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Township board hears from eight hopefuls, choice could come soon

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township officials postponed picking the next township supervisor late Tuesday night after hearing from eight contenders for the office.

A Board of Trustees meeting of more than 4½ hours ended with a 6-0 vote to meet again at 7 p.m. Thursday to narrow the field and possibly pick a successor to Supervisor Richard Reaume, whose last day on the job is Monday. Reaume, 65, resigned midway through his third term and plans to retire to Florida. He has been supervisor for 10 years.

A large and vocal crowd attended the meeting. Public comments were critical of the selection process and board members arguing over whether trustees who also applied for the job – Chuck Curmi and Bob Doroshewitz – should be allowed to vet other hopefuls. Township attorney Kevin Bennett said trustees who are also candidates may vote in the selection process, but may also abstain, at their discretion, if they think voting would be a conflict of interest.

But the meeting settled down – and the crowd thinned some – once candidates began making their pitches, which were limited to 10 minutes each, the order determined by numbers the candidates picked out of a hat. That was followed by a two-hour question-and-answer session, with the eight men each answering nine predetermined questions in rotating order.

Unity, leadership

Candidates stressed leadership skills and several said they'd try to bring unity to an often-fractured township board and improve communications with the community. Reaume faced the threat of a recall election, while three other board members, Clerk Nancy Conzelman, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustee Kay Arnold, remain targets of a

See BOARD, Page A2



Shannon Price, a Wayne County commissioner, picks a number Tuesday from the hat of Fire Chief Dan Phillips as part of the process of determining the order of opening remarks by the eight candidates for Plymouth Township supervisor. Price was the seventh hopeful to address the board.

Supervisor candidates stress leadership, communications

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Widely differing backgrounds in government and the private sector were on display Tuesday as eight men hoping to be the next Plymouth Township supervisor brought their cases to the six people who will choose from among them. Tuesday's regular Board of

Trustees meeting was dominated by the process of picking a successor to Supervisor Richard Reaume, who is resigning next week after 10 years in office. In a nearly five-hour meeting that ended after 11:30 p.m., the board – and about 70 members of the public – heard from the eight hopefuls, who made statements limited to 10 minutes each and then spent

two hours taking turns answering nine predetermined questions from the board.

The candidates mentioned leadership ability and several said they had the communications skills to improve relationships between board members and between township residents and the administration.

All eight said they would quit their current jobs, with

Ronald Bullotta, a retired management executive, stressing that he hasn't had a regular employer since 2008.

Asked if they would run for supervisor in 2016, when Reaume's term expires, only Ray Byers, a retired Ford Motor Co. executive and Wayne County official who is a con-

See CANDIDATES, Page A2

Canton mosque welcomes visitors to build relations

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Mansoor Nasir is proud to call Canton home. It's a place where he said the Muslim community has long been well-integrated.

"Canton is one of the most diverse communities I've ever lived in," he said. "That's what I love about it."

Yet, he has a wish for residents of the larger Canton area, including its Muslim community.

"I would like for the people to get to know their neighbors

a little more personally," said Nasir, a biomedical engineering professor who has lived in places such as Washington, D.C., and California's Bay Area.

To that end, the Canton mosque drew about 60 people Saturday afternoon by welcoming visitors – some going to a mosque for the first time – to share coffee and conversation.

Visitors came from Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Ann Arbor, Dexter and other

See MOSQUE, Page A2

Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday at Township Park



The Plymouth Lions annual Plymouth Community Easter Egg Hunt is 10 a.m. Saturday at Township Park. Don't be late – it's off to the races once the hunt starts.

This year's annual Plymouth Community Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club, is 10 a.m. Saturday at Plymouth Township Park.

The hunt will be staged at the park's baseball fields. Children will be participating in four age groups: 3 and under, 4- to 6-year-olds, 7- and 8-year-olds and 9- and 10-year-olds. Egg-hunters should bring their own baskets.

Immediately following the hunt, the Lions will be offering Project KidSight vision screening in the nearby pavilion.

Project KidSight, free for preschool-age children, uses a high-tech device that can quickly identify treatable and preventable vision disorders in young children. The device has a 98-percent accuracy rating.



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BOARD

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recall campaign. "What we need, again, is someone who has a proven track record of bringing people together," said Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, who is in his third two-year term in the Michigan House of Representatives but is seeking the supervisor position.

"Together we can unite to build on those strengths and work on those areas where we come up just a little bit short," said Shannon Price, a Republican who represents the area on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

The other candidates are Steven Birmingham, a project manager whose work is mainly in transportation and logistics; Ronald Bullotta, a management executive who characterized himself as a turnaround expert; Ray Byers, a retired Ford Motor Co. executive and former county official in economic development and government affairs; and Mark G. Cords, a finance and banking executive. Curmi, an 18-year trustee, is an



Eight men vying to be the next Plymouth Township supervisor begin answering questions from the township board Tuesday night. They are (from left) Mark G. Cords, Ray Byers (with microphone), Chuck Curmi, Kurt Heise, Ronald Bullotta, Steven Birmingham, Shannon Price and Bob Doroshewitz.

MICHIGAN.COM

engineer in the automotive industry and Doroshewitz, a 10-year trustee, is a project manager for a software company. They were among the 10 men who had each submitted a resume and a letter of interest in the job by the 7 p.m. Friday

deadline. Joe Bridgman, the former township clerk, and Timothy Patino, a chef and restaurant manager, dropped out of contention earlier Tuesday. Cords interjected some humor in his state-

ment to the board when he thanked fellow supervisor hopefuls, whom, he said, he had met before the meeting began. "Because you assured me the fix was in and the results were already tabulated, I can speak a lot more freely," he told

them, bringing laughter from around the room.

Special meeting set

With their 6-0 vote, board members agreed to return Thursday to a special meeting with their top three choices selected. Through a point

system – each board member will give three points to his or her top choice, two to the second choice and one to the third – they will attempt to narrow the field to three before voting on a replacement for Reaume.

Board members, members of the public and some of the candidates themselves said they were impressed with the resumes, the presentations and the interviews.

"I walk out of here hopeful because we've seen some great candidates here tonight," said Sandy Groth, one of the leaders of the campaign to recall Conzelman, Edwards and Arnold. Groth also praised Conzelman, who had been selected as the board's president pro tem in Reaume's absence, for what Groth said was the smooth handling of Tuesday's meeting.

The appointed replacement for Reaume will serve until his term expires in November 2016 and would have to seek election that year if he wants to keep the job.

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CANDIDATES

Continued from Page A1

sultant with the Center for Automotive Research, gave a definitive no, saying he wants to step into the role as a "stop-gap" only until next year's election.

"I have no desire whatsoever to run," Byers said.

Others either said they would seek the office or would make a decision about it later.

Here's a sampling of what supervisor candidates told the board Tuesday evening:

"My vision for Plymouth Township is to expand on our success, which is remarkable. ... I want to work with each and every one of you to make Plymouth Town-

ship a better place." – Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township.

"I would like to see the relationship repaired with the community." – Steven Birmingham, a project manager who works in logistics and transportation.

"I am a consensus-builder." – Mark G. Cords, a finance and banking executive.

"I understand the

numbers and I'm a seasoned leader. We need an experienced leader far more than we need another politician." – Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, a project manager for a software company.

"We have a dysfunctional board. ... I think it's a shame, with such a township, that we have to contend with this." – Bullotta.

"This township is not

something that is careening out of control. We need to improve our communications internally. ... We're not building a rocket ship here. It's do-able." – Trustee Chuck Curmi, an engineer in the automotive industry.

"I know I have a vision to move our community forward." – Shannon Price, a Republican Wayne County commissioner.

"You can't be successful in anything you want to do as an 'I.' ... I'm a believer in team." – Byers.

The board, minus Reaume, will meet again at 7 p.m. Thursday to narrow the field and possibly make an appointment.

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MOSQUE

Continued from Page A1

communities to mingle with their Muslim neighbors. They talked about their families, their religion, their communities, their shared vision for a better, more tolerant world.

Amal Faram, 19, who came with her grandmother, said she wants non-Muslims to better understand her community, apart from world tensions that can divide rather than unite.

"I want to be part of the community to show that we're not how the media always portrays us," she said.

Pete Zerger, a Livonia resident who attends Living Peach Church in Plymouth, said he grew up with Muslims in Dearborn. He and several members of the church, including Randy Short, its pastor, attended Saturday's gathering.

"I have a lot of friends in the Muslim religion," Zerger said, "and I'm exploring it more."

Short, a Westland resident, said it's important for people of all faiths to understand one another.

"It's how issues are solved – not through violence, suppression or marginalization," he said.



Amal Faram, her granddaughter by the same name and Buthayna Farah are having a conversation with mosque visitors Denise Smith and former state Rep. Dian Slavens.

DARRELL CLEM

One young Muslim woman, Buthayna Farah, said it was important for her to attend to try to build community relations so that residents from all cultures and religions can have a better understanding.

"That's the goal," she said. The mosque event came amid a backdrop of

anti-Muslim violence elsewhere, such as the shooting deaths of three students in North Carolina – incidents that Muslims say only heighten the need to promote tolerance.

"I want others to see that we are human, like anybody else," said Hasina Abdu, who chairs the outreach committee for

the mosque, or Muslim Community of Western Suburbs. "And we, as Muslims, have to become more involved in outreach efforts through our mosque. We have to get out of our comfort zone."

Canton police officer Ziad Elias, who lived in



Mansoor Nasir (right) of Canton talks with Pete Zerger of Livonia at the Canton Mosque

DARRELL CLEM



The Canton mosque, northwest of Palmer and Lotz roads, invited visitors Saturday.

DARRELL CLEM

Baghdad, Iraq, until age 20, attended with a couple of other Canton officers to bridge relations with local Muslims. Elias

is Christian, but knew many Muslims growing up.

Elias surprised some at Saturday's event when he spoke to them in Arabic.

"It's nice to meet people with the same culture and talk," he said. "And it's good public relations. The (Canton Police) Department really cares about that."

Visitors learned that the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs is not only a place of worship, but also has facilities such as Crescent Academy, a school for students in kindergarten through eighth grades, and a gymnasium.

The crowd broke into smaller groups to have conversation and get to better know each other. Visitors also got a tour of the mosque.

"When you get to know people personally, your attitudes toward them change dramatically," Nasir said, adding later, "In the end, we all want to live in a healthy community and work toward making it better."

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Witty Websters crowned new spelling champs

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A bruising spelling bee of more than 30 rounds last week ended with a new Plymouth-Canton spelling championship team.

The Witty Websters, sponsored by Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, took the trophy after correctly spelling "otorhinolaryngology" (the medical specialty dealing with the ear, nose and throat) and after going head-to-head with runners-up the Spellbinders for several rounds over seldom-used words like "phaeochrous," "exsiccosis," "bathyal" and "inconcinity."

The marathon March 25 contest at Canton High School's DuBois Little Theater was the Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council's 24th annual adult spelling bee and the first, Literacy Council program director Amy D'Urso said, in which there were still two teams remaining after a preliminary word list was exhausted.

Second-year Witty

Webster Gary Metz noted the spelling bee was "satisfying, but also pretty tiring."

"When we switched to words not on our list, we went from getting all the words right to mostly wrong," Metz wrote in an email.

"I almost felt like we were bad spellers at that point and was just hoping we could get two words in a row we could spell correctly," he said. (Once a bee is down to two teams, a team that misspells a word stays alive if its opponent also misspells a word in the same round.)

Metz said he studied for the contest with the help of his wife and two sons and that he used an online computer program that read the words back to him.

Metz got involved with the Witty Websters last year after his son Lucas, now a fifth-grader at Miller Elementary, participated in the Literacy Council's inaugural youth spelling bee. Lucas this year placed third in the second youth spelling bee, which saw 29 contes-



Gary Metz and Rosemary Tanasoff were the Witty Websters, sponsored by Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, and took the trophy in the Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council's March 25 spelling bee.

stants. During the adult bee, Lucas won a spirit award - the prize was a dictionary/thesaurus - for the enthusiasm he showed cheering for his dad.

Metz's teammate on the Witty Websters was Rosemary Tanasoff. The Spellbinders, sponsored by Community Financial Credit Union, were Sue Bellaire, Melis-



The Stellar Spellers were Julie Jensen (left) and Colleen Ellis, posing here with Kirsten Ellis, the "Spelling Bee" for the Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council's annual spelling contest last week.

sa Hang and Barb Wolfe. The annual spelling bee is designed to raise awareness of and, through sponsorships, money for, the Literacy Council, which helps adults improve their English skills through tutoring, conversation groups and writing work-

shops. The Huntington Booyah Beez, sponsored by Canton Township's Huntington Learning Center, took the spelling crown last year.

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Canton library gift a boon to kids with developmental disabilities

The Canton Public Library received a \$300 donation from the Canton Newcomers & Neighbors Club to support its Count Me In program - a story time uniquely designed for children with developmental disabilities and their families. To encourage active, independent play, the gift was used to purchase an adjustable table that rests on the arms of wheelchairs.

Better still, it comes made to share. Mom and Dad can get in on the fun. "The story time is very family-driven," Information Services

Librarian Deborah Sobczak said. "Being a special-needs mom, I understand the challenges of finding activities outside of the home. Starting this program was both a personal and professional goal for me."

Newcomers Community Relations Director Betty Nolan also recognizes the value of Count Me In and the importance of programming that allows kids to thrive.

"Our heart is in Canton. Upon learning about this story time, the Newcomers voted for funds to assist it," she said. "We

are very happy to help Count Me In participants have an enjoyable library experience."

The next story time meets at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25, in the Community Room. To learn more, go to www.cantonpl.org.

Award-winning member of the Library Network and Metro Net, the Canton Public Library was identified by residents as the best-loved facility in the township. It averages 4,000 patron visits daily and circulates more than 1.7 million items annually.



Information Services Librarian Deborah Sobczak at March's meeting of Count Me In. The Canton Newcomers & Neighbors Club gave \$300 for Count Me In story time.

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Driving distracted is just as dangerous as driving blindfolded

Would you walk 100 yards blindfolded down a street?

Mind you, the average speed of someone walking is 2.5 mph. Think of all the things in the roadway: parked cars, kids playing and a ball that suddenly rolls in front of you. Navigating that street might not be as simple as you think. I know what you're thinking, though — it's walking. You might attempt it.

OK, how about riding a bicycle 100 yards blindfolded down the same street? The average speed of someone riding a bicycle is about 15 mph to 20 mph. A little more risky — if you hit a parked car, you might take a nasty spill. Same as the fancy mailbox that sticks out into the street. That mailbox probably won't give much to a bicycle rider. In fact, riding a bicycle seems a little ridiculous.

All right, would you drive a vehicle blindfolded 100 yards down the same street?

Let's say you could drive 25 mph. Probably not, right? You hit something, even at 25 mph, it could cause a good amount of damage. You could seriously injure or kill someone, even at 25 mph. You would definitely cause some serious damage.

Now, I would hope you would not do any of the above. What you may not realize is you already have. Yep! You may have already driven 55 mph, or faster, down the freeway blindfolded.

Five seconds is the average amount of time your eyes are off the road while texting.

When traveling at 55 mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field. Now, increase your speed to 70-80 mph, add rush-hour traffic, animals and braking vehicles. The three examples above seem ridiculous. That last one, unfortunately, is not an example. People do it every day.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Dis-



Sgt. Michael Sura

ASK A TROOPER

tracted driving is an activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger and bystander safety.

Those types of distractions include texting, using a cell-phone, eating, drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading, watching a video, adjusting the radio and using a navigation system. Some of those activities, especially texting, require visual, manual and cognitive attention from a driver.

Remember, before getting behind the wheel of a vehicle, get familiar with the vehicle features and equipment and preset radio stations, MP3 devices and climate controls.

Secure items that may move around when the car is in motion. Do not text, access the Internet, watch videos, play video games, search MP3 devices or use any other distracting technology. Avoid smoking, eating, drinking and reading while driving. Pull safely off the road and out of traffic to deal with children. Do personal grooming at home, not in the vehicle. Have your route programmed before you leave and have directions before hitting the roads.

Remember, blindfolds are for magicians, pin the tail on the donkey and birthday surprises, not the freeway. Taking a few simple steps and precautions can help you from becoming blindfolded.

If you have questions or comments, email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com, or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan State Police - Brighton Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Driver confused going home after 'Walking Dead' finale

Blame his confused, zombie-like behavior on television's *The Walking Dead*.

A 21-year-old Walled Lake man, stopped for suspicious driving by Canton police, told police he had gotten lost on his way home after visiting a friend in Westland to watch the popular zombie series.

It was 12:10 a.m. Monday when police, sitting in the IKEA Canton parking lot, saw a Ford Taurus pull into a nearby Sprint parking lot, drive behind the building, circle around and get back on Ford Road, then go northbound I-275.

Police were watching the area after a recent burglary. The driver was stopped on I-275, near Ann Arbor Road, in Livonia.

The driver told police he had gotten lost on his way to Walled Lake from Westland. Police let the man go. There was no word on whether he liked *The Walking Dead's* season finale.

Suspect nabbed

Police took a 27-year-old Wixom man into custody for unlawful entry after he was caught leaving his ex-girlfriend's apartment in Canton. She said he had no permission to be in it, a police report said.

The incident happened about 3 p.m. Friday at Village Squire, an apartment complex near Ford and Lotz roads.

The woman called police and said her boyfriend had taken her car keys and left in a Dodge Ram truck. She said she and the suspect — the father of her two 5-year-old daughters — had argued about the children. She had refused to open her apartment door, but later, believing he had left, went to her car.

She told police the suspect walked up,

got into her car and asked to talk, but she told him to get out. He took her keys and fled, then later returned and went into her apartment, where he was captured by police as he was leaving. He was cited for unlawful entry.

Dine and dash

Police tracked down a 20-year-old Belleville man who skipped out without paying a tab he and a female companion owed at the Applebee's restaurant on Ford Road, near Morton Taylor.

The price tag they owed: \$47.85. Police went to Applebee's shortly after midnight after employees reported the young couple left the restaurant after a meal of steaks, flavored lemonades, cheese sticks and boneless wings. Workers managed to get a license plate number off the getaway car.

Police traced the car to Belleville, where a woman confirmed that her son had gone out with his girlfriend in the same car. The male suspect then confessed to police, saying he realized he didn't have enough money to pay the tab and got nervous.

He claimed he left \$20 on the table, knowing it wasn't enough. He was issued a ticket for defrauding an innkeeper.

More tax fraud

A 22-year-old Canton man joined the ranks of people reporting that someone already used their Social Security numbers to file a fraudulent tax return.

The man told police he tried to file his taxes electronically late last week and received an error message that his personal information already had been used.

- By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Dad finds son's pot in ceiling

A 16-year-old boy was ticketed for marijuana possession March 28 after his father found suspected marijuana hidden above ceiling tiles in the basement of their house.

Police were dispatched to a house on Highmeadow just after 10 p.m. March 28, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said, after the father called police. He reported that he'd heard someone removing ceiling tiles and then his son then came upstairs from the basement, the report said.

The teen denied that he had been moving the tiles, police said, but the father searched the tiles and found two containers, one of which held the suspected marijuana.

With police on the scene, the boy said he had purchased the marijuana and that it had been dropped off for him at school.

Larceny of wheels

The wheels and tires were stolen from three new Lincolns last week as the cars sat in a lot on Ann Arbor Road. The lot was being used for storage by Hines Park Lincoln.

The thefts occurred between 9 a.m. March 23 and early the next afternoon, a police report said.

The cars had been left on landscaping blocks, police said, which caused damaged to the rocker panels.

- By Matt Jachman



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Plymouth Community United Way honors Johnson Controls and other donors

Johnson Controls has received a special award for 25 years of platinum-level giving to the Plymouth Community United Way – the highest level of donations by corporate donors.

PCUW President Marie Morrow opened the organization's annual meeting Friday by thanking Johnson Controls and the nearly 100 business and community leaders in attendance during the ceremony at Comcast in Plymouth.

More than 70 key contributors and volunteers were honored, along with Johnson Controls.

"Without this support, many services would have been cut or non-existent, including basic needs such as food, rent and utility assistance," Morrow said.

The early morning meeting and awards presentation was a way to show appreciation for those who contributed to the 2014-15 fundraising campaign and provided community service. It also was an opportunity for the public to learn about the work the non-profit does in Plymouth, Canton, western Wayne County and Northville.

The Journey to Housing Program, Community Opportunity House, Personalized Nursing LIGHT House and First Step were showcased as organizations helped by PCUW through funding received from businesses and individuals.

PCUW gave reports on its 2014 finances. While continuing to provide basic needs and other human services, the nonprofit is moving forward on initiatives to produce lasting change.

The festive gathering turned quiet as Lorraine Zaksek, outgoing president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St.



Among those at the awards ceremony were (from left) Ralph Lassel of Johnson Controls, Plymouth Community United Way President Marie Morrow, Mark Flynn of Johnson Controls and PCUW board Chair Lou Whitlock. Lassel and Flynn accepted a Johnson Controls award for 25 years of donations amounting to more than \$7 million.

John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton, talked about the Journey to Housing Program supported by the church and PCUW to address the issue of families without permanent housing.

Many helped by the program live from paycheck to paycheck and are able to feed their children, but unable to save enough for a down payment so they remain homeless. Some, Zaksek said, couch-surf, staying in the homes of family and friends until no longer welcome.

Journey to Housing offers assistance, placing homeless individuals and families in permanent housing and providing weekly counseling to develop budget and life skills. Financial assistance is removed when they attain financial independence.

"The need greatly exceeds the resources," Zaksek said. "That's why Society of St. Vincent de

Paul and the Journey to Housing Program are so grateful to Plymouth Community United Way for the grants."

Platinum, gold, silver, bronze and community service awards were presented by PCUW board of directors Chairman Lou Whitlock and PCUW campaign chairman Tony Bruscatto. Among the recipients were Johnson Controls, Comcast, Ford, DTE Energy, UPS, Robert Bosch LLC, Community Financial, Consumers Energy, AT&T, Shiloh Industries, SKF, Yazaki North America, Visteon, Varroc Lighting Systems and Federal Mogul, among dozens of others.

A contingent of Johnson Controls' employees were on hand. The company and employees have contributed more than \$7 million in the last 25 years.

The partnership began in the 1980s with the first executive serving on the Board of Direc-

teering at raking events and holding food drives at their games. The GOALS Program, a special-needs group of young women and men from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, helped at PCUW's monthly food assistance program for low-income families and individuals in Plymouth and Northville.

Victor Thompson accepted the first ever Volunteer of the Year Award. He leads AT&T's United Way Campaign for the Plymouth office and regularly organizes a team of co-workers to pack bags for the Emergency Food Assistance Program coordinated by PCUW.

"As a business based in Plymouth, our employees take their commitment to supporting the community very seriously," said Mark Flynn, vice president of human resources for Johnson Controls. "It's a great legacy (25 years of giving). I look forward to continuing the partnership with Marie and Plymouth Community United Way for many years in the future."

Community Service Awards went to Plymouth varsity, Salem varsity and Salem prep hockey teams for volun-

teering at raking events and holding food drives at their games. The GOALS Program, a special-needs group of young women and men from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, helped at PCUW's monthly food assistance program for low-income families and individuals in Plymouth and Northville.

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For information about giving and volunteering, go to www.plymouthunitedway.org. Serving the area since 1944, Plymouth Community United Way focuses on basic needs, education and financial stability/health.

Traffic stop leads to arrest of burglary suspects

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A routine traffic stop early Saturday morning made by a Livonia police officer led to the arrest of two burglary suspects thought to have stolen from a local gas station.

Livonia police pulled over a vehicle just after 1 a.m. Saturday on Merriam, near Plymouth, for speeding. During the traffic stop, the officers involved determined some stolen items, including cigarettes, were inside the vehicle, as well as other evidence of a recent theft.

Police searched for any break-ins that had recently taken place in the area and found the BP gas station at 17151 Middlebelt had been broken into, with the suspects smashing a window to gain access. Police say security footage outside the gas station showed the two men charged in the incident, 32-year-old Mahmoud Saad of Dearborn and 32-year-old Damon Thompson of Highland Park, loading a black container holding several cartons of cigarettes and leaving the gas station.

Police said they reviewed the tape and determined it was those two men on the tape and arrested them.

The men were arraigned Monday in Livonia's 16th District Court on charges of breaking and entering a building with intent and habitual fourth offense. If convicted, the men could face up to life in prison.

Michigan Department of Corrections records show both men have extensive criminal backgrounds. Saad was released from prison in April 2014 after being paroled on several breaking and entering charges, larceny from a motor vehicle, fleeing and eluding a police officer and uttering and publishing, among other charges. He was sent to prison on offenses that took place in Wayne and Oakland counties.

Thompson was given a \$1 million cash bond, while Saad was given a \$300,000 bond at their arraignment. A preliminary examination in the incident will take place at 9 a.m. April 16 in 16th District Court.

Livonia police Lt. Tom Goralski said quick thinking by the patrol officers led to the arrest of the two men, something he said is valuable.

"This is just another example of excellent police work being done by our uniformed officers every day in our city," he said.

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Kids from across Wayne County and southeast Michigan took part in last year's Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop in the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

Wayne County Parks ready for annual Marshmallow Drop

Join Wayne County Parks as it celebrates the 31st annual Marshmallow Drop at 11 a.m. Friday, April 3, at the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

"The annual Marshmallow Drop is the start of many fun, free, family-oriented events offered by Wayne County Parks each year and I am happy we can provide these opportunities for our residents and visitors," Wayne County

Executive Warren Evans said.

"Going on 31 years, it has become a tradition for families from across the metro Detroit area."

More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from the Easter Bunny's helicopter to the delight of thousands of children, who scramble to collect these goodies and trade them in to receive a prize.

To ensure that everyone has an opportunity

to fully participate, children will be divided into age groups: ages 4 and younger, ages 5-7 and ages 8-12.

There will be one colored marshmallow to be found for each age group. The finder of the colored marshmallow will receive an extra special prize.

The Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by Trenton Parks and Recreation, ITC Holdings,

Taylor Ford, Flagstar Bank, Zeal Credit Union, KSP Insurance, UAW Region 1A, N Zone Sports, Jack Demmer Ford, Wayne County Community College, Fox 2 News, Observer & Eccentric Media and Friends of Wayne County Parks.

The Marshmallow Drop is the first of many fun-filled, warm weather events planned by Wayne County Parks for 2015.

For more information on Marshmallow Drop or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or go to www.parks.waynecounty.com.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at www.plymouthtwp.org under Agendas/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Regular Meeting dates in 2015: April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 17 and December 15.

Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Publish: April 2, 2015

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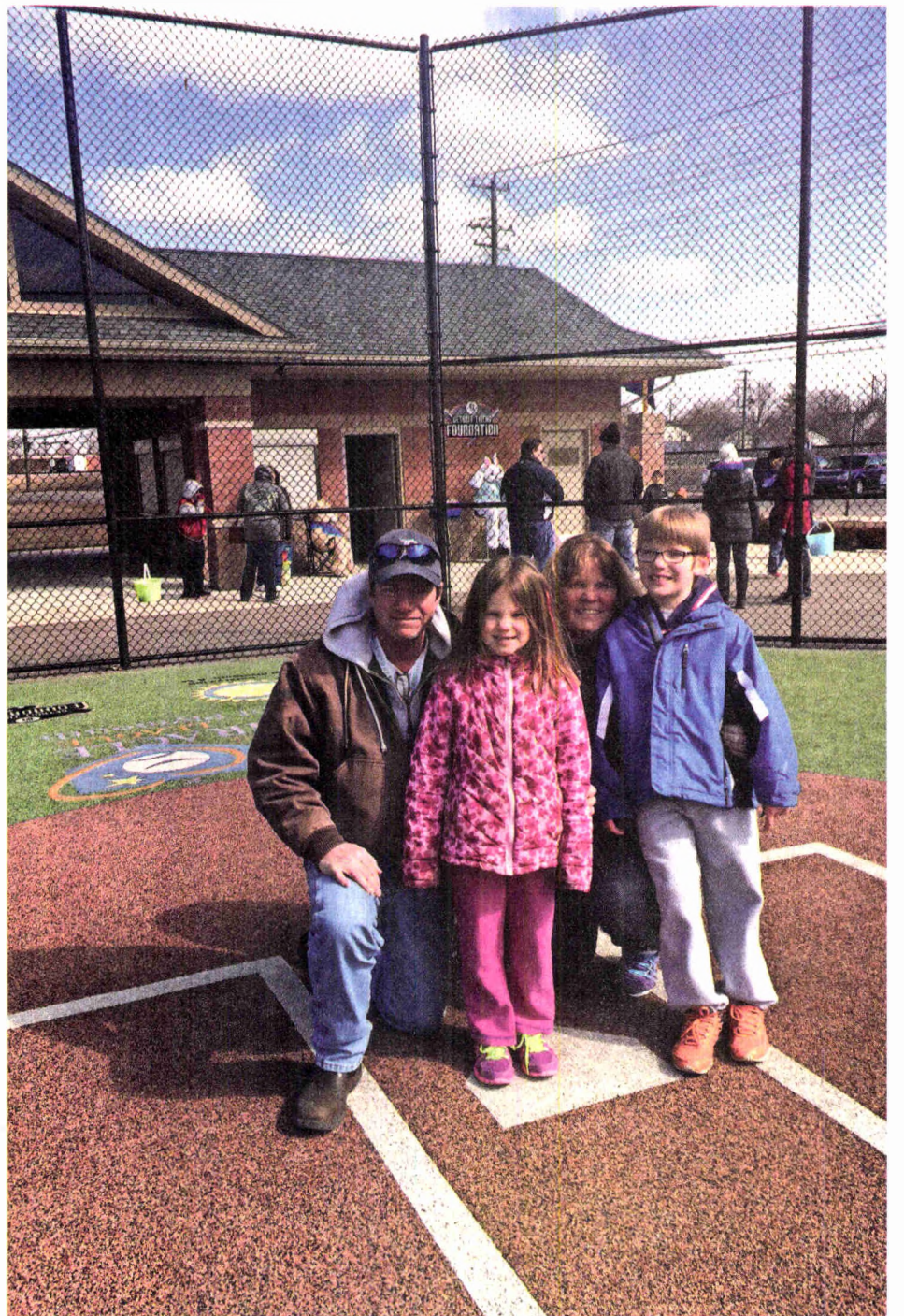
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JULIE BROWN

Becoming an honorary Buddy is a big deal for Allie Weid, 7, who gave up her birthday gifts for the special-needs children's ballfield. Shown from left to right are Glen Kordick, league vice president and deputy commissioner; Allie; the Easter Bunny; Bob Bilkie (back); Jonathan Weid, Allie's dad; Jake Weid, 8, Allie's brother; and Samantha Weid, Allie's mom.



JULIE BROWN

On the field of the Miracle League of Plymouth are members of the Weid family of Plymouth Township: Dad Jonathan Weid, Allie Weid, 7, Jake Weid, 8, and mom Samantha Weid.

Plymouth girl, 7, gives Miracle League ball field great gift

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Allie Weid, 7, of Plymouth Township has a giving heart. Rather than get gifts for her March 21 birthday, she asked for donations to the Miracle League of Plymouth. "Because I have too much toys," Allie said of her generosity. The Miracle League of Plymouth ball field opened in 2011 near Central Middle School to give special-needs children and others the chance to play baseball. The morning of Saturday, March 28, featured a visit from the Easter Bunny to the field and Allie becoming an honorary Buddy of the Miracle League for her support.

"So she raised \$400 in donations for her birthday to give to the Miracle League," said Samantha Weid, Allie's mom. That included a bowling alley party for Allie's school friends and family.

"My whole family is involved with the Miracle League," Samantha Weid said. Husband Jonathan Weid announces games while son Jesse Jenkins, 20, volunteers. Jenkins is a "field manager," essentially, and among many who make the Miracle League a success. Glen Kordick of Plymouth Township,

league vice president and deputy commissioner, praised the "senior helpers" like Jenkins.

He also introduced Gabby McCall, 17, a Plymouth resident and Plymouth High School senior who coordinates the Buddies. "And she doesn't miss a beat," Kordick said.

The Easter Bunny visit needed some modifying (no egg hunt) due to cold weather, but went ahead as planned. Kordick said the league has events for Christmas and Halloween, as well as the Easter Bunny visit.

The special-needs children's seasons run this year from May 2 through June 20 for spring and from Aug. 15 through Oct. 17 for fall. "We do it for the families because the families will take vacation," Kordick said of the summer break.

In the summer off-season, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans use the field, he added.

"We just kind of collect these brilliant people that make us look good," said Kordick, who grew up in Plymouth, moved away, came back and has two kids who are graduates of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

He introduced Chelsey Coleman, 23, of Canton who handles social media and marketing for the Miracle League.

Coleman works as a marketing contractor and also coaches for the Miracle League.

"Miracle League is the love of my life," said Coleman, who started volunteering last spring. She's dating Mark Madonna, son of Miracle League major domo Deb Madonna.

"I wanted to get more involved," Coleman said. McCall started as a Buddy whose sister was Buddy coordinator; her sister got a job requiring Saturday work, so Gabby took over duties.

McCall makes sure there are enough Buddies, volunteers age 10 and up who help players on the field.

"I'm kind of just a helping hand," she said. "Wherever they need me."

She added a P-CEP classmate is among former Miracle League players who've returned as Buddies. That girl uses a wheelchair and is able to be a volunteer Buddy.

"I just love like how happy it is here," McCall said. "Miracle League has become a family. Everybody is just so kindhearted."

They help both on and off the field, she added.

Kordick praised city of Plymouth parks and rec Director Steve Anderson as among those who've been a great help.



JULIE BROWN

Allie Weid, 7, of Plymouth Township gave up her birthday gifts to raise \$400 for the Miracle League of Plymouth ballfield. She visits with Gabby McCall, 17, a senior at Plymouth High School who coordinates volunteer Buddies at the field.

The Miracle League of Plymouth is on Facebook and has a website at miracleleagueplymouth.org. Kordick noted the field's profile is increasing: "We really are building an awareness in the community. It's really good," he said.

New volunteers are welcome.

Author fair a great link between writer, reader

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Self-publishing is coming on strong for authors, including local writers.

"Self-published titles have now shown up in the librarian magazines," said Marjorie Sadler, adult reference librarian at the Plymouth District Library. "That's a serious trend. It's eliminating the middleman."

She was busy the morning of Saturday, March 28, setting up for the Local Author Fair.

This year's event featured 22 authors of fiction and non-fiction, adult, teen and youth titles, including memoirs and picture books.

A few story lines have Plymouth connections, Sadler said. The authors come from Plymouth, Canton, Novi, Northville, Westland and others.

"But I give Plymouth (authors) first dibs," she said. This was the seventh year for the author fair, which wasn't held at the Plymouth library in 2009.

"I think it is a reason-

able thing for a library to do, support local authors," she said. The Friends of the Library have food for the authors the first hour so they can collaborate on ideas and their work, with two hours after that in the afternoon for the public to visit.

"Most of them are self-published," Sadler said of the local authors featured. "I think it's a valuable service to promote connecting our local authors with people who read."

She usually invites one

or two authors back to speak at the library: "So it's also a way for me to find more programs."

The library's Friends bought three Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce gift certificates for the author fair. "One author wins the best display," the librarian said, which is done to encourage interesting displays.

Two random guests at the author fair also get chamber gift certificates.



JULIE BROWN

Adult reference librarian Marjorie Sadler organizes the Local Author Fair at the Plymouth District Library each year.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Area woman lands her dream job in male-dominated field

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Jasmine Levitte knows what it's like to break into a predominantly male field. Despite a few setbacks, she's revved up about a job she landed after refusing to let her career stall.

The Lyon Township resident does production work at CDE Collision in Canton, working on everything from prepping cars in the morning to the actual painting at the end of the day.

"I've actually been one of the very few girls in all the shops I've ever been at," Levitte said, adding that her love for painting cars began after she failed a math class. She went to summer school and took an auto body class at Oakland Technical School.

"I found out I had a talent for it and I absolutely fell in love with it," the 2010 South Lyon East High School graduate said.

Her senior year, she spent half her day at East and half at a vocational school painting cars. After high school, she won second place in a state automotive refinishing competition and netted a \$1,500 scholarship. She used that money to earn a refinishing certificate program through Washtenaw Community College.

"I was the only girl there, too, of course," she said. "I'm used to it now."

Hot rod love

But her love for cars goes even further, back



Jasmine Levitte, a 2010 South Lyon East High School graduate, is revved up about working as an automotive painter in Canton.

to when she was 12 and her grandfather, Jim Levitte, also a Lyon resident, took her to the Detroit Autorama. She's been going back ever since and is drawn to the grittier show in the basement of Cobo Center that features rat rods – chopped cars from the 1960s and older. That led to competing and winning a spot in the Vinsetta Garage calendar last year.

This year, even though

there isn't a calendar, she won 12th place in a Vinsetta Pin-Up pageant. Her contest name was Cadillac Jazz.

Levitte traded in the car shops and tools last year when Willow Run Airport publicists called out for Rosie the Riveter models to honor the fictional character representing American women who entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers during World War II, as widespread

male enlistment left gaping holes in the industrial labor force.

Levitte was among 778 females dressed in period clothes who showed up and became part of the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest gathering of people dressed as Rosie.

"I got to meet all the real Rosie the Riveters that worked at the plant," said Levitte, who also has a tattoo of Rosie the Riveter on her right shoulder.

As for the future, Levitte said, "I'm trying to get into the airbrushing and pin-striping, instead of doing the nine-to-five job."

Her other passion is her quarter horse, Hotshot Gunslinger. She was on the East equestrian team and earned Most Valuable Player, captain and highest point earner in the state in 2010.

Drive and determination are key in her sport and career.

"Whether you're a woman or a man in this industry, never give up," she said. "It was something I absolutely knew I wanted to do. I went for it and made it my passion. There were plenty of times I couldn't get a job in a shop because I was a girl. I've worked hard and it's gotten me this far. I'm happy where I am now. I'm in a man's industry, but it shouldn't matter. Anyone can do this."

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Review all statements, bills for accuracy

My 94-year-old dad received his gas bill the other day and he was stunned when it was more than 60 percent higher than the previous month. As opposed to assuming the bill was correct, my dad called the gas company to find out.

He got the standard answer that the meter had been read and the higher bill was the result of that reading. My dad had me come over so I could read the meter. Lo and behold, it was totally different from what the gas company told him. When he reported the number on the meter, the company agreed that there was a mistake and my dad's bill was substantially reduced.

The lesson: Just because you receive a bill doesn't mean that it's accurate.

Too many people assume that when they get an invoice from an entity such as a utility company or a financial institution, it's accurate. They make the assumption that these companies are infallible and the bills must be accurate.

Other people believe that even if there is a mistake, it is too much of a hassle to get a company to correct it.

As far as I'm concerned, both are wrong. Companies make mistakes and getting them to correct the errors is as burdensome as you think.

Never assume a statement is accurate and that you don't have to review it. Every statement, whether it's a bill from the utility company or statement from your bank or financial institution, needs to be reviewed for accuracy.

Companies make mistakes all the time and it is up to us to keep them honest. In addi-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

tion, if you have had your sensitive information stolen, reviewing statements can be your first indication that something is wrong.

I'm not saying that companies intentionally make mistakes. However, they do happen.

Years ago, when I was reconciling my checking account, I realized that the bank had cleared a number of my checks twice. When I contacted the bank, I was told they were aware of the error and would correct it. They also told me that this error affected hundreds of people and I was the only one who called. Something is definitely wrong with that.

In this technology-friendly world, we can assume that computers are always right and we are wrong. However, that is not the case. We all know that humans make mistakes and we should also recognize that computers make errors, too.

My advice is to be more like my dad. He checks every statement, whether it's a bill in a restaurant, his bank statement or his utility bill.

Mistakes happen, so take the time to review your statements. If something doesn't look right, question it and don't hesitate to keep going up the chain of command until it is resolved.

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, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

We should all value versatility

The season of making big decisions and learning to accept disappointment is here. Tough choices will be made, hearts will break and fists will pump in triumph. This isn't a column about March Madness brackets. The decisions at hand, while college-related, have nothing to do with basketball. Well, in a way they'll determine which collegiate sports team high school seniors will root for this fall.

While deferred students wait for word from their first choice colleges, their peers who received a definitive "yes" are finalizing plans on where they'll matriculate.

As a high school English and writing tutor, I meet many energetic students eager to experience attending what they hope will be the college of their dreams. Yet for those with a deferment weighing on them, the focus to get into a particular college borders on obsession. In fact, I assisted several students craft appeal letters to admissions officials further explaining exceptional grades and extracurricular accomplishments in the hopes of overturning a decision.

While I dislike the increasingly stressful, all-consuming college admissions process, what really has me in a pique is when students dig in their heels. Absolutely, aim high. But when goals aren't achieved, there's much to be said about accepting decisions, welcoming serendipity and adopting versatility in lieu of rigidity. All enviable traits to possess



Ed Nakfoor
RETAIL COLUMNIST

in college and, most important, when the road to professional success includes more than a few with detours.

Changing course

Finding comfort with change yet knowing there will be unpleasantness along the way, that the learning curve may be daunting and that grand plans – even meeting dates – should be written in pencil and easily erasable is worth learning.

I recall my mentor, Fred Marx, and my father, both longtime career men. Fred referred to applicants with many job changes as gypsies, restless of mind and body, always on the hunt for the better and the new. My father spent his professional life working for the Michigan Department of Corrections, first as a parole officer after graduating college and retiring almost five decades later as regional administrator, managing Wayne County's correctional system. I mention their backgrounds because they shaped my professional outlook. And it's taken many years to shift my thinking – one career for life – to adopt a more versatile mind-set when my career path reached more than a few forks in the road.

Making that turn

Scott Marcus doesn't regret the turn he took. The 40-year-old Birmingham resident owns a real

estate development company with a portfolio of one million square feet of commercial space and 2,000 apartments. His background, though, is law, the degree he earned from Wayne State after attending Michigan State and then Michigan, from where he graduated. He worked for a real estate law firm briefly before deciding he'd prefer to be the client and said his transition was driven by passion "and when there's passion, it doesn't feel like work."

Entrepreneurial by nature, Marcus is always looking for investment opportunities, but only after assessing security with risk. "I left law before I had a family ... the risk to make a change was different then," he said, adding, "but I knew I could always return to practicing law."

One of Marcus' new investments is Orange Theory Fitness, a group fitness franchise with locations in Birmingham and Canton and several others planned. As area developer for Michigan, he mostly assesses potential sites while an operating partner handles day-to-day management. As well, Marcus finds franchisees for each studio. Quite often, he said, he receives inquiries from "couples where a husband or wife wants to switch careers ... especially after working for a large company."

Maybe a layoff precipitates the call or simply career burnout. The reason doesn't matter so much as they've come to understand that a dream job – a dream anything – isn't the only path to success.

After all, how often do we wake from a dream only to forget it a moment later?

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

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OUR VIEW

Skilled work force has important place in Michigan's recovery

From the halls of Congress to the state Capitol, the buzzword these days is career technical education. Elected officials at all levels have come to the realization that the blue-collar worker is an important part of a healthy economy.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, told his colleagues recently that, "This country has wrongly stigmatized technical education. We've created this idea that unless you get a four-year degree, you are somehow not successful."

Gov. Rick Snyder made it a part of this year's State of the State address and budget presentation, which proposes more money for career technical education, including \$10 million more for the state's Skilled Trades Training Fund.

Ten years ago, the talk was about all higher education and increasing the number of college graduates in Michigan. At the time, then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm was talking about "putting a degree in the hands of every single child ... to help prepare our students for success in school, success in college and we'll help our economy succeed."

Enrollment in college, both two-year and four-year, has shown a steady increase since then, but the state has suffered from brain drain. A survey of 7,054 May 2012 graduates conducted by iLabs, the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research, found that nearly 40 percent moved outside of the state, leading Doug Rothwell, president and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan, to say that going through a 10-year recession has left the image of Michigan as "a place that doesn't have jobs."

Two years ago, Roth observed that many of the job openings available fall into fields like automotive manufacturing that aren't seen as attractive options for students, even though they offer good wages and highly skilled opportunities. His observation is spot on.

Today in Michigan, there are more than 90,000 job and internship opportunities across a wide variety of industries listed on Pure Michigan Talent Connect (www.MiTalent.org) and many of those jobs fall into skilled trades, engineering, information technology and manufacturing. Michigan, if it is to continue its economic recovery, needs to start filling those jobs with a well-trained work force.

What elected officials are saying now is what career technical educators have been saying for years. Not every student needs four years of college. The skills for a successful career can be found in high school career technical classes, community colleges and technical institutes and through apprenticeships.

Skilled-trade jobs require education beyond high school, but not a four-year degree. The career range includes jobs in health care (lab technicians, dental hygienist), maintenance and repair, public safety and manufacturing (machine operators, welders), along with work as carpenters, plumbers and electricians. Collectively, these jobs represent about one-third of the state's employment.

The need is being addressed. The need is being addressed. Oakland Community College offers the required related instruction classes for apprentices from area industries, and just several years ago, it expanded its Southfield campus that concentrates its curriculum in the health science field.

Even the state has gotten on board with MAT2—the Michigan Advanced Technician Training Program, an innovative, industry-driven approach to education. MAT2 combines theory, practice and work to train a globally competitive workforce. It also addresses two critical issues facing the manufacturing and technology industries: a widening skills gap and an aging workforce.

Steve Kay, principal of Wayne-Westland Community Schools' William D. Ford Career Technical Center, said all the talk is "the first time in eight years that I've seen something positive come out of Lansing supporting career technical education." His students are being featured in a Pure Michigan four-minute video about career technical education, which is meant "to change the perception of the auto industry."

"The goal is to transform how we look at the industry and see it in a different light and see that there is more opportunity out there," he said.

As much as Michigan has tried, it remains closely linked to manufacturing and the automobile industry. Even agriculture needs a skilled work force. Certainly, there is opportunity for college graduates out there, but if Michigan wants to continue its economic recovery, it now must create a work force that is capable of doing the jobs of the 21st century.

Michigan needs to be "No. 1 in the skilled trades" and that will happen with this new emphasis on career technical education.

OUR VIEW

Plan a Pure Michigan vacation this summer

With temperatures warming-up, couples and families are starting to make summer travel plans.

This year, consider vacationing in our home state. You will save money on gas, support the local economy and enjoy the great outdoors amidst some of the most breathtaking scenery in the country.

Michigan has more than 3,200 miles of freshwater coastline—more than any other state—more than 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams. No matter where you go, you are never more than six miles from a lake or stream or more than a few hours from a Great Lake.

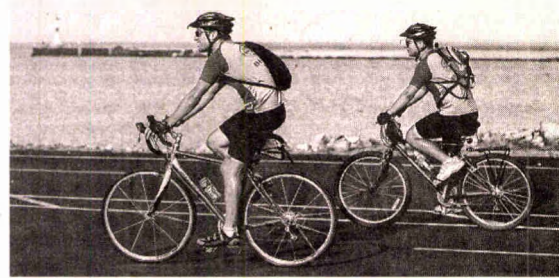
Michigan also has 102 state parks, 600 campgrounds and 650 public golf courses, where people can appreciate the state's natural beauty.

New this year, Michigan library patrons can get into more than 230 state parks, historic sites, forest campgrounds and recreation areas for free.

On May 24, the MI Big Green Gym program is being added to the Michigan Activity Pass program, which will continue to offer free admission or other discounts to more than 100 cultural attractions throughout the Lower and Upper peninsulas.

The Michigan Activity Pass program is and always has been free for library patrons. Some attractions offer free admission, others free offers or discounts in the gift shop.

Five passes are available per attraction per library each week. Patrons go to www.michiganactivitypass.info to print out their



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Enjoy the great outdoors amidst some of the most breathtaking scenery in the country with a Michigan vacation.

passes, which are good for seven days.

The expanded Michigan Activity Pass program will include a free, one-day pass to get into the park of your choice.

Also for 2015 are several new attractions, which may or may not participate in the Michigan Activity Pass program.

They include The Richard and Helen DeVos Japanese Gardens at the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and the Discovery of King Tut Exhibit at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, both in Grand Rapids; a \$21 million Penguinarium at the Detroit Zoo; the Sea Life Michigan Aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills; and Michigan's new statewide trail stretching from Belle Isle Park to Ironwood.

For more ideas for a Pure Michigan vacation, go to michigan.org.

LETTERS

Colbeck does homework

Mr. Dubanik is expressing his true feelings on positions taken by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck. I along with a room filled to capacity with others on March 20 at the Livonia Senior Center met with the senator.

We discussed your concerns and the senator answered the many questions. The responses were not always to our satisfaction, but they were direct and supported by factual documentation.

Sen. Colbeck has done his homework, unlike Rep. Pelosi, who had not read the ACA, and Sen. Reid, who blocked full discussion of issues on the Senate floor, or the recent candidate for

governor of Michigan, who had no plans for the future of our state.

Sen. Coleck has regular fact-to-face meetings with constituents to help them develop better understanding of his actions and ideas.

Orville H. Kappen
Livonia

Time for solar, wind power

Thank you for printing Keith Gunter's "Michigan's energy future at a crossroads" in the March 19 *Observer*.

It was most informative about the state of nuclear power plants in Monroe and other operating nuclear energy plants. Gunter underlined facts not too broadly known about the high operating

costs of nuclear power plants, the safety risks in their operation and most importantly, the lack of safe disposal sites for their radioactive waste (spent fuel).

We live within the 50-mile risk radius of Fermi II should an accident occur. Four years after the disaster at Fukushima, decontamination of the areas has not been completed and the survivors have not moved back to their area and may never be able to. We face a similar risk. Fermi II has requested a renewal of their operating license, which I hope will be denied. It is time to cross the road into solar and wind power for our future and the future generations to come.

Rosemary Doyle
Livonia

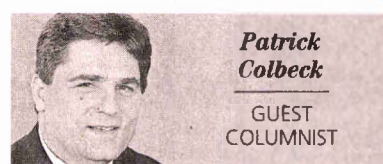
GUEST COLUMN

How to fix Michigan's roads without raising taxes

Voters will be asked May 5 to consider a ballot proposal that would seek to fix our roads by increasing our taxes. Voters have been told that there are no viable alternatives. After much investigation, I believe that it is important that voters understand that there are indeed alternatives that merit further consideration.

Over the past four years, I served as vice chair of the Senate Transportation Subcommittee on Appropriations. During this period, I have spent significant time with constituents and other legislators studying the serious problem of the deteriorating condition of roads and bridges in our state. Furthermore, I have examined how Michigan's road investments and road quality compare to other states. As a result of these efforts, I have assembled no less than four viable options that would allow us to fix our roads without raising taxes.

The first of these options is to simply ensure that the tax money collected at the pump goes to fixing our roads. One way to accomplish this objective is a blast from the past commonly referred to as the "Bolger Plan." This option had already passed the state House of Representatives last year, but was replaced by the current road plan in the Senate. Among other things, this plan would ensure that 100 percent of the taxes raised at the gas pump would go toward fixing our roads. Another way to accomplish this objective is what I refer to as the "Proos Plan" after legislation offered by Sen. John Proos in previous legislative sessions that restricts the 17 percent of general fund revenue collected at the pump via the sales tax to road construction. This legislation has



Patrick Colbeck
GUEST COLUMNIST

already been passed previously by the Senate. Either of these approaches would yield an additional \$150 million per year starting in the first year.

The second option is to simply prioritize the spending of existing funds. This option features freezing general fund budgets with projected increases except for K-12 education, allocating 100 percent of "one-time" spending to roads, using the Budget Stabilization Fund to "stabilize the budget" and open up several restricted funds to allow usage of their fund balances to offset road maintenance costs. This option would add \$669 million to our road budget in the first year.

The third option is to reduce our expenses. These expense reduction opportunities can be broken down into MDOT cost reductions, non-MDOT government cost reductions and the removal of federal regulations that drive the cost of road construction. This option would not only address the quality of our road construction as a means of reducing total life-cycle costs; it would also address the quality of our government operations. This option would yield at least another \$53 million to our road budget in the first year.

The last option is simply an "all of the above" option. All told, we have the opportunity to put \$869 million toward fixing our roads in year one and apply over \$1.4 billion toward maintaining our roads for each subsequent year.

I have focused on first year spending because, as a public

safety issue, I believe that we need to demonstrate that we are committed to fixing roads as quickly as possible. The options outlined above would enable us to put \$869 million toward fixing roads in the first year without raising taxes. For comparison purposes, Proposal 1 would only put \$434 million toward the roads in year one and that is after increasing the taxes you pay by \$1.7 billion. In other words, the sum total of these options improves the safety of our roads more than twice as fast as the ballot proposal—and it does so without any tax increases.

As a fellow taxpayer, I believe that these options deserve more consideration than the current dismissive commentary would indicate. I encourage you to take time to explore these four alternatives. There may be some who are opposed to these alternatives simply because they don't believe that there are the votes needed to pass them. As engaged citizens, it is our duty to keep pressing and ask "why?" Why are film credits a higher priority than roads? Why are we putting money away into restricted funds that sustain lower priority programs at the expense of putting more resources toward road construction? Why don't we build roads that last longer? Who should be pinching pennies, families or government?

It is important for us all to realize that there are indeed ways to fix our roads without taking more money out of your wallets. More information on these options is available in the Solution Center at Morningin-Michigan.com.

Patrick Colbeck is a state senator for the 7th District.

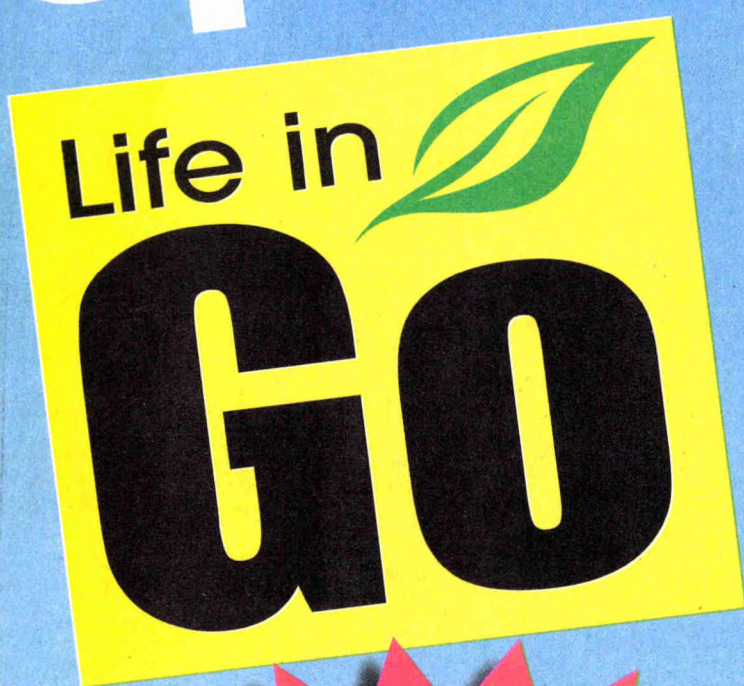
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3:00 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.
Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management, Inc.



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Colleen McDonald, Director of Community Relations, Senior Helpers.

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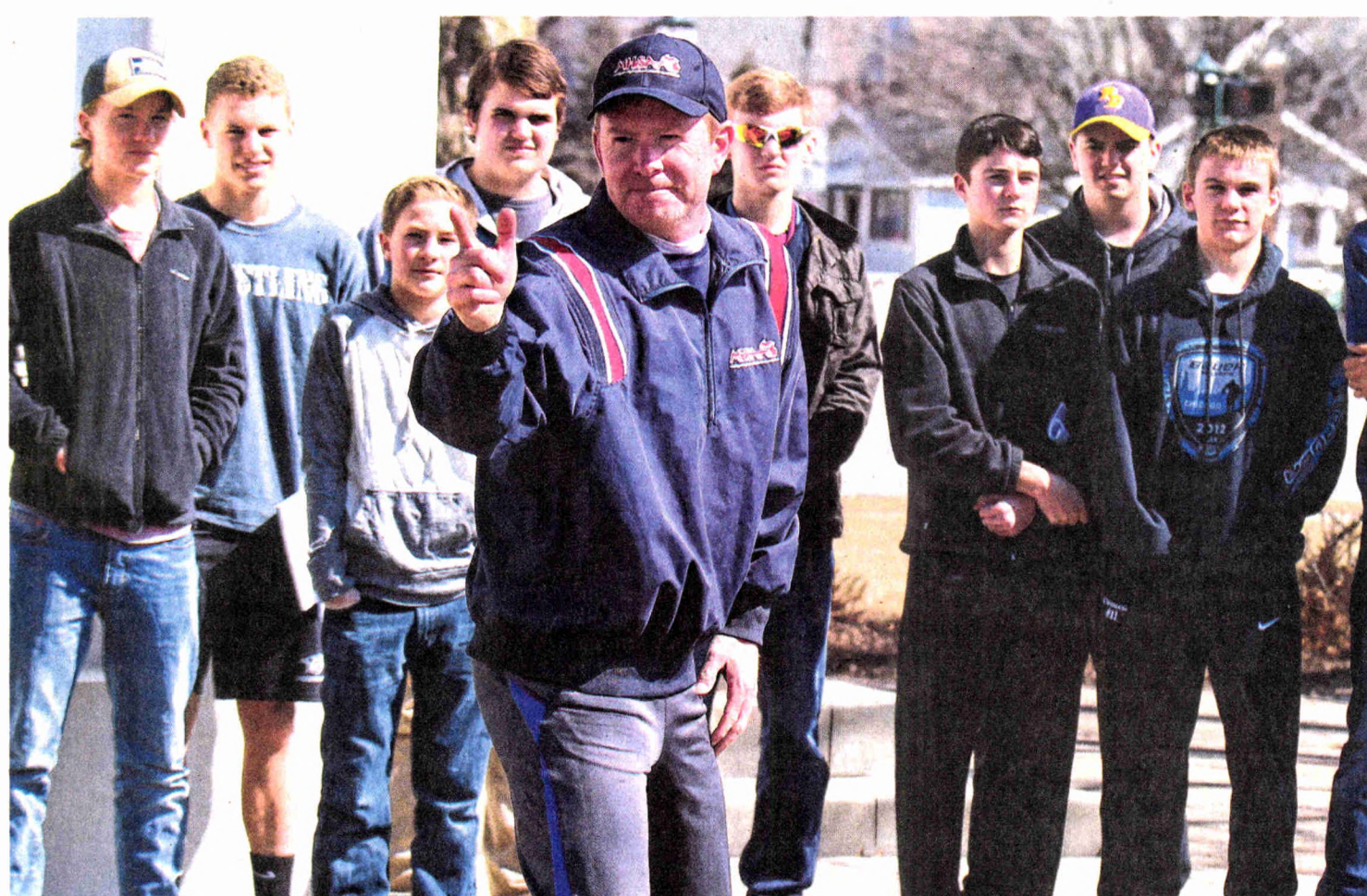
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UMPIRING CLINIC



Potential baseball umpires watch as Joe Bottorff, supervisor of baseball officials for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association, shows how to emphatically call a strike. MICHAEL VASILNEK

LACROSSE ROUNDUP

Chiefs can't find target in 9-5 loss

Canton outshoots Pioneer, but goals hard to come by

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

On a night where they had plenty of chances, the ball just wouldn't go into the net for Canton's varsity boys lacrosse team.

Despite enjoying a 28-24 advantage in shots on goal Tuesday, the Chiefs dropped a 9-5 non-league contest to Ann Arbor Pioneer. The game took place on the junior varsity field at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Canton first-year head coach Fred Karam said his team is still smoothing out some wrinkles, with much of that due to having games against Dearborn Divine Child and Grand Blanc postponed.

"This is our second game; the other team it was their sixth game," said Karam, whose team is 1-1. "There's a lot of work we need to do just getting in game shape. We have good players, good talent, but we fundamentally made some mistakes.

"We'll clean it up. We just need more practice and more game time."

Scoring two goals for the Chiefs was senior attacker Brocton Baechler, with single goals from junior midfielder Micah Rinke, junior attacker Carson Pakula and senior defender Brian Newton.

Netting four goals for the Pioneers, who scored six straight goals to break a 3-3 halftime tie, was freshman attacker Jack Reid.

"They (Pioneers) just came out with a lot of energy," Newton said when asked about how the opponent took charge in the third quarter. "They were really carrying and moving the ball well. I give a lot of credit to them."

Newton acknowledged that Canton losing games Saturday and Monday did not help mat-

See LACROSSE, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton's Nolan Gilo (left) carries the ball against Ann Arbor Pioneer's Austin Wylie during Tuesday night's contest.

MAKING THEIR CALL

Looking to recruit new umpires, GCYBSA clinic provides participants an inside glimpse and some helpful tips

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For several years, Jonathan Bilko, Cameron DiCola and Joshua Slater have become students of baseball thanks to going all out and being observant as young players.

Now, all three want to step out and take a look from the flip side.

The teenagers were among about 30 people attending Saturday's Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association umpiring clinic at Cherry Hill School.

"I've been playing baseball since I was a little kid. I've always been interested in umpiring," said the 14-year-old Bilko, a freshman at Salem High School. "I've been playing all my life and I've always been interested, so why not?"

Chiming in was DiCola, 14, who is in eighth grade at Discovery Middle School: "I want to contribute to anything I can so I can help the little kids."

Slater, a junior at Plymouth Christian Academy and a member of the Eagles varsity baseball team, came to the clinic at the invitation of PCA head coach Joe Bottorff — who happens to be the new supervisor of baseball officials in the GCYBSA. "Coach Bottorff kind of let all the guys know that this was going on and that we'd have the opportunity to take a



MICHAEL VASILNEK
Tools of the umpiring trade are displayed during Saturday's GCYBSA clinic.

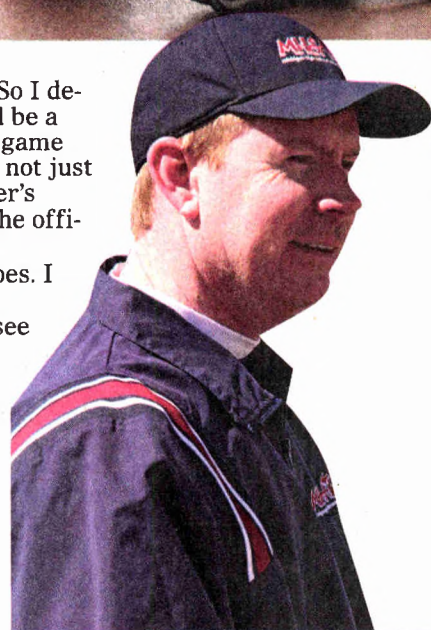
look at it," Slater said. "So I decided, why not? It would be a great way to look at the game from a different aspect, not just approach it from a player's mind-set, but see what the officials have to do.

"We'll see where it goes. I enjoy being around the game. I love to play, so see how this goes."

Bottom line

Both Bilko and DiCola have played several years in the GCYBSA and aren't ready to give up play-

See CLINIC, Page B3



"I hope they take away an appreciation of the rules and a greater respect for what umpires go through, kind of give them (umps) a break. It's a tough job. (You're) not always right, but the intent is there and the desire is there."

JOE BOTTORFF, SUPERVISOR, GCYBSA BASEBALL OFFICIALS

BASEBALL PREVIEW - PART 2

CHIEFS HAVE ROOM TO GROW EARLY

Young Canton squad looks to stay in the division hunt

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's no denying Canton's varsity baseball team lost some key components to graduation.

Standout pitchers Nick Hazergian and Brent Mattson have moved on to Saginaw Valley State and Eastern Michigan universities, respectively. Also lost were speedy outfielders Weston Price and James

Hall. Yet veteran Chiefs head coach Mark Blomshield isn't about to close up shop on the 2015 season before it even begins.

"We know we are a bit young and inexperienced overall," Blomshield wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "But we feel we had a solid off-season and will be ready to compete this spring, regardless of the specific dynamics of the team."

"We undoubtedly have our most competitive schedule we've ever had this spring and will have some ups and downs, especially early. Growing

See BASEBALL, Page B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Getting ready to rip into a pitch during a 2014 baseball game is Canton's Noah Spencer. He is among returnees for the Chiefs.

BOYS TRACK PREVIEW

THE BIG PICTURE

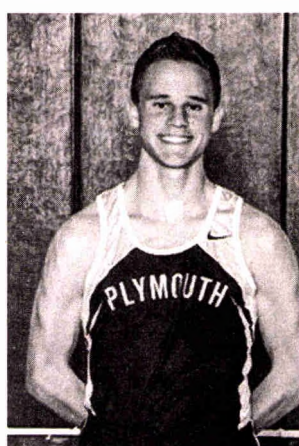
Plymouth coach wants team to gain momentum as season progresses

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Jon Mikosz reminds his Plymouth boys track and field team every season that it's a marathon, not a sprint.

The Wildcats do have a solid nucleus of returnees, such as senior distance runners Jonny Dalton and Matt Pahl. But with a number of freshmen and sophomores on the squad, Mikosz doesn't want them to lose sight of the big picture.

"We are a younger team this year," said Mikosz, whose Wildcats went 2-3 in the KLAASouth Division in 2014. "We might start off a little slow, but I think we will be where we need to be by the end of the season."



FILE PHOTO
Plymouth's Jonny Dalton returns for another season with the Wildcats.

"I am looking forward to getting the season started so we can see what some of the younger guys can do."

Mikosz knows what



FILE PHOTO
Another key returner for Plymouth is Matt Pahl.

the veterans have to offer, of course.

Dalton already is off and running with a 4:29 time in the 1,600 and a 1:58 showing in the 800 run, while Pahl was an all-state performer in cross country and recently set a personal best in the 1,600.

Also providing depth in distance events are senior Matt Dottavio and

sophomore Matt Weiner. Plymouth's sprinters are led by juniors Victor Abraham, Brandon Garrison and Mamoun Abbas, with sophomore Sylvester Singelton also ready.

Junior Andrew Shattuck is a standout in hurdles, while field events will be ably handled by senior Nate Harris (high jump), junior Michael Jordan (shot put, discus) and senior Zach Paliszewski.

Promising newcomers include juniors Darwin Filey and Brennan Brooks, sophomores Darius Timmons and Matthew Wayne and freshmen Joseph Robb and Ethan Byrnes.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

PREP BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Raiders avenge district loss to Wildcats, 7-4

Jake Provizer and Frank Zak drove in two runs apiece Monday to help North Farmington earn a 7-4 victory over host Novi in a non-league game.

Winning pitcher Alex Darden went the first three innings to pick up the win, striking out eight. Provizer also had two hits for the Raiders (2-0).

Novi starter Jack Colliau, who took the loss, gave up three earned runs on five hits and a walk in four innings.

Mike Ninkovich went the next 2½ innings and allowed three earned runs on five hits and four walks.

Michael Mitchell went 2-for-3 with two RBIs for the winless Wildcats (0-2). Jack Reilly hit a two-run double. Novi batters struck out 14 times.

The game was a rematch of last year's district final at Farmington High School in which the Wildcats edged the Raiders in 11 innings, 3-2.

Shamrocks split

Novi Detroit Catholic Central came up with a series of clutch plays Monday to earn a split with the University of Detroit-Jesuit in a season-opening doubleheader.

The Shamrocks lost the opener, 4-3, but came back to win the nightcap in eight innings, 5-4, on Grant Hartwig's two-out, RBI single that scored courtesy runner Brendan Charette from second base.

Right fielder Jordan Jenkins kept the game tied at 4-4 in the top of the eighth when he converted a double play, gunning down the lead run at the plate with the bases loaded.

The Shamrocks (1-1, 1-1) also turned a line drive at short into 6-4-3 triple play. Junior first baseman Mike Toth collected four hits and sen-

ior left fielder Justin Green added two.

Winning pitcher Dante Toppi went the first seven innings and scattered nine hits, walked none and had five strikeouts. Luke Hargis came on to get the save.

In the opener, Jesuit (4-2, 1-1) scored four runs in the first inning without the ball leaving the infield and took advantage of two CC errors.

The Shamrocks rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh, but they came up short with runners at first and third.

Winning pitcher Adam Bonventre, who gave up six hits and walked three in 6⅓ innings, got relief help from Daigoro Otako in the seventh.

Hartwig, the losing pitcher, went all seven innings, allowing three earned runs on four hits and two walks. He struck out nine.

Green had two RBIs; Jaret Robson also had an RBI with a sacrifice fly for CC.

Rally falls short

A Clarenceville comeback attempt fell short Monday as the Trojans sustained a 15-9 loss to Clawson.

Trailing 12-1 in the fifth inning, Clarenceville loaded the bases with two outs and scored eight runs to close the gap to three.

"I loved the way we battled the last three innings of the game," coach Craig Cotter said. "We could have packed it in and been mercied in five innings, but our team showed fight."

Jayson Harris led the Trojans with two hits. Bobby Jaber had a double; Kam MacIver, Adam Sade and Matt Drain chipped in base hits.

Adam Sade went three innings and got the loss. He and Jaber gave up a combined 12 runs over five innings.

GIRLS TRACK PREVIEW

Chiefs looking to make positive strides

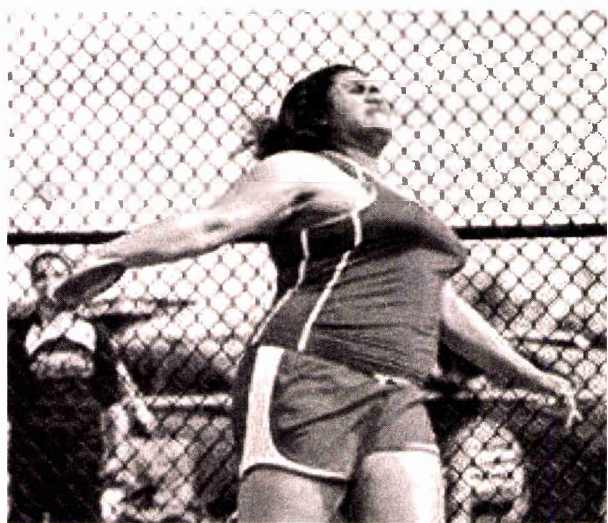
Probable loss of Moraw to injury doesn't dampen coach's enthusiasm

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton second-year head coach Alan Jones is confident that the Chiefs varsity girls track and field team can improve despite the likelihood of not having senior high jumper Jocelyn Moraw for most of the season.

Moraw sustained a broken ankle during gymnastics season and is out until May, at the earliest.

With Moraw not available, the Chiefs will bank on the talents



BRIAN QUINTOS
Throwing the discus last season for Canton is Emily Meier.

of junior thrower Emily Meier (fourth in state last year) and senior long jumper Taylor Pelland (who

just missed qualifying for states).

Another to watch is senior hurdler Katie Lawera, who missed

the 2014 season due to injury but is back "and should be a great addition to help the team," Jones said.

Senior Allison Putz, junior Grace Grimes and sophomore Elaine Bradley "will give our distance runners a huge boost this year and help make our team better in the distance races."

The Chiefs also will be looking for good things out of junior Jessica Krone and sophomores Kelsea Kernosek and Marissa Gubacz, Jones added.

Canton finished last season fourth in the KLAASouth Division with a 2-3 mark and placed seventh at the Kensington Conference meet.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

LACROSSE

Continued from Page B1

ters. The game against Pioneer came a full week after the Chiefs defeated Farmington 16-8.

"It definitely was hard to get back into it after having the break ... we'll pick it up," Newton said. "We just need more game experience like this. It's a learning experience."

The first half was a hard-hitting defensive battle, with Canton sophomore goalie Nathan Janice allowing just three goals — and the Chiefs responding with goals by Baechler, Rinke and Newton.

Tough stretch

But it only took Reid about three minutes to put Pioneer up 4-3 and senior midfielder Craig Phillips buried a feed at the left post with 5:23 remaining in the third to put the Chiefs down a pair.

Unable to stem the tide, Canton took penalties and had trouble in the face-off circle against the Pioneers.

By the time the quarter ended, the Chiefs trailed 7-3, following two more goals by Reid.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Canton senior defender Austin Poe (right) tries to check the ball away from Ann Arbor Pioneer's Jack Reid.

"I just think we took some bad penalties and we were a man down a lot in that third quarter," Karam said. "I would say at least two of (the Pioneer goals) we were a man down."

Canton then gave up another goal just 1:04 into the fourth.

Sophomore attacker Noah Gago maneuvered into the front of the Canton goal and whipped the ball top shelf past Janice, making it an 8-3 contest.

Newton's fourth goal of the second half gave Pioneer an insurmountable 9-3 cushion with 5:25 remaining.

But the hard-driving

Chiefs would not go quietly, giving their home fans something to cheer about late in the game.

With 2:47 to go, Pakula (who also had an assist) circled the Pioneer goal, cut in front and slammed it home from short range to give Canton its first goal of the second half.

The Chiefs added another for good measure with 1:43 left. Baechler ripped a high shot into the Pioneer net from about 10 yards out for his second of the night.

Of course, by that time, it was far too little, too late for a Canton comeback.

"We played relatively



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Looking for a teammate to pass the ball to is Canton's Jonathon Krebs (left), while Ann Arbor Pioneer's Jack Reid closes in.

well," Karam said. "It was a tight game until the end. We just took some bad penalties and they came out on top."

"We had a lot of shots, they just weren't going in the net tonight."

PLYMOUTH (BOYS) 9, WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 7: Nolan Ouellette had an outstanding game Tuesday night, scoring six goals — including three in the fourth quarter — to lift the Wildcats.

Also stellar was goalkeeper Trevor McManus, who made 22 stops.

Other Plymouth goals were scored by Kyle Robertson, Derek Szczepanik and Justin Brodzik, while Zach Gallaher chipped in an assist.

The Wildcats were buoyed by stout defense, particularly in the second half, from Ben Stover, Ben Riley, Tyler Ramer, Andrew Withers, Spencer Schiffr and Brady Terchenok.

PLYMOUTH (GIRLS) 13, SALINE 7: A balanced

attack — six Wildcats scored goals — and strong defense sparked this non-league victory Tuesday night.

Enjoying big games for visiting Plymouth were Marissa Cirino and Natalie Nowicki, who registered four goals each.

Contributing two goals was Gretchen Schoen, while Michelle Burke, Madeleine Caswell and Cierra Steiner also found the back of the Hornets' net.

Making 10 saves for the victory was goaltender Erin Oleszczak.

HARTLAND 23, SALEM (GIRLS) 4: The buzz from defeating Brighton on March 25 didn't carry over into Monday's home opener for the Rocks, who took it on the chin against top-ranked Hartland.

Salem fell behind 14-2 at halftime and could not overcome a seven-goal performance by Amy Longe.

The Eagles also en-

joyed big games from Hana Barnett (four goals) and Cassie Pankowski (three goals).

Bright spots for the Rocks included a three-goal showing by Leah Tardiff, while senior captain Amanda Merkel scored the other goal.

According to Salem head coach Dave Medley, the Eagles demonstrated plenty of reasons (speed, passing, vision) why they are a strong championship contender.

With that tough assignment completed, the Rocks look forward to "putting it behind us" as they were scheduled Wednesday to play Northville.

SALEM (BOYS) 9, WEST BLOOMFIELD 4: The Rocks prevailed March 20 behind strong games from senior captains Noah Willer (four goals, assist), Joey Krause (two goals), Mack Baker (eight saves), and Adam Cousineau (eight groundballs).

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for **Science Probeware**. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools at kristen.hennessey@pccs12.com or (734) 416-3013. Details of the proposal are also available on BidMichigan.com. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J. McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before **Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Kate Borninski, Secretary
Publish: April 2, 9, 2015

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CLINIC

Continued from Page B1

ing yet, either.

But with the association looking to replenish its roster of available umpires for spring, summer and fall youth leagues (beginning with divisions for kids ages 9-10 and under), not to mention getting to earn \$25 to \$50 per contest, they thought it would be a good idea to check out the clinic.

"I actually played with Jonathan a couple years back," DiCola said. "I played (GCYBSA) for six or seven years, so I know the system."

"(The clinic is) a great experience, the people here are so friendly. I'm learning a lot."

Bilko noted that it shouldn't matter that he isn't that much older than youngsters he'd be presiding over "as long as I make the right calls."

That was the crux of the message delivered Saturday by Bottorff and longtime GCYBSA baseball umpire Courtney Todd, who went over the right and wrong ways to call a game.

"I hope they take away an appreciation of the rules and a greater respect for what umpires go through, kind of give them (umps) a break," Bottorff said. "It's a tough job. (You're) not always right, but the intent is there and the desire is there."

"Nobody is out there to give one team or the other any type of advantage; we really don't care who wins. It's just that we care that they (players) have fun and they stay safe."

Here's how

After a chalkboard session inside the historic, one-room school located at Cherry Hill and Ridge roads, Bottorff took half the group outside for a demonstration about where umpires should stand in different scenarios (such as moving from base to base following a runner legging out a triple, making sure every bag is touched).

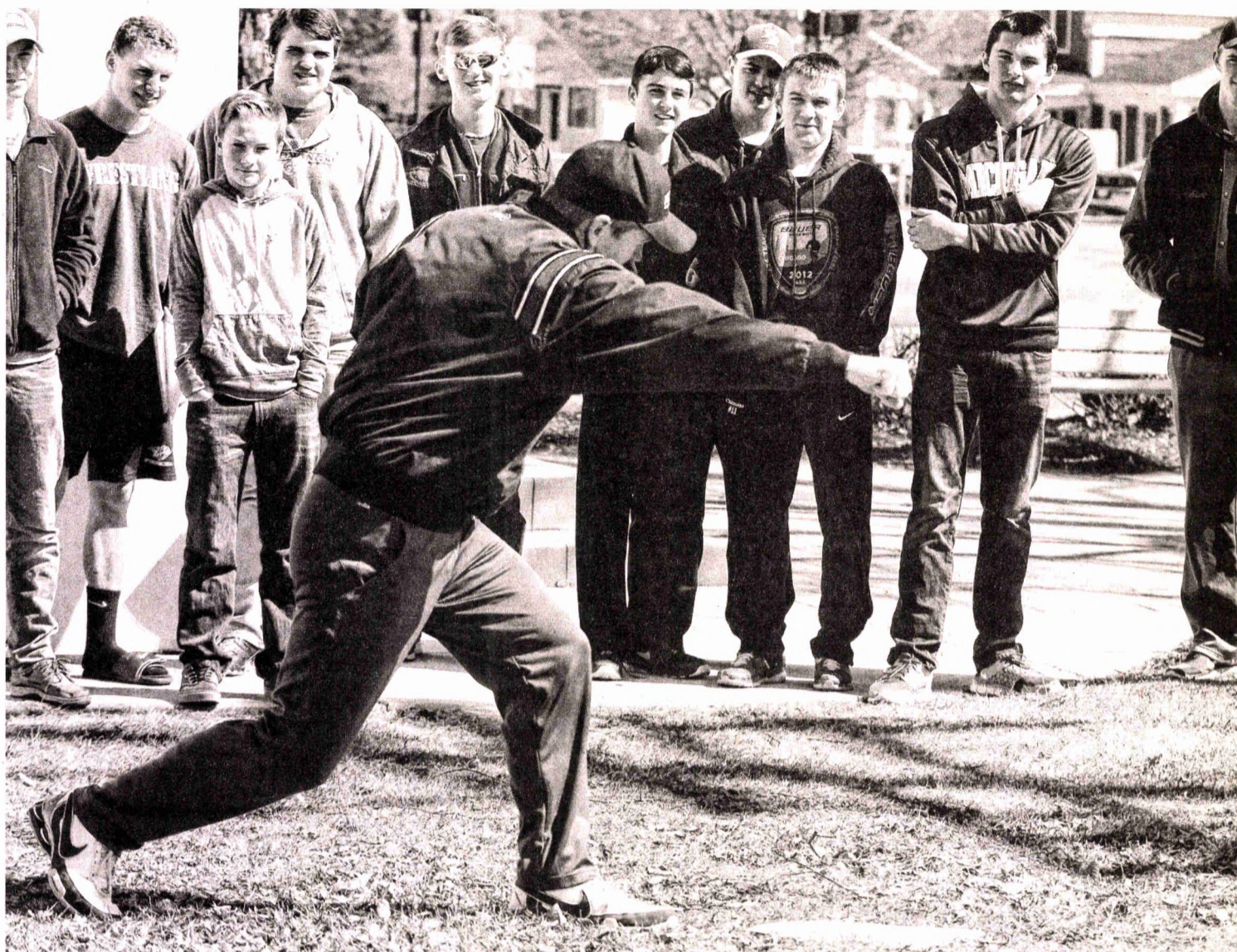
The two cardinal rules Bottorff reiterated were for umps to "be in position and make a call stick," even when a mistake might have been made.

Bottorff flashed out his arms to show how to make a safe call. He punched the air while giving an out sign.

"If it's a close call, sell it, safe or out," he said.

Todd, of Canton, worked with the other half on the finer points of calling balls and strikes.

"Be consistent, be fair, be objective," Todd said. "And be



Joe Bottorff leaves no room for second-guessing as he shows clinic participants how to call a runner out on the base paths.

MICHAEL VASILNEK



Demonstrating how they'd call a strike behind home plate are (from left) Cameron DiCola, Joshua Slater and Jonathan Bilko. The teens, who all still play baseball, attended the umpiring clinic at Cherry Hill School.

MICHAEL VASILNEK



During a chalk talk Saturday, Joe Bottorff gives GCYBSA clinic participants an example of an umpire's proper stance and confident attitude.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

confident."

Most importantly, Bottorff and Todd stressed to the prospective umps to be reliable.

"If I assign you to a game, I expect you to show up to it and be there on time, with a good attitude," Bottorff said afterward. "We didn't have a lot of no-show problems last year, but we had a lot of games where we should have had two umpires and we only had one."

"And so that was the pur-

pose of this, to get to the point where if we're supposed to have two umps, we have two umps and that we have enough guys to do it."

Refresher course

According to Todd, it was refreshing to see so many young people participating in the clinic and showing interest in signing on.

"There's always a shortage and we're just happy to see so many young people that are

willing to avail themselves of this opportunity," Todd said. "A lot of them have played baseball, a lot of them still enjoy the sport, but don't want to play it and they make excellent officials with that experience."

The clinic also was a worthwhile refresher course for those a bit older who had already been umps, such as Garden City's Chris Bixler.

"I've been doing it for a couple years now," Bixler

said. "This is my second year in this league (GCYBSA) and I've done it in a couple tournaments out in Canton as well."

"It's great for everyone that's starting and learning to do something new, learning to umpire. You learn a lot from the job, but these clinics are great because you can start to get the in-game feeling from being out here."

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Prospective baseball umpires pay attention during Saturday's GCYBSA clinic at Cherry Hill School in Canton. The association is looking to recruit umpires to rebuild its roster of officials.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

pains are expected when you only return four starters and 25 innings on the mound, but this is a talented group of ball players who will continue to improve as the season goes on."

The Chiefs were scheduled to open the regular season Wednesday against South Lyon and are supposed to open at home against Ann Arbor Pioneer at 4 p.m. Thursday (today).

Blomshield, starting his eighth season at the Canton helm, still has high expectations, even though the team that went 21-10 in 2014 did lose a handful of standouts.

He stressed that the 2015 Chiefs will be geared up to excel in the KLAA South Divi-

sion and work "on all cylinders" by the end of May — which would help the team get over the district hump (Canton lost the district final in 2013 and 2014).

Basic blueprint

Per usual for Blomshield's teams, pitching and defense will be the staples for success, with offense a welcome bonus.

"I feel we are very solid up the middle," Blomshield said. "We have several very strong catchers, a host of infielders that we can shuffle around to get the best fit at shortstop and second base and a center fielder that can cover gap to gap."

"If our pitchers throw strikes, we can stay in the game. We don't have that power arm or two that can run it into the high 80s (mph) that we typically have had in the past, so we will simply have to do the little things as a team that

much better."

He does have four returning starters and they'll be called upon to lead on and off the field.

Those include senior catcher Nick Romanowski (third year on varsity), senior shortstop Robert Guajardo, senior utility player Grant Slomkowski and junior pitcher/infielder Noah Spencer.

"These guys had very good seasons last year and are expected to become even bigger contributors this year," Blomshield said.

Romanowski recently committed to Chattanooga (Tenn.) State Community College and is primed for a breakout season.

Guajardo "is a slick ball player who is expected to have a solid year both offensively and defensively," while Slomkowski returns a potent bat (he led Canton in hitting in 2014).

Spencer had a solid season on the mound last spring and will play any infield position except first base when not pitching.

Taking over from Price in center will be senior Andrew Loehnis, who brings the same kind of speed and defensive prowess.

Slated for first base and designated hitter is senior Aaron Miller and Blomshield is confident he'll be a key contributor on offense.

Senior utility players Nick Durocher and Scott Bazner will be "key players at multiple positions (and) that is going to help us be a better ball club down the stretch," Blomshield said.

Meanwhile, senior southpaw Jeremy Drongowski is expected to be one of the first pitchers called out of the bullpen.

Influx of talent

A number of juniors will be front and center for the Chiefs.

Junior left-handed pitcher Tyler Byers "has shown instances that he will be a big contributor this season after a solid summer and preseason."

Cody Zidzik (first base), Nick Sprosek (pitcher-infield), Eddie Zajdel (infield) and Greg Goodbred (pitcher-outfield) "have had solid summers and preseasons and are looking to be solid contributors."

Backing up Romanowski behind the plate will be junior Mike Flaishans (also a backup infielder and pitcher).

Another key bullpen piece is junior Mitch Zelenak, while sophomore Justin Dolney will see time at second base and shortstop.

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GIRLS SOCCER

Marian's depth burns Blazers, 4-1

Mustangs win indoor match vs. Ladywood

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With the ground outside covered in snow, you couldn't have asked for better timing to book an indoor girls soccer match Wednesday afternoon between Division 2 state powers Birmingham Marian and Livonia Ladywood at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

And the host Mustangs found the climate-controlled surroundings to their liking as they downed Ladywood, 4-1, in the Catholic League Central Division opener for both teams.

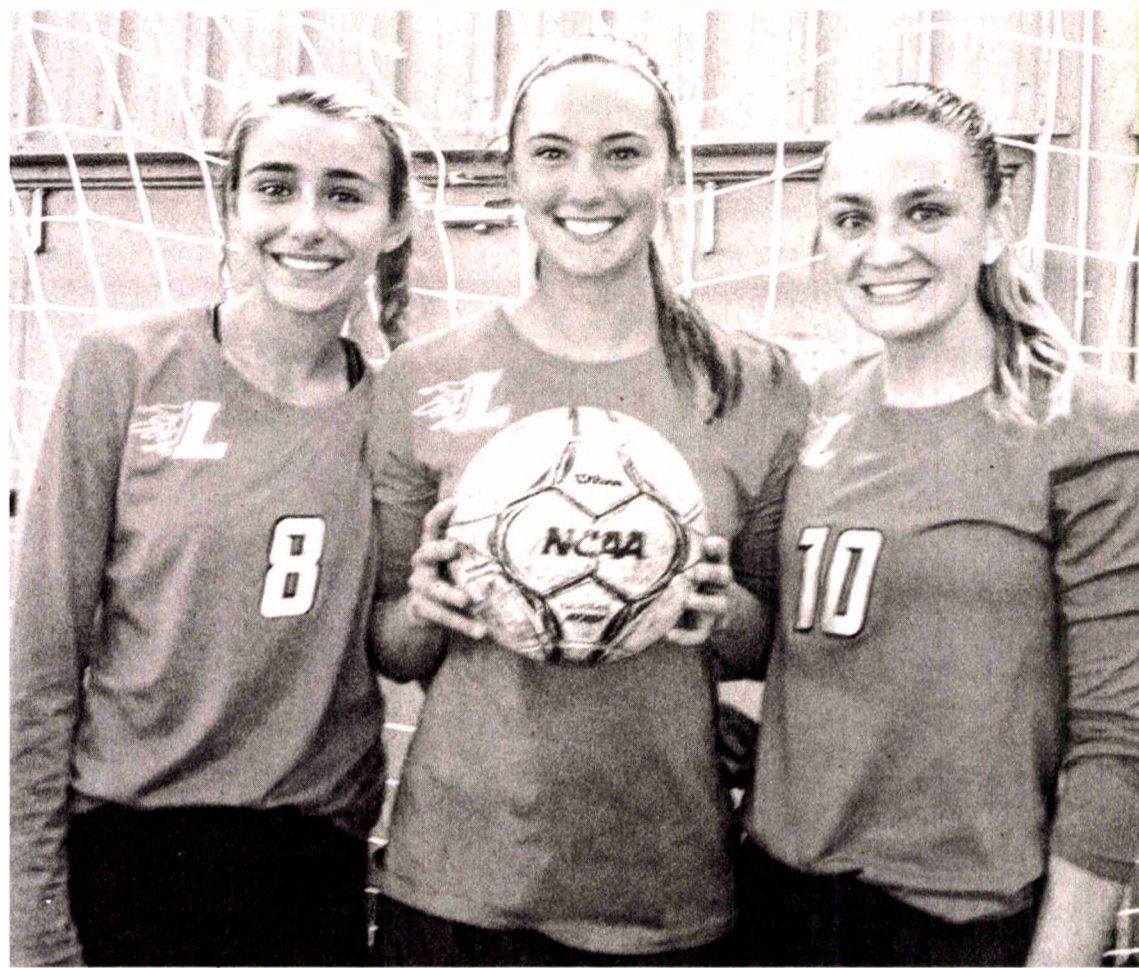
The Mustangs, state runners-up the past two seasons to Richland Gull Lake, improved to 4-0-2 overall as sophomore forward Elaina Eckert figured in all four goals.

Ladywood, which dropped to 2-2 overall, actually tallied the game's first goal with 29:44 left in the opening half, when sophomore Taylor Bullard pounced on a rebound following a shot by sister Kennedy Bullard after Samantha Riga sent a pass into the 18-yard box.

But by halftime Marian would go up 2-1 as Hannah Redoute tied it off an assist from Eckert with 6:01 left and Eckert would score what proved to be the game-winner off an assist from Redoute with 2:16 remaining.

Zoe Hudson's goal with 24:04 left in the match off an assist from Eckert made it 3-0 and Redoute's second goal of the afternoon came with 5:11 to go after Ladywood sophomore keeper Holly Cusick was unable to handle Eckert's initial shot.

"I think it went the way that we thought it would, but you could just tell we got tired," Ladywood coach Ken Shingle-



Among Ladywood's key returnees this season are (from left) tri-captains Kennedy Bullard, Samantha Riga and Andrea Kwasniewicz.

BRAD EMONS

decker said. "And they took advantage of some mistakes by us and some sloppiness in our own end. Those two shots they scored on in the first half were good finishes. Then I thought the long shot (fourth goal) and the third goal was what it was."

Ladywood, which dressed only 15 players to Marian's 22, simply lost the war of attrition during the second half.

"We ran 17-18 players at them today," said Marian coach Barry Brodsky, who has five Division 2 state titles to his credit. "Today we didn't sub as much as we normally do, but when we come back

(from spring break), we'll have three games that first week, so it's nice to have a full bench to play and ready to go. It's part of Marian. We are blessed with a lot of good players, a lot of good people and it makes it a good experience."

Ladywood had difficulty containing Marian's three sophomore forwards - Eckert, Redoute and Ellie DeConinck.

"They really work well together," Brodsky said. "It might take them a while to get going at times, but they're going to get some damage done if they're out there for the full game."

"We're still pretty young.

We have five freshmen. And like I said, those three up top are all sophomores, so it's a good mix this year. We have some really good seniors that so far are great leaders. And I think that's something the other girls feed off of. It's been a fun group. It's been a lot of fun so far."

Cusick, who made one save, went all the way in goal for the Blazers.

Marian, meanwhile, used two goalkeepers, with junior Kaitlin Patouhas going the first half and senior Megan Bricely taking her turn during the second half. The two combined to make three saves.

Ladywood lost several key players to graduation, including all-state player Emily Huddleston (Southwest Minnesota State), Lauren Wandzel (VMI), Jenna Urso (Albion College), Abby Pelon (St. Michaels, Vt.), Mykela Hawkins, Mariss Ozog and keeper Whitney Bauriedl.

But five starters off last year's state semifinal squad return, including Riga, a first team all-area selection headed to NCAA Division II champion Grand Valley State, and the Bullard sisters, Kennedy, a senior tri-captain, and Taylor, a sophomore forward.

Junior defender Conner Huggins and sophomore mid-fielder Brianna Rogers also started a year ago, while senior tri-captain Andrea Kwasniewicz, a defender, returns to the starting lineup after missing all of 2014 with a knee injury (torn anterior cruciate ligament).

Other returnees include the Smalley sisters, Elyse and Emma, a pair of senior defenders; Elisabeth Pollock, a junior defender; and Clare Kelley, a sophomore midfielder.

Among the promising newcomers are Shannon Wolfe, a sophomore forward; Amy Babon, a freshman midfielder; Catherine Hawkins, a junior defender; and Natalie Hawkins, a freshman defender.

Marian, which knocked Ladywood out of last year's state semifinal, 3-1, returns nine of 11 starters.

"It's a lot different with Kelly Sweeney not being on the field, who was kind of the go-to ... they just have so many and the depth is such a key for them," Shingledecker said of the Mustangs. "And for a team like us, we were fine for the first 30 (minutes) and then you could really tell that we wore down a little bit. And they just kept making subs. Overall, it's a good team. I wouldn't say it's their best team, but it's a good one."

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PREP ROUNDUP

First-half goal by Novi enough to edge Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As long as Salem's varsity girls soccer team plays as well as it did Tuesday against Novi, goals and victories will come.

That was the assessment of Rocks head coach George Tomasso following a hard-fought 1-0 loss to the visiting Wildcats.

"I thought both teams eliminated a lot of the scoring threats," said Tomasso, in his first season at the Salem helm. "But to credit our team, we did create more opportunities than the last two games, so I'm very proud of our efforts. Moving forward, we're finding our identity."

The Rocks (1-2) were foiled by a first-half goal from Megan Riley, who got on the end of a 40-yard free kick by Amanda Minissalek.

"We had an unfortunate set piece goal against us and we just need to clean that up," Tomasso said.

Playing strong in goal for Salem were Skyler Brant and Abbey Ozeranic, who handled the first and second half, respectively. "They kept us in the game the whole way," Tomasso said.

Several others were touted by Tomasso for their performances.

"I thought Caroline Simko had a fantastic game; she played a couple different roles," Tomasso said. "She went from attacking mid to defensive mid."

"Our whole back line, every defender in the game played outstanding, from Gabby Teodorescu to Hailey Katulski, Rachel Light, Katie Latak, Kaitlyn Pelech and Hannah Giaier."

The Rocks now go on an extended hiatus for spring break, with the next scheduled contest slated for April 14 against South Lyon at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

GIRLS TENNIS: Plymouth rolled to a 9-0 KLAA South Division victory Tuesday over



Salem junior Casey Kotrba (left) tries to maneuver past Novi's Jessica Halmaghi during Tuesday's girls soccer match.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton. Winning in straight sets for the Wildcats were Sarah Gamble (No. 1 singles), Amber Tseng (No. 2), Swetha Duraiswamy (No. 3) and Kara Hug (No. 4).

Also stellar for Plymouth was the doubles lineup of Teahn Horton-Emma Mullenax at No. 1, Alyssa Lopez-Lauren Conley at No. 2, Justine Ko-Alexa Earls at No. 3, Arwa Harawala-Kriya Shah at No. 4 and Amy Luo-Ria Mahesh at No. 5.

PLYMOUTH BOYS TRACK: Despite a school and Park record in the shot put by Plymouth's Michael Jordan (56 feet, 1.75 inches), the Wildcats dropped a 78-50 decision Tuesday to Livonia Churchill.

Senior Jonny Dalton took first in the 1,600 and 800 runs with times of 4:46 and 2:04, while senior Matt Pahl's time of 10:54 earned him a first in the 3,200.

Other Plymouth wins were secured by Nathan Harris in the high jump (6-0) and by two relays. The 1,600 relay tandem of Dalton, Joey Robb, Mammoun Abbas and Calvin McCracken and the 800 relay of Victor Abraham, Abbas, Darius Timmons and Brandon Garrison were victorious.

CANTON GIRLS TRACK: It was quite the opening meet for Canton, dominating against Wayne Memorial to the tune of 118-32.

Helping to get things going was the 400-meter relay, clinched when Canton's Jessica Krone passed the Wayne runner in the anchor leg.

The Chiefs also featured a strong 3,200-meter relay, book-ended by stellar showings from Samantha McGrath and Grace Grimes.

Emily Meier took both throwing events, winning the shot put (39 feet) and discus (120 feet).

GIRLS SOCCER ROUNDUP

Novi boots Canton girls, 3-0

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

After playing Walled Lake Western to a scoreless draw Saturday in the season opener, the Novi girls soccer team found its scoring touch Monday with a 3-0 triumph over Canton.

Alex McAleer got things started for the Wildcats with a goal with 11:07 left in the half, followed by Christina MacMillian's goal with 5:18 to go until intermission, both assisted by Jessica Halmaghi.

Chloe Allen then gave Novi (1-0-1) a three-goal cushion with a goal with 31:46 remaining in the match off an assist from Allie McDowell.

"We outshot Western 14-2, hit the post three times, shot at the goalie five or six times, so we felt good after our first game because we had so many opportunities, but we were a little disappointed that we couldn't finish them," Novi interim coach Todd Pfeiffer said. "Tonight, we had 10 shots total and five were on goal, so the five shots we had on goal we scored three of them and it was a great step forward from Saturday, where we walked off disappointed with a 0-0 tie."

Meanwhile, junior goalkeeper Aastha Dharia recorded five saves to record the Wildcats' second straight shutout.

"It was a good first home win," Pfeiffer said. "Our de-

fense played very well led by our senior captain Amanda Minissalek, who was keeping them organized in the back. Canton is a very good team and has very good players. To hold them scoreless and limit them to five shots on goal ... our defense did a great job."

The loss dropped the Chiefs to 2-2 overall.

NORTHVILLE 2, PLYMOUTH 0: Senior goalkeeper Emily Marech made five of her six saves during the first half to post her third straight shutout and freshman Kendall Dillon figured in both goals Monday as the host Mustangs (3-1) downed the Wildcats (0-4) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

Facing a 20 mph wind in the first half, Northville played Plymouth to a scoreless stalemate, led by the solid defense of seniors Tara Pawloski, Morgan Gozdor and Eric Gumkowski, along with freshman Nikki Skinner.

In the 56th minute, Dillon received a cross from Eric Gumkowski at far post and deflected a shot off the Plymouth goalkeeper and into the net. And just five minutes later, Dillon pushed a through ball to Kelly McHugh, who scored from 18 yards out.

"In the first half, we had to play a lot more defensive-minded due to the strong wind in our face," Northville coach Eric Brucker said. "Once we survived the half, we play a lot better and were able to string some passes together."

"Maddy Westenberg played very well in the middle tonight and helped keep things organized. Kendall Dillon continues to work hard and that's why she is seeing more minutes in games. It wasn't pretty soccer tonight, but it was effective."

NORTHVILLE 1, CANTON 0: The game featured a battle of staunch defenses. March 26 as the Mustangs (2-1) broke the ice on Alana Dorfstatter's goal during the 25th minute to edge the host Chiefs (2-1) in a KLAA crossover at Centennial Educational Park.

Kelly McHugh provided high-bending cross from the left sideline and Dorfstatter drove a header into the net as Canton allowed its first goal of the season. Senior Emily Marech, who made 11 saves handling chances from all different angles, posted her second straight shutout.

"We had moments of quality soccer, but we have yet to play a complete game well," Northville coach Eric Brucker said. "We are playing hard, but lack the consistency. McHugh and Dorfstatter have played together for years. It was nice to see them connect on a pretty goal."



Northville's Kendall Dillon (right) takes on Canton defender Casey Muglia during the teams' March 26 clash.

JOHN PAWLOSKI

Study: Millennials buying the most homes

Despite the economic and financial challenges young adults have braved since the recession, the millennial generation represented the largest share of recent buyers, according to the 2015 National Association of Realtors Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends study, which evaluates the generational differences of recent home buyers and sellers.

The survey additionally found that an overwhelming majority of buyers search for homes online and then purchase their home through a real estate agent, with millennials using agents the most.

For the second consecutive year, NAR's study found that the largest group of recent buyers was the millennial generation, those 34 and younger, who composed 32 percent of all buyers (31 percent in 2013). Generation X, ages 35-49, was closely behind with a 27 percent share. Millennial buyers represented more than double the amount of younger boomer (ages 50-59) and older boomer (60-68) buyers (at 31 percent). The Silent Generation (ages 69-89) made up 10 percent of buyers in the past year.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says the survey highlights the untapped demand for homeownership that exists among young adults. "Over 80 percent of millennial and Gen X buyers consider their home purchase a good financial investment, and the desire to own a home of their own was the top reason given by millennials for their purchase," he said. "Fixed monthly payments and the long-term financial stability homeownership can provide are attractive to young adults despite them witnessing the housing downturn and subsequent slow recovery in the early years of their adulthood."

With millennials entering the peak buying period and expected to soon surpass boomers in total population, Yun believes the share of millennial purchases would be higher if not for the numerous obstacles that have slowed their journey to homeownership. "Many millennials have endured underemployment and subpar wage growth, and rising rents and repaying student debt have made it very difficult to save for a down payment. For some, even forming households of their own has been a challenge."

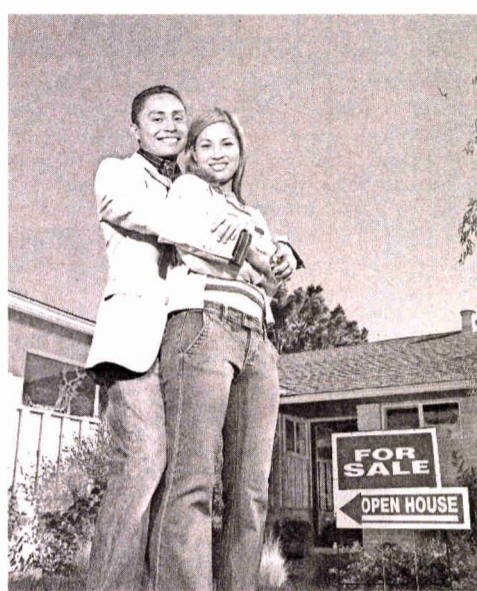
According to the survey, 13 percent of all home purchases were by a multi-generational household, consisting of adult siblings, adult children, parents and/or grandparents.

The biggest reasons for a multi-generational purchase were cost savings (24 percent) and adult children moving back into the house (23 percent). Younger boomers represented the largest share of multi-generational buyers at 21 percent, with 37 percent of those saying the primary reason for their purchase was due to adult children moving back into their house.

"Even though the share of first-time buyers has fallen to its lowest level since 1987, young adults in general are more mobile than older households," adds Yun.

Characteristics of buyers

The median age of millennial homebuyers was 29, their median income was



GETTY IMAGES/BLEND IMAGES
The millennial generation represented the largest share of recent buyers.

\$76,900 (\$73,600 in 2013) and they typically bought a 1,720-square foot home costing \$189,900 (\$180,000 a year ago). The typical Gen X buyer was 41 years old, had a median income of \$104,600 (\$98,200 a year ago) and purchased a 1,890-square foot home costing \$250,000 (same as last year).

Seventy-nine percent of all buyers considered their home purchase a good financial investment, with millennials (84 percent) and Gen X (82 percent) having the highest share, followed by younger and older boomers (both 77 percent), and the Silent Generation (72 percent).

Generation X buyers (68 percent) were the most likely to be married, younger boomers had the highest share of single female buyers (23 percent), and millennial buyers were more likely (compared to other generations) to be an unmarried couple (14 percent).

When asked about the primary reason for purchasing a home, a desire to own a home of their own was highest among millennials at 39 percent. Younger boomers were the most likely to buy because of a job-related relocation or move, and a change in a family situation – likely the birth of a child – was the highest (13 percent) among Gen X buyers. Older boomers (at 15 percent) were the most likely to buy because of retirement.

Searching for and buying a home

Regardless of their age, buyers used a wide variety of resources in searching for a home, with the Internet (88 percent) and real estate agents (87 percent) leading the way. Millennials were the most likely to use a real estate agent, mobile or tablet applications, and mobile or tablet search engines during their search; Gen X buyers were the most likely to use an open house.

Although the Internet was the top source of where millennials found the home they purchased (51 percent), they also used an agent to purchase their home at a higher share (90 percent) than

all other generations.

Although most purchases by all generations were in a suburban area, the share of millennials buying in an urban or central city area increased to 21 percent in the past year (19 percent a year ago), compared with only 12 percent of older boomers (unchanged from a year ago). Older boomers and the Silent Generation were more likely to buy in a rural area (18 percent each). Buyers' median distance from their previous residence was 12 miles, with older boomers moving the furthest at a median distance of 30 miles.

The majority of all buyers (79 percent) purchased a detached single-family home. Gen X buyers represented the largest share of single-family homebuyers (85 percent), and the Silent Generation was the most likely to purchase a townhouse or row house (10 percent). A combined 7 percent of millennial buyers bought an apartment, condo or duplex in a building with two or more units.

Among the biggest factors influencing neighborhood choice, millennials were most influenced by the quality of the neighborhood (75 percent) and convenience to jobs (74 percent). Convenience to schools was most desired by Gen X buyers and proximity to health facilities by the Silent Generation.

Millennials plan to stay in their home for 10 years, while the baby boom generation as a whole plans to stay for a median of 18 years.

Financing the purchase

NAR's study found that 88 percent of all buyers in the past year financed their purchase. Millennials (97 percent) and Gen X (96 percent) were more likely to finance than older boomers (72 percent) and the Silent Generation (61 percent). The median downpayment ranged from 7 percent for millennial buyers to 20 percent for older boomers.

Younger buyers who financed their home purchase most often relied on savings for their downpayment, whereas older buyers were more likely to use proceeds from the sale of a primary residence. Younger buyers also were more likely to receive a gift from a relative or friend, typically their parents, cited by 25 percent of millennials and 15 percent of Gen X.

Twelve percent of all recent buyers had delayed their home purchase due to outstanding debt. Among the 22 percent of millennials who took longer to save for a downpayment, 54 percent cited student loan debt as the biggest obstacle – down slightly from 56 percent a year ago.

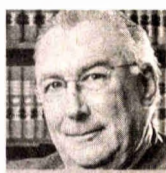
Younger buyers were more likely to finance their purchase with a low downpayment Federal Housing Administration-backed mortgage, whereas older buyers were more likely to obtain a mortgage through the Veterans Affairs loan program.

The 2015 NAR Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends study is posted at: www.realtor.org/reports/home-buyer-and-seller-generational-trends.

Attorney extols clean energy board concept

Q: Have you heard of something called Property Assessed Clean Energy, which is normally introduced through the Shared Clean Energy Bill commonly known as "PACE"?

A: Yes, I have heard of it as about half of the states have adopted PACE which authorizes local governments to establish clean energy boards to issue bonds for clean energy projects, commercial and residential and the bonds are to be paid off through a levy on the owner's property tax bill for up to



Robert Meisner

20 years. This presents a viable option for owners, including community associations, to finance projects such as solar. Unfortunately, Fannie and Freddie have undermined PACE with their concerns over the impact on their liens although, lien priority for property taxes is generally not affected. Fannie and Freddie, where a property is owned by multiple owners, requires consent by all which, of course, creates a barrier for condo associations since all owners have a legal interest in condominiums. It is a good idea that should be explored such as was the case in California, Colorado and Massachusetts.

Q: Our former management company got into a dispute with the Board of Directors and quit. On the way out of managing us, they withdrew approximately \$3,000 from our account for work that they were not authorized to do and their withdrawal was not approved. Our new management company wrote them, but to no avail. Our attorney has also advised us that the management company wanted our attorney to look that other way. What would you do?

A: While you may wish to file a police report because it sounds like the management company stole money, I would also have your attorney write a strong letter to the management company demanding a return of the funds and demanding your legal fees. You may also be entitled to three times the amount of money that the management company took because it appears to be tantamount to conversion. You should congratulate your attorney for being forthright and ethical, because, apparently, the management company thought they could get away with it because the board would not want to spend the money or because no one in the past has pursued them because of, perhaps, their unholy alliance with other attorneys.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

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

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

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

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 3-7, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

32660 Bell Vine Trl \$275,000
31342 E Rutland St \$277,000
20724 Kennoway Cir \$352,000
32500 Plumwood St \$390,000
16222 Reedmere Ave \$191,000

BIRMINGHAM

1240 Buckingham Ave \$580,000
1291 E Melton Rd \$206,000
956 Forest Ave \$431,000
831 Lakeview Ave \$725,000
1323 Ruffner Ave \$190,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

230 Chestnut Cir \$770,000
1895 Golf Ridge Dr \$320,000
1307 Knollcrest Cir # L-47 \$257,000
933 N Reading Rd \$250,000
3865 Oakhills Dr \$385,000
1034 Stratford Pl \$405,000
15 Vaughan Ridge Rd \$526,000
3052 Westman Ct \$495,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

1169 Ashover Dr \$216,000
4743 Burnley Dr \$315,000
1191 Glenpointe Ct \$270,000
1895 Golf Ridge Dr \$110,000
1351 Lake Crescent Dr \$532,000

3159 Middlebury Ln \$460,000
741 N Shady Hollow Cir \$459,000
7200 Parkhurst Dr \$400,000
3721 Thornbrier Way \$409,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

2079 Alpha St \$300,000
3110 Arbutus St \$225,000
8315 Dickert St \$650,000
2883 Lauryl Dr \$190,000
5778 Strawberry Cir \$455,000
2294 Wixom Rd \$130,000

FARMINGTON

23081 Farmington Rd \$241,000
22960 Gill Rd \$245,000
32718 Grand River Ave Unit B13 \$28,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

23110 Power Rd \$185,000
27220 Bramwell St \$160,000
25762 Castlereigh Dr \$217,000
29874 Cromby Ct \$285,000
36964 Dartmoor Dr \$130,000
37763 Emerald Forest Dr \$300,000
33454 Harlan Dr \$219,000
33914 Harlowshire St \$110,000
29159 Hemlock Ct \$215,000
29746 Highmeadow Rd \$50,000
33743 Lyncroft St \$285,000
20808 Middlebelt Rd \$85,000
24500 Orchard Lake Rd \$80,000
31641 Rocky Crst \$195,000
23122 Tuck Rd \$140,000
31276 Verona St \$250,000
30918 Westwood Ct \$340,000

27047 Winchester Ct \$540,000
HIGHLAND
2679 Bay Vista Dr \$268,000
2987 Cloverdale \$54,000
4001 Loch Dr \$170,000
322 N Tipsico Lake Rd \$399,000
1435 S Lakeview Ln \$349,000
4816 Strathcona \$210,000
4231 Taggett Lake Dr \$343,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

27237 Rackham Dr \$220,000

MILFORD

804 Bishop St \$141,000
3170 Central Blvd \$78,000
1145 Esther Ln \$312,000
456 Hickory Ridge Ct \$256,000
615 Hickory St \$182,000
173 Hill St \$135,000
871 Laurel Ln \$255,000
444 Pondview Ln \$363,000

NORTHVILLE

42149 Gladwin St \$149,000
52131 Pierce Dr \$100,000

NOVI

27533 Albert St \$304,000
44700 Bayview Dr Apt 46 \$85,000
114 Bernstadt St \$190,000
28273 Carlton Way Dr \$196,000
40517 Heatherbrook \$187,000
45437 Irvine Dr \$429,000
27074 Maxwell Ct \$301,000
24466 Nottingham Dr \$503,000
24554 Olde Orchard St \$110,000
30823 Palmer Dr \$225,000

43028 Sandstone Dr \$325,000
22697 Shadowpine Way \$157,000
39632 Squire Rd \$292,000
39741 Squire Rd \$311,000
50007 Streamwood Dr \$320,000
39752 Village Wood Cir \$85,000
47900 W 9 Mile Rd \$2,020,000
21130 Wheaton Ln \$455,000
23568 Wintergreen Cir \$471,000
44911 Yorkshire Dr \$175,000
45280 Yorkshire Dr \$308,000

SOUTH LYON

26912 Bluegrass Ct \$373,000
61112 Greenwood Dr \$76,000
61256 Greenwood Dr \$79,000
57233 Meadowcreek Cir \$474,000

TROY

1024 Paddock Ln \$252,000
1038 Paddock Ln \$245,000
850 Talon Ct \$185,000
52311 Trailwood Dr \$591,000
58553 Winningway Cir S \$87,000

SOUTHFIELD

29743 Chelmsford Rd \$119,000
25901 Lois Ln \$140,000
21225 Los Palms St \$145,000
21250 Mahon Dr \$76,000
21330 McClung Ave \$150,000
26897 Princeton Ct \$250,000
16190 Templar Cir \$108,000

WHITE LAKE

151 Danforth St \$215,000
9548 Elizabeth Lake Rd \$488,000
10776 Highland Rd \$121,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 24-28, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

461 Cherry Grove Rd \$195,000
4692 Clover Rd \$220,000
4249 Coronet Ave \$210,000
572 Filmore St \$330,000
43147 Hadley Ct \$202,000
42720 Hanford Rd \$175,000
50107 Harding St \$145,000
42544 Lilley Pointe Dr \$90,000
3415 Niagara Ave \$252,000
47659 Ormskirk Dr \$133,000
1374 Whittier Dr \$142,000

GARDEN CITY

29644 James St \$85,000

LIVONIA

33906 Angeline Ave \$230,000
36457 Ann Arbor Trl \$215,000
34810 Bridge St \$270,000
28428 Cleveland St \$98,000
14127 Denne St \$155,000
9335 Florida St \$125,000
14531 Garden St \$65,000
15400 Harrison St \$112,000
11027 Ingram St \$168,000
15580 Knolson St \$186,000
38173 Lancaster St \$238,000
16930 Mayfield St \$277,000
32657 Meadowbrook St \$142,000
11026 Middlebelt Rd \$20,000
19414 Milburn St \$195,000
28285 N Clements Cir \$110,000
33125 Oregon St \$137,000
14819 Park St \$179,000
19249 Parkville St \$158,000
29615 Ravine Dr \$210,000
19025 Sunset St \$77,000
18151 University Park Dr \$92,000

18151 University Park Dr \$93,000
17142 Westbrook Dr \$225,000
19191 Westmore St \$105,000
NORTHVILLE
19422 Cardene Ct \$195,000
16787 Carriage Way \$156,000
407 Covington Ct \$320,000
19535 Dartmouth Pl \$118,000
46773 Greenridge Dr \$365,000
16641 Lyonhurst Cir \$273,000
46656 Merion Cir \$595,000
PLYMOUTH
50155 Ann Arbor Rd W \$222,000
408 Auburn St \$225,000
41936 Brentwood Dr \$169,000
9210 Brookline Ave \$182,000
11114 Butternut Ave \$220,000
748 Coolidge St \$206,000
41171 Micol Dr \$175,000
41171 Micol Dr \$210,000
11825 Morgan Ave \$110,000
215 N Mill St \$60,000

215 N Mill St \$207,000
40148 Newport Dr \$106,000
9136 Oakcliffe Dr \$178,000
585 Simpson St \$265,000
392 W Ann Arbor Trl \$223,000
REDFORD
12053 Centralia \$27,000
12715 Leverne \$70,000
15770 Wormer \$79,000
WAYNE
33619 Forest St \$65,000
36515 Glenwood Rd \$36,000
34938 Stellwagen St \$31,000
WESTLAND
1044 Berkshire St \$89,000
32084 Glen St \$90,000
7348 Lathers St \$100,000
7369 Manor Cir \$56,000
1202 Shoemaker Dr \$43,000

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

CONTACT US AT: Phone: 800-579-7355 Fax: 313-496-4968 Email: oeads@hometownlife.com

Table with columns: Lender, NMLS#, Phone, 30 Yr. Pts., 15 Yr. Pts. Includes entries for 1st Choice Mortgage Lending, Accurate Mortgage Solutions, AFI Financial, Ameriplus Mortgage Corp., Dearborn Federal Savings Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Group One Mortgage, Zeal Credit Union.

Above Information available as of 3/27/15 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above.

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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PUBLISHERS NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination."

ADOPTION

ADOPTION: HEARTS FULL of love Arms full of hugs, security & absolute devotion await your child. Expenses paid. Please contact Kim or Ronald at 1-877-894-8929 (MI/CH).

FOR SALE - CARS/MOTORCYCLES/ATVs/SNOWMOBILES

CORVETTES WANTED 1988-1972 Any Condition! Courteous, Fast, Professional Buyer in the Corvette Business for 26 years. Licensed and Bonded. Vince Conn. Corvette vconn@corvette.com 1-800-850-3866 (MI/CH)

FOR SALE - MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00 MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own handmill. Cut lumber any dimension. In Stock, ready to ship! FREE INFO DVD. www.homedesawmills.com 1-800-579-7355 Ext. 300N (MI/CH)

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.DriveForRed.com (MI/CH)

25 DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED!

NEEDED! Become a driver for Stevens Transport! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! New Drivers earn \$800+ per week! PAID CDL TRAINING! Stevens covers all costs! 1-888-528-8884 drive4stevens.com (MI/CH)

TRUCK DRIVERS GTI - NOW HIRING!

Top Pay for CDL A Drivers! Day Van or Reeler you choose! Frequent time at home. Well appointed trucks. EOE. 866-950-4382 GordonCareers.com (MI/CH)

NEED CLASS A CDL TRAINING?

Start a CAREER in trucking today! Swift Academies offer PTDI certified courses and offer "Best-In-Class" training. • New Academy Classes Weekly •

NO MONEY DOWN or Credit Check

Certified Mentors Ready and Available • Paid (While Training With Mentors) • Regional and Dedicated Opportunities • Great Career Path • Excellent Benefits Package • Please Call: (520) 314-9143 (MI/CH)

DRIVERS: NEED CDL A OR B.

To relocate vehicles from local body plants to various locations throughout US. -No forced dispatch -Call to speak with a recruiter at 1-800-501-3783 (MI/CH)

CAN YOU DIG IT? Heavy Equipment Operator Career!

Receive Hands-On Training And National Certifications Operating Bulldozers Backhoes & Excavators Lifetime Job Placement. Veteran Benefits Eligible! 1-866-526-7778 (MI/CH)

\$1,000/WK GUARANTEED!

Dedicated jobs for Class "A" CDL in Michigan. Great Home Time! 2015 Trucks. Full benefits. Industry Leading Lease program. Hrs/week 888-514-6005 www.drive4mi.com (MI/CH)

INSTRUCTION, SCHOOLS

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 (MI/CH)

AVIATION GRADS WORK WITH JETBLUE

Bying, NASA, others start here hands on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 1-877-891-2281 (MI/CH)

MISCELLANEOUS

THIS CLASSIFIED SPOT FOR SALE. ADVERTISE your EVENT. PRODUCT or SERVICE! An applicant in more than 130 Michigan newspapers! Only \$299/week. To place call 800-227-7636 (MI/CH)

OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR

INOGEN ONE - Regain Independence. Enjoy Greater Mobility! NO more tanks! 110lb. Portable Long Lasting Battery. Try It Risk Free! For Cash Buyers Call 800-525-9132 (MI/CH)

PERSONALS

Legal & Accepting

NOTICE OF BIDS The City of Southfield will receive proposals for the following (items) until the time and date indicated. Roof and Fascia Replacement, April 17, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m., Local Time with a mandatory pre-bid conference April 7, 2015 @ 10:00 am.

Card of Thanks

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now & forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. Saint Jude worker of miracles pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day, by the ninth day your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised. JA

PETS

Dogs



ENHANCE YOUR AD WITH A PHOTO

You can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run, under the classification you choose. The cost for the photo will be \$10, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used.

HAVANESE PUPS - beautiful quality, hypo-allergenic, home raised.

313.999.6447

BUY & SELL

Absolutely Free

Free Firewood. You cut. 248-437-4258 call after 4pm.

Estates Sales

UNEARTHED TREASURES ESTATE SALES • Complete Home Liquidations • Residential & Commercial • Clean Out Services 734-386-0262 unearthedtreasuresstatesales@gmail.com

Garage/Moving Sales

Garage Sale Cruisin' is Coming! It's starting to warm up, which means everyone will be looking for GARAGE SALES!!

Household Goods

SOFA \$70 Chest of drawers \$70 Dresser w/mirror \$70 tempurpedic twin bed, Lowery organ Cheap! 734-453-7140

Appliances

Kenmore Washer and Gas Dryer, 4 years. \$350 obo. 313-682-9654

Bargain Buys

If you're selling an item for \$100 or less RUN YOUR AD UNDER BARGAIN BUY CLASS 7200 AT A SPECIAL RATE Michigan.com Observer & Eccentric Call 800-579-7355

Lawn Garden & Snow Equip

2005 John Deere 6405, \$14,000, cab air & heat, 4X4, factory loader, contact me at shahaded@gmail.com or call (810) 644-6705

Sporting Goods

Set of womens golf clubs. Lady Grand Hawk 5-PW, 3.4 Hybrid Driver, 5.7.9. All graphite shafts. Bag included. \$300.00. (248) 496-8046

Wanted to Buy

WANTED: New, Used, Old Fishing Tackle & Related Items. Successful Deer Hunter Patches. Call Bill: (734) 890-1047

ACCESSIBLE Wheel Chair Vans Bought and Sold

248-624-1533

Sports Utility

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

BUICK ENCLAVE CX 2012

FWD, ABS, air, Options galore! \$13,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

DISCOVER The Road to Success

in the Observer & Eccentric classifieds To advertise, call: 800-579-7355

WHEELS

Airplanes

SELL YOUR CAR FOR ONLY \$35.00!

Are you looking to sell your used vehicle and would like to reach over 140,000 potential buyers and have it a nationwide website to even widen the opportunity of selling it?

Then MICHIGAN.COM Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Media is the place to advertise it!

Package Includes: • Ad in all 13 community newspapers for 2 weeks • 14 days on cars.com - with enhanced features! You can now add the photo to the ad on cars.com! • Extra \$5 add a photo to be included in print ad.

*4 line minimum (\$2.00 for each additional line)

Trucks for Sale

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

DODGE RAM 2012

4x4, crew cab, 5.7Hr box ST, air, ABS, privacy glass. \$25,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC SIERRA 2012

Crew cab, short box, 4x4, SLE, auto, 50K miles \$24,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CHEVY 2012 - Silverado

1500 LT, ext cab, 2WD, red, exc cond., 5.3 L, V8 6 spd auto, HD trk pkg, 20" chrome whls, 25k mi., \$24,000 SOLD

Mini-Vans

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY

2010 4 dr. wagon Touring, 4 whl ABS, Solar glass, 1 yr FREE maint. limited time offer \$11,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Vans

CTS 2009 3.6 V6, AWD Options galore! \$14,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Cadillac

Cadillac 1993 Eldorado 95k mi., 2nd owner, beautiful crimson pearl rust free exterior, still rides like new, \$2500 obo. 313-917-1629

Chevrolet

2008 IMPALA LT-Silver, 76K Mi., 3.5 L, 6 Cyl, Flex fuel, very good cond. \$7,500 Call Ron 734-756-1669

O&E Media Classifieds

Just a quick call away... 800-579-7355

Sports Utility

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM 2012 FWD, leather, heated seats, Navigation System, \$25,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CADILLAC ESCALADE 2011 AWD

Luxury, Leather, Reclining rear seats, \$40,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CHEVY TRAVERSE 2012

FWD LT w/LT, driver info system, air, parking sensors, \$20,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

FORD EXPLORER 2012

FWD, 4 door, XLT rear parking sensor \$21,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC ACADIA 2011

AWD, 4 dr., SLE1, leather, rear view camera, loaded! \$18,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC ACADIA 2012

AWD, 4 dr., Denali, Rear view camera & monitor \$27,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC TERRAIN 2011

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

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC TERRAIN 2012

FWD, 4 dr SLE-1, 42K miles, leather, rear view camera, \$19,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC YUKON 2012

AWD, 4 door, 1500 Denali, leather, navigation system, \$37,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

SCION IC 2009

2 door hatchback Power sunroof, 1 owner. \$10,595 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Sports & Imported

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

SCION IC 2009

2 door hatchback Power sunroof, 1 owner. \$10,595 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Acura

ACURA '98 - 3.0 CL Reliable Transportation, Loaded, Remote Start, Dark Blue, Very Good Condition, Family Owned, \$1750. Hurry! Westland Sold

Buick

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

REGAL 2014

Premium, FWD, 1500 miles, rear view camera & monitor \$24,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

VERANO 2014

1,778 miles, rear camera, crumple zones, 5 wheel cont. \$18,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

VERANO 2014

Driver info system, Bluetooth, rear view monitor in dash Lots more! \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Cadillac

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Jeep

LIBERTY 2012

4x4, 4WD, 4dr Sport, 1 owner, 31K miles \$18,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Pontiac

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

G6 2007

2 dr convertible GT Leather, air, power top \$13,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Toyota

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CAMRY 2009

4 dr Sedan, I4 Auto LE (Natl), crumple zone, air, leather. \$8995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CAMRY 2009

4 dr. sedan, I4 auto, LE (Natl), leather, sunroof. \$6995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Cash in with Classifieds

800-579-SELL

Chevrolet

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

COBALT 2008 2 Door Coupe Sport, ABS, Air, Sunroof, \$8,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

MALIBU 2014

1LT, 1400 miles, 1 owner, loaded. Just like new except the price! \$18,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

MALIBU LS 2013

24K miles, Bluetooth 1 owner, ABS \$15,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Ford

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

MUSTANG 2012

2 dr Coupe GT Rear spoiler, air, black. \$24,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC SIERRA 1500 2013

Ext. cab, standard box, 4x4 SLE, 26K miles, air, roll stability. \$26,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Honda

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CIVIC 2013

Ex-L Auto Sedan w/inva. Leather, moonroof. \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Kia

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

RIO 2013

4 dr sedan, auto EX, ABS, MP3 p/yer, lots of extras! \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

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Helping YOU reach your GOAL



Whether you want to get fit or get organized—save money doing it with an O&E Media classified ad!

Our classifieds **WORKOUT!**

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA
hometownlife.com A GANNETT COMPANY

800-579-7355

Challenging fun for ALL ages



Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Detained
- 5 — Wiedersehen
- 8 Tinned meat
- 12 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
- 13 My mind — blank
- 14 Parking lot sight
- 15 Good, for Pedro
- 16 Result in (3 wds.)
- 18 Married a car
- 20 Worldwide org.
- 21 Beauty pack
- 22 Burns with steam
- 26 Wing it (hyph.)
- 29 Wood for floors
- 30 Goddess of dawn
- 31 — -a-brac
- 32 Bear —
- 33 Ice cream unit
- 34 Woosnam of golf

DOWN

- 35 Thole filler
- 36 Bouquet holders
- 37 Fine-tunes
- 39 Oxygen source
- 40 Safety-testing org.
- 41 Applause
- 45 Game plan
- 49 Undulating
- 50 Tooth anchor
- 51 Tire pressure meas.
- 52 Historical periods
- 53 Toshiba rival
- 54 Sz. option
- 55 Knights of —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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- 8 Health-spa amenity
- 9 Kind of tent
- 10 ABA member
- 11 Alley Oop's kingdom
- 17 Canvasback
- 19 Dartboard locale
- 22 Slump
- 23 Aloha tokens
- 24 Cooked enough
- 25 Fast fliers of yore
- 26 Not much (2 wds.)
- 27 Dead heat
- 28 Queue
- 29 Not just mine
- 32 Orders for dinner
- 33 In some degree
- 35 Tex. neighbor
- 36 Itinerary word
- 38 Daddy's sis
- 39 Stay away from
- 41 River to the Seine
- 42 "Othello" heavy
- 43 In charge of
- 44 Big Board letters
- 45 AARP members
- 46 Cote murmur
- 47 Untold centuries
- 48 Tach reading

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
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18				19			20				
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37			38				39				
			40			41			42	43	44
45	46	47			48			49			
50					51			52			
53					54			55			

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

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!

CHEER WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ACCURACY
- AERIAL
- ARABESQUE
- ATTACK
- AWESOME
- BASE
- BLADES
- BRACE
- CAPTAIN
- CARTWHEEL
- CATCHER
- CHEER
- CRADLE
- CROWD
- CUPIE
- DISMOUNT
- DRILL
- DROP
- ENTRANCE
- FACIALS
- FLYER
- HANDSPRING
- INVERTED
- KICK
- LAYOUT
- PARTNER
- PIKE
- POMPOD
- PYRAMID
- REBOUND
- SQUAD
- STUNT
- TOSS
- TUCK
- TUMBLING
- WALKOVER

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

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

Scott Martin Band in Canton releases its first CD

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Scott Martin had just finished his second acoustic album in 2007, when he decided to turn a solo music career into a team effort.

"I needed a band, so I recruited some fellows," said Martin, a singer-songwriter who plays guitar and harmonica.

Eight years and a few personnel changes later, the Scott Martin Band has released its first CD, *Play*. And although the band carries Martin's name, the Canton resident stresses the group truly is an ensemble act.

"Each guy brings to the table something, not necessarily musical, although that is first and foremost," said Martin, who writes original songs in addition to booking gigs.

Drummer Tony Archer came up with the album's name. Steven Haack, bass guitarist, is Martin's "right hand man," and longtime friend. David Roof, the band's newest member, recorded the album at his studio, Rooftop Recording in Grand Blanc.

"Steve suggested it should be a full band effort. It took us seven months to record the album. The four guys currently in the band play on every cut. There are no additional musicians."

10-song CD

Nine of the songs are originals, penned by Martin. *Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen, also on the album, is among the many cover songs, including rock, alternative and alternative country, that the band performs at venues such as Sean O'Callaghan's and Plymouth Roc, both in Plymouth.

"We had to get licensing for the song. I thought it was a hoot because I had to write a check to Bruce Springsteen. It was kind of a fun process. I took a picture with my cell



The Scott Martin Band, Scott Martin (left), David Roof, Steven Haack and Tony Archer, recently released its first CD.

SUBMITTED

phone of the check — which he hasn't cashed yet."

The CD is available at the band's shows and it can be downloaded online from CD Baby and iTunes.

Upcoming shows include Sean O'Callaghan's Saturday, April 11, and B Boomers Sports Bar & Grille in Allen Park, Friday, April 24. The band will be back at Plymouth Roc on May 29. Scott Martin Band also has played at several Backyard Beats summer concerts in Canton and will perform Saturday, June 20, at Canton Liberty Fest.

"I don't mind playing covers. I don't like playing the same covers all the cover bands play. We try to be really

picky and tasteful about what we play cover-wise. We play everything from Stevie Wonder to Bruno Mars, Goo Goo Dolls to Tim McGraw. We try to be diverse."

Young musician

Martin, who graduated from Wayne Memorial High School, grew up in a musical family in Westland. His mother played piano and his grandfather played accordion and harmonica.

"I was blessed with music nonstop in our household from the earliest of my memories ... Buddy Holly, Elvis, Fats Domino. My late father played some guitar but always had music on," he said. "We shared

that love of all things musical throughout the house.

"I have played music one way or another since I was in single digits — 8 or 9. The song writing and singing and guitar playing started in my teens."

Martin took drum lessons and played percussion in junior high and high school bands. He also sang in the high school choir and played in local rock bands.

"It was after high school I picked up the guitar." He played acoustic solo shows before forming the band.

Martin, who is married and the father of two grown children, also plays drums in a rockabilly band, Nobody's Business. He said he enjoys

the musical and social aspects of performing but never considered a financially viable career. He has worked for Ford Motor Co. as a group leader at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne for 27 years. Two other band members work nonmusical day jobs. Only Roof is involved in music full time.

Martin said he feels blessed the band continues to book gigs at local venues.

"I hope we sell a lot of CDs and that people come to our shows and recognize the songs."

Visit the band's page on Facebook and at reverbnation.com/scottmartinband.



Dueling piano players take flying leaps at their keyboards.

Dueling Pianos International to film concert in Canton

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Twelve pianists will take the stage two at a time to mix piano skills, vocals, fast-paced comedy, and sing-alongs Saturday, April 4, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The entertainment concept, known as dueling pianos, pairs two pianists in an interactive concert.

"There is a lot of audience participation. The audience is just as much a part of the show as the entertainers are," said Jason Scarcelli, executive director of Lorio-Ross Sterling Entertainment, Royal Oak, which is bringing Dueling Pianos International to the stage.

"There is a sing-along. And it's not to be confused with a *Kumbaya* moment around the campfire. It's a sing-along in that the audience is encouraged to shout out the hook to

their favorite songs."

But that's not all. The performers will recruit willing audience members to join them on stage throughout the show.

"We want to stress the word, volunteer," Scarcelli added.

The show is at 7 p.m. at the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Tickets are \$15, available by calling 734-394-5300. Buy online through April 2 at cantonvillagetheater.org and pay \$13.

Private, public shows

The performers will include four Michigan-based musicians and eight others from across the country. They're among 273 pianists on the Dueling Pianos International roster who perform at corporate functions and theatrical events worldwide. Dueling Pianos International also staffs piano bars such as 526 Main, in Royal Oak.

"This will be a little differ-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A dueling piano player mixes comedy and musicianship during his act. Twelve dueling pianists will perform Saturday, April 4, at the Village Theater in Canton.



An Elton John impersonator will be among the dueling pianists who will perform Saturday, April 4, in Canton.

ent than seeing it in a bar. In a bar, guests would be going in

and out of the show, mingling with each other. This is almost like a concert because the

audience won't have any distractions," Scarcelli said. "We'll be featuring a lot of talent, as opposed to strictly sing-alongs."

"These entertainers are the best dueling piano players in the country. Before they are piano players, before they are singers, they are entertainers."

The musicians will include Bill Connors who impersonates Elton John, and Marshall Charloff as Prince. The concert will be filmed to create a promotional piece for Dueling Pianos International. Scarcelli hopes the film will be used in a reality-style television series set to air next year.

"The more enthusiastic the audience is, the more they are screaming and shouting and singing along to the hooks and laughing, the better chances are (the film) will augment the reality series."

For more about Dueling Pianos International, visit duelingpianoshow.com.



CREATE AN EGGS-TRAORDINARY EASTER FEAST

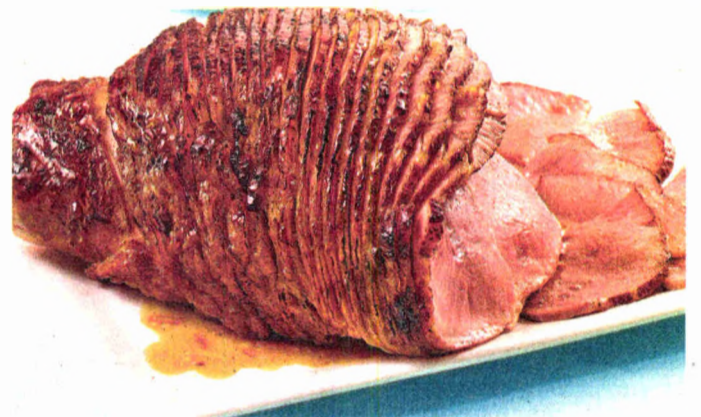
Use food color to create custom egg dyes you won't find in a kit. Visit McCormick.com for seasonal color combinations.

Brighten your Easter feast with unique flavor twists to refresh traditional dishes like ham and deviled eggs. And don't forget the decorations — it's easy to create vibrant centerpieces using eggs dyed in the hottest seasonal shades.

"We've developed easy tips to dress up your table, from the ham to the centerpiece," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens. "An orange glaze can bring new flavor to the classic ham, while food color can be used to make a variety of spring-inspired egg dyes to feature in Easter table décor."

For more Easter dinner recipes and egg dyeing ideas, check out www.McCormick.com and visit McCormick Spice on Facebook and Pinterest.

Courtesy of Family Features



ORANGE GLAZED HAM

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour 45 minutes
Servings: 24

1 bone-in spiral-cut ham, about 10 pounds
1 cup orange marmalade
1 teaspoon mustard, ground
½ teaspoon garlic powder
¼ teaspoon black pepper, ground
¼ teaspoon cloves, ground

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place ham on side in roasting pan. Mix marmalade and spices in small bowl until well blended. Brush ½ marmalade mixture over ham, gently separating slices so mixture can reach middle of ham. Cover loosely with foil. Bake 1 hour, basting occasionally with pan drippings. Remove foil. Brush with remaining marmalade mixture. Bake 45 minutes longer. Serve ham with pan drippings.



SMOKY DEVILED EGGS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6

6 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
¼ cup mayonnaise
½ teaspoon McCormick Mustard, Ground
¼ teaspoon paprika, smoked
¼ teaspoon Lawry's Seasoned Salt
2 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled

Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks; place in small bowl. Mash yolks with fork or potato masher. Stir in mayonnaise, mustard, smoked paprika and seasoned salt until smooth and creamy. Spoon or pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve.

Tip: Deviled eggs are a snap to customize once you create the base of egg yolks, mayonnaise and ground mustard. Try adding chili powder, red pepper and cumin for a Southwest variation or dill weed and parsley for a dill and mustard version.



EASY LEMON DAISY CUPCAKES

Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 18

1 package (2-layer size) white cake mix
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons pure lemon extract, divided
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
¼ cup (½ stick) butter, softened
2 tablespoons sour cream
1 package (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar
10 drops McCormick Yellow Food Color
18 large marshmallows

Decorating sugar
Jelly beans
Green sprinkles

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, adding 1 tablespoon of lemon extract. Spoon into 18 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup ¾ full. Bake as directed for cupcakes. Cool cupcakes on wire rack. For frosting, beat cream cheese, butter, sour cream and remaining 2 tablespoons lemon extract in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Stir in food color until evenly tinted. Frost cooled cupcakes.

To decorate cupcakes, cut each marshmallow crosswise into 5 slices. Sprinkle 1 side of each marshmallow slice with decorating sugar. Arrange 5 marshmallow petals on top of each cupcake to resemble daisy, pressing marshmallows into frosting. Place jelly beans in center of petals. Garnish with sprinkles.