

Burning smell leads to brief school evacuation

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Students were temporarily evacuated Monday morning from St. Peter's Lutheran School in Plymouth when a mechanical problem sent a burning smell into the building.

Capt. Jim Davison of the Northville City Fire Department's Plymouth Station said responding firefighters found the drive belt on a blower motor located on the school's roof had seized up, causing a smell of burning rubber that got into the building through the duct work. A duct work alarm system had registered the problem, he said; there was no fire.

Students were taken from the school, which is on Penniman, to the nearby church building as a precaution. Instruction continued in the church during the incident, said Paul Pappenfuss, principal of the 27-student school.

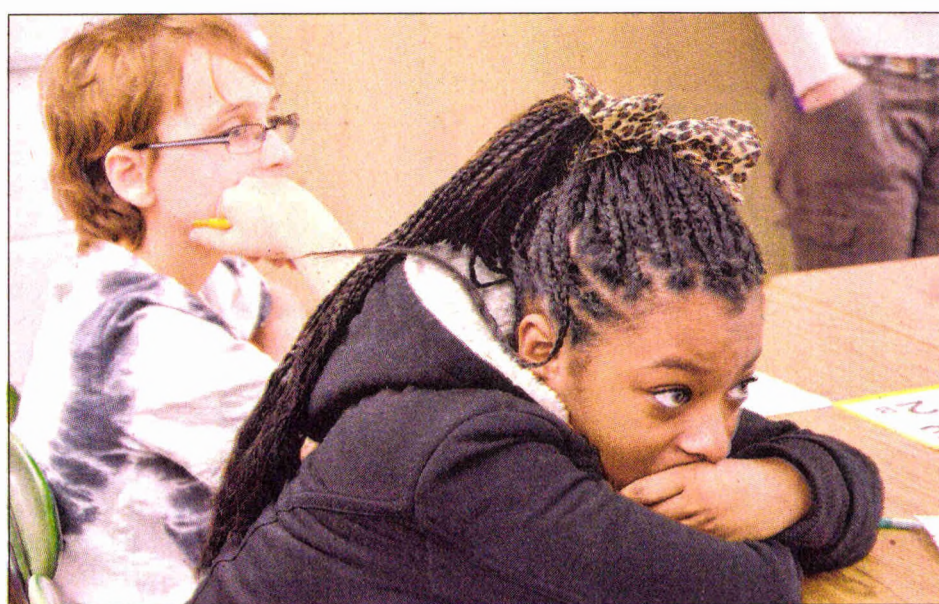
The NCFD sent seven firefighters to the school, arriving just before 11 a.m. and clearing the scene just before noon, Davison said. Students were taken back into the school at around the same time firefighters left, he said.

The school was taking steps Monday to have the problem corrected. The school building did not go unheated, Davison said, as other heating units continued to operate.

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CORRECTION

A story in the Sunday, Feb. 2, *Observer* should have said that public forums on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' boundary study are scheduled for Feb. 13, March 20 and April 10. All three forums are scheduled to start at 7 p.m. at Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford, in Canton.



Kelli Williams and Dominic Burke listen to poet and veteran Dennis Leahy. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POET

Continued from Page A1

sa Mosquera's classes Tuesday, answering questions both about his poetry and his service. The poem tells about other soldiers Leahy met on the battlefield and off, each one a hero with no regrets.

The poem, titled *Purple Heart*, was inspired by Leahy's fellow veterans who also won the Purple Heart, including his friend Jim Vogt of West Branch, a former prisoner of war who, despite suffering torture at the hands of the enemy, told Leahy he'd "do it all over again for his country."

Mosquera likes to have her students dig into the poetry they study - she calls it "carrot farmers hard at work" - to find the poet's true meaning and not just look at the "fluff" of the poem. Students studied Leahy's poem before his visit and peppered him with questions about its meaning and his military career.

The "digging for carrots" study format has the students - who to that point, Mosquera said, thought of poetry mostly in the "roses are red, violets are blue" vein - looking more deeply at things.

"As sixth-graders, it's new to them that they need to think deeper," Mosquera said. "What an amazing opportunity to have the poet come in and hear our analysis and to see if we dug up the



One of the two Purple Heart medals Dennis Leahy received for wounds suffered in Vietnam.

right carrots."

Leahy served with the 9th Division, 631st Infantry. He was wounded by a land mine after volunteering to "walk point" through the jungle with a visibly shaking new soldier. To walk point means to be a human bomb detector, the first person through an area, Leahy said.

Leahy spent eight months in Army hospitals recovering. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic or meritorious achievement and the Purple Heart for being wounded in combat.

Leahy said he spends a lot of his time now as part of various veterans groups, working to help current veterans returning home from their respective conflicts.

"(Vietnam vets) came

home to abuse," Leahy said. "Still, it's Vietnam vets who are helping the vets coming home. We walked their walk, so we can reach out to help them."

For about four hours Tuesday, students peppered Leahy with questions about the poem and the various people in it. Leahy said he wrote it for those in the poem.

"I wanted people to know how special they were," Leahy said.

Leahy admitted to a few nerves before talking to the students.

"It's just fascinating what I wrote touched them," Leahy said. "It's amazing, their intellect at this age. Their questions were right on."

Staff writer Karen Smith contributed to this story.

PCAC

Continued from Page A1

art on display at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts

(named for a PCAC founder and the mother of actor Tom Hulce), listen to piano music by Rose Paulus and guitar music by Jeff Davis and one of his students and examine scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, photographs and other items depicting events in the organization's past.

"It was a nice excuse to get those out and look back to see where we came from," Howard said.

Community support

The auction included gift baskets, art supplies and original works by PCAC artists and instructors. Howard estimated that about \$3,000 was netted for the organization.

"We've got great community support," she said. "People got some good deals on some beautiful original art."

The PCAC is home to the offices and rehearsal space of the Michigan Philharmonic, hosts concerts by the BaseLine Folk Society and provides gallery space for regional artists. It also sponsors regular classes and youth camps in visual and performing arts.

The February exhibit is called Milestones, featuring artwork by patients in the pediatric rehabilitation program at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. An opening reception is planned for 4-6 p.m. Sunday.

Howard, who was named the PCAC's executive director last summer, said she is planning other themed events for later this year as a way of bringing newcomers to the organization.

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Helen Micus, 101, was fond of travel, fashion

She spanned globe with late husband

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Helen Micus, a Plymouth Township centenarian known for her sense of style and love of travel, died Jan. 28, six days short of her 102nd birthday.

Mrs. Micus had lived for many years in Detroit before moving to the township more than 30 years ago with her husband Ed, a World War II veteran who had retired from the Detroit Police Department.

Granddaughter Judith Kies of Commerce Township said Mrs. Micus' fashionable air fit well with her career as a saleswoman in local department stores, including a Sears in Detroit and a Crowley's in Livonia.

"She was always glamorous, always well-dressed," Kies said.

The Micuses traveled the country and the world extensively during a 52-year marriage. Ed Micus kept notes about their travels, including details on what routes they took and how much they spent on dinners.

"She went to Greece, she went to Asia, to California," Kies said. "They would do six-week world trips."

"We had a good life," Mrs. Micus said in 2012, as her 100th birthday approached. Ed Micus died in 2009.

Mrs. Micus had grown up with two brothers and a sister in Detroit, where their



Mrs. Micus

father was a builder. She had a brief marriage in the 1930s and lived in California for a short time before returning to Detroit to raise her son William as a single mother, with help from her parents.

In recent years, Kies said, her grandmother was cared for by "four of the most wonderful caretakers you could ever imagine" - Shirley Shelton, Connie Noe, Linda Brock and Midge Amoro.

In addition to Kies, Mrs. Micus is survived by another granddaughter, Nancy Roye, a grandson, William Ax Jr., and great-grandchildren Austin Kies and Brandon and Samantha Roye. She was preceded in death by her son, William Ax Sr.

Services were Friday at Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home in Livonia.

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VALUES

Continued from Page A1

construction," particularly in detached condominium projects, Reaume said. Such projects aren't at the permitting stage, Reaume said, but developers have been bringing plans for them to township hall.

In the city of Plymouth, the trend lately has been for people to buy existing houses, tear them down and build new, larger ones, said Shelby Fulkerson, a Realtor and the broker-owner at Hub Realty Solutions in downtown Plymouth.

Houses priced at between \$200,000 and \$250,000 sell especially fast in Plymouth, Fulkerson noted.

"I think the trend is moving toward city-central a little bit," Fulkerson said. People shopping for a home, she added, are looking for things in the community they can do that are close to where they'll live: "People are looking toward a lifestyle."

In the Plymouths, she said, those attractions include downtown, the farmers market, public events, access to area freeways, the park system and the Plymouth-Canton Community School District.

Market forces

Fulkerson said the residential market in the Plymouths should be stable for the coming year. "We might see a little bit of an uptick, but not too much," she said.

In Plymouth Township, the increase in residential values was offset by declines in the value of industrial properties (down more than 5.5 percent) and in commercial properties (down about 1.5 percent), the county's numbers show.

Reaume said he's seeing interest by companies in building new industrial buildings in the township, rather than buying or leasing existing buildings, a sign that that market might be reviving.

"With the consumer confidence and the pick-up in the economy, companies are willing to invest in ... new industrial construction," he said.

In the city of Plymouth, industrial property, of which there is little, was down more than 9.3 percent. Commercial property, on the other hand, was up 4.1 percent. Changes in average commercial and industrial values were based on appraisals rather than sales studies.

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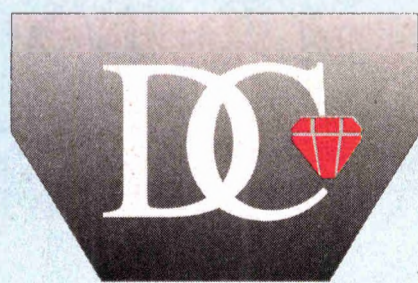
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Woman killed in traffic likely drinking

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A 35-year-old Canton mother apparently had been drinking alcohol before she was struck and killed Friday night by a pickup truck while she was darting in and out of traffic on Haggerty north of Michigan Avenue, police said.

"We believe she had been drinking," Canton police Lt. Pat Sullivan said Monday.

Witnesses told police the woman had been walking back and forth across Haggerty before she was struck by a 1994 Dodge Dakota driven by a 48-year-old Canton man.

"Witnesses were saying that she appeared to be stepping in and out of traffic intentionally," Sullivan said.

Authorities haven't named her. Police were called to the scene around 9 p.m. Friday.

The woman was rushed to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, where she was later pronounced dead.

The pickup truck driver and his wife were released at the scene, Sullivan said, describing the driver as "very distraught."

The Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team was called to the scene. Officers have turned their findings over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, which is normal procedure following a traffic-related fatality.

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Judge: 'Thank God you were a lousy shot'

By L.L. Brasier
Gannett Michigan

A judge Tuesday morning said she was sympathetic about his mental illness, but nevertheless sent I-96 shooter Raulie Casteel to prison for up to 10 years.

"Thank God you were a lousy shot, because in this case nobody was actually injured," Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford Morris told Casteel as he stood shackled, in orange jail garb, as five armed deputies stood nearby. "Mental illness is a difficult challenge, but it is something you have to seek help for before you engage in criminal activities."

Casteel, 44, terrorized motorists along the I-96 corridor for several days in October 2012, shooting at cars across four counties. Following his arrest, he was diagnosed with a serious mental illness, that included delusions. Casteel told investigators he was shooting at cars because he believed they were part of a government conspiracy against him.

Casteel sat quietly in court as the judge ordered him to spend 80 months to 120 months in a Michigan prison. He must also serve an additional two years on a firearms charge. The



Casteel

sentence was part of a plea deal with prosecutors, where Casteel was allowed to plead guilty but mentally ill to nine counts of assault with intent to cause great bodily harm less than murder.

When the judge asked if he had anything to say, Casteel declined.

Earlier in the hearing, his attorney Douglas Mullkoff told the court his client was a victim of mental illness that took away his free will. The illness struck Casteel in mid-life, with no warning, and went undiagnosed until after his arrest. "Raulie Casteel did not chose mental illness, it chose him," Mullkoff

said, as Casteel's family sat quietly in the courtroom. "This was the hand he was dealt with out of the blue."

There were no victims in the courtroom. Casteel's family members declined to speak as they left the courtroom.

Casteel admitting shooting at cars in Oakland, Ingham, Shiawassee and Livingston counties over the span of several days. Investigators believe he was responsible for 23 shootings.

Last week, a Livingston County jury convicted him of terrorism for shootings there. He faces up to life in prison when sentenced March 3.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Heroin bust

Canton police found small packs of heroin in a 21-year-old Westland woman's purse after she lost control of her 2003 Dodge Caravan and skidded into a snow bank on Hannan Road north of Koppernick, a police report said.

The incident happened about 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Police noticed the vehicle was stopped and blocking most of Hannan Road, with a woman standing near it. She told police she was driving south on Hannan and lost control of the van.

The woman didn't have a license and a police report described her speech as slurred. Police learned she had a warrant out of Novi for retail fraud and arrested her for driving with a suspended license, a report said. The vehicle was impounded.

The woman asked police to get her purse from the vehicle before she was arrested. In it, police found several small pieces of folded white paper containing heroin. She told police she had been off drugs for several months, but later said she buys it from a house in Detroit. She was facing charges.

Store fight

Police arrested a 33-year-old Westland man after receiving reports he was fighting with loss prevention employees at the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz.

The incident happened about 9:30 p.m. last Thursday. Store employees pinned the man against a wall outside the store until police arrived.

Store personnel had been performing surveillance when the man was seen taking a

package of tape and placing it in his left pocket. Under further investigation, it was learned the man had been involved in fraudulent activity.

The man is accused of buying a new laptop computer and then returning an old computer in the new box, without a receipt, to get money. Later, he tried to return the new computer with a receipt but without a box, the police report said.

The case remained under investigation.

Pursuit, capture

A man arrested for trying to steal electronics components from the Walmart store on Ford Road told police he was trying to take the items and sell them to pay his bills, a police report said.

Police went to the store

amid reports the suspect had tussled with employees before he got into a vehicle driven by a woman about 8 p.m. last Thursday. The man had been accused of trying to steal three hard drives, but he left the items behind when approached by employees.

Police stopped the alleged getaway vehicle near Lotz Road. The female driver was cited for driving with a suspended license. Police found items in the car similar to those the male suspect had tried to steal from the Walmart store, a police report said.

The man was arrested and police learned he had two prior felony convictions and a prior retail fraud.

Probation violation

A woman notified Canton

police after she saw a man lying in the snow next to Haggerty Road north of Cherry Hill about 11:45 p.m. Sunday.

Turns out the 44-year-old Canton man was drunk and had been to a bar, in violation of a probation order out of Oakland County, where he had been earlier arrested for driving while impaired, a police report said.

Police arrived on the scene and found the man trying to stand up and stumbling, with blood and holes in the knee area of his jeans. He refused medical care.

Police ran a background check and learned the man was on probation. He was arrested and issued a citation to appear in 35th District Court for public intoxication.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Vehicle theft

A 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer was stolen from Lou La Riche Chevrolet, on Plymouth Road at Haggerty in Plymouth Township, the afternoon of Jan. 29.

A Plymouth Township Police Department report said the theft occurred shortly before 4

p.m. It was unclear how the vehicle had been accessed; the dealership still had both sets of keys, police said.

An employee told police a man had been looking at the Trailblazer shortly before it was stolen and that he couldn't be found when it was discovered the vehicle was

missing.

Tool theft

Tools — a concrete drill and a saw — and a generator were reported stolen Jan. 27 from National Concrete Products, on Mill Street in the township.

The items were discovered missing earlier that day and

they had last been seen by an employee the afternoon of Jan. 23, a police report said.

There were no signs of forced entry at the building, police said.

Snowblower theft

A new snowblower was reported stolen Jan. 23 from

the Henry Ford Medical Center complex on Beck Road north of M-14.

The snowblower had been kept inside a loading dock, a police report said. It had last been seen the evening of Jan. 22.

— By Matt Jachman

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Canton man's sentencing delayed to Feb. 19

Plea deal could mean 20 years

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The Canton man accused of flipping homes in Wayne County illegally and turning a profit has had his sentencing date pushed back a week and new bond conditions imposed.

Samer Salami, 33, is scheduled to go before Circuit Judge David Groner at 9 a.m. Feb. 19 in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. Salami pleaded no contest last fall to the 12 charges he faced, which included conducting a criminal enterprise, embezzlement of \$100,000 or more, using a computer to commit a crime and false pretenses of \$20,000 or more. Salami faces up to 20

years in prison with the plea. A no contest plea in court is not an admission of guilt, but is treated as such during sentencing. During a hearing Jan. 29 before Groner, some bond conditions were also changed. Salami is currently out on bond, including a \$1 million personal bond. In addition, Salami is required to wear a tether while out on bond. Salami was originally

charged in Redford's 17th District Court last year, when Wayne County prosecutors announced they had enough evidence against him. He was arraigned in January 2013 on the charges in Redford, the community where he worked. Officials alleged Salami used his real estate position with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae to have the companies purchase homes in the area that

had low price tags. Officials say Salami then steered the companies to sell those homes for a higher price to another company that was essentially run by Salami, with the profits going to himself. Officials say Salami made more than \$265,000 over a three-year span that resulted in more than 20 homes being sold. The homes were located in Detroit and Dearborn

Heights, as well as two in Redford Township. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said in a release when charges were announced the case against Salami was the first local prosecution in the country involving a criminal enterprise with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. dveselenak@hometownlife.com 313-222-5379

Plymouth native plans to fill steins in South Lyon

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

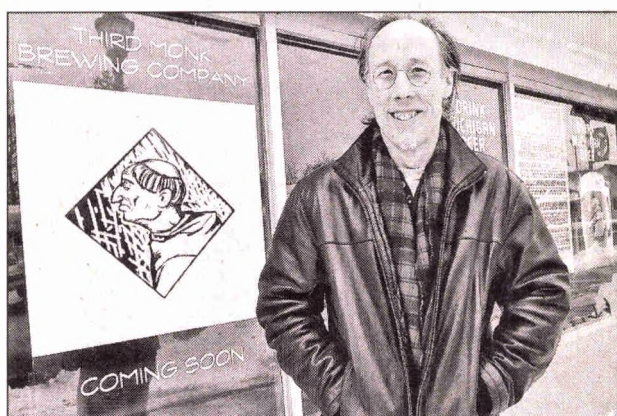
A second brewer is hoping to start filling beer mugs by summer in downtown South Lyon.

If everything goes as planned, Third Monk Brewing Co. will open at Lafayette and Liberty this spring. Owners Darlene Dunlop and Jeff Robinson cleared their first hurdle last month by getting approval from the South Lyon City Council.

Robinson said he isn't walking too far away from his past job as a record producer and recording engineer, working on records by Toad the Wet Sprocket and Static X, as well as the engineering spot on the Friends TV show theme I'll Be There For You by the Rembrandts.

"The same care taken creating those hits after countless hours in the studio will be brought to focus on hand-crafting beer for the South Lyon community," said Robinson, who grew up in Plymouth, moved to Los Angeles and now lives in Salem. He also plans to host local entertainment on weekends.

They chose South Lyon "for its small-town community and foot traffic," he said. The target cus-



Jeff Robinson plans to open Third Monk Brewing Co., a microbrewery, in the building next to the South Lyon Bakery in the city. HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

tomers are age 25-50 and "anyone who is seeking flavor in their beer," Robinson said.

"The idea is to help grow the community," he said. "We look forward to helping connect the dots in the area from business to business."

The microbrewery will focus on liquid refreshments and customers will be able to carry-in food from nearby restaurants. Third Monk also plans to deliver direct-to-doorsteps for those 21 and older.

The next hurdles they need to clear are getting a microbrewers license from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and final federal approval from the Bureau of Alco-

hol Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives.

Start out small

Robinson and Dunlop plan to start small by producing 138 to 340 barrels of beer annually. The estimated annual gross income range for the early stages of this operation will be around \$85,000 and potentially grow to \$200,000, according to an outline of intended goals the company gave to city council.

The business will employ three people initially and hire as many as 12 people in the future. The owners also hope to have sidewalk tables and a rear patio area.

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Christensen fundraiser



Last July, both the Northville and Novi communities were rocked by the tragic death of Lisa Christensen. She was killed by her estranged husband, who then took his own life, leaving two communities shocked and numerous family members, friends and the endless number of people Christensen touched through her involvement in local sports, reeling and searching for answers. Many who knew Christensen are now planning a wine tasting and silent auction fundraiser in her honor. Committee members (from left) Jamie Tran, Sue Jostes, Eric Brucker and Kim Yaggi gather at Genitti's to organize auction items like this jersey, signed by Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson. The fundraiser will be held 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Genitti's Hole in the Wall in downtown Northville. Tickets are \$100. The ticket includes wine tasting and appetizers. Tickets can be purchased by calling Genitti's at 248-349-0522 or online at www.conta.cc/1byUXIM.

Friends of Rouge seek help for annual frog survey

This year's first frog calls will be a welcome relief from a long snowy winter, signaling warmer days to come. In a sure sign that spring is coming, Friends of the Rouge is recruiting volunteers for the 17th annual Rouge Frog & Toad Survey.

Learning which frog makes which call is the main skill volunteers must master for the survey, which has been conducted since 1998. According to Sally Petrella, volunteer monitoring program manager for Friends of the Rouge, learning and hearing the calls is what most volunteers enjoy about the survey. "Tuning into spring and developing an understanding about what and why these small creatures chorus into the

night is an enjoyable experience that people learn through the survey and will enjoy for the rest of their lives."

To participate in the survey, volunteers must attend one, two-hour training workshop held in March. Surveyors are provided with a CD of the calls and are assigned their own survey area, which must be within the Rouge River watershed. Surveys are conducted independently on warm spring evenings after dark. The survey will take place from March through mid-May. Interested volunteers need to preregister for a workshop.

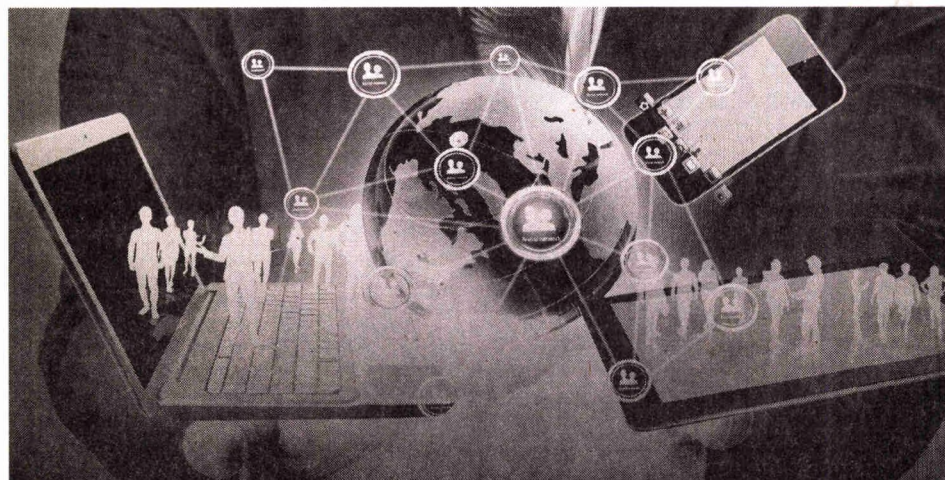
This year's workshops will be held: » 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, Canton Summit

on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway

» 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 8, Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile

» 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15, Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile

The presence of frogs and toads is used as an indicator of wetland health as the animals disappear when wetlands are too polluted. Healthy wetlands support diverse assemblages of amphibians. To learn more about findings from the survey, visit the FOTR website at www.therouge.org. The survey is funded through a grant from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project and local Rouge communities.



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Bill allowing mandatory drug gets through committee

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

State Rep. John Walsh is hoping a bill he introduced that would allow families to file a court petition to force their loved one into substance abuse treatment before they hurt themselves or others will be law sometime this summer.

The Livonia lawmaker said he expected his substance abuse involuntary treatment bill to go to the House floor this week for a second reading after it passed the House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 30.

Walsh first introduced the proposed legislation back in May 2012, after he met Mark and Carol Garofoli of Livonia, whose 22-year-old son committed suicide while addicted to heroin. The son could no longer think rationally and had walked out of a rehab facility in Memphis, Mich., just two weeks prior to his death. His parents, and everyone else, were powerless to stop him because he was over age 18.

Mark Garofoli, who has been following the bill's progress and held an online petition drive to drum up support for it, is encouraged with this latest development, though he said he has been frustrated at how long it has taken to get this far.

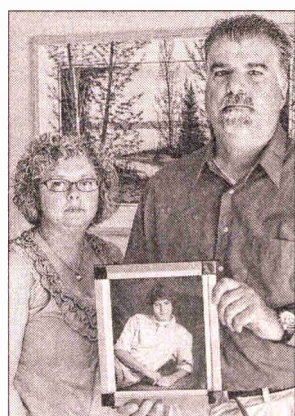
"Every day there's got to be somebody that needs the help," he said, citing as an example actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, who was found dead of an apparent heroin overdose Feb. 2.

"That's why it's so frustrating for me," he said. "The political wheels are turning way too slow for me."

Walsh said several changes have been made to the bill since he first presented it to the House Judiciary Committee and every change has made it better.

Chief among those changes have been improved language to better protect individual rights and guard against someone being wrongfully committed. "It's been a long time coming, but for good reason," he said.

Walsh said he met



Mark and Carol Garofoli hold a portrait of their son Mark, who committed suicide while addicted to heroin. His parents had no legal authority to force him to get treatment. FILE PHOTO

with House Judiciary Committee members, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Probate Judges Association and the Michigan Association of Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies, among others, and addressed all of the concerns raised by the House Judiciary Committee, which approved HB 4486 with a near-unanimous vote.

Walsh, who is term-limited and in his final year serving in the state House, said he hopes the bill will be to the Senate by Tuesday and to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk by June 30.

He said he was unaware of the need for involuntary treatment for substance abuse until he met the Garofolis. "Their story was so compelling," he said. After researching it and meeting with the various stakeholders, "I felt I could do something," he said.

The bill was modeled after the Marchman Act in Florida, as well as similar laws in other states such as Ohio.

Walsh introduced his proposed legislation May 24, 2012, the one-year anniversary of the Garofolis' son's death.

By the time it becomes law, if it does, three years will have passed since that tragic day.

While that's a lot longer than Garofoli wanted or expected, final passage of the bill is the ultimate goal. "It's worth the wait if it happens," Garofoli said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com
313-222-2098

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Depending on your age, this is either the worst winter ever, or just an old-fashioned Michigan winter. The Detroit area got pounded again, as you can see in this Wednesday mid-morning view of I-96 in Livonia. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Heise hours

Date: Monday, Feb. 10
Locations/Times: 10-11 a.m., Parthenon Coney Island, 39910 Ford, Canton; noon to 1 p.m., Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady; 3-4 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main.

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REPKURT or email kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

Hospice presentation

Date/Time: Friday, Feb. 21, 10-11 a.m.

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

Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging will host Harbor Hospice with the presentation topic "Five Wishes Advance Directives: Making Your Wishes Known." The presentation will cover the importance of completing an advance directive document to make your medical, personal, emotional and spiritual wishes known.

Contact: For more information or to RSVP, contact Bobbie Pummill at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

Blues @ the Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7-10 p.m.

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

Details: Blues @ The Elks happens on the second Tuesday of each month. There is a \$5 donation at the door. Benny Reeves & the Paul Carey Trio will be featured. Vocalist Benny Reeves is the brother of Martha Reeves and Paul Carey on guitar has worked with many of Detroit's blues and jazz stars. Also playing will be Mark LoDuca on keys and Max Bauhof on drums.

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

Jazz @ the Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7-10 p.m.

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

Details: Jazz @ The Elks happens on the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Featured will be Cliff

Monear Trio with vocalist Stephenie Monear, Monear on keyboards, Jeff Pedraz on bass and Scott Kretzer on drums.

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

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations:

» Friday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Compuware Sports Arena, 14900 Beck, Plymouth

» Monday Feb. 17, 1-6:45 p.m., Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon

» Sunday, Feb. 23, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth

» Monday, Feb. 24, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors blood drives at the above locations. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: Call Diane Risko at 313-549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

Youth spelling bee

Date/Time: Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford, Canton

Details: The Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council hosts a Youth Spelling Bee featuring local fourth- and fifth-grade students. The Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council is a local, non-profit organization that provides free tutors to adults with literacy skills below a ninth-grade level. Proceeds from this spelling bee will benefit the group's adult literacy programs. Students interested in participating in the bee must register online <http://www.plymouth-cantonliteracy.org/get-involved/fundraising>. Participation is limited to the first 15 students to register.

Contact: Questions may be directed to amy@plymouth-cantonliteracy.org.

Baby shower

Date/Time: Through the month of March

Location: Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth

Details: Plymouth Community United Way is planning a baby shower and everyone is invited. Individuals as well as companies, service clubs, and churches can join in the fun by donating new bottles, formula, bibs, crib sheets, blankets (handmade accepted), diapers, baby clothes up to size 3T, convertible car

seats, cribs, strollers, and monitors. The items will be distributed to low-income mothers in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County. PCUW is offering a range of ways to participate from dropping off items at the office to holding a special event like a baby shower. Donations can be brought to Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Contact: Randi Williams at 734-453-6879, ext. 7, or randi.williams@pcuw.org

Book signing

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 8, 1-3 p.m.

Location: Biggby Coffee, 400 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Authors Scott J. Karr and Joseph B. Markusic will be available to sign copies of their book, *In the Company of Perfection*.

Contact: 877-727-0697 or Michelle Whitman at michelle@keymgc.com.

New Morning open house

Date/Time: Sunday, Feb. 9, 1-2 p.m.

Location: New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: New Morning School will host an open house for prospective families interested in preschool through eighth grade. Directly following, 2-3:30 p.m., will be the school's annual Museum Experience, which showcases students and their work on self-selected research topics and projects.

Contact: www.newmorningschool.org or call 734-420-3331.

VFW craft show

Date/Time: Sunday, April 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: VFW Post 6695, Plymouth

Details: The VFW Plymouth post 6695 Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a craft show. Rental tables are available for \$25.

Contact: Leslie at the VFW, 734-459-6700, for more details.

Love Thy Neighbor

Dates/Times: Through Feb. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday

Details: The Salvation Army's Food Pantry is asking its neighbors to "Love Thy Neighbor" by donating specific items to the food pantry. Among items they're looking for are deodorant and shaving items, toilet paper, body soap, dish soap, detergent, shampoo and condi-

tioner, Hamburger Helper, canned chicken and tuna.

Contact: Email Laurie Aren at laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org or call 734-453-5464.

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 Five and Drum Corps. The ticket price of \$75 per person includes appetizers, a plated gourmet dinner and dessert; a cash bar will also be available. Tickets can be purchased at the museum during open hours or online at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/A-Night-FOR-the-Museum_ET118.html?Sort-Box=201402 using PayPal. Tickets should be purchased by Feb. 7.

Contact: 734-455-8940.

Toastmasters move

Date/Time: Each Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Cherry Hill, Canton

Details: Canton Communicators Toastmasters Club is changing its meeting place to Rose's Restaurant. Guests are welcome and appreciated. Toastmasters officials say the club is "an inexpensive way to gain communication skills, confidence and leadership training." More information is available at www.cantoncommunicators.com

Contact: Robert Birch by email at rbirch12002@yahoo.com

Vendor fair

Date/Time: Saturday, March 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Canton High School cafeteria, 8415 N. Canton Center, Canton

Details: The Project Graduation vendor fair will feature a variety of vendors to address all graduation party needs, including tents, inflatables, photo booths, caterers, bakeries and more. There will also be a variety of vendors available for visitors to shop, including Tastefully Simple, Tupperware, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Scentsy Fragrance Warmers, Mary Kay, Velata Chocolate Warmers and more. Proceeds will benefit the Senior All-Night Party. Admission is free.

Crafters needed

Date/Time: Aug. 30-31

Location: Old St. Patrick Catholic Church, 5671 Whitmore Lake Road, Ann Arbor

Details: Crafters are needed for Old St. Patrick's 38th annual Labor Day Weekend Festival, which will now include an Arts & Crafts Show. Artisans interested in participating as a vendor can visit the church's website (www.stpatricka2.org) and send in the application.

Contact: Carla or Jeanine at ospfestival@gmail.com.

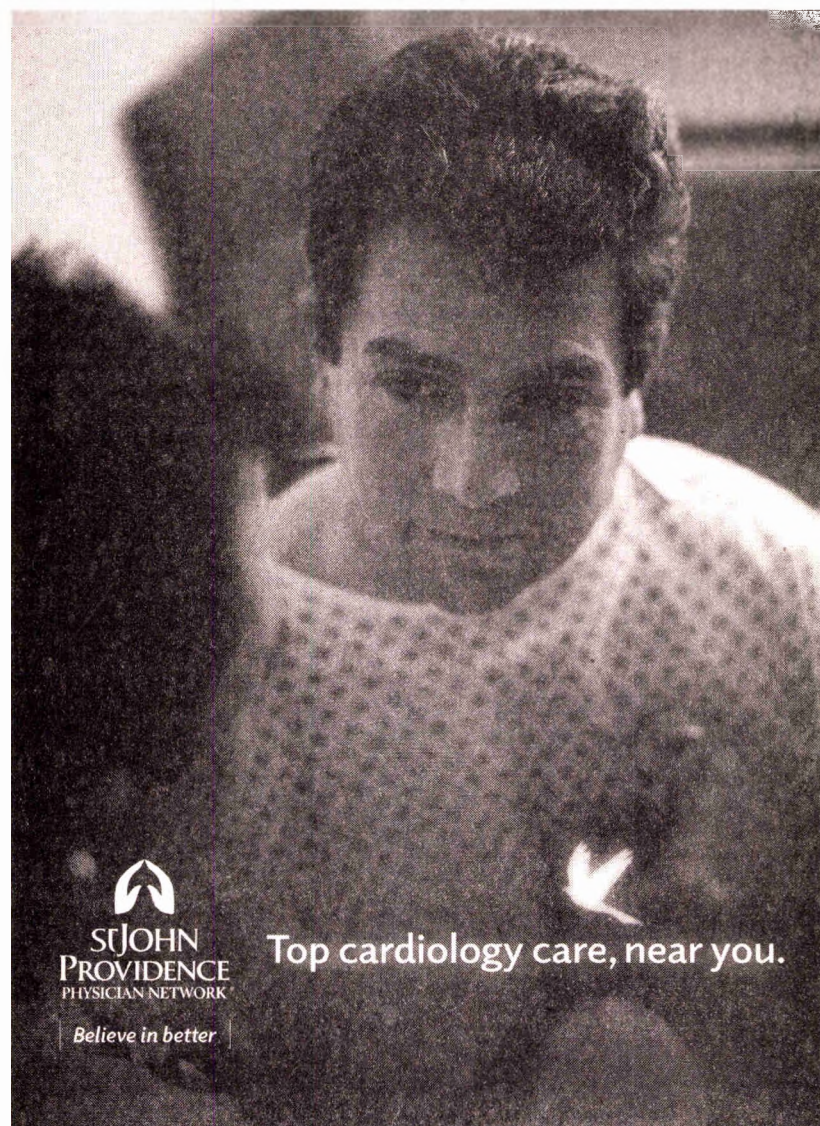
Oz in ice

Date/Time: Sunday, Feb. 9, 4-7 p.m.

Location: The Manor at Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart, Ann Arbor

Details: Glacier Hills celebrates 40 years with Oz in Ice. Ice Dreams of Plymouth will showcase 10 ice sculptures based on themes and characters found in *The Wizard of Oz*. Beverages appropriate for the season will be served. This event is free and open to the public and no tickets are required.

Contact: 734-913-0730.



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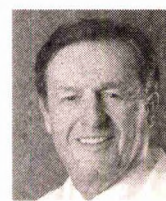
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Master gardener sees online business grow

Hoarding is a way of life for Katie Flickinger and it's paying off. Dedicated to propagating heirloom seeds from a diverse variety of fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs, she has seeds from more than 800 varieties of vegetation flooding an entire room, floor to ceiling, in her Livonia home. And she continues to collect.

Through her online business, gardenboard.com, the master gardener offers homegrown seeds, while providing her consumers with the knowledge and tools to grow healthy, safe produce and beautiful flowers. All seeds come from the gardener's own seed stock, grown organically from seeds that have not been genetically modified.

"We're losing some of our most favorable and nutritional fruits and vegetables," Flickinger said, explaining that 97 percent of original varieties of fruit and vegetable seeds have been lost since 1900. "So many have disappeared, we're trying to keep them alive," said Flickinger whose husband Christian, a systems administrator by day, often helps her in the evenings and on weekends.

Farming 1.5 acres encom-

passing five properties in backyards and community gardens in Commerce, Redford, Walled Lake and her own property in Livonia, Flickinger spends winter on the massive task of collecting, drying, cleaning and storing thousands of seeds by hand. From November to April, gardenboard.com offers free seeds for the cost of postage on older seeds that are not viable enough to sell, but still have a decent germination rate.

Averaging a 70-plus hour workweek just to keep up with demand, Flickinger was feeling overwhelmed when she learned of Entrepreneur-YOU, a collaborative women-owned business plan contest designed by Walsh College, Huntington Bank, Inforum and Michigan Women's Foundation. After being selected as one of 15 finalists out of 150 venture submissions, Flickinger was assigned a mentor, Walsh College Blackstone LaunchPad director Carol Glynn.

Flickinger worked with Glynn and her Walsh College Blackstone LaunchPad team, building a business plan and preparing a four-minute pitch for the final competition. Preparations paid off in September,



Katie Flickinger at the Wilson Barn Farmers Market in Livonia.

when Flickinger won first place in the lifestyle category and was awarded \$10,000 in venture funding.

"I was shocked when I was a finalist and even more shocked when I won," Flickinger said. "I didn't have a business plan and I didn't have defined goals when I first met the LaunchPad team. Everything was all in my head. Carol and LaunchPad adviser Brian Renner worked with me every week for more than a month to revise my executive summary, create a business plan and refine and practice my pitch.

"It was a life-changing experience. I couldn't believe I could

stand up there and not faint. In college, I would always faint and get sick when I had to present," added Flickinger, who holds a bachelor of science in business administration degree. "To be able to do this for my own business is an accomplishment."

Flickinger is moving forward now, equipped with a solid plan and clearly defined goals. She and her husband are also getting the home they have outgrown ready for sale and looking for a place with five acres of land, a move that will allow the gardener to concentrate all growing efforts in one place.

Funded by the Blackstone Charitable Foundation and in partnership with New Economy Initiative, a program of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan; Automation Alley, University of Miami, Walsh College and Wayne State University, Blackstone LaunchPad helps aspiring entrepreneurs develop and launch their businesses. As the first of its kind in Michigan, it offers fully enrolled Walsh students and degreed Walsh alumni and Wayne State University students the opportunity to assess the feasibility of their ideas for starting and growing for-profit and nonprofit ventures.

Gaidica leaving TV to follow his 'calling' at Oak Pointe

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Longtime WDIV-TV (Channel 4) weatherman and Northville resident Chuck Gaidica is stepping down from his role at to become a pastor at Novi's Oak Pointe Church.

Gaidica and WDIV made the announcement last week that he will step down later this summer as the station's director of meteorology. He will still have a small role at the station, including hosting different

specials.

"It has been a long and exciting journey, but I know in my heart it's time to pull back on my TV duties so I can switch gears and answer my calling to the ministry," said Gaidica, who came to Detroit more than 30 years ago.

He's stepping down from his longtime post so he can join the staff of Oak Pointe Church in Novi as its pastor of world outreach.



Gaidica

The three-time Emmy Award winner and popular on-air personality has a deep connection with the Northville and Novi communities.

In addition to being a member of Oak Pointe, Gaidica has played a big role in community outreach.

He also helped establish the Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville, which he is still part of. He's lived in the community for 12 years.

"This is an exciting opportu-

nity for me," he said.

Gaidica said the need for a change became apparent in the last year or so. Although he didn't have a fall to his knees moment, he said there have been various nudges moving him in this new direction.

"I will be learning a lot of things, so I'm looking forward to working with Bob (Shirock, senior pastor at Oak Pointe) and the rest of the team," he said.

Taking with him years of communication experience,

Gaidica does bring knowledge of ministry with him.

He has a masters of arts degree in ministry leadership.

At Oak Pointe, he will work to help get the word out and support the different services and missions.

Meteorologist Ben Bailey, formerly of WJBK-TV (Channel 2), has joined WDIV as its new chief meteorologist.

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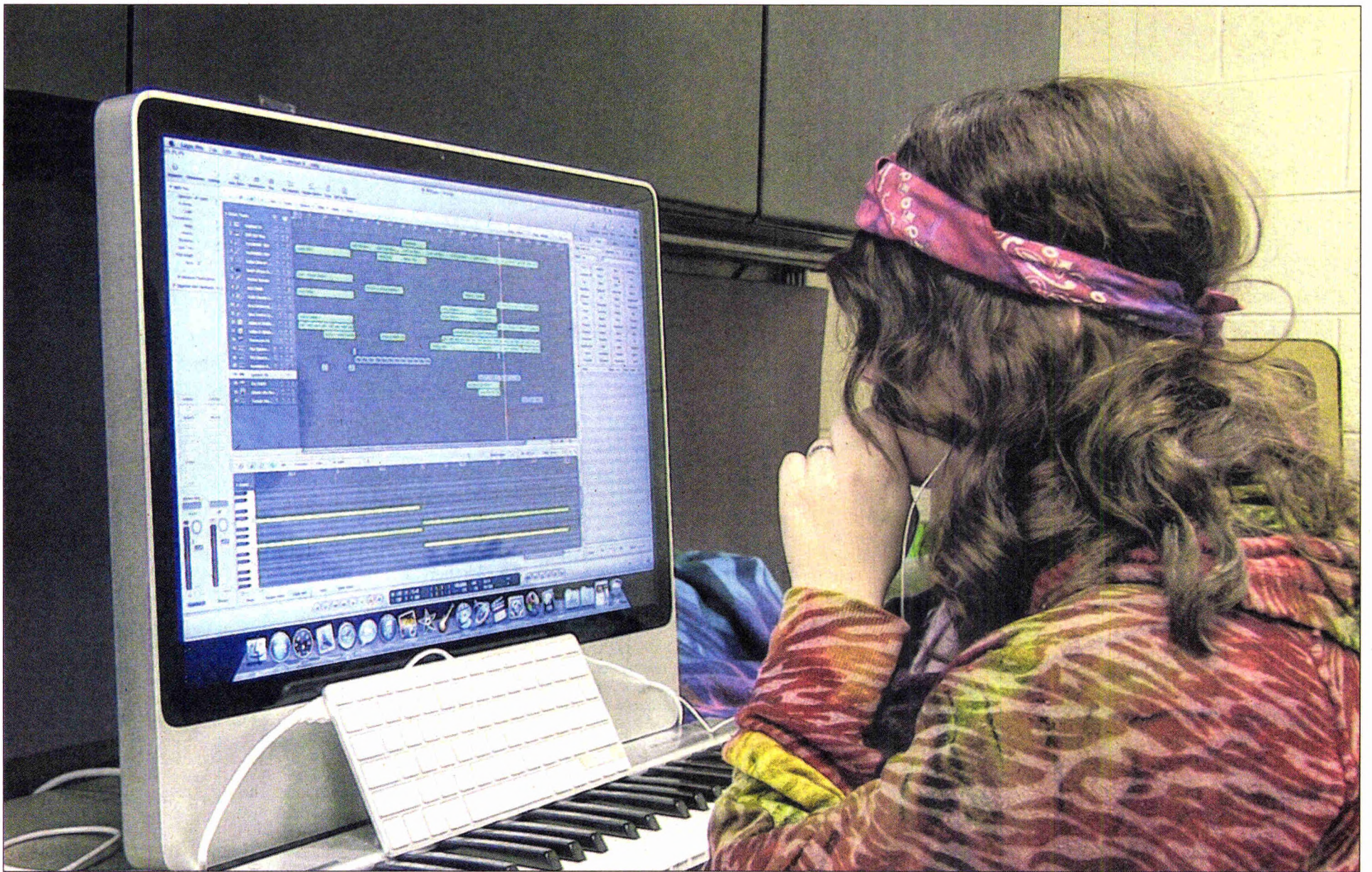
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TAKING THE 'PULSE'

Video program brings Park life to the screen

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A year ago, Janet Sutherland's advanced video production students were trying to assemble a show that would showcase all of the things going on around the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, from sporting events to club activities and anything else they could get their camera lenses on.

While they developed the idea, the suggestion got less-than-stellar support from district administration, so it was shelved.

But the students revived the idea this year, got solid support from the new superintendent and the *Park Pulse* was born.

"*Park Pulse* has a community feel to it," said Sutherland, who has taught video production since 1993. "It definitely helps people who don't know about The Park learn about it."

The 25-minute show runs about every three weeks and offers a variety of segments, including sports, a classroom feature (they've done the video production class, a health class and a feature on the culinary arts class, among others) and features on various Park clubs and organizations.

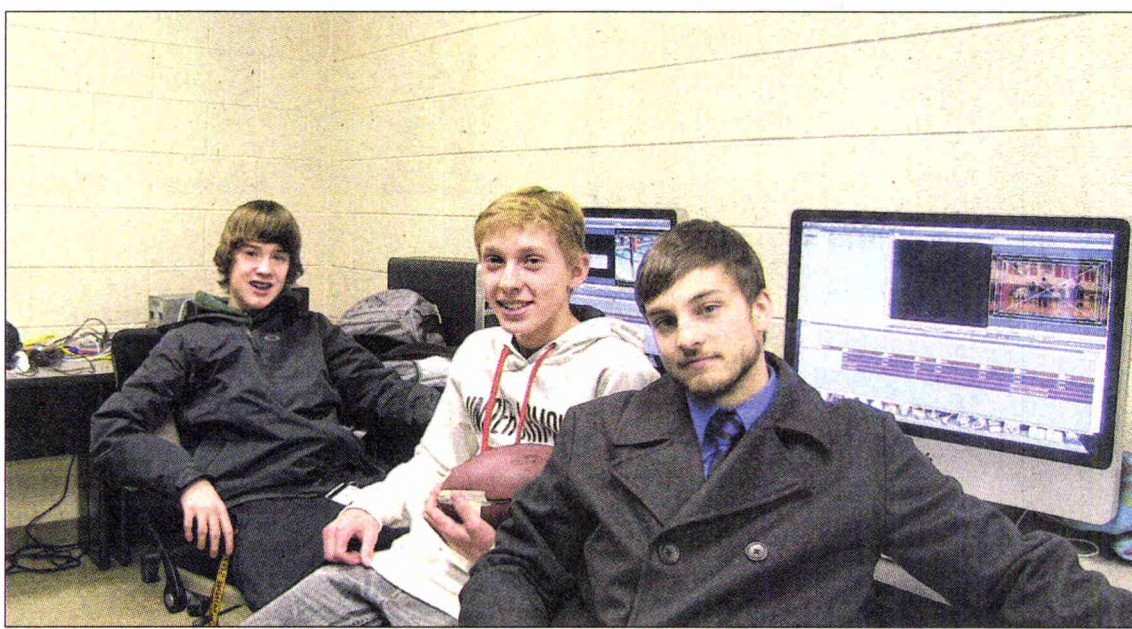
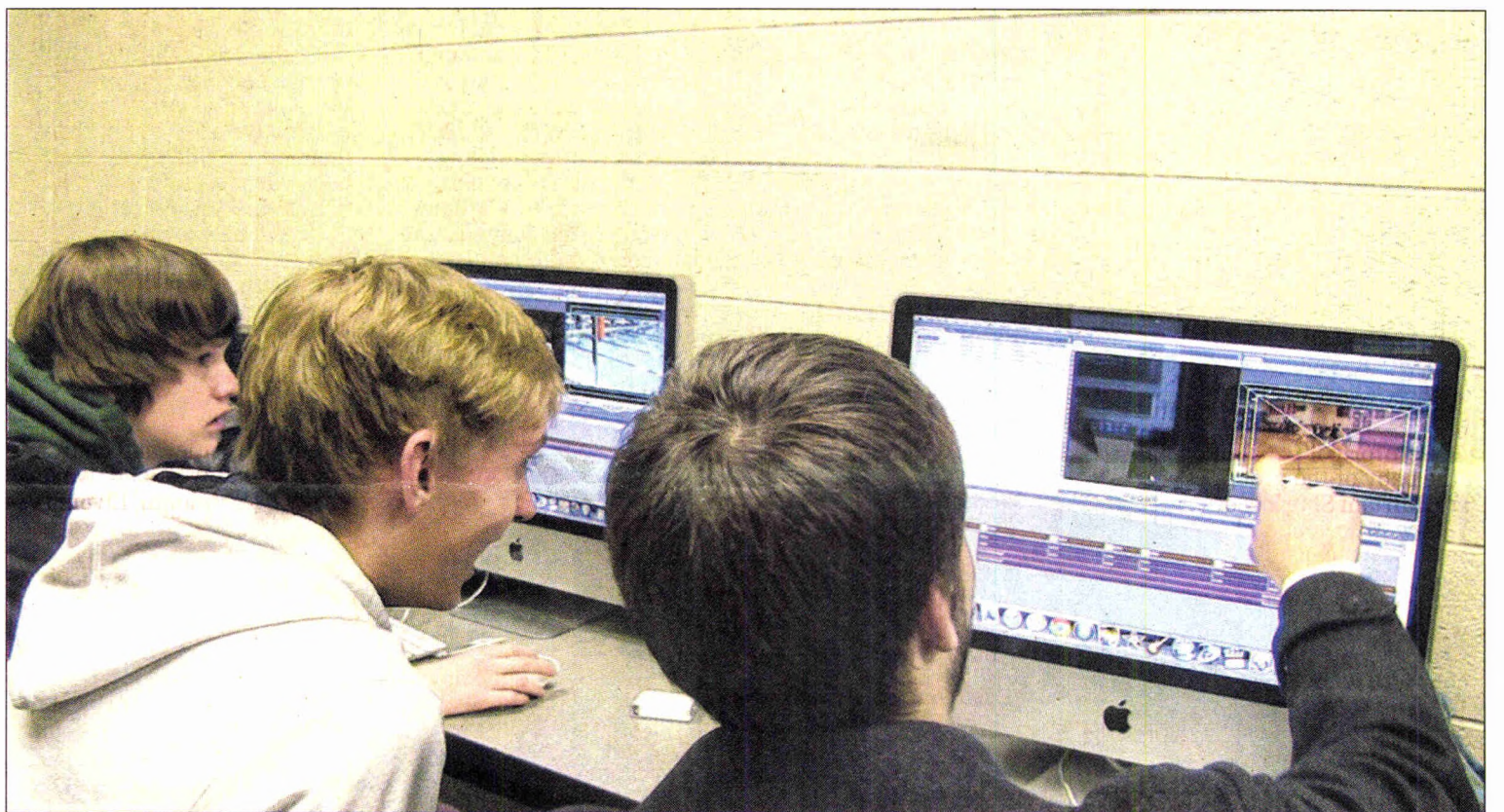
Students rotate through the different segments, Sutherland said, so "everyone gets to do everything." All of the segments are preplanned. Students find out in November which segments they're going to have over the next three months.

The entire production is student-driven.

"They go out, they cover their events, they schedule kids to come in for interviews," Sutherland said. "That way they have to schedule to make sure they're going to events, talking to people. The kids are on campus covering things."

That's how the students like it. Canton High School junior Eddie Eadeh, the son of Joseph Eadeh and the late Reem Safadi-Eadeh of Plymouth, is the chief editor of *Park Pulse*, as well as a segment editor. In addition to his video production duties, Eadeh serves on the student radio station as the assistant production director. His 90-minute show recently won an MAB award as for high school radio talk show.

"I stay interested in these programs, because I know I can improve them with what I



do," said Eadeh, who also owns his own technology company. "I love to help other people live out their dreams. I know hard work leads to success and, with that said, I'm all about working hard."

Park Pulse is one of two shows the students produce, the other being the daily announcements show. That is a 10-minute segment spent mostly reading school announcements, with a sport or event feature included if there's time. Those segment lengths are dictated, Sutherland said, by how many announcements there are.

Dr. Michael Meissen, who started as the district's superintendent in July, said the program is turning out college-ready, career-ready students.

"Students get good hands-on experience," said Meissen,



Everything in Janet Sutherland's video production classes is run by students, including (from left) Eddie Eadeh, Dave Gielarowski, Taylor Burris and Zach Palizevski.

who has begun a "Conversation" series of broadcasts of

his own. "Our goal is to promote more information about

the district, to connect with more (members) of the community. We talk about being informed, in-touch and involved. We have some tremendously talented students."

Sutherland teaches three different video production courses: an introduction, advanced video production and video production technology. Students can sign up for video production courses as early as freshman year and the class counts toward the arts credit required by the state for graduation.

Over the course of a given year, she gets some 150 kids interested in the courses, many of whom are interested in pursuing careers in the communications industry (Eadeh, for instance, wants a career in cyber security). So Sutherland gets them ready, allowing the students to do their own thing, make all their arrangements and put everything together.

"They need to be ready for the real world," Sutherland said. "They're going to have to be able to do things on their own. I will help in some of the organizational aspects of it, but I don't go out to events with them. That's all entirely up to them."

It's the only way, Sutherland pointed out, to make sure the students are ready for college and the workforce.

"This gives them a chance to get some real-world experience," Sutherland said. "They come out of here very well-prepared. I want them to have the freedom so they do feel confident."

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Special service: Choir brings music area to seniors, hospital patients

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Retired singer Mary Browe knows good music when she hears it. Every week, she listens to the choir at Dyer Senior Center rehearse for a concert schedule that includes holiday and spring performances in and around Westland.

"I'm here every single week and I listen every week," said Browe, the director of the Dyer Center. "When they perform, it's wonderful. Their sound is unbelievable. They have great four-part harmony. It's so close and so beautiful."

The choir has been making music since 1976. Started by Sylvia Reid, the group originally rehearsed at Taylor Tower. Reid was thrilled when the Dyer Senior Center opened in 1980 and moved the group across the street. Now it's a fixture at the center, filling each Monday afternoon with the sounds of music.

When Reid passed away, it looked like the group would fold, but Gail Boyd answered an ad and is now the director. Boyd teaches piano and organ and makes the trip from Whitmore Lake four days a week. One of her destinations is the Dyer Center to work with the choir. She's been doing it since 2010.

"I absolute love it, it's very rewarding," Boyd said. "I was teaching at Evola Music and saw the ad. I remember hearing Hal (Reid) say 'Remember, the show is tomorrow.' It was my first rehearsal."

In the group

The choir members include 59-year-old Ceceilia Pettiford of Westland, "the baby of the group," and Miriam Shurlow of Wayne, who at age 84 spreads her musical talents between singing in the senior choir and with the choir at the First Congregational Church and "also a ding-a-ling. I'm in the hand bell choir."

Pettiford credits her late mother, Anna Hammond, in getting her



Gail Boyd of Whitmore Lake not only directs the senior choir show, she also serves as the accompanist. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Diana Dallavecchia (from left), Carol Holt and Susan Dossette sing at choir rehearsal.

involved with the choir. "She was a singer and she brought me in," she

said. "I have a good voice." "She's here because

she knows how to shake the maracas," Dave Dossette said, drawing a chuckle from the crowd. He serves as the emcee and joke teller for the



There were a few empty chairs at a recent senior choir practice at the Dyer Center. Director Gail Boyd is hoping to bring in new members to help fill the ranks.

shows and his fellow singers are quick to say they've heard all of his jokes.

Dossette said he has always sung. As a child, he went out with his mother and sang.

"I didn't get much chances not to sing," he said. "When I was growing up, my mom would go visit the old people. My mom took me with her. I'd get an elbow in the ribs and an order to sing."

Dossette has been a member of the choir for 10 years; his wife Susan joined seven years ago.

The choir meets for two hours a week at the center. The members spend the fall and winter months practicing for eight to 10 concerts in November and early December and May and June.

"We don't go too late into June and December," Boyd said. "We're off from the middle of December until after New Year's."

Their venues are the Walter P. Reuther Psychiatric Hospital, as well as senior living communities, assisted living facilities and churches in Westland, Wayne, Plymouth, Livonia, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Northville. Their repertoire includes "the oldies."

"I enjoy it, I enjoy going to the assisted living places," Rosette said. "It's a nice service we give. We sing the oldies and it's nice to see the smiles on their faces."

Joining the group

Juliana D'Amico of Wayne has been a member for two years. She learned about the choir from her neighbor Kathryn Pugh.

"It's a nice, warm, friendly group," said D'Amico, one of two of the choir's female tenors. "There are a lot of professional-sounding singers; some have even done solos."

The group has about 40 members. The number goes up and down because of snowbirds who head south for the winter, which has them putting out the call for new members. The choir is open to all; membership at the Dyer Center isn't a requirement and there are no tryouts.

"If you can steam up a mirror, we want you," Dossette said, adding that "I sound like Mario Lammpost."

Interested people can come in at anytime, "no problem," Boyd said.

"We'd like to get as many singers as we can get," Boyd said. "They can come in the middle and practice or just show up at rehearsals. People go off on vacation, we lose people. The snowbirds do the spring concerts."

People interested in joining the choir can call the Dyer Center at 734-419-2020. The center is at the Wayne-Westland Administrative Offices at 36745 Marquette, between Wayne and Newburgh roads, in Westland.

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Girl Scout want to benefit Haitians

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Sophie Smith wants to change the world, a little bit at a time.

An eighth-grade student at Garden City Middle School, Smith is a multi-tasker who is working on her Girl Scout Silver Award and on a project to benefit a family in poverty-stricken Haiti.

The Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout cadette can earn. The goal is to complete a service project that leaves a lasting impact on the community.

She's also rallying the help of her church, Good Hope Lutheran, in Garden City, to raise money for her charitable pro-

ject.

Smith, 13, said that her plans fell into place recently after she heard a guest pastor speak at her church.

"He told us a sad story about how when little kids in Haiti asked for a cookie, their mom made them a little mud cookie," Smith said. "It broke my heart. It made me think about how I am so blessed to have a roof over my head and food to eat."

Selling cookies

Smith has been a Girl Scout for eight years and is a cadette. She is a member of Troop 43974, which meets at her church. In the past few years, Smith sold 1,500 boxes of Girl Scout cook-



Sophie Smith, a Garden City Middle School eighth-grader, is raising \$3,200 to build a home in Haiti. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ies and last year 1,800.

"With that, I have been able to do many great things, like take an all-expense paid mom-and-daughter trip to Chicago,

camping trips, water parks, even manicures," she said. "It was really great."

This year she wants to do something that "real-

ly" makes a difference. "I am going to use all profits from my cookie sale to buy a house for people who desperately need it," she said.

That will be coupled with help from her church, babysitting and any other fundraisers she can think of doing. The goal is to raise \$3,200 for the group called Food for the Poor. So far, Smith has raised about \$160. She hopes to raise all of the money by June.

A poster board at church displays Smith's project. She is creating a house made out of little bricks which is based on \$20 for each brick. She needs 120 bricks to complete the house facsimile.

Helping out

Smith's parents are Jennifer and Jason Smith. Jennifer has her

own cupcake business called Soph-n-Lilly cupcakes. It's named after her daughters Sophie and Lilly, who is almost 5 years old.

Jennifer Smith has offered her personal cell phone number for anyone who wants to order Girl Scout cookies or to make a donation on behalf of the project. The number is 734-334-6737.

The cutoff date to order Girl Scout cookies is the weekend of March 15. The troop will be selling cookies at the church on the weekend.

Donors can also visit support.foodforthe poor.org/site/TR/Events/Champions?pxfid=10081&fr_id=2095&pg=fund

sbuck@hometownlife.com
313-222-2249
Twitter: @SueSBuck

Former NFL player opens fitness center in Lyon Township

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

NFL veteran and Super Bowl champion Sean McHugh knows firsthand what it takes to play professional football. He wants his new business venture to help kids reach their fullest athletic potential.

A quote painted on the wall at McHugh Athletic Performance Center at Eight Mile and Pontiac Trail in Lyon Township says it all: "Train like a Pro, Play like a Champion."

The 5,600-square-foot space is set up for children, teen and adult classes. Programs for younger kids focus on building strength and agility, because at this

level, McHugh said, he doesn't teach individual sports techniques, like how to swing a bat, handle a soccer ball or set a volleyball.

"The best thing a parent can do for a young athlete is to encourage their child to try as much as possible, but focus on the child being a well-rounded athlete," McHugh said. "Don't specialize too quickly."

He does, however, teach advance training for high school athletes "who want to take their game to another level," said McHugh, who played six years in the NFL — three with the Detroit Lions, two with the Pittsburgh Steelers and one with the Green Bay Packers.



Former NFL player Sean McHugh recently opened McHugh Athletic Performance Center in Lyon Township. HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Sports is so big in this area," he said. "We want to see those kids succeed. I lived it. I'm not reading the instructions from a book."

Athletes abound

Ashlee McHugh, Sean's wife, played field hockey in college. All their employees have an athletic background, her husband said.

Ashlee runs classes for adults of all ability levels who want a challenge for overall fitness. R.I.P.P.E.D. (resistance, intervals, power, perfor-

mance, endurance and determination) is designed for women who want to throw out the old workout and step into something new. The 60-minute full body challenge is carved into three sections — cardio, resistance and agility.

"We use a lot of athletic style training," Ashlee said. "I have people in class who haven't worked out in years. 'When they get done, they say, 'I can't believe I just did that.'"

As if they were lobbing a ball back and forth on a tennis court, Ashlee and Sean are enthusiastic as they talk about their new business that also offers team training and personal sessions by appointment.

They chose South Lyon after living in various places around the country. He grew up in Cleveland, she was raised in Harrisburg, Penn., and they lived in Canton when Sean played for the Lions. But they looked for something else when they mapped out a place to raise their children, Jack, 6, and Emma, 4.

"We wanted a small-town community feel, so we moved to South Lyon and we've been here for three years," said Sean, who coached varsity football at Novi High School in 2011-12.

Looking at a wall of weights and other equipment at the new business, Sean said: "We have everything you need and nothing you don't."

Visit mchughathleticperformancecenter.com or call 248-207-9785.

dandreassi@
hometownlife.com

Know your own cost of living

The cost for a postage stamp has just increased by three cents to 49 cents. For most, the three cents is not a major issue, it's just a nuisance. However, there is a lesson to learn from the increase in postage rates.

At talks that I give on investing, one thing I always preach is that there is a difference between the increase in cost of living and the official rate of inflation.

I use postage stamps as an example, because it is something that everyone can relate to. The three-cent increase in postage represents about a 6-percent increase this year. Compare that to the stated inflation rate of approximately 1 percent and you'll see the difference. It's just not this year that rates increased faster than inflation, it's been throughout time.

It is important that when you look into the future to estimate what your costs are going to be, you consider the possibility costs will go up a lot more than the rate of inflation.

I always stress to investors that they should know what it costs to live for one month. Compare how your costs have changed over time so you can compute your own individual inflation rate.

As I've written before, the government's inflation rate is not based upon reality of what your costs increase. It's a number that economists use. The only way you are going to know your inflation rate is to compare what it costs to live today with a few years ago.

There's another rea-

son to mention the increase in postage stamps and that is in our world, we are bombarded by fees. In some situations such as postage stamps, we have very few alternatives and have to accept the increases.

There are, however, many other situations where we can do something about fee increases. Whether it is a bank, cable company or other service provider, whenever you see an increase in fees, determine if you have other options. Changing your banking relationship or switching your charge card are a

bit of a hassle, however, you may be surprised how much you can save. We live in a competitive world and consumers should never hesitate to make changes where necessary.

There's another issue regarding fees. You would be surprised to find out how many companies will waive fees and reduce costs if the consumer complains. Many people will not question or contest a fee because they do not want to appear cheap. However, if you can save money, who cares?

On fees and costs, I recommend being proactive. After all, if you ask for a fee waiver or adjustment, the worst a company can say is no. However, if they say yes, you'll end up with more money in your pocket and, as far as I'm concerned, it looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else.

Good luck.

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



Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

Margo's of Northville Salon & Spa

Margo's proudly welcomes Kelly to our team of stylists. She is talented, young and knowledgeable. Kelly was taught by the Douglas J. Aveda team in Ann Arbor and has had extensive training in the art of Balayage Color and Cutting by the Masters of the French Technique at Jamison Shaw. Let her design a fresh new look for you.



Hope to see you soon..

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Exp. 4/1/14

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AUDITIONS

Saturday,
February 15TH

9 am - 12 pm by appointment*

LYSO welcomes musicians from six years of age through high school seniors.

Four ensemble groups accommodating most skill levels include:

Beginning strings ensemble
Intermediate strings ensemble
Wind ensemble
Full philharmonic orchestra (most accomplished musicians - winds-strings & percussion)

Now available - Strings Skills Program for "very new" strings players. Karen Holmes Danke & Linda Ignagni - Instructors

LYSO rehearse Saturday mornings at Madonna University - Music Bldg.

Performances include a Winter concert in January, Spring concert in May and many smaller performances from groups for charities and private events throughout the year.

To schedule an audition or for more information, e-mail auditions@lysom.org or call Dave at 734-634-5250.

*Auditions held in the Music Building at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia 48150



Marching Band Musicians
Come Join Us!

6-Week
"String Skills" Session
\$45 per musician



A group of cyclists gets ready to take off on fat bikes from Trail's Edge Cyclery in downtown Milford for a winter ride through the woods. TRAILS EDGE CYCLERY

Local shop offers winter cycling experience

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

While some grumble and complain about the snow and cold weather, one local group prefers to revel in it — and roll through it.

Mike Flack, owner of Trail's Edge Cyclery in downtown Milford, recently started a weekend "fat bike" group ride, which takes place each Saturday on the Milford mountain bike trail.

"A lot of people really like it," Flack said, noting riders come from the Milford area, as well as Plymouth, where he also has a store, and beyond. "It's something completely different. Being in the snow, yes, it's cold, but it's kind of surreal being out on the trail riding along through six inches of powder. It's very quiet, a very unique experience and when you add a few friends, it makes it even

more memorable."

In addition to being memorable, the experience is also affordable. Trail's Edge Cyclery has fat bikes — a bicycle with oversized tires, usually about four inches or larger and designed for riding in soft elements like snow or sand — available for rent during the excursions for \$10.

The bikes are built around frames with large forks and stays to accommodate the wide rims necessary for the tires. The store has about eight of the bikes in different sizes.

"It allows people to ride in snowy conditions where a normal bike is unrideable," Trail's Edge store manager Paul Perez said. "People like being on something a little bit different. As cyclists, we're always looking for that next thing and having the rentals gives us a chance to get people

onto something they may not try otherwise."

The ride, which began this year, is about six miles long and — including a couple of stops that allow everyone to regroup — usually takes about two hours.

Some mountain bike skills are helpful, Perez said, but not necessary.

"We're out to have fun, but it's still a workout," he said, adding that the trail has several "bail out" spots for those who get tired. "You've got to be aware of your own ability."

The group is smaller some weeks, with seven or eight riders turning out, and larger other times, with 20 or so participants making the trip.

For more information, visit trails-edge.com or call Trail's Edge Cyclery in Milford at 248-714-9355 or 734-420-1200 in Plymouth.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com

Watch for warning signs with financial professional

You expect your financial advisers to watch out for your best interests — but do they?

In my 20-plus years' experience as a CPA and fee-only wealth manager for families and businesses, I've observed seven warning signs that raise red flags for me. If you see even one of them in your financial professional, get a second opinion on the issue from an objective, fiduciary adviser.

1. Not a fiduciary. By definition, a fiduciary adviser is obligated to act in your best interests. Unfortunately, many financial professionals do not hold themselves to this standard. If your professional is unwilling to certify in writing that he or she will act as a fiduciary on your behalf both when giving advice and recommending products, take it as a warning sign that your best interests likely will come second to the adviser's.

2. Vague process. Does your financial professional follow a well-defined, consultative process to clearly understand your situation, goals and time frames before making recommendations? Do the recommendations integrate tax, investing and financial strategies? Does the process include monitoring and re-balancing your plan over time? We meet at least three times with prospective clients before finalizing recommendations and implementing a plan and we document each step in writing. Our clients have

the opportunity to observe how we work before they pay us a dime. Expect the same from your professional.

3. Tax talk avoidance. If your professional neglects to explain the tax ramifications of a proposed action or, worse, gives incorrect tax information — watch out. Growing your wealth hinges on your professional understanding how you can pay the least amount of tax, both now and in the future. When new tax laws went into effect last year, we met with each of our clients to review and re-balance their portfolios to take best advantage of the changes. Even if your adviser is not a CPA, he or she should discuss ways to create tax efficiency in your portfolio or coordinate planning with a tax expert to make sure that tax and investment strategies integrate fully. If you sense any reluctance to take the lead in getting the opinion of other experts, ask why.

4. Pressure to buy. Be wary of a professional who will earn a commission by convincing you to change your life insurance policy or annuity. A couple with young children came to me for a second opinion after an insurance agent tried to sell them a new 20-year term life policy. I showed them that they only needed to extend their insurance another 10 years to cover their youngest child, a move that saved them hundreds of dollars to put toward their retirement fund instead. As for annuities, make sure you

clearly understand the taxes, holding periods and penalties associated with these products before making a change.

5. Unbalanced risk. A few months ago, a middle-aged couple asked me to review their investments. They had their money in three accounts and more than a dozen different mutual funds, so they thought they were well-diversified. But a closer look revealed that all the mutual funds invested in S&P 500 companies, making their portfolios very volatile. Your financial professional should develop and document a written investment policy that demonstrates a diversified portfolio, which contains several asset classes, reflects your risk tolerance and is re-balanced periodically to stay in alignment with the investment policy statement. Anything less is a warning sign.

6. Unclear compensation. Make sure you fully understand how your professional is compensated. Get a statement in writing; if it's unclear, that's a warning sign. Finally, if you learn that part of the professional's compensation will come from sales commissions, ask yourself how confident you are that he or she will provide objective advice.

As our tagline says, "From financial wisdom, better stewardship." If you see any of these signs, get a second opinion. You won't regret it.

Wayne Titus is a fee-only fiduciary wealth manager and owner of AMDG Financial in Plymouth. You can reach him at wbt@amdgservices.com or 734-927-3740.



Wayne Titus

GUEST COLUMNIST

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Best bank

Bank of Ann Arbor, which has a branch on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township, has been ranked as one of the Best Banks to Work For in the United States, in the category of less than \$3 billion in assets in American Banker's Best Banks to Work For program.

In all, 35 banks out of nearly 7,000 banks in the country achieved "Best Bank" status in this inaugural program. The full Best Banks to Work For list is featured in the November issue of *American Banker* magazine or online at americanbanker.com at the following address: http://www.americanbanker.com/magazine/123_11/best-banks-to-work-for-2013-1062891-1.htm. Bank of Ann Arbor is featured in the 20th position.

Highlights from the survey feature Bank of Ann Arbor's Sonic Lunch as a popular employee and community activity, its wellness program which provides discounts for healthy behaviors, plus the bank was recognized throughout the survey as a great place to work.

"It is quite an honor to be recognized as one of the best banks to work for in the country," bank president/CEO Tim Marshall said. "We developed a brand promise to live up to that Bank of Ann Arbor 'helps.' Helping is what we do, whether it is with our colleagues or our clients. It is evident that our colleagues love doing it and our community values it."

To be considered for participation, banks had to have at least 50 employees working in the U.S. and be a commercial bank, thrift, mutual association, mutual savings bank, savings and loan



New location

Liberty Tax Service held a ribbon cutting recently at its new location at 8589 N. Lilley in Canton. This location is owned by a dedicated and knowledgeable family of licensed CPAs. Cutting the ribbon is co-owner Sam Ewing, who is surrounded by many Ladies (and gentlemen) Liberty.

association or savings bank.

Bank promotion

Bank of Ann Arbor officials announced Charles Crone was promoted to executive vice president and chief revenue officer.

Crone joined the bank in 2009 as first vice president, commercial banking group, and assumed the leadership position for the commercial banking group in January 2010. He began his career as a credit analyst with Detroit Bank and Trust, now Comerica, in 1977. Crone was employed by Comerica for 31 years in numerous capacities, including lending, credit administration and as president of the Ann Arbor region for Comerica.

ACO appointment

The board of directors of Farmington Hills-based ACO, Inc. announced the promotion of Mark Vandenberg from senior vice president and chief financial officer to president.

The news comes just two weeks after the company released joined Ace Hardware Corp. as the largest independent member of the Ace cooperative. ACO, Inc. will

operate the new Ace Hardware stores under the name Great Lakes Ace Hardware.

As president, Vandenberg will oversee the day-to-day operations of the business and the conversion of current ACO Hardware stores to Great Lakes Ace Hardware stores over the next six months.

An employee of ACO, Inc. for the past 16 years, Vandenberg will provide staff with the direction and stability to help achieve the company's goal of providing a full-line hardware store with knowledgeable associates and helpful customer service.

Currently 26 ACO stores are undergoing a "total inventory blow-out sale" of most merchandise in preparation for the store remodels, after which they will re-open as Great Lakes Ace Hardware stores. The remaining stores will begin the conversion process in early spring.

Profits up

MBT Financial Corp., parent company of Monroe Bank & Trust, reported a pretax profit of \$2,322,000 for the fourth quarter of 2013, compared to \$618,000 for the fourth quarter of 2012.

Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media COMMUNITY

Linda Robin, Owner of Showroom of Elegance in Canton speaks about advertising success in Observer & Eccentric Media



"We like to be part of the community. People read community newspapers. Observer & Eccentric Media has been successful for us. People say that they saw our ad in the paper. It's a connection between us and those in the community."

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OUR VIEWS

Come back to the table

It costs township nothing to take part in PARC talks

The biggest complaint, for lack of a better word, we've heard about the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex plan being floated for the Central Middle School property is that it lacks detail.

And it does.

Don Soenen, the PARC Committee member who has become the "face" of the plan to put an arts/recreation complex on the property of Central Middle School when the school closes following the 2014-15 school year, acknowledges the plan still lacks polish.

He's asked for – and gotten – support from the Plymouth City Commission and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to participate in a feasibility study to determine whether such a complex could work on the property. It would be funded, if the committee had its way, by a taxing authority that would then be managed by a board made up, in large part, of city and township residents.

The committee has also asked for support from the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees – and gotten stoned. The township board voted 5-2 against participating in the feasibility study (only trustees Charles Curmi and Bob Doroshewitz were in favor) and took it one step further by voting 4-3 in favor of a moratorium on working with the city of Plymouth on any authorities through 2016 (Supervisor Richard Reaume joined Doroshewitz and Curmi voting against the measure).

The vote not to participate in any authority agreements with the city was just silly (the idea doesn't come up often enough to warrant the necessity of a vote in the first place) and is nothing more than a distraction. The real issue is whether the township should take part in the discussion.

Its refusal to do so smacks of petty political gamesmanship and, frankly, detracts from trustees' main message: the plan won't work. Officials – and Treasurer Ron Edwards has become the face from their point of view – say township residents will end up paying the lion's share to the taxing authority (a claim that, frankly, is true), that the footprint won't work to provide all of the things PARC members say will be on the site and that there won't be enough usage to support the project in the first place.

They may very well be right about that.

But the board's anti-city rant – Edwards has been heard saying (and we're paraphrasing here), "I won't support something township taxpayers have to pay for that's located in the city" – is all anyone is hearing. Aside from its silliness (the two entities actually feed off of each other), it's a little bit hypocritical. The township is happy to not only accept the accolades for its quality of life – it was recently voted best place to live by Area Vibes – but to promote itself using those same accolades.

But in its promotion, officials never disclose the fact those accolades wouldn't be possible without the township's relationship to the city. Sure, the township's low tax rate – still the lowest in Wayne County – is attractive. But so is the township's proximity to Kellogg Park and the downtown dining district and the public school system.

Neither community exists in a bubble. They are intertwined. Successes are joint ventures; failures are community failures.

Township officials are quick to point to a couple of examples of "the city won't work with us" in defense of the position they've taken on the PARC. They point to a failed recreation partnership from the Steve Mann years, when the sides were on the verge of an agreement that fell apart late. They point out the city left the township's fire agreement a few years ago.

But the recreation agreement fell apart a long time ago and the city believes opting out of the joint fire agreement was the right thing to do financially (and even a couple of township trustees privately agreed). To use them as props for the board's position on the PARC seems, at best, a bit disingenuous.

There's no question concerns raised by township trustees about the viability of the plan are genuine. There should be more detail to the PARC plan and there should be discussion about other possible uses for the property. Neither side should be entrenched so deeply in its own ideas that others are blocked out.

No one is asking for a decision on the actual PARC plan yet. And it's entirely possible township officials' concerns are valid that the PARC plan won't work, with definite financial and infrastructure questions yet to be decided.

But it costs nothing to hold the discussion. The township board would benefit from reversing itself and taking part.

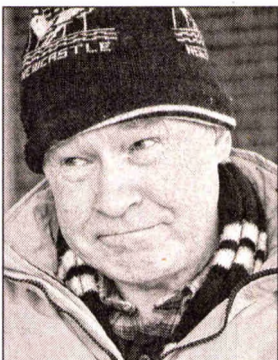


Enough people braved a brutal winter night for a recent PARC meeting that township board members might be well-advised to change their minds about at least listening to the discussion. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMUNITY VOICE

What are your hopes for 2014?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



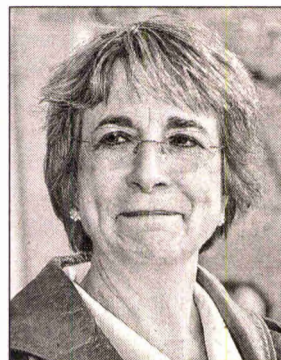
"I want my wife's business to do well. I want the kids to be healthy and I want to stay healthy."

Martin Barnes
Plymouth



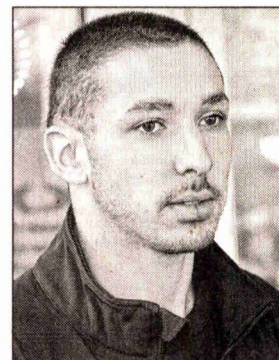
"Probably a better economy."

Becky DeLoy
Plymouth Township



"I just retired, so for me it's getting myself in good, healthy shape."

Cindy
Blanchard-Kronis
Plymouth Township



"There're a lot of hopes. The streets could be done better. The city could take care of some of the houses that are run down."

David Heidelmeyer
Plymouth Township

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Township board obstructionism

We note with great dismay the Plymouth Township board's obstructionism regarding the citizen proposal that Central Middle School be re-purposed as an arts and recreation facility established and managed by an independent authority. We have two questions for the board:

1) Why can't the board put aside childish city vs. township rivalry to consider a project for the good of all our citizens?

2) Why can't the board accept the notion of cooperation and help the proposal proceed to a final step of an up-or-down vote by the taxpayers?

The township board should take a leadership position in this effort while the proposal is in its first stages to provide a voice for the constituents. The board should give this serious consideration and support as it appears to be a viable and economically rational means to provide an arts and recreation facility that has long been lacking in our community.

As recently retired residents of the township who have lived in the community for 30 years, we were thrilled to learn that we might have exercise facilities

and a new pool to use at the PARC. We would attend community band and Michigan Philharmonic concerts, along with other programming in the new theater. We would love to take our granddaughter to children's events of all kinds. We would visit art exhibits and other programming of the Arts Council. In short, we would use this facility to the maximum and enjoy coming downtown to use it. We have never complained about the library not being in the township.

What better use of taxpayer dollars could there be than to take a structure and playing fields already there and enhance them for the betterment of the whole community? Much time and energy has gone into this plan. Township residents deserve to have our elected officials give an impartial hearing to the organizers and let the voters decide if they approve. They risk letting a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity evaporate. We could have a community facility of which we could all be proud in a few years and our children will reap the benefits for decades to come.

Jonathan and Nancy Pilon
Plymouth Township

Goodfellow thanks

The Plymouth Goodfellows would like to thank everyone who donated or volunteered their time this past Christmas.

We were able to help 87 Plymouth families provide a nice Christmas for their children. We are so grateful for all of our community partners and volunteers.

We are looking for more volunteers. Please plan to attend our next meeting on March 19 at the Plymouth District Library.

Thank you.

Kristen Farmer
president, Plymouth Goodfellows

Camera returned

Thank you again for running my letter to the editor. Editor Brad Kadrich, who was contacted Friday, contacted me that my camera had been turned in Friday at Macy's after my letter ran.

I can't thank you all enough for helping me get my camera back.

Cheryl Martin
Canton

GUEST COLUMN

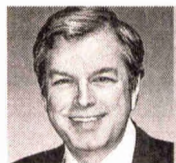
PARC plan needs more definition, less uncertainty

Like many Plymouth Township residents, when my wife and I heard about the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex initiative that would re-purpose the current Central Middle School facility and grounds, we were intrigued. We attended a briefing by the PARC Committee to learn more.

We were told the PARC would include a performing arts center, athletic fields, pools, fitness center, senior and teen centers, a convenience store and extensive meeting rooms for area organizations. What's not to like? The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted definitively against participating in a taxing authority for this facility. In its fiduciary role as stewards of the township's financial resources, the Board of Trustees expressed legitimate concerns about various aspects of the project's feasibility.

Too much about PARC is undefined. What facilities will be present and what size these facilities will be is a moving target. For example, the PARC Committee stated the tiny fitness center shown in the marketing brochure would in fact be much larger and that there would now be a large senior center. These are positive additions, but how this is going to be accomplished in a defined space and within a fiscally sustainable budget is unclear.

What community groups will be able to utilize the space is also undefined. Currently, it seems that virtually every potential voting group is being told they will have extensive use of effectively subsidized facilities at low cost. Not surprisingly, the list of organizations queuing up to use the facilities is long. These may be worthy causes but, again, how



Brinton
Baker
GUEST
COLUMNIST

this can be accomplished in a defined space and within a long-term fiscally sustainable budget is unclear.

The financial arrangement is another area in desperate need of clarity for township residents. Current plans call for the development of the PARC facility to be funded by a millage applied equally to city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents. A similar funding arrangement has resulted in the Plymouth District Library being funded 70 percent by the township and only 30 percent by the city. A fairer funding model for PARC might be where city residents pay a higher millage than township residents to reflect the proximity and significantly greater convenience.

Lastly, if city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents are expected to fund this initiative, it is reasonable to clarify upfront usage restrictions. Would only city and township residents have use privileges? Paying for pool or fitness facilities that are always crowded and oversubscribed will be a constant source of discontent.

There are two obvious paths the PARC Committee can take. The high road is to speed the definition of the plan specifics and engage in frequent informational outreach to the greater Plymouth Township community. Provide a draft proposal with floor plan that matches what was discussed in Monday's meeting, a tentative budget and usage rules.

The Plymouth-Canton School District owns the parcel and Superintendent Michael Meissen stated the district can provide enough time before selling the property for issues to be resolved. This path would enable the township electorate to better understand the potential value of PARC to them, understand the tradeoffs and risks and develop a much more informed opinion.

The other, lower road, is to focus on bullying township trustees into changing their vote on supporting PARC. Attendees in the meeting were encouraged to aggressively contact trustees who voted against participating in a taxing authority for PARC and there was also talk of recalling Plymouth Township's elected officials.

Plymouth Township has proven itself to be well-managed. Under the stewardship of the current Board of Trustees, the township is exiting the Great Recession with home prices rising. By showing foresight in building water towers, the township is now well-positioned to enjoy reduced water rates. And just this month, Plymouth Township was recognized as the No. 1 place to live in Michigan by Area Vibes.

Rather than encouraging area residents to harass the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees to push forward commitment to an extremely vague proposal, the PARC Committee should change its approach to one of clarity and community. Until that time, I see every reason to support our elected township officials in saying "no" to the PARC as it is currently "undefined."

Brinton Baker is chief marketing officer at Lakeside Software and a Plymouth Township resident.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising



Among those picketing Gov. Rick Snyder's policies Tuesday at OCC in Farmington Hills were (from left) Mary Mills, Joanne Braund and George Braund, all Royal Oak residents.

Snyder launches re-election bid

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

A stop in Farmington Hills marked Day 2 of Gov. Rick Snyder's "Comeback Story" statewide tour re-election campaign, where he talked up the continuation and expansion of state initiatives to help fill the gap between supply and demand for labor in the skilled trades and other professions.

Meeting with some 18 small business owners, community leaders, employees and students invited to the casual "round-table" Tuesday afternoon at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, Snyder heard plenty of support for his efforts so far to improve Michigan's economic climate. "We've really seen a turnaround," said Richard Lerner, a Farmington Hills city councilman and owner of an IT consulting firm. Housing values are rebounding, he said, and at his own business — after some rough years — he's again taking a paycheck.

"Things are a lot better now," he said. Mary Engelman, executive director of the

PROTESTERS PICKET OCC VISIT

Gov. Rick Snyder's visit Tuesday to OCC drew a small group of protesters, who picketed outside the school's athletic building, where the roundtable was held, chanting "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Rick Snyder has got to go."

Jim Pearson, a retired teacher from the Huron Valley Schools district, was among them.

His issue? A \$1,400 income tax now imposed yearly on his state pension. Pearson, who said he "didn't get into the teaching profession to get rich," indicated his annual compensation at retirement, \$73,000, wasn't in line with other professionals with similar years of experience and education. Now, he has to deal with a pension tax he hadn't planned on, Pearson said.

"I'm totally puzzled why a select group of relatively young retirees would be targeted," he said.

Waiting outside for about an hour before Snyder's arrival, Pearson said he'd like to believe "someone in Lansing is on our side."

Fellow protester Janine Braund of Royal Oak said she was there "to support everybody — the seniors, the poor people" and to protest Snyder's policies in general.

"I just feel it's because of the poor people that we have a budget surplus," she said.

Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, said that after suffering through some "really dismal years," the local business community is showing plenty of positive signs, including 20 ribbon cuttings last year as well as "lots of expansion and diversity."

"I'm excited for Farmington and Farmington Hills," she said.

Another roundtable participant, Stan Moon, said his plumbing and leasing businesses are again thriving, while

business owner Terry Deichert, a self-described "Michigan survivor," told Snyder she's resumed paying overtime and bonuses to her employees — extras she had to suspend a few years ago.

"I'm so excited you decided to run again," Deichert said.

More to be done

Along with their positive feedback, many of the participants also described how economic

See SNYDER, Page A14



Gov. Rick Snyder continued his re-election campaign with this small business roundtable at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shining a light on bullying

Author's adventure story teaches kids how to deal with bullies

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Northville resident and working mom Lori Costew has written a book that has received national acclaim for its lesson against bullying.

Costew won a Silver Medal in the 2013 Readers Favorite Book Contest in the Pre-Teen category for her novel, *Sherpa's Adventure: Saving the Future*.

She received the award in a ceremony held at the Miami Book Fair, the largest book fair in the United States.

"This is such a tremendous honor and one that I hope will help shine a light on the topic of bullying, as well as the importance of positivity," she said.

This was a big moment for her after a lot of hard work while putting the story together.

Costew, 44, originally from Ohio, moved to Michigan 17 years ago and has lived in Northville the last 14 years. She's a Buckeye married to a Wolverine, which she says, "shows that there can be peace on Earth for 364 days a year." They have two children at Amerman Elementary, Troy and Cate.

"The Readers Favorite Award ceremony was held at the Miami Book Fair and I had the opportunity to meet both well-known authors and new authors like myself from around the world. It was an amazing experience — I am still smiling!" she said.

The basis for the novel comes from the many lessons Costew took in while studying



Northville author Lori Costew recently penned a young adult book called "Sherpa's Adventure — Saving the Future." JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

modern-day bullying of children.

"The statistics around bullying are chilling," she said.

According to Costew, it's estimated that 160,000 children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students and 35 percent of kids have been threatened online, as reported by the National Education Association.

"This is such a serious issue, yet I found most anti-bullying books are academic or written specifically about bullying," she said.

She said she chose to focus on the sweet spot of wrapping positive messages into a fun adventure story in order appeal to kids.

"Woven throughout the story are tools and techniques to help kids make positive decisions. The reviews online and feedback from voracious readers, reluctant readers, parents, grandparents and educators has been amazing," Costew

said. "Yet what is most satisfying are the comments by kids that the story keeps them so engaged that they keep reading. And when they keep reading, they start putting themselves in the characters shoes and realize kids can make a difference and choices impact lives."

The novel is an adventure story about a 16-year-old girl from the 24th century, where cars fly and robots clean bedrooms. However, the main character's life changes when she is tasked with stopping an evil dictator, Gen. Aveal, and his transfiguring HuBots from destroying world peace.

The novel has elements of science fiction, time travel and history, "yet it directly addresses challenges kids face today like bullying, making good decisions and being part of something bigger than yourself."

You can contact Costew at sherpakids@comcast.net.

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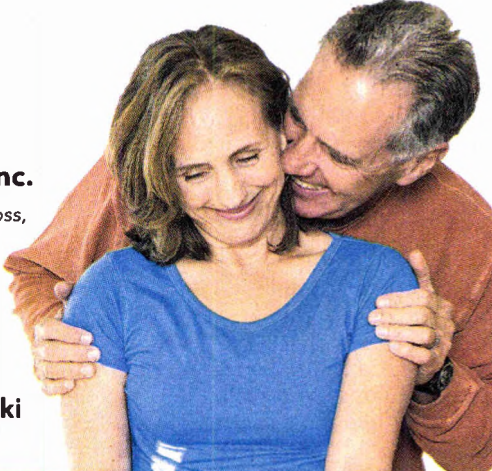
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METROPARKS CALENDAR



Kensington Metropark interpreter Chris Williams demonstrates how to use an ice-harvesting saw to Monica, 7, and Luke Vaughn, 5, of South Lyon during Saturday's ice festival. The annual event pays tribute to the area's history, where ice often was harvested and sold. Participants watched demonstrations and helped cut blocks of ice using antique saws and a variety of equipment. HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

General: 2014 annual parking and boat launch permits are available at the park office. Vehicle entry permits are \$30; senior citizen \$20. Boat launching permits are \$35; senior citizen \$20. The HCMA and Oakland County Parks permits, valid within both park systems, are \$54. Daily entry fee is \$5.

KENSINGTON

Note: For more information for registration, call the Kensington Park office at 810-227-8910 or 800-477-3178. The Nature Center office phone number is 810-227-8917. Preregistration required for programs and a \$2 fee per person unless stated otherwise. Park hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

NATURE CENTER

Tot Time: Who's Poo? Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. Which animals live in the woods? The stuff they leave behind can tell you. For children age 3-5. Fee: \$5 per child. Preregistration required.

Campfire Cooking, Saturday, Feb. 8, 5 p.m. Come learn how to build a great

cooking fire, then cook your dinner over it with one of the naturalists in this ongoing series. The menu is different each time, so make sure you try them all. Fee: \$10 per person. Preregistration required.

Chickadee Chow-Down, Sunday, Feb. 9, 1 p.m. In winter, a variety of songbirds will actually take sunflower seeds from your hands. Bird seed will be provided for this short walk along the nature trails. For all ages. Fee: \$4 per person. Preregistration required.

Homeschool - Winter Birds, Thursday, Feb. 13, 1:30 p.m. Explore animal adaptations, structures and functions through the life of birds. Learn how animals protect themselves, how they get food and why they look the way they do with experiential indoor games, and an outdoor hike. Fee: \$4 per student. Preregistration required.

Honey's Moon Walk, Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. We at the nature center enjoy long walks through the woods, looking for owls

and gazing at the full moon. Skip dinner and a movie and join us instead! For ages 8 and up. Fee: \$5 per person. Preregistration required.

Webelos: Forester, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m. All requirements for this badge will be met during this indoor/outdoor program. Fee: \$5 per Scout. Preregistration required.

Build a Bird Nest Box, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. Chickadees, bluebirds, wrens, swallows...these cheerful birds eat bugs in the summer and brighten your bird feeder in the winter; wouldn't they make great neighbors? Find out when you build them their very own nesting box for your yard. For ages 10 and up. Fee: \$15 per kit (includes materials; please bring a Phillip's screwdriver). Preregistration required.

FARM CENTER

Barn Dance, Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Join us for foot-stomping family fun in our barn. A square dance caller will walk you and your partner through the basics, providing a visit filled

with fun whether you're a beginner or seasoned pro. Great for moms and sons as well as dads and daughters. Light refreshments will be provided. Choose one session when calling for tickets: 6 p.m. - Daddy-Daughter; 8 p.m. - All family. Advance tickets \$8/person; \$10/person at the door. Call 810-227-8910 to order tickets.

INDIAN SPRINGS

Note: For more information for registration, call Indian Springs at 248-625-7280 or 800-477-3192. The golf course number is 248-625-7870. Discovery Center number is 248-625-6640. Summer park hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. A metropark vehicle entry permit is required.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER

Nest Box Workshop, Saturday, Feb. 8, 1 p.m. There is a lot you can do to invite native birds to nest successfully - much more than slapping up a "birdhouse"! This program is designed for those who are serious about providing nesting sites for native cavity-nesting birds.

Controlling exotic species (house sparrows and European starlings), discouraging house wrens from taking over all your nest boxes, and dealing with predators will be discussed. Proper nest box construction and plans for boxes are covered. Nest boxes/kits will be available for purchase. Teachers, families and individuals are welcome to attend this program. For ages 7 and up. Fee: \$5 per person. Nest Box kits are a separate fee. Preregistration required.

Winter Bird Hike, Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 a.m. Come enjoy this morning hike through the Huron swamp as we pursue the secretive pileated woodpecker! Whether you are a beginning birder or an experienced ornithologist, we're sure to have a great hike. Meet at the trailhead next to the park office. For ages 8 and up. Fee: \$3 per person. Preregistration required.

Winter Snow Creations for Families, Sunday, Feb. 16, 1 p.m. Just imagine all the possibilities a large pile of snow could

become - a dinosaur or perhaps a whale! Come create snow sculptures big and small. For all ages. Fee: \$3 per person. Preregistration required.

Hoots and Howls Night Hike, Saturday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. A crisp cold night ... full moon rising ... what a perfect time to search for the elusive and crafty coyote! We'll scout for tracks, coyote scat and hope the local coyotes "sing" for us. As long as we are out, we will attempt to call in the resident screech and barred owls. Be sure to dress for the weather conditions. For first-graders and up. Fee: \$5 per person. Preregistration required.

Family Lab Day: Electricity, Sunday, Feb. 23, 1 p.m. Been shocked lately? That's because of static electricity. We'll learn the basics of electricity, and talk about the great minds that studied it. Come to lab charged up and ready to turn on your thinking bulb as we dive into electrical experiments. For ages 7 and up. Fee: \$5 per person. Preregistration required.

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SNYDER

Continued from Page A13

progress has translated into an emerging need for capable and competent employees to fill open positions at their expanding businesses.

"I'm getting applicants, just not qualified ones," said Mike Gendjar, owner of the plumbing and electrical businesses A.J. Danbois in Farmington Hills and Danbois Mechanical in Farmington.

Noting that he's "pleased with the direction the state is going in," Gendjar said he's confident that Snyder "understands there needs to be a little more emphasis on the trades" - as evidenced by the governor's ongoing promotion for Michigan Advanced Technical Training Program and similar plans which offer viable alternatives to four-year college degrees.

Rolled out last fall at OCC and Henry Ford Community College - and set to expand to other schools this year - MAT2 is a three-year plan offering paid tuition and training in a technology-based field. Upon completion of



As Gov. Rick Snyder talked up his "Comeback State" platform, protestors picketed at Oakland Community College. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAT2, students earn an associate's degree and a guaranteed job in product design, information technology, mechatronics or similar industries.

MAT2, Snyder said, is just one example of a program that could ultimately distinguish Michigan as a leader throughout the United States. Noting his efforts to support business during his first three years as governor, Snyder said "there's more to be done (to achieve) far better jobs and better futures for our kids."

To that end, he's come up with his "Three C's" - collaborating with the private sector to identify demand for labor; creating opportunities in the education sector at intermediate school districts and community

college levels; and connecting that supply and demand.

It's a two-term effort, he said, calling it the "most important initiative going on," continuing toward the goal he established during his first bid for governor in 2010.

Snyder said he's excited about the work that has been ongoing for the past three years - and is eyeing the next five to "continue to grow (established) programs, to really instill them ... spread them to other fields."

He added: "We're just starting to take off. We're the 'Comeback State.' This is how you hit the gas."

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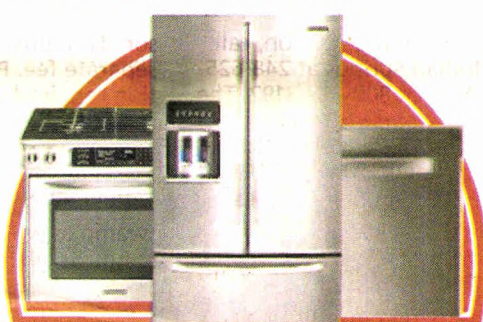
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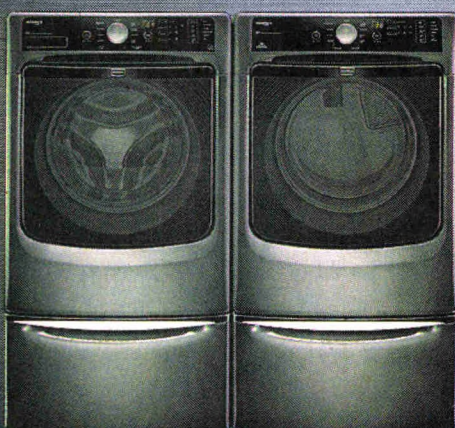
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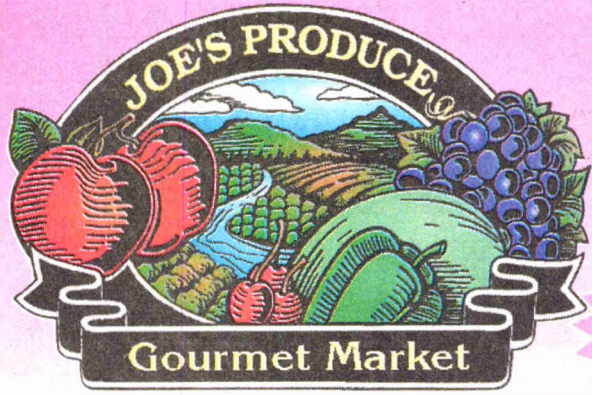


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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chiefs take down Rockets, win KLAA South



Canton senior Paige Aresco (No. 14), shown from earlier this season, led the Chiefs Monday with 17 points.

Big third quarter erases 1-point halftime deficit

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Canton girls basketball team got lulled to sleep during the first 16 minutes of Monday's encounter at Westland John Glenn.

The Chiefs, gunning to earn the top seed and clinch at least a share of the KLAA's South Division title, made only 4-of-22 first-half shots and trailed 13-12 to the upset-minded Rockets. (On Tuesday, Canton defeated Livonia Churchill to clinch the division outright).

"I just thought we needed to come out with more energy and try and speed those guys up," Canton coach Brian Samulski said. "Obvious Glenn wanted to walk it up and slow it down, take their time offensively and sit in the 2-3 (zone defense)."

"I thought we were sort of flat and

didn't have any energy. I said, 'Let's try and speed this game up and get rolling here.' I thought the girls did a nice job of coming out the third quarter and doing that."

The Chiefs apparently got the half-time message and took some No Doz in the process as they opened the third quarter with a 14-0 run and never looked back en route to a 39-22 victory.

Canton, now 11-3 overall and 8-0 in the division, was always the team to control the tempo in its meetings the previous meetings against the fast-paced Rockets (6-8, 5-3), who had captured the last two KLAA Association, Kensington Conference and South Division championships outright.

Got it going

"It's a little different than the past couple of years," Samulski said. "But

he (coach Derrick Jordan) is doing a good job. I thought we were getting good shots. We probably didn't shoot a great percentage the first half, but we got warmed up and reved up a little bit."

Canton senior forward Paige Aresco led all scorers with 17 points, including 11-of-16 from the foul line. She tallied eight of her points during the 19-3 third-period surge, while center Taylor Hunley added six of her eight.

Senior guard Rachel Winters, one half of the sister backcourt combination which also includes sophomore Natalie, chipped in with 12 points on the night.

Glenn missed its first 10 shots to open the third quarter. And for the game, the Rockets made just 6-of-35 from the floor (17 percent).

Sierra Mosley and Inkster transfer R'Mani Garrard scored eight and seven

See CHIEFS, Page B3

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



Zach Lorentz (No. 9) of the Plymouth Whalers wards off a check from Belleville's Aaron Berisha (No. 8). RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

POWER POINTS

Whalers' power play emerges in 4-3 victory over Belleville

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After letting Belleville score three goals within a 3:25 span in the second period Saturday, the Plymouth Whalers were in danger of dropping their fifth straight game.

But the Whalers erased a 3-2 deficit with two power-play markers in the third period to garner a 4-3 win at Compuware Arena.

With Plymouth enjoying an extended 5-on-3 power play, Whalers center Ryan Hartman fired a one-timer from the bottom of the left circle. The shot squeezed past Bulls netminder Charlie Graham on

the short side, to even the Ontario Hockey League contest at 3-all with 5:07 to play.

The good news for the Whalers was they continued on the power play after the marker, and broke the tie at 16:28.

Winger Connor Chatham slid the puck across the crease to forward Matt Mistele, who jammed it in at the left post for the winner.

Practice pays off

"We struggled a little bit lately," said Hartman, a Chicago Blackhawks prospect who also scored earlier in the contest. "But in practice this week we changed it up and

made a few adjustments and that worked for us.

"Don't make it fancy; he just wanted us to get pucks to the net."

Hartman followed the script perfectly on his tying tally, assisted by linemates Zach Lorentz (three helpers) and Victor Crus Rydberg.

"I've seen that for the past couple games and I haven't been able to put it in there," said Hartman, about his sharp-angle blast finding an opening between the near post and Graham's right pad. "But it bounced in tonight."

Plymouth actually scored three times on the power play. At 12:10 of the first period, left

wing Carter Sandlak deflected defenseman Gianluca Curcuro's point shot past Graham to make it 1-0. That gave Sandlak the team lead in goals with 21.

"Donny Elland (Whalers assistant coach) did a great job working on the power play, we worked on it this week," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "We changed a few of the guys where they play and we put (center Francesco) Vilardi out there today because a couple guys were suspended for two games."

See WHALERS, Page B2

CANTON INVITATIONAL

Chiefs 1st at Invite

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team hasn't seen a tournament it hasn't liked so far this season, and that trend continued unabated at Saturday's Canton Invitational.

The Chiefs made it 3-for-3 in invitationals in 2013-14 with a team score of 145.8 to lead a field of the top 12 teams in Michigan (20 teams were represented at the invite, actually held at Plymouth High School).

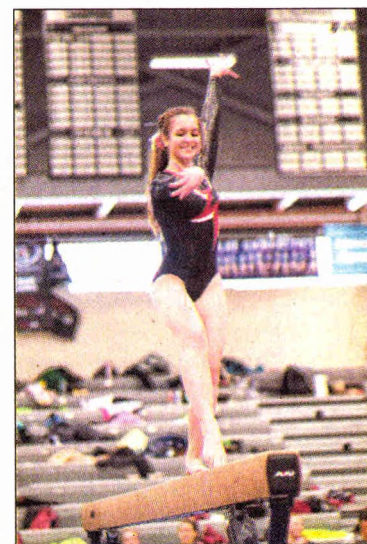
"It was a nicely balanced team effort against a very strong field and gives a positive foreshadowing of the possible results at the MHSAA state meet," noted Chiefs head coach John Cunningham.

Finishing second with 143.5 points was Farmington United, followed by Rockford (141.15), Forest Hills (139) and Plymouth (138.275).

Livonia Blue finished seventh with 135.525 points while Livonia Red (128.825) and Salem (126.625) placed 12th and 13th, respectively.

Standouts for the Chiefs

See INVITE, Page B2



Canton's Maddie Toal performs on the balance beam during Saturday's invitational. BRIAN QUINTOS

Rocks win Lash Cup and grab share of division crown

Salem ties Plymouth; both teams are KLAA South champions

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As far as Salem varsity boys hockey coach Ryan Ossenmacher is concerned, the KLAA very well could be the cream of the crop as far as truly competitive prep circuits go in Michigan.

In addition to perennial state title contenders such as Brighton, Novi, Northville and Livonia Stevenson, there is the KLAA South Division — a pack of hard-driving teams going for the top shelf of the trophy case.

So when the Rocks rallied late in the third period Saturday night to tie Plymouth 3-3

at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, it gave Ossenmacher's squad a share of the division crown with the Wildcats and Livonia Churchill (all 5-5-1).

Moreover, the Rocks grabbed the annual Lash Cup as a result of the draw. The Lash Cup goes to the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park team with the best head-to-head record against the other two Park rivals.

"We were obviously hoping to win the division outright," Ossenmacher said. "But being co-division champs in our league is something our players should be proud of."

"Our league is arguable the best league in the state, the

competition is extremely strong on a nightly basis."

Coming up clutch

It took a game-tying marker by senior forward Jake Sealy with 40 seconds to play in the third period for Salem to catch Plymouth.

Salem trailed 2-0 entering the third and tied it with four minutes left, thanks to two goals by senior forward Jason Newel.

Plymouth regained the lead at the 15-minute mark but the Wildcats and junior goalie Jared Maddock (24 saves) could not prevent the equalizer.

See LASH CUP, Page B2



Salem's Jake Sealy (No. 9) looks to shoot the puck while Plymouth's Kyle Bauer (No. 24) closes in on defense. MICHELLE BAUER



Plymouth Whalers forward Matt Mistele (No. 22) skates away from Belleville's Jake Marchment. Mistele scored the winning goal. PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

"We're just working it off of left-hand shots instead of right-hand shots on the strong side. Just switched it up a little bit."

Tough stretch

The Whalers (18-27-0-5, eighth in the Western Conference) went up 2-0 midway through the second period when Hartman buried the rebound of defenseman Yannick Rathgeb's shot. Hartman now has 16 goals in just 35 games.

That lead didn't last long as Belleville (14-32-2-2) got on the board at 12:43. Winger Scott Simmonds took the puck strong to the net only to be denied by Plymouth netminder Alex Nedeljkovic (42 saves). Following up on the play was center Jake Marchment, who made no mistake.

Just 1:19 later, the Bulls tied the game at 2-2 on a rising slapshot taken from above the right circle by forward Jake Bricknell. It was his first career OHL goal.

Belleville then went out in front 3-2 with 3:52 remaining in the frame. Left wing Remi Elie cut in on Nedeljkovic and his shot trickled over the goal line.

Plymouth was able to regroup between periods and outshot Belleville 16-12 in the third, more importantly finding the range twice.

"We got up 2-0 and let



Scoring in the second period Saturday night is Plymouth forward Ryan Hartman (No. 21), ripping the puck past Belleville goalie Charlie Graham.

them score three goals and we got down on ourselves and played a real bad second period," Vellucci said. "But we bounced back and got two big goals in the third."

Stepping in

The suspensions referred to by Vellucci stemmed from Friday's line brawl during the second period of the Plymouth-Kingston game, won by the Frontenacs 3-2.

Ejected after having their second fights of the game were defenseman Mathieu Henderson, Mitch Jones and forward Liam Dunda. All will sit out Friday's home game against Sault Ste. Marie and be eligible to return the following night against North Bay.

Vellucci reinserted 16-year-old defenseman Alex DiCarlo into the lineup to help stem the

tide from the suspensions as well as an injury sustained by defenseman Alex Peters on Friday night.

"He (DiCarlo) came up and played really well," Vellucci said. "He played a lot of minutes for us, only his second or third game."

Hartman said the Friday brawl and Saturday's comeback showed the Whalers aren't about to back down when facing adversity.

"I mean, that definitely got us riled up a little bit," Hartman noted. "We're a young team so we want to show teams that we're not going to take their stuff."

BLOOD DRIVE: The Whalers and American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at Computare Arena. Anyone who attempts to give blood will receive a ticket to the Whalers game that evening against the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

Friday's game will be shown on CN-900 television starting at 7 p.m.

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Canton's Jocelyn Moraw performs another top-notch routine on the balance beam at the Canton Invitational. PHOTOS BY BRIAN QUINTOS

INVITE

Continued from Page B1

included Melissa Green, Jocelyn Moraw, Stephanie Cox (all Division 1) and D2 performers Erica Lucas and Hailey Hodgson.

Canton's best event was vault, with D1 medals going to Green (second, 9.375), Moraw (8th, 9.175) and Cox (10th, 9.025). In D2, Lucas won with a 9.475 score followed by runner-up Hodgson (9.2).

Cunningham said Moraw led the team on balance beam (second, 9.65), floor exercise (second, 9.525) and all-around (third, 37.55).

Green also medaled in every event. She came in second on vault, third on floor (9.5) and fourth in all-around (37.175).

Another D1 performer for Canton, Maddie Toal, came in ninth on uneven parallel bars with a score of 8.875.

Other Park gymnasts also had outstanding showings at the prestigious invite.

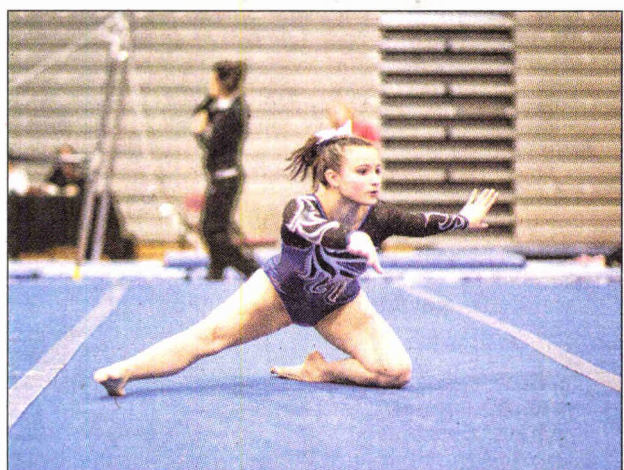
Salem's Alexia Frantzeskakis was stellar. She cracked the top 10 in Division 1 on vault (seventh, 9.2), beam (10th, 9.15), floor (fifth, 9.375) and all-around (eighth, 36.3).

Meanwhile, also in D1, Plymouth's Rebeca Simu just missed the top 10 in several events. Simu took 11th on vault (8.9), bars (8.6), beam (9.1) and all-around (35.175).

In Division 2, Katie Salanga of the Wildcats finished first on beam (9.3) and floor (9.45) while Plymouth teammate Molly McSween came in tied for ninth on



Plymouth's Katie Salanga had a big day, finishing first in two events in Division 2.



Performing with grace during her floor exercise routine is Salem's Paulette Martino.

"It was a nicely balanced team effort against a very strong field and gives a positive foreshadowing of the possible results at the MHSAA state meet."

JOHN CUNNINGHAM
Canton coach

bars with an 8.6.

Farmington United senior Meredith Jonik won the D2 all-around

championship with a total score of 35.925.

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GIRLS GYMNASTICS RESULTS

CANTON GYMNASTICS INVITATIONAL

Feb. 1 at Plymouth

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Canton, 145,800 points; 2. Farmington, 143,500; 3. Rockford, 141,150; 4. Forest Hills, 139,000; 5. Plymouth, 138,100; 6. Brighton, 137,275; 7. Livonia Blue, 135,525; 8. Grosse Pointe, 134,500; 9. Howell, 134,475; 10. Kenowa Hills, 133,300; 11. Holt, 129,900; 12. Livonia Red, 128,825; 13. Salem, 126,625; 14. Western, 125,125; 15. Northville, 124,550.

DIVISION 1 RESULTS

Vault: 1. Madi Meyers (R), 9.425; 2. Melissa Green (C), 9.375; 3. Carina Wright (F), 9.275; 4. Alexia Frantzeskakis (S), 9.200; 5. Jocelyn Moraw (C), 9.175; 6. Stephanie Cox (C), 9.025; 7. Rebeca Simu (P), 8.900; 8. Haley Metz (P), 8.750.

Bars: 1. Christina Shabet (T), 9.725; 2. Isabelle Nguyen (GP), 9.400; 3. Madi Meyers (R), 9.250; 4. Moraw (C), 9.200; 5. Margo Mekjian (B), 9.125; 6. Green (C), 8.925; 7. Maddie Toal (C), 8.875; 8. Wright (F), 8.675; 9. Simu (P), 8.600; 10. (tie) Frantzeskakis (S), Annamie Martini (B), 8.575; 11. Brook Raban (F), 8.5; 12. Cox (C), 8.4; 13. Metz (P), 8.3.

Beam: 1. Shabet (T), 9.750; 2. Moraw

(C), 9.650; 3. Meyers (R), 9.575; 4. Morgan Korf (R), 9.450; 5. Green (C), 9.375; 7. Raban (F), 9.325; 9. Wright (F), 9.200; 10. Frantzeskakis (S), 9.150; 11. Simu (P), 9.100; 12. Mekjian (B), 8.925; 13. Toal (C), 8.825; 16. (tie) Paige Blythe (H), Cox (C), 8.650; 19. Metz (P), 7.900.

Floor: 1. Shabet (T), 9.550; 2. Moraw (C), 9.525; 3. Green (C), 9.500; 4. Nguyen (GP), 9.450; 5. Frantzeskakis (S), 9.375; 7. Mekjian (B), 9.325; 8. Blythe (H), 9.300; 9. Raban (F), 9.275; 10. Wright (F), 9.250; 16. Toal (C), 8.800; 17. Simu (P), 8.575; 20. Metz (P), 8.175.

All-Around: 1. Shabet (T), 38.275; 2. Meyers (R), 37.600; 3. Moraw (C), 37.550; 4. Green (C), 37.175; 5. Mekjian (B), 36.600; 6. Wright (F), 36.400; 8. Frantzeskakis (S), 36.300; 11. Simu (P), 35.175; 12. Blythe (H), 35.100; 16. Metz (P), 33.125; 17. Raban (F), 27.100; 18. Toal (C), 26.500; 19. Cox (C), 26.075.

DIVISION 2 RESULTS

Vault: 1. Erica Lucas (C), 9.475; 2. Hailey Hodgson (C), 9.200; 5. Meredith Jonik (F), 9.000; 8. Marissa McVey (LR), 8.900; 9. (tie) Kathryn Raby (B), Alyssa Millinoff (F), 8.800; 11. Claire Saunders (F), 8.750; 12. Katie Salanga (P), 8.650; 13. Jackie Dzurigot (LR), 8.625; 14. Kayla

Janevski (P), 8.600; 19. Alex Zukowski (LB), 8.525.

Bars: 1. Brianna Rhoad (LB), 8.850; 2. Jonik (F), 8.750; 3. Millinoff (F), 8.700; 4. (tie) Jessica Weak (LB), 8.675; 9. (tie) Raby (B), Molly McSween (P), 8.600; 11. Marissa Schuh (F), 8.525; 13. Sophia Eisenhart (B), 8.425; 14. Lucas (C), 8.400; 15. (tie) Alyssa Walker (H), Allison Augustyn (H), 8.375; 17. Heather Foxworthy (H), 8.275; 18. Emily Chatterjee (LB), 8.250.

Beam: 1. Salanga (P), 9.450; 3. Jonik (F), 9.175; 4. Weak (LB), 9.050; 5. Chatterjee (LB), 9.000; 7. Hodgson (C), 8.850; 8. (tie) Raby (B), Samantha Rauch (H), 8.750; 11. Zukowski (LB), 8.700; 13. Connelly (P), 8.625; 17. Schuh (F), 8.525; 19. Ellie Bachman (C), 8.500.

All-Around: 1. Jonik (F), 35.925; 3. Schuh (F), 34.825; 6. Raby (B), 34.450; 7. Weak (LB), 34.250; 9. Chatterjee (LB), 33.425; 13. Zukowski (LB), 33.000; 12. Dzurigot (LR), 32.550; 17. Paulette Martino (S), 31.900.

LASH CUP

Continued from Page B1

er.

Scoring for Plymouth were John VanDen-Burgeury, Mike Schultz (each also registering an assist) and Alex Bump. Jake Zabrowski, Mike Scarpello and Kyle Melnick also tallied an assist.

For Salem, recent transfer Liam Walker (formerly of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central) and Noah Willer each set up two goals. Other assists were picked up

by Noah Saad and Nick Smith.

Making 21 saves for the Rocks was senior netminder Parker Godfrey.

Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento, asked about the game, would only confirm through email that Salem won the Lash Cup (for the fifth time in seven years) and that Churchill actually will go into the KLAAs tournament as a No. 1 seed based on a tie-breaker.

But all three teams do share the division title as far as banners and record books go.

"Plymouth is an extremely hard working team and you need to match their intensity to have any success, which we didn't for the first two periods, but we battled back in the third," Ossemacher said. "Our seniors really stepped up in the moment and brought us back for the tie."

"Any time you can win the Lash Cup it is a special accomplishment for our players. The Park games are always great battles and fun to be a part of."

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GIRLS GYMNASTICS RESULTS

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All-Around: 1. Shabet (T), 38.275; 2. Meyers (R), 37.600; 3. Moraw (C), 37.550; 4. Green (C), 37.175; 5. Mekjian (B), 36.600; 6. Wright (F), 36.400; 8. Frantzeskakis (S), 36.300; 11. Simu (P), 35.175; 12. Blythe (H), 35.100; 16. Metz (P), 33.125; 17. Raban (F), 27.100; 18. Toal (C), 26.500; 19. Cox (C), 26.075.

DIVISION 2 RESULTS

Vault: 1. Erica Lucas (C), 9.475; 2. Hailey Hodgson (C), 9.200; 5. Meredith Jonik (F), 9.000; 8. Marissa McVey (LR), 8.900; 9. (tie) Kathryn Raby (B), Alyssa Millinoff (F), 8.800; 11. Claire Saunders (F), 8.750; 12. Katie Salanga (P), 8.650; 13. Jackie Dzurigot (LR), 8.625; 14. Kayla

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MIAC GIRLS BASKETBALL



Plymouth Christian Academy seniors (from left) Martha Mullett, Rachel Smith, Jen Malcolm and Rachael Fuller each scored double digits in PCA's Senior/Parent Night victory.

Senior Eagles soar on their night

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For Jen Malcolm and her senior classmates on the Plymouth Christian Academy varsity girls basketball team, the experience has been one to never forget.

Which is why the PCA senior quartet wanted to come up big for Tuesday's "Senior/Parent Night" contest against Oakland Christian.

Malcolm, the 6-0 center and team captain in her fourth season on the varsity, tallied 10 points and nine rebounds to lift the Eagles to a 48-29 MIAC Red Division victory.

And the other seniors — guards Martha Mullett, Rachael Fuller and forward Rachel Smith — also hit double digits in scoring. Mullett led with 13 points while Fuller and Smith chipped in with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

"We're coming together as a team and I know I'm having a lot of fun," Malcolm said. "I think we're meshing well and just getting in the zone. And then tonight was really special. Hearing what the girls had

to say about us was really neat and just touching. I love the team and this has been just such an amazing experience playing for PCA for so long (four years)."

The seniors and their parents were introduced at halftime. A program featuring mini bios and "thank yous" from Malcolm, Mullett, Fuller and Smith were read to the crowd by PCA underclassmen.

According to Eagles head coach Rod Windle, whose team is 8-5 overall and 5-2 in the division, seeing the seniors play major roles in the victory was fitting.

"Our team really worked hard today," Windle said. "Martha Mullett, our senior guard, hit a lot of nice shots for us at the beginning. She's been the hot hand."

"And Jen Malcolm took over in the second half and established the post, did a nice job. Along with Rachel Smith as well in the post, establishing herself, it was nice to see all four seniors get double digits tonight and contribute on Senior Night."

Smith also had eight rebounds and four assists while Fuller pulled down six boards for PCA.

The outcome never really was in doubt against the winless Lancers (0-8 in the MIAC Red).

PCA took a 13-6 lead after one quarter and upped that to 27-17 at halftime. The Eagles outscored the Lancers 14-7 in the third to go up 41-24 entering the fourth.

The seniors were able to leave the floor during the final stanza, to warm applause from the bleachers.

"We have great girls, they really work hard and love the game," Windle added. "I'm really proud of them."

In the final stanza, players such as 6-0 junior center Danielle Witkowski were able to come through. Witkowski finished the home team's scoring with a nifty turnaround banker from inside the lane.

Scoring 11 points for Oakland Christian was Annie-Marie Goddard.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

KLAA GIRLS HOOPS

Salem stymied by Novi in bid for top

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Entering Tuesday's Senior Night game, Salem's varsity girls basketball team needed to defeat Novi to pull even in the KLAA Central Division.

The host Rocks got off to a good start, too, leading 9-5 after one frame. But slowly, but surely, the Kerri McMahan-led Wildcats took control and ultimately earned a 42-33 victory.

That gave Novi a 7-2 record in the division while Salem dropped to 5-4 (and 10-5 overall).

"They (Wildcats) were prepared, obviously we got their number the first time (a Salem win Jan. 17) and they weren't expecting it," said Rocks interim coach Lindsay Klemmer. "They came out extremely ready, extremely intense."

"I've never seen any of those girls that intense on Novi. They wanted revenge, it was clear."

It was a 17-14 Novi lead at halftime and the Rocks could not get anything going in the third, being outscored 8-3 to trail 25-17 entering the fourth.

Klemmer noted adjustments made at halftime by the Wildcats.

"They spread the floor quite a bit, they put the ball in Kerri's hands," Klemmer said. "She drove and ... our defense would collapse to stop her, which was what the plan was. But then somebody else was open."

Novi shooters took it from there.

"Really they just hit every shot they took, basically," Klemmer added.

Salem, led by junior forward Shara Long and senior guard Kayla Kavulich with 13 and 11 points, respectively, did cut the gap to four points midway through the fourth.

But the Rocks missed their next field goal attempt and Novi upped the margin to six points with about 2:30 remaining.

"It's frustrating and disappointing," Klemmer said. "I know how bad our girls wanted this, and I know how bad I wanted this."

For Novi, Alexandria Felice scored 12 points while McMahan added six along with a number of assists.

Honored on Salem's Senior Night were Kavulich, Aly Mann, Kelly Whalen and Ashley Baker.

SALEM 29, S.L. EAST 23: Shara Long and Jamyra Wilson each scored nine points Monday as the host Rocks overcame a slow start in the KLAA Central Division matchup.

The Rocks trailed 7-2 early in the contest but rallied to tie the Cougars 9-9 at halftime. A 13-5 third quarter pushed Salem over the hump.

"This game was exactly what we expected it to be, a battle from beginning to end," Salem interim coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "Once again, our team defense has been outstanding."

"We would work for two minutes at a time some possessions on defense and still kept our composure forcing them into tough shots."

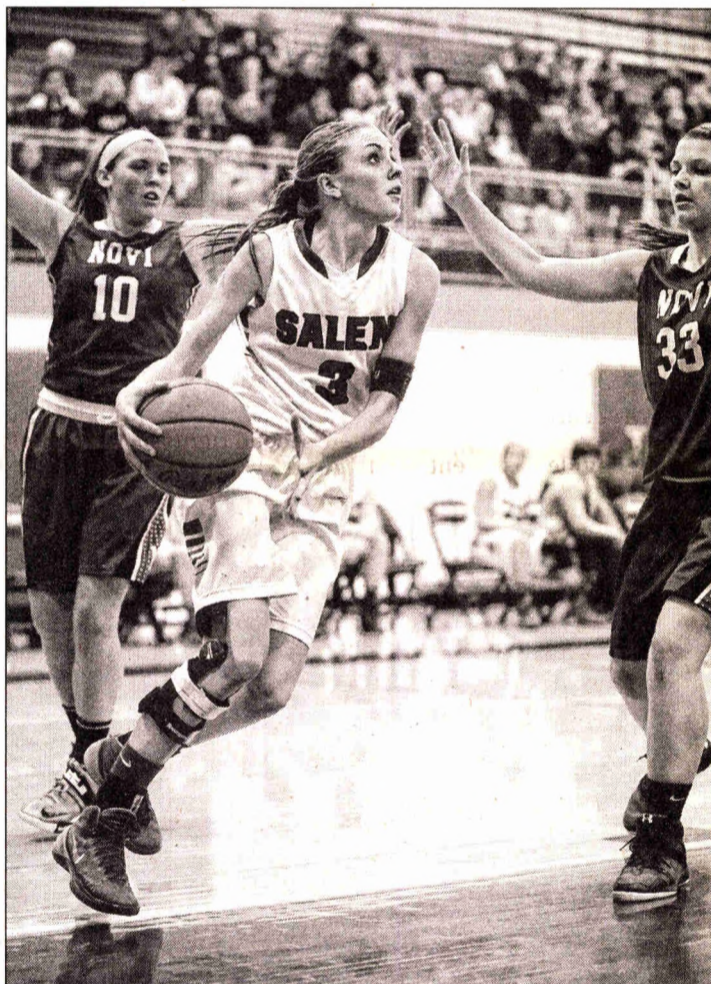
Long led the Rocks with nine rebounds.

PLYMOUTH 71, FRANKLIN 6: Junior wing Kendall Rose scored 17 points to lead four players in double figures Monday as the host Wildcats (11-3, 6-2) romped to a KLAA South Division triumph over Livonia Franklin (2-12, 2-6).

Jada Woody, Shelby Cheston and Leah Kliczinski added 10 points apiece as Plymouth led 33-2 after one quarter and 50-4 at halftime.

Every Plymouth player scored for the Wildcats, second in the division behind Canton.

The Wildcats hosted Wayne Memorial Tuesday, but results were not available as of press time.



Salem's Kayla Kavulich (No. 3) drives between Novi's Taylor Pavlika (No. 10) and Alexandria Felice (No. 33). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL

Loss ends Chiefs' hopes for title

The Canton Chiefs won't soon forget Livonia Churchill's Joan Andoni.

The Chargers' 6-foot-2 sophomore guard scored a game-high 33 points, including 24 in the second half, to lead Churchill to a thrilling 52-51 boys basketball win Tuesday at Canton. With the loss, Canton (11-3, 5-3) will not be able to catch Westland John Glenn for the KLAA South Division title.

Churchill, now 7-7 overall and 6-3 in the KLAA's South Division, beat the Chiefs for the second time this season as Jalen Davis nailed the game-winning free throw with only eight seconds left to break a tie.

Andoni, who nailed six triples on the night, scored all 17 of his team's third-quarter points to spark a 17-10 run and rally from a 31-24 halftime deficit.

"Joan was incredible, the best I've seen in my 12 years here," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We showed a lot of guts, toughness and heart. It was a great, great win."

Davon Taylor scored 19 for the Chiefs while Jordan Nobles and Shaine Keywandwy added 12 each.

Plymouth bounces back

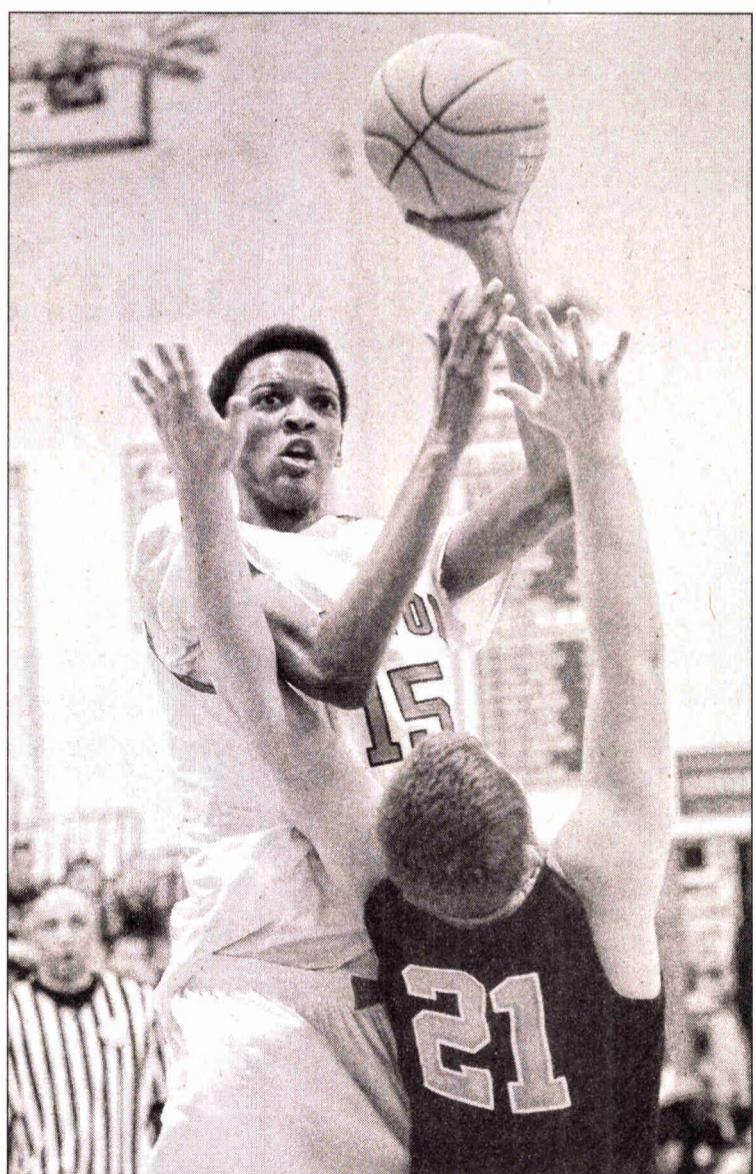
Visiting Plymouth got past Wayne Memorial 52-47 Tuesday night to earn a spot in next week's KLAA tournament.

The Wildcats (7-7 overall, 4-5 in the KLAA South Division) recovered from Monday's 49-33 loss to Livonia Franklin.

Plymouth got out to a 10-3 lead after one frame, but the Zebras fought back to make it 19-19 at halftime.

Thanks to contributions from several players, the Wildcats regained the lead in the third and hung on.

Randall Aikins spearheaded the win with 22 points, with Josh Reynolds and Brent Davis each tallying seven.



Canton senior forward Jordan Nobles, shown from earlier this season, scored 12 points Tuesday against Livonia Churchill. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Contributing six points and eight rebounds was Chris Walls, while Deji Adebisi scored six.

On Monday, Reynolds and Aikins paced Plymouth with 17 and 13 points, respectively. But they could not ward off the Patriots, who bounced back from a 28-25 halftime deficit.

CANTON 51, WAYNE 38: Junior guard Greg Williams scored 16 points Monday as the Chiefs (11-2, 5-2) need a 17-4 fourth-quarter run to overhaul host Wayne Memorial (3-11, 2-6) in a KLAA South Division encounter.

Senior forwards Davon Taylor and Jordan Nobles chipped in with 14 and 12 points, respectively. Brian Williams and DeAndre Carter paced the Zebras, who led 24-20 at halftime and were tied 34-all after three quarters, with 16 and 11 points, respectively.

Canton went 18-of-28 from the foul line, while Wayne was 11-of-16.

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

points, respectively, in a losing cause.

Despite an off-night shooting — 12-of-39 (30 percent) — Canton's defense got the job done.

But the snow days and the uneven schedule could be a factor in an inconsistent offense.

"I think with every team you've got to practice as much as you can," said Samulski, who guided the Chiefs to back-to-back KLAA South titles in 2009-10 and 2010-11. "We're about to do four games in five days, so that's a grind. But this is a resilient group that we have."

"They're hanging in there and just getting through it. You've got to find a way to get through it and they're doing a great job with that."

It's official

On Tuesday, the Chiefs clinched the KLAA South title outright with a 63-27 victory over host Livonia Churchill.

Leading the way for Canton (12-3 overall, 9-0 in the KLAA South) was Hunley, with 20 points and seven rebounds.

"I really thought Taylor was outstanding tonight," Samulski said. "She did a great job of finishing around the rim."

Contributing 11 points was Aresco, with senior Shannon Perry (eight points), junior

Alanna Brown (seven points), sophomore Natalie Winters and junior Jordan Church (six points each) all helping the cause.

The Chiefs were up 16-2 after one frame and led 37-10 at halftime.

"Winning the division and putting a '14 up on the banner was one of our goals," Samulski said. "Now we want to finish division play strong on Friday (against Livonia Franklin) and then start to get ready for the conference tournament."

Samulski credited his team for successfully navigating through the recent grind of four games in five days, largely due to last week's weather postponements.

"For the most part, I thought the girls did a great job of handling this," he noted. "It's been tough with all the cold and snow days to get in a good rhythm."

"But because of the senior leadership and how resilient this team is they were able to go 4-0."

For the Chargers (6-9, 3-6), Alivia Kondrath registered eight points.

CANTON 67, WAYNE 15: Jordan Church scored 14 points Saturday as the host Chiefs routed Wayne Memorial (0-13, 0-8) in a KLAA South Division make-up game.

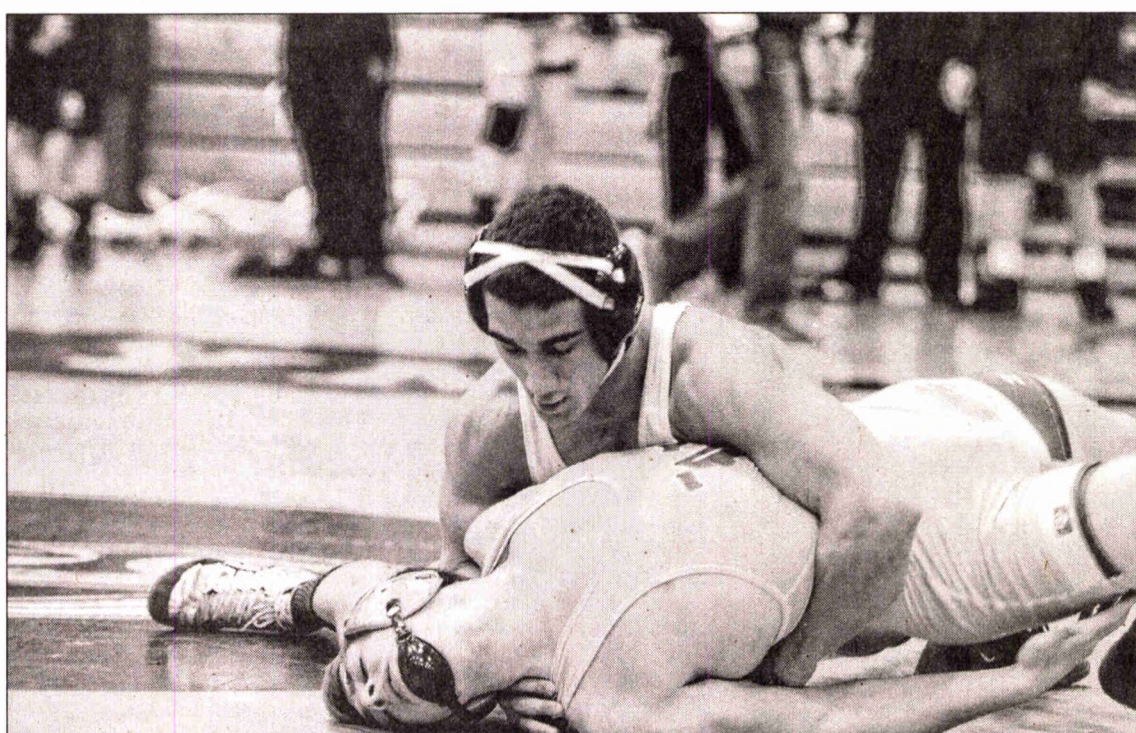
Madison Archibald, Taylor Hunley and Rachel Winters chipped in with nine points apiece for Canton.

Coach Brian Samulski lauded his team's focus for coming back less than 24 hours after Friday's emotional victory over Plymouth.

"I thought the girls did a great job with their focus and came out and did a nice job," Samulski said. "We were able to get everyone a bunch of playing time which is always nice."

The Chiefs parlayed strong defense into an early 26-3 lead and never looked back.

WRESTLING RESULTS



Canton senior Alec Pantaleo, shown from earlier this season, was the KLAAs champion at 152 pounds Saturday. Others from the Park to win their weight classes were Canton senior Ben Griffin (135) and Salem junior Mitchell Gross (189).

KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION WRESTLING TOURNEY Feb. 1 at Howell

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Hartland, 246.5 points; 2. Brighton, 164.5; 3. Plymouth, 156; 4. Walled Lake Central, 143; 5. Livonia Franklin, 128.5; 6. Walled Lake Northern, 112; 7. Canton, 109; 8. Westland John Glenn, 101; 9. Waterford Kettering, 89; 10. Howell, 86.5; 11. Wayne Memorial, 73; 12. Grand Blanc, 69; 13. (tie) Walled Lake Western and White Lake Lakeland, 64 each; 15. South Lyon, 63; 16. Salem, 56; 17. Milford, 52; 18. Novi, 46.5; 19. (tie) Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill, 46 each; 21. Pinckney, 42; 22. Waterford Kettering, 36; 23. Northville, 30.5; 24. South Lyon East, 10.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

103 pounds: Kaleb Marion (WLC) d. Eric Lundwall (Hartland), 10-4; **3rd place:** John Siemasz (WJG) d. Lee Grobowski (Brighton), 5-1; **5th place:** Collin Reed (Ply.) d. Michael Gibbs (Mott), 12-5; **7th place:** Nolan Klapek (Lakeland) d. Justin Miller (WLN), 8-2; **112:** Ben Freeman (WLC) d. Brandon Harris (Ply.), 10-3; **3rd:** Reece Hughes (Hartland) d. Grant Morrison (Brighton), 3-0; **5th:** Jeremy Nelson (LF) d. Mike Strayer (Howell), 6-2; **7th:** Ethan Englehart (LC) d. Cameron Shaughnessy (Salem), 8-3; **119:** Daniel Shear (WLC) d. Noah Gonsler (GB), 3-2; **3rd:** Mohamad Youssef (Ply.) d. Tim Way (WM), 6-3; **5th:** Nick Roberston (LF) pinned Chase

Spanos (WJG), 4-16; **7th:** Jackson Renicker (Brighton) d. Garnet Potter (Hartland), 5-4; **125:** Brandon Conrad (Kettering) won by major dec. over Nathan Atienza (LF), 17-4; **3rd:** Kevin Huynh (WJG) d. Nathaniel Fleming (GB), 3-1; **5th:** Sage Castillo (Hartland) d. Kyle Bohnsack (Brighton), 7-5; **7th:** Shunhe Wang (N'ville) d. Dominic Paterra (WLC), 10-6; **130:** Ben Calandrino (Howell) won by major dec. over Nate Hughes (Hartland) 16-6; **3rd:** Ben Weddle (WLN) d. Trevor Bageris (Milford), 5-2; **5th:** Dylan Dwyer (Ply.) d. Trevor Demers (LS), 6-2; **7th:** Nicholas Smith (Brighton) d. Hayden Kinjorski (WLC), 5-3; **135:** Ben Griffin (Canton) won by technical fall over Anthony Chudler (WLN), 18-3; **3rd:** Jared Davidson (SL) p. Jose Ramos (Brighton), 0-42; **5th:** Justin Rollins (Hartland) p. Kevin Charara (N'ville), 1-39; **7th:** Corey Howell (WLN) d. Evan Davis (Novi), 5-0; **140:** Austin Eicher (Hartland) won by major dec. over Jon Conn (Ply.) 15-4; **3rd:** Austin Murray (WLN) d. Ty Jisman (Canton), 6-4; **5th:** Tunde Alawode (WJG) d. Dylan Lester (Howell), 3-2; **7th:** David Joyner (Milford) won by injury default over Timothy Smerdon (WLC); **145:** Jacob Gorial (Hartland) p. Christian Landerback (WLN), 2-26; **3rd:** Solus Neison (Ply.) d. Caleb McCabe (Salem), 5-4; **5th:** Chase Gardner (LC) d. Corbin Moorer (Mott), 14-12; **7th:** Ryan Salmon (Brighton) won by injury default over Avery Little (Pinckney); **152:** Alec Pantaleo (Canton) p. Nick Frazier (LF),

1-04; **3rd:** Anthony Colaianne (Hartland) won by major dec. over Benjamin Wright (Novi), 13-5; **5th:** Jacob Stitley (WLC) d. Aaron Heinonen (WM), 3-0; **7th:** Majdi Hatem (LS) d. Paul Moenart (Pinckney), 5-4; **160:** Jordan Atienza (LF) won by tech. fall over Patrick Kern (WLN), 23-8; **3rd:** Joey Shaver (Ply.) d. Logan Vish (Hartland), 6-4; **5th:** Beau Mouer (Brighton) d. Connor Vaughan (LS), 4-2; **7th:** Will Jacobs (Lakeland) won by major dec. over Zach Reynolds (GB), 12-2; **171:** Nicholas Brish (Brighton) p. Hussein Youssef (Ply.), 4-43; **3rd:** Sam DeQuattro (WLN) won by injury default over Dean Honkala (Howell); **5th:** Andy Bovey (Lakeland) d. Zach Carter (Kettering), 8-6; **7th:** Nate Smith (Hartland) d. Matt Cylla (N'ville), 6-3; **189:** Mitchell Gross (Salem) d. Alex Sovel (WLC), 8-2; **3rd:** Lucas Ready (Brighton) p. Jake Enconomou (Hartland), 4-08; **5th:** Dalton Bedgood (Kettering) p. Brad Scott (LS), 1-14; **7th:** Donovan Carter (Lakeland) d. James Pomerico (WM), 8-4; **215:** Jordan Brandon (WJG) d. Matt Okaiye (Kettering), 5-3; **3rd:** Ken Wooley (Canton) d. Jameson Donehue (SL), 4-1; **5th:** Eric Conquest (Brighton) d. Nathan Pajur (Howell), 3-1; **7th:** Blake Peterson (Milford) p. Joe Fortin (LF), 0-42; **285:** Josh Charneski (Hartland) d. Aaron Mauldin (WM), 4-0; **3rd:** Jake Sokoll (Lakeland) d. John Dixon (SL), 5-2; **5th:** Jamie Demers (WLN) d. Eveen Deloney (GB), 2-0; **7th:** Brandon Krol (Milford) p. Dylan Shumate (WLN), 1-34.

Stevenson swimmers not quite tapered

Spartans set 6 records; place 2nd in County

By Brad Emons Staff Writer

With the critical stretch coming up in the boys swim season, Livonia Stevenson is beginning to round into form.

On Saturday, Stevenson took runner-up honors in the Wayne County Championship, losing by just three points to host Grosse Pointe South, 418-415.

Rounding out the top five in the 20-team field was Northville (294), Salem (231) and Trenton (291).

"We've been training really hard, so we really haven't had a break," said Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker, who guided his team to a third-place finish in last year's MHSAA Division 1 finals.

"We haven't had a meet that we he had to get up for. We have our last home meet (Thursday) at home versus Northville. We have MISCA on Saturday, and that's a meet we're going to want to step it up for."

Despite the Spartans coming away with six County meet titles, Shoemaker hasn't tapered his team just yet.

"This meet, the Wayne County, we were swimming pretty tired," he said. "And they (Grosse Pointe South) pretty rested and tuned up for. They took it as a big meet and dropped a lot of time. It was their home pool and they wanted to do well."

Individual winners for Stevenson at the County meet

included Nick Arakelian, 200-yard individual medley (1:54.37); Jake Goeddeke, 50 freestyle (22.16); Matt LaPorte, 500 freestyle (4:53.23); and Grant McNamara, 100 breaststroke (1:02.15).

Stevenson's 200 freestyle relay team of Goeddeke, Michael Chen, Alex Lee and Jackson O'Dowd added a first (1:29.86), while the 400 freestyle relay team of O'Dowd, Goeddeke, Parker Belmore and Arakelian also emerged victorious (3:14.7).

All told, the Spartans set six county records, as well as two pool records — Arakelian in the 200 IM and 400 freestyle relay.

In the 200 medley relay, South was clocked in 1:38.08 to place first, while Stevenson's foursome of Belmore, Arakelian, Bradley Bielicki and Chen were runner-up in 1:38.54.

South's Eric Addy also captured the 1-meter diving event with a total of 398.90 points.

Other top individual finishes for the Spartans included: Arakelian, second, 100 butterfly (53.82); McNamara, second, 500 freestyle (4:57.71); O'Dowd, third, 200 IM (2:02.57) and 100 freestyle (49.65); Tommy O'Donohue, third, 100 breaststroke (1:03.71), seventh, 200 IM (2:10.51); Belmore, third, 100 breaststroke (55.09), seventh, 100 butterfly (55.9); Bielicki, sixth, 200 IM (2:08.39); LaPorte, seventh, 200 freestyle (1:52.17); Lee, eighth, 100 freestyle (51.3), 200 freestyle (1:52.24); and Goeddeke, eighth, 100 butterfly (56.58).

SPORTS SHORTS

Rocks seek assistant coach

Salem girls track & field is looking for an assistant coach for the 2014 spring season that specializes in the throwing events of shot put and discus.

If interested, contact the Salem athletic department at 734-416-7774, head coach Dave Gerlach at 734-416-7708 or refer to the employment/coaching positions on the district website www.pccs.k12.mi.us.

Future Stars camp

The eighth annual Franklin High School Future Stars spring baseball camp will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. (Session 1) and 12:15-2:45 p.m. (Session 2) Saturday, Feb. 22, at the high school fieldhouse, 31000 Joy, Livonia.

Session 1 will consist of hitting, base running and in-field work, while Session 2 will focus on pitching, outfield, defense and catching drills. The cost is \$30 per session

or \$50 for both. Campers must bring a glove, bat and athletic shoes. Each camper will bring a sack lunch for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. if attending both sessions.

For more information, call Franklin coach Matt Fournier at 734-968-0499 or email mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org.

65-plus softball

A new Canton senior citizen softball team is being formed to join the Suburban Senior Softball League of Western

Wayne County.

The team needs up to 20 players who either are 65 or who will turn 65 during 2014. The formation of the squad will give the Canton area two teams in the league, which is governed by the Amateur Softball Association.

The league has teams based out of Livonia, Redford, Westland, Dearborn and Taylor.

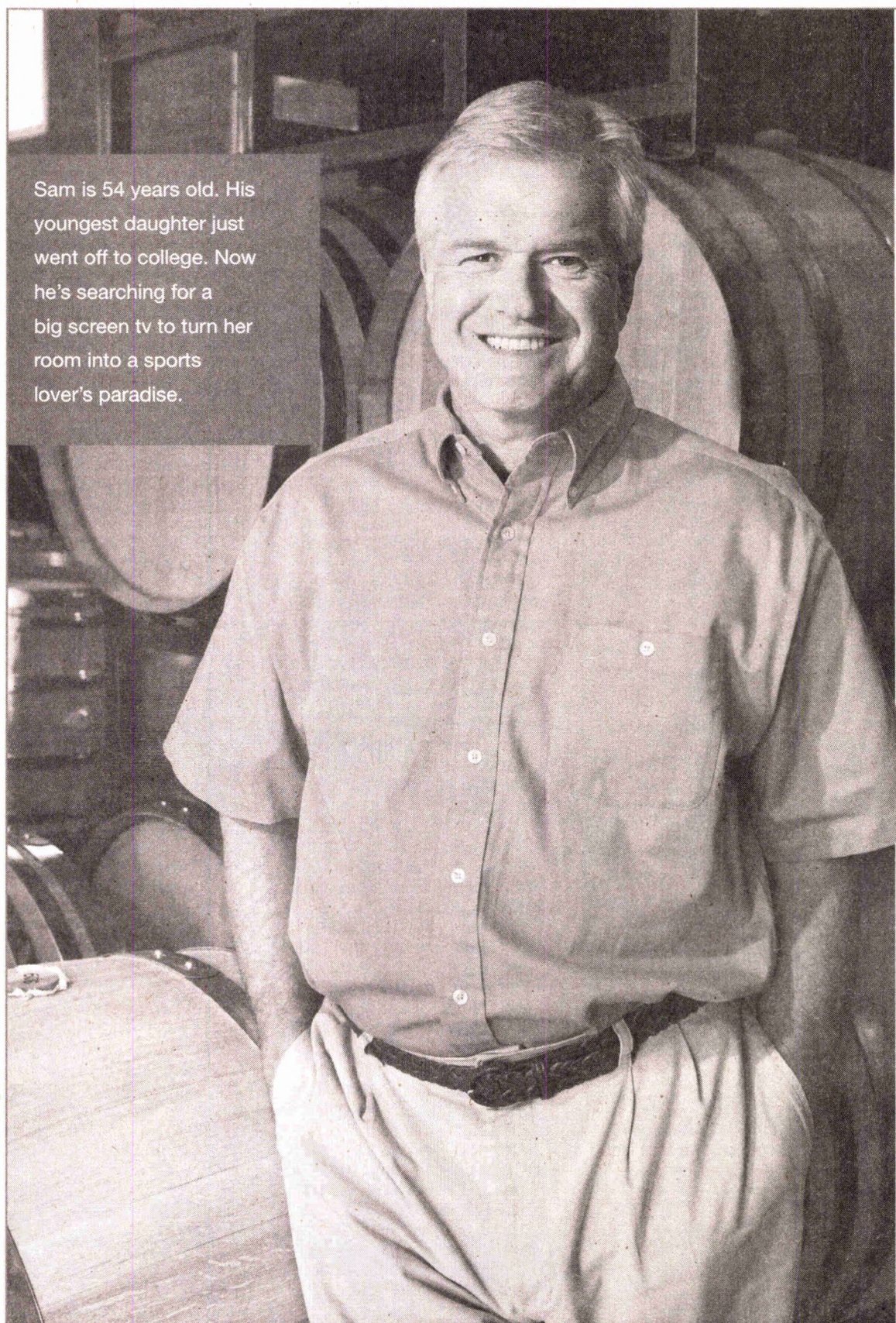
Interested players are encouraged to attend an information meeting 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, at the Canton Coney

Island restaurant, located off Lilley Road south of Joy Road (next to the Secretary of State office).

Call 734-502-7477 or email bwphoto1@comcast.net for more information.

Need tennis coach

Dearborn Heights Annapolis High School is seeking a varsity girls tennis coach for the spring season. Interested candidates should call Annapolis athletic director Scott Wiemer at 313-278-2610.



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RELIGION CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

AFTER MASS MEAL

Time/Date: 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8
Location: Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland
Details: \$8 admission includes: mostaccioli with marinara sauce, meatballs (optional), garlic bread, unlimited salad, drink, and dessert
Contact: 734-722-1343

ANNULMENTS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Monsignor Ronald Browne, J.D., canon lawyer and member of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal, will explain the often-misunderstood concept of annulment as well as convalidation, a process that brings an established marriage into full union with the church. Free admission
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200; www.livoniastmichael.org

AUCTION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16
Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland
Details: Concordia Lutheran School's annual auction, "Winter Wonderland" will include appetizer, dinner, desserts, beer, wine and soft drinks, in addition to an auction. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$270 for tables of 10
Contact: Racann Kush at 248-474-3991

CPR TRAINING

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8
Location: Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland
Details: Gary Bernhardt, a certified instructor, will teach a class on CPR/defibrillator/first aid for anyone who is new at CPR, as well as those who want to update their certification. Cost is \$35 per person, payable that day.
Contact: 734-722-1343

DINNER DANCE

Time/Date: 6-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Valentine Dinner Dance will include dinner and music for dancing by the Dennis Coffey Band. Tickets are \$20 per person
Contact: 248-553-3380

DUELING PIANOS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8
Location: St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road, Westland
Details: Dueling Pianos show includes light refreshments, cash bar, and 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$20, available at the parish in Westland, west of Middlebelt
Contact: Karen Crunk at 734-421-2853 or email klcrunk@quix-net.net

JUDAICA ON DVD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday,

through Feb. 26
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Howard Lupovitch delivers his four-part series, "Sacred Remnants: Rediscovered Treasures of the Jewish Past" on DVD. Topics are "The Cairo Geniza: The Day-to-Day Lives of the Jews of Islam," Feb. 12; "The Aleppo Codex: The Real Text of the Torah," Feb. 19; and "The Soviet Archives: The Unknown World of Eastern Europe," Feb. 26
Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931; nancyelen879@att.net

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9
Location: Prentis Apartment community room, located on 10 Mile, east of Greenfield in Oak Park
Details: The group will hold a fabric, yarn, pattern and half-finished project swap. The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlework
Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337

WHY BE CATHOLIC

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Steven Piskowski, co-founder of Army of Apostles, will share the story of his journey from cradle Catholic to Evangelical Protestant to avid anti-Catholic and disciple of Dave Hunt, to the faith of his childhood. The program is free
Contact: www.livoniastmichael.org or e-mail whybecatholic@livoniastmichael.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, through March 9
Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: This weekly bereavement support series is designed to help deal with emotions, loneliness and other issues experienced after the loss of a spouse. Widowed Friends is a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit.
Coming up: Dinner, games and fellowship, Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. Social hour at 5 p.m. with dinner buffet at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes buffet, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door with cash only in the exact amount. RSVP by Feb. 8 to Cookie at 248-357-2183, Pat at 248-545-8348 or Carol at 248-924-3677
Contact: Priscilla at 734-591-7879

MARCH CHILDREN'S CONCERT

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., Sunday March 2
Location: Sacred Heart Banquet and Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, just east of Middlebelt, Livonia
Details: "The Doughnut Man" Rob Evans and his sidekick

Duncan will perform original Bible story-songs such as *In The Beginning* and *The Miracle Song*. Families are encouraged to sing along and dance in the aisles. Tickets are \$5 at the door; children under 2 are admitted free
Contact: the Rev. Joseph Marqui at 734-522-3166

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, beginning March 12 for five consecutive weeks
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: "Grieving with Great Hope" is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. It is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and

Sandy O'Shaughnessy. Register through the ministry's website or through the church
Contact: 734-261-1455; goodmourningministry.net

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, beginning March 16
Location: Faith Community Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: This 13-week, non-denominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Includes a video seminar featuring grief experts and real-life stories; support group discussion and workbook-based personal study and reflection. Grief-related handouts available weekly. Fee is \$15 and includes the workbook
Contact: pastor Roger Wright at

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 8
Location: Concordia Lutheran School, 9600 Laverne, Redford
Details: Tour the school and visit the annual spring carnival. Includes carnival games, book fair, food and more. New students can receive a coupon for \$5 in free carnival tickets by calling the campus or visiting online
Contact: 313-937-2233; www.concordials.org

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island,

21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000
St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.
Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar Gary Michuta leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

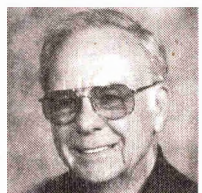
Passages

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BEERE, MICHAEL A.
 (January 30, 1972 - February 3, 2014) Michael Alexander Beere, age 42, of Grand Blanc, MI, formerly of Ann Arbor, MI, passed away Monday, February 3, 2014 at the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, following a short illness. He was born January 30, 1972, son of Judy (Staples) & Elmer Beere, Jr. He was a very loving son, brother, uncle, nephew & friend. Mike graduated from Huron High School, Ann Arbor, in 1990. He was employed by General Motors as an Automotive Technical Consultant for 14 years. He is survived by his parents, brother Jonathan (Renee) Beere, grandmothers, Mary Staples and Mary Jensen, Aunt Lori (Donald) Bumetti, two uncles, Jack Staples & David Staples, two nephews Caden & Landon Beere, also many cousins and friends. He will also be missed by his faithful dog, Oreo. A memorial service will be held Friday, February 7, 2014 at 1:00 PM at Grace Baptist Church, 164 Roys Street, Belleville, with Rev. Robert J. White officiating. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI. Cremation has taken place. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure.

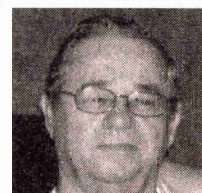


HOHNBAUM, CHARLES "CHUCK"

81, formerly of Plymouth passed away on February 2, 2014 after a long struggle with cancer. Chuck was born in Detroit and was a graduate of both Redford High School and Wayne State University. He was active in Scouting as Scoutmaster for Plymouth Troop 1531 (P-1), and Plymouth First United Methodist Church. For 30 years he was employed by Ford Motor Company retiring in 1985. The early days of his retirement were filled with travel, square dancing, and decorative tole painting. Eventually retirement led him to Arizona where he lived for the last 20 years. He was devoted to his family particularly his wife for 62 years. He is survived by his wife Pat, his children Susan McCoy, Keith Hohnbaum, Gail Brandon and Chris Hohnbaum along with six grandchildren. Chuck was an amazing husband, father, and friend. He will be missed more than words will ever be able to express.

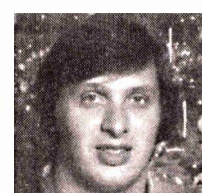
LaPLANTE, ROBERT

Beloved husband of Sue. Loving son of Jean Petres (the late Stan) and James LaPlante (June). Dear brother of Nancy Smogor (Chris) and James LaPlante. Proud step father of Emily Debolski (Jamie), Jessica White (Garret) and Taylor Kallgren. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and his loving extended family and dear friends. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday February 8th 10 a.m. at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., Farmington. Bob was a proud Navy veteran, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations should be made to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.



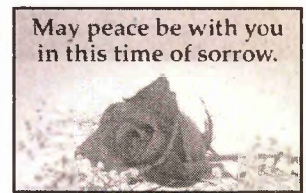
PIERSON CARL "BUTCH"

Age 70, of Manchester, passed away January 29, 2014 He was born August 11, 1943 in Dearborn, Michigan, the son of Carl and Leona (Tucker) Pierson. On November 23, 1963 he married Brenda Cottingham in Wayne, MI. Butch was a member and Deacon at Tecumseh Freewill Baptist Church. He is survived by Diana (James) West, Carol (Henry) Douglas, and Amanda (Ricky) Pierson; Seven grandchildren; Six great-grandchildren; brothers, Ted (Gloria), Ken (Judy), Bob (Myra), and Ron; and sister Nona (Don) Lusby. He was predeceased in death by his wife Brenda, his parents; brother, Ed; and sister Ann. Condolences may be offered online at: www.pursefuneralhome.com



MILLER, HARVEY KENNETH "KEN" JR

Age 50, passed away suddenly at his home in Wayne on Saturday, February 1, 2014. He was born to Linda Lou Orr and Harvey Miller, Sr., on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1963, in Garden City, Michigan. Ken lived most of his life in Wayne, graduating from Wayne Memorial High School in 1981. His greatest joy came from playing the bass guitar. He loved to play music with his father and friends. Surviving to mourn him are his father and best friend, also of Wayne; a sister, Cindy (Mark) Caram; a nephew Aaron Cole, both of Salem Twp.; his grandmother, Susana Miller of Carman, Manitoba, Canada; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his mother and sister, Linda Lee.



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.wcodetroit.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 4000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. 4 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 Staffed Nursery Available 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) 463-1526 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. Thursday: 8:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</p>				<p></p>

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

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 6, 2014

FAIRY TALE MUSICAL

Garden City actress gives evil character a human twist

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

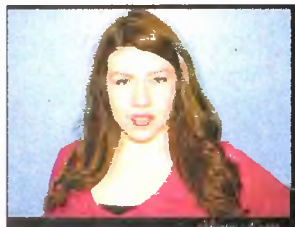
Alyssa Lucas of Garden City has never played evil. Or royalty.

But the Garden City actress is having fun merging both on stage in a new musical comedy that makes its debut Saturday, Feb. 8, at Two Muses Theater in West Bloomfield.

"I have watched the classical Disney movies and have seen how you get a feel for how an evil queen is. I looked at the part and did my own thing. I gave her a little comedic twist," said Lucas, 22. "I like comedies. This is kind of new for me. I'm normally a bubbly or funny character.

"I've never played an evil person before. You have to find the human point because, yeah, she's evil but ... what made her that way? What is the evil queen's past? I figured out her background history for my own brain to rationalize why she's evil and at the end of the play, you'll see her human moment. But I don't want to give it away."

She auditioned for the musical by telling *The Three Little Pigs* and singing *Poor Unfortunate Souls*, a song sung by the villain in *The Little Mermaid*. Although she didn't audition for a specific role, director Emilio Rodriguez tapped her for the evil character because he liked the way she sang the song.



Alyssa Lucas of Garden City performs Feb. 8-23 in a new play at Two Muses Theatre.

"He said 'I think you'll make a good evil queen.'"

Lucas plays a fairy tale character who is intent on getting rid of Snow White, Rapunzel and Sleeping Beauty so that she can reign as the sole beauty in the realm, in this original children's play by Rodriguez, a Detroit resident. It runs 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 8-23, at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers Theatre Space, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple, in West Bloomfield. Advance tickets are \$10 and \$8 for children, 10 and under. They are \$2 more at the door. Call 248-850-9919 or visit twomusetheatre.org.

"The show is directed at children, but I think adults will enjoy it. There is humor in it," Lucas said.

Uplifting message

The play tells the story of three fairy tale princesses tired of waiting for a prince to show up and break the spell they're under. They take matters into their own hands by confronting the Evil Queen, demanding

her spell book and then negotiating a trade.

"I think it says you don't need anyone else to fulfill your destiny. You have the power to make your own dreams come true," she said. "Just because you're a girl doesn't mean you're not strong and capable. You hold the power."

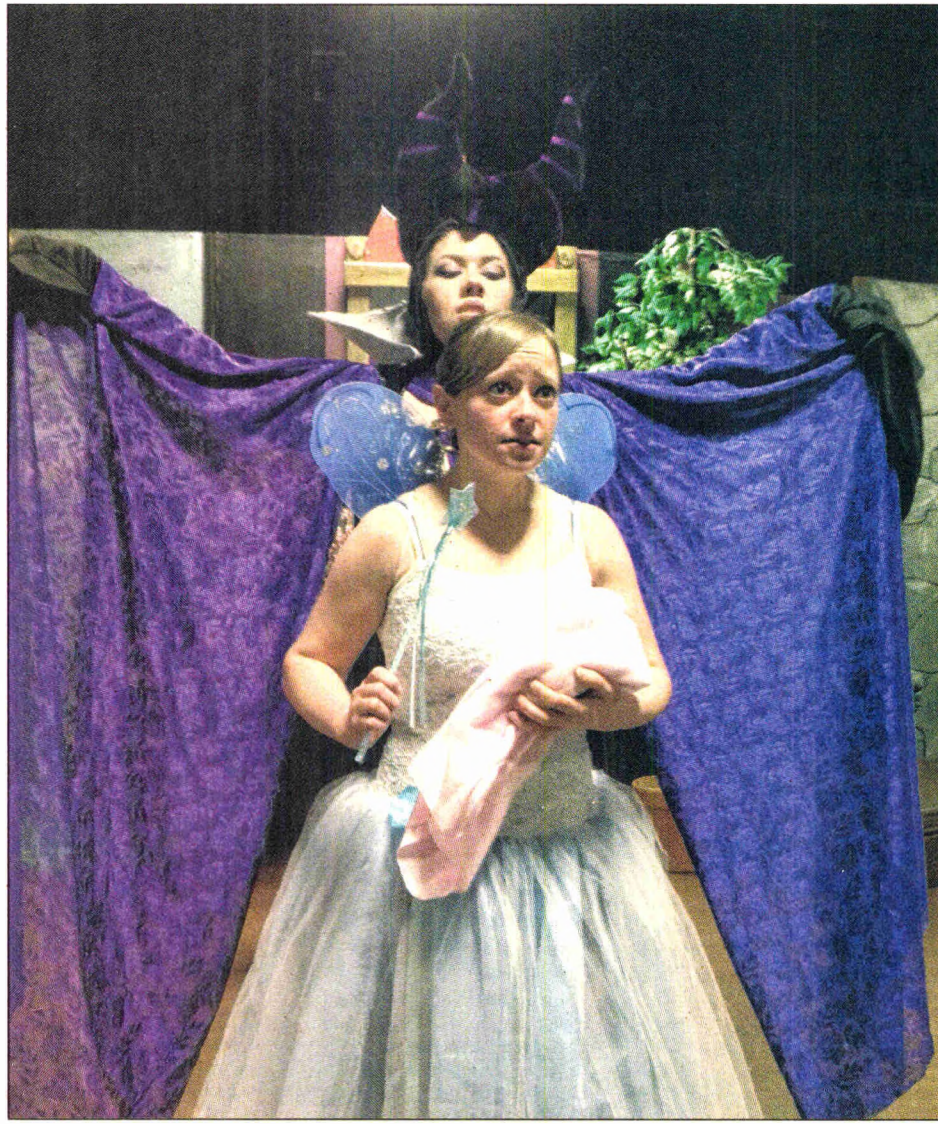
Lucas credits a "good support system" — her boyfriend and parents — for helping her to maintain a positive attitude about her career choice in a competitive industry. When she told her mother she planned to pursue theater in college, "she didn't bat an eyelash."

"I know what hard work it takes. I think it can be done. I've never focused on a backup job. It's gone well so far."

Youth, college theater

Lucas began acting at age 5 in community and youth theater productions. Her mother also was involved in community theater and Lucas spent time at rehearsals with her. She performed in "all the shows" while attending Wayne Memorial High School and acted in the City of Wayne's youth theater program.

She graduated with a bachelor of fine arts in theater last year from Wayne State University, where she performed in productions at the Bonstelle Theater. Last summer, she attained an internship at the La Jolla



Alyssa Lucas of Garden City as the Evil Queen, rehearses with Jaclynn Cherry of Rochester Hills, who plays the Good Fairy, in the new children's play, *Awake!*

Playhouse, a nonprofit, professional theater in La Jolla, Calif. She assisted with summer camp classes and then returned to Michigan to begin auditioning at local theaters.

"I'm really interested in working in a box office and in development. When I was at Wayne State, I worked in the box office for two years and at La Jolla I saw how a theater works from the

inside. I liked what I saw. I like the organizational aspect and being able to run something.

"I have a strong passion for that along with acting," she said. "I think I can definitely do both."

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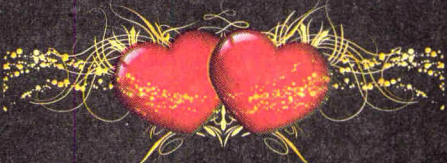
In 50 words or less tell us what makes your Valentine so special and you could win dinner for two at Joe & Aldo's Italian Tavern.

Go to facebook.com/oehometown and look for the Valentine Contest icon. You can also go to hometownlife.com and select the Valentine Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

Entry Deadline:

Sunday, Feb. 9 11:59 p.m.



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A quartet from HarmonyTown Chorus surprises a singing valentine recipient.

Chorus gearing up for Valentine's Day deliveries

HarmonyTown Chorus is taking orders for its 15th annual Singing Valentines program.

For \$40, a quartet from the chorus will deliver two songs, a personalized Valentine card and a rose to a recipient in the western or northwestern Detroit suburbs. "Through the years, we have performed our singing Valentines at

senior homes, hospitals, family residences, businesses, and even on the street," wrote Mark Pritchard, music vice president, in an email to the *Observer*. "We've sung at Valentine's parties, dentists' offices, restaurants and anywhere our customers are creative enough to send us."

The group accepts

credit cards and checks and will book deliveries within a four-hour window on Feb. 14.

"As usual we will be dressed to the nines for the occasion and sincerely promise to add to the joy of all those involved."

Call 734-743-1764 or visit wesingbarbershop.com

Tipping Point play helps fight winter 'blahs'

Murder at the Howard Johnson's, the new play at the Tipping Point Theatre in Northville, brings with it a mystery and a murder — or does it?

The play focuses on Arlene who can't decide whether to stay with Paul, her dumpy car salesman husband of many years, or leave him for Mitchell, their dentist, who has swept her off her feet. The two finally conspire to murder Paul in a room at the local Howard Johnson's motel — the first of several twists and turns as this clueless threesome leaves the audience wondering who hates who, who loves who, and who can really pull off a murder.

"An evening of laughter in a warm theater will be a welcome distraction from the winter blahs," said director James R. Kuhl. "The cast in this production is incredible. The hilarious combination of Wayne David Parker and Dave Davies have quickly become Tipping Point favorites for good reasons. This duo, combined with the TPT de-



Dave Davies, (left) Wayne David Parker and Cheryl Turski perform a scene in *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*.

but of Cheryl Turski, is going to be a show you will not want to miss."

Kuhl added, "Tipping Point audiences especially love their comedies and this one is sure to live up to that high expectation. They should plan to laugh a lot."

Murder at the Howard Johnson's runs through March 9. The curtain rises at 8 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday, with matinees at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. A special matinee performance has been added on Wednesday, Feb. 19. Tipping Point Theatre is located at 361 E. Cady in Northville.

Tickets are \$29 to \$32 for adults, \$27 to \$30 for students and seniors. Call the box office at 248-347-0003.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31

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

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$12 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$9 for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Love Gone Wild: Tickets are \$85 and include a strolling supper, desserts, a champagne welcome, two drink tickets and a presentation about the "love lives" of animals. The event runs 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, in the Zoo's Ford Education Center. Open to age 21 and older. Advance tickets only from detroitzoo.org/events/love-gone-wild or window #1 at the Zoo.

Contact: 248-541-5717

ART & CRAFTS 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, opening day reception is from 6-9 p.m.; show runs Feb. 7 through March 1

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: Eighth annual Member Exhibition

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

RUSSEL INDUSTRIAL CENTER

Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Feb. 7-8 and 14-15

Location: 1600 Clay Ave., Detroit

Details: Multimedia artist, Pat Oleszko and photographer Naomi Harris, are special guest artists for The Dirty Show, an annual exhibit of erotic art. Tickets are \$25-\$30

Contact: dirtydetroit.com

DANCE

DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 14-15, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16

Location: 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Details: Dance Theatre of Harlem performs; tickets range from \$25-\$80

Contact: 313-237-SING; 800-745-3000;

FILM

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12

Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Bess Kargman's award-winning documentary, *First Position*, follows six young dancers as they prepare for a chance to enter the world of professional ballet, struggling



Sharon Isbin, will perform Feb. 18 at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, in Detroit. J HENRY FAIR

through bloodied feet, near exhaustion and debilitating injuries all while navigating the drama of adolescence. Admission is \$19; \$17 for Jewish Community Center members

Contact: 248-661-1900; www.theberman.org

MARQUIS THEATER

Time/Date: Doors open 6:45 p.m., film starts 7:30 p.m. Saturday, through February

Location: 135 E. Main, Northville

Details: *Crazy Stupid Love*, Feb. 8; *Valentine's Day*, Feb. 15; and *When Harry Met Sally*, Feb. 22. Admission is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0345; www.downtownnorthville.com

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 7-8; 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: *Thor: The Dark World*, admission \$3

Coming up: *Nebraska*, 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 14-15, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20; *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, 7 p.m. Friday Feb. 21 and Thursday, Feb. 27, and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 22-23

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 14 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 15

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

Details: *Casablanca*; free admission

Contact: 313-537-2560

SENATE THEATER

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8

Location: 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit

Details: *Yours, Mine and Ours*, a 1968 film with Lucille Ball and Henry Fonda; \$5 admission

Contact: 313-894-4100; www.dtos.org

FUNDRAISER

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

Location: Golden Fox at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial, west of Plymouth Township

Details: "A Night FOR the

Museum" will include appetizers, gourmet dinner, dessert, cash bar, live auction and raffle, entertainment by 12-year-old Makenzie Ryder and the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps. Tickets are \$75 at the museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth, or online at www.plymouthhistory.org. Ticket deadline is Feb. 7.

Contact: 734-455-8940

RACKHAM CHOIR

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8

Location: Regency Manor, 25228 W. 12 Mile, Southfield

Details: An Arabian Night's theme, dinner, dancing, an open bar and silent auction. The Rackham Ensemble Singers and music by Even Exchange. Tickets are \$75

Contact: 313-404-0222; rackhamchoir.org/an-2013

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: 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 Bf5president@aol.com for additional information

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 20

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

Details: The Haifa Symphony Orchestra performs music by Mozart, Dvorak, and Uri Bracha. Tickets are \$67; \$62 for members

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. The performance on Feb. 11 features Benny Reeves with the Paul Carey Trio

Contact: 734-453-1780

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: \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres. On Tuesday, Feb. 25, the Cliff Monear Trio with vocalist Stephenie Monear will perform. Monear plays keyboard, Jeff Pedraz will be on bass and Scott Kretzer will be on drums

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

D.VINE FINE WINES

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6

Location: 17386 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: Julie Haven sings and plays piano

Contact: 734-432-3800 for additional information

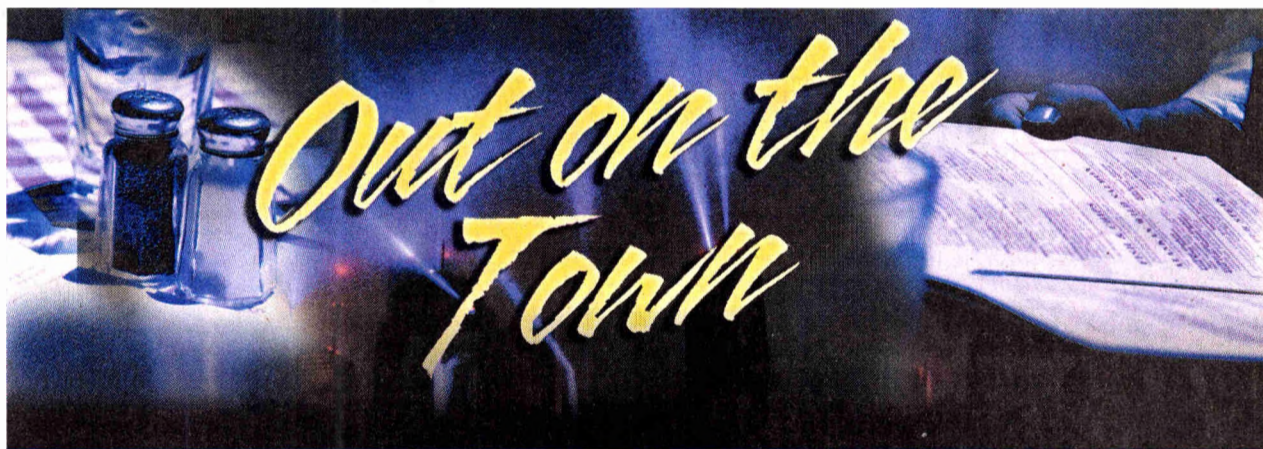
MUSIC HALL

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18

Location: 350 Madison, Detroit

Details: "Guitar Passions" features master guitarists Sharon Isbin, Stanley Jordan and Romero Lubambo. Tickets are \$30, \$40 and \$50, from The Music Hall box office, ticketmaster.com or StarTickets.com

Contact: 313-887-8501 for additional information



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CELEBRATE NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY WITH HEART-HEALTHY FOODS

The American Heart Association encourages everyone to wear red Friday, Feb. 7, National Wear Red Day, to raise awareness of the fight against heart disease in women. It might be the perfect day to don a red apron and start cooking healthful meals, too.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women and claims more lives than cancer. But the American Heart Association, through its Go Red for Women campaign, says women can adopt healthy habits to prevent heart disease. That includes quitting smoking, managing stress, exercising consistently and eating right.

According to new guidelines developed by the American Heart Association, eating right to lower heart disease risk means consuming more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy, poultry, fish and nuts; avoiding red meat, as well as sugary and processed foods and foods high in sodium.

When cooking, try these simple heart-healthy substitutions:

- » Whole wheat flour, bread and pastas instead of white flour,

bread and pastas

- » Replace butter in a recipe with half canola oil and half unsweetened applesauce

- » Use Greek yogurt as a topper on foods instead of sour cream

- » Make pasta sauce and chili with lean, ground turkey instead of ground beef

- » Substitute heart-healthy greens such as spinach, arugula, watercress and kale for iceberg lettuce

- » Try drinking soy milk, almond milk or rice milk instead of cow's milk

- » Forget the cheese and mayonnaise on your sandwich. Try hummus or avocado instead.

Start cooking healthful meals with these recipes from the American Heart Association. Check out more from goredforwomen.org.

HOT AND SOUR SOUP

Serves 6; 3/4 cup per serving

- 4 cups fat-free, low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 1/2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green cabbage or bok choy
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh shiitake, cloud ear, or other exotic mushrooms (shiitake stems discarded)
- 3 medium green onions, sliced
- 1 tablespoon minced peeled gingerroot
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce (lowest sodium available)
- 4 ounces firm light tofu, cut into bite-size strips
- 1/2 cup vinegar, or to taste
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pepper, or to taste
- 1/4 cup egg substitute
- 1/2 teaspoon toasted sesame oil

In a stockpot, bring the broth to a boil over high heat. Meanwhile, put the cornstarch in a small bowl. Add the water, stirring to dissolve.

Add the cabbage, mushrooms, green onions, gingerroot, and soy sauce to the boiling broth. Return to a boil. Stir in the cornstarch mixture. Boil for 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in the tofu, vinegar, and pepper. Reduce the heat to a simmer. Stirring constantly and gently, slowly drizzle the egg substitute into the simmering soup. Remove from the heat. Stir in the sesame oil.

Tip: The "handful of whatever's handy" method works just fine in this very adaptable soup. Snow peas, broccoli florets, shredded carrots, canned water chestnuts, or bamboo shoots would be good substitutes in or additions to the recipe.

Nutritional analysis: Calories, 47; total fat, 0.5 g; saturated fat, 0.0 g; polyunsaturated fat, 0.5 g; monounsaturated fat, 0.0 g; cholesterol, 0 mg; sodium, 147 mg; carbohydrates, 5 g; fiber, 1 g; sugars, 1 g; and protein, 4 g
Dietary exchanges: 1/2 carbohydrate, 1/2 very lean meat



HOT SPICED POMEGRANATE TEA

Serves 4; 1 cup per serving

- 1 15.2-ounce bottle pomegranate juice
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 medium orange, cut crosswise into 8 slices
- 4 cinnamon sticks, each about 3 inches long
- 6 whole cloves
- 2 unflavored tea bags
- 1/2 medium lemon, cut crosswise into 4 slices
- 2 orange slices, halved (optional)

In a medium saucepan, stir together the pomegranate juice, water, sugar, orange slices, cinnamon sticks, and cloves. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat and simmer for 8 minutes, or until the flavors blend. Remove from the heat. Add the tea bags and lemon slices. Steep for 2 minutes. Pour the mixture through a sieve into a teapot, retaining the cinnamon sticks. Pour the tea into cups or mugs. Put a cinnamon stick and halved orange slice in each.

Nutritional analysis: Calories, 115; total fat, 0.0 g; saturated fat, 0.0 g; polyunsaturated fat, 0.0 g; monounsaturated fat, 0.0 g; cholesterol, 0 mg; sodium, 17 mg; carbohydrates, 29 g; fiber, 0 g; sugars, 29 g; protein, 1 g
Dietary exchanges: 1 fruit, 1 other carbohydrate

DEVIL'S FOOD CUPCAKES WITH ALMOND-MOCHA TOPPING ON RASPBERRY SAUCE

Serves 24; 1 cupcake, 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons sauce, and 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons topping per serving

Cupcakes:

- 1 18.25-ounce box devil's food cake mix
- 12.5-ounce jar baby food pureed prunes
- 1 cup strong coffee, or 1 cup water plus 2 teaspoons instant coffee granules
- 3 large egg whites
- 2 tablespoons canola or corn oil

Sauce:

- 2 12-ounce packages frozen unsweetened raspberries, thawed
- 1/2 cup sugar

- 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Topping:

- 2 teaspoons instant coffee granules

- 2 teaspoons water

- 8 ounces frozen fat-free whipped topping, thawed in refrigerator

- 1/2 cup sliced almonds, dry-roasted

Preheat the oven to 325°F, or as directed on the package. Lightly spray two 12-cup muffin pans with cooking spray.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cupcake ingredients. Follow the package directions for beating the batter and baking and cooling the cupcakes.

Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, stir together the raspberries, sugar, and cornstarch until the cornstarch is dissolved. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes, or until thickened, stirring frequently. Remove from the heat. Let cool completely, about 20 minutes. Stir in the vanilla.

In a medium bowl, stir together the coffee granules and water until the coffee is dissolved. Fold in the whipped topping until well blended. Cover and refrigerate until needed.

For each serving, spread 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons raspberry sauce on a dessert plate, top with a cupcake, spoon 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons whipped topping mixture over the cupcake, and sprinkle with

about 1 1/2 teaspoons almonds.
Tip: When shopping for cake mix, read the Nutrition Facts labels and choose a product with 0 grams of trans fat. You can refrigerate any leftovers from this recipe for up to 48 hours or freeze them for later use. Keep the cupcakes, the sauce and the whipped topping in separate airtight containers.

Nutritional analysis per serving: Calories per serving, 173; total fat, 4 g; saturated fat, 1 g; trans fat, 0; polyunsaturated fat, 1 g; monounsaturated fat, 2 g; cholesterol, 0 mg; sodium, 198 mg; carbohydrates, 31 g; fiber, 2 g; sugar, 18 g; protein, 2 g
Dietary exchanges: 2 carbohydrate, 1 fat



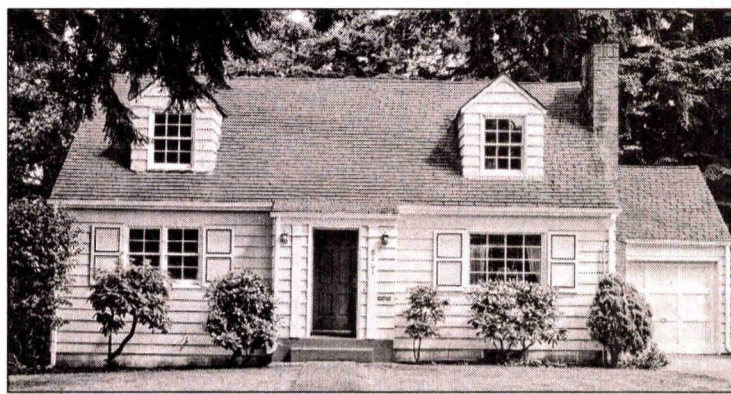
Economist: Home sales to stay steady

Existing-home sales are expected to retain the healthy gains seen in 2013, while prices will stay on an uptrend in 2014, according to a forecast presentation at a residential forum during the 2013 Realtors Conference & Expo.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist of the National Association of Realtors, said existing-home sales have shown a 20 percent cumulative increase over the past two years, while prices have gained 18 percent, but incomes have risen only 2 to 4 percent in the same timeframe.

"We've come off of record high housing affordability conditions in the past year, and are now at a five-year low, but conditions are still the fifth best in the past 40 years," Yun said. "While the median-income family in many areas will still be well positioned to buy a home in 2014, income is barely budging given growth in consumer prices."

Yun said the other headwinds moving forward include



Real estate industry pros are watching the market, which has some upbeat news. GETTY IMAGES

limited inventory conditions in many areas and mortgage lending standards that are still unnecessarily stringent.

With higher mortgage interest rates, he expects refinancings to collapse in 2014 to the lowest level in at least 15 years, and hopes purchase applications will begin to rise. "This is an incentive for banks to increase mortgage origination, especially considering the low default rates in recent

years. But even with cheap mortgages for the past four years, all-cash buyers stayed high, accounting for over 30 percent of sales," Yun noted.

Beyond bank motivation, Yun said Washington policies for mortgage lending have been too restrictive. He cited rising fees for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, higher Federal Housing Administration premiums, as well as Dodd-Frank banking regulations, which

have been strangling community banks. In addition, Yun said banks are holding onto funds for potential Department of Justice lawsuits, rather than making them available to mortgage borrowers.

He said job creation, and hopefully a relaxation in stringent lending standards, will offset higher mortgage interest rates. Existing-home sales should hold fairly even at about 5.12 million in 2014.

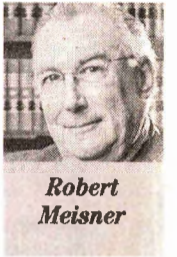
Limited supplies were the biggest factor in price performance in the past year, with inventory bouncing around 13-year lows, and seriously delinquent mortgages have been trending steadily down. The national median existing-home price for all of 2013 was up just over 11 percent, to about \$197,000.

Housing starts are forecast to reach 1.13 million in 2014, which is still well below the underlying demand of about 1.5 million. New-home sales are likely to grow to 508,000 in 2014.

Timeshare calls for caution

Q: We are thinking about a timeshare, but one of our neighbors suggested that timeshare resale is basically non-existent. Do you have any comment on this?

A: A huge problem for the timeshare industry is that there is no effective, functioning resale market. The problem, in large part, is that a timeshare is much like a car, it loses value as



Robert Meisner

soon as it is "driven off the lot." One of the "dirty secrets" of the timeshare industry is that 40 to 60 percent of the "retail" price of a "new" timeshare is made up of marketing, overhead and commissions. Accordingly, even if there was a functioning resale market, the value of a "used" timeshare would only be about half of the original price.

Moreover, timeshare developers do not want to cannibalize new sales by supporting or even allowing resale of timeshares at their projects or in their programs which has inhibited the development of an effective resale market. On top of those problems, the recession caused a lot of timeshare owners to default on the payment of their purchase contracts and/or maintenance assessments, and the resale market has been flooded with owners desperate to get rid of their timeshares at any cost. In short, buyer beware.

Q: We have a person on our homeowner association board who continuously refers to a resident as a sex offender type guy and is even thinking about publishing it in our community newsletter. I have seen no verification of it and am wondering how we get through to this guy.

A: In any defamation action, truth is normally a defense, but in order to establish the truth, you have to confirm that this person is in fact a sex offender. If he is not, you might want to alert your member to a case out of Clarendon County in South Carolina where the jury awarded \$690,000 in damages to a man whose fellow condominium owners, all on the condominium's governing board, repeatedly and wrongly identified him as a registered sex offender listed on the South Carolina sex offender registry. In that case, the association board members had circulated a flier which mistakenly identified the name of the individual on the flyer as the one who owned property in the condominium complex, and the board is now paying the price, which may or not be covered by their insurance carrier. This is another example of associations taking action where they do not obtain factual basis or a good legal opinion.

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-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 7-11, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

7475 Admiralty Dr	\$285,000
206 Alexandria Ct	\$416,000
40460 Bay Harbor Ln	\$158,000
50125 Black Horse Ln	\$390,000
4030 Brighton Ln	\$205,000
2652 Brookhaven Rd	\$198,000
43587 Candlewood Dr	\$204,000
6642 Carlton Rd	\$280,000
1997 Century Ct	\$174,000
2593 Cleveland Way	\$250,000
50267 Colonial St	\$260,000
7097 Copper Creek Cir	\$121,000
7157 Copper Creek Cir	\$140,000
39990 Coronation Rd	\$135,000
6341 Courtland Dr	\$163,000
44195 Cranberry Dr	\$160,000
2530 Cranbrook Rd	\$192,000
445 Delafort Ct	\$362,000
45705 Drexel Rd	\$275,000
4034 Elizabeth Ave	\$135,000
44313 Fair Oaks Dr	\$192,000
1714 Fern Ct	\$185,000
48958 Fifth Ave	\$230,000
47592 Glengarry Blvd	\$427,000
42251 Greenwood Dr	\$165,000
46849 Gunnery Dr	\$285,000
7896 Hamlet Ct	\$355,000
1555 Hampshire Dr	\$144,000
43610 Hanover Ct	\$207,000
7614 Haverhill Ln	\$475,000
39669 Hillary Dr	\$123,000
42640 Hotspur Ct	\$275,000
43541 Karli Ln	\$250,000
6977 Kennesaw Rd	\$415,000
8550 Kingsley Dr	\$200,000
43607 Lancaster Ct	\$156,000
41100 Maplewood Dr	\$128,000
6808 Marshall St	\$280,000
8548 N Canton Center Rd	\$95,000
2015 Oakview Dr	\$153,000
700 Pheasant Woods Dr	\$272,000
789 Pheasant Woods Dr	\$255,000
4398 Pond Run	\$215,000
4401 Pond Run	\$204,000
480 Queens Way # 480	\$173,000
2812 River Meadow Cir	\$191,000
2022 S Cavalier Dr	\$170,000
45936 S Stonewood Rd	\$268,000
47553 Scenic Circle Dr S	\$215,000
44974 Seabrook Dr	\$310,000
3722 Shepherd Ct	\$201,000
43665 Simsbury St	\$165,000
51113 Sleepy Hollow Ln	\$217,000
2031 Tradition Dr	\$505,000
47499 Vistas Circle Dr N	\$235,000

1880 Wentworth Dr	\$274,000
2378 Westgate Ct	\$235,000
44628 Westminster Way	\$218,000
6170 Willow Creek Dr	\$213,000
GARDEN CITY	
28521 Alvin St	\$97,000
32309 Alvin St	\$85,000
589 Cardwell St	\$62,000
431 Deering St	\$62,000
6918 Deering St	\$60,000
31670 Donnelly St	\$38,000
870 Douglas St	\$93,000
29022 Elmwood St	\$31,000
28414 Hennepin St	\$49,000
5937 Inkster Rd	\$28,000
33109 Marquette St	\$90,000
29615 Rosslyn Ave	\$88,000
31486 Rush St	\$89,000
LIVONIA	
32460 Six Mile Rd	\$38,000
37614 Ann Arbor Trl	\$32,000
19954 Antago St	\$60,000
9062 Beatrice St	\$135,000
11324 Blackburn St	\$172,000
34525 Bretton Dr	\$287,000
36849 Bristol St	\$200,000
17288 Carol St	\$167,000
29556 Clarita St	\$53,000
11315 Cranston St	\$150,000
36280 Curtis Rd	\$230,000
15408 E Blue Skies Ct	\$275,000
14533 Ellen Dr	\$138,000
28454 Elmira St	\$66,000
31548 Fairfax St	\$134,000
16990 Fairfield St	\$188,000
36376 Fairway Dr	\$50,000
11782 Farmington Rd	\$105,000
18711 Gary Ln	\$285,000
18965 Gary Ln	\$330,000
18957 Glengarry Dr	\$280,000
37581 Grantland St	\$60,000
29761 Hathaway St	\$139,000
17565 Hizmet St	\$107,000
15055 Hubbard St	\$29,000
19795 Inkster Rd	\$60,000
35610 Joy Rd	\$120,000
35610 Joy Rd	\$90,000
9277 Knolson St	\$115,000
15212 Knolson St	\$140,000
36041 Ladywood St	\$240,000
18420 Laurel Dr	\$309,000
19239 Laurel Dr	\$323,000
8978 Linville St	\$116,000
15817 Loveland St	\$197,000
9210 Marie St	\$139,000
14751 Marsha St	\$152,000
36004 Martin St	\$234,000
20175 Mayfield St	\$60,000
17448 McNamara Dr	\$216,000
14406 Melvin St	\$166,000
29655 Minton St	\$115,000
18946 Myron St	\$142,000
37653 Newburgh Park Cir	\$230,000
33840 Oakdale St	\$235,000

32893 Perth St	\$184,000
18995 Purlingbrook St	\$170,000
16596 Quakertown Ln	\$199,000
18688 Renwick St	\$285,000
38657 Richland St	\$110,000
30961 Roycroft St	\$136,000
32931 Southgate St	\$240,000
33043 Summers St	\$153,000
19974 Sunbury St	\$100,000
14732 Susanna St	\$146,000
18339 University Park Dr	\$71,000
35899 W Chicago St	\$143,000
15871 Woodring Dr	\$235,000
9928 Woodring St	\$60,000
NORTHVILLE	
15460 Bay Hill Dr	\$605,000
19500 Beck Rd	\$320,000
17749 Briar Ridge Ln	\$853,000
17876 Briar Ridge Ln	\$550,000
16950 Carriage Way	\$468,000
17331 Crestbrook Dr	\$559,000
17486 Crestbrook Dr	\$615,000
44206 Cypress Point Dr	\$145,000
50465 Eagles Nest	\$760,000
40240 Fairway III Rd	\$1,010,000
45742 Fermanagh Dr	\$505,000
16301 Forest Lake Dr	\$270,000
19850 Irongate Ct	\$130,000
46710 Merion Cir	\$663,000
39636 Muirfield Ln	\$290,000
50779 Northstar Way	\$591,000
15907 Park Ln	\$165,000
43843 Prestwick Cir S	\$482,000
675 Randolph St	\$80,000
20139 Rippling Ln	\$51,000
19811 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$260,000
16170 Tiverton Ct	\$331,000
20117 Woodhill Dr	\$365,000
PLYMOUTH	
46610 Arboretum Cir	\$338,000
775 Arthur St	\$260,000
12600 Beacon Hill Ct	\$562,000
1419 Carol Ave	\$280,000
140 Caster	\$159,000
46770 Danbridge St	\$355,000
13443 Danbury Ct	\$230,000
1140 Fairground St	\$175,000
9610 Golf Arbor Rd	\$204,000
935 Hartsough Ct	\$200,000
13675 Hilltop Dr W	\$427,000
41460 Ivywood Ln	\$236,000
1012 N Mill St	\$200,000
40596 Newport Dr	\$87,000
42115 Old Pond Cir	\$114,000
1385 Park Pl	\$505,000
1050 Penniman Ave	\$715,000
361 Pinewood Cir # L	\$90,000
51240 Plymouth Lake Cir	\$513,000
51095 Plymouth Lake Ct	\$670,000
13410 Portsmouth Xing	\$394,000
9255 Red Maple Ct	\$355,000
9630 Red Maple Dr	\$335,000
13580 Ridgewood Dr	\$210,000
1199 S Sheldon Rd	\$51,000

750 Sunset St	\$450,000
1191 Sutherland St	\$143,000
11865 Sycamore Dr	\$100,000
9637 Winterset Cir	\$363,000
REDFORD	
16529 Beech Daly Rd	\$31,000
18803 Brady	\$30,000
24966 Doris Ct	\$78,000
15200 Garfield	\$24,000
15620 Gaylord	\$75,000
25366 Graham Rd	\$80,000
9075 Hemingway	\$83,000
11338 Hemingway	\$38,000
18257 Indian	\$60,000
25356 Ivanhoe	\$28,000
9234 Louis	\$82,000
26023 Lyndon	\$105,000
13401 Marion	\$70,000
14228 Marshall Dr	\$166,000
14244 Marshall Dr	\$169,000
14278 Marshall Dr	\$132,000
14198 Mason Dr	\$165,000
9627 Rockland	\$80,000
9984 Rockland	\$65,000
11353 Rockland	\$76,000
26605 Student	\$72,000
WAYNE	
35459 Glover St	\$30,000
3893 Hayes St	\$65,000
WESTLAND	
1173 Abbey Ct	\$150,000
30419 Avon Ct	\$76,000
489 Barchester St	\$130,000
31668 Birchwood St	\$56,000
7324 Biron St	\$127,000
2640 Caledonia Ct	\$35,000
31538 Conway Dr	\$79,000
6510 Deerhurst Dr	\$115,000
2207 Deltan Ct	\$30,000
7050 Fox Chase Ln	\$205,000
37207 Gilchrist St	\$70,000
39200 Gloucester St	\$108,000
7338 Kubis St	\$120,000
30634 Mackenzie Dr	\$123,000
29815 Marshall Dr	\$117,000
29823 Matthew St	\$52,000
5705 Morley St	\$140,000
6105 N Berry St	\$81,000
6030 N Globe St	\$55,000
6529 Pembroke Dr	\$94,000
1625 Regene St	\$45,000
36535 Rolf St	\$132,000
1682 S Crown St	\$108,000
253 S Dobson St	\$76,000
34753 Sansburn St	\$115,000
36000 Schley Ave	\$75,000
36000 Schley Ave	\$70,000
38539 Scott Dr	\$118,000
1296 Shoemaker Dr	\$35,000
1939 Treadwell Dr	\$150,000
1255 Windham St	\$70,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

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

BEVERLY HILLS

15726 Birwood Ave	\$170,000
15825 Birwood Ave	\$210,000
22083 Orchard Way	\$400,000
32495 Sheridan Dr	\$251,000
32484 Westlady Dr	\$335,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
30525 Oakview Way	\$410,000
BIRMINGHAM	
1001 Abbey St	\$691,000
2072 Bradford Rd	\$204,000
597 Coolidge Rd	\$185,000
1649 Mansfield Rd	\$180,000
964 N Adams Rd Unit 3	\$100,000
717 N Glenhurst Dr	\$625,000
1405 Pilgrim Ave	\$440,000
1974 Webster St	\$565,000
670 Wellesley St	\$843,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
245 Barden Rd	\$420,000
221 Canterbury Rd	\$750,000
1230 Desaix Ave	\$135,000
1340 Forestglen Ct # T-74	\$295,000
7127 Glenview Dr	\$235,000
1309 Knollcrest Cir # L-46	\$175,000
3868 Millspring Rd	\$364,000
4834 S Chipping Gln	\$710,000
4811 Tullamore Dr	\$390,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
3055 Chestnut Run Dr	\$777,000
4034 Cranbrook Ct	\$510,000
4049 Cranbrook Ct	\$522,000
953 Dursley Rd	\$265,000

484 Fox Hills Dr N # A-3	\$47,000
1778 Golf Ridge Dr S	\$605,000
1896 Seminole Ct	\$315,000
982 Top View Rd	\$442,000
1260 Trailwood Path	\$169,000
505 Wadsworth Ln	\$310,000
6363 Worlington Rd	\$290,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
1791 Applebrook Dr	\$50,000
8150 Barnsbury St	\$499,000
3860 E Commerce Rd	\$529,000
2273 Palmetto	\$238,000
3215 Rio Vista St	\$88,000
3925 S Shore Dr	\$1,185,000
5221 Weston Ct	\$136,000
FARMINGTON	
36886 Heatherton Dr	\$218,000
32040 Leelane	\$152,000
34180 Schulte Dr	\$175,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
28491 Bayberry Rd	\$135,000
37355 Brookwood St	\$370,000
22005 Cass St	\$161,000
32522 Chesterbrook St	\$257,000
35324 Edythe Dr	\$95,000
25795 Farmington Rd	\$150,000
21679 Hancock St	\$80,000
33683 Heirloom Cir	\$50,000
26201 Hidden Valley Dr	\$305,000
21641 Jacksonville St	\$73,000
30642 Knighton Dr	\$350,000
25815 Livingston Ct	\$278,000
22160 Ontaga Ct	\$110,000
21148 Orchard Lake Rd	\$190,000
21210 Parklane St	\$248,000
23155 Potomac Cir	\$176,000
37546 River Bnd	\$325,000
21451 Riverwalk Ct	\$275,000
31972 Rocky Crst	\$143,000
29515 Sylvan Ln	\$205,000

22315 Tredwell Ave	\$124,000
28426 W Eight Mile Rd Unit A5	\$15,000
35745 W Lyman Rd	\$162,000
LATHRUP	

HOMES

apartments.com
HomeFinder

Cemetery Lots

TWO CEMETERY PLOTS
in Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park, Livonia. Located in Garden of Faith, sec. 224, graves 3 & 4. Retail for \$1,450ea, asking \$1,100ea. Call: 248-344-0119

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HomeFinder

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Auction Sales

ESTATE AUCTION Sat., Feb. 8th, 7pm Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer, Plymouth MI Framed Prints, Antiques & Collectibles, Furniture, Glassware, Household Items, Advertising Items, Cash! MC/Visa, Bank Debit Cards No Checks. Doors Open 6pm. Joe Carl, Professional Auction Service. 734.451.7444 jcauctionservices.com

Garage/Moving Sales

Estate sale open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the month of February. Everything must go! 17413 PonValley Dr. Northville 48168.

Household Goods

Moving Sale-All must go! Sofa, chair, table w/4 chairs, dresser, 2 night stands. Wall hangings also Mickey Mouse pictures small appl's, Walt Disney Snow White, Dwart's Cottage, all certification authenticity paperwork and boxes. 248-348-2327

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4 plots Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park (734)625-8091

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Brand New in box plus blower, 22,000 BTUs, \$95/best offer. Call: 734-261-1086

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Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Playing marbles
- Right on!
- Bunkhouse item
- Floppy contents
- Hunter's garb
- Mouths, in biology
- Douse a candle
- Tastier
- OPEC rep, often
- As well as
- Swerve
- Circus performers
- Arctic people
- Part of a fleet
- Galahad's title
- Concerning
- Dash size
- de-France
- Mud bricks
- Rock band crew member

DOWN

- Toady's answers
- Prominent nose
- Far-flung
- Cartoon shrieks
- Ivy is one
- Steal or cook eggs
- Aunt or bro.
- Yves' eve
- Compete in a rodeo
- Maglie or Mineo
- Baby sitter, often
- Spout, as a whale
- Docs
- Actor - McKellen
- Heat meas.
- Jungle jaunt
- New-car option
- Equivocator's response
- Rhea cousin

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16		17			18		
19				20					21		
22	23	24		25	26	27					
28				29		30			31	32	33
34				35					36		37
38				39					40		41
42									43		44
45	46	47							48		49
50									51	52	
53									54	55	56
57									58		59
60									61		62
63									64		65

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

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!

SNOWFALL WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ACCRETION	FLAKES
ACCUMULATION	FLUFFY
ACCURACY	FREEZING
ADVANCE	FRONT
AIR MASS	GLACIER
ALPINE	HUMIDITY
BAROMETER	ICE
BLIZZARD	INCHES
BLUSTERY	LAYER
BUNDLE	PREDICTION
CAVE	SLIPPERY
CLIMATE	SNOW
CRACK	TEMPERATURE
DATA	TREACHEROUS
DEGREE	VISIBILITY
DEPTH	WET
DRIFTING	WIND
FEET	ZONE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

Word Search

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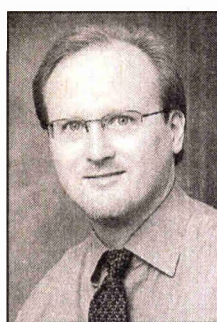
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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Carmakers Dominate Super Bowl Advertising Once Again



By Dale Buss

No industry has come to define Super Bowl advertising quite like the car business. Automakers, after all, are among the biggest U.S. advertisers and marketers by dollar volume. So for the third straight year, on Big Game Sunday the auto industry was expected to be the biggest advertiser for the third straight year.

Hyundai and Chrysler, according to Kantar research cited by USA Today, made the top

"We like to build a lot of conversation before game day," Loren Angelo, head of brand marketing for Audi of America, told me. For the brand and the new A3 sedan, that meant releasing not only an online teaser of its "Doberhuahua" spot but the entire spot itself several days before Super Bowl Sunday.

Here's a snapshot of what the auto brands planned for Super Bowl XLVIII:

While not using any big Hollywood names, Audi deployed its trademark Super Bowl humor in a spot featuring singer Sarah McLachlan (who spoofed her PSAs for PeTA with a teaser) a hilarious dog hybrid, a "Doberhuahua," that exemplifies the horrible results that come from compromise. The point

game report.

Chrysler, as usual, didn't give away its plan for the Big Game, forsaking all the pre-game teasers and other buzz-generating activities that rivals are using more and more before the actual telecast.

Hyundai has a new US CEO but some of the same challenges: how to effectively keep the brand stretched across a broad range of product segments yet battle some supply issues and stiffening competition across the board. With two spots -- one, called "Nice," for the Hyundai Elantra starring Johnny Galecki of Big Bang Theory and another ("Dad's Sixth Sense") for the luxury-sport Genesis sedan, focusing on its driving-assistance features -- the brand spread its Super Bowl bets once again.

Jaguar, now owned by India's Tata Motors, is continuing its comeback with its first Super Bowl spot. The dramatic 60-second ad featured actors Sir Ben Kingsley, Tom Hiddleston and Mark Strong as a trio of British villains in a spot helmed by The King's Speech director Tom Hooper:

Laurence Fishburne to reprise his role as Morpheus in the cult movie series The Matrix to pull that off.

Toyota last year effectively used actress Kaley Cuoco for a mainstream message, and this year the brand was going back to a proven platform by including the Muppets and Terry Crews as it focused on everything one can do in a new Toyota Highlander.

Volkswagen is more in need of a pick-up now than it has been for three years, as US sales have leveled off. So reached for nostalgic levers similar to its Star Wars-themed ad from three years ago, "The Force" (often called "Little Darth Vader" for its adorable mini-Darth), which became the most-shared and YouTube-viewed spot in Super Bowl history. This time around, following a teaser that featured Carmen Electra, VW had "Wings," in which the brand played a bit with the "legend" of how every time a reliable VW turns over 100,000 miles, a VW engineer gets his "wings." Jimmy Stewart, star of It's a Wonderful Life, might have been bemused.

"We are thrilled with this year's creative, which highlights the enthusiasm around our



The Silverado HD stars in one of Chevy's ads in the Big Game.

five biggest spenders in the past five Super Bowls, along with Bud Lite and Budweiser parent Anheuser Busch InBev, PepsiCo and Coca-Cola.

And of course, any more it's not just Super Bowl Sunday but for the entire season surrounding the game that carmakers dominate much of the conversation. It has become standard practice to run pre-Game teasers (trailers, in a sense, of the Game Day spot), and viral videos promoted across YouTube, Twitter and Facebook with hashtags.

is that the German automaker's new A3 sedan, launching in the US this spring, is anything but an exercise in compromise, even though it's priced beginning under \$30,000:

General Motors returned to the Super Bowl after taking a one-year break, with Chevrolet slated to occupy two 60-second spots during the game. One spot, "Romance," featured a voiceover by John Cusack and promoted the 2015 Silverado HD with the hashtag #SilveradoStrong. Two other 30-second ads were to air during the post-



Laurence Fishburne is an ominous presence in the Kia Super Bowl ad.

Kia is facing a similar challenge now as Hyundai did a few years ago. The Korean-brand sibling wanted to use the Super Bowl to further legitimize its pricey first luxury model, the K900 sedan. It called upon actor

brand and our vehicles' German engineering in a humorous spot that embodies the Volkswagen spirit," commented Vinay Shahani, Volkswagen of America's vice president of marketing.

LD-2403852-01

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» PLAN, SET
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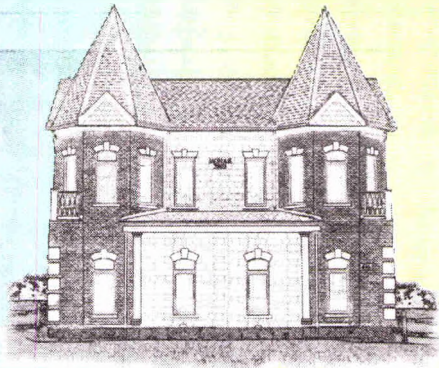
PAULA SWAIN, PAGE 7

FEBRUARY 2014

woman

A photograph of four women of diverse ethnicities, all smiling and wearing red dresses. They are positioned in the center of the page, with the magazine title 'woman' above them and the 'Go Red for Heart Health' text overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

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An avid history buff, Milford attorney Jack W. Bolling is passionate about keeping the past alive for future generations.

He is just as interested in preserving your family's legacy by helping you make decisions that will keep your memory alive through your children and grandchildren.

As an estate/legacy planner, Bolling has trademarked his approach to the estate planning process and accompanying legal services as Legacy LifeLines™. This process includes three steps: 1) counseling and plan design; 2) funding of the revocable living trust; and 3) an on-going maintenance plan that is unique to Bolling's practice.

Bolling encourages his clients to think beyond their financial matters and look into their own life's fulfillment by asking themselves questions like: What really matters most to me? What would I really like to accomplish? What legacy

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These important life questions are all the more reason that Bolling has expanded his practice to include Medicaid planning.

He believes that estate planning and Medicaid planning go hand in hand.

"Through proper planning, it is possible to provide for your long-term care while preserving assets for you and your loved ones," Bolling said. "Why should you give up something that you've worked your whole life for when

your spouse becomes ill?"

Bolling is also an accredited VA attorney and can help people who have either served or whose family member has served in the U.S. military. "There are many veterans' programs available, but you need to know who to ask and what to ask," Bolling said. "I am the person who can help you sort through these issues."

While helping people on a one-to-one basis with their legacy planning, Bolling reaches an even broader

audience as a guest columnist for Gannett Newspapers, including The Milford Times. He is also a guest speaker for many local groups and organizations.

With a deep respect and passion for history, Bolling is pleased that his practice is now housed in a 130-year old Victorian home at 334 Union St. in downtown Milford, which has been renovated to the period of time in which it was built.

Original pine wood planked floors, a cupola, winding staircases, tall ceilings and etched glass front doors are just a few of the features that drew Bolling to this location in November 2008.

"History comes alive to me while conducting my practice in this historic home," Bolling said. "It gives me a sense of the past and a vision for the future — exactly what I want to bring to my clients."

— By Sally Rummel

Accredited Veterans Affairs Attorney. Member: National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys; National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; President, Michigan Forum of Estate Planners and the Michigan Conference of Estate Planners

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LD-000017772

Go Red is call to action

Wearing red is more than a fashion statement this month. It's a symbol of awareness and a call to action to join the fight against heart disease.



Susan Rosiek

This month, the American Heart Association celebrates 10 years of Go Red for Women, a campaign to raise awareness and take action against the No. 1 killer of women and men.

Go Red is more than a catchy phrase, it's a reminder of how and why we need to fight heart disease.

The American Heart Association says it best.

G: Get your numbers – Ask your doctor to check your blood pressure and cholesterol.

O: Own Your Lifestyle: Stop smoking, lose weight, exercise and eat healthy.

R: Realize your risk – Heart disease kills one in three women.

E: Educate your family: Make healthy food choices for you and your family.

D: Don't be silent – Raise your

voice at GoRedForWomen.org.

The O&E Media and Hometown Life Woman are proud to do our part in helping raise awareness about heart disease. Take time to read today's edition about local women, medical professionals and health agencies and what they are doing to help the cause.

Women have the energy, power and passion to take action against heart disease.

Join the campaign and help save a life.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for upcoming editions.

Susan Rosiek
 publisher

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Using Your IRA & Trusts As A Wealth Building and Risk Protection Strategy

(It may be a better opportunity than you even realize!)

This article, written by Michigan family estate planning & elder law attorney Nicole Wipp and the Family & Aging Law Center PLLC is not, and should not be construed as, legal or investment advice. It is for general informational purposes only.

IRAs and other tax-deferred assets (401k, 403b, etc.) are a greater wealth building opportunity than most people realize. However, to properly capitalize on this opportunity and reduce the risk(s) for your beneficiaries, a properly written trust may be necessary to achieve your goals.

In order to understand the opportunity, you must first "know what you don't know," and this is the main point: a non-spouse beneficiary of an IRA or other tax-deferred investment does not have the option of waiting until they are required to take minimum distributions on their own accounts for inherited accounts – *whether a traditional OR a Roth IRA*. In other words, **non-spouse beneficiaries may not roll over an IRA to their own accounts without first paying tax on the entire inherited amount.** Generally, non-spousal IRA heirs must withdraw a minimum amount each year, starting by Dec. 31 of the year after the IRA owner died.

However, the law does allow for what is commonly known as a "stretch." For beneficiaries, that means that they may take distributions over their own life expectancy. An IRA that is "stretched" allows the money inside the IRA to continue to grow tax free for as long as possible. The longer money grows tax-free, the greater the amount received by the beneficiary. For example, you leave your \$200,000 IRA to your son who is age 50 at the time of your death. If your son takes only the RMD (required minimum distribution) & the money generates a 6% return, your son will receive about \$78,000 in the first ten years after your death. At the end of 10 years the account will be worth over \$258,000 - \$58,000 more than when you died! Even better, over your son's life expectancy he will receive over \$675,000 from your IRA, **more than 3 times what you left him.**

That being said, to maintain maximum control, ensure that the opportunity is not wasted, and protect these funds from outside forces and risks, using a trust specifically written for tax-deferred assets is usually the best way to go.

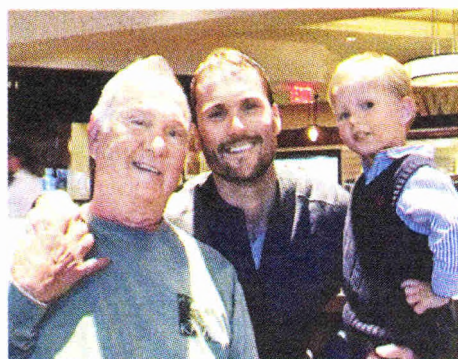
Why? Even if we assume that your beneficiaries understand the power of the "stretch," don't blow the "stretch" (by taking \$\$ out all at once – very common), know to have the "stretch" occur over their lifetime instead of the 5-year provision that is commonly used, and understand how to use disclaimers to maximize wealth building (*I can assure you that to have a beneficiary understand all of these provisions would be extremely unusual*), there are other forces that may cause major problems down the road.

WHAT ARE THESE "RISKS" YOU REFER TO?

Divorce. Creditors. Bankruptcy. Irresponsible spending/poor money management habits (of your child/their spouse/their children). Special Needs. Disability. "His & Her Kids." – **You name it!**

The best way to protect from these issues is to establish a qualified trust. Is your current trust a qualified trust? Possible... but unlikely. If you don't have a trust, be aware that in order to get these protections & to fully utilize the wealth building opportunities, your trust has to be specifically written as a "qualified designated beneficiary" under IRS tax rules.

So now the question is: if you have IRAs, 401ks, etc., don't you think that having the opportunity to maximize wealth building and protecting from the risk(s) is worth it?



My Family: Three Generations of Wealth Building Opportunity, Protection, and Legacy Planning.

Key Points to Know

- Non-spouse beneficiaries may not roll over an IRA to their own accounts without first paying tax on the entire inherited amount
- Non-spouse beneficiaries may not take advantage of the "60-day rollover rule" to put money back into an account if they take it out – game over once it's done
- Many existing plans (including company plans such as 401k) will not allow a stretch IRA for non-spouse beneficiaries but will require the entire plan proceeds be distributed the year after, or within five years after, the IRA owner dies. (This isn't an IRS restriction; it is a restriction within the company's plan itself.) Ensuring this is not the case – or if it is, taking care of it – is crucial to this type of planning
- The law invites "disclaimer planning" opportunities which only will increase wealth/growth potential
- You can specifically provide this wealth building opportunity AND reduce your beneficiaries' risk by utilizing specific trust language, or a specialized trust such as an IRA Inheritance Trust™.

- How Can Trusts Be Used to Maximize Wealth Building and Protect My Loved Ones?
- 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?

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- Medicaid for Nursing Home Care
- Veteran's Improved Pension
- Utilizing Estate Planning with Tax-Deferred Assets, (IRAs, 401ks, Tax-Deferred Annuities) for Generational Wealth Building
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Erin Cummings is wearing a dress from Pinup Girl Clothing, title sponsor of Giggles and Gloves, a fundraiser held Jan. 25 at MGM Grand casino in Detroit.

Warm hands, warm heart

Meet Erin Cummings, founder of Mittens For Detroit. My first meeting with Cummings was a day I don't think I'll ever forget. It was Sept. 7, 2010. I arrived on the lot of the ABC show *Detroit 1-8-7* and weaved my way back to the makeup trailer. I quickly unpacked my kit, trying to stay out of the crew's way, and quietly waited for the star to arrive. And kept waiting.

After a couple of hours – with time anxiously ticking by – suddenly this flurry of red hair comes blazing in the trailer, still ripping off the microphone wire taped to her leg. This lady really knows how to make an entrance.

Shooting ran over – really over – and we (the hairdresser and I) had literally nine minutes to get her red carpet ready. We snapped into action – I put on my “live news gloves” and got to work. Don't ask me how, but we did it.

And she looked ravishing. Not



Barbara Deyo

GUEST COLUMNIST

surprising – Cummings defines the word “woman.” I'm sure you have heard the expression “she lights up a room” – well, things really do get brighter when she walks in.

Her long list of credits ranges from lighting up the silver screen to gracing the New York stage, but her sultry role as Sura, the wife of Spartacus in the Starz hit series *Spartacus, Blood and Sand*, made her a star.

Maybe it's her undeniable beauty, infectious charm, stellar acting abilities or perhaps her selfless acts of philanthropy – probably all of the above – but she quickly became Detroit's darling. Long after the *Detroit 1-8-7* set closed and the

trailers pulled away, she has kept her commitment to Detroit.

She founded the charity, Mittens For Detroit, in 2010 “solely to provide new, unused mittens and gloves to those in need – both children and adults – in metro Detroit.”

Cummings, who relocated to Detroit in July 2010, was inspired to create MFD while passing out candy on Halloween with her cousin, Kathi Moss, who lives in Southfield.

Two young girls and their mother came to the door trick-or-treating and one of the girls was crying. Moss noticed the girl was missing a glove and, without thinking twice, invited the family inside, found an extra pair of gloves, put them on the little girl's hands and sent the family on their way to enjoy the rest of their Halloween night.

See DEYO, Page 12

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Women need to plan ahead, set their own financial goals

It was the end of the day when I pulled in the local pharmacy to pick up a prescription. It had been a cold and snowy day – much like the ones we have been having here in southeast Michigan lately. Dealing with ice, snow and traffic had left me weary. If the line was short, I would be home and warm within 15 minutes.



Paula Swain

GUEST COLUMNIST

When I turned the corner of the aisle, I stopped short: the line was five-deep ... and growing. What was the hold-up? I took my place in line as fidgeting customers ahead of me grumbled impatiently. What was taking so long?

As I stood there, my eyes focused on the small figure at the counter, an elderly woman stooped over the counter speaking quietly with the clerk.

Although low, her unsteady voice could be heard faintly over the growing crowd as she looked up with imploring eyes.

“What am I going to do?” she asked. “I need to have those. Is there any way I could just buy enough to get me through until I see my doctor again?”

appeared it was medication that she desperately needed.

I stood staring as the reality of the situation overcame me. The realization hit me that this woman was not alone. I was certain that there were many like her, unable to pay for the basics to survive.

The pharmacy scene stayed with me throughout the evening, replaying endlessly in my head. And over the years it has played again and again, a constant reminder of the reason that I changed the course of my life and began a career as a financial consultant.

As owner and president of Swain Financial LLC, my goal is to provide solutions to individuals, profes-

The clerk picked up a calculator and began working some figures.

The line grew quiet as it became clear: This woman did not have enough money to pay for her prescription. Even worse, it



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See GOALS, Page 14

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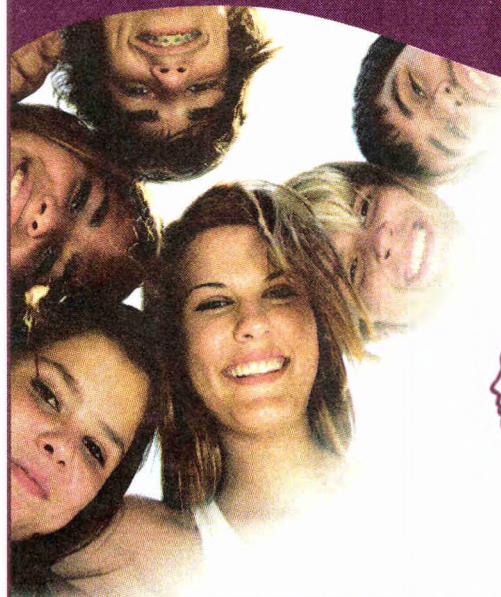
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EVENTS

Following is a list of heart healthy events and screenings in the area:

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Go Red For Women™ kickoff rally and lighting ceremony
Freudenberg North America Corporate Center
47774 W. Anchor Court, Plymouth
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This event is designed to heighten awareness of heart disease and women and features national Go Red For Women™ spokeswoman Annette Sciberras. Sean Lee of WWJ-AM (950) will emcee. A lunch-and-learn will follow ceremony. Reservations at freudenberg@fnacc.com. Space is limited.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

From the Heart Lunch and Learn
1-2 p.m. at Westland Mall, East Court
Sponsored by Garden City Hospital
This free event includes heart health screenings, exercise demonstrations and a question-and-answer session with board-certified cardiologist and Garden City Hospital health expert Dr. Daniel Harber. A heart healthy lunch will be served. In addition, there will be prizes as well as interactive education tables hosted by Garden City Hospital cardiology staff. No registration necessary.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Ladies' Night Out
St. Mary Mercy Hospital
5:30-7 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m.
Learn the heart-to-heart facts about heart disease specific to women from Dr. Delair Gardi, medical director of endovascular services and interventional cardiologist. The event includes refreshments, raffles and vendors. An optional \$5 donation is requested and accepted at the door. Registration required, call 734-655-1182. Bone density, blood pressure and massage available.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Girlfriends Go Red™
Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak
6-8 p.m.
Attendees are invited to wear their red shoes and join the American Heart Association and Beaumont Hospital for an evening of education and fun. This free event kicks off with an expert health panel followed by dance and fitness demos, screenings and prizes. Attendees will receive a passport at the beginning of the program and encouraged to stop at different stations to learn how they can get on the path to good heart-health. RSVP by Feb. 17 at <https://girlfriendsgored.eventbrite.com>.

Go Red for Heart



Annette Sciberras (far right), a nurse at Beaumont Hospital, is among the national spokeswomen for the 2014 American Heart Association Go Red campaign.

Experts urge women to 'know your numbers'

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

The next time you are standing in a large group of women, take a good look around. Chances are good that one out of every three women in that group will die from some type of cardiovascular disease.

It is a number that is both startling and true: Heart disease causes one in three deaths among women each year, killing approximately one woman every minute, according to the American Heart Association.

The statistics can be alarming. "The first time I heard this statistic, it really resonated," said Sharyl Smith of Farmington Hills.

Smith, chair of the AHA's 2014 Go Red for Women™ campaign, has a family history of heart disease and knows the importance of the statistic

first hand.

"I lost my mother to heart disease suddenly in 2007 and, for me, this number meant so much more. It was, 'This is happening to one in three mothers and daughters.' It was very personal for me," Smith said.

Another statistic: Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, killing more each year than all forms of cancer combined. Heart disease also affects more than 42 million women in the U.S., according to AHA statistics.

"The good news is that the number is on the decline," said Dr. Roy Misirliyan, medical director of non-invasive cardiology at St. Mary Mercy Hospital of Livonia, adding that the number of women who died from coronary artery disease dropped from 35 percent in 1995 to 23 percent in 2004.

Thanks to preventative health care

and improved treatment options, that number is expected to continue to drop, Misirliyan said.

"It is encouraging," he added.

The best news, area doctors say that you can start to take action now to lower your risk factors.

Risk factors – those variables that play a role in the occurrence of a disease – fall into two categories: modifiable (things you can change and non-modifiable (things you can not).

Learning about those risk factors and how they relate to you is a first step, doctors say.

"It really is quite possible to lower your risk factors," said Dr. Joan Crawford, director of the Women's Program at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospitals. Crawford also serves as director of cardiac CT angiography, non-invasive laboratory, cardiac catheterization lab and pacemaker clinic at the St. John Oakland Center.

The key lies in the choices we make about eating, exercise and stress, she said, adding that making

rt
ealth



Area women share their health stories

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Annette Sciberras is one of 11 women nationwide to serve as a spokesperson for the 2014 American Heart Association's Go Red for Women™ campaign.

Her life story is an emotional one.

Born 53 years ago, it was quickly discovered that Sciberras, a registered nurse and Cardiac Progressive Care administrative manager at Beaumont Health System in Royal Oak, had congenital heart disease.

"It was very scary for my parents. I had heart surgery in 1965 when I was 5½ years old. There just wasn't a lot of that being done back then," Sciberras said.

"My parents did not know much about heart disease at the time, but they very quickly educated themselves – learning about good foods and motivating me to become a swimmer and stay healthy. It was just something I lived with and dealt with."

Eager to share her knowledge about heart disease with others, Sciberras grew up and became a cardiac care nurse at Beaumont, where she has spent her entire medical career.

Spending her days working with and counseling patients, raising four children and caring for her aging parents left her little time to worry about herself.

"I am part of the sandwich generation," Sciberras said.

At times, she would feel a small twinge of pain and her mother would urge her to get it checked out.

"It's nothing," she would tell her mother, continuing her busy schedule at the hospital administering to patients.

Tragedy struck the family in 2009, when her mother, Virginia Richardson of Royal Oak, died at age 83. She had been sick after suffering a stroke and Sciberras had been attempting to ready herself for the moment, knowing that death was imminent.

However, nothing prepared Sciberras for what happened when she walked into the hospital to find that her mother had drawn her last breath just moments prior to her arrival.

"My mother and I were extremely close my entire life," Sciberras said.

simple modifications can have a dramatic impact on your health.

One of the biggest non-modifiable risk factor is genetics – a family history of heart disease.

There is a very strong link between heart disease and family history, Misirliyan said.

"If your father had a heart attack before the age of 55 or your mother had a heart attack before the age of 45, your risk of heart disease is increased," Misirliyan said. "I always tell my patients, 'You don't get to choose your family.'"

Knowing this information about your family, however, can help you mitigate the link by making lifestyle choices aimed at minimizing your modifiable risk factors.

It is also important to "know your numbers," Misirliyan said.

A fasting blood test can reveal important information regarding your cholesterol, sugar and blood pressure.

See HEART, Page 10

See STORIES, Page 13

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HEART

Continued from Page 8

"Make sure you know your numbers and that you take steps to keep them in a healthy range," he said.

According to the AHA, healthy ranges include a blood pressure reading of 130/80; LDL (or bad) cholesterol levels of 100 or below; and an HDL (good) cholesterol level of 40 or above.

If your numbers do not match, it may be time for you to make some changes.

"Eighty percent of your risk for heart attack and stroke can be prevented through lifestyle changes," Crawford said.

First and foremost, she advises, put down the cigarettes.

"The data linking smoking and heart disease is so overpowering. It is just imperative that you stop smoking now," Crawford said.

Interestingly enough, more women smoke than men, she said, adding that "men are getting the message" about the dangers of cigarettes; women are not.

You can also lower your risk factor by getting your weight under control.

Obesity – having a body mass index of more than 30 – is a risk

factor that is modifiable, Crawford said.

Extra weight can do serious damage to your heart. Too much fat, especially around the belly, increases your risk for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. Make a commitment to yourself to eat a healthy diet, she advises.

"Start by bringing your own lunch with you to work," she said. "If you know that the only options are going to be fast food, take the time to prepare a healthy, nourishing meal for yourself; go for lower salt and lower fat."

Dr. Cindy Grines, vice president of academic and clinical affairs at DMC Cardiovascular Institute, recommends a "Mediterranean-style" diet that includes lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, olive oils and lean meats.

Losing weight can also minimize your risk of acquiring type-2 diabetes, another risk factor for heart disease, she said.

"Do what you can to prevent diabetes," Grines said. "Don't eat sugary carbs and lose the extra weight."

Regular exercise can also reduce your risk, Crawford noted.

Start by moving more. You do not have to join a gym or run in a 5K. Start small by incorporating physical activity into your daily routine more. Try parking farther away and walking

or take an extra lap around the mall when you are out shopping.

In fact, simply taking more steps can have a bigger impact on your health than you might think, said Dr. Barry Franklin, director of cardiac rehabilitation and exercise laboratories at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

"Walking is one of the biggest things you can do to improve your heart health," said Franklin, co-author of *One Heart, Two Feet* with Robert Sweetgall.

The book, published in 2013 and available at www.creativewalking.com, combines current research into heart disease with diabetes risk reduction strategies and offers practical walking programs.

"Small increases in fitness lead to decreases in death rates," Franklin said. "Starting a walking program gives you a reduction in death rates similar to many drugs. That does not mean get rid of the medications – do them in conjunction."

Too many people think that they have to go out and run a marathon in order to get fit. "That's just not the case," Franklin said. "New research indicates that you do not have to be a marathon runner to achieve the maximum survival benefits of walking."

According to Franklin, walking is the most accessible and easily reg-

ulated exercise for enhancing aerobic, or cardiac, fitness. For people who are sedentary, walking is a sufficient stimulus to improve health, fitness and overall well-being.

Franklin recommends walking "like you have somewhere to go."

"Challenge yourself: buy a good, quality pedometer and aim for 8,000 to 10,000 steps per day," he said.

Being knowledgeable about your risk factors, however, is not enough. It is also crucial to know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, Crawford advised.

"First, know that the symptoms are very different for women than they are for men," she said.

Men often talk about a feeling similar to "having an elephant" on their chest. With women, chest pain only occurs 50 percent of the time, she said.

Women often report "epigastric pressure" that may feel like heartburn or reflux, Crawford said.

Other signs may include shortness of breath, breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, light-headedness or even jaw pain, Smith said.

Call 9-1-1 if you think you are having a heart attack.

We have to be our own advocates, Smith noted.

"It's time to take care of ourselves," she said.




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Erin Cummings (left) and makeup artist Barbara Deyo – classic red lipstick for classic beauties. On Cummings' eyes, Deyo used black crème liner with pixie eyelashes and a flash of gold shimmer to give her that Pinup Girl glamour.

DEYO

Continued from Page 6

Cummings, who had been looking for a way to give back to her new community, was struck by the simplicity and generosity of her cousin's actions and the Mittens For Detroit initiative was born.

"I know that times are tough and some may feel discouraged from giving because of their own financial circumstances," Cummings said. "We're keeping it simple. All we want is gloves. Big gloves, little gloves, fancy gloves or dollar store gloves. As long as they are new and will keep a pair of hands warm, we will take them." More information is at www.mittensfordetroit.org.

Cummings has tirelessly worked with a team of volunteers to make sure as many hands as possible stay as warm as possible in metro Detroit. She even delivers bundles of gloves to area charities and shelters herself when she can. Why, you ask?

"My passion for Mittens For Detroit comes from actually seeing the children I'm giving the mittens and gloves to and knowing that it's making a difference," she said.

I'm writing this on the heels of the fourth annual Giggles and Gloves fundraiser, sponsored by Pinup Girl Clothing (www.pinup-girlclothing.com), held Jan. 25 at the MGM Grand casino in Detroit.

I have been happy to donate my time in doing Cummings' makeup

for the past two years. Giggles and Gloves is a night of comedy, featuring national headliners hailing from The Mitten. It's a full-on gala, held in a ballroom at the MGM. There is a plethora of auction items to bid on, with everything from Broadway to boxing to barbecue.

Although this is a huge fundraiser, it doesn't stop there. Throughout the winter, drop boxes are scattered throughout the area – including 93 Starbucks locations statewide.

Women can purchase a piece of jewelry from MFD's fine jewelry line and show their support. Of course, there's always the option to donate cold hard cash. Whatever you choose, just remember – baby, it's cold outside and you are helping children keep their hands warm this winter, something not to be taken for granted.

Help MFD reach its goal of 17,000 mittens to hand out this year. To learn more about the charity or to donate, go to www.mittensfordetroit.org. To learn more about Cummings, go to www.erincummings.com.

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 Erin Cummings. Barbara 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 Birmingham. Contact her at 248-203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com.

STORIES

Continued from Page 9

"And I thought that I was ready for it, but when I walked in and saw her ..."

With her daughter standing close by, Sciberras collapsed on her mother – suffering a stress cardiomyopathy.

"It really was a broken heart – takotsubo, they call it," she said.

A visit to the operating room revealed that in addition to the takotsubo, Sciberras also had a blockage, most likely the source of the "twinges" she had been experiencing.



Sciberras

"If I hadn't undergone surgery for the cardiomyopathy, I might not have discovered the blockage until it was too late," she said. "My mother – my guardian angel – was still taking care of me in

death."

Now recovered and looking forward to moving into her new home in Northville Township in March, Sciberras is amazed that she ignored her own symptoms while counseling other women to take care of themselves.

She also has a strong message.

"We need to take care of ourselves," she said. "We are more apt to call 9-1-1 for someone else than we are for ourselves. We need to start to take the time to care for us."

A survivor

Although Sharyl Smith did not have a heart attack, she still considers herself a survivor after losing both parents to heart disease. However, it was suffering the sudden and shocking death in 2009 of her mother at age 73 "a young 73," as Smith puts it, that was a turning point.

For Smith, 47, of Farmington Hills, the experience was life-changing.

"It was so surreal. I talked to my mother at 4:30 p.m. and she was cooking and getting ready for out-of-town



Smith

guests, happy and excited for company," said Smith, vice president of marketing, planning and public relations for McLaren Macomb.

A few hours later, her mother was playing bridge when she suffered a heart attack and died

instantly.

"It was just staggering," Smith said. "She had none of the obvious factors. She lived independently and walked three miles a day. I just could not believe it."

Her experience is the driving force behind her mission to spread the word about heart disease.

As 2014 chair of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women™ campaign, Smith is determined to help put an end to "the No. 1 killer of women."

"I had to get involved. It has become my personal journey," she said. "I can't stand the thought of my friends or daughters going through the pain that I did after losing someone I loved to heart disease."

As the married mother of two daughters, Kylie, 10 and Ryan, 12, Smith started that journey at home, focusing on making healthy food choices and encouraging her daughters to do the same.

"They are learning to read food labels and to make good choices for themselves," she said. "I talk about staying healthy and try to model that at home."

"I know that I need to make sure I am educating my daughters and my friends and make sure they are educated about the risk factors and that they know the signs and symptoms of heart disease," she added.

Smith is grateful to have the opportunity to share her message with other women in her role with the Go Red™ campaign.

"I'm not going to sit back and watch others go through this when it can be prevented," she said.



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GOALS

Continued from Page 7

sionals and business owners to help maximize their wealth. My focus is set on helping clients preserve their capital and increase their income, while maintaining their independence in retirement.

After 14 years of helping clients throughout metro Detroit, it is clear to me there is a tremendous disparity between the way most women handle their finances and what they actually need to do to enjoy a successful financial future. Women have become adept at managing careers and families and much more, but many are not prepared to manage their own financial future.

Focusing on the here and now, putting out the daily fires in our professional and personal lives, leaves little extra time to plan for the future. But lack of time does not diminish the importance of learning how to manage your money so that you can potentially retire in comfort.

The key is to start planning now.



Women spend much of their time worrying about everyone else's needs. It's important for them to look after their own financial needs. GETTY IMAGES/BANANASTOCK RF

Learn how to set solid goals and understand how you can improve your financial habits. Good financial planning, decisions and habits contribute toward financial success over time.

Recently, I sat down with a long-time client. A recent visit to her doctor had revealed a shortened life expectancy. She came to me in an effort to re-formulate a plan for her savings based on her new circumstances.

"I want to make sure I have enough to cover all of my expenses and to make sure my young children will be taken care of," she said.

"That's fine, we can take care that," I said. "But why don't you start by telling me what is on the top of your bucket list and we'll go from there."

Tears welled in her eyes as she looked at me.

"Do you know that's the first time that anyone has ever asked me that," she said with a smile.

My message in life and through this column is aimed directly at you. I am dedicated to walking you through the steps that you need to take control of your financial future and prepare you for retirement.

It is time to take care of you. We spend so much of our time as caretakers, worrying about everyone else's needs. Now is the time for you to start focusing on your needs – including your financial needs.

Paula Swain CFP® is a financial consultant at Swain Financial, LLC, 1225 S. Main, Plymouth. Contact her at 734-552-7610. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC.



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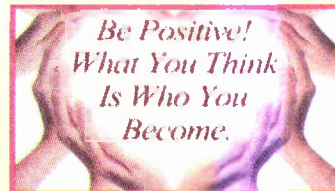
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