

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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The Park Players presents "Plaza Suite," a three-act play by Neil Simon at Canton High School.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth public safety tax shot down

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth officials aren't giving up their goal of adding to the city's police force, even after the defeat Tuesday of a tax that would have helped pay for two new officers and other long-term public safety expenses.

Voters shot down the ballot proposal for a public safety property tax of up to 1.5 mills, or \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value, by a margin of less than 4 percent, with 594 votes against the plan to 550 in favor. The tax would have raised an estimated \$708,000 a year had the entire 1.5 mills been levied.

City commission members, several of whom gathered Tuesday evening at the Plymouth Cultural Center to await election results, said they would regroup and find a way to pay for more police. The city last month hired a 16th officer after years of having 15 on the force. The millage was intended to pay for a 17th, as well as provide some of the revenue for the 16th.

"We're going to continue to keep public safety as a top priority," said Commissioner Oliver Wolcott, who along with Commissioner Colleen Pobur comprised a commission subcommittee tasked with championing the goal of adding police.

Officials want police to spend more time patrolling neighborhoods in addition to keeping tabs on downtown Plymouth's bar and restaurant scene, which occasionally has brought problems like drunken driving, rowdiness and assaults. The addition of a 16th officer was seen as a way to meet both needs.

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'SUITE' LIFE

Park Players will tackle three-act Simon classic

By Brad Kadrich
Correspondent

The last time Dylan Randolph was involved with a production of Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*, he was working behind the curtain while his father was on-stage in production in Dearborn.

Friday, it'll be Dylan's turn to take the stage.

Randolph, a senior at Salem High School, is among the six-actor cast starring in the latest Park Players production, which hits the stage this weekend and next at the DuBois Little Theater in Canton High School.

Randolph, last on a Plymouth-Canton stage in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, plays two roles: Sam Nash in Act 1 and Borden Eisler in Act 3.

"I'm a fan of Neil Simon; he's hilarious," Randolph said. "My

See PLAYERS, Page A6

District again considering Schools of Choice

By Brad Kadrich
Correspondent

With the district projecting a loss of another 340 students, Plymouth-Canton administrators are again looking at a limited Schools of Choice option to help cover expenses.

Superintendent Michael Meissen proposed Monday opening 300 seats in the district to students from outside Plymouth-Canton's boundary, a move he says could bring the district between \$20 million and \$25 million over the course of those students' educational careers.

The proposal was made in a budget workshop at which the Board of Education got an early look at some of the district's enrollment projections.

"This is a major policy decision that has budget implications," Meissen told board members Monday. "We would strongly urge the board to consider opening up 300 seats. It's my judgment a lot of school districts are looking at ways to find students."

While the decision is still months away, it could be the second straight year the district has accepted Schools of Choice students. This year, 65 students entered Plymouth-Canton schools after the board opened the district to 200 seats in grades K-2.

Meissen pointed out that some 116 families applied, but said he believes many dropped out because "they had school-age children older

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Township tax renewals win, officials claim validation

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township voters overwhelmingly supported two tax renewal proposals Tuesday, ensuring funding for the township's police and fire departments and emergency dispatch center for the next 20 years.

The proposals, which will keep two dedicated public safety millages at current levels, won by wide margins and officials painted the election as a signal that, despite recall efforts against some of them, voters are by and large satisfied with the way the township is run.

"They're pleased with their level of police, fire and dispatch services," Supervisor Richard Reaume said just after election results were announced Tuesday night at township hall.

"They're satisfied with the management team of Plymouth Township," Treasurer Ron Edwards said. One proposal, a 20-year renewal of 0.5631 mills,

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Heise wants buy-in on sewer buybacks

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

New bills by a state lawmaker who represents Plymouth and Plymouth Township would give affected communities a say in any sale or ownership transfer of regional sewer systems.

Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, says his House Bills 4033 and 4082 are a response to Wayne County's 2014 plan that would have forced more than 30 communities to "buy back" sewage infrastructure, including a sewage treatment plant, in order to raise cash to address the county's deficit.

Though the plan was not enacted, Heise said a version of it may re-emerge as new County Executive Warren Evans works on a new deficit elimination plan, which Evans hopes will avoid a state takeover of county finances.

The county debt was pegged at about \$200 million about a year ago by Robert Ficano, who was

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PCFD legacy tab is topic of special board meeting

Plymouth Township officials will discuss legacy costs left over from the now-dissolved Plymouth Community Fire Department during a special study meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday at township hall. No

votes are expected to be taken.

On the agenda is a discussion of the tab for pension and retiree health care benefits that township officials say is owed by the city of Plymouth for the fire department the communities shared from 1995

through 2011.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume on Tuesday pegged that figure at \$3.2 million; city officials recently contracted with an actuary firm to sift through documentation and help them come up with a figure.

The city, in a move designed to save money, left the PCFD at the end of 2011 to partner with the city of Northville for firefighting and emergency medical response services. The township last month retired the joint department's name, returning the fire depart-

ment to its former name, the Plymouth Township Fire Department.

Reaume said the township also owes the city some money, due to the PCFD's dissolution, related to equipment the city contributed when the city and township fire departments merged in

1995.

Also on Saturday's agenda is a discussion of more recent bills to the city over the emergency dispatch service the communities share, plus State of the Township remarks by Reaume.

— By Matt Jachman

SEWER

Continued from Page A1

then the county executive. An Evans spokesman said the new administration is working to come up with new estimates and its own deficit elimination plan.

Heise, the director of the county's Department of Environment for six years, said his bills would require any such buyback in Michigan to be approved by a majority of the legislative bodies in the affected communities.

Heise argues that residents already have an ownership stake in sewage systems that have been paid for through water rates and, in some cases, taxes.

"The important thing is that the communities discuss this (buyback plans) with the county," Heise said. Officials in several of the communities that would have been affected by last year's buyback plan objected to it.

Heise said the bills would only require buybacks be approved by a simple majority of affected communities, but that he is open to changing that to a "super-majority" or to adopting some sort of weighted formula that would factor in the proportion of infrastructure, or the proportion of sewage flow, in each community.

The bills are currently in the state House Local Government Committee, of which Heise is a mem-

ber. Heise said he's hoping for a hearing on them next month.

Heise said he recognizes the county's financial situation, but that local communities shouldn't be forced to bail out the county with a sewer buyback without having a say in the deal.

"It's clear that they're just trying to make a quick buck off the tap here and that's just fundamentally unfair," he said.

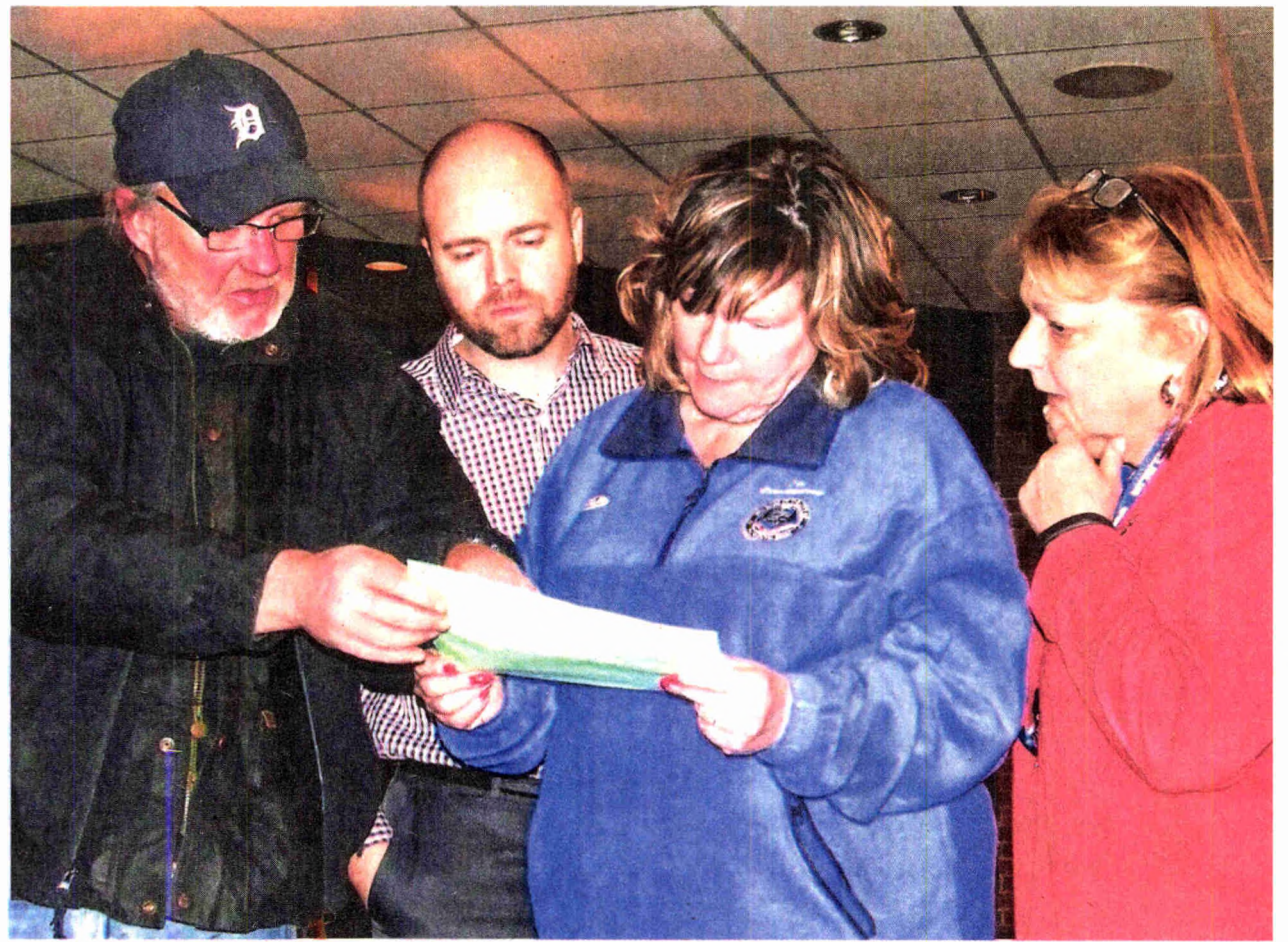
County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-Plymouth Township, took issue with Heise's approach, saying "everything should be on the table" as the county tries to cut its debt. The county is in a financial crisis, Price said.

"I think we should look at selling assets before we go to the taxpayers and ask them to raise taxes," Price said.

Price rejected Heise's view that the communities already own the sewage system, comparing that to saying that DTE Energy customers own the company's energy infrastructure just because they've been paying their bills. Bonds for the system, he said, are issued in the county's name, not in the rate-payers', and it's the county that takes the credit risks on those bonds.

Marlon A. Walker of Michigan.com contributed reporting for this story

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman



Plymouth City Commission members (from left) Ed Hingelberg, Oliver Wolcott and Colleen Pobur, with Nancy Anderson of the city clerk's office, look over election results at the Plymouth Cultural Center after the polls closed Tuesday.

SAFETY

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'Bigger challenge'

"It's going to a much, much bigger challenge now," Wolcott said.

But the commission remains supportive of that 16th position, he said.

The new police posi-

tion is being funded through a combination of general-fund dollars and Downtown Development Authority money, with the DDA picking up the tab through June. The city's next fiscal year starts in July.

Wolcott and Pobur said commissioners may revisit the commission's decision to not charge an administrative fee designed to recoup some of

the cost of collecting property taxes. State law allows such a fee of up to 1 percent on each tax bill; the commission in 2013 and 2014 had discussed imposing the fee, but eventually voted down the plan both years.

Mayor Dan Dwyer said public safety would remain his top priority. "We're going to find a way to do it," he said.

He said he respected voters' position on the millage. "It never hurts to ask the people," Dwyer said.

The voter participation rate for Tuesday's election was just over 15 percent; just over half of the votes cast were from absentee voters.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

RENEWALS

Continued from Page A1

won almost 84 percent of the vote, with 3,138 in favor and 603 against. The second proposal, for a 20-year-renewal of 1.6348 mills, won nearly 80 percent of the vote, with 2,987 yes votes and 753 no votes.

Together, the taxes total 2.1979 mills, or not quite \$2.20 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value, and cost the owners of a house with a taxable value of \$100,000 just under \$220 a year.

The taxes, which would have expired at

the end of the year, raise about \$3.7 million annually, providing more than 40 percent of the township's annual public safety budget of nearly \$8.9 million.

The voter participation rate was just over 17 percent. About three times as many voters, 2,805, voted absentee than showed up at polling places Tuesday.

Recovery cited

Officials said the township managed its finances well through the recent Great Recession, when property tax revenue fell and cuts in state funding continued, and is now on an economic upswing. The

township, which levies a total of 4 mills, or \$4 for every \$1,000 in taxable value, in property taxes, has the lowest tax rate of any community in Wayne County.

"We were able to maintain public safety during the recession due to belt-tightening by management and concessions by our unions," Reaume said. "And we've come out on the other side of that."

"It's just awesome," Edwards said.

Efforts to recall Reaume and Edwards, plus Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustee Kay Arnold, are currently underway, with activists working to gather

enough petition signatures to force a November recall election.

Recall proponents have criticized recent township spending on recreation projects and the board's 2014 vote to not enter any authority-type agreements with the city of Plymouth until late 2016, but say in general they are frustrated with what they call some officials' unwillingness to listen to the public, a charge the recall targets deny.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

CHOICE

Continued from Page A1

than second grade."

This year, Meissen would open the district to those families with multiple school-age children.

"The consideration here is we would take 300 kids," Meissen said. "A lot of those families have siblings. We think that's OK."

The School of Choice discussion came after Assistant Superintendent for Finance Pat Briggs, who will lead the budget discussion over the next couple of months (the district has to OK its budget by June 30), presented enrollment figures he called "encouraging" despite the fact the district is expected to lose some 340 students.

"We'd been projected to lose 500 students a

year," Briggs said.

Briggs said enrollment projections place Plymouth-Canton enrollment at an estimated 17,203 students for 2015-16, down from a high of almost 19,000 in 2010.

Briggs' optimism stemmed largely from the number of live births in Wayne County, a downward-trending figure the district has used to at least partially rationalize its student losses. But Briggs said those figures have leveled off.

"If you see the tailing effect of births in Wayne County, you'll also note that in 2012, 2013 and 2014, there's a slight

uptick," Briggs said. "Those students have not yet entered the enrollment figures, but at least the picture is stabilizing."

Trustee Mike Maloney, however, tried to rein in the optimism, pointing out the charter schools in the area were likely to take more than the projection. While those numbers weren't readily available, Maloney urged caution.

"I think we might be being a little optimistic (with the enrollment numbers)," Maloney said. "We don't do ourselves any favors by being overly optimistic."

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hometownlife.com

Editor: Brad Kadrich
734-624-3379
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Sports: Tim Smith
734-469-4128
Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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Canton salon pampers teens of cancer-stricken families

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton salon pampered a small group of teen girls who often are so busy caring for a cancer-stricken parent that they have little time for themselves.

On a brutally cold February day, AllenMay Salon & Day Spa gave a warm welcome, facial massage and manicure to girls from Gilda's Club, a Royal Oak-based charity providing social and emotional support to families living with cancer.

"This was wonderful," said Megan Nikolich, Gilda's Club youth program manager. "Cancer affects the entire family. It shakes everything from the normal day-to-day routines to special circumstances. It was nice for these girls to take some time out and

make sure they focus on themselves. This was a wonderful opportunity the salon gave us."

AllenMay Salon owner May Aranki, who runs the business with husband Ali Farhat, said she approached Gilda's Club to give the teens a day spa outing – for free – as a show of support.

"Sometimes when a parent is sick, they are so limited in what they can do for their kids," Aranki said. "Sometimes it's good when you go into a spa or a salon and pamper yourself. We have to show compassion for each other. These girls got to feel pampered. We showed them love and care."

One girl had to cancel her plans to attend because "her mom was sick," Aranki said.

Gilda's Club, named after the late comedian and actress Gilda Rad-

ner, relies on volunteers to help provide support to people fighting cancer. It offers:

- » Support groups for people living with cancer, family members and cancer-specific topics dealing with young adults, women of color, breast cancer and multiple myeloma, among others.

- » Education lectures focusing on cancer-related issues.

- » Workshops such as yoga, beading, colored pencils, quilting, Gilda's Singers and a ukulele group, among others.

- » Children and teen-specific activities and groups, including teens battling cancer.

- » Bereavement support groups.

- » Social events and special occasions such as holiday parties.

Aranki said she offered the day spa outing

to help "spread the message to young girls and women of every age that real beauty is inner beauty made visible."

Gilda's Club, inside a three-story house in Royal Oak, offers a non-residential, home-like setting for men, women, teens and younger children living with cancer, as well as their relatives and friends.

It's cost-free to participate; simply attend one of the new member meetings at 1 p.m. each Monday and 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Call beforehand at 248-577-0800.

Nikolich said Gilda's Club is always looking for volunteers.

For more, go to www.gildasclubdetroit.org.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919



ALLENMAY SALON & DAY SPA
Jessie and Allison, both 15, got some pampering during a free outing to AllenMay Salon & Day Spa in Canton.

Relay For Life of Canton kickoff scheduled

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Canton will hold a kickoff for the annual event 6:30-8 p.m. today, Feb. 26, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. The society is inviting people who are interested in learning more and getting involved in the event to attend.

The kickoff program will honor cancer survivors and caregivers and feature the society's mission to save lives from cancer. Speakers will include Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, cancer survivors and information on where funds raised go locally. Attendees will have the opportunity to register a team for the Relay For Life event, which will be held May 16 at Heritage Park.

Relay For Life is a community event where teams and individuals camp out at a school, park or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each



The Relay for Life of Canton is scheduled for May 16 at Heritage Park.

team has at least one participant on the track at all times and participates in fundraising that supports the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives and finish the fight against cancer. Four million people participated in more than 6,000 events worldwide in 2014. Last year, 450 people participated in Relay For Life of Canton and raised \$187,950.

"The Relay For Life movement unites communities

across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and take action to finish the fight once and for all," said Colin Campbell, Relay For Life volunteer and Canton resident.

Go to relayforlife.org/CantonMI to learn more about the program. Additionally, contact Megan Schaper at 248-663-3417 or Megan.Schaper@cancer.org for more information.

All Saints students win essay contest

All Saints Catholic School has announced that three students have been named local winners in the 46th annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

All Saints winners Holly Stefanek (first), Allison Schulz (second), and Austin Tomajko (third) will receive award certificates for their achievement. Holly will receive an engraved plaque for display at All Saints and advances to the state-level competition, where the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected.

Holly and Austin are Canton residents; Allison is from Northville.

"This is a great achievement for our students and well-deserved recognition for our teachers," Principal Kristen Strausbaugh said. "To see our students being

considered for a statewide competition in language arts is truly a testament to the dedication our teachers put forth."

The top 10 statewide winners, announced in April, will receive a plaque, a medallion and a cash award of \$1,000. Additionally, award winners will be honored at a banquet in Lansing, meet with top government leaders and be the first guests at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game dedicated in their honor.

Several thousand students from more than 400 Michigan schools participated in the 2014-15 America & Me Essay Contest, which was conducted with the help of Farm Bureau Insurance agents across the state. The topic of the 2014-15 contest was "My Personal Michigan Hero."

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Left-turn lane is not a merge, acceleration lane

To make a left turn or not to make a left turn — that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler to make in the mind and suffer the speeding and traffic of outrageous fortune or depress the gas pedal against the sea of vehicles.

That is a quote from one of my favorite, lesser known Shakespearean plays, "A Mid-night's Summer Traffic Jam."

The question: Is it all right to turn into the left-turn lane from a parking lot and then use it as a lane of travel?

The answer is no. The left-turn lane is not to be used as a merge or acceleration lane. It is only available for use by vehicles for a reasonable distance in preparation for a left turn from an



Sgt. Michael Sura
GUEST COLUMNIST

adjacent lane. Now, this is not specified in the Michigan Vehicle Code, but it is specified in the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices.

That is an extremely long book that can be tough to understand, like Shakespeare. That is the best answer I can give on this topic.

Sgt. Michael Sura works with the Michigan State Police Department. If you have questions or comments please email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Customer grabs charity jar from gas station

A man stole a charity donation jar with an estimated \$50 in it from a Plymouth Township gas station early Sunday.

The theft occurred around 3 a.m. at the Speedway station on Sheldon at Ann Arbor Road, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The jar was for donations to the Children's Fund, the report said.

A clerk on duty told police a man had parked a vehicle, which was not described, near some gas pumps shortly before 3 a.m., then paid cash for \$3 of gasoline. When she stepped away from the register after that transaction, she said, the man grabbed the donation jar, went to his vehicle and drove off.

Drug fraud

A 20-year-old Westland man was arrested Feb. 10 for attempting to fill a fraudulent prescription at the CVS drug store at Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road.

Police were dispatched to the store on a report of the fraud attempt and an officer stopped a man as he left the store, a police report said. The pharmacist identified him as the person who had tried to fill the prescription, police said.

The prescription was for a promethazine/codeine syrup, typically used to treat a cough or other upper respiratory symptoms.

The man had several pieces of identification, police said, and after he was identified through fingerprints, he was issued a cita-

tion for providing false identification to police. He was later released on a personal bond.

Wheel theft

The tires and wheels were stolen Saturday night or early Sunday from a Lincoln MKC while the vehicle was parked in the driveway of a house on Governor Bradford.

The luxury vehicle had been left on landscaping blocks and the lug nuts had been left behind, police said. The incident occurred between 10 p.m. Saturday and just before 9 a.m. Sunday.

Police later Sunday learned there had been a similar theft on South Mill in the city of Plymouth and that the same type of landscaping blocks had been used.

— By Matt Jachman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Woman alleges boyfriend pulled revolver on her

A Canton woman alleged her boyfriend pointed a revolver at her inside her residence, causing her to fear for her life after he earlier assaulted her in Van Buren Township, a police report said.

The distraught 27-year-old victim went to the police station to report the incident after she drove her boyfriend, 32, of Romulus to work, the report said.

The victim said her problems began to unfold Feb. 18, when her boyfriend assaulted her in Van Buren Township and threatened to have someone shoot her unless she took him to her residence instead of his. She lives at The Crossings, an apartment complex near I-275 and Joy Road on Canton's north side.

Back at her apartment, the suspect broke the victim's phone so she couldn't call for help and then, a day after the assault, pulled a revolver while on the sofa and pointed it

at her, though no shots were fired, the report said.

Police confiscated the revolver and five rounds of ammunition from the apartment. The investigation was continuing.

Domestic violence

Canton police responding to reports that a 29-year-old man had been stabbed ended up arresting him after learning he had injured himself by accident and was wanted for unarmed robbery, obstructing justice, attempted burglary and felony drug charges in communities such as Livonia, Plymouth, Westland and Novi.

Police went to the 8473 block of Forrest, near Joy Road and I-275, amid reports the man had been stabbed shortly after 2:30 a.m. Saturday by a woman inside a ranch home where they conceded they had argued much of the night after consuming alcohol.

Police arrived and found a shattered window, the home in disarray and drops of blood

outside a side door. Officers knocked on the door, but the couple didn't answer until police began to pry open the door.

The pair had apparently argued after the man told the woman he had been cheating on her, the police report said. She said the dispute escalated when he grabbed a knife and began slashing and stabbing at the walls, injuring himself when his hand slid down on the blade, the police report said.

The dispute had drawn the attention of neighbors who called police, saying the man had stepped outside the house and claimed he had been stabbed by the woman. But the man told police the incident was his fault.

The woman told police she hadn't been threatened by the knife but, nonetheless, was afraid of the man. Paramedics arrived and tended to the man before he was taken into custody for the outstanding warrants.

Motorist arrested

Canton police confiscated brass knuckles — silver with skulls — from a 23-year-old Detroit woman and arrested her for warrants she had out of Harper Woods, Ferndale and Romulus, a police report said.

Her arrest came shortly before 2 a.m. Feb. 19 after police stopped a 2007 Chevrolet Malibu when the suspect made a lane change without signaling on southbound I-275, near Michigan Avenue, the report said.

Police learned the woman had a suspended license. Her license plate was confiscated and her car towed.

She allegedly told police she had the brass knuckles because a man at her job wanted to fight her.

Lost his ride

A Canton man apparently has lost his ride to work after a bicycle he bought for \$20 was taken from him after it was learned it was stolen, a police report said.

The man told police he bought the bike from someone he encountered near a Dumpster at The Crossings, an apartment complex near I-275 and Joy Road. He denied knowing it was stolen.

The bike was spotted outdoors Sunday by a 43-year-old female tenant who notified police to report it was hers, saying the bike had been stolen earlier this month from a basement storage area that was broken into.

Police returned the bike to the woman.

Identity theft

A 36-year-old Canton man told police he had become a victim of identity theft after learning an account had been opened in his name with Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in California.

He said he had received notification from the company and was advised to report the incident to police to document it so that it wouldn't be turned over to debt collectors.

— By Darrell Clem

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 <p>MAYTAG SUITE</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Microwave MMV4205DS</td><td>\$349</td></tr> <tr><td>Range MER8700DS</td><td>\$899</td></tr> <tr><td>Dishwasher MDB499SDM</td><td>\$649</td></tr> <tr><td>Refrigerator MSF25D4MDM</td><td>\$1396</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>\$3,296</td></tr> </table> <p>Maytag Suite Price Now \$2,499</p> <p>Saving 24%</p>	Microwave MMV4205DS	\$349	Range MER8700DS	\$899	Dishwasher MDB499SDM	\$649	Refrigerator MSF25D4MDM	\$1396	Total	\$3,296	 <p>Whirlpool SUITE Home Appliances</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Range WFE540HOAS</td><td>\$899</td></tr> <tr><td>Microwave WMMH53520CS</td><td>\$399</td></tr> <tr><td>Dishwasher WDT720PADM</td><td>\$599</td></tr> <tr><td>Refrigerator WRF535SMBM</td><td>\$1699</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>\$3,596</td></tr> </table> <p>Whirlpool Suite Price Now \$2,799</p> <p>Saving 24%</p>	Range WFE540HOAS	\$899	Microwave WMMH53520CS	\$399	Dishwasher WDT720PADM	\$599	Refrigerator WRF535SMBM	\$1699	Total	\$3,596
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Community Foundation of Plymouth enriches life for locals

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

If you go to the Penn Theatre, enjoy Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps or Plymouth Oratorio Society performances, visit the Plymouth Historical Museum or use New Hope Center's grief support services, you've benefited from the Community Foundation of Plymouth's work.

CFP's financial backing enables community organizations to provide services for people of all ages and walks of life.

The organization, founded in 2005, aims to enrich the quality of life in Plymouth and Plymouth Township through endowment funds. Since its inception, CFP has distributed more than \$211,000 in grants and scholarships.

The Michigan Philharmonic, which provides concerts and youth education in the Plymouth area, has received grants each year since CFP began.

"They have supported our youth education programs which provide third- and fourth-graders in the Plymouth-Canton school district with music in the classroom and concerts designed especially for them," said Beth Stewart, executive director for the organization. "This project has had huge success and made a big impact in the schools, especially supporting the music teachers who are stretched thin as their ranks are diminished due to funding cuts."

New Morning School, a parent cooperative school for preschoolers through eighth-graders, is another CFP beneficiary. "Due to the generosity of the Community Foundation of Plymouth, we are able to offer summer science camp scholarships," said Elaine Kennedy, who founded and heads the school.



The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps. is supported by the foundation.

"These scholarships are for five weeks of science, technology, engineering and math camps for children ages 5-11."

Kennedy noted that summer learning loss contributes a great deal to the achievement gap between underprivileged students and those with more economic resources. Scholarships for education in key academic areas are especially helpful in bridging that gap.

"The Community Foundation of Plymouth has a direct impact on the youth and people of our community," Kennedy said. "They aren't giving to huge organizations with a lot of overhead; they give directly to members of our community and enhance our community in so many important ways."

An endowment for the community

CFP's mission is to build a permanent endowment to enrich the quality of life in the Plymouth area. Marlene Donoghue, advisory committee member and owner of Creative Health Products in Plymouth, noted that CFP is one of 60 community foundations in the state designed to endow funds for life-enriching purposes within a set geographic area.

The funds come from

donors who either give to CFP's general fund; give to a fund that addresses a specific need such as the Fund for Youth; give to an established fund like the Margaret Dunning Endowment Fund, which benefits the Plymouth Historical Museum; give to a scholarship fund; or give to a donor-advised fund, which allows donors to recommend which organizations receive grants.

The funds are invested for long-term growth. The idea, Donoghue noted, is to spend the interest by awarding specific grants, while the capital remains intact long term. Hence, the "permanent endowment" aspect of CFP's mission.

The beauty of giving to CFP, Donoghue explained, is that any amount can do some good. "Say somebody dies and you want to do something in their honor," she said. "You can donate \$50. You don't have to have thousands or millions of dollars."

On the other hand, individual donors or companies that do give a lot of money can ensure it's spent according to their wishes. Donor-advised funds and scholarship funds are established with a minimum \$20,000 donation. Designated funds that help a specific organization are established with a mini-

mum \$10,000 donation. The CFP advisory committee carefully considers each grant application, with an eye toward making the biggest impact possible in the community - or what Donoghue calls the "ripple effect."

Each fall, the committee reviews applications, which include detailed information about how the money will be used. If the benefits to the community are not far-reaching enough, as in the case of a couple of grant applications this year that would have benefited one or two people, the grant is not awarded, Donoghue said.

Once the grant is written, it includes the details of the money's use, Donoghue said. "Every grant that is written is very specific."

The Ann Arbor connection

CFP is relatively new, especially compared to its affiliate, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, which is now in its 52nd year. As an affiliate of AAACF, CFP reaps the benefits of the larger, more experienced organization's administration and expertise in investments.

CFP has no paid staff or overhead costs, just a volunteer 15-member advisory committee that makes grant decisions and helps get the word out about CFP. AAACF handles CFP's grant application process and all other administrative tasks.

Make no mistake, however, all CFP donations stay in Plymouth, Donoghue said. "The money is very well kept track of. All the money (donated to CFP) is used for Plymouth."

Neel Hajra, president and CEO of AAACF, added: "Think of it as a foundation within a foundation, with CFP being led by an advisory commit-

tee comprised entirely of Plymouth citizens who deeply care about the continued long-term vibrancy of the Plymouth community."

Meeting needs, looking ahead

CFP's ever-present goal is to fund initiatives that enrich life in Plymouth and Plymouth Township today and in the near future, yet the foundation is always looking toward the distant future, Hajra noted.

"Our goal is to preserve the spending power of each fund over time, even as each continues to grant out every year," Hajra said. "We also have a horizon beyond just yearly grants. Our mission is 'for good

for ever.' We are building for the long-term success and vibrancy of the community."

"An endowment allows us to support current needs, while providing for changes in those needs over time and to ensure funds are in place for a community none of us can even envision right now. Committed citizens want to be sure the quality of life in this community that has benefited them and their families continues for generations to come. Endowment is thus a wonderful testament to history and a lasting legacy for the future."

To donate to CFP or for more information about grants, go to www.cfpplmouth.org.

Scout takes design prize



Nolan Fowler, 9, a Jr. Weblo scout from Plymouth Township, won the Plymouth Theme Design Award as the Bird Elementary Pack 293 recently held its Pinewood Derby at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Scouts were able to design their cars. They could also opt to design a car to fit one of the chosen themes for this year's derby. Nolan designed and created his car to represent the chamber of commerce logo Plymouth Rocks.

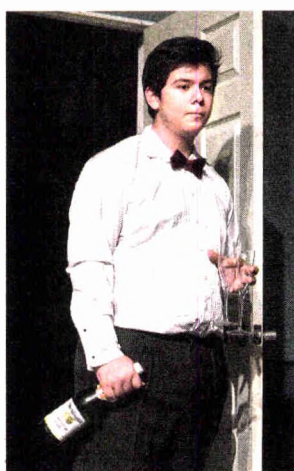
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roy the waiter (George Rafka), arrives with champagne, but there is no celebration.

PLAYERS

Continued from Page A1

dad was actually in this play and I worked backstage."

While the play is comprised of three acts, each involves different characters but all are set in Suite 719 of New York City's Plaza Hotel.

The first act features Sam and Karen Nash, who are revisiting their honeymoon suite in an attempt by Karen to bring the love back into their marriage.

The second act involves a meeting between movie producer Jesse Kiplinger and his old flame, suburban housewife Muriel Tate. Muriel - aware of his reputation as a smooth-talking ladies' man - has come for nothing more than a chat between old friends, promising herself she will not stay too long. Jesse, however, has other plans in mind and repeatedly attempts to seduce her.

The third act revolves around married couple Roy and Norma Hubley on their daughter Mimsey's wedding day. In a rush of nervousness, Mimsey has locked herself in the suite's bathroom and refuses to leave.

Director Paul Bird said *Plaza Suite* was chosen after students pointed out it "had been a while since we did a modern play."

"This one fit that bill," Bird said. "I was also intrigued by the idea of a play that is really three short plays in one, taking place in the same location."

Plymouth High School sophomore Sam Schikora is playing Norma Hubley in her first Park Players performance. She came late to the production, joining the cast after everyone else had begun rehearsing.

Schikora said she loves the theater and, when she read the script,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Act 2, Jesse (Rishi Mahesh), a smooth-talker, has plans for the evening with the prim Muriel (Miki Somers).



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Act 1 features the long-married Sam and Karen Nash, played by Dylan Randolph and Isabelle Shaurnoch, trying to spark a return of romance.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sam, (Dylan Randolph) confesses his affair with Jean. Karen's (Isabelle Shaurnoch) reaction unnerves Tom.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Act 3" Norma's (Sam Schikora) daughter gets cold feet minutes before the start of her wedding. Husband Roy (George Rafka), proposes walking the ledge on the outside of the building, seven stories up, to persuade their daughter to leave the bathroom and enter into matrimony.

she "thought it was funny."

"There are funny moments that are sort of subtle," she said, "but there are moments that are outright funny that I think the audience will enjoy."

Isabelle Shaurnoch is getting her first taste of the stage, though she's worked back stage in previous productions.

Shaurnoch, a Salem High School sophomore, is playing Karen Nash in the first act. She finds her character's sarcastic attitude hits fairly close to home. She said Nash is "really self-confident" even though her husband puts her down a lot.

TICKET INFO

What: Park Players production of Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*

When: Feb. 27-28, March 6-7; all performances at 7 p.m.

Where: DuBois Little Theater in Canton High School, 8415 N. Canton Center in Canton

Tickets: \$10

"I really like the theater," Shaurnoch said. "I did a lot of work back stage, so I thought it would be cool to be on stage."

Canton High School sophomore George Rafka is the waiter in the

first two acts and plays Roy Hubley in the third. Like several of his castmates, Rafka last appeared in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*.

He was going to focus on getting some more stage work in order to qualify to be a thespian. Then he found he could accomplish that goal and still be on stage.

"I had the chance to audition and thought, 'Why not?'" Rafka said. "I just really like doing theater."

It's a youthful cast, something Bird didn't really notice as he was casting it.

"When I cast a show, I

don't really pay much attention to what grade a student is in," he said. "It just so happened this time I got a group of younger students to choose from."

Rehearsals started the second week of January and the play has since been hit with a number

of challenges, from illnesses and snow days to family emergencies and "other assorted surprises," Bird pointed out.

"But, as usual, the students have risen to the occasion and really rallied around each other," Bird said. "I couldn't be more proud of them."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sam Nash consults with his secretary Jean, played by Miki Somers, during what should be a romantic getaway for Tom and Karen.

Winter-weary residents seek travel options to escape cold

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Feel like getting out of town to a sunnier clime? Local travel agents are at the ready, to help you book a trip to a warm, sunny locale.

"I would definitely say warm is important," said Linda Pohl, a travel agent at Travel Leaders of Plymouth. "I can honestly say I want to go somewhere," Pohl said, noting work keeps her in town right now.

At Travel Leaders, regular clients are booking trips to places like the Caribbean and Mexico. The travel agents are also seeing newcomers who've looked at newspaper ads and at Facebook.

"They're doing random searches online and our office is coming up," Pohl said. The agent profiles online give specific information, such as on booking a trip to Australia.

"Travel Leaders is very proactive in that," Pohl said. "The profile will point them to the right agent. That's really good."

In addition to the Caribbean and Mexico, Disney World in Florida is popular with Travel Leaders customers. Some people whose works means they can't travel right now are looking ahead.

"They're planning trips for the summer. Europe is extremely big," Pohl said.

She urges travelers to purchase trip insurance, noting a friend of hers was covered when an Alaska trip couldn't be taken. "Travel insurance is so important. Just cover your bases," Pohl said.

She and other travel agents also emphasize their ability to help when



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Michiganders are flocking to warmer climes as the winter continues.

travel plans are disrupted, such as getting another flight, re-booking a hotel or rental car, "whatever it takes to get our clients satisfied."

Some booking right now is full, she said, but flexibility in travel dates on the customer's part is helpful. "The earlier you can plan things, the better," Pohl said.

Canton residents Larry Gropman and Maryann Acker recently traveled to the Caribbean and then spent time in the Florida Keys before heading home. "We took a cruise," said Gropman, an attorney, as is his wife. "It was nice to turn up the air conditioner rather than the heat. It was nice to walk around in T-shirts and shorts for a while."

Gropman and Acker also missed the early February 16-inch snowstorm, although a kind neighbor cleared their driveway. "It's always nice to get away any time of year," Gropman said.

Susan Hiltz, public affairs director for AAA Michigan, said, "The lower gas prices are definitely making winter travel more attractive." Hiltz said Traverse City and the Upper Peninsula are destinations now for skiing and snowmobiling, with many eager "to hit the road and do a winter road trip in Michigan. We are the winter wonderland still."

Hiltz agreed with Pohl that Florida, Mexico and cruises remain popular in winter, as they traditionally are. "Those are definitely top travel spots for Michiganders," she said. "The flip side of winter is getting away from winter."

Hiltz noted Michigan's popularity as a summertime travel destination with its resorts and attractions. "We're definitely known as a good summertime destination state," she said.

Hiltz, who touts both aaa.com and the AAA app, has already headed

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

According to a recent Consumer Pulse report by AAA, Michiganders who responded plan in the next three months to take: a city destination trip (44 percent); beach vacation (29 percent); international travel (10 percent); resort vacation, including all-inclusive/multi-amenity hotels (13 percent); national/state park visit (20 percent); theme park (14 percent); cruise (9 percent); guided tour (2 percent). Some planned multiple trips.

south this winter. "I went to Mexico in January," she said, adding she also skied at Boyne Mountain and Schuss Mountain. "Best of both worlds," Hiltz said.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Aim for a portfolio that is balanced, diversified

There was a buzz last week on Wall Street when Warren Buffett, through his company Berkshire Hathaway, decided to sell and liquidate his position in Exxon Mobil and increase his ownership in Deere & Co.

As expected, the talking heads on the business shows started analyzing Buffett's move. It reminded me of all the analysis that occurred after the last play of the Super Bowl, where the so-called experts differed in their opinions. The same thing applied to the investment world on the Buffett move.

It is entertaining, but what's important to investors is whether to react to a move by Buffett.

Buffet has been one of this country's great investors. His strategies and style have proven successful over the years. That said, there are a couple of things to keep in mind. First, when Buffet takes on a position, he is getting sweetheart deals you and I could never get. In addition, Buffet has made mistakes. Recall, he just bought Exxon a year ago and, although it's hard to know for sure, it doesn't appear he made a profit.

I don't believe that it makes sense to do what Buffet does because his goals and objectives – and his risk tolerance level – may not be the same as yours.

Investors too often look to hit home runs when, in fact, they would be much better off hitting singles and doubles. Investing is not meant to be sexy



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

and it's not meant to be hit or miss. When you swing for the fences, you're forgetting about your overall portfolio and strategy.

Investors can't afford to focus on just one slice of their portfolio. The concentration should be on the overall portfolio. If you want to take a small portion of your portfolio, maybe 5 percent, and try to hit home runs, that's one thing. However, the bulk of your portfolio has to be diversified, balanced and based upon individual goals and objectives.

As Buffet was selling his shares in Exxon Mobil, someone else was buying them. They each could have made the right moves based upon their individual goals and objectives.

Investors should avoid the chatter. Trying to hit a home run by investing in the next Google is exciting, but for every Google there are 10,000 other companies that didn't make it.

My advice is focus on moving your portfolio forward. If you do that, you'll be much more successful than an investor who tries, and generally fails, to hit home runs.

Good luck.

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

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Discover Remarkable

Nothing is more important than good customer service

I'm not immortal, after all. That fact was explained to me recently by an employee at my bank who had the unfortunate luck of drawing the short straw, helping me with what should have been a simple task.

I was owed money from a friend and he asked to deposit payment into my account. Minutes later, a text message from the bank alerted me of the transfer. To complete the transaction, however, I needed to connect to the link provided. Easy enough, right?

The link was buggy and the toll-free numbers I called were mazes of options, none of which included speaking to a representative. That I had to visit the bank to solve this puzzle didn't bother me. Rather, my annoyance, not even simmering at this point, came from the edict that I must enroll in mobile banking before the funds would transfer.

At the bank my irritation boiled as a teller, unable to help, directed me to a young



Ed Nakfoor
GUEST COLUMNIST

banker to whom I explained the situation and editorialized, as I often do, about the importance of our communities of supporting our commercial infrastructure rather than shifting to online services. She then countered my claim that if everyone used online and mobile banking, she and her peers will eventually lose their jobs. "Everyone uses online banking ... we'll be here forever ... you won't live forever, Ed." She fiddled around on her computer, called some office ... unless I enrolled in the mobile service, the money wouldn't deposit.

Who needs forever with service like this?

Customer dissatisfaction
Why wasn't I called Mr.

Nakfoor? Why blame my iPhone, as she did when the app wouldn't load? Mostly I wondered why businesses aren't training employees in the fine art of defusing an unhappy customer instead of encouraging trite small talk?

That a clerk is friendly or the banker chatty won't earn my praise. Instead, empower staff to go off-script and do what's right. Where's the respect - to customers and employees - in business when the latter fear their superiors?

I knew better than to contact the bank with questions, as my public relations background told me the spokesperson would only recite a litany of scripted answers.

Instead, I researched my bank's rank among financial institutions on the American Consumer Satisfaction Index, a measure of consumer satisfaction with the quality of products and services offered by banks with a national presence. As background, the

ACSI has analyzed customer experiences since 1994 in 10 industries, and last week published results of department and discount stores (www.theacsi.org/industries). Among the four national banks, mine ranked fourth last year.

At your service

Rob Nusbaum owns EuroAmerica Design in Troy, a retailer of European- and American-designed kitchens, bathrooms and furniture. He grew up in a retail family and said that beyond merchandise selection, "nothing is more important than service." And providing exceptional service, he said, doesn't end at the completion of the sale: "If a customer calls in two years and the kitchen cabinet doors aren't aligned ... we're there immediately to make adjustments."

When I mentioned the ACSI surveys, Nusbaum suggested retailers often earn kudos for their return pol-

icies, adding, "That's not the best definition of great service ... it's the entire process." And the process includes knowing how to read a customer. That is, know when she wants to be left alone and accept that an aggrieved patron wants to tell his story before hearing a solution.

Beyond reading customers, Nusbaum said, "Business owners should know how to read potential employees. We look for people who have a passion for the product and finding solutions to our customers' needs."

Finally, Nusbaum stressed communicating early and often: "It's easy to call with good news ... but calling at the first hint of a complication goes far in earning trust."

I trust my next trip to the bank will be to use the ATM. That is, if that branch is still open.

Ed Nakfoor is a retail and public relations consultant. Contact him at edwardnakfoor@gmail.com.

Beware of online misinformation, see a physician

Late last year, I broke the No. 1 rule of the Internet and consulted a popular online medical site. Last August, I found myself ill and despite rest, hydration and numerous visits to my general physician, I couldn't get back to full strength.

After a month of fevers, chills, headaches and malaise, I began to research my symptoms. It was all downhill from there. Based on my specific ailments and sharp pain in my abdomen, a popular medical website suggested I may have mononucleosis or a number of far more serious issues.

Armed with the quickest diagnosis the Internet could provide, I went back to the doctor and told the nurse I thought I had mononucleosis. The nurse ran a spot test, which confirmed I had mononucleosis. But as anyone who has ever had mononucleosis



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

knows, there is no antibiotic treatment for mono or other viral infections.

So I rested, drank lots of Gatorade, watched way too much football and waited for my headaches to go away and my energy to come back. Two months later - and a few more visits to the doctor's office - I had made no improvement.

That's when I decided to get a second opinion and found out I didn't have mono - a diagnosis that was probably only made because I led the first doctor to it after visiting the website.

It was truly the perfect storm of events. The spot test

showed positive because I had had mono during an otherwise terrific year of college. My physician never ordered a full blood test. And hey, I had consulted the web, it seemed plausible. Who was I to argue?

We could talk about how my physician was wrong, but this is a technology column. It's more fitting that we talk about the dangers of websites that encourage self-diagnosis. While these sites provide information and tools to manage your health, they offer generic answers for complicated symptoms and can lead patients to more issues.

Take my advice - lots of people play doctor on the Internet.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager for a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com.

Salem High School grad promoted at New York engineering firm

Jeffrey Trim, P.E., has been named chief operating officer of Sam Schwartz Engineering.

Trim, a 1981 graduate of Salem High School, joined SSE in 2009 and is a member of the board of directors. He is the son of Dorothy Trim of Canton and the late Donald Trim.

"Jeff has been a major contributor to our growth and management team since he joined us," said Sam I. Schwartz, P.E., president and chief executive officer. "His 30 years of transportation consulting experience and engineering business expertise continues to benefit SSE, as we grow from a regional firm to a national firm that attracts the best and brightest professionals interested in transportation."

Trim is a fellow at the In-



Trim

stitute of Transportation Engineers and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society for Healthcare Engineers,

the Florida Engineering Society and the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers.

Trim has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a licensed professional engineer in nine states and a certified professional traffic operations engineer.

Sam Schwartz Engineering is a traffic and transportation planning and engineering firm based in New York City.

THE MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH TRUST.



Under New Leadership, Mass Mutual Southeast Michigan Seeks Growth Through Community Outreach

Southfield, Mich., Feb. 22, 2015 -When Colleen Schueneman took over full leadership of MassMutual Southeast Michigan last summer, she immediately set about building relationships with different segments of the community.

Schueneman, the new General Agent, and a growing staff of financial professionals are intent upon building meaningful connections, whether it's meeting with leaders of the Detroit Economic Club, local African-American organizations, or the Belle Isle Women's Committee.

"The fact is, you need to build trust in a community before you can start doing business there," Schueneman said. "We have been working very hard to get our feet firmly planted here."

"We are very excited to have Colleen at the helm of MassMutual Southeast Michigan," said John Vaccaro, Senior Vice President and Head of USIG Sales & Distribution for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual). "Colleen is an innovative and visionary thinker who will be a strong leader for her agency, as well as the larger community."

For Schueneman immersion in the community has been a winning strategy. When she became Managing Director at MetLife in Chicago, Schueneman quickly realized that the company was not adequately serving the large multicultural community in the area.

Schueneman reached out to top leaders in the African-American community, invited them to a meeting, and just listened. The leaders told her they felt that the company had no presence locally, and that their constituents weren't being adequately supported or educated about financial matters. Schueneman continued to hold meetings over the next several months to hear about what they wanted and needed. From those conversations, Schueneman

began to support various community groups, sponsored art and theater events, and backed educational events through the African-American Chamber of Commerce.

The goal was both to provide important support to the community and to recruit new African-American financial professionals.

Schueneman learned valuable lessons from that endeavor and is employing a similar approach to her leadership at MassMutual Southeast Michigan.

"We recognize that in general, the multicultural market is vastly underserved," Schueneman said. "Just as I did in the Chicago area, I am meeting with leaders in this community and just listening to what their needs are."

In her new position, Schueneman has spent considerable time meeting with leaders of the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce.

"What came out loud and clear is that the community needs more education about basic financial planning, debt reduction, college funding, and the danger of overusing credit cards," she said. Schueneman is working to develop an educational series through the chamber on these topics.

In addition to multicultural groups, Schueneman also is reaching out to women and to Millennials. She has recently brought on five women for staff positions and another nine women as financial professionals. Schueneman has spoken at various women's organizations and events in hopes of recruiting more women.

"A lot of our top producers are women," she said. "The job is appealing to women because it offers a lot of flexibility and opportunities for development, growth and advancement."

Under Schueneman's leadership MassMutual Southeast Michigan also is reaching out to Millennials, both in terms of recruiting and to develop a younger clientele. She has spoken at college campuses and to alumni groups, and is using newer technologies, such as video conferencing and social media to reach this tech-savvy audience.

Overall, Schueneman is creating an innovative vision that brings MassMutual Southeast Michigan squarely into the 21st Century. She has created a one-stop shop at her agency, where clients can access an array of services under one roof.

She and her staff have also thrown themselves headlong into community service projects, including volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Race for the Cure, and at Genesee Resources, a program that helps homeless women in the area. Schueneman also is active with The Make A Wish Foundation, Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House, the Judson House, Jewish Vocational Services, Cal's Angels and WASCO Development of Girls, among other charities. Schueneman also serves on the Board of Trustees for the GAMA Foundation for Education and Research, where she develops research to educate future leaders in the financial services industry.

"I have been out and about in the community, building trust and rapport among people because that is the starting point," she said. "If you want to be engaged in the community, you also need to give back."

But for all the new relationships she is building, Schueneman's role as the new General Agent of MassMutual Southeast Michigan is a homecoming of sorts. A Michigan native, she has been in the financial services industry for nearly 30 years. Schueneman began her career as a financial services representative and has represented Prudential, Mutual of New York and MetLife, and headed her own firm before joining MassMutual. After spending 20 years in the Chicago area, Schueneman has returned to the area with her husband and three children. She is an avid golfer and sports enthusiast, and enjoys her time as a Fast Pitch softball coach.



Colleen Schueneman, CLF, LUTCF

General Agent

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New chairman Michael Ritter is ready to offer his expertise on the Plymouth Chamber board

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

As the owner of a small insurance agency consisting of himself and a partner, Michael Ritter understands the challenges small businesses face.

"You can make cold calls all day, but until you establish some credibility, it's difficult to succeed," he said.



Ritter

A great way to establish credibility is to affiliate with what he calls a "non-involved third party," like a chamber of commerce.

Ritter, who owns Supplemental Benefits Exchange in Plymouth, specializing in life and health insurance for small businesses, affiliated himself with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce more than 10 years ago. He's serving his fifth year on the chamber board, has been on the executive committee for the past four years and now he's board chairman.

"Being a small business, it's never easy to

get recognition," Ritter said. What's more, insurance agents tend to have a reputation for being a nuisance, he said. If you've seen the movie *Groundhog Day*, with the insurance agent Bill Murray is always trying to avoid, you know the stereotype.

"(The chamber) lends credence to what you know," Ritter said. "It puts you in a different light."

What's more, Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents tend to be ultra-focused on buying local. Affiliation with the chamber has helped establish Ritter's business as a local, credible insurance agency.

On the flip side, Ritter's insurance expertise benefits the chamber, said Wes Graff, president of the chamber. "Health care is one of the biggest issues for businesses," Graff said. "It's a key expense for businesses. He has such great expertise because of the business he's in."

Ritter also brings "great overall perspective," Graff said, since he's been involved with the chamber for so long. "He's really an excellent networker and marketer," Graff said. "He really gets that aspect of the

business."

Quality of life

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's mission is to foster an environment ripe for healthy businesses. Paramount to creating that environment is maintaining and building on Plymouth's residential appeal. Thus, the chamber "marries the business community with the quality of life here in Plymouth," Graff said.

To that end, Ritter is involved in a yearlong promotional project, Plymouth Rocks. A guitar featuring the words "Plymouth Rocks" is at the forefront, as is a three-minute video snapshot of Plymouth life that's available on the Plymouth chamber website and other social media sites.

Plymouth already has a strong social media presence, Graff said, citing 20,000 followers, but the area needed a video component to strengthen its message.

The video, a shorter version of which will be included in this summer's online marketing campaign, plays into an effort to create opportunities for technological businesses in Plymouth

by building what's commonly known as the Five Mile Technology Corridor.

A cooperative effort between Northville, Plymouth and Wayne County's Department of Economic Development, the Five Mile Technology Corridor is slated to create as many as 9,000 new jobs. The project involves re-purposing former prison property along Five Mile Road into commercial, residential and office space for technology-based businesses and technology-savvy residents.

As Plymouth positions itself as a technological hub, Graff said, "We want to make sure we attract the people, the talent."

The Plymouth Rocks video showcases Plymouth's downtown area, restaurants, recreational activities, special events and residential areas to people who may know nothing about the area, Ritter said.

"When you're looking for a place to live, you don't know the first thing about Plymouth," Ritter said. The video not only provides imagery of Plymouth, but testimonials from those who live and work in the area.

Recognizing local businesses

Another of Ritter's chamber initiatives comes to fruition March 10 at Karl's Cabin on Gotfredson Road. "We're kicking off our first annual awards celebration and Mike's been involved in that from the start," Graff said. "It's a new way to celebrate the contributions of local businesses."

The celebration will recognize large, medium and small businesses with chamber awards and will also include a chamber legacy award. The dinner will feature three courses of Michigan-made food, along with local wines and beers. The cost is \$50 per person and business table sponsorships are available for \$600. Call the chamber at 734-453-1540 to register.

Ritter suggests those interested in the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce attend an upcoming event to see what it's all about. He suggests the monthly coffee connections or the after-hours networking events with other local chambers. The next coffee connection is 8-9 a.m. Thursday, March 12, in Plymouth's

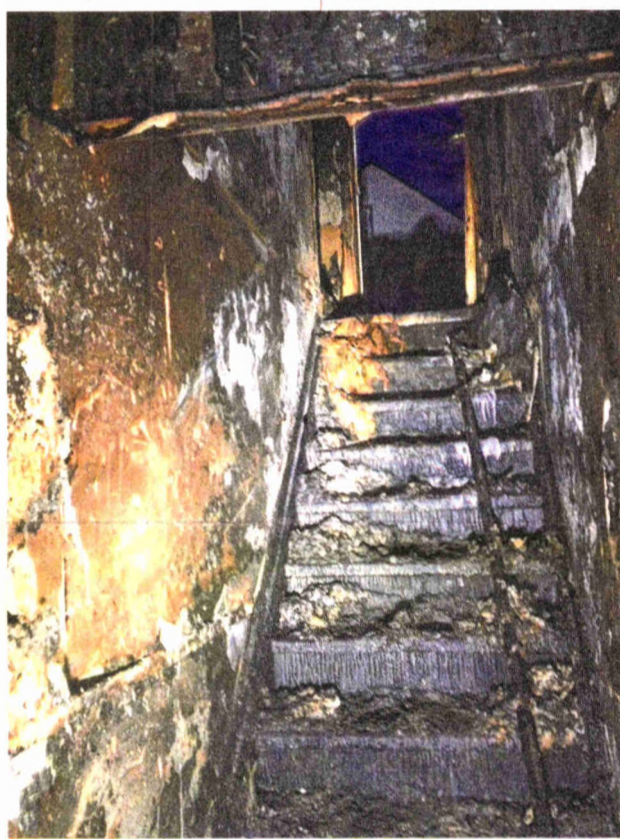
Fifth Third Bank. The next after-hours event is 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Salem Township.

Ritter serves on the board with vice presidents Mark Evenson of Community Financial, David Williamson of PSLZ LLP, Mike Lapinski of Aisin World Corp. of America and Jeff Bell of Schrader Howell Funeral Home.

Directors on the board include Kris Mayer of Bank of Ann Arbor, John Mirsky of Bosch, Tawnya Johnson of The Inn at St. John's, Margaret Harris of MarsBell24/Balloon Promotions, Phyllis Darden of Burroughs Payment Systems, Scott McGlone of Fraza Forklifts, Justin Sharer of Sharer Design Group, Bob Ostendorf of Stella's Black Dog Tavern, Andrea Hoglen of Hoglen Chiropractic & Laser and Frank Ruggiello of Schoolcraft College.

Ritter lives in Plymouth Township with his wife and three children, ages 13, 10 and 5, who attend Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

To join the chamber or for more information, go to www.plymouthmich.org.



WAYNE-WESTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
The basement stairs at a home on Fremont, where an elderly Westland couple died in a fire early Sunday.

Faulty wiring blamed for fire that killed elderly Westland couple

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Faulty wiring is being blamed for a fire that killed an elderly Westland couple in their home early Sunday.

"Firefighters found the front door open and the victims were right inside," Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. "They were just overcome with smoke by that point."

The victims were a married couple, both age 83. Their names weren't released.

They received emergency medical assistance, but neither could be revived. Both were transported to Garden City Hospital, where they were pronounced dead.

A passerby reported the fire about 3:45 a.m. at the ranch-style house on Fremont, in a neighborhood west of Middlebelt and south of Joy.

Reddy said Sunday it was clear that the fire had started in the basement — support walls were needed due to the first floor collapsing.

Later, Wayne-Westland Assistant Fire Chief/

Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers said electrical issues, specifically faulty wiring in recessed lighting in the basement ceiling, had caused the fire.

"The investigation is ongoing, but we traced it from the electrical box to the recessed lighting," Eggers said. "The fire burned up and through."

Firefighters eliminated other possible causes, he said, like a space heater or dropped cigarette, since the couple were both smokers.

The person who reported the fire opened the front door, which was unlocked, but couldn't enter due to the heat and smoke, Eggers said, which also prevented him from seeing the couple.

"They were approximately three feet from the door. When we ventilated the house, we could see them," Eggers said. "It's amazing that they made it that far."

The home is owned by the couple's granddaughter.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
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Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Work on I-96/U.S. 23 interchange set to begin

By Wayne Peal
Michigan.com

Announced a year ago, road work at the Interstate 96/U.S. 23 interchange is on target for this spring.

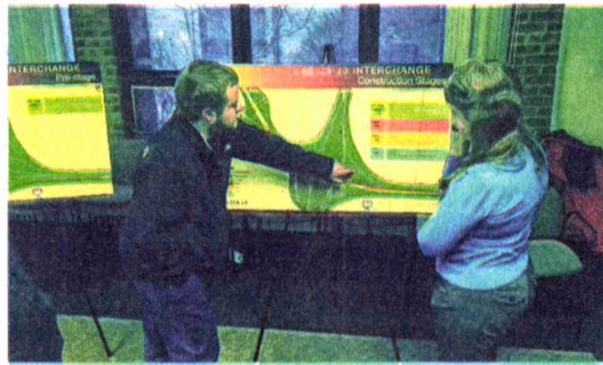
"It's a go," Michigan Department of Transportation project engineer Jim Daavettilla said.

Tree removal will begin in early March, with construction to follow in April.

New I-96 express lanes will be added this year in the gap between current eastbound and westbound lanes.

Those traveling south on U.S. 23 eventually will be diverted along Spencer Road, while those heading north will be diverted along Kensington Road as new overpasses are built.

The current lanes will be converted next year



MDOT officials met with the public to discuss plans for the I-96/U.S. 23 interchange.

into "collector roads," routing traffic to U.S. 23 before merging back into I-96.

New overpasses also will be built and current, aging overpasses will be replaced.

New lanes also will be banked differently, with rougher gravel and warning lights added in

some spots to reduce speed and increase tire grip.

The interchange is noted for semi-truck rollovers and has been flagged as a caution zone by many national trucking companies.

The project is already authorized and doesn't depend on the May 5

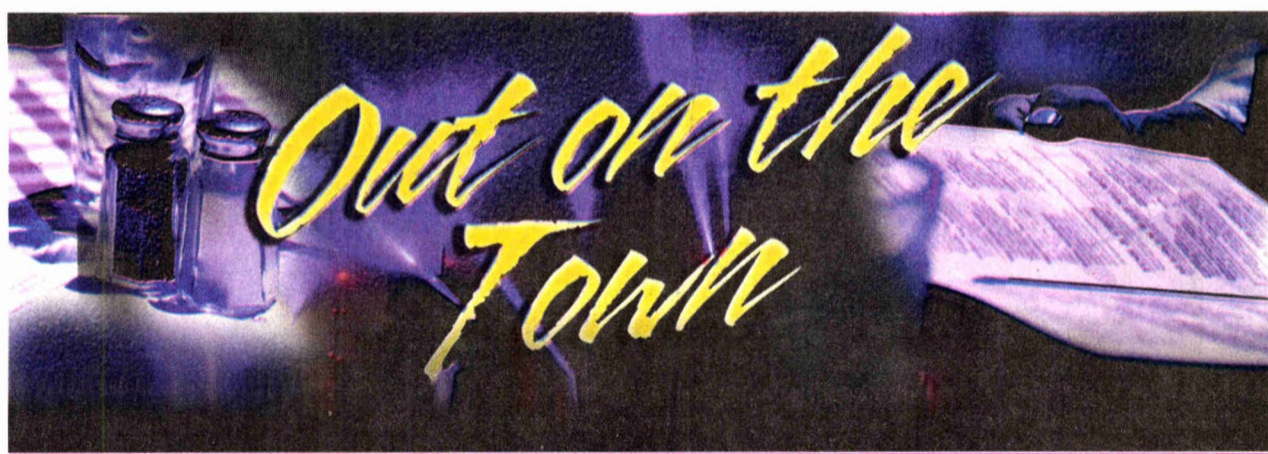
sales tax vote, Daavettilla said.

I-96 was built during the 1960s and MDOT officials said the current interchange isn't geared for today's higher free-way speeds.

MDOT officials presented the plan last week during an informal public session at Brighton Township Hall. Roughly two dozen people attend-

"I wanted to see if there were any things they took away from what they proposed last year," said Brighton resident Andy Dryer, who lives near the intersection. "If anything, it looks like that they added some things."

A full description of the project is available at the MDOT website, www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9621_11008-315384--,00.html.



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Ice dams aren't easily dealt with; toilet solution is simple

Q: I have done everything I can think of to eliminate ice dams, but I still continue to have them. What can I do?

A: You've done everything right. But as you see, with the design of some roofs, it is nearly impossible to prevent ice dams. What you can do is prevent them from causing any damage. That is achieved by installing "roofing membranes" or "ice dam membranes" beneath the shingles. I am a believer that the membrane should extend from the edge of the eave back up the roof at least six feet.

My house is wrapped with the membrane onto



Lon Grossman

the fascia and back up the roof 12 feet. I then put aluminum trim over the membrane that is on the fascia and then install the drip edge material. I also had the membrane installed all the way up the valleys and completely around the skylights. It may be excessive, but I never want to go through what just about everyone else has experienced in the past four to six years.

Q: My toilet runs for

a minute two or three times a night. It also does this in the daytime, but not as often. What can be done?

A: Your problem is actually quite common and easy to repair.

Companies, such as Hunter Plumbing Products, Fluid Master and Kohler (to just name a few), make inexpensive toilet replacement flappers that are easy and quick to install. You can find replacement toilet flappers at any hardware, plumbing or home center.

The flapper is the rubber thing in your toilet tank that goes up and down when you de-

press the handle. It lets the water flow from the box into the bowl. The flapper wears out eventually and, when it does, water slowly seeps out of the box. When the water gets down far enough, the ballcock refills the tank. That is the noise you're hearing.

Each replacement kit (which sells for just a few dollars) only takes a couple of minutes to replace and you do not need any special tools.

Q: I have painted cabinets in my kitchen that are probably the originals from the 1940s. Would you please offer a suggestion as to how to paint

them to improve the cosmetics of the kitchen until we replace them?

A: This is easy. Well, easy for me, not so easy for you. To start, remove the doors and all the hardware. You now have to thoroughly clean all the surfaces using trisodium phosphate and warm water. After you rinse, allow time for all the doors, drawers and fronts to dry.

Next, seal or paint all the surfaces with an oil-based stain kill. When that's dry (in about four to six hours), you can start the first of two coats of oil-based enamel. I recommend you

use a premium quality paint, but I'll leave the color up to you.

You should let the first coat dry overnight before you apply the second coat. The final coat needs to dry thoroughly at least a day before you even touch the surface, but you would be better off letting it cure two to three days before installing the hardware and fronts.

Lon Grossman is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. Email questions to him at drdiy@comcast.net. Sign up for his blog at <http://lldrivy.technihouse.com>.

District expels student charged with making violent threats

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The student responsible for the threat made against and subsequent lock down at Northville High School in December has been expelled from the school district permanently.

The Northville Board of Education at a recent closed session meeting unanimously voted to expel the student, who because of privacy concerns has not been named. With an attorney present and acting as the facilitator for the board's executive (closed) session, an appeal of a recommendation for student expulsion was given.

This punishment stems from the lock down that happened Dec. 18 after a tip was received on the state of Michigan "Ok2Say" tip line about a threat regarding Northville High School.

Northville Township Police said at the time the "threat was deemed credible; due to naming specific students, weap-

ons, explosives and a specific time frame. A lock down of the 2,500 students and staff was initiated to ensure their safety."

This was followed up with an investigation involving the Northville Township Police, Northville Public Schools, Michigan State Police and Detroit FBI office, which resulted in the arrest Jan. 6 of a 15-year-old Northville High School student.

The student received a preliminary hearing Jan. 7 and was charged by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office with false terrorist threats (a felony punishable by 20 years in prison) and false report or threat of bomb or harmful device (a felony punishable by four years in prison).

According to Northville school board President Cyndy Jankowski, in any serious discipline matter that could result in long-term suspension or expulsion, the process includes a hearing with a hearing officer, as well as the opportunity to appeal



Northville Township Police quickly locked down the high school in December when they received word of a threat.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the recommendations of the hearing officer to the Board of Education.

"The board carefully considered the record of the hearing officer and considered the information presented during the appeal. This was a gut-

wrenching process and not taken lightly by the six members of the Board of Education present," Jankowski said. "At its conclusion, the board determined that there were serious violations of the Student

Code of Conduct and found that the discipline recommended (expulsion) was appropriate given the nature of the violations."

She said board members considered all of the information very careful-

ly and acted in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct "and in the best interest of all of our students."

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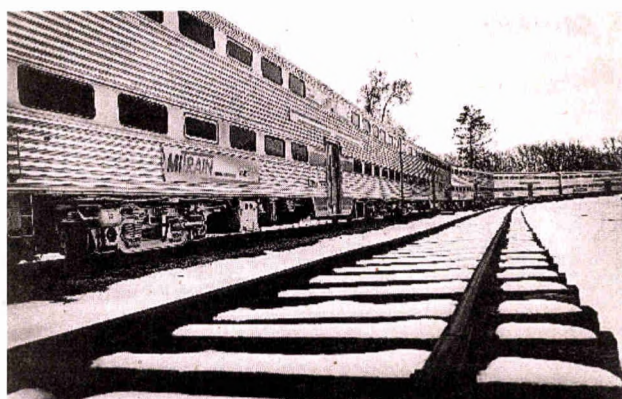
Official urged MDOT not to lease costly railroad cars

By Paul Egan
Michigan.com

LANSING — The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority — which is at the center of two proposed commuter rail services in southeast Michigan — urged the Michigan Department of Transportation not to lease rail passenger cars that are now sitting idle, costing taxpayers more than \$1 million a year in rent, according to records obtained by the *Detroit Free Press*.

In 2009, more than a year before MDOT signed a contract to lease and refurbish the double-decker railcars, which since have cost the state about \$12 million, an Ann Arbor transit official told MDOT the cars were not suitable for proposed commuter rail services because they didn't meet federal requirements and tried to steer state officials toward other cars available for sale at a much lower price, the records show.

"While the equipment is attractive due to the fact that it is locally owned, based on our conversations with ... operators of similar cars, this design of equipment is unable to comply with the principles set forth by current accessibility guidelines and therefore unsuitable for use in any new commuter rail service," Dawn Gabay, who was then the interim executive director of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, told MDOT rail official Tim Hoeffner in a March 17,



Railcars sit idle in Owosso at a cost of \$3,000 a day to the state

2009, letter.

The six-year-old correspondence between the transportation authority, MDOT and Great Lakes Central Railroad, which owns the cars, is surfacing as three state legislative committees prepared to hold a rare joint hearing at the Capitol to investigate the railcar debacle, first made public by the *Detroit Free Press* in a Feb. 1 article.

MDOT went ahead with the contract to lease the cars from Great Lakes Central, despite the objections of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, also known as TheRide. Ann Arbor would be a starting point for both of the commuter rail services proposed for the leased cars, with one service between Ann Arbor and Detroit and the other between Ann Arbor and Howell.

Gabay said she believes her concerns were resolved before she handed the project off to other officials at the authority and the federal

government will allow the trains to be used with portable wheelchair lifts.

Despite the millions spent refurbishing and leasing the 23 cars and an ongoing lease costing the state about \$3,000 a day for the cars to sit idle in an Owosso rail yard, the commuter services are estimated to be at least two years away and there is no operator or operating funds approved for either service.

The correspondence shows:

"Gabay, who now is chief operating officer for TheRide, told Hoeffner of MDOT in March 2009 that the proposed commuter services would be subject to regulation by the Federal Transit Administration. MDOT told the auditor general, and MDOT Director Kirk Steudle has told lawmakers, that oversight unexpectedly changed from the Federal Highway Administration to the Federal Transit Administration after

the contract was signed in April 2010, resulting in additional requirements that "delayed the track work and the construction of the stations needed for the commuter rail project."

"Gabay told Hoeffner that the Great Lakes Central cars were not suitable for the proposed commuter service and urged Hoeffner to consider buying self-propelled diesel mobile unit cars that were much more wheelchair-accessible and would not require locomotives, which MDOT still needs to acquire for the proposed commuter services at additional expense.

She told Hoeffner in March 2009 that a set of DMUs was available for sale after having recently been released by the Alaska Railroad. The cars had been rebuilt more recently than the former Metra Chicago cars offered by Great Lakes Central and were available at a significantly lower price, she said.

"Great Lakes Central pushed aggressively for MDOT to put up money to secure its former Metra cars, saying the railroad otherwise might lease them to somebody else. "We have negotiations happening with five commuter rail agencies ... and could very logically get to a point that the Michigan cars would be in such demand that it is feasible we could no longer have them dedicated to Michigan service," Great Lakes Central President and CEO

Michael Bagwell told an MDOT official in an Oct. 22, 2008, letter. "I suggest that MDOT ... pay a fee to hold the cars per the schedule attached."

Great Lakes Central bought 49 of the former Metra cars for \$5.6 million in 2004, records show. About 17 of the cars not leased by MDOT suffered apparent vandalism damage when stored last year on tracks near Cadillac.

Michael Benham, special assistant for strategic planning for TheRide, said Gabay's concerns have been resolved and "these are the cars we would use if the service were to materialize."

Michael Frezell, a spokesman for MDOT, said people in wheelchairs will board the commuter trains with the use of portable wheelchair lifts stored in sheds at each station. Such lifts are used on long-established passenger rail services such as Amtrak.

Dabay in her letter drew a distinction between using such equipment on established services as opposed to new services, which typically are expected to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. But Frezell said the federal government will allow the portable wheelchair lifts on a new commuter service and cited federal ADA rail regulations that provide for portable lifts.

Thomas Wilson, a spokesman for the Federal Transit Administration, said wheelchair lifts

would be permitted provided passengers in wheelchairs would be able to board any car at any station that passengers without wheelchairs are able to board.

Benham, who was quoted in the *Livingston Daily Press & Argus* last year as saying officials were still considering using the self-propelled trains that Gabay had recommended in her letter to Hoeffner on the Ann Arbor-to-Howell service, said he didn't believe those trains would meet crash-worthiness requirements.

"We're not prepared to comment on that," Benham said when asked how well he thought MDOT had handled the procurement of railcars for the proposed passenger services. "It's been beneficial to have the cars," for demonstration purposes in stirring up interest, he said.

Hoeffner said in an April 1, 2009, letter, responding to Gabay, that MDOT wanted to lease railcars rather than purchase them, while determining if there was enough demand to qualify for Federal Transit Administration start-up funds.

He said MDOT was asking the FTA for guidance on all federal requirements, including those related to the ADA, and "our final decision on cars and platforms will be based on their response to our requests." As of now, "MDOT has opted to use Great Lakes Central cars," he said.

McDaniel elected chairwoman of Michigan Republican Party

Paul Egan
Michigan.com

Republican National Committeewoman Ronna Romney McDaniel won a first-ballot victory at the Michigan Republican Party convention Saturday, defeating two other candidates to become state party chairwoman.

McDaniel, a party activist from Northville and niece of Michigan native and 2012 presidential candidate Mitt Romney, was widely endorsed by the party establishment, but also had significant support from tea party activists. She succeeds Bobby Schostak, a commercial property developer who has served as chairman the past four years.

McDaniel was elected on the first ballot with about 55 percent support after voting by about 2,000 delegates, officials said. The selection was made unanimous.

In her acceptance speech, McDaniel quickly set her sights on 2016. No Republican presidential candidate has won Michigan's electoral votes since 1988.

"We might not agree on everything, but we can agree that seven



ROBERT KILLIPS | MICHIGAN.COM
Ronna Romney McDaniel, along with her two children Abigail and Nash, at the Michigan Republican Party Convention at the Lansing Center. Romney-McDaniel was chosen as the state party chair.

years of liberal Obama policies have a destructive effect on our nation and we need to get a Republican in the White House through Michigan in 2016," McDaniel told the convention crowd after her election.

McDaniel was the clear front-runner heading into Saturday's vote, citing her fund-raising ability, campaign experience and emphasis on improving input from the party's grassroots.

The other candidates were Norm Hughes, a designer and builder from Metamora Township in Lapeer County, and Kim Shmina, a nurse practitioner from Fair

Haven in St. Clair County.

McDaniel said she is stepping down immediately as a Michigan representative on the Republican National Committee, a post she was elected to in 2014. The party's state committee will elect her replacement and she will stay neutral on that choice, she said.

Mike Farage, an anti-tax activist from Grand Rapids, said he voted for McDaniel because she is the candidate most willing to confront divisions in the party and the lack of minority involvement, which he said is "the elephant in the room" when Republicans gather.

McDaniel represents "the new standard that the Republican party has to have," Farage said.

John Mularoni of Bloomfield Hills was at the convention supporting Hughes, who he said is unique in having the required executive, management and campaign experience.

"I honestly don't think Ronna is the strongest candidate to grow the Republican party in Michigan," Mularoni said.

Hughes, who cam-

paigned for former President Ronald Reagan and worked in his administration, showed delegates an old clip of Reagan urging support for Hughes, who ran for Congress in 1978 and 1980.

McDaniel, a married mother of two, worked on her uncle's presidential campaign in Michigan and served on the GOP state committee. She has served as a precinct

delegate, worked as a manager for the staffing firm Ajilon, as a business manager for the video company Mills James Productions and as a production manager for SRCP Media.

Party stalwarts Norm Shinkle and Paul Welday were ousted as chairs of the 8th and 14th districts as part of a broader shake-up of party leadership.

Shinkle, a member of

the Board of State Canvassers and a former state senator who retained his seat on the state committee, was defeated as 8th District chair by former state representative Tom McMillin of Rochester Hills, who in the August primary lost the GOP congressional nomination to U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, who backed Shinkle for district chair.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE #2015-01



Section 18-211

An ordinance of the City of Plymouth adopting the 2012 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code, regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupations and use; and the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures in the City of Plymouth; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; repealing Ordinance 18-211 and 18-212 and all other ordinances or parts of laws in conflict therewith.

The City Commission of the City of Plymouth does ordain as follows:

Section 1. That a certain document, three (3) copies of which are on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Plymouth, being marked and designated as the International Property Maintenance Code, 2012 edition, as published by the International Code Council, be and is hereby adopted as the Property Maintenance Code of the City of Plymouth, in the State of Michigan for regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essentials to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; and the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures as herein provided, providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of said Property Maintenance Code on file in the office of the City of Plymouth are hereby referred to, adopted, and make a part hereof, as if fully set out in this legislation, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any, prescribed in section 2 of this ordinance.

Section 18-212

International Property Maintenance Code, additions, insertions and changes.

Section 101.1 Title: These Regulations shall be known as the Property Maintenance Code of the City of Plymouth herein after referred to as the property maintenance code or "this code".
Section 103.5 Fees: The fees for activities and services performed by this department in carrying out its responsibilities under this code shall be as determined by resolution of the City Commission.

Section 106.4 Violation Penalties: Any person, who shall violate any provision of this code or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof, shall be prosecuted under a Municipal Civil Infraction and shall be prosecuted within the limits provided by state or local laws. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served, in accordance with the terms and provisions hereof, shall be deemed separate offenses.

Section 302.4: All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of eight (8) inches in height. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees and shrubs as further delineated in Section 18-751 of this Article, provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

Section 304.12: Insect screens: During the period from April 1st to October 1st, every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, food preparation areas, food service areas, or any areas where products to be included or utilized in food for human consumption are processed, manufactured, packaged or stored, shall be supplied with approved tightly fitting screens of not less than 16 mesh per inch (16 mesh per 25 mm) and every swinging door shall have a self-closing device in good working condition.

Section 602.3 Heating Supply: Every owner and operator of any building who rents, leases or lets one or more dwelling units, rooming units, dormitory or guestrooms on terms, either expressed or implied, to furnish heat to the occupants thereof shall supply heat during the period of October 1 to May 1 to maintain a temperature of not less than 65°F (18°C) in all habitable rooms, bathrooms and toilet rooms.

Section 602.4 Occupiable Work Spaces: Indoor occupiable work spaces shall be supplied with heat during the period from October 1 to May 1 to maintain a temperature of not less than 65°F (18°C) during the period the spaces are occupied. Amended

Introduced: 2/02/2015
Adopted: 2/16/2015
Advertised: 2/26/2015
Effective: 2/27/2015

DANIEL DWYER, MAYOR

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OUR VIEW

Become a hero by giving blood

During Red Cross Month in March, the American Red Cross reminds eligible blood donors that it doesn't take a cape or super powers to be a hero. By donating blood, donors can become a hero for patients in need.

According to a Nationwide Blood Collection and Utilization Survey Report by the Department of Health and Human Services, more than 4.5 million patients need blood transfusions each year in the U.S. and Canada. In fact, someone needs blood every two seconds, and one in seven people entering a hospital need blood.

Although an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10 percent actually do each year. If all blood donors gave three times a year, blood shortages would be a rare event. If only one more percent of all Americans would give blood, blood shortages would disappear for the foreseeable future.

The need for blood is constant. The Red Cross depends on blood donor heroes in communities across the nation to collect enough blood to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals nationwide, about 43 of which are in the local Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region. Donors with all blood types are needed, particularly those with types O negative, A negative and B negative.

March is Red Cross Month and it's a perfect time for people to uncover their inner hero and donate blood or platelets, volunteer their time or sign up to organize a blood drive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Wayne County are:

Canton - 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. March 10, Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Dr.

Garden City - 12:54 p.m. March 11, Schoolcraft College Radcliff Campus, 1751 Radcliff.

Livonia - 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. March 8, Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. March 8, St. Genevieve Catholic Church, 29015 Jamison, and 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. March 9, Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard.

Plymouth - 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. March 1, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial.

American Red Cross has a Blood Donation Center at 36650 Five Mile, Livonia. It's open 12:45-6:45 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Individuals who are 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

To learn more about donating blood and to schedule an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767). For more information, go to redcross.org or on Twitter at @RedCross.



A Red Cross volunteer prepares bags for the blood donations. There is always a critical need for blood.

GUEST COLUMN

Michigan is turning the corner, building momentum

It's an honor and pleasure to be representing Plymouth, Northville and eastern Canton again in the state House. Unfortunately, due to term limits, this will be my final term in office. And while some might take it easy in their third term, we in Lansing are stepping on the accelerator and not letting up on our efforts to turn around Michigan.

I was honored again this term to be named by House Speaker Kevin Cotter as chairman of the House Criminal Justice Committee. As a 24-year attorney and father of two teenage girls, I dedicated my last term to the fight against human trafficking. This term, I'm looking to pass common-sense changes to criminal sentencing in Michigan and innovative ways to reduce our prison population while ensuring justice and crime victims' rights.

I'm also serving again on the House Judiciary and the House Elections committees. I've also been added to the House Local Government Committee, where I will be working to help improve, innovate and streamline city and township government.

I've spent most of my professional career in local, county and state government and have been called in to help turn around troubled government operations more than once. My service on the House Local Government



Kurt Heise
GUEST COLUMNIST

Committee will allow me to put my decades of experience and insight to work for communities across Michigan.

We have many outstanding examples of regional cooperation right here in western Wayne County. Our 35th District Court, Western Wayne Utilities Authority and joint fire service between the cities of Plymouth and Northville are models to follow statewide.

The citizen-led PARC project for Central Middle School is great example of regional cooperation and should be encouraged by Lansing and our local governments alike. I stand ready to help this worthy effort in any way I can.

I'm also not easing back on my efforts to create more local jobs and economic development. That's why I'm partnering with Northville and Plymouth Townships to turn Five Mile Road into a high-tech jobs corridor. It started in 2011 with my state law to sell and tear down the Robert Scott prison, at no cost to taxpayers.

Last year, I wrote a law to transfer the DEHOCO Prison

site to the state of Michigan Land Bank. This will put the old prison property on the state's brownfield redevelopment list and open the door for funding and marketing efforts to tear down the prison and create more jobs for the hardworking taxpayers of Plymouth Township.

Michigan is clearly turning the corner, thanks to the reforms we've made in Lansing and the partnerships we've forged with our local leaders. We promised to turn around Michigan, we delivered and we're not letting up.

I couldn't do my job without your advice and ideas. Since 2010, I've held more than 400 coffees, library hours and one-on-one and group meetings. I'll continue these efforts in the coming years, so you get your voice heard in Lansing and I can do a better job representing you.

Please visit my website at www.repkurtheise.com, call me at 855-REP-KURT or email me at kurtheise@house.mi.gov to set up a meeting or visit one of my many community events throughout the year. As always, it's an honor serving you in Lansing.

State Rep. Kurt Heise represents Plymouth, Northville and eastern Canton.

GUEST COLUMN

Should Black History Month still exist?

Should Black History Month still exist? The short answer is no.

You may be surprised that an African-American woman would say such a thing, but let me explain. I believe that Black History Month should no longer exist because I believe that black history should not be limited to one month out of the year. Simply put, black history is American history. Therefore, black history should be fully integrated into American history. When this is done, there would not be a need for a nationally celebrated Black History Month.

I don't believe we are there yet as a country.

Unfortunately, there are millions of Americans who are unaware of the brilliant past and present African Americans who have changed the complexity of this great nation with their bravery and intellect, but they should be aware. It seems that all many Americans may know about black history is slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and now President Barack Obama. It is clear to me that black history is so much more.

Black history is American history. Learning about proud African Americans - from Sojourner Truth, an abolitionist



Ebone R. Hughes
GUEST COLUMNIST

and women's rights activist, to Lewis Latimer, an inventor who many argue invented the modern day light bulb, to Benjamin Banneker, a brilliant scientist, mathematician and astronomer who invented America's first clock and whose discussion of relativity predates Albert Einstein theory of relativity - is essential to learning the truth about our American culture. All are important Americans who we should all know about. These are not just African-American heroes; they are American heroes.

There are so many contributions from African-American doctors and lawyers to scientists and researchers who have helped elevate this great country to where it is today and many of us know nothing about them. That is an American tragedy in and of itself. American history needs to be more diverse to include all of its contributors, in all areas of history. This is neither a black issue nor a white issue, this is an American issue. Americans need to know about the history of their

country's people. When we are limited in our knowledge of history, we are ignorant of the potential of our great country.

Black History Month should not be singled out one time a year; it's too important for just one month. Black history should be taught in our schools for every American to learn. While things are changing and black history is slowly being integrated in some of our history books and being taught in public schools across America, there is still a disconnect.

Unfortunately, our schools are still teaching lessons of Thomas Edison's invention of electricity without discussing Latimer, as well as lessons about Susan B. Anthony without teaching lessons about Truth. And there is no way we should discuss Einstein, without discussing Banneker.

If there is truly going to be an integration of black history into our American history, then and only then should Black History Month no longer exist. But until that day arrives, there is definitely still a need.

Ebone R. Hughes is a native of Detroit now living in Wixom. She is an attorney with the Goodman Acker Law Firm - Personal Injury Protection Team. She can be reached at Goodman Acker P.C. in Southfield by calling 248-483-5000 or at www.goodmanacker.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Slavery column refreshing

I was fascinated with Larry Ruehlen's approach to teaching your young children about the horrors of American slavery. It is a difficult subject to broach at any age and your honest efforts were refreshing. All aspects of U.S. history should be examined and designed to be "age appropriate." I taught a class titled Negro History for 10 years beginning in 1969 at St. Mary's of Redford High in Detroit. At first, the student body was all white, but the neighborhood was beginning to be integrated. The principal of our school funded a training class for me in Dayton, Ohio. At this conference, I had the pleasure of meeting the famous author James Baldwin and other wonderful speakers and trainers. I remember my excitement of having a meaningful discussion with James Baldwin about his books.

Returning to Detroit, the class was offered to 11th-grade students. This course was one of the favorites that I taught throughout my stay at St. Mary's. One group of female students was lucky enough to visit Rosa Parks, who had moved to Detroit. This was a wonderful experience for these young students to interview first-hand an icon of the civil rights movement.

In summary, I so enjoyed your column and keep up the good work!

Tom Klisz
Livonia

Be open with kids

I was impressed with Larry Ruehlen's editorial about talking to his children about the issues of life like racism and sexual orientation. The answers as parents were thoughtful and true. You are right, we don't talk to our children (in my case grandchildren) as openly as we should about these issues. Keep up the good parenting.

Sally Pinchock
Plymouth

Public transportation needed

Some 50,000,000 Americans dependent on food pantries. One in seven. Dependent. Recently here in Michigan, an American hero walked 21 miles a day to work. He walked. Someone noticed him, struck up a friendship and now he has a brand new Ford Taurus. He will need to pay insurance, maintain it and buy gas.

I am glad he has the car. Don't get me wrong. There are at least 100,000 people in this area without cars for work. Include students and families, the handicapped and others who are looking at a solid 300,000 people whose lives would be improved by mobility outside their neighborhood.

Public transportation in this area is sparse. When friends come from Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle or Houston they have asked me how these people get around. I say, "They don't." Then we laugh our cosmopolitan laughs and they ask, "No, seriously."

Then I tell them I am serious and we don't laugh anymore because they know what I know.

The people who don't have access to public transportation are going to be trapped in poverty.

Some local politicians don't work to provide public, scheduled transportation because of greed, hatred, racism but most of all ignorance. Some don't do it because they are lazy. Some don't do it because they are not aware that this region is a national laughingstock.

My city participates, but our sprawling neighbor to the west, the Charter Township of Canton does not. What communities like that do not seem to comprehend is that the people who could use public transportation make their pizzas, work in the mall, at nursing homes, hospitals and are from all backgrounds.

There is more to this.

Alfred Brock
Wayne

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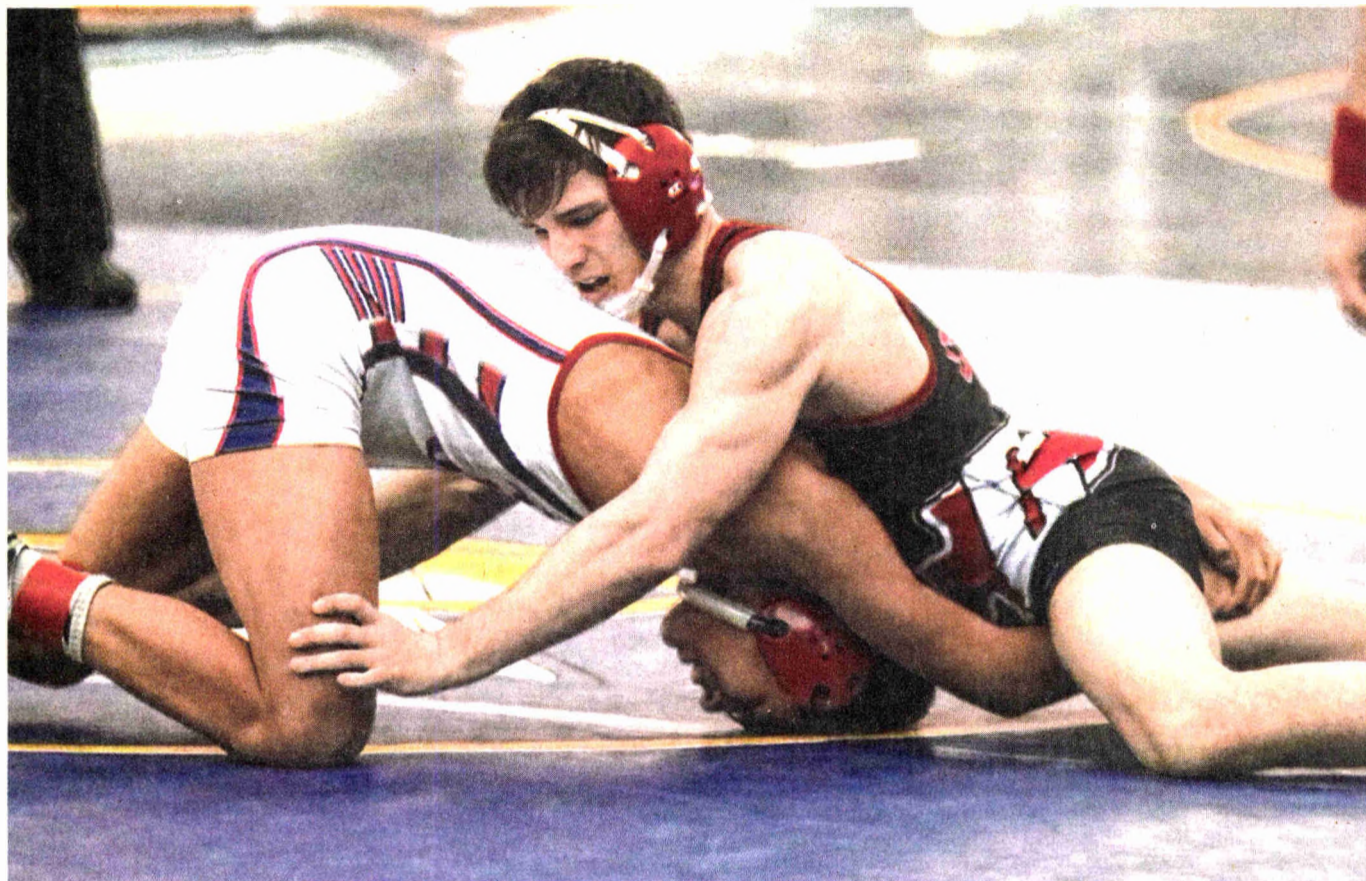
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D1 INDIVIDUAL REGIONALS



Canton senior Ty Jasman (right) maintains an edge against Livonia Franklin's Nathan Atienza in the 140-pound final at Saturday's Saline-hosted Division 1 individual regional. RACHAEL WINNIE

PARK TO PALACE

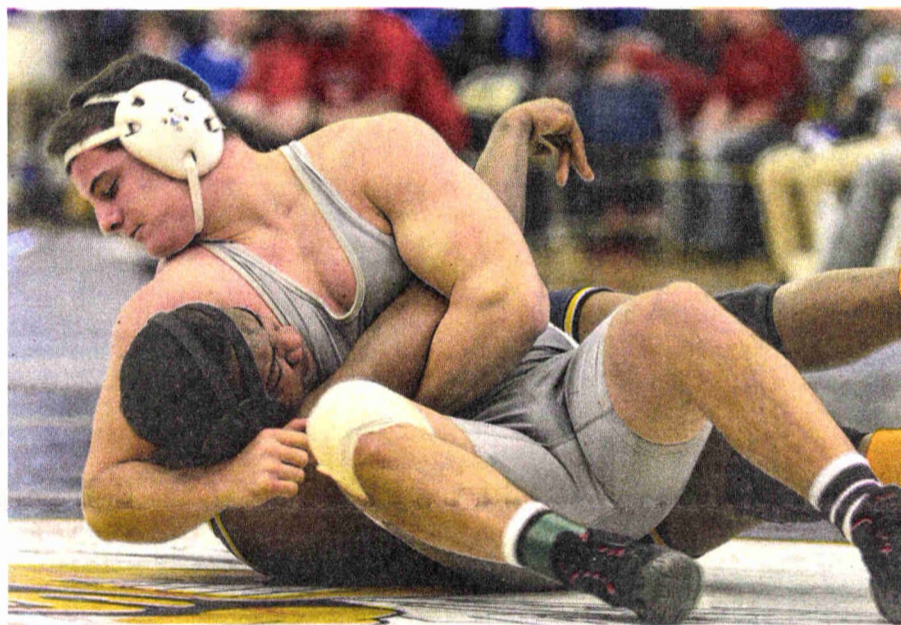
Canton's Jasman leads contingent of six P-CEP wrestlers going to D1 finals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Saturday's Division 1 individual regional started at Saline High School, there were 13 Plymouth-Canton Educational Park wrestlers with aspirations to take the next and most-important step — to qualify for the state finals.

Although some of them came up short in that quest in what Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey called one of the toughest regionals in Michigan, six athletes from the Park get to compete March 5-7 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Leading the impressive charge was Canton senior Ty Jasman, the lone regional champion from P-CEP. He took the top spot at 140, besting Livonia Franklin's Nathan Atienza by a 4-1 count.



Plymouth's Hussein Youssef pins Wayne Memorial's Alex James during the D1 individual finals. Youssef finished second at 189 and qualified for the state finals. DAN DWYER

Sending three to The Palace is Plymouth, with Salem having two make the ultimate cut.

"It feels amazing," said Jasman, now 36-6 for the season. "I was here last year, too, took fourth. Now ... I'll

have an easier draw at the state tournament.

"I'll wrestle someone who took fourth in their region, so it should be a

See WRESTLING, Page B3

CONFERENCE FINAL

Rocks won't be denied

Salem leads wire-to-wire over Plymouth for conference title

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Salem girls basketball team turned the tables on Plymouth in a major way Tuesday night, cruising to a 50-30 victory in the KLAA Kensington Conference championship game.

With the 45-25 season-opening loss to the Wildcats filed away in Salem's memory bank, the Rocks came out gunning — senior wing Hayley Rogers connected on a trey moments after the opening tip — and soon had a 10-2 advantage.

That snowballed into a 19-8 edge after the first quarter and Plymouth never got closer than seven points the rest of the way.

"It's always nice when you knock down a three the first play of the game," said Rogers, who led Salem (15-4) with 14 points. "So you can't ask for much more than that."

Salem head coach Lindsay Klemmer, whose team won a conference title for the first time since 2009, said Rogers helped set the tone.

"She can be very tense before games. I told her, 'You got to hit some shots,'" Klemmer said. "I'm so glad that she came out shooting like that, because that definitely sparked our team right from the beginning."

Staying aggressive

Although Plymouth had spurts and got to within 32-25 late in the third quarter, the Rocks only briefly took their collective foot off the gas and soon thereafter began to pull

See ROCKS, Page B4



Salem's Shara Long (left) closely guards Plymouth's Cassidy Lewis during Tuesday night's conference title game. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

KLAA BOYS HOCKEY

Solid effort by Rocks not enough as Howell nets OT winner

MICHAEL VASILNEK

Scoring a goal in his first game of the season is Salem senior forward Richie Corso (front), beating Howell goaltender Nate George on the play. Corso required knee surgery over the summer.



By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Richie Corso brought a jolt of adrenaline to the rest of Salem's varsity boys hockey team Saturday night.

Not only did Corso — who tore up a knee last summer and required surgery — finally get to play a game in his senior season, he scored a go-ahead goal during Salem's wild opening period against No. 5-ranked Howell at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Unfortunately for the Rocks (9-10-3), the energy boost that Corso helped provide did not result in a victory. The fast-skating Highlanders (18-5-0) rallied to tie the game twice and then won the Kensington Lakes Activities Association playoff game 5-4 in overtime.

"It felt good (to score)," said Corso, who beat Howell goalie Nate George on the power play with 3:13 left in the first period, making it a 3-2 game. "I would rather have the win, but I thought I did pretty good for my first game back."

"I got a little bit gassed out there.

But the more games I play, I'm going to get more conditioned."

Corso, a forward, buried the rebound of a shot by sophomore forward Matt Schauburger (who also scored two goals) past George.

Also drawing an assist on the goal was sophomore forward Marty Mills.

Returning strong

"Richie Corso coming back, he's worked hard to get in this position," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "He's not going to come back and be perfect right away; he's been off his skates for over six months."

"But to come back, he gives us a little bit of a boost. He's a bigger body for us, which is something we're lacking. And he scored a goal. From that standpoint, it's good. But I think he'll only get better as he gets on the ice more."

Another player playing a key role in the Rocks' very competitive showing

See HOCKEY, Page B2

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CANTON ATHLETICS

Canton's varsity gymnastics team celebrates after winning another KLAAs Kensington Conference title.

KLAAs GYMNASTICS

Here come the Chiefs again

Canton romps to sixth straight conference crown, eyes regional

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Like majestic summer waves crashing the beach, the Canton Chiefs keep on rolling — drowning the competition with perennial gymnastics excellence.

The defending state champions aren't ready to towel off and call it a day just yet, either.

Not only did Canton (6-0) steamroll all comers at Saturday's KLAAs Conference championship meet at Walled Lake Central, the Chiefs now look ahead with confidence at the unfolding postseason picture.

"It was another strong team performance with Katie Dickson's 9.05 on floor making a total of 13 nines for Canton in the championship meet," said veteran Chiefs head coach John Cunningham, whose team tallied a season-high 147.75 points, more than six points ahead of Howell (141.525).

In addition to Dickson, Allison Kunz took four first-place finishes. She tallied scores of 9.6 on vault, 9.65 on uneven parallel bars, 9.675 on floor exercise and 38.175 in all-around scoring.

Stephanie Cox's 9.5 on

balance beam tied teammate Jana Hilditch, while Cox and Hilditch also tied on vault with 9.2 each, good for second behind Kunz.

Meanwhile, Hailey Hodgson registered three seconds (beam, 9.05; floor, 9.55; all-around, 36.075) and placed third on vault with a 9.2 score.

Cunningham pointed to "a strong start on bars and a super finish on vault" as key factors for Canton's sixth consecutive conference crown.

"Good preparation and a consistent focus made the girls relaxed and able to perform at their best," Cunningham added, continuing to emphasize the Chiefs will "need it (focus) to take regionals and then beat a strong Rockford/Sparta team at the MHSAA state meet."

The regional will be March 7 at Plymouth High School, the venue where the Chiefs won last year's regional and state titles.

Cunningham does not see his squad backing down from championship challengers anytime soon, either.

"(We) are definitely ready to repeat," he said. "Only Rockford/Sparta has outpointed us this year. While we were winning conferences with 147.75, they were winning theirs with 148.15. No one else in the state is close."

Last season's champi-

onship "wave" featured athletes such as Jocelyn Moraw, Maddie Toal and Ellie Bachman, but all have missed considerable time due to injuries. Two other stalwarts from 2014, Melissa Green and Erica Lucas, graduated.

Terrific trio

No worries, due to the emergence of Kunz, Hilditch and Dickson.

"Allison has been awesome, tying the floor record (97.775) and carrying the team with all-around scores above 38 all year," Cunningham said. "Jana Hilditch is our mighty mini sophomore with super tricks like double back dismounts, tucks on beam and Yurchenko vaults."

"She is finally scoring nines on every event and helps carry the team."

As for Dickson, he said she "might be our secret weapon as her tricks and routines are finally becoming what will be winning combinations."

Don't discount the skills demonstrated all season by Cox and Hodgson, the latter the 2014 Division 2 state champion on beam. "They continue to be team leaders, also scoring above 36 all-around, giving Canton more depth than any other team in the state," Cunningham said.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Burying his game-winning goal against Sarnia goalie Justin Fazio is Plymouth Whalers defenseman Sean Callaghan.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Whalers hook crucial victory

Plymouth closing gap on Saginaw Spirit

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There are dramatic wins and there are dramatic wins.

Saturday's 3-2 win for the Plymouth Whalers over Sarnia — on a goal by defenseman Sean Callaghan with five seconds to play in regulation — definitely falls into the latter category.

Plymouth badly needed the extra point as the race for the eighth and final OHL Western Conference playoff spot enters its final push.

"Huge win," Whalers head coach Don Elland wrote in a text message. "Seems like we finally caught a break."

"I thought we outplayed Windsor the night before (a 2-1 loss).

We outplayed Sarnia as well. We've been playing much better the last two weeks."

The Compuware Arena crowd of 2,708 might have been wondering if they were in for another disappointing loss after the Sting scored with 3:14 to play in the third to make it 2-2.

But Callaghan came to the rescue, finishing off a play started by forwards Sonny Milano and Mathew Campagna.

That gave Plymouth goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic (34 saves) the victory as he outdueled Sarnia's Justin Fazio.

Plymouth's Victor Crus Rydberg and Campagna scored in the middle period to take a 2-1 edge into the third.

Elland also credited the line of Danny Vanderwiel, Francesco Viardi and Connor Sills for "shutting their top

line down. We need the same effort Thursday."

That's when the Whalers and Sting once again square off at Compuware.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, Plymouth will host Ottawa for the inaugural Pucks and Paws Night to benefit the Michigan Humane Society.

With just 12 games remaining in the regular season, Plymouth (20-32-2-2, 44 points) is seven points behind eighth-place Saginaw (24-30-2-1, 51 points) with a game in hand.

Nestled between those teams is Windsor, with 49 points.

The Whalers, in their final season in Plymouth, are trying to extend the league-record for consecutive playoff seasons to 24.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

was senior forward Liam Walker, who only recently came back from an undisclosed injury. Walker collected two assists.

"Liam coming back off injury, he's done well," Ossenmacher said. "He had a chance right at the end. He beat a defenseman and was in all alone, unfortunately couldn't finish."

"He adds a dimension to us. When we're going, I think we've got two pretty good lines that can score."

Howell showed it can find the net, too, several times beating the Salem defense with tape-to-tape stretch passes.

"They play a pretty wide-open game; we knew that coming in," Ossenmacher said. "This was the second overtime game we played against them, so it wasn't a surprise. But they transitioned pretty well against us."

Salem went up 4-3 with 12:29 to go in the third period when Schaumburger one-timed Walker's feed into the Howell net on the power play.

It only took Howell 2:34 to answer, however. Nick Pratt whipped a shot from the slot over the glove hand of Salem senior goalie Dillon Phillips.

Deciding goal

That set up overtime and it didn't take long for the Highlanders to prevail.

Aaron Eskola intercepted Salem's outlet pass, then cut in on Phillips before slipping a low shot into the net for the winner, just 35 seconds into OT.

"We're trying to create, so we throw a pass through the middle of the ice," Ossenmacher said. "It's probably not the best play to make. But it's only to one guy, which still means you got four guys back in a defensive position."

"Their kid made a really nice individual effort on our defenseman and on our goalie and buried it. I think they've only lost once since December and you can see why."

The teams traded goals in the first period, which ended with the Rocks up 3-2.

After Scott Alfano scored for Howell, the Rocks responded when

Schaumburger scored the first of Salem's three power-play goals. Assisting were junior defenseman Bailey Thompson and senior forward Zach Newsum.

Right off the face-off following the Schaumburger goal, Eskala (two goals) got it right back for a 2-1 Howell advantage.

Less than two minutes later, the Rocks leveled the score at 2-2 when Salem senior forward Noah Willer took Walker's pass between the circles and rocketed a shot past George.

Salem got its first lead of the night on Corso's goal and it held up for a while, thanks to outstanding work by the Rocks' penalty kill.

With 1:35 to play in the first, the Rocks were whistled for a five-minute boarding major, but the Highlanders were unable to cash in.

"Our penalty kill was better tonight," Ossenmacher said. "Killing off that five-minute penalty, I thought maybe we'd get a burst out of that."

"But at the same time, a five-minute kill is a lot of hard work for a lot of your top guys. Sometimes it's tough to get going after that."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pucks and Paws

On Saturday at Compuware Arena, the Plymouth Whalers and Ottawa 67s will square off in an Ontario Hockey League game, beginning at 7 p.m.

But more importantly, it will be the Whalers' inaugural Pucks and Paws Night, with all proceeds from ticket sales, 50/50 raffle and jersey auction to benefit the Michigan Humane Society.

Snowball Softball

Canton Sports Center softball teams have the chance to get out into the wintry elements for the annual Snowball 2015, a co-ed softball, Chicago-style tournament.

Games will be played, come snow or biting wind, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday on Field Nos. 9 and 12 (at the Michigan Avenue com-

plex behind Kickers).

The tournament features a 16-inch neon softball.

Snowball 2015 will take place in conjunction with the Think Spring! rec softball league registration (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

Schoolcraft bowling

Friday's Wayne County Bowling Invitational at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia featured several sparkling performances by members of Schoolcraft College's men's and women's teams.

For the men, who finished second to first-place Muskegon (4,921-4,895), Ben Berger had the second high game with a 287 and took fourth overall (680 series).

Right behind Berger in fifth was Josh Coffee, who tallied a 661 series. Ben Jakes (eighth, 617

and Rickey Rutenbar (10th, 605) also had solid performances.

Schoolcraft's women only brought four bowlers to the invite, but three of them finished 1-2-3.

Ella Kearney registered a 658 series to top the field, while Angela Rodriguez threw an invite-high game of 243 while tallying 626 for the day. In third was Yvette Ayers (542).

Salem coaching vacancy

The 2015 Salem girls cross country program is in need of a full-time assistant coach for the fall season.

The posting for this position can be seen at <http://www.pccs.k12.mi.us/node/953>. Interested people can apply through this link or call the Salem Athletic Department.

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HE'S A REGIONAL CHAMPION

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Finals-bound Jasman relishes chance to join Canton wrestling's 'Wall of Fame'

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It doesn't take much for Ty Jasman to see what he wants.

The Canton senior wrestler is stoked to have his photo placed up on the wall inside the red-padded team room — joining those of Chiefs stalwarts such as Ben Griffin and Alec Pantaleo.

For that to happen, Jasman only needs to earn all-state honors at the March 5-7 Division 1 individual finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills. That means he'll need to finish in the top eight in his 140-pound weight class.

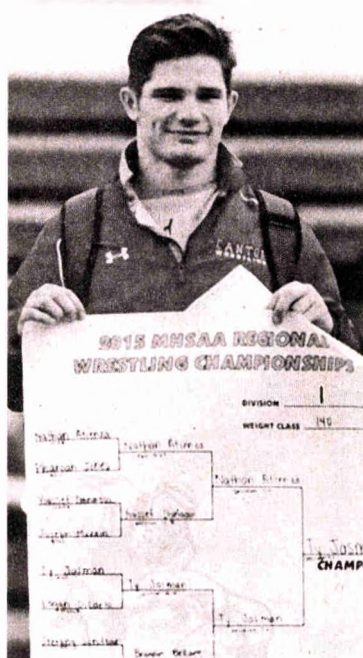
Jasman's chances of being part of the Canton wrestling "Wall of Fame" were boosted considerably Saturday at Saline. He won the individual regional championship with a 4-1 win over Livonia Franklin's Jordan Atienza.

"I'm going to be the only one doing it (finals) this year," said Jasman, the lone Chief to qualify for states. "I'm just trying to leave a legacy, you know?"

"We got a wall, there's 17 guys on the wall in our room of plaques who placed top eight and I want to be there. I'm just working my hardest to get there."

For the two weeks leading up to his date at The Palace, Jasman intends on continuing with that mission.

Teammates and coaches will be there to help work with him — not to mention former



RACHAEL WINNIE

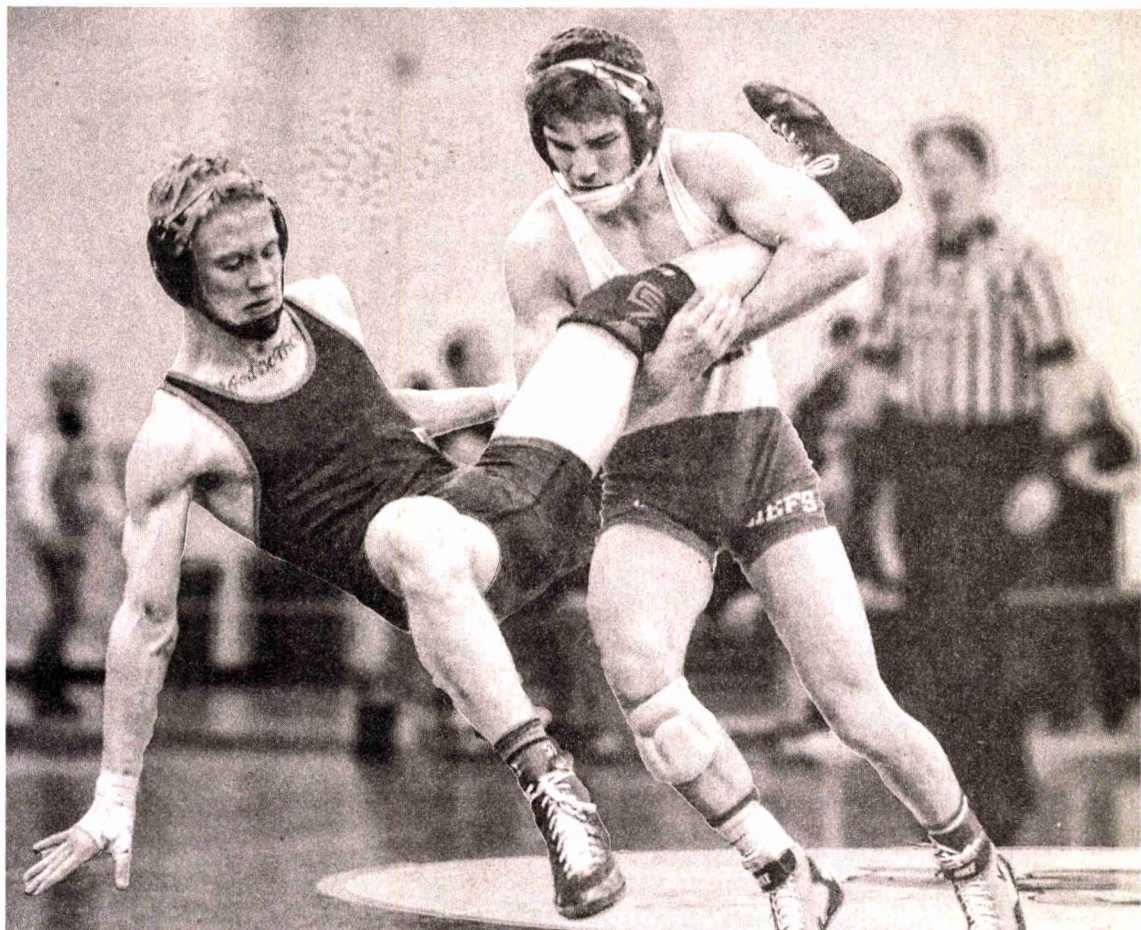
Standing on the podium's top step after winning the 140-pound regional title is Canton's Ty Jasman.

teammates such as 2014 grad Griffin, who also watched Saturday at Saline.

"Ben should be coming up and wrestling with me next week," Jasman said. "He said I'm wrestling great, that this is the best he's ever seen me wrestle."

Top of his game

Jasman, whose parents are Scott and Neva Jasman, said he has had plenty of encouragement from his family over



RACHAEL WINNIE

With a chance for another trip to the Division 1 state finals literally in his grasp, Canton's Ty Jasman (right) takes it to Belleville's Brandon Bellant during the 140-pound semifinal bout.

the years.

He also emphasized how much Canton's coaching staff has helped him up his game during the course of his varsity career.

On the short list are Chiefs head coach Cory Mancuso and assistants Mike Pantaleo, Tony Kreucher and Carl Lucke.

"I mean, I got to take my coaches' view of me and their perspective," Jasman said, "so I guess I'm wrestling a lot better than I thought I was going to."

Mancuso nodded and smiled after what Jasman was able to accomplish at Saline.

"This is the point you want to get to now," Mancuso said. "He set himself up for the best possible position for the individual finals and that's what you want."

"He'll be ready to go; he's peaked at the right time. He's wrestling excellent right now." Jasman is 36-6 and has amassed about 120 career victories, with a compact style and bulldog mentality.

He also isn't going to be a Palace rookie late next week, returning to the big-league arena for the second consecutive March.

Of course, Jasman won't be

content on merely placing. He wants to be as close to the top step of the podium as possible.

"Going to The Palace is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I'll be able to do it twice," Jasman said, beaming. "Last year, I took fourth in my district, fourth in my region and went two-and-out at states."

"But that's just how it plays out, I guess. I should be top five, at least. That's my goal."

That would also secure his legacy, as well as a spot on the coveted "Wall of Fame."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

lot easier than wrestling somebody who took third, which is what I'd have to do if I lost that match."

Jasman started the day with a 10-4 decision over Monroe's Logan DiCarlo and then rolled to a 7-0 win over Belleville senior Brandon Bellant to assure a spot in the D1 finals.

Beating the odds

The icing on the cake was his hard-fought decision over Atienza.

"I've been wrestling good all day and my coaches just said to stay aggressive, keep going at him," Jasman said. "I did my best and just went out there. He was actually projected to beat me today."

"I think I showed the Michigan Grappler guy what's up and that I'm actually a good contender for the state title."

Canton head coach Cory Mancuso said Jasman "peaked at the right time, he's wrestling excellent" when the stakes are at their highest.

"We've wrestled that kid two other times and both times we got caught on our back because we were not in good position," Mancuso said. "This time we stayed in good position, we got to his legs and that's how you win matches."

"That's exactly what he did; he did exactly what we wanted him to do. He executed."

The only other Park wrestlers with a chance to win their weight class were Plymouth's Hussein Youssef (189) and his junior teammate Dylan Dwyer at 135. Both finished as runners-up.

Youssef made it to the final four with a pin in 3:02 over Salem senior Mitchell Gross (who also qualified for the state finals by finishing third) and then the senior came up against Novi Detroit Catholic Central senior Nick Giese in the championship tilt.

That's where the Plymouth stalwart hit the Shamrocks wall, getting pinned in 1:06.

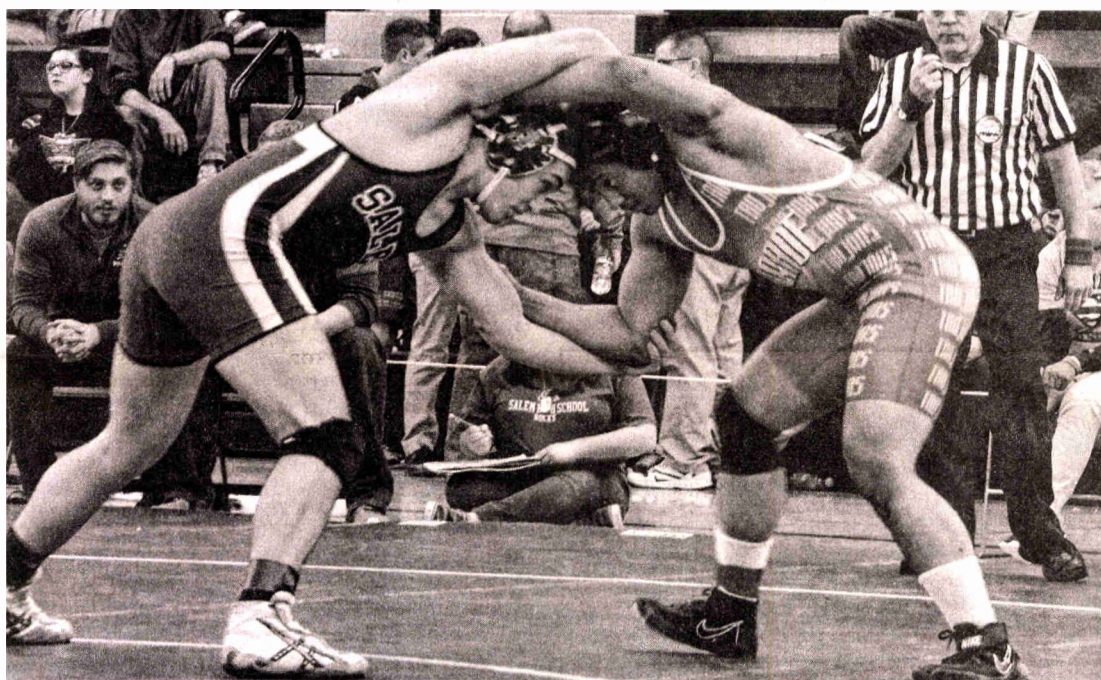
"I thought I could have done better in the finals match," Youssef (42-9) said. "The first time we wrestled, he only beat me 8-3. I thought I was just a little overconfident on this one."

"He's really strong, he's really good on his feet ... I've just got to get better on my defense and more on my offense."

Not overwhelmed

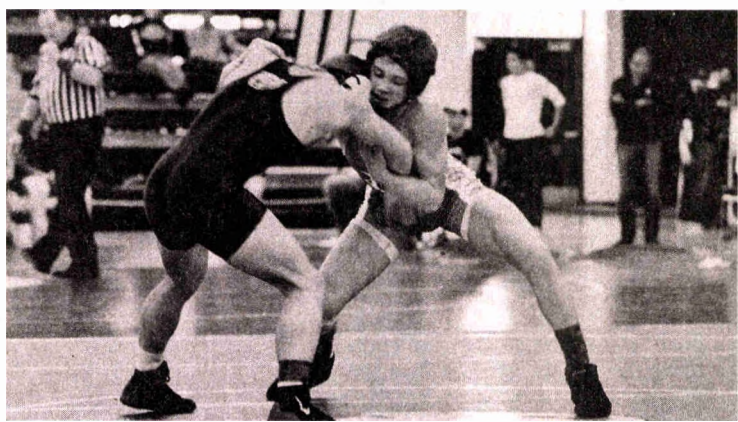
Youssef stressed that while he might have to square off against Giese again in two weeks to have a shot at first, the atmosphere at The Palace won't be quite as daunting as it was last year.

"This year, I'm way more



LISA BUSHAW

Salem senior Mitchell Gross (left) battles against an opponent at the individual regional Saturday. He finished third at 189.



DAN DWYER

Vying for position in the 135-pound championship bout are Plymouth's Dylan Dwyer (right) and Collin Vargo of Wyandotte Roosevelt.

confident," he said. "Last year, I was a little nervous because it was big crowd, big stadium, everything was new to me. I think this year I can come out on top."

Meanwhile, Dwyer (48-3) dropped a 7-1 finals decision at 135 to Wyandotte Roosevelt's Collin Vargo.

Dwyer got to the championship bout thanks to an 8-3 decision over Dearborn Edsel Ford's Suhail Almadhagi.

"Last year, I didn't even make it out of districts," said Dwyer, now 48-3 for the year. "So obviously, taking second is a big leap forward."

Dwyer said he had defeated Almadhagi earlier in the season, "but he came out knowing what I was going to do. Obviously, that was a lot tougher match. But I'm still super-psyched to go to The Palace and see what it's like there."

The Wildcats also will be represented at The Palace by senior 119-pounder Brandon Harris, who overcame a scare in his semifinal bout to reach the third-place match-up.

Harris (34-5) bested Dearborn's Hassan Makled 12-8 in

the semifinal, but nearly lost via injury default with 44 seconds to go in the third period. He rolled over and re-injured a shoulder, requiring attention from a trainer before continuing.

In the final bout, however, Harris never threatened. He dropped a 15-2 major decision to Belleville's Christopher Brown.

"It was a past injury, just started egging me on, but it's doing good, it's fine," Harris said. "Never concerned that I wouldn't be able to finish a match, I just look forward to keep pushing myself."

"Even if I am down, I look forward to coming back and never doubting myself."

Triumphant Salem duo

Rounding out the Park contingent at The Palace will be Salem senior Mitchell Gross (41-9) and junior teammate Roy Foster (44-12), finishing third and fourth at 189 to make the cut.

Gross won 3-2 in overtime over Monroe's Jonathan Brown to reach the match for third. His opponent was Foster,

triumphant his previous bout against Alex James of Wayne Memorial (also by a 3-2 count).

In the final bout, Gross was awarded the win by injury default. Salem co-coaches Jeremy Henderson and Pete Israel decided not to risk Foster doing more damage to a balky knee.

"Roy's got a banged-up knee, so there's no point in wrestling him with that," Henderson said. "He got hurt a couple weeks ago. It's nothing too serious, we just wanted to rest it."

According to Gross, who prevailed against Brown when officials awarded him the winning point due to defensive stalling, it was great finding out that Foster qualified for The Palace.

Both Salem wrestlers competed in the "blood round" at the same time, on adjacent mats.

"I'm so excited," Gross said. "I just heard it when I got off the mat. I love that kid, man. I helped him from his freshman year."

Foster said it was "pretty exciting" to qualify for his first time to the state finals.

"I don't know what to feel right now. I've got the nerves from when I was wrestling on the mat," Foster said. "A bunch of emotions right now. It feels pretty good having more than one person this year going to states."

Falling short of the top four and not qualifying for the state finals were: from Salem, senior Caleb McCabe (152), junior Cam Shaughnessy (125) and sophomore Akash Rai (112); from Plymouth, junior heavyweight Michael Jordan, freshman Isiah Berry (103) and junior Sterling Schiffr (140); and Canton sophomore Grant Trotman (152).

"The three guys who are moving on, they've been having great seasons, so we were kind of expecting them to move on," Plymouth's Guernsey said. "And hopefully, they all have aspirations to be on the podium and in some cases be high on the podium."

"Brandon, Hussein and Dylan, all three of them can go with any kid in the state."

Giving props

Guernsey credited Jordan, Berry and Schiffr for wrestling well.

"No one came out here and wrestled poorly today," Guernsey said. "Isiah had a great day of wrestling, a lot of the guys, there were tough weights. Regionals is a tough tournament in this part of the state."

Henderson said, "I think we could have had four (qualify for states), but it's a tough day."

He praised McCabe, whose stellar four-year career ended Saturday: "He's a great kid, he's given us four real strong years, he's been a good leader."

Canton's Mancuso, while thrilled with Jasman earning the 140 regional crown, sounded nearly as pumped up about how well Trotman did.

"Grant's a sophomore; this was great experience for him," Mancuso said. "He'll be back next year; he's really bought into wrestling."

"He'll do a lot of off-season training, get to some camps and stuff. Next year, he'll be the man."

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING DIVISION 1 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

- Feb. 21 at Saline
(top 4 qualify for state finals)
- 189 pounds: Nick Giese (Novi Detroit Catholic Central) pinned Hussein Youssef (Plymouth), 1:06; 3rd placed: Mitchell Gross (Salem) won by injury default over Roy Foster (Salem).
 - 215: Cody Tis (Southgate Anderson) decisioned Baker Hadwan (Livonia Churchill), 7-1; 3rd: Brad Scott (Livonia Stevenson) dec. David Tooley (Belleville), 5-1.
 - 285: Ali Wahad (Dearborn Heights Crestwood) dec. Tim Stevens (Temperance Bedford), 2-1; 3rd: Nick Jenkins (Detroit CC) dec. Jordan Hottum (Lincoln Park), 4-3.
 - 103: Daniel Pogore (Southgate) dec. Rayvon Foley (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 5-3; 3rd: Michael Mars (Westland John Glenn) won by major dec. over Neil Antrassian (Monroe), 13-0.
 - 112: Carl Antrassian (Monroe) dec. Dante Rivera Garcia (Southgate), 3-2; 3rd: Tyler Rogaliner (Bedford) dec. Aaron Rehfeldt (Detroit CC), 10-5.
 - 119: Kevin Fuller (Saline) won by major dec. over Xavier Graham (Brownswood Woodhaven), 17-5; 3rd: Christopher Brown (Belleville) won by major dec. over Brandon Harris (Plymouth), 15-2.
 - 125: Chase Spanos (John Glenn) dec. William Marano (Dearborn Edsel Ford), 7-1; 3rd: Tommy Herrmann (Detroit CC) won by major dec. over Adam Ross (Livonia Franklin), 13-1.
 - 130: Trevor Zdebski (Detroit CC) dec. Abe Ajami (Dearborn Fordson), 8-7; 3rd: Nick Robertson (Franklin) dec. Brian Pappin (Belleville), 9-6.
 - 135: Collin Vargo (Wyandotte Roosevelt) dec. Dylan Dwyer (Plymouth), 7-1; 3rd: Hunter Grasso (Woodhaven) dec. Suhail Almadhagi (Edsel Ford), 6-0.
 - 140: Ty Jasman (Canton) dec. Jordan Atienza (Franklin), 4-1; 3rd: Logan DiCarlo (Monroe) dec. Brandon Bellant (Belleville), 9-4.
 - 145: Logan Parks (Southgate) dec. Kendall Freeman (Ypsilanti Lincoln), 8-3; 3rd: Brad Stewart (Bedford) won by technical fall over Chhris Koumariotis (Northville), 17-1.
 - 152: Blake Montrie (Bedford) p. Jacob Balogh (Southgate), 1:14; 3rd: Quinn Chapman (Lincoln Park) p. Chase Gardner (Livonia Churchill), 1:22.
 - 160: Myles Amine (Detroit CC) p. Travis LaBell (Monroe), 1:42; 3rd: Ahmad Alsayed (Crestwood) p. Aleczander Moore (Southgate), 1:55.
 - 171: Tyler Morland (Detroit CC) p. Tyler Hammack (Monroe), 1:38; 3rd: Stephen Slattery (Saline) dec. Connor Vaughan (Stevenson), 7-4.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Schoolcraft rallies for conference clincher

Ocelots overtake Delta, capture first MCAA Eastern Conference title since 2003-04

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft went on a 21-4 tear midway through the second half Monday night and that carried the Ocelots to a 74-61 men's basketball victory over visiting Delta College.

With the Michigan Community College Athletic Association triumph, No. 1-ranked Schoolcraft (25-3, 14-1) clinched the outright Eastern Conference championship for the first time since 2003-04.



Mashhour

The Ocelots will host the Western Conference opponent (yet to be determined) at 3 p.m. Saturday in the MCCA title match-up.

"We have Wednesday first, we got to go to St. Clair for the last game," Schoolcraft head coach Abe Mashhour said. "It's just a matter of, like we've said all year, we just want to get better and make sure we're prepared for Saturday."

Pesky Delta (17-12, 10-6) gave the Ocelots something to think about Monday, taking a

32-30 lead into halftime and still on top 42-41 with about 11:30 to play in the game.

Poor outside shooting by Schoolcraft in the first half (1-of-9 from behind the 3-point arc) particularly hampered the Ocelots, but Mashhour said his team didn't come out "as sharp as it needs to be" to open the game.

"A lot of credit to Delta, they're a very, very tough team," Mashhour said. "They've had a very good season so far and they've beaten a lot of good teams and they've given us everything we could handle in the two times we played."

Things started changing when Ja'Christian Biles (13 points) drained a trey from the left wing with 11 minutes remaining, putting Schoolcraft up 44-42.

That jump-started a run that featured six points from freshman guard and Westland John Glenn product DeShawndre Black, as well as back-to-back treys by freshman guard Tyler Johnson (Howell) that suddenly made it a 62-46 edge.

"Absolutely," Mashhour said, agreeing about Black's contributions. "And Tyler

made a couple shots in the second half, Ja'Christian made a couple shots.

"That's us. We obviously didn't shoot it well from the perimeter the first half but, usually for the course of a game, we're going to make a few shots to give ourselves a chance offensively."

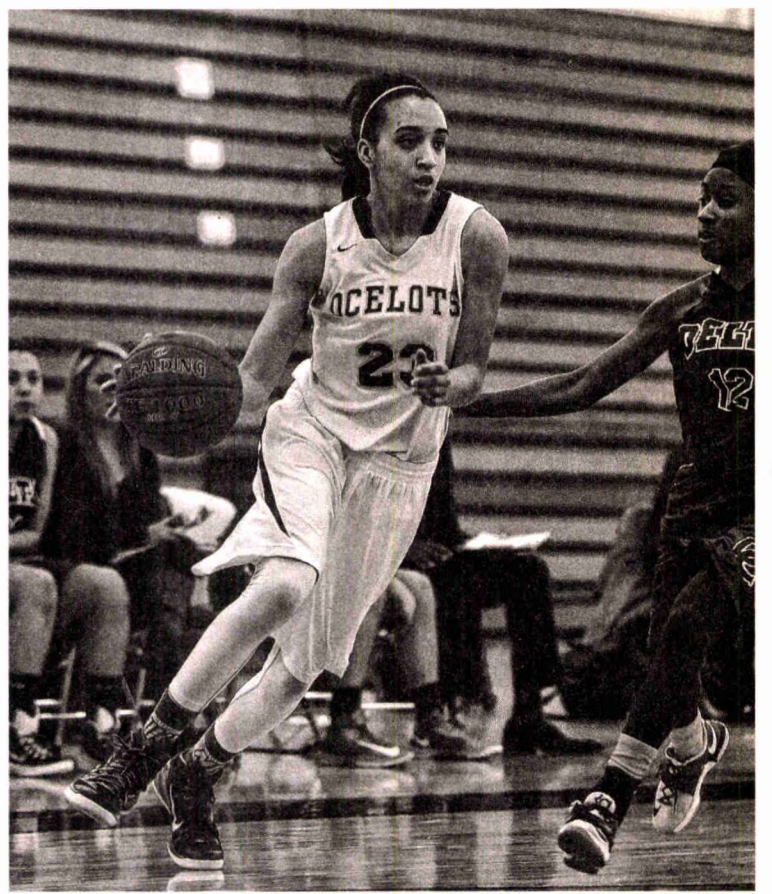
Improved work in the paint down the stretch by 6-7 freshman forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz (team-high 10 rebounds) and 6-8 freshman forward Davon Taylor also enabled Schoolcraft to hold the Pioneers down.

Taylor, a Canton alum, continued to play well with 12 points and seven rebounds (five on the defensive boards) in 20 minutes off the bench.

Leading the Ocelots with 15 points was freshman guard Lito Booth, while Black also tallied 13 for the night.

For Delta, Markell Bradshaw registered 15 points.

"Some of our guys, like Anthony Wartley-Fritz, he didn't have great rhythm today," Mashhour said. "But to his credit, he came in for the second half and gave us a great, great spurt and started controlling the game. That



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Schoolcraft's Elise Tolbert, a Birmingham Seaholm alum, dribbles around a Delta defender Monday night.

made a huge difference."

Lady Ocelots rally

Also needing a strong second half Monday was Schoolcraft's women's basketball team, rallying from a seven-point halftime deficit to win 61-56 over Delta College.

The Lady Ocelots (18-8, 11-4) remain in the thick of things in the MCCA Eastern Conference title chase, which is winding down.

Schoolcraft connected on 14-of-31 field-goal tries in the second half (45.2 percent), a

much-better clip than Delta managed after intermission (8-of-33, 24.2).

Guards T'era Nesbitt and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland spearheaded the Lady Ocelots' attack with 24 and 11 points, respectively. Chipping in nine points was Jessica Parry, while Chelsey Wesley added six.

For Delta (17-11, 11-5), Champagne Arthur led with 17 points.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

MATTINGLY TAKES OVER

CHANGING THE CULTURE

Salem's new boys lacrosse coach wants players to be winners on and off field

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Corey Mattingly placed varsity boys lacrosse at Saint Xavier High School, he had everything in front of him as the goalkeeper.

Now as the new head coach for Salem's varsity boys squad, he intends to do the same — keeping the big picture in front of him as he goes about building a winning tradition with the Rocks.



Mattingly

"I have played with and against the top programs in the East and Midwest, so I know what level of competition we are up against," Mattingly wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "I look forward to working with our seniors and juniors in order to build a legacy that can constantly compete against the top programs in our state and region."

Mattingly said he will stress accountability from his players, on and off the field, and set out to "bring in a new era."

"We have lofty goals for the 2015 season," he wrote. "However, we have the defensive presence and firepower on the offensive side to achieve our goals."

"We will look to control the tempo of our games through 50/50 possessions like the face-off and on ground balls."

Turning it around

He also wants his players to be well-grounded.

"In this new era, we want to usher in a winning culture," Mattingly wrote. "By doing

that, you must win in the weight room, win in the classroom, win at practice — essentially you must win when it doesn't matter."

He also will emphasize that players act professionally in everything they do.

Although Plan A for the Ann Arbor resident is for the Rocks to win every time out, Plan B is to turn the tables on a losing 2014 season (when Salem went 5-10).

That would entail "flipping" that record to 10-5, at the very least, while "creating a winning atmosphere for home games" that will entice fans to come out and watch.

Key to that taking place very well might be making sure Salem is competitive game in and game out.

In 2014, Salem had a handful of blowout losses (by more than six goals).

Mattingly, who attended college at Mount Saint Joseph (a Division III school in Ohio), joins the Rocks after serving as an assistant boys lacrosse coach for two years at Ann Arbor Greenhills.

Lifetime chance

He is genuinely pumped up for the task ahead of him and the team.

"This opportunity is a once-in-a-lifetime chance," Mattingly wrote. "Nowadays, it is tough to start and grow a program."

"For me to come into a program that has 40-plus players with interest to come out and compete is an amazing opportunity," he added. "The (Salem) booster board, athletic department and seniors have already been so welcoming."

"I see nowhere but up for the program and players."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem's varsity girls basketball team celebrates after defeating Plymouth in Tuesday's conference title game.

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

away. Salem outscored the Wildcats 16-5 in the fourth.

"We started becoming passive and I told them I wasn't going to have it," Klemmer said about what her message to the team was when Plymouth closed the gap. "I said we got to continue to be aggressive and continue to attack, I don't care what the lead is."

"That's when we're at our best. When we're stagnant and when we're passive, we don't play good basketball."

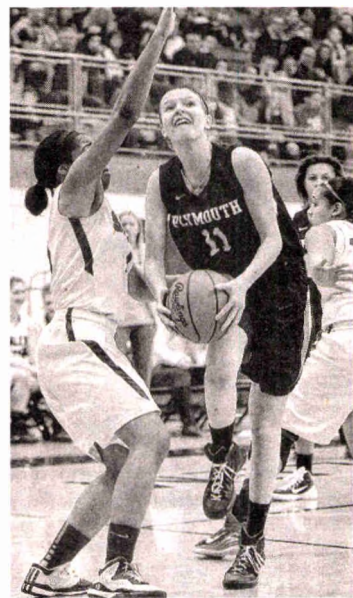
Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon credited the Rocks for winning the conference trophy and for being a much tougher opponent than it was in the season opener.

"We tried to come out with a similar game plan that we had last time and it didn't work," Brandon said. "We got beat early and you got to give Salem a lot of credit."

Despite yeoman's work from Plymouth senior post Patti Begoske, who tallied 18 points and 12 rebounds, Plymouth (16-3) lost for the first time since a December defeat at the hands of Farmington Harrison.

"It was easily the best we've seen (Begoske) play as coaches," Brandon said. "I thought she had the team on her back in a number of ways. I thought she played harder than anybody else on our team."

"You could tell this game was important to Patti. You could tell that she wanted to do whatever she could to help her team win it. I'm proud of the way she played."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem's Jamyra Wilson (left) guards Plymouth's Kendall Rose.

of-46 shots from the floor (28.3 percent).

"We were certainly ready for the attention (Rose) would get," Brandon said. "With the numbers she's been putting up, we knew that Salem would focus on her. So it certainly wasn't a lack of trying."

According to Long, the Rocks came out together and focused, fully aware of how bad Plymouth beat them Dec. 1.

"That was just a rough game for everybody," Long said. "There was no team chemistry, there was no ball movement, everyone was playing selfish. But when we came in here (Tuesday), we preached family, preached togetherness and it really carried over when we played. Everyone could see it."

Next up for the Rocks, who also received six points from senior guard Katie Latack, is the KLA championship game against undefeated Waterford Kettering at 7 p.m. Thursday at Salem.

Then comes another Plymouth-Salem match-up, this time in the Class A district opener at Novi.

"Obviously, both teams are going to have to make adjustments," Klemmer said. "He's a good coach. He's going to make adjustments and we're going to have to do the same thing."

"But I liked that we got a preview a little bit. I know it's going to be a hard-fought battle. Our seniors told me tonight they had never beat Plymouth in four years. Glad we got that one out of the way and I'm ready for it. I'm excited."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

She's going to Tech



CANTON ATHLETICS

Canton senior volleyball player Courtney Kurkie (center) recently signed to go to Michigan Tech University, where she will continue her career. Kurkie, a scholar-athlete award winner whose parents are Jim (left) and Scherie Kurkie, is a member of the National Honor Society and DECA. She starred for the Chiefs as a three-year starter at right-side hitter. In 2014, she was captain and was named to the all-KLAA and all-region teams. Courtney decided to go to Tech because it "was the perfect fit ... because of its competitive volleyball team, high academic standards and friendly community."

'Put a Freeze' on fires: Winter no time to forget fire safety basics

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) are teaming up for the fourth year to promote their joint campaign, "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires," which works to educate the public about potential fire hazards during the winter months.

Winter is the peak season for U.S. home fires; cooking and heating are the leading causes. In addition, candle, decoration, and Christmas tree fires peak in December. "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" provides awareness about these potential fire risks, along with advice and tips to avoid them.

"The colder months and holiday season bring a set of increased fire risks that can quickly turn a festive, wintry time of year into a tragic one," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Working closely with USFA, our shared goal is to inform the public

about winter fire safety and provide educational resources for the fire service. With some increased awareness and basic safety precautions, people can ensure a fire-safe winter for their families and homes."

According to NFPA statistics, cooking is the leading cause of home structure fires and injuries in the U.S., while heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires and home fire deaths. These and other facts that underscore fire risks associated with the winter and holiday season will be addressed throughout the "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" campaign.

"USFA is pleased to once again be partnering with NFPA to present this important information to the public," said Alexandra Furr, USFA's director of National Fire Programs. "Since we know the winter months provide more opportunities for home fires, it is even more

important for your family to make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, and inside and outside sleeping areas. If you don't have a family fire escape plan, take a few minutes to make one and then practice it. During the winter months, we find ourselves thinking about giving and being with family. Give your family the gift of fire safety. We can all take steps to be fire safe, Fire is Everyone's Fight™."

For tip sheets, videos and other information on how to prevent cooking, heating and other types of fires, visit www.nfpa.org/winter and www.usfa.fema.gov/winter for an extensive list of resources.

About The United States Fire Administration (USFA)

As an entity of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, the mission of

USFA is to provide national leadership to foster a solid foundation for our fire and emergency services stakeholders in prevention, preparedness, and response. www.usfa.fema.gov

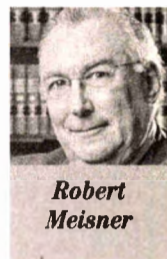
About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to reduce the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

Take fiduciary responsibilities seriously

Q: I am a director of a home ownership association and people keep telling me that I have a "fiduciary duty" to the association. What does that mean?

A: Fiduciary duty means that you have a higher standard of responsibility and care to the members of the association than would otherwise be the case if you were merely a member of the association. In effect, you must be loyal to the association and cannot serve your own particular interests as opposed to the best interests of the association. If called upon, you must make judgments based on sound business decisions employing those persons that can assist you in reaching the right decision for the Board of Directors on behalf of the Association.



Robert Meisner

Q: We have an easement running over our property that has been there for many years for utilities. We are trying to figure out how or what we can do to get rid of it. It is now imposing a nuisance on our property in terms of what is oozing from the ground.

A: Obviously, it is important for you to find out who owns the easement and to immediately notify them of the condition of the easement on your property. The easement holder has an obligation to ensure that the easement does not unreasonably interfere with your use and enjoyment of the property and, depending upon the circumstances, it may call for you to seek to eliminate the easement and/or to seek damages against the easement holder to the extent that your property and/or the value of same has been damaged.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 29 to Oct. 3, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

19312 Beverly Rd \$290,000
16939 Buckingham Ave \$199,000
17109 Kirkshire Ave \$250,000
31293 Sleepy Hollow Ln \$405,000
19501 Wilshire Blvd \$355,000

BIRMINGHAM

2439 Buckingham Ave \$214,000
1174 Davis Ave \$278,000
1713 E 14 Mile Rd \$66,000
732 Graefield Ct \$129,000
2007 Hazel St \$590,000
625 Henrietta St \$560,000
1270 Lake Park Dr \$680,000
946 N Adams Rd Unit 5 \$115,000
2684 Pembroke Rd \$250,000
993 Suffield Ave \$979,000
1387 Yosemite Blvd \$350,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

730 E Valley Chase Rd \$353,000
4415 Fox Hill Dr \$342,000
458 Far Hills Dr \$60,000
1149 Ivyglen Cir \$395,000
1094 Park Place Ct \$564,000
4115 Pomona Colony St \$225,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4787 Brafferton Dr \$348,000
1958 Klingensmith Rd \$115,000
1237 Lone Pine Rd \$420,000
2710 Pendleton Dr \$248,000
2647 Rambling Way \$245,000
1828 Squirrel Valley Dr \$340,000
916 Tartan Trl \$33,000
1280 Wagner Ave \$135,000
681 Weybridge Dr \$312,000
1269 Indian Mound Trl \$1,007,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

4645 Achilla St \$144,000
341 Annapolis St \$50,000
4148 Bernstein Rd \$265,000
4051 Cherry Garden Dr \$120,000
3412 Circle Dr \$740,000
3952 Dun Rovin Ct \$235,000
3952 Dun Rovin Ct \$268,000
9410 Garden Ter \$110,000
8030 Greenlawn Ct \$305,000
2025 Lakeshore Dr \$340,000
8135 Mario St \$54,000
911 N Commerce Rd \$100,000
774 Polvadera St \$269,000
4748 Ravinewood Dr \$250,000
505 Sherbrooke St \$230,000
4721 Sundew St \$150,000
1600 Vanstone Dr \$107,000

FARMINGTON

36775 Brittany Hill Dr \$148,000
23163 Farmington Rd \$215,000
31759 Folkstone Dr \$158,000
32324 Kingslane Ct # 9 \$68,000
33260 Marblehead Rd \$126,000
23644 Power Rd \$106,000
33607 Shawassee St \$280,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

22549 Ashley St \$140,000
21399 Averhill St \$25,000
35973 Charter Crest Rd \$245,000
29305 Fox Ln \$110,000
29605 Earth Club Dr \$270,000
27920 Gettysburg St \$227,000
29550 Highmeadow Rd \$240,000
29830 Highmeadow Rd \$223,000
30931 Hunters Whip Ln \$266,000
24477 Lakeland St \$225,000
24050 Middlebelt Rd Unit 2 \$62,000
30961 Oak Valley Ct \$275,000
31508 Orchard Crk \$90,000
21007 Oxford Ave \$72,000
25695 Pebble Ct \$205,000
24880 Power Rd \$218,000
21126 Prestwick \$480,000
35363 Regency Ln \$350,000

21650 River Ridge Trl \$210,000
21690 River Ridge Trl \$246,000
31654 Rocky Crst \$210,000
20730 Saint Francis St \$130,000
21020 Saint Francis St \$150,000
38254 Saratoga Cir \$170,000
28928 Scotten St \$180,000
24133 Tana Ct \$138,000
26577 Trillium Dr \$160,000
35744 W 11 Mile Rd \$150,000
35954 W 13 Mile Rd \$161,000
34790 W Eight Mile Rd # 1 \$63,000
28948 W Nine Mile Rd \$75,000
28126 Wildwood Trl \$205,000
39123 Wilton Ct \$347,000

HIGHLAND

2964 Cloverdale \$134,000
3027 Hillside Dr \$186,000
3829 Taggett Lake Dr \$225,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

27934 California Dr NE \$125,000

MILFORD

3122 Central Blvd \$130,000
1381 Horseshoe Cir \$567,000
1061 Old Millford Farms \$250,000

NORTHVILLE

732 Carpenter St \$250,000
1212 Charleston Ct \$154,000
543 Reed St \$238,000
810 Springfield Dr \$342,000
894 Yorktown Ct \$163,000
45701 Balfour Ct \$470,000
47559 Cheltenham Dr \$550,000
23260 Cranbrooke Dr \$180,000
41616 Hamlet Ln \$185,000
148 Henning St \$87,000
24691 Jamestowne Dr \$305,000
25930 Junction \$330,000
40497 Lenox Park Dr \$439,000
23800 Meadowbrook Rd \$283,000
44531 Midway Dr \$359,000
43006 Sandstone Dr \$310,000
41703 Steinbeck Gln \$369,000

27412 Victoria Rd \$307,000
49000 W Nine Mile Rd \$213,000
216 Wainwright St \$160,000
41774 Webster Ct \$183,000
39433 Westminster Cir \$288,000
24763 White Plains Dr \$250,000

SOUTH LYON

1056 Birchway Ct \$316,000
54873 Brentwood Dr \$359,000
61012 Evergreen Ct \$200,000
61164 Greenwood Dr \$79,000
24694 Padstone Dr \$78,000
60665 S Lyon Trl \$320,000
23495 Spy Glass HI N \$325,000
350 Stanford Ave \$160,000
52366 Trailwood Dr \$175,000
24876 Valleywood Dr \$275,000
53643 Valleywood Dr \$315,000
58532 Well Cross Ct \$93,000
58629 Winnowing Cir S \$98,000
58708 Winnowing Cir S \$77,000

SOUTHFIELD

20281 Alhambra St \$118,000
21360 Andover Rd \$210,000
21360 Andover Rd \$193,000
23279 Cornerstone Village Dr \$65,000
29156 Evergreen Rd \$75,000
17624 Gateway Cir \$87,000
28116 Glasgow St \$47,000
30115 Greenfield Rd \$35,000
20230 N Greenway St \$180,000
17229 New Jersey St \$130,000
27066 Selkirk St \$162,000
5000 Town Ctr # 1302 \$56,000

WHITE LAKE

1212 Clearwater St \$350,000
1324 Clearwater St \$273,000
540 Farnsworth Rd \$57,000
8281 Fox Bay Dr \$170,000
8352 Fox Bay Dr \$167,000
11409 Lakehaven Dr \$235,000
589 Rumson Ct \$402,000
9310 Thornyside St \$165,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 20-24, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

46394 Bartlett Dr \$175,000
1466 Bayberry Park Cir \$236,000
4119 Berkeley Ave \$144,000
7691 Bircklan Dr \$225,000
2470 Bramble Ct \$275,000
2590 Brookfield St \$184,000
3605 Brooklyn Dr \$257,000
6641 Carlton Rd \$282,000
1926 Cedar Valley Dr \$162,000
213 Charterhouse Dr \$180,000
802 Cherry Stone Dr \$216,000
49831 Courtyard Ln \$243,000
43905 Cranford Ave \$198,000
1317 Dundee Dr \$250,000
44159 Fair Oaks Dr \$187,000
493 Fairfield Dr \$323,000
1617 Glengarry Woods Ct \$358,000
45681 Graystone Ln \$160,000
7266 Green Meadow Ln \$170,000
50230 Harding St \$280,000
699 Highlands Dr \$314,000
8647 Holly Dr \$146,000
47411 Madison Rd \$370,000
45429 N Stonewood Rd \$160,000
8132 Orhan St \$125,000
47515 Ormskirk Dr \$125,000
4745 Pond Run \$215,000
6167 Porteridge Ln \$225,000
49592 Potomac Rd \$250,000
44773 Ridgefield Rd \$173,000
43884 Shiloh Ct \$165,000
43874 Simsbury St \$205,000
51084 Sleepy Hollow Ln \$245,000
47456 Stoneridge Blvd \$280,000
7450 Sussex Dr \$235,000
46496 Swanmere Dr \$275,000
1767 Tradition Dr \$470,000
45096 Turnberry Ct \$270,000
39807 Wales St \$180,000
7059 Weatherfield Way \$305,000
6912 Willow Creek Dr \$180,000
42429 Woodbridge Dr \$188,000
2211 Woodmont Dr W \$219,000

GARDEN CITY

2033 Deering St \$110,000
28536 James St \$35,000
28449 Rosslyn Ave \$64,000
29119 Rush St \$42,000
30315 Rush St \$96,000

LIVONIA

9624 Auburndale St \$186,000
14315 Barbara St \$167,000
16189 Bell Creek Ct \$250,000
32937 Brookside Cir \$252,000
27903 Buckingham St \$155,000
34024 Burton Ln \$206,000
9042 Butwell St \$195,000
15125 Country Club Dr \$155,000
9840 Cranston St \$177,000
39382 Donald St \$205,000
28665 Dover St \$119,000
20184 Ellen Dr \$63,000
15050 Fairfield St \$325,000
36132 Fairway Dr \$43,000
18712 Fairway St \$205,000
16737 Fitzgerald St \$160,000
18623 Floral St \$100,000
18325 Glastonbury Dr \$325,000
18979 Glengarry Dr \$305,000
31516 Grennada St \$115,000
33024 Grennada St \$150,000
34948 Grove Dr \$245,000
10023 Hambleton St \$165,000
13971 Hillcrest St \$180,000
15123 Hix St \$175,000
10004 Hubbard St \$149,000
29008 Joy Rd \$53,000
33050 Joy Rd \$118,000
29746 Lamar Ln \$136,000
35891 Lyndon St \$261,000
19778 Merriman Rd \$190,000
18180 Middlebelt Rd \$103,000
31556 Middleboro St \$198,000
35721 Minton St \$165,000
37490 N Laurel Park Dr \$135,000
8836 Nevada St \$155,000
20025 Osmus St \$275,000
17348 Pershing St \$135,000
29709 Pickford St \$84,000
18665 Purlingbrook St \$155,000
19351 Rensellor St \$81,000
14058 Richfield St \$189,000
10685 Stark Rd \$235,000
14416 Summerside St \$155,000
30245 W Chicago St \$132,000
35277 W Chicago St \$180,000
20443 Wayne Rd \$395,000

30940 Wentworth St \$155,000
30747 Westfield St \$85,000
19559 Whitby Dr \$225,000
14365 Yale St \$190,000

NORTHVILLE

16967 Abby Cir \$450,000
47670 Arbor Cir \$400,000
47617 Blue Heron Ct \$525,000
44973 Broadmoor Cir S \$405,000
19701 Carden Way \$225,000
40610 Coachwood Cir \$439,000
18272 Edenderry St \$458,000
18290 Edenderry St \$411,000
16569 Johnson Creek Dr \$473,000
42528 Lake Success Dr \$140,000
515 Linden Ct \$721,000
16814 Lochmoor Cir W \$390,000
19590 Northridge Dr \$116,000
49045 Rainbow Ln S \$440,000
735 Randolph St \$130,000
42423 Ravina Ln \$275,000
39223 Rockcrest Cir \$170,000
44427 White Pine Cir E \$514,000
44431 White Pine Cir W \$470,000

PLYMOUTH

13455 Andover Dr \$305,000
12837 Beacon Hill Dr \$425,000
11467 Cedar Ln \$187,000
9495 Collins Dr \$65,000
173 E Ann Arbor Trl \$140,000
42405 Hammill Ln \$47,000
43375 Judson Ave \$245,000
13428 Karl Dr \$365,000
575 Kellogg St \$345,000
555 Lindsay Dr \$202,000
210 N Mill St \$299,000
8844 Northern Ave \$124,000
9416 Northern Ave \$140,000
12468 Pinecrest Dr \$190,000
1356 Sheridan St \$420,000
1040 Sutherland St \$445,000
41211 Wilcox Rd \$270,000
41885 Wilcox Rd \$51,000
8949 Woodberry Rd \$315,000

REDFORD

25525 Five Mile Rd \$47,000
15841 Beech Daly Rd \$40,000
11941 Hazelton \$48,000
9957 Hazelet \$44,000
19990 Inkster Rd \$63,000
25133 Keeler \$60,000
11313 Lenore \$77,000
15407 Leona Dr \$58,000

15105 Lexington \$96,000
9522 Lucerne \$130,000
15630 Meadowbrook Rd \$110,000
24864 Midland \$56,000
14826 Nathaline \$84,000
18803 Poinciana \$17,000
11301 Rockland \$49,000
11332 San Jose \$61,000
25714 Schoolcraft \$138,000
10003 Seminole \$55,000
26216 Southwestern Hwy \$38,000
26844 Student \$88,000
10140 Tecumseh \$69,000
17133 Wakenden \$80,000
26032 Westfield \$70,000
8857 Winston \$75,000

WAYNE

35158 Ash St \$84,000
35318 Ash St \$60,000
35328 Ash St \$97,000
2964 Flora Ln \$138,000
33124 Forest Ave \$120,000
33959 Harroun St \$35,000
5072 Mildred St \$57,000
36824 Pinewood Rd \$108,000
34841 Richard St \$50,000
4538 Washington St \$41,000

WESTLAND

33371 Anita Dr \$109,000
39341 Armstrong Ln \$123,000
719 Autumn Ridge Dr \$182,000
34693 Avondale St \$60,000
7852 Beatrice \$160,000
32081 Birchwood St \$80,000
34106 Blackfoot St \$82,000
36774 Cherry Oak Dr \$157,000
36525 Deerhurst N \$115,000
35208 Fairchild St \$97,000
7570 Floral St \$44,000
31263 Geraldine St \$110,000
38231 Greenwood St \$53,000
2027 N Crown St \$140,000
7330 W Farmington Rd \$183,000
130 N Hawthorne St \$112,000
38348 N Jean Ct \$115,000
8551 Perrin Ave \$120,000
28332 Powers St \$52,000
8128 Randy Dr \$138,000
1603 Regency St \$83,000
35230 School St \$24,000
2081 W Butler Cir \$117,000
1870 Wilshire St \$135,000
1537 Zorn St \$160,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Industry kudos

The owners of The Real Estate One Family of Companies, Dan Elsea and Stuart Elsea, received the Leadership Award from the Leading Real Estate Companies of the World (LeadingRE), a global network of more than 500 premier real estate firms. The award was presented at the network's annual Awards Gala held at Wynn Las Vegas during LeadingRE Conference Week.

The Leadership Award is given to the broker who exemplifies outstanding qualities of leadership, business acumen, and contributions on a company, industry, community and personal level. Dan Elsea and Stuart Elsea were recognized for their achievements on behalf of both their company, Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, and the real estate industry at large.

Stuart Elsea was acknowledged for his involvement in NAR's Large Broker Forum and other national, state and local real estate activities, along with leading the Real Estate One Charitable Foundation, established in 2004 to commemorate Real Estate One's 75th anniversary.

Dan Elsea received the Leadership Award for his keen sense of the economic factors, technology trends and demographics that affect the real estate business.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.625	0	2.875	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.625	0	2.875	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.625	0	2.875	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.625	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.5	0	3	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0	3.125	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	1	2.875	1
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.875	0	3.25	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.75	0.25	3.125	0

Above Information available as of 2/20/15 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, recent 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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Move in for as low as \$699*

Rentals starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath CHILDS LAKE ESTATES homes.

All appliances including washer & dryer.

4377 Old Plank Road Milford

248-313-6245
www.childslake.com

*NAC, 15 mo lease, Community owned homes. Offer expires 2/28/15

698* MOVES YOU IN!!

FREE RENT UNTIL March 1st 2015!

384 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

Move in for as low as \$699*

Rentals starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath CHILDS LAKE ESTATES homes.

All appliances including washer & dryer.

4377 Old Plank Road Milford

248-778-4009
www.childslake.com

*NAC, 15 mo lease, Community owned homes. Offer expires 2/28/15

Help Wanted - General

SUNSET

INSPIRED BY FLAVOR
Sunset Produce, North America's leading grower/marketer of gourmet greenhouse vegetables located in Livonia, MI, is hiring for the following:

- STAND-UP HI-LO OPERATORS
- REACH TRUCK OPERATORS
- ELECTRIC RIDER-JACK OPERATORS

If you have a strong sense of responsibility and like a fast paced environment, this position offers opportunities for stability and growth.

Position Requirements:
-High School Diploma
-1 yr current experience on stand-up equipment
-Possess a Valid Driver License OR State ID AND recent vision exam
-Must pass internal hi-lo or rider jack certification
-Proficiency in use of English language with ability to communicate effectively & professionally

Working Conditions
-Environment includes an expansive refrigerated warehouse where the temperature averages 70 degrees F and occasionally down to 55 degrees
-Must be capable of lifting up to 30 lbs

This position offers the right candidate a competitive salary, vacation pay and full benefits.

Please call for more information: 734.943.0387
or email HiloHR@sunsetgrown.com

SUN HOMES

\$398 MOVES YOU IN!

Free rent until April 1st 2015

BRAND NEW HOMES IN CANTON

3 bedroom / 2 bath with all appliances including washer/dryer

Homes starting at \$899

Call us today!
(888) 272-3099

Academy/Westpoint
41021 Old Michigan Ave. • Canton
*Offer valid on select homes only.
Expires 2/28/2015 EHO

www.academywestpoint.com

Help Wanted - General

ACTIVITY STAFF MEMBER
Part-Time. Flexible hours. Apply in person:

PLYMOUTH INN ASSISTED LIVING
205 Haggerty Rd. Plymouth

DIRECT CARE: *New wage* \$8.50/hr. trained, must be 18 & have a valid MI driver's license. CLS/MORC trained preferred. Full time and part time. Many shifts: support adults living in their own homes, make a difference! 734-728-4201

Driver TOW TRUCK DRIVERS
We are now hiring full & part-time DRIVERS. We offer competitive pay & benefits. If you have exp. you may qualify for a \$1000 Sign On Bonus.

WESTLAND CAR CARE
AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Please call: 734-722-7100

Help Wanted - General

MASTER ELECTRICIAN
Full Time position, 52 wks/yr. Resumes accepted through March 9, 2015.
Email to: smith@gardencityschools.com
Call 734-762-6306

POLICE OFFICER
The Charter Township of Northville
Northville Township is accepting applications for the position of Police Officer.

Qualifications are:
• Must be a U.S. Citizen.
• Must be 21 years of age.
• Must possess a valid driver's license and have no criminal record.
• Applicant must possess a High School diploma and Associates degree from an accredited college or university.
• Must have successfully completed & possess proof of M.C.O.L.E.S. certification, or certification.
• Applicants will be req'd to pass a written and oral exam, personal background check, physical and psychological exam. \$52,551 starting pay.

Applications are available and returned completed to:
Charter Township of Northville
Human Resource Dept.
44405 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48168
by Friday, March 27, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

An application form is also available on the Northville Township website at www.twp.northville.mi.us Resumes without applications will not be accepted. Equal Employment Opportunity

RESIDENT ASSISTANT All Shifts
Apply in person:
PLYMOUTH INN ASSISTED LIVING
205 Haggerty Rd. Plymouth

RENTALS

apartments.com
HomeFinder.com

Apartment For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS ANNE'S APTS.
FREE HEAT! 1 bdrms from \$525, 9 Mile/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

Farmington Plaza
Spacious 2 bedroom, central air, pool. Heat included with rent. 50% off 2 months rent with approved credit.
Call 248.478.8722

Homes For Rent

WESTLAND 3 BR brick ranch, 1.5 bath, C/A, carpet, bsmt., no pets. Fridge incl. Fridge rd area \$895. 734-591-9163

Rooms For Rent

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

Office Retail Space

Plymouth Office Space
Class A Building. Offices for rent within suite designed for attorneys or other professionals sharing space. Internet access, library services, copy center, conference room, fax and reception services available. An ideal professional environment. Office and secretarial space available. Email inquiries to plymouthofficespace@yahoo.com

SERVICES

hometownlife.com

Drywall

COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.
Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic./Ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

Paint Decorating Paper

PAINTING BY ROBERT
• Wallpaper Removal • Int
• Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair
• Staining, 25 yrs exp. Free Est.
248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

ENTRY LEVEL

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

Email resumes to: plymouthjob@yahoo.com

Maintenance
National Apartment Management Company seeks to fill a full-time Maintenance Position in Westland. Knowledge in plumbing, electrical, carpentry & HVAC required. Candidates must possess strong organizational and communication skills. Pay commensurate with experience. Apartment provided.

Send resume to:
ROSE & SONS
HR Dept.
P.O. Box 2011
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
Email: hrdept@edwardrose.com

WAREHOUSE Full-Time

Entry Level opening for Delivery Driver/Shipping & Receiving. Must have clean driving record. Will Train. Benefits. Daytime hours
Call: 586-843-2313

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Well organized full-time Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant. Payroll, bank reconciliation, accounts payable & receivable, necessary tax reports. Additional administrative duties include releasing incoming orders, answering phone, mail filing, and other duties as assigned. Detailed organizational skills and multi-tasking. Working knowledge of QuickBooks Pro Access, Excel, Word and Outlook. Send Cover Letter, resume and salary requirements to jobs@rocktool.com

Payroll Assistant
Full-Time at Michigan Healthcare Professionals. Perform payroll processing & track benefits accurately and timely. Have general knowledge of deductions and payroll taxes. Capable of working with confidential personnel files. Data entry exp. req. Resume & cover letter to: dhuren@mhpdactor.com Visit us at: www.mhpdactor.com

Help Wanted - Medical

FRONT DESK & MEDICAL ASSISTANT Full-Time
For busy 6 doctor office in Livonia. Experience required. Email resume to: levanofcmgr@yahoo.com

RENTALS

apartments.com
HomeFinder.com

Apartment For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS ANNE'S APTS.
FREE HEAT! 1 bdrms from \$525, 9 Mile/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
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Office Retail Space

Plymouth Office Space
Class A Building. Offices for rent within suite designed for attorneys or other professionals sharing space. Internet access, library services, copy center, conference room, fax and reception services available. An ideal professional environment. Office and secretarial space available. Email inquiries to plymouthofficespace@yahoo.com

SERVICES

hometownlife.com

Drywall

COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.
Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic./Ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

Paint Decorating Paper

PAINTING BY ROBERT
• Wallpaper Removal • Int
• Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair
• Staining, 25 yrs exp. Free Est.
248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

Accounts Payable-Billing Coordinator
Material handling company seeks highly motivated individual to maintain and process capital equipment completed job files and process associated AP invoices. Requires previous experience and strong attention to detail is critical. Send resume to: ksimons@andersennh.com

ENTRY LEVEL

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

Email resumes to: plymouthjob@yahoo.com

Maintenance
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Send resume to:
ROSE & SONS
HR Dept.
P.O. Box 2011
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
Email: hrdept@edwardrose.com

ROUTE DRIVERS & ENTRY LEVEL SALES
No exp req. Email resume: aicebowman@trugreenmail.com Call: 248-943-6941 www.trugreenjobs.com

TRUGREEN
EOE/M/F/V/D/A

WAREHOUSE Full-Time

Entry Level opening for Delivery Driver/Shipping & Receiving. Must have clean driving record. Will Train. Benefits. Daytime hours
Call: 586-843-2313

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Well organized full-time Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant. Payroll, bank reconciliation, accounts payable & receivable, necessary tax reports. Additional administrative duties include releasing incoming orders, answering phone, mail filing, and other duties as assigned. Detailed organizational skills and multi-tasking. Working knowledge of QuickBooks Pro Access, Excel, Word and Outlook. Send Cover Letter, resume and salary requirements to jobs@rocktool.com

Payroll Assistant
Full-Time at Michigan Healthcare Professionals. Perform payroll processing & track benefits accurately and timely. Have general knowledge of deductions and payroll taxes. Capable of working with confidential personnel files. Data entry exp. req. Resume & cover letter to: dhuren@mhpdactor.com Visit us at: www.mhpdactor.com

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FRONT DESK & MEDICAL ASSISTANT Full-Time
For busy 6 doctor office in Livonia. Experience required. Email resume to: levanofcmgr@yahoo.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ATTN: COMPUTER WORK. Work from anywhere 24/7. Up to \$1,500 Part Time to \$7,500/mo. Full Time Training provided. www.WorkServices3.com (MICH)

FOR SALE-MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill. Cut lumber any dimension. In Stock, ready to ship! FREE Info/VD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext 300N (MICH)

HELP WANTED - PROFESSIONAL

BOSE CORPORATION
Automotive Systems Division has an immediate opening in the Bloomfield Hills, MI facility for an Audio Systems Engineer (#186288R), who specializes in Acoustics and DSP. Please visit www.bose.com/careers for details about the role and apply directly on-line. (MICH)

HELP WANTED - TRUCK DRIVER

\$3000 Sign On Bonus! Class A CDL Drivers. We Offer Great Home Time, Excellent Benefits and \$65-\$75K Annual Earnings!

Call Today 888-409-6033, Apply Online www.DriveJacobson.com (MICH)

25 DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED!

Become a driver for Stevens Transport! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! New drivers earn \$800+ per week! PAID CDL TRAINING! Stevens covers all costs! 1-888-528-8864 drive4stevens.com (MICH)

Tractor Owner Operator, make \$4,000-\$5,000 weekly earnings. \$1,500 SIGN ON BONUS! Regional carrier 30 years experience. Trailers provided. Home on weekends. 1-866-537-6174 or recruiting@trinhours.com (MICH)

INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS

AVIATION Grads work with JetBlue, Boeing, NASA, others - start here hands-on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 1-877-891-2281 (MICH)

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES NEEDED! Become a Medical Office Assistant! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Online training can get you job ready! HS Diploma/GED & PC/Internet needed! 1-877-253-6495 (MICH) LO2478732-01

Trucks for Sale

GMC SIERRA 2010
Crew Cab, short box, 4x4, SLE. ABS, traction control. \$21,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

RAM 1500 2012
4wd, Crew Cab, 5.7 ft. box ST. Only 22K miles! 1 owner. \$25,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

4 Wheel Drive

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2009 - 4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd. Heated front seats \$21,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012
FWD, leather, rear view camera, heated seats. Bluetooth. \$25,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM 2012
FWD, leather, heated seats, Navigation System. \$28,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

EQUINOX 2013
FWD LS, 20K miles, ABS, traction control, security system. \$16,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

FORD ESCAPE 2012
4wd, 4 dr, XLT, sunroof, roof rack. \$13,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC ACADIA 2011
FWD SLT1, Lthr, Bose stereo system, loaded! \$15,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC ACADIA 2011
AWD, 4 dr., SLT1, leather, rear view camera, loaded! \$18,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC ENVOY 2008
4wd, 4 dr., SLE-1, roof rack, hands free phone. \$11,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, 42K, 1 owner, extra clean! \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2011
AWD, 4 dr., 1500 Denali, rear view camera, pking sensors, heated seats. \$35,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

SEEKING: Multi-Media Sales Representative

michigan.com

The Observer & Eccentric, part of michigan.com, a Gannett Company, is seeking a Multi-Media Sales Representative for our Milford/Highland/White Lake territory who will be responsible for developing relationships and consulting with clients while providing an opportunity to contribute to the long-term success of a high growth and progressive company. Our ideal candidate will be an innovative, result driven, high energy, creative sales representative with the ability to think strategically and to assist clients by developing strategic, multi-media advertising campaigns.

Must be able to manage multiple priorities, requests, programs and be dedicated to exceptional customer service. Develop new business and grow market share by using a variety of customer centric sales programs and audience solutions. Make solid marketing presentations that sell the value, provide customer centric audience solutions and close the sale.

If you are seeking a position that will allow you to be a strategic seller working with a multi-platform, market leading team in a culture that thrives on creating and executing big ideas that provide solutions to benefit the prosperity of customers, then we encourage you to apply today to join our team!

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in marketing, advertising or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- 3+ years of related experience is required.
- A strong understanding of digital media platforms to include search engine marketing, social media, online display, mobile & other digital solutions.
- Documented record of success in a goal-oriented, highly accountable environment.
- Ability to conduct a needs assessment, identify marketing and advertising solutions for clients, develop proposals and experience in delivering sales presentations.
- Technical proficiency in Microsoft Office especially PowerPoint and Excel.
- Experience with CRM technology, Salesforce.com preferred

This opportunity offers competitive compensation and benefits package including 401(k), health, dental, three weeks paid vacation, and more. If you meet the above criteria, we encourage you to apply for this position at: <http://bit.ly/1vmiEhu>. EOE

NOTICE TO BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS CABLE CUSTOMERS

This notice is to inform our Bright House Networks customers of upcoming changes to their cable programming lineup.

From time to time our agreements with cable channels and television stations come up for renewal. While we do not anticipate any loss or disruption of service, regulations require us to notify you of the possibility of losing programming. Therefore, please be advised that our agreements with NHL Center Ice, NHL Network, and YouToo remain in effect on a month-to-month basis, but we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. Also, our agreement with Reel! expires on April 30, 2015 and we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. We are working diligently at this time to come to acceptable and fair terms with all these channels.

Bright House Networks will offer a free preview of EPIX services starting on or before March 26, 2015 through March 29, 2015. Bright House Networks will also offer a free preview of Starz services starting on or before April 3, 2015 through April 6, 2015. Additionally, Bright House Networks will offer a free preview of HBO services starting on or before April 10, 2015 through April 12, 2015. These channels may contain PG, PG-13, TV-14, TVMA and R rated programs. To find out how to access these channels, and for more parental control information, visit brighthouse.com or call 1-866-976-EASY. Programming is subject to change. Not all services available in all areas. Restrictions may apply.

On or after April 13, 2015, WXYZ Live Well Network, channel 105 will rebrand to WXYZ Laif TV.

For more information, please call 1-877-885-8318 or visit our website at brighthouse.com

bright house NETWORKS

Help Wanted - General

VETERINARIAN
Preventive, diagnostic services and treatment of diseased and injured pets: perform elective and non-elective surgery on small pets including orthopedics, educate and advise clients on pet health. DVM degree, Michigan veterinarian license. 2 yr. exp. will accept foreign equivalent degree of first professional degree in veterinarian science. Job at Canton Animal Hospital, Canton, MI. Written applications to: Ajab Dhaiwal, DVM, 706 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Help Wanted - Medical

TRINITY SENIOR COMMUNITIES

Marycrest Manor and Marycrest Heights have immediate job openings available at Marycrest. We cultivate wellness for mind, body and spirit.

Contingent CENAs (All Shifts) and Part-Time CENA (Days)

Contingent RN/LPN Managers (All Shifts)

Part-Time/Contingent Environmental Support Assistants (Housekeeping)

Clinical Resource Manager RN
with 1-3 years of experience to coordinate the development and completion of the resident assessments (MDS) within the community. AANAC Certification preferred.

Please apply online at TrinitySeniorSanctuary.org

Food - Beverage

BREAKFAST COOK
Three Brothers Restaurant
Part or Full-Time
Leader in the Kitchen who desires to become a manager. Plymouth. Email resume: prespa1955@gmail.com or call Chris: (734) 233-5951

Position Wanted

Two Mature Women to Provide In-Home Care all shifts including weekends. Will do light housekeeping & assist with local doctor visits. Call Shirley & Nancy 734-254-0095.

WAREHOUSE Full-Time

Entry Level opening for Delivery Driver/Shipping & Receiving. Must have clean driving record. Will Train. Benefits. Daytime hours
Call: 586-843-2313

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Well organized full-time Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant. Payroll, bank reconciliation, accounts payable & receivable, necessary tax reports. Additional administrative duties include releasing incoming orders, answering phone, mail filing, and other duties as assigned. Detailed organizational skills and multi-tasking. Working knowledge of QuickBooks Pro Access, Excel, Word and Outlook. Send Cover Letter, resume and salary requirements to jobs@rocktool.com

Help Wanted - Medical

FRONT DESK & MEDICAL ASSISTANT Full-Time
For busy 6 doctor office in Livonia. Experience required. Email resume to: levanofcmgr@yahoo.com

Help Wanted - Medical

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WHEELS

cars.com

Sports Utility

MERCURY MARINER 2008
4wd, 4 or, V6, Premier, leather, heated seats, pwr sunroof. \$10,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports & Imported

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011
4WD, LTZ, leather, back-up camera, remote ignition. \$29,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500


SCION IC 2009
2 dr, hatchback, power sunroof, 1 owner. \$11,500

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

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AUDI 04' A4 3.0 Quattro Cabriolet, Silver, 1 owner, clean Carfax, Timing belt serviced, Well maintained. \$9,995 Fin. & Warr. avail. 586-777-4190

Audi 04' S4 Black w/ Black int., 1 owner, clean Carfax, 6 spd Manual trans looks & runs like new. \$7,995 Fin. & Warr. avail. 586-777-4190

Audi 08' A6 White, S-Line, 1 owner, clean Carfax, Super Nice Car! 63k Miles, \$14,995. Financing & Warranty available 586-777-4190

LEXUS 05' ES 330 Black w/ tan int., 1 owner, clean Carfax, Runs & drives like new! Super Nice Car! \$8,995 Fin. & Warr. avail. 586-777-4190

BUICK

BUICK VERANO 2014
1778 miles, rear camera, crumple zones, steering wheel cont. \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Buick

BUICK VERANO 2014
Driver info system, Bluetooth, rear view monitor in dash - lots more! \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2012
FWD, Premium 3, Leather, heated seats, power sunroof \$21,595

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

REGAL 2014
4 dr, sedan, Turbo, FWD, 19 miles, heated seats. \$24,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

COBALT 2008
2 dr Coupe Sport, ABS, air Sunroof. \$8995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

MALIBU 2014
1LT, 1400K miles, 1 owner, loaded. Just like new except the price! \$18,995

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BUICK, GMC
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GMC

GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, ABS, Privacy Glass. \$12,995

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BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Honda

CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/nw Leather, moonroof. \$17,995

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BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Kia

CADILLAC CTS 2009
3.6L V6, AWD, Options galore! \$14,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

KIA RIO 2013
4 dr, sedan, auto Ex, ABS, MP3 p/yer, lots of extras! \$12,995

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BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LEXUS

LEXUS ES 350 2008
4 dr., Sedan, Leather, Heated Seats, Loaded! \$14,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- kwon do
- British inc.
- Holy terror
- Look like
- Cash substitute
- Electric swimmers
- Became more friendly (2 wds.)
- Fabric sample
- Wooden horse saga
- Move a mum
- Half a dangerous fly
- They come in for a landing
- Canine registry
- Earl — Biggers
- Fridge stick
- Squirrels away
- Flotsam and —
- Quaint lodgings
- Fourth-down call

DOWN

- Dabbling ducks
- Craggy abode
- Jane Austen title
- Maximum
- Band member, often

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-23-12 © 2012 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

6 Cat's-paws
7 "Eso —" (Paul Anka tune)
8 Lake cabins, often

9 Three-time heavyweight champ
10 Salt meas.
11 Loretta who played Hot Lips
15 Sidled past
19 Gym class
22 RN stations
24 Big green parrot
25 Web suffix
26 Rx givers
27 Slugger Mel —
28 Get a move on, quaintly
29 Lennon's wife
30 Some wings
31 Extend outward
32 Make laws
34 Squinted at
36 Memphis loc.
37 River horse
38 Big Dipper neighbor
39 Scratchy
40 Dole out
42 Turnpike exit
44 Emir or sheik
45 Jelly container
46 Gleeful shout
48 California fort

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

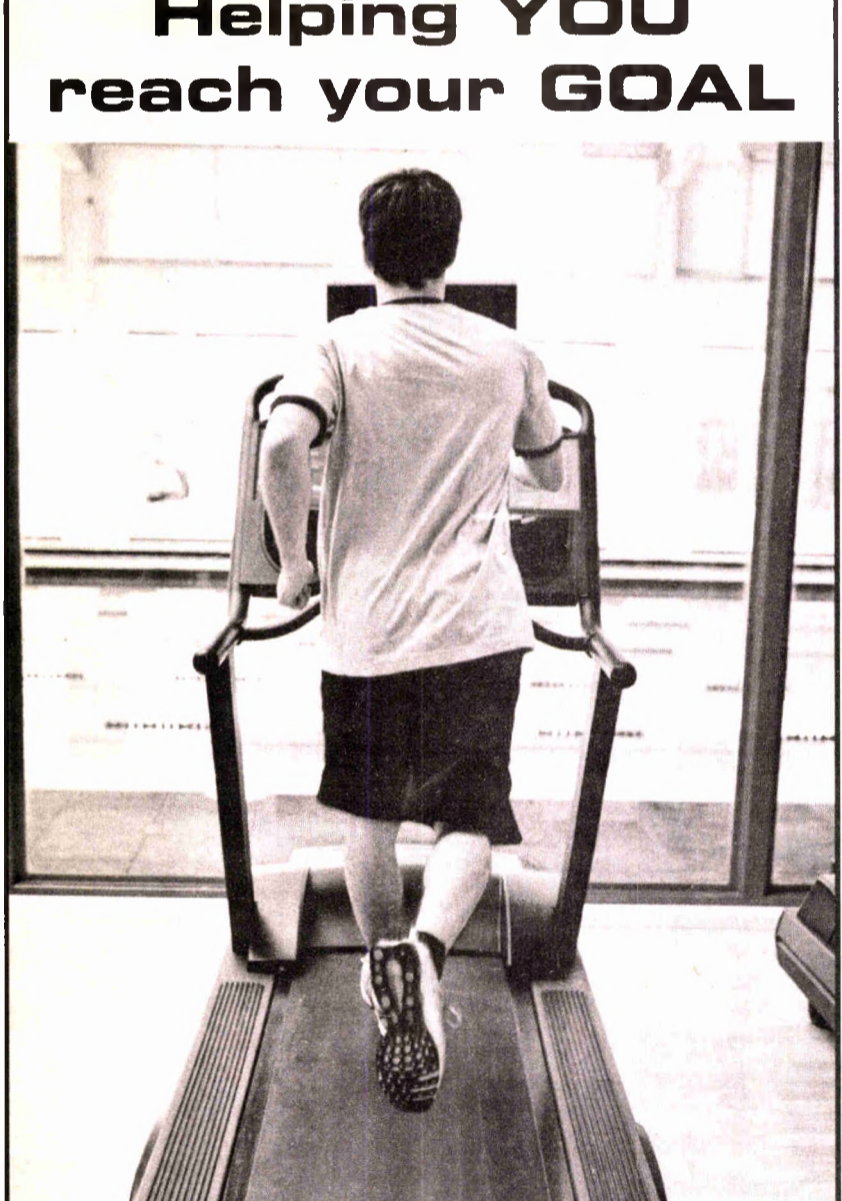
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SUDOKU

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

CUPID'S WORD SEARCH

WORDS

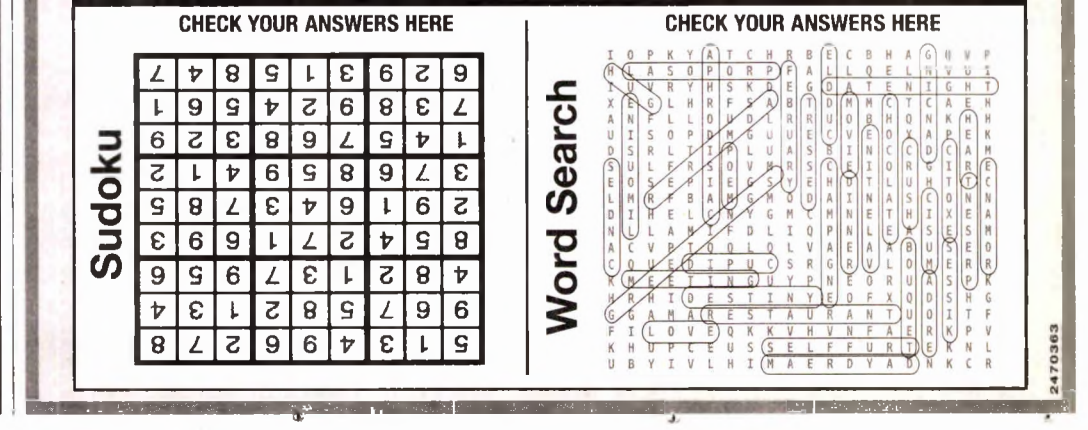
ADMIRER
ADORE
APHRODISIAC
BOUQUET
CANDLES
CHAMPAGNE
CHOCOLATE
CRUSH
CUDDLE
CUPID
DANCING
DATE NIGHT
DAYDREAM
DESSERT
DESTINY
DINNER
EXOTIC
FEBRUARY
GREETINGS
HEART
HUG
KISSES
LIMOUSINE
LOVE
MEETING
MOVIE
MUSIC
POEM
PRESENT
PROPOSAL
RESTAURANT
ROMANCE
TRUFFLES
VALENTINE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

Word Search



FISH FRIES

Fish fries at local churches are under way. Here's a sampling:

» Our Lady of Sorrows, 23815 Power, Farmington — 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27 and March 27. Menu includes fried or baked cod dinners, \$9 adults, \$5, ages 6-12; shrimp dinner, \$10; crab cake dinner, \$12; macaroni and cheese dinner, \$4. Dinners include coleslaw, roll and fries or baked potato. Clam chowder, sweets and carry-out available. 248-474-5720

» St. Damian Parish, 30055 Joy Road, Westland — 5-7 p.m. every Friday in March and April 3. The menu includes shrimp, \$9; pierogi, \$7; salmon, \$11; crab cakes, \$10; fried clams, \$8; seafood platter, \$9; and one-three-piece fish dinners, \$6-\$10. Fried cod is beer-battered and the haddock is baked with lemon butter and dill. All dinners include coleslaw, roll and drink.

A la carte side orders are mac and cheese and fries. Desserts and carry out available. 734-421-6130

» St. Genevieve-St. Maurice Catholic Parish, 29015 Jamison, Livonia — 5-7 p.m. every Friday through March 27. Seniors early bird special starts at 4:30 p.m. Weekly seafood special is \$10. Dinner prices are \$9, adults; \$8, seniors; \$7, early bird special; \$6, children, 12 and under. Menu includes fried white cod or seasoned baked cod and fried fish nuggets. Other meal items include soup, potato, green beans, mac and cheese, cheese pizza, salad, coleslaw, rolls, punch and coffee. 734-427-5220

» St. Kenneth, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth Township — 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday through March 27 and 5-7 p.m. April 3. The menu includes crispy fried fish and fries, \$5 for adults and \$2 for children;

macaroni and cheese and green beans, \$3 for adults, \$2 for children; baked salmon with baked potato and green beans, \$6; fisherman's platter, \$6.50; shrimp basket with french fries, \$6.50. Dinners include salad, roll, beverage. Clam chowder and desserts also available. 734-420-0288

» St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia — 4:30-7 p.m. Friday through March 27. All-you-can-eat menu includes fried or baked cod, coleslaw, green beans, mac and cheese, fries, roll and beverages. \$10, adults; \$5.50, kids, 3-11; seniors, \$8; carry-out, \$9. Kids, 3 and under, free. 734-261-1455

» St. Robert Bellarmine, at West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford — 4-7 p.m. every Friday in Lent. The menu includes deep fried or baked cod dinners

with three side dishes, beverage and roll, \$9 for adults, \$4.75 for children under 12. Other menu items include a weekly special for \$10.50; soup and salad bar, \$8.75; mac and cheese with three sides and a beverage, \$7.25; pizza with salad or fries and a beverage, \$6.24; and cheese pizza by the slice, \$2. Seniors, 60 and over, get a \$1 discount on all dinners. Drive-through service is available — enter on Westfield behind the gym. 313-937-1500

» St. Thomas the Apostle, at the former St. Raphael Church campus, 31530 Beechwood, Garden City — 4:30 p.m. until sold out, Friday through March 27 and 3 p.m. until sold out, April 3. Menu includes fish dinner, shrimp dinner, fish-shrimp combo, \$8.75 each; fish sandwich combo, \$7; cheese pizza, \$3 and \$4. Dinners include fries, coleslaw, roll, beverage. 734-427-1533

RELIGION CALENDAR

FEBRUARY JEWISH STUDY

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28

Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple Road in West Bloomfield

Details: The Bet Midrash, (Jewish learning experience) will explore the theme "What Have You Learned So Far?" Rabbi Steven Rubenstein will use materials from Ask Big Questions, a project of the Hillel International Foundation for Jewish Life on Campus

Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931; nancyel-len879@att.net

LADIES CRAFT NIGHT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27

Location: Crossroads Church, at Sacred Heart Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Make survival kits for the homeless. Supplies for kits will be on hand. Donations of washcloths, toothbrushes, disposable razors, small combs, sample-sized shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and bar soaps, will be accepted. \$6 at the door

Contact: cwm@crossroad-snow.org

MARCH CHURCH MISSION

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. March 22-25

Location: St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, located at West Chicago Road and Inkster Road, Redford

Details: Sponsored by the clustered parishes of St. Robert Bellarmine and St. John Bosco, topics include "Jesus, How Do We Come To Know You?" March 22; "Come, Follow Me," March 23; "Reconcile and Forgive," March 24; "Become A People of Purpose," March 25. Reconciliation will be offered March 24

Contact: 313-937-1500

COMIC BOOK, CARDS

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, between Plymouth Road and West Chicago Road, Redford

Details: More than 34 tables of comic books action figures, books and more. Tony Baraton, local actor and inventor, will be on hand. Admission is \$2; free for age 10 and under. Admission fee will be donated to the Methodist Children's Home in Livonia

Contact: 313-937-3170

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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

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

View Online
www.hometownlife.com



DALTON, VIRGINIA I.

Simpsonville, S. Carolina formerly of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Age 92, passed away Monday, February 23, 2015 at home with her loving family by her side. Funeral 11 a.m. Saturday, February 28, 2015 at Antioch Baptist Church, 6538 Rawsonville Road, Belleville. Burial follows in Hillside Cemetery. Visitation 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Stark Funeral Service and at the church 10 a.m. until time of service Saturday. Complete obituary and guest book at www.starkfuneral.com



DILES, BARBARA J. (NEE MacMILLAN)

Avid supporter of musical arts in Michigan and Florida. Barbara Jo Diles passed away on February 16, 2015, at Tidewell Care Center, Lakewood Ranch, Florida, after bravely dealing with lung cancer for the past year. Her sister Carol, grandson David, and several friends were with Barbara as she quietly and peacefully left her earthly home to spend eternity with her son, David J. Ninowski. Born in Saginaw, Michigan, to Carl Donald and Betty Caroline (Barley) MacMillan, Barbara grew up in Ferndale, Michigan, and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1956. Barbara received coursework in business management from Oakland University and art administration from Harvard University. An accomplished violinist and trained vocalist, Barbara's life was infused with musical arts — choral groups, symphony orchestras and opera organizations. In Detroit she was an original member of the Kenneth Jewell Choir, sang with the Rackham Choir, as a soloist at Kirk In The Hills Presbyterian Church Choir, many other local church choirs and was on the board of The Opera Organization. Her orchestral management affiliations were with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra. Barbara was a board member and officer in many volunteer groups supporting the DSO and the BBSO.

When Barbara retired to Sarasota in 2013, she continued to sing full time with the Saint Boniface Episcopal Church choir that she joined several years ago as a "snowbird," and sang with the prestigious SCOLA choir this past year. She sang with the Sacra Musica Cantorum and with Gloria Musicae Choral group then became a board member in development. Barbara is survived by her sisters, Carol (Daniel) Barr and Donna (Greg) Lenar; grandsons David C. and Dane N. Ninowski, granddaughter Jennifer Ninowski and great-granddaughter Rylee Payne-Ninowski, and daughter-in-law Donna Ninowski; nephew Frederick R. (Diane) Barr and children Zoe, Sam and Isabelle, and niece Danielle E. (David) McGrath and children Georgia, Magnus and Violet McGrath; nephews Joel (Suzanne) Lenar and Jeremy (Marcy) Lenar and great niece Courtney (Philip) Zimmer, cousins Ann Superko, Sharon Levine, Hollis Beckwith, Bonnie Delavan, Nikki (Doug) Jaffe, and special dear friend Greg Pond. She was predeceased by her parents, son David Joseph Ninowski, and nephew Eric S. Barr. Her beloved Siamese, KoKo, passed away the same day that Barbara did, so as they lived 19 years together, so will they be together for eternity. A Memorial Service will be held February 28th, at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Boniface Episcopal Church, 5615 Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key (Sarasota) FL. A Memorial Service will take place in Michigan on May 16th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Kirk In The Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Barbara's family would like to thank her many friends for their continuing support, love and friendship. Sadly and sorely missed but grateful to have known her sunshine smile, sparkling personality, friendship and loyalty, and of course, her beautiful voice. Now she sings in the Heavenly Choir. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Saint Boniface Church or Kirk In The Hills music programs; to Gloria Musicae at gloriamusicae.org; the Sarasota Artists Series Concerts at artistseriesconcerts.org; Musica Sacra Cantorum at: SacraMusicaCantorum.org

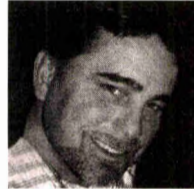
HEILMANN, RUTH HEDWIG EB-ELING

87, of Mooresville, North Carolina, passed away on Friday, February 20, 2015, at Carolina Specialty Hospital, Charlotte, NC. She was born on May 30, 1927 in Berlin, Germany. She is preceded in death by her husband, Gerhard Max Heilmann. Ruth and her husband immigrated from Germany in the 1950s. She was very dedicated to her family and was the driving force that kept everyone going. Ruth loved antiques and loved to travel. She attended Peninsula Baptist Church in Mooresville. Ruth is survived by her children, Michael G. Heilmann (Maureen) of Milford, MI, Dorothy O'Bara of Crane Hill, Alabama, and Andrew "Andy" Heilmann (Annette) of Mooresville, NC; grandchildren, Hans, Victoria, Lindsay, Dana, Grace, and Grant. Funeral services for Ruth will be on Monday, February 23, at 12:00 noon at Peninsula Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Robert Jackson officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Bunal will follow in the Community Baptist Church Cemetery, Langtree Rd., Mooresville. Memorials may be made to Fifth Street Ministries, P.O. Box 5217, Statesville, NC 28687 or Peninsula Baptist Church, 687 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, NC, is serving the Heilmannfamily. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.



HESELTINE, GERALD LEE

Age 87 of Howell, passed away peacefully Saturday, February 21, 2015. Born on April 15, 1927 in Detroit, the son of Harry and Mabel (Lee) Heseltine. Jerry was married in Indiana on April 18, 1946 to his childhood sweetheart Barbara Laing. She preceded him in death in May 2014 after 68 years of marriage. Jerry was a veteran of World War II, proudly serving in the U.S. Navy. He worked as the Midwest Regional Manager for a large paper company. Jerry loved his retirement at Houghton Lake and spending time with his neighbors. Jerry was a loving and supportive father, survived by his children, Gary Heseltine of Pflugerville, Texas, Donna (Chuck LeFebvre) Heseltine of Fowlerville, the late Jeff (Shirley) Heseltine of Lyon Township and Diane (Don) Maltby of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He was a proud and adoring grandfather of seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Jerry was preceded in death by his sister Gloria and brother, Harry Jr. Visitation will be Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 1-5 p.m. followed by Funeral Services at 5 p.m. at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Memorial contributions are suggested to Residential Hospice. Please visit the family's online guestbook at www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com.



KING, JOHN MICHAEL

Age 47, February 21, 2015. Dear husband of Michelle. Loving daddy of Bella. Dear step-father of Brandon, Jordyn, and Olivia. Dearest son of Richard and Pamela. Brother of Kelly (Charlie) Dixon, Son-in-law of Gale (Bob) Mikedis and Gary Kohn. Brother-in-law of Michael (Joby) Kohn. Uncle of Shelby and Kennedy. Nephew of Pat (John) Hill, Mike and Carol Drain, Rob (Robin) Drain, Carolyn (Truman) Lamphere, Judy King, and Chuck Cattlet. He leaves behind many more family and friends. Funeral services were held. Donations may be made to the family for a trust fund for John and Michelle's daughter Bella. www.santeiufuneralhome.com



PERAMPLE, HARRIET A.

Age 83, February 9, 2015. Beloved wife of Jim Perample for 60 years. Loving mother of James Perample and David (Tracey) Perample. Cherished grandmother of Athena, Aiyana, Caleb and Cree. Celebration of Life Service 11 a.m. Saturday, February 28th at First United Methodist Church of Farmington 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington. The family will receive guests 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Church. Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Farmington Endowment Fund or Salem United Church of Christ. Arrangements entrusted to Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com



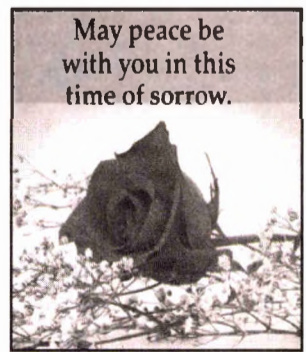
MITCHELL, JAMES RICHARD

August 9, 1929 - February 14, 2015. James R. Mitchell, 85, of Livonia, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on February 14. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Eunice; son Mark (Linda) Mitchell; daughter Lisa (Ed) Kadala; and two grandchildren, Anna and Ellie. Jim's love for the Lord and for his family guided his life and work as an architect and church organist. He studied the Word of God daily under the ministry of R.B. Thieme III of Berachah Church in Houston, TX. Always a gentleman, his kindness and silly sense of humor touched all who knew him. He enjoyed music, airplanes, dogs, walking, biking, and observing the wonders of nature. His attention to detail ensured meticulous care of things around the house. He honorably served his country as a Seaman in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. A Service with military honors will be held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery at a later date. The Mitchell family would like to extend a special thank you to everyone at Brighton Gardens of Northville and Heart to Heart Hospice for their compassionate care. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16



PHILLIPS, DOROTHY MARIE (NEE BAUER)

Of Livonia and formerly Garden City passed away peacefully on February 16, 2015. She and her husband, George Archibald, were married 42 years at his passing. Dorothy spent many happy retirement years in Port Charlotte and Parrish, Florida before she returned to Michigan in 2007. She is survived by daughters Heidi, Debi and Marie; by grandchildren Wade, Merredyth, Jay and wife, Debbie; and by great-grandchildren Lauren, Gabriel, Maggie and Audrey. A private memorial is planned.



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Michigan Phil, church organist team up for 'Pipe Dreams' concert in Plymouth

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Marcia Van Oyen will put organ trumpet pipes to grand use Sunday at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth Township.

Van Oyen, Ph.D., minister of music, worship & fine arts, will perform Rimsky-Korsakov's *Procession of the Nobles*, with the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra during its "Pipe Dreams" concert at the church.

"They asked me to do Saint-Saëns's *Symphony No. 3*," Van Oyen said. "(Director) Nan Washburn also had some other ideas. She came up with *Procession of the Nobles* by Rimsky-Korsakov, which wasn't written for organ. She had an arrangement for piano and I'm working from that score and adapting it for organ. We have horizontal trumpet pipes and she wanted to feature those. Given that we have those pipes, (the music) is a perfect fit. It's such a grand piece to add the depth and range of sound of the organ."

The concert is at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township; 734-453-5280. The program will include *Procession of the Nobles* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, *Carnival Overture* by Antonin Dvorák, performed with the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, *Blue Shades* by Frank Tichell, professor of composition at the University of Southern California School of Music; and *Symphony No. 3* by Camille Saint-Saëns. A pre-concert talk will start at 1:15 p.m. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for seniors, 62 and over, and \$10 for students with ID. Visit michiganphil.org.

Van Oyen also will join the Orchestra on the Saint-Saëns symphony during the second half of the concert.

"There are four movements and the organ plays the second and last one. There's a famous huge C major chord on the organ," she said. "Every time I hear the (Saint-Saëns) organ symphony it blows me away. It makes me want to stand up and cheer and say I can do anything. I hope people will be inspired. I hope they are thrilled by the sound."

Some listeners may recall



PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marcia Van Oyen will play the pipe organ with the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra, Sunday, March 1, in Plymouth.

an adaptation of the symphony that was used throughout the 1995 film, *Babe*.

"Any time there's a wonderful piece of classical music used in a movie, I applaud that. The movie, *Babe*, was the perfect choice," she said.

Pushing the envelope

Van Oyen performed with the Michigan Philharmonic two years ago and is thrilled to work with the group again. She marks her 10th year at First United Methodist, where she directs the Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and one of the children's choirs, in addition to overseeing the church concert series and planning worship services.

"I'm proud of our Chancel Choir, the way they've grown musically — not just technically — but in understanding why they do what they do. We've really expanded the variety of music we do. This is a church that's known for having good music. I've pushed



The organ stops change the sound of the organ.

the envelope and expanded that."

Van Oyen, who is married and has a 13-year-old son, grew up in Connecticut, where she studied piano for 12 years, and began playing organ while at

Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

"I had an aunt who taught organ there who was my inspiration. She was my organ teacher. It was really wonderful. I realized there was so

much to learn and I was so fascinated by it all. The more I started to learn the more I wanted to know."

She earned master's and doctoral degrees in organ and church music from the University of Michigan. She also has written articles for pipe organ magazines, music reviews and a handbook to help churches select a pipe organ.

"I'm a real church organist at heart. I think as a church organist you have to be more versatile. You're accompanying a choir, playing at a wedding, a funeral. There is different music every week. I really like the variety."

She wishes she had more time to play the organ "for fun," but also enjoys the challenge of playing difficult music.

"There is a lot of music I'm able to sit down and play. It's nice to be faced with something I really need to practice."

Steve King concert benefits Canton arts partnership

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Fine arts supporters and music lovers will have two chances next week to see Steve King and the Dittilies perform live at fundraisers for the Canton Community.

Proceeds from the first event, "Old Time Rock-n-Roll" concert, 8 p.m. Friday, March 6, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, will go toward the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, which is working to develop an arts center at Cherry Hill and Ridge roads. The second, 6:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, will help the Canton Community Foundation celebrate 25 years and will raise funds for Foundation grants. A portion of the Foundation's Project Give Gala proceeds also will go toward the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities for its Village Arts Factory arts center.

The Foundation fundraiser will include dinner, music by the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra, and dance music by Steve King and the Dittilies. Tickets are \$175 per person, available by visiting cantonfoundation.org or by contacting Beth Meade at 734-495-1200; bmeade@cantonfoundation.org.

The Partnership fundraiser will start with a welcome reception, 7-8 p.m., followed by the concert, at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. The reception will include single-serving sample appetizers from Antonio's Cucina Italiana, bd's Mongolian Grill, Hayden's Grill & Bar, and 502 Grill. Showroom of Elegance and Indigo Salon &



SUBMITTED

Steve King and the Dittilies will perform a concert March 6 for the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities in Canton, and music for dancing March 7 for the Canton Community Foundation fundraiser at The Henry Ford in Dearborn.

Day Spa will offer reception "bonuses." Tickets are \$35 and include the reception and concert.

"The venues are so different. At The Henry Ford we try to focus on dance music. On Friday, at the Village Theater, we try to do more of a show. It's not focused on dance, even though people end up dancing at the Village Theater," King said. "I've never played an event where someone didn't get up and dance."

The rock and roll concert will include music from the 1940s to today. King and his band have played at the Partnership's annual winter fundraiser for the past few years.

Jill Engel, Partnership executive director, said more than half the concert tickets had been sold by the end of January.

"It's amazing, Steve King has such a following. People

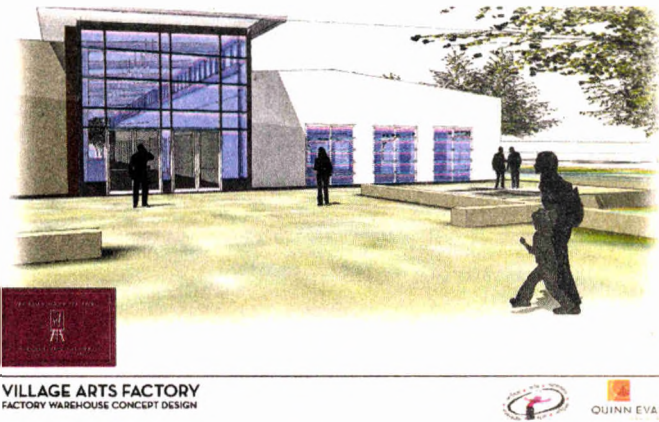
come back to see him every year," she said. "The people who come to our event, some are Partnership supporters, but the majority are Steve King followers."

History, arts

King said he supports the Partnership's plan to create a destination arts center by renovating historic buildings on the 14-acre Cherry Hill site for art studios, classrooms, therapeutic art programs, galleries, a restaurant, and more.

"It's fabulous. Fantastic. To re-purpose is a win-win. I don't think we do enough of that. I look at Detroit and the mindset is knock everything down and that's wrong," he said.

The Partnership bought the site in 2012. It includes a factory building and former dormitory opened by Henry Ford in 1944 and a newer, 50,000-square-foot industrial building.



A rendering of the renovated warehouse at the Village Arts Factory, a regional arts center planned in Canton.

The dormitory housed war veterans who worked in the factory making auto parts. The Cherry Hill plant was different from other Ford Village Industries because it employed veterans rather than off-season farmers as well as — unusual for that era — women.

In keeping with the site's history, the Partnership plans to offer services to veterans.

"We have a doctor who is interested in clinical therapy for veterans," Engel said, referring to the use of the dormitory building. "We'll offer veterans art program in other buildings."

The Partnership is focusing on grants and private help, both cash and in-kind services, to renovate the historical buildings over the next two years, along with parking and driveway improvements. The cost is approximately \$950,000.

Art, history, recreation

Eight wooded acres south of the building complex will be used for pedestrians and bicy-

clists. Engel said artists have suggested building gazebos along the paths for musical performances, and gardens that would include sculptures.

"There is a business looking to come into the Henry Ford factory, a local business that has been here 30 years — D&M (Art Studio). It would be great to give them more space. We're still having discussions on that," Engel said. "We're also in discussion with a potential food destination person. We're trying to nail down whether to lease space or sell him space."

Engel stressed that Village Arts Factory will be a regional center, drawing individuals from throughout southeastern Michigan.

"There are other art centers throughout Michigan, even some with warehouse facilities, but not with this history. This is Canton history, but it's also Henry Ford Detroit automotive history and it's U.S. history with World War II veterans."

SUBMITTED
Fudgy Raspberry
Mug Brownie



BAKE OR MICROWAVE A QUICK, TASTY DESSERT IN A MUG

Need a little warming up after a day out in the cold and snow? Make a luscious cake or cookie in a mug in just minutes. Completely customizable, these treats are a delicious way for the whole family to stay warm this winter.

"What I love about these desserts is that they're fun and easy to make, whether you're whipping up a quick snack for the kids or treating yourself by cozing up on the couch with a little indulgence," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens. "A 'hug in a mug' can come in many forms, from cookies and cakes to hot drinks topped

with homemade marshmallows or flavored whipped cream. Whichever you choose, these sweet, individual delights will chase your winter blues away."

These handheld desserts can be made in the oven or microwave and tailored to please every palate. Simply add peppermint or raspberry extract to transform a fudgy brownie base or choose favorite candy pieces to personalize an oven-baked blondie flavored with cinnamon and vanilla extract

For more mug dessert recipes visit www.McCormick.com and check out McCormick Spice on Facebook and Pinterest.

FUDGY RASPBERRY MUG BROWNIE

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 2 minutes
Serves: 2

3 tablespoons miniature chocolate chips
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons flour
1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon milk
½ teaspoon raspberry extract

Microwave chocolate chips and butter in microwavable coffee mug on high 30 seconds or until melted. Stir. Add remaining ingredients; mix well.

Microwave on high 45 seconds to 1 minute or until center looks almost set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Note: For a Fudgy Peppermint Mug Brownie, replace Raspberry Extract with 1 teaspoon pure vanilla ½ extract and ¼ teaspoon pure peppermint extract.
Caution: Mug may be hot. Use pot holders when removing from microwave.

Nutrition per serving: 278 calories, 14g total fat, 07 mg cholesterol, 54mg sodium, 34g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 4g protein

RED VELVET MUG CAKE

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 2 minutes
Serves: 2

Red Velvet Mug Cake:
2 tablespoons miniature chocolate chips
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons whipped cream cheese
2 tablespoons flour
1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
½ teaspoon red food color
Cream Cheese Topping:
1 tablespoon whipped cream cheese
1 teaspoon confectioners' sugar
1 teaspoon milk

For the Mug Cake, microwave chocolate chips and butter in microwavable coffee mug on high 30 seconds or until melted. Stir. Add remaining ingredients; mix well.

Microwave on high 45 seconds to 1 minute or until center looks almost set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Meanwhile, for the Topping, mix cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until well blended. Stir in milk. Drizzle over mug cake.

Nutrition per serving: 279 calories, 15g total fat, 119mg cholesterol, 122mg sodium, 32g carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 4g protein



CANDY BAR MUG BLONDIE

Add your favorite chopped-up candy bar to a rich blondie batter in this oven-baked treat. The melted candy combined with pure vanilla extract results in a warm, ooey-goey dessert

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves: 8

½ cup plus 2 tablespoons flour, divided
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 cup chopped candy bars
3 tablespoons butter, melted
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 egg yolk
1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix ½ cup of the flour, cinnamon and baking powder in medium bowl. Set aside. Toss chopped candy bars and remaining 2 tablespoons flour in small bowl. Set aside. Mix butter and brown sugar in large bowl until well blended. Add egg yolk and vanilla; mix well. Add flour mixture; mix just until moistened. Shake chopped candy bars to remove excess flour. Stir into batter. Divide among four ovenproof 8-ounce coffee mugs. Place mugs on baking sheet. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center comes out almost clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. (Blondie may fall in center upon cooling.) Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream, if desired.

Nutrition per serving: 238 calories, 10g total fat, 36mg cholesterol, 114mg sodium, 34 g carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 3g protein

PUMPKIN MUG COOKIE

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 2 minutes
Serves: 2

1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon miniature chocolate chips
1 tablespoon canned pumpkin
1 egg yolk
½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice blend

Microwave butter in microwavable coffee mug on high 30 seconds or until melted. Stir. Add remaining ingredients; mix well.

2 Microwave on high 45 seconds to 1 minute or until center looks almost set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream, if desired.

Nutrition per serving: 206 calories, 10g total fat, 107mg cholesterol, 53mg sodium, 26g carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 3g protein



MEXICAN HOT CHOCOLATE "CUP" CAKES WITH COCOA WHIPPED CREAM

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves: 8

Mexican Hot Chocolate "Cup" Cakes:
1 cup flour
1 cup granulated sugar, grated
6 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, divided

2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons McCormick Gourmet Chile Pepper, Ancho

1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Cinnamon, Ground Saigon

¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup milk
¼ cup vegetable oil

1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Vanilla Extract, Pure Madagascar

1 cup boiling water

Cocoa Whipped Cream:
½ cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder

¼ teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Vanilla Extract, Pure Madagascar

For the cakes, preheat oven to 350°F. Generously spray 8 (6-ounce) oven proof coffee cups or ramekins with no stick cooking spray with flour or grease and flour cups. Place on large baking sheet.

Mix flour, ½ cup of the granulated sugar, 4 tablespoons of the cocoa powder, baking powder, ancho chile pepper, cinnamon and salt in large bowl. Stir in milk, oil and vanilla. Batter will be stiff. Spoon evenly into prepared cups. Mix remaining ½ cup granulated sugar and 2 tablespoons cocoa powder in small bowl. Sprinkle evenly over batter. Spoon 2 tablespoons boiling water into each cup. Do not stir. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until tops are dry to the touch. Cool cups slightly on wire rack.

For the Cocoa Whipped Cream, beat cream and confectioners' sugar in medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until soft peaks form. Add cocoa powder and vanilla; beat until stiff peaks form. Serve cakes in coffee cups while still warm. Dollop with Cocoa Whipped Cream. Sprinkle with additional cinnamon, if desired.

Nutrition per serving: 328 calories, 16g total fat, 32mg cholesterol, 191mg sodium, 43g carbohydrates, 2g fiber, 3g protein