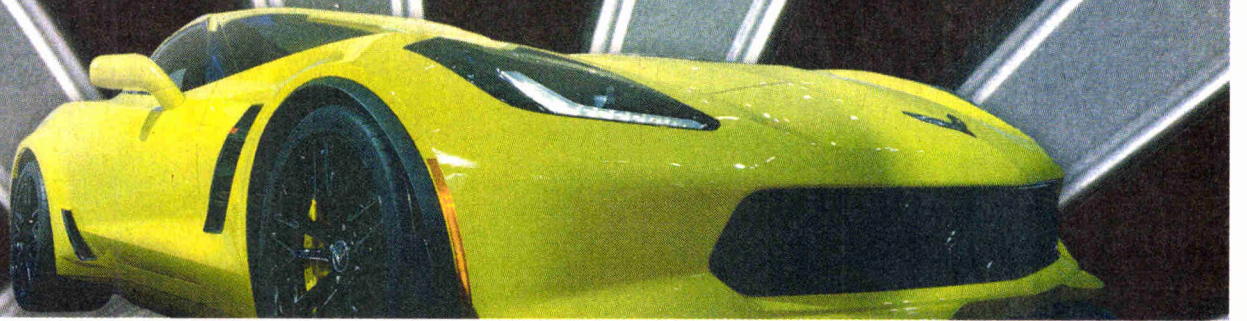


AUTO SHOW SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR

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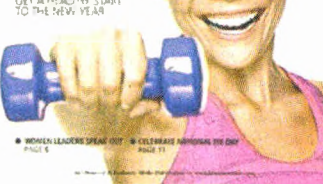
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Board rejects PARC partnership

Township officials vote to not enter into any authority-type agreement with city until 2016

By **Matt Jachman**
Staff Writer

Plans to repurpose Central Middle School in Plymouth as an arts and recreation center stalled Tuesday night when the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted to not enter any authority-type agreement with the city for nearly three years.

The 4-3 vote came after a presentation on the proposal for a \$26 million Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex and a plea from township resident Don Soenen, one of its major proponents, that the board appoint township representatives to a PARC feasibility study group. Soenen said the move halts

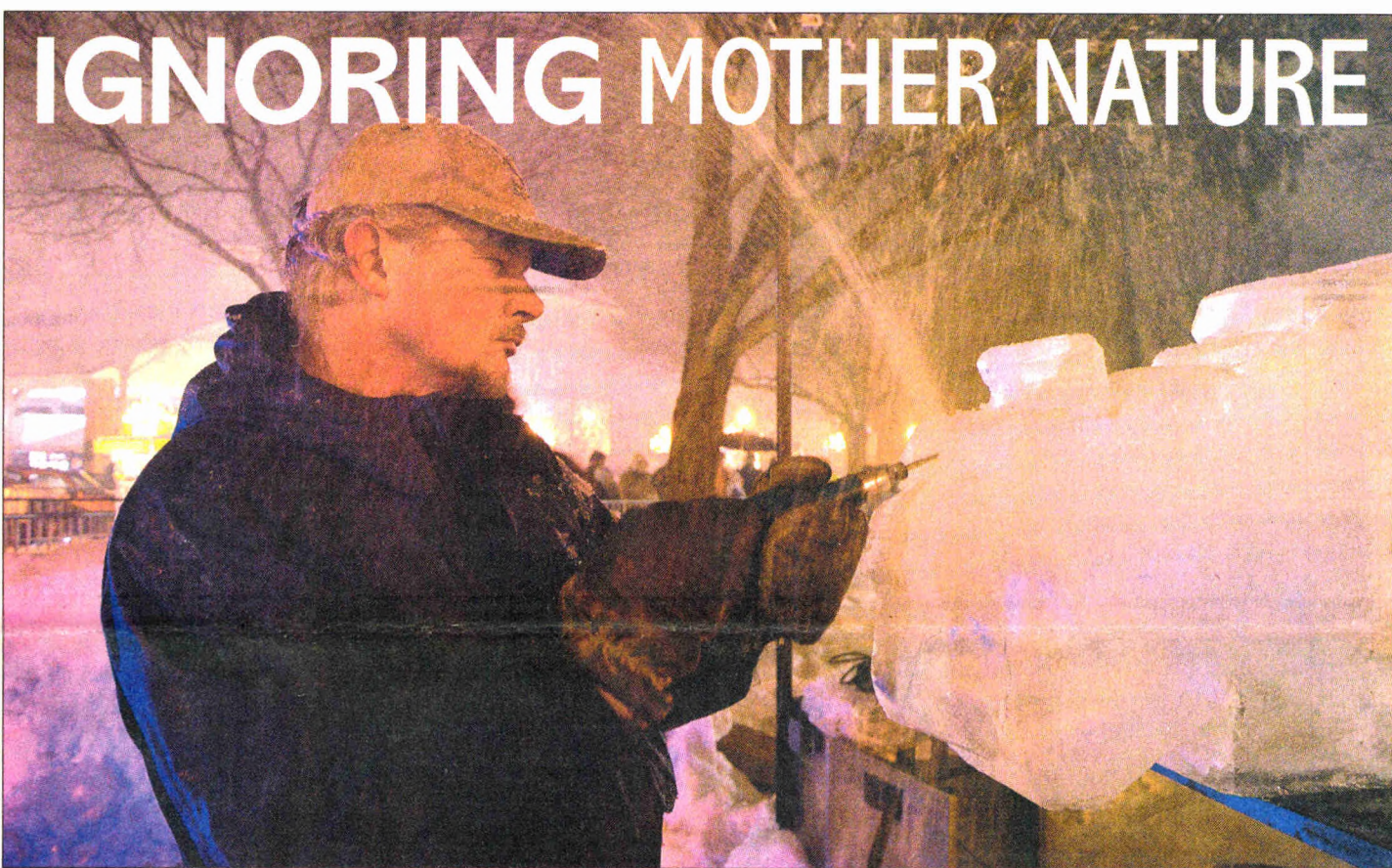
current PARC plans, as approval from the governing bodies in both communities is a required step in creating a taxing authority to operate a community center. PARC advocates envisioned a city-township partnership in the project, subject to voter approval of a tax of up to 1 mill to fund it, once Central closes as a school in 2015.

However, Soenen said the

See PARC, Page A2



Plymouth Township resident Don Soenen vowed to get the PARC plan off the ground after township officials voted Tuesday not to get involved. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



IGNORING MOTHER NATURE

Venerable local ice carver Ted Wakar works in the rain Friday night. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crowds brave the weather to enjoy ice festival

By **Brad Kadrich**
Staff Writer

Mother Nature did her best to spoil the 2014 Plymouth Ice Festival party, dumping steady rain on festival goers and carvers during the event's first two days Friday and Saturday.

But even two days of poor weather did little to throttle the enthusiasm of those who did brave the elements to see the 32nd annual festival in

downtown Plymouth.

While crowds were down from previous years, first-year organizer James Gietzen was still ready to declare the mainstay event a success.

"I think things went extremely smooth," said Gietzen, hired last fall to organize the festival. "It was pretty seamless, especially for putting everything to-

See FESTIVAL, Page A2



Sisters Isabella and Emerson Kalakay of Howell visited the Plymouth Ice Festival with their mom, Danielle Kalakay.

Grant lets township hire more firefighters

Department looks to add six full-time positions

By **Matt Jachman**
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township will add six full-time firefighters to the Plymouth Community Fire Department this spring, boosting its numbers by nearly 40 percent, through a two-year federal grant for \$1.33 million.

The money comes nearly two years after the township laid off six firefighters in a restructuring of the department that was aimed at cutting costs, a move prompted by the city of Plymouth's departure from the formerly shared department.

The so-called SAFER grant – the acronym stands for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response – was awarded late last week by the Department of Homeland Security. Fire Chief Mark Wendel said the award triggered a 90-day deadline for having the six firefighters on board and that the grant expires in two years, though the township would have the chance to reapply.

Wendel thanked the township Board of Trustees, which voted unanimously Tuesday to

See GRANT, Page A2

School board selects new leaders for upcoming year

Mardigian will serve as president, while Davis, Crouch and Horvath will fill other leadership positions

By **Brad Kadrich**
Staff Writer

Judy Mardigian is starting the final year of her term on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education in a pretty familiar position.

For the fourth time in some 18 years on the board, Mardigian was elected Tuesday as the board's new president. She succeeds past President John Barrett, who served in that post the last two years.

Mardigian – along with Vice

President Adrienne Davis, Secretary Kim Crouch and Treasurer Mark Horvath – were elected unanimously to fill the four board leadership positions. It's the second stint as vice president for Davis. Crouch, who hasn't served quite a year yet after being appointed last February to finish Barry Simescu's term, takes her first leadership posi-

tion.

It's Horvath's first leadership position this time around. He's a former board president from a previous stint on the board.

"I'm a numbers guy," Horvath said. "I'm looking forward to working with (administration) to get the budget right."

Mardigian, whose seat is up in the November election, said

she expects a challenging year. In addition to dealing with ever-present budget issues, the district is building a new middle school in Canton and about to undertake a housing study that would redraw school boundaries.

"I don't believe there's ever been a year with so many chal-

See BOARD, Page A2



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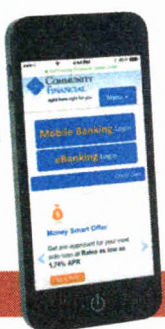
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Township, city land atop online rankings

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

With Plymouth Township gaining a point and the west Michigan resort town of Saugatuck losing two, the township and the city of Plymouth are now the state's top places to live, according to a Toronto organization that uses detailed studies to rank communities in the U.S.

The township, with a state-high "livability score" of 84, and the city, a point behind with a score of 83, are Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, on the latest AreaVibes.com list of communities in Michigan. The new rankings move the township up one spot and the city up two from last fall.

"To me, this designation is a reflection of everyone involved in the Plymouth community. It is a day for all of us to be proud," Wes Graff, Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce president, wrote in an email.

"This is the place to be now," Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer said. "People want to move here, people want to be here, people want to move their businesses here."

Canton Township, also with a score of 83, came in at No. 3, moving up from sixth last fall, while Saugatuck, with a score of 82, dropped to seventh

place.

Quality of life

The rankings are based on the communities' grades on seven quality-of-life factors: amenities, cost of living, crime rates, education levels, employment, housing and the weather. Many of the factors, like crime rates and education, are graded based on objective data, while other grades are more subjective, like the weather or local amenities.

In grading amenities, for example, AreaVibes looked at the proximity of groceries, restaurants, bars, shopping, coffee shops, schools, parks, libraries, bookstores, entertainment, public transportation and fitness centers.

For the crime rate, the number of reported crimes, against both people and property, were compared to the crime numbers from other communities; for the cost of living, AreaVibes looked at the cost of groceries, health care, goods and services, housing, transportation and utilities.

The letter grades on the seven "metrics" were factored into an AreaVibes livability score, with a higher score, up to 100, indicating greater livability.

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GRANT

Continued from Page A1

accept the grant, and PCFD Capt. Dan Phillips, who wrote the application for it. The application was made in August.

"We've got to move rather quickly, get all our ducks in a row and have these people on," Wendel said.

Recall list

"Now we have money for two years to provide for the return of our firefighters and hopefully make this a safer community," Phillips said.

The grant requires the township to attempt to recall six of the nine firefighters who've been laid off over the last four years. Wendel said eight of the nine have found other employment and he's not sure which of them, if any, would be willing to return to the PCFD with the guarantee only of a two-year job, but that the township will be contacting them.

The township's civil service commission will also create an eligibility list of potential firefighter candidates;

Wendel said if not enough laid-off firefighters return to bring staffing up by six, the department can look at outside candidates.

The grant money is intended to pay firefighters' salary and benefits and can be used in a limited way for equipment only when training of a hire is involved, the chief said.

Keeping part-timers

The PCFD currently has 12 full-time firefighter-paramedics, plus the chief and a fire inspector. There were 21 firefighters, plus the chief and inspector, when the last layoffs occurred in 2012; several have left the department since then and have not been replaced.

Since the reorganization, the PCFD has been supplementing its full-time staff with part-timers, especially during the busier hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wendel and township Supervisor Richard Reaume said the use of part-timers will continue.

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FESTIVAL

Continued from Page A1

gether in under four months."

Professional sculptors actually started carving ice a couple of days before Friday's opening ceremony. Despite the rain, the opening ceremony, the annual Fire & Ice display and the popular Dueling Chainsaws competition drew solid crowds Friday night.

Other popular attractions included the live entertainment and the Sun & Snow cross country ski track set up in Kellogg Park. It all combined with the sculptures to provide a family-friendly environment.

Cathy Florn of Westland had her kids in skis for that activity and the family enjoyed the festival despite the weather.

"It was a great day to walk around downtown Plymouth to see all the ice sculptures," Florn said. "The cross country skiing was an added bonus. My kids loved it."

Gietzen was appreciative of the folks who ignored the weather and strolled through Kellogg Park admiring the work of first the professionals and then the college students carving in individual and team competitions Saturday and Sunday.

He's been around the



These young Plymouth Ice Festival fans found a "cool" seat while visiting Saturday. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

festival before, so he knows weather is often troublesome, with bitter cold temperatures and snow among the weather impediments in the past. He also knows the weather is something he can't control.

"The rain came and then it would stop and then it came some more," Gietzen said. "It was a challenge watching these artists spend eight to 10 hours sculpting and then watching the rain just wash away all that detail."

"Our crowds were definitely down from what they usually are," he added. "People can deal with the cold and they can deal with the snow, but when you put cold and rain together, people just don't want to deal with it."

The college students carving in the competitions had no choice but to deal with it, because the

rain seemed to just keep coming Saturday. While the weather was better Sunday, it was still a tough weekend to carve.

"(Sunday's) weather was perfect," said Gennell Franklin of Highland Park, who coached the Oakland Community College team in the carving competition. "In the rain like (Saturday), it's horrible."

Jennifer Watkins of Southfield saw a story on the television about the festival and decided it might be a good thing to do with her son, Jacob Fines. While sipping a cup of hot cider Sunday (Jacob opted for the hot chocolate), Watkins said she decided it might be something Jacob would enjoy.

"We thought it would be something fun to do," Watkins said. "And it was fun."

Laura Carlin of Ann Arbor used to come to

the festival when she was young, but hadn't been back in years. She decided it was something she wanted her children to experience, so she came back.

"I haven't been here since I was little," Carlin said. "I wanted the kids to have some fun."

Gietzen, who wanted this year's festival to get its focus back on the ice, understands crowds were down this year, although website traffic was up, indicating there's still great interest in the festival. He said next year he'll try to do two things: Take advantage of more time to prepare (he figures he'll start in a few weeks) and strive for "bigger ice" next year.

He knows the festival is unlikely to return to the kinds of sculptures it used to feature years ago, when the Japanese teams were brought in to carve, but he figures organizers can still do better.

"The sculptures were bigger than they had been the last couple of years, but they definitely need to get bigger," Gietzen said.

"We need to recommit to being 'all about the ice' and we need to get the sculptures bigger and bigger to 'wow' the crowd."

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PARC

Continued from Page A1

group is not giving up. "We'll find other alternatives," he said as he left the meeting. "We have the residents and we have the resources and we have the will to take this on."

'Out of touch'

Soenen called the vote "an unprecedented action" that "flies in the face of all logic."

"This board is completely out of touch with the people in this community," he said.

Treasurer Ron Edwards' motion for a moratorium on authority agreements with the city, surprising many in the audience, was supported by Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustees Kay Arnold and Mike Kelly joined Edwards and Conzelman in voting for it.

BOARD

Continued from Page A1

lenges and so many opportunities," Mardigian said. "The budget never stops being a challenge and I applaud Dr. (Mike) Meissen (the district's superintendent) for addressing the budget's structural deficit. We need to right-size our district and that's going to be a challenge."

Davis, whose seat is also up this year, gets her second chance at the second chair. She was vice president two years ago and spent the last year serving as board secretary.

Supervisor Richard Reaume and Trustees Bob Doroshewitz and Chuck Curmi voted no.

The resolution was to not create any authority with the city until at least Nov. 20, 2016 - the date the next board takes office after the 2016 township elections.

Edwards has said he objects to having such a community center located in the city when the large majority of taxes to support it would come from township taxpayers.

"I'm not going to set up a taxing authority to set up something in another community," he said after the nearly five-hour meeting.

'Not going to happen'

Edwards has also questioned PARC's estimated price tag, calling it low, and its financial sustainability given the combined population of

the city and township. Conzelman had voiced similar concerns during the debate, saying her research showed a community center like the one proposed would cost at least \$40 million.

"I've looked at the numbers," Edwards said later. "It's not going to happen."

Referring to Livonia's subsidy, beyond a dedicated tax, of its recreation center, he added: "Ninety-seven thousand people in Livonia can't make it work. How can thirty-six thousand make it work?"

Meanwhile, board members also discussed plans Tuesday for surveying residents on recreation wants, as some members have been advocating creating a full-fledged recreation department and improving or adding township recreation facilities. Edwards said that might not happen either, but

that he thinks a survey is an important step.

'No' vote on representation

Edwards' motion for an authority moratorium came after a motion to appoint township representatives to the PARC group failed on a 5-2 vote. Doroshewitz and Curmi voted for representation, while Edwards, Reaume, Conzelman, Kelly and Arnold voted against it.

Doroshewitz, who is involved in the PARC movement, later called the authority moratorium "an embarrassing and unnecessary spit in the faces of our friends in Plymouth."

"Those opposed to an authority could simply vote no if and when if ever the issue ever came before the board rather than act with such viciousness this early in the process," he wrote in an email.



Judy Mardigian (right) was elected Tuesday night as president of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crouch, who was appointed to the board in February 2013 when Simescu resigned, will also have to decide

whether to seek election in November. Her election Tuesday gives her her first chance at a leadership position.

"I don't know that I was necessarily looking to serve in a leadership role," said Crouch, who hasn't made up her mind about the November election. "But filling any role that's in support of our children is important. I hope this means the board has come to respect my opinions."

Barrett, who had already served the previous two years as board president, decided not to seek a third term, instead opting to focus on committee service, where he said he's anxious to "roll up my sleeves."

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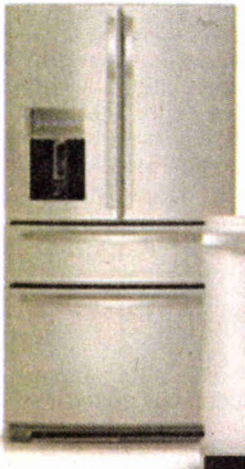


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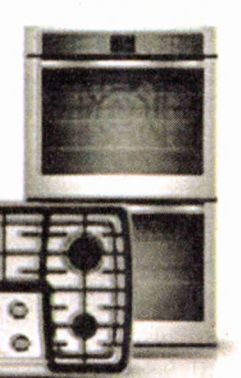


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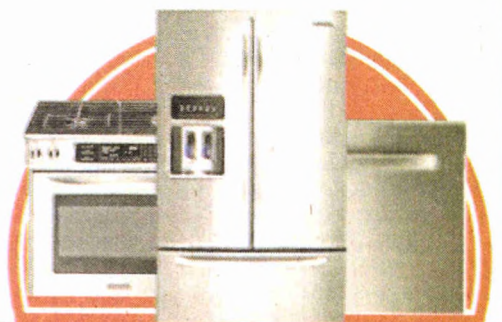
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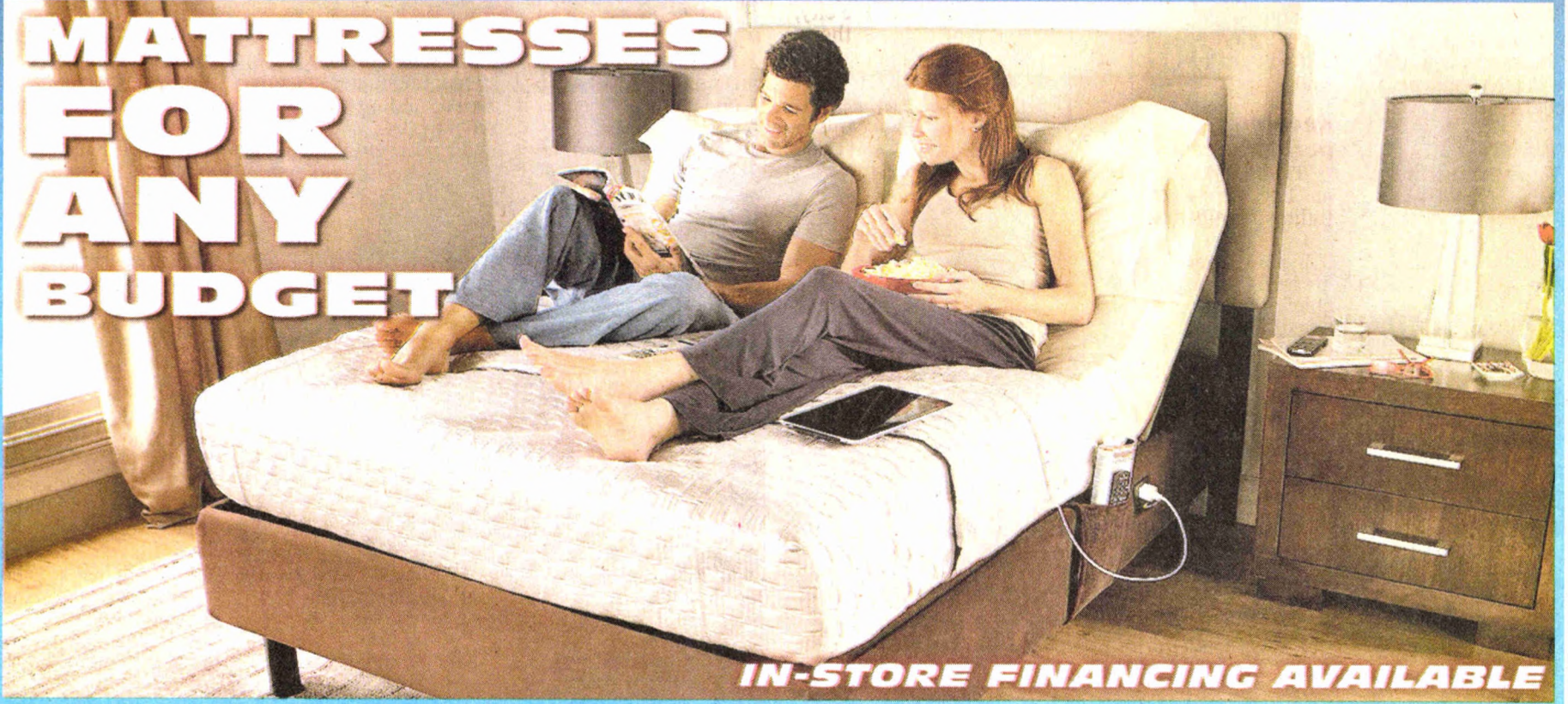
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Westland woman gets probation for theft from dementia patient

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Westland woman who police say stole jewelry from dementia patients at a Canton assisted living center has been placed on probation for 18 months and ordered to pay restitution and court fees totaling \$2,473.

Gail Lynn Good, 45, avoided a potential four-year prison term when she was sentenced Tuesday by Wayne County Circuit Judge James Chylinski, court records show.

Good's sentencing came after she pleaded guilty in November to one count of larceny in a building for an incident police say occurred last fall while she was working as a health care employee for Crystal Creek, an assisted living facility on Lilley north of Warren.

Authorities dismissed a second count of larceny after Good agreed to plead guilty to one charge, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

Good was arrested at work

following allegations she stole gold necklaces, one with a diamond, from elderly women who have dementia, Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said.

Good had been released from custody while she awaited her sentencing and had shown up for her court dates, officials said.



Good

rather than handling the matter internally.

Baugh also said jewelry shops in Westland, where the necklaces had been taken, were cooperative. Police were able to recover one necklace, but one already had been melted down for money, Baugh said.

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Relatives of the victims had notified Crystal Creek administrators about the thefts.

Baugh commended the facility for contacting Canton police

Home-delivery theft

A 54-year-old Canton woman called police after a FedEx package was stolen from the front of her home while she was talking on the phone, a police report said. The incident happened 3-3:30 p.m. Friday in the 1600 block of Sheldon, north of Saltz.

The woman said the package had been placed by FedEx between her front storm door and the front entry door to her house while she was upstairs on the phone, the report said. She was looking out the window when the package was delivered.

While still on the phone, she saw a male suspect walk up to her house and thought he might be a solicitor after he knocked on the storm door, the report said. She didn't answer, but when she went downstairs to get her package, she realized it was gone.

School fight

A fight Monday morning in the Salem High School cafeteria has led to a 16-year-old student being cited by Canton police for disorderly conduct in a school, a police report said.

A police officer was called to the school about

CANTON CRIME WATCH

11:20 a.m. after two female students, both 16, got into a verbal dispute that escalated when one of the girls punched the other in the mouth, the report said. That prompted the girl who had been struck to throw a lunch tray at her assailant, police said.

The report indicated the student who punched the other was cited for disorderly conduct and released to her father.

Hit and run

A 23-year-old Canton man notified police after his 2013 Ford Taurus was struck from behind while it was parked in the 42400 block of Saltz, near Lilley, during an 11-hour period ending 11:45 a.m. Sunday, a police report said.

The man told police he had parked his car shortly before 12:30 a.m., but when he returned to it he noticed the rear bumper had been damaged and the trunk lid was ajar, the report said.

The man told police he didn't hear anything suspicious during the night.

Car vandalism

A 17-year-old Canton male notified police after someone had damaged his vehicle by scratching the letters "FU" on the driver's

side door. He said the incident happened Jan. 10, a police report said.

The next day, he told police, the car was damaged again when the letters were scratched over and, right next to that, someone had used a sharp object to draw a heart with a line through it, the report said.

The teen told police he had been having trouble with a former girlfriend after a break-up several months ago. Police contacted the girl, who denied any involvement. She was warned not to contact the ex-boyfriend.

Walmart theft

Police arrested a 31-year-old Westland man Sunday following allegations he tried to steal a pair of pajamas from the women's department of the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz, a police report said.

An employee saw the suspect select a set of pajamas and walk to another department, where he allegedly concealed the merchandise in his pants, the report said. The suspect then exited the store before store personnel stopped him and detained him until police arrived, the report said.

- By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Car plows into house

Police in Plymouth are awaiting results of blood a test on a driver suspected of being drunk when he crashed his Ford Fusion through the front window of a house on Fairground last month.

The crash occurred just after 1 a.m. Dec. 31, said Lt. Jamie Grabowski of the Plymouth Police Department's detective bureau. No one was in the house at the time, he said, and the driver suffered minor injuries, while his passenger refused treatment.

The Fusion came to rest with its front end inside the house, Grabowski said. The driver had apparently failed

to navigate a turn at the intersection.

Witnesses called police after hearing the crash and a man reportedly fled the scene southbound on foot. Responding officers found two men in the area and a witness identified one of them as the driver, Grabowski said.

The driver, a Plymouth man, has not been formally charged.

Shoplifting

A 47-year-old Northville woman was arrested Friday in the theft of about \$156 in merchandise, including toiletries, cosmetics and vitamins, from the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

The incident occurred about 2:30

p.m. A store security officer told police he had seen the woman put several items in her purse, then buy two bottles of Gatorade and leave the store. He confronted her outside and police were called.

The woman was issued a ticket requiring a court appearance.

Cover caper

The protective cover was stolen Sunday off of a Buick while the car was parked in the driveway of a house on Sheldon, according to a police report. The Buick's hood ornament had also been stolen, the owner told police.

The theft occurred Sunday morning; the owner told police he left the house

for a while and returned to see the cover and hood ornament were missing.

Phone fraud

A township woman reported Jan. 8 that an iPhone had been purchased on her cellular phone account, while her own phone was switched off, without her knowledge.

The woman told police she returned from a trip Jan. 2 to find her cellphone wasn't working. When she called her carrier, she said, she learned an iPhone 5 had been purchased on her account Dec. 23 at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and her phone number transferred to it.

- By Matt Jachman

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Lt. Robert Smedley (from left), Sgt. Eric Kolke and Sgt. Daniel Traylor were recognized Tuesday at the Canton Township board meeting.

Canton police officers earn promotions

Recently promoted Public Safety Department command officers received their new badges from Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy at Tuesday night's township board meeting.

Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett administered the Oath of Office.

Lt. Robert Smedley, a 22-year veteran, will serve as platoon commander in the patrol division, overseeing the day-to-day operation of his respective shift made

up of sergeants, patrol officers and PSSOs. In addition, he will be responsible for providing training, direction and motivation of subordinate personnel toward the accomplishment of the department's established goals and objectives.

Daniel Traylor, a 20-year veteran, and Eric Kolke, who has been with the department 17 years, were promoted to the rank of sergeant. In their new position, these officers will serve as platoon supervisors providing

leadership, training and direction to road patrol officers.

They will also be responsible for administrative assignments and special projects, under the leadership of their assigned shift commander.

"We are very excited about our newly promoted command officers and look forward to the contributions they will bring to the leadership team of the Canton Police Department," Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler said.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Pom prowess

The Salem High School junior varsity Rockettes pom and dance team braved the snow to head Jan. 5 to the Southern Michigan Dance Championships in Royal Oak. The team took second place in hip hop and fifth place in the pom division out of 14 teams. Team members include (front, from left): captain Becky DeWater, coach Jes Wilhoite and captain Erica Garczynski; (second row, from left) Kelcie Rocheleau, Sarah O'Donnell and Morgan Poulos; and (back, from left) Kara Rocheleau, Alyssa Marshall, Maddie Martinsky, Emily Bates, Basia Bokuniewicz, Tiffany Ciotte and Hannah Parent.

Philharmonic at DIA

Date/Time: Friday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

Location: Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Details: The Michigan Philharmonic Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Nan Washburn, will be performing "Miniature Masterpieces" concert as part of the DIA's Friday Night LIVE! Series. The concert features music from Dvorak and Mozart as well as Michigan Philharmonic Concertmaster, Joseph Deller performing with the ensemble on Michael Daugherty's extraordinary piece, "Ladder to the Moon." The concert is free with museum admission.

Contact: Call the Detroit Institute of Arts at 313-833-7900

Grand opening

Date/Time: Friday, Jan. 17, 5-8 p.m.

Location: Blastpain Center of Plymouth, 975 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: Blastpain Center hosts its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony. During the event, the center will offer complimentary laser pain treatments.

Contact: Call 734-454-1000 to reserve an appointment (space is limited) or email plymouth@blastpain.com

Goodfellows fundraiser

Date/Time: Tuesday, Jan. 21, noon to 10 p.m.

Location: Carvel, 41990 Ford Road, Canton

Details: The Canton Goodfellows and Carvel are partnering for a fundraiser to help the Goodfellows' "No Child Without a Christmas" effort. No coupon is needed; just mention to the server you're there to support the Goodfellows fundraiser.

Contact: Email Kay Hartman-Kuck at khartma1@ford.com

Night for the Museum

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m.

Location: Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial, Plymouth.

Details: This is the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual auction fundraiser. Merchants in Plymouth and surrounding areas have stepped up and donated numerous items for the live auction and raffle. In addition, diners will be entertained with a performance by 12-year-old Makenzie Ryder as well as the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

Details: This is the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual auction fundraiser. Merchants in Plymouth and surrounding areas have stepped up and donated numerous items for the live auction and raffle. In addition, diners will be entertained with a performance by 12-year-old Makenzie Ryder as well as the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps. Tickets can be purchased at the museum during open hours or online at http://www.plymouth-history.org/events/A-Night-FOR-the-Museum_ET118.html?Sort-Box=201402 using PayPal. Tickets should be purchased by Feb. 7.

Contact: For more information, call 734-455-8940.

Socks and undies

Date/Time: Monday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Details: The Plymouth Democratic Club is sponsoring its fifth annual Socks and Undies drive to support the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Clothing Bank. This year's event is "Seats and Feet Drive," a day of service event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Club members will be collecting new socks and underwear in all sizes (boys, girls, women and men). Other new or gently used clothing will also be accepted. All donations are tax deductible.

Contact: For more information, call 734-634-6837.

Line dancing

Date/Time: Saturday, Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Carl E. Stitt American Legion Post 232, Dearborn Heights (Warren and Telegraph).

Details: An instructor from Central City Dance Co. will teach at a dance party at the American Legion Post. A full buffet dinner is provided by Nicole and Helene's Catering and there is an open bar. Proceeds will go to the new 11th District (including Plymouth and Canton) Democratic group.

Contact: For reservations, contact Susan Nichols at 248-767-1141 or tusannichols@gmail.com

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AUTO BRIEFS

Million-dollar baby

The new Porsche 911 Targa 4, with its fully retractable glass roof and starting price tag of \$101,600, was unveiled to the world at the auto show Monday.

But the real star in the room is the Porsche 918 Spyder, which has a base sticker price of \$845,000. Add in all the options and the price tag climbs close to \$1 million. Only 918 cars are being made - period. One of the cars is on display in a large glass room for the public to enjoy.

Red or blue?

Mopar has a cool lineup of monster trucks on display. The Chrysler company also has a neat iPad program that allows the public to customize the exterior of a 2014 Dodge Ram 1500. Change the tires and hubcaps. Try a different coat of paint. Add some running boards. The program allows you to tweak the model and design your own Dodge Ram.

Start your engines

If you love speed, the auto show has plenty of interactive racing games that allow you to slip into a race car and navigate the curves at speeds greater than 200 mph. Ford, Mazda, Toyota and other displays have some super simulators for the public to enjoy.

The trick, of course, is to slow down at those curves. Otherwise you crash, over and over again.

Just build it

The granddaddy of exhibits is the giant robotic assembly line that Ford built for the auto show. On display for the first time, the exhibit will show the public how a car is assembled. It took several weeks to assemble and several of the parts are being shipped to plants in Dearborn and Kansas City once the auto show is over, where they'll be used for actual production.

Shaking hands

Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to attend the show Thursday. Earlier in the week, U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Gov. Rick Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan were on hand.

In addition to Biden, the following were scheduled to attend:

- » U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx
- » U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez
- » U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker
- » Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy
- » NHTSA Deputy Administrator David Friedman
- » National Transportation Safety Board Member Earl Weener
- » Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear
- » Ohio Gov. John Kasich

Under the hood

Ever wonder what a Corvette looks like under the hood? Chevrolet has a cool exhibit on display that strips away the metal frame and shows the body of the car. For Corvette lovers still celebrating the Stingray winning North American Car of the Year, it's the perfect exhibit.



This Corvette is one of the more revealing displays.

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet: 'Keep the foot on the pedal'

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

It didn't take long for Lou LaRiche Chevrolet to announce it has plenty of Stingrays and Silverados in stock.

The two vehicles were named 2014 North American car and truck of the year at the North American International Auto Show this week. Ron Chaudoin, general manager of the dealership, applauds the choices.

"They're two outstanding vehicles and I think it's just great they received this recognition," Chaudoin said. "The Corvette is the only true American sports car made - and who wouldn't want a Silverado in their driveway? It rides like a car, but can do just about anything."

Just in time for the auto show, the family-owned dealership at 40875 Plymouth Road in Plymouth announced \$500 rebates for purchases or leases on the Traverse, Equinox, Cruze or Malibu.

"They're our four core products - that's 80



Some of the Lou LaRiche Chevrolet sales staff pose for a quick photo - next to the 2014 Car of the Year - the Corvette Stingray coupe - in their Plymouth dealership. From left: Debbie Dowling, Joe Wendt, and Ron Chaudoin. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

percent of our volume," Chaudoin said. "That means 80 percent of our customers will get an additional \$500 off between now and the end of the month. That lowers a monthly lease payment by \$15 to \$20."

As the business climate is expected to con-

tinue improving, Chaudoin said the dealership anticipates an increase of 15 percent or greater in sales for the upcoming year.

"We just renovated the entire dealership," he said. "We ordered a significant number of vehicles, so we're keyed

up. We believe this economy will seriously start to percolate."

Asked what makes the dealership so successful, Chaudoin credits the LaRiche family for being involved in the daily operation of the business.

"They're here on the

premises, so I don't have to wait on a decision - I can get an answer for a customer right away," he said. "The eyes are on the customer. When you come in, we'll get you some coffee and a snack. We'll introduce you to the store and make it a completely good experience. We've got some great products and we're very excited to show them off."

Chaudoin said the auto industry just survived an incredibly brutal economic downturn, leaving it leaner and better positioned for a successful turnaround.

"I'm still amazed that GM, Ford and Chrysler made it through," he said. "I think it shows we can build a car that's equal or better to any car imported. The challenge now is to remain ahead. We fell behind the eight-ball because we stopped paying attention to the competition - we're ahead of them now, so we have to keep the foot on the pedal."

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Aisin makes most of spot on main floor at NAIAS

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It's hard to believe the fifth largest automotive supplier in the world has a problem with visibility.

But that is one of the many areas the Plymouth Township and soon to be Northville Township-based Aisin is focused on as it enjoys main floor space at the 2014 North American International Auto Show.

"I think one of the issues for us in North America is the supply base is very well-established for the Detroit customers," said Chuck Sanders, vice president of sales and marketing. "They aren't necessarily looking for a new supplier, so we have to bring them new technologies and new ideas that put us to the forefront in their mind."

The company hopes the move of its North American headquarters to Northville Township, with the benefit of a \$1.2 million Michigan Business Development Grant, will help with that as it will allow the company to expand its research and development and create more than 50 new jobs.

Officials expect to invest nearly \$8 million into the facility and have additional room to expand.

Growth has been steady for the company over the years, trending up from between \$400 million to \$500 million in sales 20 years ago to an estimated \$2.4 billion. Globally,



Aisin automotive technology personnel gather at the show. Currently based in Plymouth Township, the company will soon move to Northville Township. From left are President/CEO Masayasu Saito, Vice President of Sales/Marketing John Clark and President Takashi Aoyama. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

sales are about \$3.5 billion and still growing.

Sanders said the company's facilities are "nearly running at full" and expansion is happening globally to meet the needs of the customer.

"As fast as (the economy) came back and as fast as things have grown for us, it has been a little hard to keep up so we have to be continually looking for where we are going to expand additional production," he said.

Aisin serves as the largest transmission supplier in the world, but still that only makes up about 40 percent of the company's sales. It also makes products for the drive train, engine, electronics, body, brakes, chassis and more.

"There are so many other products we make and so many other things we do," Sanders said. "We pretty much cover the gamut of the vehicle."

The company also wants to use its floor space at the auto show to get feedback on some of its new technologies and possibly attract new engineers at industry days.

"It's very tight," Sanders said of the job market in Michigan. "Right now as everyone is rapidly expanding and with the talent pool being very shallow, it is hard to find people. We are always looking for engineers."

On a personal level, Sanders said he enjoys seeing all the new cars, concepts and technologies on display.

"Even if it never goes into production, some of the ideas out there and the way we can keep advancing always continues," he said. "You think you made this next big breakthrough and then a couple years later, it is old technology. It's amazing to see how we can keep improving."

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ZF Group fine-tunes its growth for success

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It's getting a little cramped in the Northville Township offices and North American headquarters of ZF Group, as the German company's worldwide success continues into 2014.

The big news last year for the automotive supplier was the introduction of the new nine-speed automatic transmission and, as a result, the news this year is the growth of the company in North America.

Currently, Chrysler and Land Rover have applications with ZF Group for the transmission and CEO Stefan Sommer said a third customer will "launch a big project this year."

"We are at close to 8,000 employees in North America, so that is a significant growth for us," said Bryan Johnson, a Canton resident and manager of marketing and communications for ZF Group. "In our Northville office, we have seen a lot of growth there in different areas and are almost at capacity in our facility, which is a good thing."

Sales revenue for ZF Group, which develops and produces transmissions, steering systems, axles and chassis components, as well as complete systems for passenger cars, commercial vehicles and off-road machinery, increased by almost 10 percent in 2013 to \$23 billion - including \$4.2 billion in North America - and almost 5,000 jobs were created worldwide.

It has 121 production companies in 26 countries and eight engineering centers in four countries.

"The North American market in the future will be even more important," Sommer said. "We are

seeing it now as a very successful and growing market with a huge demand for high technology and very efficient cars."

And as demand is increasing and the market has stabilized, Johnson said it is important for suppliers like ZF Group to have "controlled growth" and be targeted about the market.

"We have all learned lessons about growth and growing too fast and that is part of the problem everyone had," Sommer said. "Now everyone is going to be a little more cautious with their growth and are finding better ways to be more efficient with their production so you can produce with the same capacities."

ZF Group has a spot on the main show floor at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit and hopes to use it to create partnerships and improve relationships.

"And then when the public comes, it allows them to understand what technology might be coming," Johnson said.

The Detroit-based auto show also has a more intimate feel because it is the Motor City.

"For me, it's more about the people than the cars," Johnson said. "I'm so emerged in the car thing every day and this is my industry and these are my people and it's great getting all these people in one place."

Johnson joked that he has colleagues who won't even walk the show floor with him because he stops and talks to someone every 10 feet.

"The way relationships work, that is how you do business," he said.

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Public viewing opens Saturday

Experience the next generation of transportation at the 2014 North American International Auto Show when the public viewing opens Saturday. See more than 500 vehicles on display, representing the most innovative designs in the world and experience North America's largest and most prestigious automotive showcase.

Doors open at 9 a.m. Saturday. The public show runs until 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.

From Jan. 18 through 25, shows

hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (no admittance after 9 p.m.) and until 7 p.m. Jan. 26.

Ticket are \$13 for adults; \$7 for senior citizens and children aged 7-12. Youths age 6 and under are admitted free with a parent or guardian.

For group discounts and other ticket information, contact the ticket office at 248-283-5173 or go to www.naias.com.

While the hundreds of vehicles on display are the stars of the NAIAS, there is plenty

of additional family fun planned for the public viewing, including the all-new Paradeland in Michigan Hall's new Kids' Area. In Paradeland, visitors will experience larger-than-life props from the 2013 America's Thanksgiving Parade, including sections of floats and the popular "Big Head" collection of famous Detroiters. The vehicle and parade excitement will continue on the main show floor with two daily NAIAS parades at 3:30 and 7 p.m.



Bryan Johnson, Canton resident and manager of marketing and communications for ZF Group, takes in the auto show. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Westland Mayor William Wild fires up the crowd as he officially announces his campaign for Wayne County executive. KATHY HANSEN

Wild announces his candidacy for county executive

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Officially kicking off his campaign to run for Wayne County executive at North Brothers Ford, Westland Mayor William Wild cited inspiration from the auto company's successful turnaround and also the hiring of a new coach for the Detroit Lions, owned by William Clay Ford Sr.

"There were better known names. They (the Lions) didn't care about that. They didn't care about the color of his skin. They found the right guy," Wild said. "I think Wayne County needs a new head coach. I need you to get on my team."

The football metaphor was apropos. The crowd of supporters that filled the dealership showroom was loud, enthusiastic and had signs proclaiming they were "Wild for Wayne County."

"I'm running on the transformation of Westland, the 10th largest city in the state and the third largest city in Wayne County," Wild said. "We are Wayne County. We have weathered the financial storm in Westland."

Westland mayor since 2007, just before the financial crisis started, Wild said the city auditors asked for a meeting in 2009 to discuss the city budget.

"In 2010, we would be broken and busted. In 2009, we had a projected \$60 million accumulated deficit," Wild said. "That's our (general fund) budget."

Adjusting spending

Working with the city council and city employee unions, all of whom were under contract, as well as residents, Wild said Westland downsized its operations to reflect the city's revenues.

"We downsized in a compassionate way. We have 125 less employees. We had few layoffs," Wild said. "We had no

union problems. We laid out the finances. Now we have a balanced budget and a \$5.5 million surplus. We lived within our means. What we did in Westland, we'll do at Wayne County."

In traveling around Wayne County, Wild said he finds people are frustrated with scandals and mishandled projects like the Wayne County Jail.

"What I bring to the table more than any of the other (expected) candidates is that I'm a hands-on guy," Wild said. "I'm a 24/7 guy as mayor and I'll be the same as county executive."

As mayor, Wild noted his name appears on signs all over the city, something that draws some criticism.

"Some people think that's bad. It's because I'm accountable. It's what people expect as mayor," Wild said. "I've not met a mayor, city manager or township supervisor who has a direct line to the county executive. That will change Jan. 1, 2015."

First candidate

Wild, who was introduced by his wife Sherri and Doug North of North Brothers Ford, is the first candidate to officially announce his candidacy for county executive.

Current Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano hasn't announced his plans. Others expected to enter the race include state Rep. Phil Cavanagh, D-Redford, and Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, D-Belleville.

McNamara, son of the late former Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, is scheduled to make a "special announcement" Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Wayne County Community College District's Downriver Campus in Taylor. It's expected he will enter the county executive race.

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Huge fire ravages ERG Services

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The Livonia Fire Department continues to investigate a massive fire Wednesday morning that burned an environmental recycling facility on Merriman Road.

The fire, which happened at ERG Services at 13040 Merriman, forced police to shut down Merriman between Plymouth and Schoolcraft for several hours as firefighters attempted to extinguish it.

Fire Chief Shadd Whitehead said the fire broke out at the facility, which houses several hazardous materials for recycling, at about 7:25 a.m. Wednesday.

"On arrival, crews found heavy fire conditions and fire through the roof," he said. "We immediately went to a defensive operation with our operating units."

The facility houses several materials that could be dangerous,



An early morning fire at ERG Services closed Merriman Road, south of I-96, in Livonia. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

including many oil-based substances for waste removal. Whitehead said the department's biggest concern was the runoff of possible materials into nearby waste water. He said the Western Wayne County HAZMAT team was on the scene to evaluate the dangers. The Environmental Protection Agency stationed in Chicago was also being called, as well as the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

"Most of the products are in small quantities, aerosol cans, small paint cans," he said. "The biggest concern for us are the oil-based petroleum products." ERG Services operates three facilities: the headquarters in Livonia, as well as two facilities in Wauseon and Bowling Green, Ohio. The company handles several aspects of waste trans-action, including sampling, laboratory analysis, waste characterization and packaging, among other materials, according to its website. Whitehead said crews

would be installing booms in nearby waterways to collect any possible contaminants as a precaution. He said there was no initial risk to drinking water in the area, since much of the waste goes into the sewer system and not drinking water.

While the fire department continues to investigate the incident, Whitehead said there was no appearance of foul play in the blaze.

As of 9:30 a.m., popping noises with flashes of flames could still be seen from the building. Whitehead said those noises come from storage containers like propane canisters breaking over the extreme heat.

No injuries were reported. Some employees were inside the building when the fire broke out, Whitehead said, but they made it outside before it could cause injury.

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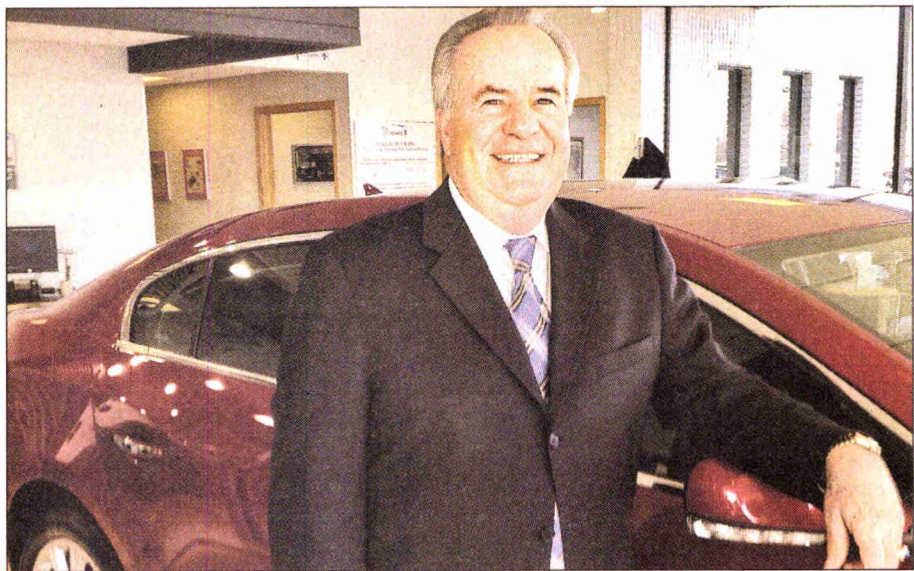
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"I think the automobile industry is on a roll," Bob Jeannotte said about expectations for 2014.

Bob Jeannotte: Auto industry 'is on a roll'

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Bob Jeannotte expects to sell a lot of cars and trucks in 2014.

"I think the automobile industry is on a roll," said the owner of Jeannotte Buick GMC, 14949 Sheldon Road, Plymouth Township. "We saw a great 2013 and I know 2014 is going to be even better. They're forecasting sales of over 16 million cars, which means we're going to be in a great position to sell a lot of cars and create a lot of happy customers."

Jeannotte has been in business for 38 years. He's an integral part of the Plymouth Township community, a member of the VFW and a big-time supporter of the Salvation Army. He runs the dealership with the help of his three sons and "a lot of great employees."

His secret to success is pretty straightforward: keep the customer happy.

"My philosophy is, if you can take care of the customer, they're going to keep coming back," he said. "When a dealership can say it's been in business for 38 years, it tells you we know the importance of making sure our customers are satisfied. We're strictly a family business - we put our time and energy into the dealership and the community."

To that end, Jeannotte is being honored for the second year in a row with a customer satisfaction award for sales and service by Buick GMC Zone Manager. It's being presented to him Thursday at the North American International Auto Show.

"It means the world to me," he said of the honor. "It tells me our employees are the best when it comes to treating our customers above and beyond their expectations. Every employee in our dealership played a key part in winning that award."

Going into 2014, he expects GM to continue with a strong line of new products in the Buick division. Buick/GMC sales jumped more than 30 percent at the dealership last year, with many former Pontiac and Saturn owners switching to Buick. Also, Buick is GM's top conquering brand.

As for the turnaround in the auto industry, Jeannotte said it was long overdue.

"Everyone got very complacent and thought it was on automatic," he said. "I never thought GM would go through bankruptcy, but it gave them a chance to open their eyes and make the changes that needed to be made. I also think (GM CEO) Mary Barra is a person who will get the job done. She knows product and she knows what the dealerships need."

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Genesis Genetics moves HQ building to Plymouth

After nearly a decade in the city of Detroit, Genesis Genetics has moved its corporate headquarters to Plymouth.

Tony Gordon, Genesis Genetics managing director, leads the team of scientists, genetic counselors and case coordinators. In the United States, Genesis Genetics focuses its science on two important fertility technologies: preimplantation genetic screening and preimplantation genetic diagnosis.

According to Gordon, the move to Plymouth was strategically planned. In addition to needing more laboratory space for the rapidly growing company, the 13-year-old firm also wanted to move to a location that would be inspirational to its team.

"Our mission is to help couples build healthy families," Gordon said. "Plymouth is a quintes-



Genesis Genetics recently moved from its longtime headquarters in Detroit to a new facility in Plymouth.

sential American family town with concerts in the park, a multitude of family festivals, events and parades and a bustling downtown replete with couples with young families. It just made sense." He is quick to add that the location is also a simpler commute to Detroit Metro Airport as the firm's work depends on timely courier deliveries.

The city of Plymouth is excited to have a growing bio-tech company downtown on Main Street. Mayor Pro Tem Ed Hingleberg said he was thrilled to see the

building at 705 S. Main now completely full.

"We love that our neighbor to the west, Ann Arbor, has become a mecca for these types of companies, but we are equally thrilled that global companies like Genesis Genetics are thinking about our city and all its offerings," Hingleberg said.

In addition to the headquarters in Plymouth, Genesis Genetics has laboratories in Arizona, Argentina, Brazil, Jordan, South Africa, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Showcase vendors

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is looking for vendors to reserve space at the 25th annual Showcase and Taste of Plymouth.

The showcase is set for 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, in Plymouth Township. The annual showcase, with more than 90 exhibitors and 700 attendees, provides a cost-effective way to directly promote your company to consumers and businesses.

This year's event will again be held on the main floor at The Inn at St. John's in the Grande Ballroom and the Garden Gallery.

Both rooms are large with easy access for unloading and loading. The event will have 20 premium spaces.

The cost for space this year is \$135 for premium space (for chamber

members), \$110 (members) and \$210 (non-members) for regular space, with a \$10 electricity cost. Exhibit space includes a six-foot covered table.

To reserve your space, complete the attached Registration Form and return to teri@plymouthmich.org or fax to 734-404-6026.

Business development

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a business development workshop 8:30-9:30 a.m. Jan. 28 in the chamber meeting room.

In this 60-minute workshop, presenter Jani Hayden of hibu will educate chamber members on the latest techniques for an effective and profitable website. She will share information on what makes people use a website and how to keep them coming back. The web changes every year.

Participants will get tips at this workshop to take back and implement immediately on their websites.

There is no cost to attend, but the event can accommodate only 25 people. To RSVP, email teri@plymouthmich.org or call 734-453-1540.

Mystery dinner

"Death at Dinner," a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, is set for Jan. 24-25, Feb. 21-22 and March 21-22 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

The premise has Ted taking Carol, his wife, out to dinner, where they bump into their friends Bob and Alice. Everything is going well until someone ends up dead! Who did it and why? That's where the group needs the diners.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$45. For details, call 734-394-5300.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank promotion

Monroe Bank & Trust has promoted Scott McKelvey to the newly created post of Wayne County regional president. The new regional post combines administration of all branch, lending and support operations of seven western



Wayne County and Downriver MBT offices into one comprehensive division.

Prior to assuming responsibility for Wayne County operations, McKelvey served as executive vice president and managing director of MBT's highly-respected Wealth Management Group. In 2012, MBT was the sole community bank wealth management group to be named a Top Money Manager by *Crain's Detroit Business*, based upon assets under management.

"Scott ... spearheaded MBT's original expansion into the Downriver market upon joining the bank in 2002," MBT President/CEO H. Douglas Chaffin said.

"His knowledge of all facets of banking and finance and his intimate understanding of Wayne County's communities, residents and economy gives him the perfect perspective to create the vision for this key new leadership position."

Prior to joining Monroe Bank & Trust, McKel-

vey enjoyed 20 years of banking achievement with Charter National Bancorp and National Bank of Detroit in the areas of trusts, investments, branch administration, marketing and human resources.

Top credit union

Genisys Credit Union, which provides services to anyone who lives or works in the Lower Peninsula, was recently ranked 10th in the *Detroit Free Press* Top 100 Workplaces for the mid-size company grouping.

"It's an honor to be selected as a top workplace for the fifth year in a row," said Jackie Buchanan, president and CEO of the company. "Genisys is excited to place in the top 10 for the first time, which confirms our employees believe that Genisys really is 'where you come first.'"

This program is designed by Workplace Dynamics based on the belief that the most successful companies are the ones that employees believe in. Companies are awarded the honor based on the characteristics of innovation, flexibility, outstanding leadership and employee perks. There were more than 50,000 Michigan workers surveyed this year.

Genisys Credit Union continues to give back to its members, communities and employees in many ways and it is shown through the continuous climb in the rankings of the *Detroit Free*

Press Top 100 Workplaces. "The credit union is very proud to be able to offer great pay and benefits, as well as focus on the wellness of all Genisys employees," Buchanan said.

Lighting concepts

Plymouth-based HELLA, a leading global supplier of automotive lighting systems, is working with major car makers to develop new, innovative interior lighting concepts.

Land Rover, SEAT, Volkswagen and Opel are among the companies developing interior lighting systems utilizing HELLA LED technology that in many cases allows drivers to customize the interior appearance of their cars.

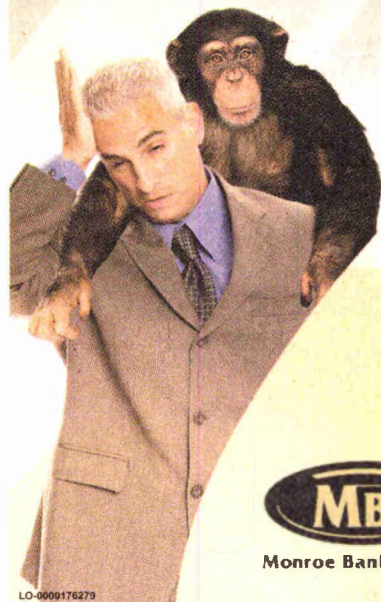
"New HELLA interior LED-lighting systems now can be found on a broad range of vehicles from compact to luxury SUVs," said Steffen Pietzonka, vice president of marketing for HELLA's lighting group. "Car makers are focusing more and more attention on interior lighting concepts that can enhance brand awareness and improve customer satisfaction levels."

Pietzonka points out that the trend toward the use of more and more LEDs in automobiles, beginning with headlamps and taillights, has gone unabated for nearly 20 years. LEDs offer new design possibilities and provide car makers with opportunities to strengthen individual brand awareness.

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Canton to host Butterfly Ball

Dads and daughters are invited to put on their dancing shoes and step out together for a fun Valentine's Day event at this year's Butterfly Ball – also known as the annual Daddy/Daughter Dance.

This special daddy and daughter date night will be held at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. Organizers said the dance gives participants a chance to make "plenty of sweet memories that are sure to last a lifetime" as they enjoy dancing, refreshments, a special butterfly souvenir and the always dazzling balloon drop that caps off the festivities.

Dads and their special dates have three chances to attend this popular



Canton hosts its annual Daddy/Daughter Dance Feb. 7-8 at the Summit on the Park.

event. Dances will be held in the Summit's gymnasium 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, and 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8.

"Canton's Daddy/Daughter Dance is a chance for fathers and

daughters to dress up and enjoy some time together," said Jennifer Girard, recreation specialist. "It really is a treasured experience where dads and daughters can create special memories that they'll

cherish forever."

Keepsake photos and special face painting will be available for an additional cost. Semi-formal/dressy casual attire is recommended.

Preregistration is required for this event and walk-ins will not be accepted.

Tickets are on sale now for residents and will go on sale for non-residents starting Monday. Ticket sales end for everyone Feb. 3. Ticket prices are \$10 for residents and \$13 for non-residents. Corsages can also be preordered at the time of ticket purchase. Both daddies and daughters require a ticket to attend.

For more information, call 734-394-5460 or visit www.Cantonfun.org.

W-W board to elect new set of officers

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board will soon have new leadership.

The board will elect new officers during its organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the district's administrative offices on Marquette.

Current President Carol Middel of Canton has indicated that she doesn't plan to seek a third term after filling the board's top spot for 2½ years. In a poll of board members' interests conducted at the December meeting, Middel let her colleagues know she wasn't interested in being president.

"I'll do whatever my fellow trustees would like me to do except president," she said.

Under the board's policies and procedures, members are polled prior to the organizational meeting to determine what positions they'd be interest-

ed in for the coming year. Board officers serve one-year terms.

Board Treasurer Shawna Walker, who was absent from the meeting, was the only board member who expressed interest in any of the open leadership positions.

Trustee Frederick Weaver said he was interested in serving as secretary or treasurer, while Vice President Thomas Buckalew said he was interested in serving as vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Board Secretary John Goci selected only one position.

"I'm interested in president; it's the only position I haven't held since my term on the board started," he said.

Two trustees, Sally Madison and Charles "Trav" Griffin, indicated they were not interested in a board office.

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Be proactive, protect yourself from fraud

Most have read about or heard about the story of more than 100 million people who had their credit card, debit card or other personal information stolen by hackers who hacked into Target's database.

Target is not the first company that this has happened to and it certainly won't be the last. In fact, Neiman Marcus just announced that its database was also recently hacked and there are also rumors that two other large retailers will soon be announcing their sites were also hacked.

This should be a reminder to all that we live in a technology-based world and it is extremely important to be aware and on guard in order to protect ourselves. Although there is nothing to guarantee 100 percent that information won't be stolen by hackers, there are things to do to minimize the effect it will



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

have.

What can hackers do with the information? With your charge card number, expiration date and security code, these crooks can go to town at your expense.

Although there are laws that protect you and minimize your losses, you have to be proactive and notify your bank or charge card company when there is a fraudulent transaction. When you receive your charge card statement or bank statement, it is important to review them immediately for accuracy. If there is a charge that is not yours, immediately notify your bank or charge card company.

Don't assume that the bank or credit card company will catch these

inappropriate charges, because they don't. If you do not notify them, you could be held liable for unauthorized charges.

These crooks also use the information to get more information on you. Hackers typically have a few different ways which they can contact you. For example, they may contact you through email seeking the additional information. Typically, they will send an official looking email that asks you to click on a link for further information. Once you click on the link, the hackers can get more information from your computer.

If you get an email for example from Target, don't click on the link. The better way to do it is to go directly to Target's website and type the information in the browser yourself.

Hackers will also attempt to contact you by telephone, claiming that you have been affected

by the hacking and that they need additional information to protect you. If you receive one of these calls, hang up.

We live in a world where every aspect of our financial affairs is affected by technology. Whether it's direct deposit of paychecks, filing tax returns or paying bills online, technology is a key ingredient.

If you see something you're unsure of in any financial statement – credit card, bank or mutual fund – don't ignore it or assume that it must be right. Protect yourself by reviewing statements and challenging anything that appears to be inappropriate.

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, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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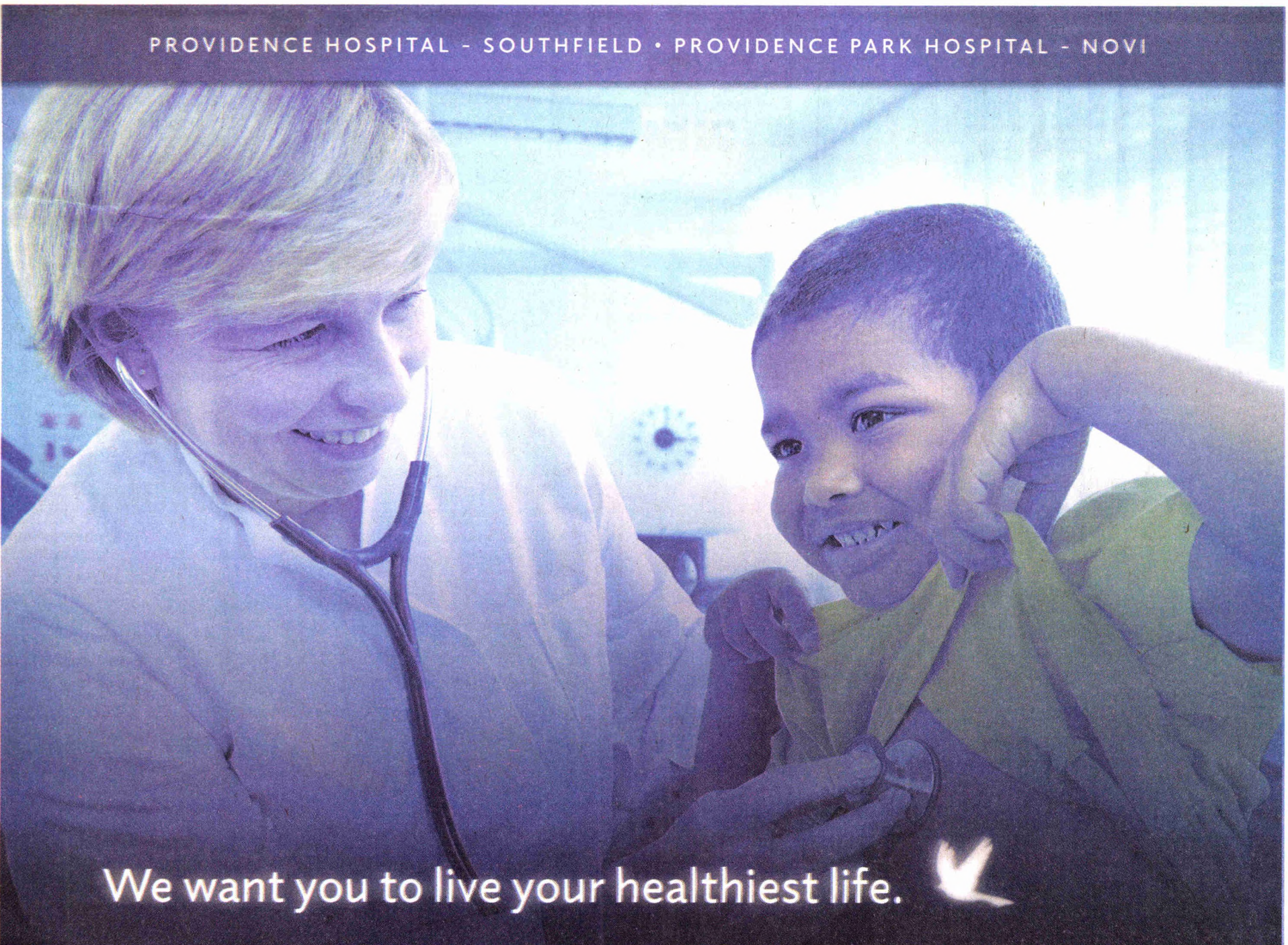
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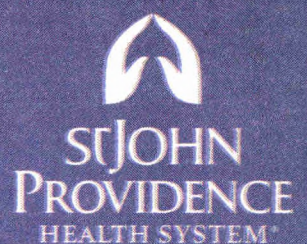
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Believe in better

OUR VIEWS

A bit under the weather

Rain can't totally dampen fervor for annual ice festival

When judging the success or failure of the 2014 Plymouth Ice Festival, several factors need to be taken into account.

But overall, we believe the event, the first organized by James Gietzen and JAG Entertainment, can be called a qualified success.

Given the fact he was hired just four months before the event, Gietzen did a good job procuring sponsors, hiring professional carvers and organizing the carving competitions. He worked well with Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, and Tony Brusca, director of operations at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, to provide a relatively seamless transition for the festival leadership.

Of course, the one thing he couldn't have planned for was the weather – and Mother Nature did Gietzen, the carvers and the crowds no favor over the weekend.

While she was kind enough for Friday's kickoff of the event – the Dueling Chainsaws competition and the Fire & Ice didn't disappoint – Saturday's weather made the second day of the festival nearly a washout. Temperatures near or above 40 degrees and a persistent rain made conditions awful for the college kids trying to win a carving competition.

The rain also washed away much of the intricate detail – and some of the actual carvings – that people generally come to see. Gietzen blamed the weather for what most observers agree were significantly smaller crowds this year. People will bundle up against the cold and they'll deal with snow, but the combination of being cold and wet will generally keep people away.

Still, the weather likely wasn't the only reason crowds stayed away. The Plymouth Ice Festival, for all it has done to put the city on the map and for all the people it still attracts to town, has lost a little of its luster.

Folks we talked to over the weekend bemoaned the lack of "big" sculptures that have been missing the last few years. And while attractions such as the Dueling Chainsaws and the Sun & Snow cross country skiing track drew lots of interest from the folks who did come out, it's all about the ice. And big ice draws bigger crowds.

Gietzen knows it and, while he points out this year's festival had bigger sculptures than recent years, he acknowledges the return to an "it's all about the ice" attitude that permeated this year's festival has to translate to more bigger ice. The festival is never going to return to the days of the Japanese carving teams coming over with their huge dragons, but people like to see the big stuff and Gietzen will have to give it to them.

The festival might also benefit from spreading the wealth, so to speak. Professional carvers like Ted Wakar of Canton and Tajana Rakaur of Plymouth did all their work by Friday and were nowhere to be seen on the weekend. Likewise, the Dueling Chainsaws is an exciting, hugely popular attraction that's easy to see because it's on an elevated stage.

People already come out for the festival's opening day; moving Dueling Chainsaws later in the schedule – perhaps to Sunday – would give crowds a reason to show up on the final day, as well.

The festival made enough money to pay for itself – there won't be lasting bills that will go unpaid like the last couple of years – and website traffic was up over last year, according to Gietzen. So while the actual crowds may have been down by weather Gietzen couldn't control, interest in the festival itself is still out there.

Gietzen only had four months to get this year's festival – which almost died – off of financial life support. With the bills paid, he can turn his attention to improvements that could return it to its former glory.



The rain that fell Friday and Saturday didn't do festival organizers any favors, but it didn't do much to dampen the spirits of those who braved it to see the sculptures. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OUR VIEWS

Remember King, his work

The year 1968 was a watershed year in American history. In a span of two months, the country lost two charismatic leaders – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy – to assassins' bullets.

The losses came at a time when the fabric of life in the country was being ripped apart. Opposition to the Vietnam War was increasing and confrontations over the push for civil rights were escalating. Americans in their 50s and older, who lived through those turbulent times, remember the rallies and marches, the mass of people who descended on Washington, D.C., to demand jobs and equal treatment.

But for the younger generations, there is a disconnect. Everything that happened is simply information found in history books. King and Kennedy are names under photographs and what they did or hoped to accomplish are just words on a page.

An advocate of non-violence, King was a transformational figure in American history. He sought "to make real the promises of democracy." He called on the country to "rise up from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice ... to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."

He challenged America to fulfill the promise of liberty and justice for all. Under his leadership, change came and blacks experienced more progress toward racial equality than had been seen in many, many years. He came to forefront with the

MLK DAY

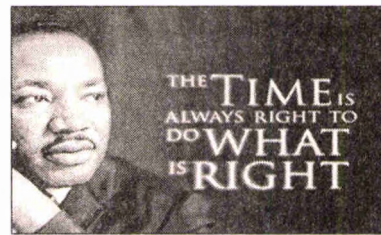
What: Canton Township's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Plymouth has no MLK Day observance.

When: 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill

Featuring: 92-year-old Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson of the Tuskegee Airmen will be the keynote speaker as Canton honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jefferson will greet visitors before the ceremony at 5 p.m., at 502 Grill, next door to the theater.

Admission: \$2 at the door



Birmingham, Ala., bus boycott and stayed there until his death, leading blacks and whites in peaceful protests to end segregation.

His August 1963 speech given on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington was a defining moment of the American civil rights movement.

The 1963 rally on the mall in Washington was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In looking back, it appears that segregation as it existed in the 1950s and 1960s is all but gone. People of all colors live and work together. They attend the same schools and colleges. There is no separate seating in public places or on public transportation or separate bathrooms and drinking fountains.

But before we pat ourselves on our backs for a job well done, we need to ask ourselves what King would think. Would he see us at the end of the journey he

started? Or would he tell us we need to do more? Would he say that segregation has not gone away, that it has taken on a new form, fueled by poverty and lack of access to a quality life?

On Monday, the nation will pause to remember King. There will be marches, there will be speeches about his life and his vision of social and economic justice for all people. There will be ceremonies remembering what he did so many years ago.

Monday is MLK Day. It isn't a black holiday, it's an American holiday, a time to reflect on the commitment of one man to bring equal opportunity to all people. Through his words and his actions, we now can step up to the ballot box and vote without the fear of threats and intimidation. We cannot be discriminated against because of who we are, what we believe in or the color of our skin.

Communities from Westland and Canton to Southfield and beyond are holding events to celebrate the life and work of King. Let them be the opportunity to reflect on King's vision of liberty and justice for all and recommit to making that happen.

Let Monday be the starting point for change, not another day off from work or school. King did not tolerate inequality and we shouldn't, either.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Expand domestic energy

On Dec. 5, this newspaper printed a letter, "Fox in hen house." The writer asserted "... our Tea Partying lawmakers have expanded their pool of potential employers to include the Michigan Oil and Gas Association," without providing any evidence or describing what his issue is. One has to do extensive research to determine the basis for his complaint, or are we just to accept his "talking points?" But is this anything like the unions, the teachers associations, the abortionists, the atheists and other special interests owning the Democrat Party?

Sen. Colbeck does not pick and choose special-interest groups to support; he researches issues that his committee is involved in and legislation he votes on. Both Consumers Energy and DTE Energy in the Lower Peninsula have announced the closure of numerous coal-fired power plants; We Energy is closing

a plant in the Upper Peninsula, causing loss of thousands of jobs (coal being the lowest cost source of energy). The cost of energy continues to increase, with the cost of electricity increasing by 42 percent nationally in the last 10 years, as coal is penalized and as very expensive solar and wind power systems were installed. The majority of solar panels and wind turbines and generators are made overseas at the expense of American jobs.

Extensively researched, there are many misconceptions of energy sources for vehicles: the cost of corn (a major world food source) has increased substantially, causing protests in numerous countries as it is also used for the production of ethanol which is added to gasoline (which numerous experts claim is a serious mistake). Hydrogen is very costly, being a vapor, has to be pressurized to about 5,000 psi, stored in special tanks and if used in automobiles requires

special fueling equipment. The same is true for natural gas, which again is a vapor, not a liquid like gasoline, pressurized to about 1,500 psi, also requiring special fueling equipment.

In addition, when in a hydrogen or natural gas fueled vehicle, if one runs out while traveling, expensive special refueling trucks are required to come to you to refuel your vehicle, also very costly. Electric vehicles have limited range, have proven to be expensive, with battery power storage a major problem and would not experience the present sales level without the costly government rebates.

Domestic energy sources, such as hydroelectric power generation, which is very inexpensive, very clean, very reliable and grossly underfunded, as well as clean natural gas for generating electricity need to be expanded.

Michael Hansel
Canton Township

GUEST COLUMN

New year brings new opportunities

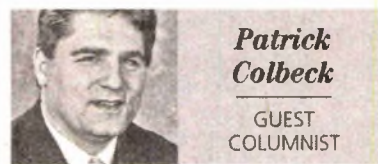
Over the past three years, Michigan has charted a new course toward prosperity for all of our citizens. Michigan is growing again. Income is up. Private-sector job growth is the fourth highest in the nation. The unemployment rate is at 8.8 percent, down from 14.2 percent during the "lost decade."

We have added more than 124,000 jobs since then. If our workforce would have remained constant with the January 2011 levels, our unemployment rate would actually be 8.3 percent. More people are staying in our state. More families are staying together.

To get a true measure of the vitality of our economy, we need to look beyond the unemployment rate. How do we really know more of us are earning a decent living in the workforce? Tax revenue.

State tax revenue alone is up more than \$1.2 billion since fiscal 2012 without raising tax rates. It is simple: More people working results in more people generating income and buying goods. This spending translates into more state revenue generated via income and sales taxes. The key question is: What do we do next?

We are told that we need a minimum \$1.2 billion investment to keep our roads from degrading further. There are persistent



Patrick Colbeck

GUEST COLUMNIST

demands for more money for schools so that we can cover the escalating costs of school employee pension plans. What about more money to local governments to cover the escalating health care costs for police and firefighters?

Do you want more money for roads, schools, police and firefighters? Implement pro-growth policies that return money back to those who know how to use money most effectively – "we the people." In a nutshell, that translates to a state government that "taxes less" and "spends less."

On the state tax policy front, we can start by eliminating the Senior Pension Tax, eliminating progressive Homestead Property Tax provisions, restoring charitable tax deductions and making a significant cut to our income tax. On the spending front, we should be reducing spending on services not explicitly required in the Michigan Constitution. A 5-percent reduction in state spending on non-essential services would free up more than \$1 billion for higher-priority expenditures like roads, schools, police and firefighters.

We can cut taxes and still free up funding for essential services.

There are 10 million residents in Michigan. The transparency legislation I introduced with Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, which is now law, empowers all citizens with information on how our state government is spending your tax dollars. Ten million accountants can help us trim the state budget to focus on the services demanded by "we the people" rather than special-interest groups.

Thanks to our legislation, you can download a roll-up of each state agency's spending plan for fiscal year 2013 at TenMillionAccountants.com. If you would like to become a citizen accountant, please send your top five spending reduction suggestions from the fiscal year 2013 State of Michigan Spending Plans spreadsheet to my office at senpcolbeck@senate.michigan.gov.

As we commence state budget deliberations for fiscal year 2015, we need to remind ourselves that it is our nation's track record of limited government that has yielded unlimited opportunities for our citizens to pursue the American Dream.

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, represents the 7th State Senate District, which includes Canton and Plymouth Townships, the city of Plymouth, Northville Township and part of the city of Northville.

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Yankee Air Museum offers flights for World War II vets

The Yankee Air Museum is going where it's never gone before by offering its first ever Flight Experience recognition season.

In 2014, YAM is honoring World War II Veterans with free rides on the B-17 Yankee Lady and the B-25 Yankee Warrior when a paid rider accompanies them. This special two-for-one pricing is effective for the season beginning in May and running into October.

"All of us feel the deepest honor when a World War II veteran steps aboard one of our aircraft," said Kevin Walsh, YAM executive director. "We want as many World War II veterans as possible to have the opportunity to fly on the B-17 or B-25. This is a special offer for them and an imperative for us."

Next year, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II will be observed and, with America's Greatest Generation now in the upper 80s and 90s, Walsh said it's an opportunity to continually pay tribute to these veterans.

"This year it's time to take dad or grandpa back through time to the era and skies where heroes have flown," Walsh said. "And it's time to go with him."

While some WWII veterans fly in the Yankee Lady and Yankee



The pride of the Yankee Air Museum is its fully restored B-17 bomber, Yankee Lady.

Warrior every year and are usually accompanied by a son, daughter or grandchild, Walsh hopes this incentive will bring them out in scores.

'It's all good'

"We've flown a lot of vets, especially airmen and many who were shot down and taken prisoner," said Norm Ellickson, crew chief of the B-17. "It's impossible to imagine the thoughts they have during these flights. For some it's a last hoorah, I'm sure. For others it's more somber, like a final farewell, closing a clasp on the mission well done. One thing is sure, in every case, it's all good."

Ellickson said that a veteran's presence on any flight enriches the experience for everyone on board. He added that veterans from all branches of the military are interested in the bombers, but especially those from the Army Air Forces.

"We work very hard to get it right, so our

Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and North American B-25 Mitchell are kept in top flight condition," Ellickson said. "The museum spends thousands of dollars and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to maintain these planes. We pass every inspection."

Rates for FLEX rides on the B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bomber are \$450 and \$425 for the B-25 Mitchell medium bomber. YAM members get a \$50 discount on flights.

A FLEX ride is a 45-minute experience with approximately 30 minutes of air time. FLEX rides are being booked now for select Wednesday evenings out of YAM's home base at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti and other venues in the region.

"Although we're fortunate to have some exceptional engineers, mechanics and craftsmen donate their skills to keep costs down, we still need the revenues provided by full flights,"

said Dave Wright, director of the FLEX ride program. "This year, more than ever, we need people to scratch 'a ride in a B-17 or a B-25' off their bucket list."

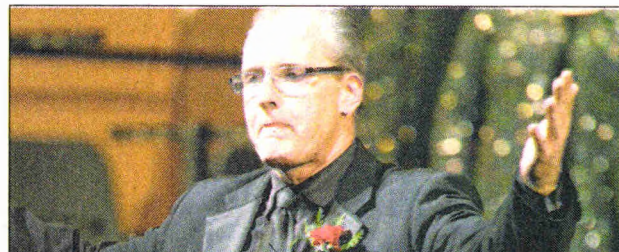
To book a date

People who are interested in booking a FLEX ride and flying with their WWII hero are encouraged to plan early. Some of the premium dates may sell out early, Wright said. To order a FLEX ride or to obtain a gift certificate, call Wright at 734-483-4030, ext. 236.

Donations are tax-deductible within the limits of the law and will directly support the B-17 and B-25. Certain restrictions and limitations apply and WWII veterans may be asked to provide documentation of their service. Veterans from all branches of the military are eligible to participate.

Established in 1981, the Yankee Air Museum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Visit the www.yankeearmuseum.org website to learn more about the museum and how the USAF Thunderbirds demonstration team will Thunder Over Michigan, Aug. 9-10.

Also visit YouTube and view "Where Heroes Have Flown" for a 90-second glimpse of a B-17 or B-25 flight experience.



BeckRidge Productions artistic director Michael Gross believes singing can be an excellent workout.

Chorale director: Singing is exercise

Michael Gross said he's read "many wonderful articles" on the benefits of singing. He says it gives the lungs a workout, tones facial and stomach muscles, boosts the immune system, relieves stress and stimulates circulation.

And while Gross, artistic director of BeckRidge Productions, can still be found working out, he is encouraging people to try singing as part of total mental and physical workout in the new year.

"When we are singing, our mood improves, we forget those aches and pains and our concentration and memory improve," he said.

Gross should know; he has been leading the BeckRidge Chorale for 35 years. BeckRidge Productions has two different high school through adult mixed performing groups.

Cherry Hill Singers is designed for people who may have never sung before and want to give it a try or those who have been away from it for a while.

"I look forward to Cherry Hill Singers on Monday evenings,"

Gross said. "It is a fun group. I work on teaching how to sing knowing, at the end of the season, we are going to show what we have been able to accomplish as a group. Our spring concert features music from Broadway – songs like *Climb Every Mountain* and *Hello, Dolly*."

For those who have experience singing, love creating harmony and want more of a challenge, there is also the BeckRidge Chorale.

"BeckRidge is a larger and auditioned ensemble," Gross said. "I ask more of them. The music is more challenging, but our time together is energizing with time for a few laughs – usually at my expense."

The BeckRidge Chorale rehearses each Tuesday evening and will sing music of the Beatles for its March concert.

For more information about BeckRidge Productions, Cherry Hill Singers or to schedule an audition for the BeckRidge Chorale, visit the website at www.beckridgechorale.org or call Gross at 734-667-3127. BeckRidge Productions is located in Canton.

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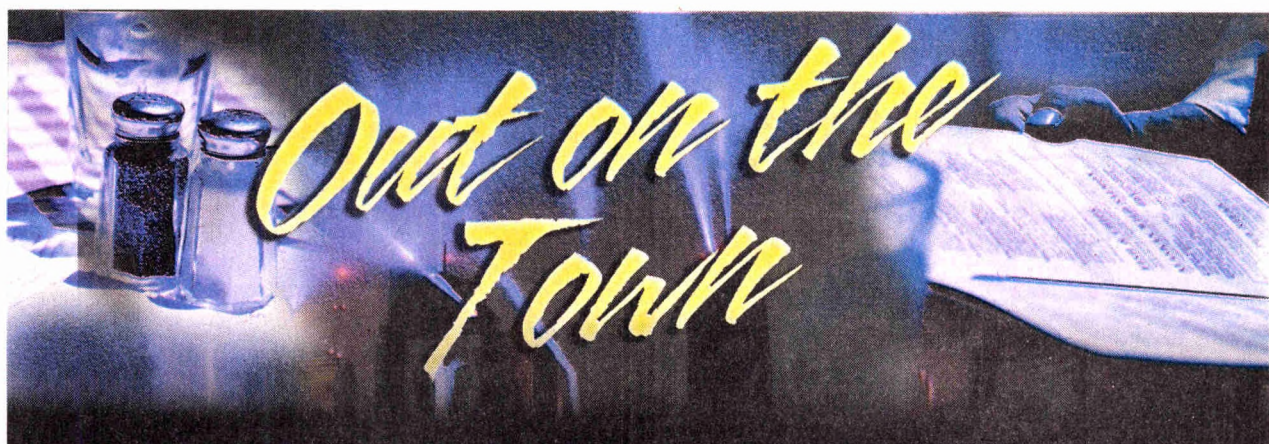
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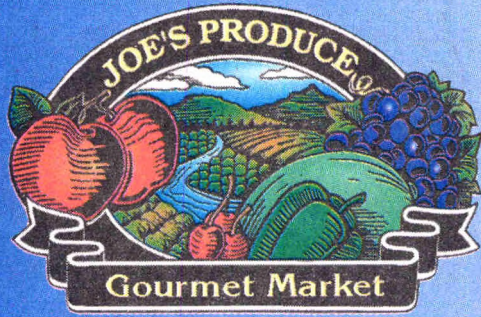
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THOMANN TRIBUTE

Spartans spoil the party for Rocks

Only on the basketball court, that is, 39-27

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Before Tuesday's tribute game to Fred Thomann, Salem senior Kayla Kavulich read a speech about going full tilt until the final buzzer.

The Rocks tried to honor Thomann's memory with such an effort, but so did the visiting Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team — and the Spartans came away with a 39-27 KLAAs Central Division win.

"I tried to keep it loose before the game, I didn't even give them too much," Salem interim head coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "I just said 'I want you guys to go play.' That's what Fred always said.

"The first half was all right but then they came out in the second half flat and that really hurt us. It's usually the second half that we play better, actually."

Klemmer said the final outcome was a disappointment, given the fact so many Salem basketball alums from over his storied, 41-year coaching career were on hand.

"But am I ecstatic at the outcome of everybody that showed up? All the support of the teams and the community? Absolutely," Klemmer said. "He was a great man. We just got to take this and learn from it, that's what he would do."

Stevenson head coach Jen Knoph said her team was honored to be part of the Thomann tribute and

See ROCKS, Page B2



Salem's Kayla Kavulich scores a layup at the end of Tuesday's first quarter. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CELEBRATING A LIFE AND LEGACY



Former Salem player Tiffany Grubaugh speaks about Fred Thomann's legacy. Behind her, more former players, dating back to the 1970s, gather to honor Thomann. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A night for Fred

Salem basketball community bids farewell to one-of-a-kind Thomann

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Fred Thomann's niece told the jam-packed crowd at Salem High School Tuesday that family dinners included his basketball teams.

Thomann's extended "basketball family" grew over 41 years, with the Rocks' gymnasium his "kitchen table" where important discussions took place.

"This place (gym) more than any other was the place Fred considered home," said Tanya Thomann, during halftime ceremonies honoring the legendary coach, who passed away on Dec. 27 at age 71.

Then, turning toward the long line of men and women who played on Thomann's teams dating back to 1972-73, she told them that "Fred's life was richer because of all of you. Thank you so much."

It was a rich experience for the many folks who attended the "Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Fred J. Thomann," too.

Life lessons

Before the Salem-Livonia Stevenson girls basketball game, the current boys and girls basketball teams from all three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools paraded into the gym wearing their uniforms.

There was a speech read by Salem senior point guard and co-captain Kayla Kavulich.



Team armbands honor coach Fred J. Thomann.

"Although we lost a member of our basketball family," Kavulich read, "we all know he'd only want one thing. For us to rise above this and play our hearts out."

Kavulich, who later said she incorporated input from teammates into the speech, also talked about how Thomann "wanted us to learn about life as well" as the sport he loved teaching them to play.

Following the speech, Salem freshman bas-

See TRIBUTE, Page B2

BOYS HOCKEY

Spartans' Lutz thorn in Salem's side

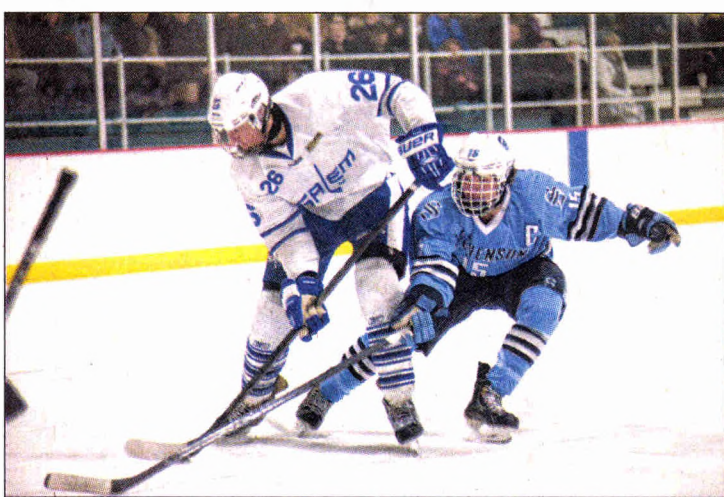
By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Before the crowd at Plymouth Cultural Center could get comfortable Saturday night, Livonia Stevenson's Dominic Lutz again showed why he is a world-class player.

Lutz ripped a slap shot over the shoulder of Salem senior goalie Parker Godfrey just 2:09 into the KLAAs non-division varsity boys hockey matchup to open the game's scoring.

It was Lutz 2, Salem 0 before the end of the opening stanza when the forward banged in a rebound for his 29th of the season and that proved to be enough as the defending Division 2 champions tallied a 3-1 triumph. Stevenson's third goal was by Michael Sinclair into an empty net with 14 seconds to go.

"Dom is just a special player, he's a guy we'll all see at the next level," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "He popped a couple early, and had all kinds of chances the rest of the night,



Livonia Stevenson forward Dominic Lutz (No. 15) tries to knock the puck away from Salem forward Jason Newel on Saturday night at Plymouth Cultural Center. BRIAN QUINTOS

and battled through and through."

The lone Salem goal was scored early in the third period by senior forward Jake Sealy, who sent a seemingly harmless shot from the left circle that bounced off a Stevenson defenseman past netminder Andrew Rozenbaum (21 saves) to cut the deficit to

2-1.

Salem (5-6) put on plenty of pressure in an attempt to force overtime, but could not do so — following a recent trend so far this season of having trouble cashing in scoring chances.

"They had two goals, one

See ICERS, Page B3

CAMPUS RIVALRY RESUMES

Chiefs eke out low-scoring KLAAs South win over 'Cats

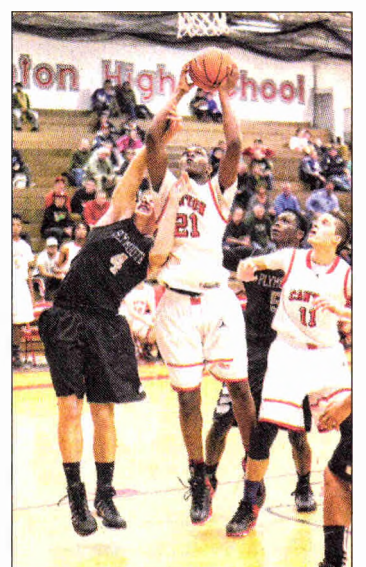
By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Down 14-11 at halftime Monday night, Jimmy Reddy implored his Canton varsity boys basketball team to somehow shed the defensive blanket being draped all over them by the pesky Plymouth Wildcats.

"We talked about urgency, and playing with more enthusiasm and passion," Reddy recalled.

That happened right from the start of the third quarter, when Canton senior guard Jack Zemanski swiped Plymouth's in-bounds pass. Zemanski's play led to an important basket to get the host Chiefs off the mat and on their way to a 31-27 KLAAs South Division victory.

With 7:20 left in the frame, the player who had been held scoreless in the first half —



Going up for two Monday night is Canton's Davon Taylor (No. 21), while Plymouth's Kevin Justice (No. 4) tries to thwart the shot. At right are Plymouth's Deji Adebisi (No. 5) and Canton's Shaine Keyandwy (No. 1). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

See HOOPS, Page B2

TRIBUTE

Continued from Page B1

ketball coach Bill Mair needed to take a deep breath before answering a question about what Thomann might have thought about the night in his honor.

"He'd have been very happy, to hear the kids speak highly of him like that," said Mair, wearing blue armbands with Thomann's initials — which all Salem players are wearing for the rest of the season. "He would have really enjoyed hearing that."

Carry it on

The tribute resumed at halftime, with former Salem player Tiffany Grubaugh speaking while all of the former players stood behind her.

There were so many players back to honor "Coach Fred" that they were not introduced individually by Sue Heinzman, P-CEP co-athletics director. Instead, all players from a particular decade were asked to step forward.

"I had the pleasure of playing for, coaching with and coaching against Fred," Grubaugh said. "He instilled in me and everyone who stepped out on the court with him, hard work, discipline, toughness and motivation, knowledge and love of the game of basketball."

Grubaugh added that those who were touched by Thomann have the chance to carry on his legacy as role models to future generations of student-athletes.

Also at halftime, Paul Dillon (a Salem player in the 1970s for Thomann) discussed the new Fred Thomann Memorial Scholarship.

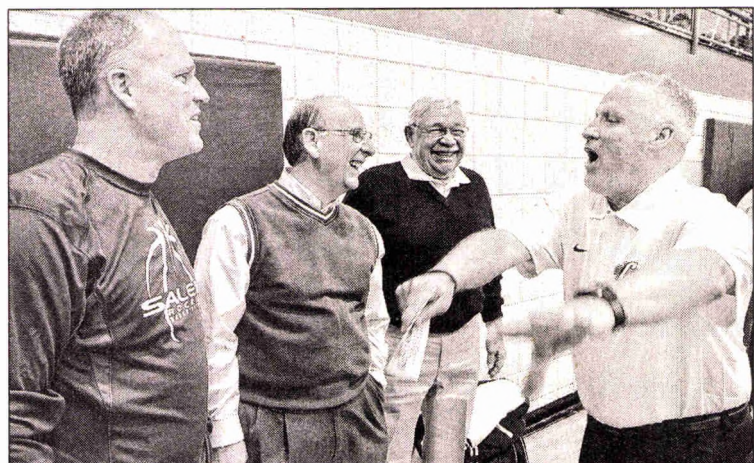
Private donations will fund the scholarship, to be awarded to any student-athlete in the Park with aspirations to be a coach and teacher (Thomann also was a teacher for more than 30 years).

Dillon said Thomann's mantra to his players was to "get there" to do their respective assignments.

"While I always didn't have the chance to 'get there' on the basketball court," Dillon noted, "Coach Thomann helped me



A moment of silence for Salem coach Fred Thomann took place before Tuesday's girls basketball game. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Former Canton boys coach Bob Blohm (right), now Chiefs' assistant girls basketball coach, talks about Thomann with coaching colleagues Geoff Baker, Tommy Williams, and Ray Franzen.

and countless others develop a mental toughness to work through the obstacles that we all face in life."

He also pointed out the banners on one wall of the gymnasium, featuring many of the championships won under Thomann's guidance. Thomann won over 700 games, including 20 district and 21 league titles and took four teams to the state's final four.

Big impact

Another player from the 1970s, Steve Robb, said Thomann left quite an impression on him and his teammates in the summer of 1972.

"He was very intimidating," Robb recalled. "The first time we ever saw him was in the parking lot at Central Middle

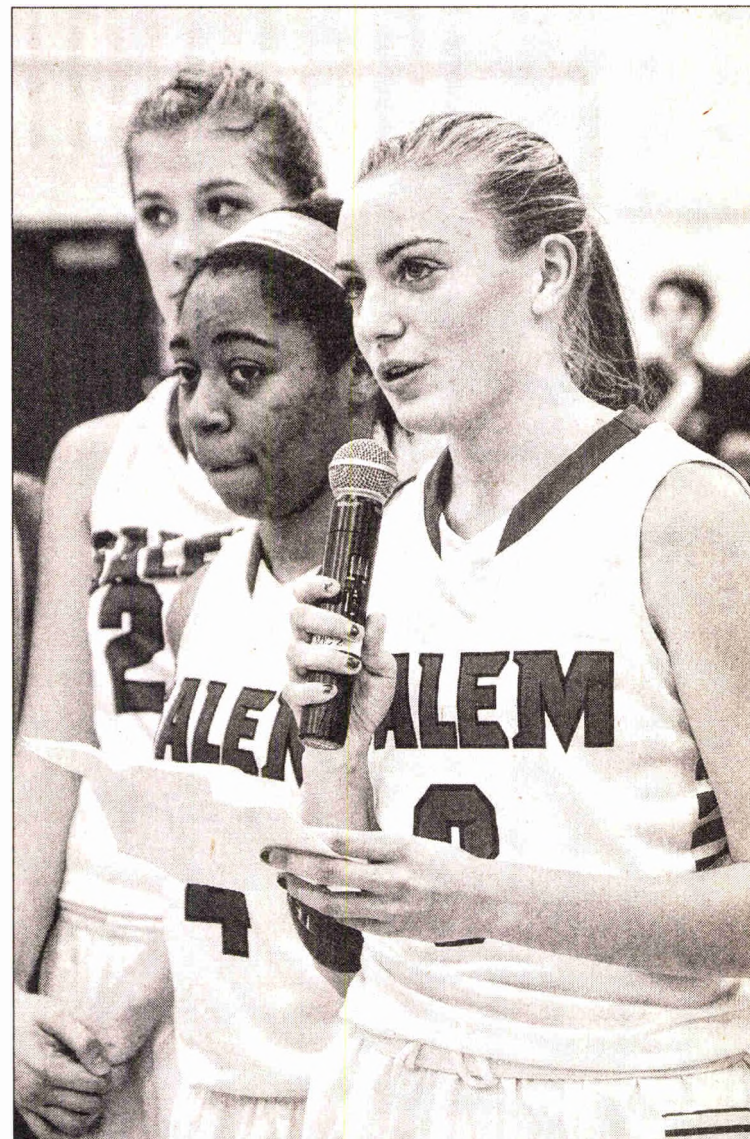
School. He kind of uncurled his 6-foot-9 body out of a Datsun 280z and he had the Atsun 280-Z. And he had had the fu manchu, the goatee and long hair. We thought 'Man, we're in luck.'

"And we found out he was one of the toughest coaches we ever had, but also that he cared about us very much."

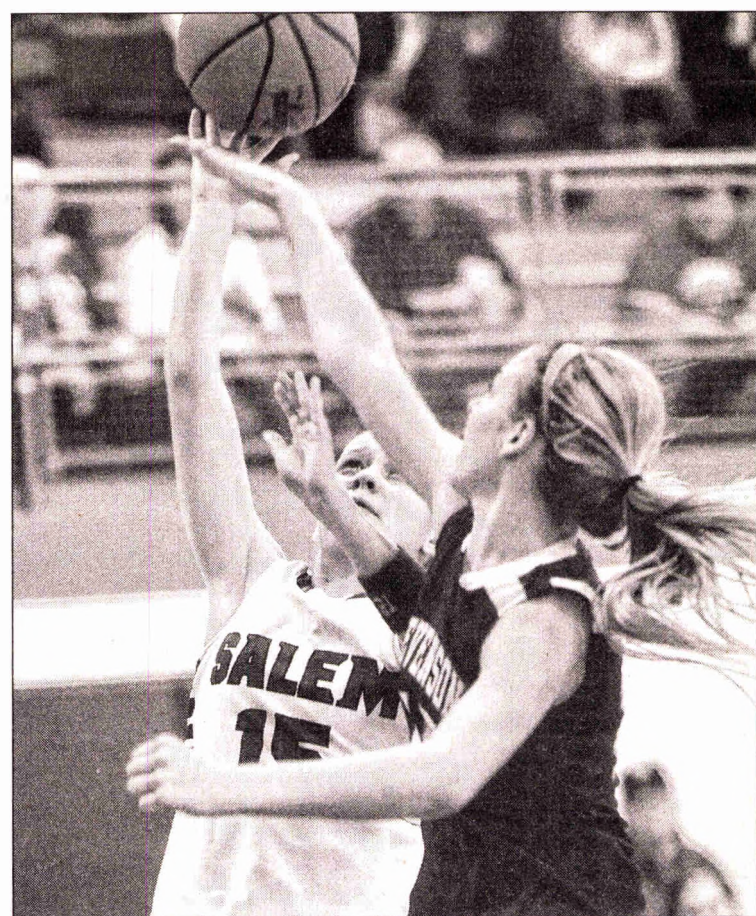
Robb said Thomann would have been "extremely happy" to see the celebration of basketball in his honor.

"Just the fact he had an impact on so many young people's lives, he would be smiling," Robb noted. "I'm sure he is smiling."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Kayla Kavulich speaks about Thomann. At left are Jamyra Wilson (No. 4) and Kelly Whalen.



Salem's Katie Latack (No. 15) shoots the ball over Livonia Stevenson's Rachel Wilkinson. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

she was proud of how the Spartans (4-2, 1-1) responded on the floor.

The Rocks led 9-5 after the first quarter, but then Stevenson took control with an 8-0 run midway through the second to go up 15-14 at halftime. Stevenson's 14-5 edge in the third pretty much sealed the fate of the Rocks (5-4, 0-3).

"They wanted to honor his memory, too," Knoph said. "I thought they recognized that it was going to be about the 32 minutes, not everything else that was around."

"They did a really good job of that, of focusing. I was just really proud of them, that was the best I've seen them getting on the floor for loose balls and the rebounding was great."

Leading Stevenson with eight points was senior Rosemary Morse, one of the post players (along with Charlesann Roy and Kyra Johnson) that kept Salem players away from the rim.

Roy tallied seven points and six rebounds. Others chipping

in were Johnson (six points, eight rebounds, four steals) and Arryn Dochenetz (four assists).

Lost spark

Klemmer lamented too many times where Stevenson players got multiple chances around the Salem basket.

"I feel we came out focused and with a spark in the first half," Klemmer noted. "Our shots weren't falling (20 percent range), and I just told them to keep playing defense and our offense will come."

"But then in the second half it was kind of like we almost got in our own heads. We let them dictate the tempo, I don't know how many missed box outs we had that led to a basket."

Top scorers for the Rocks were junior forward Shara Long (11 points, eight rebounds) and junior guard Jamyra Wilson (seven points).

Adding five points was junior forward Hayley Rogers while Kavulich helped out with four points and two steals.

Salem did have some moments in the first half where it looked like it might be a magical night on the court, too.

With the first quarter closing out, Rogers stole the basketball in the Stevenson end and dished it to Kavulich — who sprinted the length of the floor for a layup at the buzzer.

And late in the first half, Wilson threw a no-look shot from the side of the key that hit high on the glass and dropped through the cylinder to make it 13-13.

Unfortunately for the Rocks, any good feelings from the halftime ceremony honoring Thomann did not last long as Rachel Wilkinson's trey with 6:40 left opened up an 18-14 Stevenson lead.

Rogers did answer with a triple to make it 18-17, but that was about it for the home team as Stevenson took a 29-19 edge into the final frame.

Thomann's niece, Tanya Thomann of Berkley, laughed following the contest that "He would not be pleased. He'd be back in there chewing those girls' ears and telling them they have to get some stuff taken care of so they can get out and finish their season successfully."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

senior power forward Jordan Nobles — got some room in the paint and sank a nifty turnaround shot to make it 14-13.

The energized Chiefs (8-1 overall, 2-1 in the KLAA South) outscored the Wildcats 10-5 in the stanza to go up 21-19 and held off their campus rivals in the game, played one day earlier than originally scheduled to accommodate Tuesday's Park-wide tribute to the late Salem basketball coach Fred Thomann.

"Jack is a kid that always does that," said Reddy, about the flip-the-switch moment at the start of the second half. "... Not too many people are going to steal that in-bounds pass right there, and Jack made a heck of a play."

"That's a hustle play and an energy play so I think that absolutely flips the momentum a little bit and gets us moving a little bit and our motor going."

Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said the Chiefs came out of halftime finding a way to crack the 2-3 zone that the Wildcats had employed with success in the first two frames.

"They made some good adjustments against our zone a little bit," Soukup said. "And they were able to get some shots inside, easy shots for Nobles and easy shots for (6-6 forward Javon) Taylor as well."

"That hurt us, and our offense kind of went into the can, too. We weren't cutting as hard and not as aggressive as we should be. It didn't help that we missed nine free throws tonight."

Nobles still managed to score only five points, hitting two of nine from the floor. He tallied eight rebounds.

Triple threat

Canton's top scorers were Taylor (15 points, eight boards) and junior guard JaJuan Sturdivant, who came up clutch with three treys including two in the second half, both launched from the left wing after receiving perfect feeds from Zemanski.

"He (Sturdivant) was huge off the bench tonight," Reddy said. "I think he helps us that way, especially when they're playing a 2-3 zone. He's a guy that can come in and shoot the basketball."

Plymouth had scored four points in a row to take a 19-18 lead with two minutes remain-



Driving past Plymouth's Chris Walls (No. 23) on his way into the paint is Canton senior forward Jordan Nobles (No. 15). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

ing in the third, thanks to a layup by junior guard Randall Aikins and two free throws by junior wing Josh Reynolds.

But Sturdivant drained a 3-ball to put the Chiefs back in front 21-19 going into the

fourth and they never gave the lead up after that — although Aikins buried a triple with 20 seconds left to make it 29-27 and give the home team something to think about.

The Chiefs managed to hit

just 34 percent from the floor (11-32), but the Wildcats were even worse (8-34, 23 percent).

Both teams also were dismal from the charity stripe. Canton sank just six of 20 tries while the Wildcats made 10 of 20 chances.

"We got to make free throws, too," Reddy said. "... We could have extended the lead, but we missed a ton of free throws down the stretch."

Leading Plymouth (4-4 overall, 1-2 in the KLAA South) with 13 points was Aikins, a sparkplug for the Wildcats who also had four steals.

Scoring six points each were sophomore guard Chris Walls and Reynolds.

"We competed, this group competed and played their tails off tonight," Soukup said. "I got no knock on my group as far as playing hard tonight. Kudos to Canton, they were just a little bit better than us tonight."

"We see them again two more times, once in league and again in the districts. Hopefully we can give them two more good games."

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PREP WRESTLING

Plymouth, Salem grapplers have big weekends

With virtually every weekend, success finds the Plymouth and Salem varsity boys wrestling teams. Last weekend was no different. The Wildcats won all five dual meets at the Gladwin Invitational to garner the championship trophy. Salem, meanwhile, went 4-1 at the Kingsley Invitational to finish second in the team standings. Plymouth needed to defeat Monta-

bella for the Gladwin crown and did just that, 45-24. The Wildcats managed to prevail despite close losses sustained by Dylan Dwyer, Jon Conn, Joey Shaver and Hussein Youssef. Alan Farmer (119), Mohamad Youssef (125) and Sofus Nielson (152) won their respective bouts. To reach the finals, Plymouth dispatched Elk Rapids 75-3 and Reed City 64-12 before winning 53-12 over St.

Louis. Highlights included Nielson's 10-6 win over previously unbeaten Adam Kehr of Reed City at 152 pounds. Salem improved to 10-2 in dual meets following the invite at Kingsley. The Rocks lost to eventual champion Kent City (47-24) before bouncing back to dominate other opponents the rest of the day. Wins were lopsided, including 54-19 over Benzie Central, 59-11 over Kings-

ley, 51-19 over Grayling and 58-21 over Shepard. Cameron Shaughnessy, Peter Bushaw and Conner Thornbury all went 5-0 with Hamad Abed, Caleb McCabe, Roy Foster and Mitchell Gross 4-1. "Obviously, Cameron, Peter and Conner had a good day going undefeated," Salem coach Pete Israel said. "I was very happy with all three's performance."

Wildcats skate past South Lyon

Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team used a 61-shot attack to overpower South Lyon Unified for a 7-0 win at the Kensington Valley Ice House on Monday. The victory improved the Wildcats to 6-6-1 and extended the team's unbeaten streak to three games. Junior center Josh Smith led the attack with two goals and two assists. Senior forward Zach Tavierne added a short-handed goal and two assists, senior forward Mike Schultz chipped in three assists, and sophomore forward Alex Bump fired in two goals. "It was good to see the team play a full 51-minute game, especially since it was our third game in four days," head coach Gerry Vento said. "While the scoring was nice, I was also happy to see us limit their shots and scoring chances." Plymouth started the game strong by outshooting South Lyon 21-6 in the first period, but Unified goalie Justin Zabinski stopped all the shots. Smith scored 18 seconds into the second period to ignite the offense for the Wildcats that outshot South Lyon 61-18. Junior goalie Erik VandenBosch earned the shutout and his third win of the season. The team traveled to Sault Ste. Marie last weekend and earned a 5-2 win over Jeffers on Saturday and battled Sault

High to a 1-1 overtime tie on Friday. Both games were played at Pullar Stadium. The Wildcats overcame a 2-0 first period deficit in Saturday's game with two goals each by Schultz and Bump, and a tally from Smith. The team outshot the Jets 42-18. Junior goalie Jared Maddock earned his third win of the season. After giving up a first-period power play goal Friday, senior defenseman Colin Staub fired in a second-period goal to tie the game. Sault High, a 2013 Division 3 state finalist, outshot the Wildcats 31-29, but that did not include three goal posts hit by Plymouth players - including defenseman Kyle Melnick's slap shot that dinged the post in the final minute of overtime. "We put together two good solid efforts last weekend," Vento said. "I hope to build on that for the rest of season." In the three seasons Vento has been the head coach at Plymouth, the Wildcats are 5-0-1 in games played at Sault Ste. Marie. PCS PENGUINS 2, W.L. WILD 0: Senior goalie Becky Lough stopped 26 shots to pace the PCS Penguins girls hockey team to this victory Saturday night over the Walled Lake Wild at Suburban-Farmington Hills. Kayla Savoie got the Penguins on the board in the second period and Morgan Cusumano added an empty netter in the waning seconds for PCS.

ICERS

Continued from Page B1

off a face-off and another just off a rebound," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "... For us, we had a ton of chances, I don't know how many empty nets we missed again tonight but it happens. Right now, pucks just aren't bouncing are way." Ossenmacher said his team played much better than Friday night against Livonia Churchill (a 4-2 loss) and the competitive tilt against the 13-1 Spartans indicated the home stretch could yet be fun. "These are the type of games that help you at the end of the year, you hope," Ossenmacher added. "They're the No. 1 team in Division 2 for a reason, we play the No. 1 team in Division 1 team (Orchard Lake St. Mary's) on Tuesday. If we bring this effort tonight we have a chance."

Keeping it close

Lutz nearly registered a hat trick when he broke in on Godfrey during a Salem power play with less than four minutes to go in the third. Godfrey challenged Lutz and dove toward the speedy skater to poke the

puck off his stick. It probably was Godfrey's biggest save (he made 26) of the game because it kept the Rocks within a goal. "Parker's a good goalie," Ossenmacher said. "In a game like tonight you're going to need a good goalie to stay in the game. I think they've probably merced half the teams they've played this year, so to keep them to two goals for most of the game, you're happy with that." Mitchell said it was key for the Spartans to start strong and they did just that when Lutz scored off Devin Kelly's face-off win. Tyler Irvine and Ray Chartier collected the helpers on Lutz' second of the night with 3:01 left in the opening stanza. "We're a team that likes to prepare and likes to make sure we're ready to play and that's been a good thing for us," Mitchell noted. "We knew we were going to be in a hockey game, we knew that Salem's a solid, solid hockey club so we knew we were in for a battle for us." He also pointed out that it was a good test for his team to have to fight and scrap until the end, particularly with so many of Stevenson's games being lopsided affairs. "Our work ethic showed tonight," Mitchell said. "We battled."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE AUCTION JANUARY 23, 2014 AT 10 A.M.

Mayflower Towing
1179 Starkweather St.
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-459-0053

1995	Chevrolet	Corsica	1G1LD5540SY239538
2000	Mazda	Protege Dx/lx	JM1BJ2220Y0271992
1997	Dodge	Ram 1500	1B7HC16Y8VS314231
		Boat Trailer	5EJ741736686
2004	Chevrolet	Impala	2G1WF52E849441958
	Asi	Imperial	ALSDB119M79E
1995	Isuzu	Trooper S	JACDJ58V7S7905582
1996	Volkswagen	Jetta Trek	3VWVA81HXTM111681
2002	Chevrolet	Blazer	1GNCS18WX2K108632
2003	Honda	Civic Ex	1HGEM21923L075998
2000	Ford	Taurus Ses	1FAPP55S7YG193074

Publish: January 16, 2014

LO-0000175818 3x4

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THESE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION. THE AUCTION WILL BE ON TUESDAY JANUARY 21ST AT 10:00AM AT 6375 HIX, WESTLAND MI, 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS, STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

AMOUNT	YEAR	MAKE	COLOR	MODEL	VIN
\$1,335.00	1994	JEEP	CHEROKEE	GREEN	1J4FT68SXRLZ38583
\$1,460.00	1999	PONTIAC	MONTANA	MAROON	1GMDX03E8XD263632
\$1,285.00	2003	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	WHITE	2G1VW12EX39188777
\$1,215.00	2000	VOLKSWAGEN	BEETLE	RED	3VWCD21C9YM430475
\$1,095.00	2006	CHRYSLER	300	BLACK	2C3LH43R76H368275
\$1,160.00	2008	CADILLAC	SRX	BLACK	1G4EES3A890108480
\$1,035.00	2003	FORD	WINDSTAR	BLUE	2FMZA52423BA04972
\$1,035.00	1994	GEO	PRIZM	BURGUNDY	1Y15K52605Z007994
\$1,245.00	2000	FORD	MUSTANG	SILVER	1FAFP4442YF245410
\$1,805.00	2007	DODGE	DURANGO	SILVER	1D8HB48P67F502851
\$945.00	2004	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	GOLD	2G2WP522041186459
\$825.00	1992	CHEVROLET	GLADIATOR	WHITE	1GBDM19Z0NB107658
\$665.00	1998	DODGE	NEON	GREEN	1P3ES47Y9WD733328
\$1,050.00	2003	LINCOLN	TOWN CAR	BLACK	1LMHM82W33Y685409
\$835.00	1998	FORD	ESCORTE	BLACK	3FAKP1135WR182425
\$830.00	1997	PONTIAC	BONNEVILLE	WHITE	1G2H52K6VH248318
\$870.00	2003	BUICK	CENTURY	BLACK	2G4WS52J831267642
\$735.00	1999	FORD	ESCORTE	GREEN	3FAKP1135XR121173
\$635.00	2001	OLDSMOBILE	4 DR	BLACK	1G3WH52H21F256819
\$535.00	2003	LINCOLN	NAVIGATOR	SILVER	5LMFU28R43LJ16925

Publish: January 16, 2014

LO-0000174821 3x4

CITY OF PLYMOUTH ORDINANCE #2014-01

PEDICAB BUSINESS AND OPERATION

The Plymouth City Commission has adopted Ordinance #2014-01 at their regular meeting held on Monday, January 6, 2014. This Ordinance is pertaining to Pedicab Business Operations in the City of Plymouth.

The entire Ordinance is available for viewing and is located in the City Clerk's office, Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This Ordinance will be inserted in Section #22 of the Municipal Code and will be on line at some point in time. The following is a synopsis of this Ordinance:

Sec. #22-288 Purpose - To regulate the pedicab industry, set basic safety standards, operating procedures and insurance requirements, and entire safety and welfare of passengers in the operation of pedicabs and pedicab companies.

Sec. #22-289 - Definitions

Sec. #22-290 - Operating Regulations

Sec. #22-291 - Vehicle Regulations

Sec. #22-292 - Application for Operating Permit

Sec. #22-293 - Validity of the Operating Permit

Sec. #22-294 - Pedicab Identification Number and Decal

Sec. #22-295 - Pedicab Operating Permit and Decal Fee

Sec. #22-296 - Grounds for Denial, Suspension or Revocation of Operating Permit or Decal.

Sec. #22-297 - Notification of Suspension or Revocation of Operating Permit; Appeals

Sec. #22-298 - Preliminary Breath Test

Ordinance Introduced: December 16, 2013

Ordinance Adopted: January 6, 2014

Published: January 16, 2014

Effective: January 17, 2014

DANIEL DWYER
MAYOR

LINDA LANGMESSER, CMC
CITY CLERK

Publish: January 16, 2014

LO-0000175143 3x5

CITY OF PLYMOUTH ORDINANCE #2014-02

The Plymouth City Commission has adopted Ordinance #2014-02 at their regular meeting held on Monday, January 6, 2014. This Ordinance is pertaining to amending Chapter #78 of the City of Plymouth Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of modifying Article XXIII by adding Rooftop Seating as a special use, and adding a special use revocation procedure.

The entire Ordinance is available for viewing and is located in the City Clerk's office, Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This Ordinance will be inserted in Section #78 of the Zoning Code and will be on line at some point in time. The following is a synopsis of this Ordinance:

Section #78 Modify Article XXIII Special Uses
#280 - Intent - To provide for specific regulations which apply to special land uses. The regulations set forth in the article are in addition to the standards and procedures set forth in the various zoning districts.

Section #78-281 - Special uses.

Section #78-297 - Rooftop Seating at Establishments Serving Alcohol.

Section #4 - Rights and Duties

Section #5 - Validity

Section #6 - Ordinances Repealed

Section #7 - Effective Date

This Ordinance was introduced on December 16, 2013, approved on January 6, 2014, published January 16, 2014, effective date January 17, 2014.

DANIEL DWYER
MAYOR

LINDA LANGMESSER, CMC
CITY CLERK

Publish: Observer Newspaper 1/16/2014

LO-0000175628 3x4

PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170 SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools', consisting of Additions and/or Remodeling Projects at:

Discovery Middle School East Middle School
Pioneer Middle School West Middle School

will be received at the office of Mr. Brodie Killian, Deputy Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClelland Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

- 101: Earthwork / Site Utilities
- 102: Asphalt Paving / Site Concrete
- 103: Selective Demolition
- 104: Concrete Foundations
- 105: Interior Concrete Flatwork
- 106: Masonry
- 107: Steel
- 108: Carpentry / General Trades
- 109: Roofing / Sheetmetal
- 110: Carpentry / General Trades
- 111: Hollow Metal / Wood Doors / Finish Hardware
- 112: Caulking
- 113: Aluminum Window / Entrances / Glass & Glazing
- 114: Aluminum Window / Entrances / Glass & Glazing
- 115: Metal Studs / GPDW / EIFS
- 116: Hard Tile
- 117: Acoustical Treatments
- 118: Carpet & Resilient Flooring
- 119: Painting
- 120: Painting
- 121: Visual Display Boards
- 122: Interior Signage
- 123: Gymnasium Wood Flooring
- 124: Gymnasium Wood Flooring
- 125: Toilet Partitions
- 126: Plastic Laminate Casework
- 127: Window Treatments
- 128: Plastic Laminate Casework
- 129: Window Treatments
- 130: Window Treatments
- 131: Window Treatments
- 132: Window Treatments
- 133: Window Treatments
- 134: Window Treatments
- 135: Window Treatments
- 136: Window Treatments
- 137: Window Treatments
- 138: Window Treatments
- 139: Window Treatments
- 140: Plumbing
- 141: Electrical
- 142: HVAC
- 143: Electrical
- 144: Electrical
- 145: Electrical
- 146: Electrical
- 147: Electrical
- 148: Landscaping
- 149: Fencing

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents for a refundable \$50.00 deposit, beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400. Deposit checks should be payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools. Deposit will be refunded upon return of complete documents in good condition to McCarthy & Smith, Inc. no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the bid opening.

- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com free of charge by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 3:00 P.M. at West Middle School, located at 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. **The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.**

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is authorized by Plymouth Canton Community School's Board of Education Secretary Adrienne Davis.

Publish: January 12, 16, 2014

LO-0000175308 3x5 5

PREP BOWLING

Super! Salem boys best at PCS tournament

Salem's varsity boys bowling team continued its strong season with Saturday's championship of the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Tournament at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton.

The Rocks tallied 3,704 pins to outscore Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (3,520), Canton (3,499) and Westland John Glenn (3,402).

"They (Salem boys) are looking so good as a team," coach Kathie Hahn said. "They are playing off each other. When one is down a frame the others are there to pick him up."

"(Assistant coach) Glenn (Clark) and I couldn't be more proud of these young men and their team spirit and leadership."

Wayne Memorial's Kody Wojewski registered the day's top game and series (257, 664, respectively). But Canton's Josh Pozan wasn't far behind. Pozan was runner-up with a 245 game and 642 series.

Also performing well for the Rocks were Brandon Allison (244, third-highest game) and Steven Cadwell with a 622 series, good for third overall. Brandon Allison and Tyler



The top three boys at Saturday's Plymouth-Canton-Salem bowling tournament were (from left) Salem's Brandon Allison, Canton's Josh Pozan and Wayne Memorial's Kody Wojewski.

Ridgeway also cracked the 600-point plateau, with 615 and 614 series, respectively. Nolan Rudis and Tyler Snyder each finished with 567.

Glenn girls prevail

Westland John Glenn captured its second major girls bowling title in as many weeks by winning Saturday's PCS tourney, also at Super Bowl.

The Rockets, on the heels of their Livonia Ladywood Holiday Tournament crown, scored a team-best 3,391, including a 2,660 in the four-game regular set along with a 731 in the four Baker sets.

Coach Ralph Cabildo's



Salem's boys bowling team celebrates the PCS tourney championship. Pictured are head coach Kathie Hahn (far right) along with the following (listed alphabetically) bowlers: Brandon Allison, Steven Cadwell, Tyler Ridgeway, Nolan Rudis and Tyler Snyder.

squad posted a high regular game of 896 and a Baker best of 193.

Canton and Wayne Memorial finished a distant second and third, respectively, with 2,875

and 2873. Salem came in fourth (2,868) while Ladywood was 10th with a 2,505 total.

Canton's Megan Macunovich had a 586 series, second

only to Wayne's Christina O'Harris (623).

As for top individual games, Katherine Kehoe of Salem rolled a 207 for the fourth best of the day.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers reward Vellucci's confidence

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Friday's Ontario Hockey League trade deadline came and went and Mike Vellucci decided to stay the course with his young squad for the rest of 2013-14.

There would be no blockbuster trade for a high-scoring forward like Vince Trocheck this time around. But Vellucci likes the progress being made — slowly, but surely — by his team, as demonstrated in Saturday's 3-1 win over Ottawa at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers also secured a point in Friday's 4-3 shootout loss at Sarnia and are 16-21-0-5 and in eighth place in the OHL Western Conference (the final playoff spot).

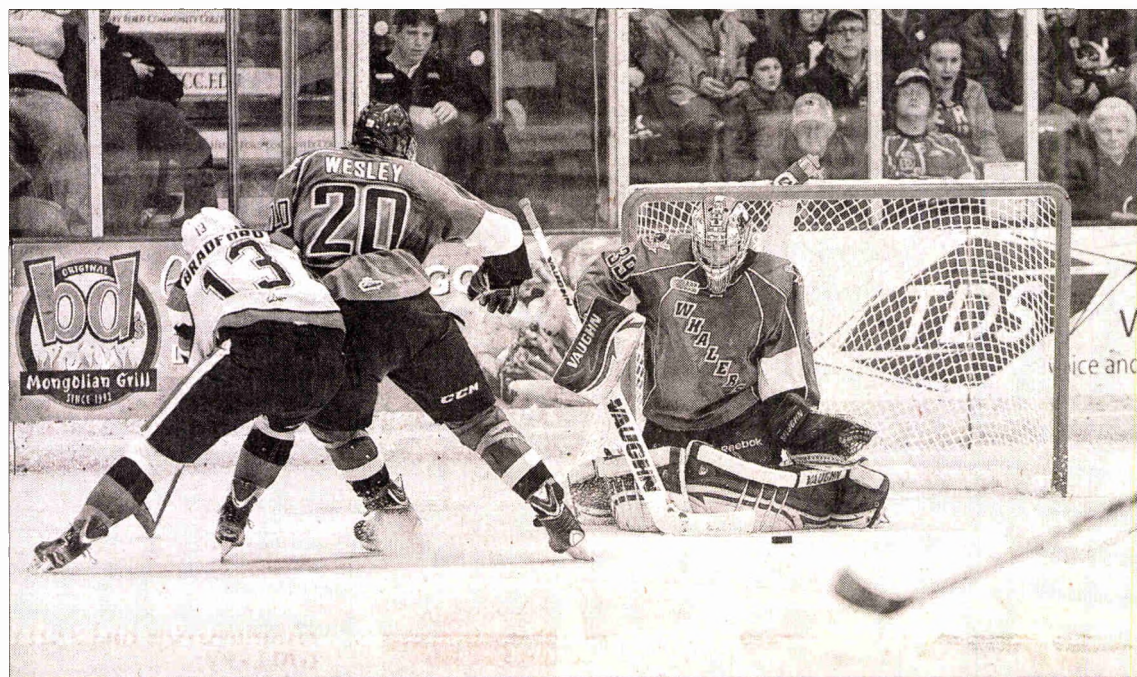
"We're young," Vellucci said. "We've picked up (Francesco) Vilardi and (Brook) Hiddink and some of the other guys earlier in the year. We're a new team and there's really nothing to move."

"I think they're getting more familiar with the league, more familiar with the system and competing. That's the key. My teams usually have better second halves and hopefully that continues."

Since returning from the holiday break, the Whalers have gone 4-1-0-1 and are starting to jell.

If there were any worries about the team's performance against the Eastern Conference's 67's (14-23-1-3) it was the power play. The Whalers went 0-for-7 with the extra man.

"We went 2-for-6 last night and tonight we go 0-for-7, but the ice was terrible," Vellucci said. "Because it was warm



Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic makes a pad save against Ottawa's Erik Bradford Saturday night, as Plymouth defenseman Josh Wesley (No. 20) tries to control the rebound. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

outside and with the rain, the ice was choppy. So it made (for) a couple tough breaks, but we had a few chances. We didn't play great on the power play."

Plymouth did get off to a quick 1-0 lead thanks to a goal by center Zach Lorentz just 2:08 into the game. Setting up the goal were winger Matt Mistele and defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto.

Trading goals

Ottawa turned up the offensive heat in the second period, outshooting the Whalers 18-7.

But Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (41 saves) once again performed brilliantly, while Lorentz netted his second of the night (and 18th of

the season) to make it 2-0 at 12:25.

A shot from the right circle was knocked down by Ottawa goalie Philippe Trudeau (29 saves), but he could not handle the rebound. Lorentz retrieved the puck, circled the net and stuffed it in at the left post.

Mistele and forward Ryan Hartman (in his second game back from the World Juniors) assisted on the tally.

The 67's cut the margin to 2-1 with 54 seconds remaining in the period, when Dante Salituro one-timed a feed from Alex Lintuniemi past Nedeljkovic.

That lead held up throughout the third period, although Plymouth did get some insurance when Mistele scored an

empty-netter with 43 seconds left. Mistele lofted a high shot from his own blue line that bounced into the Ottawa net, touching off a celebration from the Compuware crowd of 2,589.

Plymouth will play home games at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday against Sudbury and Windsor as part of Military Appreciation Weekend. The Whalers will wear camouflage jerseys that will be auctioned off, with proceeds earmarked for the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

Call (734) 453-8400 for more information or go online to www.plymouthwhalers.com/buytickets.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Chiefs stay on winning track at Farmington

The Canton Chiefs girls gymnastics team aced an early season test, capturing Friday's KLAAs dual meet against Farmington by a 144.425-140.525 score.

Canton improved to 6-0 with the victory.

Jocelyn Moraw led the Chiefs, with firsts on uneven parallel bars (9.075), balance beam (9.65) and all-around (37.025). She also scored nines on vault (9.0) and floor exercise (9.3).

Canton's other first was from Hailey Hodgson, with a 9.15 on vault.

Melissa Green enjoyed her best meet of the season, placing in every event. She finished second in all-around (35.9) and also topped the 9.0 mark on vault (9.0), beam (9.25) and floor (9.15).

Also helping the Canton cause were Maddie Toal (35.425, third all-around, including 9.1 on beam), Erica Lucas (9.075 on beam, 35.225 all-around) and Stephanie Cox (sixth on floor, 9.05).

"The most refreshing part of the meet was the improvement of Jocelyn and Melissa's routines," Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "And a 144 score with many 'easy' trick and routine fixes to improve our score" moving forward.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Campus classic: Chiefs overtake Wildcats, 31-28

Monday night's varsity girls basketball game between Canton and host Plymouth proved to be the latest episode in a long-running series of defensive battles.

Finally, the Chiefs rallied from a 22-19 deficit after three quarters to squeak out a 31-28 KLAAs South Division win. Scoring 11 of Canton's 12 points in the telltale fourth were seniors Rachel Winters and Paige Aresco.

"Rach was solid tonight, both her and Paige were outstanding in the fourth," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said.

Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon described it as a "war" and a "classic Park rivalry game" while Samulski summed up the action as "a defensive battle."

"I thought both teams came out and played really hard to-

night," said Samulski, whose team improved to 6-3 overall and 3-0 in the division. "It was a defensive battle."

The Wildcats (6-2, 1-1) were paced by senior point guard Kylie Robb, who Brandon called "a warrior tonight and really stepped up as a senior leader." Robb led Plymouth with 10 points, and tallied three steals.

Winters led the Chiefs with 13 points while Aresco chipped in with seven points.

"Winning the fourth quarter 12-6 was big," Samulski stressed. "I thought the girls really stepped up and guarded."

Canton's physical brand of defense really stymied Plymouth senior forward Jada Woody (two points).

Senior center Shelby Cheston managed five points for the Wildcats, but she contributed

six boards and four blocks. Scoring seven points for Plymouth was Kendall Rose while Patti Begoske chipped in with six points and four rebounds.

"Patti Begoske also showed outstanding toughness in the game," Brandon noted. "She took two charges that totally earned us the momentum in the first half, and it was fantastic to see her translate what we worked on in practice into the game."

"Patti just keeps getting better and better with every game." Aresco led Canton with eight rebounds and four assists. Also helping the cause was Alanna Brown, with six rebounds.

The teams, playing one night earlier than originally scheduled due to Tuesday's tribute to Salem coach Fred Thomann

(who passed away Dec. 27), were deadlocked 7-7 after the first quarter and Plymouth inched ahead 12-10 at the break.

It was a 20-19 Wildcats lead going into the fourth.

S.L. EAST 36, SALEM 34: On Friday at South Lyon East, the Rocks staged a fourth quarter rally that came up just short.

Salem (5-3 overall, 0-2 in the KLAAs Central) outscored the Cougars 18-10 in the fourth and tied the game with 16 seconds left in the frame on a try by Hayley Rogers. But East's Gabi Bird (26 points) took the ball down the floor and sank an off-balance 15-footer with one second to play.

"We lost a heartbreaker," Salem interim coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "Gabi hit an incredible shot and no one can take that from her. Our girls were very emotional after the loss but our fight back in the fourth quarter was very impressive. We came down from 10 and scored a total of 18 in the quarter. Our determination and heart got us back in the game and I couldn't be more proud of them for never giving up."

South Lyon East improved to 4-2 overall. **FRANKLIN ROAD 50, PCA 49:** A try by Kristen Massey in the waning seconds Friday night enabled Franklin Road Christians to nip Plymouth Christian Academy.

Scoring 16 points for the Eagles was Rachel Smith, with Rachael Fuller and Jen Malcolm contributing nine and eight points, respectively. Malcolm pulled down 12 rebounds for the 3-4 Eagles.

Playing well off the bench for PCA was Lydia Chapel, with six points.

PREP BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DOUBLE-DUAL MEET RESULTS
Jan. 10 at Ann Arbor Pioneer

TEAM SCORES: Livonia Stevenson 130, Salem 55; Ann Arbor Pioneer, 151, Salem 35; Pioneer 94, Stevenson 91.

200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Parker Belmore, Nick Arakelian, Bradley Bielicki, Jake Goeddeke), 1:37.53; 4. Stevenson (Matt Della Mora, Grant McNamara, Tom O'Donohue, Alex Lee), 1:49.22; 5. Salem (Patrick Casey, Charles Liu, Brendan Wellman, Noah Fleming), 1:49.5.

200 freestyle: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (LS), 1:48.95; 3. Matt LaPorte (LS), 1:51.8; 6. Brian Kuang (Salem), 1:58.05.

200 individual medley: 1. Arakelian (LS), 1:59.0; 5. Bielicki (LS), 2:08.53; 6. Liu (Salem), 2:09.8.

50 freestyle: 1. Kai Williams (AAP), 21.87; 2. Goeddeke (LS), 22.1; 3. Matt Pairitz (Salem), 23.06; 5. Michael Chen (LS), 23.31.

1-meter diving: 1. Chas Eisenhardt (LS), 207.50 points; 5. Michael Falzon (Salem), 114.55; 6. Franco Papp (Salem), 110.05.

100 butterfly: 1. Max Comblath (AAP), 52.95; 2. Belmore (LS), 55.12; 3. Bielicki (LS), 57.25; 6. Wellman (Salem), 1:00.17.

100 freestyle: 1. O'Dowd (LS), 49.03; 3. Lee (LS), 51.15; 5. Matt Pairitz (Salem), 51.46.

500 freestyle: 1. LaPorte (LS), 4:51.67; 3. McNamara (LS), 4:59.17; 6. Phillip Collingwood (Salem), 5:24.73.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Pioneer (Jiaming Shen, Thad Stalmack, Matthew Erickson, Daniel Wu), 1:28.86; 2. Stevenson (O'Dowd, Chen, O'Donohue, Lee), 1:31.91; 4. Salem (Pairitz, Casey, Brian Kuang, Collingwood), 1:37.89; 5. Stevenson (McNamara, LaPorte, Della Mora, Eric Ferrara), 1:39.3.

100 backstroke: 1. Williams (AAP), 54.98; 2. Belmore (LS), 55.05; 3. Goeddeke (LS), 55.6; 6. Casey (Salem), 58.85.

100 breaststroke: 1. Arakelian (LS), 1:00.2; 2. McNamara (LS), 1:01.72; 4. O'Donohue (LS), 1:02.84.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (O'Dowd, Belmore, Goeddeke, Arakelian), 3:14.05; 4. Stevenson (Chen, LaPorte, Ferrara, Bielicki), 3:29.26; 5. Salem (Kuang, Collingwood, Pairitz, Liu), 3:30.33.

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Jerry Abraham will stage a fundamentals camp from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and a pitching camp (all ages) from noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan.

18 and Jan. 25 at the MU Activities Center.

The cost is \$25 per session or \$50 for both. You can register at the door.

For more information, email Abraham at jabraham@madonna.edu or call 734-432-5612.

Free-throw contest

The Annual Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley,

Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the contest is free.

Contestants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call David Lengel at 734-516-4930.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Fundraiser celebrates women entertainers, benefits children's show

Honoring Women in Entertainment cause gets boost from Tuesday, Jan. 28, benefit

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Two Muses Theatre will stage its first children's musical next month.

But first, it needs to raise a little cash to defray production costs.

Honoring Women in Entertainment is set for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28, in the theater at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$5 at the door and will benefit *AWAKE!*, the original musical production set for weekends, Feb. 8-22, at the bookstore.

"As a fledgling nonprofit theater, we are always in need of raising funds as ticket sales do not cover all the expenses of putting on our productions," said Diane Hill of Farmington Hills in an email to the *Observer*. "We did a successful Kickstarter campaign for our first musical, *Next to Normal*, and

our Kickstarter backers helped us cover the extra costs that are inherent in putting on a musical. In this case, we are raising fund particularly to cover expenses of *AWAKE!*

"In addition, we are working towards the purchase of a new lighting board...so we are hoping *AWAKE!* can break even with the help of the fundraiser."

Hill co-founded the nonprofit, professional theater in 2011 with Barbie Amann Weisserman of Farmington Hills. The theater is dedicated to increasing opportunities for female artists. Both Honoring Women in Entertainment and *AWAKE!* will showcase all-women casts.

Women entertainers

Emilio Rodriguez of Detroit wrote *AWAKE!* and is directing it. He also came up with the fundraiser idea and is coordinating Honoring Women in Entertainment.

"We were thinking about



Two Muses Theatre will stage its first children's musical next month. A fundraiser on Jan. 28 will help raise funds to pay production costs.

fundraisers that could get us money and wouldn't involve start up costs," he said "We were trying to come up with a theme and since Two Muses is centered around creating opportunities for female artists, we said we'll do a tribute show."

Rodriguez enlisted the help of friends, co-workers and a few of the *AWAKE!* cast members to perform at the Hon-

oring Women in Entertainment fundraiser. They'll pay tribute to female entertainers through songs, sketches and improvisational comedy. Performers include Kryssy Becker, Meredith Deighton, Jaclynn Cherry, Lillian Bishop, Demi Jones, Paige Vanzo, Allison Megroet and Deb Charaman.

"This will pay for costumes, set, actors and recording tracks (for *AWAKE!*)," Rodri-

quez said. "They've done a children's show and they've done a musical. This is the first time they're doing a children's musical."

He was an actor in Two Muses' first children's production, *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf*, last February. Rodriguez said he was asked to direct at the theater this year and encouraged to write a children's production.

The California native teaches drama and English at Mumford High School in Detroit.

AWAKE! tells the story of fairy tale princesses who tire of waiting for a prince to save the day and instead, take matters into their own hands. The cast is Alyssa Lucas of Garden City, as the Evil Queen; Jaclynn Cherry of Rochester Hills as the Good Fairy; Kryssy Becker of Auburn Hills as Snow White; Meredith Deighton of Ferndale as Rapunzel; and Shannon Hurst of Warren as Sleeping Beauty. Advance tickets are \$10 and \$8 for children, 10 and under. They're \$2 more at the door. Buy them online at twomusetheatre.org or call 248-850-9919.



Participants decorate bowls at the first annual Soup Swap last year.

Paint a bowl, dine on soup at Village Potter's Guild

Great place to gather and get creative with some good friends

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you're looking for a girl's night out destination this month, Village Potter's Guild in Plymouth may have just what you need.

The organization will present its second annual Soup Swap painting event, Monday, Jan. 20, Friday, Jan. 24 and 31, and Saturday, Jan. 25, at its pottery studio, 340 N. Main.

"Friday night was a hit and last year we only had one," said event chair Leslie Greeneisen, explaining why two Fridays are included in the schedule this year. "It turned out groups of women last year came in and had their Friday night Ladies Night Out."

"We have four groups (of women) signed up already this year. But it's not just Friday night. We have some groups coming in Monday because the kids are off from school. We have some large families coming."

Individuals, couples, families and groups may sign up for one of several 90-minute painting sessions in the studio where they will decorate a bowl made by a Guild member. Available times are 10-11:30 a.m., 12:30-2 p.m. or 2:30-4 p.m. Jan. 20; 10-11:30 a.m., 12:30-2 p.m., 5:30-7 p.m. or 7:30-9 p.m. Jan. 24; 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Jan. 25; and 5:30-7 p.m. or 7:30-9 p.m. Jan. 31.

Brush on color

The process involves painting slip — a colored wet clay



Participants can paint bowls this month at the Village Potters Guild in Plymouth, then return next month to fill them with soup.

the consistency of heavy cream — onto the pottery. Design books will be on hand for reference and decorated bowls will be on display.

Carolyn Hook, a Guild member, said participants may use pencil to sketch designs and then apply colors.

"If they come with a design idea, that's fine," Hook said. "Some people last year came in and knew what they wanted and some didn't. We'll have sample bowls and (Guild members) will be there working at every table."

Greeneisen said the key is to have fun.

"A lot of people think too hard about it. Put the paint on the bowl and see what happens," she suggested.

Swap for soup

Guild members will glaze and fire each bowl after the painting sessions, making them ready for pick up from 2:30-4:30 p.m. on Soup Swap Day, Saturday, Feb. 8. The

Guild is asking participants to bring canned goods for the Salvation Army food pantry to the Swap in exchange for soup, prepared and served by the Over the Grill Gang, a local men's chef club. No reservations are required for the Swap.

"Last year was a wonderful success. We couldn't have been happier," Greeneisen said. "It's a really good community art project that goes to our mission."

The cost to paint a bowl is \$15 for individuals or for the first two members of a family. Additional family members pay \$10 each. If an individual plans to decorate more than one bowl, the cost is \$15 for the first bowl and \$10 for additional bowls with a limit of four. Finished bowls decorated by Guild members also will be available at the Soup Swap for \$14 each. To register for a painting session, call 734-207-8807.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ART & CRAFTS

ARAB AMERICAN MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1
Location: 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

Details: Pewabic Pottery instructor Victoria Shaheen will lead a bowl-making workshop. Participants will hand-mold bowls from clay and decorate them with a slip-glaze technique. Includes a docent-guided tour of the Museum focusing on Arab artistic heritage in America and the role of food and hospitality in culture. Fee is \$35 and advanced registration is required. Appropriate for adults and children 11 and over

Contact: 313-582-2266; arabamericanmuseum.org

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Jan. 22

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Elements: Sky, Water, Land," features the paintings, drawings and three-dimensional mixed media works of Martine MacDonald

Contact: 248-473-1856

GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during public performances, or by appointment

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Glass sculpture by JB Wood is on display through May

Contact: 734-394-5300

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 1

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Altered Perceptions" features paintings by abstract expressionist artist Jan Brown

Contact: 248-344-0497; <http://www.northvillearts.org>

FILM

MATRIX THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. screenings and 9 p.m. reception, Thursday, Jan. 30; 8 p.m. screening, Friday, Jan. 31; 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. screenings, Saturday, Feb. 1; 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. screenings, with award ceremony at 6:45 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2

Location: 2730 Bagley, Detroit

Details: Second annual 2014 Detroit Dreaming Film Festival showcase the diversity, struggles and triumphs of the City of Detroit, through narratives, documentary, and shorts. Tickets are \$7 per screening block

Contact: 313-967-0599; www.matrixtheatre.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 17-18 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: *All is Lost*, admission \$3

Coming up: *The Book Thief*, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24; 4:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 25-26; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 17 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 18

Location: 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Avenue, Detroit

Details: *Amadeus*, 2002 director's cut

Coming up: *True Grit*, 8 p.m. Jan. 31 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 1

Contact: 313-537-2560

SENATE THEATER

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 18

Location: 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit

Details: Harold Lloyd comedy, *Safety Last*, a silent film with organ accompaniment; tickets are \$15

Contact: 313-894-4100; dtos.org

MUSIC

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Open mic sign up, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances 7-9 p.m., the third Saturday of the month through May

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

Details: Featured performers on Jan. 18 are The Sorensons, playing bluegrass music on guitar, bass, banjo and violin. Ten open mic spots will be available. Open mic musicians may perform two songs, original or cover. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and include free admission.

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18

Location: On the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Tenors Un Limited presents "An evening with The Rat Pack of Opera." Tickets are \$33; \$18 for ages 15 and under

Contact: 248-661-1900

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

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

Details: \$5 donation at the door

Contact: 734-453-1780

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 13 Mile at Lahser, Beverly Hills

Details: Cellist David Geringas and pianist Ian Fountain perform works by 19th century Romantic masters Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Strauss. Tickets range from \$15-\$24 for students and \$30-\$60 general admission, available online at chambermusic-detroit.org. Student rush tickets priced at \$10 also are available at the box office beginning an hour before the concert

Contact: 248-855-6070

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

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

Details: On Jan. 28 the Nuevo Jazz Detroit latin group returns with Duncan Jones on keyboard, Don Lewandowski on bass, Patrick Fitzgibbons on vibes, Chuck Golemba on drums, and Jerry LeDuff on congas. \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

JAZZ CAFE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25

Location: Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit

Details: "The January Thaw Jam" features Luis Resto, M.L. Liebledr and Kenny Tudrick; \$10

Contact: 313-887-8532

HEART-HEALTHY RECIPES YOU'LL



Eating heart healthy foods is easier when you have a good plan and a variety of delicious recipes.

According to the FDA, a diet rich in whole grain and organic foods that contain little saturated fat and cholesterol, may help reduce the risk of heart failure. Here are some tips for preparing heart-healthy choices:

— Choose leaner cuts of meat. There are many delicious options such as skinless poultry, and lean meats, including beef and pork. You also can make smart substitutions. Use turkey, for example, instead of ground beef to make meatloaf leaner.

— Add fruits and vegetables to every meal. It's easier

than you think to provide nutrients to your diet. For example, add fruit to yogurt and blueberries to salads. Create snacks with carrots and hummus. Eat fruits and vegetables of different colors for more nutritional benefits.

— Eat more whole grains. Whole grains provide carbohydrates for energy, fiber to fill and important nutrients for health.

For more tips and heart-healthy recipes that add whole grains to your diet, visit www.PostShreddedWheat.com

Courtesy of Family Features



SHREDDED WHEAT APPLE CRISP

Prep time: 20 minutes
Total time: 1 hour, 5 minutes
Servings: 6

5 cups peeled apple slices
½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar, divided
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon tapioca
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1-½ cups finely crushed shredded wheat cereal
¼ cup (½ stick) margarine, melted

Mix apples, ¼ cup of the sugar, lemon juice, tapioca and cinnamon in large bowl. Let stand 10 minutes. Stir crushed cereal, remaining ¼ cup sugar and margarine in medium bowl until well blended. Spread apple mixture in ungreased 1-½-quart baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with cereal topping. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes or until topping is browned and apples are tender when pierced with fork.



BANANA BREAD

Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 1 hour, 5 minutes
Servings: 16

1-¾ cups flour
1 cup shredded wheat cereal, finely crushed
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup sugar
½ cup (1 stick) margarine
2 eggs
¼ cup fat-free milk
1 cup mashed ripe bananas (about 2 large bananas)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix flour, cereal, spice, baking powder and baking soda in medium bowl; set aside. Beat sugar and margarine in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs; mix well. Add flour mixture alternately with milk, beating well after each addition. Blend in bananas. Pour into greased 9- by 5-inch loaf pan. Bake 1 hour to 1 hour 5 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes on wire rack; remove from pan. Cool completely. Cut into 16 slices.



SAVORY MEATLOAF

Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Servings: 12

2 eggs
1 cup milk
2 pounds ground beef
3 biscuits Post Original Shredded Wheat Cereal, crushed
1 can (8 ounces) stewed tomatoes, undrained
1 medium onion, chopped
¼ cup chopped green pepper
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 375°F. Beat eggs and milk in large bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Shape meat mixture into oval loaf in shallow baking pan. Bake 1 hour or until cooked through (160°F).



GRAB 'N GO PEANUT BUTTER BARS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
Servings: 16

½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
½ cup honey
½ cup reduced fat peanut butter
3 cups shredded wheat cereal, coarsely crushed
¾ cup raisins

Mix sugar, honey and peanut butter in large microwavable bowl. Microwave on high 1-½ to 2 minutes or until bubbly at edge; stir until well blended. Stir in cereal and raisins. Press firmly into 8-inch square pan sprayed with cooking spray. Cool. Cut into bars. Store in airtight container.

RELIGION CALENDAR

JANUARY

BETHANY

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18
Location: Leon's 30149 Ford Road, Garden City
Details: The group meets for breakfast.

Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit office of youth and family, providing peer support to divorced and separated persons of all Christian faiths
Contact: www.bethanysemi.org

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18
Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City
Details: All you can eat, pancakes,

sausage and beverage, \$6
Contact: 734-427-3660

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19
Location: St. Theodore social hall, 8200

N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All-you-can-eat menu includes pancake and French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, juice, applesauce and coffee. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10.
Contact: 734-425-4421

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
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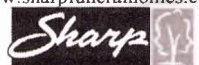
CUSAC, EARL KENNETH

Age 96 of Scottville passed away on December 31, 2013 at his home in Scottville, MI. He was born on October 20, 1917 in Detroit, MI the son of the late W. Ray & Grace (Roy) Cusac. Earl married A. Frances Harding on September 6, 1940 at the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Detroit, MI. He was employed as a product engineer with General Motors until his retirement in 1977. Earl was a lifetime member of the SABBAR SHRINE in Tucson, AZ. He loved playing tennis and played until his late 80's. He also loved to fish, sing, and talk on his Ham Radio and did stage make-up and acted in plays for the Scottish Rite in Detroit. Earl is survived by his children, Marguerite (John) Staples of Tucson, AZ, Kenneth (Kathy) Cusac of Scottville, MI, Patricia (Richard) Ruhland of Garden City, MI; 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife A. Frances Cusac and his brother, Roy Cusac. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Wayne Masonic Temple, 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, MI 48186. Memorial contributions in memory of Earl may be directed to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation, 1200 Wright Ave., Alma MI 48801, or Hospice of Michigan. Please visit Earl's personal memory page to share a story or photo with the family at www.oakgrovefun.com. The family has entrusted funeral arrangements with Oak Grove Funeral Home & Cremation Center in Ludington, MI.



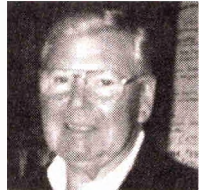
GEDEON, JOYCE JUANITA

Age 88, of Fenton, Michigan formerly of Redford Township, MI died January 13, 2014. Visitation will be 3 - 7 p.m. Friday at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton, with a Scripture Service to follow at 7 p.m., Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. Committal Services will be 11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 18 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, West Chapel, in Southfield. In lieu of flowers, contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or The National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Born March 22, 1925 in Detroit. Married to Bartol Gedeon on December 13, 1941; he preceded her in death on May 25, 1997. Surviving are: daughter Nikki Westberg Black and husband Bill Black of Fenton; son Anthony Gedeon and wife Michelle of Palm Coast, Florida; six grandchildren, Todd Gedeon, Cathy and husband Will DeMille, Aimee and husband Dana Smith, Kirk Gedeon and wife Jessica, Laura Westberg and husband Shawn Rubin, and Bart Gedeon and wife Dori Bracero; and eight great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her father Louis Oltean, and step-mother Mary Oltean; mother Pauline Prosyk and step-father Louis Prosyk; and son-in-law William Westberg.
 www.sharpfuneralhomes.com



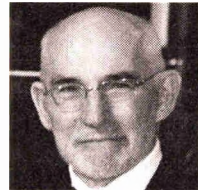
IRVINE, JAMES DAVID

Mr. James David Irvine, age, 86, went home to his Heavenly Father Saturday, January 11, 2014. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on September 29, 1927 to William and Mabel (Robertson) Irvine. James proudly served his country in the Army during WWII. After his time in the service he went to college on the GI Bill and became a corporate attorney at Ford Motor Company for 20 years. On June 18, 1960 he married Mona Louise Roesner. He was a member of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, MAPBD, Rockford Sportsman's Club, and St Andrews Society of Detroit. James is survived by his wife, Mona; children, Margaret Jean Gable, Diane (David Enos) Irvine, Delma (David) Atwell, Jim (Lisa) Irvine, John (Sandy) Irvine; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Margaret; brothers, William S. Irvine and John R. Irvine. The visitation will be 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at the Pederson Funeral Home, 127 N. Monroe St., Rockford, MI. The Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. Thursday, January 16, 2014 at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 4865 11 Mile Rd., Rockford, MI with Rev. Lam T. Le presiding. Memorial contributions can be made to the English Springer Spaniel Foundation, ESSFTAF Treasurer, 4917 Wagon Wheel Way, Richmond, CA 94803, www.englishspringerfoundation.org. Pederson Funeral Home www.pedersonfuneralhome.com



QUINN, HUGH

passed away at the age of 90 in Des Moines, Iowa December 24, 2013. Hugh suffered a fall on December 20, 2013, which resulted in a broken hip and a mild heart attack. After several days at the hospital, when all seemed well, he underwent surgery to repair his hip. Although the surgery was initially successful, Hugh deteriorated later that day and suffered a cardiac arrest. Hugh was born in Cambuslang, Scotland February 1, 1923. He immigrated to Detroit, MI with his family around 1924. Hugh served in the US Army during WWII, receiving 2 purple hearts. Hugh retired to West Palm Beach, FL and resided there until his recent move to Des Moines, IA. Hugh is survived by his widow, Margo Quinn, her children, Suzanne Collela of New York, Michelle (Robert) Kimbrell of Des Moines, IA, Mark (Page) Rochon of Washington, DC, 5 step grandchildren, 3 step great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his first wife, Madeline Quinn, their four sons - Michael (Patricia) Quinn of Brighton, MI; John (Mary Ann) Quinn of Gregory, MI; Robert Quinn of Orlan, FL; Dennis (Lydia) Quinn of Berkeley, MI, 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and by his brother Charles (Elizabeth 'Betty') Quinn of Plymouth, MI. Hugh was predeceased by his siblings Frank (Shirley) Quinn, Ann (Jerry) Rancour, Mary Margaret (Hugh) Mclean and his parents William Charles 'Charlie' Quinn and Mary Margaret 'Molly' O'Neill Quinn. Memorial Services will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church 711 Rickett Rd Brighton, MI at 10:30am on Saturday, February 8, 2014.



WASHBURN, CAROLYN "LYNN" PRIEST

of Greenville, formerly of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2014 in Carson City, Michigan with her family at her side. She was born July 17, 1928 in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of Henry B. and Verna E. Priest, both natives of Irasburg, Vermont. She grew up in Verona, NJ where her father taught English at Montclair (NJ) High School for many years. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, John M. Washburn III, whom she married on September 23, 1950; their children, Christine Kohn (Thomas) of Greenville, MI, David Washburn (Gail) of Ringwood, NJ and Carol Keberly (Paul) of Plymouth, MI; grandchildren, Aaron Kohn (Katie), David Kohn (Kristen), Laura Kohn (fiancé Alexander), Jacqueline Washburn, Laura Sama (Andrea), Brian Washburn, Carolyn Rose (Jason), Jennifer Rasak, and Michael Rasak (Taylor); great-grandchildren, Madison and Payton Rose, Alyssa, Emily, and Daniel Kohn and Noah and Charlotte Kohn; sister, Virginia Weston (Ralph); sisters-in-law, Jane Parker and Ann Samuels. Carolyn graduated from Tufts University (Medford, MA) in 1950 where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in history. Later, after she and John had raised their family, she earned a Master Degree in special education from Eastern Michigan University and taught special education in the Farmington Public Schools for 17 years. She had a great love for the children that she taught. She especially enjoyed spending summers on beautiful Parker Pond, West Glover, VT at the summer camp that her parents built in 1937. These summers held many special memories for her, and she has passed her love of Parker Pond on to her children and grandchildren. A graveside Memorial Service will take place this summer with interment in the Irasburg, Vermont Cemetery. For those desiring to do so, the family suggests memorial considerations be made to either the John M. Washburn III and Carolyn P. Washburn Endowed Scholarship Fund at Alma College, 614 West Superior Street, Alma, MI 48801 or to The Old Stone House Museum, c/o Orleans County Historical Society, 109 Old Stone House Road, Brownington, VT 05860. The family is being served by Hurst Funeral Home through which messages of condolence may be sent via:
 www.hurstfuneralhome.com



Let others know...

When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages", a directory located in every edition of your **Observer or Eccentric** newspaper.

Call: 800-579-7355
 Fax: 313-496-4968
 Email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Media

HAYES, GERMAINE (ZADRA)

Age 85, January 15, 2014, Livonia, Predeceased by husband Waymon Hayes and daughter Barbara. Survived by son Daniel (Mary) Hayes and one granddaughter Kelly. Germaine was a loving and devoted mother with a fun spirit. She taught at Garfield Elementary in Livonia for over 30 years and she was an avid reader. No funeral services, a private gathering planned. Donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

PIERCE, ROBERT WILLIAM

Passed from this world December 27, 2013, at age 55. A resident of Westland, he was born in Royal Oak, Michigan on November 4, 1958, and lived in Wayne County most of his life. He graduated from Wayne Memorial High School and worked in restaurants and at Meijer's stores throughout his years. He was a Christian, and enjoyed a good life full of close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Lorraine Pierce, of Belleville, MI, and by his beloved "sister," Charyl Stockwell. A memorial service will honor his memory at 12:00 p.m., January 19, at the VFW Hall in Garden City, Michigan.

May you find comfort in family & friends

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. AT150641</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>The Church Worth Driving To! Westminster Church of Detroit Multi-cultural, welcoming, warm & secure parking 17567 Hubbell @ Outer Drive Detroit, MI 48235 Services at 8:30 and 11:00 (Summer and special Sundays-10:00) 313-341-2697 x 200 www.wcdetroit.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48166 248.374.7400 Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. A different music styles from classic to modern www.wardchurch.org</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96 www.christsavior.org Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Rev. Dean M. Davenport & Rev. Robert F. Bayer 734-522-6830</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>Rosedale Gardens PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p>A Church for Seasoned Saints OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm Pastor Grady Jensen & Music Minister Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282 Church As You Remember it!</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>
<p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734)261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES Sunday : 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Tuesday : 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>			

For Information regarding this Directory,
 please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247
 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Top Lawyer

The Meisner Law Group, P.C., announced that Robert M. Meisner was selected as a 2014 Top Lawyer in Metro Detroit in the field of real estate law. This is Meisner's second Top Lawyer selection.

The 2014 Top Lawyer selection process involves a Peer Review Survey, where 18,200 attorneys in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Livingston counties were polled. Each attorney was asked to nominate lawyers among 47 legal specialties. The selection was conducted by the *dbusiness* Journal.

Meisner is the founding member of The Meisner Law Group, P.C., and a practicing attorney specializing in condominium law, real estate law and commercial litigation for over 40 years. He holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from the U-M Law School.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email jane.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Awards point to improved home building industry

The Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan announced its 2013 Industry Leadership Award honorees. Awards were presented on Dec. 4 at the first dedicated "Awards Night" celebration the association has held since 2009. Over 250 members and guests attended the event held at Greektown Casino and Hotel in Detroit, an indication that the economy has improved for local builders, land developers, remodelers and suppliers to the home construction industry.

Award honorees include:

2013 HBA President - Sam Palazzolo, Palazzolo Brothers

Hall of Fame - Peter Burton, Core Partners

Builder of the Year - Rich Kligman, Superb Custom Homes

Young Builder of the Year - Brian Szliter, Artea Homes

Developer of the Year - Scott Jacobson, S.R. Jacobson Development Corp.

Development of the Year - Woodland Ridge by Norm Finkelstein, Norwood Homes Ltd.

Samuel Kreis Award For Distinguished Service To The Building Industry - Lynne and Don Pratt, CECS of Michigan, LLC

Distinguished Service To The Housing Industry - Senate Majority Leader



Kligman



Palazzolo



Szliter

Thomas Ricketts Award to the Region's Outstanding Building Official - George R. Kilpatrick, building official, Bloomfield Township

Distinguished Service For Urban Home Building - Bruce Beresh, Beresh Group, Inc.

Distinguished Service to HBA's Charitable Endeavors - Ron Jedwab, Lincorp Construction

Distinguished Service to HBA's Professional Women In Building Council - Debra Ball, Daniel Investments, Inc.

Remodeler of the Year - Ben Templeton, Templeton Building Co.

Distinguished Service To The Remodeling Industry - Spencer Roed, Multi Drywall & Partition, LLC

Subcontractor Of The Year - Jo Golda, Jo's Cleaning & Organizing

Associate of the Year -

Bob Veresan, DTE Energy

Recognition Award: Green Building - Brian Halprin, Green Building of Michigan

Recognition Award: Convention Connection - John Bolland, Jr., Bolland Building Company

This year, sales awards were also added to the program including:

New Home Sales Professional of the Year, Gold Award - Robin Jonescuc & Dawn Rippy, MJC Companies

New Home Sales Professional of the Year, Silver Award - Lisa Compo, Compo Builders, Inc.

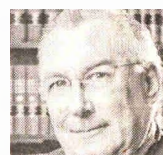
New Home Sales Manager of the Year, Gold Award - Erik Morganroth, Cranbrook Custom Homes

New Home Sales Manager of the Year, Silver Award - Elaine Herbst, Hunter Pasteur Homes

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Apartment Association of Michigan are trade associations representing 700 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. HBA is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

Lawyer can advise on deal details

Q: We put a down payment on a house and now wish to back out of it. There were no contingencies, other than real estate financing and an inspection, both of which have been approved. Do we have any basis to get out of the deal?



Robert Meisner

A: Based on what you have told us, it may be very difficult since the conditions precedent to you being obligated to close have been met. However, there may be other issues that come up including issues concerning title, and maintenance of the home during the period between the time you sign the purchase agreement and the time of closing and, perhaps, other issues that a lawyer may be able to ascertain when he or she reviews the contract, presuming that you have not had legal advice up until now. You should not give up, because you may have a bargaining position if for nothing more than the fact that getting some of your money back from the seller may be better for him than trying to keep it and be involved in litigation and vice versa.

Q: Our board is concerned about the holiday season and violating the Fair Housing Act in regard to decorations. Do you have any advice?

A: The fair housing laws, both state and federal, can apply with regard to architectural restrictions on religious symbols. For example, a Chicago case found that there was a violation of the Fair Housing Act where the rule prohibited the display of a Jewish religious symbol, but in another federal case, where the association banned all religious services in a common room, the action was upheld. More importantly, the concept that communities may exercise nondiscriminatory control over the use of the common areas obviously pertains to holiday displays erected by the association. Associations that install Christmas decorations, but refuse to allow similar displays by or for other religious groups are treading on potentially dangerous grounds. They cannot discriminate against particular religious groups. Accordingly, I would get an opinion from legal counsel before dealing with any holiday decorations and issues arising from it.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and BarnesandNoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 26-30, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

32240 Auburn Dr	\$288,000
16360 Beechwood Ave	\$262,000
18275 Birwood Ave	\$250,000
21891 Hampton St	\$345,000
17824 Kirkshire Ave	\$340,000
22200 Orchard Pl	\$200,000
16197 Reedmere Ave	\$253,000
32425 Sheridan Dr	\$212,000
19710 W 13 Mile Rd # 103	\$136,000
18760 Walmer Ln	\$353,000

BIRMINGHAM

833 Benvaile Ave	\$546,000
551 Bird Ave	\$243,000
2100 Bradford Rd	\$243,000
1653 E Maple Rd	\$175,000
975 Fairfax St	\$765,000
754 Henrietta St	\$520,000
700 Larchlea Dr	\$549,000
425 Lewis Ct	\$295,000
1039 N Old Woodward Ave Unit	\$135,000
1047 N Old Woodward Ave Unit	\$169,000
1115 N Old Woodward Ave Unit	\$278,000
734 Rivenoak St	\$700,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

2565 Alveston Dr	\$255,000
1861 Brookview Cir	\$270,000
2383 Hickory Glen Dr	\$455,000
60 Quarton Ln	\$850,000
1061 Stratford Ln	\$178,000
4121 Antique Ln	\$415,000

1650 Apple Ln	\$1,125,000
1185 Banbury Cir	\$605,000
3163 Berkshire Dr	\$380,000
659 Brockmoor Ln	\$265,000
4039 Cranbrook Ct	\$359,000
2189 Devonshire Rd	\$250,000
1035 E Long Lake Rd	\$575,000
2021 Klingensmith Rd Unit 82	\$70,000
2648 McClintock Rd	\$275,000
775 N Valley Chase Rd	\$440,000
4756 Pickering Rd	\$375,000
839 Rock Spring Rd	\$550,000
567 S Cranbrook Cross Rd	\$264,000
3772 Thornbrier Way	\$508,000
2840 W Maple Rd	\$420,000
4043 W Maple Rd # D101	\$83,000
42160 Woodward Ave Unit 70	\$80,000

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

6025 Worlington Rd	\$251,000
3255 Adele Ter	\$315,000
2256 Brigantine	\$269,000
3504 Buell Ct	\$318,000
4307 Creedmore St	\$650,000
2129 Glen Iris Dr	\$193,000
3313 Glen Iris Dr	\$364,000
8242 Golfside Dr	\$198,000
4975 Greenview Dr	\$252,000
5630 Huron Hills Dr	\$283,000
5079 Parkgate Dr	\$50,000
1272 Penarth St	\$130,000
2500 Wixom Rd	\$175,000

FARMINGTON

33030 Annwood St	\$192,000
21212 Birchwood St	\$195,000
33234 Kingslane Ct # 4	\$35,000
22843 Manning St	\$150,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

29239 Aranel St	\$164,000
33512 Argonne Rd	\$240,000
22930 Ashley St	\$145,000

25345 Briarwyke Dr	\$260,000
22261 Buckingham Dr	\$300,000
30965 Cedar Creek Dr	\$216,000
38351 Evonshire	\$131,000
37869 Glengrove Dr	\$312,000
34055 Hillside Ct	\$150,000
35307 Hillside Dr	\$150,000
37781 Hollyhead Dr	\$238,000
30402 Knighton Dr	\$226,000
29762 Linden St	\$224,000
22103 Malden St	\$60,000
30840 Running Strm	\$80,000
30633 Sunderland Dr	\$371,000
22182 W Brandon St	\$119,000
29350 Wellington St	\$309,000
25468 Wykeshire Rd	\$225,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

18551 Santa Ann Ave	\$205,000
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MILFORD

3058 Berkshire Ct	\$348,000
625 East St	\$275,000
2919 Hampikian Dr	\$150,000
719 Panorama Dr	\$118,000
2136 Wildflower Ln	\$353,000

NORTHVILLE

729 Horton St	\$305,000
22233 Innsbrook Dr	\$285,000
20870 Normandy Ct	\$205,000
37632 W Greenwood Dr	\$282,000
44138 Wyngate Dr	\$395,000
46306 Cordoba Dr	\$450,000
39514 Country Ln	\$123,000
28373 Declaration Rd	\$86,000
44679 Ellery Ln	\$206,000
44767 Ellery Ln	\$144,000
50955 Glades Ct W	\$50,000
50983 Glades Ct W	\$605,000
47595 Greenwich Dr	\$478,000
29073 Hearthstone Dr	\$278,000
25976 Island Lake Dr	\$492,000
24525 Jamestowne Rd	\$230,000

23648 N Rockledge	\$79,000
30863 Palmer Dr	\$180,000
24360 Pinecrest St	\$117,000
24236 Simmons Dr	\$291,000
27291 Victoria Rd	\$331,000
27303 Victoria Rd	\$324,000
41985 Waverly Dr	\$190,000

SOUTH LYON

58613 10 Mile Rd	\$247,000
715 Cape Cod	\$93,000
25015 Carriage Ln	\$372,000
58762 Castle Ct	\$372,000
52105 Copperwood Dr S	\$362,000
24483 Glenwood Dr	\$351,000
24507 Glenwood Dr	\$467,000
59810 Mallory Ln	\$379,000
24711 Padstone Dr	\$81,000
136 S Hagadorn St	\$235,000
60673 S Lyon Trl	\$270,000
53742 Springwood Dr	\$220,000
53812 Springwood Dr	\$252,000

SOUTHFIELD

27870 Devonshire St	\$198,000
26475 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$53,000
21410 Lathrup St	\$105,000
21741 N Tuller Ct	\$66,000
25230 Southfield Rd # A104	\$50,000
29809 Spring River Dr	\$123,000
17228 Sunnybrook Dr	\$47,000

WHITE LAKE

9267 Camelot St	\$238,000
9790 David Ln	\$140,000
832 E Oxhill Dr	\$135,000
880 Farnsworth Rd	\$75,000
8700 Gale Rd	\$300,000
8523 Huron River Dr	\$145,000
238 Lisa Cir	\$190,000
1941 Margie Dr	\$208,000
9474 Thames Blvd	\$174,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 16-20, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

42629 Boulden Ct	\$180,000
4110 Brighton Ln	\$174,000
1577 Brookdale Dr	\$255,000
43283 Candlewood Ct	\$240,000
44264 Cherrbourg St	\$170,000
43442 Cherrywood Ln	\$263,000
276 Constitution St	\$96,000
322 Cornell St	\$215,000
46809 Creeks Bnd	\$265,000
6763 Devonshire Dr	\$230,000
41890 Echo Forest Ct	\$340,000
352 Elmington Ct	\$403,000
47317 Fairlawn Ct	\$235,000
45194 Forest Trail Dr	\$170,000
46133 Gainsborough Dr	\$200,000
45184 Greengarry Rd	\$280,000
42102 Glenwood Dr	\$207,000
1464 Hampshire Dr	\$135,000
45299 Indian Creek Dr	\$170,000
1370 Knightsbridge Rd	\$230,000
2283 Liberty St S	\$295,000
568 McKinley Cir	\$280,000
1243 N Cavalier Rd	\$192,000
3315 Niagara Ave	\$251,000
49145 Northampton Ct	\$450,000

7338 Oakmont Dr	\$350,000
41667 Quail Ct	\$272,000
1732 S Pennfield Ln	\$435,000
8125 Sandpiper St	\$265,000
42343 Saratoga Cir	\$147,000
47577 Scenic Circle Dr S	\$230,000
39815 Scottsdale Dr	\$181,000
3694 Shepherd Ct	\$222,000
45700 Spinning Wheel Dr	\$230,000
49073 Stanton Ct	\$400,000
7015 Stonebrook Ct	\$117,000
41643 Strawberry Ct	\$230,000
1735 Thistle Dr	\$240,000
41831 Wayside Dr	\$165,000
7025 Willow Creek Dr	\$173,000

GARDEN CITY

657 Arcola St	\$107,000
31032 Birchlawn St	\$145,000
28538 Block St	\$28,000
6830 Burnly St	\$105,000
30629 Florence St	\$68,000
6749 Gilman St	\$69,000
33218 Hennepin St	\$115,000
6429 Henry Ruff Rd	\$95,000

LIVONIA

32911 Allen St	\$175,000
39375 Amrhein Rd	\$90,000
38920 Ann Arbor Trl	\$175,000
19364 Antago St	\$52,000
11405 Arden St	\$143,000
14290 Blackburn St	\$225,000
29523 Bobrich St	\$55,000
36265 Club Dr	\$37,000

36269 Club Dr	\$37,000
17546 Country Club Dr	\$218,000
9948 Deering St	\$122,000
30934 Dorais St	\$161,000
38132 Elsie St	\$160,000
14627 Fairway St	\$154,000
15585 Fitzgerald St	\$95,000
18306 Gillman St	\$86,000
36603 Grove St	\$172,000
9959 Hambleton St	\$163,000
8921 Harvey St	\$140,000
28370 Joy Rd	\$41,000
17790 Lathers St	\$85,000
19801 Liverpool Ave	\$360,000
29859 Lori St	\$147,000
30020 Lyndon St	\$155,000
14149 Marie St	\$174,000
18151 Mayfield St	\$185,000
14892 Park St	\$165,000
35573 Parkdale St	\$132,000
18615 Parklane St	\$230,000
34257 Pembroke Ave	\$283,000
16110 Penn Dr	\$219,000
35535 Richland St	\$127,000
15698 Riverside St	\$340,000
29987 Robert Dr	\$136,000
32509 Scone St	\$163,000
31645 Summers St	\$173,000
29636 Trancrest St	\$200,000
29636 Trancrest St	\$140,000
9049 Woodring St	\$146,000
17524 Woodside St	\$170,000
14245 Yale St	\$160,000

14657 Yale St	\$170,000
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NORTHVILLE

HOMES

apartments.com .
HomeFinder

Lots & Acreage Vacant

CANTON: Sale or build-to-suit land behind Hertz & Victory Lane on busy Michigan Ave in Canton. Approx 2.5 acres. Possible auto use or warehouse/storage. \$300,000. Bela Sipos 734-669-5813. 734-669-4100. #3212813. Reinhardt Commercial

RENTALS

apartments.com .
HomeFinder

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CANTON: 2 bdrm, big master, 1.5 bath, wasdry, a/c, patio, pool, bsmt, tile/new carpet, carpet. \$997. 517-655-2753

DEARBORN HEIGHTS: Eden Park Condos. 2 bdrm, 2 bath all appls. \$850-\$950/mo. Horizon: 248-536-2429

Duplexes

CANTON - Sheldon & Ford area: 3 bd, 1.5 bath, 1360 sq/ft, C/A, deck & fenced yard, \$900/mo. 734-502-7660

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DETROIT: 7 MI & Lahser area. 2 bdrm with large gar., spotless, part furnished, secure, fresh & super clean. \$400/mo. Call: (313) 657-8125

LIVONIA: 1,000 sq. ft. 3 bdrm beautiful ranch, appliances, nice neighborhood, fenced yard, \$990/mo. 248-342-0314

LIVONIA: 3 bdrm ranch, \$995. **REDFORD:** \$950. Possible ownership. call Jeff for details: (734) 564-8402

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REDFORD: 15075 Garfield 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath with partial finish bsmt, garage. \$975/mo. Horizon: 248-536-2429

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PERSONALS

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Legal & Accepting

City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan has scheduled a 30 day public review period and public hearing

30 Day Public Review
Period: Friday, January 18, 2014 7:00PM

Public Hearing:
Tuesday, February 18, 2014 7:00 PM

Westland City Hall
36601 Ford Road
Westland, MI 48185

Notice is given to any and all interested parties that the draft 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Wayne Westland, Wayne County, MI will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning Friday, January 17, 2014 at Westland City Hall located at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI during regular business hours.

Notice is also given that the Westland City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at City Hall, located at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI, to hear comments on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 7:00 p.m.

The city of Westland is preparing a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to Westland City Hall, located at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185 during regular business hours. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the City of Westland City Clerk, Eileen DeHart, CMC, at (734) 467-3185, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the Public Hearing. If requesting accommodations.

Please contact the City of Westland at (734) 467-3185 with questions or comments.

Card of Thanks

PRAYER: Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted -M

BUY & SELL

hometownlife.com

Absolutely Free

Cat, indoor, 2 years old, female, recent shots, fixed, likes to play, healthy. Needs good home. (248)696-9241

Antiques & Collectibles

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANTIQUE SHOW
Sat. Jan. 18, 9-4 \$3 Liberty School, 7265 AA - Saline Rd. Saline, 48176. 734-944-0713

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Auction Sales

ESTATE AUCTION
Sat., January 4th, 7pm
Cultural Center
525 Farmer
Plymouth MI

Antiques & Collectibles
Furniture: Glassware
Prints & Dishes, Pottery
Cash/MS/Visa
Bank Debit Cards
No Checks
Doors Open 6pm
Joe Carl, Professional Auction Service
734.451.7444
jauctionservices.com

Garage/Moving Sales

Final estate sale-1/11/12
12-5 All must go! Pool table King bed, Sectional Maple dresser, Baby grand, MORE 26331 Hass, Dbrn Hgts (313)670-1414

Household Goods

HITCHCOCK DINING ROOM SET, TABLE & CHAIRS & CHINA CABINET, EXC COND \$1500. 248-470-6618

Kenmore Ceramic top electric stove, stainless steel, \$400. Leather sofa w/2 ottomans, \$600. 734-306-3534

Electronics Audio & Video

SONY TRINITRON 24" Flat Screen \$90. Sony Trinitron 32" flat screen \$110. Toshiba 15" Flat screen \$70. In frequent use. 248-207-8846

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Misc. For Sale

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Wanted to Buy

WANTED: Old Fishing Tackle & related items. Successful Deer Hunter Patches. Call Bill: (734) 890-1047

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PETS

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Tallow source
- "Star Wars" guru
- Pledge
- Scorch
- Bear constellation
- Shoguns' capital
- In that case (2 wds.)
- Ladies' man
- Fashion magazine
- Diminished
- Girl at a ball
- Oriental art stone
- hoc
- Ifly attempt
- Greenish-blue
- Motor lodges
- French friend
- The "Elephant Boy"
- Auto gauge
- Hayworth of old movies

DOWN

- Lab course
- TV band
- Three-legged stand
- Billy Goats
- Gruff foe
- Festive log
- El Dorado loot
- It ends in Nov.
- Showed delight

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

9 "Make" or "break"
10 Fat cat's victim
11 Teak, for example

17 Encourages a crook
19 Guitar man — Paul
21 Fisher's need
22 Ms. Ferber
23 — Lee Curtis
24 Not much (2 wds.)
27 Protective covering
29 Pricing wd.
30 Border on
31 Pear-shaped instrument
33 Raleigh's loc.
34 Tear to pieces
39 Rte. mapper
42 Hibernian
44 Pithy saying
45 From Hong Kong
46 W. Coast campus
47 Wise threesome
48 Multiplied
49 Wild about
51 Moo goo — pan
52 100 percent
54 Ms. Ullmann
55 Conniving

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

Word Search

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1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	4.5	0	3.375	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	4.25	0	3.25	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	4.25	0	3.25	0
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Co-op Services Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.625	0.25	3.625	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.5	0	3.625	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.5	0	3.625	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.5	0	3.375	0
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Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.625	0	3.625	0

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Sports Utility

FORD ESCAPE 2010
Auto, moonroof, one owner. \$11,994
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Licensed Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Technician with minimal 2 years' experience to join a fantastic team in our beautiful Westland facility. Part-time available.
Please email resume to Cherryhill@aol.com

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OFFICE/COMPUTER ASST.
for medical office in Livonia. Part-time, Mon.-Thurs. Fax resume to: 248-474-1548

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FULL-TIME Good benefits. Must have office exp., manual bookkeeping, computer, accounting, filing. **MUST APPLY IN PERSON:** Brose Electrical 37400 W. 7 Mile, Livonia (734) 464-2211

Help Wanted - Medical

Clinical Case Manager (RN)
Must have unrestricted RN license and CCM cert or ability to qualify. Min 5 yrs clinical experience and Case Mgmt experience in Disability, Medical, WC or Auto. Responsible for oversight of Disability claims. Computer literate, excellent written/verbal skills. Located in Novi. Good Benefits. No weekends/holidays. Email resume to: humesource497@yahoo.com

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Fast paced Livonia family practice. Must be reliable, patient friendly, flexible, able to work evenings & Saturdays. X-ray knowledge helpful. Fax resume: 734-425-1002

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•BARTENDER Exp a must. Apply in person: Starting Gate, 135 N. Center St., Northville.

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CAREGIVER for handicapped daughter. Sunday's & holidays. Exp. preferred. \$14/hr. Please call: 248-474-7074

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JANUARY 2014

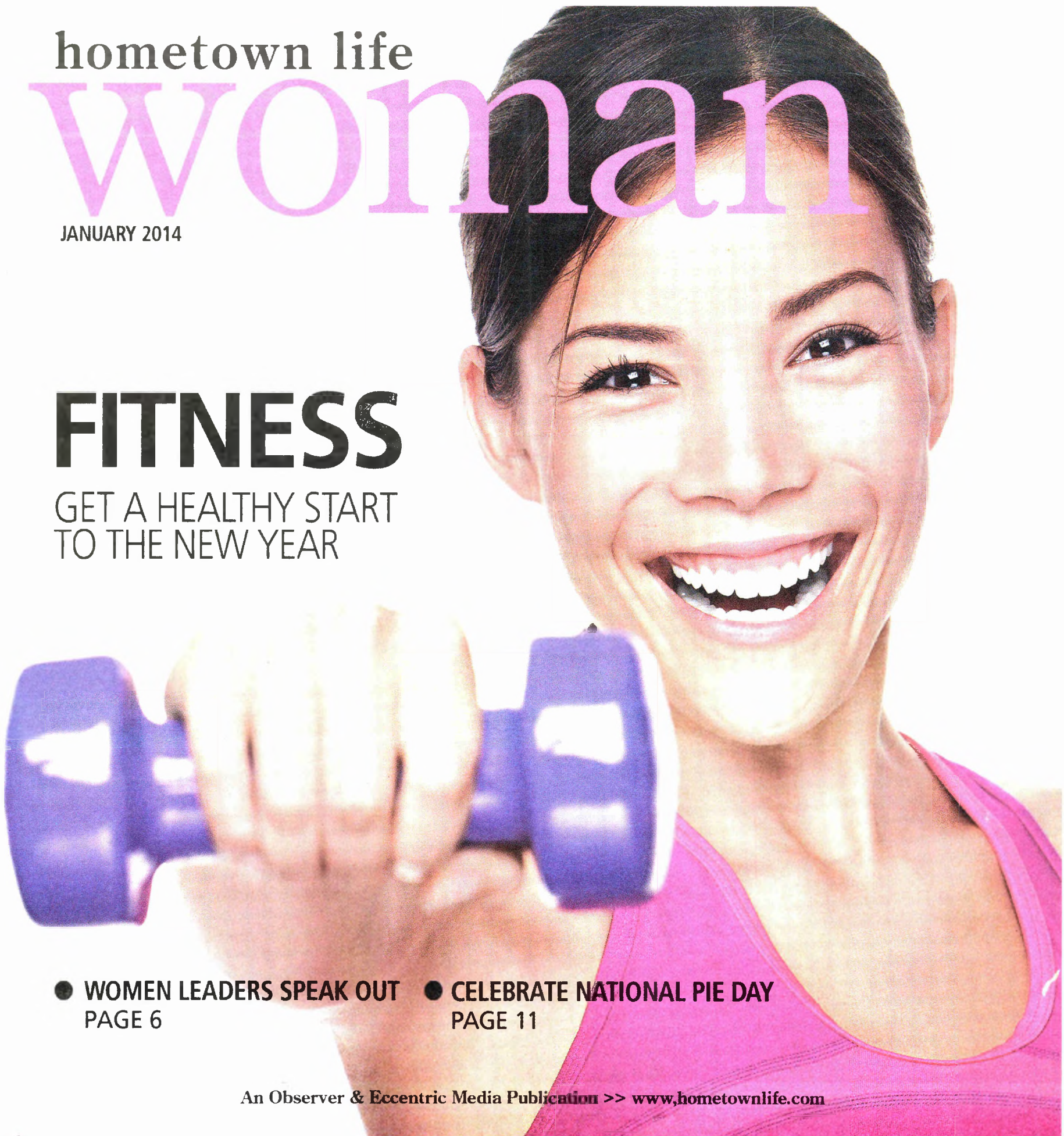
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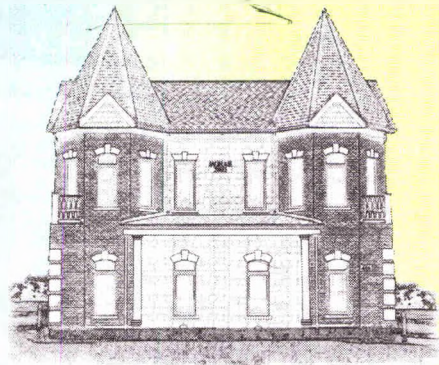
GET A HEALTHY START
TO THE NEW YEAR

● WOMEN LEADERS SPEAK OUT
PAGE 6

● CELEBRATE NATIONAL PIE DAY
PAGE 11

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Stay fit, eat healthy and enjoy a slice of pie

Dear readers:
 Welcome to a new year of *Hometown Life Woman*.

If you've resolved to get fit – physically and financially – eat healthy and have fun, today's edition is for you.

Read about how local women set wellness goals – for all the right reasons. Area experts also discuss the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Community is very important to local women. It's more than just an address, it's where our "family of support," for business, entertainment and spirituality resides. That's why *Hometown Life Woman* asked local women leaders what they wish for our area in 2014.

And while you are paging through today's edition, check out the story on pie. Thursday, Jan. 23, is National Pie Day. Treat yourself to a luscious piece of pie and check out the list of area restaurants and stores that specialize in pie. Remember, all things are good in moderation – including pie.

Wishing you success in 2014.



Susan Rosiek

Susan Rosiek
 publisher

srosiek@hometownlife.com

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Maureen LaFontaine, LaFontaine Automotive Group is one of 4 to Receive Top Honors. Maureen will receive the esteemed 2014 Spirit of Leadership Award presented annually by the Women's Automotive Association International. The WAAI award recognizes outstanding professional achievements and contributions to the growth, stature and progress of the automotive industry.

As co-owner of LaFontaine Auto Group, a multi-franchise operation serving the Detroit metro region, Maureen LaFontaine has been instrumental in leading the company to exceptional sales success and achieving the dealership's Gold LEED certification status.

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The Seven Dumbest Things People Are Told About Estate Planning

By VA Accredited Elder Law Attorney, Nicole Wipp

This article is not, and should not be construed as, legal advice. It is for general informational purposes only. To better understand how these legal concepts apply to you, consult with a qualified elder law attorney.

In our family estate planning & elder law office, we often find that people have misconceptions about estate planning that they get through the internet, their friends, and even other professionals. There are various problems with the topics below, but the most fundamental one is that believing any one of them may lead to bad decision-making.

1. Estate planning is about planning for your death.

Most people think that estate planning is all about "what happens if I die" (you will!). That being said, when done properly, estate planning is about much more than simple death planning. It is also about ensuring that any shift in control, whether due to disability during life or death, is done in the simplest and easiest way possible; about providing loved ones with peace of mind and relieving them from burdensome decisions that you should make on your own; and, in the best case scenario, about ensuring that assets don't get depleted by the need for long term care and/or nursing home costs.

2. If you have beneficiary designations for your assets, you're all set.

Just about every day, I hear some version of the following sentence: "My (insert your person of choice here: sister-in-law, neighbor, financial advisor, banker, cousin-who-has-a-son-that's-an-attorney) told me that if I have beneficiary designations on my assets (investments, bank accounts, retirement) that I won't have to go through probate and I'll be all set."

While this may be true about probate, it certainly doesn't tell the whole story. Very often, the goals clients have cannot be accomplished by doing simple beneficiary designations. Additionally, if there is a need for a loved one to access the accounts to pay bills or manage funds, a beneficiary designation on its own will not allow for this.

3. You should put your kids on your bank accounts or your home so that they can manage your money if they need to, or to avoid probate.

Sometimes, to deal with the issues discussed in #2, people will choose to have their children or other persons on their accounts or their home. This may be a bad idea for

several reasons. Having joint ownership of certain assets (regardless of whose money it really is) can result in unexpected tax consequences, liability issues, and loss of important benefits for long-term care. For example, if your child gets sued, whether or not they are at fault, it is possible that your bank account can be attached to the lawsuit or judgment. There are options that can accomplish the same things without the risks.

4. Talking about estate taxes is a waste of time.

For a majority of Americans, in the current tax year, estate taxes are not an issue – the exemption is currently at 5.34 million dollars. Every dollar about that exemption amount is taxed at a 40% tax rate for estate or "inheritance" taxes. So for those that have less, estate taxes aren't an issue. This year.

That being said, Congress can change the estate tax exemption (they say they won't – do you believe anything Congress says these days?). Unless you know that you will die in 2014, you can't know what the estate tax exemption will be, or whether it will affect your family. Less than 15 years ago, the exemption was below a million dollars. For many, if the estate tax returned to 1990's levels, there would be a tax issue.

5. You need to give your assets away to protect them.

This is one of the most potentially devastating pieces of "advice" that many people believe to be true. Giving assets away is a complex topic that can have repercussions on many levels, including inability to receive benefits for long term care and a loss of lifetime savings.

6. Your power of attorney can take care of everything.

First, it's important to understand this most basic legal concept: a power of attorney dies with the person that gives the power. In other words, a power of attorney no longer works when a person dies. Additionally, most powers of attorney place limits on the person receiving the power in a way that actually prevents the power of attorney from being able to take certain important actions on your behalf, particularly when it comes to the need for long term care.

7. If you have a will, you won't need to go through probate.

This is possibly the most pervasive myth out there. A will is not a probate avoidance device; on the contrary, it is meant for probate.

- Do I Need a Will, a Trust, or Neither?
- How Do I Ensure I Won't Lose a Lifetime of Savings to Long Term Care or Nursing Home Costs?
- How Do I Remain In Control & Preserve My Independence?

A proper legal strategy is essential to protect you during life – not just death.

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Upcoming Workshop Dates:

Monday, January 20, 2014:

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Plymouth Cultural Center

525 Farmer, Plymouth

Wednesday, February 5, 2014:

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Brighton Public Library

100 Library Dr., Brighton

Thursday, February 13, 2014

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Wixom Senior Center

49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Family & Aging Law Center
Satellite Office**

39111 Six Mile Rd., Livonia

Thursday, April 3, 2014:

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Huron Valley

Council for the Arts

205 W. Livingston Rd., Highland

Wednesday, April 23, 2014:

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Brighton Public Library

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Can't Attend but would like to?

Check out our other dates:

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2014

WOMEN LEADERS SPEAK OUT ABOUT GOALS

By Pamela A. Zinkosky Contributing Writer

What do area women – leaders in government, education, health care and business – want for their community this year?



Laura Cox



Maureen Miller Brosnan



Susan Zurvalec



Jean Meyer

Government

Pulling in the reins on a \$2 billion budget isn't easy or popular, but Wayne County Commissioner **Laura Cox**, who heads the Committee on Ways and Means, is meeting the task head-on. As she begins her 10th year on the commission, she's looking forward to "talking about the reality and advocating for a solution" to deficit spending.

"Our biggest challenge is getting our arms around the budget," she said. This is especially important because of Detroit's bankruptcy, Cox said: "Leaders in Wayne County are realizing that the state is very actively looking at Wayne County."

Cox, who represents residents in Northville, Northville Township and part of Livonia, said making a dent in the deficit starts with examining every service the county provides and "thinking of new, innovative ways to pull back spending. You need to focus on our mandated services."

Cox said the committee now requires all departments to explain overspending and request re-allocations.

For **Maureen Miller Brosnan**, president of the Livonia City Council, the new year's challenge is to enhance her city's reputation.

"My wish for the Livonia City Council is that we come together to embrace the challenges that lie ahead and see them as opportunities for the city to build its reputation as Michigan's leading com-

munity to raise a family, grow a business and age gracefully," Miller Brosnan said.

Health and safety

Miller Brosnan said Livonia, which turns 64 this year, needs to leverage its access to and excellence in health care, with St. Mary Mercy Hospital as a major Livonia presence. "I hope we work to become recognized as one of the healthiest cities in the country," she said. "Every day healthy babies are born here, people with cancer are cured here, lives are made healthier and aging residents are cared for with grace and dignity."

Miller Brosnan also mentioned Livonia's safety and family-friendly qualities in her list of hopes and wishes for the community.

"As a safe community, I hope we work to add qualified police officers to the force of men and women that keep us safe so we maintain this most important designation," she said.

While Livonia seeks to boost its reputation in the education arena, the partner cities just north of it look toward new leadership. **Susan Zurvalec**, who's been superintendent of the Farmington Public School system since 2005, recently announced her retirement.

As she finishes 40 years in education this year, Zurvalec's goal is "to leave the district well-positioned financially and educationally for the new superintendent. Specifically, my goals include de-

veloping a plan that engages our community in financing our facilities' needs, as well as developing a 2014-15 budget that reduces the structural deficit, yet maintains our quality instructional programs."

That goal is no small task, given the recent voter defeat of two bond proposals, collectively totaling \$186.2 million, which sought to fund security, new technology, classroom upgrades and improvements to auditoriums and athletic fields.

Zurvalec's hopes and dreams for public education as a whole? "The governor and Legislature must address their continued underfunding of K-12 public education with this next budget with restoration of the per-pupil foundation allowance cuts made three years ago," she said.

As Zurvalec looks toward retirement, **Jean Meyer** of Northville is just beginning her tenure as president and CEO of St. John Providence Health System, which includes more than 125 medical centers and five hospitals.

Connect with community

"One of our goals is to really connect with the community when they're well – to keep people healthy," said Meyer, who served as interim CEO from June to December 2013.

St. John is reaching out to the community with wellness semi-



Camille Jayne



Cynthia Kabza Vercruysee



Jennifer (Newmyer) Mangin

See GOALS, Page 13



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NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

COMMIT TO GET FIT IN 2014

Stories by Jill Halpin, Contributing Writer

Ten years ago, Beverly Hale, 46 years old, 70 pounds overweight and in poor health, made a decision to change her life.

"I felt terrible all of the time: my knees hurt, my teeth were falling out – I was a real mess," said Hale, of Livonia, a married mother of two adult children.

"I knew I had to make changes. I wanted to live a long life and be healthy. I needed to get the weight off and keep it off for good," she said.

Hale made the decision to join a local Weight Watchers group and started to attend weekly meetings regularly. She also began working out regularly with a friend every morning at the Livonia Recreation Center.

Soon after, she said, her life slowly began to change.

"I was losing weight slowly and steadily," she said. "Slow and steady wins the race, right? And I started to feel better. I was not as achy, moving around was much easier and I had more energy, mentally and physically.

"I had tried different diets in the past where I would drop some weight quickly, but then I would just gain it back. This was different. It was a lifestyle change – and it worked."

For Hale, the realization hit hard: obesity was affecting her health.

Obesity rates rising

She was not alone. According to a 2012 study by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, obesity has been rising steadily in the past few decades. As of 2010, approximately 35.7 percent of U.S. citizens are obese.

Despite the glut of advertisements and infomercials encouraging quick weight loss for a picture-perfect bikini body, the most critical reason to shed excess pounds has little to do with how you look.



Beverly Hale of Livonia (right) and her daughter Brooke.

There is no doubt that successful weight loss can improve appearance; however, the real issue is health, said Lisa Talamini, chief nutritionist for Jenny Craig weight loss centers.

According to Talamini, we are "in the middle of a health crisis" regarding obesity, citing a study by the National Institute of Health linking obesity-related conditions to heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and even certain types of cancer.

The health impacts of carrying excess pounds are significant, said Patti Ramos, a clinical dietitian with St. John Providence Health System in Southfield.

"There are many preventable conditions that can all be related to excess weight," she said. "Keeping those extra pounds at bay can go a long way toward keeping disease away.

"It is important to lose those extra pounds to feel good – physically and mentally," she added.

Losing excess weight by making a commitment to work toward your own health and vitality by is one of the best things you can do for yourself, medical experts say.

In fact, for most people, quality of health is directly related to weight, said Dr. Matthew



Lisa Talamini of Jenny Craig

Weiner, obesity expert at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township.

"Obesity as a disease is the single greatest marker to measure your overall health," he said.

Fortunately, Weiner said, it is possible to shed excess pounds and you can start by simply paying attention to the food you are eating.

Change your life

"You can change your life by changing what you eat," he said.

The author of *A Pound of Cure*, a book offering a new approach to changing diet for more effective, long-term, healthy weight loss, Weiner believes that it is the foods that we put in our bodies every day that determine how we feel.

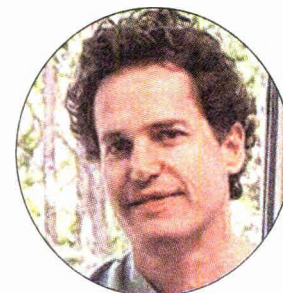
"Eating is not the problem – it is what we eat," Weiner said.

The way to meaningful weight loss, Weiner says, is to adjust your diet so that you are consuming healthy foods that fuel your body, such as fruits and vegetables, and limit processed foods and other junk foods.

"If you give yourself junk, you are going to feel uncomfortable, bloated and sick," he said. "Losing weight and changing your lifestyle is an active process. It is about eating right and giving your body good nutrition."

It is this knowledge that he tries to impart to patients as medical director of the Michigan Weight Management Institute at Huron Valley-Sinai, which provides guidance in adjusting diet and lifestyle for weight loss.

Hale said that learning to give her body good nutritious foods was a key to her continued weight loss success. She credits Weight Watchers with educating her about food



Dr. Matthew Weiner

choices and showing her the improve her diet.

"It really was a complete me," she said. "I learned how to cook healthy foods for the re

Regular exercise was a cr ment to her success, but it v ercise to burn calories,"

"Being active and mo better. I was getting str good. Although it was a is amazing how quickly creases," she said.

Add exercise

In addition to the bene mobility and strength, one o roles exercise plays in weigh metabolism, Weiner noted.

"Exercise is very importa lism," he said. "As you age, y slows down."

Metabolism, the rate at w calories, is fueled by the nur you eat, he said.

It's one of the reasons to e ular, healthy meals, as oppos skipping a meal, as some diet encourage. If you don't, your body will go into its natural vation mode and slow your metabolism down, according to Dr.

Caroline Richardson, an associate professor of fan medicine speci in diabetes and at the Universit Michigan.

Regular exer raise your basal r rate, Richardson s that the effects of ex just 30 minutes a day significant impact.

"Increasing your help you burn calori you are sedentary," she said.

"That is why it is importar throughout the day. And it he the sluggish feeling."

Building muscle during ex important. "Muscles burn cal when you are not using them minute walk is a great way to cle and get your metabolism

Hale considers herself luc made lifestyle changes when

"The difference in my qua amazing," she said.



Dr. Caroline Richardson

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EXERCISE CAN BE FUN

RESOLVE TO GET MOVING

Exercise is not just about burning calories to lose weight – it is about building a stronger core, shaping muscle and gaining flexibility.

It is also about having fun.

Just ask Irene Ivanac of Garden City, owner of Strength and Spirit, LLC, specializing in corporate and in-home personal training.

Ivanac teaches a Hula Hoop® fitness class at Joy Fitness Studios in Canton.

Hula hooping is growing in popularity, Ivanac said, and "it is the most fun you will ever have getting fit."

It is also a low-impact, high-cardio workout. "Not only is it great for your core, it burn tons of calories, too," she said.

From beginners to pros, hula hooping is appropriate for all fitness levels, according to Ivanac.

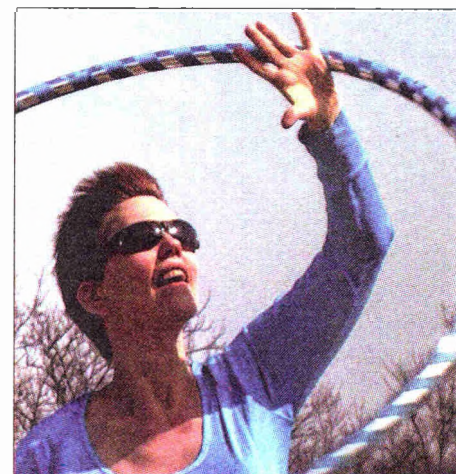
"Even if you were someone who was unable to use a Hula Hoop® as a child, you'll be surprised how easy and fun it is once you learn how to move your hips correctly," she said. "There are so many different ways to hoop and you can start out slow and work your way through the different areas. There is a move for everyone.

"It is the first workout that I have found that people laugh out loud while they are doing it," she added.

For Sam Felix, a physical rehabilitation trainer at the DMC Fitness Training Center in Detroit, consistent exercise really is key.

"You need to make sure you are doing it every day and let it become a habit that you enjoy," he said.

There are so many different ways to exercise and move, Felix said, it is important to find what suits you best.



Irene Ivanac, owner of Strength and Spirit, LLC, says hula hooping is "the most fun you will ever have getting fit."

If you do not want to go to a gym, there are many exercises that you can do at home – such as crunches and push-ups for strength training, Felix said.

However, whether you are at home or at the gym, the buzzwords in exercise are "high intensity" and "interval training," according to Felix.

"You need to find out what exercise you like to do and work at it vigorously for a specific amount of time," he said.

"You can slow down – for an interval – and then speed up again and repeat the cycle. It really yields some big results."

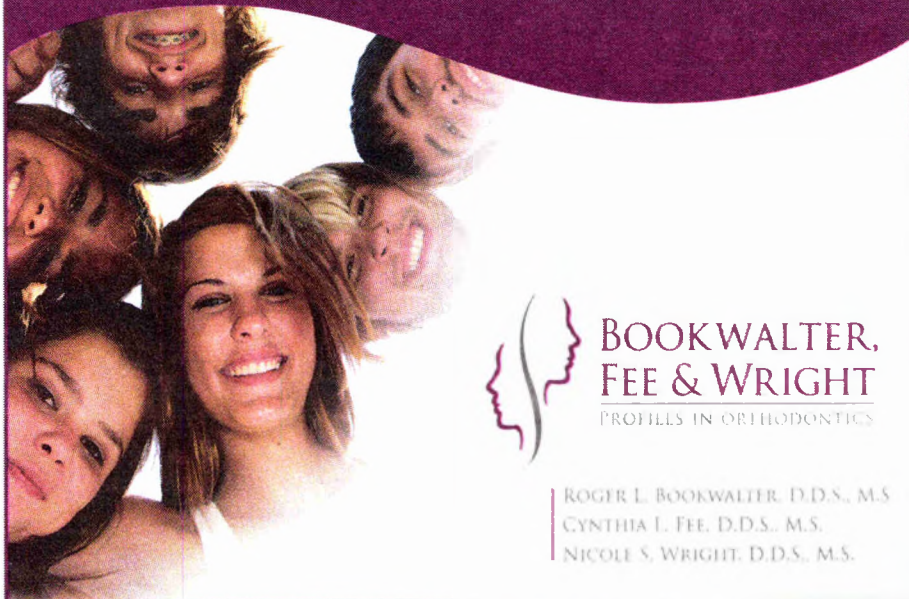
Felix recommends checking out the American College on Exercise fitness website at <http://www.acefitness.org/> to find exercises you might enjoy.

Desk jockeys might also be interested in the newest toy hitting offices across the nation: desk treadmills.

"A desk treadmill is a great way to keep moving throughout the day," Felix said. "Your upper body is free, so that you can type or whatever you need to do with your hands, but your lower body is in motion.

"You can erase that mid-day slump because you are moving all day long and keeping your energy levels up," he said, adding that it is possible to walk away from work feeling fully energized as a result.

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NEED CASH?

Should you tap your retirement account?

Since the housing and stock markets collapsed several years ago, millions of unemployed and even working Americans have found themselves in need of cash, either for short-term or longer-term expenses.

Those who have contributed regularly to a workplace retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or 403(b), may find it tempting to tap into those accounts to help cover their bills, either through a loan or a distribution. But before any preretirement withdrawal is made, it's important to know the facts and consider the consequences.

Your decision should be influenced, in part, by the severity of your needs and the tax implications of the option you choose.

Loans are not considered taxable distributions unless they fail to satisfy plan rules regarding the amount, duration, or repayment terms. But distributions (including hardship withdrawals) are generally taxable as ordinary income and workers who receive retirement plan distributions before reaching age 59½ may be required to pay an additional 10-percent early withdrawal penalty.

Loan considerations

When considering a loan, there are several rules to keep in mind. The IRS generally limits the amount of a loan to 50 percent of your vested account balance, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Most retirement plan loans must be repaid within five years, although loans used to purchase the participant's primary residence may be paid back over a longer period of time.

You may not be able to make new contributions to your plan until the loan is paid off. Additionally, loans are repaid with after-tax contributions and interest (usually 1-2 percent above the prime rate) is due.

It's important to remember that not all plans allow loans. A violation of any of the plan's loan rules may cause the loan to be treated as a taxable distribution.

Additionally, an employer may require participants who have taken a

loan to repay the entire amount immediately upon leaving the company, regardless of the original repayment schedule. If an ex-employee fails to do so, the employer is required to report the loan to the IRS as a distribution.

Hardship: Last resort

The government has made the rules around applying for and receiving a hardship withdrawal of your retirement plan assets difficult for a reason: it wants to ensure that the need for those funds is vital. Most plans allow a hardship only if all other means (including loans) have been exhausted.

Hardships can be taken if they meet certain requirements, including: Non-reimbursed medical expenses for you, your spouse, or dependents; purchase of a principal residence; payment of college tuition and related educational costs (such as room and board) for you, your spouse, dependents or non-dependent children; payments necessary to prevent eviction from your home or foreclosure on the mortgage of your principal residence; for funeral expenses; or certain expenses for the repair of damage to the employee's principal residence.

Ordinary income taxes (both federal and state, if applicable) are due on the withdrawal amount, but the 10-percent early withdrawal penalty may not apply in certain situations, such as when the distribution is made, because of a qualifying disability or to pay medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of the participant's adjusted gross income.

Others include due to a "separation from service" (i.e., ceased to be employed by the company sponsoring the plan) during or after the calendar year in which the participant reaches age 55, to an alternate payee under the terms of a qualified domestic relations order, or on account of certain disasters for which IRS relief has been granted.

Note also that a hardship withdrawal cannot be repaid into your account. Your retirement plan administrator and financial professional can help you determine your options.

Paula Swain CFP® is a financial consultant at Swain Financial, LLC, 39111 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Contact her at 734-552-7610.



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YUM!

Enjoy a slice of pie on National Pie Day

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Celebrate National Pie Day Jan. 23 by indulging in one of America's favorite desserts.

"Pie is the ultimate comfort food," said Larry Nygard, an owner of Blazo's Pies in Livonia.

An area institution that has been making pies since the early 1960s, Blazo's currently supplies local restaurants and groceries with its homemade pies that range from strawberry-rhubarb to sugar-free apple to lemon meringue.

"It's a simple food that people can relate to," he said. "Who doesn't love pie?"

Ken Treflick, owner of Grand Traverse Pie Co. in Plymouth, agrees.

"There are so many different types of pies and it comes in a myriad of flavors," he said. "There's really something for everyone."

Treflick offers 35 flavors of fruit pies, including blackberry peach crumb and a cherry ganache - a cherry crumb pie covered in a chocolate ganache - as well as a variety of cream pies.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, Grand Traverse Pie Co., 41640 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township, will mark the event by offering a free slice of pie with every meal purchase.

Achatz Handmade Pie Co. in Beverly Hills, 17736 W. 13 Mile Road, also has big plans. Every day leading up to Jan. 23, customers will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite variety. Choices range from Michigan four-berry to French silk to its signature cannoli cream pie, with a cream cheese-based filling with almonds and chocolate chips and topped with whipped cream and more almonds and chocolate chips, said Ashley Bainbridge, store manager.

"This is definitely a favorite," she said.

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Big Boy's famous fresh strawberry pies are still available, along with other varieties such as banana cream and chocolate cream.

Pies are always something to celebrate, said Spencer Edwards of Marv's Bakery in Brighton, 10730 Grand River, whose offerings include apple, cherry and blueberry along with coconut cream and chocolate cream.

Despite the many choices, Edwards said his tastes are simple.

"I like cherry pie made with Michigan cherries," he said. "It's the perfect blend of tart and sweet."

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Kearra M. DeJack, 12, of South Lyon won the title of Junior Miss Michigan Galaxy in 2013. COURTESY OF SYLK PHOTOGRAPHY

The new American TWEENAGER

Recently, a childhood friend posted a video on Facebook of one of my early dance performances from a city recital. Thanks for the humiliation, Kraig. But I have to admit, I got a pretty good laugh out of it. I remember being so much better.

I still hold my ground that I was a standout. But that's not saying much for today's standard. Every year the standard goes up and what used to be amazing is now just OK, not only with artistic performances, but with academics as well. As a first (and only) time mom of a new kindergartener, I'm concerned that my '80s education just might not cut it with "new new math." Thank goodness I'm marrying someone with an electrical engineering degree – at least Quin stands a chance.

Kids, especially girls, are growing up so much faster than in my day. In my 2½ decades in the beauty business, I've seen lots of changes, one of which is my clientele getting younger.



Barbara Deyo

The first time I got my makeup done was for my high school senior homecoming and I think that was pretty much normal. In the last 15 years, the average age for moms to start bringing in their daughters for makeup for special events was about 14. However, in recent years, I have

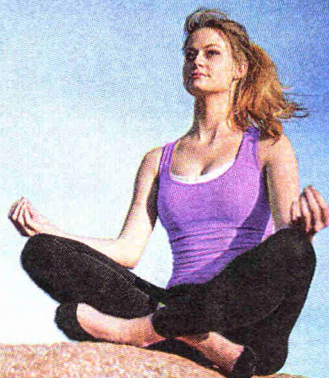
a new influx of 9- and 10-year-olds getting their brows shaped on a regular basis.

I'm not complaining or judging. I'm happy to get in at the ground level of their beauty maintenance and I certainly encourage moms to bring their girls in rather than taking matters into their own hands, literally. So I applaud them.

How do these tweens do it? Well, I happen to know one. Meet my cousin: Kearra Michaela DeJack, 12-year-old "Supertween."

See TWEENAGER, Page 14

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GOALS

Continued from Page 6

nars, social media and printed materials, so that it hits multi-generational communication methods. The health system is also maintaining a presence outside of its hospitals and going into churches, schools and other organizations where the community gathers.

Meyer also has some goals for the region's health care system overall. "My goal is that every person in southeastern Michigan has access to high-quality, low-cost health care and that everybody has a primary care physician," she said.

Camille Jayne, president and CEO of The Community House in Birmingham, admits her organization is not a basic-needs provider, but says it comes right after those needs.

"We are a nonprofit and our mission is to strengthen our community," she said. The Community House provides 1,000 educational and wellness courses annually for the community, as well as scholarships and free programs for at-risk youth, childhood obesity prevention and other outreach initiatives.

Jayne brought her corporate *savoir faire* to The Community House and took the organization from red to black in just 12 months. Now that the organization is out of debt, Jayne hopes to in-

crease its endowment fund by \$2 to \$3 million, she said.

"We want The Community House to be here another 90 years," Jayne said.

Jayne also has a dream for the Birmingham-Bloomfield area and beyond: "I would hope we could figure out how to work more as a unit - that we could come together to be more unified." By that, she means nonprofit and for-profit organizations working together and nonprofits supporting each other's goals, she said.

Cynthia Kabza Vercruyse, vice chair of Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle in Canton, also has a fundraising goal for her organization, which funds initiatives that address the needs of women and children in Canton and Plymouth.

"Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 for the preschool program for 3-year-old children to help off-set tuition for families who are struggling financially," she said. Since the 3-year-old scholarship program ended last year, this age group needs the most help, she explained.

Kabza Vercruyse is also working to increase awareness about Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle and to increase membership.

"Giving back to people and organizations in this community is a key component of our mission and we strive to lead by example," she said. "Sometimes all someone needs is a little boost to help

them overcome a problem. Quietly and little by little, we are making a difference in the lives of people who live here."

Managing business

In the for-profit sector, **Jennifer (Newmyer) Mangin** of Newmyer Distinctive Remodeling in Walled Lake has a goal of controlled growth. Mangin, who's taking a more active role in managing the family business this year, said business has picked up in the last six months and the company needs to be disciplined about how much work it takes on.

"Today, we are back up to full staff like we were prior to 2007, so while our business grows, we have to make sure we are communicating with our customers and keeping our jobs on schedule," Mangin said. "That takes a lot of internal work to make sure we are properly organized."

Newmyer Remodeling is also renovating its showroom and the front of its building to give it more of a retail presence, Mangin said.

Mangin's personal goal, she said, is to balance work and family life, especially as the company grows. "One of my challenges has been to tell myself it's time to go home," she said. "My kids (ages 15 and 14) are growing fast and I really do not want to miss it. No job is worth missing that."

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TWEENAGER

Continued from Page 12

I'm not biased – just blessed – to be related to such a beautiful girl, inside and out.

I've had the pleasure of grooming Kearra's brows and doing her makeup for most of the big events in her life to date. Family perk. I was honored to be in attendance for her crowning as 2013 Junior Miss Michigan Galaxy and again for her for third runner-up achievement in Orlando this past summer at the International Galaxy Pageant.

In trying to get a good idea of Kearra's "normal" schedule, I got dizzy just hearing it all. I applaud her parents, as well. Dad Michael is a senior technical specialist with AVL, an engineering consulting company. Mom Laurie is a global IT manager at Ford Motor Co. A day in the life of the DeJack family is very busy.

BD: Kearra, how do you do it all? Tell me about the activities you are involved in outside of school.

KD: The only way I can do it is with lots of help from my family – including you, Barb. And I'm so grateful for all the support I get from my family. I'm a straight A student at Millennium Middle School in South Lyon, where I am

also a member of the Student Council and volunteer with Active Faith. I have been involved in competitive cheer-leading for four years and my team has qualified and placed at nationals three times.

I take cheer tumbling classes each week. I have a horse named J.R. and I ride, train and compete in English hunter jumper equestrian competitions. I am a Scottish Highland dancer and take lessons weekly in St. Louis, Mich., and practice daily.

In May, I competed and won the Midwest championship in the 12-and-under-14 age group and I had the honor to represent the Midwest at the United States Inter-regional Competition, placing fourth in the Highland Fling against the top dancers in the United States.

I traveled to Scotland this past August to compete in the Cowal Gathering Open Championship against the top Highland dancers from around the world. I placed seventh overall in my age category.

I dance for fun and to show people about my heritage at local events. I recently signed a modeling contract with Your Entourage Agency and just modeled in my first big fashion show, "Walk Fashion Show" at the Michigan Science Center.

I also volunteer my time to help animals at the Midwest Rabbit Rescue

Bunny Shelter in Northville, where I clean cages, feed, groom and exercise bunnies. At my prior barn I volunteered my time with CANTER, helping to rehab, retrain and adopt out thoroughbred ex-race horses. I also support fundraising for "Lope for Hope" an organization that helps equestrians with breast cancer.

I enjoy spending time with my cats Yin Yang, Tiger and Lily and my dogs Ghillie and Midnight. I also enjoy journaling, reading, writing poetry, water skiing, riding snowmobiles and spending time with my family.

Dizzy? Me, too. So let's talk to mom now.

BD: Laurie, what's it feel like to be the super-mom of such an accomplished "super-tween"? She has some amazing accolades to her name, especially at such a young age.

LD: Whenever your child sets a goal, works really hard toward it and then attains it, you feel immense pride.

Kearra makes it easy because she is very organized – she has to be with her schedule – and academics always come first. She is involved in a lot of varied activities and she really cares about the world around her.

I have to admit when she wanted to enter a pageant, it wasn't something I was eager to jump into. However, we approached it as another learning experience.

I learned the skills are transferable and as a queen people are eager to hear your thoughts. So you have an opportunity to be a role model for others.

BD: The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Kearra competes in many different arenas. What's your favorite part of the competition process?

LD: My favorite part of the process is watching my daughter grow and take on new challenges. She prepares herself completely whenever she does anything. She sets a goal, she researches and analyzes, she makes a plan and decides what's important to her and she executes her plan. She is constantly evolving as a young woman and it's exciting and fun to watch.

I still have no idea how they do it all, but one thing I do know – they look darn good while they are at it. Family perk.

Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio for face and body, is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington, Shaun Robinson and more. She has been named Best of the Best by Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave, 2nd floor, in downtown Birmingham. Readers can contact her at 248-203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com.

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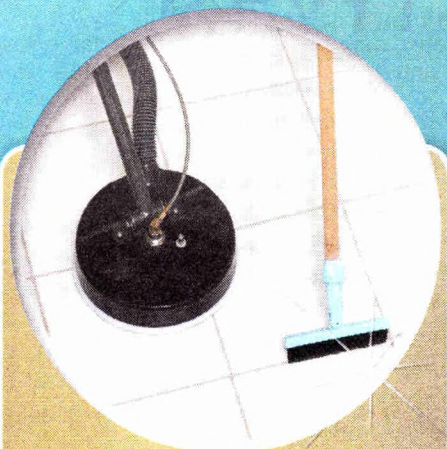


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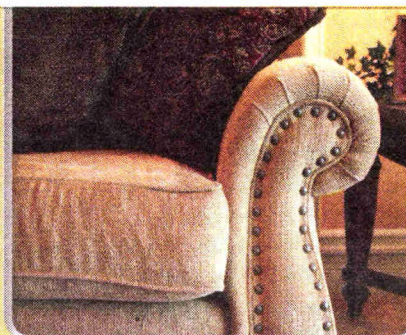


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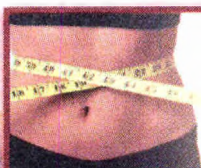
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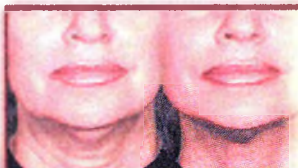
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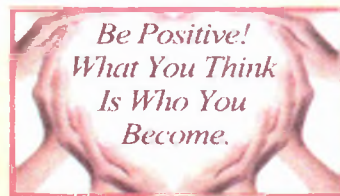
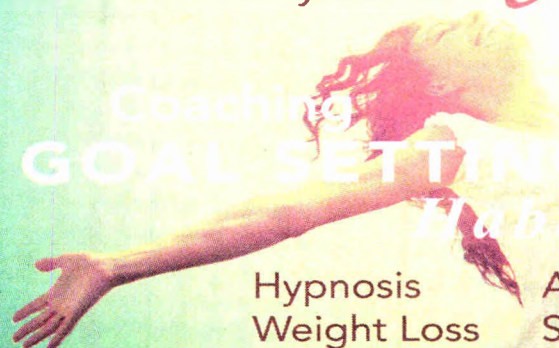
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