

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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SHOW MUST GO ON

Senior actors are fundraising,

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015 • hometownlife.com

City voters to decide public safety tax

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth voters will decide in a little more than two weeks whether to raise their taxes in order to beef up the city's public safety budget.

A proposal for a public safety property tax of up to 1.5 mills is on the ballot for a Tuesday, Feb. 24, election. The money — an estimated \$708,000 annually if the entire millage is levied —

would go to the city's police and fire services, including toward hiring two police officers.

"We've never asked for a public safety millage, so it'll be interesting to see what the people say," Mayor Dan Dwyer said.

A 1.5-mill tax means \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. The maximum levy would cost \$150 a year for the owners of a house with a taxable value of \$100,000.

The proposal, sent to the ballot last fall by a city commission vote, sprang from commissioners' discussions about adding to the city's police force, a commission goal. Police Chief Al Cox has argued that an additional officer would allow him to dedicate one officer to the city's downtown bar and restaurant scene in order to patrol establishments and handle licensing issues, giving other officers more time to patrol

neighborhoods.

Commissioners last fall approved the hiring of another officer and the process ended recently with the hiring of Officer Mathew Wilson, who started late last month. He is the department's 16th sworn officer.

The city's Downtown Development Authority is footing the bill for the position through the current fiscal year, which runs through June. The plan for the

next fiscal year, Dwyer said, is to pay for the position and for a 17th officer, with millage revenue if the proposal passes, with the DDA continuing to chip in.

That plan will have to be revised if the millage doesn't pass. Commissioners have also talked about having the general fund help pay for a 16th officer.

"Public safety is a citywide issue," Dwyer said. "It's not

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Defendant Rokšana Sikorski (from left), defense attorney Leslie Posner, defense attorney Wright W. Blake and defendant Michael Rivera at the start of Thursday's hearing. Seated in the background are Rokšana's parents, Laurene and Jeffrey Sikorski.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth CDBG budget OK'd

Federal money earmarked for Plymouth would go toward transportation for senior citizens and improvements to public facilities, to make them compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, under a plan approved Monday by the city commission.

The money, estimated at just under \$63,000, comes from the federal Community Development Block Grant through Wayne County and the commission voted 4-0 Monday to submit its plan to county officials. Three commissioners were absent.

The money would be awarded beginning in July and must be spent over an 18-month period. The commission's plan has about \$44,500 going to ADA upgrades and nearly \$12,000 going to senior transportation. The city uses a senior transit program run jointly with Plymouth Township.

Another \$6,278, a required 10 percent, would go toward the city's cost of administering the program.

The budget proposal is subject to a public hearing after submission to the county.

Projects using CDBG funds must meet one or more of the federal program's goals: benefiting low- and moderate-income people, eliminating slums or blight, benefiting senior citizens or meeting urgent community needs.

— By Matt Jachman

Boy: Sister 'sliced my neck'

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A brother and sister from Plymouth Township described Thursday escaping their older sister one night last October after she threatened the girl with a knife — at the same time telling her that she loved her — then "sliced" the boy's neck.

The siblings' testimony — and a text-message conversation that included instructions for using the knife to kill — convinced a judge to send Rokšana G. Sikorski, 15, to trial on seven felony charges, including attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Her alleged accomplice, Michael A. Rivera, 23, was sent to trial on identical charges.

"They knew what was going on," Judge Mike Gerou in 35th District Court said after reviewing a transcript of the texts. "Forethought was going into this."

Sikorski, who is being charged as an adult, and Rivera, a Detroit resident, are being held without bond and are scheduled to be arraigned Friday, Feb. 12, in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The boy, 13, testified via a video link that he was awakened early Oct. 17 when he saw Sikorski looking through the

dresser drawers in his room.

Gerou had issued an order that the media not use photos or the names of the minor witnesses.

"She sliced my neck," said the boy, a child advocate sitting next to him. He described how he had fled to an adjoining bathroom, saying Sikorski first cut him as he was at the bathroom door.

"She cut me one time and when I tried to shut the door, she cut me twice," he said. He was able to shut the door on Sikorski's head, he said.

The boy described the knife as a "very sharp" fish knife normally kept in a drawer

wrapped in paper towels. Under cross-examination by Wright Blake, Rivera's attorney, the boy testified that Sikorski looked like "somebody different" during the attack.

'I just screamed'

"I just screamed," he said. The boy underwent surgery that night and is recovering.

The boy also testified that he had met Rivera eight days earlier at the Plymouth District Library, when he saw him there with Sikorski. Rivera challenged him to fight, he said, and he was able to take

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Vinyl big part of Park record show

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Vinyl record collectors, whether reliving Bruce Springsteen-inspired glory days or embracing Daft Punk's electronic futurism, can likely find a turntable treat simply by visiting a Plymouth-Canton school.

Despite the decline of old-school music stores, vinyl's resurgence has made a record show by student radio station WSDP-FM (88.1), The Park, one of the hippest places for area music collectors to find the

right groove.

Like a revived classic, The Park's seventh annual record fair returns 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, to the Salem High School cafeteria, where collectors can find thousands of vinyl records, CDs, import-only releases, T-shirts, posters and other collectibles.

"I would say probably most of the music is vinyl," said station manager Bill Keith, a Salem grad who earned a telecommunications degree from Michigan State University and worked for a country radio station before returning 24

years ago to The Park.

Keith has a theory about vinyl's comeback.

"Vinyl has a warmer sound to it," he said, and the packaging gives musicians more room for artwork, lyrics and credits. "It's a bigger palette for the artist to work on."

Record show details

The Park, a Plymouth-Canton student radio station since 1972, raised about \$2,000 last year from its record fair. Potential vendors, who pay \$30 to

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Annie Wellman (from left), Tori Brown and Caitlin Flora are part of WSDP-FM (88.1) The Park.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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SAFETY

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just about downtown, it's not just about the neighborhoods."

Officials have pointed out that Plymouth hasn't had more than 15 officers on the force in more than a decade. In 1984, when there wasn't a lot of night life in the city, the department had 21 officers.

"We had 21 when Plymouth went to sleep. ... Plymouth is getting close to being a 24-hour place," Dwyer said.

Dwyer said money from the public safety millage, if approved, could also go to the fire service. Plymouth contracts with the Northville City Fire Department for fire protection, with firefighters responding to Plymouth emergencies from the Fire Station No. 1, next to city hall.

For example, Dwyer said, an aging ladder

truck needs to be replaced, and the city owes Plymouth Township for legacy costs incurred when the Plymouth Community Fire Department served both communities. The city left the joint department, formed in 1995, at the beginning of 2012 to partner with Northville.

The city's current public safety budget is just over \$4.24 million – nearly \$3.45 million for the police department and nearly \$800,000 for the fire department.

The city has scheduled an informational meeting on the public safety millage for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the fire station.

City Clerk Linda Langmesser said Friday that her office had sent out 540 absentee ballots for the Feb. 24 election and that not quite half had been voted and returned. Most of the ballots, she said, came from people on the city's permanent absentee voter list.

SISTER

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Rivera down twice before Rivera brandished a knife and he backed off.

Blake, who later said that was the first time his client had heard of a fight at the library, questioned the boy about whether anyone intervened; he replied that no one did.

The girl, 11, testified that she shared a bedroom with Sikorski, with the bathroom between their room and their brother's room and doors to it from each bedroom.

She said she woke up Oct. 17 when she felt a knife on her throat.

"My sister had a knife and it was on my throat," the girl said. "She said, 'I love you' and she kissed me and then she left."

That's when Sikorski attacked her brother, the girl said.

The girl said she ran into the bathroom to help her screaming brother, who had been cut three or four times on the neck.

She hit Sikorski on the back, she said.

"She dropped the knife and my brother got up," she said. They fled downstairs, alerting their parents, she said.

In the confusion, the girl said, she saw Sikorski sitting on the bed in a first-floor guest bedroom. She "looked really weird," she said.

Rivera and Sikorski were arrested at Rivera's home in Detroit hours after the attack.

Text exchange

The third witness, Plymouth Township Officer Brian Rupard, a detective, described seeing a text-message exchange on a phone belonging to Laurene Sikorski, Roksana's mother, who showed it to him on the morning after the attack. Questioned about it later, Rupard said, both Rivera and Roksana Sikorski admitted they had exchanged the messages.

The texts were sent using an app called Kik, Rupard said, and he knew Rivera's user name from a previous case. The

texts were sent between 12:09 a.m. and 12:33 a.m. Oct. 17, Rupard said.

Gerou made his ruling after reading the transcript of the messages, agreeing with the prosecution's contention that they showed a conspiracy between Sikorski and Rivera.

"The cut to the neck clearly could've been fatal," the judge said.

The messages from Rivera to Sikorski, he added, included a diagram of a neck, the direction to cut it "like a tomato" and instructions to make sure the victims stopped breathing.

Sikorski, Gerou said, messaged Rivera that she couldn't do it and needed help and there was also discussion about who would kill Sikorski's parents.

Police say Rivera was outside the Sikorski house during the attack, but there was no testimony about that Thursday. The prosecution contends that Sikorski and Rivera had planned to run away together after the killings.

Both defendants are charged with one count of assault with intent to murder, four counts of conspiracy to commit murder, one count of felonious assault and one count of using a computer to commit a crime. Rivera had not faced the computer charge, but assistant prosecutor Jennifer Tink on Thursday asked Gerou to add it and he agreed.

Rivera had faced earlier criminal sexual conduct charges over his relationship with Sikorski; they were dropped by the prosecution, however, and could be reinstated.

In a brief hearing earlier Thursday, Gerou said Sikorski had undergone a psychological examination and both Leslie Posner, her attorney, and Tink said they had no objections to her being declared fit to stand trial. Rivera had previously been declared fit.

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VINYL

Continued from Page A1

reserve an eight-foot table to display their collections, may call Keith at 734-416-7732.

As many as 50 vendors are expected; WSDP has its own space, too.

Patrons pay just \$3 for admission, though collectors can pay \$5 to start shopping an hour earlier at 9 a.m. among music genres such as classic rock, hip hop, electronic, country and indie rock.

Students from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools get in free with their student identification.

Annie Wellman, a 12th-grader and station program director, said she has bought a KISS action figure, vinyl records of *The Sound of Music* and a Christmas soundtrack by Alvin and the Chipmunks and old VHS movies.

"I got *Fried Green Tomatoes* last year," said Wellman, whose music taste ranges from indie rock to European pop.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
WSDP station manager Bill Keith talks about the record fair.

Power of vinyl

Tori Brown, a 12th-grader and station promotions manager, said she enjoys the camaraderie among music lovers who gather in one spot to buy, sell and talk music, regardless of their favorite genre. Shoppers looking for vinyl range from teens to baby boomers.

"You can see this community of people," said Brown, who cited punk rock as among her favorite genres.

Caitlin Flora, an 11th-grader and WSDP music director who enjoys punk and alternative rock, agreed, saying she enjoys seeing "how

music brings people together."

The record fair is only one of the Park's fundraisers. The station also has a May auction and a fall pledge drive, altogether raising about \$30,000 a year.

The Park has drawn its share of accolades. It was named the state's best high school radio station last year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. It also was a finalist in 2014 for the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Best Non-Commercial Station – the only high school station nominated.

The Park has adapted to change to widen its reach. It moved to an adult Top 40 format in 2012, leaving behind indie and alternative rock. Just recently, it increased from a 200-watt station to 300 watts with a new transmitter, reaching a broader area.

After 43 years on the air, it seems, The Park, like vinyl albums, is a survivor.

For more on the station, go to www.881ThePark.com.

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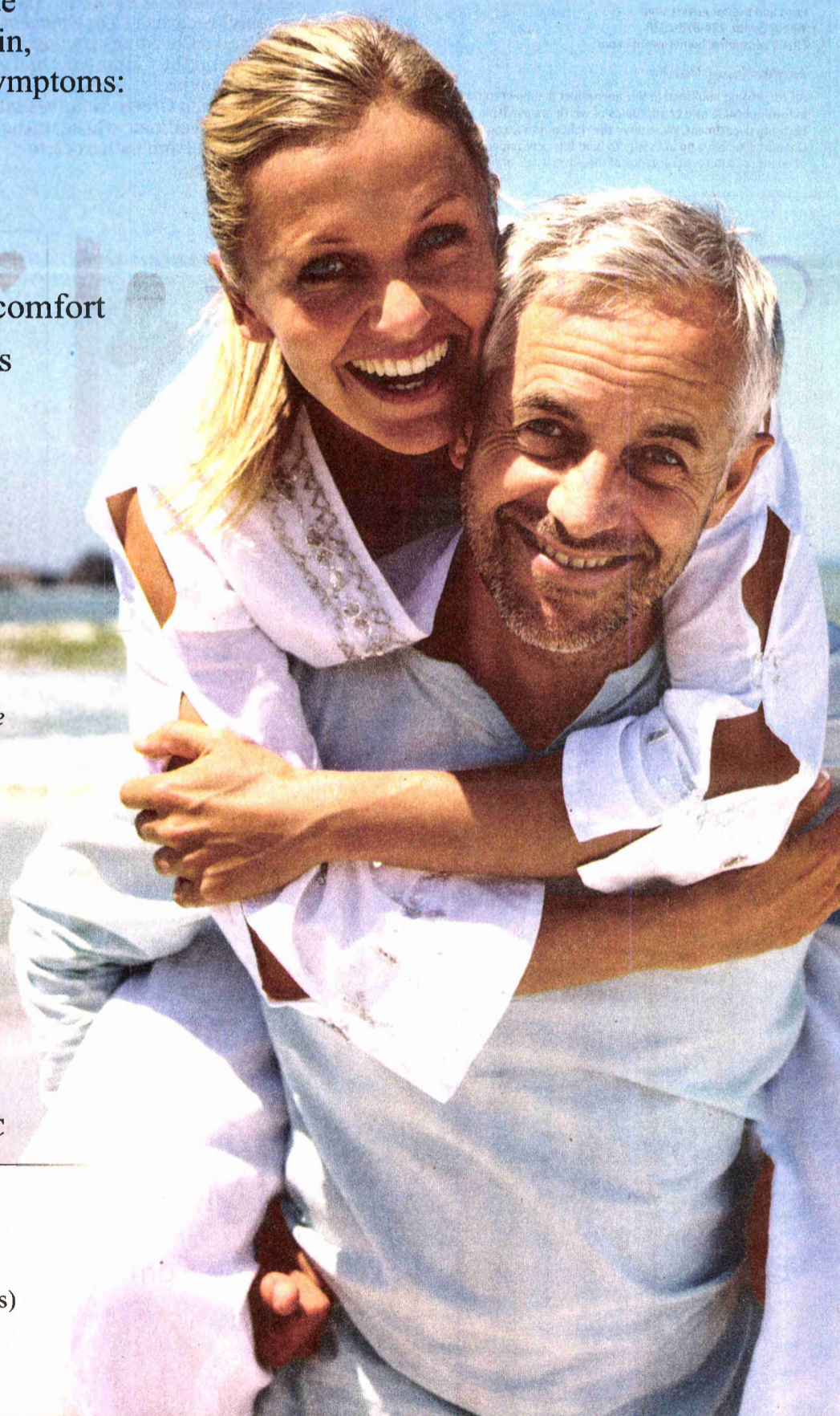
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Honor society students raise MDA awareness

A group of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park National Honor Society students recently hosted a Trivia Night fundraiser to raise money and awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The Trivia Night took place in the Plymouth High School cafeteria.

"The cause is something close to our hearts," Canton NHS President Annie McDougall said. "I volunteered at an MDA summer camp two years ago and told my friends how meaningful it was."

The money raised from the Trivia Night will be donated to MDA at its annual Detroit Muscle Walk, a fundraiser to help kids with muscular dystrophy to attend a week long summer camp.

Teams of P-CEP students, family, friends and members of the community competed in a series of

trivia contests over the course of the evening. National Junior Honors Society volunteers from East Middle School helped the event run smoothly.

All teams were served pizza and cash prizes were awarded to the winning teams.

Tammie Groth, a teacher at East with muscular dystrophy, was honored during the evening. The Trivia Night raised \$2,835 to donate to MDA from the 170 people that were in attendance.

"Seeing how camp was able to put a smile on the faces of the kids with muscular dystrophy who attended, we decided to create a fundraiser benefiting MDA so they can continue to send the kids to summer camp and give them the best week of their lives," McDougall said.



Honor Society students recently hosted Trivia Night.

Salem to host fundraising dinner

The culinary arts program at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools is hosting a Valentines Day fundraising dinner Thursday at Salem High School.

Diners will get a four-course meal prepared by the P-CEP culinary team that includes appetizers, an artichoke-tomato-leek ragout, shellfish, chicken dishes with a potato parsnip gratin and glazed vegetables and dessert. Alternatives are available and participants should inform the staff of any food allergies at time of ticket purchase.

There will be two seating times for the event, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Rock Cafe at Salem, 48181 Joy Road.

Tickets, at \$35 each, can only be purchased in advance and are available by calling 734-667-2755 or by visiting the Old World Olive Co, 467 Forest, in downtown Plymouth.

Start-up charter high school adds 10th grade

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

New School High, a teacher-run charter high school academy set to open in Plymouth Township in September, is reserving slots for up to 25 10th-graders for its first year.

School leader Cynthia Burnstein said Friday that the school received approval from its board and from its chartering organization, Central Michigan University, for adding a 10th grade.

School officials were planning to start New School with ninth-graders only, adding a grade in each of the next three years, but Burnstein said its individualized curriculum will be

flexible enough to accommodate 10th-graders, plus the demand in the community for 10th-grade spots was strong.

"There really has been a lot of interest for students who will be going into the 10th grade next year," she said.

The idea of beginning the school with freshmen only, Burnstein said, was to make it easier to build the type of school culture the founders plan, but the school can also benefit from the leadership abilities sophomores might have.

School enrollment for the first year will be limited to 125, with up to 25 of them sophomore transfer students, the rest freshmen.

Burnstein said that, when all four grades are filled, the plan is to have a maximum enrollment of 400.

New School, Burnstein said, is built around the latest research in educating high school students. There will be individual lesson plans, an emphasis on project-based learning over memorization, health and wellness education for all four years and later start times, among other departures from traditional high schools. There is no tuition, entrance examination or grade prerequisites.

Burnstein is a retired Salem High School English teacher and co-founded the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's Spectra pro-

gram, a school-within-a-school that reduced the failure rates in ninth- and 10-grade core classes.

New School will be leasing the education wing of the Risen Christ Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth Township, as its first home.

A school open house is planned for 2:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, and 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23; visitors can tour the school and meet staff members. Use the McLumpha Road entrance.

For more information on the school, go to newschoolhigh.org.

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Canton has lengthy list of goals to improve the township

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Buoyed by a spirit of optimism, Canton officials have embarked on a far-reaching list of goals to steer the community long after the Great Recession has become just a bitter memory.

"We're now in a position of strength," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "We're on solid ground and should be in that position for years to come, I think."

The latest financial projections indicate Canton ended last year with a \$7.4 million general fund balance, Finance Director Wendy Trumbull said, but those numbers could potentially improve as an outside auditing firm, Plante

Moran, conducts an independent analysis.

LaJoy, his administration and the township board have carved a path forward by developing a long-range blueprint that includes poring over the budget on a quarterly basis to sustain the health of a government that provides services for over 90,000 residents with 338 full-time employees and 225 part-timers and seasonal workers.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said Canton for the last few years had been in survival mode.

"We're now in a position where we can move beyond simply surviving to address some of the things that need to be addressed," she said.

"We're working hard

in Canton to make it a desirable place to live and do business. We need to continue to do that."

To that end, here's a mere sampling of a vast number of Canton's latest goals, unveiled Tuesday during a township board session:

Strengthen efficiency

» Move to have all Canton departments accredited by outside agencies by 2016 – a first for any Michigan community. Canton Public Safety and Leisure Services already are accredited, leaving just the fire and municipal services departments.

Officials say the process could make Canton an even more desirable place for residents and

businesses.

» Develop future development objectives by conducting a joint session between the township board and planning commission.

» Implement new security policies to protect Canton's computers and networks from malicious attacks.

» Return to pre-recession employee staffing levels.

Maintain fiscal stability

» Align revenues with cost of service and update fees.

» Develop long-range funding solutions for township goals.

» Become involved in any potential changes to regional water-sewer services.

» Seek opportunities to refinance debt for cost savings.

Develop the workforce

» Cross-train employees in certain areas to provide more efficiency.

» Restore and fill the fire marshal position.

» Deliver customer service training for all front-line employees.

» Implement diversity and cultural training.

Provide top-notch service

» Evaluate a community-wide automated collection for recyclables.

» Complete the first year of a residential inspection program.

» Complete a study to potentially partner with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for water storage at a Canton-based DWSD facility, rather than building a new facility.

Promote the community

» Promote Canton to Realtors and brokers.

» Expand partnerships with community groups.

» Update Canton Community Television as needed.

Educate/inform residents

» Use a Municipal Services Department YouTube channel to produce and air videos for residents.

» Conduct community forums on police practices.

» Educate residents about leisure opportunities.

» Roll out new mobile apps to connect Canton and its residents.

» Continue using social media to communicate with residents.

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Western Wayne County lawmakers on PAC leadership team

Two newly elected lawmakers from western Wayne County — one who represents Redford and one who represents Canton — have been elected to serve as officers of the MI Women Win PAC, which is dedicated to supporting progressive women candidates seeking seats in the state Legislature.

Rep. Leslie Love, D-Detroit, whose district includes Redford, has been elected as vice-chair; Rep. Kristy Pagan, whose district includes Canton, has been elected as secretary for 2015-16.

State Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright, D-Muskegon, has been elected to serve as chairwoman. Rep. Vanessa Guerra, D-Saginaw, is treasurer.

"I have been concerned with issues such as pay equity and assuring access to women's health all my life, and

these matters have been close to my heart as a legislator," Hovey-Wright said.

"That is why MI Women Win was formed — so that we could recruit, mentor and support other women who want to serve our state and fight for full equality for women."

Hovey-Wright founded the Progressive Women's Caucus in 2011, the year she joined the Michigan House of Representatives.

PWC members formed MI Women Win in order to encourage progressive women to seek office, so that the Legislature would hear more women's voices calling for policies that will improve the lives of

Michigan women and families.

"MI Women Win was instrumental in identifying, encouraging and supporting progressive women candidates seeking seats in the Michigan House of Representatives in 2014 and I look forward to continuing that mission in the next campaign," Love said.

"The women candidates that MI Women Win endorse understand the importance of issues such as equal pay and access to health care," Pagan said.

"These issues underline a woman's ability to care for and support her family. When a woman earns a fair paycheck and can get the medical care she needs, she helps her family build financial security — something all Michigan families need."



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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OPTIMIST MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Location: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton
Details: The Canton Optimist Club holds an organizing meeting in Arts Room 2. All planning to be discussed and prospective members as well as interested persons should attend. This will be an actual Optimist Club-type meeting for this new club, including discussions for potential service projects and more.

Contact: For additional information, contact Don Brose at 248-736-8833 or broseelectric@msn.com or Linda Brooks at 313-570-6046 or lybb_1999@yahoo.com

'DOWNTON ABBEY' TEA

Date/Time: Sunday, March 2, 2-4 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main
Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts a "Downtown Abbey Tea." The highlight of the afternoon, aside from the scrumptious tea delicacies, will be the fashion show of styles based on the popular *Downton Abbey* TV series. The fashion

show will be presented by reenacting members of the Plymouth Living History Troupe of the Plymouth Historical Museum. Tickets are \$25 for members of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum and \$30 for non-members, before March 20; after that date add \$5 to the price.

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

PARENTING TIPS

Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 5, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: Tonda Elementary School, 46501 Warren, Canton
Details: In "Top 10 Essential Parenting Strategies for Success," Dr. Pam McCaskill, owner/director of McCaskill Family Services, will present the "best of the best" parenting tips for managing behavior, improving self-esteem, and motivation. Free child care is available (call 734-416-2937).

Contact: To register, go to <http://communityeducation.pccs.k12.mi.us/>

COLBECK HOURS

Date/Time/Location: Friday, Feb. 6, 4-5 p.m., Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road
Details: State Sen. Patrick

Colbeck and District Manager Penny Crider will hold office hours in Wayne. Colbeck will be available to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. This is an opportunity for local residents to meet with Colbeck to address issues related to state government. No appointment is necessary.

Contact: For more information or to contact Colbeck, go to www.senatorpatrickcolbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

PAGAN HOURS

Dates/Times: Fourth Monday of the month, 7 p.m.; fourth Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.
Locations: Monday, Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road, Canton; Saturday, Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road, Belleville
Details: State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, announces the schedule for her monthly coffee hours. Pagan invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents. Pagan encourages interested residents to sign up for her e-newsletter, which will provide updates of her work at the Capitol and in the community.

Contact: To sign up, interested individuals should go to pagan.houseedems.com. Residents can also contact Pagan in her Lansing office at 517-373-2575.

DROP-IN KNITTING

Date/Time: Third Tuesday of each month, 1-2 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Township Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging offers drop-in knitting and crocheting classes. If you need help finishing a project or starting a new project, then this is the place to come. Beginners are welcome. Each class has a donation of \$2. Instructor is Dori Mefford.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

U-M ALUMNI NETWORKING

Date/Time: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Location: Liberty Street Brewing Co., 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth

Details: The University Of Michigan Alumni Club of Greater Northville hosts a professional networking event for seasoned and new professionals. The featured speaker will be fellow Michigan alumni Sally Schmall, owner of the Coaching Academy. She will share simple strategies to help your message resonate with others, followed by small networking/discussion groups based on career interests. A light dinner and a drink will be provided. Cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

CRAFTERS WANTED

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 17
Location: West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth
Details: Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society of women in education, will host its 31st annual craft show to help provide scholarships for Plymouth-Canton students. There are still openings for crafters who are interested in joining the event. Join DKG along with the AAUW used book sale and reserve a booth.

Contacts: For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at debortellini@comcast.net or call 734-451-1525.

COACHES NEEDED

Date/Time: Saturdays in spring and fall
Location: Bilkie Family Field, downtown Plymouth
Details: The Miracle League of Plymouth, the league providing opportunities for special-needs players to enjoy the game of

baseball, needs volunteer coaches for its spring and fall seasons.

Contact: Anyone interested in donating their time or who has questions can contact Shari Bilkie via email at shari@miracleleagueplymouth.org

OLGC GALA

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Italian-American Club of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile
Details: Our Lady of Good Counsel hosts "Women of Our Lady," the church's inaugural dinner-dance gala. Couples, families and singles are welcome to the family-style dinner, which features oven-roasted chicken and potatoes, vegetables and dip, green beans almondine and beverages. Dress code is after-5 attire; doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner is at 7 p.m.

Contact: To register or for more information, email Marcella Corona at march1317@aol.com or call 248-305-7155.

CLOTHING BANK

Date/Time: Every fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship clothing bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship sponsors a clothing bank every fourth Saturday. No documentation is needed. Drop-off is available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Canton Christian Fellowship is located on at Joy Road, west of Haggerty.

Contact: For more information, email info@cantoncf.org or call 734-404-2480.

STONEFLIES SEARCH

Date/Time: Feb. 14, 9 a.m.
Location: U-M Dearborn
Details: Friends of the Rouge is looking for volunteers Saturday, Feb. 14, who want to help look for stoneflies in the Rouge River. Valentine's Day was chosen this year as it is falls during the time organizers say stoneflies hatch from the river and go looking for love. Searchers meet at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit.

Contact: Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 30 on the FOTR website www.therouge.org or by calling 313-792-9621.

PFLAG MEETING

Date/Time: First Sunday of each month, 3-5 p.m.
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Ply-

mouth
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 threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

Contact: Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

LIBRARY BAG SALES

Dates: 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@cchcnet.net.

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third Thursday 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.



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1. The Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active service, with at least one day of service during a wartime period. (Service need not have been in a war zone.)
2. The Veteran must not have been dishonorably discharged.
3. The claimant must have limited income and assets. This is the number one criteria most claimants are misinformed of – "limited" income and assets are influenced by many factors. If you believe a claimant cannot qualify based upon income and assets, you are likely incorrect. Often the VA will tell claimants they do not qualify, but they do not disclose the possibility the claimant may become qualified. The VA certainly will not educate a claimant on how to become qualified.
4. The claimant must have a permanent and total disability, which was caused without willful misconduct of the claimant. (The VA considers anyone 65 years of age and older disabled.)
5. The Veteran or widow(er) must submit a signed application to the VA.


ACCREDITATION BY THE VA
 As of June 23, 2008, the VA requires those assisting claimants to be accredited by the VA BEFORE they can legally provide assistance to a claimant. In order to protect a claimant who is going through the VA process, make sure you are seeking assistance from a VA Accredited Agent. Nicole Wipp of Family & Aging Law Center, PLLC, is a VA Accredited Attorney.

2015 Improved Pension, Housebound and Aid & Attendance Rates		
	Monthly	Annually
Single Veteran		
Improved Pension:	\$1,072	\$12,868
Housebound:	\$ 1,310	\$15,725
Aid & Attendance:	\$1,788	\$21,466
Married Veteran		
Improved Pension:	\$1, 404	\$16,851
Housebound:	\$1,642	\$19,710
Aid & Attendance:	\$2,120	\$25,448
Surviving Spouse		
Improved Pension:	\$719	\$8,630
Housebound:	\$879	\$10,548
Aid & Attendance:	\$1,149	\$13,794

benefits are supplements to the Improved Pension benefit and also are not connected to service-related benefits.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR IMPROVED PENSION, HOUSEBOUND AND AID & ATTENDANCE BENEFITS

The following five criteria must be met before a Veteran or widow(er) can receive benefits from the VA:



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On display in the Detroit Institute of Art's African American Collection, is Quilting Time by Romare Bearden.

DIA offers free bus ride from Canton Wayne County Day

The Detroit Institute of Arts is providing free bus transportation to and from the museum Saturday, Feb. 28, for Wayne County residents as part of its "County Days," which provides this service four times per year for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Visitors can browse the collection, see the DIA's "guest of honor," Rembrandt's Self Portrait with Shaded Eyes, on loan from the Leiden Collection, New York, and make their own work of art in the DIA Studio.

Three free exhibitions are on view: Ordinary People by Extraordinary Artists: Works on Paper by Degas, Renoir and Friends; Photographs from the Detroit Walk-in Portrait Studio by Corine Vermeulen and Make a Joyful Noise: Renaissance Art and Music at Florence Cathedral.

Parking is available at each departure location. Round-trip transportation and admission are free, but reservations are required. To reserve a spot, call 313-833-4005 or go to tickets.dia.org.

The western Wayne County locations and

schedule are:

» Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St. The Van Gogh Bus leaves the community center at 9:30 a.m. and leaves from the DIA at 2 p.m.

» Canton Public Library (park on west side of library), 1200 S. Canton Center Road. The Monet Bus leaves the library at 9:30 a.m. and leaves the DIA at 2 p.m.

» Handy Park, 26650 Capitol St., Redford. The Picasso Bus leaves the park at 10 a.m. and leaves the DIA at 2:30 p.m.

The DIA is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission (excludes ticketed exhibitions) is free for Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county residents and DIA members. For all others, admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors ages 62 and older and \$4 for ages 6-17. For membership information, call 313-833-7971.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is at 5200 Woodward, Ave., Detroit. For more information, call 313-833-7900 or go to www.dia.org.

Colbeck: Not sure sports official assault bill is the right answer

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A proposed bill introduced in the Michigan Senate that would charge those who assault sports referees and coaches



Colbeck

with a felony is something local state Sen. Patrick Colbeck isn't sure is the right answer.

Colbeck, a Republican who represents Wayne, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, Northville Township and Livonia, said the bill, introduced last month, may add additional protections that he believes the state government should not add.

"It's dangerous to go off and take that approach," he said. "I think our laws are made for the equal benefit for everyone."

The bill, Senate Bill 32, was introduced by Sen. Morris Hood, D-Detroit, in January and was placed in the judiciary committee, one Colbeck sits on in Lansing. If approved, it would make the assault or battering of a sports official, such as a referee or coach, a felony punishable by up to three years of imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Currently, assaulting a referee or other individual follows standard assault laws, which is a misdemeanor.

The bill comes after a referee, Westland resident John Bieniewicz, was allegedly assaulted last summer at Livonia's Mies Park by an adult soccer player in a match Bieniewicz was officiating. He later died from his injuries. The suspect in his death, 36-year-old



Westland resident John Bieniewicz was assaulted last summer at Livonia's Mies Park by an adult soccer player in a match Bieniewicz was officiating. He later died from his injuries. The suspect in his death, 36-year-old Dearborn resident Bassel Saad, is set to go to trial on second-degree murder charges Feb. 23.

Dearborn resident Bassel Saad, is set to go to trial on second-degree mur-

der charges Feb. 23.

Colbeck, who recently began representing Livonia in the Senate after redistricting, said he doesn't believe a special class of protections should be added to certain professions and not others.

He said while his heart goes out to the family of those affected by crimes like this, he said penalties should be consistent.

"If you assault somebody, you should be associated with the penalties of assault," he said.

Ken Shingledecker, director of operations for the Livonia City Soccer Club, said he has not heard much about the bill since it was proposed, but having the discussion over the issue is some-

thing that's important in this day and age.

"I would say any steps that people feel need to be taken to protect officials and coaches are good steps," he said. "It's obviously an important topic that needs to be talked about."

Colbeck said the way to correct issues surrounding the treatment of sports officials and others should be something that should be done without having to be legislated.

"People need to start pulling out the idea that we should be loving our neighbors as ourselves. We're not doing that anymore," he said. "You have to solve it with a change of heart."

The bill currently remains in committee.



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LEGO, library add up to fun for local kids

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Burke Pongracz, 6, and sister Isabella, 9, are big LEGO fans.

"It's really fun, because there are no rules," said Isabella, a fourth-grader at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth, where her brother is a first-grader. "You can just make whatever you want."

Agreed Burke, "I like to create stuff." Mom Blythe Pongracz of Canton had brought their children to the Plymouth District Library for the monthly LEGO Club, which meets 4-5:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the library, 223 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth.

"Bins and bins full of LEGO," Blythe Pongracz said of their Canton home. They're also big fans of *The LEGO Movie*.

"We own it, actually," Isabella said, adding her family just watched it. "It's awesome. It's one of the best movies on Earth."

Their parents like it when Burke and Isabella play with LEGOs. "It's amazing what they create. He can build really intricate models," Blythe Pongracz said. Isabella learned how to write their names in LEGO blocks, which are in their rooms.

"And then they can play together, too, which is nice," she added, agreeing the creativity of LEGOs is a plus.

Burke and Isabella



JULIE BROWN
Siblings Sophie Gladd, 4, and Jack Gladd, 6, (foreground) of Plymouth work with friends who are also siblings to each other, Burke Pongracz, 6, and Isabella Pongracz, 9, of Canton.

"It's really fun, because there are no rules. You can just make whatever you want."

ISABELLA PONGRACZ
Our Lady of Good Counsel School fourth-grader

were eager for the LEGO Club to get started Thursday, Feb. 5. They were soon joined by their friends Sophie and Jack Gladd of Plymouth. Sophie, 4, is a preschooler at Academic Gardens while Jack, 6, is a first-grader at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The LEGO Club has met about a year and a half, said Carol Champagne, PDL department head for youth services. "We usually get between 15 and 20 kids over the

course of the hour and a half."

She hasn't found the movie release a big factor in drawing families to the LEGO Club, noting the ongoing popularity of the plastic building blocks. The library has how-to books for LEGO builders as well as stories about characters like Bob the Builder related to LEGO.

Champagne noted the children's books aren't challenging, but are fun. "Grown-ups read things that aren't highbrow," she said. "It's a lot of work for little ones."

Library staffers are mulling expanding the Thursday activities beyond LEGO. Champagne said when she was young there were only a handful of LEGO colors. "We were more into Lincoln Logs," she said. "I remember Tinker Toys."

The LEGO Club doesn't require a sign-up ahead of time and kids don't need to stay the entire hour and a half. It doesn't meet during the summer.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



JULIE BROWN
Burke Pongracz, 6, of Canton and sister Isabella Pongracz, 9, work on LEGO creations at the club.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:55
3D SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
4:55, 9:25
SEVENTH SON (PG-13)
11:40, 2:20, 7:05
FRI/SAT LS 11:50
3D SEVENTH SON (PG-13)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
4:45, 9:30
PROJECT ALMANAC (PG-13)
11:10, 1:45, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
FRI/SAT LS 11:35
THE LOFT (R)
FRI-SUN, TUE-WED 4:40, 7:20
THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R)
11:50, 2:10, 9:50
AMERICAN SNIPER (R)
1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:10

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Wayne-Westland history teacher best in nation

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

According to her colleagues, Michele Anderson has two passions: teaching history and a love and appreciation for honoring veterans.

And it was those two passions that won the John Glenn High School teacher the 2014 National History Teacher of the Year award from HISTORY® and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Anderson was in New York in November to receive the award. The award recognizes her work on an oral history project and USO-style dances more than two years. The project started two years ago with students interviewing World War II veterans and now includes Korean War and Vietnam veterans.

"This would not have been possible without the community," Anderson said. "This community has made this award come to life. Without this community, we wouldn't have had the people to interview. The veterans are awesome, the kids are awesome."

Anderson was nominated for the award by John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham, who was asked to do it by state officials after she won the 2013 Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Award for Excellence in Teaching History from the Michigan Council for History Education. Michigan had never had a teacher win the national award until now.

Getting students excited

Ingham was at the award ceremony and noted Anderson's quote from the program: "Students get excited about history when somehow it becomes real to them."



SUE MASON

Wayne-Westland school board President Thomas Buckalew hugs National History Teacher of the Year Michele Anderson. Buckalew had told John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham to "Just watch, she'll be a star one day."

"That's what Michele is all about," he said. "For years, I have watched her make history real for students. She has spent her career making history real, taking her students on field trips to being the reality of the history they're studying to their current lives and making it real for them. She gets them engaged and makes it exciting for them."

Anderson had approached Ingham about her project three years ago, when she applied for and received a \$6,545 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.

"Without Dave Ingham, this wouldn't have happened," Anderson said. "At a time when it's getting harder to fit extra activities into the instructional program, I went to him asked, actually I told him, 'Don't tell me how I can't do this and tell me how you can support me in doing this and in filling out a three-inch application.'"

Also in New York was Wayne-Westland school board President Thomas Buckalew, who taught with Anderson at John Glenn. The chair of the social studies department, he had approached Ingham about appointing

Anderson as a co-chair as he transitioned to retirement.

"She was a fairly new and younger teacher. There were many more experienced teachers, but Tom told me, 'Just watch, she'll be a star one day' and Tom was right," Ingham said. "He was the first one that put that thought in my head."

Anderson is the chair of the social studies department and still is called by the nickname Little Buck, which she earned working with Buckalew.

"Before the presentation of the award, historian Dr. Earl Lewis, the president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, talked about that ah-ha moment when lessons and textbook words come off the page and become the fabric of the students," Buckalew said. "If anything, that is what Mrs. Anderson's oral history project does. It brings history alive to her students."

Thanks for support

Anderson thanked her husband Greg and her three children for their support in allowing her to pursue her passion. It has taken her to the World War II Museum in New Orleans and to Germany to learn about its school system. With the help of the Detroit Historical Society, she created a lesson plan to teach about students about Westland's Norway community and the part it played in Detroit becoming the Arsenal of Democracy. The lesson plan can be found on the Detroit Historical Museum's website.

Anderson continues to make history real for her students. She recently received a grant from Target that will be used for a field trip to Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, which was the muster-

ing-in point for the Vietnam veterans. The Detroit Historical Society is putting together a mock muster for students to experience, she said.

Enthusiasm for her project has gone beyond her students, who by early January had interviewed 41 veterans. She did a survey of the high school and found that students have heard about the project and planned to attend

this year's USO-style dance because "it's so much fun."

"One student went to the dance for the extra credit and enjoyed it," Anderson said. "She kept a Korean War veteran on the floor, dancing. It changed her. She's back this year, doing the interviews. The word is getting out."

Help also has come

See TEACHER, Page A12

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If you don't think human trafficking happens in your zip code, think again.

Survivor and author of "The Slave Across the Street", Theresa Flores shares her story of being a sex slave while a typical high school student in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit. Drugged, raped,



and tortured at 15, she was trafficked for 2 years to men in their 20's and 30's, all unbeknownst to her family. Now this victims' advocate is speaking out on the reality of human trafficking in the U.S.

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Pagan among women's caucus supporting paid sick leave

State Rep. Kristy Pagan, among the Progressive Women's Caucus in Lansing, has joined an effort to require paid sick leave for many workers in Michigan.

Pagan, D-Canton, has co-sponsored legislation along with Rep. Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids, and Rep. Gretchen Driskell, D-Saline, that would allow workers to take earned paid time off to recover from illnesses or care for a sick family member.

The bills would require employers to allow workers to accrue one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours they work.



Pagan

Michigan workers — about 46 percent of private sector workers — cannot take sick leave when they are ill, the PWC said in a press release.

HB 4167, introduced by Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, and a parallel Senate bill introduced by Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, would:

» Require employers to set aside one hour of

According to a 2011 study by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, more than a million

paid sick leave for every 30 hours an employee works, regardless of whether an employee is part time or full time.

» Stipulate when a worker could use this earned time off, including during their own illness, the illness of a close family member or recovery after a violent crime.

» Protect all Michigan families, including LGBT families, grandparents raising children, domestic partners raising children and single parent families.

"These common-sense proposals will let sick people take the time they need to recover from an illness and give parents the ability to care for a sick child without losing income," Pagan said in a statement. "Customers, co-workers and employers will also benefit, because encouraging the sick workers to stay home will limit the spread of diseases such as the flu or norovirus in workplaces and among the general public."

"Many people can't afford to take unpaid time off even when they have communicable diseases like the flu," Brinks said. "When a sick employee has to report to work, no one wins. Productivity suffers, it takes longer to recuperate and the health of co-workers and customers is endangered. People shouldn't have to choose between their health and their job."

Companies that fall under the Family Medical Leave Act are only required to offer unpaid sick leave to their workers. According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, Connecticut was the first state in the nation to pass a paid sick leave law.



Tewana Sullivan is greeted by her attorney, John McWilliams, as she enters court.

Suspect bound over in slow cooker death case

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

When Livonia police officer Michael Lewallen arrived outside the apartment Cheryl Livy was in at the McNamara Towers last October, he remembers seeing Tewana Sullivan in the hallway with blood on her hands and clothing.

After handcuffing her and moving her down the hallway, he said he remembers hearing her apologize.

"The defendant said, 'I'm sorry I did it, I'm sorry I did it, I'm sorry, I'm sorry,'" he said. "She was sobbing. She was crying."

Sullivan, 50, of Detroit went Thursday before 16th District Judge Sean Kavanagh at the Livonia courthouse for a preliminary examination on a charge of first-degree murder in the death of Livy, a Livonia resident.

Kavanagh bound her over on the charge, which carries a maximum of life in prison.

Sitting next to her attorney in the courthouse, Sullivan wept as Kavanagh recapped testimony heard during the preliminary exam

before binding her over. She was remanded without bond to the Wayne County Jail, where she has been held since being arrested in October.

Sullivan is accused of using a slow cooker to kill Livy in her apartment in the senior living complex. The two had known each other for several years, according to neighbors who lived in the building.

Livy died several days after the assault at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, where she was taken after the incident occurred.

Police officer Tom Blauvelt said when he arrived to the apartment, he found Livy face down on the floor, barely breathing.

"Immediately I saw a female lying by the door," he said. "The Crock-Pot was busted over her head and a cord around her neck."

Dr. Ljubisa Dragovic, the Oakland County chief medical examiner, said his report shows Livy died from blunt force trauma sustained to the head, as well as complications from the assault. He said Livy developed pneumonia following the incident

after damage from the brain impacted her respiratory functions.

That development led to her death a few days later, he said.

Dragovic said there were some fractures to the bones in Livy's face, but her skull sustained no fracturing. However, he said there was still damage to the brain.

"You don't need to fracture the skull to injure the brain," he said. "There were injuries to the brain, the surface of the brain and brain covering."

Dragovic performed the autopsy on Livy's body since she was pronounced dead in Oakland County.

The case was originally delayed after the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office requested a competency exam be performed on Sullivan. That report came back last month, allowing the court to move forward with the exam.

Sullivan is set for arraignment at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in downtown Detroit.

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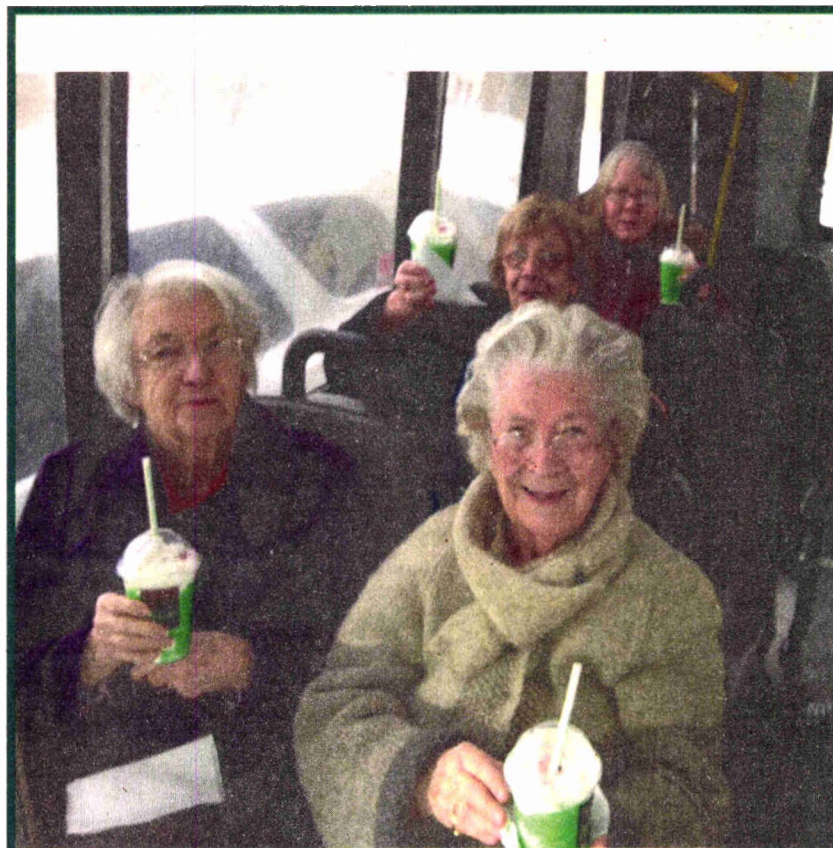
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United Way grants help families survive

Lorraine Zaksek tells the story of a family excited about celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas at a table in their home this year instead of on a bed in a hotel room.

Zaksek credits a grant from Plymouth Community United Way for making this possible. The family was homeless before acceptance into Journey to Housing, a program of the St. John Neumann Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.

"If someone is homeless, we can put them in a hotel until we can find other accommodations," said Zaksek, second vice president and outgoing president of St. John Neumann Conference. "We provide food, assistance with transportation. We're helping families maintain transportation to keep their jobs and gain their independence."

Plymouth Community United Way recently announced a total of \$469,039 in allocations, grants and designations to organizations that provided basic needs, education and human services in Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne County in 2014.

St. Vincent de Paul societies at St. John Neumann and Resurrection churches in Canton received money to help individuals and families

with utility shutoffs, eviction notices, food and clothing. In May, St. John Neumann's Journey to Housing placed its first family as part of the program which helps the homeless become financially stable over a period of 18 months to two years. Weekly in-home case management offers assistance in developing budgets and formulating goals for each family.

"In the last several weeks, we've had four homeless individuals come to our office in search of help," said Marie Morrow, Plymouth United Way president. "Journey to Housing helps families regain stability."

Today, Journey to Housing is preparing to place its fourth homeless family in a house thanks to PCUW and donations from St. John Neumann parishioners.

"The first three are doing well, still in their homes and we're leading them to financial independence. PCUW makes it possible to support this special work," Zaksek said. "There's definitely an increase in homeless people in western Wayne County because of the difficult financial times we've experienced. They've lost jobs. We're seeing people living in cars, couch surfing where they're sent from

one family member to another."

In an effort to address these issues, grants were awarded to organizations committed to creating lasting change. Among the recipients were Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (after-school tutoring program, Student Voice Leadership Group to teach skills and promote philanthropy through a hands-on service project, and GED study and test materials to enable adults to graduate). Growth Works provided substance abuse/dependency rehabilitation for youth and adults.

Plymouth Community United Way raises funds year round to support programs for youth, senior citizens, developmentally disabled adults and low-income and homeless individuals and families. To donate online, go to www.plymouthunitedway.org or mail a check to the office at 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170. For more information, call 734-453-6879.

"We are able to provide basic needs and other much needed human services because of community support," Morrow said. "We would not be able to continue our outreach without the help of the community."

District asking for help naming new school

What's in a name? Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are hoping to find out.

After nearly two years of referring to the middle school being built at Cherry Hill and Canton Center as "the new middle school," district officials have begun the process of selecting the school's name.

After surveying P-CCS staff and compiling a list of suggested names and mascots for the new school, scheduled to open in September, the district is now reaching out to parents and stakeholders in the community.

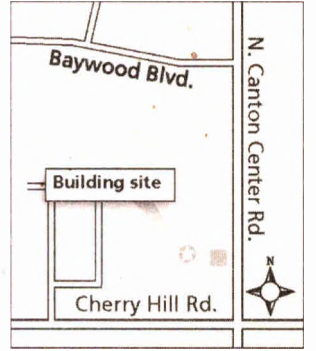
District policy dictates the names of the district's middle schools reflect either a philosophy (Pioneer, Discovery) or a

compass direction (East, West, Central). The new school will replace Central Middle School, scheduled to be closed as an educational institution at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Suggested philosophical names for the new school include Liberty, Freedom, Voyager, Renaissance, Centennial, Odyssey, Legacy, Crossroads, Endeavor and Millennium.

Mascot names suggested by staffers include Central's current mascot, Chargers, along with Huskies, Vikings, Phoenix, Knights, Stallions, Patriots, Falcons, Mavericks and Spartans.

Parents and other stakeholders are being



The new middle school being built by Plymouth-Canton Schools will be located just west of Canton Center Rd. on Cherry Hill Rd., behind Rose's restaurant.

asked to vote for one of the suggested names or propose one of their own. School names receiving the greatest number of votes will be presented to the Board of Education at its Tuesday, Feb. 10, meeting. The board will make the final decision on the school name, hopefully by the end of March.

Victory Lane collecting cash for AHA

Keeping a car running smoothly is a bit like keeping a heart running – both have to have proper maintenance.

Canton-based Victory Lane Quick Oil Change is collecting money for the American Heart Association during February.

"Just as it is important to take care of your heart, you need to take care of the heart of your vehicle," CEO/President

Justin Cialella said. "We are committed to doing both and think it's important to be involved in our local communities in many different ways."

At the end of the month, total donations will be calculated, including a match from Victory Lane, and presented to the AHA.

For more information, go to www.victorylaneoesred.org/Michigan.

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Publish: February 1, 2015
Publish: February 8, 2015

LO-000229630 3x4

Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170 ATTN: "21st Century Classroom Project - Phase 2"		
Late bids/proposals will be returned unopened. Plymouth Canton Community Schools will not consider or accept a bid/proposal received after the deadline stated herein.		
PCCS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals and waive any informality or irregularities in any qualifications should the School District consider this right to be in its best interest.		
Public Opening & Reading of Pricing	Public Opening of RFP's. Location of the public opening shall be: Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170	Feb. 17, 2015 1:00 PM EST
PCCS RFP Review	Review of Proposals by PCCS Bid Evaluation Team.	Feb. 17, 2015
Post-Bid Review Conferences	Interview shortlisted candidates. Date(s) and time(s) are subject to change. Shortlisted candidates will be advised of their post-bid review conference either by phone or email. The decision to interview candidates is at the sole discretion of the Owner.	Feb. 18 - 19, 2015 (times to be determined)
Award Date (on or after)	Intent to Award Contract shall be conducted on or after this date.	Mar. 24, 2015
Published: February 5 and 8, 2015		

Livonia Public Schools

Opens the Prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to Out-of-District Students in Wayne County

- Fifteen seats are open to students entering 9th grade in fall 2015**
- Eight seats are open to students entering 10th grade in fall 2015**
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Limited Registration Window: March 2 - March 31, 2015

Livonia Public Schools is opening its International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) to Limited Schools of Choice students from Wayne County for the 2015-16 school year. This program is a two-year college preparatory plan of study that takes place during a student's junior and senior year of high school. Students entering the IB Program are encouraged to attend Franklin High School starting in the ninth grade. IBDP students are required to take IB exams in order to earn the highly acclaimed and internationally recognized IB diploma.

Registration will be open from March 2 - 31, 2015 at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
All candidates MUST meet the IBDP selection criteria.

For complete information on the IBDP program and application process, visit the Franklin High School website at <http://www.livoniapublicschools.org/Franklin.cfm> or contact Ms. Sunshine Weber at sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org.

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

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 5C, consisting of:

- Partial Asphalt Pavement Replacement Projects
- Roof Replacements Projects
- Media Center Upgrade Projects
- Partial Exterior Door Replacement Projects
- Electrical Work for the Canton High School Science Lab Remodel & Salem High School Dance Studio Remodel Projects

will be received at the office of Mr. Patrick Briggs, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

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

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 102: Asphalt / Site Concrete | 103: Selective Demolition |
| 109: Roofing / Sheetmetal | 114: Aluminum Entrances / Glass & Glazing |
| 117: Acoustical Treatment | 118: Carpeting |
| 120: Painting | 142: HVAC |
| 143: Electrical | |

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

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Monday, February 9, 2015 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Monday, February 9, 2015, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

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

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 1:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

END OF SECTION
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Request for Proposals

Plymouth Canton Community Schools

"21st Century Classroom Project - Phase 2"

Sealed responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be accepted for the 21st Century Classroom Project at the Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center located at 454 S. Harvey St, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

Bidders MUST comply with the Pre-Bid Process as prescribed below:

Bid Publication	On or after the aforementioned date, an Invitation-to-Bid will be available to interested Vendors. Request for Proposals (RFP) drawings and documentation, which describes the project in detail, will be available by contacting Russ Gill russ.gill@stantec.com at Stantec Architecture (formerly SHW Group) email only. Site visitation shall be scheduled on February 4, 2015 at 3:00pm at West Middle School, located at 44401 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170 A second visitation will be scheduled on February 5, 2015 at 3:00pm EST (if required).	Feb. 2, 2015
Pre-Bid Meeting	A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held at the following location: Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170 Attendees shall meet in the PCCS "Board Room" at the appointed date and time.	Feb. 4, 2015 1:30 PM EST
Bidder's Questions	Deadline for all questions pertaining to this RFP shall be issued in writing (email) and directed to the Bid Administrator: russ.gill@stantec.com .	Feb. 11, 2015 by 12:00 Noon EST
Answers to Bidder's Questions	Responses to questions will be issued on an addendum and submitted through NewForma to the interested Vendors. Deadline for delivery of bids.	Feb. 12, 2015 by 3:00 PM EST
Proposals Due	Proposals shall be delivered as stated above to the following address:	Feb. 17, 2015 by 1:00 PM EST
Published: February 5 and 8, 2015		

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TEACHER

Continued from Page A9

from the members of the social studies department who have "put in countless hours" and "have always been there," as well as the school staff and music teacher Scott Cramer who, with his students, provides the entertainment for the dances. This year's Vietnam USO dance will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in the high school cafeteria.

"Six hundred people were at the first dance and last year, there were 700," Anderson said. "This year I told them we may need a bigger venue for the Vietnam veterans. The Korean and World War II veterans who attended want to come back."

In addition to the state and national Teacher of the Year awards, Anderson also has received the Michigan Historical Commission's John B. Swainson Award for her efforts to preserve the memory of Michigan's defense workers and World War II veterans. She also has been VFW District 4 Teacher of the Year and, last year, she and Cramer received the Voya Financial Unsung Hero Award.

Ingham admits that the national award "is the most distinguished award I've had the privilege to be associated with."

And he said of Anderson, "I couldn't be prouder of her."

smason@hometownlife.com
734-674-2332

Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

Online videos explain water bills

You're probably not alone if you are confused about how your water bill is generated.

Now there are online videos that help explain that process to customers.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's Technical Advisory Committee Water Rates Work Group created a Billing

Process Improvement Subcommittee to identify best practices for presenting information on suburban retail water bills.

Subcommittee members developed a set of videos to help suburban retail customers throughout the service area better understand their water bills and the costs associated with providing this service.

The latest video explains how using less water does not lower the fixed costs to supply it. Other video topics include the real cost for a gallon of municipal water, how to reduce your water bill and why rates keep going up.

The videos can be viewed on the DWSD Outreach Operation Clean Water YouTube Channel.

Cut! State rep wants film fund ended

By Kathleen Gray and Julie Hinds

Michigan.com

LANSING — A Republican state representative wants to bring the curtains down on incentives given to the film industry to produce movies in Michigan.

The incentives were extended last year to last until the end of 2021, but state Rep. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway, wants to see them ended when the state's new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

"I want to see if we can't use that money better somewhere else," he said. "I don't see where the money we're putting into film incentives is creating a sustainable industry."

He has introduced a bill that would end the incentives this year. And with a new, more conservative Legislature installed in the state Capitol, the legislation could gain some traction.

And the biggest cheerleader for the incentives — former Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, who increased the incentives from the \$25 million a year proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder to \$50 million — won't be around to save the incentives in 2015 because of term limits.

"It's surprising that people who are relatively



JOHN FROELICH | MICHIGAN.COM

A Detroit scene during filming of "Batman v. Superman Dawn of Justice."

new come in and look at a \$50-billion budget, and they want to concentrate on one-tenth of 1 percent," Richardville said. "But there's a bigger picture that people are missing."

In fiscal year 2014, 27 projects were approved for nearly \$64 million in film incentives on a projected \$245 million in in-state spending. They were expected to generate almost 2,200 hires with a full-time equivalent of roughly 1,300 jobs.

The largest project to film here last year was

Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice, the big-budget movie starring Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill. It's shot in and around Detroit and East Lansing and used Pontiac's Michigan Motion Picture Studios as a filming site and home base.

Batman v. Superman was given the OK for \$35 million in incentives on an anticipated \$131 million in Michigan spending. This year, six movies, two television shows and seven digital media projects are expected to be made in

Michigan, according to the Michigan Film Office.

The passage in late 2014 of Richardville's bill to keep the incentives alive through 2021 was considered a positive signal to Warner Bros., which has a slate of DC superhero movies planned through the rest of the decade. Michigan is among the leading contenders for location work.

Batman v. Superman director Zack Snyder told WXYZ-TV before leaving town that "it's my hope to come back."

In addition, the state has invested pension money into the burgeoning film industry in the state and to bail on it now would be fiscally irresponsible, Richardville said. The state of Michigan Retirement Systems, which manages the pension funds of state employees, teachers, police officers and judges, guaranteed \$18 million in tax-exempt bonds that helped finance the building of the Pontiac studio.

"Sometimes they forget to look that during the program, the state has invested pension funds in a motion picture studio," he said. "So we're on the hook for it."

Lauwers said he would love to see a robust film industry in the state, "I just don't want to have to buy it."

Arthritis Today

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EXERCISING JUDGEMENT

Common sense says that if a person starts jogging and a knee begins to hurt, stop jogging. This admonition may be sound advice if one is young and otherwise healthy. This advice may not be in a person's best interest who is old and not in good condition.

If one is older, and for this discussion, older would mean over age 50, it is best to find out why the knee hurts, correct the problem and return to jogging. The best medicine a person can take is regular exercise; nothing substitutes for it. Fulfilling this requirement comes imperative in a Michigan winter.

Now the days provide little sun and no warmth; the incentive each morning is to stay home as long as possible. The elderly, people over age 70, often have the opportunity to remain home all day. Physicians will tell their patients don't take that option.

Staying home leads to hardly moving. Going from living room to kitchen to bathroom back to living room to watch television, then later to the front door to pick up the newspaper at the doorstep, is not exercise. To bones, joints and muscles such movement is hardly more than hibernation. The body needs activity, the brain requires stimulation, and the heart wants contact with others. To accomplish these ends requires movement.

In turn, movement depends on the elderly person exercising judgment. Each person has his or her set of circumstances: is with a partner or lives alone, has macular degeneration or remains able to drive, has recurrent heart failure or is in general good health. Individuals must pick their way so that despite their liabilities or with the assets they possess, they find a way to satisfy the needs of body, brain and heart.

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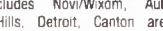
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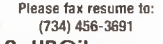
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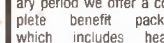
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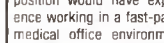
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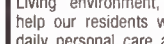
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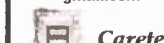
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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA

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Kensington ice harvesting program offers hands-on look at local history

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

Fans of Disney's *Frozen* recently had a first-hand experience of the movie's opening scene when Kensington Farm Center presented its annual Ice Harvesting program.

Those who have never seen the wildly-popular animated film were welcome, too, of course, as Farm Center staff talked to visitors about ice harvesting: why were blocks of ice once cut from a frozen body of water – the Huron River, in this case – and how?

The event also offered participants a chance to do some ice harvesting of their own.

Some 100 people turned out last week for a look in the past.

"Ice harvesting used to be big business here locally," said Kensington Farm Center Interpreter Chris Williams, who headed up the weekend events. "We had a commercial ice house just a few miles from (the Farm Center) and another in downtown Brighton."

Before introduction of refrigerators and freezers, he added, the ice harvesting business was listed as one of the "top 10 money makers" in the U.S., but became obsolete by about 1950.

Still, once every year, in late January or early February, Williams lays a grid of 2-by-2-foot squares on the frozen river to show visitors how it was done, using



Chris Williams talks to the crowd about the history of ice harvesting.

5-foot-long ice saws, ice tongs and pike poles to demonstrate cutting the ice, popping out the blocks, ferrying each to the edge of the water and out of the water.

After the demonstration, visitors were invited to try for themselves.

"Those 2-by-2 blocks weight about 200 pounds apiece," Williams said, noting, ideally, ice was harvested once it was frozen to a thickness of about 12 inches. "Sometimes we've got 3- and 4-year-olds who want to try, so we'll cut it down to smaller sizes for the kids."

Williams, who boasts his own set of ice harvesting tools, collected over the years at antique shops, estimates he's been demonstrating ice harvesting at the Farm Center for about 18 years now.



Four-year-old Ethan Anderson of Brighton gets some help from his dad, Pete Anderson, as he pushes a large block of ice with a pike during an ice harvesting demonstration at Kensington Metropark's Farm Center.

"I get a lot of personal enjoyment out of it," he said.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com



White Lake residents Sean Montagione, 10, and Gabriel Puckett, 11, try their hand at ice harvesting.

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300-plus same-sex marriages recognized by state

By Tresa Baldas
Michigan.com

In 1993, Lisa Bashert's partner proposed to her by phone, popping the question while she was at work.

More than two decades later, Bashert would learn her nuptials were valid — this time by text.

At 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, Bashert received this text message from her partner of 26 years: "Snyder just recognized our marriage."

The text from Beth Bashert was referring to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who announced Wednesday that Michigan will recognize more than 300 same-sex marriages that were performed during a brief window of opportunity last year.

Lisa Bashert, 57, and Beth Bashert, 54, of Ypsilanti were among those

couples as they officially tied the knot in a ceremony that included a rabbi, chuppah, 80 guests and a cake with roses. They had had a commitment ceremony years before, but this was the real deal: a wedding, in their home state and it was legal.

"I don't know what to do. I'm just speechless," Lisa Bashert said, noting the gay-marriage issue has been a decisive one in Michigan. "It's just been so up and down, up and down ... and after so many ups and downs it's hard to have an emotional reaction. It's hard to really let it into my heart."

It's also not the end of the real struggle: to legalize gay marriage for everyone, "not just the 300 of us who happened to have the opportunity on that day last year," Bashert said, adding she is relieved that Snyder

acted as he did.

In a boost to the escalating gay-marriage movement — it's legal now in 36 states — Snyder said he will not appeal U.S. District Judge Mark Goldsmith's ruling last month that Michigan must recognize 300 same-sex marriages that were performed last March. The marriages were performed after another federal judge — U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman — overturned Michigan's voter-approved same-sex marriage ban on constitutional grounds.

That decision got overturned on appeal and is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, which will ultimately decide the gay-marriage issue. The state of Michigan had long argued that it would not recognize the 300 same-sex marriages that were performed last



Beth and Lisa Bashert of Ypsilanti embrace before getting married at the Washtenaw County Clerk's Office in Ann Arbor on March 22.

March pending appeals. But Goldsmith said the state had to because, he held, the marriages are valid.

"The judge has determined that same-sex couples were legally married on that day, and we will follow the law and extend state marriage benefits to those couples," Snyder said.

State Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland, one of the co-authors of the 2004 constitutional amendment that banned gay marriage in Michigan, said he was disappointed with Snyder's decision.

"I think it's a sad commentary on the state of the modern judiciary when something that is the subject of law is illegal one day, then for 12 hours it's supposedly legal, then it's illegal again," Glenn said. "I think that kind of confusion breeds disrespect for the law."

Glenn said he believes Michigan voters, not judges, should be allowed to decide if same-sex marriage is a good idea or not. He said he supports the will of the 2.7 million voters who decided in 2004 that marriage

in Michigan should be defined only as a union between one woman and one man.

"My duty is to the state Constitution and to the people of Michigan, regardless of what one federal judge says," Glenn said, adding: "I'm disappointed with the decision that the governor made."

Snyder's decision stems from a lawsuit that was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan last year on behalf of eight same-sex couples who wed immediately after the state ban on gay marriage was overturned. Their marriages were in limbo as the state had refused to recognize them, until now.

"We're thankful that the state finally has made the wise choice to acknowledge the vows that these couples made and to recognize the love that these families share," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. "We're elated that, with the recognition of their marriages, these couples no longer have to live under a dark cloud of

confusion and uncertainty."

State Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, who is one of two publicly gay men in the Legislature this year, echoed that sentiment, noting he was a witness at the wedding of two friends who were among the 300 same-sex couples married last March.

"Their long-term commitment to one another is no different than any other marriage recognized by the state," said Moss, who both commended Snyder for recognizing the 300 marriages and criticized him for supporting the gay-marriage ban to begin with.

So did Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, who has long been a vocal opponent of Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage, which was approved by Michigan voters in 2004.

"While I'm thrilled that Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette are respecting the decision that the marriages performed on March 22 last year must be recognized, I wish they would have done the same with Judge Friedman's decision on same-sex marriage," Brown said, adding the state is "continuing to waste taxpayer dollars to discriminate against those who were not fortunate enough to get married during that small window."

As for the same-sex marriages that have been validated, Brown said: "It's a shame that it took nearly a year. ... The important thing is to not give up the fight."

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum applauded Snyder for his decision, stating: "Love has won today. ... This is a critical step forward in our fight to secure the freedom to marry for all Michiganders."

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

P-CEP athletes sign the dotted line

Nearly 40 from Park sign to play college sports

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nearly 40 student-athletes from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are primed to continue their respective sport in college, following Wednesday's National Signing Day events.



Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools each hosted hour-long signing events Wednesday afternoon, running the gamut from Big Ten football to Division III cheerleading.

MORE TO COME

There will be additional coverage of National Signing Day in the Thursday, Feb. 12, and Sunday, Feb. 15, issues of the *Observer*. Also check www.hometownlife.com for more.

Canton football players Adam Armesto and Colin Cafilisch will go to Columbia and Michigan State universities, respectively. Another D-I ath-

lete is Louisiana State University-bound volleyball player Olivia Beyer, a four-year standout at Plymouth.

Salem's Kylie Knight will play women's soccer at Ohio State University. She does not play for the Rocks, however, instead performing for the Elite Clubs National League's Michigan Hawks U18 team.

Not all who donned college hats, sweatshirts and T-shirts will be attending major universities, but that didn't dim their enthusiasm — or that of

coaches, teammates, family members and friends who attended the signing events.

Following are those who the three Park high schools listed as college signees, as of Wednesday:

CANTON:
Football: Armesto (Columbia University), Cafilisch (MSU).

Volleyball: Kayla Buford (Rutgers), Chloe Homco (Olivet Nazarene), Courtney Kurkie

See SIGN, Page B4

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY



Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler (center) is proud of the fact two of his players will be playing NCAA football: Columbia-bound Adam Armesto (left) and future Michigan State player Colin Cafilisch.

Big-time schools nab Canton football players

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Adam Armesto and Colin Cafilisch were on the football field for the Canton Chiefs, they turned heads with their athletic ability and work ethic.

Both are standout students, too, which did not escape the attention of Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler, talking about the two young men during Wednesday's National Signing Day program.

"It's not an easy thing to go on to the next level and play football," Baechler said. "That's whether in the Ivy League, Division II or even Division III and certainly in the Big Ten. It

FOOTBALL DUO

ADAM ARMESTO: The 6-6, 240-pound Armesto will play tight end at Columbia. He carries a 3.8 grade-point average and will pursue a degree in business. His parents are Carlos and Irene Armesto.

COLIN CAFILISCH: At 6-4 and 280 pounds, Cafilisch is slated to be backup long snapper and offensive lineman at Michigan State. He carries a 3.2 grade-point average and will pursue a career in computer science. His parents are Todd and Debbie Cafilisch.

doesn't happen every year. It's pretty special. "And the better your grades, the more doors are open for you."

Armesto, who played tight end for the 2014 Chiefs before a quad injury sidelined him, will play for Columbia University, an Ivy League school in New

York City. Besides football talent, he carries a 3.8 grade-point average.

The Ivy League isn't classified as Division I, but rather as a NCAA Football Championship Subdivision.

See CANTON, Page B3

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

She's eager to earn her stripes

Plymouth's Beyer primed to become LSU Tiger

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nobody has worked harder at athletic pursuits and done so with as wide a smile as Plymouth's Olivia Beyer.

And the reward is something to beam about for the talented volleyball middle blocker.

Beyer took part Wednesday in National Signing Day ceremonies, thrilled to finally make official her long-standing commitment to play Division I volleyball in the front row at Louisiana State University.

"It was kind of an easy choice because I knew once I visited LSU, that that's where I wanted to go," Beyer said. "It took a lot of hard work practicing with Plymouth and with my club team (Rochester-based Legacy)."

She said LSU volleyball coaches Fran Flory and Jill Lytle Wilson were "the favorite coaches that I met," making her decision even easier to make.

"They had great things to say, great things that I need to improve on and I just was very impressed with their coaching staff," Beyer said. "And I also really liked the volleyball team and the campus. It just felt like home."

"I knew right away I couldn't see myself going anywhere else. I just thought it was a really cool atmosphere and really cool campus."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Louisiana State-bound Olivia Beyer powers home a shot for Plymouth during a 2014 game.

People person

Just as thrilled about the full-ride, four-year volleyball scholarship was her dad, Jonathan Beyer. (Not able to make the signing event was her mom Carissa.)

"It's obviously really ex-

See BEYER, Page B4



Salem senior Kylie Knight drives the ball during a recent Michigan Hawks U18 game. Knight will play college soccer at Ohio State University.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Ohio State is right for Knight

Transition to Big Ten soccer doesn't phase Michigan Hawks player

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Kylie Knight already knows all about the rigors of high-level club soccer.

Because she does, the Salem High School senior is confident she'll have no problem adjusting to life as a Division I women's soccer player for Ohio State University.

"As far as club to Ohio State, I think it should be pret-

ty similar," Knight said shortly after it was her turn to pose for National Signing Day photographs in Salem's main office. "It's a high level, good competition. I think it should be a new challenge, but pretty similar."

Knight is a standout center-back for the Livonia-based Michigan Hawks U18 women's team that competes in the Elite Clubs National League.

The Plymouth resident also played in Salem's program during ninth and 10th grades.

Her ongoing career with the Hawks really kicked her skills and work ethic up a notch, Knight explained.

"My coach (Doug Lande-


feld) has helped me a lot," she said. "He puts a lot of emphasis on fitness, focus, determination, commitment — everything you need to be successful in college."

"It's a high level. I'm used to traveling. I think it'll prepare me well."

Not blue about OSU

Salem's royal blue colors served as a backdrop for Wednesday's signings (seven student-athletes took part), but Knight didn't mind strolling in wearing an Ohio State sweatshirt complete with block red letters.


See KNIGHT, Page B5



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CAMPUS RIVALRY HOOPS

'Cats win on buzzer beater

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was shades of Mike Nadratowski's winning basket four years earlier, in the same gym.

Plymouth senior Randall Aikins took a feed at the top of the lane and hit a runner as the horn sounded Friday, giving the Wildcats a 57-55 varsity boys basketball victory over the host Canton Chiefs.

"It means a whole lot," Aikins said in the still-noisy Canton gymnasium. "Me, Deji (Adebisi), Josh (Reynolds), basically the whole team's been waiting on this moment since as long as I can remember."

The win was Plymouth's first over Canton since the 2010-11 season.

Aikins — who led the Wildcats with 19 points — had just tied the game at 55-55 with under a minute to go, canning a trey from the right corner.

He got the ball again with about 20 seconds left, looking to make the play that would give his team its first win over Canton in his three-year varsity career.

After his initial attempt to win the game missed the mark, Plymouth teammate Deji Adebisi scrambled to get the loose rebound. Adebisi then passed the ball to Aikins at the top of the key.

"I thank my guys down low for tipping it out to Deji and he made a great pass to me, he saw me open," Aikins said. "I knew I had to execute off it. I couldn't let my team down."

Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup called it a "gritty, gutty win, one that quite frankly we needed."

As for the way Aikins stepped up, Soukup not-



MICHAEL VASILNEK
The game-winning shot leaves Randall Aikins' fingertips, giving Plymouth a 57-55 KLAAs victory over Canton.

ed that "what a good two-minute span for that young man, I'm real proud of him."

According to Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy, whose team is 10-3 overall and 5-2 in the division (tied with Livonia Churchill), it was a night of extreme runs by both teams.

"We had a bad run in the second quarter, we weathered that storm," Reddy said. "We had Logan (Ryan) out and Greg (Williams) out with foul trouble."

"The subs did a nice job of weathering the storm," Reddy said.

"Then in the third quarter, we were up six (36-30) and then Plymouth went on a 13-0 run, but again, credit our guys for fighting back again."

Leading the Chiefs (10-3, 5-2) with 19 points was junior Obi Okoli — who scored his team's first six points. Contributing 14 each were Ryan and Williams.

In addition to Aikins, the Wildcats' offense was fueled by the long-range shooting of Reynolds (15 points on five triples). Junior Brent

Davis chipped in with nine.

Plymouth (9-4 overall, 4-3 in the KLAAs South) trailed 15-10 after the first quarter, but roared back thanks to some hot shooting from behind the arc in the second to go up 27-26 at halftime.

The Chiefs then surged ahead in the third, taking a 36-30 lead with five minutes left following a jumper by Ryan.

Just like that, however, the Wildcats went on a tear to lead 48-40 entering the fourth. Aikins led the way with six points during that span.

Once again, Canton bounced back and finally regained the lead at 50-49 on Williams' reverse layup with 3:25 remaining.

It looked like Canton would hang on, still up 55-52 following a basket by Jalen Cochran with 1:20 to go.

That's not what happened, of course, with Aikins giving his team and fans the kind of ending they hadn't seen in quite a while.

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PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Late magic sparks Plymouth

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There were stretches of Friday's varsity girls basketball game between Plymouth and Canton that weren't pretty.

For example, the visiting Wildcats did not record a field goal until the second quarter. They were down 31-30 with a minute to play and the KLAAs South Division lead on the line.

Then came a timely steal by Plymouth senior Paige Slominski and the ball got into the hands of senior Kendall Wing — who calmly knocked down a trey with 11 seconds to go to put the Wildcats up, 33-31.

That turned out to be the final score, enabling the Wildcats to improve to 11-2 overall and 7-0 in the division. Canton, meanwhile, dropped to 7-6, 5-2.

"We just kept our composure," Plymouth senior Patti Begoske said. "We can always count on Kendall Rose and all our big shooters to finish for us."

Rose (eight points) had only recorded two points until connecting on a triple from the left corner with 1:05 left in the game to tie things up at 30-30.

Canton regained the lead at 31-30 when sophomore Erin Hult (a game-high 11 points) split a pair of free throws with under a minute left.

Then came the key sequence that led to the winning basket by Rose.

The Chiefs picked off a Plymouth pass in the Canton end of the floor, but then Slominski got the ball right back.

"We felt like over 32 minutes, our press was going to make plays when we needed them most," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "Kendall made a couple unbelievable shots, but I think the power of this team is the way we trust our



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Erin Hult (front) and Plymouth's Nadia Lengel (right) wait for the basketball to come down during Friday night's contest.

system and the way we trust each other. That was on display again."

Although Canton players were disappointed with the heartbreaking loss, they showed head coach Kevin Palmer they weren't about to throw in the towel on the rest of the season.

"I'm happy with the way that the girls responded after the game," Palmer said. "We kind of talked, they're disappointed, they're frustrated with the outcome. But they're not going to let that game define our season."

Canton still has an outside chance to catch Plymouth; both teams play three games this week (including a makeup game from Tuesday's snow day).

Beyond that, the teams can meet again in the KLAAs conference tournament and district.

There wasn't much offense early on, with the first quarter ending 6-6. It

was a 16-14 halftime lead for Plymouth, thanks to a spinning banker in the paint by junior Cassidy Lewis (nine points).

Canton then went up 26-20 after three, closing out the quarter strong on jumpers by Hult and junior Natalie Winters (six points).

The Chiefs maintained an edge for most of the final quarter, only relinquishing it late thanks to the hot shooting of Rose and Plymouth's pressure defense.

"This was a huge game for us," Brandon said. "I give Canton a lot of credit, they gave us everything we could handle for 32 minutes."

Also helping the Plymouth cause were senior Courtney LaVallee (10 points, five rebounds) and Begoske (four points, six boards).

Canton junior Madison Archibald also scored six points.

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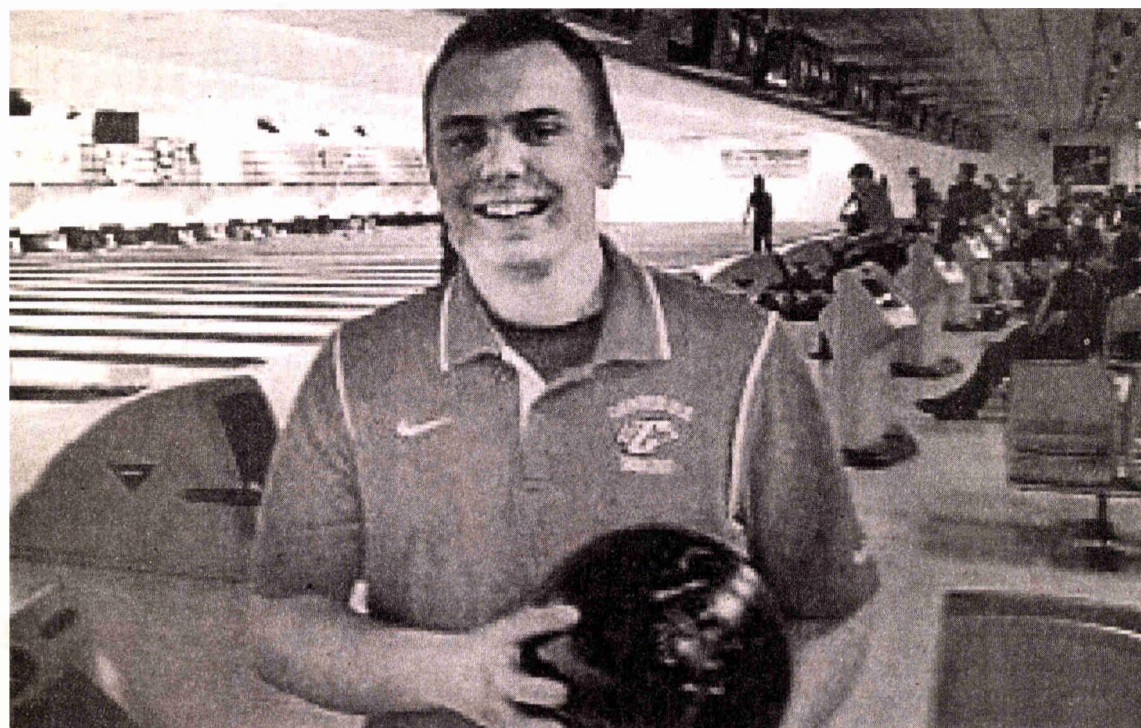
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CRISCENTI SIGNS WITH SIENA HEIGHTS



An injury forced Josh Criscenti to give up basketball for bowling. He has thrived enough in his new sport with the Canton Chiefs that he earned a college scholarship with Siena Heights.

TIM SMITH

HITTING THE POCKET

Former cager overcomes injury, hits stride as bowler for Chiefs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nailing a 7-10 split to help your high school team win a Baker game ranks right up there with basketball slams, as far as Canton senior Josh Criscenti is concerned.

OK, a lot of casual sports fans wouldn't agree with him. But Criscenti loves to bowl as much as shoot hoops, and he competed in both sports during his prep years.

It took a devastating knee injury as a freshman for Criscenti to get from point A (basketball) to point B (bowling). And soon, he will make a beeline for point C — when he bowls next year at Siena Heights College.

Criscenti last week signed his national letter of intent to go to Siena Heights, where he will bring the kind of competitive fire he always brought back during his basketball-playing days.

"I love any competitive atmosphere no matter what sport it is," said Criscenti, averaging over 200 in his second season with the varsity Chiefs. "Bowling's great, especially when we get into this high school season and get into match play."

"When it comes down to a couple balls, it doesn't get any better than that. It's being able to throw a ball under pressure. It's great."

Something new

Not so much was the dislocated knee that he suffered in 2011-12 playing freshman basketball at Canton. It rudely closed one door — but unbeknownst to Criscenti — would lead to another one opening.

"I've loved basketball all my life, and then freshman year I got my injury, I dislocated my knee," said Criscenti, whose parents are Dave and Pam Criscenti of Canton. "And I just wanted to compete. So I joined a sport that had less contact to it, obviously."

"I've been working hard and Siena Heights has a great (bowling) program. I was very lucky to have them recognize me and I'm excited to go there."

His college chance wouldn't have been possible without Scott Kapke, a longtime family friend who was Josh's personal



Josh Criscenti recently signed to bowl at Siena Heights University. In the front row, Josh (middle) is flanked by parents Dave and Pam Criscenti. In the back row (from left) are Canton bowling coach Karl Brubaker, sister Ashley Criscenti and Siena Heights coach Charles Cain.

bowling trainer over a two-year span.

"The hardest thing with the people I coach is getting them to understand the game, getting them to understand what good bowling's supposed to look like," Kapke said. "But as far as his own work, his own research, watching bowling, watching videos, watching the PBA on TV."

"He's just such a hard worker and made my job easy, really."

Still a fan

Perhaps ironically, Kapke now is in his first season as varsity bowling coach at Plymouth.

"I still root for him," Kapke admitted. "It's tough, they're bowling against Plymouth right now but I still root for him, I still watch him out of the corner of my eye."

"It's tough, but he's a great kid and Dave has been one of my best good friends for 30 years so I root for him like heck."

Kapke said he could tell from the start of their training sessions that Criscenti had the competitive drive to want to take on a new sport, and excel.

"I could tell pretty early on what my vision was for what I thought his style would be," Kapke continued. "I knew he wasn't going to be somebody who (used) the whole lane like a lot of kids."

"... His strength is repeating shots. He's just a machine. He doesn't throw the biggest hook in the world, but he understands it's about knocking the pins down, not about hooking the whole lane. He's a great spare shooter, and he just gets it. He understands it."

Criscenti didn't begin his new sport until a month before tryouts his sophomore year.

"Before sophomore year I had no idea how to bowl," Criscenti explained. "He started me completely from scratch before I ever picked up a bowling ball and he developed my game to this, he's been a huge help."

The student obviously learned from the teacher.

His passion

With Canton's varsity boys bowling team, Criscenti racked up an impressive 258 score — and he threw a 300 game over the summer in the Teen Trio Scholarship League. In the latter, he registered the highest average score (219).

According to Dave Criscenti, as crushing a blow as his son's knee injury was at the time, things have worked out almost magically.

"That was a serious injury," the elder Criscenti said. "He fought through it and he found a love in bowling. And through Scott and the Canton program good things came out of it."

"He's made a lot of friends, a lot of teammates, it's been a wonderful experience. We're very proud that he's going to be going to Siena Heights."

Not only does Josh Criscenti enjoy racking up high scores for the Chiefs, he can't get enough of the bowling environment.

"You always hope your kid finds something he loves to do with a passion," Dave Criscenti stressed. "And he found it and he's now currently working at a bowling alley (Vision Lanes in Westland)."

"He's in a bowling alley practicing every day. It's just amazing what it does."

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

College pitch to their liking

Plymouth baseball players look forward to playing at next level

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth senior first baseman Seth Hubbard wore a big smile and a nifty Concordia University baseball cap following Wednesday's National Signing Day festivities.

Hubbard then laughed when jokingly asked if the Cardinals cap still fit his head, considering it might be getting bigger thanks to signing to play college baseball.

"I just got it today, it feels real good," said Hubbard, tugging on the bill of his cap. "It fits good. ... I do have a big head."

Also chuckling nearby were Plymouth varsity baseball coach Jason Crain, and Wildcats catcher-third baseman Andrew Jossey, who signed to play at Saginaw Valley State University. Jossey also will be a Cardinal, as both Concordia and SVSU use that nickname.

"I think it's exciting," said Crain, about the signings. "And it's a commitment that us as a coaching staff has made as a team, to find anyone that would want to play at the next level and help them get there."

At Division II Saginaw Valley, Jossey will become future teammates (in the 2016 season) with former Wildcats catcher (and hockey goalie) Rich Guglielmi, a 2012 Plymouth grad.

"It will be nice to have somebody from Plymouth," said Jossey, who batted .335 in 2014. "I mean, I can remember

when I used to go to the camps. He was the catcher and he worked with me a lot. He helped me a lot. I'm sure he put in a good word."

Jossey, however, confirmed that he'll have to put his hockey career on hold. He currently is playing for Plymouth's juggernaut varsity boys hockey team, but after this season, he'll hang up the skates for a while.

"Unfortunately, yes it does," Jossey said. "All I can look forward to are the alumni games."

The opportunity to play at SVSU is something Jossey (whose parents are Pat and Jackie Jossey) is understandably enthusiastic about.

"I'm really excited for it," he said. "I'm excited about the scholarship and excited to play there."

Hubbard, another .300-plus hitter, said it was an easy choice to pick Concordia (an Ann Arbor school in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics).

"It's a super nice campus and it's a smaller school, which I like," said Hubbard, whose parents are David and Michelle Hubbard. "And the coaches have been great through the whole thing, so that's why I wanted to go there."

Both seniors, owners of grade point averages in the 3.2 vicinity, will pursue business degrees.

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PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS

Plymouth seniors Seth Hubbard (seated, left) and Andrew Jossey (seated, right) take part in National Signing Day ceremonies. They will play college baseball at Concordia and Saginaw Valley State, respectively. Standing (from left) are Wildcats baseball coach Jason Crain and school athletic director Kyle Meteyer.

CANTON

Continued from Page B1

Regardless, Columbia is a major program and prestigious university — drawing big-time praise from Baechler.

"They loved him, they came over here a lot," Baechler said. "And, obviously, what a student, too, to even have an Ivy League school looking at you, let alone wanting him to come play football."

"What an opportunity for both of them, but for Adam, to go to Columbia and if he does what we think he'll do as far as school goes, what a bright future."

Paying his dues

Headed for the Big Ten and D-I play is Cafilisch, a long snapper and lineman who has a roster spot at Michigan State University.

By the letter of the law, only Armesto signed his national letter of intent, however.

That's because Cafilisch is joining the Spartans as a preferred walk-on, meaning he does not have an athletic scholarship in hand.

"Preferred walk-on (means) I'm on the team," Cafilisch said. "I get accepted into the school, I get all the treatment a scholarship player would get, but I don't get the money."

"So I got to pay for the first year or two and then I got to earn that (starting) spot."

Baechler doesn't think Cafilisch — no slouch academically with a 3.2 GPA — will have any trouble finding his mark with MSU.

"He's the best long snapper we've ever had," Baechler said. "I wish I could take credit for it. He already came to us already knowing how to long snap and got nothing but better."

"He can zing it back there. He had an offer at Grand Val-

ley to play tackle or guard, too, but what an opportunity to go to Michigan State."

As a freshman, Cafilisch will back up the senior incumbent, while helping out on the offensive line.

If all goes according to his plan, he'll be a starter in 2016, maybe even getting a football scholarship after all.

Like Armesto, the 2014 season was shortened by injury for Cafilisch. He tore an ankle ligament in the second game and missed the rest of the year.

"I'm really grateful to get an opportunity of this caliber and size, especially since I didn't play (most of) my senior season because of the ankle injury," Cafilisch said. "But I'm just really grateful to get this amazing offer."

On the radar

For both players, missing chunks of their senior season didn't cost them because they attended numerous summer football camps and combines.

"What really got me the offer was going to their camps over the summer," Cafilisch said. "And just winning their hearts there and proving to them that I can play."

Armesto said he attended 15 summer camps.

"And to get known," he said, "I went to a lot of different colleges and then kind of narrowed down my decision."

It didn't take Armesto long to know the campus on Upper Manhattan would fit him perfectly.

"I'm really excited, it's a great place to be," Armesto said. "I visited the campus a couple times and there's no other place I'd rather be going to college."

"It's a great opportunity. I had an injury this season, they looked through that injury and I'm just excited to play there."

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Blazer signees



VIC FOURNIER

Five Livonia Ladywood High student-athletes recently signed college letters-of-intent including (from left): Adriana Roman, soccer (Central Michigan University); Sam Riga, soccer (Grand Valley State); Morgan Larkin, softball (University of Michigan-Dearborn); Andrea Kwasniewicz, soccer (Northwood University); and Kate Morris, soccer, (North Carolina). Roman runs track for Ladywood, while Riga, a Plymouth resident, was a Division 2 first-team all-state selection for the Blazers' soccer team, which reached the 2014 state semifinals. Larkin was an outfielder for Ladywood's Division 2 state runner-up softball team, while Kwasniewicz returns to the Blazers' soccer team after missing her junior year due to injury. Morris, a four-star recruit for the Tar Heels, has been in the Olympic Development Program and plays club soccer for the Michigan Hawks.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Wheeler signs with Delta

Salem senior looking forward to college basketball career

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It's true that Allante Wheeler will be playing men's basketball in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association next season.

But that's just fine with the 6-4, 175-pound Wheeler, a Salem senior forward who signed with Delta College, a two-year school located southwest of Bay City.

"I thought Delta was a great fit for me," Wheeler said after having his photo taken on National Signing Day at Salem. "I love the coaches, the playing style, the campus and everything."

"I feel like they'll help me take my basketball talents to where I want them to be."

Longtime Salem varsity boys basketball coach Bob Brodie also gave high marks to the MCCA and is confident Wheeler will become an important player at Delta, where he is expected to play the small forward spot.

"He's been a great player for us, very versatile," Brodie said. "He plays inside and out



SALEM ATHLETICS

Looking to launch an outside jumper earlier this season is Salem's Allante Wheeler.

wanted to keep playing and that "any choice that's a good fit for him will be a good fit for the team. It's good quality ball, people don't think it's good quality ball. But if you get out there and watch it, they're tough basketball players."

Wheeler, averaging around 10 points a game for the Rocks, also considered going to Albion or Adrian colleges, "but Delta just stood out the most."

He said he talked to Salem alum Chris Dierker, who plays men's basketball at Madonna University (as does another Salem grad, Tyler Stewart) about the move from high school to college.

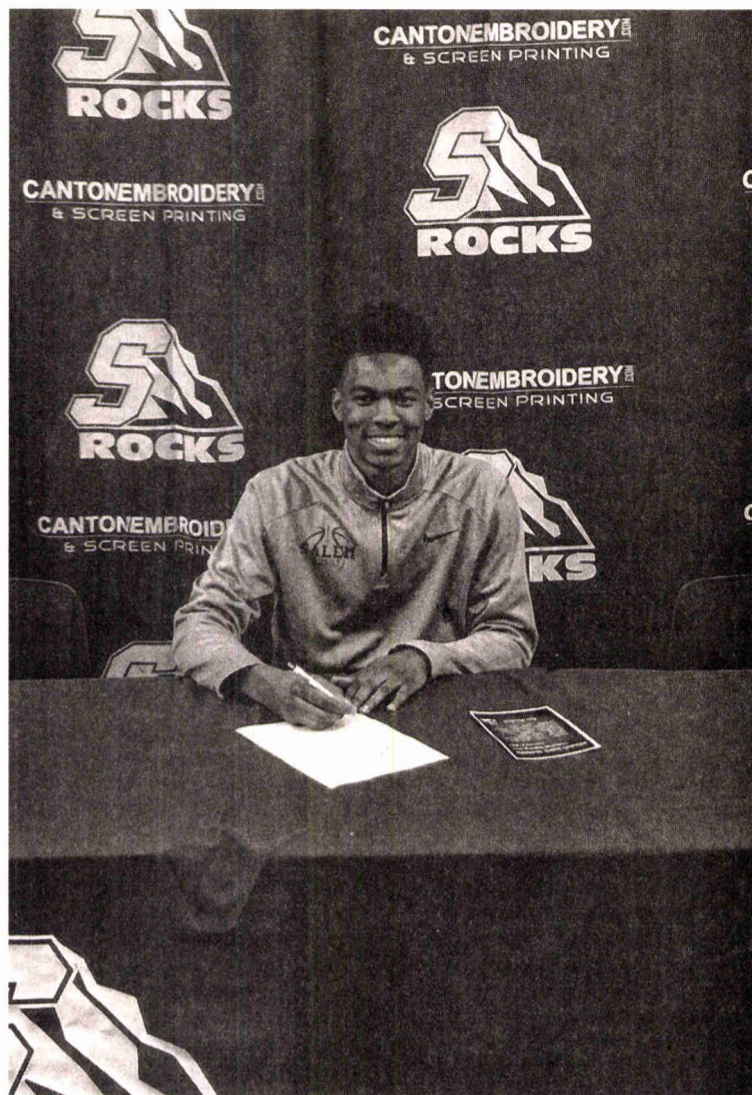
"Chris said it's a different level of basketball," Wheeler said. "But he said it's fun."

Of course, Wheeler, whose parents are Tracee and Kareem Wheeler, has immediate business to attend to at Salem

The Rocks are playing for a division crown and — hopefully — more than that during the state tourney.

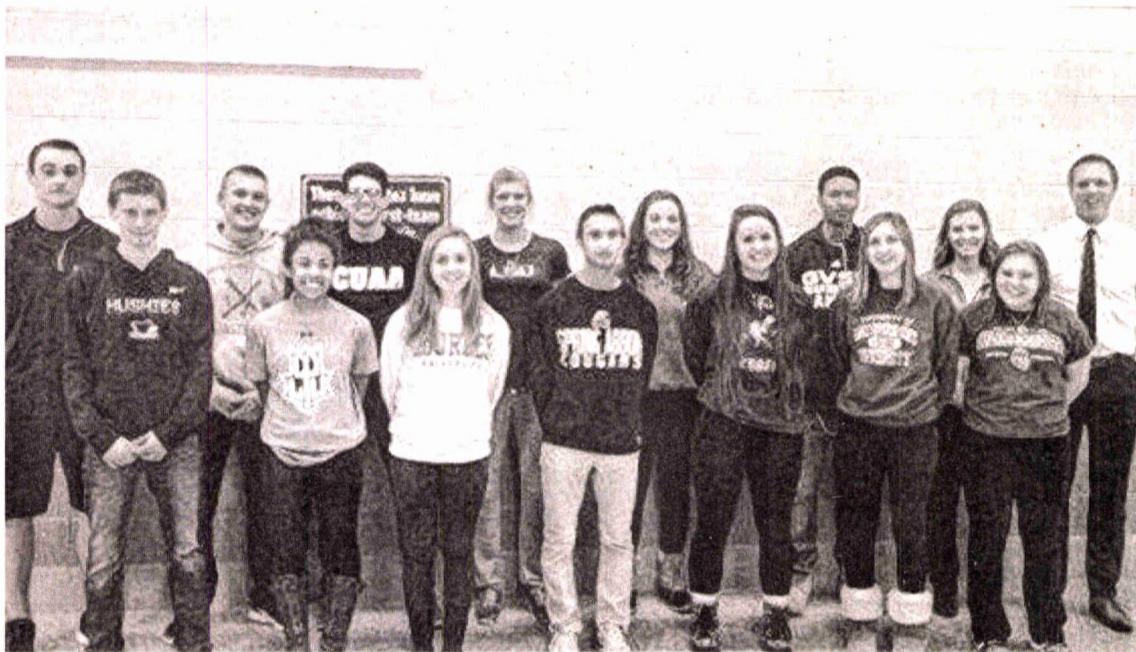
tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

for us and he's going to be a great fit for Delta. I'm glad he got that opportunity." Brodie added that Wheeler



SALEM ATHLETICS

Salem senior Allante Wheeler is happy about signing to play college basketball at Delta.



PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS

An impressive group of Plymouth High School student-athletes poses for a photo after National Signing Day festivities. At far right is Plymouth athletic director Kyle Meteyer.



PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS

Olivia Beyer takes part in a signing ceremony Wednesday. She will play Division I volleyball at Louisiana State University. Seated next to her is her dad, Jonathan Beyer. Standing is Plymouth High School athletic director Kyle Meteyer.

SIGN

Continued from Page B1

(Michigan Tech).

Women's soccer: Kelsey Cheaney (Siena Heights), Chloe Donlin (Northwood), Cristen Pedersen (Aquinas).

Men's soccer: Jack Zemanski (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis).

Women's golf: Alyce Krumm (Northern Michigan).

Men's golf: Donnie Trospen (University of Central Florida).

Bowling: Josh Criscenti (Siena Heights), Aaron Madsen (Concordia).

Cheer: Jasmyne Testani (Davenport).

PLYMOUTH:

Football: Kalen Dunham (Grand Valley State), Deji Adebisi (Ohio Wesleyan).

Baseball: Andrew Jossey (Saginaw Valley State), Seth Hubbard (Concordia).

Softball: Mikayela Marciniak (Oakland), Brittney Miller (Oakland).

Women's lacrosse: Michelle Burke (Lake Erie College).

Volleyball: Olivia Beyer (Louisiana State).

Women's soccer: Alyssa Swanson (Lourdes), Hope Sheffield (Lawrence Technical), Erin Winters (McNeese State).

Men's soccer: Jason Liguori (Spring Arbor).

Women's golf: Sydney Murphy (Ferris State).

Men's track/soccer: Nathan Harris (Concordia).

Women's cross country/track: Hailey Foster (Lake Superior).

Men's cross country/track: Matthew Pahl (Michigan Tech).

Cheer: Brittany Colvard (Eastern Michigan).

SALEM:

Football: Uday Singh (Hillsdale).

Women's soccer: Kylie Knight (Ohio State), Kaitlin Pelech (Western Illinois).

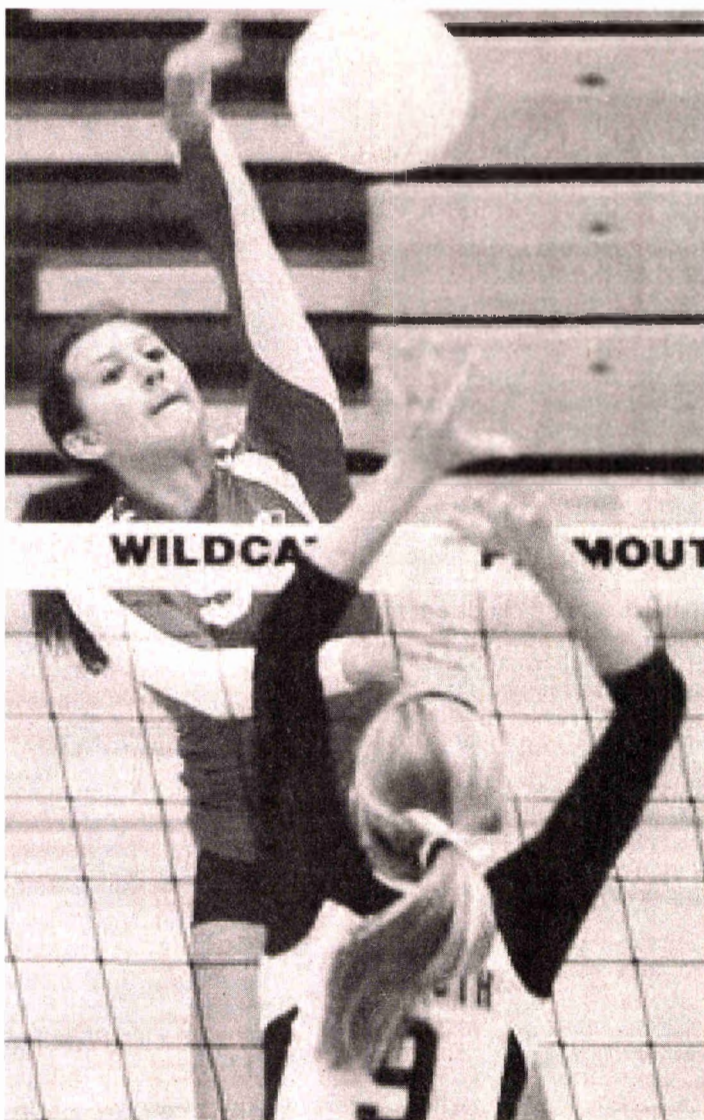
Men's basketball: Allante Wheeler (Delta).

Women's softball: Lara Piekacz (Albion).

Men's lacrosse: Mack Baker (Aquinas).

Women's cross country: Lauren Arquette (Kalamazoo).

Return to www.hometownlife.com and the *Observer* later this week for more articles about P-CEP college signees.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Courtney Kurkie (left) signed to play college volleyball at Michigan Tech.



PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS

Plymouth senior golfer Sydney Murphy (center) signs to go to Ferris State. She is flanked by mom Ruth and older sister Kelsey.

BEYER

Continued from Page B1

citing," he said. "She's been gifted as an athlete, but she's also worked really, really hard and so it's paid off."

"She gets to be part of a team of people, some great coaches and just gets to have alongside a great educational experience a great athletic experience as well."

The lanky middle blocker — younger sister of 2011 Plymouth grad and University of Michigan football player Brennen Beyer — added that she doesn't yet know whether she'll get to start as a freshman for the Tigers.

"I actually have no idea (whether starting right away)," Olivia Beyer said. "Whether I'm a starter or not, I'm just excited to be part of such a great team."

Beyer, teammates at Plymouth with older sister Emilee, hasn't yet decided on a career path, her dad noted.

But he's not worried about that.

"She's a people person," Jonathan Beyer said. "She knows she wants to be involved working with people, but that could go a variety of different directions."

"She's looking forward to exploring the different options."

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PREP WRESTLING

Rocks split KLAA crossover quad

The Salem varsity wrestling team split a pair of crossover duals pitting KLAA second-place teams against each other on Wednesday at Livonia Franklin.

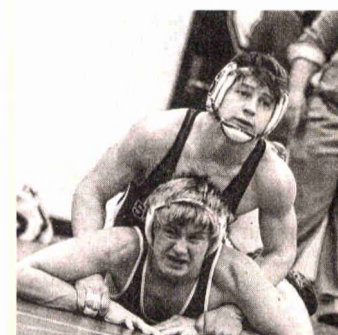
After falling 45-25 to the Patriots, the Rocks rebounded to defeat White Lake Lakeland, 45-32.

With the result, Salem finished eighth in the field of 24 association teams.

Bruce Haslitt (140 pounds), Seth Dunn (145) and Caleb McCabe (152) all went 2-0 on the night.

"It was tough getting prepared for the duals tonight with the weather problems this week," Salem coach Jeremy Henderson noted. "You could really tell who sat on their butt and who got some workouts even when the schools were closed."

"We also had a ton of injuries and illnesses tonight but the kids who wrestled toughed it out and were able to dig out a win with a hobbled squad."



LISA BUSHAW

Salem's Caleb McCabe (top) gains control over a Lakeland opponent at 152 during Wednesday's KLAA quad.

Roy Foster also had a good match at 189 against a top-ranked Franklin opponent.

"Roy lost to the kid 8-3 at the beginning of the year," Henderson said. "He lost tonight 4-3 and really had the kid on the ropes. Roy has really been improving all year and it shows; if he turns another corner he is going to be very dangerous in the next coming weeks."

BOYS SWIMMING

Mustangs swimmers get job done vs. Salem

Northville stays perfect in KLAACentral with win

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Northville's Rich Bennetts sounded anything but the winning coach following Thursday's 101-77 dual meet victory at home against Salem.

The Mustangs, who captured the meet's first nine events before Salem took the final three, improved to 8-1 overall and 3-0 in the KLAACentral Division with the victory.

"We swam well to start the meet and then it all fell apart after the 500 freestyle," Bennetts said. "We need to be able to finish if we are to have any chance to win this thing (Kensington Conference meet on Feb. 28)."

All was not lost, however, as Northville's Matthew Schafer earned an MHSAA Division 1 state qualifying time in the 500 freestyle with a first-place



Salem's Charles Liu, shown from earlier this season, was part of the victorious 400-free relay team against Northville.

clocking of 4:54.72.

"I'm very excited for him," Bennetts said. "We did have some positives, but to end with such a thud like we did kind of takes away from what we did in the beginning. We will work on that a lot this upcoming week and see if we can improve next time."

Senior Fred Schulz, freshman Kirk Maibach and junior James Xue each figured in three firsts for Northville.

Schulz swept the 50 and 100 freestyles with times of 23.89 and 51.76, respectively, while Maibach added wins in the 200 freestyle (1:51.42) and 100 butterfly (55.94).

The two also teamed up with Nirek Sharma for a victory in the 200 freestyle relay (1:32.86).

Xue also captured the 200 individual medley (2:02.48) and teamed up with Larry Zhao, Chris Geng and Mark Kaminski for a first in the 200 medley relay (1:43.85).

The Mustangs' Christian Field also posted the top score in the 1-meter diving event (203.40 points).

Meanwhile, Salem's Brendan Wellman broke Northville's win streak with a victory in the 100 backstroke (57.24).

The Rocks' Nicholas Landon got credit for a win in the 100 breaststroke (1:14.59) for the Rocks, while the foursome of Wellman, Collin Urbacsewski, Charles Liu and Phillip Collingwood got credit for a first in the 400 freestyle relay (3:38.97).

DUAL MEET SUMMARY
NORTHVILLE 101, SALEM 77
Feb. 5 at Northville

200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (Larry Zhao, Chris Geng, James Xue, Mark Kaminski),

1:43.85; 2. Salem (Patrick Casey, Charles Liu, Brendan Wellman, Noah Fleming), 1:47.47; 3. Northville (Fred Schulz, Yash Bajaj, Troy Stacey, Nirek Sharma), 1:49.33.

200 freestyle: 1. Kirk Maibach (N), 1:51.42; 2. Matthew Schafer (N), 1:53.26; 3. Trevor DeGroot (N), 1:54.03; 4. Taiyo Ichikawa (N), 1:57.82; 5. Collin Urbacsewski (S), 2:02.35.

200 individual medley: 1. Xue (N), 2:02.48; 2. Geng (N), 2:11.08; 3. Bajaj (N), 2:11.75; 4. Liu (S), 2:11.8; 5. Phillip Collingwood (S), 2:13.76.

50 freestyle: 1. Schulz (N), 23.89; 2. Kaminski (N), 24.36; 3. Fleming (S), 24.51; 4. Sharma (N), 24.76; 5. Mike Scarantino (N), 25.14.

1-meter diving: 1. Christian Field (N), 203.40 points; 2. Michael Falzon (S), 190.00; 3. Jon Vary (S), 170.00; 4. Thomas Rys (N), 144.50; 5. Brendan Sibel (S), 142.20.

100 butterfly: 1. Maibach (N), 55.94; 2. Xue (N), 56.3; 3. Wellman (S), 57.24; 4. Urbacsewski (S), 59.17; 5. Ancheng Da (N), 1:01.21.

100 freestyle: 1. Schulz (N), 51.76; 2. Kaminski (N), 52.23; 3. Zhao (N), 52.83; 4. Liu (S), 53.83; 5. Fleming (S), 54.49.

500 freestyle: 1. Schafer (N), 4:54.72; 2. Collingwood (S), 5:15.9; 3. Jack Breuch (N), 5:17.5; 4. Connor Lephish (N), 5:30.11; 5. Brendan Casey (S), 5:37.67.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Maibach, Xue, Schulz, Sharma), 1:32.86; 2. Salem (Fleming, Casey, Urbacsewski, Collingwood), 1:38.77; 3. Northville (John Duan, Geng, Bajaj, Shane Boran), 1:38.88.

100 backstroke: 1. Wellman (S), 57.24; 2. Zhao (N), 58.96; 3. Casey (S), 1:00.63; 4. Arthur Greenlee (N), 1:01.19; 5. DeGroot (N), 1:01.91.

100 breaststroke: 1. Geng (N), 1:02.53; 2. Roman Grossi (N), 1:05.99; 3. Nikolai Arton (N), 1:06.44; 4. Bajaj (N), 1:07.36; 5. Sho Kikumori (N), 1:08.72.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Maibach, Kaminski, Zhao, DeGroot), 3:31.53; 2. Northville (Ichikawa, Stacer, Duan, Schafer), 3:36.4; 3. Salem (Urbacsewski, Liu, Wellman, Collingwood), 3:38.97.

Dual meet records: Northville, 8-1 overall, 3-0 KLAACentral Division; Salem, 0-3 KLAACentral.

PREP HOCKEY

Stevenson bombards Canton, 6-1

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Canton scored first in Wednesday night's KLAACross-divisional hockey game at Eddie Edgar, but host Livonia Stevenson had the last laugh.

Chief Connor Wherrett steered a Hunter Schlamp pass into the net 4:30 into the contest to put the team that had won just two of its first 17 games ahead, 1-0.

But the lamp-lighter proved to be a wake-up call for the Spartans, who tallied six unanswered net-finders in a 6-1 rout that saw Stevenson outshoot Canton, 59-11.

The victory improved Stevenson's record to 12-5-3 while the Chiefs slipped to 2-14-2.

"I think our energy was up tonight and we had a lot of sustained pressure, which is something we've been working on," said Stevenson head

coach David Mitchell. "We were able to control the game for the most part, so I give our guys a lot of pressure. It was a solid team effort."

Although he came out on the short end of a one-sided duel with Stevenson's Andrew Rozenbaum (10 saves), Canton goalie Nick Borg played like an expertly-programmed cyborg for much of the night as he defused 53 Spartan shots, including all 14 that he saw in the final 17 minutes.

Rozenbaum is one half of a stellar two-goalie platoon system for the Spartans, who have also been bolstered by strong play from Cullen Barber.

"Both of our goalies have been doing a great job of playing well when they get the opportunity," said Mitchell. "Andrew did a great job of keeping everything in front of him and helping us control the tempo."

Junior Ben Kowalske was a point machine for the winners, knotting the game at 1-all with just 32 seconds left in the first period with a power-play goal assisted by Alex Allen. Kowalske also assisted on the Spartans final three goals, all of which came during the final 5:48 of the second stanza.

The ultimate game-winning goal was deposited into the net three minutes into the second period by Stevenson's Alex DeFlorio, who was assisted by Randy Mapples.

Nate Sudek then provided the hosts with some breathing room when he scored at the 10:54 mark.

The Spartans' back-breaking goal - at least as far as the Chiefs were concerned - was a short-handed gem by Adam Olson that made it 4-1 with 5:48 to go in the second of an assist by Kowalske.

KNIGHT

Continued from Page B1

"I always wanted Big Ten and I just fell in love with the campus," said Knight, who carries a 4.1 grade-point average. "As soon as I stepped on campus, everything just felt right. I got a good vibe."

"Everyone kind of said, 'You'll get on campus and you'll get a feeling and then you'll know it's where you're supposed to end up.' That's what I got."

Ohio State won out in the recruiting game over the Buckeyes' arch-enemy University of Michigan. Louisville also recruited her.

Also helping her celebrate the beginning of her future were her mom, Susan Knight, and younger sister Alyssa (a freshman at Salem who also plays for the Hawks, but on the U15 Black team).

Yet Knight couldn't forget about the past on such an important day in her life.

Her dad, Chris Knight, died in 2013 after a two-year battle with cancer.



National Signing Day was a happy one for Salem's Kylie Knight, who is headed to Ohio State.

Not only was he a Canton High School grad and successful Plymouth Realtor, he also made sure to watch Kylie and Alyssa play their soccer matches while growing up.

It's a good bet his spirit was hovering around Salem High School on National Signing Day, too.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

High Velocity camps

The High Velocity Sports Complex will host several Midwinter Break Camps Feb. 16-20 while Plymouth-Canton Schools are off. The camps include All-Sports Camp, Miki's Pro Soccer Camp, Triple Threat Basketball Camp, and Bricks 4 Kidz Minecraft Camp.

Those interested in participating are urged to pre-register by calling 734-487-7678 or going to www.hvsports.com.

Following is a brief glimpse at each offering:

» All-Sports Camp is offered to 5-13-year-olds and kids are run through sports stations by HVS coaches every 30-40 minutes. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but before care is offered starting at 7:30 a.m. and after care until 6 p.m. The cost is \$5/hour and parents can drop off and pick up around their schedule. During before and after care, kids can watch a movie, play board or card games, or play with handheld electronics brought from home in a proper case and clearly labeled. All-Sports Camp can also be

used before and after the following specialty camps:

» Miki's Pro Soccer Camp—ages 5-17 9 a.m. to noon, \$135/week or \$30/day

Kids learn and improve skill development while working on speed and agility, ball control, shooting, and passing.

» Triple Threat Training Basketball Camp—ages 5-14 9 a.m. to noon, \$135/week or \$30 day

Troy Coleman and his certified Triple Threat Training staff train kids on the fundamentals of basketball including shooting, one on one and team drills, offensive and defensive drills.

» Bricks 4 Kidz Minecraft Lego Camp—ages 6-11 1-4 p.m., \$135/week (no daily option)

Experience the world of Minecraft with LEGO Bricks in this exciting new camp. Kids will start by crafting their shelters and some of the mobs, critters, and tools using LEGO bricks. Campers will face new challenges each day building models and crafting key elements from the popular Minecraft game.

Salem Baseball Clinic March 28

Salem Dugout Club is holding a baseball clinic for youngsters ages 7-15 on Saturday, March 28, in the Salem High School gymnasium. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with cost at \$30 per participant.

The day will be divided into two sessions, with kids ages 7-10 going from 9 a.m. to noon and those ages 11-15 participating from 1-4 p.m.

Salem varsity baseball coach John Wright, assistant coaches and varsity players will be instructing youngsters about pitching, hitting, fielding and baserunning.

For more info, send e-mail to salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com.

Delapaz new Cats softball coach

Lauren Delapaz was named new Plymouth High School varsity softball coach, succeeding Bev McManus.

Delapaz currently is an assistant coach for Canton's varsity girls basketball team and has served as an assistant coach for the Chiefs' varsity softball team.

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20% OFF
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20% Off On Each Item Priced \$50 Or Less Storewide! 3947 W. 12 Mile, Berkley 248-543-3115 Mon-Sat 10-5:30, Thur 10-8:30

The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop

PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting February 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0750 x 217

Publish: February 8, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold a special meeting February 10 at 7 p.m. in the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact Carol Souchock at 734-453-0750, ext. 218.

Publish: February 8, 2015

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MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

NEW SENIOR THEATER TROUPE TAKING DONATIONS ONLINE FOR NEW SHOW

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The new senior theater troupe, Better Than Ever Productions, hopes to collect \$1,000 in online contributions by Feb. 16 to fund its upcoming production in Westland.

"It's a big number for our group," said Jeanne Pruett, troupe president, who designed an online Kickstarter fundraising campaign. "If you don't collect it all, you get nothing. It's a big risk."

"I'm keeping fingers crossed. Every day something trickles in. We had one donation from Australia."

On Friday, Feb. 6, with just 10 days to go, the troupe had collected \$471 and still needed \$529. Kickstarter requires participants to meet their goal in order to collect any of its donations.

Pruett, 58, a Canton resident, hopes that visitors to the Kickstarter page also check out the group's video showing its members in previous stage productions.

"I wanted people to see how good this group is. When they see the video and see people dancing around the stage, they know this is a group that is not just hobbling along," she said.

"This group is active. I think people dismiss others when they get past a certain age. This group proves people can do more."

"We get good audiences. I refer to us as the premier senior acting troupe in Michigan."

New name, new start

Audience members may recognize the 23-member group from performances at the Village Theater in Canton. Nearly all of the actors were members of the Still Got It Players, an arm of Spotlight Theatre in Canton. They worked together for five years with their director, Debbie Lannen. Last summer, after she retired and moved to Florida, most of the actors decided to start their own troupe.

They'll present *The Geezer Game*, written by Herb McCollom, Jr., an 83-year-old playwright from Pennsylvania, 1 p.m. March 19 and 26, 7 p.m., March 20-21 and 27-28 and 2 p.m. March 22 and 29 at Inspire Theatre, 5767 Executive Drive, Westland.

When the troupe first staged the play — as Still Got It Players in Canton — McCollom



Ray Fraser and Rich Pientak act out a scene in "The Geezer Game."

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

lom "brought his entire family to Michigan to see the play," Pruett said.

"He absolutely fell in love with us," she said.

Honored in New York

When McCollom's play was selected for the Midtown International Theatre Festival in New York, N.Y., last summer, he requested the same cast.

"We had a blast. It didn't win, but it was nominated for best outstanding ensemble production, up against other professional groups. It was an honor."

In addition to presenting full-length plays at theaters, Pruett hopes Better Than Ever Productions also will reach out to seniors at senior centers, assisted living homes and other locations.

Jack Galazka, also a former member of the Still Got It Players in Canton, hopes the new troupe gets a "firm start." He's cast as "lovable" but poorly-dressed retired electrician

in *The Geezer Game*, and has been involved in community theater as both an actor and director for years.

"I think the senior group by far is the most giving and caring group I've ever worked with. None of us is worried about the stardom we're about to achieve some day," he said, with a laugh.

"Inspire has been wonderful enough to allow us to come in. If this show is successful and the two groups meld nicely, maybe we'll do more together," he said. "At the same time, we're looking for other options. If someone has a space they'd allow a fledgling group to use, we'd be very open to that."

To find the group's Kickstarter campaign, go to Kickstarter.com and type in Better Than Ever Productions presents *The Geezer Game* in the search box.

To buy tickets to the show, go to inspiretheatre.com or call 734-751-7057.



Ray Fraser, Terry Viviani, Gary Turnquist and Jack Galazka in "The Geezer Game."

BIRTH



SUBMITTED

Brooklyn Eve Bonga

BROOKLYN EVE BONGA

Brooklyn Eve Bonga was born Dec. 24, 2014 at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn.

Proud parents are Jessica Geiser and Christopher Bonga of Livonia.

Share your best wedding photo with O&E readers

What's your best wedding photo?

Was it shot while you exchanged vows barefoot on the beach?

Did it show off your designer attire, with an entourage of bridesmaids and ushers in tow?

Maybe it captured the sweet romance of a kiss at the altar. Or the tradition of cutting the wedding cake together.

Whatever the setting, attire or activity, the *Observer &*

Eccentric wants to share your best wedding photo from 2014 and January 2015 with readers in its upcoming special section on weddings.

Tell us the names of the bride and groom, along with the date and place of the marriage. Send your best photo — in a large format — as a jpg email attachment to sdargay@hometownlife.com. The deadline is 5 p.m. Feb. 16.

Speed Queen bucks the trend with five-year washer warranty

If I were going to write a stage play today, I would title it "Copacetic" and have a few hundred members of the audience as the main characters. I'd be sitting in a small office with a computer and the walls decorated with a 1948 NHL calendar showing the many greats of that period, a Red Wing Alumni Jersey, a large picture of Lefty Wilson, the longtime trainer of our past Red Wing hockey team, and numerous framed photographs of former greats in the NHL.

Homeowners would walk through a door and lie down on a leather couch and tell me about the failures of appliance products in their homes. Without a doubt, "Copacetic" would become the longest-running play in history because people want to learn what is good or bad in the world of major appliances and they certainly don't want to waste their money on junk.

In the past week alone I have received a few hundred emails from readers of this column and their horror stories about a washing machine that is working in their laundry rooms. It is just flabbergasting to an old appliance repair man hearing the words, "stinks," "repeated repairs," "not enough water," "junk," "help," "dirty," "very lengthy cycles," "expensive," "lack of quality," and so many more negative comments to express a consumer's true feelings. Now, take this circle of newspaper readers and multiple it a few thousand times and can you imagine what owners of



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

clothes washers are going through.

Machine warranties

My God, it's just a washing machine, not a ship to the moon. Someone has to build a new washing machine one of these days that they might call a "Copacetic" or has it recently been done? The Speed Queen Company has just announced that its top load washer with electronic control has a full five-year warranty. That means that parts and labor are covered. This is a very big issue with me and most consumers. All the manufacturers used to have five years of coverage on many parts, which was limited, meaning you end up paying the labor. Three years ago all manufacturers dropped that standard and went to just one year of coverage, leaving homeowners high and dry after one year. I complained back then that this was all done at basically the same time by all the companies. That is called collusion and it's against the law. Ask Ford Motors about that fact. To see Speed Queen reverse this with its five-year full warranty must mean that it has a lot of confidence in its product. But then again, it is an American product and the company can be proud of the quality we have always been

known for. Way to go, Speed Queen, we might even include you in the stage play.

I don't want any of you to think that I don't appreciate all of your communications and please don't stop. What would I write about if you didn't write me? Now to another subject I'm hearing about. It's called the Smart Meter and boy has it become a controversial subject across America. A recent headline in my hometown paper of Timmins, Ontario, is "Thousands of smart meters are ordered removed in Ontario." My computer is jammed with people reaching out to me for help on many issues with these meters. If all goes according to plan I will already have done an interview with an expert from DTE on my radio show by the time you read this column. I have much to learn on this subject and will reserve judgment until I get smarter on the subject. I still make the claim that I can't see our utilities installing an appliance on our homes that is going to cause health issues. I am also wondering if a bill proposed in Lansing to hold the turbine companies immune from lawsuits in the future should a turbine cause a medical problem for property owners. Well, more to come. Stay tuned.

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

ANNIVERSARY



FORMER WAYNE RESIDENTS JOE AND CHRISTINE (PEDERSEN) KADLEC ON THEIR WEDDING DAY IN 1965.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Joe and Christine (Pedersen) Kadlec will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Feb. 13. They were married in 1965 at First Presbyterian Church in Wayne. The former Wayne residents reside on Lake Columbia in Brooklyn. They will celebrate their milestone event with a special dinner with family and friends.

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

Gardeners of Northville & Novi

Sue Grubba will talk about using low voltage lighting, plants, and other materials to ensure your landscape is illuminated with dramatic effects. Social mixer is at 6:30 p.m., speaker at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, at Novi High School, 24062 Taft, at 10 Mile, Novi. The group meets in the Media Forum Room 198C. Park in the staff parking lot and enter through door 43. Visitors welcome. Nonmembers pay a \$5 donation. gardenersnorthville-novi.org

Butterflies

Brenda Dziedzic, author and co-founder of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA), will present "A Look Into the Lives of Monarch Butterflies," exploring the Monarch's life cycle and challenges they face, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for nonmembers. 734-223-5510; sembabutterfly.org

Holiday Nature Preserve

Take a guided walk noon, Saturday, Feb. 21, and learn to identify trees along the way. The walk is free and starts at the Nankin Mill parking lot on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County offers a series of Tuesday night classes, that meet 7-8 p.m. at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Cost is \$10 each.

» Feb. 10: Gary Eichen, plant health care/bio-turf lawn manager for Mike's Tree Surgeons in Troy, will identify which trees are best to plant in metro Detroit. He'll talk about soil biology and why soil is important in choosing the right tree.

» Feb. 17: Joe Barson, owner of Barson's Greenhouse in Garden City, will talk about the basics of water gardens, different kinds of waterfalls and water garden construction.

» Feb. 24: Kevin Collins, garden center manager at Ray Hunter Flower & Garden Center in Southgate, will talk about hydrangeas.



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION MEETS FEB. 18 IN WESTLAND.

To register, email mgwwwcorg@gmail.com

Educational conference

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Early bird tickets are \$70, \$80 after March 14. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. It

will include a garden market, presentations by Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power; Matthew Benson, photographer, writer and organic farmer; and Kerry Ann Mendez, who teaches low-maintenance perennial gardening. Entertainment by Kerry Price and The Dave Bennett Quartet. Pay online or download a form for mailing. Visit mgsoc.org. No registration at the door.

English Gardens

» Learn about landscape design at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at a

free presentation. » The store's 13th annual Orchid Festival will include a free presentation on the introduction to growing orchids, along with a repotting demonstration, 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. At 1 p.m., get free, advanced orchid tips. The Make It & Take It workshop at 2:30 p.m. costs \$49.99 and will include everything needed to make an orchid garden. Sign up for the workshop at englishgardens.com.

» Learn about fresh flower arranging, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Free

» Create a fresh flower arrangement to take home, 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Fee is \$29.99. Sign up at englishgardens.com.

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

Passages
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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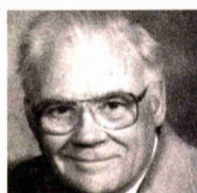
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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers • Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



BLEICHNER SALLY ANN (LICHT)

Age 80, mother of Robert (the late Pam), (Beja), Terry (Susan), Patrick, Timothy (Lynne) and Mary Beth Davies. Wife of the late Robert Mlinarich and Donald Bleichner. Passed peacefully on February 3rd. She is survived by 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. A resident of Redford for 50 years, but resided in California for the past 30, where private services will be held.



ELMS, EDWIN "FRANK"

A long time resident of Bloomfield Hills, passed away Sunday, February 1, 2015, at the age of 93. This beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather will be sorely missed by family. Born on March 31, 1921, in Liverpool, England, Frank served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in WWII, and moved to the US in 1950 to start his own business. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean Elms, his three children, John, Glenn, and Lynn, and sister Dorothy McLennan. Frank will always be remembered for his devotion to family, love of knowledge, and sense of humor. For service information please contact Deanne Elms at (248) 941-5415.

LANSING, ELAINE M.

Age 81, of Livonia, died February 4, 2015. Arrangements by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home 248-474-4131.



MURCH, PHYLLIS MARIE (WEEKS)

Of Jackson, Michigan passed away at the age of 83, at home in hospice, after a number of years treating ovarian cancer. Phyllis was born in Battle Creek, MI to Vivienne (McNally) Weeks and Charles Weeks. Phyllis graduated from Dearborn High School in 1949, served two years in the US Navy as a dental technician, and graduated from the University of Detroit as a dental hygienist. She worked most of 30 years in that profession, including 13 years with the State of Michigan Department of Corrections. After retiring in 1991, she and her husband traveled to nearly every state in the US and to a few countries in Europe, and they spent 12 winters in Mesa, AZ. Phyllis was particularly proud of her entire family, her service in the navy, her 50 years as a member of the League of Women Voters and the three times she hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Donald H. Murch; her sister Marilyn Trapp of Pittsburgh, PA; her three children Kimberley (David) Huffman of Cortland, NY, Douglas (Claudia) Murch of Marshall, MI, and Eric (Michelle) Murch of Ypsilanti, MI; and seven grandchildren. Phyllis often states that the mutual love, affection and respect she felt and received from her children and grandchildren - Adrienne and Caitlin Huffman and Corinne, Emily Stuart, Olivia and Nathaniel Murch, was one of the great pleasures of life. Phyllis selected to be cremated, and there will be no funeral services. However, memorial gatherings have been planned for the spring in Jackson, MI and later in the Boston, MA area.

OSBORN, ELEANOR ESTHER

Age 99, died January 30, 2015 at her residence at Sunrise Senior Living, Carmel, Indiana. Eleanor was born in Goshen, Indiana on October 17, 1915, to Elwood E. and Ruth (Lehman) Landis, and spent most of her adult life in Birmingham, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard J. Osborn, and son, Richard L. Osborn. She is survived by children, Victoria (Bill) Matishen of Somerdale, N.J., Joan (Rick) Henkle of Carmel, Indiana, and Mark (Thang) Osborn of Palo Alto, California and her seven grandchildren, Andrew (Vera) Matishen of Highland, UT, Rachel (Eric) Flickenger of Williamston, NJ, David Matishen of Somerdale, NJ, Jeffrey (Sarah) Henkle of Zionsville, IN, Ben Henkle of Boston, MA, Greg Henkle of Chicago, IL, and Alison (Tom) Grant of Canterbury Kent, UK. Eleanor was also great grandmother to ten great-grandchildren. Eleanor was a beloved, longtime friend to an extraordinary number of people including extended family members and in-laws. She was an avid golfer into her late eighties, and was active in the events of Oakland Hills Country Club of Bloomfield, Michigan. She enjoyed traveling, sewing, knitting, bridge, and taking family vacations with her children and grandchildren. She was well known as one who seldom complained and never had an unkind word to say about anyone. A memorial service was held in St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel, on Saturday, January 31st. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to a charity of your choice. Leppert Mortuary - Smith Carmel Chapel, has been entrusted with memorial arrangements.



SHAW, PAMELA

Age 46, February 4, 2015, of Westland, Michigan. Beloved daughter of Glenn (Patty) Shaw and the late Kathryn Shaw. One of a kind sister to Doug (Lori) Shaw, Lynette (Tony) Hobyak, Carl (Kris) Johnson, Steve (Sheila) Johnson, Holly (Frank) Cozza, Joelle (Steve) Boros. A fun and dearly loved aunt to Ryan, Trevor, Connor, Haley, Tyler, Christian, Josh, Justin, Bode, Brogan and Bridger. Pam successfully started her own company Advanced Property Management. She enjoyed fishing, cooking, singing karaoke. When she was younger she took ice skating lessons, played softball and used her musical talent to master the violin. She loved anything purple and had a special love for her cats. Funeral Services were held Saturday at Uht Funeral Home, Westland. Donations may be made to the Westland Community Foundation, 38110 Executive Dr., Westland, MI 48185.



SNYDER, VICE ADMIRAL EDWIN K., USN (Ret.)

Age 92, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on 8 January 2015. A true patriot and admired leader, he embodied the best of the Greatest Generation. He will be deeply missed as a loving and devoted husband and father, and remembered fondly as a respected naval officer and friend. Born in Birmingham, Michigan, on 12 February 1922, he was the son of Edwin Stahl Snyder and Helen Claire Knowlson. He attended Baldwin High School where he was an outstanding athlete student. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with the wartime accelerated Class of 1944 on 9 June 1943. Upon completion of submarine training, he joined the crew of the USS Hake, making six war patrols in the Pacific campaign. Admiral Snyder's submarine career included tours on four submarines, culminating as commanding officer of the USS Irex. In February 1968, he became the commanding officer of the heavy cruiser Newport News (CA-148) in ceremonies held at the DMZ in Vietnam. Shore duty assignments included graduate education at Stanford University and the Navy War College, staff of the Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and the Office of Legislative Affairs in the Pentagon. Upon his selection to Flag rank in 1969, Admiral Snyder assumed command of the Amphibious Training Command, followed by command of Amphibious Group Four and Amphibious Group Two in Little Creek, Virginia. In September 1971, Admiral Snyder became the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs as the Navy's representative in all matters pertaining to Congress. On 31 August 1974, Admiral Snyder received his third star and assumed command of the U.S. Taiwan Defense Command with headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. Following his retirement from the Navy, Admiral Snyder provided key congressional support services for nearly ten years to the Navy through his company Snyder, Ball and Kriser. Admiral Snyder was an outstanding athlete, keen competitor, avid golfer and a long-time member of the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. A dedicated Washington Redskins Football fan, he was a 30 year season ticket holder. His great sense of humor and engaging personality drew people around him wherever he went. Admiral Snyder was predeceased by his devoted wife of 48 years, the former Nancy McCarty of Birmingham, MI, in 1994. He later was married to Nancy Isamer for ten years. He is survived by sons, Stephen Snyder (Mary), Ed Snyder (BJ) and Charles Snyder (Connie); daughter, Kathy Snyder; sister, Ann Snyder Aikens (Bob); seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Admiral Snyder will be inurned with his wife, Nancy McCarty at the Naval Academy Columbarium with full military honors on 23 April 2015.



STEPHENSON, SHEILA KATHLEEN

Of West Bloomfield, died peacefully on January 16, 2015 at the age of 70. Sheila is survived by brothers, Mark G. Stephenson II of Grosse Pointe Woods and Neil H. Stephenson of Monroe. Her parents, father Philip G. Stephenson, her mother Blodwyn I. Stephenson, and her sister Faye M. Steuck, precede her in death. Sheila was born on August 4, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from The Juilliard School in 1969 with a degree in Piano Performance. In 1982 She received her Master of Arts degree from Oakland University. Sheila was an accomplished musician and performed locally both as a duo-pianist with her mother Blodwyn, and as a soloist. She also was active as a church pianist and organist. Sheila was a very well respected piano teacher and taught piano from her graduation from The Juilliard School until her passing. Sheila was a dedicated individual who lived her life surrounded by her passion for music. She was passionate about the environment and donated much to various animal support organizations. She was an active and dedicated member of the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in West Bloomfield and regularly accompanied the choir during their Sunday service. A memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, February 8 at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 4800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Sheila's life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Michigan Humane Society.



VAN BOVEN, CAROLYN DANT SNYDER

November 26th, 2014. Carolyn lived a vibrant 81 years. Her genuineness, deep faith and thoughtful ability to communicate well with people touched many lives in so many ways. Carolyn was born in Detroit, Michigan on June 24th, 1933 to M.E. "Shorty" Snyder and Vivian Dant Snyder. She attended Adams Elementary, the Kingswood School in Birmingham and graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. There she met the love of her life, Peter John Van Boven, Jr. After Peter had a stroke, as a result of a sporting accident, she cared faithfully and lovingly for him for 20 years. They were married 3 weeks short of 50 years when Peter passed. She lived all of her adult life in Ann Arbor, Michigan and North Palm Beach, Florida. She was a faithful follower of Jesus, an optimist and philanthropist. Carolyn was generous with her time and energy and resources. She enjoyed spending time laughing and living life to the fullest measure. Her accomplishments include, but are not limited to: membership of Kappa Kappa Gamma in college and served on the alumni board of the Beta Delta Chapter for many years. She served as President of the Thrift Shop in Ann Arbor, was a G Chapter member of PEO. Carolyn sat many years on the board of the Lost Tree Chapel in North Palm Beach, serving a term as president. She was on several organizing committees for numerous fund raising causes. Carolyn was an astute businesswoman, world traveler, and had a deep love for the ocean. She will be missed by many, but she leaves us all with her inspiring attitude of gratefulness to God in every circumstance. Peter and Carolyn had three children. She was predeceased by Charles, and survived by Andrea Van Boven Madden of South Hamilton, MA and James of Chicago, IL. Carolyn was a loving and proud grandmother to her two grandchildren Kathryn of New York, NY and Alex Madden of Columbus, GA. A celebration of Carolyn S Van Boven's life will be held Saturday, February 21st at 2pm, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor. The family requests wearing vibrant colors to celebrate her life and resurrection. Cards may be sent to 11270 Turtle Beach Rd #3, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. Instead of flowers, gifts may be sent to Lost Tree Chapel, 11149 Turtle Beach, North Palm Beach, FL 33408 or First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104.



May you find
comfort in family
and friends

Plymouth-based foundation funds brain injury initiative at U-M

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The University of Michigan Health System will open a new emergency center treatment area on Feb. 16 that will be equipped to offer the most advanced care to patients with a traumatic brain injury in the first crucial hours of their crisis.

"That is what I'm most excited about," said Brenda J. Massey of Plymouth, whose family foundation recently donated a significant gift to U-M Health System for traumatic brain injury research, technological innovation, and patient and family support. U-M Health System recognized the family's generosity by naming the new emergency treatment center in their honor. The Joyce and Don Massey Family Foundation Emergency Critical Care Center, or EC3, will be among the first of its kind in the United States.

"They now know there is a 'golden hour,' and if you can get to a person who is injured quickly and give them the most appropriate treatment, that's the best outcome," Massey said. "Instead of going to the ER and getting stabilized, you're already in a critical care area and there is no time lost in treating the patient."

Massey said the new ER area would have appealed to her father, Don, who was devoted to his



Joyce and Don Massey

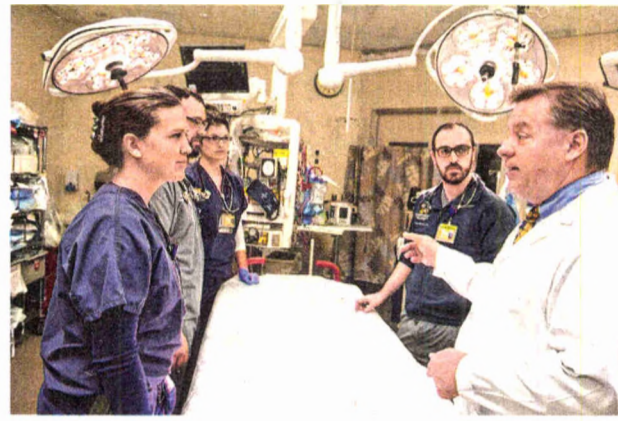
wife, Joyce, a "quiet woman" who was the "music and joy" in the Massey family. Joyce sustained a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 1983 and died 10 years later. Don, who owned a network of car dealerships, including a flagship location in Plymouth, until they were sold in 2002, died in 2011. "The purpose of the Foundation is to look for ways to improve treatment of closed head injury. It was my dad's mission to give generously to head injury (programs and research) so other people would have a better outcome than we had."

"It's really a part of their love story. They were two fortunate peo-

ple who met the 'right one' and remained in love all through lives together," Massey said, adding that the work of the Foundation was "extremely important" to her father.

She said the Foundation began working with U-M Health System approximately a year ago to design a plan, the Joyce Massey TBI Program, that will accelerate improvements in traumatic brain injury treatment. "I believe U of M is the finest hospital in Michigan and probably in surrounding states as well. We've had a very good relationship with University Hospital."

According to U-M Health System, the Joyce Massey TBI Program



Kyle Gunnerson, M.D., (right) the director of the EC3 at U-M Hospital, talks with a team of nurses and residents as they prepare for patients at the new EC3.

includes:

» A Massey EC3 Clinical Research Program, which will create the clinical infrastructure to evaluate and implement new diagnostic tools, monitoring techniques, and therapeutic strategies for ultra-early treatment of TBI and other critical illness and injury. It includes a database that will allow researchers to analyze data on all critically ill and injured patients treated in the Massey EC3. This program will be headed by Kyle Gunnerson, M.D., the emergency critical care physician and associate professor of emergency medicine who oversees the EC3.

» A Massey TBI Technology Innovation fund, which will accelerate innovative research to produce the next generation of technologies to revolutionize the care of

TBI, helping to restore victims to their pre-injury status. Teams of U-M physicians, scientists and engineers will compete to receive technology development awards to fund work on devices, diagnostics, therapeutics and digital health. This program will be overseen by Kevin Ward, M.D., a professor of emergency medicine who directs the Michigan Center for Integrative Research in Critical Care.

» A Massey TBI Translational Research Program, which will seek to improve TBI patients' long-term outcomes by developing and testing new diagnostic tools, more sensitive monitoring techniques, and better early treatments that can be used in the first few hours of TBI treatment. This program will be headed by Hasan

Alam, M.D., an acute-care surgeon who heads the Section of General Surgery in the U-M Department of Surgery.

» A Massey TBI Patient & Family Support Fund, which will assist patients treated in the EC3 and their families, giving need-based support to those who lack resources during a patient's hospitalization for such costs as travel, lodging and meals, as well as adapting their homes and buying special equipment not covered by insurance for post-TBI living. The U-M departments of Social Work and Emergency Medicine will oversee this fund.

» An annual Massey TBI Summit, featuring a Massey Lecture and the latest findings from U-M teams and leading experts from across the country working on cutting-edge TBI research. The inaugural summit will be held Sept. 25 in Ann Arbor.

"With this generous gift, the Massey family and foundation have expressed great confidence in the ability of our researchers to change TBI care," said James O. Woolliscroft, M.D., the U-M Medical School dean, in a press release. "Their remarkable vision will enable our care teams to explore creative ideas that ultimately will lead to more effective treatments for TBI patients."

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By Robert Half

One of the most effective tools in your job search is the informational interview. These meetings provide you with an opportunity to build your network of professional contacts, learn more about career paths that interest you and, ultimately, enhance your employment prospects.

Although they're not meant to elicit job offers, these discussions offer exposure to people who are in a hiring position or can recommend you to colleagues. As a result, it's critical to approach informational interviews the right way. Here are some tips to remember:

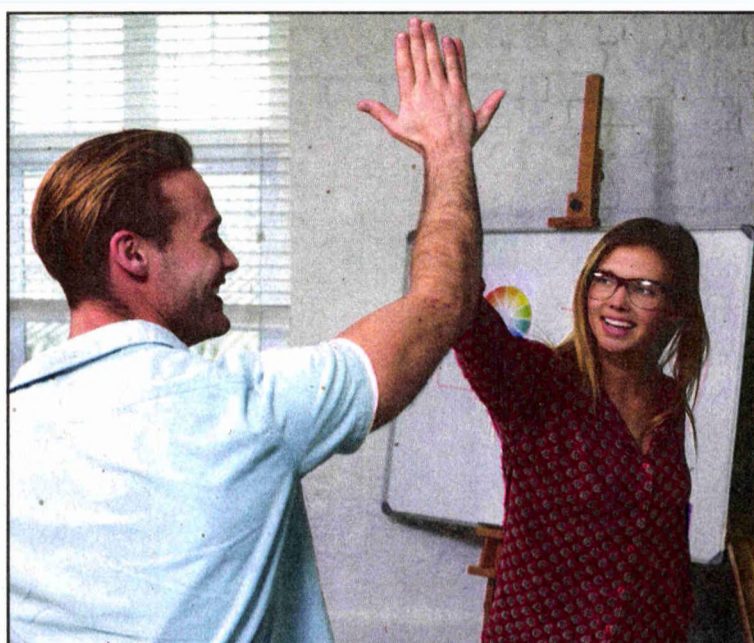
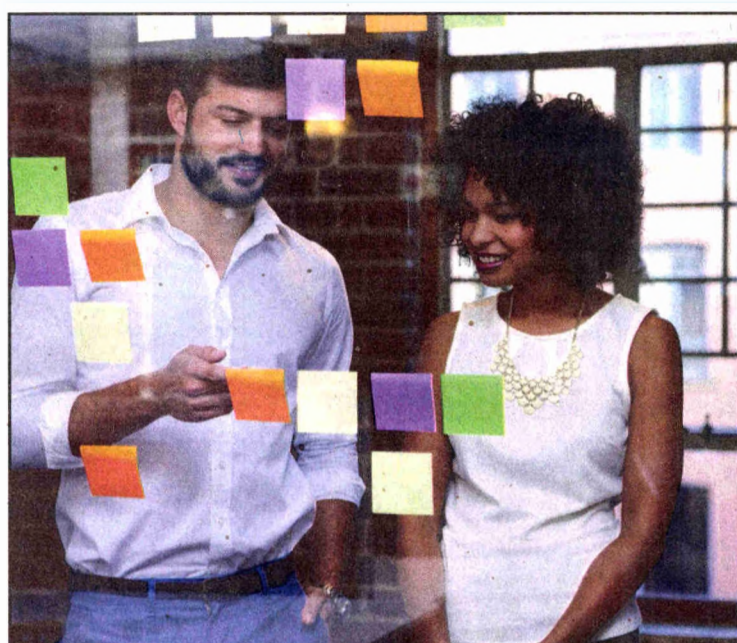
Reach out appropriately

Email or call the person you hope to interview with a concise explanation of who you are, why you're contacting him and what you hope to gain from the meeting. Be clear that you are seeking information only, not a job and ask for 30 minutes of time at most.

Because it's often hard to get the attention of someone you've never met, a referral from a mutual friend can help in setting up an informational interview.

Come with clear goals

Unlike a job interview, where a hiring manager would lead the discussion, you are the one



How informational interviews CAN help your career

responsible for setting up this meeting and driving the conversation. So, make sure you know what you want to gain from the discussion. Are you considering a switch to a management track and interested in what steps a person working in that role took in her career? Do you want to transition to a new information technology

specialty and garner inside tips for working in that area?

If you start the meeting with no objective, your contact will be inclined to cut the discussion short, so be sure to have targeted questions ready. For instance, if you are seeking advice on becoming a consultant, you might ask how the person got his start consulting or about the biggest challenges he has faced as a project professional.

Do your homework

Make sure you are knowledgeable about your contact before you meet. You should have at least a general understanding of the person's professional history and background on her employer. This will allow you to ask relevant questions and solicit appropriate assistance.

It's also likely you'll be asked about your own background and career interests, so be ready to talk about your goals and accomplishments.

Remember to listen

Have a sincere interest in what your contact has to say. The person is likely to offer more advice and more in-depth advice if he or she knows you are invested in the conversation. Even if his suggestions aren't what you wanted or expected to hear, respect the guidance given to you.

Taking notes can help demonstrate your interest and help refresh your memory of the conversation later.

Don't ask for a job

While your ultimate objective may be to find a new job, you should never ask for one at an informational interview. The goal of the meeting is to build your knowledge about a particular topic. The person may feel deceived if you don't follow through with the intent of the discussion.

Even if you don't ask for work directly, you could be considered for an available opening or receive a referral to a manager who

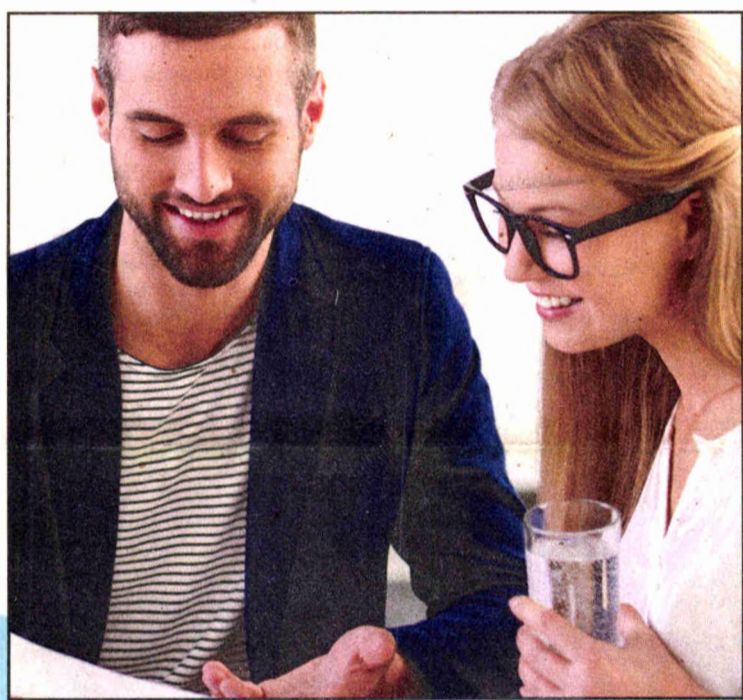
is hiring if you make the right impression.

Show your gratitude

If you have ever helped a colleague or sent someone a thoughtful gift only to receive no word of thanks, you know how discouraging it can be. The last thing you want to do is make a contact feel unappreciated, so be sure to send a thank-you note within a day or two of the meeting.

Informational interviews are a useful career strategy. Just be sure to prepare carefully, listen and follow through to create a lasting, positive impression with those you meet.

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Call/email to join our team today!
248-477-4880
wolfe@eradicationservices.com

SNOW PLOW DRIVERS

Up to \$16 per hr with exp only. **SNOW SHOVELERS, \$12/hr.** Must be on call 24 hrs, 7 days a week. Call Ervin at: 248-788-6797, 248-504-7358

Cash in with Classifieds

800-579-SELL

Help Wanted - General

ASHLEY
TRUCK DRIVERS-OTR/ CLASS A CDL
Ashley Distribution Services in Romulus, MI seeks:

- **LTL TRUCK DRIVERS** (Multiple stop loads to retail stores) Earning potential avg. \$81,000 year Ability to Enter Canada
- **Home Weekly**
- **Paid Vacation**
- **Full Benefit Package**

Class A CDL & at least 1 year current OTR exp. Clean MVR/PSIP Reports. Call 1-800-837-2241 8AM to 4PM CST for info & app or email: jobs@ashleydistributionservices.com or www.ashleydistributionservices.com to apply under jobs

DRIVERS

Waste removal firm looking for CDL A or B Drivers. Full Benefits. Accepting Applications Mon-Fri. 8-5

TLC Waste
28035 Beverly Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

Embroidery Production

Machine operator to join growing company. Experience / background preferred. Strong communication skills with focus on quality & productivity. Assist other production departments. Part-time or full-time, excellent benefits.

Email resume and wage history to: cghr@competitiongraphics.com

INSIDE SALES

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Cash in with Classifieds

800-579-SELL

Help Wanted - General

JOB FAIR
Sunset Produce is North America's leading grower/marketer of gourmet greenhouse vegetables located in Livonia, MI. We will be hosting a **FREE JOB FAIR** Wednesday, February 11 12:00pm-8:00pm Burton Manor 27777 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150

Interviewing for the following positions:
Line Workers/ General Labor Admin/Data Entry Production Supervisors Shipping and Receiving Produce Commodity Managers Hi-Lo/Rider Jack Operators

www.sunsetgrown.com
734.943.0200

MAINTENANCE PERSON

Janitorial Company seeks full-time General Maintenance person. Duties: cleaning & building coverage at multiple locations in the Detroit metro area (includes Novi/Wixom, Auburn Hills, Detroit, Canton areas). Must be able to lift 25+ lbs. Will receive gas allowance. \$10/hr for qualified candidate. Hours may vary. Must have own reliable vehicle & valid driver's license. Must pass background check & drug screening. We are an EOE. Applicants may complete an online application at: www.uservico.com fax resume to: 248-926-8595

MECHANIC/PM

Waste removal firm looking for truck mechanic/pm. Full benefits.

Accepting Applications Mon-Fri. 8-5

TLC Waste
28035 Beverly Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

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Help Wanted - General

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- Work Your Schedule
- You Determine Your Income
- Bonus Programs
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(734) 591-9200
RealEstateOne.com

SUPPLY CHAIN TEAM

Outstanding Plymouth, MI High Performance Engine MFG seeks driven individual to join our Supply Chain Team. Seeking an energetic individual who is passionate about high performance engines that can lend their knowledge to planning & parts procurement. The Successful candidate must be an strong self-starter with strong automotive experience, and good organizational & computer skills will. Daily tasks incl procurement planning, building vendor relationships, materials sourcing and order follow up.

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

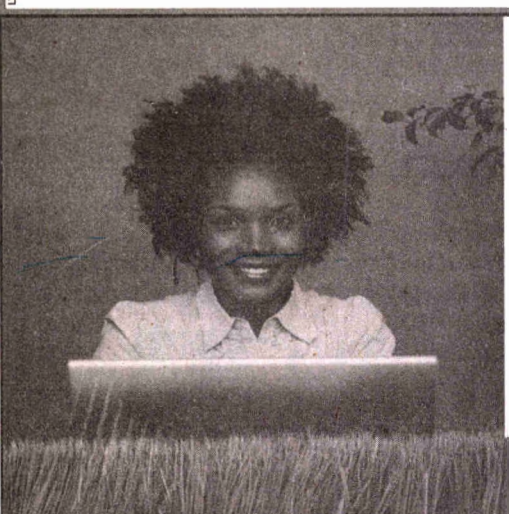
Please fax resume to: (734) 456-3691
Or HR@ilmor.com ILMOR

Payroll Specialist

Full-Time, Exp'd Michigan Healthcare Professionals. Perform payroll processing accurately & timely. Knowledge & experience of deductions, payroll tax laws, prepare financial payroll reporting, track benefit deductions & payments accurately. Data entry & general math skills experience is req. Exp in working with ADP Payroll Software is preferred but not req. Farmington Hills. Respond with cover letter & resume. dhurran@mhdoctor.com Visit us at: www.mhdoctor.com

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O&E Media's Jobs Section
In Print & Online

Search hometownlife.com To advertise, call 1-800-579-7355

Observer & Eccentric MEDIA

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO APARTMENT LIVING

WAYNE
 You hit the Bullseye...Wayne Tower is the Place for YOU.
Wayne Tower Senior Apartments
 55+
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 NOW LEASING ~ IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
 1 Bedroom, Central Air
\$593
 We pay Moving Cost of \$500
 Leasing call:
734-721-0660

INKSTER
THOMPSON TOWER APARTMENTS
 Affordable Housing for Seniors 62+ or disabled
 1 & 2 bedroom apartments - all utilities included!
 Immediate Occupancy
 Income Based Rent.
 Our features include:
 • Spacious floor plans
 • Laundry Rooms • Community Room
 • Resident Activities
 For more details, call
(313) 565-3022
(800) 567-5857 TDD
 Hours: Monday-Friday 8-5; Saturday 9-1
 Or visit us at: 27727 Michigan Ave, Inkster
 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

WESTLAND
WESTGATE TOWER APARTMENTS
ATTENTION SENIORS: LOW RENT
CALL US TODAY!
734-729-2900
 34567 Elmwood in Westland
 Not 62 yet? Ask us about our temporary age waiver!
 Income Limits Apply. Equal Housing Opportunity.

TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THIS DIRECTORY CALL US TODAY AT: 800-579-7355

Need a new place?

Find one in the O&E Media classifieds

So Much More Than You Bargained For!
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA
 800-579-7355 www.hometownlife.com

APARTMENT & REAL ESTATE GUIDE

Find the perfect place to call home in the Observer & Eccentric Media classified advertising section. We have apartment and real estate listings every week in the following communities:

Berkley • Birmingham • Canton • Clawson
 Farmington • Garden City • Huntington Woods
 Livonia • Milford • Northville • Novi
 Pleasant Ridge • Plymouth • Redford • Royal Oak
 Southfield • South Lyon • Westland

To place a listing in the Observer & Eccentric Media's Apartment & Real Estate Guide call:
1-800-579-SELL

Need a Hand With Your To-Do List?

Drywall
 Gutters
 Roofing
 Plumbing
 Siding...

Find professional home improvement service providers in O&E Media's Classified Services section every week!

To advertise your home improvement services, contact us at:
800-579-7355

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.375	0.125	2.75	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.375	0	2.625	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.75	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.5	0	3	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.625	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.5	0.75	2.75	0.75
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	3	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.75	0.25	3.125	0

Above information available as of 1/30/15 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.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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FREE RENT UNTIL March 1st 2015!
 3&4 bedroom/2 bath Homes
 1,456 to 2,100 sq ft! for as low as \$999 up to \$1399/mo!
 South Lyon Schools
 Large Clubhouse, Swimming pool, Large playground, Homes equipped with shed, all appliances, C/A plus full size W/D
 Apply online today at www.4northville.com
 Or call Sun Homes at (888) 448-3061
 Offer expires 02/28/2015 EHO
 *some restrictions apply

Food - Beverage
COOKS
 EXPERIENCED
 Immediate Openings at Beautiful Assisted Living Facility in Westland. Benefits available.
 Please fax resume to: (248) 350-9083

DINING ROOM SERVERS
 Exp'd Immediate Openings at Beautiful Assisted Living Facility in Westland. Benefits available.
 Please fax resume to: (248) 350-9083

Help Wanted - Domestic

SNOW REMOVAL - Dig out our snow buried car. The snow must be put on our front yard \$25. 734-425-4881

Homes
WESTLAND
 Livonia Schools
 3 bdrm brick ranch, kitchen w/dishwasher & fridge, bsmt w/washer & dryer. GA, CA \$74,800
 Open Floor Plan
 3 bdrms, possible 4th bdrm in lower level, 1.1 BA's, doorwall to deck, att/GA, CA \$98,000
 Mechanics Dream Garage
 3 bdrm, brick ranch, updated kitchen & BA, bsmt, 2.5GA \$50,000
 New Listing
 4 bdrms, 2.1 BA's, master bdrm w/BA, updated oak kitchen, fireplace in great rm, GA \$37,000
CENTURY 21 CASTELLI
 734-525-7900

Condos
Farmington Hills - Very nice 3br condo. In Saratoga Farms with new kitch. move-in ready 38198 Saratoga Cir. \$193,000 Mark MSL Realty-Auctions 810-513-5269

Apartment For Rent
Farmington Plaza
 Spacious 2 bedroom, central air, pool, Heat included with rent. 50% off 2 months rent with approved credit.
 Call 248.478.8722

Condos & Townhouses
 ★ **Plymouth MAYFLOWER COOP**
 2 bed apt Coop \$505
 2 bed apt rent \$710
 Call 734-386-0239

Rooms For Rent
REDFORD AREA:
 Larger room in clean, peaceful home. Furnished \$120/wk
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PAINTING BY ROBERT
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 • Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair
 • Staining 25 yrs exp. Free est.
 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

Snow Removal
SNOW PLOWING & SALTING
 24 Hr Emergency Srv - Comm. & Res. Lic & Ins. Free Est.
 248-521-8818, 248-489-5955

JOBS
careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT
 Needed with Surgical experience at a high quality specialty practice in Southfield. Excellent salary & excellent working conditions.
CALLS ONLY
 No resumes accepted Full or part time
Call 248-357-3100

Help Wanted - Medical

PODIATRIST WANTED
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 990 W. Ann Arbor Tr. #200
 Plymouth, MI 48170

O&E Media Classifieds
 Just a quick call away...
800-579-7355

HOMES
apartments.com
[HomeFinder](http://HomeFinder.com)

Homes

GARDEN CITY
 House to call HOME
 3 bdrms, updated BA & oak kitchen, large upper master bdrm, bsmt w/stove & freezer. GA, CA \$54,560
CENTURY 21 CASTELLI
 734-525-7900

Livonia - 4 br/2ba Lots of potential. No real estate agents or investors. Large Lot. four car garage. \$90,000
 734-762-0198

O&E Media Classifieds
 Just a quick call away...
800-579-7355

RENTALS
apartments.com
[HomeFinder](http://HomeFinder.com)

Apartment For Rent
FARMINGTON HILLS ANNIE APTS.
 FREE HEAT! 1 bdrms from \$525. 9 Miral/Middlebelt
 248-478-7489

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

GARDEN CITY:
 Beautiful remodeled 2 bdrm. Heat & water incl., credit friendly (248) 474-3005

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 Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/Ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark 313-363-6738

Handyman Male - Female
Chuck's Handyman Service
 All home repairs. No job too small! 248-535-1130

Hauling - Clean Up
Clean-up/Hauling Srv.
 Cheap Rates! Garages, bsmts, attics. Free Est.
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Housecleaning
AUNTIE ANN'S CLEANING
 "We treat you like family"
 Free in home estimate
 734-277-9070

PERSONALS
hometownlife.com

Personals
 Please help save a life. Canton father of two in dire need of an O+ Kidney. Call or text 734-502-4513. We need your help!

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hometownlife.com

Absolutely Free
Blueray Player.
 Good Condition
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Appliances
REFRIGERATORS \$150 & up!
 Range, washer/dryer \$100 & up!
 90 day warranty/delivery!
 Call: (734) 858-8846

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Cash for Books!
 History, art, biography, textbooks, religion, hobbies, etc. We come to you! Visit ParadiseBoundBooks.com or call Sue (248)877-1395

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, pghemera, clothing, Christmas, more. References: Richard, BSE, MBA (248)795-0362 richard.preston48@yahoo.com

IT'S ALL ABOUT RESULTS!
 EVERY WEEK, we bring buyers & sellers, employers & employees, and landlords & tenants TOGETHER.
 You can rely on O&E Media Classifieds to deliver results.
800-579-7355

PETS
hometownlife.com

Dogs

★ **BOXER - AKC Pup**
 fawn & white, shots, tails, dew. \$600.
 989-325-0829

★ **CHIHUAHUA PUPS PERFECT FOR VALENTINES!**
 3 fem, 1 ma. \$300
 Cash
 248-478-8342

Need to Rent That House or Apartment?
 Place an ad with Observer & Eccentric Media, and have it rented in no time!
800-579-7355

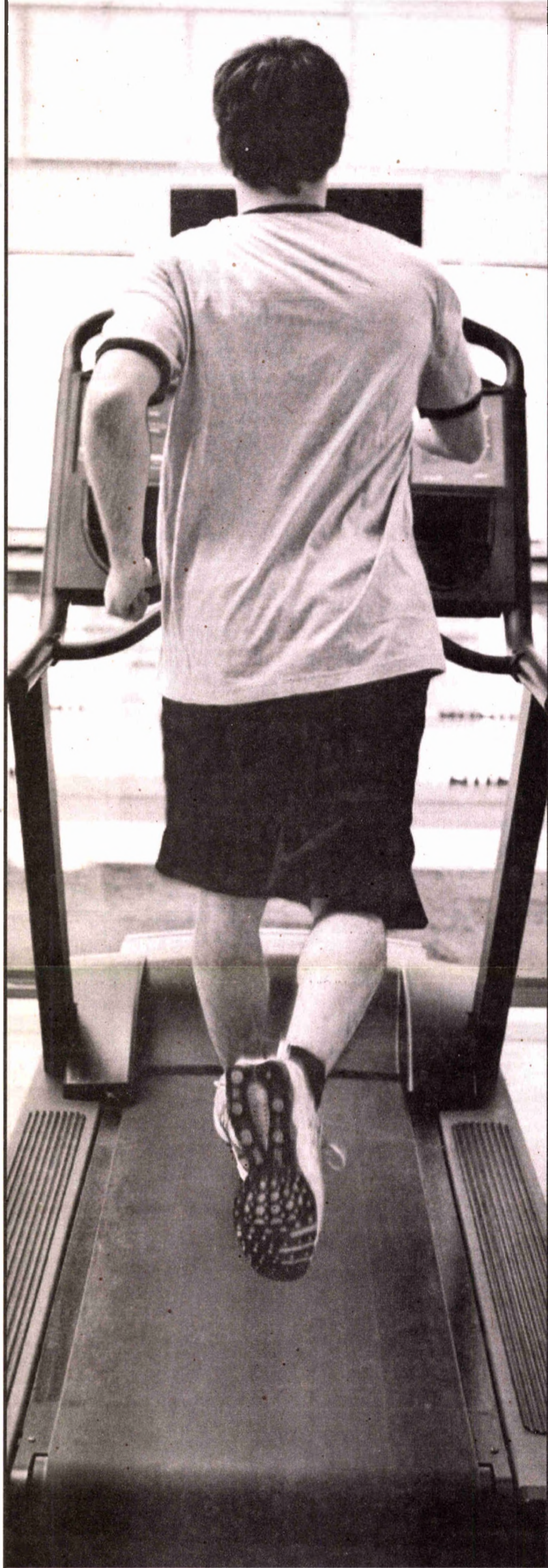
Picture it YOURS

You'll love what you find in today's Classifieds.

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Helping YOU reach your GOAL



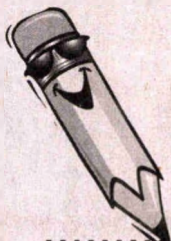
Whether you want to get fit or get organized—save money doing it with an O&E Media classified ad!

Our classifieds **WORKOUT!**

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hometownlife.com A GANNETT COMPANY

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Challenging fun for ALL ages



Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nada
 - 6 Port in a storm
 - 11 Tabloid staffer
 - 13 Boat basin
 - 14 Flour holder
 - 15 Ms. Washington of blues
 - 17 Campers, for short
 - 18 Go bad
 - 19 Fleeces
 - 20 — Maria (coffee liqueur)
 - 21 Famous last word
 - 23 Ms. Basinger
 - 24 Ayla's creator Jean —
 - 25 Messy person
 - 27 Dished out
 - 29 Apple seed
 - 31 Wahine's welcome
 - 32 Item to dunk (2 wds.)
 - 35 Makeup target
- DOWN**
- 1 Gridiron ref, slangily
 - 2 Figures of speech
 - 3 Beam above the door
 - 4 NY neighbor
 - 5 Mortar troughs
 - 6 Mocking laughs
 - 7 Argon, in the lab
 - 8 Strong point
 - 9 Begrudged
 - 10 Kind of congestion
 - 12 Cord of firewood
 - 13 Whale or mouse
 - 16 Hit dead-center
 - 22 Prickly pear
 - 24 Wanted-poster word
 - 26 Apron part
 - 28 Rock's — Leppard
 - 30 Like some fog
 - 32 Professor's goal
 - 33 Springtime celebration
 - 34 Knight's glove
 - 36 Cocktail party nibble
 - 37 Poet-novelist — Wylie
 - 38 Sells from a stand
 - 40 GOP rivals
 - 42 Siskel's old partner
 - 44 M. to Einstein
 - 45 Is, in Segovia
 - 51 BART's city
 - 53 Harmful ray

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11				12		13				
14			15		16			17		
18			19					20		
21		22		23				24		
	25		26		27		28			
		29		30		31				
	32	33			34		35	36	37	
38				39		40		41		42
43			44			45		46		
47			48					49		
50			51			52		53		
54							55			

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

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

CUP OF TEA WORD SEARCH

WORDS

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

- AROMA
- ASSAM
- ASTRINGENT
- BAGGY
- BANCHA
- BITE
- BLACK
- BREAKFAST
- BRISK
- CAFFEINE
- CEYLON
- CHAI
- CREAM
- DARJEELING
- DULL
- DUST
- EARTHY
- ESTATE
- FANNINGS
- FULL
- GREEN
- HONEY
- IMPERIAL
- INSTANT
- KEEMUN
- LIGHT
- OOLONG
- PEKOE
- PLANTATION
- POUCHONG
- QUALITY
- STEEP
- TANNIN
- WEAK
- WHITE

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

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

Car Report

Jeep Comes Up Big in Role As Key Brand, At Home and Abroad.



By Dale Buss

Jeep just keeps on proving its mettle in its role as the key brand for Fiat Chrysler, both at home and abroad.

At home, Jeep led all other Fiat Chrysler brands — and most other brands in the entire U.S. auto industry — with its performance out of the box in January, with domestic sales rising by

envisioned when they introduced it last year.

And now on the heels of all that success comes the new Jeep Renegade, the small crossover that is being built in Italy in the same plant with the new Fiat 500X. Renegade surely will boost Jeep further as it addresses the key, fast-growing compact-SUV segment in the U.S. market — and abroad.

Speaking of abroad, Fiat Chrysler also chose Jeep to make its annual “statement” advertisement during the

raucously celebrating a century of life and the 100th anniversary of the brand.

The only all-new creative showed up in a spot for Jeep that effectively communicated the brand’s rising global ambitions — but also invited potential controversy. The 90-second advertisement operated on three different levels.

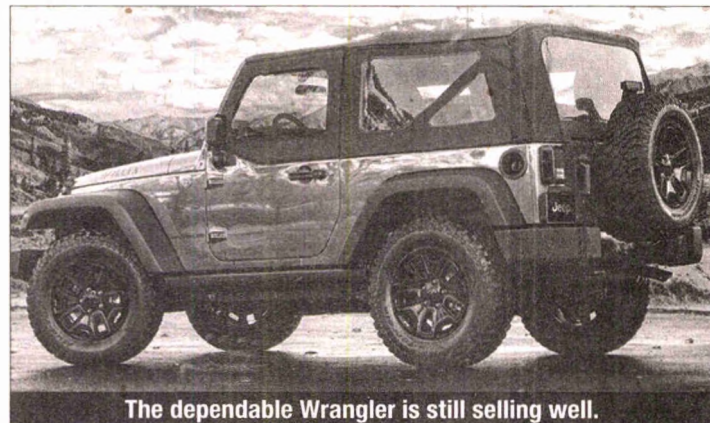
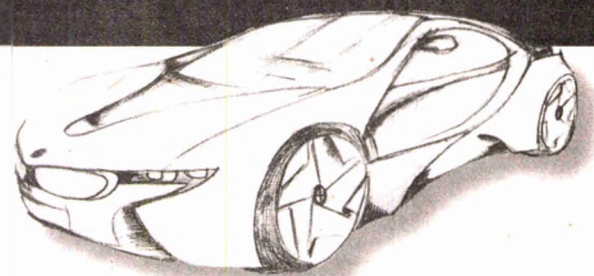
“Beautiful Lands” certainly presented the new Renegade. One of the last messages in the ad is the printed line, “America’s smallest, lightest SUV.”

The 90-second ad also ended up an environmental message and served with the tag lines, “The World Is a Gift. Play Responsibly.” Then, in a reference for which no further explanation is provided: “Water Is Life. Help Provide It.” Jeep explains its involvement in water.org in a news release.

And unfolding as it did against the strains of the Woody Guthrie-penned anthem, “This Land Is Your Land,” the Jeep ad also invited a potential raising of eyebrows in at least a couple of different ways.

For one thing, the ad, playing out over the first few stanzas of the song written by Guthrie in 1940, segued from a travelogue of beautiful scenes from across the United States into a global pastiche that included vistas of the Great Wall of China and the Christ statue overlooking Rio de Janeiro.

So, which land was made for you



The dependable Wrangler is still selling well.

and me? Apparently the world. Jeep is the main brand engine for Fiat Chrysler’s ambitions to become a truly global car company. Did American viewers appreciate the ad’s reminder that the iconic star-spangled marque, whose original vehicles were fabled for their service in the U.S. military during World War II, now belongs to the entire globe? It’ll be interesting to see.

After the ad ran during the Super Bowl, Fiat Chrysler released a statement in which it said that “Beautiful Lands” takes “a unique and surprising twist upon the iconic piece of music, ‘This Land Is Your Land,’ written as a crowning tribute to America’s homeland, and expands its interpretation into a global celebration of all lands across the world.”

“The catalyst that takes viewers on an unexpected musical and visual odyssey, [the ad] creates a connection to show the Jeep brand’s evolution. As

performed by recording artist Marc Scibilia, the song and the ‘Beautiful Lands’ video share a message of freedom and reverence, and also introduces ‘This Land Is Your Land’ to a new generation of fans, inviting a fresh and new appreciation for the song.”

But actually, another reason the ad’s creative might be perceived as provocative is because of the barbed origins of “This Land Is Your Land.” Though it’s become an American classic, the song is understood to have been a sort of commentary by Guthrie, from the left — and in particular, a response to Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America,” sang by Kate Smith, which was ubiquitous at that time. Shared politics are certainly a reason that Guthrie’s folk-singing son, Arlo Guthrie, and Pete Seeger are said to have performed the song more often than anyone else.



Jeep hopes the all-new Renegade takes brand sales to a whole new level.

23 percent, to more than 51,000 units. That was about two-thirds more sales last month than the company’s next-best-performing brand, Ram, whose sales rose by 21 percent.

Jeep posted its 16th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains as Cherokee, Wrangler, Patriot and Compass each logged their best-ever sales for the month. The all-new Cherokee keeps looking like the huge hit Fiat Chrysler product planners

Big Game this year. The company actually ran three ads during the contest on NBC. Two of them already had appeared online and were making their TV debut: Fiat used humor in the tale of a peripatetic “blue pill” that highlighted the robust appeal of the relatively large Fiat 500X; and a spot for Dodge featured centenarians

Advertising Feature

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