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PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP BOARD

Board keeps 'questions' on agendas

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

To question or not to question was the question Tuesday at the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meeting. And the board answered in the affirmative, voting 4-3 to restore the words "and questions" to its agendas for the

first public comment section of its meetings. A revision of the rules and order of business for meetings, presented Tuesday, had dropped a mention of questions during public comment. Clerk Nancy Conzelman said she favored leaving "and questions" off the public comment agenda item because it created the expectation that

officials can answer questions from the public immediately. "I couldn't find a single other community that called it 'and questions,'" Conzelman said. On Wednesday, Conzelman said officials spend a lot of time during the day answering questions from the public and that while questions aren't

prohibited, the public shouldn't expect to necessarily get a question answered during the board's business meetings. "What would be the harm?" Trustee Bob Doroshewitz said of retaining the "and questions" wording, which was last approved in 2004. The practice goes back at least 22 years, Doroshewitz noted, referring

to the minutes of a 1992 meeting. "This is just bizarre."

Past conflict

The issue arose at the December board meeting, when Supervisor Richard Reaume called Doroshewitz out of order after he responded to Deb

See QUESTIONS, Page A2



Shannon Scott-Miller talks about artwork created by her clients. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lilley gets OK'd for upgrades in Plymouth, Canton

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Stretches of Lilley Road in Canton Township and the city of Plymouth, long toward the top of the repair list in each community, will be getting upgrades next year or the year after.

Wayne County officials made the announcement Monday of the more than \$2.3 million project, saying the county will be able to leverage federal road funding. In Plymouth, Lilley between Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail, about seven-tenths of a mile, will be getting the upgrades, while in Canton the project will focus on the stretch from Warren to Joy, about a mile.

"That's great news," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said, adding that the city is already working with the county to coordinate underground utility work - water and sewer line improvements - along that stretch.

"Good to see they're going to put some money toward getting it in better condition," Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said. The stretch of road is filled with cracks and potholes, he said.

Sincock said city officials have been seeking improvements to Lilley for years and that Shannon Price, who represents the city on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, has been pushing it as well. "It's been on the list for a long time," Sincock said.

In both communities, the work will include resurfacing the roadway, improving drainage and adding modern sidewalk rams. The project is expected to smooth the flow of traffic. The Canton stretch of the project is estimated at \$1.45 million, the Plymouth stretch at \$895,000.

A press release from the county said the work could begin during the 2015 road construction season, but is more likely to be done in 2016.

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TELLING THE STORIES

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Show illustrates art's healing powers

Megan, her sight impaired by a seizure that affected the way her brain interprets images, couldn't roll a ball of clay when she started outpatient art therapy. Now, she's taken to painting.

"She liked that she could show people how she saw the world," said Shannon Scott-Miller, an art therapist at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital who works with the teenager.

Kersch was a cross country runner who had to give up the sport - and learn to walk again - after being struck by a car. He finds in photography the emotional and psychological outlet that running gave him, Scott-Miller said.

Steve was an artist before suffering a brain injury; his drawings now provide a way to measure his recovery. In an early post-injury drawing, a boat sits well out of the water,



This painting is by David, a 7-year-old boy who suffered a stroke on the right side of his brain.

though, from Steve's point of view, it's where it should be, Scott-Miller said. Later drawings show a better grasp of perspective.

"His art got better as his brain got better," she said.

Healing with art

Works by Steve, Megan, Kersch and 13 other teenagers and children with serious illnesses and injuries are on display this month at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Called Milestones, for the clinic through which the children created the art, the show is an expression of the sadness, successes, joys and everything in between that young people with life-altering conditions experience.

"Part of their healing is the storytelling," Scott-Miller said Monday during a tour of the show.

See SHOW, Page A2

Parents complain about snow-day decisions

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

While Mother Nature has repeatedly dumped snow storms and frigid temperatures on the area, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators have been enduring a winter storm of their own.

With near-daily decisions

needing to be made about whether to close schools - either because a foot of snow fell or temperatures (and wind chills) were dropping below minus-20 degrees - officials are being hammered, both in emails and in social media, for the choices they're making.

The crest came Friday, when the wind-chill factor was down near minus-20 degrees

and administrators kept schools open anyway. When buses were late and students were left standing at bus stops, social media sites like Facebook lit up.

The furor rose to a level that encouraged Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen to post the reasoning in a message on the district's website. At the time the decision had to

be made, Meissen explained, the temperature (minus-17 degrees) "had not reached the minus-20 degree threshold for closure."

"The uniqueness of the campus design at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is considered with any weather-related school closure

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School museum shows students' hands-on learning

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

From a wide-ranging look at the oceans by the preschool class to exhibits on robots, animals, historic events and more, New Morning School put a learn-by-doing philosophy on display Sunday.

It was the Plymouth Township school's annual Museum Experience, which lets students showcase their findings on subjects they have been researching for more than a month. Museum exhibits included handmade displays, written material, surveys and oral presentations.

"They looked forward to this day when they can show off their hard work," said Venee Yatooma Natarajan, the kindergarten teacher.

The Museum Experience develops students' skills in research, writing, art and public speaking. Preschoolers



New Morning student Hayden Stephens, with parents Dalina and David, explored the world of kangaroos for her Museum Experience project. The school's annual museum day was Sunday.

worked collaboratively on a room dedicated to the oceans – sharks, sea salt, the food chain and scuba diving were all included – while older students chose topics to work on individually.

"It helped him try to syn-

thesize ideas," Shel Levine said of his kindergarten son David's display on Octonauts, characters from a television show that David described as "like *Star Trek* under water."

"It helped her to process thoughts, to put things in a

time line," said David Stephens, whose daughter Hayden, an elementary student, studied kangaroos. "They think a lot about how they present."

Chloe Pulick's display was on the Salem witch trials in colonial Massachusetts. "I like history" and had been intrigued by hearing references to the trials, Chloe said. "I never actually learned about it" before beginning the project.

In the preschool, several students had demonstrated interest in the oceans and the class got to pick the topic together, teacher Marisa Downs said. The preschool exhibit came out of a lot of hands-on work, including making a papier-mâché shark model, doing salt paintings, setting up a seaweed-tasting display and visiting with a scuba diver.

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SHOW

Continued from Page A1

The exhibit of nearly 100 works – paintings, drawings, collages, sculptures, photography – formally opened with a reception Sunday, an exciting moment for the artists, who had been anticipating the show for months.

"This was their place for them to be recognized as someone who's healthy and someone who's accomplished something," Scott-Miller said.

Mott's Milestones program, she said, allows patients to make choices about their therapy goals, about what's important to them, what medium they prefer and what they want to express, whereas their other therapies set specific physical goals, like learning to walk again.

Finding a voice

Many patients, through illness or injury, have lost the ability to speak when they come to Scott-Miller. "They will come without any voice and they have to learn to talk again," she said. Art helps them communicate in a different way, she said.



Mycah is a 9-year-old girl who suffered a traumatic brain injury. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some also have impaired movement; Jacob, who likes painting, couldn't draw a circle when he started. Later, Scott-Miller helped the family set up a studio so Jacob could paint at home.

"It was exciting the first time he drew a circle," Scott-Miller said. "His dad and I, we were in tears."

Lisa Howard, executive director of the PCAC, said the art – combined with the art-

ists' stories – makes for a powerful show that goes beyond children's art. The show has been very well-received, she said.

"I don't think there is a word for the awesome gift that these generous art therapists share with their clients, their artists – selfless and patient and determined and compassionate," Howard wrote in an email. "I want people to know that this is

going on every day, a few miles down the road."

Milestones runs through Wednesday, Feb. 26. Hours at the Joanne Wilkeman Hulce Center for the arts, 774 N. Sheldon, in Plymouth, are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, during public events and by appointment.

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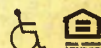
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PARENTS

Continued from Page A1

decisions," Meissen wrote. "Student safety is a top priority and the decision process involved is extensive."

While Meissen also told parents they can "call in an excused absence ... without academic penalty," some parents still wondered why school would be held. After all, they reasoned, minus-17 isn't a lot different than minus-20.

"My only real complaint is, if they say one minute that the students' safety is a real concern and minus-20 is too cold, then how is today's minus-20 any different?" parent Leah Kanaan said. "These inconsistencies makes me wonder what else they are inconsistent about."

Other concerns have been expressed about the conditions students must endure when passing from building to building on the three-school Plymouth-Canton Educational Park campus. Parents complain that the pathways are often snow-covered and hazardous and that such conditions should be taken into consideration when decisions are made about school closings.

Parent Debbie Piotrowski has a senior at The Park and has had a student at The Park the last six years. She said her children have told her the paths are generally snow-covered, but when she calls district officials, she's told paths "are cleared and salted to satisfaction."

"(The district says) my kids must be exaggerating," Piotrowski said. "I think the administration on down to the custodians who are supposed to be clearing the paths should try walking



Thousands of students pass between the three schools at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Parents say the pathways are too often left snow-covered and slippery, as they were when this photo was taken last week.

from building to building in the same conditions (temps, carrying backpacks, thousands of others) the kids do in the allotted time."

Meissen said the uniqueness of the campus design is a factor in the decision whether to close school. His message urged parents to make sure their students are prepared for the wintry conditions.

"It is recognized that students need to walk between classes and are exposed to the winter

elements," he wrote. "Based on wind-chill guidelines, exposure over 30 minutes creates health risks and we use this as a gauge for health and safety decisions about our students. We ask that parents continue to encourage their children to take appropriate actions to prepare and dress appropriately for the resiliency required during this stretch of winter weather."

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QUESTIONS

Continued from Page A1

Madonna, one of the key figures in the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex movement, as she tried during public comment to poll board members about the township's possible participation in PARC, which aims to re-purpose Central Middle School into an arts and athletic center. The board voted last month to not have representation on a PARC feasibility study committee.

Trustee Chuck Curmi, while agreeing Tuesday that questions can't always be answered immediately, said he wanted to keep open the chance for dialog with citizens.

"I want to be able to retain the right to respond to somebody in the audience as an elected official," Curmi said.

Treasurer Ron Edwards sided with Conzelman. "People get up and demand an answer to the question right then and there," he said.

"You're not required to answer anybody's question," Doroshewitz said. If a question is "out of bounds," Doroshewitz said, he simply won't answer.

Voting with Doroshewitz and Reaume to keep the "and questions" wording were Curmi and Trustee Mike Kelly. Trustee Kay Arnold joined Conzelman and Edwards in voting no.

Hearings first

The rules of proceedings and order of business adopted Tuesday did include one revision, putting any public hearings ahead of public comment on meeting agendas.

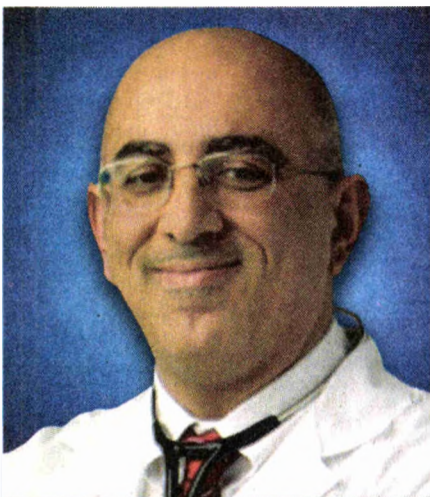
The board's meeting agendas include two public comment sections, one toward the beginning of each meeting and one toward the end. On printed agendas, only the first public comment section includes the words "and questions."

The "public comments and questions" formulation had appeared on agendas for years, since the rules were last adopted in 2004, until last April.

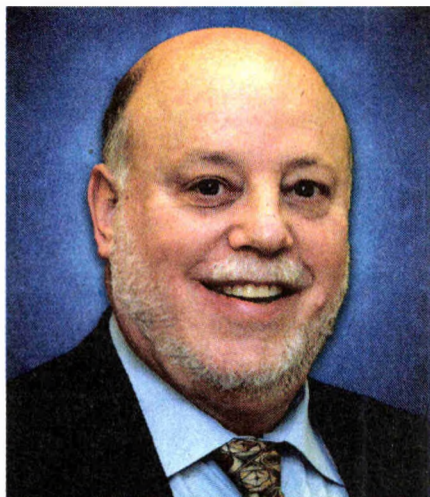
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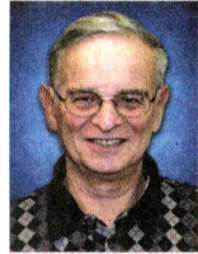
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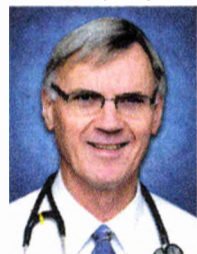
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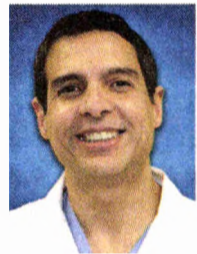
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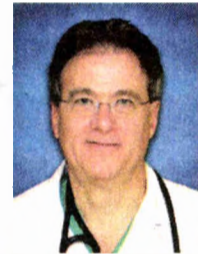
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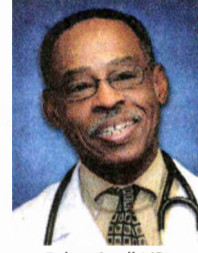
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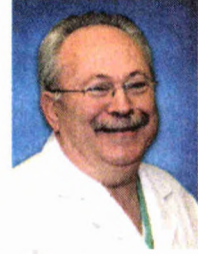
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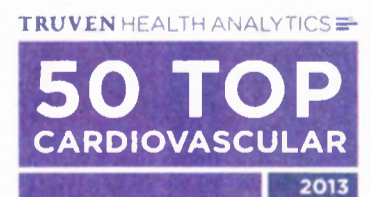
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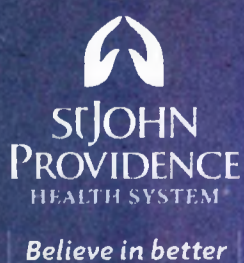
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Olympic viewing

Date/Time: Sunday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton

Details: The Arctic Edge is hosting a viewing party for figure skating fans who want to watch Olympic skaters who train locally compete in the Sochi Games. Three pairs who train at Arctic Edge – Alex and Maia Shibutani, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir and Charlie White and Meryl Davis – are in the 2014 Olympics. The concession stand will be open.

Contact: For more information, call Arctic Edge at 734-487-7777.

Brisco fundraisers

Dates/Times/Locations:

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5-8 p.m. at Pot Belly, 29579 Plymouth Road, Livonia; Friday, March 7, 4-8 p.m., Jungle Java, 6481 Canton Center, Canton

Details: American Cancer Society Relay for Life team Briscoe Family Ties holds a pair of fundraisers. Pot Belly will donate 25 percent of all sales to the team; Jungle Java is donating 50 percent of all paid admissions. Participants should mention they're there for the fundraisers.

Night for the Museum

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

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

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



Cub Scout Pack 743 held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Saturday. Four of the Scouts earned the highest award in Cub Scouting. The entire Webelos II Den – Daniel Paczewitz (from left), Lucas Barretta, Logan Stombaugh and Dimitri Mili – received the Arrow of Light Award. In addition, Dimitri, Daniel and Logan received the Superachiever Award for completing all 20 badges available to the Webelos. Lucas, Dimitri and Daniel participated in a Crossover Ceremony to join Boy Scout Troop 1104. Pack 743 has been chartered to Allen Elementary School in Plymouth for more than 60 years.

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.

Winter workshop

Date/Time: Monday, Feb. 17, 7-8:45 p.m.

Location: Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support sponsors an eight-week workshop for people who are grieving after the death of a loved one. The workshops are

offered at no cost to participants and will be presented by New Hope executive director Karen Laing and New Hope's Speaker Team. Each session will begin with an informational presentation about one aspect of grief, followed by small group participation guided by trained facilitators

Contact: To register for a workshop, call New Hope at 248-348-0115.

Seeger tribute

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

Location: The Joanne Winkelman Hulse Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Details: BaseLine Folk Society presents a "Tribute to Pete Seeger" and a total open mic venue. Open mic performers can sign up 6:15-6:45 p.m. the third

Saturday of each month through the month of May. There will be no featured guests this month, but a tribute to Pete Seeger. Host Darwin Mamassian, songwriter, performer and recording artist, will introduce all the open-mic acts with each performer doing two-songs. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Contact: Email BaseLine president Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com

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 Arbor Hospice with the presentation topic "Five Wishes Ad-

vance 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 Pummil at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

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 Stephanie 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.

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.plymouthcantonliteracy.org/get-involved/fundraising>. Participation is limited to the first 15 students to register.

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

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations:

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.

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

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Phone scam

A 45-year-old Canton woman notified police after she received an estimated 20 phone calls from a caller claiming she owed \$10,000 in back taxes, a police report said.

The woman said the caller claimed to be from the Federal Tax Bureau when he called around 11 a.m. Friday, the report said. The caller confirmed the woman's address and then asked for her Social Security number and date of birth.

The woman told the caller she was current with her taxes and hung up. She told police he called back 20 times before she reported him as harassing her.

Police dialed the caller's number and was told that the man was in a meeting and couldn't talk. He then hung up the phone.

Lying to cops

Canton police arrested a 22-year-old Detroit man for providing false

information to authorities and driving with a suspended driver's license after an officer noticed a car with a defective license plate at Joy and Walton, east of I-275, a police report said.

The incident happened about 11 p.m. Monday. The driver told police he had stopped his car to wait for a friend who was dropping off a cellphone. The friend then walked up to the scene with the phone, the report said.

Police learned the 22-year-old suspect had given a wrong name and that he had several warrants for his arrest out of Detroit for traffic offenses. Police also learned his license was suspended.

Missing purse

A woman notified police to report her purse came up missing while she was shopping at the Marshall's store on Ford east of Lilley.

The woman said she was shopping at the store between 1:40 p.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 5 when she noticed her purse was no longer in the bottom of a children's stroller she was pushing.

The woman told police the purse could have fallen out. She said she noticed it was missing when she got to the cash register.

— By Darrell Clem

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For the location nearest you, call 1-888-889-EYES

Just a reminder



It's hard to remember a time when people could sit outside and enjoy the sunshine. Spring will come, sooner or later. Patio tables and chairs at The Coffee Bean in Plymouth wait for that day, too. **BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Celebrate Oscar™, enter for a chance to win

The *Observer & Eccentric* Media, in cooperation with Emagine Theatres, is offering movie buffs three ways to celebrate and win in our Academy Awards™/Oscar™ Contest.

» **Grand prize:** Correctly identify the top seven Oscar™ categories and you could win a 12-month pass for two to Emagine Theatres, a \$1,000-plus value. Second-place winner will receive four movie passes. Deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

» **Double play:** Enter by Feb. 14 and select "Double Play" and you will be entered for a chance to win a pass for two to a special showing of the 2013 Best Picture-nominated films at Emagine Novi. First winner will be selected no later than Feb. 14 to see movies playing Feb. 14-20 (*American Hustle*, *Gravity*, *Captain Phillips*, *Dallas Buyers Club* and *Her*). The second winner will be selected by Feb. 19 for movies playing Feb. 21-27 (*Wolf of Wall Street*, *Nebraska*, *12 Years a Slave* and *Philomena*).

» **Triple play:** Enter by Feb. 26 and select "Triple Play" and you will be entered for a chance to win an Acad-

emy Awards™ Viewing and Dinner for up to four people at Star Lanes Restaurant and Sports Bar at Emagine Royal Oak. Watch the Academy Awards™ show while you dine. Prize includes a light supper, champagne toast and dessert.

Go to hometownlife.com and select the Oscar™ Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website or go to fb.com/oehome-town and click the Oscar™ Contest icon.

The seven contest categories are:

» **Best Picture:** *American Hustle*, *Nebraska*, *Captain Phillips*, *Philomena*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Gravity* and *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

» **Best Actor in a Leading Role:** Christian Bale in *American Hustle*, Chiwetel Ejiofor in *12 Years a Slave*, Bruce Dern in *Nebraska*, Matthew McConaughey in *Dallas Buyers Club* and Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

» **Best Actress in a Leading Role:** Amy Adams in *American Hustle*, Judi Dench in *Philomena*, Cate Blanchett in *Blue Jasmine*, Meryl Streep in *August: Osage County* and Sandra Bullock in *Gravity*.

» **Best Actor in a**

Supporting Role: Barkhad Abdi in *Captain Phillips*, Jonah Hill in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, Bradley Cooper in *American Hustle*, Jared Leto in *Dallas Buyers Club* and Michael Fassbender in *12 Years a Slave*.

» **Best Actress in a Supporting Role:** Sally Hawkins in *Blue Jasmine*, Julia Roberts in *August: Osage County*, Jennifer Lawrence in *American Hustle*, Lupita Nyong'o in *12 Years a Slave* and June Squibb in *Nebraska*.

» **Best Animated Feature Film:** *The Croods*, *Frozen*, *Despicable Me 2*, *The Wind Rises* and *Ernest & Celestine*.

» **Best Director:** David O. Russell for *American Hustle*, Alfonso Cuarón for *Gravity*, Alexander Payne for *Nebraska*, Steve McQueen for *12 Years a Slave* and Martin Scorsese for *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

» **First tiebreaker category is for Best Documentary Feature:** *The Act of Killing*, *Cutie and the Boxer*, *Dirty Wars*, *The Square* and *20 Feet from Stardom*.

» **Second tiebreaker category is for Best Original Score:** *The Book Thief*, *Gravity*, *Her*, *Philomena* and *Saving Mr. Banks*.

Don't miss deductions on tax return

Now that the Super Bowl is behind us and spring is nowhere in sight, many people have started to gather tax information to prepare returns.

While there is little taxpayers can do to affect a 2013 return, there are some deductions that may be helpful.

It is not too late to contribute to a tax-deductible or a Roth IRA. You have until April 15 to make an IRA

contribution for 2013. If you make a contribution to a traditional IRA, you potentially can deduct the contribution off your 2013 return. Even if you're not eligible to make a tax-deductible IRA contribution, you may be eligible to make a Roth IRA contribution.

Roth IRAs do not give an immediate tax benefit, as will a traditional IRA. However, I generally lean toward Roth IRAs. Remember, Roth IRAs grow tax-free, not tax-deferred. At the same time, they are not subject to minimum required distributions.

A few deductions that tend to be forgotten include charitable contributions, job hunting

expenses and refinancing costs.

Most of us know that if we write a check to a charity, we can deduct it. However, people sometimes forget they can deduct out-of-pocket costs incurred in order to support a charity.

For example, you drove your automobile for something like a Meals on Wheels program. You are entitled to deduct the mileage. Typically, you can deduct 14 cents a mile.

Basically, whatever out-of-pocket cost you incur while doing work for a charity is tax-deductible.

In this tough economic climate, many people have incurred expenses in their search for a job. If you itemize deductions, you can deduct job hunting costs as a miscellaneous deduction. These expenses can include such things as transportation costs, room and board if your search is out of town, employment agent fees, the cost to mail and print resumes and even cab fare.

The bottom line – job hunting expenses even if you do not get the job are deductible. The one caveat is that these expenses are not deduct-

ible if you're looking for your first job.

Another deduction that many people miss is the points paid to refinance a mortgage. You cannot deduct all points in one year, however, you can pro-rate them over a course of a mortgage.

For example, if you paid \$4,000 in points to refinance a mortgage last year and it was a 15-year mortgage, you could deduct one-15th of that every year on your tax return.

In addition, if you've refinanced a mortgage, which means you paid off the previous mortgage, if you were deducting points on it you can accelerate all the yet non-deducted points and deduct those.

When it comes to tax returns, every dollar saved looks better in your pocket. Take time in doing your tax return and spend a few minutes to refresh yourself on tax laws. You may be surprised how many deductions or opportunities you're missing.

Good luck.

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



Rick Bloom

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A group of daughters leave the dads behind for a spin around the floor. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAKING MEMORIES



Eric Bacynski and his daughter Brooke tearing up the dance floor.



Mike Chizuk and Amanda Chizuk demonstrate how to "Walk Like An Egyptian" at the Butterfly Ball.



Chris Watton holds daughter Autumn close for a dance.

Dads, daughters hit the dance floor

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Eric Bacynski figures his Daddy/Daughter Dance days are numbered as his daughter, Brooke, approaches her teen years.

That's why Bacynski was particularly happy to be at Friday's Butterfly Ball at the Summit on the Park in Canton. It was the pair's eighth straight year attending the annual Daddy/Daughter Dance and it was, as always, great fun.

"We had a wonderful time," Bacynski said. "I think our Daddy/Daughter dancing days are numbered as she's getting older, but we've made some memories that will last a lifetime. It's a special evening when I get to take out my daughter and treat her like the princess she is."

The Bacynskis were among more than 900 fathers and daughters – a record, according to Canton Leisure Services officials – who donned their fancy duds and took advantage of three opportunities over the weekend. The events featured dancing and refreshments, each daughter got a special "Butterfly" souvenir and the dance was capped off, as always, by a dazzling balloon drop.

Canton Leisure Services recreation specialist Jennifer Provenzano called the event a "huge success." "It's a great chance for fathers and daughters to dress up and enjoy some time together," Provenzano said. "This is one of our favorite events. Everyone had a great time. There were so many smiling faces."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



A conga line snakes through the crowd of dancers.

New service provides security, convenience

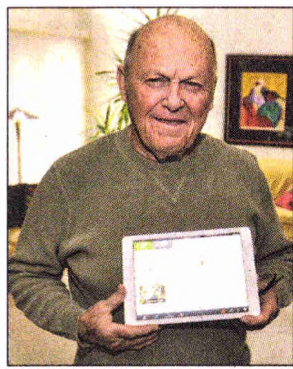
By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

Chuck Dierkes sleeps a bit more soundly nowadays. He attributes that to the new security system he had installed at his Milford home.

"I was more comfortable sleeping at night knowing we have something to wake us up," he said.

Dierkes and his wife Karen have also made their lives a bit more convenient, thanks to signing up for AT&T's Digital Life service. If you've seen the television commercial, you'll have a general idea of how it works. In the advertising spot, two children meet their parents at a cabin and mention they stopped by the house. The dad checks his cellphone and, with the touch of a button, turns off the water, television and lights, as well as locking the door.

The Dierkeses were among the first subscribers to the Digital Life service when AT&T introduced it to the Detroit market last summer. It's now available in the five-county region around Detroit — Oakland, Wayne, Livingston, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. The service is available to anyone with at least 3G wireless data coverage, said Melisa



Chuck Dierkes of Milford said AT&T's Digital Life helps him sleep better at night. HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bahoorra, area regional sales manager.

Different options

The Dierkeses' setup includes most of the options available through AT&T Digital Life, including home security, an automatic exterior door lock, automatic garage door opener, video cameras and light and temperature controls. All can be accessed on a mobile device or computer. Other automated tasks can include everything from window blinds to water main shutoff to a fresh brew in the morning.

"My personal favorite thing is the personal coffee maker," Bahoorra said. "It's set to start at one time every day before work and later on

the weekend."

Bahoorra said the new service is like "a remote control to your life. It's like the Jetsons-type stuff."

The security system has been the most popular since introducing the program, said Chris Dierkes, an AT&T store manager in Farmington Hills and son of the Milford couple.

"Most people who come in to the store are curious about the program after seeing the commercial," he said. The security system itself is the most popular option, along with the video cameras. Everything available in the service, he added, can be ordered separately, so customers only pay for what they want.

Lighting and appliance controls are hard-wired into the electrical system and installation typically takes about a half of a day.

AT&T is offering a special promotion through the end of February, waiving the equipment and installation fees, which can cost as much as \$750 depending on the plan, Bahoorra said. Monthly costs start at \$29. Visit an AT&T store or att.com/digitallife for more information. Property owners need not be AT&T customers to order Digital Life.



The Wayne County Department of Public Health Department, 33030 Van Born, Wayne, participated in the annual American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day for Women.

Wayne County employees wear red for women's heart health

The Wayne County Health and Human Services Department participated Friday, Feb. 7, in the annual American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day for Women. February is American Heart Month.

Employees participated in heart health trivia to win prizes and shared healthy refreshments and recipes. They proudly wore red attire and accessories to raise awareness concerning heart disease and support the American Heart Association in its ongoing mission.

For 10 years, women have been fighting heart disease as part of the Go Red for Women movement. Heart disease remains the No. 1 killer of women — and men — responsible for one out of four U.S. deaths annually.

To date, more than 627,000 women's lives have been saved, but the fight is far from over. Individuals need information, education and care, in order to treat, prevent and help put an end to heart disease.

Wayne County has

been observing National Go Red Day to take a stand against heart disease for nearly a decade.

Residents can get information about how to stay "heart healthy" by calling the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services at 313-224-0810 or by contacting the American Heart Association.

You can also learn more about heart health and local "Go Red" events by visiting <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HeartMonth/> and heart.org/semi.

First Step joins in One Billion Rising for Justice

On Friday, Feb. 14, First Step will join with activists around the world for One Billion Rising for Justice.

The campaign will build upon the energy and momentum of Feb. 14, 2013, when 1 billion activists in 207 countries and territories came together to rise, strike and dance in the biggest mass action in human history — all designed to demand an end to violence against women and girls.

The campaign is recognition that people cannot end violence against women without looking at the intersection of poverty, racism, war, the plunder of the environment, capitalism, imperialism and patriarchy. Impunity lives at the heart of these interlocking forces.

First Step is hosting an event featuring dancing, speaking out and celebrating the strength of survivors from noon

to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 14 at the First Step Karen Wilson Smithbauer Center at 4400 S. Venoy in Wayne. Activities will include inspirational readings, art, dancing and pledges for actions that participants can all take to end violence against women and girls.

Health coach and former Radio City Rockette Jennifer Fiandt will teach the choreography and lead participants in the inspiring dance "Break the Chain." Light refreshments will follow. Sign up for the event by contacting tbzoe@firststep-mi.org or call 734-656-0730 for more information.

This event is part of a tri-county effort with partner organizations from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, including Alternatives for Girls (Wayne County), Turning Point (Macomb County) and Haven (Oakland County). In addition to raising

awareness about this important issue, the partner groups also want to demonstrate to survivors that there are many organizations in the Detroit tri-county area that will support them and help them access the resources they need.

First Step is a non-profit organization in Wayne County whose mission is to eliminate domestic and sexual violence and provide comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by these crimes. First Step provides free services for survivors, including

temporary emergency housing, counseling, advocacy, 24-hour helpline support, transportation, transitional supportive housing, legal information children's services and prevention education.

First Step's vision is for Peaceful Families and Safe Communities. More information about First Step can be found at www.firststep-mi.org.

To learn more about One Billion Rising for Justice First Step, call 734-656-0730 or email info@firststep-mi.org.

WHY BE CATHOLIC?

The popular series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 5th season with an exciting roster of new speakers, sure to intrigue and inspire your own faith life, regardless of denomination.

Monday, February 17th at 7 PM



Steven Piskorowski

Steven Piskorowski, co-founder of Army of Apostles and coordinator of the 1st Annual Midwest Apologetics Conference, shares his unique journey from "cradle Catholic" to Evangelical Protestant and anti-Catholic to devout and grateful revert

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**Tuesday, February 18th,
7 PM in the school cafeteria**
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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Local market 'passionate' about food

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the products and services you offer.

Holiday Market: We are a full-service grocery market featuring the finest full-service deli, meat, seafood, artisan cheeses, artisan bread baked daily in our wood-burning oven, scratch bakery, smoke-house and full grocery aisles. We have an exceptional beer, wine and spirits department. We focus on quality and world class service.

Observer: How did you decide to open your business?

Holiday Market: We are passionate about food, service, quality and bringing it to the public.

Observer: Why choose Canton for your business?

Holiday Market: Great community, multi-cultural. We felt Canton could support an upscale market.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Holiday Market: Everything. We focus on quality, service and breaking all the rules.

Observer: How has your business changed since it opened?

DETAILS

Business name and address: Holiday Market, 520 S. Lilley, Canton

Your name: John and Lisa Pardington, owners
Hometown: Canton
Business opened: October 1998

Number of employees: 150-plus

Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday

Business specialty: Full-service grocery store, bringing shoppers the best quality foods, wine and spirits from around the world.

Business phone: 734-844-2200

Website: www.holidaymarkets.com

Holiday Market: Our store has changed dramatically over 15 years. We started with a concept and it has evolved to what it is today. We will continue to evolve and change with food trends.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit to share?

Holiday Market: We have enjoyed all our customers over the past 15 years and the stories they share about themselves and their families.



Owners John and Lisa Pardington opened Holiday Market in Canton in 1998.

We are one big family.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Holiday Market: We are a stable business. We believe people are committed to high-quality

food and service.

Observer: Do you have any advice for other small-business owners?

Holiday Market: Work hard, stay passionate, keep studying and learn-

ing about foods, live in the community where you want people to support you.

Observer: What does the future hold for your business?

Holiday Market: Our

vision is to grow, continue to improve our customer service, our food products and our relationship to our community where we live, work and play.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Business development

The Institute of Business Development "The Art of Giving Great Customer Service" seminar is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

The seminar will allow officials from

Zingerman's to discuss their approach to great customer service, which has been applied successfully in a wide variety of businesses, including retailers, banks, health care providers, manufacturers, schools and libraries.

Regular registration is \$157; non-Canton Chamber of Commerce members pay \$197. The

seminar takes place in Room W201B. The VisTaTech Center is located at 18600 Haggerty in Livonia.

For more information, call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at 734-453-4040.

State of the Schools

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Can-

ton Chamber of Commerce partner with officials of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to host the State of the Schools luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Plymouth High School.

Cost is \$15, with all proceeds being used for Student Citizen Scholarships. Dr. Michael

Meissen, Plymouth-Canton's superintendent, will address the latest developments in the school district.

For more information, call 734-453-1540.

Joint after-hours

The Canton Chamber of Commerce partners with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce for a joint-

chamber event 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Stella's Black Dog Tavern (formerly Doyle's), 860 Fralick, Plymouth.

The event will provide members the opportunity to expand their network of professionals from businesses in neighboring communities.

There is no charge for the event.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

HandyPro top franchise

HandyPro, a national handyman service and senior home modification franchise company headquartered in Plymouth, has recently been named as the No. 1 Handyman Service business in *Entrepreneur* magazine's 35th annual "Franchise 500," which ranked the top franchise companies for 2013.

In addition, *Home Business* magazine also named HandyPro as one of 50 "Trendy" home-based businesses.

This is the second time HandyPro was honored with a "Franchise 500" ranking from *Entrepreneur*, which recognizes growth-oriented franchises.

"We are thrilled to be honored as the top handyman franchise business and one of the trendy home based businesses and I have to thank all our franchisees and our franchise support team for keeping the HandyPro name synonymous with exceptional customer service," said Keith A. Paul, founder and president of HandyPro.

In addition to traditional handyman services, Paul said HandyPro has also expanded its business model to include home modification services to help seniors and the disabled people be safer and live more comfortably in their homes.

Bank of Ann Arbor

Bank of Ann Arbor announced Kevin Kramer has joined its team as vice president and private banking officer as part of its private banking team. Kramer joins the Plymouth office to introduce private



Kramer



Vandenberg

banking services.

Kramer has more than 20 years of experience in financial services. He most recently was employed by PNC Bank in Ann Arbor as vice president and private banking adviser. In his new role at Bank of Ann Arbor, Kramer will be able to meet the business lending and personal banking needs of professional practices in Ann Arbor, Plymouth and surrounding areas.

Kramer holds an MBA in finance from Wayne State University and BA from Michigan State University and recently joined the board of the Michigan Philharmonic.

Kohl's scholarships

The Kohl's Scholarship Program will award nearly \$400,000 in scholarships and prizes this year to more than 2,300 young volunteers who have made a positive impact in their communities. Nominations for kids ages 6-18 will be accepted through March 14 at kohlskids.com.

Kohl's is encouraging parents, teachers, neighbors and friends to nominate outstanding youth, in celebration of their time, energy and passion to helping others.

Two nominees from each of the more than 1,100 Kohl's stores nationwide, including the Canton location, will win a \$50 Kohl's gift card and nearly 200 will win regional scholarships

worth \$1,000 toward higher education. Ten national winners will be awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for higher education and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a nonprofit organization on each national winner's behalf.

Since the Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program began in 2001, Kohl's has recognized more than 19,500 kids with more than \$3.9 million in scholarships and prizes. For more information or a list of past Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program winners, visit kohlskids.com.

ACO promotion

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 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.

Tipping Point Theatre key part of area community

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

James Kuhl is producing artistic director for the Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville, which opened its doors in 2007. The Farmington resident earned his master of fine arts degree in acting from Wayne State University.

"I think it's a wonderful asset," Kuhl said of the theater on Cady Street, where he oversees the financial/business aspects as well as the artistic side. The community of Northville made a collective decision that arts organizations are key, he said. "They come out and support what we do," including the partnership with Northville High School drama productions and Tipping Point pros. Kuhl noted the nearby presence of theaters at Genitti's and the Marquis.

Great support

"The community supports them all for different reasons," he said. That longtime support "really shows the community has a large support for theater and arts in general."

That includes Tipping Point's Sandbox Festival in June, done in conjunction with Arts and Acts. Sandbox organizers seek 10-minute plays, then pick the top four, cast and stage them, often with newcomers.

The one-acts are then staged at Genitti's, said Lynn Wilde Concannon, who handles marketing and development for TPT. "We perform them there because our theater has a show running," the Pinckney resident said. "We use their space. You can get a drink at the bar, which is nice."

TPT offers classic plays, musicals, current off-Broadway shows and regularly new works, Concannon said. The building is now owned by the theater.

"We're very happy because we own our own building," she said.

The theater grew out of parks and recreation offerings, with resident Chuck Gaidica, who's soon leaving his WDIV-TV (Channel 4) weatherman post for the ministry, supporting the venture. Businessman Chuck Lapham also got involved, with the two Chucks the original building owners for about five years.

TPT now has a volunteer board of seven members, along with several staffers. It stages six full productions this year, including the current *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*.

TPT brings in more than 12,000 people from metro Detroit and beyond, she said, including Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

"They come far and wide. We have a group coming from Toledo as well. We're really starting to branch out," she said.

Economic asset

The annual budget's around \$450,000, with ticket sales covering some 60 percent and fundraising the rest. "We're putting a lot of money back in Northville," she said, such as lumber bought at Northville Lumber.

The theater seats 100 and shows run for five or six weeks. "People shop before and after," she said. "That's kind of nice." Restaurants benefit, too.

Kuhl's grateful he's no longer commuting from Eastpointe to Northville.

"Now we're living in Farmington and loving it," he said. "I cut 60 miles a day off my commute."

He and wife Hallie Bard are parents of Aidan, 9, Vera, 3, and Gavin, 1, and bought their Farmington house just before Gavin was born. Concannon, originally

TIPPING POINTE THEATRE

Address: 361 E. Cady Street, Northville
Artistic Director: James Kuhl
Latest production: "Murder at the Howard Johnson's"
Web/Phone: www.tippingpointtheatre.com; 248-347-0003

from Ann Arbor, has been president of a community theater group, Pinckney Players, for the past 15 years.

She performs on stage and was just in *Chicago* the musical as Mama Morton. In Pinckney, she also directs. She was the assistant development director at the Purple Rose Theatre Co. for 13 years (working with Jeff Daniels to raise funds). She's had the theater bug since fifth grade and performed throughout middle and high school.

This is Kuhl's fifth season at TPT. "They're very loyal and they're wonderful audiences," he said.

The theater's leadership works with audiences to program plays. "I believe audiences are an important part. I listen to the audiences," he said.

Comedies are big at TPT. "To be able to sit in a dark room and laugh with a group of people is very important," he said.

He and the others infuse TPT with a sense of family so people feel at home. "It's been very, very positive," Kuhl said of audience reaction and relationships with patrons.

"The same faces come through and it's lovely to see them again," he said of season ticket holders.

"We want a broader audience to discover this gem."

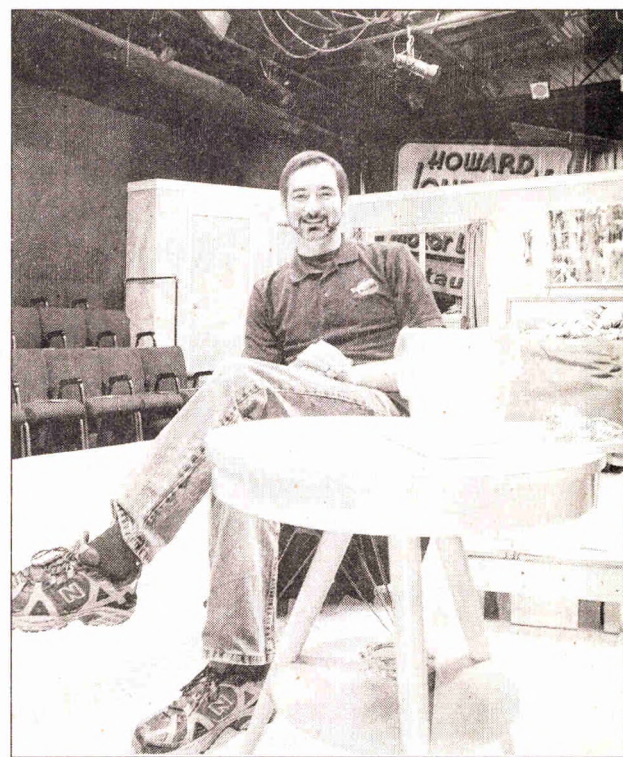
Word of mouth works best, he's found. Gaidica has helped to raise the TPT profile. "He's still a very strong supporter and a wonderful person to have in the community," Kuhl said.

Artistic risk is based on the strength of relationships with the audience and there's not a huge desire for shows with more sexual content or more raw language. TPT staged *Proof*, an award-winning drama with stronger language.

"The audiences embraced it and they loved it," he said. "The feedback on it was extraordinary."

For more on TPT, visit www.tippingpointtheatre.com or call 248-347-0003.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



James Kuhl is producing artistic director for the Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville.

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OUR VIEWS

Get your vaccine

Don't mess around with flu this year

Influenza — the real deal, not the viruses that people mistakenly call the flu — is nothing to trifle with. It's beyond miserable, potentially deadly and, in most cases, preventable.

Still, most Americans won't receive a flu vaccine, even though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that influenza vaccines, on average, are about 62 percent effective.

That's less than the 70 percent to 90 percent efficacy rate the CDC estimated just a year ago, but still a far sight better than taking your chances in what is turning out to be a particularly bad flu season.

So, why do so many people take the risk?

The reasons are varied, complicated and differ from person to person, experts say. Some fear that the vaccine carries risks. Others are lazy. Some think the flu shot is unnecessary or won't do any good.

Candidly, the science is complicated, which is why urban legends about risks or exposure get so much traction in the public and turn off otherwise sensible, health-conscious individuals from getting vaccinated.

Even public health officials are increasingly vocal about the need for a better flu vaccine.

Today, people need to be re-vaccinated every year against the flu. That's because the influenza virus is constantly changing. Virologists try to predict which viruses will be in circulation in the coming season, hoping to get a good "match" between the viruses in the community and the viral strains used in the vaccine.

To their credit, they're pretty good at it, but it's still a hard sell to people skeptical of vaccinations and the drug industry in general. A "game-changing" vaccine would be very different.

Such a vaccine would produce immunity by including parts of the influenza virus that don't change from year to year and which are common among many strains of virus. Such a vaccine would protect people for a decade or more.

Such a vaccine would also be far more effective in producing "herd" or community immunity, where enough people are immunized that the community's viral load drops, protecting even the non-vaccinated.

WHERE TO GET YOUR SHOT

The Wayne County Department of Public Health offers the flu vaccine at the following location at the Wayne Health Center and WIC, 33030 Van Born, Wayne. The department offers the flu vaccine to the public for \$20. For more information, call 734-727-7100.

WHO CAN GET THE FLU SHOT?

Flu shots are available to individuals age 6 months or older. Flu vaccine is not recommended for people who are allergic to eggs or flu vaccine, had a serious reaction to flu vaccine in the past, previously developed Guillain-Barre syndrome within six weeks of getting a flu shot, or who currently has a fever.

WHAT FLU VIRUSES DOES THIS SEASON'S VACCINE PROTECT AGAINST?

The 2013-14 trivalent influenza vaccine protects against Type A H1N1, H3N2 and a Type B strain that are most likely to be seen this season. The quadrivalent vaccine protects against another common Type B strain in addition to the three listed above. For more information on the flu strains that are covered by the trivalent and quadrivalent flu vaccine, visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

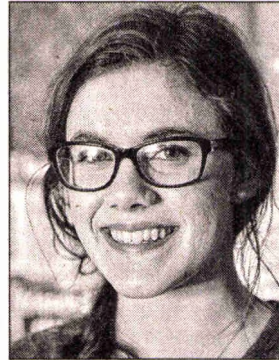
COMMUNITY VOICE

So the groundhog saw his shadow, meaning six more weeks of winter. If you could speak to the groundhog, what would you say?

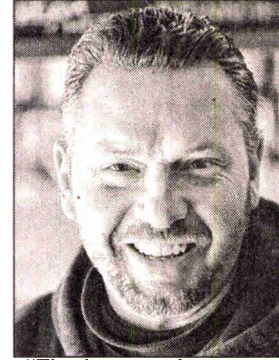
We asked this question at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Co.



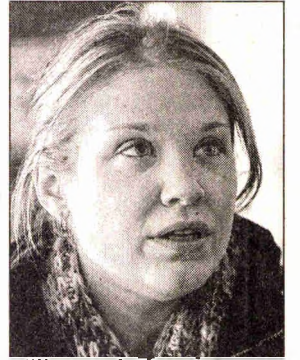
"Bring it on, I guess."
Sean Hyde
Plymouth Township



"I would say we're ready for spring."
Cassie Jewell
Plymouth



"That's a tough one. ... You're in Michigan, what do you expect?"
Gary Wagner
Redford Township



"I'm ready for winter to be over. I'm so sick of winter, it's not even funny."
Lisa Sznyr
Redford Township

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Generous neighbor

We would like to share another great thing about living in Plymouth Township. We have lived on Dunn Court (near Sheldon and North Territorial) for 30 years. Dunn Court is a private street, not maintained in any way by Wayne County — hence no snow plowing.

When we get significant snowfalls, we have a very generous neighbor who uses his walk-behind snow blower, with a trailer seat, and has been so kind as to clear our street of snow for us all. Unfortunately, the entrance to our street gets plowed in when the county plows North Territorial.

Several times this winter, we have gone down to shovel the entrance by hand, as the ruts get very icy and tough to drive through. As we were clearing the entrance to Dunn Court this past Sunday morning, following last Saturday's five-inch sloppy mess, a gentleman traveling toward Plymouth on North Territorial stopped by with his older, dark blue Chevy pickup with a plow and waved us out of the way. He proceeded to clear the remainder of the entrance of some extremely heavy ice and snow mounds. He then went up and down our street to take off some more of a light coating that had built up.

We offered him some money, as both of us were so pleased that such an angel had "appeared" out of nowhere to assist us. He refused, saying only that he was a neighbor from nearby Hidden Creek Subdivision, a bit west of us, and was glad he could help us with the frozen mix we were clearing.

He was not a hustler in any way. He did not offer us a business card for a contract to do our street but, with a smile, simply said, "I am a neighbor and am glad I could help you out" and drove away.

To us, this was further evidence of someone choosing to add value to others' lives and we'd like to thank him so very much.

Brian and Cathy Foust
Plymouth Township

One Plymouth

My husband and I moved to Plymouth Township 15 years ago because of the community feeling of Plymouth. I teach in P-CCS and we have two children who attend our public schools. I love living and working in our community for many reasons: Our caring neighbors, our schools, the Penn Theater, the library, Music in the Park, Fourth of July festivities, local businesses, Art in the Park and all the other festivals that make Plymouth what it is. Yes, I said Plymouth, not Plymouth Township or the city of Plymouth.

The one thing I have always said that Plymouth is missing is a pool and community center. If I just wanted a pool, I could join Lifetime or a similar facility with no community feel. What I love about the PARC project is that it brings together so many facets of the community I love: Cruisers, Steelers, Michigan Philharmonic, Miracle League players and Plymouth residents of all ages, coming together in a place that is uniquely Plymouth.

I am also very excited that the PARC plans on preserving the historic Plymouth High School as part of this building. Preserving our history is what sets Plymouth apart from other Detroit suburbs. It is why I live in Plymouth and a big part of what makes me proud to say Plymouth is my hometown.

When people ask me where I am from, I tell them I am from Plymouth, not Plymouth Township, because in my mind they are one. Truthfully, I would not have chosen to live in Plymouth Township if it was not for the quality of life the city offers. The township

needs the city and the city needs the township. We are at our best when we are working together.

I applaud our township board members who have voted to give all Plymouth residents the chance to explore this exciting opportunity, and I urge the board members who voted against this opportunity to reconsider and listen to all of your constituents, not just the ones you agree with. We are one Plymouth.

Julie Johnston
Plymouth Township

Great divide

Do you know there is a great divide? Right here in Plymouth.

Yes — between the city and the township. According to the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, the township wants nothing to do with the city of Plymouth. A difficult thing to believe, when our children all go to school together, mindless of whether their friends and classmates live in the city or the township, or even in Salem or Canton.

Most residents aren't even cognizant of where the city and township boundaries begin and end. We look at Plymouth as one communal entity. And isn't that as it should be?

Contrary to Gov. Snyder's request that communities cooperate and share services whenever possible, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees refuses to do anything of the kind. They won't even speak to the PARC committee about a combined recreational facility. They voted (5-2) against having a representative from the township attend the PARC meeting, which will organize a free survey to find out what kind of recreational interests the residents have. The township board wants their own survey, which will cost between \$15,000 and \$26,000 of taxpayer money.

People attending the council meeting Jan. 14 were appalled at the attitude of five members of the board who voted to have nothing to do with the city. Are they really representing the people in the township? That isolationist attitude is totally unacceptable and is a real detriment to the progress of our community.

The township Board of Trustees does not appear to care about what the people in the township want. They only seem to care about what they want. If the residents of the township were polled, I am sure the board would find out that we are all interested in working with the city and we resent the cavalier attitude which is being displayed by the township Board of Trustees. We need an attitude of cooperation between the city and the township to improve the quality of life for all of us.

Jackie and Gil Peters
Plymouth

Combine governments

The city of Plymouth and the township of Plymouth are two political adversaries. There is no reason a town of 9,000 residents should have its own police department, DPS, city manager, etc. The whole governments should be combined.

How much would it cost the city, if the Wayne County sheriff were to provide police protection to the city, such as was done in

Pontiac? Increased service levels, at a lower cost.

Gov. Snyder said let's combine city services and not duplicate redundant services. What does the city do? Drop out of the joint fire department.

It's all about politics, not fiscal responsibility.

Tom Kelly
Plymouth Township

Who's in Tea Party?

Tea Party organizations continue to be attacked at the national, state and the local levels. The local "Tea Party" has a loose organization structure; anyone can attend who desires; no one is asked if they are gay or straight, one may be black, brown or white, all are welcome.

Who are in the "Tea Party?" In the past they may have been referred to as "The Silent Majority," people who believe in traditional values, possess a strong work ethic, people who place a high value/priority on education; people who pay taxes, and are self-reliant, not dependent on the government. They are opposed to big government, are opposed to the intrusion into their daily lives, with little or no say on taxes.

Tea Partiers for the most part are Christian believers; no one is asked what they believe in. They place a high value on moral principles (with no claims of perfection) and traditional family values, there is a mixture of ages from young to retirees, wives, husbands, children, some are military veterans, most are employed, some are union members, some self-employed, a few are small business owners, they could be your neighbors and/or co-workers, basically, they come from all walks of life.

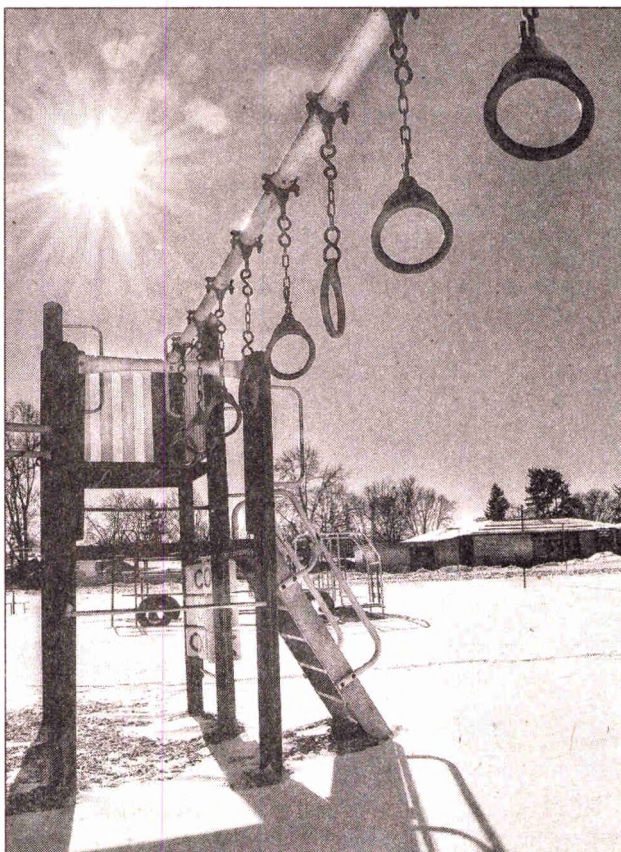
There is a common belief there has been a moral decline of our society, with our traditional values under attack, while the government promotes irresponsible and immoral behavior. In the 1960s before President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" legislation, which destroyed the traditional family structure, there was a 6-percent birth rate by unmarried women; today the rate is 40.7 percent, with the birth rate by black unmarried women reported to be as high as 78 percent, particularly devastating to the black family, a great travesty.

It is also reported the percentage is in the 20s of men/fathers who are living with these families. This causes mothers to resort to welfare, government housing and food stamps, and become dependent on "Uncle Sam" to take care of them. Instead of promoting such behavior by the entertainment industry, by politicians (with welfare) and other leaders (hearing nothing, see nothing, say nothing), positive role models and behavior need to be promoted.

Before you accuse me of being a moralist, you may want to think if you agree with such behavior and the associated implication. Our prisons are full of criminals who tend to be poorly educated (high school dropouts) and to a great extent come from non-traditional family structures. I consider this a serious problem and getting worse.

Michael Hansel
Canton Township

What do you think?



Several school districts, including Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, are already at or near the state limit of six snow days this school year. Do you think the state should "forgive" any snow days above six because of the harsh winter or should the state require school districts to make up the time? Tell us why or why not in 400 words or fewer. Email your response to bkadrich@hometownlife.com by noon Monday and it may appear as a letter to the editor. Include your name, address and phone number. (Address and phone number are for verification purposes only.) **BILL BRESLER** | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Givens shares family history in Salem Township

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

It took the world 100 years to catch up with sleepy Salem Township when it comes to racial relations, at least in the mind of Ray Givens, a Salem resident and great-great-grandson of former slave John Lewis.

Givens grew up hearing stories about Lewis and how he came to Salem through the Underground Railroad, an elaborate network of secret routes and safe houses slaves used to move north away from the Southern states, which still allowed slavery.

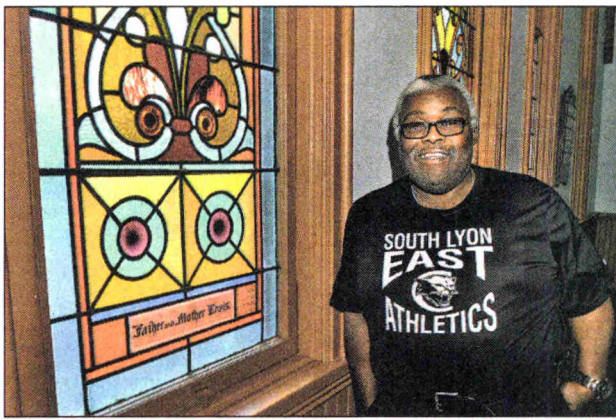
Givens said Lewis was an educated slave in Kentucky who taught his children and his owner's children how to read and write. Since he was a free slave, he could come and go as he liked. But he was still in jeopardy, Givens said, because kidnapers were known to take black youths and sell them in the South.

Safe and protected

Lewis came north, eventually settling in Salem Township.

"The people here made him feel safe and protected," said Givens, an eight-year football coach at South Lyon East High School. "He promised himself he would return, because this is a very special place. Even though I never met him, I feel I owe him for all the things he has done, how he pushed faith, trust, respect to all his family and friends. He set the bar high for us and God has given us the opportunities to live the way we do with faith, love, trust and respect."

Talking about his family history, Givens sat in a pew at the Salem Baptist Church on Six Mile, a few feet away from the stained glass window honoring John Lewis and his wife Lidabelle, who were among founding



Ray Givens is the great-great grandson of a John Lewis, who traveled the Underground Railroad and eventually settled in Salem Township. Lewis and his wife are honored in stained glass among the founders of Salem Bible Church. HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

church members. Givens graduated from South Lyon High School and was inducted in the school's athletic hall of fame. He raised two boys a couple of blocks from where John Lewis lived. At one time, the Lewis family had what Givens calls a "compound" of 14 family houses within blocks of each other in Salem.

Givens, 60, remembers his great-great Uncle Vic sitting on the porch telling stories about his dad to Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan students who would regularly gather to hear how Lewis forged a new life for himself and the descendants who followed.

"Salem was a place like nowhere else in the country," Givens said. "People got along, cared about each other and were family."

Lewis' life story is featured in a chapter of *Northville ... the First 100 Years*, by Jack W. Hoffman, who included Lewis' obituary, which ran in the *Northville Record*. Lewis was buried Jan. 18, 1941, and the "whole town turned out for his funeral ... because of this humble man who won its respect, its regard and its admiration in 60 years of being kind, honest, courteous and minding his own business."

Lewis was a Civil War veteran who brought the local American Legion and "other patriotic organizations into the picture," the obituary stated. He joined a Michigan regiment and fought in the Civil War before moving to Salem when he was 35. "Here he stayed as the years went on, building up slowly year after year a reputation of which any man might boast," the obituary said. "As honest as John Lewis' became the countryside yardstick when trying to establish the worth of someone."

Salem experience

Racism wasn't evident in Salem, Givens noted.

"I have relatives from Detroit and their attitude is different from ours," he said. "They called us stupid." His relatives talked about being discriminated against, because their ancestors were slaves.

"My dad said, 'You don't know any slaves, do you?'" Givens said. "That's the way I was raised. Nobody did nothing to me."

Givens said he has toured the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and has seen the bus Rosa Parks rode during her defying act, considered a turning point of the civil rights movement. "And I appreciate all that I've

seen, but I'm looking at it from a different window." His ancestors would tell stories about how Lewis was welcomed in Salem "and how people are supposed to live together," he said.

But that wasn't true even a few miles away as his mother, Julia Ann Givens, learned when she was denied a request from Michigan State Normal School — now Eastern Michigan University — to room with her best friend, June Hamilton, a Salem resident who was white. Julia Ann, who became a nurse, was reportedly the first African American at EMU.

Lewis and many of his descendants were active in the Salem community. Givens continues that tradition as an usher at Salem Bible Church and volunteers as an announcer for South Lyon East High School basketball games.

"It's about giving back," he said. "I've been blessed so much."

Tastes of bigotry

He was, at times, the target of racism. Like when he was 16 years old and went with his brothers to a school sports game in South Lyon. Some boys had taken the wheels off the car Givens borrowed from his dad, chased them and threatened their lives.

The Givens brothers ran to a nearby home, where they were taken in and comforted while the police were called. Meanwhile, Givens said they could hear the kids smashing their dad's car. The high school basketball coach at the time, William Thomas, drove the brothers home to make sure they were safe. The Salem pastor drove Givens' dad daily for more than a month to and from work until he got a

car. During the 1967 Detroit riot, Givens said, Salem neighbors patrolled outside their home during the evenings to make sure the family was safe. It was the typical kind of love and generosity, he said, they gave and received.

"These are our friends," Givens said. "They put their lives on the line for us. They weren't black or white, they were friends."

Lewis' house still stands in Salem, but it's no longer owned by the family. Some of Lewis' belongings, however, were donated by his family to the Salem Historical Society and are displayed in the Jarvis Historical School on North Territorial Road.

Givens recalls listening to his relatives talk about their family members and they "always said, 'Tell your story.'"

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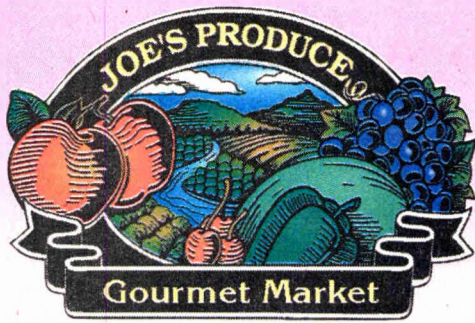
Tickets (\$5 each) for the Movies at the Marquis are limited and may be purchased at the Marquis Theatre the night of each individual movie. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on Movies at the Marquis, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.

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'Cats move on in tourney

Cheston major force with 15 points, 17 rebounds

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson just couldn't find its way out of the forest.

The Spartans ran up against perhaps the biggest girls basketball team in the state Tuesday in host Plymouth, building a 20-13 advantage midway through third quarter.

But the host Wildcats, who shot a paltry 4-of-32 from the field in the first half, got untracked with a 12-4 run to end the third and then outscored Stevenson 17-8 in the fourth to earn a 42-30 Kensington Lakes Activities Associa-

tion playoff victory.

"I want to give Stevenson a lot of credit, that's a terrific defensive team, very well coached team, and we knew that coming in," said Plymouth coach Nick Brandon, whose team improved to 14-3 overall and will travel Friday to face Novi in the Kensington Conference semifinals. "I thought the first half was just your basic postseason battle between two teams that really want it. Fortunately for us the second half we got a little rhythm offensively and I thought our press was a big difference."

The Wildcats also proved to be

more efficient shooting the ball during the final 16 minutes going 10-of-22 from the floor.

One of the catalysts was 6-foot-4 senior center Shelby Cheston, who finished with 15 points and 17 rebounds.

"She finished a lot better in the second half," Brandon said. "At half we told her to stick with it and keep doing what she was doing, just stay focused and keep playing with great determination."

"Inside players are just like outside shooters. I think they need to see a couple go in to get their confidence up. I think that was huge for us second half. I thought she had a brilliant second

See HOOPS, Page B3



Plymouth senior center Shelby Cheston (No. 34) puts up a shot from the key Tuesday night. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY - PART 2



Recently signing to play for women's college soccer teams are Plymouth seniors (from left) Maria Farmer, Jillian Aguirre, Alyssa Dillon, Lauren Babcock, Amber Allen and Emily Burkman. ANN ESPINOZA

Together they sign

Huge season yields college scholarships for six Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last season's abrupt halt to an apparent championship march still stings Plymouth Wildcats varsity girls soccer coach Jeff Neschich and a number of players who are returning for their senior seasons.

The Wildcats were ranked No. 1 in the state when they faced Novi for the Division 1 regional championship, only

to fall 1-0 in a shootout to finish 21-1-1.

Yet the team's body of work undoubtedly opened up the eyes of plenty of college scouts and coaches, because six current seniors — who all play defense — will be moving on to play collegiate women's soccer. Jillian Aguirre, Amber Allen, Lauren Babcock, Emily Burkman, Alyssa Dillon and Maria Farmer

See WILDCATS, Page B3

SIX FROM PLYMOUTH

On National Signing Day, six members of Plymouth's varsity girls soccer team participated in ceremonies after inking letters of intent with colleges. Here is the breakdown:

Amber Allen: Spring Arbor University (NAIA), defender; GPA, 3.2; career choice, psychology; parents, Barb Polly and Jim Allen.

Jillian Aguirre: Central Michigan University (Division I), defender; GPA: 3.5; career choice, TBD; parents, Donna and Tony Aguirre.

Lauren Babcock: Southeastern Louisiana University (D-I), defender; GPA: 3.5; career choice, criminal justice; parents, Shelly and Mark Babcock.

Emily Burkman: Siena Heights University (NAIA), defender; GPA, 3.8; career choice, nursing; parents, Bethany and Ken Burkman.

Alyssa Dillon: University of Michigan (D-I), defender; GPA, 4.0; career choice, kinesiology; parents, Jim and Julie Dillon.

Maria Farmer: Grand Valley State University (D-II), defender; GPA, 3.8; career choice, physical therapy; parents Judith and Dave Farmer.

D1 INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

Park teams send 13 to regionals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Thirteen from the Park still have a shot at standing on the podium at the Palace on March 1.

That's because they finished in the top four of their respective weight classes at Saturday's Division 1 individual districts at Saline.

All will move on to this Saturday's Woodhaven-hosted D1 individual regionals.

Out of the three high schools from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Plymouth Wildcats will have the largest contingent with seven.

Garnering first-place finishes in four weights were Wildcats. Those were Ben Harris (112), Mohamad Youssef (119), Joey Shaver (160) and Hussein Youssef (171).

Also qualifying for the regionals from Plymouth were runners-up Jon Conn (140), Sofus Nielson (145) and third-place finisher Michael Jordan (heavyweight).

Nielson's shot at an individual district title was stymied by Canton senior Alec Pantaleo, who won by a major decision to remain undefeated this season.

Pantaleo wrestled up one weight class from his usual 152-pound slot.

Another top Canton wrestler his entire career, senior Ben Griffin, lost a match for the second time all year. Griffin was pinned in 2:15 by Ypsilanti's Kyle Abdellatif in the championship bout at 130.

Griffin's second-place finish is still good enough for him to wrestle in the regionals.

The Chiefs will be represented at Woodhaven by two other wrestlers.

Senior K.J. Wooley finished third at 215, winning a 13-4 major decision over Belleville's Brandon Underwood.

Canton's other regional qualifier was junior Ty Jasman, who came in fourth at 140.

Salem also will have wrestlers competing at the regionals.

Juniors Caleb McCabe and Mitchell Gross came in third at 152 and 189, respectively.

In addition to moving on in the individual tournament, the six Plymouth wrestlers were looking to continue in the team format.

On Wednesday, Plymouth was slated to square off against Westland John Glenn in the team regionals. Results were not available as of press time.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Antonio's one of 'Selects' few

Plymouth 12-year-old to play at international hockey invitational

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's no denying Antonio Stranges Jr. loves being at Compuware Arena, watching the Plymouth Whalers or skating at skills-sharpening camps.

Not that the 12-year-old Plymouth boy needs too much instruction.

Antonio, a left wing for the Belle Tire 2001 AAA Pee Wee team, is sharp enough to have

been selected by Selects Hockey to play at the program's international spring training development camp and World Selects Invitational in Bolzano, Italy, this April and May.

"It's going to be fun, it's going to be a good experience," said Antonio, selected last month for one of 68 positions out of 300 invited players from across North America. "It feels really good (to be selected). All the extra training I do and my hard work helped."

His mom, Anita Stranges, noted another big-time perk of the opportunity: Antonio comes from a "100-percent Italian" family and will get the chance to experience that

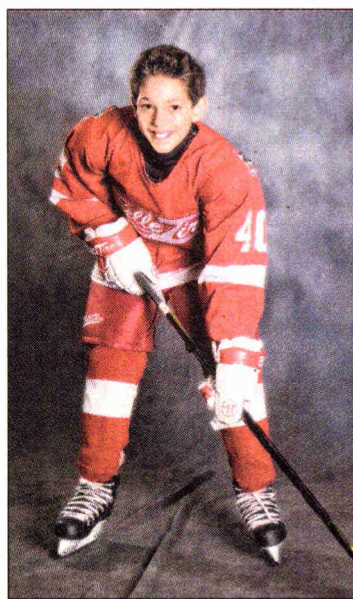
country's culture — along with elite youth hockey, too.

"I think it's a great opportunity," Anita said. "I think it's going to give him a chance to play against some of the top players from around the world. I think it's going to be great as far as — we're Italian, first of all, we're 100-percent Italian. My husband (Antonio Sr.) and I are both first-generation American."

"The fact that it's going to bring him back to Italy, of all places, was really exciting for us. And I think that he's going to learn a lot, I think it's going to make him grow up."

The youngster, who attends

See ANTONIO, Page B2



Antonio Stranges Jr. of Plymouth will soon go to Italy to play at the World Selects Invitational.

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Looking to find a teammate to pass the puck to is Antonio Stranges Jr., of the 2001 Belle Tire AAA Pee Wee team.

ANTONIO

Continued from Page B1

sixth grade at the Plymouth Scholars charter academy (K-8), works harder than your typical 12-year-old.

He trains with Kenny Brandt, skills instructor for the Compuware youth program. His Belle Tire coach is Joe Smaza, described by Anita as a "well-renowned hockey coach."

And don't forget regular trips to Rejuvenation Fitness in Plymouth for off-ice workouts.

Measuring stick

According to Brandt, the 68 originally chosen for the World Selects Invitational has since been whittled down to 17. Antonio made the cut, one of nine forwards.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected and should be a great experience," said Brandt, who also is skills instructor for the Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League (a team Antonio said he would love to play for someday). "It's too early to tell what the future will hold, but he's definitely on the right track and being included in this group is a great measuring stick as to where he currently stands."

"I have been working with Antonio the past three years and he takes his skill training very seriously and this accomplishment is a good lesson for what hard

work can do."

The fact the youngster loves hockey and seemingly loves to train almost as much, "I'm excited to see what the future brings," Brandt said.

After finishing up at Plymouth Scholars in two years, Antonio would like to go to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (and perhaps play prep hockey for the Shamrocks, who also play at Compuware).

But his mom said nothing like that has been determined.

Terrific tryout

According to a press release, WCS coach Shawn Hunwick (a former professional player) said Antonio "was superb at the tryout. He not only showed he has the skill to be a top hockey prospect, but also demonstrated great leadership and passion on the ice."

Hunwick was part of the selection committee, as were NHL Hall of Fame member Mark Howe and Selects Hockey co-founder Travis Howe, among other pro coaches and scouts.

Since 2003, Hockey Selects has worked with top North American and European players between ages 12-16 "to expose them to all avenues of hockey in an effort to facilitate opportunities at the NCAA, junior and professional levels."

For more information about the Selects Hockey program, go to selects.com/hockey.

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2014 WINTER OLYMPICS

Canton pair bigger faves after team wins bronze

By Jeff Seidel
Gannett News Service

Imagine playing your World Series opponent. Before the World Series even begins.

Or playing the Final Four.

Only to erase the results and then do it over in a few days.

That's what happened during the figure skating team event at the Winter Olympics.

Meryl Davis and Charlie White, the ice dance team from the Arctic Edge in Canton, faced off against Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, a pair of Canadians who also train in Canton under coach Marina Zoueva.

The match-up created a fascinating preview of the teams expected to battle for the gold medal in ice dancing, an event that started Sunday.

In the big picture, Russia won the gold medal in the team event Sunday with 75 points. Canada took the silver (65 points) and the U.S. earned the bronze with 60 points (20 of which were scored by Davis and White). The U.S. finished eight points ahead of Italy and nine ahead of Japan.

But let's look at the small picture.

And focus on the ice dance. Because, well, Detroit is the Ice Dance Capital of the universe.

So what happened? In the concise, eloquent words of Moir, "We got smoked."

Davis and White finished with 114.34 points in Sunday's free dance, while Virtue and Moir were in a different neighborhood with 107.56.

"We got beat by eight



Meryl Davis and Charlie White (USA) perform in the team ice dance free dance during the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games at Iceberg Skating Palace. RICHARD MACKSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

points in the free," Moir said. "We weren't even close."

Lingering effects

It was a commanding, decisive, telling, whopper of a victory for the American team. And it followed a big victory in the short dance Saturday.

And, yes, those numbers will be erased when they face off again for real when they fight for individual medals.

But the effects are certain to linger. This victory did several things. It continued Davis' and White's dominance over Virtue and Moir — Davis and White are the defending world champions — and this victory gave them even more momentum.

"I would say it sends a message," said NBC analyst Scott Hamilton, an Olympic gold medalist in 1984. "I don't think Scott and Tessa were at their best. But it shows Charlie and Meryl are prepared and ready to take on anybody here. I think, with Scott and Tessa, skating stronger performances, they will be closer. The fact that the score was so high sends a message that Charlie and Meryl are the favorites to win."

More significant, White and Davis had better scores than their Canadian rivals in all the

component scores: skating skills (9.64-9.50 points), transitions/linking footwork and movement (9.61-9.32), performance/execution (9.96-9.64), choreography (9.89-9.68) and interpretation timing (9.82-9.68).

In basketball terms, that's like dominating your opponent in everything: rebounds, free-throw shooting, turnovers, assists. Everything.

And, yes, those numbers will be erased when they compete for real. And certainly, they will change.

Confidence boost

But this performance sets a tone.

"Of course, it's a confidence boost," Davis said. "As an athlete, you always want to feel secure. You always want to feel stronger than the day before. That's what (Saturday) did for us. We felt strong. We feel ready. And we feel more prepared, possibly, than we ever have for an event."

Translation: Don't for a second think that they are satisfied. Under those sequined costumes, Davis and White are hungry and fiercely determined.

All season, they have stated their only goal: to win a gold medal. At the 2010 Vancouver Games, Virtue and Davis won

the gold, and Davis and White had to settle for silver.

Now, think about the psychology of this victory for the Americans.

Think about how those scores are certain to affect the psyche of both teams.

"We had some really good skates here," White said. "We will try to top what we have done already in our solo event."

Now, you have to understand Davis and White are extremely polished. They would never, ever create bulletin-board material.

But one thing is clear: They aren't satisfied.

Now, consider the fate of Virtue and Moir.

"That's the unique thing about this event," Virtue said. "Already, we are thinking about how we can improve our score."

Getting technical

Moir pinpointed the problem. It was the technical scores.

"Usually, that means those are mistakes that we have made and those are easy adjustments," Moir said. "You know, it's not fun to be seven points behind in a free program. We don't plan to be there in a week."

The other subplot during the team event came when a French magazine reported that there was a judging scandal behind the scenes, suggesting that the Russians and Americans were plotting to make sure the Russians would win the team event and Davis and White would win the individual gold.

But the International Olympic Committee has announced that it won't investigate, calling the allegations "groundless."

Finally, there is one more interesting component to this competition. Both teams have very little time to forget this competition, regroup and get ready for another one.

"It's not as hard as you'd think," Moir said. "It's already kind of behind us. We'll take a night here and celebrate a little with our team. You can kind of see the wheels turning in my head. That's the nature of the beast."

On the other side, White and Davis don't want to anything to change.

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY - PART 2

Colleges reward Salem duo for perseverance

Kavulich, Stevenson thrilled about continuing running careers

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem senior distance runners Kayla Kavulich and Natasha Stevenson took different paths but wound up together on National Signing Day.

Kavulich pretty much knew from the moment she stepped into Salem High School in 2010 that she wanted to run for a big-time college program.

Not even knee surgery as a sophomore and illness last fall could slow her down in her quest — realized last week when Michigan State University signed her to a national letter of intent to compete both on the Spartans' women's cross country and track and field teams.

"I always knew I wanted to commit in college," Kavulich said. "Having to get over a few obstacles is just something that comes with running. Just like running itself."

As for Stevenson, who signed with Cleary University (a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school in the Howell area), there once was a time when she wasn't even sure she wanted to run in high school let alone collegiately someday.

"I'm really happy for her (Natasha)," said her mom, Jennifer Stevenson, "because she's worked the last four years, going from somebody who didn't want to run in middle school."

"To be offered a full-ride scholarship is pretty impressive."

Soaking it in

Kavulich's parents (Julie and Mike Kavulich) and grandparents (Jan and Joe Kavulich) soaked in the festivities Feb. 5 at Salem.

"This is really great for the family," Julie Kavulich said. "It's a big family tradition for us, we're just proud of what she's accomplished. ... She really wanted to run in college since she was a freshman, and she's now meeting her goal."

Kayla Kavulich, owner of a



Salem's Kayla Kavulich (front, left) and Natasha Stevenson signed national letters of intent to run for college programs. Standing is their high school coach, Dave Gerlach. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

3.97 grade-point average, is looking into a career in chemical engineering. She's also looking forward to becoming a Spartan.

"It feels great to finally be able to commit somewhere that I really wanted to go to," Kavulich said. "It's nice to feel I belong somewhere on a team other than Salem and it's just going to be fun continuing to compete."

Natasha Stevenson, a future business major with a 3.6 GPA, is gearing up for a different kind of experience than what Kavulich will face. She's fine with that, too.

"They found me, it's a small school so it's going to be a huge transition," Stevenson said. "But it's a good school and I'm really excited to run for them."

"It's a small team, so that's going to be another transition. But they're so close (as a team) and that's something I'm used to."

He's proud

Salem girls cross country and track coach Dave Gerlach

said Division I colleges such as MSU expect athletes on scholarship to take part in both sports. Kavulich will follow that script.

Cleary only has a cross country program, however, although there could be some track meets down the road.

"I'm very happy for both, they had great four-year careers here at Salem," Gerlach said. "For Natasha, to be able to continue her career in college and help her family out, and being able to do something she enjoys at Cleary by running, is tremendous."

"For Kayla, probably the most-distinguished distance runner ever to come through Salem High School. All kinds of records in track and cross country. Now to be able to run in the Big Ten for Michigan State is going to be great for her as well. I look forward to seeing what she can do at that level."

Gerlach said he felt "like a proud dad."

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Aguirre added that it is just as exciting to be part of a group of teammates simultaneously celebrating signing with colleges. "It's really amazing that so many of us are going from one high school to play college soccer."

Concurring was Babcock, who noted that "it's safe to say that we have a really strong program" at Plymouth due to six teammates unveiling their college plans at once.

Hearing good things

She's also very enthusiastic about what awaits her in Louisiana — including a chance for a soccer reunion with older sister Jennifer Babcock, a Plymouth grad who plays on the SLU women's soccer team.

"It's an incredible opportunity to be able to move out of the state and play with different people," Babcock said. "I'm very excited, my sister happens to go there. For one year we get to play together again."

Grand Valley State University (D-II) is where Farmer will play in the back line.

Farmer said she is "super excited" to go to a successful college program.

"I haven't heard anything but good things about it and they won nationals last year," Farmer said. "So I'm really pumped to help them continue that."

She also is looking forward to the 2014 Plymouth season and having another chance to go for a state championship.

"I'm super excited to see what we can do this year," Farmer added. "I know last year was the year to win it, but I still think we have a lot of talent and I think a lot of our players are unfolding and stepping up their game, especially now that they're committed to D-I and really good schools."

Not just soccer

Allen and Burkman signed with National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' schools Spring Arbor and Siena Heights, respectively.

Both couldn't be happier about their choices.

"I'm actually happy that it's only an hour away because I'm

a momma's girl," said Allen, noting that the college team liked her versatility. "I'll be home a lot on the weekends."

Soccer and being able to stay close to home weren't the only considerations.

"I could have gone anywhere and just did what a typical college student does, just go to school and live a normal life," Allen said. "But this gives me the opportunity to travel around the country. We have a few games in Alabama, we take mission trips. ... It gives me the opportunity to become a more well-rounded person."

Allen said the college community was "really welcoming, also my religion matters something to me. They're a Christian university and that was No. 1 on my list."

Likewise, Burkman fell in love with her future home when making a campus visit.

"It's a really small campus and I like that," Burkman said. "... Education is the most important part to me and the classes are really small so the teachers can pay attention to you more. I also really like the team and the coach."

Burkman echoed what her teammates and parents talked about, that National Signing Day was a happy culmination of years of hard work and dedication from an early age onward. "I never would have expected this to happen when I was little and now I'm actually achieving it."

With a smile, Burkman added that the busy day for Plymouth soccer players underscored that "it's safe to say that we have a really strong program. It's amazing that we have six of us actually going to college for soccer. I think it's really awesome for us."

Actually, the 2013 Wildcats will have nine players playing at the next level.

The recent signees follow a trio of graduates who began their collegiate careers in the fall: Michigan's Lewis; forward Zoe Foster (University of North Dakota, D-I); midfielder Stephanie Dillon (Miami University in Ohio, D-I).

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Berberet lifts Lady Ocelots

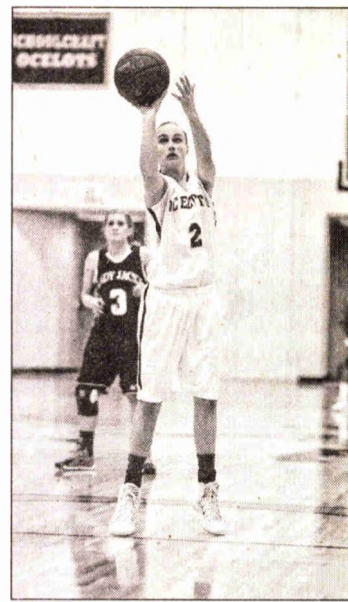
Sophomore Bri Berberet made 6-of-7 three-point shots Saturday en route to a game-high 27 points as the host Schoolcraft College women's basketball downed Henry Ford Community College, 78-53.

Berberet, a Salem High grad, also grabbed seven rebounds as the Lady Ocelots improved to 9-13 overall and 5-7 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference.

Tabitha Mann (Salem) added 16 points and nine boards, while Teniece Roberts posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Henry Ford (1-17, 0-11) dressed only five players. Shantel Tolbert lead the way with 16 points, while Allison Robinson chipped in with 14 points and 17 boards.

Richarda Gordon also



Schoolcraft's Bri Berberet (No. 2), a Salem alum, takes aim at the basket during a recent game. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

scored 14 for the Hawks, who were out-rebounded 56-44 and couldn't overcome a 36-25 halftime deficit.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Salem hangs on to win KLAAs tourney opener

Rocks will face Canton in second-round tilt

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Having warded off Tuesday's challenge from Westland John Glenn, the Salem varsity girls basketball team can exhale knowing it survived the opening round of the KLAAs tournament.

It wasn't easy, because the host Rockets outscored Salem 17-9 in the final frame to almost catch the Rocks.

Salem (12-5) and interim head coach Lindsay Klemmer now know another big test awaits with Friday's game against KLAAs South Division champion Canton (7 p.m. at Salem).

After Salem went up 24-17 at halftime and 34-25 after three, the Rockets turned up the defensive heat to force turnovers.

With 10 seconds remaining, John Glenn cut the deficit to a single point, but Klemmer said her team "played tough defense and forced them into a tough shot" that did not fall.

"Playoffs are a whole dif-

ferent level of intensity and I made sure the girls were aware of that going in," Klemmer said. "Records are thrown out the window and it's any given team's night."

Outstanding for Salem during what Klemmer described as a physical contest was junior forward Shara Long, with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Kiara Barnes led John Glenn (7-11) with 19 points.

"It was a very physical game and I'm glad we fought through it," Klemmer said. "We are tough, we just need to believe that we are."

"... I love the playoffs because every game, every play, every possession is big."

CANTON 58, S.L. EAST 27: The host Chiefs (14-3) coasted to victory after getting off to a 20-2 lead to open Tuesday night's KLAAs opener against South Lyon East.

Sparking the victory was senior forward Paige Aresco, who hit 60 percent of her field goal tries and ended up with 24 points.

"The girls understand what time of the year it is," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "They are ready for the challenges and I think their non-league schedule has prepared them for these challenges."

"Paige and T (Taylor Hunley) were really good around the rim tonight. Rach (Winters) did a great job of getting them the ball."

Hunley had 16 points and six rebounds while Winters contributed seven assists along with five rebounds and four steals.

Samulski also credited strong rebounding by Alanna Brown (six boards, six assists) and defense by Natalie Winters (two steals).

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

half."

Steady throughout the game was senior point-guard Kylie Robb, who added 13 points to go along with five assists.

Her triple with 4:59 left in the fourth quarter proved to be the dagger as the Wildcats went up by double digits, 34-24.

"Kylie is our quarterback," Brandon said. "This team asks so much of Kylie Robb as we have all year. I thought she did a terrific job with the basketball, made some big shots and really made some smart decisions there at the end. And a lot of people overlook her defense, but she's a pretty good shutdown defender. I thought she really stepped up as well."

Hanging around

Stevenson was down only two at the half, 12-10, despite hitting only 3-of-18 shots from the floor.

The Spartans then came out and went on a 10-1 run to start the third, but couldn't sustain their momentum. A total of 23 turnovers proved to be the big bugaboo for Stevenson.

"We just lost our heads," said Stevenson coach Jen Knoph, whose team slipped to 10-6 overall. "We had three or four bad passes in a row. The press we were breaking all game long all the sudden we decided to put our heads down and not break any more. They (Plymouth) got a couple of transition baskets on that. We just made some bad decisions."

Senior guard Rachel Wilkinson scored a team-best 10 points for the Spartans, who shot only 10-of-47 for the game (21.2 percent).

Senior center Charlesann Roy, who picked up her first foul at the end of the third and was forced to sit much of the third, finished with seven along with Amy Freed.

"My guess, about 29 min-



Dribbling down the floor Tuesday is Plymouth junior Courtney LaVallee. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

utes of the game we were either dominating or doing a really good job on both ends of the floor," Knoph said. "We probably had eight or nine (turnovers) in that (third quarter) stretch because we were handling the ball pretty well. We didn't turn it over on the press early in the game."

Senior forward Kyra Johnson, despite being under-sized, also did some heavy board work against the tall Plymouth front line which boasted a trio of plus 6-footers. She finished with 11 rebounds.

"In the first half, she (Cheston) was getting a lot of offensive boards," Knoph said. "In the second half, I was telling the girls, 'Get her out, somebody else will come in and get the board.' They did that about three times. I saw one clear her and somebody else come in. That's a good team. They've got a lot of experience. Four are seniors, I think three were up on varsity from freshman year. They withstood the run that we gave them. They did a good job."

Meanwhile, the Wildcats were able to take Stevenson out of its comfort zone the second half.

"They (Stevenson) a very rhythmic team — that's what we saw when we scouted them," Brandon said. "When they get in rhythm they're very hard to stop, so we had to do whatever we could. It was a grind. When you play in postseason you've got to play 32 minutes and that's what we preached as we got ready for this game. I thought our kids did a very good job of that."

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

were together as part of the Feb. 5 National Signing Day ceremony in the gymnasium at Plymouth High School.

"Definitely," said Neschich, asked about whether the on-field success last spring paved the way for the multiple signings. "This group of kids has really put Plymouth soccer on the map."

Neschich emphasized that having six kids sign on the same day "does so much for our program and the younger kids coming into the program to see that these opportunities are out there."

Pumped up

Going to the University of Michigan will be Dillon, where she will be reunited with 2013 Plymouth graduate and scoring sensation Madi Lewis (a forward who Neschich said made the Big Ten all-freshman team).

"I am beyond pumped up, I am so excited," said Dillon, a 4.0 student who also had overtures from Louisville and Miami of Ohio before choosing to become a Wolverine. "... It's just amazing that so many girls can just come from one high school and be all committed to schools all over the state and country."

"It's really just an awesome opportunity to play with my best friends and great players."

Dillon is stoked about joining a highly touted program.

"They (Wolverines) did so awesome this last year so I can't even imagine what we're going to accomplish next year," Dillon said. "But the whole Elite Eight thing and just the players seem really good and I'm really excited to go into such a competitive and good environment."

Also signing with Division I colleges were Aguirre (Central Michigan University) and Babcock (Southeastern Louisiana University).

"I'm really excited for a new beginning and to be able to play soccer," Aguirre said. "It's been my dream since I was about 5."

COLLEGE BASEBALL PREVIEW

Crusaders trying to fill holes on mound

Newcomers hope to fill the big void

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

When the Madonna University baseball team opened its season Friday in chilly Dayton, Tenn., there were more questions than answers.

MU coach Greg Haeger, coming off a 37-11 season where the Crusaders captured the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season title along with trip to the NAIA National Championship opening round, was looking to rebuild and revamp his entire pitching staff.

That's because the 18th-year coach (career record 539-351-5) lost his top three starters to graduation including two-time NAIA All-America and 2013 WHAC Pitcher of the Year Jeremy Gooding (5-2, 2.26 ERA), as well as Matthew Cook

(8-1, 2.70 ERA) and Josh Vandemark (6-1, 3.93 ERA). The trio ate up nearly 186 innings last season.

Haeger, however, will get a boost with the return of right-hander Evan Piechota, a redshirt sophomore from Livonia Stevenson who logged 44 innings going 6-1 with an impressive 2.25 ERA.

Senior right-hander Dan Stoney (Canton), who made a team-high 13 mound appearances, will also get a long look along with junior Justin Hicks (Fowlerville), redshirt senior Tyler Schofield (Windsor, Ontario Brennan) and redshirt sophomore Christian Holder (Dearborn Divine Child).

Three freshmen, Mike Kanitra (Stevenson), Alex DeYonker and Alec Padilla (Lake Havasu, Ariz./Romeo) — also could fill prominent roles.

The catching situation, meanwhile, appears solid with the return of Donny Holland (.272), a redshirt senior from White Lake Lakeland who made honorable mention All-WHAC.

Victor Barron, a junior from Fowlerville, is back at short after hitting .331 last year with 10 doubles. Freshman Ryan Lambrecht (Lake Orion) will also compete for infield time, while returning at second base is sophomore Shane Dokey (Brighton), who hit .303 with 22 RBI.

The first baseman will be sophomore John Lauro (University of Detroit Jesuit), who hit .283, while redshirt frosh Taylor Grzelakowski (Fraser) will fill the void at DH.

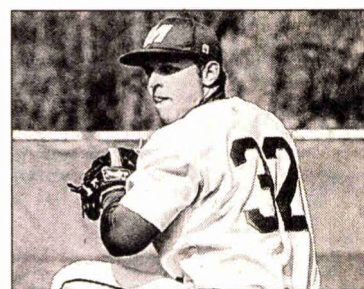
Meanwhile, the third base job is open after All-WHAC pick Justin Cook (.287, 45 RBI) graduated. The hot corner race is between senior Ryan Lech

(L'Anse Creuse North), senior Joel Cooper (LaSalle, Ont.) and possibly Barron.

There could be some gaping holes in the outfield as the Crusaders graduated first-team All-WHAC pick Brad Lineberry (Plymouth), who hit a team-best .397, along with Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison).

Mike Tibbitts (Plymouth/Novi Detroit CC), who hit .333 in 41 games, is the top returnee. Freshman Dalton Ovesen (Lake Orion) and Dee Jawad (Dearborn Heights Crestwood) also will be in the mix.

After their two-day trip to play in the Tennessee Valley Invitational, the Crusaders will play Feb. 22-23 at St. Francis (Ill.) before embarking on their 10-day Florida trip in the Russ-Matt Invitational. The first WHAC game is Wednesday, March 19, at home against Concordia.



Madonna sophomore Evan Piechota (Livonia Stevenson) went 6-1 last season with a 2.25 ERA. MADONNA ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

MADONNA 6-4, SHAWNEE STATE (OHIO) 3-7: On Friday, Madonna split its season-opening twinbill with Shawnee State University (Ohio) in the Tennessee Valley Invitational hosted by Bryan College (Tenn.).

In the first game, Ryan Lambrecht belted his first career homer, while Taylor Grzelakowski and Victor Barron also added RBI as the Crusaders won the opener, 6-3.

Dan Stoney, the winning pitcher, went the first five innings allowing one earned run on three hits and four walks. He struck out four before giving way to Mike Kanitra, who allowed an earned run on three hits in two innings.

In Game Two, freshman starter Alex DeYonker was roughed up for three earned runs on four hits and five walks in a 7-4 setback. DeYonker went the first 3.2 innings before Justin Hicks finished up allowing three earned runs on five hits.

John Lauro went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Lambrecht also knocked in a pair of runs in a losing cause.

COLLEGE BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Crusaders start season with 4-2 record

Albeit chilly, the baseball season is under way for Madonna University.

The Crusaders stand 4-2 overall after splitting a doubleheader Sunday in 43-degree weather against host University of Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Ky.

After losing the opener, 9-2, MU starter Adam Prashad threw a three-hitter over six innings as the Crusaders took the nightcap, 3-2, at Buhl Stadium.

Prashad walked only one and struck out four

before giving way to reliever Dylan Cooper, who gave up two runs but held on for the save.

Thomas Daffern went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Daniel Ovesen also knocked in a run for MU.

In the opener, three MU pitchers combined to give up 10 walks as Cumberlands (2-2) tallied a run in the first and added five more in the second to earn the victory.

MU committed three errors as losing pitcher

Tyler Schofield, the starter, allowed six runs (only one earned) in 1 1/2 innings. Alec Padilla also walked four and allowed three earned runs in his three-inning stint.

Winning pitcher Kevin Schumbert held MU to one hit while walking five in five innings.

Jared Martin knocked in two runs for the Patriots.

Christian Holder, John Lauro and Ryan Lech had the lone hits for MU, while Ovesen contributed an RBI.

BOYS SWIMMING

Arakelian stars for Spartans at MISCA

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

In a preview to the state finals, Livonia Stevenson senior Nick Arakelian led the way in Saturday's Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association boys meet held at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

Arakelian, who was the MHSAA Division 1 individual state champ last year in the 500 freestyle (4:27.75) and runner-up in the 200 individual medley (1:48.22) figured in three first-place finishes, along with a second.

Headed to Queens (N.C.) University, Arakelian was the MISCA champion in the 200 freestyle (1:41.19) and second (46.33) to Monroe's Cameron Craig (45.99) in the 100 freestyle.

Arakelian also teamed up with Parker Belmore, Bradley Bielicki and Jake Goeddeke for a first in the 200 medley relay (1:35.61), while anchoring the first-place 400 freestyle relay (3:11.38) along with Goeddeke, Jackson O'Dowd and Belmore.

Other individual MISCA champions included Monroe's Craig, 200 IM, 1:51.87; Ben Carter (St.

Joseph), 50 freestyle, 21.24; Kai Williams (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 100 butterfly (51.91); Micah DeJonge (Zeeland), 500 freestyle, 4:42.64; Jack Walsh (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central), 100 backstroke, 52.0; and Ryan Geheb (Hartland), 58.83.

Bloomfield Hills won the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:28.16, while Stevenson's quartet of O'Dowd, Michael Chen, Bielicki and Alex Lee took fifth in 1:30.28.

Other top individual finishers for Stevenson

included: Belmore, fifth, 100 backstroke (54.33); 15th (100 freestyle (49.11); O'Dowd, sixth, 200 freestyle (1:46.97); ninth, 100 freestyle (48.52); Goeddeke, ninth, 100 backstroke (55.17); 10th, 50 freestyle (22.08); Grant McNamara, 12th, 500 freestyle (4:55.28); 100 breaststroke (1:01.09); Lee, 14th, 200 freestyle (1:49.38); and Bielicki, 20th, 200 IM (2:03.27); 27th, 100 butterfly (51.91).

bemons@hometownlife.com
313-222-6851

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS
SALEM 107
PLYMOUTH
Feb. 4 at Salem

200-yard medley relay: 1. Plymouth (Ben Yang, Garrett Beuprez, Ryan Heinze, Alex Johnson), 1:48.47; 2. Salem (Patrick Casey, Spencer Torok, Brendan Wellman, Colin Urbaczewski), 1:49.82; 3. Plymouth (Bronson Knowles, Aniketh Visai, Brandon Burger, Matt Weiner), 1:55.99

200 freestyle: 1. Charles Liu (S), 1:51.50; 2. Beuprez (P), 1:57.85; 3. Phillip Collingwood (S), 1:58.71; 4. Johnson (P), 2:03.47; 5. Brenden Casey (S), 2:06.93

200 individual medley: 1. Matt Pairitz (S), 2:11.67; 2. P. Casey (S), 2:16.27; 3. Urbaczewski (S), 2:17.99; 4. Knowles (P), 2:18.53; 5. Keegan Kendall (P), 2:29.23

50 freestyle: 1. Jason Basanese (S), 23.78; 2. Heinze (P), 24.36; 3. Wischer (P), 25.15; 4. Fleming (S), 25.43; 5. Weiner (P), 25.67

One-meter diving: 1. Michael Falzon (S), 281.15 points; 2. Thomas Hoang (P), 247.75; 3. Calvin Rogers (P), 228.39; 4. John Vary (S), 169.90; 5. David Grant (P), 164.00

100 butterfly: 1. Urbaczewski (S), 58.25; 2. Yang (P), 59.08; 3. Wellman (P), 59.49; 4. Johnson (P), 1:01.48; 5. Burger (P), 1:03.38

100 freestyle: 1. Pairitz (S), 51.86; 2. Basanese (S), 52.53; 3. Weiner (P), 55.46; 4. Fleming (S), 55.73; 5. Wischer (P), 55.75

500 freestyle: 1. Beuprez (P), 5:14.23; 2. Collingwood (S), 5:14.38; 3. B. Casey (S), 5:36.55; 4. Payne (S), 5:51.01; 5. Jack Boczar (P), 6:01.94

200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Pairitz, Basanese, Urbaczewski, Liu), 1:35.63; 2. Plymouth (Burger, Johnson, Wischer, Heinze), 1:38.13; 3. Plymouth (Weiner, Nathan Chimka, Boczar, Visai), 1:42.09

100 backstroke: 1. P. Casey (S), 58.15; 2. Yang (P), 58.88; 3. Wellman (S), 59.29; 4. Visai (P), 1:04.01; 5. Kendall (P), 1:07.00

100 breaststroke: 1. Liu (S), 1:06.82; 2. Knowles (P), 1:12.68; 3. Nicholas Landon (S), 1:19.20; 4. Ben Henderson (P), 1:20.81; 5. Jake Cason (P), 1:22.07

400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Pairitz, Basanese, Collingwood, Liu), 3:31.94; 2. Plymouth (Yang, Visai, Heinze, Beuprez), 3:38.25; 3. Plymouth (Burger, Kendall, Knowles, Chimka), 3:48.47

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for **Wide Area Fiber Network (WAN)**. The WAN will include 30 buildings. Three (3) copies of the sealed bid (one original and two printed copies) should be submitted to PCCS - E.J. McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170, Attn: Tech Director, by **1:00 p.m., Local Time, March 7, 2014**. The bids will be publicly opened at this time and the proposals must contain the wording **"PCCS - Wide Area Fiber Network RSP Response"** on the envelope/package. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district. For a copy of the Request for Proposal, please visit: www.bid4michigan.com. For business related questions please contact Tiffany Brindza at tiffany.brindza@pccsmail.net or (734)416-2975.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Kimberley Crouch, Secretary

Publish: February 13, 2014

LD-0000180484 3x2.5

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

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools', consisting of construction of: **New Cherry Hill Middle School**

Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until **1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, February 27, 2014** at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

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

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 101: Earthwork / Site Utilities | 124: Wood Flooring |
| 102: Asphalt Paving | 125: Toilet Partitions |
| 104: Concrete Footing & Foundations | 126: Metal Lockers |
| 105: Concrete Flatwork | 127: Music Casework |
| 106: Masonry | 128: Educational Casework |
| 107: Steel | 129: Science Casework |
| 108: Carpentry / General Trades | 130: Window Treatments |
| 109: Roofing / Sheetmetal | 131: Athletic Equipment |
| 112: Caulking | 134: Stage Equipment |
| 113: Hollow Metal / Wood Doors / Finish Hardware | 136: Telescoping Stands |
| 114: Aluminum Windows, Entrances, Glass / Glazing | 137: Food Service Equipment |
| 115: Metal Studs / GPDW / Plaster / EIFS | 138: Elevators |
| 116: Hard Tile | 140: Plumbing |
| 117: Acoustical Treatments | 141: Fire Protection |
| 118: Carpet / Resilient Flooring | 142: HVAC |
| 119: Terrazzo Flooring | 143: Electrical |
| 120: Painting | 148: Landscaping |
| 121: Visual Display Boards | 149: Fencing |
| 122: Signage | 167: Synthetic Track Surfacing |
| 123: Operable Partitions | 169: Tennis Court Surfacing |

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

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents for a refundable \$75.00 deposit, beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Deposit checks should be payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools. Deposit will be refunded upon return of complete documents in good condition to McCarthy & Smith, Inc. no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the bid opening.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com free of charge by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

This project is authorized by Plymouth Canton Community School's Board of Education Secretary **Kimberley Crouch**.

Publish: February 9, 13, 2014

LD-0000180491 3x10

CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2014 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2014 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 4 2014 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 5 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 10 2014 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 11 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 17 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. **COMPLETED 2014 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY**, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 17, 2014.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 17, 2014 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 253.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: 2/13, 2/16, 2/20

LD-0000175015 3x4

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Tuesday, March 4 | 9am-Noon | Organizational Meeting |
| Monday, March 10 | 2pm-5pm | Hearings by Appointment |
| | 6pm-9pm | Hearings by Appointment |
| Wednesday, March 12 | 9am-Noon | Hearings by Appointment |
| | 2pm-5pm | Hearings by Appointment |
| Thursday, March 13 | 9am-Noon | Hearings by Appointment |
| Saturday, March 15 | 9am-11am | First Come - First Serve |

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Friday, March 21, 2014 at 4:30 pm.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 13, 16, and 20, 2014

LD-0000180493 3x4

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



Whalers forward Matt Mistele (No. 22) circles the back of the net after scoring against North Bay goalie Jake Smith to make it 2-0 Saturday. Linemates Francesco Vilardi (No. 7) and Connor Chatham (No. 11) assisted on the goal. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Whalers attack Battalion, 5-1

OHL team also welcomes alum Weiss for practices

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For much of this season, goals have been hard to come by for the Plymouth Whalers.

They entered two weekend games at Compuware Arena dead last out of 20 Ontario Hockey League teams in the scoring department.

Two 5-1 victories later — Friday against Sault Ste. Marie and Saturday against North Bay — the Whalers still bring up the rear. But at least the pucks are going in and players like forward Matt Mistele are enjoying the turnaround.

“Yeah, I mean, as a team (we’ve) had a little bit of trouble getting goals this year compared to last year. It’s good to see that,” said Mistele, who tallied his 13th goal of the season and added an assist in the victory over the Battalion. “Now we got some lines going together that seem to have some chemistry and seem to be doing things right.”

Saturday night, in the third period, the Whalers scored on their first three shots of the period to turn a 2-1 nail-biter into a blowout. Scoring those goals were Carter Sandlak (his 22nd), Connor Chatham (his 11th) and defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto, who wired a centering pass from winger Danny Vanderwier into the top shelf past North Bay goalie Jake Smith.

That goal, with 9:34 remaining, chased Smith in favor of backup Brendan O’Neill.

Joining the rush

Plymouth assistant coach Joe Stefan said the team actually has been making strides on offense for a little while, although he acknowledged that it is good for overall team confidence to score

10 goals in two nights. “We’ve had a tough time scoring goals all year,” Stefan said. “But in the last month or so, we’ve been working on activating our defense a little more, joining the rush and creating a little more offense that way. We seem to get more chances off the rush now.”

The three-goal outburst put the game away, but not until after Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (52 saves) had to make a series of clutch stops in the middle period.

Plymouth (20-27-0-5) opened the scoring in the first on goals by defenseman Yannick Rathgeb (from Mistele) and forward Francesco Vilardi, who had three assists) and Mistele, who swept in the rebound of Vilardi’s shot.

North Bay (28-19-4-2) cut the lead to 2-1 on a goal by Ben Thomson at 4:11 of the second period and then put plenty of pressure on the Plymouth goalie.

With about six minutes remaining, Nedeljkovic made a sterling pad stop on Alex Henriksson’s one-timer from between the circles. Nedeljkovic then dove to his left to rob Henriksson on the rebound.

In the final seconds of the period, a dangerous rush by the Battalion was thwarted when Nedeljkovic got in front of Brenden Miller’s bid.

Between periods, Mistele said head coach Mike Vellucci had a simple message to the players.

“It was just to get back to how we were playing in the first period,” Mistele said. “We thought we had a really big first period, came up hard and got pucks on net and put pucks in deep.

“The second period, we kind of got away from that and tried to get too offensive instead of playing our game.”

North Bay had 16 shots in the third period, but the Whalers were the only ones to find the mark.

“Obviously it was a 2-1 game, they were pushing hard, but you know, the key was we didn’t really

panic and Ned was playing well in net,” Stefan said. “The guys fed off him and we played well in our end and it created chances because they (Battalion) had to push for it.”

Weiss returns

With the successful weekend behind them, the Whalers (hanging on to the eighth and final playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference) now will gear up for games Friday at Saginaw and 7 p.m. Saturday against Kitchener at Compuware.

This week, however, they are welcoming Whalers alum and current Detroit Red Wing Stephen Weiss for practices.

He is rehabbing from sports hernia surgery and ramping up efforts to rejoin the NHL team following the Olympic break.

Weiss played for the Whalers from 1999-2002, scoring 40 goals in the 2000-01 season. His last season at Plymouth was Vellucci’s first year as Whalers head coach.

“I just found out about that, it’s pretty exciting,” Mistele said. “It’s always good to have a guy from the NHL come and skate with you. Last year we had (David) Legwand, got pretty close with him and asked him a bunch of stuff. He was a pretty good guy. Hopefully it’s the same.”

Stefan said it should be a good experience for the current players to practice with Weiss.

“It’s one of their own that’s made a good career for himself in the NHL,” Stefan said. “It’s good for our guys to see how guys act professionally, on and off the ice, how they prepare.”

LONDON 5, PLYMOUTH 4: On Sunday at London, the Whalers let a 3-1 lead slip away, giving up three goals in the third period.

Finding the mark for Plymouth (20-28-0-5) were Francesco Vilardi, Ryan Hartman, Victor Crus Rydberg and Connor Chatham.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

MIHL HOCKEY SHOWCASE

Wildcats blank Flint Powers

Chiefs earn 3-1 victory over Livonia Franklin

Plymouth senior forward Mike Schultz scored the only goal the Wildcats needed Saturday night.

Schultz scored midway through the second period and it stood up as the Wildcats earned a 1-0 win over Flint Powers in the team’s second and final game at the Trenton-hosted MIHL Hockey Showcase.

Collecting the lone assist on the marker was junior forward Josh Smith.

“They were hard on the forecheck and Josh (Smith) forced a turnover, came around one side of the net and sent Mike a bang-bang pass from post to post,” Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said.

Stopping all 23 shots he faced for the shutout was Plymouth junior goalie Jared Maddock, and the Wildcats gave up just four shots to Flint Powers in the third to wrap up the victory.

After the Wildcats (8-9-3) gave up four goals in the first period of last Thursday’s showcase game against Grosse Pointe South, they did not allow another goal (other than one in the shootout loss against GPS).

“We had five shutout periods after that first period debacle,” Vento said. “They were pretty disappointed, even though they came back

for the tie they were disappointed because they knew with a better start they probably would have won that first game and felt they had something to prove.”

Flint Powers dropped to 16-4 with the loss.

Next up for the Wildcats are games Wednesday (against Walled Lake Western), Thursday (against Walled Lake Central) and 5 p.m. Friday at Arctic Edge against Grosse Pointe North for Senior Night.

CANTON 3, FRANKLIN 1: Tommy Kiddie, Cooper Rice and Christian Flack scored one goal each Monday night to lift the Chiefs to a KLA South Division win over Livonia Franklin at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Tallying single assists for Canton (3-18-1) were Kiddie, Flack, Connor Wherrett, Kurt Snow, Bryan Eastman and Matt Eastman.

Stopping 22 of 23 shots for the win was Canton junior goalie Nick Borg.

The Chiefs improved to 3-18 with the victory.

On Sunday, Canton lost 3-0 to Clarkston at the Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase in Chelsea.

CANTON 6, BLOOMFIELD 0: Six players scored Tuesday, Feb. 4 to lift the Canton Chiefs to a 6-0 victory over Bloomfield Unified at the MPHSH Showcase.

Earning a 25-save shutout in the process was junior goalie Nick Borg.

Getting the Chiefs started was Connor Wherrett on the power play in the first period, with an assist to Christian Flack (one goal, two assists).

Brendan O’Hare (one goal, one assist) made it 2-0, on a play started by Hunter Oatman and Michael Gaffka (two assists).

Flack, a senior co-captain, registered an unassisted goal in the second and the Chiefs followed with three more unanswered tallies before the end of the frame to wrap up the game’s scoring.

Matt Eastman found the range, with assists to Cooper Rice (two assists) and senior co-captain Kurt Snow. Following up with Canton’s fifth goal was Tommy Kiddie. Assisting were Flack and Gaffka. Hunter Schlampp then scored on the power play, from O’Hare.

“We love going to the showcase because of the atmosphere, competition, and opportunity for our players to be seen by other programs,” Canton head coach Brad Barath said.

DISTRICT WRESTLING RESULTS

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (top 4 advance to regional) DIVISION 1 AT SALINE

103 pounds: John Siemasz (Westland John Glenn) d. Carl Antrassian (Monroe), 7-5; **3rd place:** Xavier Graham (Brownswood Woodhaven) d. Kyle Boxeth (Saline), 9-2.

112: Brandon Harris (Plymouth) d. Kevin Fuller (Saline), 12-9; **3rd:** Tyler Rogaliner (Temperance Bedford) d. John Hurley (Ann Arbor Huron), 4-2.

119: Mohamed Youssef (Plymouth) pinned Christopher Brown (Belleville), 3:38; **3rd:** Hunter Grasso (Woodhaven) d. Josh Perez (Livonia Churchill), 1-0.

125: Kevin Huynh (John Glenn) d. Austin Koehler (Belleville), 5-2; **3rd:** Devin McClain (Woodhaven) d. Brad Stewart (Bedford), 8-6.

130: Kyle Abdellatif (Ypsilanti) p. Ben Griffin (Canton), 2:15; **3rd:** Payton Beneteau (John Glenn) d. Kevin Stinnette (Monroe), 7-3.

135: Jordan Markey (Ypsilanti Lincoln) p. Holden Baker (Saline), 4:56; **3rd:** Brandon Bellant (Belleville) won by major dec. over Jamonny Houze (Belleville), 14-5.

140: Robert Freter (Ann Arbor Pioneer)

d. Jon Conn (Plymouth), 4-1; **3rd:** Logan DeCarlo (Monroe) d. Ty Jasmann (Canton), 8-4.

145: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) won by major dec. over Sofus Nielson (Plymouth); **3rd:** Kendall Freeman (Lincoln) p. Austin Avison (Woodhaven), 1:57.

152: Blake Montrie (Bedford) d. Billy Duncan (Woodhaven), 4-1; **3rd:** Caleb McCabe (Salem) d. Aaron Heinonen (Wayne), 6-2.

160: Joey Shaver (Plymouth) p. Jarod Ammons (Woodhaven), 0:37; **3rd:** Stephen Slattry (Saline) won by injury default over Connor Harman (Monroe), 0:42.

171: Hussein Youssef (Plymouth) p. Tyler Hammack (Monroe), 1:57; **3rd:** Chris Slattry (Saline) won by injury default over Charles Jones (Ann Arbor Skyline), 6-2.

189: Derek Hillman (Woodhaven) won by major dec. over Ben Bealias (Bedford), 16-6; **3rd:** Mitchell Gross (Salem) d. Baker Hadwain (Churchill), 3-1.

215: Jordan Brandon (John Glenn) won by tech. fall over Tony Biggs (Skyline), 26-8; **3rd:** K. I. Woolley (Canton) won by major dec. over Brandon Underwood (Belleville), 13-4.

285: Aaron Maudin (Wayne) d. Adam Ortman (Bedford), 5-1; **3rd:** Michael Jordan (Plymouth) d. Nate Irvine (John Glenn), 5-1.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Wildcats third at Coldwater

Plymouth’s gymnastics team lost 142.525-141.000 to Livonia Blue on Monday, despite firsts in two events by Katie Salanga (balance beam, floor exercise).

But the Wildcats are still having a successful season, including finishing third at Saturday’s Stick It For The Cure meet in Coldwater. (The team then presented Branch Cancer Center a check for \$430.)

Haley Metz and Rebeca Simu tied their personal bests of 9.225 on floor at the meet.

Simu also tallied a 9.0 on vault to reach the top seven. Placing third and fifth on uneven parallel bars were Metz (8.8) and Molly

McSween (8.75) while Emily Welch tallied a season high of 8.85 on floor.

In all-around scoring, Metz (35.05) and Simu (34.175) finished sixth and ninth, respectively.

“The team continues to improve and looks good for next year,” Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey said.

CHIEFS TOP ROCKS: In Friday’s makeup meet, Canton remained undefeated with a 144.3-116.025 win over illness-decimated Salem.

Canton had strong performances from Stephanie Cox (36.45 all-around), Melissa Green (36.55) and Maddie Toal (37.325). Toal won every event, including 9.375 on vault and 9.35 on bars.

For Salem, Paulette Martino registered an all-around of 32.9, including 8.5 on beam and 8.45 on vault. The Chiefs must defeat Northville on Thursday to wrap up a perfect record in duals. On Saturday, they will look to

defend their KLA conference championship at Walled Lake Central.

DUAL MEET RESULTS LIVONIA BLUE 142.525 PLYMOUTH 141.000 Feb. 10 at Churchill H.S.

Vault: 1. Alex Zukowski (Blue), 8.9; 2. Katie Salanga (P), 8.85; 3. Haley Metz (P), 8.825; 4. Rebeca Simu (P), 8.65; 5. Emily Welch (P), 8.575.

Uneven bars: 1. Bri Rhoad (Blue), 9.2; 2. Zukowski (Blue), 9.0; 3. Jess Weak (Blue), 8.9; 4. Emily Chatterjee (Blue), 8.8; 5. (tie) Molly McSween (P) and Simu (P), 8.775 each.

Balance beam: 1. Salanga (P), 9.525; 2. Jillian Zafarana (Blue), 9.375; 3. Brenna Connelly (P), 9.275; 5. Caitie McDougall (Blue), 9.15; 5. Rhoad (Blue), 8.725.

Floor exercise: 1. Salanga (P), 9.125; 2. (tie) Zafarana (Blue), Rhoad (Blue) and Chatterjee (Blue), 9.1 each; 5. Weak (Blue), 9.075.

All-around: 1. Zukowski (Blue), 35.675; 2. Weak (Blue), 35.225; 3. (tie) Connelly (P) and Metz (P), 35.10 each; 5. Zafarana (Blue), 35.675.

Dual meet records: Livonia Blue, 8-1 overall, 4-1 KLA Kensington Division; Plymouth, 6-1 overall, 3-1 Kensington.

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ASHTON, MARTHA ANN

Age 80, passed away peacefully on February 2nd following a long struggle with cancer. Martha was a compassionate woman who had the gift of comforting and caring for her family and friends. She loved cooking, dogs (especially Kuma) and jewelry. A nurse, she worked for many years at Garden City Hospital. She joins her husband, Dick, and sons, Mark and Dale, who left this life before her. A woman of great faith, we take comfort knowing that she is now home with her Father in Heaven. Memorial donations can be made to Angela Hospice Care Center in Livonia.



BEIGHTOL ALLISON SALLY

Born April 25, 1926 in Detroit to Milton A. and Mary B. Bresler. Passed away January 23, 2014 in Rains County, Texas where she had moved to be near family after 30 years residing in Tucson, Arizona. Married to and widowed from Ernest L. Beightol Jr. with whom she had two children, Peter M. of Rochester Hills and Mary Jo Dougherty of Emory, TX. Following the loss of her husband in 1954, Ms. Beightol entered the real estate profession as a leasing agent beginning a successful 40 year career in sales, management and brokerage. She was an avid bridge player earning a life master designation and was director of duplicate bridge clubs and tournaments. She is survived by her children and four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was laid to rest at Acacia Park Cemetery in Beverly Hills. Donations to Hospice or charity of donor's choice.



FAIRCHILD, JEAN L. R.N. (NEE OLINGER)

Age 96, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home in Chicago, February 9, 2014. Jean enjoyed a 50+ year career as a nurse at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital. Beloved wife of 48 years to the late Harry Lester Fairchild; devoted mother of Wendy Sue (Jim Kriegsmann) Fairchild of Chicago and the late H. Stephen (Holly Holland) Fairchild and Richard Douglas Fairchild; loving mother-in-law of Holly Holland; proud grandmother of Derek Fairchild, Hayden (Bernadette) O'Shea, Tyler Fairchild, Miles O'Donnell, and Kyle Kriegsmann; great-grandmother of four. A springtime memorial service is being planned in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the American Diabetes Association, www.diabetes.org. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com

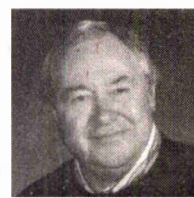


HAMMER, PATRICIA ANN

Age 92, February 7, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Richard. Loving mother of Patricia (Dr. Arthur) Filiatraut, Elizabeth Eldridge, Judge Richard Jr. (Patricia), Mark (Diane), Christopher (Debra), Kevin (Kouhaila), Mary Claire (Michael) Kenney and Margaret Mary. Grandmother of 31, great-grandmother of 14. Sister of Louis J. McGuire. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m. and Friday 12-8 p.m. with an evening Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill), Garden City. In state Saturday 9 a.m. until a 10 a.m. Funeral at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 31530 Beechwood (at Merriman Road, 2 blocks north of Ford Rd.). Memorials suggested to U of D Jesuit High School or the Malcolm Caron Scholarship Fund at Loyola Academy. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

IRWIN, RONALD W.

Age 78 of Brighton, passed away Sunday, February 9, 2014. Born in Pontiac on August 31, 1935, he was the son of William A. and Sarah M. (Wright) Irwin. A Brighton resident for the past eight months and formerly of Livonia, Bob was a member of the Livonia American Legion and Livonia Moose Lodge. He was a proud Korean War era U.S. Army veteran and retired draftsman for Burroughs. Beloved husband of the late Nancy M. (Belisle) Irwin who preceded him in death in December 1993. Loving father of Michele (Dave) Chojnowski of Bentonville, Arkansas and Jeannine (Mark) Neuschwander of Howell. Proud grandfather of Nathan and Monica Chojnowski and Eva, Olivia, Nicholas, John Paul, Dominic and Anthony Neuschwander. He was preceded in death by his brother Richard. Visitation Thursday, 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. (Rosary 7 p.m.) at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800) with funeral mass Friday, February 14, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. (in state 10 a.m.) at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 440 E. Washington St. (at Fowler St.) Howell. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Pregnancy Helpline. Please visit the family's online guestbook at macdonaldsfuneralhome.com



RUCKHABER, CHARLES J., Ph.D.

Born August 31, 1931 in Gary, Indiana. Died February 11, 2014. Survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Thelma, daughters Catherine and Joan, son Jeremy (Kim), and grandchildren Mitchell, Chase and Jake. Also survived by sisters Judy Patrick and Mary Ahlgrim and brothers Jim (Sharon) Ashby and Douglas (Suzanne) Ashby. Chuck received his B.S. from Eastern Michigan University and a Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He was a long-term resident of Livonia and was employed by Livonia Public Schools as a psychologist and for many years served as chairperson of that department. He was active in the Michigan Association of School Psychologists and served one term as president. He was also an active member of Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington. Chuck was a huge U. of M. fan and attended football games for many years—he breathed maize and blue! He was a caring, loving and generous man, friendly and helpful, and a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He will be missed. Visitation will be held at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI on Thursday, February 13th from 1-8 p.m. Services will be Friday, February 14th at 11 a.m. (visiting starting 10 a.m.) at Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington, MI. Donations may be sent to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154, Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington, MI 48335, or charity of your choice. www.thayer-rock.com



THOMPSON WILLIAM KAISER

78, of Troy, Ohio, passed away 8 p.m. Saturday, February 8, 2014. He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Julie Thompson of Woodstock, IL, Michael and Kim Thompson of Lorton, VA; four daughters and sons-in-law, Monica and Norm Fortier of Fairfax, VA, Marcia and David Boyce of Louisville, KY, Mary Beth and Nabil Wehbe of Bloomfield Hills, MI, and Molly Sinanis of West Bloomfield, MI; three sisters; and eighteen grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 13, 2014 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Troy, Ohio with Rev. Fr. James Duell officiating. Visitation will be on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 from 5 - 8 p.m. at Fisher-Cheney Funeral Home, Troy, OH. Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery with a Military Graveside Service performed by the Veterans Memorial Honor Guard of Troy. Contributions may be given to the Memorial Foundation of Dayton Veterans Association in his memory. Condolences may be left for the family at fisher-cheneyfuneralhome.com



HAMMER, JOHN W. "JACK"

Age 90 February 7, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Betty Jo (nee Pauley) for 53 years. Loving father of Nancy Boyer, Mary Jo (Rick) Halleck, Tim Hammer and the late John Jr. and Jamie (Patti Billaber) Hammer. Cherished grandfather of nine, great-grandfather of four. Dear brother of Virginia Tisdale. Funeral Mass Friday, February 14th, 10 a.m. (in state 9:30 a.m.) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23815 Power Road, Farmington, MI 48336. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m., Rosary Service 7 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com

HARVEY, RAYMOND EDWARD

Born on August 4, 1929 in Saginaw, Michigan to Thomas Joseph Harvey and Theresa Mary Devers, deceased at home on Saturday, February 8, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Shirley Ann O'Leary, their five children, Deborah Ann (Randy) Eckerman of Livonia, Michigan, Daniel Francis (Charlene Patosky) Harvey of Farmington Hills, MI, Diane Sue (Phillip) Masick of Cadillac, MI, Mary Kay (Kevin) Naughton of Walled Lake, MI, Patricia Marie (Steve) Atwood of Tobaccoville, North Carolina, and nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his loving sister, Mary Louise Loviska of Livonia, MI, and many nieces and nephews. He retired as a Technical Writer from Lucent Technologies with 34 years service. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in the Korean War. Services were held in Winston-Salem, NC, on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to St. Leo Catholic Church or Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Winston-Salem, NC. Online condolences may be made through: www.salemfh.com

PEARSON, MARK LLOYD

Age 56, of Houghton Lake formerly of Westland and Plymouth, died Feb. 8. Mark was a chemical engineer. He is survived by children, Jennifer of Detroit, Brennan of Minneapolis, MN and Andrew of Livonia; parents, William G. and Eileen H. of Ft. Myers Beach, FL; siblings, William A. (Peggy) of South Lyon and Jean (Moses) Pearson Williams of Huntington, NY; niece, Michelle (Chris) Costa of Hartland and nephew, Brent (Brittany) of Lake Orion. The family will receive friends 10 a.m. Friday until services at 11 a.m. at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Assn., 648 Monroe Ave NW, Ste 004, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or to the church. Arrangements by Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon.

May you find comfort in family and friends



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Trio plays music from jolly old England at Plymouth concert series

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The three musicians who play together in Trio Fiori have performed extensively in churches.

But their repertoire goes beyond sacred songs and classical music.

"We pride ourselves on our programming. We like to do standard classical pieces but we also like to change things up, add as much pop as we can muster," said violinist Theresa Stacy of Wayne. "For the most part, we try to make it not just classical. We like to include a Latin piece that might be semi-classical. We try to include a real variety to appeal to people."

The trio, which also includes pianist Sharon Sweet of West Bloomfield and flutist Jeffrey Beyer of Oak Park, will play works by British composers, Madeline Dring, and Sir Malcom Arnold, in addition to a Beatles medley and *Rolling in the Deep* by Adele at its upcoming concert, "From England with Love," 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth. Suggested donation is \$10 for individuals and \$25 for families. The con-

cert is part of the church's Resounding Art in a Sacred Space series.

"We're doing a piece by Handel. Even though he was German, he spent most of his working life in England," Stacy said. "Also, Jeffrey arranged *Mars* from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst."

"There aren't a ton of things out there that say flute, violin and piano. We have to be creative. Sometimes we use things for two flutes and a piano — a violin can play whatever a flute plays — or two violins and a piano or flute, oboe and piano. We make it work."

Singers, instrumentalists

The trio performs for weddings, holiday events, festivals and concert series. All of the musicians also sing. Sweet, director of music and the organist at Huntington Woods Lutheran Church, teaches vocal lessons from her home and sings with the vocal ensemble I Cantanti.

Beyer also sings with I Cantanti, as well as with the Adult Choir at Huntington Woods Lutheran Church. He performs on flute with the Beyer Trio, the Beyer-Stacy Duo, the Motor City Flute Quartet and the Michigan Flute Orchestra.

Stacy has sung with the Detroit Lutheran Singers, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's Cathedral Choir and Schola Cantorum. Both she and Beyer work for Flute World Co. in Farmington Hills.

Forming a trio

"I had been studying voice with Sharon and she asked me to play something on violin with her choir at church. All three of us did something together and had a great time," Stacy recalled. "She asked if we were interested in forming a trio. That was in 2008. Things snowballed from there."

"Jeff and I sang together at First Methodist Church in Royal Oak for maybe five years. We played instrumentally there as well. This year, we're mainly singing at Sharon's church. That became the home church for the trio."

The trio will perform a coffee-themed concert at the Huntington Woods church in April. Next month, it's among several groups that will play at a Bach marathon at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit.

Last year, a Taiwanese composer, Sam Wu, whom Sweet met while on vacation, wrote a piece, *Typhoon Days*, for the group. Trio Fiori played the



Trio Fiori is Theresa Stacy (left), Jeffrey Beyer, and Sharon Sweet.

piece — its world debut — in June 2013 at a Kerrytown Concert House performance in Ann Arbor.

"It was pretty cool," Stacy said.

For more on the trio, visit triofiori.com. For more on St. John's music series, call 734-453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit stjohnsplymouth.org.

Show aims for the heart with romantic songs, scenes

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Friends of Paul's Players Community Theater will make Cupid work overtime this Valentine's Day weekend.

The group plans a show of romantic songs and scenes from plays, movies and musicals to raise money for the Livonia-based theater.

"For Better and/or For Worse" is the third annual midwinter fundraiser for the theater and will include a cast of 16 actors in 10 scenes about love. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$10 and include a dessert buffet with sweets from Elite Sweets, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Sorella's Cakes, Dunia Sweets, and Looney Baker.

"It's a whole bunch of scenes about how people love," said Patricia Hutchison, founder and director of Paul's Players. "I start with middle schoolers and the oldest person in it is 56. It's people of all ages."

"I have two talented middle schoolers doing a scene from *Oliver*. We did *Almost Maine* (last year) and there will be a couple scenes from that.



Max Tromley and Kat O'Donnell, both of Livonia, will perform a scene from *The Sound of Music* for the Paul's Players fundraiser, Feb. 15-16.

We've got some songs from *Hairspray*."

Amanda Koba of Westland, a middle school teacher at East Middle School in Plymouth — who assists Hutchison with summer theater camp — will perform a scene from *Carousel* with Jon Lenze of Fenton. Max Tromley and Kat O'Donnell, both of Livonia, will reprise their scene from *The Sound of Music*.

"Our theme this year is couples," Hutchison added. Money raised from the

weekend performances will go toward the summer theater program for youth or will buy much-needed equipment for lighting or sound.

Hutchison also is looking for singers who can act for her next production, "Some Enchanted Evening," an all-music show of Rodgers & Hammerstein songs, set for May 2-4. Call her at 248-347-4134 if interested in singing or to reserve tickets for the upcoming fundraiser.

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 CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Through March 14; open during business hours

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

Details: The fiber artwork of artist Cynthia Bodene is on exhibit

Contact: 248-473-1856

GALLERY@VT

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

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Art & Invention: The Sculpture of Doug Cannell," on display through Feb. 27

Contact: 734-394-5300

LIBERTY STREET BREW PUB

Time/Date: Through March 29; open during brew pub hours

Location: In the Upper Hall Gallery at

the pub, 149 Liberty, Plymouth

Details: "Open Source" exhibit includes works by Gerardo Antunez, Colin McGorey and Scott Moelich

Contact: 734-207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

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

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: Eighth annual Member Exhibition

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

RUSSELL INDUSTRIAL CENTER

Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Feb. 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; 800-745-300

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27

Location: Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward, Detroit

Details: "Celebrate," the 85th annual Spring Dance Concert, features diverse program of dance works by guest artists Dwight Rhoden and Amaniyea Payne, WSU faculty members Nicholas Leichter, J. M. Rebudal, and Meg Paul, adjunct faculty members Rachael Harbert and Lisa LaMarre, and select WSU student choreographers. Tickets are \$15-\$20

Contact: 313-577-2960; www.bonstelle.com

Thought-provoking play



Barefoot Productions presents *Twilight of the Golds*, 8 p.m. Feb. 21-22, 28 and March 1 and 2 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 2, at the Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. The plot centers on Suzanne Gold, who discovers through a prenatal test that her unborn baby likely will be "different." The news forces her family to confront issues of bigotry, evolution and love. Tickets are \$20 on Feb. 22, which includes an afterglow party, and \$15 for other performances. Discussions will be held after the Feb. 21, 23 and March 2 shows. Call 734-560-1493 or visit www.justgobarefoot.com. The cast is Samantha Lowry, Livonia; David Alexander, Redford; Christine Steves, Woodhaven; Adam Dib, Dearborn; and Michael Ludlum, Northville.

Give salads a nutritional crunch punch with pecans



AVOCADO, GRAPEFRUIT SALAD WITH TOASTED GEORGIA PECANS

Serves: 4

Salad:

1-2 heads bibb lettuce, torn into bite-sized pieces

1 bunch arugula, torn into bite-sized pieces

2 Haas avocados, ripe but firm, peeled and cubed

2 ruby red or pink grapefruits, peeled and segmented, reserve excess juice

½ cup toasted Georgia pecan halves (toasted in a sauté pan)

¼ cup minced fresh parsley

Grapefruit Vinaigrette:
½ cup extra virgin olive oil
½ cup red wine vinegar
Juice from segmented grapefruit (approx 3 tablespoons)

Fresh ground salt and black pepper to taste

On large platter arrange the lettuce and arugula.

On the bed of greens arrange the avocado and grapefruit segments.

Combine the ingredients for the dressing and drizzle over the entire salad.

Garnish with toasted Georgia pecans.

Add final garnish of minced parsley.

MIXED GREENS WITH CURRIED CAULIFLOWER, CHIVES & GEORGIA PECANS

Serves: 4

The curry seasoning here is quite mild. If you prefer a bolder taste, add an extra 1/2 teaspoon of the curry powder.

3 cups water

1-½ teaspoons curry powder

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon turmeric

3 cups cauliflowerets

6 cups mixed greens

¼ cup toasted Georgia pecan halves

1 plum tomato, seeded and finely diced

¼ cup chopped chives or green onion

¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons prepared vinaigrette

Combine water, curry powder, salt, and turmeric; heat to boiling. Add cauliflowerets, reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes. Drain and cool to room temperature. In large mixing bowl, combine salad greens, pecans, tomato, and chives. Toss with ¼ cup vinaigrette. Divide salad mixture among serving plates. Toss cauliflower with remaining 2 tablespoons vinaigrette, and arrange on top of each salad. Serve.

Think eating salad is healthy? Not when you add lots of cheese, bacon, croutons and a generous amount of dressing.

Carolyn O'Neil, M.S., R.D., co-author of the book, *The Dish on Eating Healthy and Being Fabulous!* recommends salads that satisfy all the senses. Georgia pecans not only add crunch to a salad, but are a good source of oleic acid, vitamin B1, calcium, potassium and zinc. A one-ounce serving of pecans contains 196 calories, 3 grams of dietary fiber and more than 19 vitamins and minerals including vitamin A, vitamin E, potassium and zinc. And the American Heart Association includes Georgia pecans on its list of heart-healthy foods.

Avocado, Grapefruit Salad with Toasted Georgia pecans adds beauty and interest to your plate with healthful, colorful and crisp ingredients. Avocados are a good substitute for cheese, toasted pecans sub for the crunch of croutons and flavor hit of bacon. The vinaigrette is made with fresh grapefruit juice from the segmented grapefruit and red wine vinegar.

Georgia Pecan Confetti Quinoa includes grain, greens and vegetables. Quinoa is a delicious gluten-free grain that becomes soft like rice — but contains more protein — when cooked.

Mixed Greens with Curried Cauliflower, Chives & Georgia Pecans offers curry lovers a mild taste of the spice, combined with inflation-fighting tumeric.

For more recipes using pecans, visit www.georgiapeccans.org.

Courtesy of Family Features



GEORGIA PECAN CONFETTI QUINOA

Serves: 6 half-cup servings

2 teaspoons olive oil

½ cup diced carrots

½ cup diced zucchini squash

½ cup diced yellow squash

1 garlic clove, minced

2 cups cooked quinoa (prepared to package directions)

¼ teaspoon finely chopped rosemary leaves

¼ cup toasted Georgia pecan halves (reserve 2 tablespoons for garnish)

Heat oil in large skillet and add carrots, zucchini, yellow squash and garlic. Cook until crisp tender. Fold in the cooked quinoa, rosemary and pecans. Season to taste with freshly ground black pepper and sea salt. Present quinoa on a large platter and garnish with additional toasted pecans.

Bite-sized Valentine's Day treats get to the heart of the holiday

Nothing says "I love you" on Valentine's Day more than heart-shaped, homemade treats. This year, try individual treats to make each gift recipient feel extra special. You'll love the fact that they are simple to create.

"Though small in size, mini-treats deliver a big message to all of the Valentines on your list," said Nancy Siler, vice president of consumer affairs at Wilton. "Decorating these treats is quick and easy thanks to Candy Melts Candy — a pantry staple for any decorating project."

With a little help from Wilton, you can bake to your heart's desire this Valentine's Day.

For Valentine's Day recipes, baking tips and gift inspiration, visit www.wilton.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

CHOCOLATE HEART PETIT FOURS

Makes about 40 mini cakes

1 cup all-purpose flour

½ cup cocoa powder

¼ teaspoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

6 tablespoons (¾ stick) butter, softened

½ cup firmly-packed brown sugar

1 egg

½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

½ cup buttermilk

½ cup peanut butter, chocolate fudge ice cream topping or cherry pie filling

2 containers (14 ounces each) Chocolate or Vanilla Icing Glaze (optional)

Jumbo hearts sprinkles (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare 24 cavity bite-sized heart dessert shell pan with cake release pan coating.

In large bowl, combine flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla extract; beat until well combined. Alternately add flour mixture and buttermilk in three additions, beating until just combined. Spoon one tablespoon batter into each pan cavity.

Bake 9-11 minutes or until tops of cakes spring back when touched. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Cool completely on cooling grid.

To decorate, place cakes on cooling grid with cookie pan below. Pipe ½ teaspoon peanut butter, chocolate fudge or cherry pie filling into shell; fill only to top of cavity. If desired, warm glaze according to package instructions; carefully pour over shell and tap pan to smooth. If desired, add jumbo hearts sprinkles.



Banker shares words of wisdom for grown-ups and kids

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Being a responsible homeowner includes knowing how to manage money. Loretta Humphrey-Cruz, community development relationship manager with Fifth Third Bank, knows it's important to get people off to a good start managing money.

The Detroit resident's work, done from a Southfield Fifth Third office, includes the Young Bankers Club for elementary students. Fifth-graders learn the ropes of money management.

"We have a little something for everyone," she said of its community programs, required under the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977. "They do learn a lot in that program," she added of Young Bankers.

Volunteer Fifth Third bankers work with the fifth-graders using a special curriculum for Young Bankers. They meet weekly for either five or 10 weeks, depending on the school. Young Bankers has served more than 2,200 students in this region since 2005, Humphrey-Cruz told a recent Westland Rotary luncheon audience.

The children visit a Junior Achievement Finance Park in Detroit, an interactive financial "mall." Participants get an income and "job" to teach financial literacy, as well as the expenses of adulthood. Many cease complaining to parents, she said, after they realize the costs of living.



Herrington Elementary School students in the Young Bankers Club with their teacher, Michael Mickens, pictured with Phillip Henry (left) of Fifth Third Bank.

"We have a number of programs we take out into the community," the banker said, with those ranging up to senior citizens.

Humphrey-Cruz also oversees a Financial Empowerment Mobile, or e-bus. It visits low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and began as a way to help first-time home buyers with the process.

That changed with the recession and problems in the housing market. For the bus, Fifth Third now partners with other community organizations for homeowner counseling, credit counseling and Project Healthy Living, which includes

blood panels and diabetes screenings.

"We try to meet the neighborhoods where they are," she said. Bankers work with the Heat and Warmth Fund and DTE on utility assistance.

"The bus is a good vehicle for program delivery," Humphrey-Cruz said. It also has a Gift of Warmth in which students receive warm coats, hats and gloves.

She also writes and edits a financial section for the *Michigan Chronicle*, a longtime local newspaper serving the black community. She talks to many school and community groups, including for-profits "to try to

bring those resources together to help people. We look for ways to reach out into the community and give back."

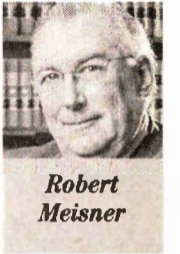
Fifth Third also partners with The American Bankers Association Education Foundation on the Teach Children To Save program for eighth-graders. The Foundations in Personal Finance curriculum for high school has the bank work with national finance expert Dave Ramsey.

The high school program is a DVD lecture course and also has an online version.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Review documents to determine your rights

Q: I own a condo in a two-story building; mine is on the first floor. The master bedroom is very cold. When I got it inspected, I was told it had poor insulation. There was water condensation near the window during the recent Arctic blast and my heating bill is extremely expensive. The condo association says that it is the owner's responsibility to take care of insulation and window replacement. I was under the impression that the condo owner owns only inside the wall. What do you advise?



Robert Meisner

A: I advise that you get legal advice from an experienced condominium attorney to review the condominium documents to determine whether, in fact, the association has a responsibility for providing insulation and/or window replacement. Sometimes condo associations take a position which is not legally enforceable, either through inadvertence and/or willfully. Unless you have a clear understanding of your responsibilities, vis-à-vis the association, you are subject to potential abuse.

Q: I am a licensed real estate broker and my sales person does market analyses and charges for them. Is that a particular problem?

A: Based on Article 26, Section 2601 (a) (ii) of the Michigan Occupational Code, real estate brokers and associate brokers can charge a fee for performing a market analysis provided the market analysis is in writing and states in bold-face print that it was prepared by a broker or associate broker, not a licensed appraiser. A real estate salesman, however, is not permitted to charge a fee for preparing a market analysis, which was recently confirmed in an opinion by the Michigan Attorney General. You should be aware that a person who violates the Occupational Code can be charged with a misdemeanor, have his or her license revoked and be subject to civil fines of up to \$10,000, among other things.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 23-27, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

15824 Buckingham Ave \$245,000
15618 Kirkshire Ave \$138,000
30310 Lincolnshire E \$438,000
32816 Robinhood Dr \$412,000
32463 Sheridan Dr \$205,000
31464 Sleepy Hollow Ln \$425,000
30280 Vernon Dr \$475,000
20090 Village Dr \$410,000
31095 W Rutland St \$177,000

BIRMINGHAM

1835 Banbury St \$188,000
531 Bloomfield Ct \$345,000
2755 Buckingham Ave \$250,000
1664 Graefield Rd \$128,000
2022 Hazel St \$500,000
519 Lewis St \$275,000
2217 Manchester Rd \$569,000
560 Pierce St \$1,425,000
1136 Pierce St \$775,000
1385 Pierce St \$940,000
1561 S Bates St \$385,000
522 Wallace St \$915,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

1716 Bellwood Ct \$345,000
710 Oakleigh Dr \$260,000
4100 Echo Rd \$120,000
2395 Hunt Club Dr \$308,000
546 Kingsley Trl \$575,000
3789 Peabody Dr \$335,000
3746 W Maple Rd \$355,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

2747 Aldgate Dr \$290,000
2809 Aldgate Dr \$243,000
724 Brookwood Walk \$529,000
7370 E Greenwich Dr \$424,000
4097 Golf Ridge Dr E \$613,000
1555 Groton Rd \$300,000
4019 Hidden Woods Dr \$455,000
821 Highwood Dr \$425,000
1424 Inwoods Cir \$750,000
4849 Kew Ct \$540,000

3919 Mount Vernon Dr \$1,180,000
1379 N Cranbrook Rd \$1,600,000
714 N Shady Hollow Cir \$380,000
1191 Rolling Hills Dr \$96,000
1952 Squirrel Valley Dr \$164,000
619 Windsor Run \$470,000
6024 Worlington Rd \$786,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

2810 Augusta Dr \$285,000
2442 Baltusrol Dr \$236,000
3204 Belle Terre \$75,000
8795 Buckskin Dr \$159,000
8682 Buffalo Dr \$150,000
9587 Chaumont Dr \$185,000
9598 Chaumont Dr \$233,000
4476 Driftwood Dr \$680,000
5682 Exploration Dr \$325,000
3573 Oak Mdws \$188,000
566 Sherbrooke St \$112,000
566 Sherbrooke St \$125,000
2473 Solace Dr \$55,000
9545 Trace Hollow Ct \$25,000
9566 Trace Hollow Ct \$25,000

FARMINGTON

24130 Broadview Dr \$150,000
23126 Hawthorne St \$125,000
31749 Leelane \$139,000
23931 Pickett Ave \$178,000
36709 Saxony Rd \$203,000
35875 Smithfield Rd \$200,000
32318 Valley View Cir \$200,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

22040 Abington Dr \$315,000
29216 Arlington Way Ct \$346,000
21294 Cass St \$156,000
29680 Dorchester Ct \$273,000
39228 Heatherbrook Dr \$265,000
30811 Misty Pines Dr \$151,000
22215 N Brandon St \$99,000
31769 N Marklawn St \$168,000
22387 Nearbrook Ct \$275,000
28349 Parkhill St \$95,000
21464 Parklane St \$220,000
29061 Ramblewood Dr \$185,000
28429 Shiloh Ct \$250,000
35741 Springvale St \$213,000
35586 Valley Crk \$185,000
29850 W 12 Mile Rd # 509 \$45,000
29890 W 12 Mile Rd # 912 \$48,000

28426 W 8 Mile Rd Unit B4 \$16,000
37800 Wendy Lee St \$84,000
28240 Wildwood Trl \$181,000

FRANKLIN

31040 Crestwood Dr \$1,200,000
26230 Evelyn Ct \$316,000
31420 Lucerne Dr \$400,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

18140 Rainbow Dr \$82,000
19019 San Quentin Dr \$170,000

MILFORD

819 Canal St \$90,000
3093 Granda Vista Dr \$100,000
1397 Horseshoe Cir \$293,000
1730 Indian Garden Ln \$195,000
1171 Riverside St \$280,000
764 S Milford Rd \$123,000

NORTHVILLE

22904 Bentley Dr \$50,000
780 Carpenter St \$170,000
44219 Galway Dr \$300,000
1027 Glenhill Dr \$405,000
1003 McDonald Dr \$539,000
927 Millpond Ct \$565,000
588 Morgan Cir \$275,000
20875 Normandy Ct \$667,000
20990 Normandy Ct \$100,000
22903 Poppleton Dr \$100,000

47579 Aberdeen Dr \$650,000
23545 Argyle St \$588,000
22735 Beckenham Ct \$585,000
28400 Clymer Dr \$87,000
44515 Concord Dr \$248,000
51200 E Bourne Ter \$239,000
24594 Enchanted Dr \$240,000
208 Endwell St \$55,000
45021 Foxton Dr \$283,000
51039 Glades Ct W \$100,000
23689 Greening Ct \$275,000
29059 Hearthstone Dr \$271,000
23890 Hickory Grove Ln \$240,000
25515 Hillsdale Dr \$640,000
27922 Hopkins Dr \$165,000
41798 Independence Dr \$145,000
41589 London Ct \$415,000
185 Maudlin St \$160,000
27884 Middleton Dr \$220,000

24532 Olde Orchard St \$103,000
24678 Olde Orchard St \$107,000
22630 Provincial Dr \$555,000
24438 Redwing Dr \$350,000
1127 South Lake Dr Unit 109 \$75,000
44670 W 10 Mile Rd \$125,000
22709 Winfield Rd \$250,000

SOUTH LYON

1107 Appaloosa Ct \$340,000
24692 Brompton Way \$356,000
51960 Copperwood Dr N \$341,000
52465 E Fremont Dr \$408,000
785 Eagle Heights Dr \$206,000
840 Glen Meadows Dr \$261,000
688 Hidden Creek Dr \$265,000
57395 Hidden Timbers Dr \$268,000
23983 Lyon Ridge Dr \$434,000
1074 Paddock Dr \$239,000
1131 Shetland Dr \$306,000
852 Stoney Dr \$197,000
58641 Swing Beam Ct \$77,000
58737 Woodland Ct \$83,000
24867 Valleywood Dr \$130,000

SOUTHFIELD

29529 Brentwood St \$69,000
25530 Catalina St \$98,000
28117 Glasgow St \$56,000
18614 Greenwald Dr \$103,000
21252 Harvard Rd \$151,000
22134 Ivanhoe Ln \$150,000
24639 Lois Ln \$135,000
29499 Meadowlane Dr \$170,000
24636 Santa Barbara St \$78,000
30169 Sparkleberry Dr \$240,000
20315 Winchester St \$124,000
24045 Woodland Dr \$200,000

WHITE LAKE

9851 Avonlea Ave \$188,000
9801 Coledale Ct \$185,000
11 Crouthy St \$43,000
9386 Mandon Rd \$144,000
307 N Williams Lake Rd \$77,000
739 Pembroke Ct \$25,000
9665 Pontiac Lake Rd \$190,000
8956 Sandy Ridge Dr \$290,000
9621 Steepollow Dr \$229,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 14-18, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

8435 Alton St \$141,000
43050 Arlington Rd \$193,000
3991 Brighton Ln \$175,000
49825 Geddes Rd \$209,000
50355 Grant St \$307,000
49060 Hawksbury Rd \$193,000
43200 Keystone Ln \$185,000
44920 Lemont Rd \$180,000
191 Mcdougal Ct \$495,000
6856 New Providence Way \$68,000
41820 North Dr \$252,000
8427 Orhan St \$136,000
49361 Saltz Rd \$110,000
3736 Shepherd Ct \$196,000
45027 Thornhill Ct \$290,000
3494 Times Square Blvd \$272,000
8353 Trafford Ct \$525,000
48145 Warren Rd \$81,000
41566 Wayside Dr \$155,000
43681 Yorkville Ct \$110,000

GARDEN CITY

28673 Balmoral St \$70,000

28953 Bridge St \$70,000
28915 Florence St \$115,000
120 Gilman St \$67,000
211 Hubbard St \$78,000
31541 Leona St \$95,000
28056 Maplewood St \$73,000
29445 Maplewood St \$159,000
31331 Pierce St \$80,000
111 Radcliff St \$48,000
242 Ross St \$77,000
32439 Warren Rd \$115,000

LIVONIA

35994 Ann Arbor Trl \$65,000
16690 Blue Skies Dr \$210,000
29521 Bobrich St \$57,000
19693 Brentwood St \$195,000
18173 Deering St \$45,000
35694 Elmira St \$264,000
11710 Farmington Rd \$105,000
18645 Floral St \$78,000
9871 Garvett St \$95,000
9521 Hartel St \$90,000
35387 Hathaway St \$140,000
15400 Hidden Ln \$165,000
14736 Hubbard St \$110,000
20325 Hugh St \$61,000
9340 Marie St \$145,000
31731 Middleboro St \$169,000
31069 Munger Dr \$63,000
8843 Norman Ave \$215,000

37685 Northfield Ave \$233,000
35943 Northgate Dr \$158,000
29583 Nottingham Cir \$103,000
29847 Oakley St \$138,000
9951 Operto St \$125,000
27637 Pembroke St \$45,000
38167 Ross St \$150,000
17381 Stamwich St \$185,000
18271 University Park Dr \$80,000
30275 Vassar St \$165,000
19044 Wayne Rd \$340,000
15675 Westbrook St \$235,000
16664 Whitby St \$255,000

NORTHVILLE

44725 Broadmoor Cir N \$424,000
16454 Country Knoll Dr \$265,000
15881 Hickory Ridge Dr \$305,000
16060 Morningside \$144,000
19554 Northridge Dr \$96,000
18124 Peninsula Way \$625,000
17979 Ridgeview Dr \$1,350,000
48866 Running Trout Ln \$437,000
45654 Tournament Dr \$676,000
15900 Turning Creek Ct \$450,000

PLYMOUTH

44490 Albert Dr \$164,000
242 Auburn St \$425,000
13872 Eaton Dr \$386,000
13934 Oakland Ct \$346,000
51349 Plymouth Ridge Dr \$400,000

9216 Redbud Ave \$201,000
14242 Shadywood Dr \$195,000
13215 Wendover Dr \$345,000

REDFORD

9631 Brady \$72,000
8914 Dale \$76,000
25742 Dover \$63,000
15596 Leona Dr \$85,000
18817 Seminole \$50,000
19463 Woodworth \$50,000

WAYNE

4508 Howe Rd \$21,000

WESTLAND

31058 Cooley Blvd \$124,000
7954 Deer Creek Ln \$83,000
7448 Deering St \$65,000
428 Ethan Dr \$175,000
7361 Gilman St \$35,000
33679 Glen St \$108,000
1665 Gloria St \$34,000
32464 Hivley St \$120,000
8254 Melvin Ave \$107,000
34818 Pardo St \$125,000
8159 Pickering Pl \$208,000
8215 Rickie Ln \$110,000
38597 Scott Dr \$135,000
33915 Sequoia St \$110,000
34829 University St \$120,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations. RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Email Georgia@addvaluerelty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

HOMES

apartments.com
HomeFinder

CONDOS

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Brand new homes starting at \$849!

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www.childslake.com
*WAC, community owned homes, no cash value, see community/sales for details. Offer expires 2-28-14

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3 bed, 2 bath, all appliances plus washer and dryer.
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Personals

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Furniture: Glassware
Shirley Temple Doll
Carpenter Plans
Star Wars Fuss Ball
Cash/MC/Visa
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No Checks
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Professional Auction
Service. 734.451.7444
jcauctions.com

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Sofa, chair, table w/4 chairs, dresser, 2 night stands, Wall hangings also Mickey Mouse pictures, small appls. Walt Disney Snow White Dwarf's Cottage, all certification authenticity, paperwork and boxes. 248-348-2327

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Dogs

MINI SCHNAUZER:
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Tues. at 3 pm for Thursday

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Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Apply henna
- Bugged out
- Flatter oneself
- Galley mover
- Spring bloom
- Nurse's helper
- Twice-baked bread
- Endure
- Us, to Pogo
- Deadly snakes
- Indy 500
- Hoarse
- Overly suave
- Hip
- August kid, maybe
- Draws on
- de-sac
- Ingredient of some piecrusts
- Financial wiz
- Klutz's cry (2 wds.)
- The rain in Spain?

DOWN

- Serpent Hercules fought
- Provo sch.
- Hawaiian strings
- Dome home
- Little swallows
- to a grasshopper (hyph.)
- Tooth anchor
- "Fatha" Hines
- Lilly of pharmaceuticals
- Chop -
- Wasted no time
- "Paleo" opposite
- Sleep lightly
- Open wide
- Great Lakes port
- Where Tripoli is
- Victorian, e.g.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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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	

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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VACATION WORD SEARCH

WORDS

AIRPORT	MOTEL
AUTOMOBILE	PACK
BOARD	PASSENGER
BUS	PLANE
CHARTER	PORT
CHECK-IN	RAILWAY
CROWDS	ROUTE
CRUISE	SATLING
DESTINATION	SIGHTSEEING
DRIVE	STATION
EXCURSION	TAXI
FLY	TOUR
HOLIDAY	TRAFFIC
HOTEL	TRAIN
HOTEL	TRAVEL
JOURNEY	TRIP
LAND	VACATION
LUGGAGE	VOYAGE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

Word Search

Word search grid with words highlighted.

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1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	4.25	0	3.25	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	4.125	0	3	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	4.25	0	3.25	0
Co-op Services Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.375	0.25	3.375	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.5	0	3.5	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.375	0	3.375	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.25	0	3.25	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.125	0.5	3.125	0.625
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.5	0	3.625	0

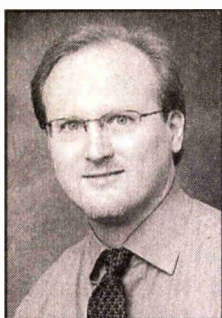
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Car Report

'America' Supplants Detroit in Chrysler Super Bowl Ad for New 200



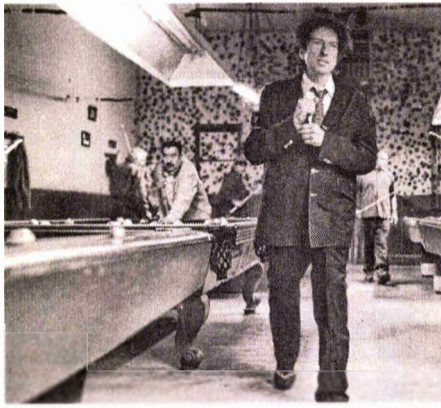
By Dale Buss

"Detroit" gave way to "America" in Chrysler's widely awaited Super Bowl commercial this year, as the brand finally pivoted from its "Imported From Detroit" tag line after using it for three years.

"America's Import" was the new signature line at the end of the Chrysler-brand anthem ad during the game's third quarter, starring Bob Dylan from start to finish as narrator, protagonist and inspiration in a commercial that at least nominally was about the new 2015 Chrysler 200 sedan.

The new, vastly improved 2015 Chrysler 200 -- unveiled at the Detroit auto show with advanced standard features that make it worthy of comparison with some of the other big nameplates in the segment -- is the product that represents the first real fruits of that change. So it got the nod in the Super Bowl ad.

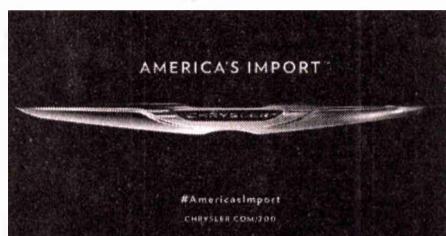
And for the sake of the Chrysler brand, it's got to prove only the start of a wave of more-competitive vehicles, not the end.



Bob Dylan starred in Chrysler's latest Super Bowl ad.

In any event, with the ad, Chrysler moved away from the Motown-centric positioning that it introduced with its epochal Super Bowl ad in 2011, the one that starred Eminem and the previous version of the 200. That ad also very much starred Detroit and its gritty comeback attempt.

But in the ad on Super Bowl Sunday -- which, again this year, Chrysler did a very good job of not telegraphing ahead of time -- the brand clearly tried to establish a broader message than the fact that it is associated with Detroit.



Chrysler changed its brand slogan.

Instead, Chrysler preached a new sermon about cars that are made in America, while mentioning Detroit only tangentially. It was consistent with what Chrysler CMO Olivier Francois told me a while ago about wanting to emphasize the "Imported" aspect of the "Imported From Detroit" slogan, about determining to play up the company's world-class automotive chops more than its association with its hometown.

True, Chrysler is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, a Dutch company with an Italian CEO. But that fact is basically moot to the backdrop for the Dylan ad because Fiat also controlled Chrysler back in 2011 when all of America hailed the original "Imported From Detroit" spot, "Born of Fire," for its authenticity.

Is there anything more American than America? Dylan said in Sunday's ad. 'Cause

you can't import a vision. You can't fake true cool. You can't duplicate legacy. Because what Detroit created was a first and became an inspiration to the rest of the world.

Yeah, Detroit made cars, and cars made America. Making the best, making the finest, takes conviction ... And you can't import the heart and soul of every man and woman working on the line.

You can search the world over for the finer things but you won't find a match for the American road and the creatures that live on it.

Because we believe in the zoom, and the roar and the thrust. And when it's made here it's made with the one thing you can't import from anywhere else. American pride.

So let Germany brew your beer. Have Switzerland make your watch. Let Asia assemble your phone. We will build your car.

The ad ended with the words, "All-New Chrysler 200," and then the apparent new tagline, "America's Import."

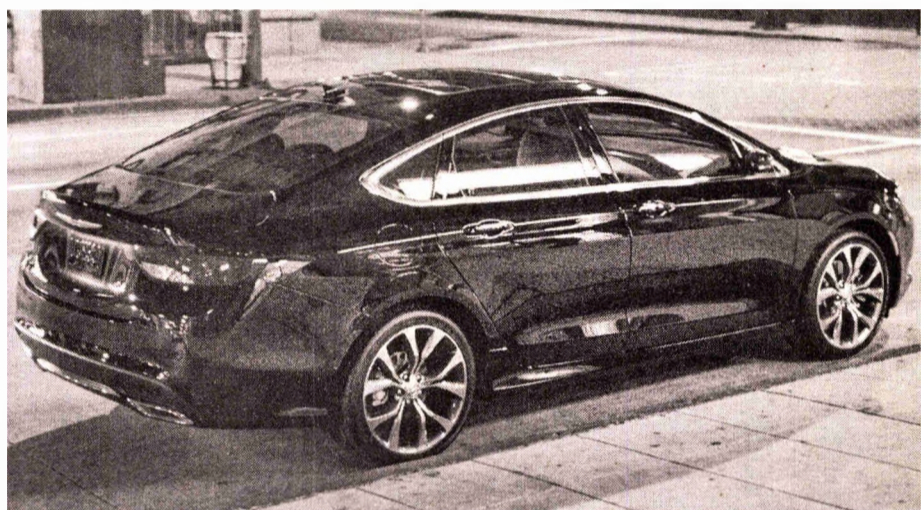
The imagery in the ad also supported the brand's clear departure from the "Imported From Detroit" motif of the last three years.

Interspersed with scenes of Dylan himself -- strumming his guitar, playing pool, integrating himself completely with the theme and the action of the ad -- were plenty of snapshots of Americana.

There was a diner, a ferris wheel, a baseball pitcher, a sign along Route 66, Julius Erving, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, a Rosie the Riveter poster. And while there were some glimpses of an automotive assembly line, and Detroit, they're far from tone-setting -- instead, they depict the Motor City only as part of the entire fabric of America, of a nation, not just a city, that is putting out a worthy automobile.

Understandably, Detroiters and other fans of the traditional Big Three automakers were heartened when Chrysler made the city itself the centerpiece of the trailblazing "Born of Fire" commercial in 2011 and of a subsequent long-term campaign to associate the grittiness and determination of the brand and company with the ultimate would-be comeback story: Motown itself.

But Eminem and 2011 were then, and this is now.



The vastly improved Chrysler 200 was featured.

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Ford

FORD RANGER 2007
Extended Cab, 4x4, auto, 4.0, V6, \$13,985
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Ford

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Pearl White Over Bone Leather "ONLY 16,900 MILES!"
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Chrysler-Plymouth

CHRYSLER PT Cruiser 2008
Auto, a/c, \$3K extra clean. Ready for the open road.
\$6,972
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Chrysler Town and Country

LX, V6, 3.8L engine. Remote starter/Alarm, aluminum wheels, power sliding door and power rear gate, power driver seat, CD player, dual airbags, heater and AC work perfectly. Cruise control, seats 7. Some rust on left side and minor rust on fender above back wheel.
Clean title. \$2,200 Call: (313) 701-9515

Ford

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NORTH BROS.
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Ford

FOCUS ZX5 2007
5 dr., SES, auto, full power. Screaming Yellow! 44K
DEALER
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FORD EXPLORER 2013
XLT Moon, Leather, Navigation
Ford Certified! 1.9%
\$30,988
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FORD FUSION 2007
6 cyl., Auto, Full Power. Only 61,000 miles!
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FORD FUSION SPORT 2011
AWD, Leather, MOON, 34K
Ford Certified! 1.9%
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Ford

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20's, Navigation, Moon
Ford Certified! 1.9%
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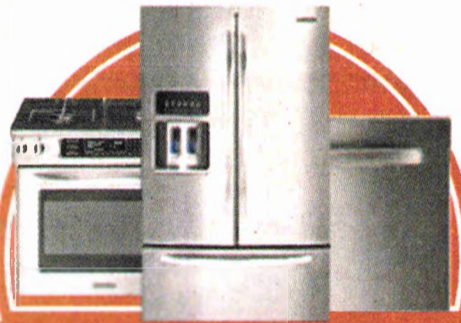
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