



PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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PASTA TIPS
FROM A PRO

FOOD, B10

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015 • hometownlife.com

City bookkeeping gets high mark

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The city of Plymouth got an A-plus in bookkeeping on its financial report card for the most recent fiscal year. The independent audit for the 2013-14 fiscal year, which ended last June 30, was presented Monday to the city commission by Rana Emmons, a certified public accountant

and a partner in the accounting firm PSLZ. The audit is a detailed review of the city's recorded financial activity for the year and a breakdown of its funds, as well as its assets, revenues and debts and other obligations, plus a look at the accounting practices used and the way the numbers are presented. In a preface to the audit,

Emmons said she found no significant issues to bring to city officials' attention. In her presentation Monday, Emmons said tax revenues for the year were up "slightly." A memo from city officials, attached to the audit, said property tax revenue increase by 4.8 percent, after "years of declines and flat trends," to a total of just over \$6.84 million.

"We'll take slightly," Emmons told the commission. "We're hoping that this is a sign that things are turning around." The city is emerging from the economic downturn in better shape than many surrounding communities, she said. The city's total revenue for the fiscal year, from all sources, was more than \$16.2 million.

Fund balance up
Other highlights, from Emmons' remarks and city officials' written statement, included:
» The city's "net position" – the amount by which its assets at the close of the fiscal year exceeded its liabilities – was \$31.42 million. Of that, capital

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Carver Tajana Raukar, of Ice Dreams in Plymouth, is a regular at the Plymouth Ice Festival. She's seen here carving in the 2012 show.

FILE PHOTO

Red Kettle donations fall just short of target

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign for the Plymouth area fell just shy of its goal for the 2014 Christmas season. The campaign, which saw hundreds of volunteers ringing the familiar bells and collecting donations on street corners and in some shopping plazas, from mid-November through Christmas Eve, raised just over \$221,000, according to Sandra Kollinger, the volunteer and special events coordinator for the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps. Red Kettle donations stay in the Plymouth Corps' service area, which includes Plymouth, Northville and Plymouth, Canton and Northville townships, and go toward programs like the Plymouth Corps' summer day camp, the Tiny Tots preschool and help for struggling families through such things as rent and utility assistance and an emergency food pantry. Kollinger did not immediately have figures for overall Christmastime fundraising. Holiday fundraising, including the Red Kettle drive, is the biggest annual revenue source for the Plymouth Corps. The overall holiday fundraising goal for the season was \$315,000.

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BRAD KADRICH

Volunteer bell-ringer Ervine Miller talks to Plymouth resident Cheryl Summers at the Kroger on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth earlier in the kettle season.

100 sculptures planned for 33rd Plymouth Ice Festival

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

There's a 100-percent chance of snow this weekend for downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Weather forecasts aside, snow is guaranteed for the temporary cross country ski trail at the park, one of the major annual attractions of the Plymouth Ice Festival, which opens Friday. Trail-builder Sun and Snow Sports has set up snow-making equipment to aid Mother Nature and is trucking in leftover "snow" from ice rink maintenance at two local arenas. The trail, which can also be used for snowshoeing (and sleds, pulled by parents, for the little ones) is intended for everybody, but is especially kid-friendly, said Rob Parent of Sun and Snow. The trail can be used (and



Sculptures are typically available for viewing around the clock during the three-day Plymouth Ice Festival

FILE PHOTO

equipment borrowed) for free; professionals will be on hand to fit the gear and get newbies started. "What we want to do is introduce people to snow sports," Parent said. "It gets kids off the couch, gets time

outside." Parent said he's been surprised to find that, in a state with abundant opportunities for participating in winter sports, the vast majority of people who come to use the trail are new to snow sports.

This is the fifth year for the cross country trail at the ice festival; Parent said the trail is three times the size it was in its first year in order to accommodate the crowds that flock to it. "We try to add enough terrain variation to make it fun, but not too challenging," he said. Sun and Snow's partner in sponsoring the cross country trail is Blue Care Network of Michigan. **'Frozen' ice**
The 2015 Plymouth Ice Festival, the city's 33rd ice festival, debuts at 3 p.m. Friday, with an official opening ceremony planned for 7 p.m. at the park. Organizer James Gietzen said approximately 100 sculptures are planned for the festival, both in Kellogg Park and in front of down-

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MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

The Michigan Philharmonic performs its chamber concert Sunday at the Inn at St. John's chapel.

Philharmonic brings back chamber concert

The Michigan Philharmonic brings back its popular "Miniature Masterpieces" chamber concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at the Inn at St. John's Chapel in Plymouth.

With the St. John's Chapel as a backdrop, this concert showcases select musicians as soloists, with chamber concert repertoire ranging from classical favorites by Mozart and Bach to a revolutionary piece by Lou Harrison, reminiscent of exotic Bali: *Suite for Violin, Piano and Small Orchestra*.

The Michigan Philharmonic is also joined by special guest composer Nancy Bloomer Deussen, who hails from the California, with her beautifully lush, *Peninsula Suite*, inspired by life along the shore of the San Francisco Peninsula.

Deussen is a composer and co-founder of the Bay Area chapter of The National Association of Composers, USA. She composes music for

a varied spectrum of performers, including band, chorus, orchestra (full, string and chamber), brass ensemble and sax quartet, just to name a few.

Deussen's *Peninsula Suite* references "a lovely shoreline ... the pastel colors, rocking of the water and distant sounds of wildlife," as some of the images used to create the beautiful movements that make up the piece.

"This 'Miniature Masterpieces' concert really allows us to showcase our principal players giving them a chance to fully exhibit their talents, and also to focus in on pieces that show their range of interest and ability," said Beth Stewart, executive director.

The team of Philharmonic soloists performing Jan. 11 include the concertmaster, violinist Joseph Deller, pianist Patrick Johnson and flutists Dennis Carter and Shelly Rouse-Freitag.

LEGO dream car contest celebrates area's auto legacy

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton sisters Kylie and Katelyn Morton had distinct ideas when they designed their own dream cars made of LEGOs.

Kylie, an eighth-grader, envisioned a sleek ride molding an airplane and a tank into an altogether new vehicle that travels by air, land or sea. And its cabin serves as an apartment.

Katelyn, a second-grader, created a travel train that has fully functional living quarters and a back yard allowing residents, when not on the go, to step outside and enjoy the outdoors.

Their creations are among entries the Canton Public Library has received for its Dream Vehicle LEGO Contest, which comes just before this month's North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Logical time

Laurie Golden, the library's community relations department head, said the auto show seemed a logical time for a LEGO contest featuring dream vehicle designs.

"It's so much a part of the culture of the Detroit area," she said.

Earlier library LEGO contests featured dream libraries, of course, and dream homes.

Ethan Fritz, a Canton teen and LEGO builder who started an actu-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurie Golden, the library's community relations department head, takes a look at an entry by Kylie Morton that is part airplane and part tank.

al LEGO art business, Brick Brothers, with younger brother Gabriel, is among the judges of the library's competition.

"I think it'll be really cool to judge and see all these new ideas," Ethan said, adding LEGOs offer "endless possibilities for what you can build."

No video games

Ethan likes the creativity and said LEGO projects keep builders away from less creative pastimes like playing video games.

This year's dream vehicle en-

tries are due by 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the library. The contest features motorized and non-motorized categories in the following divisions: kindergarten through second grade; third through fifth grades; sixth through eighth grades; and ninth through 12th grades.

A team division also is available for groups of friends or families.

LEGO dream vehicles will be on display in the library's Community Room for patron voting from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. An awards ceremony is set for 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, in the same room.

Legacy and learning

The library's contest is intended to combine the area's automotive legacy, imagination and learning in science, technology, engineering and math.

Golden said past LEGO contests have been popular – not surprising, considering the popularity of the plastic building blocks in the library's early literacy area.

As contest judges, Ethan and Gabriel are excited to see the dream vehicle creations. Their work, featured in an earlier *Observer* story, can be seen on their website www.brickbrothers.com.

For more on the library's contest, go to www.cantonpl.org.

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Twitter: @CantonObserver

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Greil at APD

Wolfgang Greil recently joined Advanced Purchasing Dynamics of Plymouth as president of its SYRE purchasing software division.

Greil comes to SYRE with nearly 20 years of leadership experience in enterprise software, most recently with Infor, an enterprise resource planning software provider, where he held the position of vice president and general manager of

the automotive division.

"Wolfgang is a pioneer of the software industry, having grown various software companies to a market leadership position," said Jeffrey Burris, founder and principal of APD.

Advanced Purchasing Dynamics helps manufacturers streamline procurement and purchasing operations. Companies partnering with APD benefit from six service components: SYRE purchasing soft-

ware, cost engineering, training, placement/recruitment, consulting, and optimization of the purchasing processes.

HBAM appointment

Rich Kligman, a third-generation home builder and remodeler at Plymouth-based Superb Custom Homes, is secretary of the Home Builders Association of Michigan's 2015 Board of Directors.

Kligman has 22 years of experience in the

home-building industry and graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in building construction management. He also serves on the National Association of Home Builders board of directors and the HomeAid of Southeastern Michigan board of directors.

Kligman has received numerous recognitions, including Builder of the Year and Southeastern Michigan's Young Builder of the Year.

CORRECTION

A story in the Sunday, Jan. 4, *Observer* about retiring Board of Education President Judy Mardigian should have said Esther Hulsing has the longest term on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

According to Sam Hudson's book *The Tenth Largest*, Hulsing served 18 years on the board. Former board member Roland Thomas served 17 years in two stints on the board, from 1982-95 and 1997-2001.

KETTLE

Continued from Page A1

Kollinger said that more than 500 individual volunteer bell-ringers participated in the 2014 Red Kettle drive, plus volunteers from many area groups, like youth scouting groups, service clubs and church congregations.

Donations to the Ply-

mouth Corps can be made, through January, and still be counted as part of 2014 holiday fundraising.

Checks can be mailed to the Plymouth Corps at 9451 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170. Donors can also drop in to make donations; credit card donations are accepted.

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BRAD KADRICH
Veteran bell-ringer Ron Kretschmer of Canton, ringing at Holiday Market in Canton, said his goal is to ring 36 hours this year. Last year, he hit 34.

AUDIT

Continued from Page A1

assets represented more than \$22 million.

"The city's combined fund balance was just over \$2.27 million. Of that, more than \$1.68 million was in the gener-

al fund.

"The city added \$222,725 to the general fund's fund balance during the year, building on a gain of \$51,381 in the prior fiscal year. That's after several straight years of losses, including a loss of \$720,465 during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

"The estimated un-

funded liability in the city's defined-benefit pension system dropped by \$313,000 to just under \$7.98 million. It was first decrease in the unfunded accrued liability since 1999. City officials have adopted a policy of putting more than the minimum into the pension fund, plus the funds

investments, Emmons said, have been seeing better returns.

"A bond refinancing – to an interest rate of 1.43 percent – saved the city about \$220,000.

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FESTIVAL

Continued from Page A1

town businesses that sponsor them, around the same number of sculptures as in other recent years.

The sculptures will incorporate about 280 blocks of ice and individual sculptures will range from just one block to up to 24 blocks, he said.

Sculpture highlights, Gietzen said, will include sculptures of characters from the popular animated film *Frozen*, plus "interactive" sculptures

– like a throne, a bench, a child-sized race car – on which visitors can pose for photo opportunities.

Gietzen said several improvements over last year's festival are planned, including a better DTE Energy Hot Spot warming tent, another warming station at The Gathering with vendors, local businesses and activities that can test visitors' hockey skills (sponsored by the Detroit Red Wings and Health Alliance Plan) and a free concert by jazz trio led by vocalist Cynthia Kaay Bennett that's scheduled for 3 p.m.

Saturday at the Plymouth District Library.

Favorite events from past festivals are also returning, including the collegiate ice-carving competition (individual competition begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, team competition at 8 a.m. Sunday), the Dueling Chainsaws competition (7 p.m. Saturday) and the lighting of the Fire & Ice Towers (7:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday), all in Kellogg Park.

Visitors can also head over to an ancillary event, the Party Lot behind E.G. Nick's on Forest, for live music and drink specials. The Party Lot will be open from 7 p.m. to midnight both Friday and Saturday.

For more information about the festival, go to its website,



FILE PHOTO
This statue of Lady Liberty graced Kellogg Park during the 2012 Plymouth Ice Festival.

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PUP hosts winter season auditions

The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces auditions for The Plymouth Uptown Players Youth Theatre Winter 2015 season. The open call will be 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. Youth ages 5-13, kindergarten through eighth grade, will be asked to read a short monologue for the director. The piece may be memorized or read from printed notes. Students interested in musical roles should be prepared to sing a short song of their choosing. Actors will register in the lobby and then stay

for about 30 minutes to participate in group theater exercises. The director for the season will be Sonja Marquis, who has led PCAC summer theater camps for the past two years. The program costs \$200 per actor for the season, with a current PCAC student membership required (\$30 per year). Actors may pre-register online, by phone or in person on the day of auditions. Online registration and payment option can be accessed through the website, www.plymoutharts.com. The PCAC has office hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.



The Plymouth Uptown Players are holding open auditions for their winter season.

PLYMOUTH UPTOWN PLAYERS

PUPS weekly rehearsals will be 1-4 p.m. each Sunday afternoon, with specific times assigned by the director after auditions. Final performances will be April 17-18 on stage at The Tipping

Point Theatre in downtown Northville. The Plymouth Uptown Players is an experimental theater group made up of elementary and middle school aged children. Each season (fall and

winter), children are invited to participate in open auditions. The program is a cooperative effort between the Plymouth Community Arts Council and Tipping Point Theatre. All children who audition will receive a

part. The program culminates in a play performed on Tipping Point Theatre's professional stage in downtown Northville. The performances are open to the public.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FOLK NIGHT

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

Location: J.W. Hulce Center for the Performing Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The January meeting of the BaseLine Folk Society will be an "all open mic" night, with 14 open mic spots. The host for January will be Doug McClennen, a BaseLine regular for years. Admission is \$5 (including performers); individual and family memberships are available.

Contact: Email questions to BFSpresident@aol.com

BLUES @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Blues @ The Elks happens the second Tuesday of each month. There is a \$5 donation at the door. The Chris Canas Band headlines the show, having won several awards in the last couple of years. The band consists of Chris Canas on vocals and guitar, Angela Cottingham on vocals and percussion, Kevin Schoepke on bass, Chris Nordman on keys and Michael Scott on drums.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzat-thelks@gmail.com

PFLAG MEETING

Date/Time: First Sunday of each month, 3-5 p.m.

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Plymouth-Canton PFLAG meets for discussion, education and sharing. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of families, friends and straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its three-fold mission of support, education and advocacy.

Contact: Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

HEISE HOURS

Date: Monday, Jan. 12

Times/Locations: 10-11 a.m., Parthenon Coney Island, 39910 Ford Road, Canton; noon to 1

p.m., Northville District Library, 212 W. Candy, Northville; 3-4 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. On Friday, Jan. 16, Heise will host coffee hours 7:30-9 a.m. at Panera Bread, 400 S. Main St., Plymouth. Beginning this month, Heise's office hours will be the second Monday every other month rather than each month; however, he will continue to hold coffee hours the third Friday of each month.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll-free 855-REP-KURT or email KurtHeise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

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.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations: 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.

Retired New York fire chief to speak at Livonia Town Hall

Retired Fire Department of New York Chief Don Nigro, who once described Sept. 11, 2001, as the lowest point of his life, will be the featured speaker Jan. 21 at Livonia Town Hall.

He will relate his experiences of joining the fire department in 1969 as a firefighter and rising through the ranks of lieutenant, captain, battalion and deputy chief. During his time with the fire department, he held many administrative positions such as assistant chief of operations and head of emergency medical service, which enabled him to initiate the Certified First Responder Program and merge the



Nigro

Emergency Medical Service with the Fire Department of New York.

But no experience was more difficult or

trying than the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when he had to assume the role of incident commander because the chief of the department, Peter J. Ganci Jr., died at the scene.

"The lowest point of my life," Nigro once said of 9/11. "I'd lost so many friends. It was hard to go on."

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the St. Mary's Cultural Center, 181 Merriman Road, Livonia. Following the lecture, lunch will be served at noon with a question-and-answer period. Tickets are \$55 each and can be obtained by calling 734-420-0383.





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Canton police seek suspect's identity in liquor theft

A suspect is being sought after Canton police say he stole five bottles of liquor by concealing them in his jacket at the Holiday Market in Canton, on Lilley south of Cherry Hill. Police released surveillance photos of the suspect and are asking anyone who can identify him to call the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400. Callers may remain anonymous. Police said the incident happened Dec. 22.



CANTON POLICE
Police are seeking the identity of this man, wanted after five bottles of liquor were stolen from Holiday Market in Canton.

Fake-check scam

A 41-year-old Canton woman trying to sell a pair of skis on Craigslist for \$150 told police she became the victim of an attempted swindle, a police report said. The woman, who didn't realize her address had appeared on Craigslist, said she received a check for \$1,500 check, rather than \$150, by mail from someone who indicated an interest in buying the skis. She corresponded by text with the sender, who said a mistake had been made and she should deposit the check, keep an extra \$50 beyond the \$150 and return the rest by Western Union. Problem was, the \$1,500 check was fake – and a bank told the woman that when she actually went to deposit it. The woman told the sender she was turning the check

over to police and she received no more texts regarding the incident. Police advised her to remove her address from Craigslist.

Homeless help

A 53-year-old homeless woman who refused to leave the lobby of the Holiday Inn near Lotz and Michigan Avenue was picked up by Canton police and given a voucher to spend the night at the nearby Days Inn, a police report said. Police advised the woman to contact The Salvation Army the next day to seek longer-term assistance. A Holiday Inn clerk notified police about 9 p.m. Saturday after the homeless woman was dropped off by a relative who was no longer offering her a place to stay due to family conflict. The woman tried to use a credit card for a room, but it was declined, the report said.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

The woman told police she had walked the streets for hours and had nowhere to go. She already had been told to leave a Super 8 motel.

Facebook flap

A 46-year-old Canton mother contacted police Sunday morning after her ex-husband, ordered by a court not to have contact with their daughter, sent messages to the girl through a Facebook account, a police report said. The mother found four messages when she looked at her daughter's Facebook account. One had pictures of her ex-husband's face and another included a video of him talking. Canton police advised the mother to talk with her attorney and to contact court officials to ask for a hearing on a violation of a no-contact ruling. She also was told to notify police if any more in-

cidents occur.

Funny money

Three boys ages 12-14 were turned over to their relatives after police investigated allegations they tried to use a counterfeit \$20 bill at the Marathon gas station on Michigan Avenue near Haggerty, a police report said. The incident happened about 6 p.m. Dec. 30. A store clerk contacted police and said the three boys started yelling and swearing after they were told the \$20 bill was counterfeit. One boy said he had been given the money by his aunt. Police took the boys to their relatives' homes. The aunt who gave the boy the \$20 bill told police she had gotten it at a store where she had shopped and didn't realize it was counterfeit, the report said.

– By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Trailer break-ins

Power tools and three generators were reported stolen Friday from a construction site on Haggerty Road after break-ins of two trailers there, police said. The break-ins occurred between the afternoon of Jan. 31 and early Friday morning, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. One of the complainants told police he had locked the gate at the site when he left the afternoon of Dec. 31; it was not clear whether the gate had been forced open. Two trailers, however, had been forced open, police said, and tools stolen from each of them.

Garage burglary

A snow thrower was reported stolen Dec. 29 from the garage of a

house on Mayville, police said.

The theft occurred between about 5 p.m. Dec. 28 and noon the next day, a police report said. The garage had been left unlocked.

Prowler reported

Residents of Tavistock Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Road and I-275, reported seeing a man lurking in their yard one night last month. The complainants told police they were arriving home shortly before 10 p.m. Dec. 17 when they saw a man hiding behind a tree in their front yard. The man left on foot toward Ann Arbor Road, they told police. The stranger was described only as a tall white man wearing a jacket with two reflective stripes on it.

– By Matt Jachman



CANTON POLICE
Newly hired Canton police officers are (from left) Andrew Tauscher, Darnisha Kemp, Sean Murphy, Cody Barnes and Larry Frederick.

Canton Police Department hires five new officers

Five new police officers have joined the ranks of the Canton Police Department. The new officers are Andrew Tauscher, Darnisha Kemp, Sean Murphy, Cody Barnes and Larry Frederick. The officers took their oath of office Monday from township Clerk Terry Bennett during a swearing-in ceremony at the Canton Township Administration

Building. The officers have been hired after they successfully completed a 16-week, instructor-led field training program prior to working on their own. The program is designed to help the officers maximize their potential and provide them with the tools they need to successfully make the transition to their new jobs.

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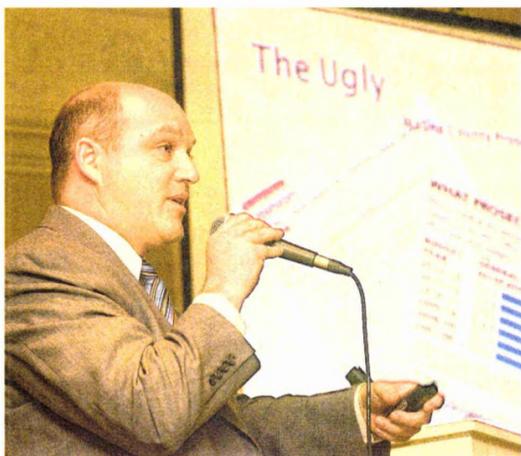
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Re-elected Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price will be sworn in with the other commissioners today (Thursday). Price, a Republican, serves Plymouth and Canton.

Wayne County commissioners take positions for new term

Two new commissioners will be taking their seats as the Wayne County Commission holds its organization meeting at 10 a.m. today (Thursday).

Of the 15 commissioners, 13 were re-elected in November and two were elected to their first two-year term. The newcomers are former Livonia City Clerk Terry Marecki, R-Livonia, in District 9, and Abdul "Al" Haidous, D-Wayne, in District 11.

Haidous previously was the city of Wayne's mayor.

Held in the commission chambers of the mezzanine level of the Guardian Building, the meeting includes the swearing-in ceremony for the 15 commissioners for the 2015-16 term.

During the meeting, the commission will select its chair, vice chair and vice chair pro tempore for the term. The meet-

ing is open to the public and the agenda is at www.waynecounty.com/commission/699.htm.

The re-elected commissioners are: District 1: Tim Killeen, D-Detroit; District 2: Jewel Ware, D-Detroit; District 3: Martha Scott, D-Highland Park; District 4: Ilona Varga, D-Lincoln Park; District 5: Irma Clark-Coleman, D-Detroit; District 6: Burton Leland, D-Detroit; District 7:

Alisha Bell, D-Detroit; District 8: Diane Webb, D-Livonia; District 10: Shannon Price, R-Canton; District 12: Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland; District 13: Gary Woronchak, D-Dearborn; District 14: Raymond Basham, D-Taylor; and District 15: Joseph Palamara, D-Grosse Ile.

The full commission meets at 10 a.m. the first and third Thursday of each month.

Yankee Air Museum adds Fly Zone to educational activities

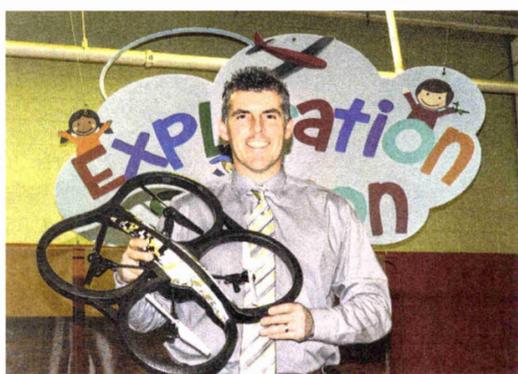
The Yankee Air Museum is dismantling its Mars Rover Exploration Station making way for its next big attraction: Fly Zone. The Exploration Station is the museum's area for providing kids with interesting and challenging hands-on educational activities.

In 2014, nearly 6,000 students visited the museum and had the opportunity to operate small robotic rovers on artificial landscape simulating the rigors of maneuvering on rugged Martian terrain and grasping objects by remote control.

Coming Feb. 28, Fly Zone promises more excitement than ever.

"It's the Exploration Station transformation and Fly Zone is the next dimension," said Kevin Walsh, YAM executive director. "We're building an aerial challenge course for unmanned aircraft systems. Wait until the kids get a load of this. They thought our rover experience was exciting; they'll find this truly amazing."

Walsh said the Exploration Station is an important feature of the



YANKEE AIR MUSEUM

Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum, holds an unmanned aircraft system of the type that kids will be able to operate in Fly Zone.

Yankee Air Museum because it's where young imaginations are captured and real learning begins. Kids like to be immersed in technical subjects in ways they can understand.

"It's absolutely essential for us to keep our interactive displays in sync with advances in aviation," Walsh said. "Unmanned aircraft systems are frequently in the news and now we are applying our skills to give people practical understanding of the

technology."

Walsh said the museum has invested in special padded flooring and netting to confine the aircraft within the safe Fly Zone. Up to four aircraft will be able to operate in Fly Zone and the occasional crash is expected, but the design of the airspace will keep the UAS pilot safe and any damage to the vehicle minimal.

"Fly Zone is our logical next step," said Rachel Krumwiede, Yankee Air Museum's director of

education. "In fact, we started talking about this exhibit virtually the day after we opened the Mars program. There has been a lot of planning involved over the past year, including consultations with the Detroit Aircraft Corp., which manufactures unmanned aircraft systems. Fly Zone will be engaging, stimulating and certainly fun. The goal is to pique a child's interest, then get them to go further, inquire more and talk about what they're learning."

Krumwiede stressed the importance of having the right mix of sophistication and fun to blend into a meaningful educational experience. She said "it'll never get old" because Fly Zone is designed to have myriad missions for the kids to fly at different skill levels.

Krumwiede, who has been test-piloting UASs for weeks to determine the best ones to procure for Fly Zone, is mindful that remote controlled aircraft of all shapes and sizes were popular gifts this holiday season. She added that there are employment opportuni-

ties in the UAS industry and a primary goal of Exploration Station is to expose kids to emerging career paths.

"Unmanned aircraft systems are the future of aviation," said Jon Rimanelli, chairman of Detroit Aircraft Corp. "The practical applications of this technology to solve problems and keep people safe are endless. DAC is always working with students, their fresh minds and innovative approaches. Collaborating with Yankee Air Museum on Fly Zone is a great extension of our motto, 'Aerial assets for all.'"

Rimanelli said his unmanned aircraft systems are being reviewed by first responders who need ways of safely assessing dangerous situations before sending in police officers or firefighters. He is planning a UAS demonstration for the grand opening of Fly Zone.

Based in Detroit at Coleman A. Young International Airport, Detroit Aircraft provides unmanned aerial vehicle designs, integration, testing and training ser-

vices for public and commercial purposes pending FAA authorization. Detroit Aircraft has established partnerships with some of the biggest names in the industry including Lockheed Martin Corp.

Once the Mars rover display is dismantled, work will begin on preparing the floor and wall subsurface for the construction of the thickly padded UAS confinement area. The Fly Zone will open Feb. 28 and will be in the Yankee Air Museum's high bay area at 47884 D St., Belleville. The museum remains open while this construction is underway.

Located at historic Willow Run Airport, the Yankee Air Museum is a collection of aviation-themed exhibits on the major global conflicts of the 20th century. Many of the aircraft that shaped history are featured, as well as a local focus on the Willow Run B-24 Bomber Plant. The Yankee Air Museum is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information, go to www.yankeearmuseum.org.

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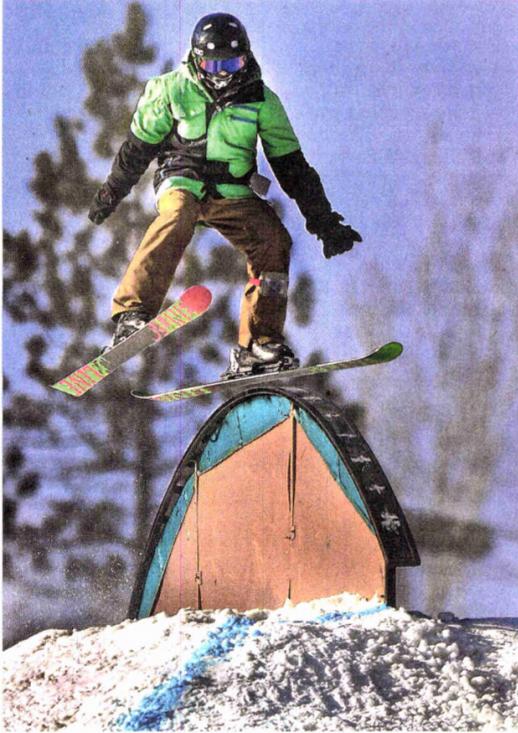
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Skiers flock to area slopes



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Max Lucas, 15, of Wixom soars over the rainbow rail at Alpine Valley in White Lake.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Marco Patterson, a 14-year-old student at Lakeland High School, flies off a jump at Alpine Valley.

By Philip Allmen
 Staff Writer

Mark Seiler let out a whoop at the bottom of a run last week at Alpine Valley.

Seiler was among the hundreds of teens taking advantage of the time off from school at the White Lake ski hill.

"I'd be out here every day if I could, but my mom doesn't like to always drive out here," the Livonia teen said. So instead, he sometimes heads over to Mt. Brighton, a smaller hill but closer to home.

Area residents have plenty of choices for downhill skiing in the area. In addition to those hills, Pine Knob and Mt. Holly are Oakland County locales for downhill aficionados.

Shannon Dunham was at Mt. Brighton during the holiday break, learning how to snowboard. She said last year's Winter Olympics and seeing 2003 Milford High School graduate Karly Shorr compete prompted her to try it out.

"I think I've spent more time on my butt than this board," Dunham said, laughing. "But it's fun. I'm starting to get the hang of it."

Alpine Valley, located at 6775 Highland Road in White Lake Township, offers 25 slopes, nine chair lifts, four tow ropes, a magic carpet and four terrain parks.

The resort expanded

its snow-making capabilities, so the lack of snow hasn't kept the facility closed. Officials said early this week that there is 10-25 inches of base snow for skiers to use. Upgrades were made to its terrain parks. For casual skiers, Alpine Valley has new rental equipment.

Learn more online at skialpinevalley.com.

Mt. Brighton, located at 4141 Bauer Road in Brighton, now offers online ticket sales, with discounts for regulars. Now owned by Vail Resorts, the ski hill saw major changes last year, including new chair lifts, terrain parks, base facilities and snow-making equipment. The business has 25 trails and five lifts. Ski conditions earlier this week included a 21-to 23-inch base

Go to www.mtbrighton.com for more.

Farther north are Pine Knob in Clarkston and Mt. Holly in Groveland Township.

Pine Knob, at 7778 Sashabaw Road, has 17 runs, two wonder carpets, six chair lifts and four tow ropes. It was reporting a base layer of snow at 18-34 inches. Go to skipineknob.com.

Mt. Holly, at 13536 Dixie Highway, has 19 runs and 13 various lifts. It was reporting a base of 18-36 inches of snow. Go to skimtholly.com.

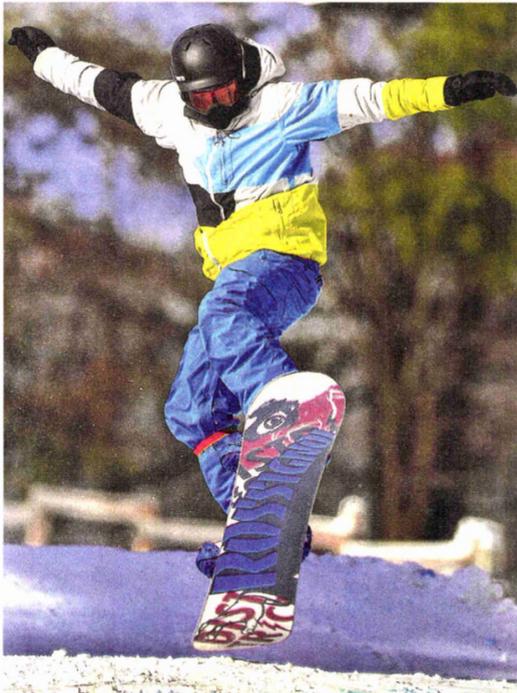
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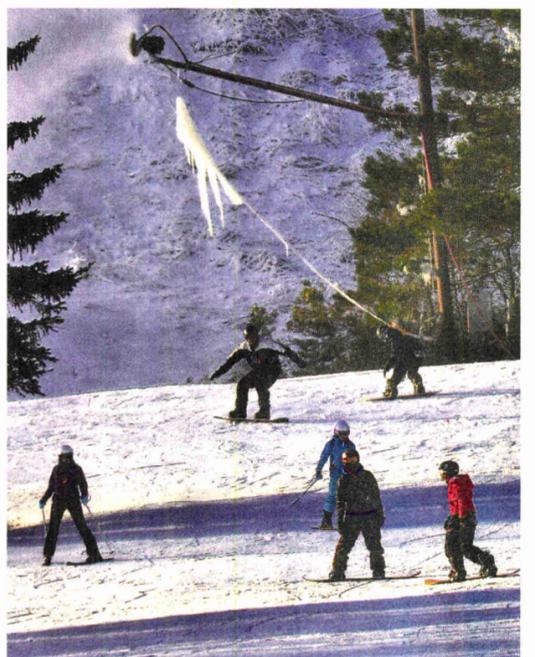
HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Snowboarders are lined up in a row on one of the tow ropes at Mt. Brighton.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Adam Perkowski of Brighton slides on a rail last weekend at Mt. Brighton.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Mathew Joblonski, 16, of White Lake gets some air on a jump at Alpine Valley.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Skiers head down one of the hills at Alpine Valley as a blower makes more snow.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Mt. Brighton skiers arrive at the top of the hill.

Local cupcake company shuts down stores

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

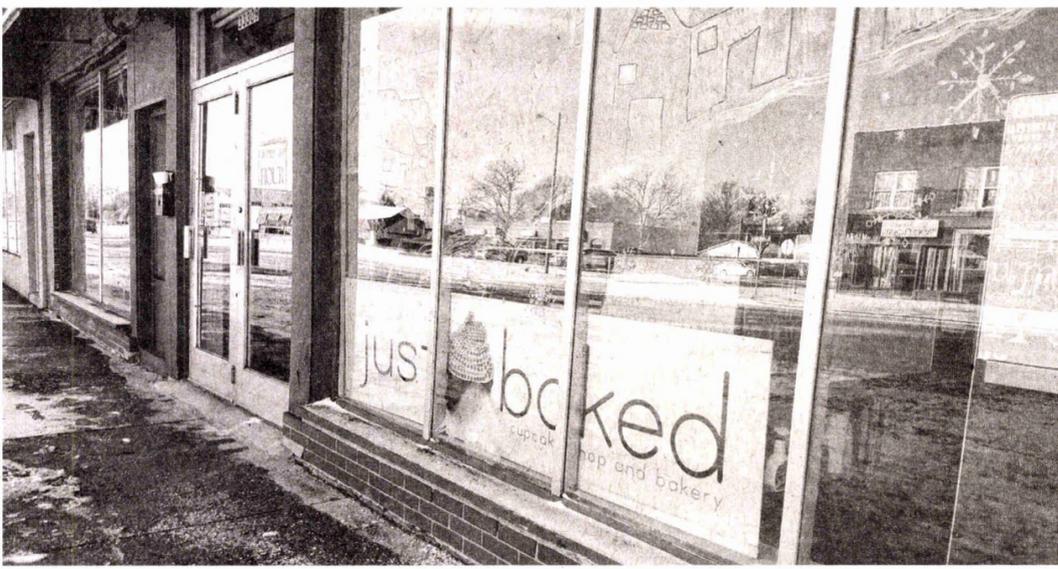
It appears 2015 is when many baked goods stop flowing at Livonia-based Just Baked.

The company announced earlier this week it was shutting down most of its stores in Michigan and Ohio after launching in 2008.

"Today, we've decided to re-evaluate our business operations and how best to move forward as a company," the bakery posted Monday on its Facebook page. "Effective tomorrow, we will be closing our corporate stores, while our franchise locations will remain open in Southgate, Canton, Southfield and Ann Arbor to service our current customers.

"Once we have the right recipe for the future growth of our business, we hope to continue sharing in your celebrations!"

Just Baked, which was started by Pam Turkin, began in 2008 after she traveled the East Coast as vice president of marketing for a merchandising company, according



The storefront of the Livonia Just Baked cupcake shop at 33309 Seven Mile. The store, along with several others in Michigan and Ohio, was closed Monday by the company.

to the company's website. Spotting several cupcake shops dotting the coast, she decided to bring the concept back to southeast Michigan and opened a shop in Livonia at the former Burghardt's Bakery on Seven Mile, east of Farmington.

The company soon expanded to stores and mall stands in Michigan, including Southfield, Novi, Canton and Royal Oak, as well as in Ohio.

An individual who answered the phone Tuesday at the corporate headquarters in Livonia

said there was no one available to speak to regarding the shutdown and said she did not know if anyone would be available to speak regarding the closure.

The Livonia storefront was darkened Tuesday morning and had a

"closed" sign hanging from the door, with some merchandise such as candles still sitting on the empty display cases.

Turkin said in 2011 while looking for a newer facility she and other employees wanted to keep the company in

Livonia, if it was possible.

"One major requirement is that we stayed in the city of Livonia," Turkin said during a March 2011 city council meeting. "We feel obligated to the city of Livonia."

The company opened its 17,000-square-foot production facility at 31805 Glendale in 2011. The facility housed a baking and decorating area for the cupcakes and cookies, plus a 400-square-foot cake studio, when it opened.

Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said it's always sad to see a business close its doors in the city, but hopes Just Baked can see success in the future.

"We hate to see any business shutter their doors in our community, but we're happy they're keeping their production facility open in Livonia," he said. "And we hope they find growth in the future."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Johnson Controls unveils innovations at auto show

Global automotive industry trends like urban mobility, comfort, fuel economy and autonomous driving are the driving forces behind Johnson Controls' innovations in seating, interior and batteries that will debut at the 2015 North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Johnson Controls will showcase two vehicle interior concepts for the first time at NAIAS that address these global trends. The 2015 Automotive Seating Demonstrator "SD15" and the Automotive Interiors Demonstrator "ID15" display innovative new products that offer enhanced comfort, personalization options and other unique features addressing the mega trend of autonomous driving.

Johnson Controls will also unveil a new battery to help automakers meet increasing fuel efficiency and emission reduction regulations.

"At Johnson Controls, we are always thinking ahead to ensure we're offering the right solutions for vehicles that meet drivers' expectations today and in the future," said Beda Bolzenius, president of Johnson Controls Automotive Experience and vice chairman, Johnson Controls Asia Pacific. "Our seating, interior and battery solutions help advance our automaker customers' brands as well as enhance the overall driving experience."

In addition to the debut of SD15 and ID15, highlights of Johnson Controls' 10,000-square-foot exhibit in room 310B of Detroit's Cobo Center include:

» Automotive seating systems that achieve lighter weight, allow for customization and improve performance through products such as the new Loft rear seat and protective FreshPerformance seat coating and its innovative carbon-fiber-based seat back

frame CAMISMA.

» Interior materials and flexible designs for door panels, instrument panels, floor consoles and overhead consoles that increase the consumer's perception of value across all vehicle segments through mass reduction and enhanced functionality.

» A full spectrum of battery systems for conventional, Start-Stop, Micro Hybrid, hybrid and electric vehicles that meet the evolving needs of the global market.

» The new Recaro Sport Seat Platform, an innovative, lightweight and highly modular sport car seat platform concept for original equipment manufacturers.

An event sponsor and exhibitor, this is the 21st year that Johnson Controls is involved in the NAIAS. Its exhibit will be open to media and invited guests with a press conference held at 6:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12.

For more information, go to www.naias.com.

Westland City Hall to host job fair Jan. 10

Mayor William R. Wild's Westland Works Team is helping put residents to work with a job fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 10, at city hall.

Advanced Engineering, which specializes in stamping and is located in Canton, is looking to hire 30 individuals im-

mediately for variety of positions.

Applicants must have attained a GED or graduated high school and be able to pass a drug test; they should bring a resume and valid driver's license.

Interested individuals will be able to fill out an application at the

event and possibly be interviewed that day.

For more information on Advanced Engineering, go to the company's website www.adveng.net.

The job fair will be held in the Westland City Hall Grande Ballroom. City hall is located at 36300 Warren Road.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chamber luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual State of the Chamber luncheon at noon Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton.

The first Canton chamber event of the new year will feature the annual speech by President Thomas Paden, along with the installation of the 2015 Canton Chamber Board of Directors, who will be sworn in by 35th District Judge Mike Gerou.

Organizers call the luncheon a "great opportunity to get involved with your Canton Chamber of Commerce." Cost is \$25 for members.

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

Business luncheon

The Plymouth Community and Livonia Chambers of Commerce present "Business Leaders Luncheon: The Economic Impact of Michi-

gan's Energy Policy and Our Energy Future."

The luncheon takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Schoolcraft College Vista Tech Center, 18600 Haggerty, in Livonia.

Chamber officials pointed to a December speech during which Gov. Rick Snyder laid out his vision for Michigan's energy policy which involves a more flexible range of renewable energy goals to be achieved by 2025.

Featured presenters include Valerie Brader, deputy legal counsel and senior policy adviser to the governor, and Steve Bakkal, director, Michigan Energy Office, MEDC. The event will also include an update from The MI Conservative Energy Forum.

Complimentary lunch will be provided. Only 30 seats are available per chamber. RSVP by Jan. 16 by email to teri@plymouthmich.org

Black History contest

Kroger invites Michigan students in the fourth through 12th grades to use their time creatively and enter the eighth annual "I Can Make History" contest celebrating

Black History Month.

The competition will award \$71,000 in scholarships and other prizes to winners in four categories: art, essay, music and poetry. Kroger will also present a \$3,000 Best in Show Award and a \$5,000 School Leadership Award, the latter recognizing the school with the most winning entries overall.

Students are invited to submit original works, with an entry deadline of 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27. Entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges and category winners notified by March 27. Kroger will hold its annual "I Can Make History" recognition dinner Saturday, April 18.

All entries must focus on one of the following themes: Tell us about any African American past or present and why you want to be like that person; and How are you making history in your community/neighborhood?

Entries must be submitted to I Can Make History, c/o CBS Radio, 26455 American Drive, Southfield, MI 48034.

Category guidelines and more details are available at www.icanmakehistory.com.

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OUR VIEW

EARNING RESPECT

Slavens, Mardigian served their constituents well

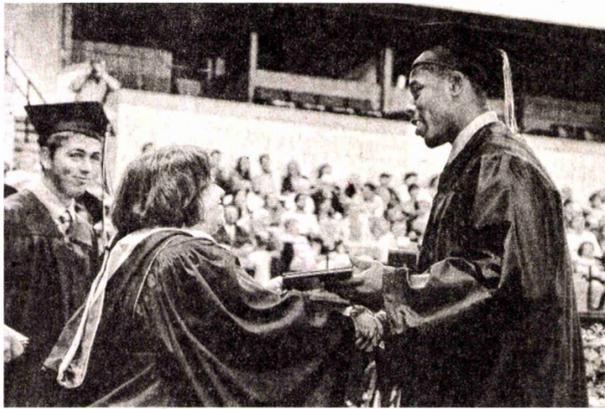
The Plymouth-Canton area lost two of its biggest champions when Judy Mardigian and Dian Slavens ended their terms at the end of last year.

Mardigian, first appointed to the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education as a replacement in 1998, opted not to seek reelection this year. Instead, she retired and will now trust other people to do what she's been doing for so long: Look out for the district and its students.

Slavens, who has served the state House 21st District with great heart for six years, was chased from office by Michigan's term-limit laws. She sought to continue her service in the state Senate, but lost a battle with incumbent Republican Patrick Colbeck in the November election.

Say what you want about Mardigian — and people have their own opinions — but it's impossible to argue against her passion for the school district. You don't stay on a local school board — a level many politicians will say is where the only real local governing goes on — without deep feelings.

Mardigian's service has been remarkable, if for no other reason than its longevity. She's been a strong advocate



Judy Mardigian spent 16 years serving the students of the Plymouth-Canton school district.

for smaller class size, she's led a board that has made some \$40 million in budget cuts in less than a decade and she's kept most of the financial woes out of the classroom.

Has it always been smooth? Of course not. In 16 years, you're going to have bumps and bruises, as well as the good times. She's voted for decisions that have been unpopular.

It hasn't always been easy for Slavens, either, but she's always managed to keep her good humor and her unerring faith that people are generally good.

Slavens fought for the rights, goals and economic

benefit of her constituents. She was among a bipartisan caucus that pushed a successful smoking ban in Michigan restaurants and bars. She fought to end lifetime health care benefits for state legislators, a measure Republicans co-opted and got passed.

She co-sponsored a bill ushering in insurance coverage for autism therapy and treatment, plus worked alongside Republicans for passage of legislation giving foster parents more rights in an effort to strengthen families. She was always a strong voice for public education.

She stood up, even in the face of push-back from her



Dian Slavens (right), with Donna Napolitano, owner of Mechanical Energy Systems in Canton, was term-limited out of the state House.

own party, and refused to vote for Jase Bolger as House speaker after Bolger's involvement in an election-rigging scandal. That decision cost her involvement in major committees in her final term.

Mardigian's career obviously lasted a lot longer. In the final analysis, she's been the backbone of the board for 16 years, serving as president for multiple terms, helping the district grow when times were good and overseeing its "right-sizing" as the financial picture has gotten murky.

The district has seen lots of good times and its share of struggles. Through it all, Mardigian has stood tall. We haven't always agreed with

her, but we've always respected her.

Slavens' service has likewise earned respect. She's been a solid team player and a dependable voice in the House. She served her constituents with grace and distinction.

It's unlikely either woman will go totally away. Mardigian will likely stay involved with district committees, organizations or events in some way. Slavens said she isn't sure what's next for her. Colbeck is term-limited, so it's possible she'll seek what will be an open Senate seat in four years.

One way or another, both women will likely remain involved. And that can only be a good thing for the community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deserve better

It's important to look past Harry Jachym's rhetoric and note his close association with the board. It is common practice in Plymouth Township for friends and associates of Mr. Reaume and Mr. Edwards to be commissioned to serve on township boards and commissions. Mr. Jachym has served on and chaired the Zoning Board of Appeals.

He's right that it is not possible to please all the people all the time. However, it is possible to make a genuine effort to gather input from all the trustees, as well as the general public. Let's take the \$1.9 million bond proposal. Reaume, Edwards and Conzelman gave the trustees less than four days to review plans costing \$2 million that had to have been in the works for months. The public was allowed no input, the trustees who disagreed were blocked by the votes of the four board members being recalled. On major issues, they have voted as a block more than 70 percent of the time.

A board interested in communicating with and representing citizen interests would listen to comments made by those citizens who take the time out of their busy schedules to attend board meetings. Reviewing board meeting minutes, one has no idea how many citizens attend, what comments were

made, whether comments were positive or negative. Yes, citizens can view board meeting videos online — that is, if they have the time and stomach to view many hours of video that often include unprofessional behavior. How many meetings has Mr. Jachym attended or viewed in their entirety? These are not a "vocal minority of disgruntled citizens," but citizens interested in protecting their community and motivated to do something about it.

Recall supporters have witnessed the handling of the major issues — the unprofessional treatment of fire/EMS employees; the lack of cooperation with the city of Plymouth; the unprofessional treatment of PARC supporters; the legal battle with owners of L.A. Fitness; the attempt to take over city of Detroit property; the lawsuit against the city of Plymouth over legacy costs; the lack of cooperation with residents on the proposed amphitheater.

Some issues, like the Detroit land deal, evolved over many years and some are still unresolved. Recall 4 exists because supporters have seen enough.

Salary increases for both 2014 and 2015 boosted salaries for Reaume, Edwards and Conzelman to more than \$100,000, not including benefits; these increases were recommended by a compensation commission

once again made up of people appointed by those who stand to benefit most from their recommendations.

Don't be fooled, Mr. Jachym. This is not a group of malcontents; that's what Mr. Reaume and Mr. Edwards want you to believe. We are simply a group of citizens who have seen enough of these four; Plymouth Township deserves better.

Susan Bondie
Plymouth Township

Holiday tradition

On Dec. 21, I sat with my family in the audience at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill to see the annual Central City production of *Christmas Spectacular*.

This show had a cast of more than 100 performers of all ages. They had me laughing, cheering, clapping, smiling and truly feeling in the Christmas spirit upon leaving the theater that day. Congratulations to Tim and Tammy Smola, owners of Central City Dance, for their very successful 11th season of this amazing family show.

Jill Engel
Canton

Finding our voices

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing" — Edmund Burke.

On Jan. 1, you published a guest editorial by Harry Jachym concerning the current

Recall 4 campaign which aims to recall Edwards, Reaume, Conzelman and Arnold.

It is interesting to note that I have not seen this gentleman at any of the township board meetings in the past year. He wasn't there when the PARC project was discussed and the board refused to participate in a free survey to see what the citizens want in relation to recreational facilities.

The PARC committee goal is to preserve the Central Middle School property as a recreational facility for people living in both the city and the township. They would come up with a plan and the people of both communities would be able to vote for or against it.

He wasn't there to witness Ron Edwards' rant that the township should have nothing whatsoever to do with the city of Plymouth until his term in office is over in November 2016. Believe me, the majority of people living in Plymouth Township want to cooperate with the city of Plymouth in all areas that will improve the quality of life for the entire Plymouth community.

He wasn't there when the four people on the board voted with Edwards not to send a representative to the PARC committee to represent the interests of the people in the township.

He wasn't there to watch the cost of the pavilion in the Town-

ship Park go from an estimated \$80,000 to the current \$850,000 and still growing. Spending in the park is out of control. The taxpayers will have to pay back that \$1.9 million bond the board issued to pay for these projects.

He wasn't there when dozens of citizens stood in front of the board and asked, then begged, for the board to reconsider the building of a \$350,000 amphitheater in their neighborhood. They objected to the fact that they were never informed or asked or even in any way considered in this decision that would directly impact them. They objected to the noise, the traffic, the parking that would disrupt their quiet neighborhood. He wasn't there when the four people on the board basically thumbed their noses at the citizens and ignored all of their requests.

He wasn't there when these four voted to eliminate all citizen comments from the record minutes of the board meetings. Look back at the minutes now and you will see no suggestions or objections on any subject from the citizens of the township. We have lost our voices and that is exactly what they wanted.

The four people we are attempting to recall appear to have forgotten these words: "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township

GUEST COLUMN

Start the year with a personal finance plan

Happy new year. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, but now it's back to the real world.

As adults, one thing we can't forget is the importance of personal financial planning. As time goes on, the consequence of poor financial planning is hard to overcome. The sooner you form good personal financial planning habits, the better things will be.

When I talk about personal financial planning, there are a few areas on which I believe everyone needs to focus. These



include estate planning, taxes, risk management, debt planning and investing. All are important to a well-balanced and sound financial plan.

That being said, as we begin 2015, there are two things that everyone needs to do. The first is to determine what it costs to live a month. The other is a

personal family balance sheet.

When it comes to personal financial planning, many things are dependent upon expenses. For example, to determine whether someone can afford to retire or even stay retired is based upon their personal cost of living.

In addition, to know your individual inflation rate, you need to compare what it costs you to live now compared to a year ago.

One way to lower your living expenses is to be aware of what you're actually spending money on. A cash flow statement is nothing more than a listing of what comes in and what goes out. It is easy to know what comes into your household, but it is more difficult to know what goes out.

Spend some time over the next few weeks looking at your expenses to determine what it actually costs you to live a month. Not what you think you can live on, but what it actually

costs. In doing a cash flow statement, you should be able to account within a few hundred dollars of where your money is going. If you can't, you know you have a problem.

I recommend doing a cash flow statement at least twice a year. It is one way to make sure you have a handle on your expenses. I recognize this is a relatively boring task, but it is important to good sound financial planning.

A personal family balance sheet is nothing more than a listing of all your assets and liabilities. If you have investments in mutual funds and stocks, they're easy to value. What is more difficult to value are things such as your home. When you value your home, remember it's worth what someone is willing to pay for it. Therefore, the true value is what other homes in your neighborhood have been selling for.

In addition, I would be cau-

tious about valuing things such as collectibles. Unless they are collectibles that you know you can sell and are pretty certain of the price, then you may not wish to include them on your personal balance sheet. Remember, what is sentimental and important to you may, in fact, have no true financial value.

I don't make new year's resolutions because I forget about them by Jan. 2. However, one thing I always try to do is to improve myself year to year.

One way to improve your personal financial affairs is to start the year right by doing a personal family balance sheet and a cash flow statement.

Good luck.

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

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St. Mary Mercy sees increase in flu, symptoms

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

As the holidays wrap up, it seems the flu bug is just beginning its reign this winter, especially at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Sharon McMahon, the infection prevention specialist at the Livonia hospital, said this year's rounds of flu is one of the worst she's seen.

"We have seen a drastic rise in the number of cases in the last two weeks," she said. "We have seen a couple patients in the ICU on the ventilator that were that sick. It's hitting hard early."

State health officials are saying similar things, with the Michigan Department of Community Health releasing data showing about 185 people across the state were hospitalized in six hospitals with the flu or flu-like symptoms as of Dec.



FILE PHOTO

The best way to protect yourself from the flu is to get vaccinated.

29. The number of actual cases of flu and patients showing symptoms is most likely higher, as all hospitals are not required to report the number of patients with symptoms. Four people have died

in nearby Washtenaw County from the flu, according to the Washtenaw County Health Department.

McMahon said the number of patients with symptoms has taken its toll on the hospital, with

some supplies running out because they're being used so much.

"Two days before Christmas, I got a call that one of the nursing units had run out of masks," she said. "The mask is to protect the health care workers from coughing and sneezing into their face."

She said the unit was quickly refilled with masks and didn't go without proper equipment.

No restrictions on visitors

Several hospitals in the area, including the Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit and the three Beaumont Hospitals in Royal Oak, Troy and Grosse Pointe, are restricting access to visitors showing some symptoms.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital has not done anything with restricting visitors yet, spokeswoman

an Samantha Garbutt-Fletcher said.

"We've seen an increase in people coming in with flu-like symptoms," she said. "But we have not upped our visitor restrictions."

McMahon could not break out specific numbers for the patients with symptoms at St. Mary Mercy, but said it's high enough that the hospital has placed tissues and hand sanitizer at all of the main entrances.

Some health officials have said the increase comes from the big strain of flu, H3N2, "drifting," or mutating, rendering the vaccine for that strain not as strong. McMahon said pharmaceutical companies use several factors and data to determine how to create the season's vaccine.

"When we order out flu vaccine for patients and staff, the order goes in the spring. Then we

get it in the fall," she said. "Nobody has a crystal ball. The world we live in is so rapidly changing. It's hard to predict."

The best way to keep healthy, McMahon said, is to get vaccinated, stay out of public areas with lots of people when not feeling well and wash hands regularly with soap and water.

And trying to stay healthy becomes just as important as school begins again: McMahon said she anticipates flu cases to stay high with more children headed to classrooms.

"Now that the kids are going back to school, I wouldn't be surprised if we see more," she said. "Do like your mom said: wash your hands."

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Area residents gather data on weather's front lines

By Mike Lammi
Michigan.com

When it's a cold day in Hell, John Colone lets the National Weather Service know about it.

When it's a cold day on Fonda Lake in Green Oak Township, Larry Wooden provides the details to the Weather Underground.

Colone and Wooden both have personal weather stations on their property. Colone's equipment stands behind Screams Ice Cream shop in the hamlet of Hell in Putnam Township. Wooden's weather station is outside his home on Fonda Lake.

Wooden's interest in the weather was passed down from his father, who began keeping track of the conditions at Fonda Lake four decades ago.

"For years my dad recorded the daily temperatures and rainfall and he'd keep track of the lake level," Wooden said. "He kept a notebook with highs, lows, rainfall, lake level."

While his father used pencil and paper to record measurements taken with the naked eye, Wooden's data is transmitted from a personal weather station via a Wi-Fi connection. The small station is perched atop a tripod about eight or nine feet high a few yards from his home. It records air temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed, barometric pressure and ultraviolet light from the sun.

Wooden's information is also transmitted to the Weather Underground, a San Francisco-based service that provides real-time weather conditions via the Internet.

The Weather Under-

ONLINE

For more information about personal weather stations and the Weather Underground, go to www.wunderground.com. Local weather stations connected with Weather Underground include:

- » Canton Center and Saltz in Canton
- » Woodland Place in Plymouth
- » Brookside Village in Canton
- » Herbey Street in Canton
- » Cherry Hill Village in Canton
- » Napier Observatory in Canton

ground (<http://www.wunderground.com>) gets data from 19 personal weather stations in Livingston County and from about 25,000 personal weather stations in the United States, according to Andria Stark, the company's communications and events manager.

Small investment

Personal weather stations are available for as little as around \$150 from companies such as Ambient Weather and Oregon Scientific. The Weather Underground markets equipment on its website.

"The only way it gets expensive is if you get into the professional-grade systems that can go for \$1,500 to \$5,000," said Wooden, who estimates he has invested \$500 or \$600 in his equipment since getting started around 2007.

Because the real-time data is available on the Weather Underground website, Wooden — or anyone else — can see what the weather is like at Fonda Lake or other

locations 24 hours a day. It also allows people to view weather conditions from years past.

Colone's personal weather station in Hell is less technologically advanced. The equipment from the National Weather Service measures only temperature and rainfall and Colone must make a phone call to the NWS each day to report high and low temperatures and the amount of precipitation.

As the unofficial mayor of Hell, Colone inherited weather-recording duties when he took over Screams Ice Cream shop nearly 15 years ago.

Hell's numbers

Temperature readings are a hot topic when your town is called Hell.

"The weather is very important here," Colone said. "When Hell freezes over, we get calls from TV and radio stations from all over the world."

One thing Colone and Wooden agree on: The data from their personal weather stations showed that last winter was a cold one.

"There's supposed to be a warming of the Earth? It sure the hell isn't coming our way," Colone said.

Wooden said it was the coldest winter in the seven or eight years that he has had a personal weather station.

"You have a hard time selling global warming around here right now," he said with a laugh.

While many scientists say their data clearly show a warming of the Earth's atmosphere, Wooden said owning a personal weather station has given him some doubts about that data.

"I am actually more skeptical than ever, because one thing you learn about with these things is that trying to maintain and keep accurate tem-

perature measurements is very difficult," he said.

Some of the problems, Wooden said, can stem from the placement of equipment in or out of the sun, or whether the equipment has the proper heat shields or is otherwise properly installed.

"If you look at nearby weather stations in any given moment of time, you'll see temperatures are all over the map. ... These things aren't perfect," he said. "They are calibrated when you get them, but unless you go through the trouble to try to get someone to recalibrate them for you, they are going to drift a bit."

There is just so much unknown that I would always hesitate to take any stands (on climate change) just because of the uncertainty of the data," he added.

Stark said the Weather Underground uses the information it gathers from personal weather

stations to create forecasts and models.

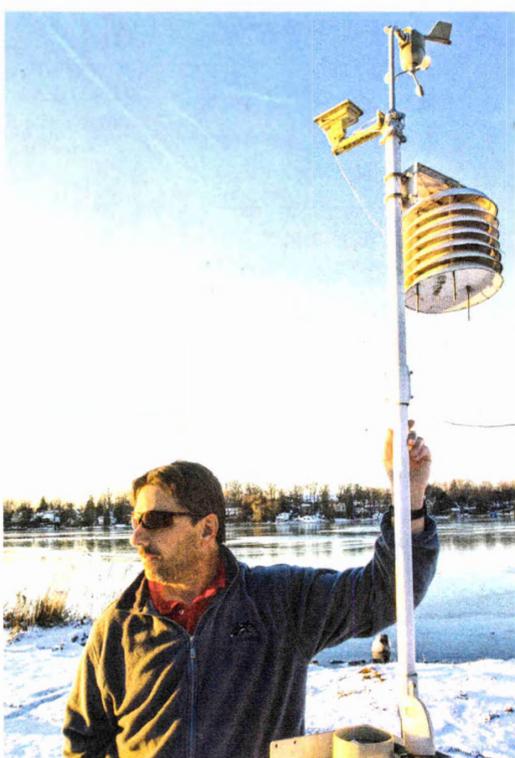
"We make the data available to report up-to-the-minute conditions and forecasting information within our apps and on the site," she said. "We also use it to compare the historical data from each station to see how the models perform. We then adjust the model, depending on those correlations, to improve the forecasts for each specific station."

Wooden is a partner in a small engineering company, so he knows his way around computer equipment. But anyone with an interest in the weather — and a Wi-Fi connection — would make good use of a personal weather station, he said.

"What's made this accessible for the average person is that this wireless stuff is so ubiquitous, plus the ease of the use of the software," he said. "I really enjoy this."



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Green Oak Township resident Larry Wooden is following in his father's footsteps and tracking the local weather. While his father used pencil and paper to record daily weather conditions for many years on their property on Fonda Lake, Wooden receives data from his personal weather station that is transmitted via Wi-Fi to a unit inside his home. The data is then forwarded to the Weather Underground.

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ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Cloud over Whalers doesn't stop GM

Team's future in OHL remains up in air, trade deadline looms

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Right now, nobody with the Plymouth Whalers or Ontario Hockey League can — or will — verify whether or not the Peter Karmanos-owned franchise met the Dec. 31 deadline to move the team to another city for 2015-16.

"I don't know the answer to that," Whalers general manager Mark Craig said during Friday's 7-2 loss to Saginaw at Compuware Arena. "I don't know if there was

anything put in or not."

Craig deferred further inquiries to Mike Vellucci, Plymouth's OHL governor (and former coach/GM/president), but as of Monday Vellucci had not responded to a text message about the matter.

OHL spokesman Paul Krotz has not yet responded to an email Friday from the *Observer* about the Dec. 31 deadline and whether or not the Whalers applied to relocate.

Still, speculation persists that the Whalers will not call Compuware home next season with cities such as Flint and Chatham, Ontario, front and center in the rumor mill.

Moreover, it was reported in late November that an

agreement was in place — "subject to due diligence" — for Karmanos to sell the Beck Road arena to USA Hockey early in 2015, with the U.S. National Team Development Program to relocate there from the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

However it shakes out, Craig continues to set sights on improving the 2014-15 Whalers. Plymouth currently sits 10th in the OHL Western Conference (12-22-2-1) with Friday's league trade deadline looming.

"The only thing I would look at is if it makes us a better hockey club right now," Craig said. "I honestly believe that with the injuries

See WHALERS, Page B3



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Plymouth Whalers forward Sonny Milano (right), shown from earlier this season, is returning this week from the World Juniors to help boost the slumping team.

PREP BOYS HOOPS

Rocks nip Chiefs in OT thriller

After letting early big lead slip away, Salem guts out 63-62 victory

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Campus rivalry games usually carry plenty of oomph and Tuesday's KLAA crossover varsity boys basketball match-up between host Salem and Canton followed that script.

The game went from lopsided Salem first-half lead to an overtime nail-biter, with the Rocks surviving to take a 63-62 victory. Sinking two free throws with 2.9 seconds left in overtime was senior guard Jon Swift (14 points).

"In a game like this, anytime you play cross-campus rivals, Canton or Plymouth, nothing's safe," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "No lead is ever safe. We were never comfortable. It was great to see the kids kept their composure and battled back. They lost that lead, but they persevered in overtime. They did a good job with it."

Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy lamented his team's sluggish first half, which was coupled with the

See ROCKS, Page B4



BRIAN QUINTOS
Salem's Kenny Topolovec (right) goes up for a shot against Canton defender Logan Ryan.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING PREVIEW - PART 1



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Pumping his fist after a successful race during a dual meet last season is Plymouth's Garrett Beauprez. The junior can swim — and score points — anywhere in the lineup.

WINNING WAVELENGTH

Plymouth boys tankers in sync, gear up for successful season

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For all intents and purposes, the 2014-15 season for Plymouth's varsity boys swimming and diving team begins in earnest Thursday with a tri-meet involving all three teams from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

And following an outstanding 2013-14, when the Wildcats won the KLAA South Division with a 5-0 dual-meet record, head coach Kenn Forbes and company can't wait to continue that positive momentum.

With only two swimmers leaving due to graduation, Forbes is confident that this will be a landmark season for the growing program.

"Coming back this year we have all of the same big talent as we did last year," Forbes said. "We were fortunate to only lose two seniors, so the impact on depth was minimal to any lineup configuration.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
One of many versatile swimmers for Plymouth's 2014-15 team is junior Aniketh Visai.

"That being said, we still wish we had those two on the team still. We have a few standout first-year guys

who will play crucial support roles in our depth."

Looking for more

Forbes added that the program is striving to have another winning season in the division, but extend that into the conference standings and state meet.

"We fell a little short of our state expectations, and did so-so in our conference," he said. "The boys are extremely hungry this year and have 'bigger appetites' when it comes to training toughness, both physically and mentally."

Forbes and assistant coach Ronson Webster liked what they saw out of the group — at the annual Wildcat Relays — before the holiday break and eagerly anticipate the start of conference match-ups. Thursday's Park tri-meet begins at 5:30 p.m. at

See SWIMMING, Page B3

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PREP GYMNASTICS

Chiefs reload for another title quest

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

John Cunningham understandably still cherishes last season's Canton gymnastics team, which won the state championship.

But even though three key contributors to that team left either via graduation (three-time individual state champion Erica Lucas, 37-plus all-arounder Melissa Green) or club soccer (Ellie Bachman), Cunningham remains kind of giddy about what the 2014-15 Chiefs might accomplish.

Cunningham noted that after sustaining the roster losses, "chances of repeating as MHSAA state champions looked slim. After four meets in December, we might be unbeatable this year, too."

Canton actually improved to 6-0 before the holidays, running its winning streak to 49. Saturday at the Rockford Invitational, the Chiefs lost senior co-captain Jocelyn Moraw (2013 Division 1 beam) to a broken ankle. The Chiefs still managed to take second overall at the invite.

"No other team in the state has our depth," Cunningham said. "Early scores indicate Canton is five points higher in team score than its nearest competitors."

"Schools like Grand Ledge and Rockford will be our toughest challenges."

Even with the loss of Moraw, there are plenty of key returnees back to keep the Chiefs in the title hunt.

Maddie Toal (Division 1 beam), Hailey Hodson (Division 2 beam) and Stephanie Cox (school record holder on beam, 9.8) could score 9s across the board, he said. Moraw would have done the same, but is now likely lost for the rest of the season.

Senior co-captain Katie Lawera, Sarah Plant and Bree Kalinski will be solid performers.

Joining the squad is talented

senior Allison Kunz, a level 10 club gymnast.

Freshmen Katy Dickson, Kelsea Kernosek, Rachel Socha and Annika Wang and sophomore Jana Hilditch left their respective club and Y programs to compete for Canton.

Rockford Invite

Cunningham lauded his team for the way it persevered at the Rockford Invitational following Moraw's injury.

"The injury to senior captain Jocelyn took all the fun out of the meet," Cunningham said. "But the rest of the season is in front of us."

Moraw broke her ankle on her second vault. She still tallied a 9.0 score, good for fifth, but that left three events with "no buffer, because only five compete in each event and four scores count," Cunningham said.

Canton had already divided its roster into two teams for the invite and the first team scored 140.05 — good for second place to Rockford's 143.275.

Following Moraw's injury, Kalinski and Olivia Drapeau stepped in and the entire team had to step up, he noted.

Kunz "took the team on her shoulders," finishing first on uneven parallel bars (9.5), balance beam (9.575) and all-around (37.05), only finishing second on floor exercise (9.575).

Also stellar for the Chiefs was Hodgson, who took first place on beam (9.3) and floor (9.475) along with a third-place showing of 34.95 in the all-around.

Canton's second team, led by Dickson (third on bars, 8.8; 8.8 on floor, 33.925 all-around) placed 10th out of 17 teams with a score of 128.925.

Other notable Chiefs at Rockford included Cox (9.0 on beam, 9.15 on floor, 34.85 all-around), Kernosek (8.5 on floor, 32.2 all-around) and Socha (8.55 on vault).

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Moraw

PREP WRESTLING

Rocks, 'Cats tune up for KLAA

Salem places first at Adrian tourney; Plymouth strong at Howell round-robin

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Both Salem's and Plymouth's varsity wrestling teams got in some holiday tournament action before getting into the KLAA swing of things this week.

On Saturday, the Rocks won the Adrian Dual Meet Tournament for the second year in a row, while the Wildcats fashioned a 3-2 showing to finish third in a round-robin tournament at Howell.

Salem went 4-1 at Adrian, losing only to Jackson by a single point. The Rocks ultimately prevailed in the tie-breaker.

Going 5-0 on the day for Salem were Cam Shaughnessy, Charlie Woody, Caleb McCabe, Roy Foster and Tyler Moore.

"Our guys lost a very tough dual by one point, but

bounced right back," Salem co-coach Jeremy Henderson said. "It was a great job by our guys not keeping their heads down and getting right back at it."

Other strong performers for Salem included Seth Dunn (4-1), Mitchell Gross (3-0) and Nathan Gaubatz and Tyler Knop (both 3-2).

"I was very impressed with Charlie Woody and Tyler Knop today," Henderson said. "They both are showing great improvement through the season. I also want to mention Hunter Scandrett, who stepped in at 160 for us and wrestled very tough."

Plymouth enjoyed lopsided wins of 53-18 over Ann Arbor Pioneer and 51-12 over Howell while nipping Caledonia 33-32 in its final match of the Howell tournament.

The Wildcats dropped a tough 35-34 decision to Clio

(ranked No. 7 in Division 2) to open the day. Plymouth also lost 48-21 to Anchor Bay.

"We wrestled well all day, especially against Clio and Caledonia," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "Having those close duals should help prepare us for the KLAA season starting on Wednesday."

"Anchor Bay is a very talented team and we wrestled them hard. The final score doesn't indicate some of the good matches that happened individually."

Posting perfect days for the Wildcats were Isiah Berry, Brandon Harris, Collin Reed and Dylan Dwyer.

Salem was scheduled Wednesday to face Waterford Kettering and Walled Lake Northern at the Novi-hosted quad; Plymouth returned Wednesday to Howell for a quad meet, also including Canton, Hartland and the Highlanders.

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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Wildcats shake off the rust

Plymouth scoring surge in third lifts team to 6-1 victory

Plymouth's four-goal third period broke open a close game Saturday as the Wildcats cruised to a 6-1 non-conference varsity boys hockey win over Macomb Dakota at the Arctic Edge Arena.

Despite outshooting the Cougars 18-7 after two periods, the Wildcats' lead was just 2-1. Senior forwards Parker Lazorka and Josh Smith scored for Plymouth, while Dakota responded with a power-play goal from Alec Porzondek.

After killing off a power-play opportunity for Dakota to open the third period, Plymouth took control of the

game. Senior defenseman Ben Chafin skated end-to-end and fired in an insurance goal 4:41 into the period. The Cougars took several penalties in the period and the Wildcats took advantage with power-play goals by Chafin, senior forward Simon Nesich and junior forward Jake Silvester.

Plymouth (7-2 overall) outshot Dakota 15-5 in the third period and 33-12 for the game. After a 15-day holiday break, Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said his team needed some time to shake off the effects of going such a long period without a game.

"It seemed like we found our way in the third period and really pushed the pace and we were rewarded on the scoreboard," Vento said. "It was nice to see that our pow-

er play was effective, which seemed to ignite things for us."

Chafin finished with two goals and two assists in his first multiple-goal game of his three-year high school career. Senior defenseman Jake Zaborowski and senior forward Andrew Jossey each added two assists.

Senior goalie Erik Vandenberg made 11 saves to earn his third victory of the season.

With 11 Wildcats earning at least one point in the game, Vento said he was pleased to see positive contributions from many players up and down his bench.

"I thought it was the best game of the season for our line of (Zack) Weiner, Lazorka and (Max) Chumley," he said.

Plymouth extended its winning streak to four games.

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PREP GIRLS BOWLING

VICTORY LANE

Westland John Glenn wraps up Ladywood Holiday Tournament title

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A delivery containing the Westland John Glenn girls bowling team's sharp new competition shirts arrived just in time for Saturday's Ladywood Holiday Tournament at Super Bowl in Canton.

The Rockets wore them well, knocking over 3,502 pins on the way to winning the tournament championship.

Macomb Dakota placed a distant second with 3,227 pins, followed by Farmington/Harrison (3,196), Regina (3,097) and Wayne Memorial (2,897).

The Rockets were steered down victory lane by junior Julia Huren, who earned individual honors after rolling a three-game series of 651. Canton's Meghan Macunovich was second with a 641 series, while Wayne's Christina O'Harris placed third at 613.

O'Harris's robust middle game of 257 was the highest of the day. Macunovich and John Glenn's Emily Dietz both registered a 234 game.

John Glenn is off to a red-hot start to the 2014-15 as it has captured both tournaments it has entered as well as compiled a 4-0 dual-match record.

"The best thing about this year's team is that we're all so close," said Huren, who was the Division 1 individual state runner-up as a sophomore.

"We bowl a lot together, but we also hang out together away from bowling. When we're bowling, we come to-

"The best thing about this year's team is that we're all so close. We bowl a lot together, but we also hang out together away from bowling. When we're bowling, we come together as a team when we need to. We have good, all-around karma."

JULIA HUREN Westland John Glenn junior bowler

gether as a team when we need to. We have good, all-around karma."

The site of Saturday's tournament was familiar territory for Huren.

"I bowl in leagues at Super Bowl, so I'm familiar with the oil and the house, which helped," she said. "Winning should give us a boost of confidence that hopefully will continue on throughout the year."

John Glenn head coach Ralph Cabildo said the Rockets have a returning nucleus of standouts that is rare in high school bowling circles.

"We are fortunate that we have five returning girls who are all serious about the sport," he said. "Last year we finished runner-up to Davison and they have all their bowlers back from last year, so it will be fun to see how things develop as the year goes on."

The Rockets are led by senior co-captains Olivia Cabildo and Jessica Pate, who agreed that the Rockets' team chemistry is a key part of

their success.

"We mesh so well together, it makes it easier when we're competing in a close match," Olivia Cabildo said. "Everybody supports one another."

LADYWOOD HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT Saturday at Super Bowl in Canton
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. John Glenn, 3,502 pins; 2. Macomb Dakota, 3,227; 3. Farmington/Harrison, 3,196; 4. Regina, 3,097; 5. Wayne Memorial, 2,897; 6. Lakeview, 2,893; 7. Farmington Hills Mercy, 2,858; 8. Waterford Kettering, 2,770; 9. Canton, 2,753; 10. New Boston Huron Red, 2,728; 11. South Lyon, 2,715; 12. Flat Rock, 2,624; 13. Clarenceville, 2,604; 14. South Lyon East, 2,538; 15. North Farmington, 2,530; 16. New Boston Huron White, 2,480; 17. Plymouth, 2,471; 18. Salem, 2,343; 19. Divine Child, 2,126; 20. New Boston Huron Chiefs, 2,044; 21. Ladywood, 1,903; 22. Oakland Christian, 1,734.

(Only individuals who bowled three games are listed)
JOHN GLENN: 1. Julia Huren, 651; 4. Emily Dietz, 605; 9. Olivia Cabildo, 560; 10. Ashley Kolb, 545.

FARMINGTON/HARRISON: 8. Candace Bradley, 587; 13. Dana Iles, 531; 21. Rachel Doran, 498.

WAYNE MEMORIAL: 3. Christina O'Harris, 613; 39. Kayla Thompson, 443.

F.H. MERCY: 20. Ashlei Brooks, 498; 44. Heather Lillystone, 430.

CANTON: 2. Meghan Macunovich, 641; 38. Megan Plave, 444; 46. Megan Peido, 421.

CLARENCEVILLE: 8. Jessica Bishop, 563; 29. Sarah Meili, 463; 66. Erin Walters, 329; 67. Amber Burnett, 322.

N. FARMINGTON: 18. Emily Zalenko, 501; 42. Julia Rhode, 437; 56. Anna Hutchinson, 382.

PLYMOUTH: 37. Nicole Marshall, 448; 52. Ashley Bressler, 397.

SALEM: 28. Brynna Samuels, 464; 43. Kahterine Kehoe, 433; 57. Leah Boucha, 376.

LADYWOOD: 49. Liz Kemp, 405; 54. Kailyn Delonis, 390.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING PREVIEW

Salem poised to make noise

Solid team depth, balance could lift Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As dual meets begin this week, Salem varsity boys swimming and diving coach Chuck Olson sees plenty of promise for his team during 2014-15.

"There's good balance with lots of underclassmen working to earn a spot on the team," Olson wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "Lots of potential to make some noise at the (KLA) Central Division, Kensington Conference and MHSAA Division 1 state meet."

Helping Salem's cause will be a multi-talented group of 11 seniors, led by captain Brian Kuang (freestyle events, 100 backstroke).

Other senior contributors will include: Patrick Casey and Brendan Wellman (both in the 200 individual medley, 100 butterfly, 100 backstroke), Colin Urbacsewski (IM, fly, free), Nick Marion (free, back), Spencer Torok (free, 100 breaststroke),

Greg Payne (free, fly), Brandin Yee (IM, all strokes) and freestylers Nick Fornalewicz, Frank Jawor and Alex Petraca.

Slated to help Salem score points across the board will be juniors Charles Liu (IM, all strokes), Matt Croop (free, back), Shariq Hafeez (free, fly), Kevin McKee (breast, free) and Nick Landon (breast).

Additional points could be secured thanks to the efforts of junior divers Michael Falzon and John Vary.

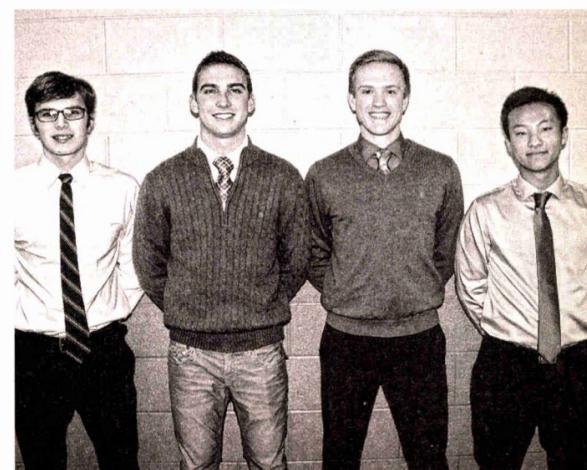
Olson also listed a number of sophomores who could make an impact on the season.

Those swimmers include: Noah Fleming, Phillip Colingwood and Lucas Sheedy (each available to swim the IM and all strokes), Abraham Soto (free, fly), Kevin Amell (IM, back), Miles Angell (breast, IM) and freestylers Brendan Casey, Teddy Doswell, Owen Fleming and Noah O'Donnell.

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Wellman



PLYMOUTH SWIMMING

Plymouth's varsity boys swimming and diving team is led by co-captains (from left) Garrett Beauprez, Ryan Heinze, Brandon Burger and Ben Yang.

SWIMMING

Continued from Page B1

Salem High School.

The Wildcats are a driven bunch, from veterans to first-year swimmers.

"Plymouth boys are looking to have a great season this year and build off of the success we have been working on the last two seasons," Forbes said. "That's starting with developing our new swimmers that have expanded our team to 40."

"The support from our veteran group has been great and has helped motivate the new kids into giving their all in practice."

Spearheading the team from leadership and skill standpoints are senior captains Ben Yang (100 backstroke, 100 butterfly), Ryan Heinze (freestyle events, fly) and Brandon Burger (freestyle, fly) and junior captain Garrett Beauprez, who can be slotted anywhere in the lineup.

Young vets

Forbes listed several juniors and sophomores as also being part of that "veteran" mix.

Juniors Bronson Knowles and Aniketh Visai

are two more versatile swimmers who can handle "everything," the coach noted.

Another junior, Keegan Kendall, is expected to help in freestyle events, as well as the 100 backstroke.

Sophomores Michael Wischer (freestyle, fly), Jack Boczar (freestyle, 100 breaststroke) and Matt Weiner (freestyle) will keep the depth points coming as Plymouth will rack up plenty of top places per event.

Plymouth's lineup also will get a bit of a jolt from promising ninth-graders Logan Kendall and Ethan Byrnes.

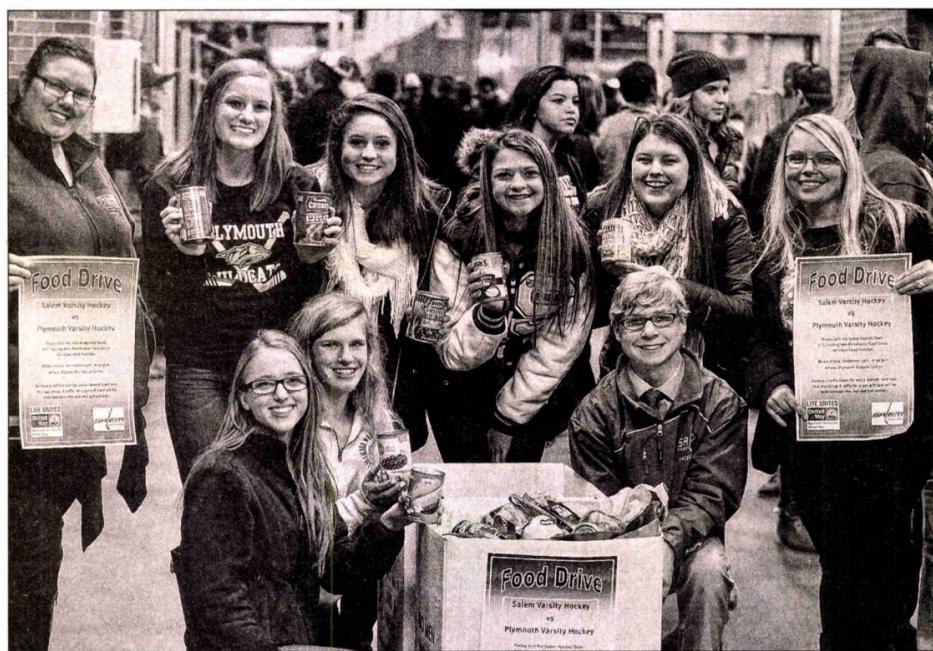
It's a smart and savvy group, too, looking to better their personal bests both in the pool and the classroom.

"Looking at grades, we should easily beat our team average of 3.49 from last year," Forbes said. "Everyone is supportive and works together to motivate each other, no matter their ability in the pool."

"It's how a team should act and present themselves. They, and myself, want Plymouth to be recognized as a place where you want to swim and dive competitively."

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Food for thought!



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth Community United Way hosted a holiday food drive Dec. 19 at Plymouth Cultural Center during a Plymouth-vs.-Salem hockey tripleheader. The Wildcats and Rocks squared off in prep (JV), alumni and varsity games. Spectators bringing one item of non-perishable food received a dollar off admission to the evening's festivities. In the back row are (from left) PCUW special events associate Randi Williams, student volunteers Gabby McCall, Sutherland Olah, Kaitlyn Pelech, Maddison O'Donnell and Shannon Weldon. In the front row (from left) are student volunteers Alexis Polidori, Breanna Kocienga and Brock West. The students attend either Salem or Plymouth. Organizing the event was Salem varsity hockey parent Shannon Weldon, on behalf of the Rocks program and head coach Ryan Ossensmacker. There were 149 pieces of food collected at the game. "We'd like to thank both teams and patrons for their participation," Williams said.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Salem lacrosse meeting

Salem boys lacrosse is having a registration/information meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 in the Salem High School cafeteria.

It is a mandatory meeting for all new, returning players and interested families. Those with questions should contact members of the Salem lacrosse board at salemrockslax@gmail.com.

Whalers weekend twinbill

After playing 21 of 37 games on the road, the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers will spend much of January at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth plays home games at 7 p.m. Friday against North Bay and at 7 p.m. Saturday against Sault Ste. Marie.

Friday is another \$6 Friday night: Seats in sections 105-110

are offered for the low price. Call 734-453-8400 or go to www.plymouthwhalers.com for additional information.

Friday also is a Pepsi Music Night. Along with sponsors WYCD-FM (99.5) and Pepsi, local country and western band Brian Lorente and the Usual Suspects will be playing before the game and during intermissions.

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

we've been through and losing players to World Juniors and suspensions and everything, we've literally been short anywhere from five to eight players out of our normal lineup since Oct. 22.

"Game-hours lost, average in this league, is between 90 and 110. We're at

170 and we're not even halfway through the season."

The good news for Craig and head coach Don Elland is the team this week will welcome back goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, forward Sonny Milano and defenseman Yannick Rathgeb from World Juniors.

Although defenseman and team captain Alex Peters is out for the season with a knee injury, long-sidelined forwards Danny Vanderwiell and Bryce Yet-

man should be back sooner rather than later. Vanderwiell could be back sometime this weekend.

Plymouth hosts North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Time to jell

"We're getting close to getting healthy and I think we're really a good hockey club when we're healthy," Craig said. "My goal is to give these guys a chance to

see how good they could have been - and could be, in the second half.

"If I make any moves, it will be to improve the team, to bring in a veteran guy that can help us."

Craig stressed that he would not be breaking the team up this week, instead hoping the Whalers can rejoin the race for a playoff spot.

"We will not be trading for draft picks or rebuilding or any of that," Craig said.

"We think we have a very good hockey club this year, that can still make the playoffs and win."

"And we also think we have a great nucleus coming back for next year that we don't need to go out and make those type of trades."

Plymouth is 11 points out of the eighth and final playoff spot, now shared by Saginaw and Kitchener.

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COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

BEFORE AND AFTER

Schoolcraft men ride double-OT win into break; return with loss in MCCA A opener

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Time after time Dec. 20, Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team tried but could not get over the hump against Owens Community College.

For example, the host Ocelots rallied in the final minute of regulation to force overtime, only to quickly fall behind 85-79 in the first minute of the extra session.

No matter. Schoolcraft not only showed remarkable grit and resilience by bouncing back to send the non-conference match-up into a second five-minute overtime, but then finished a stirring comeback with a 106-101 victory.

Sparking the Ocelots with 32 points was guard Ja'Christian Biles, while Owens guard Shaakir Lindsey tallied 31 for the visitors.

Making the 19-14 surge in the second OT more remarkable was Schoolcraft having three key players foul out and relying on injured freshman forward Davon Taylor (Canton) and reserve freshman guard Moussa Harb to help overtake the Bulldogs.

"Both times we played them (Owens), they were just excellent games," Schoolcraft head coach Abe Mashhour said. "Very satisfying in the sense of different kids

stepping up when guys fouled out. Davon, bless his heart, played on an injured knee, gave us just the amount of minutes that we needed.

"Moussa stepped up big. He had a blocked shot, he had a couple rebounds, ran the floor offensively, got to all the (Owens) shooters defensively. He did an excellent job, especially down the stretch."

Emptying the tank

Both Taylor and Harb came up with important defensive rebounds in the second overtime to not only thwart the Bulldogs, but help start transitions for offensive chances.

Also huge for Schoolcraft (11-2) was the performance by freshman guard and Westland John Glenn product Dre Black, who came up with several big defensive takeaways and baskets.

Moreover, Black (15 points, six assists, two steals) did not get rattled by foul trouble (he had four fouls early in the second half, one short of fouling out).

"I mean, it's just being disciplined, playing smart," Black said, grinning about the thrilling way his team battled back. "I was picking up help-side fouls and my teammates really stepped up second half and overtime and I didn't have to pick up those fouls, just

basically playing smart, playing together.

"Just leaving it all out on the floor. It (the inspirational win) means a lot, it means our team is coming together even more."

Mashhour gave full marks to Black for the way he competed despite the threat of fouling out.

"We felt we had a good mismatch with the person they had guarding him at the end of regulation and the first overtime," Mashhour said. "Dre, to his credit, took full advantage and just made all the right plays.

"Dre was absolutely sensational today, the most impressive game he's played all year and he's had a lot of very good ones."

Plenty of contributors

Biles, Black and company helped the Ocelots overcome the loss of fouled-out starters Marcus Williams (12 points, eight rebounds), Lito Booth (16 points) and Tyler Johnson (12 points, five boards).

Many others came through for Schoolcraft, helping lift the team and turning up the level of fan excitement and noise inside the Ocelots' gym.

"It was a great atmosphere," Mashhour said. After a free throw by Edmond Early Jr. (13 points) put Owens (11-4) in

front 90-89 with about four minutes to go in the second OT, Biles drained a jumper from the right wing to put Schoolcraft up 91-90.

The Ocelots would not relinquish that lead, immediately padding it on a three-point play by Williams.

Despite a triple and layup by Lindsey, Schoolcraft still maintained a lead (96-95) with 1:20 on the clock.

Then forward James Pruitt (17 points, 10 rebounds) tallied a layup and Biles thrilled the crowd with an emphatic slam with 50 seconds left to make it 100-95.

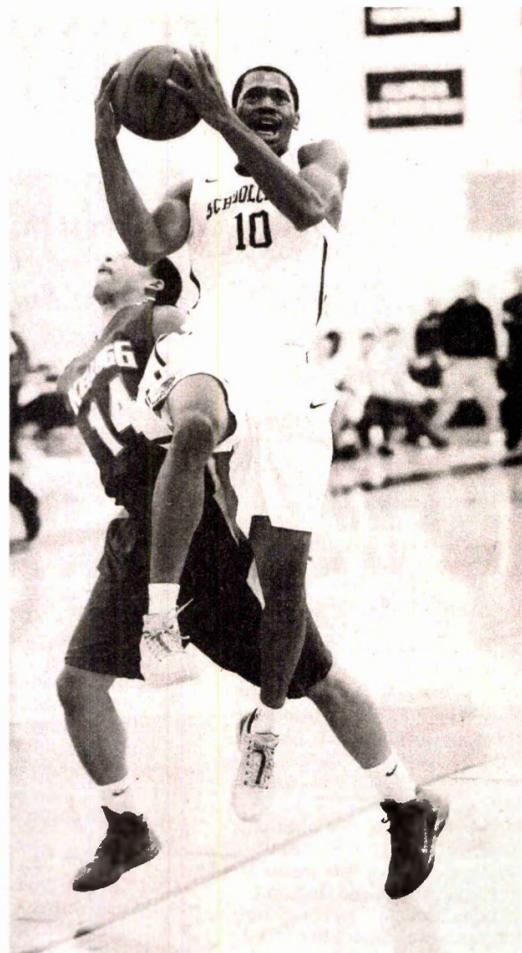
After Taylor, hobbled by bursitis in his left knee, muscled in for a defensive board, Biles scored a layup to open up a 102-95 edge with a half-minute remaining.

That was more than enough to withstand late triples by Early and Lindsey.

Both Black and Mashhour said the victory against a team the Ocelots could see in the national tournament should serve as a springboard for conference play when it begins in January.

"We just got to keep building off it," Black said. "Play like this the rest of the season and keep getting better."

MACOMB 91, SCHOOLCRAFT (MEN) 81: The visiting Ocelots returned to



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Schoolcraft's Ja'Christian Biles (front), shown from a November game, led the Ocelots to a Dec. 20 win over Owens with 32 points.

action following the holidays Saturday in the MCCA A opener, but were outscored 59-50 in the second half to fall short.

Scoring 22 points for Schoolcraft (11-3, 0-1) was Ja'Christian Biles, with Lito Booth (16 points), Javon Thomas (13 points) and Tyler Johnson (13 points) helping the attack. Macomb (7-5, 1-0) was led by Chris Dorsey (24 points) and Brandon Hicks (20 points).

SCHOOLCRAFT (WOMEN) 78, MACOMB 53: Schoolcraft College's

women's basketball team had a happier conference opener Saturday, thanks to a 51-28 edge in the second half.

Leading the Lady Ocelots (10-4, 1-0) were Wayne Memorial alum Ashley Bland (32 points) and Elise Tolbert (17 points). Rikki Sherdt led the team with 11 rebounds. The top scorer for Macomb (8-4, 0-1) was Sydney Morgan, who tallied 17 points.

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PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats stymie North; Chiefs play tough in loss

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Over the weekend, Kendall Rose and Paige Slominski were named co-captains of Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team.

And Tuesday, both seniors — along with senior Leah Kliczinski, junior Cassidy Lewis and others — played a solid, all-around game as the Wildcats defeated host Grosse Pointe North, 55-41.

Rose scored 17 points, draining a couple of key treys after intermission, as Plymouth padded its

24-20 halftime lead with an 18-8 surge in the third quarter.

Slominski also excelled, but the keys to the victory were Kliczinski (18 points, 14 rebounds) and Lewis, who scored six points but, more importantly, was a defensive stalwart against North's Erin Armbruster (13 points).

"Cassidy really defended their best player," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "She was our unsung hero."

Brandon added that Kliczinski had a "pretty good day at the office ... she was doing everything

right. She was so good at both ends of the floor."

The Wildcats (4-2) took a 11-5 lead after one quarter and maintained a four-point edge at halftime before breaking things open in the third.

Plymouth now visits Livonia Churchill Friday night, as the start of KLA A South Division play begins.

Canton edged

Also playing on the road Tuesday night was Canton's varsity girls basketball team. The Chiefs played a stellar defensive game against Grosse Pointe South, but

came up on the short end of a 39-37 decision.

"It was a tight game, a really good game," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "Grosse Pointe (South) is one of the top teams in the state."

Palmer said the Chiefs held the lead much of the way, but their offense hit a rough patch in the fourth.

"We ended up losing it in the end," Palmer said. "We were struggling to put up some points in the fourth quarter and turned the ball over."

"But the girls played really, really well. From

our last four games, we keep getting better."

He noted that his team held South well under its previous average of 61 points.

Leading the Chiefs with 11 points was Erin Hult, with Natalie Winters (eight points) and Madison Archibald (seven points) also contributing.

Potential Miss Basketball candidate Sierra Rice was held to 20 points.

Canton visits Westland John Glenn to open division play Friday.

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COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Hayes nets Madonna school-record

It took only 14 games for Michele Hayes to shatter the single-game scoring record for the Madonna University women's basketball team.

The 6-0 junior guard, a transfer from Oakland University, poured in a game-high 39 points Saturday as the Crusaders rallied in the second half to beat host Indiana Tech, 84-65, at the Schaefer Center in Fort Wayne.

The Crusaders, who overcame a 13-point first-half deficit, improved to 8-6 overall and 7-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Hayes, an Inkster native who played at Southfield-Lathrup, connected on 15-of-24 field-goal attempts and 8-of-9 free throws to eclipse the record of 36 set by Dawn Pelc on Jan. 15, 1995.

And for her efforts, which included a 22-point outing in a loss vs. Hawaii Pacific and 26 in a setback to BYU-Hawaii, Hayes was named WHAC Player of the Week.

Senior forward Rachel Melcher added 14 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Lindsey Hernden added 13 points for MU, which shot 33-of-66 from the field (50 percent) and 12-of-13 from the foul line (92.3 percent).

Linsey Masnari and Taylor Seiss tallied 15 and 14 points, respectively, for the Warriors (7-10, 6-3).

Indiana Tech (MEN) 72, Madonna 65: Franklin Linsey scored 20 points and added eight rebounds Saturday to lift host Indiana Tech (7-10, 4-5) past Madonna University (6-10, 2-6) in a WHAC men's basketball encounter at the Schaefer Center.

Sophomore guard Khalil Malone led MU and all scorers with 21 points, while Shaun Duncan and Donald Owens chipped in 11 and 10, respectively. Chris Dierker (Salem) contributed nine points and a team-high eight rebounds.



Hayes



BRIAN QUINTOS

Canton's Jalen Cochran (right) eyes the rim Tuesday night. Guarding him is Salem's Kenny Topolovec.

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

Rocks connecting on 70 percent of their field-goal tries.

But he also thought the late foul against junior guard Obi Okoli that sent Swift to the charity stripe for the tying and winning foul shots should not have been called.

Let them play

"I don't usually call anything out on the officials," said Reddy, whose team dropped to 5-1. "But everyone in the gym knows that was a blocked shot at the end there, with 2.9 seconds left. I think that's a clean block and we got to let them play there."

Salem (4-2) was led by senior forward Jakob Lenders, who registered 20 points — including 11 in a frantic first half that

ended with the Rocks up 38-28.

Lenders made several clutch shots, including a trey from the right corner in overtime to tie the game at 60-60. He also had five rebounds.

"Jake's a crafty player, he knows how to play on offense and defense," Brodie said. "He had a good opening game for us and played again well tonight. He did a nice job."

Other strong Salem performers included Swift (14 points) and junior center Kenny Topolovec (10 points).

Canton's comeback was sparked by the hot outside shooting of junior forward Logan Ryan, who scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter (including nine on treys).

Senior point guard Greg Williams also was a thorn in Salem's side in the second half and OT, finishing with 17 points

(11 after halftime).

Williams converted a driving layup with about 30 seconds left in the fourth quarter to put the Chiefs in front 57-56, only the second time in the game that Canton had a lead.

Scrappy Salem then won a jump ball and senior forward Allante Wheeler drew a foul. He split a pair of free throws with 19 seconds left to send the game to overtime at 57-57.

Canton then took leads of 60-57 and 62-60, both on layups by Williams — the latter with just 45 seconds to go in the extra period.

Eking it out

The Rocks found a way, however, with Swift getting it done at the line.

"Close games always come down to free throws," Brodie said. "But if you miss a free throw in the first half,

it's just as important. Jon kept his cool and knocked those down for us."

Scoring 10 points for Canton was Okoli, with Jalen Cochran chipping in seven points and nine rebounds.

"Great effort by both teams," Reddy said. "We were slow early, a step behind them the whole time in the first half."

"Our kids looked like strangers early; it's not like we've been playing the first month of the season. So we challenged them at halftime, they

came out and played great, gave us a chance to win."

The teams now jump into division games at 7 p.m. Friday, with Canton hosting Westland John Glenn and Salem welcoming Northville.

"Hopefully we springboard into division (play) now," Brodie said. "I told the kids after the game we didn't win a championship or anything tonight. Friday starts that road."

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2015. The bid opening will be at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2015 for the following:

PURCHASE OF PICNIC TABLES
Belson Outdoors Model PC-HWA, Quantity -15

PURCHASE OF EVENT TABLES and TABLE CARTS
Mity-Lite Table - Model RT3072BEG1 - Qty 25
Mity-Lite Table Cart - Model CRTRTUBLK2 - Qty 4

Specifications and bid documents are available at the city hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Signs encouraging for new home construction in 2015

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

With four-county employment at its highest point since November 2008 and oil prices at their lowest since December 2010 – and trending downward – the Home Builders Association/ASA New Housing Permit Forecast projects that new home permits should make their strongest start (dating back to 2006) during the first five months of 2015.

“Oil prices have obviously been getting a lot of attention,” said Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan. He sees increased disposable income among residents of Oakland, Wayne, Macomb and St. Clair counties making them more likely to build homes.

“It seems like the metrics point to an uptick,” said Williamston, Mich., resident Stoskopf. “We’re excited about that.”

In analyzing economic data, Stoskopf and colleagues look at: people employed in the labor force; mortgage rates for a 30-year fixed mortgage; oil price by barrel; North American vehicle production; single-family home prices reported by REALCOMP; and a few other lesser factors.

“There has been some contraction in the real estate market,” he said. “A lot of that occurs seasonally.” At the holidays, people are celebrating, he said, and less like-



Homes are and have been under construction throughout Lyon Township, like this one.

ly to be in the housing market.

Based on single-family new home permit data compiled by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and reported in the *Southeastern Michigan Residential Building Activity Report*, a total of 206 single-family home permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in November 2014.

While the number of permits issued in November was down sharply from October's figure (399), it exceeded the HBA's forecast model expectation of 176 permits. The number of permits was also down when compared to November 2013 (297). The decrease in activity may be

attributable to a slowdown in the market and seasonal adjustments, as Stoskopf noted occurs regularly late in the year.

He agreed some contractors face challenges in locating skilled workers, with that “still at a premium for some of the trades.”

Some contractors had increased workloads, Stoskopf said, but were still hesitant to hire. “Laying people off is no fun if you ever had to go through it,” he said. “I think some of that is getting better.”

Some skilled workers had relocated or taken other jobs, he said. “I think there's reason for optimism going forward,” he added.

The HBA, headquartered in

West Bloomfield, locally has done the model over the last five years with an accuracy rate of 98 percent. The forecast for this past November's permits was based on study seven months earlier, he said.

“I have pretty good confidence based on the long-term performance of our model,” Stoskopf added. He noted factors such as weather (last year's harsh winter, for example) or another recession can't be anticipated.

“Oakland County is No. 1 for single-family homes produced,” with much new home activity in Lyon Township and Novi.

In Wayne County, Canton dominates building, the industry expert said, while Macomb County is led by Macomb Township and Shelby Township.

He agreed that local municipalities influence how much building happens, noting “They can make it really difficult for a developer.”

Some areas are running out of lots for building, Stoskopf said, although the areas he mentioned as booming “have all been very positive in welcoming new development going in.”

That building leads to both property and sales taxes being paid, he said, as well as spin-off spending. There's less resistance to new building at the end of a recession such as we've experienced, he said.

Home values for existing homes go up with new home building, he noted. “Having that value come into a neighborhood or a community really helps everybody.”

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

‘Car condo’ must be done correctly

Q: I recently read about a “car condo” opening up, which has garages and a track. What are your observations about that type of project?

A: It is like any other condominium project, it must be well constructed with adequate financing, a responsible developer and sales must meet the expectations of the developer in order for the project to be successful. Moreover, purchasers must be aware of the restrictions in the condominium and their obligations as co-owners. It is a neat idea which, if done properly, can be successful. Just like airplane condominiums and other high rise garage condominiums.

Q: What is the limit on the loan amount for FHA mortgages?

A: The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced that the maximum conforming loan limits for mortgages acquired by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in 2015 will remain at \$417,000 for one-unit properties in most of the country, including all of Michigan. The loan limits are established for each county under the terms of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) and are calculated each year. HERA sets maximum loan limits as a function of median home values in that county. If you are looking to move to Alaska, for example, the loan limit is \$625,000, and it is that high in some other counties throughout the country. A complete listing for all the counties in the United States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands may be found at www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Downloads/Documents/Conforming-Loan-Limits/FullCountyLoanLimit-List2015_HERA-BASED_FINAL.pdf.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of “Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium.” He is also the author of “Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track,” second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

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

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 11-15, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS		
31921 Robinhood Dr	\$518,000	
BINGHAM FARMS		
30790 River Crossing St	\$335,000	
BIRMINGHAM		
1335 Bird Ave	\$570,000	
1345 Cole St	\$300,000	
615 Davis Ave	\$405,000	
1300 Edgewood Rd	\$446,000	
799 Emmons Ave	\$260,000	
528 Graten St	\$345,000	
571 Linden Rd	\$1,160,000	
559 N Glenhurst Dr	\$535,000	
1647 Shipman Blvd	\$345,000	
986 Smith Ave	\$374,000	
1208 Villa Rd	\$355,000	
340 Wellesley St	\$425,000	
BLOOMFIELD HILLS		
5166 Provincial Dr	\$480,000	
3007 Anthony Ln	\$635,000	
3773 Darlington Rd N	\$410,000	
964 Dursley Rd	\$323,000	
2570 Essex Ln	\$316,000	
6327 Thorncrest Dr	\$425,000	
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP		
1873 Chipping Way	\$250,000	
1950 Cragin Dr	\$220,000	
1612 Lochridge Rd	\$850,000	
2463 Mulberry Sq	\$75,000	
7160 Wing Lake Rd	\$240,000	
6186 Worlington Rd	\$1,250,000	
COMMERCETOWNSHIP		
8223 Arlis St	\$112,000	
2347 Brigantine	\$272,000	
2254 Calibogue	\$259,000	
3262 Chenoa St	\$110,000	
2921 Gabriel Dr	\$147,000	
1467 Knob Hl	\$180,000	

9130 Marilyn Ter	\$441,000	
2451 Massena St	\$190,000	
5430 Mill Race Way	\$330,000	
3115 Newton Rd	\$109,000	
255 Oriole St	\$110,000	
2349 Palmetto	\$249,000	
2590 Pinto Dr	\$185,000	
3760 Sleeth Rd	\$370,000	
4776 Sundew St	\$167,000	
6079 Venice Dr	\$292,000	
FARMINGTON		
22991 Frederick Ave	\$148,000	
33728 Grand River Ave	\$315,000	
32936 Slocum Dr	\$160,000	
36030 Smithfield Rd	\$230,000	
33608 State St	\$250,000	
23560 Stonehouse Ct	\$260,000	
FARMINGTON HILLS		
22273 Abington Dr	\$320,000	
36600 Almond Cir	\$300,000	
37810 Amber Dr	\$275,000	
21415 Archwood Cir	\$178,000	
28850 Bannockburn St	\$200,000	
27491 Bridle Hills Dr	\$195,000	
35104 Bunker Hill Dr	\$224,000	
33513 Cadillac St	\$200,000	
34016 Edna St	\$223,000	
38351 Churchill Ln	\$176,000	
35025 Concord Ln	\$229,000	
27420 Doreen St	\$130,000	
26277 Dundalk St	\$248,000	
28455 E Greenmeadow Cir	\$212,000	
31415 E Stonewood Ct	\$250,000	
34016 Edna St	\$120,000	
34000 Harlowshire St	\$106,000	
29660 Highmeadow Rd	\$230,000	
29884 Indian Trl	\$138,000	
33671 Longwood Dr	\$185,000	
26321 Meadowview Dr	\$220,000	
29628 Middlebelt Rd Unit 2701	\$93,000	
39335 Plumbrook Dr	\$285,000	
30496 Ramblewood Club Dr	\$225,000	
21935 River Ridge Trl	\$195,000	

26333 Springfield Dr	\$160,000	
29151 Summerwood Ct	\$243,000	
30943 Sutters Hill Ct	\$318,000	
22580 Tulane Ave	\$117,000	
31915 W 14 Mile Rd # 248	\$147,000	
26100 Westmeath St	\$202,000	
20891 Whitlock St	\$88,000	
29119 Wilton Dr	\$300,000	
FRANKLIN		
30609 Inkster Rd	\$258,000	
HIGHLAND		
345 Gleneagles	\$340,000	
3327 High Knoll Dr	\$300,000	
1584 Island Dr	\$85,000	
1149 Kingsway Dr	\$183,000	
1692 Percy	\$390,000	
MILFORD		
562 E Dawson Rd	\$285,000	
118 E Washington St	\$153,000	
620 East St	\$215,000	
1571 Hidden Valley Dr	\$573,000	
1120 Prince St	\$128,000	
31059 Star Trl	\$287,000	
2811 Tall Timbers Dr	\$680,000	
2294 Tanbark	\$440,000	
NORTHVILLE		
21352 E Glen Haven Cir	\$140,000	
413 Ely Dr S	\$235,000	
48832 Veneto Dr	\$1,060,000	
NOVI		
27582 Albert St	\$282,000	
24249 Amanda Ln	\$350,000	
45525 Andes Hills Ct	\$210,000	
43105 Ashbury Dr	\$440,000	
27330 Benjamins Way	\$285,000	
41248 Coventry Rd	\$374,000	
23687 Dunston Rd	\$425,000	
27924 Hopkins Dr	\$174,000	
44908 Huntingcross Dr	\$352,000	
44689 Huntington Dr	\$245,000	
40857 Kingsley Ln	\$310,000	
26230 Mandalay Cir	\$216,000	
44612 Mansfield Dr	\$325,000	
28450 Meadowbrook Rd	\$415,000	
23535 N Rockledge	\$120,000	

24437 Olde Orchard St	\$85,000	
40551 Rock Hill St	\$95,000	
25120 Taft Rd	\$455,000	
24306 Thatcher Ct	\$473,000	
SOUTH LYON		
53713 Edgewood Dr	\$308,000	
1004 Fountain View Cir	\$124,000	
634 Maple Dr	\$257,000	
28015 Pontiac Trl	\$225,000	
190 Princeton Dr	\$40,000	
22230 Quail Run Cir Unit 1	\$150,000	
23220 Sandra St	\$125,000	
53815 Springwood Dr	\$275,000	
SOUTHFIELD		
20885 Andover Rd	\$143,000	
15640 Arbor Pl	\$110,000	
18780 Bainbridge Dr	\$145,000	
29250 Everett St	\$120,000	
25906 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$71,000	
18201 Greenwald Dr	\$150,000	
22550 Hallcroft Trl	\$105,000	
29550 Heritage Ln	\$175,000	
16985 Hilton St	\$96,000	
28330 Lahser Rd	\$158,000	
17277 Redwood Ct	\$55,000	
30353 Rock Creek Dr	\$185,000	
25399 Saint James	\$115,000	
27394 Shagbark Dr	\$70,000	
22475 Shevington Dr	\$68,000	
5000 Town Ctr # 1901	\$105,000	
22604 W 11 Mile Rd	\$142,000	
25505 W 12 Mile Rd # 2600	\$265,000	
WHITE LAKE		
10736 Bogie Lake Rd	\$500,000	
8275 Filmore Ct	\$395,000	
500 Jamestown Dr	\$273,000	
8170 Kenwick Dr	\$163,000	
9020 Maplewood Dr	\$148,000	
65 N Williams Lake Rd	\$168,000	
8575 Newport Dr	\$305,000	
9168 Steephollow Dr	\$210,000	
621 Sunnybeach Dr	\$290,000	

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 2-5, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON		
48573 Antique Rd	\$472,000	
43648 Appomattox Ct	\$210,000	
4174 Brookstone Dr	\$257,000	
4228 Brookstone Dr	\$226,000	
701 Cherry Orchard Rd	\$186,000	
47145 Eastbourne Rd	\$332,000	
39912 Edmondton Dr	\$155,000	
6895 Longwood Rd	\$250,000	
47302 N Pointe Dr	\$380,000	
47795 Ormskirk Dr	\$145,000	
1592 Peninsula Ct	\$205,000	
39773 Peters Dr	\$183,000	
2029 Pinecroft Dr	\$143,000	
437 Roseland Dr	\$215,000	
41910 Saratoga Cir	\$180,000	
39699 Scottsdale Dr	\$160,000	
42051 Trent Dr	\$250,000	
42354 Trent Dr	\$267,000	
51054 Upland View St	\$50,000	
GARDEN CITY		
842 Arcola St	\$110,000	
31119 Beechwood St	\$108,000	

31948 Dover St	\$73,000	
LIVONIA		
12170 Arcola St	\$73,000	
14713 Auburndale St	\$105,000	
37914 Birch Run	\$225,000	
29664 Clarita St	\$48,000	
15907 Deering St	\$143,000	
17603 Dolores St	\$150,000	
17320 Fairfield St	\$165,000	
36144 Fairway Dr	\$266,000	
11872 Farmington Rd	\$120,000	
17209 Francavilla Dr	\$260,000	
15072 Gary Ln	\$134,000	
9121 Harrison St	\$120,000	
31045 Hathaway St	\$138,000	
36267 Hees St	\$159,000	
16351 Inkster Rd	\$155,000	
36114 Jamison St	\$179,000	
35970 Joy Rd	\$138,000	
34044 La Moyne St	\$153,000	
29563 Linda St	\$125,000	
29527 Lyndon St	\$158,000	
9230 Melrose St	\$129,000	
34865 Munger Dr	\$163,000	
32968 Oakley St	\$175,000	
33009 Oakley St	\$150,000	
14931 Paderewski St	\$64,000	
14525 Park St	\$173,000	
14674 Richfield St	\$145,000	
34621 Saint Martins St	\$279,000	

HOMES

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Homes

SALEM TOWNSHIP
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HomeFinder.com

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Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms. 2 baths, c/a, \$570-\$660 w/ special. 50% off 1st 3 mos with approved credit. 248.473.5180

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Larger room in clean, peaceful home. Furnished. \$120/wk. Call: (313) 281-8129

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COMMERCIAL CLEANERS
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ASSEMBLY
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DADCO Inc., the global leader in nitrogen gas spring technology, is growing! We are looking for dependable, bright individuals with a strong work ethic to train for full-time, day-shift, positions. Job responsibilities include part quality inspection, sub and complete product assembly build, final product inspection and order packing. Qualified candidates will be quick learners with a high school diploma, technical aptitude, and strong attention to detail. Come and work with our talented team in our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. We will offer you training, competitive wages, and benefits, including 401(k), EOE.
Email resumes to: taw@dadco.net
DADCO

Help Wanted - General

GENERAL LABOR/ASSEMBLY
\$9.50/hr to start. Medical, Paid Holidays & Vacation. Must pass drug screen. 20775 Chesley, Farmington. 248-478-7788 weatherking@weatherkingdoors.com

Help Wanted - General

AUTOBODY OFFICE ASSISTANT
With estimating experience. Full-Time with benefits.
Call, email or stop by:
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34501 Plymouth Rd. Livonia: 734-744-2187 brenda.bachman@thayerauto.com

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One of the nation's largest Ford dealers seeks an **AUTO PORTER**. A good driving record is required. We offer Blue Cross, dental, vision, matching 401(k), life and disability insurance and a 5 day work week.
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Great driving record. Drug free company. Must be drug tested. Must be able to work mornings & evenings \$15.00 to start email for phone interview elitemoving16@gmail.com

Help Wanted - General

HOUSEKEEPER FULL TIME - Experienced
Immediate Openings at Beautiful Assisted Living Facility in Westland. Benefits available. Please fax resume to: (248) 350-9083
MARQUETTE HOUSE
Cash in with Classifieds 800-579-SELL

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Driver: SERTA MATTRESS SEMI-TRUCK DRIVER FULL TIME & LOCAL IMMEDIATE OPENING
53 foot semi drivers (2) needed for local Mich/Ohio deliveries. Must have valid CDL-A, clean record, 100k+ miles of exp & live within 40 min of Romulus. Physical requirements will include unloading of bedding (touch freight) Avg wage \$16-18 ph. Start times vary (1am-6am) must be able to work early mornings. Accepting apps btwn 10am-3pm 38025 Jaykay Drive Romulus, MI 48174 Email: Tbstwick@sertaresto.com No phone calls please

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

OFFICE HELP
Experience with Peachtree preferred. Canton. Call: 734-416-9941

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

PRODUCTION OPENINGS SERTA MATTRESS
Multiple Openings available Due to increased business, we have numerous positions in **Matrix Assembly, Shipping & Sewing Depts.** All hands on manual labor positions heavy lifting Very fast paced environment in order to keep up with production. MUST have manufacturing experience, Bedding pref. \$10.00 to start and piece work pay once qualified. Long hours (10-12 per day). MUST BE ABLE TO WORK IN A FAST PACE ATMOSPHERE. slackers need not apply! Applications btwn 10:00 - 3:00 M-F 38025 Jaykay Drive Romulus, Off Cogswell btwn VanBom and Ecorse NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

QUALITY CONTROL CLERK/FACILITATOR
To fill immediate opening. Must be a self-starter, organized, and willing to learn our Quality and MRP system.
Microsoft Office skills required.
Will assist in daily maintenance of the system as well as participate in special projects as needed. Overtime with excellent benefit package offered. Email resume or apply in person between 7am-3:30pm at:
MARQUETTE HOUSE
46301 Port St. Plymouth, MI 48170 hr@venturaerospace.net

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PART TIME - Experienced
Immediate Openings at Beautiful Assisted Living Facility in Westland. Benefits available. Please fax resume to: (248) 350-9083
MARQUETTE HOUSE

Office Administrator Position
\$13/hour, 35 hr/wk. Send resume to fumc777@fumcnorthville.org attention SPRC Chairperson.

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

Assistant/Receptionist
Livonia mortgage lender needs part time receptionist/assistant processor. Must have some mortgage, real estate, or title company experience.
Fax or email resume to: 734-425-4520 jmcpardland@colonial-mortgage-corp.com

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Allergy Office 32 hrs/wk. Excellent Salary, Benefits. Cover Letter, Resume & References. Email to: miallergy@comcast.net

Help Wanted - Medical

Medical Assistant
Full-Time. Fast paced Primary Care office in downtown Northville. Open 7am-7pm. Must be able to work shifts. Occasional Sat's 8-1pm. Need to have experience with injections, blood draws, vitals, spirometry and EKG. Resume: vss003@gmail.com

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL BILLERS
Exp. with eThomas/Genius Solutions. Part & Full-Time. Fax 734-522-6114. Email: gmc2020@gmail.com

Help Wanted - Medical

Radiation Oncology RN
Full-time. Experienced. Radiation Oncology Nurse is needed for a busy oncology office. Responsibilities include clinical assessment of on-treatment patients, patient education, data collection, documentation, scheduling of exams, coordination of care, etc. E-mail resume: nmeh@bostford.org

Help Wanted - Medical

RESIDENT CARE ASSOCIATES
Experienced. Immediate Openings at Beautiful Assisted Living Facility in Westland. Benefits available. Please fax resume to: (248) 350-9083
MARQUETTE HOUSE

Help Wanted - Medical

RN, LPN or MA
with DERMATOLOGY EXPERIENCE preferred, for a growing dermatology practice in Ann Arbor/Plymouth area. Full-Time, excellent pay & benefits. Email or Fax resume: a2derm@aol.com 734-996-8767

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Antiques & Collectibles
Furniture, Glassware
Outdoor Items
New Items: Office Items
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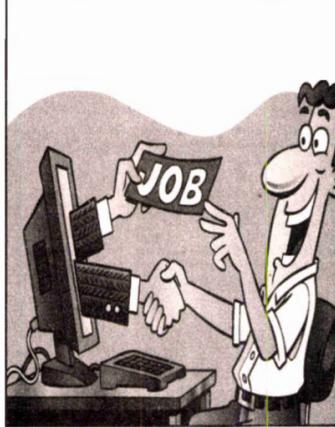
	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1SPMortgage	138501	(313) 215-1766	3.625	0.25	2.875	0.125
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.75	0	2.875	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.625	0	2.875	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.75	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4	0	3.25	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.25	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	0.625	2.875	0.375
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4	0	3.375	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4	0.25	3.25	0

Above information available as of 12/31/14 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.
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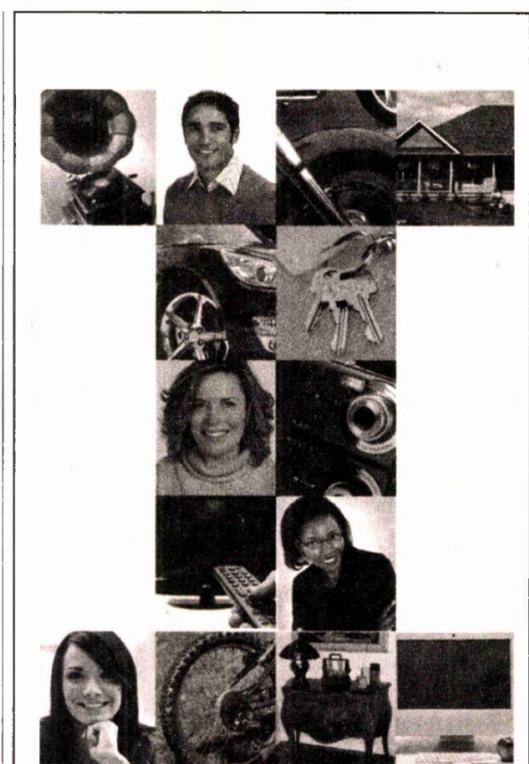
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Appliances

Whirlpool washer & dryer Cabrio models, electric dryer and top load washer. Runs perfect, extra clean. Lots of options, like new condition. Only 2 years old! \$750 or best offer. (517) 262-9630

Misc. For Sale

Season firewood For sale \$65.00 a cord, plus delivery can be set up (566)907-8025 paulcavey260@gmail.com

Musical Instruments

SPINET PIANO - Grinnell Brothers, Cherry finish, needs TLC and Key/Hammer work. Great starter piano \$700. 248-303-5321

Sporting Goods

Davison Gun & Knife Show Sun Jan. 11, 9-3p KofC Hall, 8428 Davison Rd. info 989-798-8709.

Wanted to Buy

CASH PAID OR CONSIGNMENT for Vintage, Antique and Other Valuable Items. Single items to storage units to entire estates and estate sales. Professional, courteous, fair, honest, discreet older gentleman. I drive to you. Coins, costume and fine jewelry, knick knacks, military, collections, books, toys, stereos, instruments, ephemera, clothing, Christmas, more. References: Richard, BSE, MBA. (248)795-0362 richard.preston48@yahoo.com

WANTED: New, used, old Fishing Tackle & related items. Successful Deer Hunter. Call Bill: (734) 890-1047

PETS

Dogs

Pet Sitting, Dog Walking, Dog Obedience Training Insured and Bonded crazygoodpetcare.com 248-230-0493

WHEELS

Snowmobiles

Z L Arctic Cat Snowmobile 1996, 500 c.c., water cooled, \$1600. 1-248-851-7129

Auto Auctions

FAMILY TOWING IMPOUND AUCTION Jan. 16th 9am, 30712 Industrial Dr., Livonia 2002 Ford Taurus 114p55s13q114829 1995 Champion Bus 11dke30h8shc02375 2001 Chevy Tahoe 1tgnk1371302173

Public Auto Auction

Mother Waddles Vehicles 14666 Telegraph Rd (between I96 and Fenkell) Midwest Auto Auction Friday 1/9 open 10am

Trucks for Sale

FORD RANGER 2008 Sport Ext. Cab, RWD, 66K. Certified. \$13,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-96 80

Trucks for Sale

GMC SIERRA 2010 Crew Cab, short box 4x4, SLE ABS, traction control \$23,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Mini-Vans

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY 2011 Touring, FWD, ABS Options galore! \$17,488 NORTH BROS. 855-667-96 80

4 Wheel Drive

FORD F-150 XLT 2009 Ext. Cab, 4x4, 1 Owner, only 62K miles! \$21,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

JEEP WRANGLER Spt 2010 4x4, 39K miles, a fun drive! \$19,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

MARINER 2010 4wd, 4 dr Premier, leather, ABS, \$13,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

SIERRA 1500 2011 Ext. Cab, 4WD, SL 58K, 1 owner \$21,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2009 4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd Heated front seats \$21,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012 FWD, leather, heated seats, Black Metallic, \$22,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CHEVY EQUINOX 2011 FWD, 4 dr, 2 LT, heated leather seats, ABS, power sunroof, too much to list! \$17,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

ESCAPE 2012 XLT, MP3 comp, 4x4 steering wheel controls \$13,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

GMC ACADIA 2010 FWD SLT1, Lthr, Bose stereo system, loaded! \$19,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2010 FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, back up camera, privacy glass \$13,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, 42K, 1 owner, extra clean! \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2011 4WD, 4 Dr., 1500 SLT, Leather, Pwr. Sunroof, 3rd Row Seat, \$31,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2012 4wd, 4 dr., 1500 SLT, leather, heated seats, nav. system, power sunroof, \$31,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

JEEP LIBERTY 2012 4x4, 4WD, 4dr Spt 1 owner, 40,000 miles \$17,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011 4WD, LTZ, leather, back-up camera, remote ignition, \$29,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

SCION IC 2009 2 dr hatchback, power sunroof, 1 owner \$15,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

ALLURE CXL 2006 Auto, Leather, Certified \$8,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

BUICK LUCERNE 2011 CXL Premium 4 dr sedan, Fully loaded, a real beauty! Only 50,000 miles \$17,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2010 CXL 3.0, FWD, leather, heated seats, ABS, \$15,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2012 FWD, Premium 3, Leather, heated seats, power sunroof \$24,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Buick

LUCERNE CXL 2010 43K, leather, heated seats, ABS, traction control \$16,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Regal

REGAL CXL 2011 CXL R1 Russelsheim, 48K, 3rd row seat, 1 owner \$13,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Cadillac

CTS 2011 Sedan, 3.0L V6, AWD, 22K Black Raven, \$21,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Chevrolet

CRUZE 2011 LTZ, Leather, full power, Spotless! \$13,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

IMPALA LT 2011 30K, 1 owner, leather heated seats, power sunroof, \$14,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

MALIBU 1LT 2011 36,000 Miles, Imperial Blue, Auto, Just In! \$14,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

MALIBU 2014 1LT, 22K miles, 1 owner, loaded. Just like new except the price! \$21,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CAMARO SS 2013 RWD, black, rear spoiler, 28K miles \$28,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

CHRYSLER 200 LTD 2012 FWD, heated seats, remote start \$15,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

TOWN & COUNTRY 2010 4 dr, wagon Touring, 4 wheel ABS, Solar glass 1 year FREE maintenance (limited time offer) \$13,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

FIESTA SE 2012 FWD, 29K, One Owner, Ford Certified, \$11,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

FLEX 2013 LIMITED Visra, navigation, Ford Certified! 1.9% \$27,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

FOCUS 2012 SEL FWD, Lot of options, 20,000 miles \$14,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

FOCUS SES 2010 FWD, ABS, 1 owner, Ford Certified, \$12,488 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

FUSION 2010 Sport pkg, AWD, moon, Fully inspected & warranted, \$16,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

MUSTANG 2008 GT Premium RWD, Torch Red Only 15K miles! \$17,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

MUSTANG GT PREMIUM 2011 RWD, Coupe, leather, 29K miles \$22,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

TAURUS SEL 2012 FWD, ABS, V6, security system \$20,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, ABS Privacy Glass, \$15,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

KIA RIO 2013 4 dr sedan, auto EX, ABS, traction control \$12,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

LEXUS ES 350 2008 4 dr., Sedan, Leather, Heated Seats, Loaded! \$17,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

MKZ 2012 FWD, leather heated seats, loads of techno-goodies! \$22,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

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Mazda

MAZDA CX-7 2011 Spt, FWD, ABS, Privacy glass \$14,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

Pontiac

PONTIAC G6 GT 2007 Convertible, FWD, Premium Sound System \$19,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9680

PONTIAC G8 GT 2009 White, Low Miles, 1 Owner, Moon Roof, New Arrival \$19,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Saturn

SATURN VUE REDLINE 2008 Deep Blue, Black Interior, 1 Owner! Only \$11,000 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Autos Under \$2000 1995 BUS 18 Pass. Body in Exc. Cond. Needs some work TLC. Ideal for Mechanic \$2000. Serious Only 248-820-1768

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Challenging fun for ALL ages Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hungry for more
 - 5 Alters pants
 - 9 Furrow maker
 - 12 Make public
 - 13 Hedgepodge
 - 14 Et, for Hans
 - 15 Plinth
 - 16 Lifted, so to speak
 - 18 Je ne sais —
 - 20 Uneasy
 - 21 Bunker or Piaf
 - 23 Send packing
 - 25 Eau — cologne
 - 26 Whimper
 - 28 Felt sorry about
 - 32 Exec. aide
 - 35 — Margret
 - 36 "Orinoco Flow" singer
 - 37 Shiny mineral
 - 38 Kind of belt
 - 40 Hwy.
 - 41 MacMurray or Couples
- DOWN**
- 1 Crunch targets, for short
 - 2 Comics prince
 - 3 Baghdad native
 - 4 Coming out
 - 5 Anasazi descendant
 - 6 Yale alumnus
 - 7 A thousand G's
 - 8 Chesterfields
 - 9 Miffed
 - 10 Rightmost column
 - 11 Dust devil
 - 17 — nous

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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15				16				17			
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46	47	48					49				
50					51	52			53	54	55
56					57					58	
59					60					61	

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

NATIONAL PARK WORD SEARCH

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

RELIGION CALENDAR

JANUARY

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 18
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10
Contact: 734-425-4421

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 248-661-5337

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

FEBRUARY

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25-March 25
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Grieving with Great Hope workshop is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy, presents the five-week series
Contact: goodmourningministry.net or St. Michael's at 734-261-1455

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 1
Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia
Details: Open house for pre-school 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 kindergartners
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, 1/4 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

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

Passages
 Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
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ARDREY, WANEVA

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, Greg 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. Visitation Thursday, January 1, from 4-7:30 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. until time of Service. Life celebration following interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park.



BIDWELL, A. WILLIAM

January 6, 2015 age 85 of Westland. Beloved husband of the late Marie. Dear father of Catherine Johnson, Sharon (Tony) Vetraino, Karen (John) Osbourne, Alonzo Bidwell, Diane Bidwell and Jean (Tim) Goring. Brother of Douglas (Mary), and Sue (David) Allmindinger. Also survived by 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Funeral Friday 10 am at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive friends Thursday 2-9 pm. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com.



PORTH, FRANK H.

Of Redford passed away December 17, 2014 - on his 90th Birthday. Frank lived in Redford for 61 years of which he owned Redford Rent-All for over 30 years. During his early years in business, he never forgot the encouragement he received from other Redford business owners - The Murrays of Murray's Hardware (and Jewelry!) and The Sobeks of Mr. Chicken to help him persevere to build his business to the success it was when he retired in 1994. Frank went on to help many others needing the same type of encouragement in starting and growing their dreams of owning their own business. Frank was born the son of Frank and Alderetta Porth of Highland MI. He joined the US Army during his senior year at Visitation High School. As part of the Greatest Generation, he proudly served in WWII in Germany (and always flew 2 USA flags at his home). He later worked for Burroughs Corp. where he decided that punching a time clock was not for him. He took the leap of faith in 1964 and purchased a small trailer rental yard - Minock Trailer Rental and later grew it into the larger Redford Rent-All. He never refused an opportunity to "donate" the use of a trailer bed for the Thurston High School Homecoming floats. He was married to Shirley Porth for 25 years and remained friends the years after. They had three children - Michael (who predeceased him), Kathy and Judy. He was later married 35 years to Marion Porth- who had a daughter Sue. Frank had three grandsons - Frankie, David and Steven - all who he gave the gift of the opportunity to go to any college to pursue their dreams. Frank's loves were his family and friends, golf, road trips ("On the road again."), John Wayne (who many thought he resembled) and his ARA Rental colleagues. As a side venture, he was a previous part-owner of the Bald Mountain Golf Course in Lake Orion. He was able to enjoy his love of golf AND snowmobiling at this course! Those who knew Frank probably shared a "Julius" with him - enjoyed his infectious laugh as he told a story or two and witnessed his work ethic and his generosity in lending many, many others a helping hand. Frank - you will be missed so much by your family and friends. We just hope we learn to live with the gusto and generosity as you have these past 90 Years!

PROVOW, CYNTHIA

Age 62, of Canton, passed away January 3, 2015. Loving wife of 44 years to Bob. Beloved mother of Kirsten. Proud grandmother of Jayvon Miller. Survived by her mother Shirley; sister Colleen; brothers Chris (Cathy), Craig (Tammy), Curt (Michele) and the late Charles. Dear aunt to many nieces and nephews. She will be missed by all that knew her. Memorial service to be held at a later date. Donations can be made to ones favorite charity.



STEFANIAK, ANNETTE

January 6, 2015 age 32. Beloved wife for over 9 years to Steven. Loving mother of Lillianna, Laura, and William. Dear sister of Dawn West, and Valerie Wilk. Daughter of Marion and Renata Wilk. Sister-in-law of Sandy (Jay) Olheiser, Michelle (Dain) Demchik, and Debbie Stefaniak. Daughter-in-law of Mike (Diane) Stefaniak. Visitation Thursday 6-8 p.m. and Friday 2-9 p.m. at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck), Plymouth. Prayer Service Friday 7 p.m. In state Saturday 10:15 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Funeral Mass at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 South Lilley Road, Canton. Memorial contributions may be made to Karmonos Cancer Research and American Cancer Society, Interment Riverside Cemetery. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



REPKO, BETTY

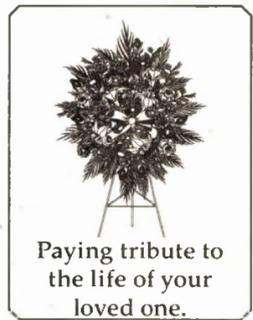
Passed away January 4, 2015 at the age of 89. She was born April 7, 1925 in Arcadia, Pennsylvania to Joseph and Mary Gladish. Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband Louis in 2009. She is the dearest mother of Gloria (Ron) Yaszek, Rita Repko and Carol (Wolfgang Beatham) Repko. Dear grandmother of Lisa (Doug Davis) Yaszek, Kristen (Bryan) Richey, Robert Repko Johnson, Eric Repko Beatham and Kyle Repko Beatham and great grandmother of Jack Richey and Case Yaszek Davis. She is the dear sister of Jenny Buckley, Bernice Angell and Robert (Carolee) Gladish. Betty is also survived by her dear sister-in-law Irene Gladish. She was preceded in death by her siblings Emily Seubck, Rose Seubck, David Gladish and Albert Gladish. While at High School in Pennsylvania Betty was a cheerleader. She worked prior to marrying Louis as a secretary for an automotive company. Betty was very devoted to her family and also spent her time and efforts as a wonderful homemaker. She was an exceptionally giving person and was very generous with her time. Her husband, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and her siblings were her priorities in life. Betty was a spiritual person and was very committed to the Catholic faith. She is deeply loved and will be missed by many. Funeral Services held Thursday, January 8, 2015, 10am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Plymouth. Burial took place at St. Hedwig Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association. To leave a condolence: www.schrader-howell.com

VERMEULEN-SAJEWSKI FUNERAL HOMES CREMATION SERVICES

In Memoriam

PAUL J. ROSSOW In Loving Memory

May 13, 1956 - January 8, 2014. A year has passed since we said farewell to a great son, brother, uncle and friend. You have been dearly missed this past year but forever remain in our hearts. Love, Mom



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



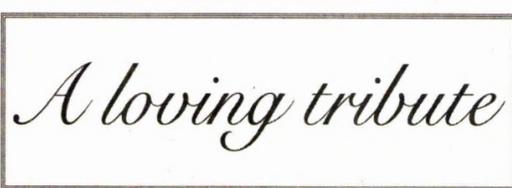
JOSLYN, PAMELA S.

Age 68, passed away Saturday, December 27, 2014. Survived by her loving husband of 44 years, Richard; mother, Everetta Pruett-Waterford; sister, Rebecca Pruett; Godchildren Brian and Randy Jean Irlke. Visitation Saturday, January 10, 1-3 pm, at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial service January 10, 3 pm also at the funeral home. heenev-sundquist.com

HEENEV-SUNDQUIST FUNERAL HOME

McMEEKIN, SHIRLEY ANN

Age 85, January 3, 2015. Memorial service will be held Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Rd. in Northville. Donations may be made to the church or to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation in Shirley's name.



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Improvisers stage sketch comedy, games at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Tim and Matt Majzlik want to help you laugh away the January doldrums. Their cure? A combination of comedy sketch and improvisation.

"I hope folks are grinning from ear to ear," said Tim Majzlik, describing the effect he hopes the show Cure for the Wintertime Blues will have on its audience. "I want to give them something that, on Monday morning when they're at the office they'll say this was the funniest thing I've seen, it made my new year start off right."

He and his brother are co-producing and directing the show, which is set for 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 at Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. Tickets are \$15, available at justgobarefoot.com or through the theater's box office at 734-560-1493.

The brothers staged an improv night a few years ago at Barefoot Productions with a different cast. This time the group, selected through auditions last October, includes improvisers with a broader mix of ages and theater experience.

The show will include written sketches derived from rehearsals over the past two months, along with improvised games that use audience suggestions.

"We welcomed every kind of idea," said Tim Majzlik, describing the rehearsal-to-script process. "I did most of heavy lifting with fine tuning



The cast of Cure for the Wintertime Blues will play improv games and act out comedy sketches Saturday, Jan. 17, in Plymouth.

and writing."

Theater training

Both he and his brother were involved in theater and an improvisation club as students at Canton High School. Matt, who lives in Canton, also worked with the school radio station.

"I went on to Wayne State University where I majored in theater studies. After graduating from the theater program at Wayne State, I found Barefoot in Plymouth," said Majzlik, who lives in Ypsilanti and manages a movie theater in Ann Arbor. "Matt has done training in the medical field,

both human and veterinarian. He's a trained phlebotomist. Right now he's working as a veterinarian apprentice."

Majzlik said he became interested in theater through improv.

"That was my gateway. For a number of years I struggled with dyslexia," he said, adding

that working with scripts sometimes became a challenge. Improvising on the spot, making up unscripted scenes "was a relief."

"It has helped me with public speaking and being able to express myself," he added.

He and his brother will serve as emcees, introducing sketches and keeping improv games on track during Cure for the Wintertime Blues.

Sketches will take the audience back in time to see King Henry VIII and Soviet-era spies, and a mix of other characters.

"I think this one is for the ages. We're jumping around a bit in the time stream of human consciousness. We think the audience will have a fun trip."

The improv set will include some of the games seen on the television show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

All ages are welcome, but Majzlik rates the humor as PG-13.

The cast includes actors who are familiar to Barefoot audiences, and others who are new to the Barefoot stage.

They are Griffin Burke of Northville, Nathan Corliss of Ypsilanti, Karen Curtsinger of Canton, Adrian Diffey of Saline, M. De Lisle of Ypsilanti, Michelle McAlpine of Northville, Fran Potasnik of Saline, Rachel Richardson of Ypsilanti, and Jeannine Thompson of Troy.

For more information, visit justgobarefoot.com

Hear standards, original tunes at Plymouth jazz concert Jan. 17

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Cynthia Kaay Bennett's getting ready to play a little "library jazz" this weekend.

"I've played at a couple of different libraries in Toledo," said Bennett, in a phone interview from her home in Adrian earlier this week. "They have a nice setup at the Adrian library. People come in and sit with their coffee and couples get up and dance."

"I've been in the Plymouth library itself and it's beautiful. It's huge. I hope a lot of folks will come by and enjoy themselves."

Bennett will sing a mix of jazz standards and original jazz songs at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. The concert is free and will include Toledo, Ohio-area musicians, Kevin Korecki on keyboard and Will Kinsey on drums. Reserve a spot by calling 734-453-0750, Ext. 4, or visit online at plymouth-library.org.

Bennett, an Ohio native, has sung at festivals and jazz clubs throughout the country, but also enjoys singing at libraries. She is acquainted with Plymouth Library Director Carol Souchock, who previously worked in the library at Adrian.

"She arranged all kinds of arts festivals here in Adrian. When she transferred from Adrian to Plymouth, she and I maintained a friendship," Bennett said, adding that she is "thrilled" to perform in Plymouth.

"It's nice to be in a concert venue rather than in a nightclub where folks are eating and drinking. The type of music I play will still be the same. What I do is straight ahead jazz. I do a lot of original material as well, which I think interests a lot of jazz enthusiasts. They've heard the standards. Audiences love



Cynthia Kaay Bennett

to hear songs they know but to throw in original tunes that I've written or co-written, adds some interest and makes it unique."

Bennett grew up in Mansfield, Ohio, in a family that "played nothing but jazz." While her friends listened to Aerosmith and other rock bands, Bennett enjoyed Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

"As a junior high girl you think jazz is so corny, but I thought, I really like this stuff. When I first started singing at age 24, I had never sung before. I was a sax player when I went to Ohio State. But when I got out of college and was teaching, I put my horn down. You lose your embouchure. It broke my heart."

When someone suggested she try singing, she gave it a shot by performing in the chorus of *Carousel*. She sang all kinds of music — from Barbra Streisand tunes to Linda Ronstadt — at clubs before settling into jazz. In addition to performing and writing, she also teaches music.

She'll have her three CDs available for purchase at the concert in Plymouth. They sell for \$15 and \$10. Bennett said she plans to donate \$5 from every sale to the library.

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking
Wild Winter Weekend: Arts and crafts, live performances, ice carving, with enrichment and zookeeper talks about the Zoo's arctic animals, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 17-18. Free with zoo admission
Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Jan. 9
Location: The Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit
Coming up: A reception is set, 6-8 p.m. Jan. 12, for works by 32 artists
Contact: 248-473-1859

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through Jan. 31
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Between Landscape and Place" is a solo show by painter John Dempsey
Contact: 248-344-0497

AUDITIONS FARMINGTON PLAYERS

Time/Date: Registration at 11 a.m., auditions at noon, Sunday, Jan. 18
Location: The Farmington Players Barn, 32332 We. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Auditions for *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which will be staged in late April and early May. All who audition for leads will sing solos that can be found at farmingtonplayers.org. A pianist will be used to accompany the auditioners. Wear comfortable clothes and bring dance shoes if you own them
Contact: farmingtonplayers.org

COMEDY JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 9-10; 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11 (Greek show)
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Basile is known for his voice work as Universal Studio's Bullwinkle J. Moose, as well as for the Cartoon Network and many Japanese Anime series. Tickets are \$12 for show only or \$25 for show and a dinner on Thursday; \$20 for show or \$32 for show and dinner, Friday-Sunday
Open mic: Each comedian gets five minutes of stage time. Open mic begins at 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Call the box office Tuesday through Thursday, to get on the performer list
Contact: 734-261-0555; catchthefunny.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

GET OUT! CALENDAR



Chris Canas Band will perform at the Blues @ The Elks music series, Tuesday, Jan. 13, in Plymouth.

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 8-9; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10

Location: Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak
Details: Keith Fields; tickets \$10 Thursday, \$18 Friday-Saturday
Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

FILM PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 10-11
Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: *Big Hero 6*; admission \$3
Coming up: *St. Vincent*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 and 22; 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18
Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 9; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 10
Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit
Details: *All About Eve*, \$5
Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 11
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: "Twas the Night Before Christmas" exhibit features scenes from stories and movies, such as *Elf*, *Polar Express* and *A Christmas Carol*. Santa visits every Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17
Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Chris Canas Band performs on Tuesday, Jan. 13; \$5 donation
Contact: 734-453-1780

JAZZ CAFE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9
Location: Jazz Cafe at Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: The acoustic duo Lac La Belle performs, along with instrumentalists and songwriters, Jennie Knaggs and Nick Schillace; \$10

Coming up: 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, Perfect 10 fundraiser benefits the Michigan Humane Society and celebrates the 10-year anniversary of MOTORCITYBLOG. Bands include Yum, The Ill Itches, War Horses, Pewter Club, Amino Acids, Electric Lion Sound Wave Experiment, and more. \$10 at the door, \$20 VIP access
Contact: 313-887-8501

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11
Location: The Inn at St. John's Chapel, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth
Details: "Miniature Masterpieces," will include *Divertimento K.136/125a* by Mozart, *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4* by Bach, *Suite for Violin, Piano & Small Orchestra* by Lou Harrison and *Peninsula Suite* by Nancy Bloomer Deussen. \$30 general admission; \$25 for seniors, 62 and over, and \$10 for students with ID
Contact: michiganphil.org

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Billy Strings and Don Jullin, Jan. 9; Olivia Millershin, Ashley Peacock and Oak City Roots, Jan. 10; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and a special guest, Jan. 11; Ronny Cox, Jan. 16; Matt Watroba, Jan. 17; Open Stage, Jan. 20; Nessa, Jan. 23; Stewart Franke, Jan. 24. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.
Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

TUESDAY MUSICAL

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. Jan. 12
Location: Central Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams at Woodward, Detroit
Details: Mistral Winds performs music by Franz Danzi; Nadine Deleury, Edward Maki-Schramm and Molly Hughes play music by Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger; and Norma Keil Shaw, Marjorie Sterimpel and Sylvain Bouwman play music by Carl Fruhling. Admission free
Contact: Mary Quick at 313-891-2861

SPOKEN WORD DETROIT STORY LEAGUE

Time/Date: Noon lunch, 1 p.m. storytelling and workshop, 2:30 p.m. business meeting, Saturday, Jan. 17
Location: Farmington Library, 23500 Liberty, west of Farmington Road, south of Grand River Ave., Farmington
Details: Visitors are welcome at a bring-your-own lunch — coffee and dessert will be provided — a storytelling session and educational workshop
Contact: 248-644-3951



Try these pasta tips from Andiamo executive chef

What's the secret to perfectly-cooked spaghetti?

Executive Chef Jim Oppat of Andiamo Restaurants offers a few tips, just in time for the frigid weather. Warm up a week night with a hearty, filling spaghetti dish.

» Use proper size pot to cook pasta, the larger is better

» Cook pasta in large quantity of boiling, liberally-salted water

» Never put oil in the cooking water

» Give the pasta a stir while cooking

» Do not rinse pasta; sauce immediately

Need a sauce for your noodles? Try Old Fashioned Italian Meat Sauce — it's loaded with garlic, Italian sausage and pork — from Hunt's. Find more recipes at hunts.com.

For more on Andiamo, visit andiamoitalia.com. Andiamo has restaurants in nine communities, including Livonia.



Executive Chef Jim Oppat of Andiamo Restaurants

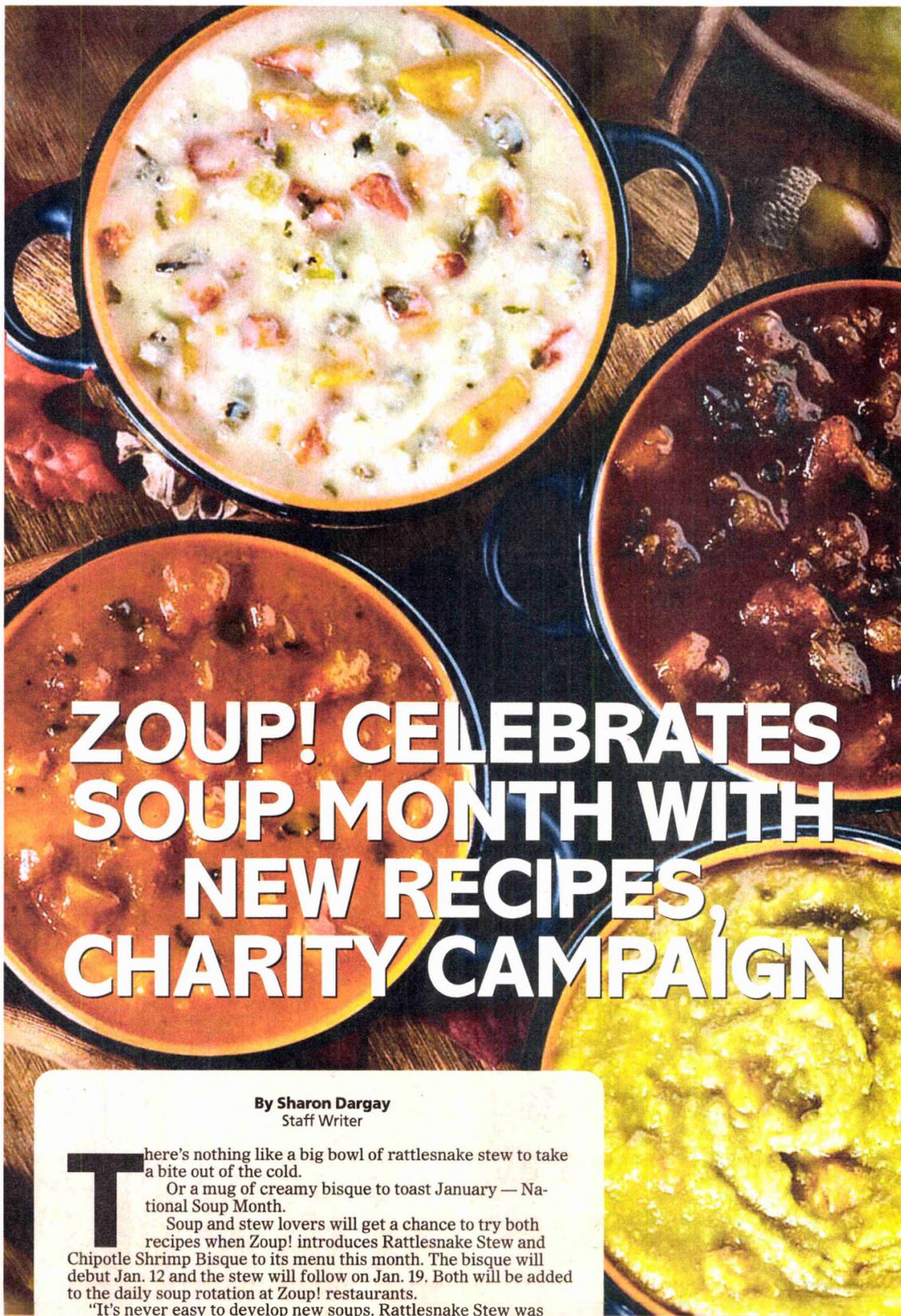
OLD-FASHIONED ITALIAN MEAT SAUCE WITH PASTA

Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 3 1/2 hours
Serves: 10

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 bone-in pork chops, 1-1/2 inches thick (2 chops = 1/2 lb)
1 pound Italian pork sausage links, casings removed
4 cans (14.5 ounces each) Hunt's Diced Tomatoes with Roasted Garlic, undrained
1 can (12 ounces each) Hunt's Tomato Paste
1 quart water (1 quart = 4 cups)
1 tablespoon dried basil leaves
16 ounces dry pasta, uncooked

Heat oil in large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add chops; cook 3 to 4 minutes on each side, or until browned on both sides. Remove from pan; cover to keep warm.

Brown sausage in same pan, stirring occasionally to crumble sausage; drain. Return to pan. Add chops, diced tomatoes with their liquid, the tomato paste, water and basil; mix well. Reduce heat to low; simmer 2-1/2 to 3 hours, or until sauce is thickened and meat is falling off the bones, stirring occasionally. Remove and discard bones. Cook pasta, drain, serve topped with the sauce.



ZOUP! CELEBRATES SOUP MONTH WITH NEW RECIPES, CHARITY CAMPAIGN

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

There's nothing like a big bowl of rattlesnake stew to take a bite out of the cold.

Or a mug of creamy bisque to toast January — National Soup Month.

Soup and stew lovers will get a chance to try both recipes when Zoup! introduces Rattlesnake Stew and Chipotle Shrimp Bisque to its menu this month. The bisque will debut Jan. 12 and the stew will follow on Jan. 19. Both will be added to the daily soup rotation at Zoup! restaurants.

"It's never easy to develop new soups. Rattlesnake Stew was particularly challenging because the ingredients were so obscure," said Eric Ersher, Zoup! CEO and founder. "But we wanted to include something that, while not for everybody, is obviously unique in its flavor and ingredients. Many of our customers are interested in different ingredients and are culinarily driven."

Rattlesnake Stew is made with savory vegetarian broth, rabbit and rattlesnake sausage, peppers, brown rice and spices. The Chipotle Shrimp Bisque combines shrimp, vegetables and peppers puree with a creamy tomato soup.

"The Rattlesnake Stew took a long time because we had to source the ingredients and that was challenging. It took eight months, but on average development and testing takes four months for a new soup."

Ersher said he expects the stew will attract interest from customers but won't become a top seller.

"When there is a soup that is very accessible from a perception standpoint, obviously delicious, but understood and familiar, those elements send a recipe to the top of the list. But that's not always our goal."

"Our philosophy has always been to offer something for everyone. We need popular soups like lobster bisque, but it also means we need esoteric soups. We have hundreds of soups. We serve 12 a day and rotate them daily. We encourage sampling."

Ersher attends weekly taste tests at Zoup! headquarters in Southfield to tweak existing recipes and try new ones. Spicy Noodle Soup, the winner of Zoup!'s first online recipe contest, will get a trial run at the Southfield flagship restaurant and eventually may be served at other locations. The winner, a student at Ohio University, was announced Monday, Jan. 5.

"With the broadening of our social media base and the increasing interest of all things culinary, we wanted to bring customers into the loop," Ersher said. The public voted for favorite recipes from among a dozen finalists.

Customers also can satisfy their soup cravings while contributing to a good cause at Zoup! through Jan. 31. The restaurant will offer a voucher for a free 8-ounce side of soup to guests who donate \$2 or more to Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign. Each \$2 contribution represents 20 meals for hungry children. Zoup!'s goal is to raise \$50,000.

"We always look for opportunities to partner in the community. Usually we do so with local organizations, but we were trying to find a national organization whose mission was related to hunger. At an industry event we made a connection and thought it would be a great opportunity."

Zoup! has more than 70 restaurants throughout the U.S. and in Canada. Locally it has restaurants in Southfield, Northville, Plymouth, Novi, Ann Arbor, Pontiac, Detroit and Troy.

Can't wait to celebrate National Soup Month? Roasted Garlic Chicken Kale soup and Spicy Black Bean Chili are two Zoup! recipes you can make at home. See more at zoup.com.



Eric Ersher, founder and CEO of Zoup!

ZOUP! SPICY BLACK BEAN CHILI

1 carrot (1/2-inch dice)
1 stalk celery (3/8-inch dice)
1 onion (1/2-inch dice)
6 cups Zoup! Good, Really Good Savory Veggie Broth™
1 green pepper (1/2-inch dice)
2 cloves garlic (fresh chopped)
1/2 cup cilantro (fresh chopped)
4 mild green chili peppers (1/2-inch dice)
2 pounds black beans
1 small can tomato paste
1 large can crushed tomatoes
1 large can diced tomatoes
1 whole bay leaf
1 teaspoon fresh thyme
Pinch ground black pepper
2 teaspoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon red pepper (cayenne)
1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper

1. Sauté vegetables.
2. Add veggie broth and boil 30 minutes.
3. Add black beans, tomato products, spices, chilies. Boil 20 minutes.

ZOUP! ROASTED GARLIC CHICKEN KALE

Serves 4 to 6

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1 medium white onion, diced
2 carrots, peeled and diced
2-3 celery stalks, diced
2 Jars Zoup! Good, Really Good Chicken Broth
1 cup diced cooked chicken (rotisserie chicken works great)
1 cup kale, chopped
2 tablespoons roasted garlic
1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

1. In a large pan heat extra virgin olive oil. Add onion, carrots and celery. Sauté until the onions become translucent.
2. Add 2 Jars of Zoup! Good, Really Good Chicken Broth, bring to a simmer.
3. Add cooked chicken, kale, and roasted garlic. Heat until kale has softened.
4. Add fresh chopped parsley. Salt and pepper to taste and enjoy.

SUBMITTED
Spicy Noodle Soup is the winner of Zoup!'s first recipe contest. It will be served at the company's flagship store in Southfield, and eventually at other locations.

