

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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STEAMPUNK MEETS CLAY

COMMUNITY LIFE, B7

Board sinks township water study

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plans for a study to determine whether Plymouth Township has the infrastructure capacity to sell water and sewer services to a development in Salem Township were abandoned late Thursday.

A 6-0 township Board of Trustees vote Thursday night, during a special meeting, re-

versed the Nov. 17 resolution that had approved the feasibility study. Board members said new information about the Salem project had given them second thoughts.

The planned study had prompted a backlash among Plymouth Township residents, who feared development in the township's neighbor to the west would hurt their property values, increase traffic and

reduce water pressure. Some at Thursday's meeting held placards that read, "Stop the Salem Twp Water & Sewer Scam."

Richard Beers, who lives on the township's west side, said the board had listened to residents.

"I think it's a prudent thing to do. I'm happy with the decision," Beers, who did not attend the meeting, said Friday.

The move won't necessarily stop the development, Beers said, but the township won't have made development easier.

Beers said he was concerned not just with the development's potential impact on water and sewer infrastructure, but also about what it would do to roads and public safety. Salem Township has no police department and its fire-

fighters are on call and not full time.

Leverage in doubt

Board members who favored the study last month said the ability to sell utilities would give the township a say over the size of the planned mixed-use development, called Salem Springs, in the area of

See WATER, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville City Fire Department Capt. Jim Davison with the department's new aerial bucket truck. Firefighters will be training on the truck in both Plymouth and Northville.

NEW PLYMOUTH, NORTHVILLE FIRE TRUCK ON THE SCENE

Plymouth officials welcomed the Northville City Fire Department's new aerial bucket truck Tuesday.

The \$807,423 truck, a 2015 Rosenbauer Cobra with a boom that extends up to 101 feet, was a joint purchase between the cities of Plymouth and Northville. The NCFD has been providing firefighting and emergency medical service in Plymouth since the beginning of 2012.

The truck, a demonstrator model, replaces a 35-year-old aerial truck. It will be based in Plymouth, but City Manager Paul Sincock said firefighters will be training on it in both communities.

The truck came from the

See TRUCK, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new Rosenbauer Cobra aerial bucket truck travels down Church Street with lights and siren on.

Ex-airport executive charged with retirement ripoff

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A retired Wayne County Airport Authority executive from Plymouth Township is charged with larceny in what the prosecutor says was a ripoff of the county's retirement system.

Daniel O. Kerber was arraigned Thursday on a charge of larceny by false pretenses over \$100,000, plus a charge of larceny by conversion over \$20,000. His lawyer, Jim Akhtar, entered a not-guilty plea on his behalf, and 35th District Judge Ron Lowe released Kerber on a personal bond. He was required to surrender his passport.

According to Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Kerber retired Sept. 1, 2009, as the airport authority's chief operating officer. He had changed his retirement plan, just weeks before, from a defined-contribution system to a traditional pension plan, Worthy said in a press release.

The retirement plan switch required Kerber to transfer the money in his defined contribution account, \$340,166, managed by Prudential, into the pension system. But according to Worthy, Kerber contacted Prudential in April 2011 for the defined contribution money and a check for more than \$277,000 — taxes had been taken out — was deposited in his credit union account a few days later.

The request had been approved by a retirement system employee, Worthy said. The error was discovered in April of this year and the information turned over to detectives in the prosecutor's office.

Kerber had been receiving a pension of \$11,337 a month since retiring, Worthy said.

"The alleged facts in this case will show that the defendant's greed allowed him to net hundreds of thousands of dollars he was not entitled to, all while he received over \$11,000 a month in a pension from the county," Worthy said.

Akhtar, his attorney, said Friday that Kerber denies the charges and will fight them. He said he has advised his client not to speak to the media.

Kerber is scheduled for a preliminary hearing in district court Monday, Dec. 28.

He faces a maximum prison sentence of 30 years if convicted of both larceny charges.

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

Terrorism charges for Canton man who tweeted 'killing kids'

Abby Welsh and Lisa Roose-Church
Michigan.com

The Livingston County prosecutor's office has authorized terrorism charges against a Canton Township man who tweeted on Howell Public Schools' account a threat about "killing kids."

Prosecutor William Vailiencourt said he authorized charges Thursday against Scott Richard Parker for four counts of making a threat of terrorism for threats communicated Wednesday via Twitter involving four Howell-area schools. He did not name the Howell schools.

Arraignment for Parker, 21,

who was arrested Thursday afternoon, was expected Friday in 53rd District Court in Howell. He faces up to 20 years in prison if he is convicted as charged.

Howell Police Chief George Basar said the Canton man made a "non-specific threat about killing kids" on the Howell Public Schools' Twitter

account, @HowellMISchools, around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

"He has some diminished (mental) capacity," Basar said. "He never had the means or capacity to carry it out. ... He has no access to any weapons or transportation. His physical limitations are such that he

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Baseline Folk Society celebrates the holidays

The Baseline Folk Society invites the public to celebrate the holidays with musical cheer at a concert at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19, at the The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road.

Donations are \$5 at the door or annual memberships are available.

Alex and Maggie Zakim are hosts this month. They will perform a couple of tunes, with banjo and guitar. At 8 p.m., the Zakims will introduce the fea-

tured guest, Pat & Geff, who involve the audience and perform some remarkable traditional and original tunes.

According to their Facebook page, "Pat O'Sullivan & Geff Phillips are two longtime musicians and friends who combine their original songs, unique cover song arrangements and humor to entertain audiences and themselves."

Open mic performers will be on-stage 7-7:50 p.m. Sign-up for open mic is 6:15-6:40 p.m.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fire Chief Steve Ott (right), with Plymouth City Commissioner Colleen Pobur and Northville Mayor Ken Roth, check out the new fire truck shortly after it arrived Tuesday in Plymouth.

TRUCK

Continued from Page A1

Rosenbauer facility in South Dakota, where some equipment extras

included in the purchase had been added and it had been detailed and inspected.

The purchase will be shared between Northville and Plymouth. It will be paid for on a split

based on annual run volume between the two cities. At this point, the cost will be split, with the city of Plymouth paying 58 percent and the city of Northville paying 42 percent, according to

Northville and Plymouth officials.

In the next few weeks, residents will see firefighters training and using the new truck to get a feel of how to operate it.

WATER

Continued from Page A1

M-14 between Napier and Gotfredson.

But Clerk Nancy Conzelman said Thursday that, absent a so-called 425 Agreement, a pact between communities that allows them to share tax revenues resulting from new development, Plymouth Township's leverage would be limited.

"I can't see where there's an opportunity to obtain the type of leverage to achieve the goal we want to achieve," she said.

Supervisor Shannon Price said Salem Supervisor Gary Whittaker told him he was not interested in a 425 Agreement.

Board members were also concerned about the number of homes planned for Salem Springs. The developer, Schostak Brothers & Co., has approval from Salem officials for up to 558 housing units on a site of about 356 acres.

"They just want to put as many places in there as possible. I don't buy it," Treasurer Ron Edwards said. Edwards said that, at the time the study was approved, he understood the development would have fewer than 400 homes.

Price said Friday that changes sought recently by Salem in the intergovernmental agreement that was the basis for the feasibility study convinced him to reverse his vote.

Utility alternatives

Whittaker said Friday that Salem Springs be developed regardless, with water purchased from Detroit and sewage treatment services from the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority. He expressed disappointment in the board's decision.

"It's in Plymouth's interest to have a say-so in what goes across the street," Whittaker said. "I just think we need to do what's right for both communities."

Also voting to scrap the feasibility study were Trustee Bob Doroshe-witz, who had led opposition to it at the Nov. 17 meeting, and Trustees Chuck Curmi and Mike Kelly. Trustee Steve Mann was absent; Mann had abstained from the

Nov. 17 vote because his employer, the Miller Canfield law firm, represents Salem Township on the issue.

The study by the township's engineering firm, Wade Trim, was to have been paid for by the developer.

Following the meeting, study opponents characterized the board's reversal as a political win, saying board members were looking warily at public opinion and next year's board election.

Price said that was not the case.

"We should always be trying to look out for our residents and I'm not going to change doing that," he said Friday.

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

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Email: jmaliszews@michigan.com

Sports: Tim Smith
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Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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This Hanukkah menorah was among the lighted holiday displays Thursday evening in Kellogg Park.

MATT JACHMAN

Glenn senior speaks at national conference

John Glenn High School senior Brandon Allen was selected to speak at the national TED Youth Conference in New York last month. Allen is part of the Eastern Michigan University Bright Futures program at John Glenn.

Through this program, he did a TED-ED Talk two years ago titled "Debunking the Black Male Stereotype." He



Allen

was selected from students around the world to present his platform at the national TED Youth Conference. He spoke in front of a few thousand teens and his

presentation was broadcast around the world.

The Eastern Michigan University Bright Futures program facilitated the TED-ED Club at John Glenn High School. TED-ED is a way to celebrate the ideas of students around the world. Students, ages 8-18, can identify and research ideas that matter to them the most. They work on their storytelling and communication skills. Then they frame their idea and present it in a TED talk. The talks are uploaded to the TED-ED YouTube channel and some, like Allen's, are selected to be featured on the TED-ED website.

More than 1,000 students in more than 20 countries participate in TED-ED Clubs.

In addition to public speaking, Allen currently holds a state office in DECCA, is a founding member of the Male African American Scholars group, participates in the Champions of John Glenn mentoring program, has a 3.5 career grade-point average, is taking three Advanced Placement classes and would like to attend Syracuse University in New York to study broadcast journalism.

Christmas cheer lives in Plymouth

The temperature was unseasonably warm, but the spirit was definitely Christmas-like Thursday evening in downtown Plymouth.

The second annual Christmas in Plymouth event drew hundreds of people downtown for shopping specials, live music, horse and carriage rides and a community sing-along.

The town was bathed in a the glow of holiday lights, from the trees in the Main Street boulevard to holiday displays in Kellogg Park to the park's decorated evergreen trees.

Performers included the Cherry Hill Singers, a brass ensemble from Schoolcraft College and the Evenin' Gentlemen Barbershop Quartet. In addition, the Michigan Philharmonic appeared at the Penn Theatre for a holiday pops concert, plus there was a sing-along at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.



A brass ensemble from Schoolcraft College drew a crowd in front of Sun & Snow at Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail.

MATT JACHMAN

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P-CEP girls shine in web design completion



From left are teacher John Magoulick, students Nicole Kuang, Claudia Chen, Jasmine Pearson and Caroline Scheuing, teacher Karen Hanchett and student Joselyn Schlosser.

Five P-CEP students were honored Dec. 5 at the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation's 10th annual Website Design Completion for Michigan Girls.

Each girl designed a five-page website based on this year's theme, "Food, Glorious Food." The contest was open to high school girls in Michigan in two categories — beginner and advanced.

More than 165 entries were submitted and the top 12 websites in each category were honored as finalists. Cash prizes of up to \$750 were awarded with each category having six prize winners. The first-place winner in the advanced category was offered a paid internship at Comerica Bank during summer 2016.

The girls were either enrolled in the web design class at P-CEP taught by Plymouth High School teacher Karen Hanchett or in the GET IT

Club, which is sponsored by Canton High School teacher John Magoulick.

Finalists in the beginning category were Claudia Chen of Salem High School and Nicole Kuang, Caroline Scheuing and Joselyn Schlosser of Canton High School. Scheuing took home third-place earning a check of \$200 and Schlosser earned an honorable mention along with a check of \$50. Jasmine Pearson of Plymouth High School was a finalist in the advanced category. Chen won an Amazon gift card in a drawing.

Michigan Council of Women in Technology sponsors the event and also the GET IT Club at PCEP. The council is also offering scholarship opportunities to senior girls who plan to enroll in an Information Technology major. The finalists' website can be seen at <http://www.mcwtwebdesign4girls.net/2015-finalists/>.

Salem graphics student's poster wins auto show contest

Graphics student wins

Plymouth High School sophomore Smriti Bala took the first-place prize for the 10th-grade category for the North American International Auto Show Poster Contest. This contest is sponsored by the Detroit Auto Dealers Association. The judges picked 16 winners out of about 700-plus entries.

For her accomplishment, Bala will receive a check for \$500 and a framed certificate. Her poster will also be showcased at North American International Auto Show.

Hour of code

This past week, the entire school of South Canton Scholars in Canton joined the nationwide initiative, "The Hour of Code" during Computer Science Education week. Students participated in tutorials and

activities that gave them the opportunity to take part and learn about technology that is changing our world.

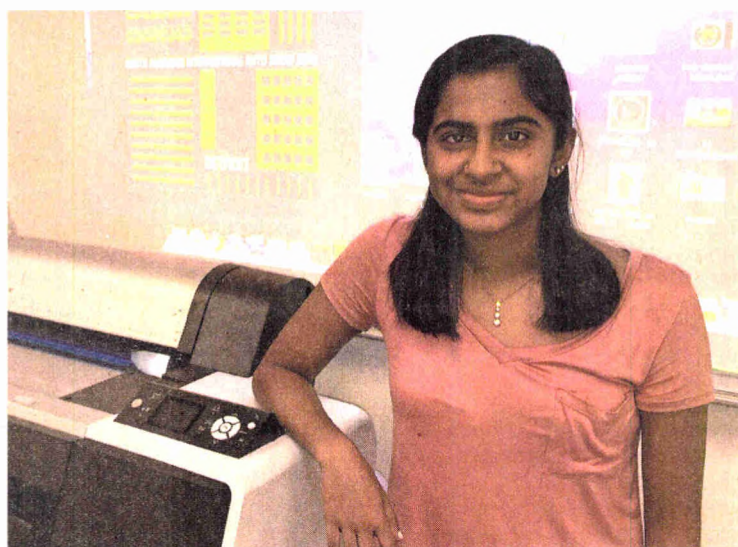
These sessions will help nurture creativity and problem-solving skills and prepare SCS students for any future career.

Named elite

Plymouth-Canton High School has been named to the 2016 Elite 50, an annual selection of the top 50 secondary school hospitality programs in the nation.

The Elite 50 list recognizes high schools, as well as career and technical centers, that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in hospitality education.

These schools set the standard for secondary school training in culinary arts, baking and pastry arts and/or hospitality management. These



Winning Salem sophomore Smriti Bala.

elite programs are also marked by strong enrollment and a dedication to community

outreach. Many of this year's Elite 50 programs have won state and national competitions



This is Smriti Bala's winning poster that will be showcased during the North American International Auto Show.

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The National Center for Hospitality Studies at Sullivan University oversees the selection process for the Elite 50 list.

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Westland woman honored for reaching her employment goals

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

As she was completing her degree in paralegal studies with a 3.51 GPA, Dawn Benbow started interviewing with law firms to be accepted for a required internship.

"For the blind and visually impaired, the employment rate is very low," said Benbow, who was born legally blind and lost her remaining vision at 9 due to a detached retina. "It's very difficult. It's supposed to be equal, but too many employers see the disability but not the abilities the person has."

Eventually, Benbow did get hired for her internship and then continued to work as a paralegal for Plymouth attorney David Helm for five months until a temporary layoff.

"When I interviewed for the internship, he was the only person who didn't question if I could do the work," Benbow said. "He said since I was in my last semester of

school, he assumed I wouldn't have applied if I couldn't do the work."

Benbow was recently honored by the state Bureau of Services for Blind Persons for being exemplary in achieving her goals for employment.

Graduating from Madonna University in May, Benbow earned her degree in paralegal studies. She had started working with the BSBP in 2006 and received skills of blindness at Visually Impaired Services, which helped her to be independent.

Financial support — as well as specialized equipment, counseling and guidance from BSBP — helped Benbow complete her education and find employment.

"My sister-in-law is a paralegal. I've always been interested in the law and that kind of stuff," Benbow said. "I asked her if there was a lot of stuff online so I could do it strictly from the computer. She said yes."

Today even research libraries are online, Benbow noted, making them fully accessible to the blind.

Married to Stuart, a carpenter and musician, Benbow had largely been a stay-at-home mom for son Devon, 19, who graduated from Livonia Franklin High School earlier this year, and daughter Bridget, 13, an eighth-grader at Emerson Middle School.

A 1995 Franklin graduate, Benbow was aware that she had been nominated for the award — her counselor had called to get some additional information.

"We are pleased to celebrate the success of our Achievement Honor Roll winners who have had a tremendous and unique impact on our state's blind community," BSBP Director Ed Rodgers said. "The BSBP looks forward to working with consumers and our partners to provide a wide range of quality services that will help ensure that blind individ-

uals have the skills needed to achieve active employability and independence."

When not working as a paralegal, Benbow works at a business, Winter Warm Knits, she started earlier this year with help from her husband.

"I taught myself to knit 14 years ago, when I was pregnant, so I could make things for my daughter. I had crocheted before that," Benbow said. "My husband had work issues and I had to bring more income. That's why I went back to school. I knitted going to classes and my internship. It's going better than I expected."

Benbow has a website, winterwarmknits.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland resident Dawn Benbow knits with her service dog, Ava, by her side. Ava has been with Benbow, who is blind, since July.

irogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Canton Club 55+ celebrates the holidays

Get into the holiday spirit by attending the Canton Club 55+ annual holiday celebration. Area residents are invited to the Summit on the Park's Grand Ballroom from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, for a fabulous luncheon.

This special event will include prizes, entertainment and, of course, a delicious holiday meal prepared by Katherine's Catering at the Summit. Sounds of the season will be provided by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Choir.

Register for all this holiday fun at the Summit Front Desk or the

Canton Club 55+. Ticket prices are \$19 for residents and \$24 for non-residents. Participants are asked to register by Dec. 14. Invited guests (55 and under) are also welcome to register.

Make wonderful holiday memories at this festive luncheon while you catch up and spend time with friends, enjoy delectable food and win great prizes! No refunds will be issued for cancellations made within 24 hours of the event. This year's raffle will benefit Canton Goodfellows' "No Child Without a Christmas."

Canton Leisure Ser-

vices offers a large variety of trips, classes and events through its Club 55+. Residents 55 and older are served by a variety of social, enrichment and service-based programs, classes and special events, as well as extensive informational resources and referral services.

The Canton Club 55+ Senior Center can be found in the Parkview Room of the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

For more information about this holiday celebration, call 734/394-5485 or go to www.summitonthepark.org.

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You can send your letter to us anytime. But be sure it gets to us before Dec. 18. Santa needs time to read your letters and prepare for his journey around the world.

Community Financial Credit Union donates money to local charities

Community Financial Credit Union is getting ready to once again donate \$30,000 to local charities through its Warming Hearts & Homes campaign.

During the Warming Hearts & Homes campaign, Community Financial makes it easy to help select nonprofits in north and southeast Michigan. For every like, tweet or comment Community Financial receives on its social media sites during the month of December, the credit union will donate \$25 to select nonprofits in north and southeast Michigan.

This year, The Heat and Warmth Fund, local food pantries and The Salvation Army "Coats for Kids" Program will each receive up to



\$10,000 during the campaign. These nonprofits help low-income families receive necessities like heat, food, housing and clothing throughout the winter season.

According to surveys from Michigan residents, the number of people forced to choose between paying for food and clothing or paying for utilities has grown over recent

years. With the 2015-16 winter season on its way, the Warming Hearts & Homes campaign is one of the ways Community Financial helps families across Michigan stay well fed and warm as the weather gets colder.

"Each year we run the Warming Hearts & Homes campaign, we have the opportunity to make a real difference in

the lives of Michigan families," said Natalie McLaughlin, community relations manager. "With something as simple as a social media post, community members can be a part of keeping others safe and warm."

Community Financial team members are proud to sponsor and support these organizations who bring warmth and food to the tables of Michigan families in need.

"It's a really wonderful to know the company you work for actually gives back to the community in such impactful ways," McLaughlin said.

For more information on how Warming Hearts & Homes aids families in Michigan or how to participate in the campaign, go to www.cfcu.org/warms.

U-D hosts Military Appreciation Day

Attention veterans: The University Of Detroit Mercy will host a Military Appreciation Day at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, as the Titans host Central Florida at Callahan Hall.

All veterans with proper ID can receive tickets in advance or on game day and an additional ticket for a friend or family member. Others in the group can purchase tickets for half-price.

The Titans have joined forces with the Michigan Veterans Foun-

Executive director Tyrone Chatman said: "It is an honor to participate in this great event and we will be busing in at least 100 of our finest veterans to enjoy a good ballgame. We are also happy to be providing a colorful honor guard and one of our vets will also be singing the national anthem."

In addition to the ticket promotion, the first 2,000 attendees will receive Camouflage Rally Flags sponsored by WADL-TV (Channel 38), the team's official TV

home.

Director of Athletics Robert C. Vowels Jr. said in a statement: "We are honored to host these wonderful men and women of our armed forces who have given so much for this country. We are planning to make this veterans event a yearly tradition."

For tickets, visit the Callahan Hall ticket office (open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday), call 313-993-1700 or go to detroititans.com/tix.

Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart is a general dentist in Livonia, MI. Today, he answers a question about All-on-4 "teeth in a day" dental implants.

"TEETH IN A DAY" DENTAL IMPLANTS

Dear Dr. Stewart: Are teeth in a day really possible? Are they actually more affordable than traditional dental implants?

Dr. Stewart: We continue to receive calls from people asking whether they can really obtain teeth in a day. With the All-on-4 procedure you can obtain a full set of replacement teeth in a single day, often at a lower cost than traditional dental implants. There is also a significant savings in treatment time as well.

If you have any questions or would like to see if the All-on-4 system is the right option for you, contact our office. We can schedule an initial visit to see if you are a candidate for this secure and cost-effective alternative to removable dentures. The visit will be no charge and may start you on the road to a full and healthy new smile.

If you have a question about your oral health and what you can do to enjoy a healthier smile, contact Dr. James Stewart.

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Praveena

Praveena Vellanki sensed something was wrong but she didn't say anything - it was too difficult to open up about such a private matter. She held in her fears and silently worried. In time, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and quickly began treatment at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. Four years later, after eight cycles of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation - a treatment plan spanning 16 months - Praveena is cancer-free. She is once again volunteering at her Temple and cooking for family and friends. She credits the care team who stood by her during her toughest days.

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Be Remarkable.

stmarymercy.org

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Roma Banquets
New Years Eve Celebration

December 31st, 2015

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At NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, MEADS MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND 8-MILE STADIUM
NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting Prime Contractor firm bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the outdoor athletic track renovation work at the Northville Public Schools listed above.

Plans and specifications may be downloaded via PlanWell and are available for review at the office of the George W. Auch Company, 735 S. Paddock Street, Pontiac, MI 48341 248.334.2000, on or after **December 14, 2015**. Bid Package consists of Instruction to Bidders, Proposal Forms, General and Supplementary Conditions, drawings and pertinent trade specifications. Contact Scott Oswald or Shawn Debo for download instructions.

Your proposal will be accepted **NO LATER THAN 2:00PM, JANUARY 7, 2016 TO: NORTHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION-ROOM 307, 501 WEST MAIN STREET, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167**. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 P.M., January 7, 2016 at the Northville Board of Education-Room 104, 501 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48167.

A pre-bid walk through is scheduled for Thursday December 17, 2015 @ 8:00 am beginning at Northville High School athletic entrance lobby, 45700 six mile road, Northville, MI. 48168. This meeting is not mandatory but highly recommended.

All contracts to be entered into by the Northville Public Schools must and will comply with the equal opportunity laws of the State of Michigan.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Northville Public Schools, Board of Education or the Northville Public Schools, Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Proposals must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Northville Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each proposal over \$23,230 and must be submitted on the bid proposal form furnished with the specifications. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

James Mazurek, Secretary
Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

Published: December 13, 2015

Circus coming New Year's Eve to Canton

Canton's Village Theater is bringing New Year's Eve fun to families Thursday, Dec. 31, when the Detroit Circus comes to town. This high-energy performance is set to take place at 7 p.m. on the main stage, 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Witness high-flying aerial antics on fabric and the trapeze; fire dancing and eating; stilt walking and stilt acrobatics; plus, feats of mind-bending strength. Please note that this is an animal-free circus.

In addition to the exciting performance on stage, audience members can enjoy a special pre-show event starting at 6 p.m., featuring on-site face painting artists and strolling circus entertainers.

The Detroit Circus has been dazzling audiences for the past several years with its acrobatic skills and gravity



The Detroit Circus has been dazzling audiences for the past several years with its acrobatic skills and gravity defying acts.

defying acts. Watch as members of the aerial acrobatics troupe tie themselves into ornate poises utilizing silks hung from the rafters and captive audience members with grace, poise and incredible

strength. During this performance, skilled aerialists will dance, weave and flow through the air, while aerial hoop performers display lyrical flexibility and astonishing strength as they

contort and spin. Adagio Acrobatic members will also amaze viewers with their challenging body balancing, yoga and flexible maneuvers requiring two partners, who appear to push the limits of physics.

These jaw-dropping performances are sure to thrill fans of all ages. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or in person at the Village Theater box office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets include free popcorn and a non-alcoholic beverage.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is a regional center for the arts that offers the magic of live theater, soul-stirring music, the thrill of the dance and the enjoyment of fine art exhibitions and events, in addition to providing a home for several cultural organizations and community groups. For more information about this special performance and the latest exhibition in the Gallery@VT, call 734/394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

Observer seeks World War II stories

The *Observer* wants to honor its surviving World War II veterans in a package of stories slated to run later this month.

To accomplish this, we are hoping to tell the stories of living World War II veterans from our communities.

We'd love to tell their stories, see their photos and share any memories — letters to/from home (especially around the holidays, important dates, etc.), keepsakes, etc. — the veterans are willing to share.

If you are a World War II veteran or know a World War II veteran whose story we could tell, please email *Observer* editor Brad Kadrich at bka-drich@hometownlife.com.

TERRORISM

Continued from Page A1

can't drive." However, Vaillencourt said under Michigan's Anti-Terrorism Act, "it is not a defense to these charges that the defendant did not have the actual intent or ability to carry out these threats."

Basar said the tweet was in response to another post, but neither he nor school officials indicated the nature of the initial posting.

Tom Gould, Howell Public Schools public relations director, said once the tweet became known, officials immediately took a screen shot and made contact with the Howell Police Department.

"Shortly after the tweet was made, it was taken down, but we had it screen shot so we could have their Twitter handle, as well as the threat," he said.

Gould declined to re-

lease a copy of the screen shot, citing the ongoing investigation.

Parker is a former Howell High School student, but he did not graduate from the district. He transferred to Canton High School, Gould said.

Gould was unable to discuss if Parker had a disciplinary record when attending Howell.

Parker was initially identified as a suspect and Canton Township Police Department officers picked him up and transported him to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor for a psychological evaluation because he is believed to have some diminished mental capac-

ity. Basar said the hospital released Parker to his guardian and Vaillencourt said the 21-year-old man was arrested without incident Thursday afternoon.

District officials notified parents Thursday morning about the incident and decided to open schools because the individual had been identified.

"We have, however, increased our school security with additional police officers," Gould said.

The school district also is reviewing its procedure on notifying parents of similar situations after learning parents of Liv-

ngston Educational Service Agency students — who attend school in a Howell schools building, but are not considered district students — were not notified of the threat.

LESA parents do not receive school-related messages through the district's ParentLink — a specific notification link for the school district to communicate with par-

ents. District leaders are working to notify parents about the charges and they are still trying to determine how to contact the LESA parents.

"We've never had to contact LESA parents before, so this is a new situation for us. (Howell Superintendent) Erin MacGregor and I will be talking about that tonight

some more," Gould said Thursday.

Gould said they plan on contacting LESA Superintendent Dan Danosky to address this issue.

Gould complimented the Howell Police Department for "their quick actions and hard work to resolve this issue and ensure the safety of our students and staff."

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For more information please call: 1-800-926-8237, option #1 or email: akilgore@michigan.com

New Law Changes Certain Social Security Filing Strategies for Couples who are age 62 or older in 2015.

Some of these changes take effect by April 30, 2016

If you are age 62-66, call me today to discuss how these changes affect you and your spouse.



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MUST SEE PERFORMANCES



Don't miss a moment of these family-friendly performances presented by The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, where there's something for everyone!

Dec. 31 - Detroit Circus, 7 p.m.
Experience unique New Year's Eve fun that the whole family will enjoy as you witness high flying aerial antics on fabric and the trapeze, fire dancing, and more. Enjoy the pre-show starting at 6 p.m., which includes face painting, temporary tattoos, and strolling entertainment. Please note that this is an animal-free circus. Tickets: \$20

Jan. 23 - Cashore Marionettes, 2 p.m. (family show) & 7 p.m. (for adults and children 12 and up)
Experience two amazing performances featuring master marionettes who take puppetry to the ultimate level. Tickets: \$12 for 2 p.m. show & \$15 for 7 p.m. show.

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See the full season schedule at www.cantonvillagetheater.org for the most up-to-date performance listings. Follow us, Canton Village Theater, on Facebook for cool insider information.

TICKETS FOR THESE AND OTHER PERFORMANCES AVAILABLE AT WWW.CANTONVILLAGETHEATER.ORG

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

REINDEER, ELVES VISIT

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15
Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center Road, Canton
Details: Reindeer and elves are taking their show on the road to visit Canton-area families.

CRAFTY ELVES WORKSHOP

Time/Date: Noon and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth
Details: Children can make gifts and decorations at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Reservations are required as space is limited; target age range is 5-11 years old

Cost: \$10 per child. Sign up at 734-455-8940, ext. 0, or pay by Paypal at http://www.plymouth-history.org/events/Crafty-Elves-Workshop_ET262509.html?Sort-Box=201512.

'A FAIRY TALE'

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13
Location: Cherry Hill Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hills Road, Canton
Details: The Spotlight on Youth will perform the last show of A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol

Cost: Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased by calling 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/villageheater

SHOE YEAR'S DAY HIKE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2
Location: Maybury Park at Trailhead Shelter (use the Eight Mile entrance)
Details: The Friends of Maybury will host a casual, fun hike in



Visit reindeer and elves Tuesday at the Canton Public Library.

Maybury State Park to get the new year started on the right foot. Meet at the Trailhead Shelter and hike for approximately one hour. Fun for all ages. Enjoy a roaring fireplace, with hot chocolate and coffee, after the hike. If there is snow, guides will be available for the cross country ski trails (your own equipment required).

Cost: This program is free, however, a Recreation Passport is required for park entry. Contact: 248-349-8390

SANTA AT MAYBURY

Time/Date: Noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 13, 19-20
Location: Maybury Farm is at 50165 Eight Mile Road, between Beck and Napier (do not enter at the state park). Parking is free.
Details: Santa and his elves will arrive on his antique sleigh in the Maybury Farm Welcome Center. Children can bring their wish list and sit with Santa on his sleigh while moms, dads,

grandmas and grandpas take all of the photos they want (don't forget your camera!). Looking for gifts for the holidays? The Welcome Center shelves will be stocked with them. Look for delicious Maybury Farm honey, jams, jellies, popcorn and more! There are excellent options for stocking stuffers, hostess gifts and gift baskets. All donations help to care for the animals at Maybury Farm throughout the winter months

Cost: Admission is just a smile and a small donation! All donations help to care for the animals at Maybury Farm throughout the winter months. Contact: www.northvillecommunityfoundation.org, call 248-374-0200 or find Maybury Farm on Facebook.

COMPASSIONATE CARE

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. first and third Thursday of each month
Location: Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road, Canton
Details: Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice. Cost: Free, but drink purchase is required for use of space.

Contact: Ann Kozma, compassionate care hospice bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email achristen-sen@cchcnet.net.

IDENTITY THEFT SEMINAR

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to noon Dec. 18
Location: Heartland Health Care Center, 7025 Lilley Road, Canton
Details: Heartland Health Care

Center partners with Sen. Patrick Colbeck to present a seminar on identity theft during the holidays.

Cost: Free
Contact: RSVP to Melissa Kersten at 734-255-7290

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Time/Date: Ongoing; orientation Jan. 12
Details: Compassionate Care Hospice seeks caring, compassionate volunteers with big hearts to help with patient care and companionship, office support, group activities and more. Volunteer training sessions will cover mission and values, confidentiality, communication and listening skills, grief, loss, the dying process and information pertinent to serving the needs of the patients. Interested volunteers may also choose to receive additional training and serve as specialized spiritual or bereavement volunteer.

Contact: Interested volunteers must complete the online application process prior to training. Early registration is encouraged as several steps are to be completed prior to the start of the training sessions. Call 888-983-9050 with questions or to apply for a brief interview.

CHILDREN'S STORYTIMES

Location: Barnes & Noble, 17111 Haggerty Road, Northville
Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast Storytime
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2
Details: Enjoy the funniest "food fight" story ever. Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast have a beautiful friendship — until they discover there's only one drop of maple syrup left.

Who will enjoy the sweet taste of victory? Activities follow the storytime.

I'll Never Let You Go Storytime

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9
Details: In January's Picture Book of the Month, I'll Never Let You Go, author Smirti Prasad-Halls and Illustrator Alison Brown celebrate the comfort provided by unconditional love. Activities will round out the fun.

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes Storytime
When: 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16
Details: Pete goes walking down the street wearing his brand new white shoes. Along the way, his shoes change from white to red to blue to brown to WET as he steps in piles of strawberries, blueberries and other big messes! But no matter what happens, Pete keeps walking and singing! Coloring and activities to follow.

The Wonderful Things You Will Be Storytime

When: 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23
Details: From brave and bold to creative and clever, this rhyming picture book expresses all the amazing things children can grow up to be. With beautiful and sometimes humorous illustrations, this is a book grown-ups will love reading over and over to kids. Activities to follow.

Groundhog's Dilemma & Groundhog's Day Off Storytime

When: 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30
Details: This special Storytime celebrates Groundhog Day with two feature titles: Groundhog's Dilemma and Groundhog's Day Off. Fun activities occur after the Storytime.

Choose a reputable company for a reverse mortgage

Q: I met you at a speech you did a few months ago and you told me that I should look into a reverse mortgage. I contacted a company you recommended and I was set to go through with it, but when I mentioned it to my financial adviser, they said they did not recommend it. Their reasoning was twofold. The first issue they said was that if I had to go to rehab or if I wanted to spend the winter outside of Michigan that I could lose my home. The second thing they said was that upon my death, if the value of my house was worth less than the balance of the mortgage, that my children would be held responsible. I called the reverse mortgage company and they assured



Rick Bloom MONEY MATTERS

me that my adviser was wrong. I guess what I want is a second opinion as to whether the reverse mortgage company or my financial adviser is right. I'm sure you don't remember my situation, but briefly, you were recommending that I get a reverse mortgage and to use the proceeds to pay off the existing mortgage on my home. Currently, my mortgage is 8 percent. I've tried to refinance, but at my age it is difficult. When you mentioned a reverse mortgage, I thought it would be a great idea, because if I did not have

to make a mortgage payment, my financial situation would be greatly improved.

A: Plain and simple, your financial adviser is wrong on both accounts. When it comes to reverse mortgages, there is a lot of misinformation and that is unfortunate because, for seniors, a reverse mortgage can be a very effective financial tool. Reverse mortgages are not for everyone, but in a situation like yours, I still believe it would be an excellent solution to allow you to stay in your home and, at the same time, increase your cash flow.

With regard to having to go to rehab or if you spent the winter elsewhere, there is still no issue. If you had to go into rehab and you were

there for less than a year or if you spent the winter elsewhere, there is no effect on the mortgage. In addition, when you die, your loved ones are not responsible if the house has declined in value. In fact, your loved ones have options at the time of your death. If the home has increased in value, they can sell the home, pay off the mortgage and keep the excess. On the other hand, if the home has declined in value, they can turn back the home to the mortgage company and walk away free and clear.

Are reverse mortgages good for every senior? Of course not! There are many situations where a reverse mortgage would not make sense. That is why it is always important to deal with a reputable

company. Celebrity endorsements are bought and paid for; they don't mean much. The key is to use a reputable reverse mortgage company, not one that's trying to push you into something that doesn't fit your individual situation. With a reverse mortgage, it is important to deal with a company that is reputable and one that doesn't pressure you into doing something you don't feel comfortable with.

Paying off mortgages or high interest rate charge cards, providing needed cash to maintain your lifestyle or potentially even helping a grandchild with college can all be good uses of a reverse mortgage. On the other hand, using proceeds from a reverse mortgage to make speculative investments or to

loan money to friends may not be the best uses for a reverse mortgage.

Reverse mortgages can be an excellent financial tool when used correctly. However, reverse mortgages can also cause all sorts of financial headaches if they're not used in the right situation.

One last note: Don't forget that the key to a reverse mortgage is to find a reputable company that is more concerned with assisting you as opposed to selling you something.

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 question, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

George's Senate Coney Island donates to Livonia Goodfellows

Local businessman George Dimopoulos made news several weeks ago with his promise, "If anyone is home alone, come eat with us for free."

It's the 10th year that the owner of George's Senate Coney Island has offered free Thanksgiving dinners so that no one has to dine alone, but it was the first year his generous offer was posted on social media.

Several local and national news outlets publicized his offer. In the past, George's Senate served around 80 Thanksgiving dinners each year.

With all the news coverage, this year Dimopoulos and his group of volunteers served more than 400 Thanksgiving dinners.

And it appears that generosity is contagious. Many of George's Thanksgiving customers

not only paid for their meals, but donated to help cover the cost of feeding those who couldn't afford to pay.

Dimopoulos donated their contributions, along with additional funds from Dimopoulos himself, to the Livonia Goodfellows. Dimopoulos presented the Livonia Goodfellows with a check for \$2,000. A new sign in George's window reads in part, "Thanks again for your support. I hope that all of us around the world help others that are in need. God Bless everyone and Merry Christmas!"

Now in its 80th year, the Livonia Goodfellows is an all-volunteer organization whose motto is

"No Livonia child without a Christmas." In 2014, the Livonia Goodfellows provided 328 families with 743 children with food vouchers, new toys, games and books for the children.

In addition, each family receives a large assortment of canned goods that are collected mainly through canned food drives held by students at 26 Livonia and Clarenceville schools.

In recent years, the Livonia Goodfellows has expanded its mission to support causes throughout the year that benefit needy Livonia children, including sharing canned food with local pantries, helping provide school supplies and more.



George's Senate Coney Island owner George Dimopoulos (left) presents Livonia Goodfellows treasurer Mike Smykowski with a \$2,000 check.

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- » 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16

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"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Certified Pre-Owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," said Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director.

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sively at Varsity Lincoln!"

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"Leasing or buying from the number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law said. "Our dealership is ready to assist customers with anything, whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

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satisfaction.

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are, before, during and after the sale," Law concluded.

* Subject to availability. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

**Based on 11/2015 Total Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln Sales Report.

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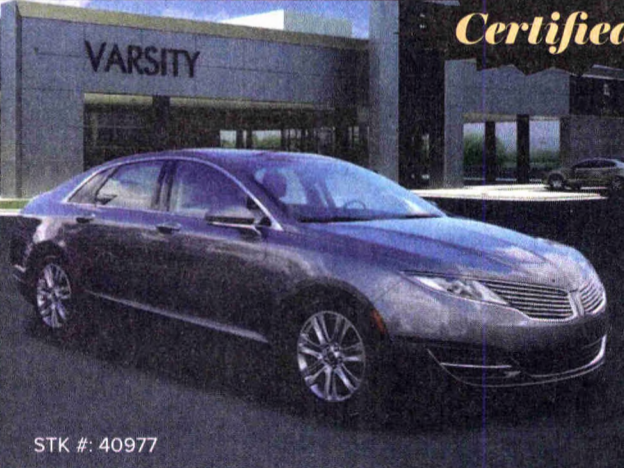
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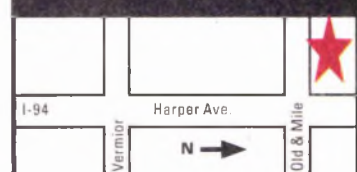
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RED, HOT & BLUE.

Detroit Red Wings rookie Dylan Larkin maintains a step on Toronto defenseman Dion Phaneuf during a game this season. Larkin, 19, has 11 goals so far this season and is considered a top candidate for NHL Rookie of the Year honors.

JULIAN H. GONZALEZ | MICHIGAN.COM

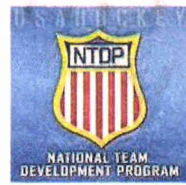
Detroit Red Wings rookie standout Dylan Larkin credits time in NTDP for quick rise to NHL

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Dylan Larkin never stopped working during his two years with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program. He showed no fear going up against bigger, stronger, older players during his time with the NTDP Under-17 and 18 teams — then continuing with that winning attitude in 2014-15 during his lone collegiate season with the Michigan Wolverines. Now he is a Detroit Red Wings rookie sensation at age 19, a favorite to win the team's first Calder Trophy as National Hockey League Rookie of the Year since goalie Roger Crozier did it in 1965. Firmly ensconced in the NHL after a few months, the Waterford native doesn't plan on slowing down anytime soon.

See LARKIN, Page B2

THE LARKIN FILE



Golden: Dylan Larkin, a 6-0, 172-pound forward from Waterford, represented the United States at the 2013 World U17 Hockey Challenge. In 2014, he helped the U.S. win a gold medal at the IIHF World U18 Championships. In 2015, international tournaments included the 2015 World Junior Championship and IIHF World Championships.

NTDP: Larkin played the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons in USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, where he scored a total of 24 goals and 16 assists in 63 games.

Go Blue: In 2014-15, he played his only season at the University of Michigan, tallying 15 goals and 32 assists in 35 games.

Winging it: Drafted by the Detroit Red Wings in the 2014 NHL Entry Draft, Larkin signed an entry level professional contract with the Detroit Red Wings organization in May, foregoing his final three years of eligibility with the Wolverines. He made his pro debut May 24 during a Grand Rapids Griffins AHL playoff game. In September, he played well enough at the Red Wings training camp to crack the big-league roster.

Notable: Larkin, who turned 19 in July, was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year for 2014-15 and in November was NHL Rookie of the Month. His parents are Kevin and Sidney Denise Larkin, regular attendees at Joe Louis Arena for Dylan's home games.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Canton slams Lathrup, 46-28

Senior guard Okoli does it all for chiefs

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The numbers that stretched to the right of Canton senior guard Obi Okoli's name on the stat sheet following Friday night's 46-28 victory over Southfield-Lathrup resembled a winning lottery ticket: 13 points, six rebounds, four steals, one blocked shot, one charge taken and one crowd-rousing slam dunk.

Bingo!

Okoli was one of the lone offensive standouts in a game that fans of the Pistons' Bad Boys era would have appreciated: not many uncontested shots, a lot of physicality and a battle for every rebound.

The Chiefs are now 2-0 following a season-opening week that matched them up against two talented, athletic teams (Canton defeated Detroit Country Day on Tuesday).

Canton's defense was in lock-down mode all night, holding the Chargers to 9-of-46 shooting from the field (19.5 percent).

"We make defense in practice the most important thing we do," Okoli said. "That way, when we play in a game, it seems easier than when we're practicing against ourselves."

Okoli said the team is bonding earlier than he originally thought it might.

"I didn't know how this

See CANTON, Page B4



Canton's Obi Okoli slams the ball home during a key third-quarter spurt in Friday night's game against Southfield-Lathrup.

ED WRIGHT



Launching his game-winning shot in overtime Wednesday is Salem's Colin Goleniak.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

BOYS HOCKEY

Twins help lift Rocks to OT win

Goleniaks come up big to spark Salem comeback

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Salem boys hockey team's Goleniak twins, Austin and Colin, peaked at the right time Wednesday night against host Livonia Churchill — on opposite ends of the ice.

And their older brother Zach had a pretty productive night, as well.

Moments after Rocks freshman goaltender Austin Goleniak made a pair of game-saving, breathtaking overtime saves against the Chargers, Colin Goleniak redirected a

blistering slap shot by Marty Mills off the crossbar and into the net at the 4:42 mark to lift Salem to an entertaining 5-4 victory.

The win improved Salem to 2-2, while Churchill slipped to 4-2.

Zach Goleniak helped make the overtime opportunity possible with two regulation goals.

The Kensington Lakes Activities Association instituted an eight-minute, sudden-death overtime format prior to this season — much to the delight of the crowd in attendance at Eddie Edgar Arena — especially, as it turned out, members of the Goleniak family.

"As soon as I saw Marty get ready to shoot, I got to the net

as fast as I could," Colin Goleniak said. "I felt ecstatic when I saw the puck in the net. I went right up to Marty and told him how sick his shot was."

As soon as the Rocks realized they had won, they converged for a celebratory group hug against the boards with the guy who scored the goal ... or at least the guy they thought scored the goal.

"Nobody really said anything to me, because they thought Marty scored the goal," Goleniak said, smiling, when asked about the post-game celebration. "Then word got over that I tipped it in and everybody congratulated me."

See TWINS, Page B3

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BOYS SWIMMING

Novi cruises past Chiefs in opener

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Novi boys swim team swept took the first three places in four different events Dec. 8 en route to a 119-66 dual meet victory over visiting Canton in the season opener for both teams.

Phillip Billiu was Novi's top individual performer as he figured in four first-place finishes, leading a one-two-three sweep in the 50-yard freestyle (22.57) and the 100 butterfly (55.86).

He also teamed with Alexander Yuan, Ryan Katulski and Maxwell Williams for a win in the 200 medley relay (1:44.36). The foursome of Billiu, Williams, Brian Son and Joel Kotyk also tied Canton for first in the 400 freestyle relay with identical times of 3:19.18.

Yuan led a sweep in the 100 freestyle with a time of 51.67 and also teamed with Joey Berman, Son and Katulski for first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:32.61).

Meanwhile, Jame Ciolli posted a meet-best 236.45 points to lead a sweep in the 1-meter diving event.

"This meet gave us the opportunity to experiment with some different events and relay combinations," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "We have an exciting team, which is very versatile and will allow us to win meets with a variety of line-ups. Our new swimmers showed they are ready to contribute this season."

Canton boasted a pair of double-winners as Daniel Mullen swept the 200 and 500 freestyles in 1:49.05 and 5:14.13, respectively, while Tristen Shao captured the 200 individual medley (2:10.1) and 100 backstroke (59.24). Gerard Niermann was first for the Chiefs in the 100 breaststroke (1:06.89).

DUAL MEET RESULTS
NOVI 119, CANTON 66
Dec. 10 at Novi

200-yard medley relay: 1. Novi (Phillip Billiu, Alexander Yuan, Ryan Katulski, Maxwell Williams), 1:44.36; 2. Novi (Erik Halboth, Joel Kotyk, Joey Berman, Bradley Huang), 1:47.47.

200 freestyle: 1. Daniel Mullen (Canton), 1:49.05; 2. Katulski (Novi), 1:49.7; 3. Berman (Novi), 1:54.45.

200 individual medley: 1. Tristen Shao (Canton), 2:10.1; 3. Halboth (Novi), 2:13.91.

50 freestyle: 1. Billiu (Novi), 22.57; 2. Narayan Manivannan (Novi), 23.96; 3. Williams (Novi), 24.24.

1-meter diving: 1. James Ciolli (Novi), 236.45 points; 2. Nathan Pollerito (Novi), 201.40; 3. Mitchell Russell (Novi), 155.85.

100 butterfly: 1. Billiu (Novi), 55.86; 2. Berman (Novi), 57.61; 3. Katulski (Novi), 57.95.

100 freestyle: 1. Yuan (Novi), 51.67; 2. Brian Son (Novi), 52.31; 3. Williams (Novi), 52.59.

500 freestyle: 1. Mullen (Canton), 5:14.13; 2. Kotyk (Novi), 5:21.06; 3. Preston Harrell (Novi), 5:21.75.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Berman, Yuan, Son, Katulski), 1:32.61; 3. Novi (Manivannan, Justin Lee, Edward Cheng, Arjun Raman), 1:42.22.

100 backstroke: 1. Shao (Canton), 59.24; 2. Minjae Kim (Novi), 1:02.25; 3. Kotyk (Novi), 1:03.17.

100 breaststroke: 1. Gerard Niermann (Canton), 1:06.89; 3. Harrell (Novi), 1:11.45.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Billiu, Williams, Son, Kotyk) and Canton (Mullen, Shao, Derek Goderis, Niermann), 3:29.18 each; 3. Novi (Huang, Stephen Siitari, Harrell, Albert Tan), 3:43.97.

Dual meet records: Novi, 1-0 overall; Canton, 0-1 overall.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 14
Huron Valley at PCA, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 15
South Lyon at Canton, 7 p.m.
Novi at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Salem at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17
Franklin at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton at S. Lyon East, 7 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Plymouth, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 14
Roeper at HVL, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 15
Churchill at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton at S. Lyon, 7 p.m.
Salem at Novi, 7 p.m.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Billiu, Williams, Son, Kotyk) and Canton (Mullen, Shao, Derek Goderis, Niermann), 3:29.18 each; 3. Novi (Huang, Stephen Siitari, Harrell, Albert Tan), 3:43.97.

Dual meet records: Novi, 1-0 overall; Canton, 0-1 overall.

PREP HOCKEY

Wednesday, Dec. 16
Canton at Brighton, 6 p.m.
O.L. St. Mary's at Stevenson, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17
Ladywood at Liggett Tourney, TBA

Friday, Dec. 18
Canton at Franklin, 6 p.m.
PCS Penguins at Andover, 7:30 p.m.
Plymouth vs. Salem at Ply. Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19
Ladywood at Liggett Tourney, TBA

WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 19
Wayne County Tourney, 9 a.m.

CO-ED BOWLING

Tuesday, Dec. 15
John Glenn at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
Wayne at Canton, 3:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Tuesday, Dec. 15
Salem at Brighton, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18
Plymouth Holiday Relays, 6:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Tuesday, Dec. 15
Canton at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17
Waterford/Northville at Salem, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18
Plymouth Invitational, 6:30 p.m.



Dylan Larkin (front) cruises into an opponent's zone during a recent Detroit Red Wings game. In the background is teammate Justin Abdelkader.

RENA LAVERTY | HOCKEY WEEKLY

LARKIN

Continued from Page B1

"Right now, it's everything (being a Red Wings player)," Larkin said following a recent practice at Joe Louis Arena. "It's coming to the rink every day, putting on the Red Wings sweater and taking pride in that."

"And being from Detroit, getting to play in front of family and friends every night and really represent what this organization stands for."

Living the dream

It wasn't too many years ago when Larkin was a kid watching Red Wings games at the Joe. He hasn't forgotten about that, which is why he can't believe what's happened to him.

"Can't really know how many," he said when asked how many Red Wings games he watched while growing up. "I followed the Red Wings and was a huge fan. It's pretty cool being on the other end of it and I guess living the dream."

Larkin proudly beamed as he talked about his rapid rise from the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor (home of the NTDP before it relocated this year to USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth Township) to the NHL.

Of course, it took him a while to get off the practice ice to do the interview.

While his older teammates made their way back into the dressing room, he remained out on the ice by himself — skating in circles and ripping slap shots at an empty net.

The sounds of his hard work reverberated all over the arena.

Just spectacular

That kind of work ethic doesn't surprise one NTDP coach now trying to groom future Dylan Larkins some 25 miles away at USA Hockey Arena.

"Very speedy ascension, you know, and I think it has to do ... there's a lot of reasons why," said USA Hockey NTDP coach Don Granato, whose brother Tony is a Red Wings assistant coach. "Dylan's a spectacular kid and person. He's a role model for anybody that's out there in hockey or out of hockey."

"He came to the rink every day here with a smile on his face. And the things that mattered to him were the things that mattered to development."

Fans who watch Larkin slice through opposing defenses and bring back memories of a young Steve Yzerman love watching No. 71 work his magic — through 28 games he led Detroit with 11 goals.

But individual numbers are not what drive the rookies to excel, Granato noted.

"He loved to work while he was here," Granato said. "He was committed to making himself better and he wasn't distracted by goals, assists, points or accolades."

"Just, 'I want to play and I want to get better.' There's very few kids that come to



Dylan Larkin (left) receives congratulations from teammates after scoring against the Tampa Bay Lightning this season.

RICK OSENTOSKI | USA TODAY

"It (NTDP) was great and the training is the best you can get as a 16-, 17-year-old. And then (I) just took off my 18 year and I haven't looked back."

DYLAN LARKIN
Detroit Red Wings

mind. But the ones that do come to mind make it to the NHL pretty fast with a mindset like that."

As evidenced by Larkin's stunning climb to the top, more and more NTDP players (about 60 alums are on NHL teams this season) are elbowing their way on to big league rosters. It's no accident, Granato noted.

"Everybody in that room, prior to coming here, could go out on the ice and win battles and score goals because their skill level was just better than the other players," Granato said. "So we take the best kids in the country and say, 'OK,

let's find a league where they're not going to get by on their skill.'

"They're going to have to learn how to play as a team and they're going to have to learn the game itself."

Place to grow

Elsewhere inside the Red Wings dressing room was another USA Hockey alum who is almost in awe at how quickly Larkin has settled into the NHL.

"He's got speed; using his speed to his advantage is huge," Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard said. "He's got a quick, deceptive shot. With his speed alone, the way he can open himself up and generate scoring chances, I think he's going to be a dangerous player for years to come."

Howard nodded about how much players who go through the NTDP grow up on and off the ice — ultimately grooming many of them for major league success.

"You're 17 years old and you're going up against 24-year-olds in college," Howard

said. "You got to play like a man pretty quick. Playing against that older competition was beneficial, not only for him in college, but I think for making the step here."

Larkin said the time he spent in the NTDP helped his growth as a hockey player in many ways, starting him down a path of stunning growth that really is still just beginning.

"I went there and struggled a bit my first year," he said. "I was coming off an injury the year before. But I always worked hard and pushed myself in practice, playing against the best players in the country."

"It (NTDP) was great and the training is the best you can get as a 16-, 17-year-old. And then (I) just took off my 18 year and I haven't looked back."

Enjoying it

Larkin demonstrated something pretty special even before starting his two-year stint with USA Hockey in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

"We did have him prior to him even coming here, before he entered the (NTDP) program," Granato said. "I had him skate with the older team that year for maybe 20 practices."

"He had an injury his mid-level year, an ankle injury, and we threw him into practice with guys two years older than him and he was a lot of fun to have on the ice then."

Just a few years later, Larkin is still having a lot of fun — although the stakes obviously are much higher.

"It's a dream come true and something I've worked for," Larkin said. "I'm just trying to enjoy it."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



Dylan Larkin is shown in action during the IIHF World Championship quarterfinal match between USA and Switzerland in May. He spent two seasons with USA Hockey's NTDP.

MATEJ DIVIZNA | GETTY IMAGES

BOYS HOCKEY

'Cats nearly claw back against Franklin

Patriots build 5-1 lead then hang on for victory

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin's high-scoring top line built a seemingly insurmountable 5-1 lead Wednesday against Plymouth.

Scoring three of those goals was senior forward Chase Wallis, who also victimized Salem for a hat trick Dec. 5.

But then the host Patriots had to hang on for dear life as the Wildcats scored three times in 5:30 and came close to evening things up at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

Ultimately, an empty-netter by Trevor Lassaline with 15 seconds left gave Franklin a 6-4 KLA South boys hockey victory.

"They've been ripping it all year and, hopefully, we'll start getting our other lines to chip in," Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon said about the line of Wallis, Lassaline and captain Brendan Whitney (who also scored Wednesday). "But that was a great game. Coach (Gerry) Vento does a great job with those guys; they never quit battling."

"We had the big lead, but they clawed back and



Plymouth's Josh Weber (right) skates away after putting a hit on Livonia Franklin's Brendan Nutting.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

made a great game out of it. Just another well-played high school hockey game."

Slow start hurts

Vento lamented getting outplayed the first two periods, although he credited his team (3-1 overall, 2-1 in the KLA South) for finishing strong.

"When we were down 4-1 in the second, I told the guys, 'Whether we win or lose at this point is irrelevant, it's how you respond to it in the third period,'" Vento said. "I thought they played a great third period, but you can't play one period and win a hockey game."

Sparking Plymouth's late charge was speedy senior forward Ricky

Covault, who set up junior defenseman Joe Fontana (on the power play) and senior forward Jake Silvester with gritty plays down low to cut the Franklin lead to 5-3 with 5:24 to go in the third period.

After sophomore forward Josh Weber swiped in the rebound of a shot by junior forward Jack Chumley at 13:50, to make it a 5-4 contest, Plymouth continued to press for the equalizer.

A solid shift by Franklin senior defenseman Jack Engel slowed down the Wildcats' momentum, clearing the zone.

Then with 26 seconds to go and Plymouth goalie Brendan Olepa (who came in to play the third period) on the bench for

the extra attacker, the Patriots won a face-off in their own zone and chipped the puck into the neutral zone.

From there, Whitney (one goal, three assists) slid the puck up to Lassaline for the empty-netter. Earning the second assist was Wallis, who already has 16 goals this season.

"I just chipped it up the boards to Whit and Whit was the one who gave it to Trevor," Wallis said. "Congrats to Trevor, he deserves one."

was senior goalie Trevor McManus, victimized for four goals in the first two periods.

Vento absolved McManus of any blame for the loss, however, saying he changed goaltenders to try to jump-start his team.

"We deserved to be down 5-1; they took it to us," Vento said. "They were faster, they wanted it more, they were winning battles and if that happens long enough, you're going to be in that position."

lis pumped in another goal with 1:47 to go in the second from Lassaline and Whitney.

"I owe them (his linemates) my success," Wallis said. "They're always setting me up and I'm burying them."

Just over one minute later, Whitney scored an unassisted goal to put the Pats up 4-1. He skated out of the left corner and roofed a backhand from a sharp angle past McManus.

Franklin padded its lead to four goals with 12:27 remaining in the game on Wallis' third goal.

At that point it looked like a blowout might be in the works, but the Wildcats interfered with that narrative.

"We knew coming in who we were up against," Vento said. "We weren't surprised, we knew we were going to be in for a battle."

"Dennis has turned the program around. It's a credit to him and, honestly, it's great for the league and it makes every night a battle."

BROTHER RICE 4, PLYMOUTH 2: On Thursday at Oak Park Arena, Birmingham Brother Rice jumped out to a 2-0 first-period lead and never looked back.

Scoring for the Wildcats (3-2) were Jake Silvester and James Baldwin, both on the power play. Baldwin set up Silvester's goal in the first period.

Kyle Kozler collected two assists. Also earning a helper was Ricky Covault.

LAKE ORION 5, CANTON 1: The Chiefs were victimized Thursday by Lake Orion at the Detroit Skating Club.



Reaching to corral a loose puck is Salem goalie Austin Goleniak, while Churchill's Tyler Haydu watches.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

TWINS

Continued from Page B1

While the players' adrenaline was rushing at a rapid pace the second opening puck was dropped, it ramped up considerably during the sudden-death session, the Rocks' game-winning goal scorer admitted.

"You have to work that much harder (in overtime), because you don't want to be that last line out there that gets scored on," he said.

Austin Goleniak watched all but the final 1:30 of the first period from the Rocks' bench before replacing starting goalie Matt Visel after John Doyle's second goal of the night gave the Chargers a 3-1 lead.

"Austin really battles," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "He's a little undersized, so he has to play athletic, he has to be aggressive and stand at the top of his crease. He came in and made a few big saves that allowed us to get back in the game."

"Matt didn't play that poorly, but there were a couple he probably wish he could have had back. But the team came back and won, which is the most important thing."

Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds said he liked how his players came out of the gates with fire in their eyes.

"Our goal was to get Salem back on their heels right away and we did that with the fast start," he said. "It just came down to two very competitive teams playing in a game that went



The Salem Rocks mob each other after Colin Goleniak scored in overtime against Livonia Churchill.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

down to the wire. I credit Salem for continuing to come at us, even when it was 3-1."

Doyle broke the scoring ice three minutes in with a slap shot he launched from above the left circle. He was assisted by Tyler Haydu.

Salem countered quickly, evening the score at 1-1 at the 11-minute mark, when Sean McCormack flipped the puck in front of the net from the blue line. The puck bounced off Nathan Homrich and onto the stick of Nick Callagari, who spun and buried it into the net.

With 9:22 left in the first period, the Chargers went back in front 2-1 after Nolan Cioch scored an unassisted goal when his long-range shot eluded Visel.

A few minutes later, Doyle cranked one off the post; Salem's Callagari did the same at the other end shortly thereafter, while Salem had a power play, keeping it 2-1.

Mills had a dangerous rush with about three minutes to go, but Chur-

chill goalie Drew Broyles deflected it with his blocker.

Doyle heightened the Chargers' comfort level a touch when he lased a rope past Visel to make it 3-1 with 1:47 left in the period.

Salem's climb back into the game began four minutes into the middle period, when Colin Goleniak threw a puck from a ridiculous angle along the north boards at the net. The puck glanced off Broyles' stick and into the net and just like that the Rocks' deficit was 3-2.

Churchill maintained a one-goal lead during the second intermission after Salem's Zach Goleniak and Churchill's Conor Burnette traded goals.

Zach Goleniak made it 4-4 with 11:14 remaining in regulation thanks to an assist from Shawn Weldon — setting the stage for his siblings' overtime heroics.

Staff writer Tim Smith contributed to this report.

GYMNASTICS PREVIEW — PART 2

Wildcats show potential

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Tuesday's season-opening loss to Livonia Blue gave Plymouth gymnastics coach Pam Yockey more evidence that her young 2015-16 team will be just fine.

Despite the close 136.525-135.975 defeat, the Wildcats displayed consistency and flash — from veterans and newcomers alike.

"It is a building year for Plymouth with 11 brand new competitors in the meet," Yockey wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "Great potential shown in this meet."

That group of newcomers includes sophomores Gabby Laesser, Antinique Kirksey, Shelby Ripple and Tori Sylvester and freshmen Maddie Ray, Ava Eilola, Sophia Giacobone, Korrine Stevens, Jaya Dhande, Shae Zydeck and Kiersten Metz.

Also showing potential in the KLA Kensington Conference match were senior Hillevi Phil and junior Candice Williams.

Phil scored 8.6 on vault, while Ripple checked in with 8.25 on vault. Tallying 8.2 on beam was Eilola.

Juniors Sara Hosmer and Adriana Tao "gave a steady, consistent performance on every event," especially on beam to give Plymouth an event lead.

In the all-around scoring, Plymouth senior



Getting ready to swing into action on uneven parallel bars Tuesday is Plymouth senior Emily Welch.

Haley Metz scored 35.65, just behind Livonia Blue's Jessica Weak (first, 35.75).

Meanwhile, the Wildcats, who qualified for the state finals the past two seasons, have a handful of key veterans, led by Metz. Others include seniors Emily Welch, Rebeca Simu, Drew Degener, Samantha Fontana and Jessica Lutkenhoff.

"Senior captains Haley Metz and Rebeca Simu led the team on every event," Yockey wrote. "Rebeca's outstanding floor (9.1) led the meet, while Haley's 9.3 beam led the team."

With steady performances by Metz, Simu, Welch, Lutkenhoff, Fontana and Degener "we will see the scores continue to rise as the pre-season jitters wear off," Yockey added.

Salem outlook

The Salem Rocks are hopeful for a strong sea-

son, sparked by sophomore Jordyn Williams — who as a freshman was Division 1 regional champion and an all-stater on floor exercise with respective scores of 9.7 and 9.6 (tied for third).

Williams also showed her versatility for the Rocks, qualifying for the state finals on balance beam. She just missed earning a spot on vault, finishing 11th (the top 10 made the cut).

Salem's roster includes seniors Grace Ramseyer, Annie Seyfried and Moena Fukui; juniors Lauren Cotton, Alex Johnson, Lauren Ogarek and Marissa Zorney; sophomores Dina Bittner, Maddie Karker and Haily Meaneya; and freshmen Adrienne Demoss, Caroline Farwell, Riley Fisher, Kacey Jones, Panida Khuansanguan, Chloe Longeway and Lakya Mashatt.

Seyfried performed well on D2 parallel bars at the regional, while Ramseyer did the same on D2 beam.

They, along with Williams, look to give the Rocks a solid nucleus as the team competes in the KLA Kensington Division.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

PREP GYMNASTICS

Chiefs win double dual

Seven Canton gymnasts finish in top five against Northville, Waterford

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Depth and versatility continue to be strong points of the Canton varsity gymnastics team.

More evidence took place Wednesday, as the Chiefs improved to 3-0 with a double dual victory over Northville and Waterford (138.925-137.55-129.125).

"With seven different gymnasts scoring in the top five, this was truly a team effort," Canton head coach John Cun-



Canton's Maddie Toal, shown from 2014-15, is among key performers again so far this season.

ningham said. "I was proud of the focus and intensity the girls showed, knowing how close the meet was."

Hailey Hodgson registered Canton's lone first-place finishes, with 9.15

on balance beam and 9.3 on floor exercise.

Seconds were collected by Rachel Socha (vault, 8.85) and Katie Dickson (bars, 8.575).

Maddie Toal and Jana Hilditch each picked up two thirds. Toal's came in the vault and beam, with respective scores of 8.8 and 8.725; Hilditch was third on bars (8.475) and floor (9.15).

Also strong was Kelsey Kernosek, who finished fourth on beam (8.6) and floor (9.1).

Cunningham said the team will keep improving on different events as the season goes on, particularly vault, bars and beam.

Supporters make Chocolate Jubilee a sweet success to the tune of \$2 million

This season's holiday parties are filled with good cheer and good will and the Chocolate Jubilee was certainly no exception.

Held at the MGM Grand in Detroit, the Chocolate Jubilee brought in more than 500 supporters who raised closed to \$2 million for the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter.

"It is so important for people to be aware of Alzheimer's as a disease, since it's being diagnosed earlier and earlier in people. We have to find a cure," said Marni Barnett, Chocolate Jubilee co-chair for her second year.

Nobody knows that better than John Wood, an artist and teacher who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at age 45. Wood was the keynote speaker at the black-tie dinner and strolling chocolate dessert reception.

"The day I received the Michigan Media Arts Teacher of the Year Award was the same day I turned in my driver's license at the Secretary of State," said Wood, who was forced into early retirement. "I was a threat to myself and my students. My dreams were over."

Soon after his diagno-



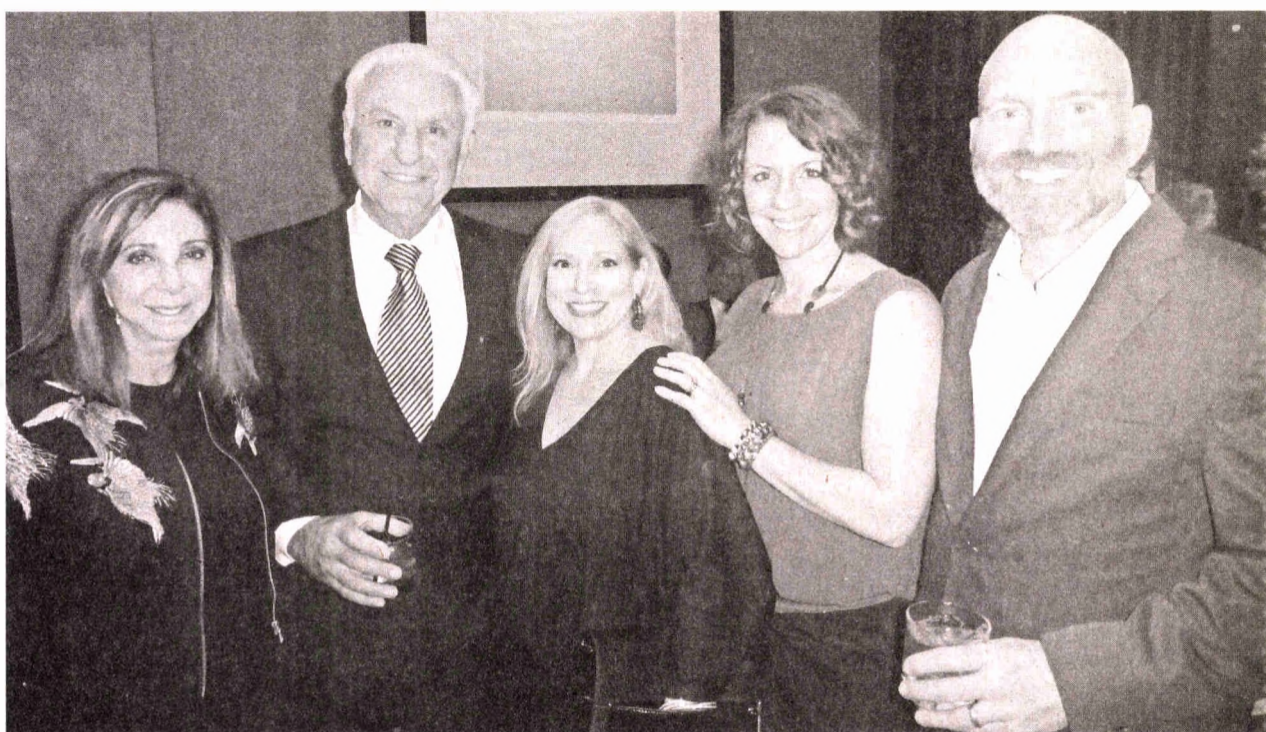
Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

sis, Wood enrolled in the "Safe Return Program" at the Alzheimer's Association. The Safe Return Program is a 24/7 service that helps a person with Alzheimer's who has become lost, reunite with his or her loved ones.

Meet Me @ the BBAC

And just a few weeks ago, also through the Alzheimer's Association, Wood attended a special program called Meet Me @ the BBAC, put on at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. A grant-funded program, patterned after the Meet Me @ the MOMA (Museum of Modern Art) in New York City, it is administered by the Alzheimer's Association for patients and their caregivers with early-stage and mid-stage Alzheimer's.

Several area care organizations and residential groups have their patients and caregivers participate, including clients from Senior Helpers in Farmington Hills, owned and sponsored by Barbara Roden. Roden, who is on the board of the



Attending the Chocolate Jubilee on behalf of Farmington Hills-based Better Life Homecare are Brenda and Howard Rosenberg, CFO; Amy Miller, director of client care; and Tasha Schurgin and her husband Brian, owner of Better Life Homecare.

Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter, hosts her clients and their caregivers once a month at the BBAC.

"Art is still something that people with dementia can use creatively," she said.

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



Margie Krasnick of Huntington Woods, Henrietta Hermelin Weinberg of Southfield, Lois Rubin of Farmington Hills and Judy Rosenberg of Birmingham



Fran Yee of Troy and Plymouth residents Joleen Firek and Jennifer Johnson enjoy the Chocolate Jubilee.



DeShonda Whitaker, Matique Graham and Felicia Moore of Cake Luv in downtown Farmington, who made custom cakes and gourmet cupcakes that were served at Chocolate Jubilee.



Bloomfield Hills residents Sandra and Dr. Martin Tessler and Karen Kahn of Farmington Hills.



Diane Zide Whitmore, executive director of operations for Botsford Commons Senior Community in Farmington Hills; and Redford residents Kevin Snyerski and Cheryl Dzikowski, who is the Senior Living services coordinator for Botsford Commons Senior Community in Farmington Hills.

Passages
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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



BERRY, THOMAS B.
Born August 19, 1941, passed away Wednesday, November 18, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Judith A. Berry; his three daughters Barbara, Nancy and Beverly; his four granddaughters, Megan, Heidi, Laura and Lindsay; and his mother, Dorothy Berry-Fifield. Thomas retired from Livonia Public Schools as a Vocational Building Trades Instructor. He also is a retired painter, realtor and shooting instructor. As a lifetime NRA member Tom enjoyed gun collecting, target shooting, hunting, fishing and watching wildlife from his back windows. His priority was spending time with family and friends and making people laugh. He will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral services December 29th at St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon, MI at 11 am. Donations can be made to Michigan Humane Society in lieu of flowers.



KENNEDY, SANDRA
We mourn the loss of Sandra Jean Kennedy, known by her family as Sam, who died peacefully at home on November 25th, 2015. Born on August 26th, 1940 in Pontiac, Michigan to Christine MacDonald (Merrill Connors) and Eugene Wenzloff. Sandra grew up in Kingston, Michigan and Detroit, Michigan. Mother to eight and grandmother to fifteen. She is lovingly missed by her devoted husband of over fifty years, Lawrence Kennedy. Sandra received her Bachelors degree from the University of Michigan in 1962 and a Masters degree from Wayne State University. A passionate advocate for reading and education. Sandra worked for many school districts in the Detroit area as a teacher and counselor. Returning to devote her time to teaching after years of raising a family, Sandra worked at Seton Hall preschool and East Catholic High School. She will be fondly remembered by many for her selflessness, her love of children and books, her intelligent wisdom and kind love, and her unending compassion and generosity. She is survived by her husband: Lawrence Kennedy of Bingham Farms, MI; daughters Christine Kennedy of Bingham Farms, MI, Carolyn Burley (Les) of New Baltimore, MI, Dana Abbasse (Darin) of Lake Orion, MI, Susan Jones (Aaron) of Louisville, KY, Karen von Kluge (Jason) of Ann Arbor, MI; sons: James Kennedy of Sheffield, MA, Michael Kennedy of Eastpointe, MI, Lawrence Kennedy (Leina) of Stockholm, Sweden; fifteen grandchildren: Ty, Elaine, Emily, Nolan, Kirstyn, Claire, Madeline, James, Will, Rider, Luke, Timo, Cameron, Lawrence, Lincoln and her brother and sister: Jim Wenzloff (Jeanie) and Carolyn Wallace (Jack) In remembrance of Sandra, a Mass will be held on December 16th at 10am at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Church (2100 W. 12 Mile Rd. in Royal Oak, MI 48073) followed by prayers of committal at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (25800 W 10 Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48033).



BLIGHT, WILLIAM D., JR.
Age 88. Husband of Sally for 54 years. Loving father of Lori Peterson (Tim) and Rodney Blight. Cherished grandfather of Christopher, Caitlin, Tiffany, Leila and Hannah. Memorial Service 4 p.m. Sunday, December 20th, at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Visitation on Sunday, December 20th, from 1 p.m. until the 4 p.m. service. Memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice or the Humane Society of Huron Valley in Ann Arbor. www.thayer-rock.com

ETHERINGTON, JANET
Age 55. Died unexpectedly on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Janet will now be teaching and enriching lives at Wayne State University. We love you so much, Janet!!!!



Christmas play mixes music, contemporary plot, history

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Merriman Road Baptist Church will give the traditional Christmas play a fresh twist when it presents *Christmas In His Presence* Dec. 19-20.

"It's not your typical Christmas play," said Russ Weathers, who works with the drama ministry at the Garden City church.

A cast, crew and choir of approximately 100 church members will present the story of a lonely chaplain who struggles to find the meaning of Christmas while settling into his new home on an overseas military base. His predecessor has left behind books by historical figures such as Helen Keller and Charles Wesley. As the chaplain reads them out loud, the authors appear on stage to share their discovery of Christmas in the midst of adversity.

"It is a little different kind of story, but it is a real story. Many people in this season feel out of sorts, and are wrestling with that. It's answering the question, why be joyful and happy, how could I be with what is happening to me?" said Rev. Wayne Parker, senior pastor.

"What is neat is to have historical figures, like Helen Keller, who writes about disappointments, but also about how she saw God bless her in the midst of those disappointments. It's very encouraging and reminds us that the season of Christmas is not just about all good things, but about hope. Happiness is not a giddy feeling, but it is joy and hope."

Parker said he chose the play for both its story and music.

"We've got a great choir and most of its members are trained musicians. You've got to have good music."

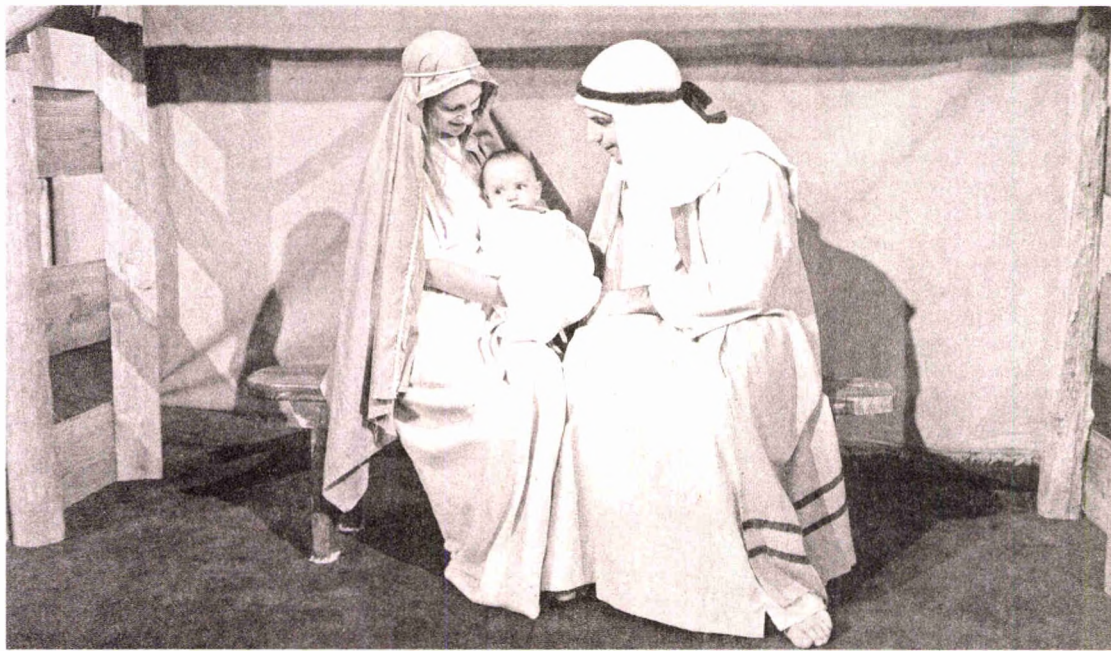
The cast includes Brian Wade, Rev. Dave Ferraro, Pat Aynes, Pam Hensley and Kayla Boehringer, all of Garden



Jerry Dahlen of Inkster portrays Charles Wesley in Merriman Road Baptist Church's Christmas program.



Pat Aynes of Garden City portrays Helen Keller, one of several historical figures that appears in "Christmas in His Presence."



Evan, Lauren and Logan Parker portray Joseph, Mary and Jesus.

City, Terry Crouson, Russ Weathers and Katie Miller, all of Livonia, and Jerry Dahlen of Inkster. Evan, Lauren and

Logan Parker of Belleville portray the living nativity. Performances are at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 and 6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 20 at the church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. Admission is free. 734-421-0472.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER

ADVENT CANTATA

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. worship services, Dec. 13

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Adult and children's choirs, handbells, brass and string instruments, along with scripture

Contact: christoursavior.org; 734-522-6830

ADVENT PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, will explain the Sacrifice of the Mass and its meaning

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200; livonia.stmichael.org

ADVENT SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 16

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The theme for meditation is "Advent Means Coming"

Contact: 313-532-8655; 734-968-3523

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 16

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: This service is for individuals who struggle with the holidays, including those who are grieving or dealing with a job loss. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service

Contact: 734-422-1470

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20

Location: St. Thodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, team milk, juice and a visit with Santa; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: 734-425-4421

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Time/Date: Blue Christmas service, 7 p.m. Dec. 21; Christmas Eve services, 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Contact: 734-427-3660

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24, 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Family service is Christmas Eve

Contact: 313-532-8655

See RELIGION, Page B8



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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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Artist turns clay into steampunk-style sculptures

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Steampunk...when sci-fi meets the Victorian era. Brian Goins of Westland is a master of the art style. He incorporates gears, vacuum tubes and other found objects into metallic-looking polymer clay animal figures.

"Steampunk is right up my alley. Steampunk has a goldish, vintage look...watch gears and clock gears. Steampunk also is leather and straps. All of my characters have goggles or I make them look like wind-up toys. The weirder I make it, the more I sell."

His steampunk wedding cake topper features a bride and groom wearing gas masks. A used carburetor became the foundation of a sculpture called Motor City Rat, complete with clay, steampunk rodent.

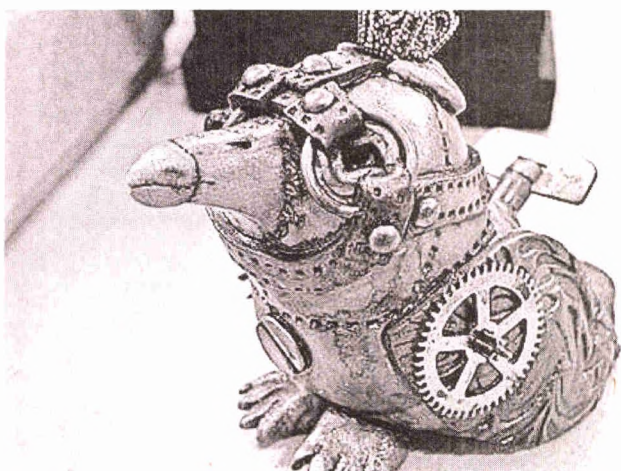
"I like doing funky stuff," he said.

Goins is selling his steampunk sculptures, wall hangings, jewelry and magnets noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the DIYpsi 2015 Holiday Market, in the Riverside Art Center, 76 N. Huron, in Ypsilanti. The indie art fair includes nearly 90 vendors selling handmade items including paper goods, ceramics, jewelry, and apparel.

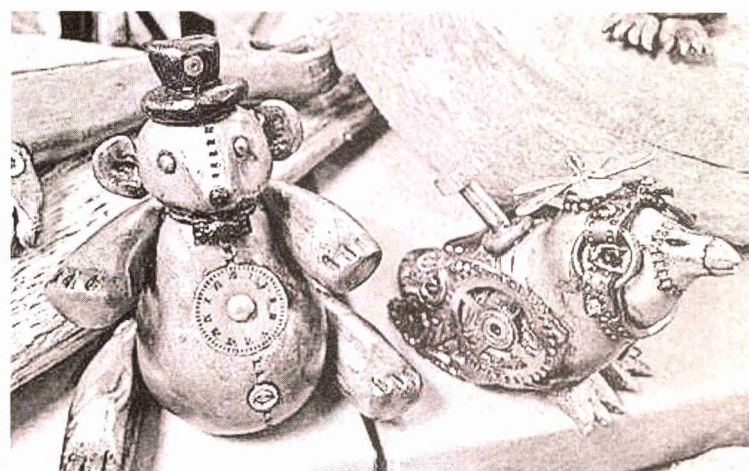
New career

Goins, whose art runs \$10-\$400, left home care nursing to become a full time artist two years ago. He works out of a basement studio in the home he shares with his partner and four cats.

He always had a flair for art and enjoyed painting and drawing. He took art classes in high school but put his creative work on hold while pursuing a nursing career, first in Florida and then back home in Michigan.



The strap around the bird's neck and face may look like leather but is made from polymer clay.



Westland artist Brian Goins attains a metallic look by mixing different colors of polymer clay.

"I was going up north one day and was in the car and I told my partner I wanted to start doing art again, and I wanted to start it again in clay."

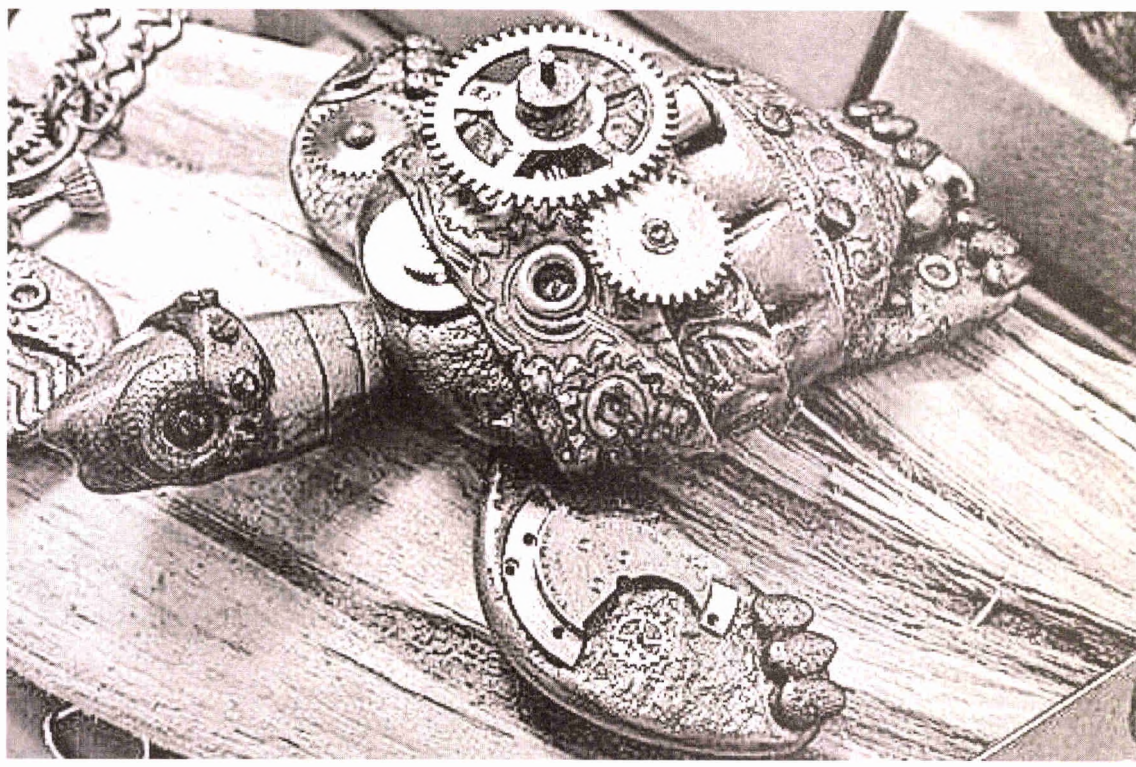
Polymer clay

He read a book on the subject, tried his hand at wheel-throwing, but found his niche in polymer clay. He taught himself to work with the medium, sometimes using a pasta machine to soften and create sheets of clay.

"It's a low-fire, lightweight clay. I have an oven in my basement," he said. Some artists also use toaster ovens to firm and dry their work.

He developed his steampunk style when a friend gave him a book on the topic five years ago.

Goins taught classes at Maxwell's Art and Treasures in Garden City for several years, and has shown his work at galleries in Royal Oak and Saugatuck, in addition to running a store on Etsy.com. Now he's focusing on art shows. He has participated in the Funky Ferndale Art Fair, Berkeley Art Bash, and the Wyandotte Street Art Fair. It's his first



Brian Goins of Westland creates steampunk-style sculptures, made of polymer clay and found objects.

time at the DIYpsi Holiday Market.

"I do all kinds of other art shows and was on the wait list.

They put me in the show and I'm glad they did," he said. "I haven't done Plymouth (at the Park) but I'd like to. May-

be next year."

For more information about the DIYpsi Holiday Market, visit diypsi.com.

Guide to Employment

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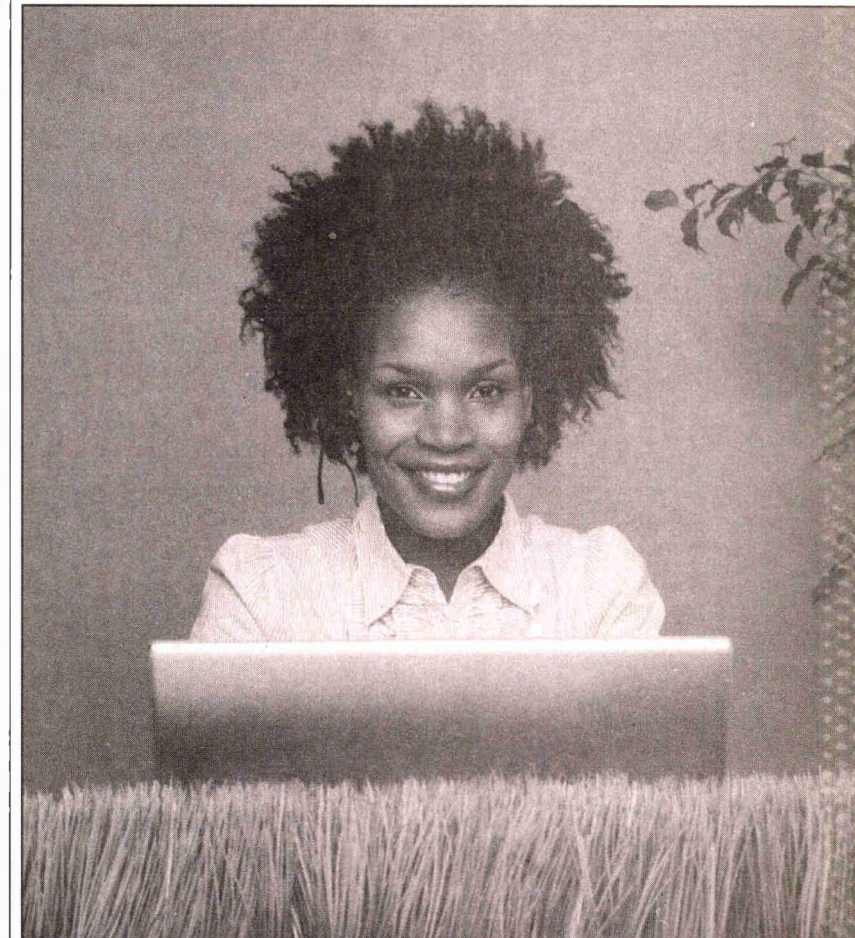
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Psychic Kristy Robinett kicks off radio call-in series

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer



Psychic medium Kristy Robinett of Livonia

Here's your chance to tap into the supernatural for free advice.

Kristy Robinett will bring her psychic abilities to the Detroit airwaves beginning Monday, Dec. 14. She'll answer listeners' questions during a monthly segment, *Medium Mondays*, in the 7 a.m. hour on WDVFD-FM's (96.3) *The Blaine Fowler Show*.

"I used to host my own Internet show for a number of years and worked for KISS-FM in Oklahoma and did a segment similar to what I'll be doing with Blaine," said Robinett, a Livonia resident and psychic

would do life coaching tips. This will be actually taking calls."

Robinett said she did a radio segment for a station in Bowling Green, Ohio last week and fielded questions about such topics as "I think my house is haunted," "My brother committed suicide and we don't know why," and "I missed saying good-bye to my mom. Is she mad at me?"

During *Medium Mondays* a staff member will ask callers their name and a summary of their question before connecting them with Robinett on the air. She hopes that will avert potential problem calls like the murder confession she received many years ago during

a radio show.

"They were worried the person they killed were mad at them. Uh, kinda. It doesn't take a youngster. They know that," she said, adding that law enforcement subsequently became involved in the incident.

Lifelong medium

Robinett began encountering spirit guides and ghosts as a youngster. Today she combines life coaching and psychic skills to help clients in one-on-one counseling sessions — in person or by telephone — and in group events. She aids law enforcement agencies, attorneys and private investigators with cold cases and has written several books about

her experiences as a psychic medium. *Restless Souls*, a television show about her work on a missing persons case, occasionally runs on the ID network. A new show about her work will air next month in Japan.

Robinett said she sees spirit energy as a physical form in her "mind's eye" when responding to questions by telephone.

"There is no time nor distance with energy. It doesn't matter if someone is in front of me or 500 miles away on the phone. I still get the information through the voice," she said.

Tune in to *Medium Mondays* on Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 7 and April 11.

ENGAGEMENT



Jenna Abraham and Dillon Rahill

Abraham-Rahill

Jenna Abraham and Dillon Rahill announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Doug and Kathy Abraham of Northville, graduated from Plymouth Christian Academy in 2013. She is a senior at the University of Michigan.

Her fiancé, son of Alex and Marie Rahill of Canton, graduated from Plymouth Christian Academy in 2012. He is a senior at Spring Arbor University.

A summer 2016 wedding is planned.

RELIGION

Continued from Page B6

COMMUNITY CAROL SING

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20
Location: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

Details: Features The Salvation Army Concert Band, refreshments served after the concert at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St., Plymouth
Contact: Jerry Smith at 734-453-6464, ext. 119

HYMN FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13
Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 W. Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The choirs of Holy Trinity and St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington present a Christmas hymn festival, "Holy Light." Directors Ann Buland and Troy Nelson will lead the mass choir, supported by Dale Love and Lisa Hartge, accompanists. A free will offering will be accepted and a reception will follow the concert
Contact: 734-464-0211

WINTER SOLSTICE

Time/Date: 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19
Location: The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills

Details: Rev. Leonetta Bugleis leads a color-themed solstice ritual that celebrates "the longest night." The story theme is "Silver-Blue Solstice: A Walk in Nature Across Time." The celebration includes soloists, story, meditation, ritual, dance and visuals
Contact: 248-478-7272; uuFarmington.org

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May
Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible
Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200; www.livonia.stmichael.org

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday
Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one
Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday
Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com
Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month
Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia
Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.
Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.
Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday
Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows
Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 6:00 a.m. Monday-Friday
Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.
Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

RECYCLING

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month
Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth
Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.
Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

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EDUCATION
Canton foundation continues scholarship tradition

By Brad Kadrick
Livonia

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Small start
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Early years
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115 S. Canton

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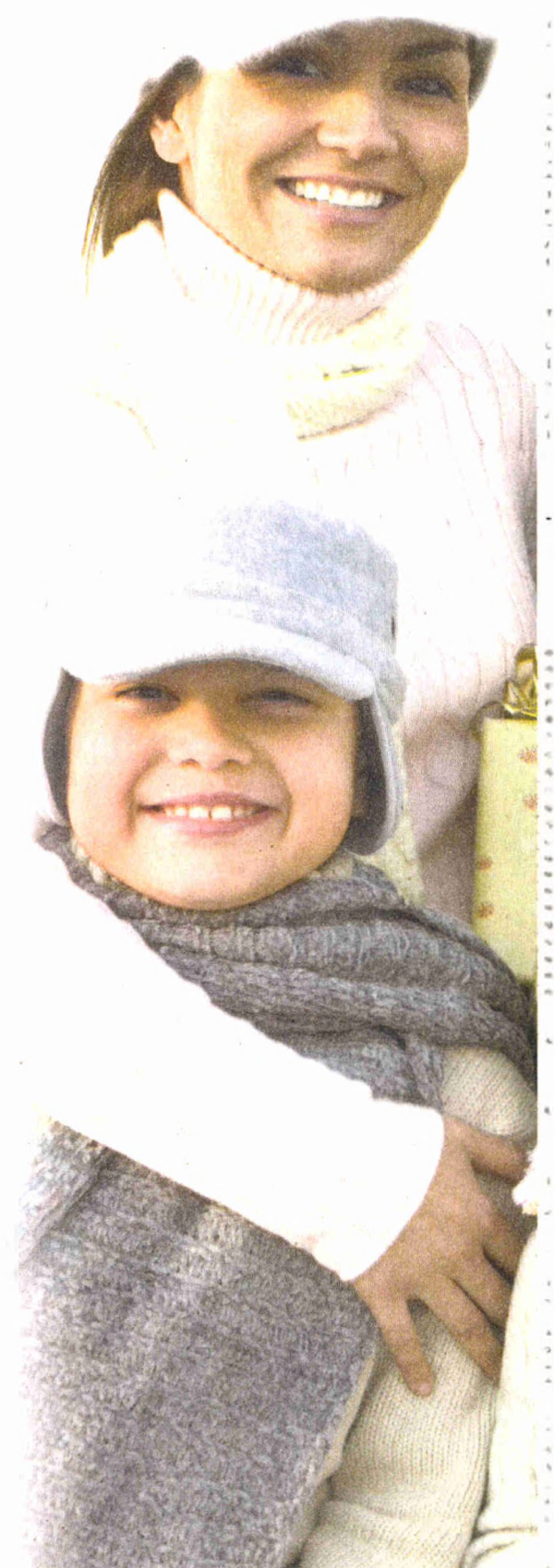
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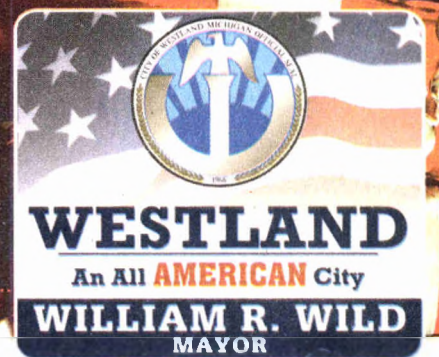
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What to consider when relocating for a job

BY SUSAN RICKER
CAREERBUILDER

Relocating for a job may sound exciting. Yet when you start thinking about the logistics, it can suddenly become a much more stressful and complex scenario.

Jodi Chavez, senior vice president at recruitment and staffing firm Accounting Principals, who has more than 14 years of experience in the recruiting industry, provides insight on everything you need to consider when relocating, and how to work with your new employer to make the moving experience as smooth as possible.

Inquire about costs, perks

Job seekers need to think about the financial impact of relocation when negotiating logistics. "The cost of living in a new city could be significantly higher than your old city, and while this should be compensated for in your salary, it is important to check," Chavez says.

Other financial benefits that you should investigate include compensation for moving expenses, as well as incentives you may receive for signing on as a new employee. Chavez encourages job seekers to ask for certain expenses to be covered. "A candidate should ask the company, and be prepared to negotiate, for a relocation plan," she says. "Be prepared with costs of the move, like movers, storage, (and) temporary housing, and use it to make your case for relocation assistance."



THINKSTOCK

She adds, "To get the right talent, companies may offer a few perks to get you in the door, including assistance in selling or buying your home, paying for house-hunting trips, transporting your cars and in some cases, helping your spouse with job leads in the new city."

In those situations, though, Chavez notes that it's important to ask the company about their relocation reimbursement policy. "Typically if relocation is paid for, or financially assisted by the company, they require you stay a minimum amount of time, otherwise you may be responsible for paying back relocation reimbursement. You'll find most are one to two years."

Long term vs. short term

Moving for a new job is no small commitment, so it's important to know what expectations the company has for you, as well as what kind of career security you can expect. To this point, Chavez says, "Even with unemployment on the decline, job security is unfortunately never a guarantee."

Do your research on the company to ensure you feel comfortable with where it is headed. If job security is a major concern, it would be worth negotiating a minimum stay with the company to be included in your contract along with the terms of a termination or layoff, such as severance pay."

You may want to be candid about how long you expect to stay in this location, if stability or moving plans are a stipulation for your family's well-being. "Unless it is otherwise stated in your contract, there are no guarantees that you won't be relocated again," Chavez says. "If being relocated again is a concern, this is something that should be negotiated into the contract the same way the salary would be negotiated."

When relocation is common

Certain positions are more prone to relocation, Chavez notes. "Depending on their success in one market, sales professionals may be asked to relocate to other markets to train other employees and boost sales." And many industries expect some travel in their line of work. "Sales and consulting jobs often require travel. It's a good idea to have a percentage of time you are willing to travel in mind as companies typically assign a travel percentage to those positions, (for example), 'willing to travel 40 percent of the time' or such."

Relocating for a new job can be a major milestone in your career, and with thoughtful preparation, can also be a major life moment for you to enjoy.

Susan Ricker is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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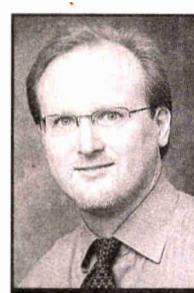
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Car Report

"The Force" Is With Fiat Chrysler Brands In Major Promotion with New Star Wars Movie



By Dale Buss

Not even "The Force" could make General Motors want to merge with Fiat Chrysler. But, fortunately, CEO Sergio Marchionne at least can count on his brands' new marketing tie-in with the widely anticipated new Star Wars movie to keep Fiat Chrysler on the road to continued prosperity.

For several months earlier this year, Marchionne kept the auto

costs of keeping up with pollution mandates — had become too expensive for so many companies to go it alone.

But in Amsterdam earlier this month, Marchionne had changed his tone slightly. "We are not choking," he told *Automotive News*. "We are in relatively decent shape." And, "at the moment, we have no intention of doing anything hostile."

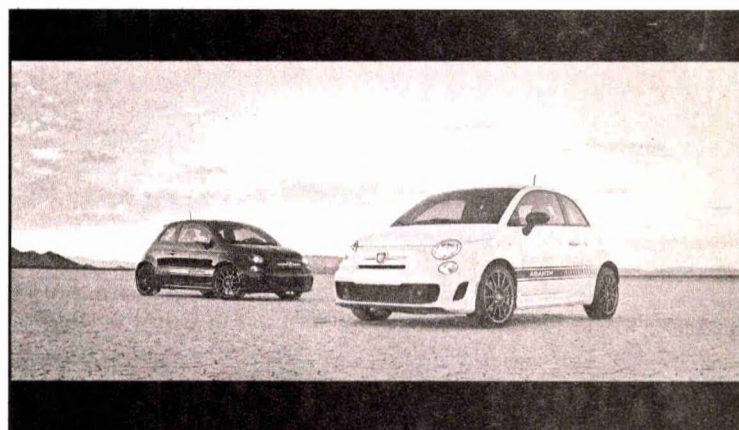
Tabling merger aspirations for the moment cleared a little space for Fiat Chrysler's latest big marketing promotion tied to culturally relevant moments. Fiat Chrysler joined with Walt

the company's year-end sales events, "The Must See Event of the Year," and each commercial closes with the tag, "See Star Wars: The Force Awakens December 18" in the U.S.

They include a Chrysler brand spot that harks back to 1977 and posits that "few things feel like the first time you saw Star Wars." A Dodge commercial, "The Force Gathers," pays homage to the iconic image of Darth Vader and his army of Stormtroopers with an army of white Dodge Chargers, Challengers and Durangos -- all led by a sinister black Dodge Viper, march toward some nervous valets at the opening of the newest Star Wars film -- and set, of course, against the famous "Imperial March" music.

The "Family" spot for Ram uses sound from the movie trailer and actor Mark Hamill's voice as Luke Skywalker. Ram vehicles power through the desert revealing a Ram 3500, 2500, 1500 and the new Rebel as Hamill says, "There exists an all-powerful force in the universe. It surrounds us. Gives us strength. Turns fear into hope. And to those who seek to harness such power ... This is what you've been looking for..."

"Having our brands be part of the global conversation surrounding one of the most anticipated movies in recent years provides remarkable worldwide exposure for our" brands, Olivier Francois, Fiat Chrysler's chief marketing officer, said in a



Fiat's forces of "dark" and "light" in a Star Wars-themed ad.

release. The tie-up "once again provides the opportunity to deliver the unexpected -- relevant, entertaining and immediately noticed end-of-the-year Tier 2 commercials true to the individuality of each of our brands and featuring Star Wars music and sound design known around the world."

Befitting the international appeal of the Star Wars franchise as well as Fiat Chrysler's increasingly transatlantic business, the 30-second co-branded TV spots were created to run in North America, Argentina and Brazil, and additional spots will be rolled out throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Each includes not only various creative elements from Star Wars: The Force Awakens but also footage of vehicles specific to each country. Dealers in each market also will have options for buying air time for the ads.

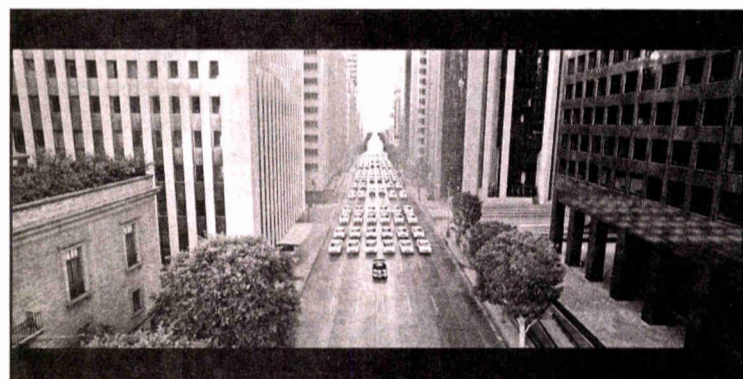
Radio spots and social-media extensions will undergird the promotion. Lucasfilm announced in August that it would collaborate

with the automaker and with six other global brands to promote the hugely anticipated new flick.

As a warm-up, Fiat Chrysler displayed a custom-painted Fiat 500e Stormtrooper model at the Los Angeles Auto Show last month, a conceptualization that was inspired by the armor of the First Order Legion. And in September, Mattel's Hot Wheels offered Uber riders in New York a free ride in a custom-wrapped Dodge Charger uniquely styled after a Stormtrooper.

Francois and Fiat Chrysler brands got a lot of mileage out of previous movie alignments including Dodge's with "Fast & Furious 7" and various brands with the just-released "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay -- Part 2."

But if pundits' predictions about the appeal of the first of a planned series of three sequels to the existing six Star Wars films are even close to target, Fiat Chrysler likely will find that The Force proves as great a marketing vehicle as it is a power of the universe.



"The Force" gathers for Dodge in a new TV ad.

industry buzzing with his very transparent, full-on push for a combination with GM, which included an e-mail directly to GM CEO Mary Barra urging her to consider joining forces with Fiat Chrysler.

Marchionne's rationale was that the industry — particularly

Disney and Lucasfilm to roll out a global advertising campaign co-promoting the much-anticipated "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" movie -- and the Chrysler Dodge, Jeep, Ram and Fiat brands.

The spots -- a distinct commercial for each of the five Fiat Chrysler brands -- promote

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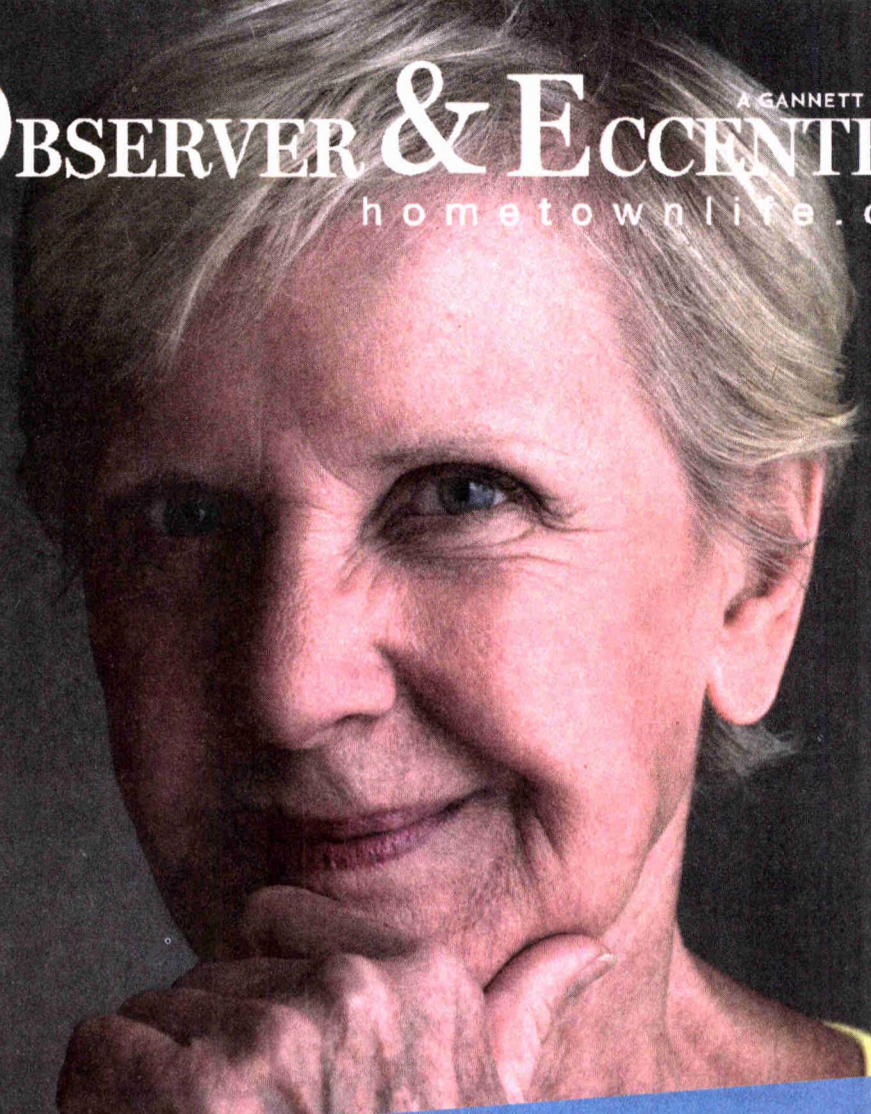


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