight and went 2-for-4 at the plate.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 15, LUTHERAN SOUTH 3: On Wednesday, Nate Abbott went 3-for-3 with two RBI and Nick Flanery went 3-for-4 with two RBI as Lutheran High Westland (7-1, 5-0) took five innings to mercy host Newport Lutheran South (2-4, 2-4) in a MIAC Red Division encounter.

Abbott, the winning pitcher, allowed two earned runs on six hits. He struck out four and walked three in five innings. Also contributing to Lutheran Westland's 16-hit attack was Jordan Williams (2-for-3, RBI); Brandon Ruelle (2-for-2, RBI); Cleveland Tarp (two RBI); and Jacob Baval (2-for-2, RBI).

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'We have a lot of freshmen who can play.'

LIN WARE
Salem girls tennis coach

ROCKS'

Continued from page B1

team of juniors Rachel Hershock-Kendall Berghofer (6-3, 4-6, 6-2) and the 5 doubles tandem of freshmen Ashmi Nawar-Madison Kulik (6-2, 7-5).

"They (Nawar-Kulik) only lost to the big guns, like Northville, Novi," Ware said. "We're a young team. ... we have a lot of freshmen who can play."

In addition to Yu, Nagar and Kulik, Salem boasts freshman Kylie Flynn at 2 doubles (where she teams up with senior Abi Collingwood).

The Rocks did post a 8-1 victory Wednesday over Walled Lake Western.

Walker won a three-setter against Natalie Holland with other Salem singles wins posted by Yu (6-0, 6-0 at 2), sophomores Tiffany Chan and Enright at 3-4, respectively.

In doubles play, victories were posted by Julia Meireles-Katie Vena at 1 (6-2, 6-4), Collingwood-Flynn at 2 (6-3, 6-2), Natasha Consul-Courtney

Simpson at 4 (6-4, 6-0) and Nawar-Kulik at 4 (6-0, 6-1).

LAKELAND 7, CANTON 2: In a KLAAs varsity girls tennis crossover dual meet Thursday, the visiting Chiefs (4-3) fell short to White Lake Lakeland (5-2).

Scoring victories for Canton were junior Anna Scheppele at 3 singles (6-1, 6-1 over Olivia Neumann) and the 4-doubles tandem of juniors Nikki Cotham and Angie Distlerath (6-4, 6-1 over seniors Paige Verbouw-Kelly Labuta).

The Chiefs battled it out elsewhere, with three-set losses at 2 singles and 3 doubles.

At 2 singles, Lakeland's Jair Massie defeated Canton senior Hannah Ferree, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2. Canton's 3 doubles team of senior Caitlin Orr and freshman Sarah Kalasky went to three games against the Lakeland duo of Reem Ahmed and Marie Djelaj, only to lose 1-6, 7-6(4) and 6-4.

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Ready to spring into action Wednesday is Plymouth's No. 1 doubles tandem of sophomore Sarah Gamble (foreground) and freshman Swetha Duraiswamy, gearing up to serve in the background.

WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

has achieved so far, with hopes of even more success either at the conference meet or Division 1 regionals.

"Brighton is one of the top four teams in the whole league so we measure ourselves how we do against them," McLaren said. "They're a great team."

Passing the test

Plymouth's lone victory against the Bulldogs was tallied by outstanding sophomore 1 singles player Keerthi Chekuri. She won 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 over Brighton senior Rachel Ranases.

"She's played some of the toughest players in our league, she's had some really good matches," said McLaren about Chekuri, who was 2 singles last season. "She's grown up a lot in the last week with all those tough matches. Her experience is showing today. She has great poise, great groundstrokes, she can hit winners."

"She's working on her drop shot. She's really worked on her all-around game."

There are others who continue to sparkle, including senior Marlowe Susselman at 4 singles.

At the recent Howell tourney, Susselman moved up to 3 singles due to an injury and all she did was finish first.

"Marlowe played three years in doubles for us and really developed her all-around game," McLaren said. "So when she got to play singles she played the net a lot more than any of her opponents anticipated."

"... Girls who play singles their whole life usually don't approach the net very readily. Marlowe might be 5-foot, but she plays the net like she's a 6-footer."

Plymouth's 1 doubles tandem of sophomore Sarah Gamble and Swetha Duraiswamy also has made plenty of growth, although "because they're playing the best (doubles) teams on the other teams their record doesn't reflect that."

McLaren noted that Gamble and Duraiswamy will be "lights out" during their prep career. He expects they'll move up into the singles lineup at some point, perhaps even next year, due to graduations.

One of the team's clutch performers has been 2 singles player Miranda Cerny, a junior.

He cited that, in the Wildcats' division-clinching win over Churchill, Cerny won a tough three-setter for the deciding point.

According to McLaren, it has been rewarding to see his team come through in such situations despite a lack of court time due to scheduling adversity.

He recalled one practice where players wore wool hats and gloves in temperatures below the 30-degree mark.

"You know you have to do what you can to coach before the matches," McLaren said. "You coach during the matches and coach after the matches because you can't do it on the practice court."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This head-first slide by Plymouth's Brandon Waack during a 2012 game is the kind of hustle coaches at Concordia University took a liking to.

SIGNS

Continued from page B1

bond with."

Waack's versatility also looms as a plus for the Cardinals. This season, Waack is hitting in the neighborhood of .350 out of the 2-hole, with plenty of stolen bases. In the field, he has played every position except first base — not surprising given his less-than-rangy height.

"Coach Rayl said I could play eight of the nine positions and that he likes my bulldog mentality," he continued. "Basically, he likes my relentless energy, which is the type of player I am. I feel I can bring some spark to the team next year."

His choice

For Ray Waack and his fiancée, Christine Hughes, the fact Brandon chose to go to nearby Concordia is a bonus. But Ray said it was his son's decision.

"We thought he was actually going to CMU and then he changed his mind and he was going to Western," Ray Waack said. "He was accepted at Western, Saginaw Valley State, CMU and Ferris State. So we let him make the decision. At those schools he wouldn't have been ... (able to) go out there and play ball right away. At Concordia, he is going to play ball right away and go for his business degree."

As much as Brandon is at home anywhere on the baseball diamond, he gets it done academically whatever the subject matter. He owns

a 3.5 grade point average. He'll minor in criminal justice.

Meanwhile, there is still a month or more left in his final high school season and he wants to go out on a high note.

"Last year I struggled hitting a little bit and didn't get as many swings," Brandon stressed. "But this year, I've basically played every inning and earned my spot."

"I really like the 2-spot, hitting after Matt Janke, who is a great leadoff hitter. I can either put the bunt down, get him over, I can hit a single and get on base, move him up. And Casey Sudz, our 3 hitter, is probably one of the best hitters on the team. Just get him some ducks."

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Chloe Donlin (No. 20, left) tries to maintain possession of the ball Friday night against Livonia Franklin defender Michelle Tuyo.

Chiefs strike early, often

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For a while Friday evening, Livonia Franklin curtailed Canton's quick-strike offense.

But about 10 minutes into the KLAAs South Division varsity girls soccer match at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Chiefs scored their first goal.

From that point on, Canton kept firing and finding the range, ultimately winning 9-0 in a game that was called at halftime due to the mercy rule. The Chiefs' ninth goal came just a few seconds before the first half came to a close.

"What made Canton tough was they came out ready to pour it on and put us right on our heels and they did," Franklin head coach Dean

Kowalski said. "We just could now slow them down. And once they punched one in we kind of collectively put our heads down. They smelled blood and boom."

Continuing her season-long offensive tear for Canton (5-3-1, 5-0-1) was freshman forward Madeleine Lucas, who scored two goals.

Seven other players tallied single markers, including Chloe Donlin, Tracy Moore, Taylor McArdle, Abigail Robichaud, Natalie Winters, Bri Grillo and Kelsey Cheaney.

CANTON 4, JOHN GLENN 1: Madeleine Lucas and Christen Pederson each tallied a pair of first-half goals Thursday as the Chiefs (4-3-1, 4-0-1) downed host Westland John Glenn (6-3-2, 1-3-1) in a KLAAs South Division encounter. Glenn, despite being outshot 23-4, got on the board first at the 58-second mark on Kendra

Pennington's goal from Marissa Edwards.

PLYMOUTH 8, WAYNE 0: The Wildcats (9-0-1, 4-0-1), ranked No. 1 in Division 1, invoked the eight-goal mercy rule Thursday at home to beat Wayne Memorial (1-6-1, 0-5-1) in a KLAAs South Division encounter.

Madi Lewis had another huge game, with two goals and four assists.

Scoring three goals for Plymouth was Stephanie Dillon. Other goal scorers for the Wildcats were Sydney Rouse (who also had two assists), Morgan Klabunde (also one assist) and Hope Sheffield.

SALEM 4, S.L. EAST 0: The Rocks improved to 8-3-1 overall and 4-2 in the KLAAs Central Division with this victory on Thursday.

Combining for Salem's seventh shutout in 12 games were goalkeepers Ali Eggenberger and Aly Mann while taking care of the offense was Emily Barfuss (with her team-leading seventh goal) and Nancy Krutty (one goal, two assists).

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Re-relay good showing



Canton's varsity girls track and field team competed April 27 at the Saline Hornet Invitational and a number of Chiefs enjoyed plenty of success. Here, Canton coach Tiffany Grubaugh (center) celebrates with her 1,600-meter relay team that finished third with a time of 4:18.86. Members of the relay are (from left) junior Bridget Alaniva, senior Greer Roberts, senior Gabby Williams and freshman Samantha McGrath.

'Cats winning with depth

As usual, Plymouth's top golfers such as senior co-captain Kyle Rodes continue to excel as the Wildcats keep on winning.

But the emergence of others in recent KLAAs dual matches is a big reason for the team's 4-0 record and accompanying enthusiasm from varsity boys golf coach Nick Brandon.

Wednesday afternoon in a KLAAs South Division matchup at Fox Hills' Woodland Course, against Westland John Glenn, the Wildcats won 146-182.

Rodes was medalist with a 34, but junior Alex Decker enjoying an even-par 35 and drew raves from Brandon.

"Like yesterday (Plymouth's win against Livonia Franklin) today showed a lot about our depth as a team right now," he said.

"Alex Decker did a great job stepping up his game today. He's a guy, a lot like (junior) Kyle Melnick, that I'm extremely proud of in terms of staying mentally tough, waiting his turn and practicing hard."

"He's taking advantage of his opportunities when he gets them."

Other scorers for Plymouth were junior John Tatti (38), Melnick (39), junior Corey Smith (40) and sophomore Connor Dydeck (42). For Smith and Dydeck it was their varsity debuts, although their scores did not count in the team tally.

"It was nice to see those two guys get a shot at playing some varsity competition today," Brandon noted.

The loss dropped John Glenn's KLAAs South record to 1-2.

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Part Time - Evenings

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Part Time - Evenings

CUSTODIAL/ MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Part Time - Evenings

Help Wanted - General

CUSTODIAL/ MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT
Seasonal
Canton Township is now accepting applications for Custodial/Maintenance Assistant (Seasonal) position.
Application Deadline: 4 p.m. Friday, May 10, 2013. Job description with complete qualifications and hiring process is available on the Canton Township website: www.canton-mi.org EOE

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Full-Time for large Southfield Apartment Community. Must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation & have basic computer skills. Must be able to handle a high customer volume and be available to work weekends. Pay \$10-\$12/hr., depending on experience. Apply in person: Scrap Busters, 39165 Maple St., Wayne, MI 48184. 734-722-2250

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Needed for a busy allergy office, full time. Experience with allergy and injections required. Benefits provided. Fax resume, Attn Janita: 248-737-0636

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Busy Livonia practice seeks punctual, energetic, eager, quick study, dependable person to fill medical technician position. Part-time, possible full. No exp. preferred, we will train! Send resume. perfect for HS grad! No phone. PO Box 530309, Livonia, MI 48152

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Canton blanks Patriots in twinbill

Canton swept host Livonia Franklin 13-0 and 6-0 Wednesday in a KLAA South Division softball twinbill at Livonia Franklin.

Winning pitcher Hanna Warren struck out seven and gave up just one hit as Canton won the opener in six innings. She helped her own cause with a 2-for-4 day at the plate, including a grand slam.

Paige Aresco also had a big day offensively, going 4-for-4. Nicole Clark had two hits and three RBI.

Katelynn Devers collected the lone hit for the Patriots (6-6, 2-5) in the fourth innings, while sophomore Alaina DeFrain (0-1) allowed 14 hits and three walks.

PREP SOFTBALL

In Game Two, Canton (12-0, 7-0) scored once in the fourth, two more in the fifth and three in the seventh en route to a 6-0 win behind the complete-game pitching of Hannah Shuler.

Key batters for the Chiefs included Kendyl Richter (3-for-4), Jessica Webster (2-for-4, two RBI), Shannon Watson (2-for-4, one RBI) and Catherine Porter (1-for-4, two RBI).

Losing pitcher Courtney Garbarino (6-4) allowed eight hits, walked three and struck out three.

Maggie Leins had two hits in a losing cause.

BOYS GOLF RESULTS

DUAL MATCH RESULTS
CANTON 157
LIVONIA FRANKLIN 195
May 2 at Idyl Wyld

Canton scorers: Donnie Trosper, 37 (medalist); Tyler McMahan, 38; Noah Lindlbayer and Brent Perry, 41 each; Chris Dooley and Alex Champagne, 44 each.

Franklin scorers: Tyler Gerhard, 44; Dan Butler, 48; Alex Nagy, 51; Greg Bo, 52; Matt Van Hulle, 54; Adam Stadler, 58.

Dual match records: Canton 2-1 overall, 2-1 KLAA South Division; Franklin, 1-3 overall, 1-3 KLAA South.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wildcats skill camp set

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

Sessions are as follows: 5-to-7 p.m. for youngsters entering grades 5-9; 7-to-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 from 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.plymouthwildcats-football.com to download a camp brochure or for more information.

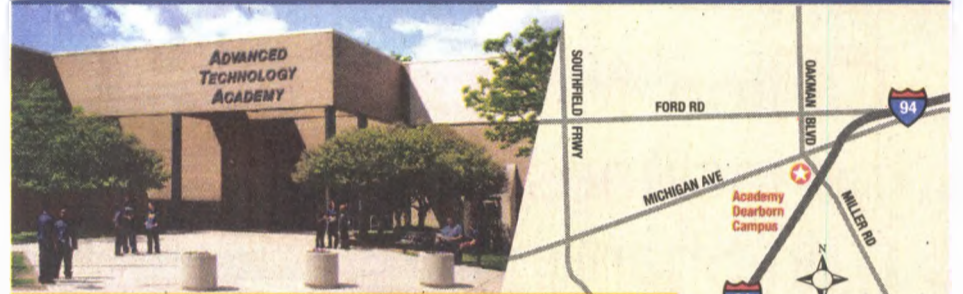
U13 soccer champs



The Livonia City Soccer Club's under-13 girls premier team won the ninth annual International Border Stars Tournament at Madonna University. LCSC tied Waza North, 1-1; and defeated Michigan Alliance, 2-0; Michigan Gators, 1-0; and Waza East, 2-0, to win the tournament. The team members are (seated, from left) Jillian Ahmad, Livonia; Tatiana Ivanac, Farmington; Meghan Swayne, Commerce; Kathryn Horn, Northville; (kneeling) Gabriela Sgambati, Farmington Hills; Natalie Hawkins, Livonia; Teresa Semak, Livonia; Kiana Buchanczenko, Livonia; Madison Sonnefeld, Livonia; Jennifer D'Antonio, Livonia; (standing) head coach Jeff Bobo, Livonia; Lizzy Roy, Canton; Rose Hodge, Canton; Regan Woodward, Canton; Anna Barkach, Farmington Hills; Haley Demers, Livonia; Allison Kaupp, Livonia; Caitlin King, Livonia; Hayley Mayes, Commerce; Erin Abramczyk, Farmington Hills; and assistant coach Julia Schroeder, Livonia. Not Pictured is Brittney Hayes.

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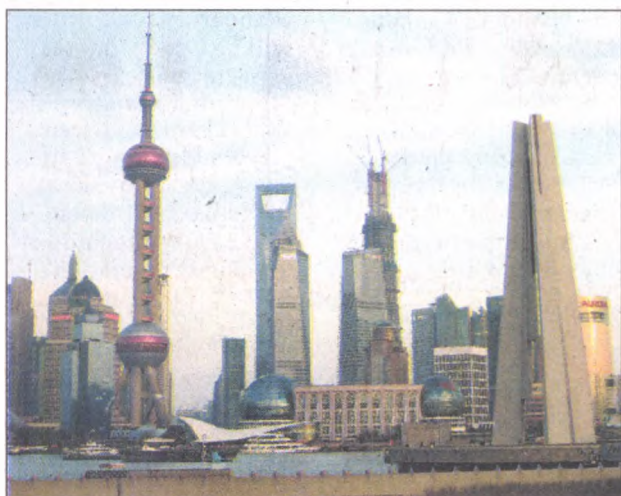
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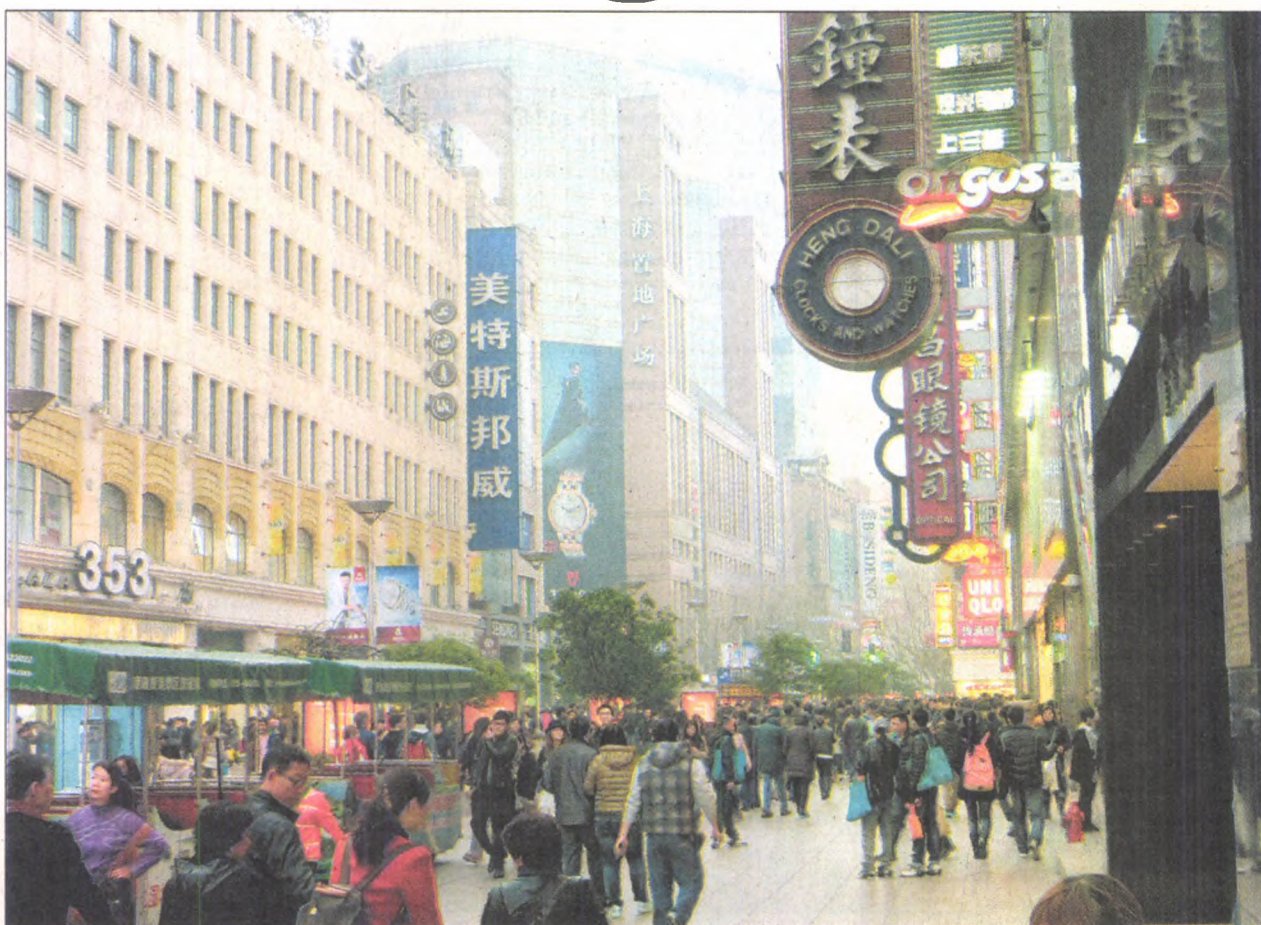
Developed over 22 years ago, Tail Waggers 1990 is a unique animal welfare organization focusing on the needs of animals in the community. Tail Waggers provides low-cost services to animals and their owners to help them stay together!

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China: The Long March



A view of the futuristic Pudong district across the Huangpu River from the Bund, Shanghai's historic financial district. The space age-style building on the left is the Oriental Pearl Radio & TV tower. The building with construction cranes on its top is the Shanghai Tower, which will be the tallest building in China upon its completion in 2014 at 121 stories.



A busy night along Nanjing street, the premier pedestrian shopping area of Shanghai, as hundreds of shoppers seek out high end goods in this trendy district. Just a couple blocks away, people live in crowded alleyways called "Stone Arch Gate" neighborhoods, sharing communal cooking areas and living without indoor plumbing.

Canton couple's trip includes stop in Shanghai

By Jay Young
Correspondent

The Red Army's retreat from Nationalist forces during China's civil war, dubbed "The Long March," covered about 7,000 miles in 1934. It lasted a little over a year.

During our recent trip to China our Overseas Adventure Travel tour covered about the same distance in 26 days, visiting Shanghai, Beijing, Xian (site of the terracotta army), Chengdu (home of the Giant Panda sanctuary) Lhasa, Tibet, Yichang (terminus of a Yangtze river cruise at

the Three Gorges Dam) and finally Hong Kong.

This article offers a glimpse of Shanghai portion of our trip. But first, some general observations:

• Accomplishments — China is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a long and rich written history extending over 5,000 years. It is the birthplace of paper making, the compass, gunpowder and printing and has been credited with such innovations as silk production, tea cultivation, fireworks, the use of mirrors, the art of paper cutting, the crossbow, the

stirrup and even nail polish and the use of paper money.

• Population — It is the world's most populous country with approximately 1.4 billion people. That's five times the population of the U.S. in an area only slightly bigger than the 50 states. China's huge population has increased by a billion people since 1949 and Mao's edict to reproduce in large numbers. The government now strictly enforces a one-child policy.

• Expanding economy — China currently has

the world's fastest growing economy, but much of that growth has been at the expense of the environment and the dislocation of millions of people.

• Pollution — China now has the dubious distinction of being one of the world's biggest polluters. In every city we visited the atmosphere was so furry you could almost stroke it. In fact, many Chinese wear surgical-style face masks in public to help cut down on their intake of airborne pollutants.

• Political — China remains under the tight-

fisted control of the Communist party whose dictates control nearly every facet of an individual's life.

• Contrasts — China is a country of contrasts. There is evidence of extreme wealth in the gleaming new cities, but also grinding poverty of the countryside and urban hutongs (remnants of old neighborhoods); the writing system is sophisticated and cuisine is elegant, but unrestrained personal habits can include spitting, cutting in line and shouting. The country has a long

tradition of expert craftsmanship in the manufacture of silk products, lacquerware furniture and cloisonne items, but also creates shoddy, knockoff items that are sold to the public and tourists alike.

Adventure begins

Our long march in China began at Shanghai, which lies on the banks of the Huangpu River on China's eastern seaboard. Shanghai is the nation's largest and most dynamic city with a population of more than 23 million

Please see TRIP, B7

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The Chinese version of the Wall Street bull stands in front of some of the classic European style buildings of Shanghai's Bund, the historic financial center of the city.

TRIP

Continued from page B6

people. Under the Treaty of Nanking, which ended the First Opium War in 1842, foreign nationals were allowed to live in areas of Shanghai called "concessions," miniature versions of their home countries. Shanghai soon became an outpost of glamor, high living and decadence that earned it the monicker the "whore of the east." In the 1930s, Britain and France built art deco-style buildings in their concessions along the Huangpu known as the Bund, the third largest financial center in the world at that time.

Today the classic buildings of the Bund face the futuristic skyscrapers of China's new financial center across the river in Pudong. Started during the economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping in the 1990s, the Pudong area was mostly swampy farm land a mere 20 years ago. Today, it stands as a stunning example of China's embrace of "state capitalism" and its rush to be a world financial powerhouse.

Shanghai is also at the forefront of commerce, trend-setting fashion and trade, eclipsing Hong Kong as the busiest port in China.

One evening, we threaded our way amid throngs of shoppers along glamorous Nanjing Lu, Shanghai's foremost pedestrian shopping area. A few blocks away we paid an impromptu visit to Mr. Chen at his "stone arch gate" hovel where he and his family have lived in a 90-square-foot room for more than 60 years. He shares a dingy kitchen with 19 other people and must use public toilets several blocks away because there's no indoor plumbing. Nearby, we sampled street food of pork kebobs prepared on a charcoal-fired brazier. Both experiences are examples of the "learning and discovery" philosophy of Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) tours.

The following evening, George Zhangke, our tour guide, took learning and discovery to a whole new level by leading us to a local greasy spoon eatery where we sampled bull frog (selected live from a mesh bag), fresh water eel (recently dispatched), pig kidneys, duck intestines, fish head, large oysters and a variety of exotic greens, such as lotus root.

He told us the Chinese learned to eat everything because of the famine perpetrated by Mao Zedong during his Great Leap Forward, when 30 million people, including his father's parents, starved to death in 1959.

Bullet train trip

To counter the bustle of Shanghai, we took a day trip, via bullet train traveling at 297 kilometers/hour, to the nearby 2,500-year-old city of Suzhou. Known as the Garden City, it is renowned for its canals, bridges and quaint quay-side hous-

ing. As we floated leisurely down one of its many canals, listening to our female helmsman sing, we saw many engaged couples posing for photographs on the picturesque bridges and side streets.

The Grand Canal, the world's largest man-made waterway, linked Suzhou with the capital of Beijing and brought the city great prosperity by opening a route north for silk exports. While in the city, which remains a center of silk production, we visited a silk factory and then toured the exquisitely-designed Ou garden, one of 69 preserved gardens in the city.

Our busy day concluded with a stop at the Dinghui Buddhist Temple, which was largely destroyed during the Great Leap Forward by Mao's Red Guards. Today the partially-restored temple stands as an enclave of Buddhist philosophy, where the five elements of happiness: longevi-



Linnea Young pauses before boarding a bullet train to Suzhou for a day trip from Shanghai. The streamlined train travels the 150 kilometers between the cities in about 40 minutes, reaching a top speed to nearly 300 kilometers per hour.

ty, wealth, health, virtue and a peaceful death, are espoused by the resident monks.

On our last day in Shanghai we took a night cruise to view the dazzling lights of the Pudong and Bund sides of the Huangpu River, a fitting way to bookmark Shanghai's past and future.

Jay and Linnea Young are Canton residents. This is their fifth trip with Overseas Adventure Travel. For more information on OAT, visit www.oattravel.com.



Jay and Linnea Young wait aboard ship for a night cruise of the Huangpu River. The dazzling lights behind them are of the Pudong district.

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JULIE YOLLES

Interior designer Rima Belau (left) of Rima Designs in Plymouth, Scott Sauter of Ann Arbor and Andrea Skupski of Plymouth are in front of Belau's "Mad Hatter" Tablescape. April was a busy fundraising month for Variety, The Children's Charity. First, they held the Annual Table Tops Luncheon at Pine Lake Country Club. And the third annual "Star is Born" Variety Gala was held Friday, April 26, at the Emagine Theatre in Royal Oak.

Detroit Public TV series will unearth local family stories

The producers of a new PBS series called Genealogy Roadshow are looking for Detroit-area residents who have a historically significant story in their family tree.

Potential participants can submit their stories online through the Detroit Public TV website at <http://www.dptv.org/grshow/>.

Genealogy Roadshow is part detective story, part emotional journey, combining history and science to uncover stories of diverse Americans. Stories that are chosen for the July 14 taping in Detroit will be researched by a team of local experts and will be linked to the larger community history.

The show will premiere this fall with stories from Nashville, Tenn.; Austin, Texas; and San Francisco, Calif., in addition to metro Detroit. The cities were chosen as American crossroads of culture, diversity, industry and history with deep pools of potential participants and stories. The Detroit episode, which will be filmed before a live audience, will air this fall.

"Detroit is a natural fit for Genealogy Roadshow. The city is as American as apple pie being the birthplace of industry and attracting some of the brightest minds in modern technology and innovation," said executive producer Stuart Krasnow. "We're looking for a diverse mix of stories from locals who want to know more about their history."

After participants are chosen, genealogy, history and DNA experts will use family heirlooms, letters, pictures, historical documents and other clues to hunt down more information. These experts will enlist the help of local historians to add color and context to the investigations, ensuring every artifact and every name becomes a clue in solving the mystery.

Genealogy Roadshow likely will unearth family and community secrets, reveal notable relatives and discover unexpected stories that connect the past to the present. Many answers will be revealed on camera before a local audience, in a historic building relevant to the cities' and the participants' histories.

Charity card game benefits young cancer patients

Play "Crazy Cards" with the Chicks4Charities on May 11 and you'll help Angels of Hope at the same time.

Participants will play 10 rounds of the fast-paced card game — a combination of euchre and buncó — starting at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Elks lodge,

41700 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. No experience is necessary to play the game.

The first place winner will receive \$200; second place will get \$100 and third place nets \$75. The player in last place will get \$50.

Tickets are \$25, with all proceeds benefitting Angels of Hope, which aids pediatric cancer patients.

Get tickets online at www.Chicks4Charities.net or pay at the door. Register by calling Liz Ryda at (734) 453-8879.

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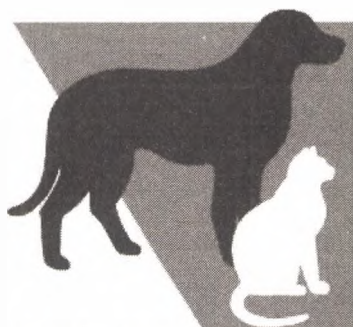
Animal rescues offer clinics, adoption event

If you're looking for low-cost pet vaccinations and heartworm testing, head to Garden City Veterinary Hospital, 30579 Ford Road for one of Tail Wagger's 1990's clinics.

The clinic, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, May 5, will offer rabies, distemper and bordetella for a package price of \$30 or \$12 for individual vaccines. Rabies and distemper vaccines for cats cost \$12 each. Microchips are \$30 and heartworm testing is \$18.

Families and their pets will be taken on a first-come first-served basis. The clinics are aimed at pet owners of all income levels.

No appointment is needed but an RSVP helps Tail Wagger's 1990 with planning. Call (734) 855-4077 or e-mail



PET PROJECTS

vaccinationclinic@yahoo.com.

Other upcoming clinics include 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, June 2 at Sheehy Animal Hospital, 18790 Middlebelt, Livonia; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, June 23 and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, at

Premier Pet Supply, 31215 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, May 19 and Sept. 15 at Pet Suite Retreat, 26245 Michigan Ave., Inkster; and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14 at Norton's Flowers and Gifts, 2900 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. Heartworm testing is offered only at veterinarian offices.

Tail Wagger's 1990 helps financially-strapped pet owners through its pet food pantry and it provides assistance to animals in emergency situations. Vaccination clinics are open to all regardless of income level.

New weeknight hours

The 21st annual spring Meet your Best Friend at the Zoo adoption event, presented by the Michigan Humane

Society, will run from 2-8 p.m. Friday, May 17 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at the Detroit Zoo, located at Woodward Ave., and 10 Mile, (I-696 service drive) in Royal Oak.

The new Friday hours will allow additional animal shelters and rescue groups to participate, and give busy families the opportunity to adopt on a weekday evening.

Hundreds of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens from 36 animal welfare groups including the Michigan Humane Society will be available for adoption. Rabbits will be on hand Saturday.

There is no charge for admission or parking for the event, which will take place under large tents in the front parking lot.

Because puppies are often

in high demand, "puppy passes" will be given on Saturday morning to the first 25 visitors who want to adopt a puppy, allowing them to enter the adoption tents at 9:45 a.m. The puppy pass process helps prevent a "puppy rush."

Adoption fees and policies are set by each participating group and not by event hosts or sponsors. Animals will be adopted only to qualified homes. Adopters must present a driver's license or state ID card. All dogs and cats will have received a medical check-up and age-appropriate vaccinations.

For health and safety reasons, visitors are asked to leave their current pets at home.

For more information, visit www.michiganhumane.org or call (248) 283-1000.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Washington Parks Academy Attention: Food Service Vended Meal Companies

The Washington Parks Academy is requesting proposals for school food service vended meals. The Vendor would provide meal services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Vendors and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

Washington Parks Academy
11685 Appleton, Redford, MI 48239

The Washington Parks Academy Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **May 13, 2013 at 9:00am at 11685 Appleton, Redford, MI 48239**. All proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00pm on June 6, 2013**. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Washington Parks Academy and be clearly marked: Food Service Vended Meal Proposal.

Publish: May 5, 2013



The Senior Alliance

will host two additional Public Hearing Sessions for input regarding the FY2014-2016 Multi-Year Plan (MYP) for services to persons age 60 and older in Southern and Western Wayne County.

Monday, June 10, 2013
2:00 p.m.
The Senior Alliance
3850 Second St., Ste. 100
Wayne, MI 48184

Tuesday, June 11, 2013
9:30 a.m.
September Days Senior Center
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren, MI 48111

The MYP draft is available at www.aaalc.org

Written comments will be accepted until June 11, 2013. Please send written comments to:

The Senior Alliance
3850 Second Street, Ste. 100
Wayne, MI 48184
Attn: Planning & Programs Manager
For more information, call 734.727.2061

The Senior Alliance REQUEST PROPOSALS Letters of Intent Notice

The Senior Alliance requests proposals to provide the following services to persons age 60 and older in the 34 communities of Western and Southern Wayne County. Some adult day care and respite funding will include individuals 18 years of age and older. Not all services listed may result in award of contract.

Adult Day Care
Aging-In-Place - Stay Safe at Home Services
Community Transportation
Caregiver Education, Training & Support
Caregiver Transportation
Congregate Meals
Elder Abuse Prevention Services

Evidence Based Disease Prevention
Friendly Reassurance
Home Delivered Meals
Kinship Support Services - Caregiver Legs
Legal Aid
Long Term Care Ombudsman
Senior Center Staffing

Service Period October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2016. Bidders must provide service in one or more of the following communities. Additional criteria will be provided concerning serving residents of all listed communities.

Allen Park	Gibraltar	Plymouth	Taylor
Belleville	Grosse Ile Twp.	Plymouth Twp.	Trenton
Brownstown Twp.	Huron Twp.	Redford Twp.	Van Buren Twp.
Canton Twp.	Inkster	Riverview	Wayne
Dearborn	Lincoln Park	River Rouge	Westland
Dearborn Heights	Livonia	Rockwood	Woodhaven
Ecorse	Melvindale	Romulus	Wyandotte
Flat Rock	Northville	Southgate	
Garden City	Northville Twp.	Sumpter Twp.	

All prospective applicants for FY 2014-2016 (October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2016) funding for the above listed programs must submit a Letter of intent prior to submitting a formal application. Final funding levels for FY 2014 have not yet been determined. Complete Letter of Intent requirements can be found at <http://www.aaalc.org>.

TSA will solicit full proposals only with those applicants who submit a complete Letter of Intent by the submission deadline. Letters of Intent may be mailed, dropped off, or emailed to Bethany Burge at TSA: bburge@tsalink.org.

Letters of Intent must briefly describe the basic elements of the program, major benefits of the applicant agency, major partners, and innovation/sustainability. Letters of Intent must not exceed one page in length. The Request for Proposal (RFP) documents will be available only to those who submit a Letter of Intent in writing no later than Wednesday, May 22, 2013 by 5:00pm. TSA will hold an Application Workshop on May 30, 2013 and all bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

For more information please call (734) 727-2061

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

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



subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

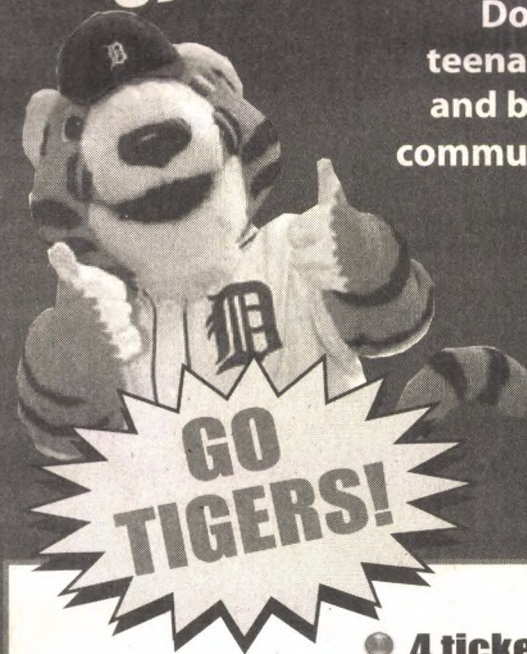
In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

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

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

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Email your essay to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com
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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



NICHOLLS, LEONARD JAMES

Leonard "Bud" Nicholls, 84, died in Hawkinsville, Georgia on April 23, 2013. He was born in Ishpeming, Michigan on February 23, 1929 to John and Myrtle Nicholls. His older brother, John S. Nicholls, predeceased him. Bud graduated from Ishpeming High School and Northern Michigan University. He received his Master's Degree from Wayne State University. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He met Eleanor Zaborsky when she visited relatives who lived next door, and they married on August 1, 1953. Bud survived by his wife of 60 years and their five children: Sam Nicholls, (Beaver-ton, OR), Evelyn Nicholls, (Vancouver, WA), Linnea (Stanley) Kava, (Buford, GA), Jennifer (Stan) Jones, (Boring, OR) and John Nicholls, (Hawkinsville, GA). Nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren also mourn his passing. He considered Sandra Nicholson Lee, of Decker-ville, Michigan, his fourth daughter. Bud was an educator. He began his teaching career in Detroit, MI, and spent many years at Bentley High School in Livonia, retiring as the long-time Science Department Chair. Bud also taught for several years in the math department at Schoolcraft Community College. At Bentley, Bud taught earth science, physics and math. His classroom was open every day after school for any student who needed help with their class work, a quiet place to study, or just a sympathetic ear. Many knew that there was always a bag of caramels in his desk drawer. He was saddened when Bentley was torn down. A brick from the original building, a gift from a former student who sealed the fence during demolition and retrieved it, has a place of prominence on the windowsill of his loving room. He taught two generations how to catch trout; he taught countless people how to identify rocks and minerals; he was a ferocious bridge, pinocle and poker player; he was a voracious reader and a lifetime student of history and politics. Bud was a Mason for over 50 years and received the Order of the Purple Cross of the York Rite College. He was also a member of the American Legion. Most important to Bud was his family. He saw that all five of his children had every educational and extracurricular opportunity available. Bud and Eleanor attended every sports event, school play, debating match, and Boy or Girl Scouting event possible, even away games; often they were the only Bentley parents in attendance. Both grandparents lived in the family home late in their lives. Holiday meals were huge gatherings of extended family and friends. In recent years, a variant of ailments diminished his ability to travel and his capacity to engage in the activities he loved. But they did not lessen his love for his family, the spark of life in his eye, or his sense of humor. He remained a man of honor, integrity and compassion. He will be remembered for those qualities and missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.



PHILLIPS, CARLTON C.

83, of Brownstown, a Ford Motor Co. Engineering Manager (1962-1988), died April 27, 2013. Carl was involved in amateur athletics, managing hockey teams in the ROHA as well as the first HoneyBaked Hockey Club team; he coached/managed teams in the Franklin Baseball League from 1965-1982, served on the Birmingham-Bloomfield Football League Board of Directors from 1969-1975, and served as the statistician for the Detroit Country Day Varsity Hockey team from 1975-1977. He is the beloved husband of 17 years to Vera Cavin-Phillips; devoted father of Mark (Jennifer) Phillips, David (Nancy) Phillips, Dawn Phillips and Darren (Danielle) Phillips; step-father of David (Lynn) Cavin and Don (Joyce) Cavin; loving grandfather of 13 and great grandfather of 2; fond brother of Gene (Jeanne) Phillips and Ronald (Ginger) Phillips. Sadly, Carlton was preceded in death by his first wife, Margaret (d. 1993). Visitation Monday, May 13, 2-8 pm at the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Funeral Service Tuesday, May 14, 11:00 am (instate 10:00 am) at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Interment Spring Grove Cemetery, Carey, Ohio. Memorial gifts suggested to Nardin Park United Methodist Church or Alzheimer's Association alz.org
heeneys-sundquist.com
HEENEY-SUNDSQUIT FUNERAL HOME

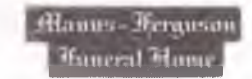


SLAGLE, VIRGINIA L.

Age 89. Our angel and best friend, Virginia L. Slagle of Farmington Hills, MI died peacefully on May 1, 2013 after a brief illness. Beloved wife of the late John J. She leaves to rejoice in her memory, daughter Candice (Dr. Wayne) Walcott of Ann Arbor, MI, the late Rosemary (Jon) Kennedy of Farmington Hills, MI; grandchildren John Kennedy, David Kennedy, Jeffrey (Tamara) Green, Matthew Green, Dr. Brett (Melissa) Walcott, Laura (Joseph) Blattner; great-grandchildren Gabriel and Avi Green, Brooks Walcott and Claire Blattner; brother Clifford N. (Dorothy) Currier of Ft. Meyers, FL, sister Ada and brothers Raymond and James Currier preceded her in death; also many nieces and nephews. She leaves a host of wonderful friends, including Cappy Goltra, Betty Santer and the late Mary Legg. Virginia, born on May 21, 1923, daughter of the late Moses and Edna Currier of Collins, Ohio, married the late John Slagle in 1942. She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Farmington for over 65 years and was active in The Farmington Women's Club. Virginia loved life. Always going the extra mile to bring happiness to others, she will be forever in our hearts and memory. Service will be Monday, May 6th, 12 noon (in state 11 a.m.) at First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336. Visitation, Sunday 1-5 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave. Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Memorial contributions may be made to the Church.
www.thayer-rock.com

HINDMARSH, ANDREW EDWARD

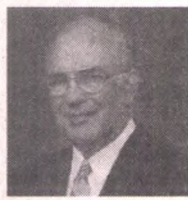
Of Livonia, 92, passed away peacefully on April 12, 2013. Born in Detroit, Andy served in the Army Air Corp in World War II and in the Air Force in the Korean War. After a career with Prudential Insurance Company, Andy became a Stephen's minister and spent his retirement years doing service work for the less fortunate. He is survived by Lila Greer Hindmarsh his beloved wife for 69 years. He is also survived by his three sons Wayne (Jini) Hindmarsh of Grosse Pointe, Dale (Kathy) Hindmarsh of Oakmont PA., and Keith (Wendy) Hindmarsh of Chatham, Ontario, Canada. He will be greatly missed by his grand children Stephanie, Ryan, Stacey, David, Elise, Benjamin and Patrick, and his 10 great grand children. A memorial service will be held May 11, 2013 at 11 AM at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia. Donations may be made to Henry Ford Hospice or St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Arrangements by: Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home 734-425-1800



KOWALCZYK, HELEN

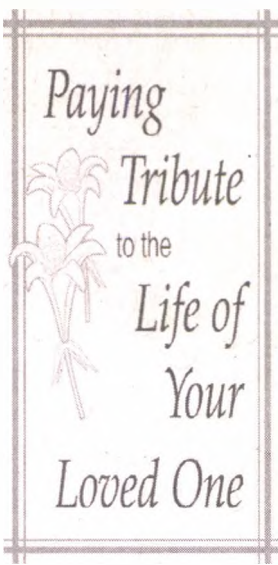
Of Westland, died April 30 at the age of 88 after a long bout with Alzheimer's. Beloved wife of the late John. Loving mother of Chris Olds, Jan (Rick) Martin, Kathy (Steve) Varkoly, Sue (Don) McGee, John (Karen), Jim (Debbie) and Dave (Pat). Proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Visitation Sunday 3-9PM with a 7PM Rosary at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd. (between Ford and Cherry Hill) Westland. Instate Monday 9AM with a 9:30AM Funeral Mass at St. Richard, 35637 Cherry Hill, Westland. Donations may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Michigan. Entombment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens, West.

To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



STAMBOULIAN, CHARLES

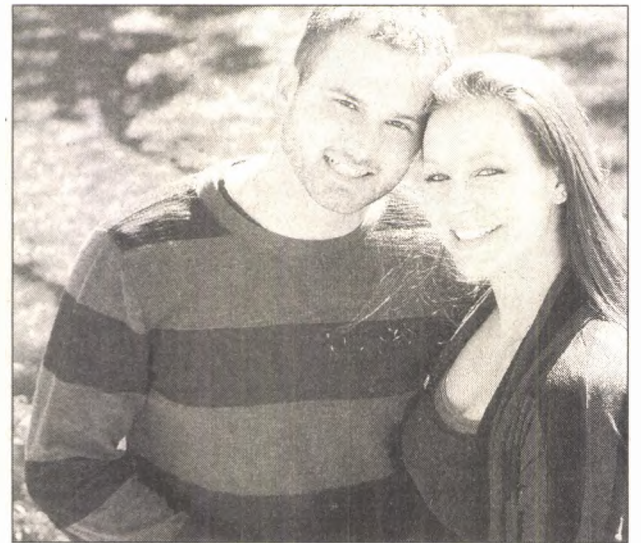
Of Farmington Hills, MI was born July 5, 1921 in Detroit, MI and died April 30. Charlie worked in automotive engineering and design for 36 years, 27 of which were at General Motors in the Chevrolet/Corvette division. He graduated from Cass Tech High School in 1939 and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Lawrence Tech in Mechanical Engineering. He then served in the U.S. Air Force in the 40th photo reconnaissance intelligence squadron/CBI division in WWII. There he exchanged hundreds of love letters with his future wife Anabell, including ones where he proposed and she accepted. They were married immediately upon his return in 1946. Charlie was also active in the Armenian community, serving in many church groups including the choir, Knights of Vartan, and Parish Council. Charlie is the beloved husband of the late Anabell. The loving father of Thomas Sr. (Linda) Stambouljian and Jimmy (Patricia) Stambouljian. proud grandfather of Thomas Jr., Charles, Kristen, Jessica, Michael and Ani. Dear brother of Nevart (the late George) Godoshian and the late Sevart (the late Steve) Karakashian. He will also be dearly missed by his many nieces, nephews and friends. A memorial service with Military Honors was held at St. Johns Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, on Saturday May 4. Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Johns.



Milestones

Valandingham-Motter

Robert and Audrey Zawacki, of Eastpointe announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Valandingham of Paw Paw, formerly of Livonia, to Joseph Motter of Paw Paw. A May 2013 wedding is planned."



Falsetti-Crespi - Dillard

Pamela Falsetti-Crespi and George Dillard, both of Canton, announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Dominick and Frances Falsetti of Dearborn Heights, graduated from Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights. Her fiance, son of George and Pat Dillard of Beaufort, S.C., graduated from Thomas Heyward High School in Ridgeland, S. C. and earned a bachelor's degree in military affairs and international politics at The Citadel Military College, Charleston, S. C. He is employed by The Coca-Cola Company. A wedding is planned in early July.



adel Military College, Charleston, S. C. He is employed by The Coca-Cola Company.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send items for this column to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

tomato plants visit www.mgwwc.org. Questions? E-mail to mgwwcorg@gmail.com.

Miller Woods

With spring flowers still blooming in the nature preserve, the Friends of Miller Woods has extended its April nature walk series to Sunday, May 5. Guided tours are from 2-4 p.m., leaving every half hour. Walks are about an hour. The entrance to the preserve is on Powell Road, just east of Ridge Road, between North Territorial and Ann Arbor Roads. Strollers aren't recommended because of the uneven terrain. No dogs are allowed in the nature preserve. For more information about Miller Woods, visit www.millerwoods.com.

Livonia Garden Club

Learn about fairy gardens at the club's next meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. Laura Wright, president of the Gillette Nature Association at PJ Hoffmaster State Park in Muskegon, will present a brief overview of the history of fairies and explain how to add excitement and imagination to the garden; www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardenclub/

Plant sharing

• Farmington Hills Beautification Commission's 13th annual Spring Plant and Seed Swap runs 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 11, in the visitor center parking lot at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Bring gardening gloves, a wagon and your favorite plants and seeds to exchange. For more information, call Charmaine Kettler-Schultz in the City's Community Development office at (248) 871-2543.

• Livonia Garden Club's annual plant share is 9-11 a.m. — rain or shine — Saturday, May 11, Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia; (248) 477-7375. Divide, pot up and label plants. Include common and botanical name, (if known). Also, please indicate if it's a sun or shade plant. House plants are welcome, too.

• Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County plan a plant exchange and heirloom tomato plant sale, 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 11, in the parking lot at the News Herald, 1 Heritage Pl., Southgate. Proceeds fund grants, scholarships and special projects for local communities. www.mgwwc.org or e-mail to digitdownriver@gmail.com.

Heirloom tomato plants

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County will sell more than 35 varieties of heirloom tomato plants, as well as herbs, flowers and peppers, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. May 18, at the RESA/MSU Extension office, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Proceeds fund grants, scholarships and special projects for local communities. For a description of heirloom

River rescue

Help clean debris in and around the Rouge River watershed from 9 a.m.-noon, June 1, in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Volunteers also will remove invasive species near the waterway and help with native plantings in the park. The first 50 participants to arrive and sign in outside the Heritage Park Visitor's Center will receive a free Rouge Rescue T-shirt and all participants will enjoy a free picnic lunch. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and long sleeves, as well as sturdy work boots. For more information or to pre-register, call the Division of Public Works at (248) 871-2850 or e-mail tpieron@fhgov.com. For a listing of other Rouge Rescue sites, call the Friends of the Rouge at (313) 792-9900 or visit www.therouge.org.

Fundraiser

Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County presents its third annual Mother's Day Weekend Flower & Plant Sale 3-8 p.m. May 10-11 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 11 at its headquarters, 150 Osmun, in Pontiac. The event features free landscaping/gardening sessions open to the public, discounted plants and Mother's Day flowers. Master gardeners will be on hand to offer planting advice. During the second day of the event, master gardeners will conduct presentations on basic landscaping and design, curb appeal and gardening on a budget. Along with selling plants at affordable prices, the educational opportunities are geared towards homeowners learning to landscape on a budget, as part of Habitat's ongoing support to "green" (or inexperienced) partner families. Learn more at www.habitatoakland.org.

In the moonlight

Listen for nocturnal animals, observe the night sky, and heighten your senses during a Full Moon Friday Night Hike in Heritage Park, located at 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile Roads, Farmington Hills. The hikes are from 9-10 p.m. May 24 and Aug. 23, and 9:30-10:30 p.m. June 21 and July 19. Hikes are designed for families and children, 5 and up. No flashlights are needed. Hikes will meet at the Nature Center in the park. Cost is \$3 per person. Pre-register for the hike at rec-reg.fhgov.com. You also can pay at the event, however space is limited. In case of inclement weather, the hike will be canceled and refunds will be given. The Nature Center also will offer a campfire from 7-9 p.m. on Friday from June 21-Aug. 23. Marshmallows, s'mores and beverages will be sold. For more information, call the Nature Center at (248) 477-1135.

REUNIONS

Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963
50th reunion will be held Sept. 28. Contact Kathy (Toth) Hay at khay@reinhardrealtors.com or Dianna (Basnow) McDaniel at djmc-daniel45@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1973
40th reunion will be held

Sept. 28. Sehd inquiries to BellevilleMi1973.40@comcast.net or call Laura (Kingsley) Delsch at (734) 485-2744 or Sterling at (734) 265-6132.

DETROIT GESU CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1956
A reunion is planned for Aug. 17. Call Jack Sayed at (810) 231-9230.

DETROIT MUMFORD CLASS OF 1963

A 50-year reunion is set for 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at Somerset inn, 575 W. Big Beaver, Troy. \$85. Visit www.mumford63.com.

LIVONIA BENTLEY CLASSES OF 1965-66
A birthday reunion will be held Friday, Oct. 11 at Detroit Marriott Livonia, 17100 North Laurel Park Drive, Livonia; (734) 462-3100. Check in and cash bar at 6 p.m., buffet dinner at 7 p.m., followed by dancing and DJ.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Doctor, nurse practice what they preach about diet, exercise

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Dr. Arthur and Natalie Weaver say they promote a successful formula for maintaining good health.

It all starts with snuffing out cigarettes, skipping the meat section of the supermarket, trading in couch potato time for fitness activities, keeping weight under control, and giving back to the community with a positive attitude.

"There's pretty good evidence that half the cancer cases could be prevented by proper diet and exercise," said Arthur Weaver, 89, emeritus professor of surgery from Wayne State University and a long-time anti-smoking crusader and health advocate. "Exercise is important at any time in life, but if you're old and you don't exercise, you're going to go down the drain pretty fast."

"Most people aren't interested in (disease) prevention until they get the problem. Then all of a sudden they're interested in how they exercise, what they eat."

Through Better Life Seminars, a nonprofit organization he founded, Arthur has convinced hundreds of smokers to extinguish the cigarette habit for good. He offers stop-smoking seminars throughout the metro Detroit area and just concluded a series in Royal Oak.

Natalie, 88, a retired nurse, offers her expertise in vegetarian cuisine during the organization's



Natalie Weaver slices her famous vegan banana bread. Arthur Weaver, always a big fan of Natalie's cooking, will swipe a piece when he gets a chance.

annual cooking school and vegetarian holiday food tasting at Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Plymouth. Together for the past 38 years, they've led a lifestyle modification camp that mixes vacation fun with educational classes. Natalie teaches the cooking portion of the week-long camp, which runs May 12-18 at Lake Shellenbarger in Grayling. Arthur and guest health professionals lead stop-smoking, weight control, stress reduction and exercise classes at the camp.

Arthur founded the camp after realizing that some smokers had difficulty calling it quits in a workshop setting.

"I thought if we could

get them out of their environment for a week with 24-hour support, we might get them off smoking. We've helped a lot of people up there. Originally most of the people who came to camp were smokers. That's who we were aiming at."

Vegetarian diet

Now many of the campers are non-smokers who want help turning their sedentary lifestyle around, improving their eating habits or dropping a few pounds. About half of the campers return from year to year because they enjoy the mix of vacation and healthy lifestyle activities.

"I'd say that now 90 percent of the people

come for lifestyle changes, but we're still open to smokers," Arthur said. "The fascinating thing is that several of the people who went up there to quit smoking left as vegetarians."

"I think a lot more people are interested in vegetarianism," Natalie added. "We just got a letter from a lady who is coming (back) this year. She said, oh, I can hardly wait to get to the food again."

Natalie, who has a knack for making faux meats out of vegetables, flour and gravy, says the secret of tasty vegetarian cooking "is all in the seasoning."

She rarely uses recipes and says she can figure out how to incorpo-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Dr. Arthur and Natalie Weaver talk about making healthy lifestyle changes. The Northville couple offers a health camp every May near Grayling.

rate just about any fruit or vegetable into their meals. It's a skill that comes in handy when the couple takes mission trips through the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its associated organizations. They've been on nine mission trips, mostly to South America. The most recent was to Ecuador in February.

"This time we had a medical outreach team and a dental outreach team," Arthur noted. "We saw 1,500 patients."

Natalie cooks for the group, which also helps build churches or schools. As Seventh-day Adventists, they grew up eating a plant-based diet.

Helping others

"We've been in mission service. It's not new to us," said Arthur, recalling the five years that he, Natalie, and their six children spent in Pakistan years ago. The couple now also has 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. "But I thought this could be valuable for my friends and church members. A lot of people we take have never been out of the

country. There is something very satisfying about service. I thought people needed to have that experience."

Two of their daughters and a son-in-law participated in the February trip, although the Weavers say their children "have their own mission projects," too. Most of them are involved in the health field in medicine, dentistry or nursing.

"There is a recent study that showed those people who volunteer their service live longer and are more healthy than people who don't," Arthur said. "When you are doing something of service, it makes you feel good about yourself. If you feel good about yourself, you're going to be happy."

The Health Camp costs \$495 per person for the week and includes lodging, classes, food, crafts, horseback riding and hayrides, nature trails, a private lake with canoes and more. Cost is \$895 per couple. If interested in the upcoming session, call Arthur and Natalie Weaver ASAP at (313) 531-2179.

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When Minutes Count... Act FAST!

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Pawlak
Neurology

May is National Stroke Awareness Month, and Garden City Hospital (GCH) is proud to be certified as a Primary Stroke Center in southeastern Michigan. Did you know, on average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds in the U.S., taking a life about every four minutes, and yet 80% of strokes are preventable? Today, Neurologist and GCH Stroke Director, Dr. Anne Pawlak, discusses stroke, the warning signs and the need for speed.

Q: My husband recently experienced a "mini-stroke", and was told it could possibly happen again. At the time, he did not even realize he was having a stroke. What exactly is a mini-stroke? Does it mean the next one could possibly be a full-blown stroke?

A: First, I hope your husband is up and feeling better now. A "mini-stroke", or transient ischemic attack (TIA), should be thought of as a warning stroke. It is a temporary blockage of an artery leading to the brain. Symptoms of TIA usually last less than 30 minutes and are very similar to those of a stroke. Unlike a stroke, when a TIA is over, it usually causes no permanent neurological damage. If you have had a TIA, there is a high probability that you will go on to have a full stroke.

If you're concerned someone you know might be having a stroke, react quickly and think F.A.S.T.:

- **F (Face)** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of their face droop?
- **A (Arms)** Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S (Speech)** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?
- **T (Time)** If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

The need for speed is critical if you suspect someone is having a stroke. Because a stroke isn't a single-moment event, it continues to damage the brain as time ticks away. The sooner you seek medical attention, the less damage is likely to occur.

Choosing a hospital that is a "Certified Stroke Center" helps shift the statistics to the plus side, and GCH has one of the best. GCH staff members quickly assess what the patient is going through and determine the best way to stop, and even reverse, the situation. TIME IS BRAIN!

We've only got one brain. And - excuse the pun - but we need to use our heads to protect it. If you're older than 45, overweight, smoke, have high blood pressure, hypertension or a family history of stroke, see your physician to determine if you're at risk and what can be done about it.

Join us for the GCH Health Expert Lecture Series at Westland Mall on Saturday, May 11 at 1 p.m. GCH Stroke Coordinator, Melissa Welch, RN, will discuss stroke - *What they are, why they happen, the damage they can do and the warning signs.*

Do you have a health or medical question for one of the GCH Health Experts? Visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

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Four interview killers

Robert Half International

Job interviews are stressful. Being peppered with questions about your employment history, the skills you possess and how you'd handle hypothetical work situations is hard enough. You don't want to compound the challenge by making an easily avoidable mistake, like showing up late or failing to bring an extra copy of your résumé.

Over the years, Robert Half International has surveyed hiring managers and workers, asking them to recount the biggest interview gaffes they've either seen or heard about. Following are some of the most unforgettable responses -- and suggestions for avoiding a similar fate.

Don't forget your people skills

"An individual applied for a customer-service job, and when asked what he might not like about the job, he said, 'Dealing with people.'"

"The applicant told me if she had realized it was our company, she wouldn't have shown up for the interview."

"When asked by the hiring manager why she was leaving her current job, the applicant said, 'My manager is a jerk. All managers are jerks.'"

No matter how well you've prepared, you might find that nerves get the best of you in the heat of the moment. You wouldn't be the first person to stick your foot in your mouth, judging by the examples above.

To guard against saying or doing something you might regret, conduct a practice inter-

view with a friend or family member well ahead of the big event. The "interviewer" can alert you to instances when you seem more nervous than usual or become flustered. The practice will also help you feel more at ease during the real interview.

Don't focus on your needs over the employer's

"The applicant told me he really was not interested in the position, but he liked that we allowed for a lot of time off."

"One individual said we had nice benefits, which was good because he was going to need to take a lot of leave in the next year."

It goes without saying that the interview is a prime opportunity for you to learn more details about the position. But use common sense when digging for additional information.

Don't ask for the nitty-gritty about future compensation, benefits and perks until the hiring manager has expressed serious interest in offering you the position. Jumping the gun will make it seem like you don't care about the job itself or making a meaningful contribution to the potential employer.

However, it is appropriate to ask about the position itself, even during the early rounds of interviewing. For example, you might inquire about the person who last held the role or about the types of professional development opportunities the company makes available to employees.

Don't dress down

"A person came to the interview in pajamas with slippers."

"The candidate arrived with a snake around her neck. She took her pet everywhere."

"One job candidate left his dry cleaner tag on his jacket and said he wanted to show he was a clean individual."

"An applicant wore the uniform from his former employer."

No matter how casual a potential employer's work environment seems, dress to impress. That means wearing a suit or other similar professional attire.

It's highly unlikely a hiring manager will knock points off if you show up to the interview slightly overdressed. However, coming in casual attire may give the impression that you're not serious about the position or cause the interviewer to question your professionalism.

This is one of those small details that can speak volumes, so don't take any chances.

Don't be dishonest

"After being complimented on his choice of college and the GPA he achieved, the candidate replied, 'I'm glad that got your attention. I didn't really go there.'"

"After arriving for an early morning interview, the job seeker asked to use the hiring manager's phone. She proceeded to fake a coughing fit as she called in sick to her boss."

If you've been on the job hunt for a while, it can be tempting



to stretch the truth during the interview in order to make yourself seem more qualified. After all, what's one little white lie?

But keep in mind most employers conduct reference or background checks prior to extending an employment offer. And in the age of Google and social media, it's easier than ever to uncover false information. If that happens, you can be guaranteed you won't be offered the position, and your professional reputation can suffer irreparable harm.

Even if your lie isn't uncovered right away, you could be setting yourself up for failure. If you exaggerate your skills or experience, you may not be able to successfully complete the position's duties once hired. It's best to give the hiring manager an accurate depiction of

your abilities so both you and the employer can be confident the job is right for you.

The bottom line: It's never OK to lie during the interview, no matter how small the fib might seem. Always stick to the facts and build a case for the position you seek based solely on your actual skills and experience.

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AFI Financial (877) 234-0600	3.375	0	2.5	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323	3.375	0	2.5	0	J/A
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Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	3.375	0	2.625	0	J/A/V/F
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Above information available as of 4/26/13 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.
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Challenging fun for ALL ages

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Get better
 - Hamster, maybe
 - Everest or K2
 - Open-air lobbies
 - Pamplona yell
 - Debt memo
 - Profits
 - Rhine nymph
 - Hockey gear
 - Mesh
 - Quaker pronoun
 - Jaunty lid
 - Smooth
 - Usher's beat
 - Gullible person
 - Actress — Hartman
 - Grad, almost
 - Pronounce
 - Narrow opening
 - Yak
 - Drink with scones
- DOWN**
- Grog ingredient
 - Paris subway
 - Dust devil
 - Remick or Majors
 - Bank holding
 - Current meas.
 - Hawk's lair
 - Goes
 - Surveyor's units
 - Go bad
 - Mouse catcher
 - Partner of Wells
 - OK!
 - Calendar square
 - Finds fault endlessly
 - "Shine a Little Love" rockers
 - Gull relative
 - "Uncle" of early TV
 - Familiar digit
 - Rapa — (Easter Island)
 - Faulkner title start (2 wds.)
 - Startled cry
 - New England st.
 - Try a tidbit
 - Chartered
 - Kiosk buy, slangily
 - Be stertorous
 - 1066 loser
 - Hoop site
 - Dawber or Shriver
 - "Futureworld" name
 - Pouched animal
 - Customizes
 - Skimpy
 - del Fuego
 - Ms. Sumac of song
 - Wide shoe
 - Urge along
 - U.K. fliers
 - Tumble the wash
 - Fair-hiring abbr.
 - Int'l carrier
 - Urge on
 - Brillo rival

Answer to Previous Puzzle

REST MDS DIAL
AXES EYE INCA
WARP NEATENED
MASTS WET
LACES JUT
WISC LESSENS
URNS KOD KATE
FAINTED NINO
OPT ENSUE
FAN PEACE
WAVELETS BALL
EDAM DEE LAMA
BATE YET ENOW

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Want more puzzles?
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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

6		8			9	2	4		
			7			9			
						8			
	6	4	3		8				
1		3	2	9	7			4	
	9	5	6			3			
9	5	6		1			2	7	
	1	7	5	2			9		
4			9			1	5		

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search — Golden Years

B T N G N M J W T M S G I F Z
T N E R A P D N A R G E H M O
E E A N U Q U H A H G W E Y S
C L V T O O R E M W R P L F T
N X N I C I Y E H A R Y D L E
A H Q S T H T B T E I T E E O
T M I F O C R A S I I G R V P
S D S Y W I A C X W R H L A O
I X U S T H R S H A S E Y R R
S C D T W I X Y N D L C D T O
S T L H P N E D L O G E S V S
A E E T A G I N G J S O R E I
A Z I E M B S E N I O R S B S
N O R Z F Q B S L T J I K T C
N F U Y R G P Z J P G E X K E

Active Aging Assistance
Brittle Discount Elderly
Golden Grandparent Osteoporosis
Prescription Relaxation Retired
Seniors Travel Years

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

8	5	1	9	7	6	2	3	4
1	6	9	2	4	5	7	8	1
7	2	3	4	2	1	8	5	6
2	8	2	4	1	9	5	6	7
4	9	5	7	6	2	3	1	8
1	8	3	2	2	6	4	9	7
1	9	7	1	9	8	5	8	2
3	2	9	4	6	5	8	7	1
3	2	9	4	6	5	8	7	1
9	3	6	2	8	2	7	8	5
5	4	1	7	8	2	7	8	5
6	7	8	1	6	3	2	4	5

Word Search

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Mazda seeks to become 'Game-Changer' with new ad campaign



By Dale Buss

Mazda hasn't been a game-changer in the global automotive business since its rotary engines of decades ago. But the brand seeks to rise above its constant two-percent share of the U.S. market with a new advertising campaign called "Game Changers" that it's launching later this weekend.

The effort is meant to highlight the worthiness of Mazda's new vehicles and to assist the brand's efforts to move upscale as well as to break through the ever-present auto-marketing clutter.

"Game Changers" will feature TV spots that highlight "game-changing" American figures from sports to science — as well as, initially, Mazda's refreshingly redesigned new Mazda6 sedan.

So one ad features Dick Fosbury, the engineer whose revolutionary way of back-flipping over the high-jump bar won him a gold medal in the 1968 Summer Olympics. Another focuses on Laird Hamilton, the American surfer whose innovation was to use a Jet Ski to tow himself out to sea so he could tackle really big waves in spectacular fashion. Thomas Edison will be the subject of a future spot as well.

"We're focusing on courage, creativity and conviction in the new campaign," Russell Wager, Mazda's U.S. CMO, told me. "Those three words are basically what consumers told us they thought Mazda was about." He explained, "Versus just being 'any brand,' the idea is to align our products with people who changed the world for good."

Besides, Wager, said, Mazda's pipeline is full of "a slew of new products coming out over the next 24 months" that he declined to specify. "So the time is now to do this" campaign. "This will be the campaign going forward for the next three years, minimum, across all models for the Mazda brand."

Overall, he said, Mazda is seeking to raise the level of its products and brand identity to something Wager called "alternative-to-premium" status, in which its vehicles are perceived as providing a premium experience but not at a high price to consumers.

That doesn't mean attempting to compete with "premium-segment" vehicles, Wager explained. "What it means is that, currently, against our major competitors, we can't compete with them head-to-head from a financial-resources perspective, with marketing," he said. "We have to find a white space, and that's to be slightly above them with a premium product, and a premium experience, but not at a premium price."

Wager said that Mazda6, since its introduction early this year, already has been moving the brand in that direction. Transaction prices for the redesigned sedan "already are pretty darn close to the



The new Mazda6 is a design sensation.

highest" in the mid-size sedan segment, he said. "And we haven't even done our first mass-advertising communications" for the redesigned nameplate.

Wager noted that Mazda6's eye-catching new styling made it a finalist among some pretty impressive company in the World Car Design of the Year Award at the New York International Auto Show in March, which was won by the Jaguar F-Type and also included the Aston Martin Vanquish.

"But our prices start at just \$21,000," Wager reminded.

What about "Zoom-Zoom"? Wager acknowledged that the tag line has been very successfully identified with Mazda over the last several years, and it'll remain a minor presence at the end of the "Game Changers" spots. But he said that the phrase had become indefinite to most consumers.

"Nine out of 10 people in any research

will say 'Zoom-Zoom' when you ask them about Mazda," he explained. "But when you ask what does 'Zoom-Zoom' mean, you'll get nine different answers."

On the other hand, another aspect of Mazda's existing brand, SkyActiv, will rise in the current campaign. Much like Ford has made its EcoBoost fuel-economy brand a centerpiece of its new "And Not Or" ad campaign, Mazda plans to emphasize SkyActiv. "It's a result of the Mazda philosophy about being better, stronger, safer and with more fuel efficiency — but more enjoyable to drive," Wager said about SkyActiv.

Recent research showed the brand that Mazda owners "are confident, active and seeking to enrich their lives," Wager said. "And they kind of felt that the Mazda brand was similar to them in that way. Unfortunately, we haven't been communicating in that way."

"Game Changers," he said of the campaign, will change that.



Mazda brings Fosbury Flop into new 'Game Changers' campaign.

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