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COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

2014 a year for rebuilding in city, township

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Call it a rebuilding year. From an under-new-management Plymouth Ice Festival to new public and private development to additional public safety jobs, Plymouth and Plymouth Township saw change and growth in 2014 that showed a continuing rebound from the deep national recession that began in late 2007. There were housing and recreation projects approved,

commercial projects announced, features planned to make the community more attractive and political and financial groundwork laid for continued rebuilding in 2015 and beyond. However, rocky politics in Plymouth Township led to recall petitions against six of the seven Board of Trustees members, including full-timers Supervisor Richard Reaume, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Treasurer Ron Edwards. A petition drive

against those three, plus Trustee Kay Arnold, is underway, while Trustees Bob Doroshewitz and Mike Kelly also face a recall threat, though signatures are not being collected on recall petitions against them. Here's a broad look at some of the Plymouth and Plymouth Township news that dominated headlines in 2014:

Development
Some major projects got off the ground in 2014, others

were planned or won approval but weren't started, while others remain in the talking stages. Plymouth Township Park saw big changes with the beginning of a 4,500-square-foot, all-weather pavilion near the baseball fields and sledding hill. The project, approaching \$700,000 total, was not without controversy though, and Trustees Doroshewitz and Chuck Curmi voted against it. One facet of the recreation improvement plan, a \$350,000

amphitheater at Township Park, stalled amid growing public opposition. Officials postponed it at least until the idea can be discussed as part of the 2015 review of the township's recreation and open space master plan. In Plymouth, plans for the \$18.5 million Starkweather Station, an upscale 93-unit apartment complex, won final approvals, though construction has not begun. The project is

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Judy Mardigian in one of her favorite parts of being a board member: annual commencement exercises at Eastern Michigan University.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A PRESENCE FELT

Mardigian's school board reign saw good times and bad

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

If Judy Mardigian shows up for the first couple of Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meetings of 2015, chalk it up to force of habit. After all, Mardigian has been showing up for the meetings since 1998, when she was appointed to fill a vacancy. But Mardigian's presence is no longer required, since she retired from the board last month after 16 years of serving the district. She leaves the board as its longest-serving member. "It's going to be strange,



Retiring from the school board will give Judy Mardigian more time with her family, husband Si Nahra and children Sandy and Charlie.

MARDIGIAN FAMILY

but I think it'll be good," Mardigian said of her departure. "My family has sacrificed a lot, especially my husband. It's time to create a bit of a new life. It'll be good."

Open spot

The old one was pretty good. It got started as it does for many eventual board members, with a variety of

committee assignments and other parent involvement. Her children were students at Isbister - 10-year-old Charlie in fifth grade, 8-year-old Sandy in third - when Jack Farrell left the board. It was Mark Horvath, in his first incarnation as a board member, who called Mardigian about the appointment. Mardigian, who had been a big fan of student government herself in school, probably wouldn't have run her own campaign at that point, but she jumped at the chance to be appointed. "I was really unsure of myself ... I don't know if I would have run on my own and it seemed like such a daunting task," she said. "I was so excited. I couldn't wait to be part of the discussion

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Recall activists rally in township

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Protesters hit the sidewalks at Plymouth Township's main intersection Friday to draw attention to their campaign to recall four elected township officials.

The rush-hour picket for what's dubbed the Recall 4 campaign drew about two dozen people to the area of Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty, where they carried pro-recall signs and directed passers-by to a nearby parking lot, hoping to get them to sign recall petitions there.

Supervisor Richard Reaume, Treasurer Ron Edwards, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustee Kay Arnold are targeted in the campaign and activists have until early next month to get around 3,200 petition signatures, per official, to force a recall election of all four. Chris Hunter, one of the organizers, said the group is about halfway to that goal.

The campaign was started late last summer after board critics became frustrated with what they said was excessive spending on recreation projects and a lack of public input on those projects, but participants Friday cited a variety of reasons for joining the effort.

"They just seem to spend money without any real input from the community," said Mary Ann MacLaren, who said she has watched the board "through many meetings."

MacLaren said she's gotten a positive response to the recall campaign. "I think they think they're invincible," she said of the four officials.

Amphitheater, more

"It's just a total lack of transparency," Karl Peterson said. Peterson said he also objects to the "derision and satire and disrespect" with which, he says, citizens who

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As he leaves office, Ficano recalls points of pride in tenure as county executive

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

If you ask outgoing Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano about his time in office, the first thing he'll discuss is the economic development growth the county has seen in recent years. "If you look at it, in the past five years, 40 percent of all the new investment in the state of Michigan happened in Wayne

County," he said. He'll champion work with the Aerotropolis development, the Cobo Center authority as well as attracting businesses such as Blue Cross Blue Shield to downtown Detroit. It's those economic development projects Ficano hopes become his legacy, though the debate will likely continue for years. Ficano, a Livonia resident, is ending his time as county

executive, a run that lasted 12 years before he was defeated in the Democratic primary in August. He, along with several other candidates, was defeated by Warren Evans, who will take the reins later this week as Wayne County executive. Previous to his election in 2002 to the county's top spot, Ficano served as county sheriff. He was appointed sheriff in

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gov. Rick Snyder (left) and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano both attended the launch celebration for the new Ford Focus at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne in March 2011.



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REVIEW

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planned for Plymouth Road east of Holbrook; the vacant Mutual of Detroit building there is to be torn down.

Plymouth also saw plans to provide more downtown public parking move forward, with a \$2.25 million purchase agreement for the Saxton's Garden Center property on Ann Arbor Trail, plus two adjacent residential properties.

In other Plymouth and Plymouth Township development news:

» Westborn Market signed a lease with building owners Mark and Patty Malcolm to open its fourth area location in the historic former post office building on Penniman in downtown Plymouth. A fall 2015 opening for the specialty grocer is planned.

» Plans for the Rayyan Center, a mosque and Muslim community center, won preliminary approval from the Plymouth Township Planning Commission. An 18,000-square-foot building is planned for a 12-acre site at Five Mile and Pilot. A site plan must still be approved.



FILE PHOTO

Mark and Patty Malcolm of Plymouth purchased the former U.S. Postal Service building on Penniman in August and recently signed a lease with Westborn Market, which plans to open its fourth area specialty grocery store there late this year.

» Plymouth Road between Haggerty and Mill/Lilley, was repaired, resurfaced and reconfigured as a two-lane road with a center turn lane. Plans to repair and resurface Lilley between Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail this year, announced in 2013, were expanded recently to take the improvements all the way to Main Street. Construction should begin this summer.

» Proponents of the

proposed PARC - Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex - bargained with the Plymouth-Canton Community School District over buying Central Middle School. The PARC group wants to re-purpose Central as a community center once the school closes at the end of this school year.

Public safety

In Plymouth Township, the Plymouth Community Fire Department



BRAD KADRICH

Families rallied in front of Allen Elementary School after the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education voted to close it.

hired six firefighters with a two-year federal grant of \$1.33 million. Township officials say they are confident they will have the revenue to keep the firefighters after the grant expires in 2016.

The move restored jobs that had been cut in 2012, when six PCFD firefighters were laid off and Station 2, on the township's northeast side, closed. The station remains closed.

In Plymouth, the city commission authorized the hiring of an additional police officer, which will bring the force to 16, and left open the possibility of a 17th officer. It will be the first time in more than a decade that the department has had more than 15 officers and

a hiring is expected soon.

The commission also scheduled a Tuesday, Feb. 24, vote on a new public safety property tax of up to 1.5 mills, or \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. If approved, the tax would raise up to an estimated \$708,000 annually, which could be used for the police and fire departments, including to help pay for one or two new officers.

Plymouth Township officials put two public safety taxes, both renewals of millages that expire at the end of this year, up for Feb. 24 votes. One is for 1.6348 mills (about \$1.63 per \$1,000 in taxable value) and the other is for 0.5631 mills (about 56 cents for every \$1,000).

The millages would raise an estimated \$3.7 million for the police and fire departments in 2016.

Crime

The killing of Kenneth LaBita, 76, found shot to death Oct. 27 in his township home on Gilbert Street, was the only homicide in either community in 2014.

LaBita, a widower, grew up in the township and had lived in his house for more than 40 years. An acquaintance, Andrew J. Nutt, 22, and a woman described as Nutt's girlfriend, Miriah N. Pisarski, 20, are jailed on murder charges in the killing and face a Monday, March 2, trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The township was also where Roksana Sikorski, 15, allegedly stabbed her younger brother in October. He is expected to recover and Roksana and Michael Rivera, 23, of Detroit, face several felony charges, including four counts of conspiracy to commit murder for allegedly plotting to kill her siblings and her parents. Roksana is charged as an adult.

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FICANO

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1983 and re-elected five times.

He leaves office with several accomplishments under his belt, especially in economic development, but several problems loomed during his tenure in recent years.

One of the most notable was the unfinished county jail project that sits across the street from the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit, as well as waves of scandal surrounding his political appointees.

Cementing a legacy, Ficano said, comes with more than one or two problems that arise during a public servant's

tenure.

"When we had some of those complications, the easiest thing to do would have been to give up and to move on. Instead, I said 'no,'" he said. "I think, when you look at it, economic development is going to be a big part of the legacy."

Looking back at his career, Ficano said he learned a lot on the job, including working with people he trusted perhaps a little too much to handle operations at the county.

"In this case, was I too trusting of some people? Yes, probably I was," he said. "The fiscal thing was not easy and those

decisions, nobody liked cutting pay 10 percent."

Diane Webb, a county commissioner who represents Redford, part of Livonia and Dearborn Heights, said the work of the people Ficano appointed could be a big part of how people remember him.

"He just trusted people too much and didn't do his own homework on the decisions that were being made," she said. "The biggest problem is that he did not stay in control."

The jail project

Ficano said halting work on the jail project when it was projected to

go about \$90 million over budget became the difficult thing to do, leaving the project half-completed.

"It took a lot of political capital, but we said, 'No, we're suing you,'" he said.

Three individuals who worked or did work for the county were indicted earlier this year on several charges related to the over-budget project. Their cases are still working through the legal process.

Ficano anticipates the jail project will move forward during Evans' tenure and he said he believes it will be continued at its site across

from the courthouse after all the lawsuits pan out.

Looking forward

Ficano said he has no plans to run for public office again, though "you never say never," and he is still figuring out where he'll head come 2015. He said he does plan on staying in Wayne County.

"I've had some offers for teaching and stuff, so I'm just going to see," he said. "I'm still weighing all the options."

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RECALL

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speak up at board meetings are met.

"They just don't listen," Hunter added.

Hunter, who lives near Plymouth Township Park, said the amphitheater proposed for the park, to which he was opposed, was a key issue for him and that the officials could've stopped a recall if they had talked to amphitheater opponents.

"All they had to do to was sit down (with opponents) and we wouldn't be here," Hunter said. "Now this is much bigger than the amphitheater."

Reaume, reached late Friday, called protesters' complaints "ridiculous."

The board's meeting agendas and supporting material, plus township budgets, videos of board



MATT JACHMAN
Activists working to recall four Plymouth Township elected officials cross Ann Arbor Road on Friday afternoon during rush hour to draw attention to their effort.

meetings and more are all on the township's website, Reaume said. "How much more transparent can we be?" he said.

Asked about the charge that recall proponents say their concerns aren't heard, Reaume said: "That's code for they don't agree with the votes." Many of the board's votes, Reaume pointed out, are unanimous.

Two other officials, Trustees Bob Doroshe-witz and Mike Kelly, also face a recall threat in petitions filed by



MATT JACHMAN
Richard Sharland (left) and Mary Ann McLaren hold pro-recall signs Friday at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty.

Reaume. But Reaume has said he was trying to make a political point by filing the petitions and will not actively gather

signatures.

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INFLAMMATORY OSTEOARTHRITIS

How can a patient develop inflammatory osteoarthritis?
Osteoarthritis is a wear and tear arthritis, it results from a loss of cartilage from use like a tire loses tread from wear on the road. Inflammation is like a fire. For the body, the inflammatory response destroys cartilage, like flame burns up wood. In both instances the result is loss of cartilage, but the pathway to that end is very different.

Inflammatory osteoarthritis most commonly occurs in the hands because the hands are under constant use and the way the finger joints taper they lend to acquiring a rough calcium edge that is the starting point for inflammatory osteoarthritis. These rough edges, called osteophytes, act like slivers at the joint. Irritation ensues with the joint becoming swollen and painful to touch or when used to pinch, grasp or hold.

Treatment of inflammatory osteoarthritis is not settled. Medications like aspirin, ibuprofen or naproxan have not proved successful, and in people over age 70 are a risk because of the stomach upset and kidney dysfunction these medications may cause.

Heat helps but its effect is temporary. Drugs such as Enbrel or Humera work well against the inflammation of rheumatoid arthritis, but trials have shown no such response in treating inflammatory osteoarthritis.

The best healer is time. It may take weeks or months but in time the inflammatory response of the osteoarthritis dampens down and eventually resolves. The hand may not return to its former shape but will regain its past function.

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MARDIGIAN

Continued from Page A1

and to have a vote."

Horvath had gotten to know Mardigian through their work together with a group advocating small class sizes. He thought she'd be a natural fit.

"I got to know Judy and I gave her a call and told her she should apply," said Horvath, who was board president at the time.

Hard choices

It wasn't long before she was embroiled in controversy. The district had passed a bond in 1997 (by 71 votes) and was planning on building a third high school. The decision was where to put it.

One side wanted it to be part of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, which already housed Canton and Salem high schools. Mardigian wanted it as far away from the complex as possible.

Ask her about it now and she admits she was wrong.

"In the end, I was happy to say I was wrong," Mardigian said. "It enabled all the kids to take advantage of the unique opportunities The Park offers. That's always been part of the unique magic of The Park."

She's had to make a lot of those kinds of decisions in 16 years. In the last dozen years, the board has made millions of dollars in cuts to the budget, closed one elementary school, voted to close two more (although one will be re-purposed) and closed a middle school (although it will be replaced by a new one).

Center of attention

In her tenure, the board has privatized bus drivers and custodians, brought the food service operation back in house. Members have started Courageous Conversations, gone through several superintendents, passed another bond (2013) and had two more fail (2006 and '07).

Mardigian has been at the center of much of it. That's been one of her most consistent traits, according to the man who's had to live with her through it all.

"She doesn't win all the fights she gets into," said her husband, Si Nahra. "But she always gave it her best effort."



Judy Mardigian congratulated fellow Board of Education winner Barry Simescu and his wife Dorothee during a victory dinner at E.G. Nick's in downtown Plymouth after the 2004 election.

FILE PHOTO

It's been sort of a tale of two board careers, though. The first 10 years, she said, "times were good." The district was growing, there was enough money and staff, it was building new schools and "everything was great."

Then came the economic decline of 2007 and a corresponding decline in Wayne County's birth rate that started the following year. The foundation grant started shrinking and times were tougher.

Making cuts

In an eight-year period, the board cut some \$40 million out of its budget. And Mardigian knows what it took to achieve those cuts while keeping them out of the classroom.

"That was achieved through a lot of sacrifice made by people in the district," she said.

Like Mardigian, Kim Crouch's tenure on the board started as an appointment for a vacancy (she was chosen in 2012 when Barry Simescu left the board).

She said a desire to keep the cuts out of the classroom was typical Mardigian.

"(Mardigian) had no problem advocating for things that were unpopular or controversial," said Crouch, who in

November retained her seat by winning in her first election. "I felt she always did what she thought was right and in the best interest of students."

Reaching out

Just like Horvath reached out to her, Mardigian has encouraged others to serve. Former Vice President Adrienne Davis was a Mardigian recruit and Mardigian also encouraged Crouch and current Trustee Sheila Paton to run.

"Judy was the ideal board member to me because she brought the right amount of insight, experience and wisdom to the issues we faced as a board," Crouch said. "She was a mentor to me because she always put students first."

There have been a lot of good parts of Mardigian's service, most of which, she said, involve people. She enjoys working with board members to resolve issues and said the staff throughout the district has "always tried so hard to work with us and do a great job."

But the best parts, she said, have always involved the students.

"Getting to student events has been the greatest part," Mardigian said. "When you see

them succeed ... that's why we're here."

The cost

Her service hasn't come without a cost, however. Nahra and Mardigian are the owners of a local business, Health Decisions, Inc., an IT company that helps other companies manage health care costs.

Nahra said the firm's balance sheets generally reflected the amount of time Mardigian was devoting to the school board.

But, he said, it was worth it. "Her service had a natural effect on the business," Nahra said. "I don't look at it as onerous, but there was a price paid."

Ironically, she should have quit paying that price two years ago. Her term was actually supposed to expire in 2012, but then the board voted to move its elections from even-year May to odd-year November.

The state Legislature then voted to move them to even-year November, to coincide with presidential elections, and Mardigian's term was extended to 2016.

That's a long time to spend on a school board, often one of the most thankless jobs in

government. Horvath, back on the board now, acknowledged Mardigian's contributions.

"It's a huge time commitment and often it's a can't-win job," Horvath said. "You've got to have a lot of dedication to kids to do it for that long."

Finally time

Mardigian has known for a while this was going to be it and her family is OK with that.

"It's been a great experience for her," Nahra said. "She grew a lot from it. (Retiring) is her decision ... I certainly respect it. It's a good time for her to step back and let others take it over."

Others may have to determine her legacy, but whether it's been fighting for a dance studio - "I was pleased to see people recognized how much she championed the arts," Nahra said - or pushing a bond proposal, Mardigian said she's proudest of the fact she never backed away from the hard choices.

"I've never been afraid to give my opinion," Mardigian said. "It's not always easy to keep your voice. That's one thing I can say I've always done."

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I couldn't help but wonder if the rest of my life is going to be like this. I didn't know where to turn for help. But, listen to this . . .

Finally, a respected colleague of mine convinced me to join a conference call hosted by Dr. Ted Morter, III, to learn about Bio Energetic Synchronization Technique (B.E.S.T.). Dr. Morter presented the phenomenal results achieved by B.E.S.T. treatment - with clients who have been classified as medical and chiropractic "failures" - and what made B.E.S.T. different from traditional techniques. Instantly, I felt hope flow through me. I decided to hop on a plane and attend a one-day seminar to see for myself what the technology could do. At that seminar, I was floored by the multitude of applications that are possible with B.E.S.T. This form of care allows me to help people in a way that I had been dreaming about since I first decided to become a chiropractor. In that moment, I realized that this is the approach I would use with each person I treat; this IS the approach that allows your body to heal itself from the inside out in ALL AREAS of your life.

Now let me tell you about Emma our wonderful daughter in the photo...

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The studies speak for themselves, like the Parker University study that showed that nearly 87.5% of people who saw a B.E.S.T. Practitioner were satisfied with their results. That's just incredible!

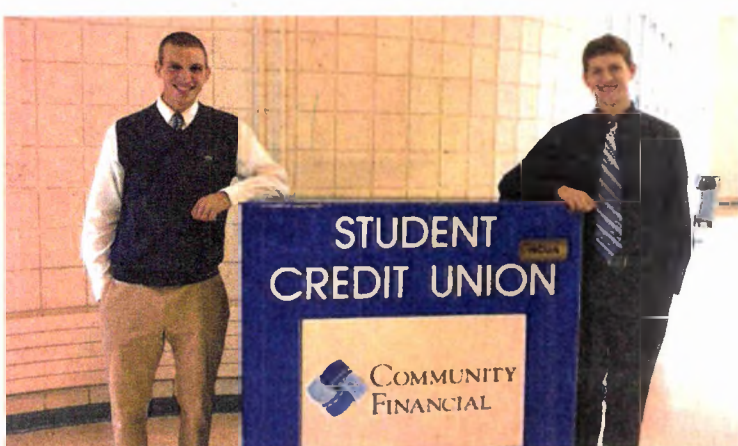
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Credit union donates funds to area schools

Community Financial Credit Union is helping schools in southeast Michigan communities by donating funds for educational programs and supplies through the Community Shares program.

Started in 1999, Community Shares is a program where Community Financial donates to school projects, functions and foundations. The credit union runs this program in the communities it serves in southeast Michigan and northern Michigan.

"Our local schools are the backbone of strong communities here in Michigan and so we feel it is important to give back to the communities that have been so good to us," Community Financial marketing manager Sarah Cousineau said. "We know that funding for our



Community Financial runs student-run branches at area schools, including this one at Salem High School.

school districts is a constant challenge, so we're happy to help support educational needs

wherever we can." Community Financial worked with several school

districts to identify programs that could benefit from financial support. Donations in southeast Michigan included the Livonia Public Schools Education Foundation, the Northville Educational Foundation and the Novi Education Foundation.

A donation to the Plymouth-Canton Educational Excellence Foundation is supporting a community display of a historical research project conducted by Salem High School teacher Darrin Silvester and his students. The project focuses on the historical impact of Central Middle School and the graduates of the previously known Plymouth High School.

"When classroom work can be connected to the community, the better kids are prepared for their futures," Silvester

said.

Silvester and his students are excited the grant allows them to present their work in a format that makes it useful to the entire community.

"The grant from Community Financial is helping to honor the great work that Plymouth High School graduates have done in Plymouth and the rest of the nation" Silvester said. "We are excited to share what we have found. There has been great work done here for more than 150 years and we want to share it with the community."

Community Financial donated a total of \$25,500 for Community Shares in 2014. Eight school districts located in southeast and northern Michigan communities have benefited from the charitable program.

Little Stars concerts bring holiday cheer to seniors

The Little Stars Foundation, a nonprofit and charitable youth organization, concluded the 2014 holiday performance season recently with 10 concerts in eight nursing homes and senior centers.

It's the ninth consecutive year TLSF has toured nursing homes and senior centers, playing Christmas carols on their violins and passing out presents to residents.

This year, the foundation has performed at Hope Health Care Center in Westland, Four Season Nursing Center in Westland; Waltonwood at Cherry Hill Independent Living, Waltonwood at Cherry Hill Assisted Living and Memory Care, Waltonwood at Carriage Park Assisted Living and Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent Living, all in Canton; Waltonwood at Twelve Oak II in Novi; and Independence Village of Plymouth.

TLSF members also brought 360 fleece blankets to the seniors as this year's



TLSF members Anna Sun, Amy Sun and Alan Sun show off 360 red blankets and some plush snowmen the foundation purchased to pass out to seniors as Christmas presents.

Christmas gifts. The members raised the funds through fundraiser activities.

The TLSF visits brought joy to hundreds of local sen-

iors during this holiday season. The performances were well-received, with many senior residents singing along to the holiday carols.



TLSF brought blankets and Christmas music to Waltonwood at Carriage Park Assisted Living in Canton.

The nursing home residents mentioned that they were "very happy to see the young visitors" and enjoyed the "talent" and "heart-warming performance and gifts" that the Little Stars brought along with

them. Many residents expressed their wishes for the young musicians to come back soon.

For more information, go to <http://www.thelittlestars.org> or email tlsf@thelittlestars.org.



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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WOMEN OF WAR

Date/Time: Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The meeting of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum will explore the role of women before World War II and how war impacted their lives, with the presentation "The Women of World War II - America's Secret Weapon" with Dan Packer, a member of the board of directors of the Friends. Women of all ages, races, and geographic regions were affected by FDR's New Deal. How did these public programs help or hinder women as they tried to make things a go during the Great Depression of the 1930s? Did family life suffer? Did FDR's programs open or close doors for women who wanted to work and for those who had to work? The talk is free and open to the public.

Contact: For more information, call 734-455-8940, ext. 0.

THEATER CLASSES

Date: Starting Saturday, Jan. 17

Location: Forever After Productions studio, 50429 Independence, Canton

Details: Forever After Productions announces the beginning of winter session of theater classes. Classes are open to students ages 4-14.

Contact: For more information, go to www.iheartforeverafternow.com or call 734-547-5156.

SENIOR FITNESS

Location: Plymouth Senior Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth

Dates: Jan. 6 to Feb. 13, Feb. 16 to March 27

Times/Details:

Silver Sneakers, Tuesday and Fridays, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Seniors 65 and over. Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activities for daily living. Hand held weights, elastic tubing with handles and Silver Sneakers balls are offered for resistance. Chairs are available as needed.

Silver Sneakers Yoga, Wednesday, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Classes offer a modified variety of stretching exercises in both seated and standing positions. The movements and stretches done during a Yoga Stretch workout help increase muscle tone and build strength. Exercising the joints keeps them functional and helps you remain pain-free. Flexibility, range of motions and balance are improved through yoga, each of which help prevent falls.

Zumba Gold, Wednesday, 11-11:45 a.m. A specialty dance inspired fitness class that takes the same fun Zumba flavor and modifies the moves and pace to suit the needs of active older adults, baby boomers and the beginning fitness person. Zumba Gold has a longer warm up and cool down to allow participants a pro-

gram to improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular strength.

Contact: For more information, contact cmorency@ymcadetroit.org or 734-453-2904.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:

Jan. 5, 12:30-6:15 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Jan. 8, 2:30-8:15 p.m., Bird Elementary School, 220 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Jan. 11, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The American Red Cross asks eligible blood donors to make a resolution to give blood regularly in 2015, beginning with National Blood Donor Month in January. Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with O negative, A negative and B negative.

Contact: To learn more about donating blood and to schedule an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

LIBRARY BAG SALES

Dates: Jan. 23-26; Feb. 20-23; March 27-30

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: The Canton Public Library hosts several Bag Sales to benefit Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public Library bookstore. Visitors can shop during the monthly sale and fill a big with books for just \$5.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Dates/Times: First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman

Details: Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

Contact: For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third Thursday, January through May 2015, 11 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

Details: Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Waltonwood Cherry Hill.

Contact: To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.



K'Leigh Middleton was born at the St. Mary Mercy Birthing Center to mother Ashleigh Carroll of Canton.

First baby born to Canton mom

The first baby to arrive at Livonia's St. Mary Mercy Hospital in the new year was born to a Canton woman.

K'Leigh Middleton was born at the St. Mary Mercy Birthing Center to mother Ashleigh Carroll of Canton.

Carroll gave birth to K'Leigh at 7:03 a.m. Jan. 1. K'Leigh weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces at birth and was 20 inches long.

Tail Wagger's needs food, treats for pets

Tail Wagger's 1990's Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program needs items to help support families in caring for their pets.

Food and supplies for both dogs and cats can be dropped off at the Tail Wagger's office at 28402 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inksater Road, in Livonia. Both dog and cat treats are needed. Gift cards to Petsmart, Petco, Target and Walmart also are welcome.

The Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program gives assistance to animals in need so that they can stay with the family.

"The goal of the Pantry 4 Paws program is to help eliminate additional financial stress on a family during the holiday season and to ensure the animals of the communi-

ty are being fed and not going to sleep hungry at night," Tail Wagger's founder Laura Zain said.

Local businesses also can serve as a collection point for the Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance Program. All collection points will be given a sign, personalized flier, collection bin and exposure on the Tail Wagger's 1990 website.

Families in need of pet food assistance can contact the Tail Wagger's office at 734-855-4077 or send an email to tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com. While no income verification is necessary, the Pantry 4 Paws program does require that animals in the home are up-to-date on their vaccinations within a three-month period of starting the pro-

gram. Tail Wagger's 1990 affordable vaccinations make it simple for pet owners. All calls will be kept confidential and arrangements will be made on an individual basis for pick-up of food.

Financial contributions can be made through the website at www.tailwaggers1990.org or by mail to 28402 Five Mile, Livonia, MI 48154. All financial contributions are tax-deductible.

Tail Wagger's 1990 is a nonprofit organization, committed to helping people help animals.

Its ultimate goal is to be able to support dedicated pet owners who are in need of assistance along with providing necessary funding for those animals in emergency situations.

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Sea Cadets say farewell to their commander

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Lt. Cmdr. Leonard DeNard was a bit disappointed as he walked out of the gymnasium at Cambridge High School in Garden City.

Flanked by a cadre of Navy Leaguers and Sea Cadets, DeNard was walking off into retirement after 36 years with the the Navy Sea Cadet Corps.

"One, is that all I get?" the Melvindale resident asked.

DeNard was referring to the tradition of helping a retiring sailor leave by kicking his butt off the ship. His comment attracted a second kick from Seaman E3 Christina Gregg, who had piped his departure.

The retirement ceremony was part of the division's awards ceremony, held Dec. 13 at Cambridge, where the program is based. It included promotions, awards and the announcement of Sea Cadet of the Year, an honor that went to Ethan Hansen of Northville.

"It came as a little bit of surprise," the Northville High School junior said. "I thought I might win, but there were a few people ahead of me. Once the previous petty officer left, I jumped in and filled the need. I was big brother to everybody and that might be why I got it."

Hansen also received a second honor – the Sons of the American Revolution's bronze Good Citizenship Medal. Authorized in 1895, the award recognizes a person whose achievements are noteworthy in their school, community or state. It was the first time the award has been presented in the state of Michigan.

Gregg of Romulus received the Daughters



Sea Cadets and Navy Leaguers stand the watch as Lt. Cmdr. Leonard DeNard officially begins his retirement.



Lt. Cmdr. Leonard DeNard has been involved with the Sea Cadet program since 1982.

of the American Revolution NCSS Outstanding Cadet medal and ribbon for her exceptional and meritorious performance of her duties, leadership, character and discipline.

"I was surprised and honored to receive this," she said. "I work really hard and it's nice to know that it's noticed and appreciated."

Saying good-bye

But it was DeNard's retirement that was the main event. A U.S. Navy veteran, he joined the Sea Cadets in 1982, entering the Great Lakes Division as a uniformed instructor. He served there eight years, before joining the Hannan Division. He served as the executive officer until he was promoted to commander of the training ship Bristol Bay in 2006.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, DeNard moved with his family

SEA CADET CORPS

Sea Cadet organizations exist in most of the maritime nations of the world. Recognizing the value of these organizations in educating youth in maritime matters, the Department of the Navy requested the Navy League of the United States to establish a similar program for American youth. The Navy League agreed to do so and formally established the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Navy League Cadet Corps in 1958.

The Sea Cadets program is for youth ages 13-17, while the Navy League Cadets are for those ages 11-14. The James M. Hannan Division and the training ship Bristol Bay meet at Cambridge High School, 28901 Cambridge, Garden City.

For more information, contact Lt. Ed Brennan at 248-685-9568.

moved to the United States in the 1940s after Pearl Harbor. He was a Canadian Sea Cadet when he was 11 and 12 years old. He hooked up with the U.S. version as an adult through his son David.

"I took my youngest son to drill. He had long hair. The captain talked to him and told him he would have to get a haircut," DeNard said. "That was on a Monday night.

On Thursday, he asked when the next drill was. That night, he talked to the captain and wanted to sign up. I told him if he signed up, I would, too."

He went to classes 16 hours a day at the Great Lakes Training Center to start, then was assigned to the Noble Odyssey, where he worked with cadets for 13 years. He was moved to the Pride of Michigan and went to Norfolk, Va., to pick up

the ship.

DeNard in his farewell speech, acknowledged the cadets, telling them that "you'll never see a better group of cadets and officers."

"I am moved to be a part of this," he said. "After all my work with this program, I can say you won't find better people. Even though I'm retiring, I will be back to check on you."

In its 50th year of operation, the Hannan Division is the oldest continuously serving sea cadet unit in the state and one of the oldest units in the United States, according to its executive officer, Lt. Ed Brennan of Milford.

"The James M. Hannan Division was the pilot for the program in 1964 and has experienced success over the years," he said.

Changing places

The division has been housed at the high school for two years. At one time, it operated out of Brodhead Armory in Detroit. When that closed, it moved to a church before dropping anchor at Henry Ruff

School in Garden City three years ago.

After just one year at Henry Ruff, the division received bad news: it had to move again. But Principal Debbie Eves, who was recognized at the ceremony, had good news for the group. They were moving with her to Cambridge High School.

"She saw to it that we got this excellent facility," Brennan said. "I remember we had a facility where the roof leaked and the lights didn't work. Debbie gave us this and that is behind us."

The program ended with lunch and DeNard, with the help of the youngest Navy Leaguer and the oldest Sea Cadet, helping slice his cake with a saber.

"Who wants to like the knife?" he joked, but added, "I'm going to miss this, but they gave me a card, a retirement card. I can go to any function with the cadets – drills, parades. I'm not going away. They'll get tired of me hanging around."

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RED CROSS NEWS

January is National Blood Donor Month and, this year, American Red Cross supporters have a new way to help save lives through blood and platelet donation with SleevesUp virtual blood drives.

SleevesUp is a first-of-its-kind website that lets those who feel passionate about blood donation create a virtual blood drive and encourage colleagues, friends and family members to give blood or platelets or make a financial donation to support their campaign. SleevesUp campaigns allow people to honor someone's life, celebrate a special occasion or simply bring others together to help save lives – any time of the year, regardless of location.

"SleevesUp is a new way to empower people to help ensure blood is available for patients this winter and throughout the year," said Jim Flickema, chief executive officer for the Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region. "It gives those who feel passionate about blood and platelet donation and want to make a difference in people's lives a chance to multiply their impact many times over."

A SleevesUp virtual blood drive can be created online at redcrossblood.org/SleevesUp in just a few minutes. Once a campaign is created, others can pledge their support immediately by making an appointment to donate blood or platelets at a blood drive or donation center convenient for them. Those who are not eligible to give blood, do not have a Red Cross blood donation opportunity near them or simply want to do more can also support a SleevesUp campaign by making a financial donation to the Red Cross Blood Services. SleevesUp is one of

many ways individuals and groups can celebrate National Blood Donor Month, which has been observed in January since 1970 and recognizes the importance of giving blood and platelets while honoring those who roll up a sleeve to help patients in need. The winter months can be especially difficult to collect enough blood and platelets to meet patient needs. Inclement weather can result in blood drive cancellations and seasonal illnesses, like the flu, can prevent some donors from making or keeping appointments to give.

Blood donors with all blood types, particularly O negative, A negative and B negative, and platelet donors are encouraged to make an appointment to give. In addition, individuals are encouraged to check out SleevesUp and invite others to join them in making a lifesaving donation. More information about SleevesUp is available at redcrossblood.org/SleevesUp.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.



The Holocaust Memorial Center debuts a new exhibit Jan. 11.

AILEEN WINGBLAD

Exhibit debuts Jan. 11 at Holocaust Memorial Center

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus will host the exhibit *Never Let It Rest: Sojourns in the Shadowlands* from Jan. 11 through May 3.

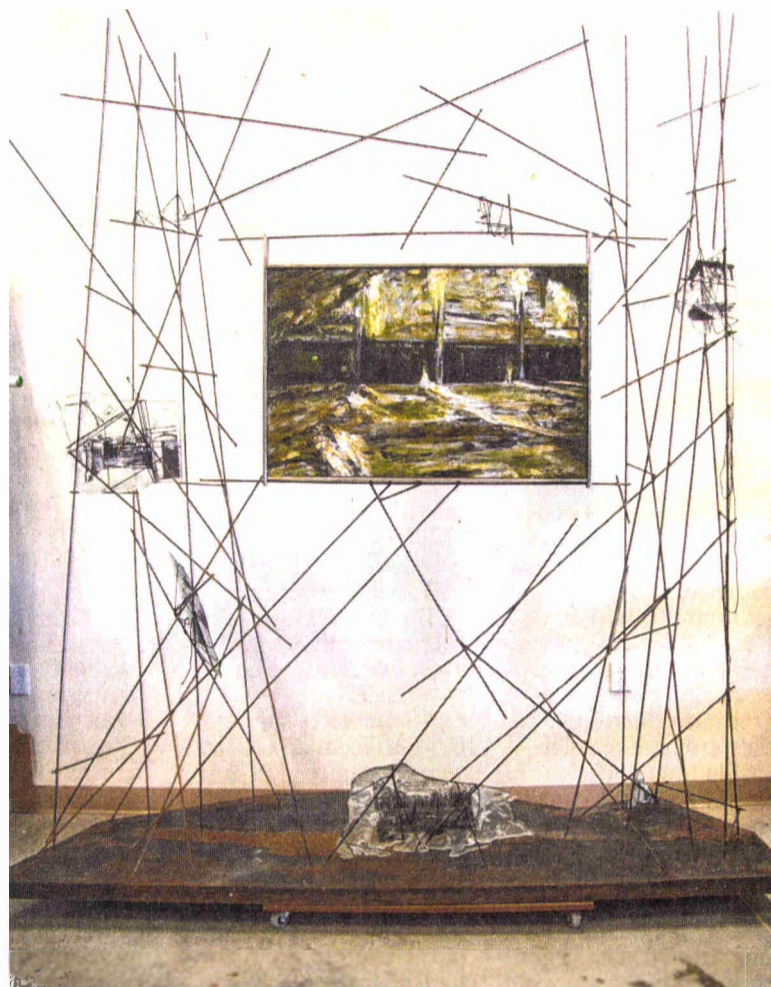
The exhibit is a mixed-media installation that features sculpture, ceramics, photography, video and found objects relating to the small town of Salzwedel in the Saxony-Anhalt region of Germany during the time of Nazi control.

The artists, Hans Molzberger and Michael Roque Collins, will speak at the 7 p.m. opening, which is free with paid admission or membership, and is generously supported by the PNC Foundation. Both artists have independently and collaboratively created art concerned with the Holocaust in Germany and Poland. Their artworks combine to create a powerful reminder of man's inhumanity to man during the Holocaust.

"We have found the exhibits using multiple mediums like art and video allows it to reach a much broader audience," Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen M. Goldman said. "Never Let It Rest fulfills this goal and we look forward to its display and the visit from the artists themselves."

The exhibit is supported by Susan Malinowski, Gary Shapiro and Nancy and James Grosfeld.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. For more information, go to www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.



The sculpture, "Broken Walls," pictured here as a photo, is one of the items featured in the exhibit.

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Learn to Skate



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Learn to Skate Class at the Novi Ice Arena filled an arena Nov. 5 with dozens of skaters, mostly young, learning how to glide across the ice.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Learn to Skate instructor Alison Freier helps newcomer David Zhao regain his balance as they take to the ice.

Skills for all levels taught at Novi Ice Arena

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The Novi Ice Arena's Learn to Skate program is a great place to start for any aspiring hockey player or figure skater. The schedule includes classes for all skill levels ages 3 through adult.

"Our program is open to every age and is designed to provide a fun and safe experience and to promote health and physical fitness to both the recreational and competitive skater," Novi Ice Arena Skating Director Micki Freier said.

The Learn to Skate program follows the curriculum of the U.S. Figure Skating program. Lessons are given by highly qualified professional skating instructors.

There are different skating levels for every level of experience and age.

The different classes start with "Parent Tot," which is for skaters ages



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Claire Filthout learns how to balance on one skate as she takes a Learn to Skate class at the Novi Ice Arena.

3-5 with little or no skating experience who learn basic balance and skating skills in a fun introductory class while a parent or adult friend accompanies a skater on the ice. They go up to the "Power" class, which is for more experienced skaters wanting to learn in a high-paced class to help improve speed, edge control, strength and

endurance. "We encourage all skaters to achieve the fundamental skills needed to either skate for fun or to advance to the competitive level," Freier said.

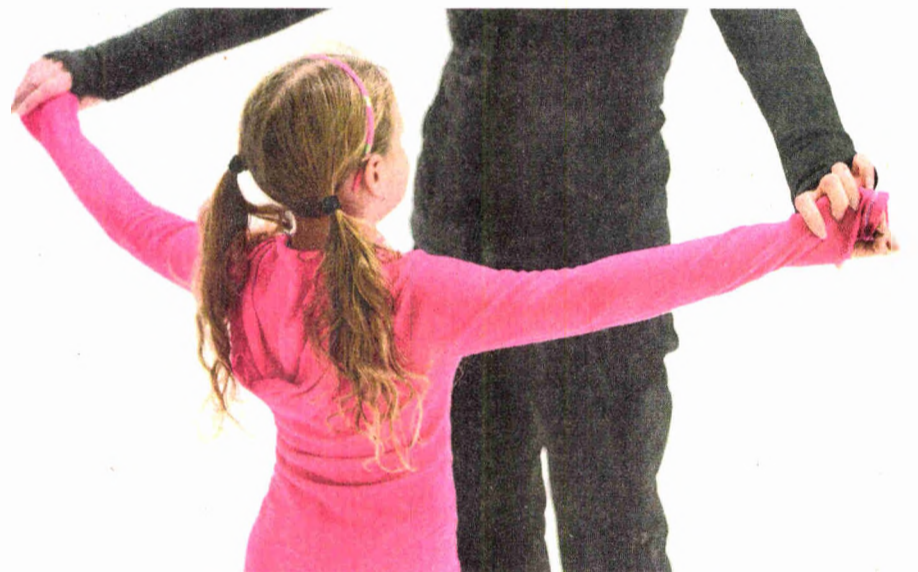
For each participant, there is a 30-minute class and a 30-minute practice.

Freier said skating is an enjoyable, creative and challenging activity and the Learn to Skate is one great way to experience it while learning more.

"It involves the development, practice and execution of skills that one progressively learns and builds on over time," Freier said.

The next session will start Jan. 7 and run for eight weeks until Feb. 28. For more information, go to <http://www.noviicearena.com/page/show/411399-learn-to-skate> or call Freier at 248-347-1010.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A skater is taught the proper way to stretch her arms while gliding across the icy surface.

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Popular official Kavulich, 72, mourned

Longtime referee dies following heart attack

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Hall of Fame sports official Joe Kavulich was so well-known and so well-liked that more than a handful of high school basketball games were delayed briefly by his congeniality.

"I can remember 10 or 12 games the past few years where we'd be at the scorer's table, getting ready for the jump ball to start the game and someone would say, 'Where's Joe?'" recounted fellow official and long-time friend Don Vogt, with a warm laugh. "Then we'd see him, over by the sidelines or standing near the crowd, smiling and shaking somebody's hand, or telling a joke or



Joe Kavulich

something. It didn't matter where we were - doing a high school or college game - he knew everybody and everybody he knew liked him." The 72-year-old Kavulich died Tuesday night at his home in Plymouth Township, six days after suffering a massive heart attack. Kavulich's oldest son Mike said that his father became dizzy while playing in an adult hockey league at Plymouth's

Arctic Pond the morning of Christmas Eve. He was transported by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia, where his condition worsened. "He suffered cardiac arrest in the emergency room at St. Mary's," Mike Kavulich said. "We actually lost him twice - they had to resuscitate him - and they put in two stents. At about 4 p.m., the doctors told us his prognosis was very grim.

See KAVULICH, Page B4

Livonia 'Y' leagues and classes

The Livonia Family YMCA, located at 14255 Stark Rd., is accepting registrations for both winter sports leagues and classes.

Ten-game youth basketball (ages 6-14) and volleyball (ages 8-14) leagues begin Jan. 12, while eight-game adult basketball and volleyball leagues begin Jan. 4-5. Winter classes for toddlers through adults - including gymnastics, karate, aikido and preschool sports - begin the week of Jan. 4.

Contact the YMCA at 734-261-2161 or email Chris Jackett at cjackett@ymca.detroit.org for more information.

Area gridders star for MSU

A pair of former Observerland football players made key contributions to Michigan State's come-from-behind, 42-41 victory over Baylor in the Cotton Bowl game Thursday in Arlington, Texas.

Running back Jeremy Langford of Wayne (Westland John Glenn) rushed for 162 yards and three touchdowns on 27 carries. He scored his first two TDs on 2-yard runs; the third was a 1-yarder.

Wide receiver Aaron Burbridge of Farmington Hills (Harrison) caught four passes for 57 yards, with the longest being a 39-yarder.

He was one of nine players to catch a pass and one of three with four or more receptions. Tony Lippett (five catches, 74 yards) and Keith Mumphery (four catches, 87 yards) were the others.

Quarterback Connor Cook was 24-of-42 passing with two TDs - the second being a 10-yarder to Mumphery with 17 seconds remaining to tie the score, 41-41.

C'ville camp for baseball

Livonia Clarenceville High School will host a six-week baseball camp starting Saturday, Jan. 17. Clarenceville head coach Craig Cotter will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy.

Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to six players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and baserunning.

For more information, go to www.USBbaseballAcademy.com or call toll-free 866-622-4487.

PREP HOCKEY



Livonia Churchill senior forward Dylan Smith was upended by Brighton's Sam Brennan during a third-period rush Friday night.

ED WRIGHT

SLIPPERY SLOPE

Livonia Churchill icers can't quite escape from 4-0 first-period abyss

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill was arguably the better team during the final 34 minutes of Friday night's KLAAs cross-division game against visiting Brighton.

However, dogged in part by three third-period penalties - the final one a five-minute dagger that came with just 5:48 left and Churchill trailing 5-3 - the Chargers could never quite get over the hump from a 4-0 first-period deficit before dropping a

6-3 decision to the Bulldogs.

Brighton's final goal was an empty-netter from Brad Halonen with just 6.8 seconds left. The loss dropped Churchill to 3-5-2 overall, while Brighton improved to 4-5-1. The Chargers are currently

2-0 in the Kensington South Division, two points behind front-runner Plymouth. The Chargers host the Wildcats at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Eddie Edgar Arena.

See CHURCHILL, Page B3

COMMUNITY RECLAMATION PROJECT

Styers pumps new life into former school

Ambitious former boxing champion builds hope with Norwayne Boxing Club

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

If you drive slowly past the until-recently vacant Jefferson Barnes Elementary School that rests in Westland's Norwayne subdivision and crack your window just a little bit, you're liable to hear a heartbeat.

More precisely, you'll hear a drill buzzing, a hammer pounding or the thumping sound of boxing gloves hitting a speed bag.

The sounds are the rhythmic beats of resuscitation and the

guy doing the CPR is Jeff Styers, a former Norwayne resident who chiseled out an incredibly successful amateur - and, for a short time, professional - boxing career before founding Bingham Farms-based Arrow Strategies, a multimillion-dollar talent-acquisition company.

Styers, along with former professional boxing contender Erskine Wade, is the driving (and financial) force behind the Norwayne Boxing Club, a positivity-saturated opportunity for

See BOXING, Page B4



Former successful boxers Jeff Styers (right) and Erskine Wade are the catalysts of the Norwayne Boxing Club, which offers youths the opportunity to improve their ring skills and their academic achievement.

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BASKETBALL

Globetrotter: MU's Schuba joins Washington Generals

Former Crusaders star signs professional contract

A second member of the Madonna University men's basketball class of 2014 recently signed a professional contract as Travis Schuba has joined the Washington Generals and has begun his tour against the Harlem Globetrotters over the Christmas holiday.

"Travis is our first 'second generation' player since his

brother Chuck played with us when he was done with his college career,"

Generals general manager John Ferrari said. "What I look for are fundamentally sound basketball players with a passion to play and aggressiveness to be best they can be. Travis fits that mold and wants to see the world and get to play basketball."

Schuba's former MU back-



Schuba

court mate and NAIA All-American Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) is currently playing professionally in Germany.

A two-time all-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team selection, Schuba holds the career 3-point record at MU, surpassing Madonna Hall of Fame player and current head coach Noel Emenhiser.

Schuba, native of Rapid City (Kalkaska H.S.), knocked down 399 triples during his career to

hold the top spot by 53 over Emenhiser. The 6-0 guard also owns three of the top five single-season marks in MU history for made triples.

A total of 74 percent (399-of-537) of Schuba's career field goals were from beyond the arc. Following his senior season, Schuba was the winner of inaugural NABC-NAIA Men's Basketball 3-Point Contest, presented by Rawlings, held in conjunction with the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Championship last March.

Schuba was also a member of the Madonna University baseball team as a pitcher.

"I am extremely honored to play for such a world-class organization and be able to travel the world and showcase my ability in front of thousands of fans each and every night," said Schuba, who made his debut Friday for the Generals against the Globetrotters at The Palace of Auburn Hills. "I cannot think of a better way to see the world than doing this while living out my dream."

'Good Works' honor sends Padget to New Orleans

PETER FOREST | ALLSTATE

On Dec. 31, former Livonia Churchill football standout and current Alma College player Blake Padget helped surprise a group of children from the YMCA of Greater New Orleans with a football clinic at Isidore Newman School. Padget joined former NFL quarterback Archie Manning and 17 other college football players who, like Padget, are members of the 2014 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. Players were named to the Allstate team because of their commitment to volunteerism and community service.



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Aloha: MU women's cagers drop two in Hawaii

It was hello and goodbye for the Madonna University women's basketball team, which ended its five-day holiday trip to Hawaii with a 92-77 New Year's Eve setback to BYU-Hawaii at the Connor Activities Center in Laie.

Bry Tatupu-Leopoldo led all scorers with 32 points as BYU-Hawaii, an NCAA Division II school which is phasing out its athletics program over the next three years, improved to 5-4 overall.

Whitney Fieldsted also grabbed 14 rebounds, while Celeste Claw dished out 13 assists for the Sea-

siders, who shot 53.8 percent from the floor (35-of-65), including 10-of-22 (45.5 percent) from 3-point range.

Junior guard Michele Hayes (Southfield-Lathrup/Inkster) paced the Crusaders with 26 points, while senior forward Rachel Melcher (Birmingham Marian) added 14 points and seven rebounds.

MU trailed 42-36 at the half and closed the gap to eight, 78-70, with 3:25 left on a Melcher free throw before being outscored 14-7 down the stretch.

Sophomores Justice Dean (Garden City) and Lizzy Otten (Grandville) each added 11 points, while grabbing eight and six rebounds, respectively, for the Crusaders (7-6).

MU shot only 13-of-28 from the foul line (46 percent) and was out-rebounded 45-33.

The Crusaders, 6-1 in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference action, returned home Thursday before embarking Saturday for Fort Wayne to face Indiana Tech (7-9, 6-2) in a WHAC encounter.

HAWAII PACIFIC 89, MADONNA 68: Morganne Comstock's 26 points and 11 rebounds earned Hawaii Pacific University (9-2) a victory over the Crusaders (7-5) in a game played Tuesday at the Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu. Breanna Mackenzie also scored 15 points off the bench, while Cherise Peone added 13 for the Sharks, who pulled away in the second half after leading 36-33 at intermission. Kylie Huerta also dished out six assists as Hawaii Pacific shot 35-of-65 from the floor (53.8 percent).

Michele Hayes scored 22 points in a losing cause, while Rachel Melcher added 17. Junior center Erin Menard (Livonia Churchill) finished with a season-high eight points to go along with five rebounds.

The Crusaders were out-rebounded 47-31 and shot 37.5 percent from the floor. They were 24-of-35 from the foul line (68.5 percent).



Hayes

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
Monday, Jan. 5
 Garden City at Milford, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 6
 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Ypsilanti/Lincoln, 7 p.m.
 Calvary at HVL, 7 p.m.
 Greenhills at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 Robichaud at RU, 7 p.m.
 Troy at North Farmington, 7 p.m.
 Harrison at Avondale, 7 p.m.
 Farmington at Seaholm, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9
 John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Crestwood at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 S. Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 HVL at Parkway, 8:30 p.m.
 Thurston at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
 RU at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 N. Farmington at Pontiac, 7 p.m.
 Birm. Groves at Harrison, 7 p.m.
 Stoney Creek at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 6
 Calvary at HVL, 5:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at Churchill, 5:30 p.m.
 Franklin at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Sacred Heart at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
 Thurston at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
 RU at Robichaud, 7 p.m.
 St. Cath. at Clarenceville, 6 p.m.
 Belleville at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Harper Woods at Harrison, 7 p.m.
 Lake Orion at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 8
 W. Bloomfield at Harrison, 7 p.m.
 Ferndale at Farmington, 7 p.m.
 Bloom. Hills at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9
 Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 South Lyon vs. Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Fordson, 7 p.m.
 HVL at Parkway, 7 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Franklin Rd., 7:30 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Annapolis at RU, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Jan. 7
 Franklin at Gab. Richard, TBA
 Salem at Stevenson, 8 p.m.
 Plymouth at Churchill, 6 p.m.
 Churchill at Salem, 8 p.m.
 NF-Harrison at Royal Oak, 8 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 8
 Berkley at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9
 W.L. Central at Franklin, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10
 Stevenson at Plymouth, TBA
- WRESTLING**
Wednesday, Jan. 7
 John Glenn, Wayne at Milford, 5:30 p.m.
 Garden City, Thurston at Crestwood, 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill, Franklin at Grand Blanc, 5:30 p.m.
 RU vs. Belleville, Fordson, Edsel Ford, 5:30 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Annapolis, 5:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at S.L. East, 5:30 p.m.
 Farmington at Stoney Creek, 5:30 p.m.
 Harrison at W. Bloomfield, 5:30 p.m.
 N. Farmington at Royal Oak, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10
 Spartan Classic at Stevenson, 9 a.m.
 John Glenn at Airport Invite, TBA
 Garden City Novice Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
 Wayne at Wyandotte Invite, 9:15 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 8
 Churchill at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
 Crestwood at Garden City, 5:30 p.m.
 Edsel Ford at Thurston, 6 p.m.
 RU at Dearborn, 6 p.m.
 Farm. Unified at Hazel Park, 6 p.m.
 W. Bloom. at N. Farmington, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10
 Stevenson at Rockford Invite, TBA
PREP GYMNASTICS
Tuesday, Jan. 6
 Waterford, N.ville at Livonia Red, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 7
 Canton at Livonia Blue, 6:30 p.m.
 Farm. Unified at Birmingham, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9
 Farmington United vs. Livonia Red, 6 p.m.
 Farm. Unified at Farm. Gymnastics Center
Saturday, Jan. 10
 Lowell Invite, TBA
PREP BOWLING
Monday, Jan. 5
 Farm. Unified at Berkley, 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 6
 John Glenn at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.
 Royal Oak at N. Farmington, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 8
 Farm. Unified at Troy Athens, 3:30 p.m.
 N. Farmington at Birmingham, 4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9
 John Glenn at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
 Northville at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10
 PCS Invite at Super Bowl, 1 p.m.
GIRLS CHEER
Wednesday, Jan. 7
 Farmington at Avondale, 6:30 p.m.

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JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior center Kyla Roland had 12 points, 13 rebounds, five steals and three blocks for the 5-1 Hawks.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Harrison girls register major hoops victory

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Farmington Harrison won five of six games in December and had a very successful start to its girls basketball season in 2014.

In their latest victory Dec. 29, the Hawks defeated perennial Chicago powerhouse Crete Monee in the Motor City Roundball Classic, 63-56.

Even with 6-foot-1 senior center Kyla Roland in the middle, Harrison had to contend with a considerable size disadvantage, but it managed to overcome that with aggressive, scrappy defense.

Six-foot-3 senior forward Maisha Howard, who signed with Wisconsin, scored a game-high 30 points and pulled down 14 rebounds for Crete Monee.

"They were bigger than us at all five spots," Hawks coach Tim Micklash said. "They had a freshman who was about 6-4, the Howard girl and another who was 6-1. Their wing players were 5-10 and 5-11. They were pretty impressive, team-wise."

"I thought we really played well defensively. At times we forced them to turn it over and sped them up a little bit, which made them uncomfortable and

which is important for us when we defend people."

Harrison gained a 32-21 half-time lead by outscoring Crete Monee in the second quarter at Detroit Edison Academy, 22-9.

The Illinois team trimmed the deficit to five points at the end of three quarters, 43-38, but the Hawks finished with a 20-point fourth to close out the win.

"We did the little things really well," Micklash said. "We took care of the ball. To have only 10 to 12 turnovers against a team like that and the way they pressed us, I was really pleased by that."

"We shot the ball well, too. Kristen (Nelson) was in foul trouble in the third and sat out most of it. They made a run on us, and the other kids were quite resilient and bounced back from it."

"The key came down to how we defended them. We believed in what we were doing and continued to attack them, defensively and offensively. It was a very good team win for us."

Nelson and Amber Stephens scored 19 points apiece to lead the Hawks. Roland had 12 points, 13 rebounds, five steals and three blocks.

Katie Conrad added eight points and Nyla Warren five.

Stephens also had five rebounds and three steals; Nelson dished five assists.

Crete Monee also got nine points from Meshia Wheatly and six from Desiree Jackson. Harrison was 23-of-37 at the foul line and Crete Monee 11-of-19.

"The kids should have a lot of confidence going into the new year after beating one of the better teams out of Chicago," Micklash said. "It was a really big win for our program, beating a quality team like that."

"I'm just really pleased with how much we were improving. That's how you get better, playing teams like Crete Monee."

"You're going to see things you need to work on, and you're going to get more comfortable playing at that type of speed. In the OAA Red Division, we're going to see teams like that, and that's what we want."

"To have the record we have (5-1) in non-league play, I'm very pleased because I thought we had a very tough schedule throughout the month of December."

Harrison will try for its sixth win Tuesday when it plays host to Harper Woods (6-1) in another non-league game.

Twitter: @domeara5

GIRLS BOWLING

John Glenn hitting the pocket with regularity

Rockets start 4-0 with Early Bird tourney triumph

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's flourishing girls bowling team has "struck" it rich during the first month of the 2014-15 season — just nine months after rolling to a runner-up finish in the Division 1 state tournament.

"I am fortunate to have all five of the bowlers back who led us last year," said Rockets coach Ralph Cabildo. "We just need to stay focused on improving from last year. I am very proud of how hard the girls worked during the off-season."

After a month of action, four of the Rockets' catalysts have seen up-ticks in their averages from a year ago. Julia Huren leads the way with a 217 mark, followed closely by Emily Dietz (201), Olivia Cabildo (198) and Ashley Kolb (185).

John Glenn opened its season on Dec. 6 with a first-place finish at the Early Bird Tournament hosted by Drake-shire Lanes. The Rockets knocked down 3,989 pins to clip runner-up Oxford (3,757) and Lake Orion (3,726).

Huren and Jessica Pate turned in the high series — 629 and 613, respectively — for the winners, while Cabildo's 227

topped the single-game ledger. Kolb contributed a 537 series while Dietz chipped in a 143 game.

On Dec. 9, the Rockets dominated Pinckney, 27-3, in their opening match of the season. Huren led the Rockets' with a two-game series of 407 while Dietz turned in a stellar 394. Cabildo (360) and Pate (358) also played major roles in the triumph.

One of the many highlights of the day for John Glenn came from Dietz, who carded five consecutive strikes after entering the line-up as a substitute.

On Dec. 18, the Rockets wiped out Walled Lake Central, 28-2. Huren was the catalyst, rolling a two-game series of 478. Cabildo and Kolb rolled mirror series of 382. Big games were chalked up by Dietz (223) and Pate (216).

The Rockets stayed in their pins-demolishing zone on Dec. 20 when they made short work of Walled Lake Western (30-0) and Walled Lake Northern (29-1). Cabildo's 419 series paced the destruction of the Warriors while Dietz (439) and Huren (437) were the primary steam-rollers of the Knights.

ewright@hometownlife.com

OHL HOCKEY

Whalers blitzed early, late in 7-2 defeat

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Some of the problems that plagued the Plymouth Whalers at the end of 2014 continued into 2015 with Friday's 7-2 loss to Saginaw at Compu-ware Arena.

The Whalers, for the second consecutive home game, began by giving up three early goals. After defenseman and Rochester native Mitch Jones scored two goals in the second period to make it 3-2 entering the third, there wasn't much for the home crowd of 2,871 to cheer for in the final period.

Saginaw — the team in front of Plymouth in the Ontario Hockey League Western Conference — then broke the contest wide open with four goals in the third, two each by wingers Connor Brown and Dylan Sadowy (three goals, one assist).

"Until we start playing with some desperation and some sense of urgency that every one of these games is important ... this is what we're going to get," Plymouth head coach Don Elland said. "We're not talented enough to win with talent. We have to outwork teams and we're not outworking anybody."

Familiar script

Plymouth also got squarely behind the eight-ball in Tuesday's matinee against Windsor, falling behind 4-0 and ultimately losing 8-4.

Elland did acknowledge that Jones was a bright spot for the team, now 12-22-2-1.

"Jonesy played well, but if your two goals are from a defenseman, that tells you a lot about where you're at," Elland said. "Great game for Mitch, but a bad game for the team."

The Spirit (17-17-1-1) got on the board at 4:21 of the opening period when Sadowy buried a centering feed from linemate Nick Moutrey (three assists) past Plymouth goalie Zack Bowman (25 saves).

Saginaw then scored two goals in 11 seconds to suddenly make it 3-0. At 15:03, center Tye Felhaber snapped a low shot from the right circle

that beat Bowman. On the next rush into Whalers territory, forward Mitchell Stephens one-timed the puck past Bowman. That resulted in Elland taking a timeout to try to settle his squad.

Plymouth did play better for a while after that.

With just over 14 minutes remaining in the second period, Jones ripped a shot from the top of the right circle that zipped past Saginaw goalie David Ovsjannikov (27 saves). Drawing assists were forwards Jacob Collins and Cullen Mercer.

After the Whalers killed off a penalty, Jones struck again.

He stripped the puck from a Saginaw player near the Plymouth blue line, then rushed down the ice in tandem with forward Will Bitten.

Using Bitten as a decoy, Jones drilled a shot from the left circle over Ovsjannikov's trapper to make it 3-2 with 3:22 to go.

"You just got to throw pucks on net and hope for the best," said Jones, who now has six goals on the season. "That's what I've been doing. Skating and shooting."

Early in the third, the Whalers nearly knotted the score at 3-3 when forward Mathew Campagna cut in through the low slot only to slide a shot wide of the far post.

Moments later, the Spirit made it a 4-2 game when Brown finished a cross-crease pass from Jesse Barwell.

Saginaw then finished off Plymouth for good with three goals in six minutes, including Sadowy's hat-trick marker at 18:29.

PLYMOUTH 6, WINDSOR 4: Three second-period goals helped visiting Plymouth build a 4-2 lead after 40 minutes and the Whalers held off a late rally by the Spitfires for the victory.

Lighting the lamp for Plymouth were Mitch Jones, Victor Scognamiglio, Victor Cruz Rydberg, Nicholas Caamano, Connor Chatham and Josh Wesley.

WINDSOR 8, PLYMOUTH 4: On "Kids Day" Tuesday afternoon before 2,778 fans at Compu-ware Arena, the Plymouth Whalers were buried by an early avalanche of goals by the Spitfires and could not recover.

CHURCHILL

Continued from Page B1

Jimmy Milletics earned the win between the pipes for Brighton, while Andrew Broyles suffered the loss for the hosts despite an energized final-period performance when he turned away 14 shots — most power-play opportunities for the Bulldogs.

Trailing 4-0, Churchill's first sign of offense came at the 5:34 mark of the second period, when Nolan Cioch deposited a rebound shot past Milletics. Dylan Smith picked up the assist for the Chargers, who could suddenly see a light at the end of the tunnel.

After Brighton regained its four-goal advantage moments later on Nick Foran's power-play goal that he launched from the right face-off circle, Churchill's Parker Hodges answered with a goal (from Joe Wozniak) that brought the home team to within 5-2 with 1:54 left in the second period.

Smith brought the Churchill fans to their feet — and his team to within 5-3 — with 9:30 left in the contest, when he scored from close range after tapping in a rebound off a shot from Dan Hudy.

But the Chargers were never able to mount a serious scoring threat from that point for-



ED WRIGHT

Livonia Churchill goalie Andrew Broyles turned away Brighton's Nick Foran on this second-period power-play chance.

ward, due in large part to the five-minute major penalty that had them playing short-handed until the final 48 seconds.

KLAA leaders

According to mihshockeyhub.com, Franklin's Brendan

Whitney (10 goals, nine assists) and Chase Wallis (nine goals, eight assists) and Livonia Stevenson's Alex DeFlorio (eight goals, six assists) are among the KLAA's leading point producers.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Rocks top field at Traverse City

Salem sweeps way to title at holiday tournament

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Salem Rocks varsity boys hockey team traveled Up North over the holidays for a chance to bond.

Of course, making the whole experience even sweeter was winning all three games the Rocks played at the annual Scott Miller Memorial Tournament in Traverse City.

Salem routed Traverse City St. Francis 8-1 on Dec. 26, then followed up with a 4-0 victory the following day against Traverse City West.

That led to to championship game, Sunday, Dec. 28, at Centre Ice Arena and the Rocks scored three goals in the third period to edge Traverse City Central, 3-2.

The Rocks (6-3-1, ranked No. 8 in Division 1) thus prevailed as the Miller tourney champion for the first time in the five years they have competed there.

"Each game we got better," noted Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "(Central), who we beat in the finals, is a very good team and had us on our heels in the first period.

"We made some adjustments and controlled the second period and finally broke through in the third."

Central took a 2-0 lead in the first and that score held up until the Rocks tallied three goals within a two-minute span in the third.



The Salem Rocks varsity boys hockey team celebrates Sunday after winning the championship game of the Scott Miller Memorial Tournament in Traverse City.

Scoring for Salem were Matt Schaumburger, Zach Newsom and Liam Walker while Noah Willer chalked up two helpers.

Making 23 saves for his second win of the tourney was senior goalie Dillon Phillips.

Salem's top guns for the three games at Traverse City were Schaumburger and Walker (three goals, two assists each) and Willer (one goal, four

assists).

Registering a plus-8 for the tourney was Bailey Thompson (one assist).

Against TC St. Francis, goalie Nathan Blank stopped eight of the nine shots he faced as Salem dominated.

Marty Mills and Zach Goleniak each scored twice, while other markers were collected by Evan Newel, Willer, Schaumburger and Walker.

In the weekend's second game, Phillips (16 saves) blanked TC West. Providing Salem's offense were Goleniak, Schaumburger, Noah Saad and Walker with one goal each.

"Not only was it a good weekend for us hockey wise, but it also gives the players the opportunity to spend some time together," Ossenmacher continued. "The team meals and bus trip really help us

come together as a team, which is a very important part of on-ice successes."

The Rocks will visit Eddie Edgar Arena 8 p.m. Wednesday for a KLAA matchup against Livonia Stevenson.

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BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Canton ends '14 by clipping OLSM, 55-49

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Just over a day before the crystal ball dropped at Times Square in New York City, Canton's boys basketball team was dropping a leather ball through the net on a regular basis against visiting Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Led by senior Greg Williams' 27-point year-end

celebration, the Chiefs improved to 5-0 Wednesday afternoon by knocking off the Eaglets, 55-49. The loss dropped OLSM to 3-2.

Williams drained 9 of 13 field-goal attempts and 5 of 8 free throws.

Logan Ryan also sparled for the winners, netting 14 points and 14 rebounds. Canton's Jalen Cochran yanked down eight rebounds in addition

to playing lock-down defense.

Chiefs freshman Noah Brown calmly stroked home two pivotal free throws down the stretch to cap his first varsity start in style.

"It was another quality win for our team against a really good opponent," noted Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy.

Jason Boswell led the

Eaglets with 17 points.

The Chiefs led 15-5 after one quarter and 24-23 at the half. OLSM seized a short-lived 31-30 lead with eight minutes to play.

Canton, which hit 14 of 19 free-throw tries, out-rebounded the Eaglets 30-19.

The Chiefs return to action Tuesday at Salem.

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KAVULICH

Continued from Page B1

"But then, it was like a miracle – he started coming around and getting better. He was transferred to St. Joseph's (Hospital in Ypsilanti) and they put two more stents in."

Tuesday morning, shortly before he was released from St. Joseph's Hospital and following a thorough examination by doctors, Kavulich was told that the previous days' episodes left no damage to his heart and that he'd more than likely be able to return to officiating at some point.

"He was so happy and fired up to be going home," Mike Kavulich said.

Kavulich died sometime around 10 p.m. at his home after going to his bedroom to watch TV, his son said.

"Within an hour of the time word got out about my dad's death, I must have received 50 text messages and phone calls from his friends, guys he worked with over the years," Mike Kavulich said. "I can't even begin to tell you how comforting that was."

A Detroit Public Schools counselor for 42 years before retiring, Kavulich marked his 50th year as an official in 2014. He worked many games the past 25 years with his son, Vogt and Bobby Williams.

"The past couple of years, I really started appreciating working with my dad more, because I started realizing that this isn't going to last forever," Mike Kavulich said. "He was talking about retiring and I knew I was going to be missing more games to watch Kayla (Mike's daughter, who is a standout distance runner at Michigan State) compete."

"Our last football game together was at Livonia Churchhill on Halloween. The weather was absolutely horrible that night – it was cold, windy, rainy – but my dad was at the top of his game, like he always was."

Vogt said Kavulich was instrumental in getting him involved in big-time college and high school officiating.

"In the late '70s, I attended a state final basketball game that Joe was working," Vogt said. "I had just gotten into officiating; I think I was doing some JV games. I watched the way Joe worked that game – the way he handled the coaches and the players – and I thought to myself, 'That's the kind of official I want to emulate.'"

"His death has hit me really hard. I've known him for so long. He's such a great guy. We were scheduled to work a high school basketball game together on Tuesday night (Jan. 6). That's when it's really going to hit me, when I walk out on the court and he's not there."

In addition to Mike and Mike's wife Julie, Kavulich is survived by his wife of 40 years Jan; sons John (Susan) and Brett; and grandchildren Kara, Kayla, Jim and Jeff.

Visitation was Jan. 2 at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home. A Mass of Resurrection was held Jan. 3 at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. Interment is at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Michigan Humane Society or donor's choice.

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College-bound Marlins



Nineteen seniors at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills are college-bound athletes who will continue playing their primary sports at the next level. They include (front row, from left) Madeline Loniewski, swimming, Georgetown University; Christine Clayton, volleyball, Beloit College; Jordan Johnson, softball, Adrian College; Monica Shuk, volleyball, Albion College; Marge Terhune, soccer, St. Lawrence University; Jenna Lerg, volleyball, University of Michigan; Alexandra Griffin, soccer, Western Illinois University; (middle row, from left) Kathleen McGee, swimming, Michigan State University; Roxanne Griffore, swimming, Purdue University; Molly Murphy, softball, Emory University; Brooke Ottaway, lacrosse, Rollins College; Taylor Babcock, soccer, University of Portland; (back row, from left) Michaela Bgard, swimming, Cleveland State University; Erica Heath, golf, University of Detroit Mercy; Analise Sala, soccer, Hope College; Claire Lachner, ice hockey, Quinnipiac University; Alexandra Sobczak, softball, University of Michigan; Taylor Jones, basketball, Oakland University; Allysen Eads, cross country, Hillsdale College.

BOXING

Continued from Page B1

young men and women in the area to improve their outlook on life – both with boxing gloves and textbooks.

From noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, the club – which will take up a good portion of the east end of the recently established Jefferson Barnes Recreation Center – will hold a grand opening that will be highlighted by guests appearances from Thomas "The Hit Man" Hearn, current light middleweight champion on Cornelius "K9" Bundrage and former world champions Jimmy Paul and Hilmer Kenty.

There will also be exhibitions by several members of area boxing establishments, including Hands-On Gym and Coleman Young Gym.

"When I first met with

(Westland) Mayor (William) Wild, I told him that if this building ever becomes a recreation center, the first thing I'd put in here is a boxing gym," said Styers, who is the governor-appointed vice chairman of the Unarmed Combat Commission (formerly the Michigan Boxing Commission). "My vision is to replicate the Downtown Youth Boxing Gym in Detroit, which has done a ton of positive things for kids."

"Along with the boxing area, we will have two classrooms where the members will be required to put in mandatory academic time and we'll have tutors and mentors from the Champions of Wayne program on hand to help the kids who need it."

"I also want the members of our club to be actively involved in our community. This is a largely transient area; not too many people

around here own their own home, so there isn't that sense of community pride you get with home ownership. Whether it's helping out in the Norwayne garden down the street or helping somebody paint their home, I want these kids to feel a civic responsibility to this community."

The cost for each member will be "minimal" Styers assured – especially when you consider the potential benefits.

"I feel that in order for something to have value to it, you can't give it away for free," Styers said. "There will be a minimal charge, but it will be the cheapest gym in the Detroit area."

Wade is a perfect complement to Styers. Born in Chicago and a boxer since he was 16, Wade is a firm believer that everyone who walks into the boxing club should walk out a well-rounded individual.

A victor in his first 70 amateur fights, Wade won multiple Golden Gloves titles and his resume includes being involved in the first boxing match ever televised by the USA cable network.

"Boxing can teach you so much about life," Wade said. "I am so excited to help make a difference in the lives of the young men and women who walk through those doors."

Wade has been instrumental in marketing the club as he has helped distribute fliers throughout the community and the schools.

Youths as young as 6 years old can become members, Styers said.

"We'd love to develop high-level amateur boxers," Styers said. "But ultimately, we want to prepare these kids for life."

The gym is located at 32150 Dorsey St. in Westland.

Canton One Acts Festival shows original drama, comedy, talent

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Canton One Acts Festival will take on an international flair when it stages its first submission from abroad, Jan. 16-18 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"We've had submissions from other countries before but we've never picked them," said Christopher Tremblay, a member of TLC Productions, which produces the biennial writing competition and show. "The one from Australia, *The Kill*, that one in particular really popped during dramatic readings. It really jumped from page to page. It will be exciting to see that one."

Linda Pohl, festival co-producer, said the play is unique, with a plot twist that may surprise the audience.

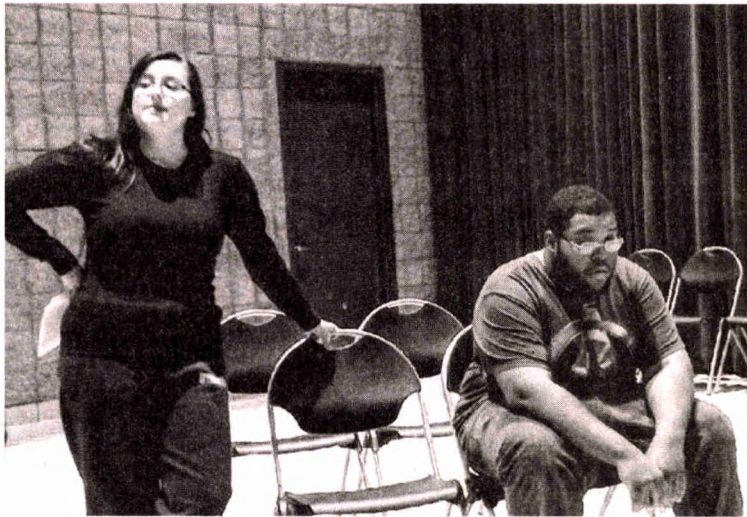
"It doesn't go the way you'd think it would go. We were excited to get that one. The fact that it's from out of the country is a major plus," she said.

The Kill, a comedy by Alex Broun of Sydney, Australia, will close out each of the festival shows, which include a total of eight one-act plays from writers in North Carolina, Arkansas, Washington, California, Maryland and Michigan.

TLC's Tremblay, Pohl and Tim Chanko consider the first 100 submissions they receive within three months for each festival. Last year, it took just under two months to reach the 100 mark for this year's event. They whittled the entries to approximately 20 semifinalists, and dramatic readings were held last fall. The final eight were chosen, cast and rehearsals began in November.

Actor-playwrights

Richard Holland of Livonia and Maureen Paraventi of Redford are the only local authors with works in the festival. Both are well-established



Kayla Younkin and Anton Koyton rehearse a scene from "Press Pray," one of eight short plays that will be staged Jan. 16-18 during the Canton One Acts Festival at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

actors in community theater.

Holland is directing Paraventi, TLC member Tim Chanko, and Ken Overwater of Dearborn in his play, *Clocking Out*. He also portrays a psychiatrist — his wife, Lisa Brawley, plays the patient and Pohl is a nurse — in *Serenity Island*, a comedy.

He and his wife enjoy acting, directing and producing plays together at local community theaters. Both of them submitted works to the festival.

"TLC are good people to work with. This is the second TLC project I've been involved with," said Holland, who also participated in TLC's Stage-Lab24, a 24-hour writing and staging activity, in January 2014. Holland said he submitted *Clocking Out* to the second biennial festival in 2013, but it didn't make the final cut.

"It probably was about 10 pages too long. I took the pen out and started crossing lines off. I re-submitted. It's a drama, not a comedy, but the situation and dialogue will get a laugh here and there," he said, describing his play about

death. "Someone has died and the angel of death is confounded because of the way things are unfolding. I want people to laugh at parts of it."

Writing for actors

Paraventi became interested in playwriting after attending the 2011 Canton One Acts Festival. Her first submission to the festival, *Who Goes to Russia?*, a comedy-drama, was accepted for production in 2013. Her winning entry this year, *Such a Small Word*, is a drama about a woman who made a terrible mistake.

"Because I'm an actor, I write for actors," Paraventi said. "I create roles intended to give actors a challenging experience — to put them through the emotional wringer, in other words. Leanne Young, who is one of the best actors in south-east Michigan, is heart-wrenching in *Such a Small Word* ... in a very short time she takes her character through an incredible range of emotions."

Evan Phillips and Betty Berryman also appear in the play, which is directed by Kris-



Leanne Young (left), Brian Taylor, and Sabrina Hubbard rehearse a scene from "Car Talk," written by a playwright from North Carolina.



TLC Productions is Chris Tremblay, Linda Pohl and Tim Chanko.

tin Heitmeier.

In addition to her role in *Clocking Out*, Paraventi also portrays a redneck truck driver in *Crisis Line*.

Variety of plays

Both Paraventi and Holland said they enjoy the festival format.

"The great thing about one-act festivals is that they move along so quickly and they give the audience so many stories in one show," Paraventi said. "There truly is something for everyone in this one."

That's by design. Pohl and Tremblay said the producers look for a mix of plays when they choose finalists and carefully select the order they'll appear during the show.

"We're trying to appeal to a

wide audience," Tremblay said. "There are some festivals that will say to submit a play with this theme or this object has to be in every scene. That can be clever and creative, but from an audience standpoint, we want to give them a taste of different types of plays and expose people to new, emerging playwrights."

"One of our goals is to give people who never directed before an opportunity to direct," he added.

Local actors in the show this year include Sally Dixon, Brion Scheidel, Betty Berryman, Tim Chanko, and Linda Pohl, all from Canton; Richard Holland, Lisa Brawley and Mark Steinhauer, all from Livonia; Leanne Young of South Lyon; Kristin Heitmeier of Northville, Brian Taylor of Plymouth, Maureen Paraventi of Redford; and Anton Koyton of Westland.

Berryman, Heitmeier, and Pohl, local directors are Karen Pritchard of Garden City, Alan Hight of Northville and Linda Trygg of Wayne.

The festival runs 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Tickets are \$15. Visit tlcprod.wordpress.com.

Festival nudges Canton man into acting, short stories

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Brion Scheidel turned lemons into lemonade when his two plays didn't make the cut for this year's Canton One Acts Festival.

The Canton man decided to try acting instead. He landed a role in the event's first Australian-authored play, a comedy that will close out each night of the festival, Jan. 16-18 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

And if that wasn't enough, Scheidel, whose one-act play, *Saving JFK*, was staged at the 2013 festival, turned the piece into a short story, which was published recently in an anthology called *Then Again*.

"What motivated me to get involved on the acting side was the culmination of not having a play I wrote selected for the festival. And I had the chance to get to know and interact with community theater mem-

bers. It's a fun group of people. I wanted to stay involved," Scheidel said. "It has been fun. I was in *Much Ado About Nothing* in college and in high school I was in *Guys and Dolls*, but that was it."

Scheidel wasn't certain he'd audition for the festival until he volunteered for the event's dramatic readings, which helped judges select the final eight plays last fall.

"The was my first acting experience since college and it was a lot of fun. I got to experience a little bit of each play," he said. He auditioned and landed the role opposite TLC Productions member Tim Chanko, in *The Kill*, by an Australian author.

"I'm really excited. For me, it's the perfect way to get back into acting."

The festival not only renewed his interest in acting, it also helped Scheidel try his hand at short stories.

After Scheidel submitted



Brion Scheidel (left) works with Tim Chanko in a scene from "The Kill," a play by an Australian writer, for the Canton One Acts Festival.

his one-act plays last year for the upcoming festival — and waited to see if they were selected — he discovered that Michigan Speculative Fiction was accepting entries for an

anthology of short stories about time travel. His 2013 play, *Saving JFK*, was about a Secret Service agent who travels back in time to prevent President Kennedy's assassina-

tion. The story seemed to fit perfectly with the short story theme.

He revamped the play into a story, getting feedback from his wife and daughter, and submitted the story. Editors at Michigan Speculative Fiction offered suggestions and gave him two weeks to resubmit another re-worked version.

"It definitely was a challenge. But I really enjoyed the process. It was rewarding for me. It was a great learning experience. I'm fascinated with the assassination and this period of history. I've always dreamed of writing a novel on this topic. If I'm going to seriously consider doing this in the future, there's a lot of work to do, a lot of practice."

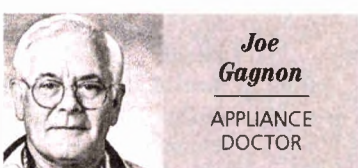
Links to the anthology in all available formats are at mifwriters.org/division-by-zero/then-again/.

Broken appliance part replacements are hard to find

It's 2 o'clock in the morning and I can't go to sleep and just to show you how bothered I am over the appliance industry, I decided to write about some of the past month's happenings.

A lawyer friend down the street has a six-year-old Amana refrigerator and needs a handle for the freezer door. She ordered it through Sears and they sent her a handle for the refrigerator door at a cost of \$65. It doesn't fit so I got the correct part number and she ordered it again. This time she was told it is no longer available and she is out of luck. Now she has two bolts sticking out of the door and it certainly doesn't look good.

We go to my nephew's house for dinner and he has two bolts sticking out of his door on the same make of refrigerator.



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

He's out of luck as well and he knows that for the sake of this handle, he will have to purchase a new refrigerator in the near future.

My friend Mike has a General Electric double wall oven six years old at his summer home Up North. He put the range through a self-cleaning cycle and the high heat comes out of a front vent which melted the front of the touch pad. It looks terrible and he tells me that GE has found fault with the design but the part is no longer available. I might add that I have read about this problem from consumers who

have filed complaints on the review sites. Mike happens to be a bank president and after finally reaching one of the top dogs at GE, they found the part for him and he is getting it at no charge.

My darling Valorie has a good friend named Dale who has a seven-year-old Whirlpool double wall oven and it quit working. She called for service and the technician told her the control board is no longer available. She had to spend \$3,700 for a new oven and I could go on and on with these types of stories.

I visited an appliance dealer recently that's been in business since 1928 and I stopped by their warehouse to pick up a new washing machine. I asked why there are so many used appliances in a corner of this warehouse and the technician

said that they rob parts off of them to help customers who have a problem getting parts. He showed me door handles which would cost a consumer over \$100 and he sells them for a fraction of that price. The current cost of many parts is going through the roof and it's as if the manufacturers are forcing homeowners to throw away a perfectly working appliance because some cosmetic part needs replacing. And get this folks; there is no law that an appliance manufacturer has to carry parts for any given amount of years. It just does not exist!

Now you may say that if this happens to you, "I will purchase another brand." That may not make much sense because most of today's brands all belong to GE, Whirlpool and Electrolux. Expected next

year, Electrolux may have purchased General Electric and the parts problem may loom much larger. Across this country you will find many junk yards for all types of automobiles. Those guys must be making money, and so with this thought in mind I think I will purchase some property on a gravel road, hang a sign out front, sit in a little shack and sell used parts. The direction and the way things are going with new appliance purchases, I wouldn't be surprised if I made a pretty good living and a ton of friends. 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@twmi.rr.com.

Bring pets indoors during harsh winter weather

With temperatures expected to drop into the teens Monday, the Michigan Humane Society is urging pet owners to bring their cats and dogs indoors — and at least to provide adequate shelter, food and water to animals kept outdoors.



PET PROJECTS

"If we had our way, no pets would be kept out-

side in this weather," said Debby MacDonald, MHS Chief Cruelty Investigator. "But because the law allows them to be kept outside as long as they have adequate food, water and shelter, we're going to be out there making sure they have the proper provisions."

MHS recommends that pet owners provide a well-built, insulated, slant-roofed dog house. The interior should be just large enough for the dog to stand and to lie down comfortably and slightly elevated from

the ground for air circulation. The door should face away from winds and have a protective flap to eliminate drafts. Clean, dry straw should be provided for bedding, rather than towels, rugs or blankets that absorb moisture and freeze in frigid temperatures. An unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or tie-outs with no shelter at all are not adequate protection against extreme temperatures.

MHS also offers these winter pet safety tips:

» When temperatures plummet, pets should not be left outside for any length of time. Bring small or short-haired pets in when temperatures reach 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit. Take into account precipitation and wind chill.

» Cats should be kept indoors or at least brought into a warm, animal-proofed garage during severe weather.

» Roaming cats often seek the warmth of car engines, so be sure to knock on the car hood or honk the horn before

starting your car to startle them and give them a chance to escape.

» Increase the amount of food you feed dogs left outside by 10-20 percent during the winter months. The extra calories are needed to help an animal stay warm.

» Regular access to clean, unfrozen water is critical. Check drinking water frequently to ensure that it is not frozen.

» If an animal is cold to the touch, or his paws and ears are pale, he may be suffering from frostbite. Move the animal to

a warmer area and contact your veterinarian immediately.

Call local animal control or police to report pets left outside without proper shelter.

MHS accepts donations to help it provide dog houses for animals without shelter, water bowls that don't tip over, food, straw for dog houses and new collars to replace ropes and chains. Visit michiganhumane.org.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Ann Arbor Orchid Society presents a free program at 2 p.m. Jan. 11 on orchids, along with a show and tell, a raffle and sale of orchids and orchid-related items. Matthaei Botanical Gardens is located at 1800 N. Dixboro, Ann Arbor; 734-647-7600.

Friends of the Rouge

Take a guided snowshoe walk 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17, at Maybury State Park, Eight Mile, west of Beck, in Northville. Meet at sign post 1 near the restroom off the parking lot. The walk is free, but donations are accepted. A State Recreation Passport (\$11) is required for park entry. Limited snowshoe rentals are available. If there's no snow, the group will hike.

RSVP at therouge.org.

Owls

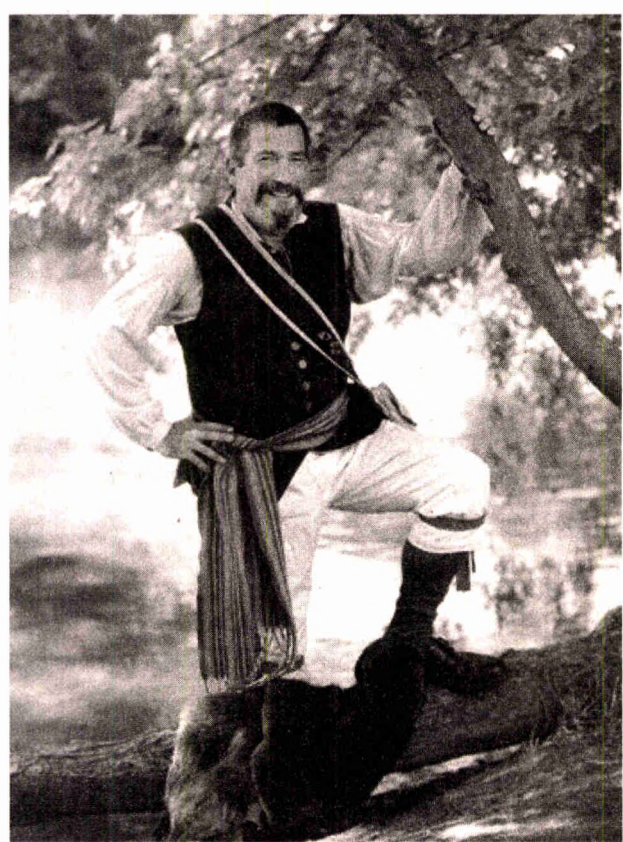
Take a guided night hike 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 8 and 16 through Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. Listen for owl calls and find out what makes these nocturnal creatures such expert hunters and survivalists. Meet inside the nature center at the park, 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy boots. Cost is \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, or online at <http://recreg.fhgov.com>.

English Gardens

» Learn how to make a terrarium at a free in-store presentation, 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10. Cost is \$20. Sign up online at englishgardens.com/events.

» Learn about succulents 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at a free presentation.

» Make and take home



Gerald Wykes, a naturalist, will speak to the Gardeners of Northville & Novi on Jan. 12.

an indoor succulent garden, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. Cost is \$24.99.

Classes are held at all stores. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford

Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

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

Livonia Garden Club

Lisa Steinkopf, a certified indoor landscape technician and nurseryman and a member of the Garden Writer's Association, will give a PowerPoint presentation on succulents, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Succulents are low maintenance and come in all shapes and colors. Plants will be available for purchase. Visitors are welcome. livoniagardenclub.org

Northville-Novi

Gerald Wykes, a naturalist from Monroe, will be the guest speaker Monday, Jan. 12, at a meeting of The Gardeners of Northville & Novi,

(The No-Nos). A social mixer will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7 p.m., in the Media Forum Room 198C at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road, at 10 Mile, Novi. Park in the staff lot and enter building through door 43. Wykes will talk about how a lowly weed was used to save lives in World War II. \$5 for non-members; gardeners-northville-novi.org.

Kensington Metropark

Take a short walk along a nature trail and feed songbirds at 2 p.m. Jan. 10 at the nature center in Kensington Metropark, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford. Bird seed will be provided for this "Chickadee Chow-Down." \$4 per person. Register at 810-227-8917. Entry fee for the park is \$30 annually or \$7 daily.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.middeathnotices.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



BURRELL, HAYES T.
Passed away at his home on the evening of December 31. Hayes was born in Cleveland, Tennessee the son of A. E. and Eva (Crow) Burrell. Loving husband of the late Marie. Hayes is survived by his son Rod (Diane) Burrell; grandchildren Jeff (Lorie) Burrell, Todd (Shannon) Burrell, Lisa (Sammy) McCormick; and great-grandchildren Blaine, Austin, Alexis, Brieana, Bailey, and Brody. Also surviving is his brother Wayne Burrell. Hayes was preceded in death by his son Dale Burrell and grandchildren Brian and Laura Burrell. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 3, 2015 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Hayes will be buried next to his beloved wife Marie at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.



CEBULA, EUGENE "GENE"
Age 60, of Dansville, Michigan. Born in Westland on Oct 10, 1954 to Walter and Mary Cebula. Gene passed away suddenly on Dec 24, 2014 in New Smyrna, FL. He graduated from John Glenn High School in Westland and worked for Doan Construction in Ypsilanti. Survived by his wife April, sister Shirley of Westland and stepchildren, Andrea (Darren) Hartman, Aric Fountain, Aaron Fountain and ever present companion "Abby Girl". Memorial service was Friday Jan 2nd at St Mary Catholic Church in Williamston, MI. Arrangements being made through Gorsline-Runciman in Williamston, MI



HABERMEHL, BRUCE
Lifelong Farmington resident Bruce Habermehl Sr. died Monday, December 8, 2014 at the age of 80 from complications of pneumonia. A graduate of Farmington High school, Bruce owned the Firestone service center in downtown Farmington from 1967 until he retired in 1989. He enjoyed traveling between his homes "up north" and Florida and was active in the Farmington Goodfellows. Between this organization and his many contacts from owning the tire store, he could never go out in town without seeing a familiar face. He loved the small town feel of Farmington. He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Janet; his three children, Cindy Williams, Bruce Jr. "Chip" Habermehl, and Sandra Morelli as well as four grandchildren and many friends. Per his wishes, there was no memorial service, but friends wishing to honor him can send donations to the Farmington Goodfellows.

LITKE, MELVIN H.
Age 93, passed away on December 16, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Dorothea. Loving father of Cheryl (Peter) Prsavage, Sue (Jim) Kaunisto, and Kathy (Bill) Knox. Devoted grandfather of Nikki, Scott (Danielle), Samantha, and Josh. Proud great-grandfather of Jonny, Joey, Ben, Tea, and Aidan. Brother of the late Norman, Leonard, Wilbert, Victor Litke, and Lenore DeVos. Loving uncle of many nieces and nephews. Melvin Litke served in the Army Air Corps during World War II in the Eighth Air Force, 96th bombardment group as a waist gunner in a B-17, flying 50 missions over Europe. He was a senior designer at General Motors for 42 years retiring in 1982. He was an active member of VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth. Memorial Service to be held January 10, 2015 at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI. Family visitation at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m., with a luncheon following. Interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park. Memorials to the American Cancer Society.

SHOMOCK, STEPHEN MARK
Age 57 of Redford Township joined his father Edward into Eternal Life on December 26th, 2014 with immediate family present. Beloved Son of Dolores and Edward (deceased). Father of Stephen Mitchell. Brother of Katherine Reed, Norma Jenkins (Kent), Edward (Sandra) and James (Cheryse). Loving uncle of Luke, Lacey, Spencer and Malia. Memorial Mass to be determined later.

SPRY, EDWARD
Of Pinckney, MI, age 65, died December 28, 2014. Arrangements by Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel; call 810-231-0200 or visit www.borekjennings.com



VON SAUERS, DONAMAE
Age 91, January 1, 2015. Beloved wife of the late John. Loving mother of John R. (Irma), Rosemary Tiedt, Peggy, and the late Robert Von Sauers. Dear sister of Shirley Halfacre and Evelyn Shundoff. Grandmother of Dawn, Sherri and Jason. Great-grandmother of Sydney and Samara. Funeral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Tuesday at 11 a.m. Visitation Monday 2-8 p.m. Memorials may be directed to the Michigan Humane Society. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com.

WANEVA, ARDREY
Age 87, a Livonia resident more than 51 years, passed away December 27, 2014. Preceded in death by her husband Jerome (Jerry), parents David and Lula Belle Denney, brothers Russell (Jean) and Richard (Betty Ann). Survived by sons Gary, Gregg and Mike, beloved relatives and friends. She was a homemaker, a member of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church for many years where she and her husband served as deacons. For many years she served as a lunch monitor at Cass Elementary School where students she adored called her "Mrs. A." She was involved in the Ford Wives Club and volunteered with the Travelers Aid Society assisting travelers at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Funeral Service was Friday, January 2, 2015, at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park following life celebration. Visit www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

JANUARY CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. doors open; 8 p.m. show starts, Friday, Jan. 16

Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia
Details: Blackthorn performs; \$100 for a table of eight, \$125 for a table of 10, or \$15 per ticket

Contact: 734-464-1222, 734-464-2020 or email Colleen at cmisiak@stedith.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Mitch and Jesse Manns perform with Dean Rutledge. Mitch Manns has performed with bluegrass, oldie and country bands and Jesse Manns developed his personal guitar style after listening to Chet Atkins, Hank Garland and Jeff Back. Rutledge, a 40-year veteran of the Detroit folk scene, has worked as a soloist and as a member of the New Christy Minstrels. Tickets are \$10 per person

Contact: 734-427-2290

FITNESS CLASSES

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12-March 30

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

Details: John Mason, a certified personal fitness trainer, teaches this 10-week class that includes yoga-oriented flexibility moves, stretching, strength training and abdominal and back exercises. Cost is \$70, with a portion of proceeds going to the church

Contact: 734-455-5910

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11

Location: Prentis Apartment Community Room, located on 10 Mile, east of Greenfield, Oak Park

Details: Jan Jacobs will preview her March workshop project, the creation of a denim quilt. The Pomegranate Guild of South-eastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlework

Contact: Judy Galperin at 488-661-5337

WORLD SABBATH

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Jan. 25

Location: Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Celebrate peace and religious diversity through this interfaith experience of music,

RELIGION CALENDAR

dance and prayer. Afterglow follows the service
Contact: 248-851-5100

FEBRUARY OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 1

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Open house for preschool through grade eight

Contact: 734-425-4420

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

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergarten

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support,

practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.

Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 14 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

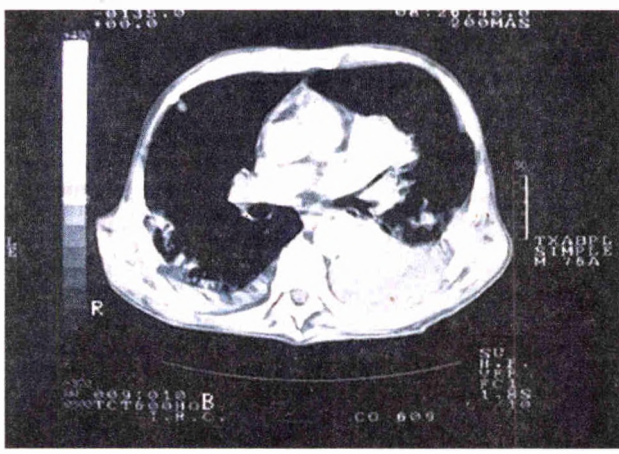
Contact: 313-534-0399



Heavy smokers may qualify for lung screening at no cost

Starting this month, individuals who are at high risk for developing lung cancer may be eligible for screening at no out-of-pocket cost. In Michigan, this includes most people with private insurance, individuals who are enrolled in their state health insurance marketplaces, and people enrolled in state Medicaid expansion who will be eligible for early detection screening without cost to them.

Patients considered to be high risk and potentially eligible for screening are 55-80 years old, have a 30-pack-year history of smoking and are a current smoker or have quit within the last 15 years. A person with a 30-pack history has smoked one pack daily for 30 years or two packs daily for 15 years. Screening people at high risk has the potential to save more than 13,000 lives a year across the U.S.



Low-dose CT scans may save lives of individuals at high risk for lung cancer.

"This is important news for many people at high risk of developing lung cancer. With screening becoming available to many at no out-of-pocket cost, many more people in Michigan who should be screened can be," said Barry Gottschalk, president and CEO of the American Lung Association serving Michigan.

"The American Lung Association recommends that anyone who meets the high risk criteria should talk to their doctor about screening and check with their health insurance provider to see if their coverage includes screening."

The American Lung Association created a chart to help explain lung

cancer screening coverage and a checklist for individuals to use when calling their insurance companies about their eligibility for screening with no cost. Both are posted online at lung.org.

Medicare, which provides health care insurance for most Americans over the age of 65, is in the midst of a separate process to determine coverage for lung cancer screening among its beneficiaries. A final coverage announcement from CMS is expected for Medicare patients in February.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women in the United States. The five-year survival rate for lung cancer patients is only 17.8 percent. An annual low-dose spiral CT scan for individuals at high risk has the potential to dramatically improve lung cancer survival rates by finding the dis-

ease at an earlier, more treatable stage. Chest X-rays and checking lung mucus for cancer cells are no longer recommended for screening. They can be used to check for signs of lung cancer but don't decrease the risk of dying from lung cancer.

"The most important risk factor for lung cancer is smoking, and the best thing people can do to reduce their risk is to stop smoking or never start," said Gottschalk. "The American Lung Association has been helping people quit smoking for over 40 years. We believe anyone can quit and we have the tools and resources to help smokers quit for good."

Patients can determine if they are candidates for lung cancer screening through the American Lung Association's online tool, lungcancerscreeningsaveslives.org.

Additional resources include Facing Lung Cancer: Support from Day One (<http://www.mylungcancersupport.org/>), a comprehensive online resource with interactive features that offers education and support to people living with lung cancer and their loved ones.

The Lung Connection (<http://connection.lung.org/>) is an online community where individuals living with lung disease and their caregivers can discuss how lung disease affects their lives and share experiences with peers.

To increase awareness about lung cancer – from the importance of screening to treatment and support options – in May, the American Lung Association launched LUNG FORCE (www.lungforce.org), our national movement focused on fighting lung cancer in women.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Blood drive

» 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, in the Fisher Auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Sign up at redcrossblood.org and enter code PROVSFLD.

» 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Make an appointment by calling 248-473-1800 or register at www.redcrossblood.org.

Breastfeeding class

Botsford Hospital's breastfeeding clinic helps new moms who need assistance nursing their babies, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$35. Register by calling 248-888-2500 or visit botsford.org.

Celiac support

Jen Cuevas, The Gluten and Grain Free Gourmet, will be the guest speaker Jan. 12 at the Tri County Celiac Support Group, which meets at First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., meeting and presentation at 7 p.m. Her topic is Gluten Free Vs Grain Free, Bridging the Divide. Visit tccsg.net for more information.

Exercise, Tai Chi

St. Mary Mercy Livonia and the Arthritis Foundation will offer a general exercise program for all ages, 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 13-March 5, in the Wellness Center at the hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. An advanced exercise program is available from 9-10 a.m. for individuals who have completed the general program. Tai Chi classes run 11 a.m. to noon. The general exercise and tai chi classes are free and the advanced class costs \$5 per session. The programs are for individuals with arthritis and related diseases. Register at 734-655-1310.

Hearing Loss

Mike Robinette, Au.D., CCC-A, talks about the latest hearing aid features, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297; afack@comcast.net.

Joint class

Oakwood Healthcare orthopedic specialists will talk about the sources of shoulder, hip and knee pain, along with treatment options, 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 13, at the Oakwood Physical Therapy & Wellness Center, 17101 Rotunda Drive in Dearborn. Register for the free class at Oakwood.org or call 800-543-9355.

Nutrition class

» Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron and a Botsford Hospital dietician will demonstrate the differences in tastes and benefits of whole grains as well as winter greens and vegetables. 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Busch's Fresh Foods Market, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Cost: \$10 and includes a \$5 coupon, giveaways, recipes, samples, and more. Registration required. Class is limited to 30. Register at the Guest Services Counter at the store; 734-779-6100.

» A Botsford Hospital dietician will give tips on how much you should eat and how to tame bad habits, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 33300 W. 14 Mile, West



Learn about whole grains Jan. 8 at Busch's Fresh Foods in Livonia and about taming bad eating habits Jan. 22 at Busch's in West Bloomfield.

Bloomfield. Cost is \$5. Register at the Guest Services Counter at the store; 248-539-4581.

Open house

See the University of Michigan Livonia Health Center's newly renovated offices and meet its physicians and staff, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Jan. 10, on Farmington Road just south of Eight Mile. The practice offers primary care for the entire family, including prenatal and OB-GYN services, newborn, pediatric, adult and geriatric care, sports medicine and more. A drawing will be held for two tickets to the Michigan vs. Michigan State basketball game on Feb. 17 in Ann Arbor. For more information, visit www.uofmhealth.org/livoniahealthcenter or call 248-473-4300.

Ongoing

Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. Meetings open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

Blood pressure

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, lipid

panel (\$15) testing, 10 a.m. to noon March 4, June 3, Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. The hospital also offers free blood pressure screening, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Jan. 6, 15, 20 and 29 in the East Court at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, at Wayne Road in Westland. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Choir therapy

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.therapychoirs.org for additional information.

CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.

Health programs, support

The Garden City Hospital Health Enhancement Center offers classes designed to strengthen your heart after a cardiac event. It also offers an array of fitness classes, such as yoga, tai chi, Zumba, hula and Polynesian aerobics to keep you moving or to help you relax. For more information, call 734-458-3242. GCH Community Education offers classes in CPR (adult and infant), first aid, and diabetes self-management education. The hospital hosts various support groups including Nar-Anon, Alzheimer's, Alcoholics Anonymous, Focus on Living and Diabetes, which are held monthly. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter

provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. Contact afack@comcast.net or 734-664-3297.

Low vision support

Meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For more information, call Ellen Stross at 734-453-0750, Ext. 232.

Lyme support

Meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, except January, July and September, at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield; 248-354-

4488. For more information, visit the Michigan Lyme Disease Association website, www.mlda.org, or call 888-784-LYME.

Metro Fibromyalgia & CFS support

Meets 1-3 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call Ruthann at 734-981-2519 or visit www.MetroFibroGroup.com.

Neuropathy support

The group meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road. The Southeast Michigan Neuropathy Support Group is designed for individuals with

any kind of neuropathy.

Scleroderma Foundation

The Scleroderma Foundation Michigan Chapter offers support for scleroderma and overlapping autoimmune patients. The Livonia group meets 7-8 p.m. the first Thursday of the month, February-June and September-November, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Group leader is Sue Harris, sharris27@mi.rr.com; 248-982-5740. A virtual support group meets 1-3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month, February-November. Contact Judy Nichols at kenjudynichols@gmail.com; 231-775-8446.



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The books that have shaped our workforce

By Susan Ricker,
CareerBuilder writer

Your collection of books may include some personal favorites, recommendations from friends, old textbooks and the occasional yard sale pick. But if you're putting together a collection of books that have shaped America's workforce, you might want to ask around for suggestions before calling the list complete.

The Department of Labor is partnering with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress to celebrate the DOL's centennial in 2013 and honor our nation's workforce in a project, "Books that Shaped Work in America."

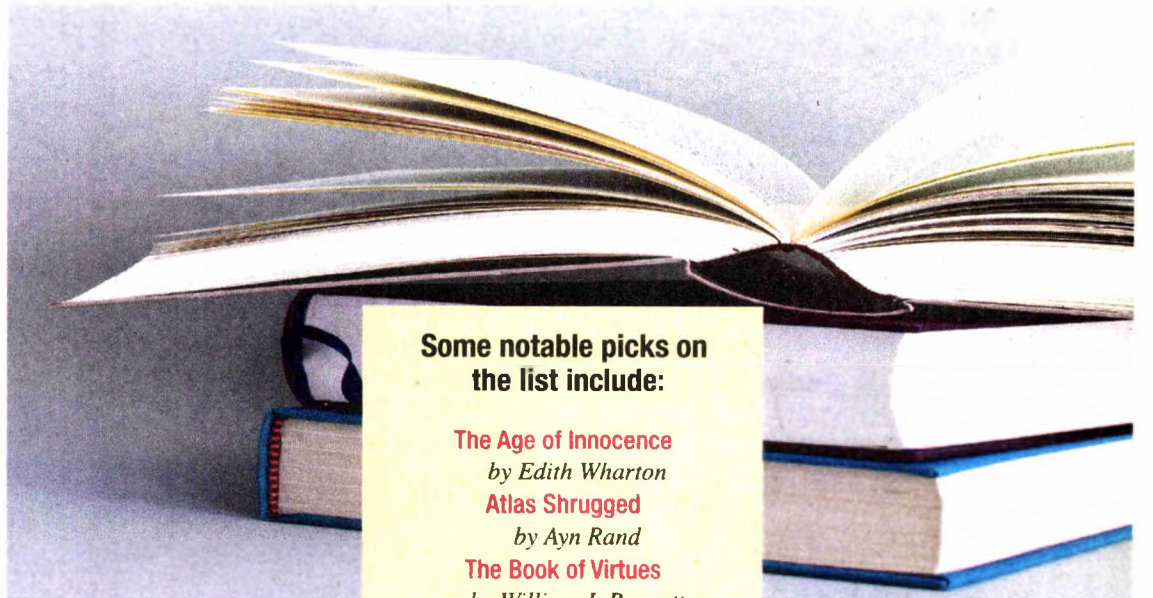
If you want to be a part of this historic project, read on for more about the books on the list

and how you can suggest your own pick.

One hundred years with the DOL and America's workforce

The project was inspired by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress' 2012 "Books That Shaped America" exhibition, which explored the impact of books on American life and culture. Not surprisingly, work was a major theme in many of the books on exhibition and prompted the DOL to explore the subject further.

While influential workers helped get the list started, more than 100 titles of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and children's books are now a part of the project,



Some notable picks on the list include:

- The Age of Innocence**
by Edith Wharton
- Atlas Shrugged**
by Ayn Rand
- The Book of Virtues**
by William J. Bennett
- Capitalism and Freedom**
by Milton Friedman
- The Devil Wears Prada**
by Lauren Weisberger
- The Feminine Mystique**
by Betty Friedan
- The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money**
by John Maynard Keynes
- The Grapes of Wrath**
by John Steinbeck
- The Help**
by Kathryn Stockett
- The Jungle**
by Upton Sinclair
- Leaves of Grass**
by Walt Whitman
- Madam Secretary, A Memoir**
by Madeleine Albright
- My Beloved World**
by Sonia Sotomayor
- The Other America**
by Michael Harrington
- To Kill a Mockingbird**
by Harper Lee
- Wealth of Nations**
by Adam Smith
- What Color is Your Parachute?**
by Richard Nelson Bolles
- What Do People Do All Day?**
by Richard Scarry
- The Guinness Book of World Records**

which is still open and accepting suggested titles.

In an effort to engage with the public and share its resources and history, the Web-based project, www.dol.gov/books, celebrates 100 years of the DOL's effort to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the U.S.; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

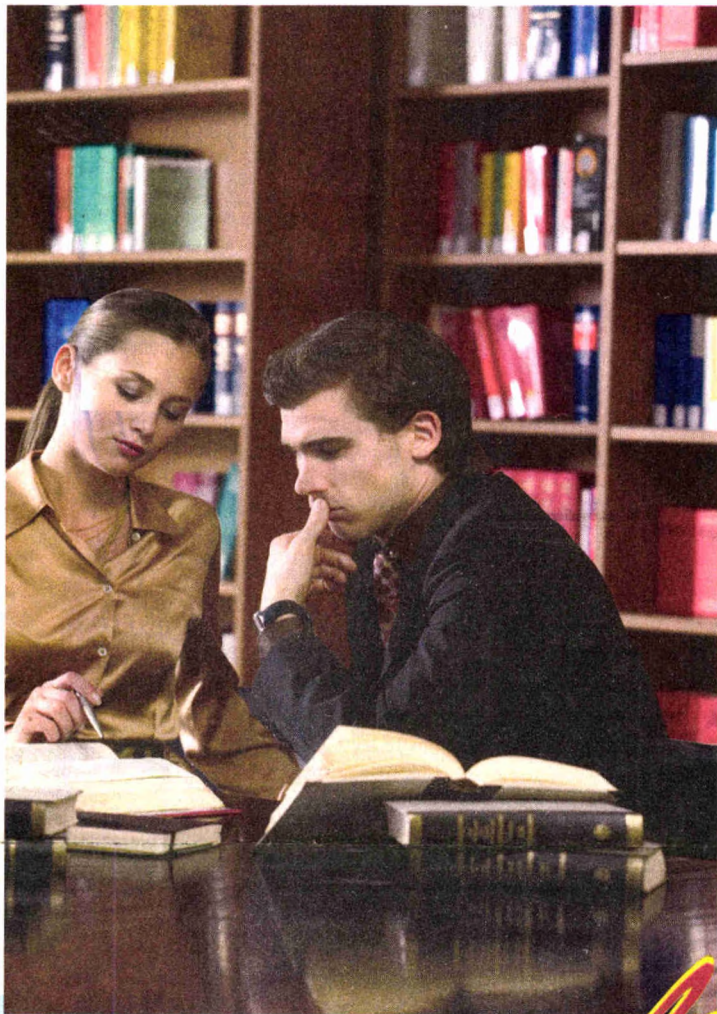
Putting the list together

In order to put together a foundation for the list to build on, some influential members of the American workforce were tapped to suggest titles. Twenty-four individuals, including U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, eight former secretaries of labor from both Democratic and Republican administrations, department staff (including an intern), civil rights leaders, critics, authors, media personalities and staff from the Library of Congress submitted suggestions.

The list wouldn't be complete without the input of everyday workers. To have your pick considered, fill out the online form at <http://www.dol.gov/books/form> and include the book title, author and why you think the book should be on the list.

"The 'Books that Shaped Work in America' initiative explores the dignity of work and our progress in expanding America's fundamental promise of opportunity for all through the lens of literature," says U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "Think of this effort as an online book club where people from all walks of life can share books that informed them about occupations and careers, molded their views about work and helped elevate the discourse about work, workers and workplaces. At the same time, the site provides a unique way for people to learn about the mission and resources of the U.S. Department of Labor."

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.75	0	3	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4	0	3.25	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.25	0
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WANTED: New, used, or old Fishing Tackle & related items. Successful Deer Hunter Patches. Call Bill: (734) 890-1047

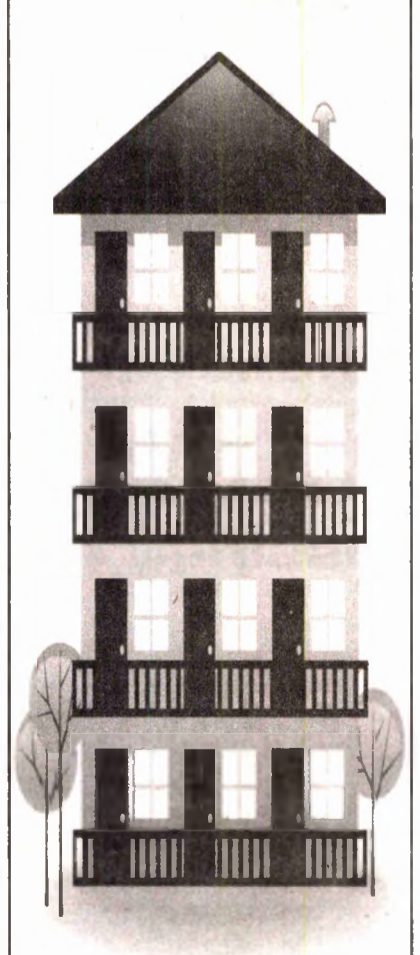
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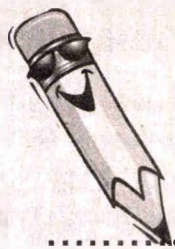
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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 The "final frontier"
 - 6 Upholstery choice
 - 11 Selected the best
 - 12 Vacillated (hyph.)
 - 14 Thrust-and-parry sword
 - 15 Vertebra locale
 - 17 "Love — Do"
 - 18 Width of a cir.
 - 19 ER staffers
 - 20 Yes, in Kyoto
 - 21 Part of a.m.
 - 23 Machine tooth
 - 24 Crooked
 - 25 Leaves office
 - 27 Bright flower
 - 28 Bug for payment
 - 29 Dernier —
 - 30 Friar's home
 - 33 Sharpened
 - 37 Tolerate
 - 38 "—Pan" (Clavell novel)
- DOWN**
- 1 Lying face upward
 - 2 Kilt features
 - 3 Tavern fare
 - 4 After yr. 1
 - 5 Article publishers (abbr.)

- 39 German industrial region
- 40 Every
- 41 Ad — committee
- 42 CAT scan relative
- 43 NE state
- 44 Freeway cloggers
- 46 Long reed
- 47 Stove-top whistler
- 49 Orchard produce
- 51 Reverie
- 52 Meted out

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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- 6 Competing for
- 7 Free electrons
- 8 Humorist Edgar Wilson —
- 9 Hey!
- 10 Grand Prix site
- 11 Hot-tub wood
- 13 Zeus or Odin
- 16 Ski instructors
- 20 Female lobster
- 22 Comforter stuffing
- 23 A Turner channel
- 24 Worms and minnows
- 26 Fellow
- 27 Opposite of post-
- 29 Frat letter
- 30 Taken — (surprised)
- 31 Walloped
- 32 Checkbook amt.
- 33 Texas town
- 34 Nogales nosh
- 35 Gained through hard work
- 36 Towels off
- 38 Family tree, to some
- 41 Storytelling dance
- 44 Did lunch
- 45 Crestfallen
- 46 Mil. rank
- 48 Financial off.
- 50 Mail carrier's org.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11					12				13	
14				15	16				17	
18					19			20		
21		22		23				24		
25			26				27			
		28				29				
30	31	32			33			34	35	36
37				38				39		
40				41					42	
43			44				45		46	
47		48					49	50		
							51			52

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

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

ASTROLOGY WORD SEARCH

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

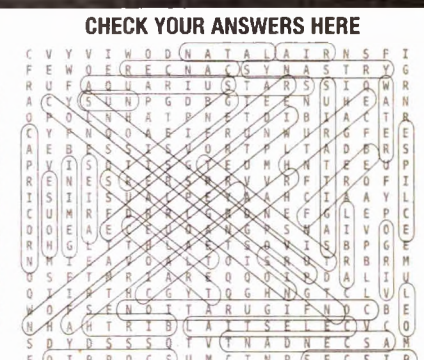
WORDS

- AIR
- AQUARIUS
- ARIES
- ASCENDANT
- ASTROLOGY
- BIRTH
- CALENDAR
- CANCER
- CAPRICORN
- CELESTIAL
- CHART
- CONFIGURATION
- CONSTELLATION
- EARTH
- ECLIPSE
- FIRE
- GEMINI
- HOUSE
- INTERPRET
- LEO
- LIBRA
- NATAL
- PISCES
- PROGRESSIONS
- RETROGRADE
- RISING
- SAGITTARIUS
- SCORPIO
- SIGN
- STARS
- SYNASTRY
- TAURUS
- TRANSIT
- VIRO
- WATER

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

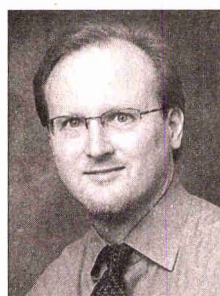
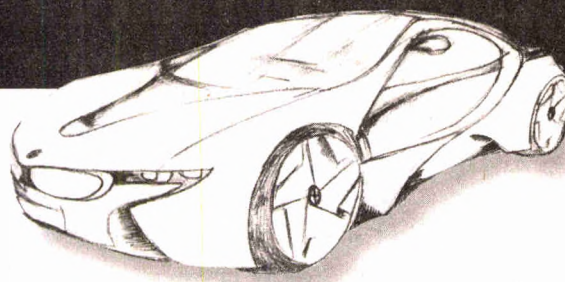
9	1	5	7	8	3	4	6	2
8	6	4	1	9	2	3	7	5
3	2	7	5	4	6	8	9	1
1	7	6	8	5	4	9	2	3
2	5	6	8	3	7	1	4	8
4	3	8	2	1	9	7	5	6
6	4	2	3	7	1	5	8	9
7	8	3	9	2	5	6	1	4
5	9	1	4	6	8	2	3	7

Word Search



Car Report

Toyota Sienna Exemplifies Why Minivans Are Still So Great



By Dale Buss



The 2015 Toyota Sienna.

Toyota's just-breaking "Unexpected Adventures" campaign for the fall launch of the new Sienna is an internet-only campaign that uses fun videos that happen to be created by parents who already showed they were adept at exploiting the world of social media.

Meanwhile, the 2014 Toyota Sienna that it replaces showed me on a recent trip that it has absolutely everything families would need in an automotive platform. And so the improvements in the new model year - touches such as a feature that helps parents talk with kids in the rear of the vehicle without having to shout - only enhance what already is an outstanding package.

I've always been extremely partial to minivans in

the first place, having leased a couple of Chrysler Town & Country minivans sequentially as our kids were growing up. And from the beginning of the minivan phenomenon with Chrysler vehicles in the early Eighties until today, I defy anyone to come up with a category of vehicle that is so versatile and checks so many boxes for practical automotive ownership.

Decent gas mileage for a larger vehicle? Check.

Pretty good handling for something that's not a sports sedan? Check.

Complete and utter flexibility of the interior space for passengers and cargo? Double check.

Most comfortable and flexible seating options for the largest number and biggest variety of people? Double check as well.

Best driver and passenger visibility, especially in the front, for any type of vehicle on the American road? Triple check.

No matter so many soccer moms bought and are still buying minivans. And that, of course, is the only real rub against this mode of transportation: It's considered dowdy. And today's soccer moms and dads don't want to be seen as fuddy-duddies, so minivans aren't even on the consideration list for many, many families these days as they buy new vehicles.

They should put Sienna back on that list. Aesthetically on the outside, it's about as pleasing as a minivan can get. And inside - where vans do their business - it executes to the max on each one of those



Great visibility is one of the abiding features of Sienna and other minivans.

major advantages of minivans.

The 2014 Sienna we drove on an iconic, Fourth of July road trip up the peninsula was powered by a 3.5-liter, 24-valve six-cylinder engine that yielded an EPA-rated 16 mpg in the city and 23 mpg on the highway. My mileage, mostly highway and country driving, was a little better than that in the latter measure.

In any event, Toyota's reliable 3.5-liter was a dependable power train, not only providing acceptable mileage, better than SUVs of its size, and also moving Sienna around briskly even over country hills and in passing lanes. Plus the driver's package in the XLE version I drove included brake-assist and smart-stop technology that came in handy more than once on the trip.

Sienna's highly comfortable interior demonstrated one of the best attributes of minivans versus SUVs: second-row seats that recline to a meaningful degree. In fact, Sienna's second-row captain's chairs had foot rests that turned them into "lounger" chairs and encouraged second-row occupants to sleep along the way, providing the driver with peace and quiet.

The vehicle's configurable interior seemed bottomless in accommodating luggage, as folded the rear seats back and piled suitcases, beach gear, groceries and all the other trip essentials into the deep well that opened up when we moved the seats. And when we got to our destination and wanted to use the rear seats for passengers, they simply folded back down into the well again.

In the 2015 version of Sienna, Toyota is adding LED daytime running lights, more soft-touch surfaces, optional black-leather seats with contrasting white stitching, and the cool new intercom feature. Called Driver Easy Speak, and also found on the Highlander SUV, it allows parents behind the wheel to talk through a microphone while they're driving so they don't have to yell back at their kids in the third row. It's an important safety feature that can really make a difference in a minivan.

Sienna sales actually were about flat through June compared with a year earlier. Some competing vans, such as Town & Country, have been posting sales increases over a year ago, and overall the minivans category seems to be getting more attention - and respect.

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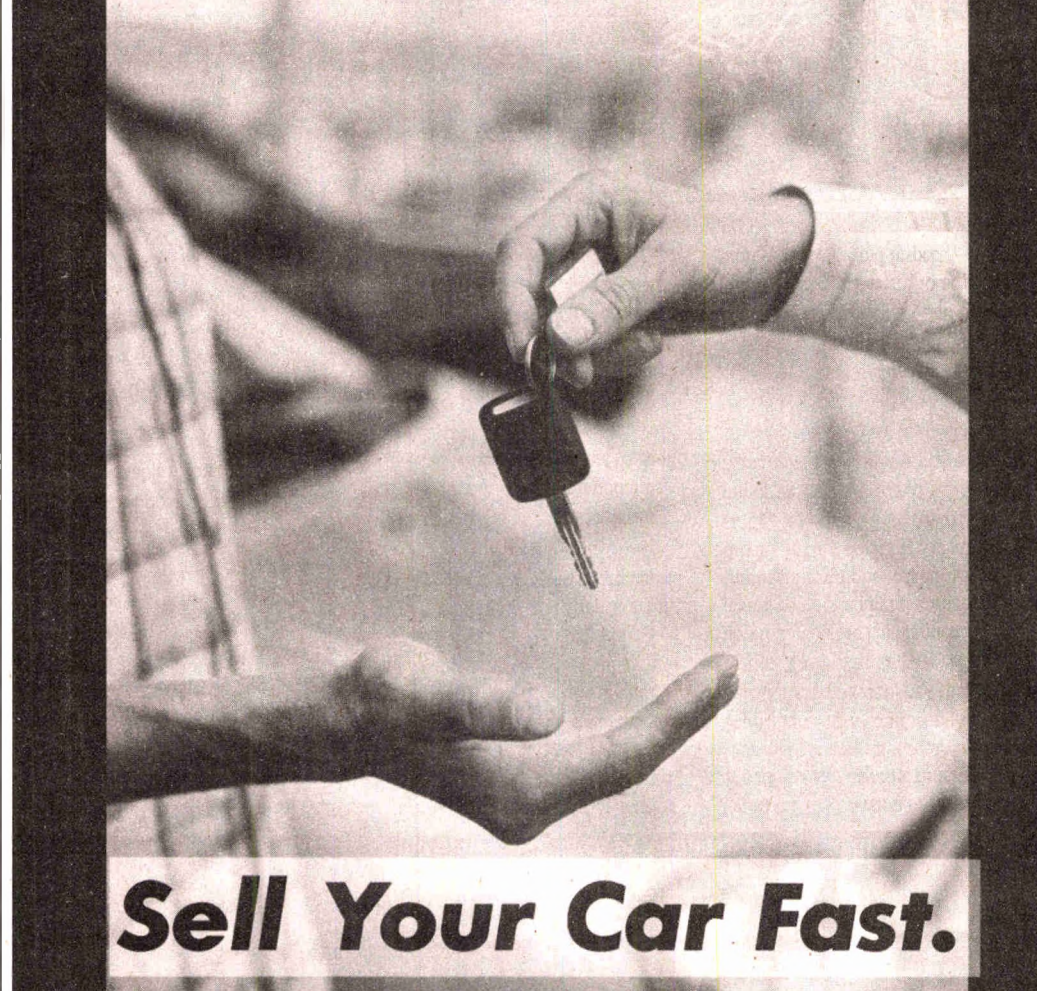
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