

Gas station reopens, but future's uncertain

'Don't know for sure' about coming days

By **Matt Jachman**
 Staff Writer

The BP gas station on Ann Arbor Trail at Lilley in Plymouth, beloved by a host of devoted customers, began selling gasoline Friday after the pumps had been shut down for about a week.

But with the station for sale, it is uncertain whether the family that now runs it will continue to do so.

"We can open today because

we have some gas to sell," said Arjana Tare on Friday morning. Tare added the station would be selling gasoline through the weekend, but that "we don't know for sure" about Monday and beyond.

Arjana Tare, husband Jimmy and other family members operate the station, which regulars said is notable for its friendly service. They stopped selling gas last weekend, until Friday, and the store's inventory of snacks and convenience items has dwindled.

'Good area'

Jimmy Tare said he's leased the station since 2010, and

worked there before that. He said he's worked at stations in the Detroit area for 14 years, and that the Plymouth area is his favorite community.

"I'd like to buy it. This is a good area. I love people from Plymouth," he said. "It's a finance problem."

Station owner Charles Gallup said last week's shutdown was over differences with the Tares that have been resolved. He did not elaborate.

"We opened back up today," Gallup said. "We straightened them out."

But the property is for sale,

See **STATION**, Page A2



Jimmy Tare, who runs the BP gas station on Ann Arbor Trail at Lilley with help from family members, holds a sympathy card from a customer upset by the station's recent closure. The station reopened Friday, but Tare's future there is uncertain.



Olympic ice dancing gold medalists Meryl Davis (left) and Charlie White get together with Kellogg's emcee Mike Lemelle to take the world's largest selfie with hundreds of students at Salem High School Friday.

GOLD MEDAL MANIA

Plymouth-Canton students welcome Sochi Olympic champions

By **Brad Kadrich**
 Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton boasts what coach Barb Miller says is the largest high school figure skating club in the country.

And the PCS Figure Skating Club showed up in force Friday to have breakfast with Olympic ice dancing gold medalists Charlie White and Meryl Davis. The group, along with hundreds of other students, staff and fans welcomed the champi-

ons, who train at nearby Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton, at an interactive assembly at Salem High School.

Figure skater Audrey Reding, a senior at Salem, was predictably excited to have the chance to see White and Davis.

"They're huge role models," said Reding, who trains at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. "They've done everything."

See **GOLD**, Page A6

Canton, Plymouth Dems roll out forum

By **Darrell Clem**
 Staff Writer

Democratic clubs in Canton and Plymouth are ratcheting up efforts to strengthen support for their political party's views on education, women's issues, the labor movement, voting rights and LGBT — lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender — community.

"We can be more effective as a movement if we all work together rather than separating into our own little categories," said Sommer Foster, field organizer for Equality Michigan and vice president of the Canton Democratic Club.

To that end, the Canton and Plymouth clubs have organized an issues forum, Intersections in Progressive Politics, set for 7 p.m. this Wednesday, March 19, in the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center. It's free and open to the public.

Foster and Mary Maguire, Plymouth Democratic Club president, announced the forum amid the closing days of a trial inside a Detroit federal courtroom to decide whether Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage should be struck down or upheld.

Maguire said the Canton forum could begin to organize local residents who support what the Democratic clubs hail as progressive politics that can lead to a more inclusive, rather than divisive, community.

"I think the more we can

See **FORUM**, Page A2

Anti-cancer work honors longtime friend

By **Matt Jachman**
 Staff Writer

The death — and life — of a longtime friend prompts a local woman's commitment to helping those with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Csilla Gutay of Plymouth Township joined others around the country Monday in helping raise awareness about triple negative breast cancer, which is more likely than other breast cancers to strike

younger women and is resistant to the three most successful breast cancer treatments.

"It's one of the most aggressive types of breast cancer and it's hard to treat," Gutay said.

Gutay brought Dr. Lisa Newman, a surgical oncologist and breast cancer specialist, to her workplace at Ford Motor Co. on Monday to speak about breast cancer. She also sponsored yoga and walking events last Friday, Saturday

and Sunday to raise money for the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation, which provides information about the disease and is a resource for patients.

Gutay says her involvement is motivated by her late friend Patricia Arthur of Canton Township, who died of triple negative breast cancer at age 45 in November 2012, a little more than a year after her diagnosis.

'Wonderful person'

Arthur, who is survived by a husband, Thomas Joseph II, and 8-year-old twins Thomas and Kiera Joseph, was practical, helpful, outgoing and athletic, Gutay said.

"She had a great smile — just a wonderful person, a fun person," she said. The two had known each other for 17 years. The families socialized

See **FRIEND**, Page A2



Sommer Foster (left), vice president of the Canton Democratic Club, and Mary Maguire, president of the Plymouth Democratic Club.



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INDEX

Community Life B6
 Crossword Puzzle C3
 Health B5
 Homes C2
 Jobs C1
 Obituaries B8
 Services C2
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 Wheels C4

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Review boards start for assessment appeals

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

With Plymouth and Plymouth Township's 2014 assessments hitting property owners' mailboxes in recent weeks, each community has convened a board of review to hear assessment appeals.

Overall property values — residential, commercial and industrial — were up about 4.7 percent in the township and about 7.5 percent in the city, on average, according to Wayne County's equalization department. Residential property led the way in both communities,

with increases averaging 9.6 percent in Plymouth just over 7.5 percent in the township, based on a study of data from October 2011 through September of last year.

Industrial and commercial property values, on average, fell in the township. In the city, industrial values also fell on average, but commercial values rose.

The local boards of review are the first opportunity property owners have to appeal their assessments, but they must provide evidence to back up their claims. Owners making an appeal in person must

also fill out a state-required petition; petitions can also be mailed in — the deadline is 3 p.m. Monday, March 17, in the city and 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, in the township.

In Plymouth, the board of review began meeting Wednesday and meets again from 3-9 p.m. Monday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both Tuesday and Monday, March 17, at City Hall.

Appellants must make an appointment and are advised to show up a few minutes early to fill out their petitions, which are available at the first-floor counter. Those sending some-

one to argue their case must provide them written authorization to do so.

Plymouth City Hall is at 201 South Main. For more information or to make an appointment, call 734-453-1234, Ext. 253.

Plymouth Township's board of review had an organizational meeting last week and will hear appeals beginning Monday. The hours are 2-5 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Further meetings will be 9 a.m. to noon and 2-5 p.m. Wednesday, and 9 a.m. to noon Thursday. An appointment is needed for the Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

meetings. On Saturday, March 15, the board will hear appeals on a walk-in basis from 9-11 a.m.

The township has its own petition required of appellants, which is available on its website. A property owner making an appeal in person should bring a completed petition to the board.

Plymouth Township Hall is at 9955 N. Haggerty. For more information or to make an appointment, call 734-354-3269.

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STATION

Continued from Page A1

Gallup said. "I'm not going to say what's going to happen because I don't know," he said.

Gallup said the gas station business is increasingly competitive with the introduction of discount stations at stores like Kroger and Costco.

"It's hard to make money. He does a good job," he said.

'Love him to stay'

Plymouth Township resident Donna Dowd is a regular customer and a big fan of the Tares.

"He'd been wonderful to the neighborhood there," she said Friday. "We would love him to stay."

Dowd said she was at the station March 1 and sensed something wasn't



The BP station on Ann Arbor Trail at Lilley, where a lot of regulars fill up their vehicles, began selling gasoline Friday after a temporary shutdown.

right. The pumps were closed but the convenience store open, she said.

Victor Wheeler, pumping gas Friday morning, was glad to find the station open.

"I like this place,"

Wheeler said. "The guy who runs it is very friendly, knows you." He'll even come out and pump gas for Wheeler's mother, Wheeler said.

The Tares said they'd consider a lease offer from a new station own-

er, but that they don't expect one.

"It's not in my hands," Jimmy Tare said. "It's business."

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FRIEND

Continued from Page A1

together and vacationed together, and Arthur and Joseph even visited Gutay and her husband, Guy Pipane, when they lived temporarily in Germany.

Tom Joseph, who, like Gutay, is a mechanical engineer at Ford, said Gutay and Pipane are still like an aunt and uncle to he and Arthur's twins.

"They're still involved in their lives as much as possible," he said Friday.

Joseph credited Gutay for her involvement in TNBCF.

"It is pretty amazing and fantastic what she's done to try to get the word out," he said.

Flood of memories

He said he's had good days and bad days since his wife passed away, and that Monday's talk by Dr. Newman was worthwhile but tough for him, as it brought back "a flood of memories." Newman was Patty Arthur's surgical oncologist.

"It was very, very fresh again," Joseph said.

Trey and Kiera, he said, keep him busy with their activities.

"I want the kids to grow up to be active and to enjoy life ... all the things Patty and I had planned," he said.

Gutay's involvement extends beyond TNBCF; she's also the founder of the Motor City Dragons, a dragon-boat team that provides

exercise opportunities, support and camaraderie for breast cancer survivors. Among survivors and their supporters, she said, the team currently has 63 members, and is raising money to buy its own boat.

Dragon boating is a centuries-old sport from China in which 20 rowers, sitting side by side, paddle a long decorated boat, which also has a steerer, and a drummer to set the rowing pace. The sport has caught on with breast cancer patients since a Canadian doctor's research showed in the 1990s that upper-body exercise is helpful for them, especially for those who have had lymph nodes removed in surgeries, Gutay said.

Gutay said she plans on hosting Triple Negative Breast Cancer Day events next year, and perhaps monthly events until then to raise money for other organizations that battle cancers and provide support for survivors and their families.

According to the TNBCF, triple negative breast cancer is marked by the lack of "receptors" for estrogen, progesterone, and human epidermal growth factor 2 (HER2). The best treatments for other types of cancers target those receptors. Triple negative is, however, typically responsive to chemotherapy.

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FORUM

Continued from Page A1

educate people, the better," Maguire said.

Foster said the forum is expected to include the following panel members:

» Karla Swift, president of the Michigan

AFL-CIO.

» David Hecker, president of the American Federation of Teachers of Michigan.

» Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan.

» Lindsay Maas, field organizer for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan.

» Heaster Wheeler,

an assistant Wayne County CEO and former executive director of the NAACP's Detroit branch.

Foster said the Canton forum will be moderated by Chris Savage, blogger for www.eclectablog.com. She said Democratic Party ideals will be the topic of the forum, which comes as the Canton and Plymouth clubs are trying to shore up support for issues and spur more local residents to vote.

"It's all about how we can work together to bring about progressive change," Sommer said.

The event is expected to last two hours.

"We hope to reach out to progressive-minded people," Sommer said. "We want them to know we're here. We exist."

Maguire agreed. "I think it's always important to try to work together for the common good," she said.

For more information on the groups, go to www.cantondems.com or www.plymouthdemocraticclub.com.

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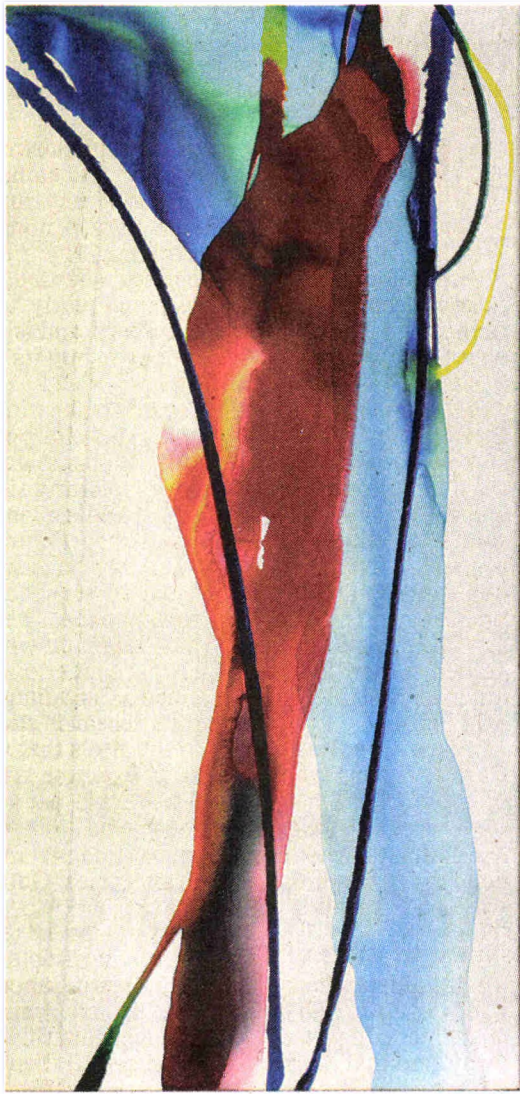
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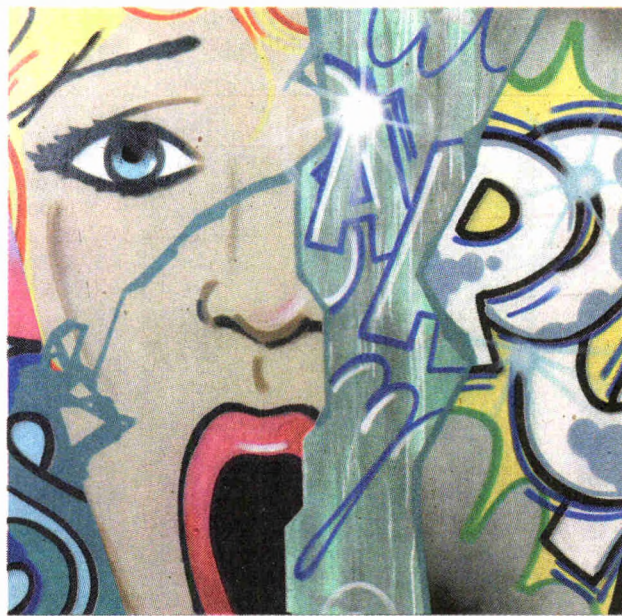
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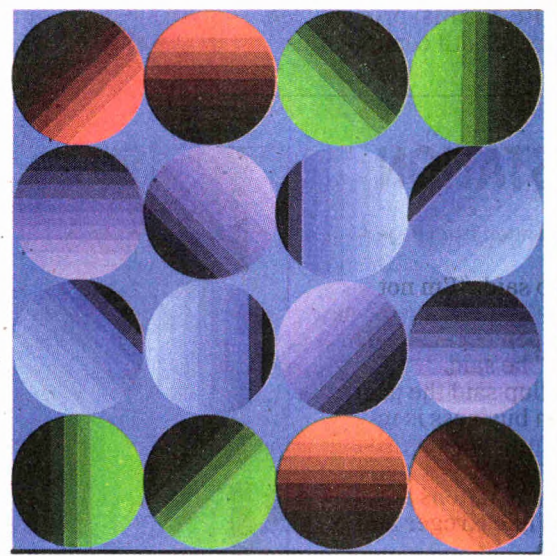
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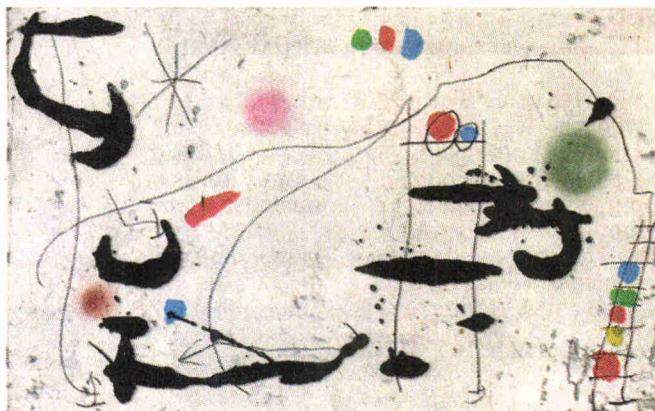
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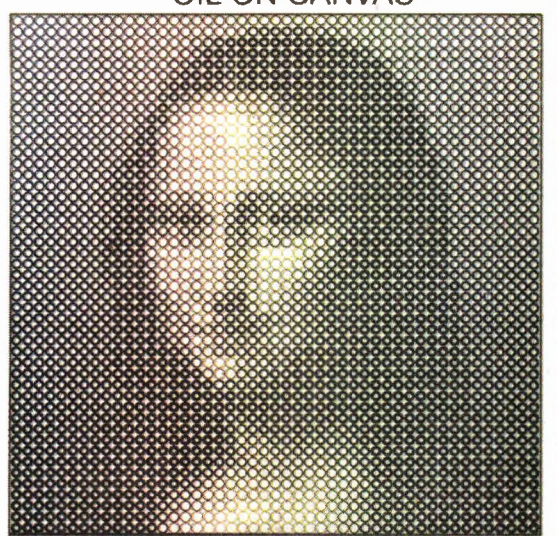
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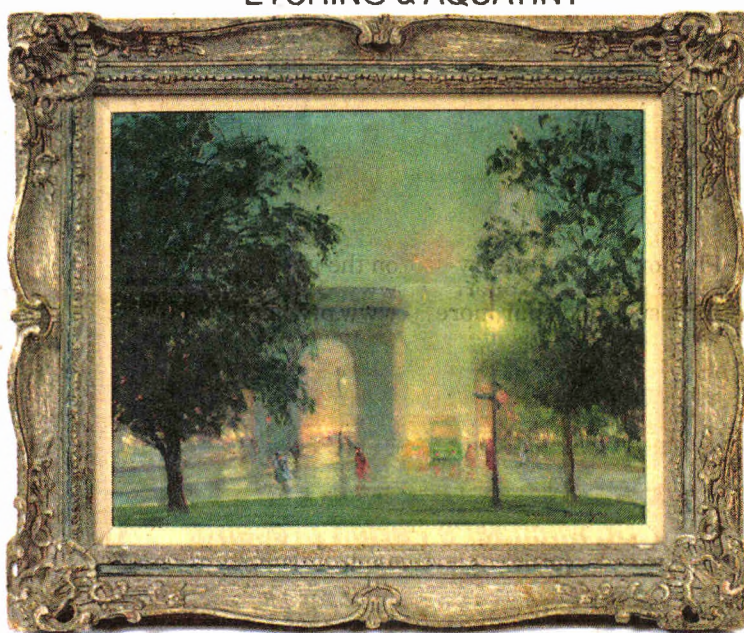
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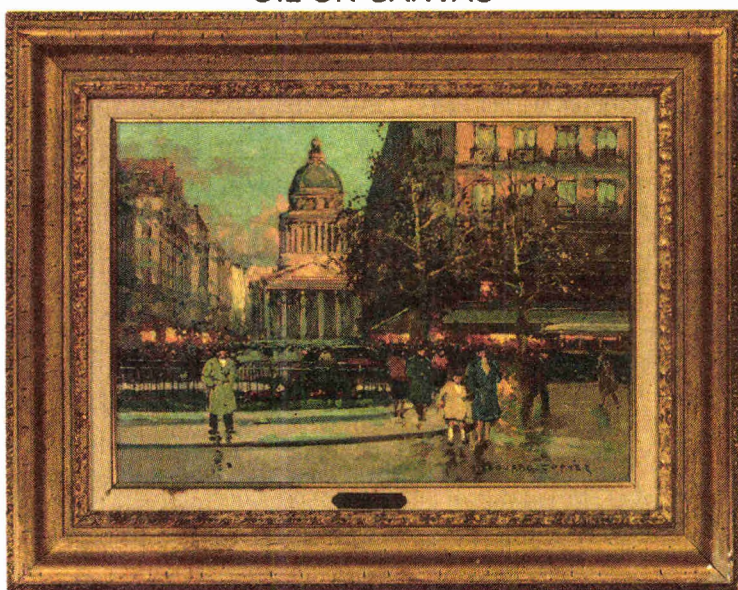
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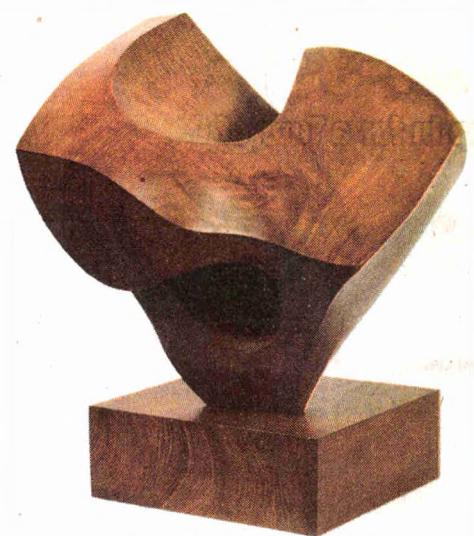
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Canton student 'walks' at New York fashion week

By Alexander Brooke
Correspondent

Most of us dream to achieve something monumental at least once in our lifetime. Canton High School sophomore Zach Dantuma's dream recently became reality.

Dantuma, 16, has been a fashion model since early 2013, when he was spotted by Canton-based talent agency John Casablancas while walking in downtown Plymouth. On Feb. 10, he "walked the runway" at the prestigious Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York, opening the show for prominent designer Ricardo Seco.

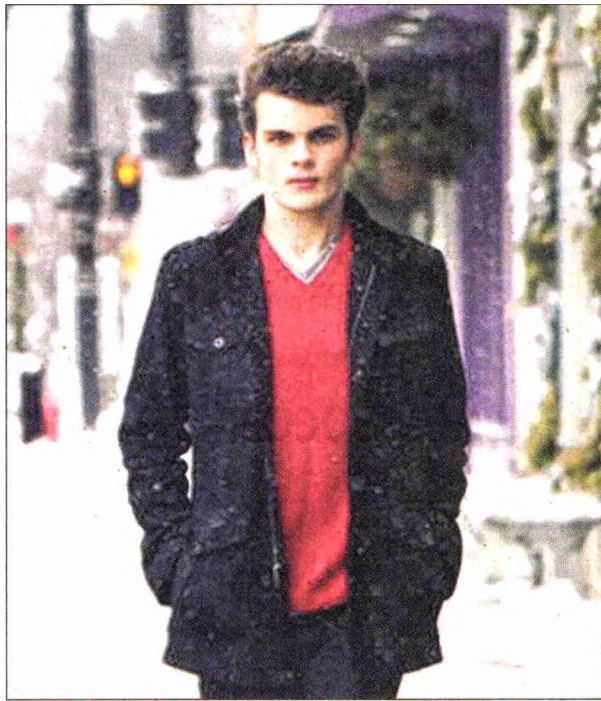
As the tall, slender Dantuma strode confidently through the packed audience wearing Seco's dark, sophisticated fall attire, hundreds of cameras clicked away, videographers zoomed and panned to capture the drama, and buyers sitting along the aisle noted every detail of style and fabric.

"Not only being asked on short notice to participate in one of the fashion industry's biggest events, but to open a show...now that's a moment I'll never forget," said Dantuma. During the event he also modeled for Sergio Davila and HVRMINN.

The annual New York event, held Feb. 6-13 at the Lincoln Center and other venues across Manhattan, is attended by thousands of designers, clothing buyers, celebrities and media. It kicks off the year's fashion-modeling circuit of events all over the world.

But despite the attention that comes with big-time modeling—he's represented by Major Model Management, one of the largest agencies in New York—Dantuma is naturally friendly and humble. There's no conceit in his personality, only quiet self-confidence.

"I was never really interested in modeling until I was approached and then offered to



Canton High School sophomore Zach Dantuma walked the runway at the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York last month. ALEXANDER BROOKE

sign," Dantuma noted. The experience, he said, has opened his eyes to a career that offers many opportunities, but also requires major commitments in time and hard work.

At the 2014 Fashion Week, Dantuma lived in a dorm-style apartment with many other male models. The days were long, and they included keeping up with his Canton High School studies online. After countless hours of castings and fittings, when it came time for show week, he remembered how it was all worth it.

"One thing I feel I got out of this show is becoming more recognized," Dantuma said. "Being 16 and not having years of experience and a strong portfolio can be difficult, but I feel where I am and what I was able to achieve these past weeks will definitely help me for the future."

When Dantuma is not modeling, he is working out, studying and balancing his social life simultaneously. Keeping

physically fit is key to maintaining the chiseled model appearance. "Without it, it's hard to get assignments and before you know it, you're out of the business," he explained.

Just as important for the in-demand model, however, is getting an education. "The fashion industry requires that I have a flexible schedule, so that's why I've switched over to online schooling," he said. "It allows me to catch up on my education after I'm done working."

Dantuma said he misses seeing his Canton High School friends daily, but they understand his opportunity. When he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, listening to '60s rock music, and hanging with his friends. He's also a talented illustrator.

While Dantuma hopes to model professionally through his early 20s, he also is focused on attending college, where he hopes to study architecture.



Chisom Anwunah and Chineneye Izuogunam were among those students celebrating multicultural night at Canton Charter Academy.

Academy celebrates many cultures

Hundreds of students, their families and staffers came together last week as Canton Charter Academy celebrated its fourth annual multicultural night.

The evening is designed as a celebration of different cultures, and included food and dance from more than a dozen different countries. Each country had a table filled with authentic food and artifacts, with students dressed in traditional attire.

To help cap the evening,

the entire student body performed a dance they performed together.

"I hope students who attended multicultural night take away the idea that their school community is like a magnificent quilt of many cultures," Canton Charter Academy Principal Janelle Magyar said. "The night serves as a great opportunity for parents to connect with each other, which strengthens the school community."

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Michigan State

» Michigan State University's newest class of Michigan Political Leadership Program Fellows – including **Amina Iqbal of Canton** – met for the first time last weekend to begin their 10 months of training in the nation's premier leadership program.

Iqbal, Outreach Director for Michigan Muslim Community Council, earned a bachelor's degree in professional child development and a master's in education policy.

"We are proud to welcome the Class of 2014 to MPLP at MSU," said Douglas B. Roberts, Ph.D., director of MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. He announced the new MPLP class Friday.

MPLP makes its campus home at IPPSR, which specializes in leadership training, public policy and social research as a part of MSU's College of Social Science.

» **Anna Mitchell**, a junior who is homeschooled in Plymouth, is one of 20 women students who received an Aspirations in Computing Award during ceremonies March 1 at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The statewide honor is from The National Center for Women & Information Technology and is designed to

honor each student's computing and IT aptitude, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education in the field.

Laura Dillon, professor of computer science and engineering at Michigan State University, said the student award is presented to the state's next wave of innovators. "These young ladies represent the future of technical talent in computer science and engineering in Michigan. It is thrilling to meet them and become part of their academic and professional development."

University of Iowa

Emma Buchele and **Melanie Picker** of Canton were among some 4,000 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa named to the Dean's List for the 2013 fall semester.

Undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the Tippie College of Business who achieve a grade point average of 3.50 or higher on 12 semester hours or more of UI graded course work during a given semester or summer session and who have no semester hours of I (incomplete) or O (no grade reported) during the same semester are recognized by inclusion on the Dean's List for that semester.

Gas station supervisor faces trial on gun charges

By **Darrell Clem**
Staff Writer

A Canton gas station employer, accused of threatening a worker at gunpoint and firing him, is facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Adel Yasser Berry, 25, faces trial for assault with a dangerous weapon, felony firearm and a misdemeanor assault charge after he chose Friday to waive his right to a preliminary hearing in 35th District Court.

Berry, who has an Oscoda address, was charged after a 23-year-old worker told police Berry pointed a handgun toward his head

during an incident that allegedly happened Feb. 24 inside the BP gas station at Ford and Haggerty roads.

A not-guilty plea has been placed on Berry's record. He could face four years in prison if convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon, two years if found guilty of the felony firearm charge and 90 days for misdemeanor assault.

Canton police went to the gas station the night of Feb. 24 amid reports of a dispute between a boss and a worker, according to police reports. Berry had notified

police and alleged he had received harassing text messages after he fired the employee, the report said. Berry had claimed the worker was fired after he gave away food and lottery tickets to his friends.

The worker gave a different version, saying he was threatened at gunpoint in the back office of the BP gas station after his boss allegedly climbed a ladder and concealed a surveillance video camera, police said.

The worker told police the incident happened after he arrived for work. No shots were fired.

The worker also accused his boss of punching him in the chest before ordering him out of the gas station. The employee said the only item he had given away was a container of Muscle Milk to his brother, the police report said.

A police report indicated an unloaded handgun was found in a filing cabinet of the gas station office. According to police, the employer denied using a gun to threaten the worker.

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Clinic teaches soccer to special-needs players

Special-needs players who've wanted to learn all about soccer are getting their chance next week.

Kelly's Kidz is teaming with two high school students performing their community service project to offer "Kickin' it for Kidz," a free soccer clinic for ambulatory special-needs children ages 10-14.

The clinic will take place 10 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at All Saints Catholic School, 48735

Warren in Canton, along with an "organization fair" featuring various groups who offer programs for special-needs kids.

The clinic and the organization fair are offered free of charge.

"We hope to provide the kids with a fun experience," said Plymouth High School senior Maggie Adzima, who is organizing the event with her National Honor Society partner, Aroob Saleem. "We'll give informa-

tion on organizations to families, and hopefully bring the community together."

All Saints Catholic School has donated the gym for the clinic/fair. Groups planning on being there include the Miracle League of Plymouth, the baseball league for special-needs players; Premier Athletics, to talk about special-needs cheerleading; Ride 4 Fun, which offers therapeutic horseback riding and hippo-ther-

apy; Oakwood Center for Exceptional Families, a one-stop-shop for families with special-needs kids; the Plymouth Community Arts Council; and Kelly's Kidz.

Players receive prizes and T-shirts, and the event will include a few raffle prizes for the family.

For more information or to register for the clinic, email Kelly Hermann, head of Kelly's Kidz, at kellyhermann@me.com.

Non-local bankers think Rusty Bucket was a NASCAR driver back in the 70's.

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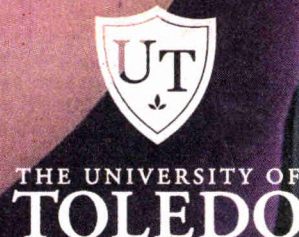
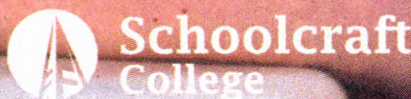
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Special Olympians get a chance to hang out with Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White.



Charlie White and Meryl Davis talk to students about the importance of a good breakfast during Friday's event at Salem High School.

GOLD

Continued from Page A1

They make skating look so elegant and so easy, and you know it's not that easy. This is a huge deal."

The event, part of the district's observance of National Breakfast Week, was a collaboration between the district, Kellogg's and Action for Healthy Kids. Plymouth-Canton's director of food services, Kristen Hennessey, met with Action for Healthy Kids representatives after serving on the governor's task force.

Plymouth-Canton was one of only two districts in the country - the other was in Utah - to host such an event. The whole idea, according to Hennessey, was to reinforce the fact that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

"We wanted to educate kids that not everyone gets a healthy breakfast," Hennessey said. "If you have a great start in the morning, you're going to have a better day."

About 100 students, most chosen by lottery, got to have breakfast while waiting for Davis and White to arrive. It



Students who didn't get into the breakfast steal a peek at Olympic gold medalists Charlie White and Meryl Davis from an upstairs classroom overlooking the cafeteria.

was a homecoming, of sorts, for the skaters. Davis' mother was a longtime teacher in the Plymouth-Canton district.

It was also important to the skaters to push the "healthy breakfast" message.

"One in five kids goes without breakfast," White said during a brief speech. "For us to come home from the Olympics and help deliver the message is great."

After taking several questions from the excited throng of students, White and Davis moved - with an even bigger crowd - into the Gloria Logan Auditorium, where they, among other things, helped judge a teacher dance-off. Teachers from each of the district's three schools squared off in 60-second dance routines.

Husband-and-wife dancers

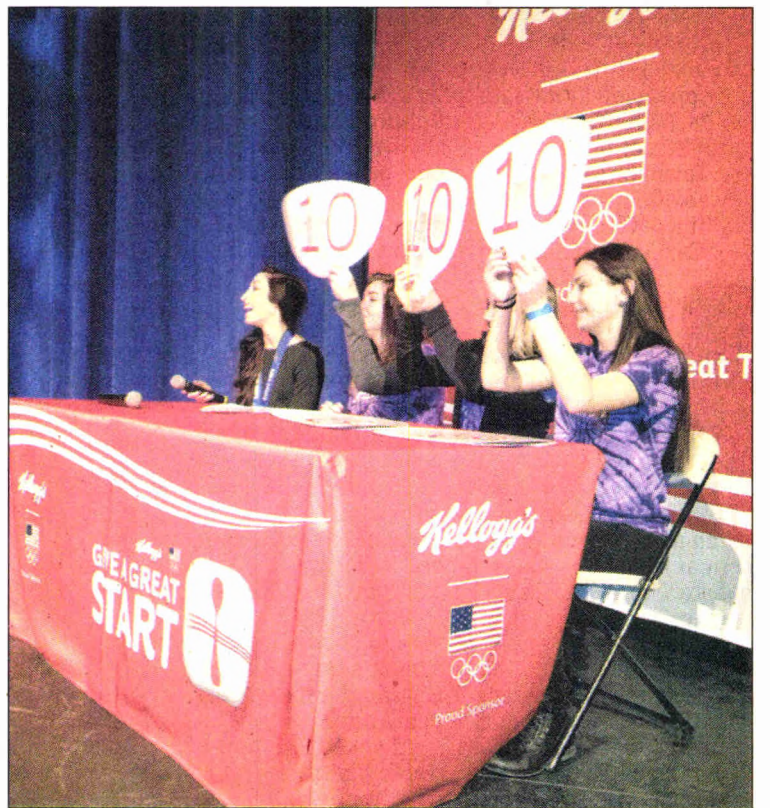
Gretchen and Mike Andridge, both of whom teach at Salem High School, said they weren't sure at first what they were getting into. But they got out in front of some 800 students and danced away.

But they were a bit nervous.

"We thought it was just going to be a little fun thing," Gretchen Andridge said. "Then we realized the Olympians were going to be there, and suddenly it was more intense."

"We're both speakers for a living," the good-natured Andridges agreed, "but dancing in front of your students is a little different."

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Meryl Davis joined PCS Figure Skating Club captains Allison Schendel, Victoria Massey and Audrey Reding in judging the teacher dance-off.



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United Way hands out emergency food

The next distribution of emergency food by Plymouth Community United Way is scheduled Thursday, March 20. The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned, non-perishable and perishable items.

All recipients must pre-register at Plymouth Community United Way,

960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth.

This is a supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to pre-register. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) must provide documentation including proof of income

and residency before receiving food on distribution days.

Distributions continue the third Thursday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth Township.

For information and to register, call 734-453-6879, Ext. 7, or send e-mail to randi.williams@pcuw.org.

Elmore Leonard estate sale draws hundreds of fans

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

The Elmore Leonard estate sale was a frenzy of literary chaos.

Waves of collectors and crime fiction fans kept appearing at the late novelist's house on Yarmouth Street in Bloomfield Township. Ed Morykwas of Birmingham bought a coffee cup. His wife, Carolann, picked up some Christmas baubles and a baking dish.

"It's a plain blue coffee mug with no words or decorations," Ed Morykwas said. "I plan to use it to store pens and pencils."

In 2007, George Kelly of Trenton met Leonard during a book-signing event at the old Borders bookstore on Woodward Avenue. Kelly, who's a musician, gave the author a personal CD wrapped in brown paper.

On Thursday, he found the unwrapped CD with a price tag on it.

"The good news to me was that he hadn't thrown it away," Kelly said. "Not only that, but they didn't charge me for it because of the story."

Photojournalist Linda Solomon of Birmingham also made it to the sale. Solomon had photographed Leonard on several occasions, and is now trying to get an Elmore Leonard wing dedicated at the Baldwin Public Library.

She noted that all the purchases were tagged with gold seals. If it was a book, the seal stated "from the Elmore Leonard library." Tables, lamps and other items came "from the Elmore Leonard estate."

Solomon said, "the sale was carefully and elegantly handled and conducted by the Leonard family and friends ... no rummaging through personal items or private bedrooms."

Morykwas, who's a substitute teacher in Troy, also met Leonard at a book-signing event in Birmingham several years ago.

"I asked him how he wrote his stories and whether he had a plan when he started out," Morykwas said. "He said, 'When I write a book I have no idea where it's going. I have a line or a



When people arrived at the estate sale they were asked to put on protective foot gear. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

character or an image in mind that I start off with, and I'm as surprised as anyone when it turns out a certain way."

"But then he shared this jewel with me: once it's written, it's all about the rewriting ... and that's the one thing I've shared with my students over the years."

Kelly bought several books. He knew three of the titles, but the fourth book, *Killing Everybody* by Mark Harris, was new to him.

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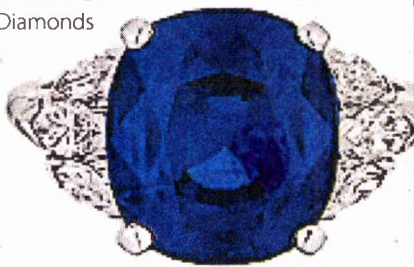
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HEAT & SWEEP

Open houses to outline S'craft bachelor's and master's programs

The University of Toledo and Wayne State University will offer bachelor's and master's degrees at Schoolcraft College this fall through the Schoolcraft to U partnership. The schools will outline the details of each program at special open house events during the month of March. UT will present its offerings on March 12 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and WSU will hold its informational session on March 18 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Both events will take place on Schoolcraft College's main campus in Livonia in the VisTa-Tech Center.

"This is the first chance for our community to hear the details of these exciting partnerships," said Schoolcraft College Associate Dean of Advising and Partnerships Laurie Kattuah-Snyder. "Each university will give presentations about its programs and Schoolcraft will have staff on hand as well. Students and parents will be able to get all their questions answer, and

they also will have an opportunity to apply to each school right on the spot."

The schools also developed agreements that make it easy for students to seamlessly transfer credits and continue the pursuit of a bachelor's or master's degree all on Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia.

The Schoolcraft to U Partnership with UT and WSU offers many benefits for students, including high quality: both schools have long-standing track records of academic excellence and job placement after graduation. Adding the resources of both UT and WSU to Schoolcraft's existing offerings, the partnership will provide students with opportunities for experiential learning that lead to real-world experiences and better job opportunities after college. The partnership was built on flexibility so that students will have options, such as traditional face-to-face courses, online courses and combinations of both.

Finally, affordability is a

major feature because students can save money by taking a combination of transferable courses from Schoolcraft College and then complete their bachelor's degree program of study through the partner universities (while attending classes in Livonia).

In addition, students enrolled at UT through the Schoolcraft to U Partnership will be given a scholarship equal to the out-of-state surcharge, regardless of their residency. Students also can take advantage of scholarship opportunities available from all three institutions.

The University of Toledo will begin by offering a bachelor of science in nursing, a bachelor of science in criminal justice, a bachelor of science in health information administration and a bachelor of professional studies (tracks specializing in electronic commerce and information technology applications or entrepreneurship, family and small business).



The building, formerly owned by American Community Mutual Insurance, purchased last year by Schoolcraft College on the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty. The building, will house the University of Toledo and Wayne State University's programs as a part of the Schoolcraft to U program announced last year.

Wayne State University will offer the bachelor of business administration in accounting or management, the bachelor of science degrees in computer science, computer technology, electronic transportation technology, electrical/electronic engineering technology and mechanical engineering technology and the master's in

business administration degree.

Admissions and financial aid representatives Schoolcraft College and each partner university will be on hand to answer questions and assist prospective students with completion of admissions applications on site during the events.

Both universities plan to add degrees in additional fields of study as time goes on. The majority of classes offered by the schools will be held in the Jeffress Center, Schoolcraft College's newest building. The facility, which is located on the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty Roads, is currently being remodeled to house the Schoolcraft to U partnership.

For more information about the open house events or the programs and services offered through the partnership, visit www.schoolcraft.edu/sc-to-u or call the Schoolcraft College Answer Center at 734-462-4426.

Wayne-Westland school board to start superintendent search

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board made it official Thursday evening, voting to move ahead in a search for a new superintendent.

The board voted 6-1, with Trustee John Goci dissenting, to contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards to help with the search. Current Superintendent Greg Baracy plans to retire July 1 after 17 years as the district's top administrator.

While the agenda's sole item was superintendent search/selection process, the discussion covered the hiring of a company to conduct a search, consideration of requesting proposals from a search firm and the possibility of appointing an interim superintendent until after a new school board is seated in January 2015.

"My goal is to address all of the topics and take the next step," Board President Shawna Walker said. "We are all of different views and I want us to work together to move this

district forward. One of the many duties we have is to select and hire a superintendent. We have one employee, the superintendent."

Goci favored getting proposals from search firms to find one that would suit the board's needs. He also was a proponent of naming an interim superintendent and letting the new school board making the selection.

"With four seats up, with a majority of the board being turned over, it would be a disservice to the new board," Goci said. "We should do an RFP, pick a firm and time the search as the election of the new board happens."

Goci found little support for his suggestion.

Get job done

Board Treasurer Frederick Weaver expressed confidence that the current board "can get the job done."

"I think it's significantly unfair for two or three new board members to come in with little or no experience and the first thing out of the box,

they have to select a superintendent," he said.

Board Vice-President Thomas Buckalew also favored "stepping up and doing the job" trustees were elected to do. He said he didn't favor appointing an interim superintendent because it would "create uncertainty and add stress to the lives of the employees."

"I think this board brings more experience to the process than a board with new members," he added. "I think we need to move forward. We need to get it and get the job done and find someone with the leadership."

Saying that she is "not ready to abdicate" her responsibility, board Secretary Carol Middel pointed out that she has spent a lot of time in classes and now is prepared to take what she has learned and use it in finding a new superintendent.

"As a first-year trustee I made first-year trustee mistakes," she said. "I don't feel that back in my first year I could have made a decision on a new superintendent. With

five years on the board, I'm now fine at applying my experiences to selecting a superintendent. I don't want to start and slow down.

"We need to start now and finish."

She added that if the board can't find the best fit or a consensus can't be reached, an interim superintendent should be considered.

Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin pointed out that the "most important job" the board does is select a superintendent and that the board "will be judged by that."

"Carol's comments are dead on, I'm not prepared to select an interim superintendent," Griffin said.

'We're prepared'

Walker told her fellow board members it "would be unfair to prolong the process ... to the community, to the employees and to the person we hire," she said. "We would be in limbo and start having problems."

"I trust each one of you to make a good decision. We've

taken the classes, we're prepared. Bringing in a new board would be like throwing them into the lion's den."

Trustee Sally Madison initially pointed out that using an interim could give an internal candidate the opportunity to try out the job while allowing a longer time frame in which to properly conduct a search. However, she asked board members to keep an open mind about an interim superintendent as the search process moves forward.

"It's fine moving forward," she said. "You can set a deadline and set it as a goal, but you may need to have an interim superintendent rather than shoot to have someone in place by the start of the school year."

In the end, the board agreed with Weaver's motion to enter into the superintendent search process as soon as possible and use the MASB to facilitate that search.

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Panelists: Civil rights in decline

By Dorothy J. Dean
Correspondent

It may be 50 years since the Civil Rights Act of 1964, but progress toward achieving those rights has declined.

That's the opinion of Jocelyn Benson, dean of Wayne State University Law School, who was on a panel that discussed civil rights during a community forum last month. Other panelists were Lisa Brown, Oakland County clerk and register of deeds; Dr. Jerome Reide, NAACP regional director; and Barbara Talley, former Southfield councilwoman and community activist.

The National Congress of Black Women hosted the community forum, titled "50 Years of Civil Rights: How Far Have We Come," which included a panel that answered questions about issues regarding the state of civil rights today, jobs and right-to-work legislation, voter rights and fair housing.

The panel was moderated by newly elected Oak Park City Council member Kiesha Speech, who is also a member of the NCBW. The forum centered around the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark piece of legislation in the United States that outlawed major forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic and religious minorities and women and racial segregation in schools, at the workplace and facilities.

Benson kicked off the panel discussion by providing her thoughts on the state of civil rights in Michigan, stating that, "the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provided the framework for racial equality and human freedom; however, although we are seeing progress in some areas, in other areas, we are seeing a decline in progress."

The panel noted that Michigan recently be-



Among those on hand for a recent discussion on civil rights progress were Patricia Holton-Garrett, chair, National Congress of Black Women; Lisa Brown, Oakland County Clerk; Dr. Jerome Reide, NAACP regional director; Dean Jocelyn Benson, Wayne State University Law School; Barbara Talley, former Southfield City Councilwoman; Kiesha Speech, Oak Park City councilwoman; and, Dorothy Dean, Esq., executive board member, National Congress of Black Women.

came a right-to-work state, which has consequently caused unions to see a decline in membership and (allegedly) caused disparate treatment of more African-American workers.

"I was one of the over 10,000 citizens who were locked out of the state capitol when the Legislature voted on right-to-work in Lansing," said Brown, also a former state representative. "We were told that the halls were full and could not accommodate anymore citizens, yet when the doors opened, the halls were empty. Right-to-work legislation has sent Michigan backward."

Others voiced concern about declines.

"We are seeing declines in all areas of civil rights here in Michigan and around the country" Reide said. "The emergence of emergency managers is only occurring in the African-American communities in Michigan."

Changing policy

"In order to effectuate change, we have to seek change through public policy," Talley said.

Although the forecast is reportedly heading in the wrong direction, there were pockets of improvement.

"We have seen for the first time the appointment of African-Amer-

ican females to top-level positions, where the chief executive officer, for example, of Xerox company just named a female CEO," Talley said.

"We must stay engaged, empowered and make an impact," said Speech, who moderated the event. "The panelists we presented are experts in the community who have been on the front lines of civic engagement and who have made significant impacts in their communities."

"This forum started an important discussion regarding civil rights and the work that Michigan has yet to do in the area of ensuring all of its citizens are treated equally," she added. "More forums like these will continue to happen, to engage and to educate."

"We are pleased that over 60 community citizens joined us to discuss the issues impacting our community," said Patricia Holton-Garrett, chair of the National Congress of Black Women. "Our organization is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the educational, political, economic and cultural development of African-American women and families."

Dorothy J. Dean is an executive board member of the National Congress of Black Women.

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DTE installing solar panels

3,000 panels expected to be online by May

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Let it shine. Drivers along I-96 east of Milford Road may have noticed some 3,000 solar panels being installed near Old Plank Road in Lyon Township. It's DTE's biggest solar energy project so far, said Scott Simons, DTE spokesman. When the project is complete it will provide 818 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power about 150 homes.

"It's hard to follow an electron, but they generally follow the path of least resistance and will likely be used by area residents and businesses," he said.

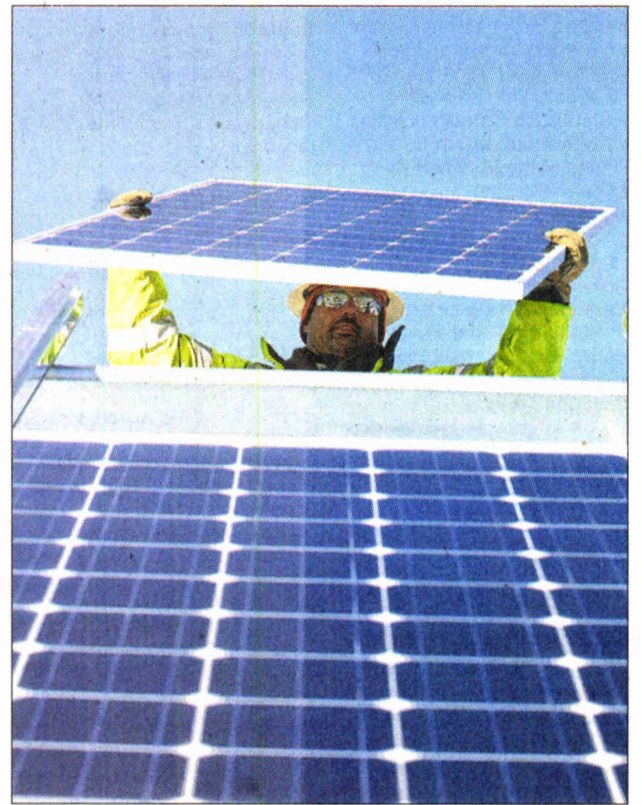
The panels are built on property owned by Milford Tree Farm. Simons said DTE has a 20-year contract with the property owner, which includes an up-front payment and annual payments through the contract. He declined to share specifics on the agreement. The property owner wasn't available for comment.

The \$3.5 million investment in Lyon covers installation, construction and design. Simons said the project should be completed by May.

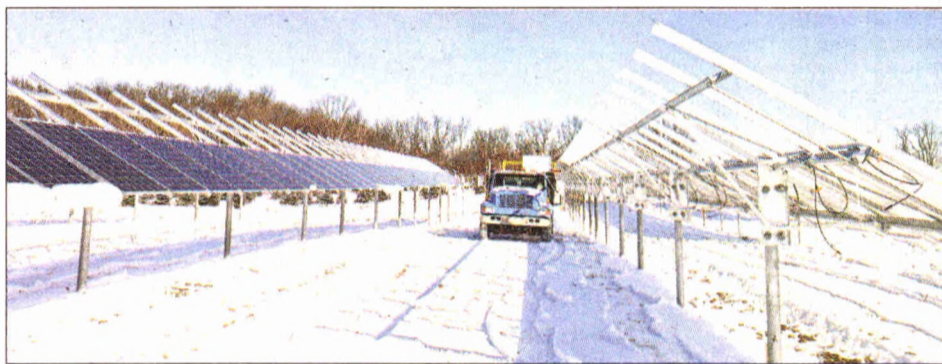
Lyon's project is the 19th solar energy plan in southeast Michigan. Others include Ford



Chris Scheer, an electrician for Ranck Electric, helps guide into place one of the 3,000 solar panels that are going up in Lyon Township along I-96 near Old Plank Road. Each panel should be able to generate, at peak-wattage, about 700 watts of electricity. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Electrician Bill Dillionson installs a solar panel at the Milford Tree Farm, where DTE is installing one of its largest solar energy fields.



DTE is installing 3,000 solar panels near Old Plank Road and I-96. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Assembly in Wayne; Monroe County Community College; Mercy High School in Farmington Hills and a rooftop installation at Blue Cross Blue Shield in downtown Detroit.

While the location won't produce a tremendous amount of energy compared to traditional energy producers, like the Fermi nuclear plant that puts off 1,100 megawatts, it is a step in making headway in alternative methods, Simons said, adding that this is DTE Energy's largest

solar energy project so far in the state. The state legislature has mandated DTE and other energy companies reach a 10 percent renewable energy goal by 2015. The Lyon solar energy is "eight-tenths of the total needed," Simons

said. More solar renewal projects are on the way and at least one will be bigger than the Lyon solar site, he added. The Lyon solar project has a lot of visibility on the north side of Interstate 96, west of Old Plank Road. Letting the public know the company is committed to renewable energy production is key, said Simons. DTE started its solar initiative in 2009. The location is good, because "it gets a lot of sun, we had an interested property owner and it

has high visibility, so people know we are involved with renewable energy," he said. Most DTE solar energy partners are with large organizations. "Less than a handful are with individuals," Simons said. "We aren't really looking for partners, but if people think they have a rooftop or adequate amount of ground to host a solar energy project we are more than willing to hear from them."

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OCC to host women's confab

The Womencenter at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus is presenting its 22nd annual conference for women. "A Call to Wholeness. The conference is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22, in the J Building of OCC's Orchard Ridge campus.

The conference is open to the public and costs \$40 per person. Registration includes the keynote speaker presentation, two workshops, continental breakfast, lunch, a prize drawing and a concluding session. Preregistration is strongly advised.

For further information and to receive a registration brochure on the "A Call to Wholeness" women's conference and other program offerings, call the Womencenter at 248-522-3642 or visit www.oaklandcc.edu/womencenter.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696 in Farmington Hills.

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3D MR. PEABODY AND SHERMAN (PG) \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET 4:40, 9:00

300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (R) 11:50, 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

3D 300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (R) \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE 11:10, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

SON OF GOD (PG-13) 12:10, 3:15, 6:20, 9:10
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

NON-STOP (PG-13) 11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 11:30, 1:55, 4:30, 6:55, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Museum friends

Date/Time: Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: Don Soenen, a member of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex Committee, will discuss a possible future for Central Middle School's building at the Thursday, March 13 meeting of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, beginning at 7:30 p.m. PARC is a collaborative team of community leaders, policymakers, sports teams, nonprofits, businesses, and residents, has been studying the feasibility of, and assessing community support for, the conversion of Central Middle School and the 18 acres on which it sits, into an arts and recreation complex. Admission to the lecture is free and open to the public.
Contact: For more information, call 734-455-8940.

Town hall

Date/Time: Monday, March 10, 6 p.m.
Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton
Details: State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, hosts a town hall meeting about identity theft. Topics will include charitable scams, reporting scams or problems, and reducing unwanted phone calls and junk mail. Slavens' guests for the event will be Trooper Walt Crider of the Michigan State Police and Susan Peters from the Michigan Senior Brigade.

Heise hours

Date/Times: Monday, March 10, 10-11 a.m. in Canton, noon to 1 p.m. in Northville and 3-4 p.m. in Plymouth
Locations: Parthenon Coney Island, 39910 Ford Road, Canton; Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady, Northville; Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.
Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REPKURT or email kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

Price hours

Date/Times: Monday, March 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Plymouth; 1:30-3 p.m. in Canton
Locations: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth; Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton.
Details: Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-District 10, will be conducting district office hours, allowing constituents the opportunity to discuss matters of concern within the community. "Participation from my constituents is greatly appreciated as this setting is a wonderful opportunity for me to meet and listen closely to their questions and concerns," Price said.
Contact: For more information, contact Michael Mitchell, staff aide to Price, at 313-224-0882.

Spelling bee

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m.
Location: Canton High School Allen DuBois Little Theater
Details: The Community Literacy Council hosts its 2014 spelling bee, a night of what organizers call "spirited spelling competition" that supports the local literacy program. Businesses, groups and organizations can sponsor a team, make a dona-

tion, be a speller or be part of the cheering section. The event is designed to "make a difference for many adults in our community who are not proficient in English."
Contact: For more information, call chairperson Carol Saunders, 734-455-4940, email dcsaunders64@comcast.net or visit www.plymouthcantonliteracy.org

Blues @ The Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 11, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Blues @ the Elks happens the second Tuesday of the month. There is a \$5 donation at the door. Harper and the Midwest Kind Band perform. Peter Harper was born in England and grew up in Australia and he brings some interesting sounds to the blues performance. Peter Harper on vocals, harmonica and didgeridoo, Mike Howe on guitar, James Norris on bass guitar and Greg Saucedo on drums.
Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

Folk music

Date/Time: Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.
Location: Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The BaseLine Folk Society will "Celebrate the Emerald Isle" in merriment and song. John Delle-Monache, aka Shawn O'Dell for the night, is a Baseline regular, board member, and performer who will take your Heart to Ireland, at least for one-night. Featured guest is Alex and Maggie Zakem. They will perform a mix of old and new songs and instrumentals from American and Irish traditional music, including bluegrass, music of the Appalachians and contemporary writers. Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers.
Contact: Email BaseLine president Scott Ludwig at Bf5president@aol.com

Night of Hope

Date/Time: March 21, 6:30-11:45 p.m.
Location: The Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn
Details: Canton-based Our Hope Holds The Cure is hosting its second annual "A Night Of Hope" formal charity gala, featuring a silent auction, dinner, live entertainment and cake auction officiated by Vic Faust of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7). Individual tickets are \$150 and tables are \$1,500. Proceeds go directly to the national HHT Foundation.
Contact: Register for tickets or sponsorships at ourhopeholdsthecure.org.

Jazz @ The Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 25, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz @ the Elks happens on the last Tuesday of the month. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. On Tuesday, March 25, the Dave Bennett Quartet returns with Dave on clarinet, Doug Cobb on drums, Jeff Kessler on piano and Jeff Pedraz on bass.
Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

YouTube boogie



Some community activists wish to see the Central Middle School site in downtown Plymouth repurposed as an arts and recreation complex when the school closes and the new middle school in Canton opens.

Date/Time: Sunday, March 16, 3 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth District Library welcomes attorney turned boogie, blues and ragtime musician Matthew Ball - "The Boogie Woogie Kid" - for a free, family friendly piano concert. Ball boasts a pedagogical link to Frederic Chopin, having studied classically at Oakland University in Rochester with Dr. Flavio Varani. The performance features classics like *Swanee River*, *Over the Rainbow*, *The Entertainer* and *Bumble Boogie*. Admission is free.
Contact: 734-453-0750.

Mad Hatter Tea

Date/Time: Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, corner of Main and Church, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum's annual "Mad Hatter Tea" features Phyllis Barkey speaking on "Dining at J.L. Hudson's." Barkey's presentation is divided into three parts: Joseph Lowthian Hudson and his magnificent store; dining at Hudson's; shopping at the Grand Dame of Woodward Avenue. The presentation will follow a Victorian-style tea with a twist. We will be serving several items formerly served at Hudson's, including Maurice Salad and Cheese Bread, along with the Plymouth Historical Museum's signature tea, "Mary's Blend." Guests are encouraged to wear their craziest hat as there will be a door prize awarded. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by March 7; after that date, add \$5 to the price.
Contact: Tickets can be purchased at the museum during open hours or on the museum's website (www.plymouthhistory.org) using Paypal.

United Way meeting

Date/Time: Friday, April 4, 7:30-9 a.m.
Location: Comcast, 41112 Concept Drive, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Community United Way holds its 2014 annual Meeting and Awards Presentation sponsored by Comcast. The public is welcome. The morning begins with net-

working and a continental breakfast followed by the meeting at 8 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new board members and officers and includes reports on the organization's 2013 finances and programs.
Contact: To RSVP, call Cindy Bumgardner at 734-453-6879, ext. 2, or send email to cindy.bumgardner@pcuw.org by Monday, March 17.

Agent Orange town hall

Date/Time: Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (registration 8-9 a.m.)
Location: Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 sponsors an Agent Orange Town Hall to inform and register veterans, their families and community, that have been affected by Agent Orange and other dioxins used during the Vietnam War up to the present. The effects of these dioxins are carried in the DNA of the affected person for up to seven generations. The National Academy of Sciences and Veterans Administration has connected Agent Orange and other dioxin exposure during this period, to include 12 diseases, 38 cancers and 20 birth defects. Reservations are required for this event.
Contact: To RSVP or for more information, go to www.VVA528.org.

Prom dress sale

Date/Time: Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to noon.
Location: Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road, Canton
Details: The annual Prom Dress Sale features what organizers call "a wonderful collection" of new and used dresses, both long and short dresses, as well as some formal shoes and jewelry. No dress is priced over \$20. Dress donations are greatly appreciated and being accepted in the office at Plymouth High School.
Contact: For more information, contact Lisa Benagies at pccs@mail.net

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations: Friday, March 14, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main

Sunday, March 23, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth
 Monday, March 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main
 Tuesday, March 25, 1:30-7:15 p.m., St. Michael's Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
 Friday, March 28, 3:30-8 p.m., Dodson Elementary School, 205 Beck, Canton
Details: The American Red Cross sponsors the above blood drives. All donors will be entered into a raffle for a two-year lease on a 2014 Ford Fusion, with a \$5,000 cash option. Donors will also be entered into a weekly raffle for a \$125 gas card. Walk-ins are welcome.
Contact: Donors can call Diane Risko at 313-549-7052 or email at Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

Building bridges

Date/Time: Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: The Muslim Community of Western Suburbs (Canton Mosque), 40440 Palmer, Canton
Details: The Muslim Community of Western Suburbs hosts the annual "Building Bridges - A Family Fun Day," a free open house event, with the goal of meeting neighbors and fellow citizens to foster communication and build relationships. There will be fun activities, henna, calligraphy, information on Islam around the world and a variety of ethnic food.
Contact: For more information, contact mcwsoutreach@gmail.com and RSVP at mcws.org/outreach.

Church fundraiser

Dates: Through March 21
Location: Abundant Life Church, 2100 Hannan, Canton
Details: The youth department of Abundant Life Church of God is holding a Little Caesars® fundraiser to raise money for Summer Youth Revival & Community Service Activities. Pizza kits, cookie dough and pie kits range in price from \$12 to \$19 and contain all the ingredients to bake pizza, bread, pies and cookies at home in minutes.
Contact: To order items from Abundant Life Church of God, contact Pastor Bobby Curry at

734-249-1801 before March 21.

Community conversation

Date/Time: Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: The Center for Michigan will hold a Community Conversation at which the public is invited to provide their input regarding education, jobs and prosperity, quality of life and public money priorities, among other state issues. This is an opportunity to engage in meaningful and informative conversations that make a difference to Michigan residents.
Contact: To RSVP, email IreneLamanen@gmail.com

Charity Mom2Mom

Date/Time: Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Summit on the Park, Canton
Details: In anticipation of their Mom2Mom Sale benefiting Big Family of Michigan, which serves the needs of Michigan's foster children and young adults, the Canton Newcomers and Neighbors Club, a social, civic and charitable organization, invites table renters to sell new and gently used maternity, baby and child items including furniture and larger play equipment.
Contact: For more information, call Carrie at 313-520-5626 or email cpollaccia1975@yahoo.com.

Hospice support

Date/Time: Third Saturday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 N. Lilley, Suite A, Canton
Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.
Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at 888-983-9050 or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting March 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.
 The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant
 Plymouth District Library
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THE BREATH OF ARTHRITIS
 The effect of arthritic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus arthritis and spondylitis are not limited to the joints. Physicians are aware that arthritis affects the whole body, particularly the lungs.
 The basic force that drives rheumatoid arthritis, is the formation of antibodies against the joint linings in the hands, wrists, shoulders, knees and feet. Why these antibodies also act against lung tissue is unknown. The effect is to thicken the thin layer of tissue that acts as the interface between air and blood in the lung capillaries. Thickening of this lung tissue makes it difficult for oxygen to diffuse into the capillaries. If the lung tissue reaches a critical thickness the person feels short of breath; in addition the right side of the heart meets more resistance putting a strain on that chamber.
 It is not unusual for older patients with rheumatoid arthritis to have more trouble moving because of breathlessness than from joint pain. The problem compounds if the patient was or is a cigarette smoker. For reasons not yet clarified, a patient with rheumatoid arthritis who is a smoker almost invariably develops thickened lung tissue. The medical name is: interstitial fibrosis.
 Lupus lung disease can take the form of pneumonia, bleeding into the lung or inflammation of the lung lining also known as pleurisy or pleuritis. A person with Lupus may also develop right sided heart strain from interstitial fibrosis as happens in rheumatoid arthritis. Antibody to lung tissue is the cause, the type of lung reaction being related to the type of antibody binding to lung lining.
 In ankylosing spondylitis, an arthritis of the low back, for reasons unknown, the lung can develop interstitial fibrosis similar to that in rheumatoid arthritis

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HEY, BABY!

Kensington Metropark welcomes springtime arrivals

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

The barns are bursting with new babies and expectant mothers at Kensington Metropark in Milford.

As of last weekend, a set of triplets and three sets of twin lambs were tottering around the barn, along with several baby goats and a set of piglets born Feb. 17 to Sugar.

And more are on the way.

"The recent births at the farm are really just the beginning of the excitement," said Kensington Farm Center interpreter Chris Williams.

"In the next three months, we can expect approximately 14 kids (baby goats), 14 more lambs and roughly 30 piglets to be born."

New chicks — chickens and turkeys — will crack their way into the

world in April, and two cows are also due to give birth a little later in the season.

The new additions, said Farm Manager Debbie Cavallaro, attract lots of visitors to the farm.

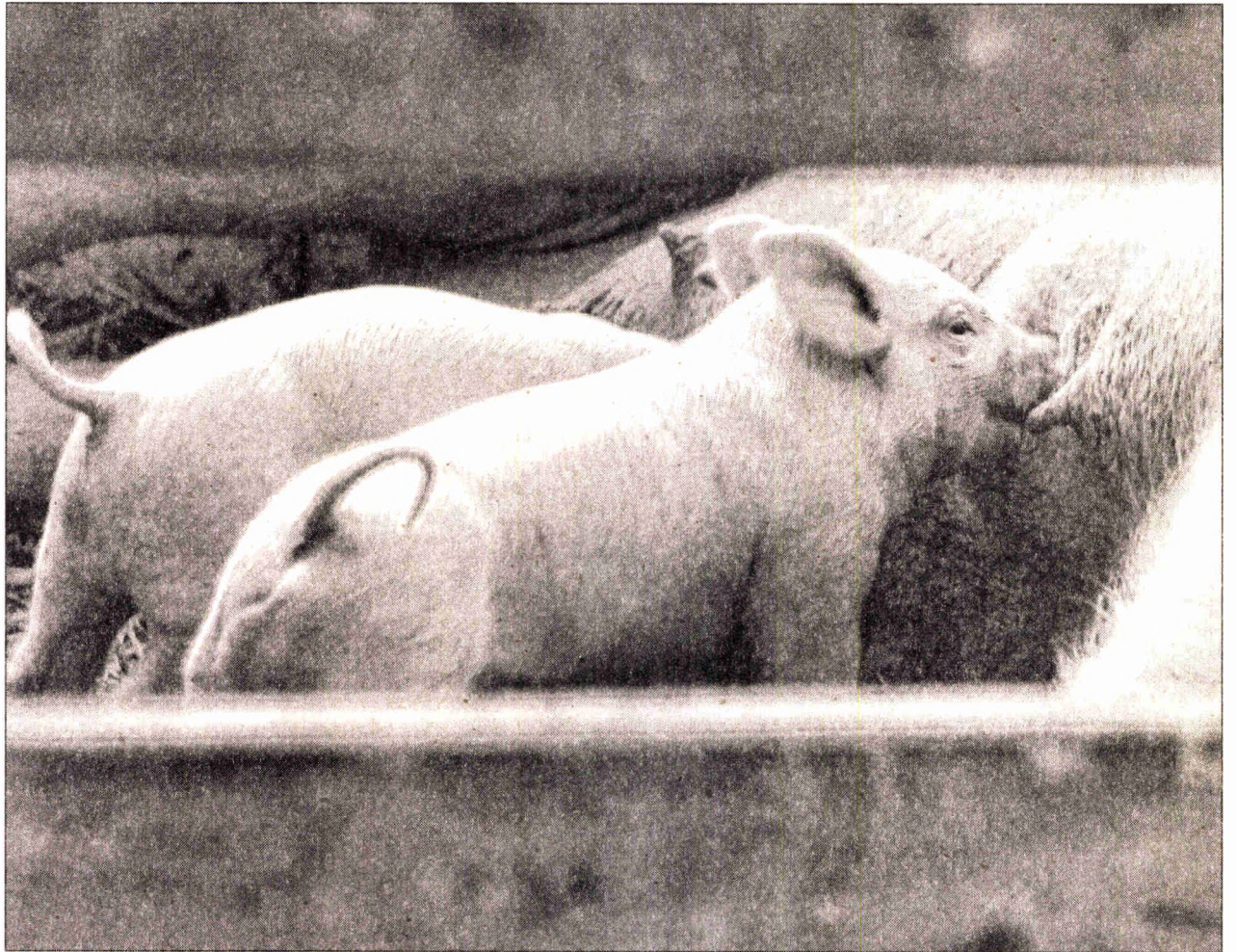
"Spring, when all the babies start coming, is our busy time," said Cavallaro, noting she's been present for most of this year's deliveries.

"Animals are a lot like us when they give birth. Some are quick and easy, others are more complicated."

Also at the farm are draft horses, ducks, chickens, miniature donkeys, and rabbits. The farm is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A metroparks vehicle entry permit is required, \$7 daily. General information can be found at www.metroparks.com.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com | 248-390-7396



Sugar nurses her two babies, born Feb. 17.



A baby goat greets visitors.



Three of the farm's nine new lambs curl up in the barn. PHOTOS BY LAURA COLVIN



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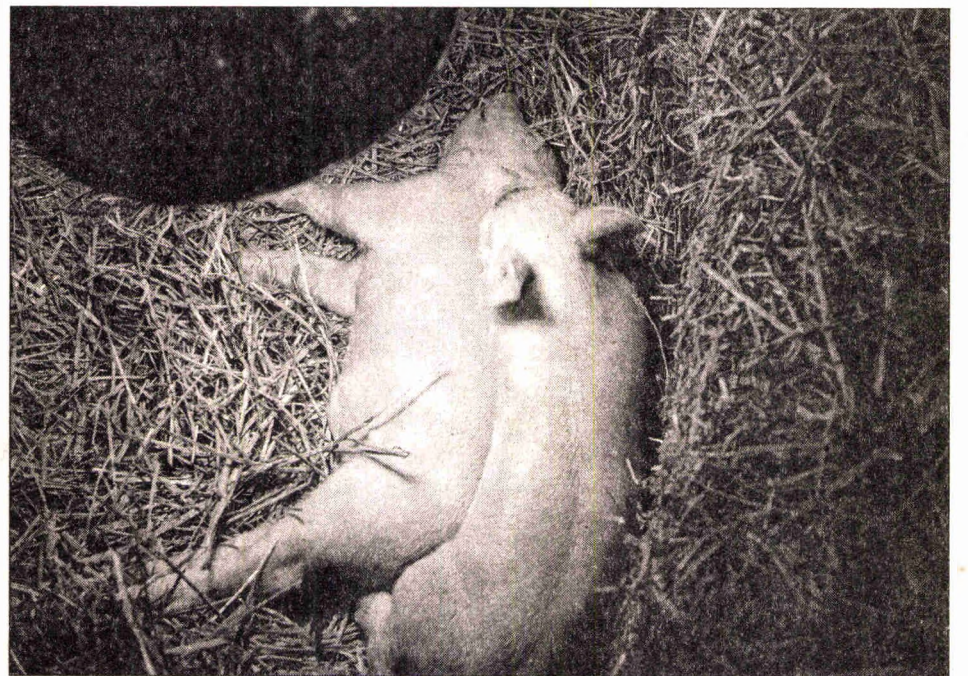
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Showtimes posted on www.mjratheatres.com on the Tuesday before the show date.



A visitor says hello to some curious kids.



Piglets stay warm under a heat lamp in Kensington's main barn.

Belle Isle benefits from Macy's program

The Belle Isle Conservancy has been selected for "Heart Your Park," a program introduced as part of Macy's "Secret Garden" campaign to raise awareness and money for local parks across the country.

Now through March 31, customers at Macy's Westland and Dearborn

stores can donate \$1 or more at the register, with 100 percent of the donations benefiting the Belle Isle Conservancy.

Macy's will match the total customer donation across all stores, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000 in total.

Belle Isle Park is one of more than 550 parks

nationwide that will benefit from Macy's "Heart Your Park" this spring.

Donations will go toward making improvements such as maintaining trails, playgrounds and ball fields.

For more information, visit macys.com/secret-garden.



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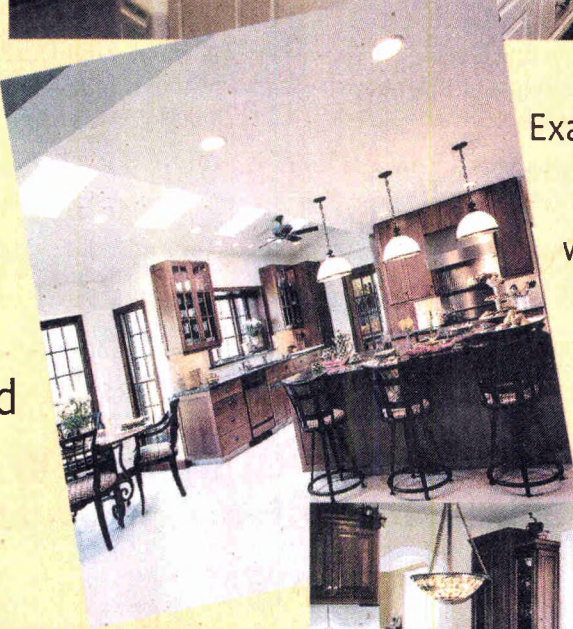
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HAIL TO THE CHIEFS!

Canton gymnasts start slow but finish with championship flourish

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team wasn't about to let one "mediocre" event get in the way when it came to finally winning that elusive state championship.

After a slow start on balance beam (Canton trailed Farmington United 37.0-to-36.2 at that point), the Chiefs took control of matters on floor exercise (their next event) and went on from there to win their first-ever state championship with a 146.65 score.

In second place at Plymouth High School was defending champion Grand Ledge (144.25) with Farmington United third (144.20). Finishing



Canton's Jocelyn Moraw competes on floor during Friday's MHSAA team gymnastics finals at Plymouth High School. BRIAN QUINTOS

sixth was Plymouth, with 141.325 points.

"We had two terrific events that made up for a mediocre, three-fall beam and some mediocre bars,"

longtime Canton coach John Cunningham said. "But we had just enough to get almost a 147, and that was enough to win."

"... They really nailed floor, that was a beautiful floor. That's one of those things where I don't get emotional, but I was almost teary eyed it was so good. They really went out and kicked butt, it was great."

It was important that the Chiefs get back on track sooner rather than later if they wanted to stop a three-year run of finishing second at the finals.

All five Canton gymnasts on floor tallied scores of 9.25 or higher en route to a 37.9 score — catapulting the team in front to stay.

Senior Melissa Green led the way with a 9.6, with sophomore Maddie Toal (9.55), junior Jocelyn Moraw (9.5) and sophomore Hailey Hodgson (9.25) performing with gusto.

"We usually do very well on floor but today, we were very prepared to do well and it's our best event," Mo-

See CHAMPS, Page B2



Lakeland's Molly Stec (No. 32) is too late to thwart an outside jumper by Canton senior Rachel Winters (No. 10). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Chiefs grab regional crown

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last year, Shannon Perry missed the chance to play in the Class A girls basketball regionals with her Canton teammates because of a knee injury that cut her season short.

Perry made sure she was on the floor this time around and she came up with some clutch buckets to help the Chiefs to a 43-24 victory Thursday night over Lakeland in the regional final at West Bloomfield High School.

"I think it was time, after not getting to play in regionals last year to come out and play," said Perry, following Canton's sixth regional title victory in school history. "And my sister (Rachel) was here from Chicago, so I wanted to show her."

The 6-0 senior forward laughed about that, but the way Canton (20-4) shut down the Eagles' offense — primarily senior guard Dominque Zigo, who still managed 14 points — was no joke.

"Guarding her dribble penetration was the key, I thought we did a nice job with that," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "And Nat (Winters) and Rach (Winters) guarded her and then with help on all the other people, I thought it (defense) was solid."

Perry (nine points) was part of the team's senior quartet that scored all 43 points. Forward Paige Aresco and guard Rachel Winters tallied 13 and 12 points, respectively, while 6-1 center Taylor Hunley added nine.

All but Hunley were freshmen the last time the Chiefs won a regional title in 2011. Canton also won the 2010 regionals.

"They're always good," said Samulski, head coach for the last three regional championships. "When you look at it that way, we've only had six in school history... I don't know if they realize that, but what they just accomplished is pretty

See REGIONAL, Page B3

BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT FINALS

Rocks hold off Chiefs' late rally

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Heartbreak was a free throw away for either team on the floor Friday night at Canton High School.

Canton missed from the charity stripe with 1:25 left and a chance to break a 49-49 tie, and then it was Salem's chance.

Junior forward Allante Wheeler — who drew a foul after going hard to the rim — stepped up to the free-throw line with 4.8 seconds left in the Class A boys basketball district final.

Wheeler (13 points) made the first of two, putting Salem in front 50-49. That lead was enough for a 50-49 win and a trip to the Class A regionals at Linden, although the Rocks had to collectively hold their breath at the buzzer while Canton junior forward JaJuan Sturdivant's desperation bid bounced off the rim.

"It wasn't that hard," Wheeler said. "We practice all the time on free throws, so I just stepped to the line, took my time and it went in."

He added that knocking off the Chiefs on their home floor felt great. "They beat us early in the season so it's good to get them back when it counts."

Crazy and intense

"That was beyond nerve-wracking," Salem senior guard Connor Cole said. "They beat us last year, so obvi-

See SALEM, Page B3



Sandwiched by Salem's Cole twins, Canton JaJuan Sturdivant (No. 2) throws up a desperation shot at the buzzer Friday night. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

ON THE RISE

Whalers' Vilardi mirrors OHL team's emergence during second half

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

In some ways, Francesco Vilardi epitomizes the Plymouth Whalers' 2013-14 season.

Both Vilardi — an 18-year-old center in his first season with the Ontario Hockey League team — and the Whalers started slow, in a transitional phase with an inexperi-

enced roster.

Around the time of the Hockeystown Winter Festival at Comerica Park, however, Vilardi and his team started to rev it up. Vilardi scored his team's winning goal against London in the shootout.

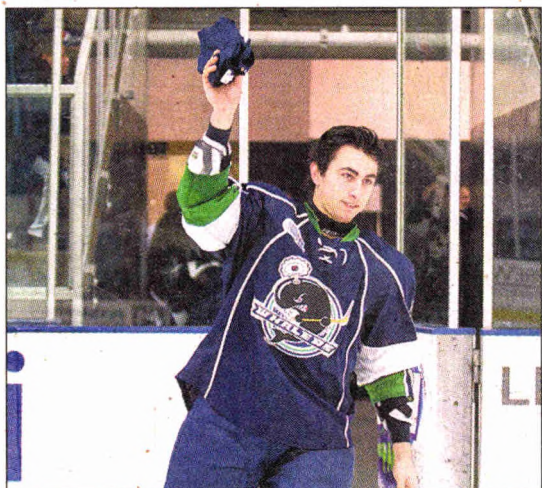
And with the end of the regular schedule fast approaching, Vilardi is collecting kudos for his efforts on and off

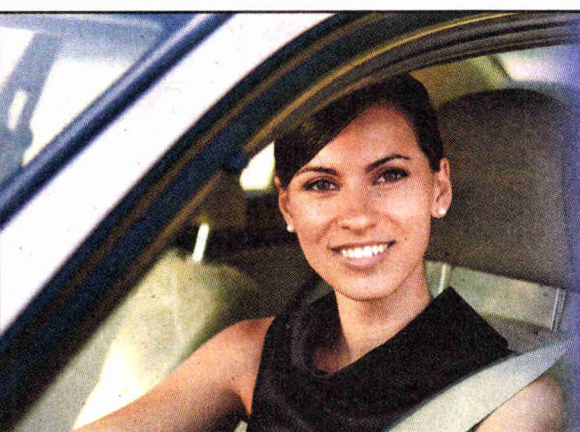
the ice while the Whalers have picked up the pace enough to seize the eighth and final playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference.

"I think as a team we're really starting to come together and jell," said Vilardi following practice last week at Compuware Arena. "... Our

See VILARDI, Page B4


Francesco Vilardi salutes the Compuware Arena crowd after yet another game where he was selected as one of the stars.
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Shamrocks knock Wildcats out again at Yost

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Looking at it on the surface, Wednesday night's Division 1 quarterfinal boys hockey game at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor ended just like last year's did for the Plymouth Wildcats.

Plymouth lost both trips to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, with the latest contest a 5-2 deficit.

But Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento, senior defenseman and team captain Kyle Bauer and the rest of the team knew this time around was completely different on the ice — belying what the scoreboard showed. “A 3-2 game with six minutes to go against Catholic Central in the quarterfinals,” said Vento, outside the Plymouth locker room after addressing the team. “Obviously, you’d like to be up, but I don’t think they could ask for a much better situation. That was a battle.”

According to Bauer, who assisted on both Plymouth goals (both on the power play), “we

played so much better this year, the score was basically the same, but this year was so much different. It was really so much more competitive. We were all into it.”

Heart and soul

Vento praised the way Bauer and his teammates competed, especially after Catholic Central took a 3-1 lead in the final minute of the opening stanza on the first of three goals by Shamrocks senior forward Domenic Mancinelli.

“It’s tough to see Kyle’s career end — fourth-year senior, our captain,” Vento said. “He poured his heart and soul out into that game and it showed.”

“He was one of our better players but there were a lot of guys, you go down the list that emptied the tank for us tonight.”

Catholic Central head coach Doug Itami was fully aware of how hard Plymouth was going to come out of the gate and he made sure his players responded early.

“The focus was to come out and play hard

the first five minutes,” Itami said. “... We knew they were going to try to come out and be physical, so we had to come out strong in the first period, play fast and get some pucks to the net.”

The Shamrocks (22-6-0-1) poured it on in that opening stanza, outshooting Plymouth 22-6 and putting a ton of pressure on junior goalie Jared Maddock (33 saves).

Sophomore forward Nick Macari set up the first goal, midway through the first. He centered the puck and it caromed off junior forward Dillon Jones behind Maddock.

CC went up 2-0 with 5:49 left in the first, scoring a few seconds after a Plymouth penalty elapsed.

Intercepting a faulty clearing pass inside the Wildcats blueline was Catholic Central junior forward Andrew Lane. He roofed a shot from above the circles that Maddock had no chance on.

Finding the power

Just 11 seconds later, Plymouth went on a pow-

er play and needed little time to find the mark, slicing the deficit to 2-1.

Bauer and junior defenseman Jake Zaborowski played catch out on the blueline and Zaborowski teed off on a blast that beat Shamrocks junior goalie Spencer Wright, luckily screened on the shot.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, they were penalized again and CC opened up a 3-1 lead with 52 seconds left on Mancinelli’s first of the night.

Plymouth (15-10-3) came out much stronger in the second and actually outshot the Shamrocks 9-7 in the frame, scoring the only goal.

That tally came just five seconds after CC’s Jimmy Considine was whistled for a penalty.

Zaborowski sent a pass to Bauer at the left point and his shot was deflected into the net by senior forward John VanDenBeurgen — crossing through the slot. “We’ve been struggling on it (the power play) most of the year, so we really worked hard on it the last two weeks,” Vento said. “And they

(goals) were bang-bang, right off the drop of the puck.

“We would have loved one more power play, but we didn’t get it.”

Coming close

The Wildcats nearly tied it up at 3-3 before the end of the second when senior forward Michael Schultz’s wicked shot from the right circle hit Wright’s goalie helmet and bounced wide of the net.

In the third, Maddock kept his team in it early on. He dove to deny Mancinelli and then turned aside a shot by junior forward Mitch Ossowski, set up between the circles.

Plymouth also had some dangerous rushes and just missed clicking on an odd-man rush with about five minutes remaining that would have knotted up the game.

But Mancinelli struck again with 4:36 remaining in the third. He took a centering pass from senior linemate Connor Gaffney (three assists) and found the top-left corner.

“Domenic can bury

the puck,” Itami said. “He had a good day today and his line played real well. He was in a good spot, he got some good opportunities.”

Then with Maddock pulled for an extra attacker and Plymouth hanging on to a thread of hope for a two-goal comeback, the Shamrocks managed to clear the zone and Mancinelli sealed the deal with his empty netter.

“I told the boys I couldn’t be prouder of the way they played, not only today but all year,” Vento said. “I mean, it’s no secret we’re not the most talented bunch in Division 1, but I tell you what, we battled every game.”

“I don’t think there was one game where I can say we lost because of lack of effort, and as a coach there really isn’t much more you can ask for.”

Catholic Central’s win advanced the team into the Final Four at Compuware Arena, beginning with Friday night’s D1 semifinals.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Penguins march on to D2 state championship hockey game

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Megan Brace scored with 23 seconds left in regulation Thursday night to give the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins a 3-2 girls hockey playoff win over Regina.

The win enabled the Penguins (9-7-2-1) to advance to the Division 2 championship game of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League. That contest is 7:30 p.m. Saturday against Walled Lake at McCann Arena in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Walled Lake (5-11-3-0), the fourth seed in D2, knocked off first-place Farmington Hills Mercy (10-7-2-0) 3-0 in Thursday’s earlier semifinal.

“Both teams played really well,” PCS head coach Mary Beth Smith said. “It was a battle, we knew it was going to be a battle. The first time we played them we beat them 6-5 and the second time we played them was last week and we tied 2-2.”

Brace’s goal came on the power play after Regina (9-9-1-0) pulled even at 2-2 in the third. Strong goalkeeping by Gwen Gadulka was another key element to the victory.

“She (Gadulka) played fantastic,” Smith said. Also scoring for the Penguins were Jenna Carter (in the second period to tie the game at 1-all) and Morgan Cusumano (from Kayla Savoie and Alexis O’Flynn early in the third to put PCS up 2-1). Regina took an early 1-0 lead in the first.

The Penguins will be looking to win the D2 title for the second time in three seasons; in 2012, PCS knocked off Mercy in triple overtime.

“Last year was the only year since Brad (Johnson) and I took over the program (2009-10) that we have not gone to the championship game,” Smith said. “This makes it four out of five.”

Smith added that the team’s 2012 championship experience is helping during the current run, particularly during the kind of tight games such as Thursday’s.

“We still have a handful of girls from the team two years ago that won in triple overtime that are seniors now,” Smith said. “Jenna Carter and Alexis O’Flynn and Becky Lough are the three that were on that team.”

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The Canton girls gymnastics team celebrates after winning the state championship Friday night at Plymouth.

CHAMPS

Continued from Page B1

raw said. “We’re always just really confident on it.”

Moraw said it was good that the team had most of the day to make up for that opening event, too. “We definitely came back from that.”

Canton also topped the 13-team field on vault, with Moraw (9.525), senior Erica Lucas (9.325), Toal (9.275) and Hodgson (9.175) coming through.

“We had one fall on vault (by Green), and everybody else had to stick,” Cunningham said. “And they did. That’s the kind of thing. And, after we had a mediocre beam, they went out and had perhaps their best floor of the year.”

Not done yet

Before the Chiefs could clinch the championship, they had to at least have what Cunningham described as an “adequate” showing on uneven parallel bars.

It wasn’t flawless, but Canton registered a 35.25, enough to hold off Grand Ledge and Farmington United.

“I hated to end on bars because that’s our weakest event,” Cunningham said. “And they did okay, but okay is high eights as opposed to what some of the other teams were doing. We had to have an adequate bars.”

Cunningham tried to stay on an even keel while talking about his team getting over the championship hump.

“We were state runner-up three years in a row, the bridesmaid theory, and we finally got it,” said Cunningham. Canton’s coach since 1979. “And anybody that thinks we’re going to go away next year hasn’t paid attention to how old my girls are. I have five really strong gymnasts returning (Moraw, Toal, Hodgson, Stephanie Cox and Ellie Bachman).”

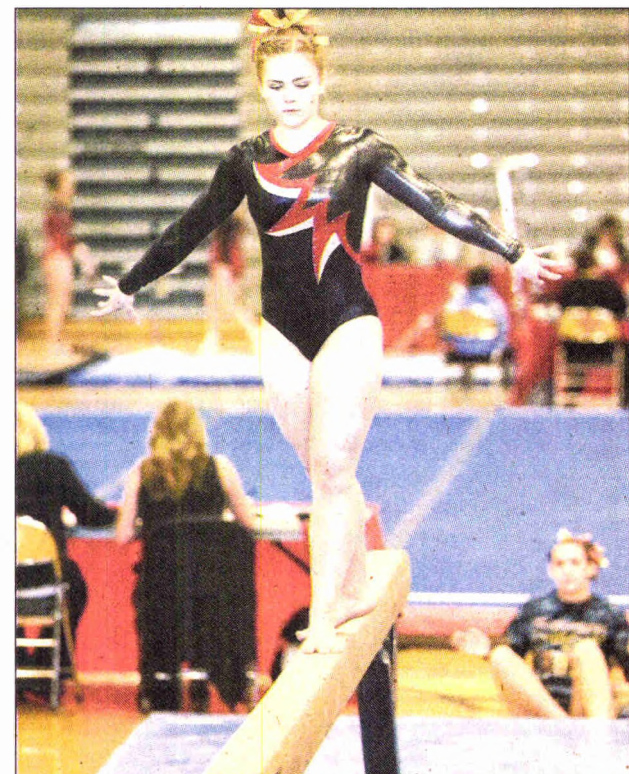
“It’s going to tear me up to lose Melissa and Erica, but I tell you what. We’re going to be really good next year, too.”

Giving kudos

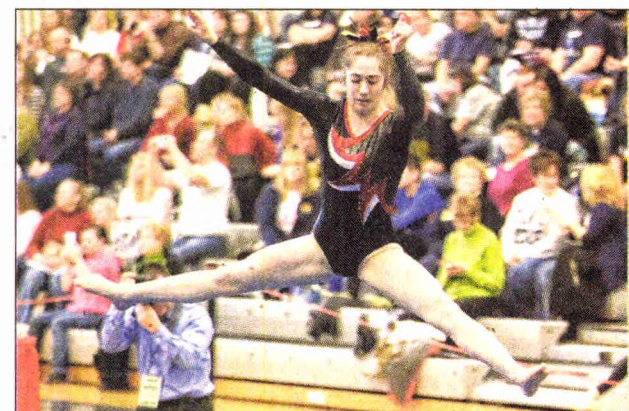
Despite finishing in sixth overall, Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey was enthusiastic about how her gymnasts performed under the bright spotlight of the team finals — particularly at their home school.

“I think they (Wildcats) performed absolutely top,” Yockey said. “I don’t think they could have been any better.”

Yockey noted the efforts of senior Katie



Canton senior Melissa Green concentrates during her routine on balance beam Friday.



Canton’s Hailey Hodgson perfects a move on floor during the team finals. PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salanga, who “will be dearly missed next year. She is consistent, she always hits, she has almost a stick routine in every event. She really gets out there and her showmanship is phenomenal.”

Salanga is one of five Wildcats who were competing in Saturday’s individual finals, along with Molly McSween, Sam

Fontana, Rebeca Simu and Haley Metz.

“It gets exciting because the audience is very supportive and they’re there,” said Yockey, about having the championships at the Park. “And you can see the parents really get into it, and so do us coaches.”

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Cole buzzer-beater keeps Rocks alive

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Connor Cole wasn't going to be denied Wednesday night, and the Salem senior guard saved his team's season.

Salem trailed 63-60 in a Class A district semifinal against Novi with time running out. But then Cole (35 points) connected on a trey to send the game to overtime.

The Rocks then pounded the Wildcats into submission in the extra session, outscoring them 17-8 and winning the game 80-71.

Later on Wednesday, district host Canton prevailed

44-36 against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, setting up Friday's Park showdown for the district championship. The Salem-Canton district final tips off at 7 p.m..

"We were down by nine most of the game and started cranking our defense up a little bit," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "And I think they got a little bit fatigued late in the game. They had a tough game Monday against Northville and we were fairly fresh."

Salem's deep bench also came into play down the stretch, as the Rocks (16-5) outscored the Wildcats 28-19 in

the fourth — which began with Novi up 44-35.

"We did a nice job of finishing and taking care of the basketball and substituted a little bit more which gave us some fresher legs," Brodie said. "It was a nice effort, it was good to see the kids come back. We haven't played in a while, so they bounced back and showed a lot of heart again."

Connor Cole's clutch triple was far from his only big field goal of the game. He connected on nine of 13 attempts, including four of six from behind the three-point arc. In addition, Cole hit all 13 of his

free throws.

Senior forward Alec Winfrey also had a solid offensive game, scoring 14 points and tallying four blocks.

Chipping in with seven points and eight rebounds was junior forward Allante Wheeler. Junior forward Tyler Brooks added seven points and seven boards; senior center Michael Hoover helped out with six points and seven rebounds.

With the Rocks on the winning side of the ledger, the Chiefs needed to do the same to ensure an all-Park district final.

After Canton led 11-8 after

one quarter, the Shamrocks bounced back in the second and led 19-18 at the break.

But the Chiefs then outscored Catholic Central 26-17 in the second half to emerge victorious.

Senior forward Davon Taylor had another big night for the Chiefs, scoring 20 points and grabbing eight rebounds.

Junior guard Greg Williams collected 12 points while seniors Jordan Nobles (six points) and Shaine Keyandwy (seven rebounds) contributed to the victory.

Canton improved to 15-7 with the victory.

SALEM

Continued from Page B1

ously we made the stakes a little bit higher.

"We had a good lead going into the half (26-20) but they got it close, they eventually took the lead. We did what we had to do to pull out the win. The intensity is crazy, you can't hear what people are saying."

Salem (17-5) led 15-11 after one quarter and 26-20 at half-time before the Chiefs (15-8) rallied in the third quarter. A key reason for that surge was junior guard Greg Williams, who led all scorers with 21 points.

Canton only trailed 41-39 going into the fourth and finally got back to even (44-44) with 3:50 left on Logan Ryan's lay-up.

Both teams traded buckets over the next few minutes, with Cole driving through the paint for a Salem bucket followed by Canton senior forward Jordan Nobles' trey (to make it a 48-47 Salem lead with 2:25 remaining).

A banker by Williams knotted the score at 49-49 with 1:50 to go and after Salem missed at the other end, the Rocks fouled Canton's Davon Taylor after he rebounded the ball.

Taylor then had a 1-and-1 chance, but his first foul shot missed and Salem senior center Michael Hoover grabbed the rebound.

Don't fault him

"That would have been the first time we took the lead all quarter," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We got a big stop, Davon got a big rebound and got fouled. Davon

just didn't knock it down.

"And Davon has made huge free throws this year, he's done so much for our team so you can't in any way fault him."

That set up the intense final minutes. Connor Cole held on to the ball in the backcourt as the clocked wound down.

Salem finally called a timeout with 16 seconds left to map out the play that would pay off with the Wheeler free throw.

"All season long it's been a team effort from our guys," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "It hasn't been one guy, everybody's contributed."

"Tonight Allante did a nice job, so did everybody else, it just so happened late in the game the ball was in his hands and he wanted it. He took it to the rack."

Fitting conclusion

With one side of the gym packed with loud Salem fans wearing blue clothing and the other side wearing the red colors of the Chiefs, the nail-biter was fitting for what was an electric atmosphere.

"It's the state tournament, they call it March Magic or March Madness," Brodie said. "Either way, it's just a fun situation. You saw the gym tonight, it was electrifying."

"... I've been here a long time and every game against Canton has been that type of game. It's just fun, it's electrifying, it's what high school basketball should be about."

Reddy tipped his cap to Brodie and the Rocks, and praised the way the community came out to support both teams.

"Great atmosphere," Reddy said. "In my five years as the varsity coach we haven't had an atmosphere like that. Our



Salem's Alec Winfrey (left) tries to stop this field goal bid by Canton's Davon Taylor (No. 21). BRIAN QUINTOS

crowd, you got to give them credit, they were great all week."

He also said the way Friday's game played out followed the season-long script.

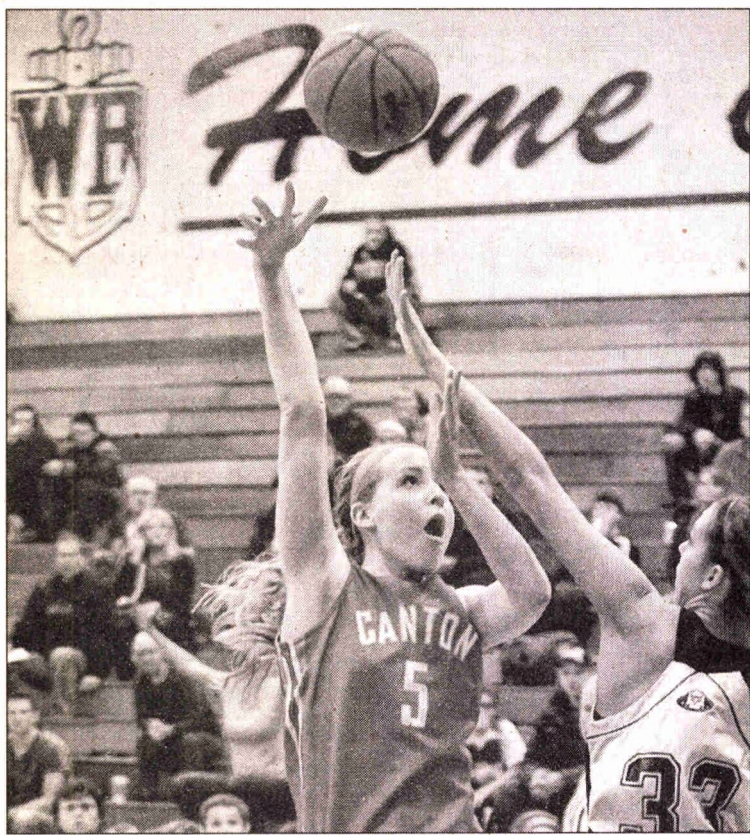
"We played a ton of games like that this year," Reddy said.

"We played a lot of close games, we've been pretty good in them. Sometimes we haven't made enough plays, just like tonight."

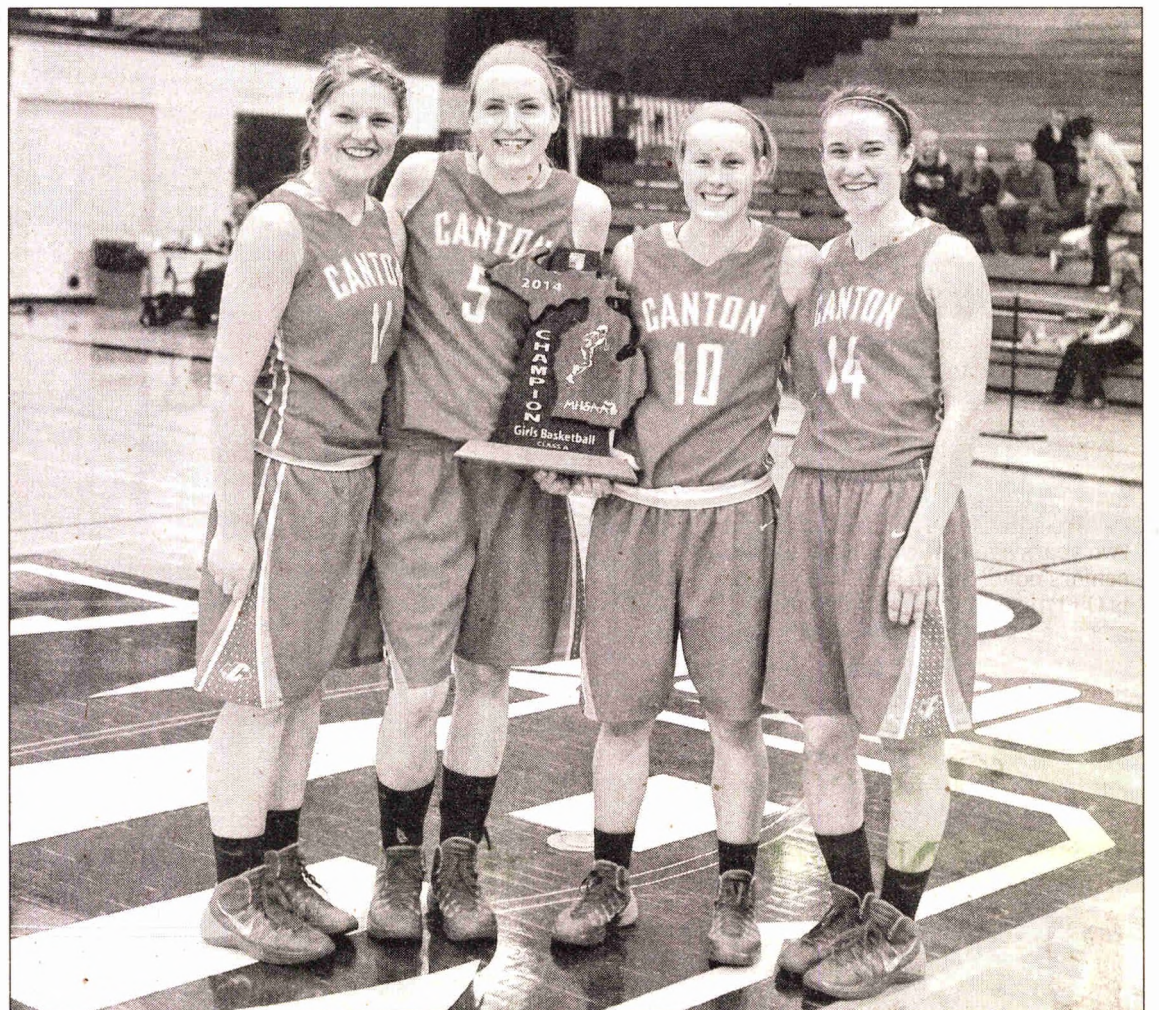
"... They were better than us tonight, they made one more play. But our kids, that's a heck

of a basketball game right there. Our kids fought, they gave it everything they had. If you were a fan, that was a great basketball game to watch."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Putting up a shot over Lakeland defender Alana Weyer (No. 33) is Canton senior Taylor Hunley (No. 5). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Canton seniors (from left) Shannon Perry, Taylor Hunley, Rachel Winters and Paige Aresco celebrate winning the Class A regional championship at West Bloomfield. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

REGIONAL

Continued from Page B1

special."

Canton now will take on Flint Carman-Ainsworth in the Class A quarterfinal set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Fenton High School.

Samulski said his team will continue focusing on defense, rebounding and protecting the basketball against the Cavaliers.

"We'll come in and get ready for the next few days and you roll up there and see what you can do," Samulski noted. "We just got to keep doing what we've been doing."

Meanwhile, Perry cited the Chiefs' "togetherness" as a key reason for why the team

continues to have a lot of success.

"Whether you're on the bench or on the court we all are cheering for each other," Perry said. "I think that's the thing that a lot of teams don't have."

Lakeland head coach Mike Head, whose team finished 13-11, said his offense could never get clicking against the Chiefs.

"They're just bigger than us and they're physical," Head said. "I think even if we're trying to run some of our sets they just kind of get an arm in the passing lane, they kind of pushed us out a little bit further."

"We were a little bit undermanned and it showed tonight. Other teams maybe we can kind of break them

down better, but this team is extremely well disciplined on defense, they know how to cover their passing lanes, they know their assignments."

Canton outboarded the Eagles 25-14, with junior guard Alanna Brown leading with six rebounds and Hunley and Aresco each registering five.

Moreover, the Chiefs wreaked havoc on Lakeland shooters. The Eagles connected on just 8-of-39 field-goal tries (20 percent).

Canton rolled out to leads of 8-0 midway through the first and 12-5 after one quarter and never trailed. It was 20-11 at

halftime and 32-14 after three.

Putbacks by Perry and Aresco padded the Chiefs' lead to 37-14 early in the final quarter before Lakeland put together a rally that was far too late in getting started.

Junior guard Amanda Berce (five points) completed a three-point play with 5:30 remaining, followed by back-to-back baskets by Zigo to give Lakeland a 7-0 run.

But Canton still enjoyed a 37-21 edge at that point (under four minutes to go) and took time off the clock with every possession.

Senior guard Catherine

Marion's subsequent trey (her only points of the night) did cut the Canton edge to 39-24, but that was as close as Lakeland would get.

"She (Zigo) has been a great leader and a great scorer throughout her career," Head said. "She's a gamer no matter what, she doesn't look at the scoreboard as far as if we're losing or winning. She's going to compete hard every play."

"I'm really proud for her and her accomplishments, but I'm really proud for the entire team, too."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Late goal a winner, playoff clincher for Whalers

Make it 23 years in a row. The Plymouth Whalers defeated host Niagara 4-3 Thursday night to qualify for the Ontario Hockey League playoffs for the 23rd consecutive season.

Plymouth clinched the eighth playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference with the victory.

Netting the game-winning goal with just 2:04 left in

STATE BOYS HOCKEY QUARTERFINALS

regulation was forward Matt Mistele, on a play set up by defenseman Nick Malysa and forward Francesco Vilardi.

Making 32 stops for the victory was Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, as the team rebounded from Wednesday's 11-2 loss at Erie.

Niagara's Luke Mercer put the IceDogs in front early in

the first, but Plymouth's Yannick Rathgeb answered with a goal just 51 seconds later (from Mistele and forward Connor Chatham) to make it 1-1.

It was 2-1 after the first, following the 27th goal of the season by Carter Verhaeghe.

The Whalers scored the only goals of the middle stan-

za to take a 3-2 lead into the third.

Vilardi netted his 13th of the year on the power play (from Rathgeb and Mitch Jones) and forward Ryan Hartman chipped in his 24th of the season, also on the power play, in the final minute of the frame. Setting up Hartman's marker were forwards Carter Sandlak and Victor Crus Rydberg.

Niagara made it 3-3 at 15:43 of the third on a goal by Eric Ming, but Mistele found the back of the IceDogs cage behind goalie Brent Moran (28 saves) just over two minutes later for the winner.

Next for Plymouth (26-31-0-7, 59 points) is game at 2 p.m. Sunday at Compuware Arena against Saginaw.

VILARDI

Continued from Page B1

second half's been a lot better and you can see that the last couple results, especially against Windsor there, it was a good team win."

On March 1, the 5-11, 180-pounder scored two goals (and an assist) in Plymouth's 5-0 victory over the Spitfires. Thursday, Vilardi collected a goal and a helper as the Whalers (26-31-0-7, 59 points) edged Niagara 4-3 to clinch their 23rd consecutive playoff berth.

"That was always our goal from the start, not just make the playoffs but hopefully do well in them," said Vilardi, acquired last June from Sudbury. "Like I said, we're starting to jell here towards the end and hopefully we'll keep it up."

Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci traded a third-round draft pick to the Wolves for Vilardi after finding out the youngster was available.

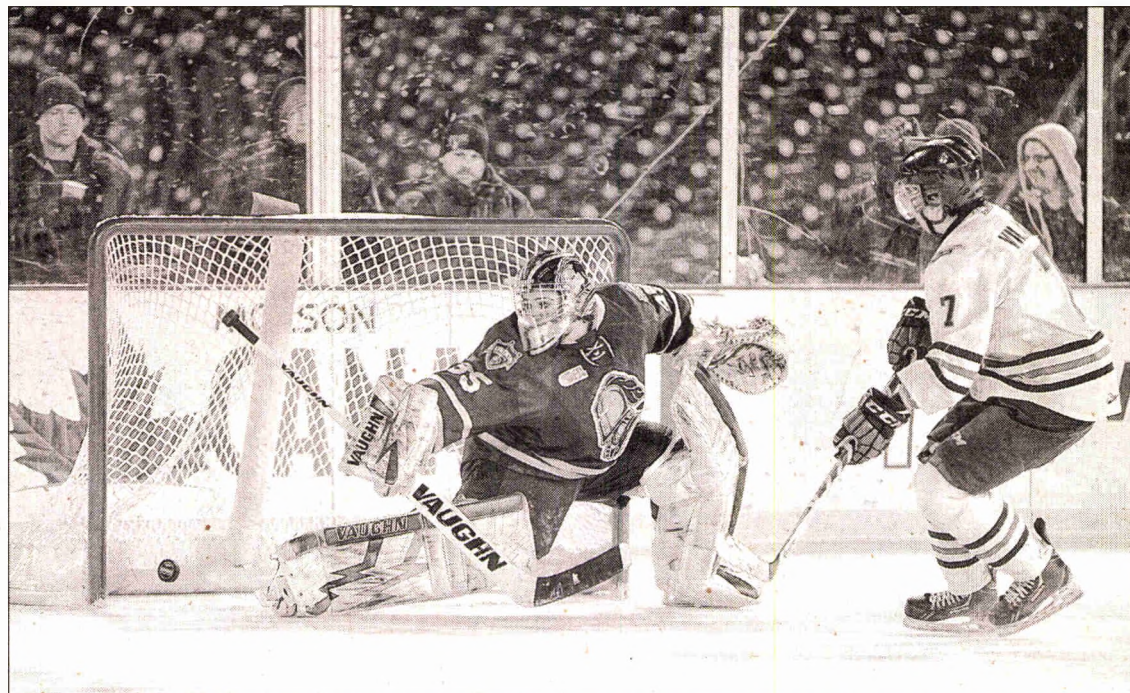
"We liked him in his draft year," Vellucci said. "He didn't make Sudbury last year, so I called to see if he was available and he was. We got very lucky to get him. ... He's played great for us."

Chemistry test

Since Vilardi and the Whalers prevailed in their outdoor game at Comerica, goals and victories have been a little easier to come by. Plymouth is 14-11-0-3 dating back to that Dec. 29 contest.



Soft-spoken off the ice, Francesco Vilardi always has his game face on during competition. He is shown here during the Plymouth-London game at Comerica Park. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS



Scoring the winning goal in the shootout Dec. 29 at Comerica Park is Plymouth Whalers' forward Francesco Vilardi (No. 7). RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Meanwhile, Vilardi is fourth on the team in scoring, with 13 goals and 25 assists for 38 points, clicking with linemates Matt Mistele and Connor Chatham.

"As of late we've been having some really good chemistry," Vilardi said. "Playing with those two guys makes my job a lot easier, they're both really special players."

"Chats is big, he works hard. He's always hitting bodies, Misty always works hard as well, goes to the net."

Vilardi is a workhorse, too, not only as a hockey player.

He hits the books with purpose and in January was named by the OHL to its all-academic team. Vilardi, who is a senior at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, owns a 3.75 grade-point average.

"Yeah, I think it has," said Vellucci, asked about the parallel between the young team and Vilardi. "It's his first year in the league. He was kind of shy and unsure of himself at the beginning, and I think he's asserted himself more in the locker room and on the ice."

"He scored those big goals the last couple games by going to the net, and playing hard."

Time to excel

Vellucci also is proud of the Kingston, Ontario native for what he has done academically. The team puts a premium on players doing well in school as well as participating

in community events.

"He's a great kid, very humble, very quiet," Vellucci said. "He goes about his business, I'm proud of him for doing such a great job in the classroom."

According to Vilardi, the most challenging part about juggling his classwork with life in the Ontario Hockey League — which is considered a prime developmental pipeline for the NHL — is time management.

"It's pretty tough, especially on the road sometimes," Vilardi noted. "You don't feel like doing the homework, but it's something that's got to get done

and you just try and do it when you have some time. It's been working out well so far.

"A good portion of it (homework) is away from the school, away from the rink. We have a little group study table we do every week that helps out a bit. But most of it is at home and just trying to do it whenever you have a chance, in between practice and school, and games and being on the bus."

So far, it looks as though Francesco Vilardi is earning full marks in everything he's doing this season.

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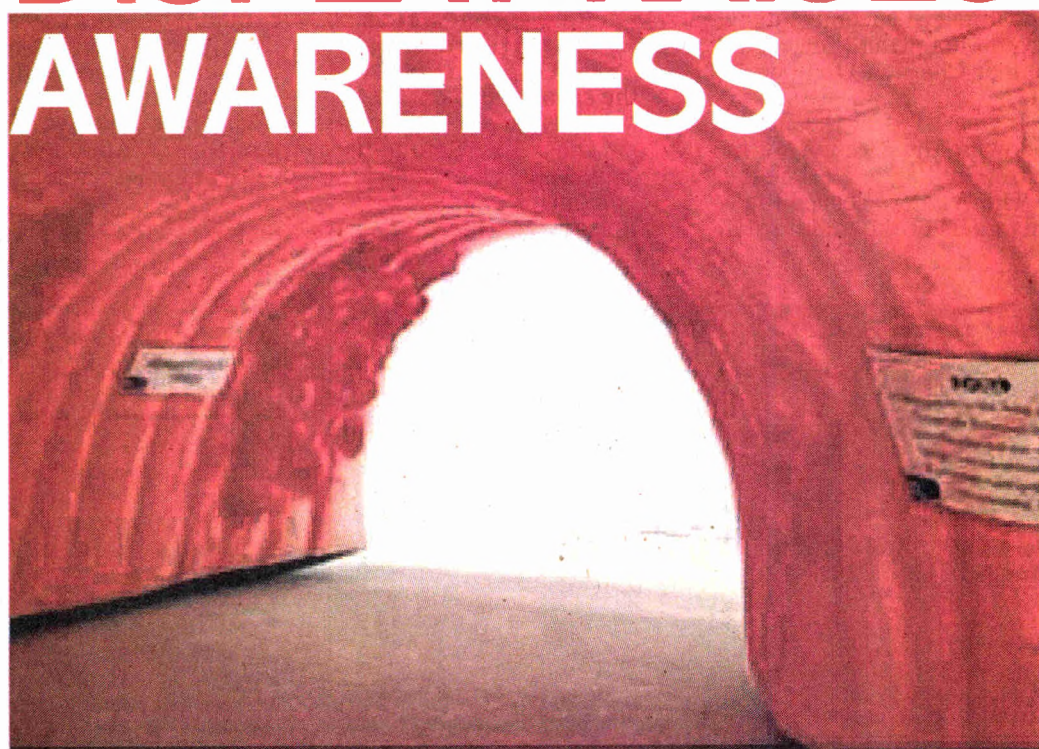
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DISPLAY RAISES AWARENESS



OF COLORECTAL SCREENING

In honor of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, the American Cancer Society will station a walk-through, giant colon display this month at several metro Detroit hospitals, as well as the Michigan Science Center.

» 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, March 10, at Josephine Ford Cancer Institute at Henry Ford Hospital, 2799 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

» 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at St. Joseph Mercy Health System Ann Arbor, 5301 McAuley Drive, Ypsilanti

» 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield

Look for the inflatable walk-through colon, which is 20-feet long and 12-feet high, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 28, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at

the Michigan Science Center, 5020 John R, Detroit. Nutrition and colon cancer experts will be available during the two-day showing to answer questions and share educational materials related to healthy eating habits, the importance of exercise, knowing your family health history and risk of colorectal cancer, when to get screened for colon cancer, and more.

The Karmanos Cancer Institute's Hamchandra Mahaseth, M.D., a colon expert, will answer questions from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Guests who buy general admission tickets to

the Michigan Science Center will have access to this special display at no additional cost.

Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in the U.S. for both men and women. Currently, only one in three adults receive their recommended colorectal screening tests, even though colorectal cancer is one of a few cancers that can be prevented with screening.

This year, more than 130,000 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and more than 50,000 Americans will die from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society. That's some 135 deaths every day, many of them preventable. For more about colorectal cancer, visit cancer.org.

Two area hospitals named among top 100 nationwide

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Providence Hospital and Medical Center in Southfield recently were named among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals by Truven Health Analytics, a company that provides information and solutions to improve health care cost and quality.

The Truven Health 100 Top Hospitals study identifies hospitals that offer the highest level of value to their communities, based on a national balanced scorecard. The scorecard measures hospital performance across a number of areas: mortality; inpatient complications; patient safety; average patient stay; expenses; profitability; patient satisfaction; adherence to clinical standards of care; and post-discharge mortality and readmission rates for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, and pneumonia. The study, which uses only public data sources,

such as Medicare cost reports, for its calculations, has been conducted annually since 1993. Hospitals don't apply for the study, nor pay for honors.

This is the sixth time that both St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Providence Hospital and Medical Center have been recognized for the honor. Providence also won Truven's Everest Award, which is given to hospitals that have shown the fastest, most consistent five-year improvement rates, in addition to top performance.

The 100 Top Hospitals study indicated that if all U.S. hospitals performed at the level of this year's winners, the average patient's stay in the hospital would decrease by half a day, more than \$5.4 billion in health care costs would be saved, and nearly 165,000 more lives would be saved.

For more information, visit 100tophospitals.com

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

UPCOMING

AARP driving course

The AARP Smart Driving program is an eight-hour classroom refresher course for experienced motorists, 50 and older. It runs 12:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, March 12-13, in classroom 11 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. Participants will learn how to sharpen their driving skills, and develop strategies for adjusting to age-related changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time. They also will learn about the effects of medications on driving performance, about car safety, maintenance of the vehicle, and ways to prevent accidents. Registration and attendance at both

sessions are required. No walk-ins. \$15 fee for AARP members and \$20 fee for nonmembers. Register by calling 734-655-8950.

First responder training

Huron Valley Ambulance is forming a volunteer medical first responder team and will hold eight-week training classes for participants interested in volunteering at community events or assisting with community awareness programs and administrative tasks. An informational meeting is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at Emergent Health Partners, 1200 State Circle, Ann Arbor. The free classes run from 6-10:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, beginning May 6. Call 734-477-6331 for more information.

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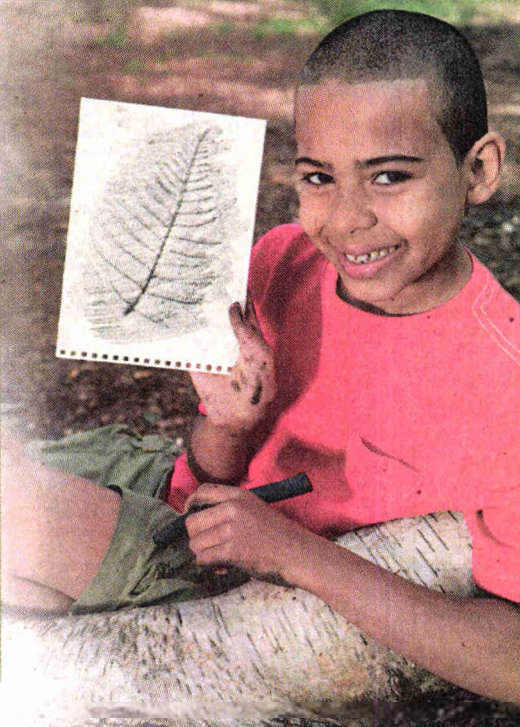


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This FREE event includes Q&A lecture, lunch, giveaways, and raffle prizes.



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Local actor pens plays, performs unscripted improv

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sean Paraventi's newest and oldest plays run simultaneously this month at two different theaters in metro Detroit. And a third work hits the stage in April.

Not bad for a guy who wrote his first play after age 40.

"It's unprecedented. It's exciting," said Paraventi, considering that three of his seven plays will be staged this spring. "Two of the plays overlap by two weeks."

The Redford playwright and actor made his writing debut in 2010 at the Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company with *The Current*, a play about a bachelorette party that goes off-track when the bride-to-be and her friends visit a psychic. The comedy runs March 21 through April 13 at Two Muses Theatre in West Bloomfield.

On March 23, his newest work, *Broken Pieces*, about adult siblings who return home for their mother's funeral, will be read at the Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company's annual staged reading festival in Detroit.

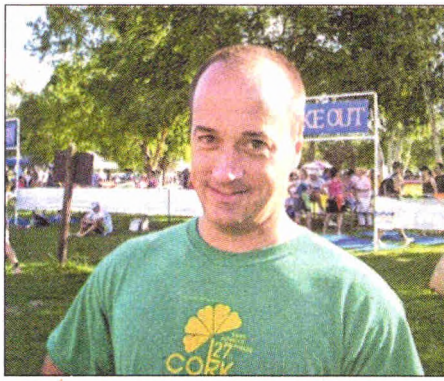
Magenta Giraffe will stage Paraventi's drama, *Love Is Strange*, which focuses on a twisted relationship between two lovers, April 4-26.

"I try to be character driven," he said. "I want plays that everyone can be entertained at, not just theater people ... where people aren't checking their phones, where the average working class can enjoy the play."

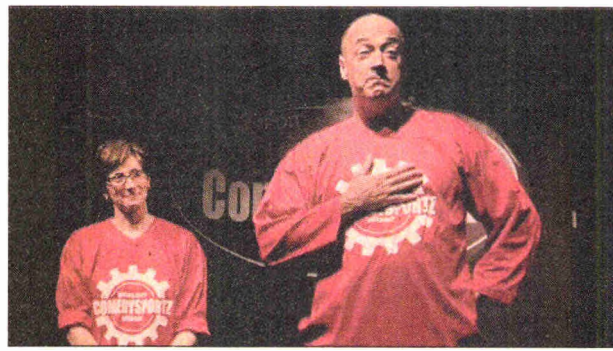
"When I'm really in the zone, I just basically write until I feel I'm done. I find it helpful, even if I do it on my own, to have actors come together and read it, to hear it out loud and to have feedback."

Playwright premiere

Paraventi said he was "shocked" when the Magenta Giraffe, told him they planned to include *The Current* in their 2010 season, after it debuted in the annual staged reading festival. He had started writing after



Sean Paraventi of Redford is an actor and playwright.



Angie Brayman (left) of Livonia and Sean Paraventi of Redford work out a scene on stage at ComedySportz in Ferndale.



Kelly Rose Voigt, (left) Kristin Schultes, Diane Hill, Alysia Kolasz, and Tara Tomcsik rehearse a scene from Sean Paraventi's play, *The Current*, at Two Muses Theatre.

acting in a play that its author had self-produced.

"During the rehearsal process it inspired me. I thought I wanted to give it a try. Writing was something I always wanted to do," he said.

Paraventi, who is single, grew up in Detroit surrounded by siblings who also wrote and acted. His sister, Maureen, is a playwright, novelist, actress, editor and musician, who earlier this year participated in TLC Production's 24-hour play project in Canton. Sister Tina is a musician and actress. And their late sister, Kit, also was involved in theater.

He took business classes in community college, dropped out and moved to Los Angeles in the early 1990s.

"I did things opposite. When I moved to L.A. I didn't move to be an actor," he said. "For a long time I worked at Warner Brothers as a security guard. I lived in L.A. for over 10 years."

Becoming an actor

Paraventi credits Kit with encouraging him to take improv and acting classes. He trained with Gary Austin of The Groundlings, which laid a foundation for future improv work. He's currently a regular cast member at ComedySportz in Ferndale. During the family-friendly Friday-Saturday shows, two teams of improvisers compete in games and sketches for audience votes.

After returning to Michigan in 2003, Paraventi studied acting at The Purple Rose Theatre, Tipping Point Theatre, and other venues. He has performed in commercials, film, television and in plays throughout southeastern Michigan, including, Waterworks Theatre's outdoor Shakespeare productions in Royal Oak.

Between his acting and writing schedule, Paraventi found time to create his own business

— a bicycle taxi service — the last two summers in downtown Royal Oak.

He also runs marathons. He started running in 2002 after he quit smoking and often trains along Hines Drive where he gives a wide berth to the Canada geese that "scare the hell" out of him as they cross his path.

"I ran the *Free Press* marathon last October. I lot of my friends are training for spring marathons. I'll probably do one in the fall."

For more about the Magenta Giraffe staged reading festival, visit magentagiraffe.org. For more about *The Current* at Two Muses Theatre, visit twomusetheatre.org. Read funny and fascinating facts about Paraventi on his website, seanparaventi.wordpress.com. Don't believe the reference to heavy weight boxing at the end of his acting resume — he says he put it there to see if anyone reads all the way through.

ON STAGE

» Hear a reading of *Broken Pieces* at 3 p.m. March 23 at Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, at the Abreact Performance Space, 1301 Lafayette, No. 1301, Detroit. A workshop-style discussion will follow the reading. *Broken Pieces*, which is about four grown siblings who return home to attend the funeral of their mother, is one of six plays selected for the Magenta Giraffe's sixth annual staged reading festival, March 21-23. Admission is by donation. 313-408-7269; www.magentagiraffe.org.

» See *The Current* at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21 through April 13, staged by Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. *The Current* centers on a bachelorette party that takes an interesting turn when the bride-to-be and bridesmaids visit a psychic on their way to the bar and realize that, although they have been friends since high school, there is still more to learn more about each other and themselves. Advance tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and senior citizens, available at twomusetheatre.org or by calling 248-850-9919. Tickets also available at the door for an additional \$2. Opening night includes a bachelorette party with prizes and games at 7:20 p.m. in the theater lobby. Audience members who stay after the show on Sundays will hear readings by area psychics. Donate a gently used bridal gown and receive two free tickets. The gowns go to The Bride's Project, which raises funds for cancer support programs in the Ann Arbor area.

» *Love Is Strange* runs April 4-26 at Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, at the Abreact Performance Space, 1301 Lafayette, No. 1301 Detroit. The play looks at the relationship between two lovers with a horrifying hobby. No minors admitted without a parent. Check magentagiraffe.org for performance times.

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It's fish fry time at local churches

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Catholic churches throughout southeastern Michigan began frying, baking and broiling fish dinners with the start of Lent last week.

The seafood dinners help parishioners refrain from eating meat on Fridays before Easter, offer a tasty treat to the community, and also build unity.

"We find that the fish fry events are a great way to bring the parish community together. We get everyone, really — families, retirees, parishioners, visitors — it's really a lot of fun," said Brent Haase of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth Township, where the OLCG Booster Club sponsors the dinner. "Our student athletes play a big role in supporting our fish fries volunteering as servers and helping to seat customers. We have student athletes from a different sport help out each week."

Most parishes offer a twist on the standard fried fare, with other seafood or pasta options. St. Kenneth Parish in Plymouth Township again will sell wine, clam chowder and salad in addition to its seafood dinners. Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Community in Westland added a combination plate to its menu this year for the first time.

Some parishes don't see the need to mess with a good thing.

"It's pretty much the same as last year," said Evelyn Griwicki of St. Dunstan's in Garden City, describing the fish fry menu. "We've gotten a lot of good response to it."

Ready to chow down?

Here's a sampling of area fish fry meals:

» Our Lady of Good Counsel, social hall, 42650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday through April 11. Adult dinners are \$8, senior dinners are \$7, children's menu for ages 6-12, is \$5 and children, 5 and under eat for free. Adult and senior dinners include two 4-ounce pieces of fried fish or one 8-ounce piece of baked fish or six pieces of shrimp. A combo meal of shrimp and fried fish also is available. Dinners come with cole slaw, baked potato, roll. The children's meal includes potato chips and apple-sauce and offers a choice of fried fish, shrimp, chicken strips or macaroni and cheese. Carry-outs and a la carte available. 734-453-0326

» Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, Redford: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 18. Eat in or carry-out. Menu includes one- or two-piece fried fish and chips dinner, \$6.75 and \$8; shrimp dinner, \$9.25; baked orange roughly, \$9.75; baked filet of salmon, \$9.50; clam strips and hush puppies, \$7.25; combo dinner, \$8.75; seafood platter, \$10. Dinners come with cole slaw and roll; most include either fries or choice of baked potato or rice pilaf. Pierogi, fish sandwich, mac and cheese and pizza also available. 313-534-9000.

» Our Lady of Sorrows, 23815 Power Road, Farmington: 4-8 p.m. Friday, March 28 and April 11. Held in the school cafeteria, the fish fry offers a fried or baked battered cod dinner that comes with French fries, roll, cole slaw and beverage. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$6 for

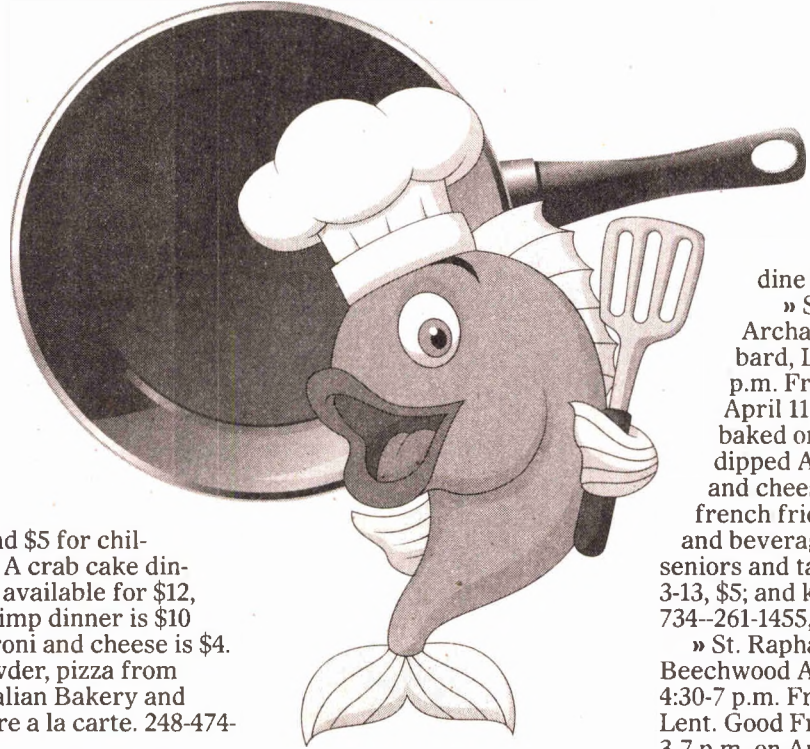
seniors, and \$5 for children, 6-12. A crab cake dinner also is available for \$12, jumbo shrimp dinner is \$10 and macaroni and cheese is \$4. Clam chowder, pizza from Livonia Italian Bakery and desserts are a la carte. 248-474-5720

» St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia: 5-7 p.m. through April 11. Dinners are \$9 and include either broiled salmon or baked cod, and come with roasted potatoes, vegetables, cole slaw, roll, dessert, coffee tea, milk, pop or water. Children, age 10 and under, pay \$5 for either mac and cheese or a fish dinner. 734-425-5950

» St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road, Westland: 5-7 p.m. Fridays through Lent. Menu includes deep fried cod, for \$6-\$9; baked haddock, \$8; seafood platter, \$7; shrimp, \$9; crab cakes, \$10; herb-grilled salmon, \$11; and pierogi dinner, \$7. All dinners come with cole slaw, roll, drink and either baked potato or fries. 734-421-6130

» St. Dunstan's, 1515 Belton, Garden City: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 18. Fish may be ordered baked or fried. A one-piece fish dinner is \$5.50; two pieces are \$7; three pieces are \$8.50. Shrimp dinners and combo plates also are \$8.50. Dinners include fries or baked potato or macaroni and cheese, along with salad or coleslaw, a roll and beverage. Pizza and other items are available a la carte. 734-425-6720

» St. Genevieve-St. Maurice, in the activities center, 29015 Jamison, Livonia: 5-7 p.m. with a 4:30 early bird special for senior citizens, Friday, through April 11. The menu includes a



dine in. 734-721-8745
» St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia: 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, through April 11. Dinners feature baked or fried, hand-dipped Atlantic cod, mac and cheese, green beans, french fries, rolls, butter, and beverages. Adults, \$9; seniors and take-out, \$8; kids, 3-13, \$5; and kids under 3, free. 734-261-1455, Ext. 200

» St. Raphael Parish, 31530 Beechwood Ave., Garden City: 4:30-7 p.m. Friday through Lent. Good Friday hours are 3-7 p.m. on April 18. Battered Icelandic haddock dinner, shrimp dinner and combo dinners are \$8.50 each. Sandwich plate is \$7. Dinners include fries or mashed potato, coleslaw, roll, and beverage. Pizza slices are \$3-\$4. Carry-out available. 734-427-1533

» St. Robert Bellermino, corner of West Chicago Road and Inkster Road, Redford: 4-7 p.m. Friday, during Lent. Deep fried or baked cod, along with three side dishes, roll and beverage is \$8.75 for adults and \$4.75 for kids, under 12. Side dishes include soup, salad, mac and cheese, cole slaw, vegetable, rice pilaf, fries, baked potato or hush puppies. Weekly special is \$10.25. Soup and salad bar is \$8.75. Mac and cheese dinner and pizza also available. Seniors, 60 and older, receive \$1 discount on dinners. 313-937-1500

» Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Community, 32500 Palmer, Westland: 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday through April 11. Dinners are \$8 and include two pieces of fried fish, one piece of baked fish or six pieces of fried shrimp and include cole slaw, choice of potato, roll, beverage and dessert. A combination dinner is available this year for \$10. Children's fish dinner is \$6. Mac and cheese and grilled cheese also available. Carry-out or dine in. 734-722-1343

weekly "Seafood Special" that changes weekly, for \$10; fried white cod or seasoned baked cod; fried fish nuggets; macaroni and cheese, and cheese pizza. Meals include New England clam chowder or "soup of the day," baked potato or French fries, steamed vegetables, cole slaw, roll and coffee or punch. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for the half-hour early bird senior special, and \$6 for children, 12 and under. 734-427-5220

» St. Kenneth, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth Township: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday through Lent. Good Friday hours are 5-7 p.m. on April 18. Dinners include fried fish, \$5; baked tilapia or baked salmon, \$6; fish platter or shrimp basket, \$6.50. Dinners come with baked potato or fries, green beans, salad, and beverage. Child's portion of fish or mac and cheese also served. Clam chowder, desserts and wine available a la carte. 734-420-0288

» St. Mary, 34530 Michigan Ave., Wayne: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 4. The \$9 dinner includes a choice of fried fish, baked fish or shrimp, and comes with a choice of fries or baked potato. The \$6 dinner offers mac and cheese, fried fish or baked fish and a choice of fries or baked potato. All dinners come with cole slaw, roll and beverage. Carry-out or

School supporters



Livonia-based Gallagher Fire Equipment Co. owners Alan and Rebecca Ross enjoy the 13th annual Unabashed Bashed at the Townsend Hotel. The event raised more than \$130,000 for the Birmingham Education Foundation. JULIE YOLLES

Appliance fires underscore need for recall awareness

After writing about the 195 million recalled appliances that are currently in American homes, my phone lines and computer have been very busy. One of the calls was from state Sen. Pat Colbeck who is looking into the matter to see what he can do.

As I've stated before, we need a system that informs a consumer any time there is a recall on an appliance. Right now, we have nothing and people are dying needlessly and homes are burning down and it's a crying shame that little attention has been given to this very serious problem. With today's technology, you would think that a little red light could be installed on the console of an appliance and if there is a recall on the particular model number, the manufacturer could flip a switch at the factory and everybody is made aware. This might have helped Lorraine who dropped me an email just after my previous column hit the stands.

She writes: "Joe, I am a senior who has followed your advice for many many years. I was victim of a dishwasher fire a long while back and the only thing I could do was spend my money to replace it. I always look for a positive though, and this one was that we were in the basement as I was getting ready to leave for work and telling my husband goodbye. I kept thinking I could smell something unusual like something melting. I walked up the stairs to leave and just glanced in the kitchen and my empty dishwasher that had not been run since the day before, was on fire burning through the door. I shudder to think what would have happened if I had not noticed, like my husband trapped in the basement and burning to death. I moved on, repaired the damage and thought about the good part. I know I would have recourse if it happened today. I am all for you getting that law into effect. We do need protection and appliances are just as important as cars. Joe, you have been the most considerate, knowledge-



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

able, caring and sharing person in the field beyond a doubt. I commend you and thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Faulty microwave

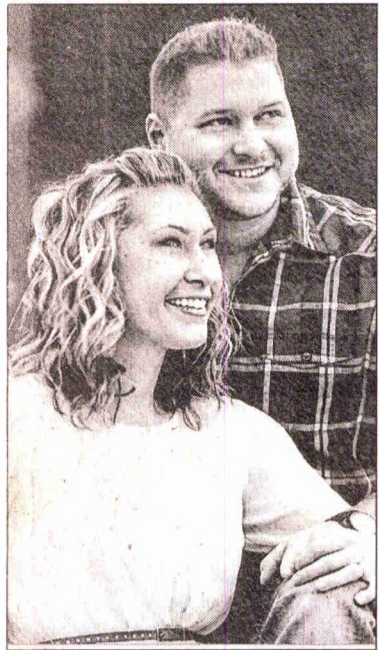
Folks, Lorraine is just one example of what I'm writing about and you can imagine how many stories like this and worse are being told by many appliance owners across this country. Her story reminds me of the time I was working the stage at a home improvement show and a lady came up to me and told me of her daughter's recent death. The daughter took a nap, the house caught fire and the young girl died. The fire department determined that the fire started in the microwave oven. The insurance company said the daughter had placed something in the microwave and then went to bed. The mother insisted that her daughter was much more responsible than that. She would never do something like that. As I sat there with tears rolling down my cheeks and her just sobbing, all I could do was offer my condolences. I've never forgotten that scene and when recently I read a report that stated, "microwave ovens are coming on by themselves" I thought of that grieving mother.

I don't know how long I will continue doing radio shows and writing this column as old age is making some unwanted gains. But before I go to appliance heaven I am determined to write one more law that makes someone accountable and creates a system that makes a homeowner aware of an appliance recall. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm1.r.com.

MILESTONES

ENGAGEMENT



Ashley Elizabeth Campanella and Michael Mlostek

CAMPANELLA-MLOSTEK

Sheila Baker-Kulig and Matthew Kulig of Livonia, with Michael Campanella of Westland are very pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Ashley Elizabeth Campanella, to Michael Mlostek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mlostek of Dearborn Heights. The future bride is a 2005 graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia, and currently studies nursing at Delta College in Bay City. The future groom is a 2001 graduate of Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights, and is employed with Consumers Energy as a power plant operator in Essexville. The couple will be married in October 2014 at the Newburg Church, located at Greenmead Historical Village, Livonia. A reception will follow at the Livonia Italian American Club. The couple resides in Bay City.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, *Observer & Eccentric*, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Maple sugaring

» Maple Sugaring in Your Own Backyard runs 1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 23, at Heritage Park, 24914 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost for each class is \$7 per person or \$21 per family of four. All materials are provided, as well as take-home resources. Dress for the weather — a portion of the program is outdoors. Pre-registration is required online at <https://re-creg.fhgov.com> or at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call 248-477-1135 or email asmith@fhgov.com.

» Wayne County Parks offers a 90-minute maple sugaring program at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, March 15 and 22 at Cass Benton Park, located off of Northville Road, north of Six Mile, in Northville. Participants will learn the history of maple sugaring, take a hike into the woods for a tree-tapping demonstration and will taste maple syrup on pancakes. Cost is \$6 per child and \$2 per child for Wayne County residents. Add \$1 per person for non-residents. Advance registration and prepayment is required at the Wayne County Parks office, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, MI 48185 or by phone at 734-261-1990.

» "Maple's Sweet Story," runs noon-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through March at Kensington Metropark Farm Center near Milford/Brighton. Take a guided walk through the farm's sugar bush to learn the secrets of tapping a tree. Watch sap being boiled down into maple syrup at the sugar shack. Maple syrup products will be available for sale and to sample. The fee is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children, 3-12; children under 3 are free. For more information call Kensington Metropark at 248-684-8632.

Butterfly garden

Local gardener John Blair will use a PowerPoint presentation at the next meeting of the Wayne Garden Club to show how he built his butterfly garden. The meeting is set for 12:30 p.m. Wednes-

day, March 12, at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 734-716-0780 or email darhawley3479@wowway.com.

Butterflies and moths

Brenda Dzedzic, author and co-founder of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) will talk about the life cycles of butterflies and moths at SEMBA's next meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. She'll also identify some of the dangers they encounter and will explain how to protect them by raising them indoors. \$3 for non-members. Parking available on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. Questions? email semba@sembabutterfly.com.

Frog & toad workshops

Friends of the Rouge will hold a training workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 15, at Northville Township Hall, for its 17th annual Rouge Frog & Toad Survey.

Participants will learn to identify frog and toad calls, a skill needed to conduct a survey this spring. Surveyors are assigned their own survey area within the Rouge River watershed. Surveys are conducted independently on a warm spring evening after dark in March through mid-May. The Township hall is located at 44405 Six Mile, Northville. For more information, visit www.the-rouge.org.

English Gardens

» Learn which herbs to grow in your garden during a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

» Make a kitchen herb garden at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Fee is \$19.99. Sign up online at englishgardens.com.

» Learn the secrets to a beautiful lawn at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 29

Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft, Redford

Details: Bethany Together Dance admission is \$13 and includes beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks. Dance lesson from 7:30-8 p.m. Attire is business casual. Bethany is an organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit. It provides peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths

Contact: 248-988-0454

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 16

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 adults, \$1.50 children, 2-10

Contact: 734-425-4421

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17

Location: Congregation B'nai Moshe, 6600 Drake, West Bloomfield

Details: Violinist Kara Fenyo Bahcall and Pianist Noemi Maczelka will perform works by Hungarian Jewish composer Karoly Goldmark. A kosher desseert reception follows. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$10 for B'nai Moshe members and their guests

Contact: 248-788-0600; www.bnaimoshe.org 12:45 p.m.

EGG HUNT

Time/Date: 12:45 p.m. Saturday, April 12

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Family Easter celebration includes an egg hunt, games and crafts for the children, along with the Easter story. Bring a basket to collect eggs

Contact: Melissa at 734-466-8694

EXERCISE CLASS

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, March 10 through April 14

Location: St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: Joe Mason, certified personal fitness trainer leads a class that includes aerobic movements for warm-up, balance and strength training, high repetitions with light hand weights, followed by yoga-oriented strength and stretch work, abdominal and back exercises and final cool down. \$42 for six weeks

Contact: 734-455-5910

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, beginning March 12 for five consecutive weeks

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: "Grieving with Great Hope" is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. It is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy. Register through the ministry's website or the church

Contact: 734-261-1455; goodmourningministry.net

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, beginning March 16

Location: Faith Community Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This 13-week, non-denominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Includes a video seminar featuring grief experts and real-life stories; support group discussion and workbook-based personal study and reflection. Grief-related handouts available weekly. Fee is \$15 and includes the workbook

Contact: pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

LENTE SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through April 9

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Theme is "From Garden to Glory"

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

LENTE SERVICE

Time/Date: Noon-1 p.m., Wednesday through Lent

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Worship followed by a light lunch

Contact: 734-522-6830

LENTE SOUP, DISCUSSION

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. soup dinner; 7:15 p.m. video presentation and discussion, Tuesday, March 18, 25, April 1 and April 8

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, between Levan and Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" will be co-led by Pastors Bob Hoey and Allen Kannapell

CONTACT: 734-425-2800

LENTE VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 9

Location: St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit

Details: The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, will preside at the first of five Lenten services. The homilist will be the Very Rev. George Shalhoub, pastor of the Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, Livonia

Coming up: The second vespers service will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 16 at St. Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church, 750 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights.

Contact: 734-422-0278; pascha-books@sbcglobal.net

RELATIONSHIP SEMINAR

Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 10-13; with banquet at 6 p.m. March 14

Location: Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4295 Napier, Plymouth

Details: Emerson Eggerichs talks about understanding and communicating with the opposite sex in this seminar on DVD; admission free, optional workbook available for \$8

Contact: Register at 989-965-4861

SERMON, BIBLE SERIES

Time/Date: 8 a.m. traditional, 11 a.m. traditional and contemporary services

Location: St. Matthew, 5885 N. Venoy, north of Warren Road, Westland

Details: Six-week sermon series and Bible study, "40 Days in the Word," began March 2

Contact: 734-425-0260

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, through April 10

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: The Siena Heights University Campus Ministry team will lead this series for teens. The series is based on the Rev. Robert Barron's new video series that focuses on the way pride, envy, anger, sloth, gluttony, greed, and lust may affect a person's life and relationships with God and others. Includes suggestions for "curing" each sin. Registration is required; cost is \$12.95 for accompanying study guide

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 207; www.livoniastmichael.org

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 9

Location: St. Paul's Preschool and Daycare, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Child care for ages 2 ½ and up; preschool for ages 3-4; Young Fives class; extended care and summer camp for all ages

Contact: 248-474-2488

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Time/Date: 8 a.m.-3p.m. Saturday, March 29

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Guest speaker, Carolyn Bira of Holy Cross-Flushing, will present "Identity Check: Remind Me Who I Am?" Dexter High School Chamber Quintet is the musical entertainment. Cost is \$25, which includes a continental breakfast and box lunch. Registration forms are available online at www.christoursavior.org or call the church

Contact: 734-522-6830

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar Gary Michuta leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Contact: 248-374-5920

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Reminiscences

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper



BEGIN-KISH, LOIS ANN

of Westland, former resident of Garden City, Michigan. February 28, 2014 age 85. Beloved mother of Scott (Doreen) Begin, Bruce (Beth) Begin, and Brian Begin. Loving grandmother of Amanda, Mike, Katie, Holly, Jonathan Begin. Survived by brother Fred (Betty) Rosten. Born Lois Ann Rosten in Negaunee, Michigan, December 11, 1928 to parents John Paul Rosten and Ida Sophia Mattson, both from Finland. Memorial Service March 9, at 4:30 p.m. in Huntington Woods Lutheran Church, 12935 W. 11 Mile Rd. Visiting in church begins at 3:30 p.m.

BLACKWELL, NANCY J.

March 6, 2014, age 78. Graduate of Plymouth High School, class of 1954. Beloved wife of 58 years to Richard. Dear mother of Christine and Robert Cwynar and the late William. Dear grandmother of Melody Norman and Matthew and Christina Cwynar. Visitation Sunday 3p.m. until 8p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth where funeral services will be conducted on Monday 10:30a.m. Share your memories at www.schrader-howell.com

GUNDLACH CAROLYN BENSON

Age 96. Born August 30, 1917 in Buffalo, New York. Died February 26, 2014 in Novi, MI. Daughter of Carolyn and Ralph Cooley Benson. Predeceased by her husband Theodore J. Gundlach Jr. Survived by children Terry (Teri) Gundlach, Rick (Janie) Gundlach, Carol (the late Gary) Bielaniec; 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Carolyn attended the Buffalo Seminary and Oberlin College. Carolyn will be remembered as a cherished wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She enjoyed volunteering, church activities, bridge, sewing, needlework, gardening and bird-watching. Always active and seeming younger than her years, Carolyn was an inspiration to all. She will be interred in Venice, FL



LIDLAW, WALTER "STUART"

Was born in Detroit on December 10, 1937 to the late Walter C. and Elizabeth Laidlaw. Stuart passed away suddenly in the hospital on February 22, 2014. Brother of Elizabeth "Christine" Welch (Ken), Richard "Bruce" Laidlaw (Andrea), and the late Duncan Laidlaw (Nancy). He had 17 nieces and nephews. Stuart attended Detroit public schools; Holcomb Elementary and Redford High School. He graduated from Birmingham High School and then studied art at colleges in Michigan and Ohio. He was an assistant to the sculptor Marshall Fredericks when creating The Spirit of Detroit. He went on to work in a bronze sculpture foundry in New York City. Upon returning to Michigan he lived in Ann Arbor, Birmingham, and Madison Heights. Stuart was active in city government and honored for his participation on Birmingham's Cable Board as well as other municipal activities. Stuart had many interests and his friends and family will miss him dearly. Family will receive friends Saturday, March 15, 3 p.m. until Memorial Service at 5 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (between 13-14 Mile). In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial tributes to Easter Seals, Dreams Unlimited Clubhouse, 1222 Catalpa, Royal Oak, MI 48067. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

A.J. DESMOND & SONS

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



MCDONALD, JACK

February 26, 2014, age 86. Beloved husband of the late Beverly. Dear father of Greg (Vickie) and James (Amy) McDonald. Also leaves six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Visitation Saturday, March 15 from 2 p.m. until time of the memorial service at 4 p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Share your memories at www.schrader-howell.com.

Schrader-Howell
FUNERAL HOME



WARD, DOTTIE M.

March 4, 2014, age 86 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late Harry Ward, and former wife of Ned Storton. Loving mother of Timothy (Sandra) of Canton, and Daniel (Jennifer) of Royal Oak. Proud grandmother of Sean Patrick Ward of Chicago, Megan (Josh) Green of Pinckney, Brandon MacDonald Ward of Detroit, Brittany Ward of Ferndale and Great Grandmother of Maggie Green. Dear sister of the late Raeburn (Delores) Davis, and the late Dan (Donna) Davis. Special aunt to Lynn Easton of CA, and Greg (Carol) Easton of Utah. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Dottie was an avid Bridge player, and will be deeply missed by her many friends. Services were held at First Presbyterian Church, Plymouth. Arrangements by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to Karmanos Cancer Foundation. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

VERMEULEN
FUNERAL HOME

View Online www.hometownlife.com

WEBER, CUMMING DORIS MERLE (nee Swindlehurst)

91, peacefully passed away February 13, 2014, in Ann Arbor, MI. She is survived by her four children, Bruce, Bev Moncy (Robert), Cynthia, Darryl (Katherine), and her four grandchildren, Anne Marie Rego, Bill Moncy, James Wilkinson and Julian Weber, and her great-grandson Ashton Rego. She is predeceased by her seven brothers and her husbands Robert Cumming (d. 1945) and Harold Weber (d. 1976). Doris was a graduate of Barbizon Modeling School in New York, and loved to dance. She was President of Redford Suburban League and co-wrote the children's book "Binkie, the Forgetful Clown" and the hilarious play "My Aunt Wears Old Army Boots," both successful fundraisers for the charity. Later, she worked as a bookkeeper with her son Bruce at Weber's Floral Gifts for 20 years and enjoyed traveling to Ireland, England, Alaska, Hawaii, Sweden, Russia and Italy. She made friends wherever she went, and she will be greatly missed. The memorial will be announced at a later date; please contact the family via DorisWebMemorial@gmail.com for details. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Schoolcraft College Foundation, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia, 48162.

Let others know...

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

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

Observer & Eccentric MEDIA

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

Snow, Snow, Go Away!



SHOW & TELL CONTEST

Brrr! You played in it. You built a snowman. You even stayed home from school because of it. Now here's your chance to show and tell. Show Scoop how you coped with the winter blast. Send a photo and brief description you could win your own copy of the DVD Disney's FROZEN.

February Valentine Coloring Contest Winner
 Damian Born, age 8 from Highland, Mi won a \$10 Gift card to Toys R Us.

Join Scoop's Birthday Club!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Date of Birth: _____
 Boy or Girl: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____
 *Parent's Printed Name: _____
 *Parent's Signature: _____

Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

* Required for Birthday Club

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- Michael Ledbetter**
 Livonia March 3
Ryan Sumner
 Milford March 3
Addison Darnell
 Novi March 14
Laela Lawrence
 Novi March 21
Grace Lejzorowicz
 Walled Lake..... March 27
Ryan Finley
 Livonia March 28

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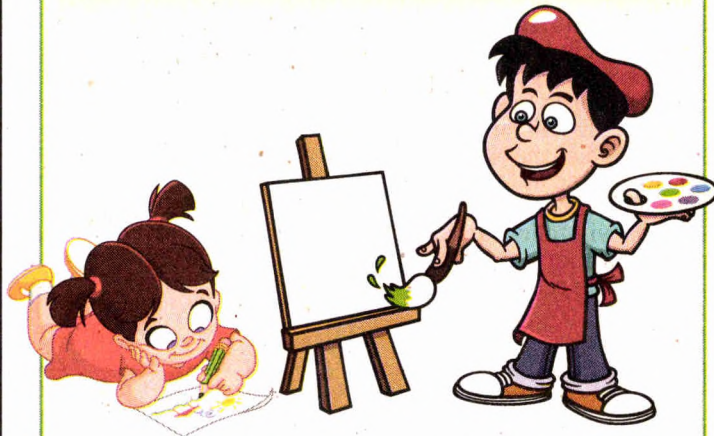
Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?
 Email: cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Did You Know?

RAIN AND OTHER PRECIPITATION IS PART OF THE ONGOING WATER CYCLE OF THE PLANET. WATER EVAPORATES FROM OCEANS AND LAKES, FORMS CONDENSATION IN CLOUDS, THEN FALLS BACK TO THE EARTH.



Art is FUN!



The month of March is recognized as Youth Art Month. Many schools take this opportunity to feature student's works of art. Did you create an art piece? Share it with us. Selected items will be featured in next month's Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights and on Scoop's Facebook page. Send a scanned picture or photograph of your artwork along with your name, age and community. It would be great to include a photo of you holding your art piece if possible.

My Hero

By Trevor Quattlander



Trevor Quattlander

"Oh, he broke another tackle and he scores" is what the announcer says when Barry Sanders gets the ball. Barry Sanders is not only my hero but my idol. I try every time to run the ball to never go down just like Barry Sanders did. Although he wasn't the fastest player on the field, he had some moves. He had a running style like no one else. If a hole wasn't there he would go



to the outside and find a hole. I think he has a great running style and that is why I admire him. That is why Barry Sanders in my hero and idol.

Jack The Noble Knight

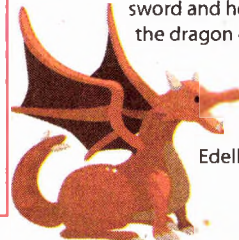
by Griffin Bryan

Once upon a time, a noble knight named Jack was guarding the king's castle when a messenger came to him and told him that a fierce and deadly dragon was terrorizing a city called Yanglehest, which was about 30 miles from the city that he was in called Edellbrook. Also, he said the king had requested Jack personally because Jack was a noble and brave knight.



A day later Jack set off on his journey to Yanglehest to slay the mighty dragon. He took food, armor, and supplies in case he needed them. In two days Jack had finally reached Yanglehest and what he saw was unimaginable. Houses were burned to shreds. Villagers were running around crazily; and above him flying around was the dragon! Quickly, Jack ran as fast as he could into the nearby house of about ten villagers to take cover from the dragon. He asked the villagers in the house if they knew how to kill the dragon but they said they didn't. One of the villagers told Jack that three warriors had tried to kill the dragon, but two of them fled. One of the warriors cut off the dragon's head but it grew two more heads and then the dragon ate him! Jack nervously said, "OK" and then he went out to face the dragon. Jack snuck around the outer wall of the house so he wouldn't be seen by the dragon, but the dragon saw him come out of the house. It swooped down and tried to eat Jack but Jack slit both of its throats. Jack then immediately remembered what the villager had told him and said to himself, "Oh no...," and then the dragon grew three heads! So then Jack panicked and ran straight toward the dragon with his sword and he put the sword right in the dragon's heart. Then the dragon died instantly and became ashes.

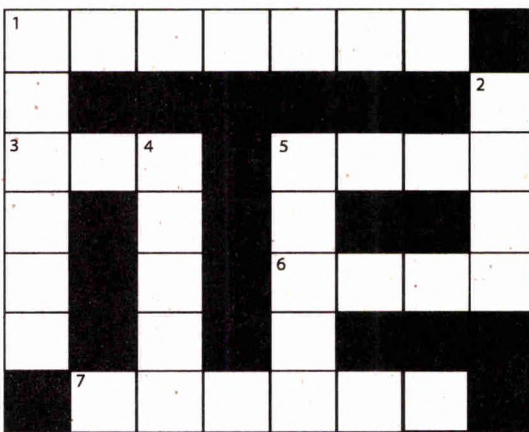
The people of Yanglehest praised Jack and told him that he was their hero and that he could come back whenever he wanted. The two towns of Edellbrook and Yanglehest lived happily ever after.



How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Snow
- SPANISH:** Nieve
- ITALIAN:** Neve
- FRENCH:** Neige
- GERMAN:** Schnee

Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- Making of higher temperature
 - Negative
 - In a short time
 - In a different way
 - Small, flat pieces something
- DOWN**
- Cold season
 - Frozen precipitation
 - Whole number
 - Eaten between meals

Answers:
 Across: 1. Warming 3. Not 5. Soon 6. Anew 7. Flakes
 Down: 1. Winter 2. Snow 4. Total 5. Snack

Courtesy of Metro Creative

Mail contest entries, birthday forms and talent submissions to:

Scoop the Newshound, Observer & Eccentric Media, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit Mi 48226 or email your submission to cbjordan@hometownlife.com by **March 28**

Winning submissions will be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

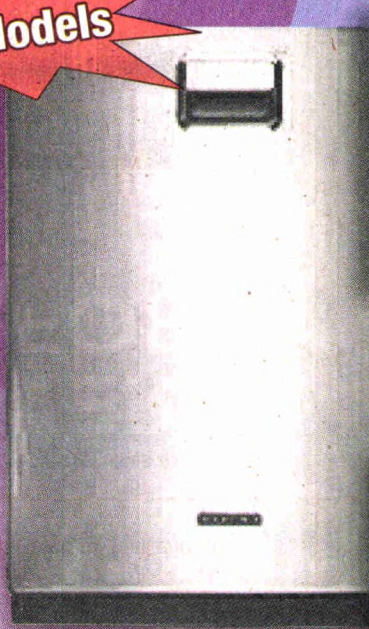
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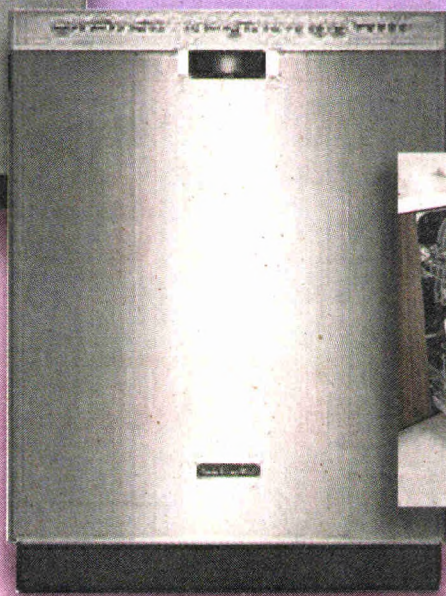
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16 Models

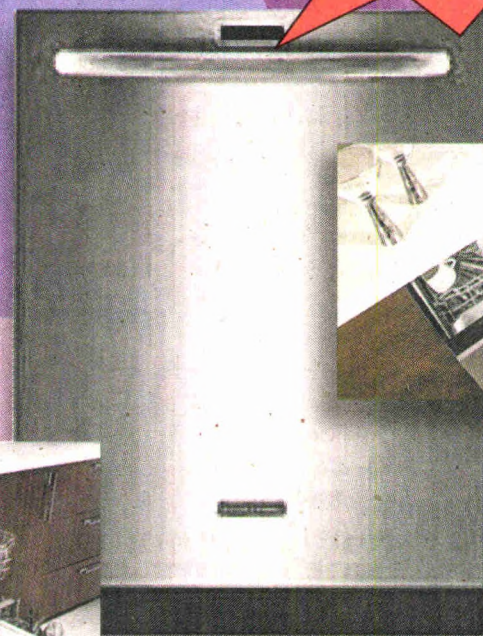
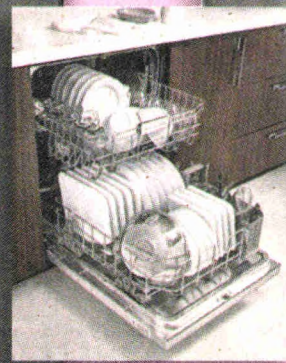
Quiet Performance



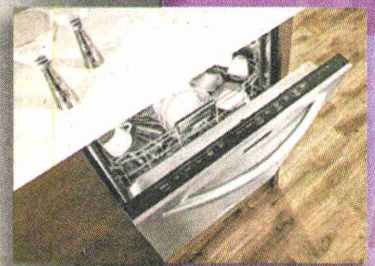
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JOB

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Do background check on potential employer

By Alina Dizik
Contributing Writer

Job seekers aren't the only ones who should undergo a lengthy background check; it's important that candidates research the company, too. Anything from pending lawsuits, bankruptcies or layoffs can be enough to raise a red flag. It's important to understand what you're getting into before accepting any position.

Doing background research also will help you ask all the right questions during an interview and impress hiring managers. Not sure where to start when it comes to researching the company?

Here's how to conduct your own background check on a potential employer:

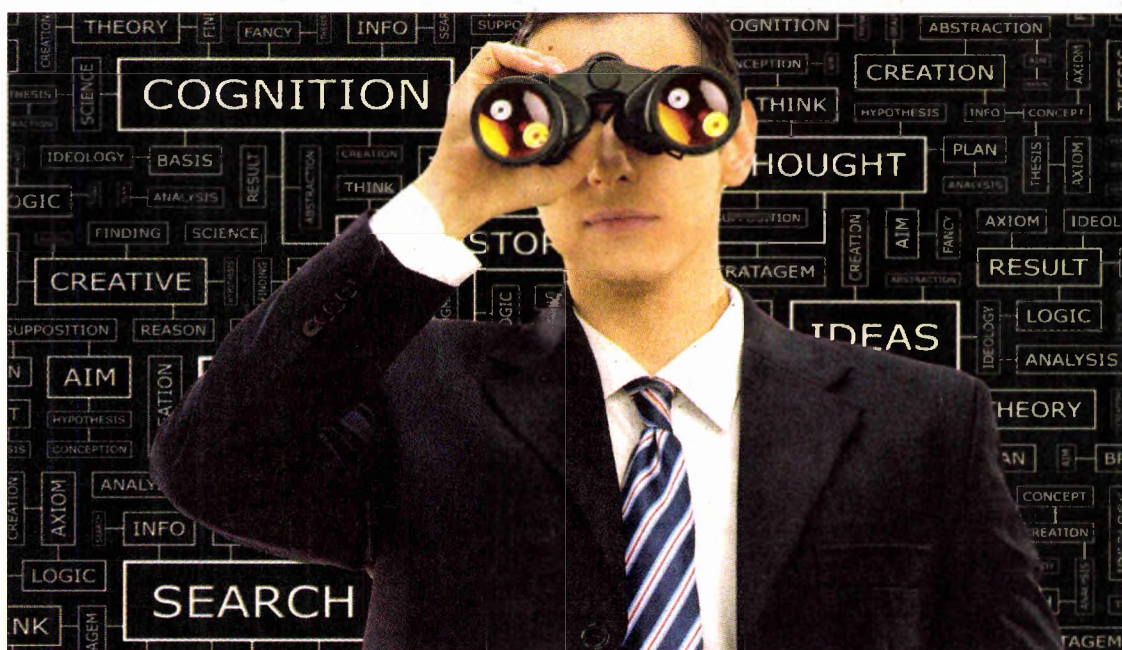
Check the finances

"Always look at the financial stability of the company," says Jonny Laurent, vice president

and general manager of Sage Employer Solutions, a recruiting firm. While it may be difficult to find specific information for a private company, it's important to try. Do online research, search local news sources and ask former or current employees -- do some quick digging to make sure your employer is viable. When companies experience important financial events like bankruptcies, there's a greater chance you'll be able to find out about them and track results.

Gauge the company culture

Speaking to current or former employees can help you understand whether you're a cultural fit with the company before you take the job. If you're not comfortable with areas of a company's culture, it can hurt your career. For example, a place that prizes cutthroat tactics to get ahead may be the wrong fit for someone who is looking for a team-oriented environment. "Find people in your network or close to your network who



do work or have worked for them and start a dialogue," says Laurent, who suggests LinkedIn as a good start. "Unless there is overwhelming evidence that the company is a bad fit, do not sell the company short and still interview, but now you can interview with open eyes."

Check its problem-solving record

The way a company approaches problems can be a good indicator of whether you'd want to work there and how the company treats its workforce. Before taking a job, find out "what has been the company's greatest challenge over the past year and how have they approached and solved the problem," says Jayne Mattson, senior vice president of Keystone Associates, a career management company with offices in New England. In a weak economy, it can be especially telling to see how a company has dealt with tough times. For example, if it's been able to grow an area of its business -- and you're being hired for a new position -- it can be a sign of good leadership.

Track layoffs and career progression

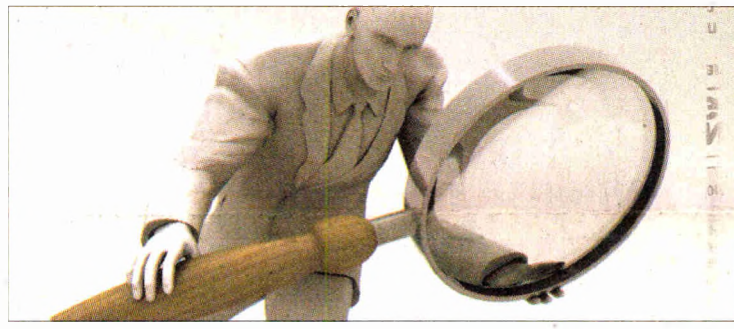
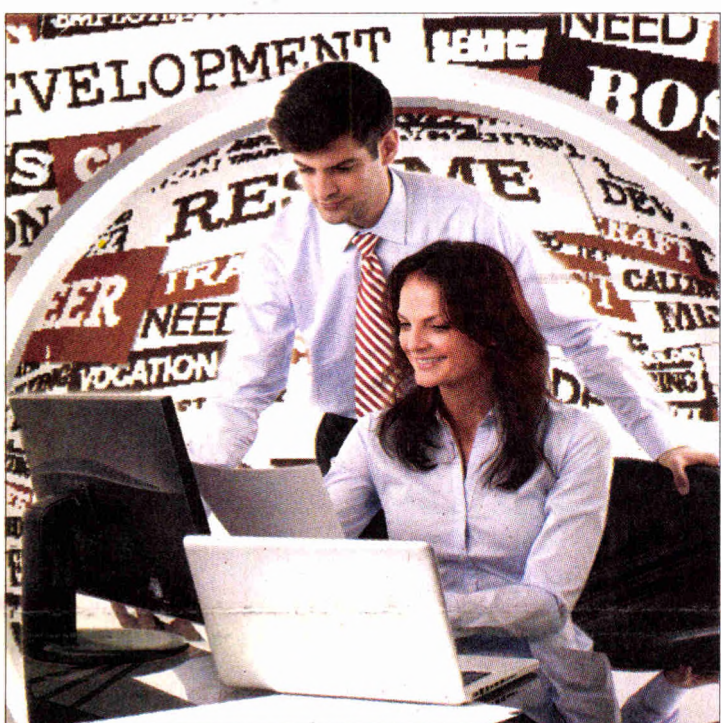
For most people, the biggest fear once they take on a new job is a layoff. And while that risk can't be entirely prevented, it's good to understand a company's track record. If the company has had multiple rounds of layoffs, it pays to be more careful when taking the role.

Additionally, try to find out who had your job previously, why she left and where she went. Knowing your career options after you're ready to move jobs can be a good way to gauge fit.

If you have any lingering questions, don't be afraid to

ask up when talking with the recruiter or during an interview with the company. Not only will it help calm your anxiety, but it'll show hiring managers that you've done your homework and understand the company. A background search "will help you and the company make sure the role is going to be a good fit for both of you," Mattson says. "Ask questions that will get to the heart of what you are trying to understand, so you will make the right career decision."

Alina Dizik researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder. Follow @Careerbuilder on Twitter.



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E.O.E. M/F/H

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Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm to:
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An AFC and Independent Living in Livonia is looking for a strong Marketing Director for their Community. They must be proficient in health care admissions, multiple priorities effectively, excellent computer, written and verbal skills, as well as resident and customer satisfaction along with a passion for seniors. This position also requires experience working in the assisting living setting, building relationships and outside resources. Ability to work possible weekends, evenings and flexible hours.
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Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

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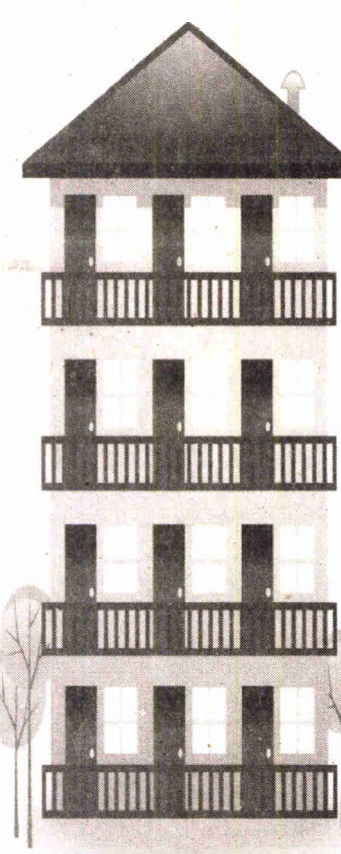
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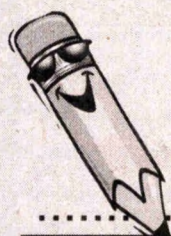
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Evergreen tree
 - 4 Get under one's skin
 - 7 Type of market
 - 11 Verdi heroine
 - 12 Caviar
 - 13 Dock
 - 14 Makes more interesting (2 wds.)
 - 16 Bookie's figures
 - 17 Wyoming range
 - 18 Unstable
 - 20 Mir successor
 - 21 This and that
 - 23 Humongous
 - 26 Fall fruit
 - 27 Luau number
 - 28 Crotchety and cantankerous
 - 31 Estimated amount
 - 33 Smallest
 - 34 Raspberry stem
 - 35 A great many
 - 36 Museum piece
 - 38 Suffix for hero
 - 41 Chaplain, slangily
 - 43 Stray calf
 - 45 Lemony
 - 47 Seemed attractive
 - 49 Wacky
 - 50 Grassy field
 - 51 Clothing
 - 52 Yellowstone sights
 - 53 Form 1040 info breaker
- DOWN**
- 1 Egads!
 - 2 Goes over proofs
 - 3 Baylor University site
 - 4 Tax-collecting org.
 - 5 Carpenter's tool
 - 6 French Legion headgear
 - 7 Broadway turkey
 - 8 Pretty beetle
 - 9 Bring to a conclusion
 - 10 Super Bowl highlights?
 - 11 — spumante
 - 15 Register for
 - 19 Gym class, briefly
 - 22 Dried clover
 - 24 Seine vista
 - 25 Traipse about
 - 26 Four-footed pal
 - 27 Outcry
 - 28 Night hunter
 - 29 Greek letter
 - 30 Carp about details
 - 31 Pit stop purchase
 - 32 Battery terminal
 - 34 Crinkled fabrics
 - 36 QB stat
 - 37 Ph.D. exams
 - 38 Snow house
 - 39 Long bout
 - 40 Docs prescribe them
 - 42 Bothers over trivial things
 - 44 Solemn promise
 - 45 Pub pint
 - 46 Mountain pass
 - 48 Cook's vessel

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	I	N	D	B	I	B	G	A	T	E
A	V	E	R	A	N	A	L	I	E	N
D	E	B	U	T	A	N	T	I		
			D	U	E	T	A	S	T	E
F	R	O	G	D	R	E	G	S		
A	I	L	E	D	A	R	N	F	L	O
I	C	E	R	E	D	Y	E	A	I	D
R	O	O	A	M	O	S	I	D	L	E
			O	M	E	N	S	N	E	T
V	U	L	C	A	N	H	R	S		
C	H	I	T	D	I	A	M	E	T	E
R	O	M	E	E	S	P	T	I	D	Y
S	H	O	T	D	O	E	S	A	S	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
										27		
28	28	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		

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

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

WORDS

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- WALKING
- WEIGHT
- WINDED
- WORKOUT
- YOGA

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

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

Car Report

Nissan Gets Last Word on Ad as Sales of 2014 Rogue Keep Surging



By Dale Buss

Several weeks ago, Nissan was forced to issue a corporate apology for overwhelming NFL telecasts and other TV shows with the same advertisement for the new version of its Nissan Rogue.

But guess what?

February sales results demonstrated that Nissan's blanket-advertising approach for its improved crossover — so annoying to some media pundits and others — was exactly the right strategy.

The crucial new version of Rogue feature better fuel economy, an available third-row seat and more technology features, correcting some of the important deficiencies in the original version that was an overall hit anyway.

Dealers moved this new Rogue at a blistering pace even amid the awful weather of February, and no doubt a good number of buyers had that annoying advertisement

dancing around in their heads.

Nissan Rogue sales increased by 72 percent in February over the year earlier, when the brand was selling an earlier version of the vehicle. Nissan sold more than 17,000 Rogues in the month, making the nameplate the second-highest-volume vehicle in the entire Nissan lineup, by far, after the bread-and-butter Altima sedan.

Including January, Rogue sales of more than 31,000 units for the year-to-date were a whopping 64 percent ahead of a year earlier.

A year ago, Rogue ranked only No. 4 in February sales among all of the company's nameplates. Nissan executed a major upgrade of the vehicle precisely because, as its main entry in the hot compact-crossover market, Rogue carried outsized importance.

In turn, Rogue's sales surge in February was the key to a strong monthly performance by Nissan amid a flat overall market and major shortfalls by several brands, most of which were blamed on the severe winter.

Nissan sales in February rose by 17 percent, and the company overall (including Infiniti) now has replaced American Honda as the No. 5 automaker in the United States, through February. The Nissan brand bumped the Honda brand to become No. 4 behind Ford, Chevrolet and Toyota.

Such results are important baby steps in the surge that Nissan is attempting to engineer for its brand in a challenging U.S. market that may indeed — weather-induced one-offs aside — be slowing down a bit.

And the Rogue's boffo sales performance seems to have justified Nissan's overwhelming the U.S. airwaves about two months ago with the ad — everyone knows it by now — that depicted the new Rogue leaping onto the back of a commuter train to illustrate with hyperbole that it is a fun and capable drive.

At the time, however, it wasn't too pleasant for Nissan to deal with the blowback to the incessant running of that single

commercial.

Typical was this Tweet by Jane Wells, a CNBC Los Angeles reporter: "In a Wells administration, networks can only run the Nissan Rogue ad once an hour."

Soon Nissan was issuing tweets of apology in response to specific individual complaints but with this general tone: "Sorry. We hear you. May have been a little TOO excited about the Rogue. Working w/ networks to show less this wknd. Our bad!"

There's nothing Nissan must apologize for in the vehicle itself. As the "Commute" ad and other advertising for the car amply points out, this is a nimble and more capable new Rogue that Nissan is aiming at an important market segment.

It's also roomier and more flexible inside. One common criticism of the original vehicle, which was introduced just six years ago, was that its 59.7-cubic-foot cargo capacity was relatively modest, even for the compact-SUV segment. The 2014 Rogue has expanded that space to 70 cubic feet, and an innovative "Divide-N-Hide" configurable rear storage system also is available.

Also, the original version of Rogue had a second-row seat that didn't slide or recline. Voila! The 2014 Rogue

does both, with a useful 40/20/40-split configuration to boot. Nissan also has added an optional third-row seat. Edmunds.com pointed out that this was "a particularly shrewd move" given that the competing Toyota RAV4 no longer offers one — without increasing Rogue's overall size or weight.

Under the hood, the new Rogue sports a 28-mpg-combined EPA estimate, even with all-wheel drive. Its 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine generates 170 horsepower. Its softened suspension yields "tepid handling," Edmunds.com opined,



The image seen by (nearly) all of America: the "Commute" ad

compared with the sport and similarly fuel-efficient 2014 Mazda CX-5. And the two-row 2014 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport promises "superior performance and a unique sense of style," Edmunds.com said.

For Nissan, combining its capable new Rogue with January and February sales means never having to say you're sorry ... again.



Nissan greatly improved the 2014 Rogue.

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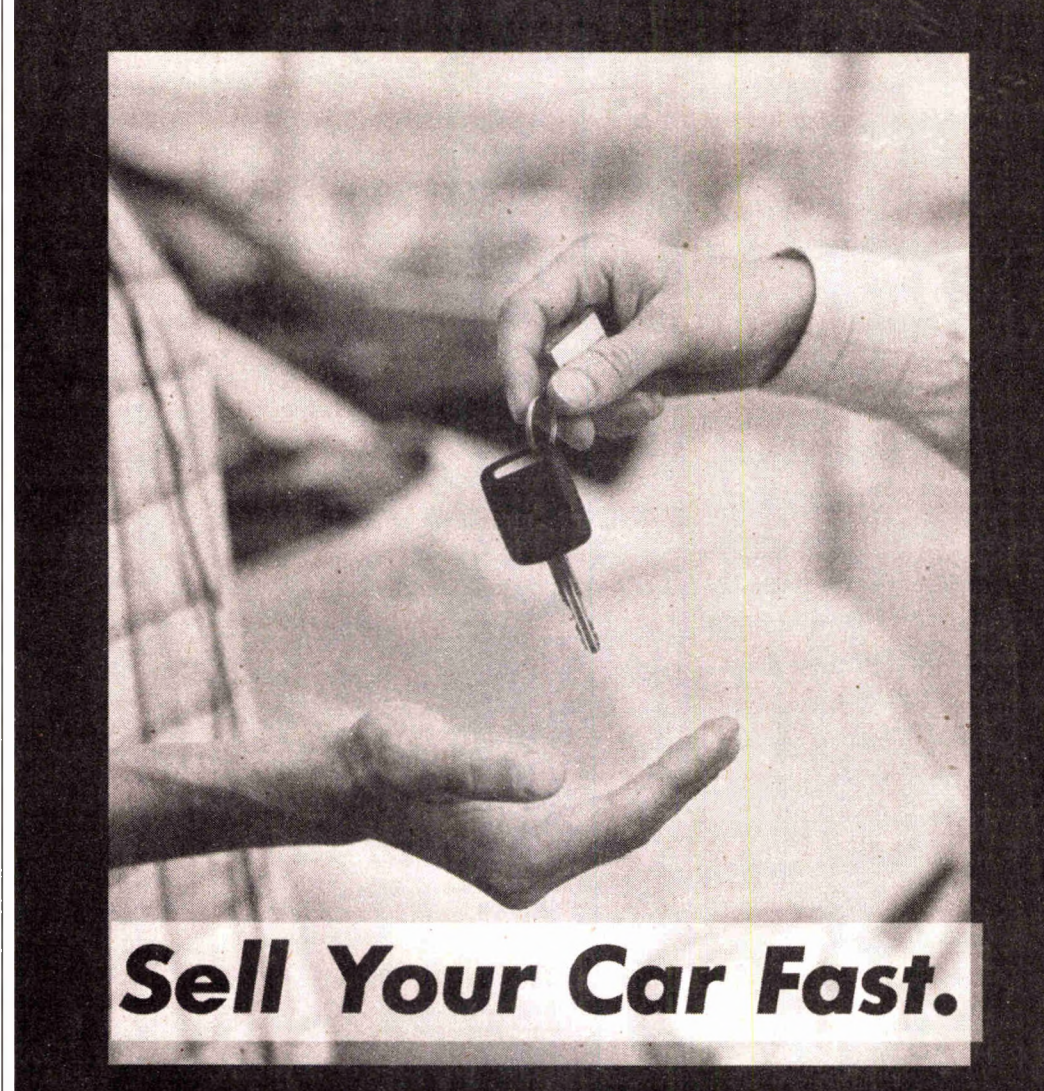
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