

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



THE \$55 BURGER
FOOD, B9

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No raises for township elected officials

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

It looks like Plymouth Township's seven elected officials won't be getting pay raises this year or next.

The township's five-member local officials compensation commission

failed to meet in 2015 to recommend officials' salaries for 2016 and 2017. Board of Trustees members discussed Tuesday abolishing the commission — and possibly voting directly on their own pay — but took no action, meaning the commission remains.

But according to state law, the com-

mission can make salary recommendations only in odd-numbered years, with the recommended salaries taking effect the following year unless rejected by a two-thirds board vote. The current township board — or the one seated after the November election — could change direction, but under the current

system, no raises are possible until 2018.

"I'm OK with that," said Trustee Mike Kelly, who had proposed abolishing the commission.

Kelly said he raised the issue out of

See RAISES, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two-year-old Adelaide Gabler and her dad Brandon Gabler take a selfie with a melted penguin. They are from Canton Township.

Crouch named school board president

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education chose its officers for 2016 Tuesday evening during a brief organizational meeting.

Kim Crouch, who was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2013 and elected to a four-year term the following year, was named board president. She takes over for John Barrett, a former teacher, school administrator and Plymouth City Commission member.



Crouch

Crouch, an attorney and former newspaper reporter, has three sons in district schools. She lives in Canton Township.

Replacing Crouch as vice president is Sheila Paton, formerly board treasurer. Patrick Kehoe, who was appointed in August to fill a board vacancy, was named treasurer and Kate Borninski keeps her role as board secretary.

Barrett and Trustees Mike Maloney and Michael Siegrist complete the board.

The votes for the selection of officers were all 6-0; Maloney was absent from the organizational meeting, but arrived in time for the board's regular meeting, district spokesman Nick Brandon said.

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FANS WARM TO ICE FEST

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Fans found it cool at this year's Plymouth Ice Festival, organizers say, even though the weather — and the ice itself — were unseasonably warm.

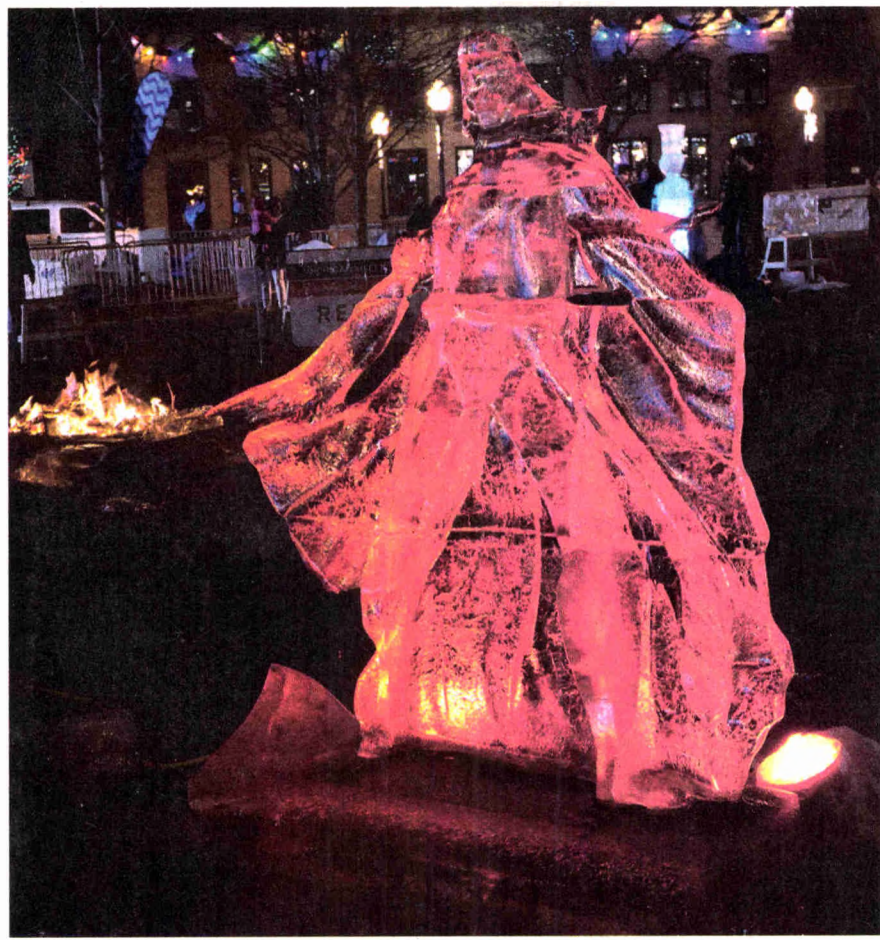
The three-day festival, the city's 34th annual, opened Friday to rain, temperatures near 40

degrees and small crowds. On Saturday, temperatures climbed but so did attendance, said producer James Gietzen, demonstrating the festival's unwritten law: Higher temperatures mean larger crowds, but smaller ice. "It's really a love-hate relationship with the weather," Gietzen said Monday. "It's hard to find that happy medium."

JAMES GIETZEN
festival organizer

On Sunday, with the weather colder and roads snowy, the crowds dipped again, he said.

But Gietzen and Rob Parent of Sun & Snow Sports, a festival sponsor, said



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Force has been hard on Darth Vader.

Wine-tasting event raises money to help save lives

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

John and Lisa Pardington have dedicated their lives to helping others avoid the same fate as their son Max, a mere 20 years old when he suddenly died from an enlarged heart.

His memory looms large as the Pardingtons partner with the Canton Chamber of Commerce for a wine- and beer-tasting event,

with half the proceeds going to the Live Like Max Foundation, which partners with Beaumont Hospital to pay for heart screenings.

INSIDE
Park students plan bowling fundraiser for Live Like Max Foundation, B3

"We are still crushed by his loss," John Pardington said, "but our goal is to honor Max through the great life he lived and try to save some other lives."

No one knew he had a heart problem until the athletic, 6-foot-5, 220-pound young man abruptly died June 10, 2014. His family has since raised nearly \$150,000 to help other young people get simple heart screenings that cost just \$25.

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Colbeck to meet with constituents Friday

Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton will hold an office hour from 11 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 15, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Colbeck will be on hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. No appointment is necessary.

"I encourage anyone who needs help, has questions, or wants to express a viewpoint to stop by," said Colbeck, R-Canton. "I'm looking forward to continuing a regular series of office hours throughout the district and hearing directly from constituents about state and pocketbook issues."

Colbeck represents the 7th Senate District,



Colbeck

which includes the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne, as well as the townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth.

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

Westland's Wild to chair CWW board

Westland Mayor William Wild has been sworn in as chairman of the Conference of Western Wayne board of directors.

Composed of the chief elected officials from each of the 18-member communities, the bipartisan CWW board works collectively to discuss mutual issues, share information and generally improve the quality of life for the nearly 700,000 residents who live in the area.

"I am truly honored to serve the 18 communities in western Wayne County that make up this consortium," Wild said. "We meet monthly to discuss issues such as legislation, transportation, public safety, substance abuse prevention, community and economic development, employment and the environmental health of the region."

The CWW communities are the cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

Joining Wild on the CWW 2016 executive board are: Dearborn Mayor Jack O'Reilly, vice



Westland Mayor William Wild was recently sworn in as new chairman of the Conference of Western Wayne.

"This position complements an initiative I started last year to mobilize mayors in the state," Wild said. "We are all facing issues at the state level that impact our cities and communities. It is imperative that we collaborate and create solutions to the challenges we encounter."

The conference is the access point for funneling information to local units from county, state and federal agencies. In this capacity, the CWW will monitor state and federal legislation for its impact on local government. In addition, the CWW works as a liaison between local government and many service organizations by representing its members on various committees and boards.

The conference serves as a collective program planner and developmental entity and provides a forum for the discussion and review of issues.

"We are fortunate to have many strong leaders in western Wayne County like Mayor William Wild, who has volunteered his time, effort and experience to the benefit of all the Conference of Western Wayne communities," CWW Executive Director Jordyn Sellek said.

"We are all facing issues at the state level that impact our cities and communities. It is imperative that we collaborate and create solutions to the challenges we encounter."

WILLIAM WILD

Westland mayor and chairman, Conference of Western Wayne

chairman; Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff, secretary; Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix II, treasurer; and

Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, who led the CWW the last two years, chair emeritus

RAISES

Continued from Page A1

frustration with the system, which calls the commission-recommended salaries to take effect automatically unless rejected by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the board — five of the seven members.

Kelly was among the three trustees — the others were Bob Doroshewitz and Chuck Curmi — who voted in

2013 to reject raises that took effect in 2014 and 2015. With then-Supervisor Richard Reaume, Clerk Nancy Conzelman, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustee Kay Arnold, who died last October, voting against rejecting the recommended raises, they went into effect.

Kelly acknowledged that following through with his proposal to abolish the compensation commission would "open a can of worms as to how we get raises."

The raises recommended by the commis-

sion in 2013 were 4.5 percent for the supervisor, 3.5 percent for the clerk and treasurer and 1.5 percent for trustees for both 2014 and 2015.

Supervisor Shannon Price said Tuesday that attempts were made to set up a compensation commission meeting in December, but that a meeting didn't fit into members' schedules.

"If they don't meet, there are no repercussions," Price said. In addition, he said, the terms of two commission members have expired

and those slots need to be filled.

Unless the board changes direction, Price's annual salary will remain at its 2015 level: \$111,384. Conzelman and Edwards will be paid \$104,959 each and Kelly, Doroshewitz and Trustee Steve Mann, who was appointed to fill the remainder of Arnold's term, will be paid \$11,921. The trustees are considered part-timers.

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2015-12-23 01:38:05 AM
FI9821W F Lakewood

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
A man is seen trying a vehicle door in Plymouth Township early Dec. 23. Police are looking for help in identifying him.

2015-12-23 01:38:03 AM
FI9821W F Lakewood

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
In this still from a security video, a man is seen walking up to a vehicle in an area where several vehicles were burglarized early Dec. 23.

Police looking for vehicle burglar

Police in Plymouth Township are seeking the public's help in identifying a man who burglarized several vehicles outside houses in a north-side township neighborhood last month.

The burglaries occurred in the area of Five Mile and Haggerty, between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. Dec. 23, police said. Items stolen included laptops, a navigation device and loose change.

The thief, who was caught on surveillance video at one address, appears to be a white male wearing a light-colored knee-length down coat, possibly with fur on the hood. Anyone who recognizes the man is asked to call police at 734-354-3232.

Police reminded people to lock their vehicle doors and avoid leaving valuables in them in plain sight.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Cops seize stun gun during traffic stop

Canton police confiscated a stun gun from a 19-year-old Detroit woman during what began as a routine traffic stop Saturday night on Michigan Avenue, near Morton Taylor.

Police ticketed the woman for possession of a dangerous weapon and ordered her to appear in 35th District Court for an incident that unfolded about 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

According to a police report, officers initiated a routine traffic stop after a car carrying the suspect and three other young adults was seen driving recklessly off the shoulder of Michigan Avenue. Police immediately noticed the strong odor of marijuana and asked the occupants to get out of the vehicle.

During a pat-down search, police noticed an object inside a coat pocket of the suspect and asked her what it was. She said it was a cell-phone, the report said.

Police learned, however, that the suspect was carrying a Vipertek stun gun. She told authorities she carries it because she had been previously robbed.

Police confiscated the weapon and brought in police dogs that found small baggies containing what appeared to be only trace amounts of marijuana in the car. The driver said marijuana had been smoked a few hours earlier.

Drunken customer

Police took a man into custody and cited him for public intoxication after he was found sitting on the floor and slumped over a trash can inside the Speedway gas station at Ford and Canton Center roads, a report said.

Officers went to the gas station about 2:40 a.m. Sunday after receiving a report about the 37-year-old Indianapolis man. A store clerk said the man went to a pump, paid for gas and then moved his car to a parking spot before going

back inside, where he ended up on the floor.

The clerk called police after the man had been there for 25 minutes. Police took him into custody and issued the citation.

Facebook threats

A pregnant Canton woman notified police to report she was being harassed on Facebook by a woman now dating the man who is the baby's father.

The alleged victim, 24, said the other woman told her that she might want to think twice about having the baby. She also said the other woman implied she wanted to fight when the victim was no longer pregnant.

The victim lives in the Village Squire apartment complex, northwest of Ford and Lotz. She said she had been harassed on Facebook and by email since Dec. 22. She filed a police report to document the situation.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Man arrested on DUI charge after injury accident

A 52-year-old man was arrested on a drunken driving charge the afternoon of Jan. 7 after an injury accident on northbound I-275, near Ann Arbor Road.

A Plymouth Township Police Department report said the man, who had been driving a Jeep Patriot, told police his vehicle had been rear-ended by a Pontiac Grand Prix that moved suddenly into his lane. The woman driving the Grand Prix said she didn't remember anything after leaving work and medical personnel at the scene suspected she had suffered a concussion, police said.

The man told police he'd had a drink at lunch and, after field sobriety tests, a

preliminary breath test registered a blood-alcohol content of 0.096 percent, police said. A driver in Michigan is considered to be driving drunk with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 or greater.

At the police station, two subsequent tests on a Data-master, a type of breath analysis machine, registered blood-alcohol levels of 0.10 and 0.09, respectively, police said.

Bricks tossed

No injuries were reported Jan. 7 after someone was seen throwing bricks from an overpass east of Sheldon Road onto eastbound M-14.

The incident occurred shortly before 4 p.m., a police report said. The report did not include a description of the person seen throwing the bricks.

An officer recovered two

bricks from the shoulder of the freeway. Another officer checked Robinwood Drive where it crosses the freeway, but didn't see anyone nearby, police said.

Poor night driving

An 84-year-old man was driven home by police Saturday evening after an officer spotted him, in a Ford Explorer, swerving within two northbound lanes of Beck Road near M-14, police said.

Police had received several calls, shortly before 9 p.m., about an Explorer that was heading north on Beck in the southbound lanes. There were no reports of injuries.

The driver told the officer who stopped him that he was tired and had trouble driving in the dark, police said.

— By Matt Jachman

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Oakwood ACO selected to join federal initiative

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced 121 new participants representing 49 states and the District of Columbia will take part in an innovative initiative — Medicare Accountable Care Organizations, which are designed to improve the care patients receive in the health care system and lower costs.

The Dearborn-based Oakwood Accountable Care Organization was selected as one of nearly 150 renewing Medicare Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organizations providing Medicare beneficiaries with access to high-quality, coordinated care

across the United States, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced. That brings the total to 434 Shared Savings Program ACOs serving more than 7.7 million beneficiaries.

Doctors, hospitals and health care providers establish ACOs in order to work together to provide higher-quality coordinated care to their patients, while helping to slow health care cost growth. The Oakwood ACO will be one of 434 ACOs participating in the Shared Savings Program as of Jan. 1. Beneficiaries seeing health care providers in ACOs always

have the freedom to choose doctors inside or outside of the ACO. ACOs receive a portion of the Medicare savings generated from lowering the growth in health care costs as long as they also meet standards for high-quality care.

“People across America are going to be better cared for when they go to their health care providers, because these hospitals and providers have made a commitment to innovation, a commitment to change how they do business and care for patients,” HHS Secretary Sylvia Matthews Burwell said. “Medicare, and the health care system as a

whole, is moving toward paying providers based on the quality, rather than just the quantity of care they give patients. The three new ACO initiatives that are being launched today mark an important step forward in this effort.”

Since ACOs first began participating in the program in early 2012, thousands of health care providers have signed on to participate in the program, working together to provide better care to Medicare’s seniors and people with disabilities. The new and renewing ACOs will bring approximately 15,000 additional physicians into the ACO

program starting Jan. 1. ACOs are delivering better care and they continue to show promising results on cost savings, the organization says. In 2014, they had a combined total net program savings of \$411 million for 333 Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) ACOs and 20 Pioneer ACOs. Based on 2014 quality and financial performance results for Shared Savings Program ACOs who started the program in 2012, 2013, and 2014, ACOs that reported in both 2013 and 2014 improved on 27 of the 33 quality measures, including patients’ rat-

ings of clinicians’ communication, beneficiaries’ rating of their doctors, screening for tobacco use and cessation, screening for high blood pressure, and Electronic Health Record use. Shared Savings Program ACOs also outperformed group practices reporting quality on 18 out of 22 measures.

For a list of the new and renewing ACOs announced today, go to the Shared Savings Program News and Updates webpage: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/sharedsavingsprogram/News-and-Updates.html>.

Westland’s Inspire Theatre presents high-seas drama

Westland’s Inspire Theatre is presenting its first full-length musical in more than nine years when it presents *The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree* for what theater officials are calling “an unprecedented” three-weekend run that starts Jan. 29.

In a bold move, pirates are holding hostage the passengers and crew of merchant ship *The Kayla May* and demanding an undisclosed amount of gold for their release. Included in the passenger list are the wife of Ambassador Prescott, Madam Prescott and their niece Julia and nephew Samuel.

Although not as well known as other pirates, the leader of the marauders, known only as “Bree,” is notorious for forcing her captives to walk the plank. In this unprecedented move, it is suspected that the pirates are capitalizing on the fame of the Madam to garner more than just the suspected cache carried by this type of ship.

The Lady Pirates, is the largest undertaking for Inspire Theatre in recent history and certainly in its short history at its new location on Warren Road. Moving in July of last year, this is only the second production at the Westland Center for Performing Arts.

Listed on Facebook as Westland’s only live theater, Inspire Theatre has been located in Westland for most of its 10-plus years of existence. Formerly housing the Westland cable TV station, WLND, managed by Craig Wellenbach and owned by the city of Westland, the building has been refitted by IT for performances, classes and concerts.

Artistic Director Len Fisher said he’s amazed at the level of talent represented in this show.

“We have some amazing people,” Fisher said. “Directing 27 people and coordinating all the moving parts of a musical is part organized chaos and part herding cats. But it’s an incredible amount of fun. And the show is campy hilarity. How can it not be with a stage full of women acting like bawdy pirates?”

The cast includes a mixture of Inspire regulars and newcomers from Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Livonia, Royal Oak, Redford, Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Northville and Ann Arbor.

As part of the festivities, IT is holding a costume contest at each performance. Patrons dressed as pirates will be judged on creativity and prizes will be awarded. The show opens Friday, Jan. 29, and runs for the next three weekends at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$16 and are available online at inspiretheatre.com or by calling 734-751-7057. The theater is located at 33455 Warren Road in Westland.

MAX

Continued from Page A1

To help the effort, the Pardingtons, the local Holiday Market and the Canton Chamber of Commerce have rolled out the wine- and beer-tasting event set for 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, a senior living facility located at 42600 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

“I believe in the power of collaboration,” chamber President Thomas Paden said. “We thought we would partner with Holiday Market because they are such a staple in the Canton business community and it just so happens that (the Pardingtons) are also the founders of a terrific charity.”

Paden said hundreds



The memory of Max Pardington, who died at age 20 from an enlarged heart, looms large over a wine- and beer-tasting event sponsored by Holiday Market and the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

are expected to attend. Tickets are \$35 per person in advance or \$40 at the door. Tickets are available by calling the chamber at 734-453-

4040, by going to www.cantonchamber.com or at Holiday Market, on Lilley south of Cherry Hill.

John Pardington said

more than 100 wines and dozens of beer selections, including some craft beers, will be featured, along with hors d’oeuvres from Holiday

Market.

“Everybody knows we’ve got the best wine selection around,” he said, adding that beer, and specifically craft beer, also “is a big thing. People like their beers.”

Pardington said the portion of funds going to the Live Like Max Foundation will provide heart screenings for young people who may have a problem like Max did and — also like him — they just don’t know it.

“We have dedicated our lives to keeping his name alive through these healthy heart checks at Beaumont Hospital,” Pardington said.

For more on the foundation, go to www.livelikemax.org.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kids and parents brave the mud to play interactive ice games.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page A1

festival-goers had a good time regardless.

"The festival this year just seemed to have a very positive energy," said Gietzen, whose JAG Entertainment has produced every festival since 2014. "I think things are going to be even bigger and better" next year, he added.

"People understood that the weather was out of anyone's control," Parent wrote in an email.

Sun & Snow, with help from Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan, sponsored the festival's cross country skiing track, a return attraction.

The Sun & Snow staff spent days making snow and shaping it into a course; Parent said visitors lined up to try out the trail all day Saturday and that it was kept open an extra hour that evening to accommodate everyone.

"The kids had a blast. Most had never experienced a winter sport of any kind," he said. "It was a special feeling to introduce them to an activity that will hopefully develop into lifelong passions."

There were more than 100 ice sculptures at the festival, including about 50 in Kellogg Park. Gietzen said that canopies, donated by local companies, protected some sculptures from the rain Friday and the sun Saturday; likewise, Parent said, tarps were put over critical sections of the cross country trail to keep it from melting.

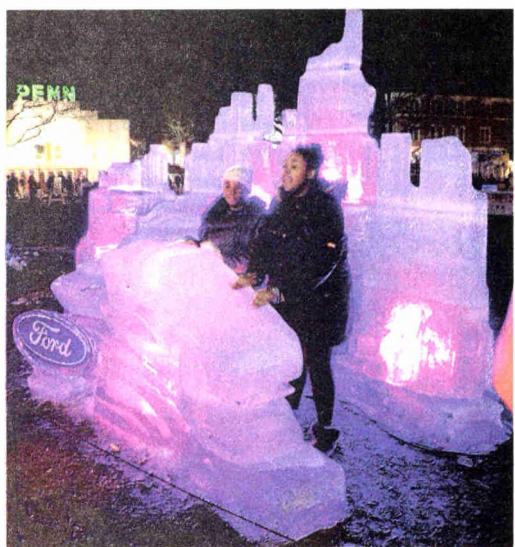
"The course actually turned into an ice block and held together better than years prior," Parent said.

Ford Motor Co. was a major new festival sponsor and its sculpture, devoted to its Mustang GT, was the festival's largest.

Jeff Lao, an instructor at Henry Ford Community College, won the Dueling Chainsaws speed-carving contest Saturday with his sculpture of a hippopotamus.

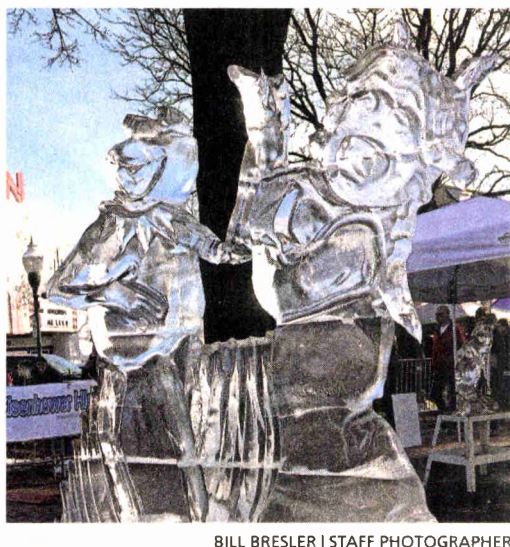
The individual collegiate carving competition was won by Steve McCormick, a Henry Ford student, with James Seeterlin and Lauren Klapec, both of Oakland Community College, placing second and third, respectively.

The team competition was won by Henry Ford (carvers McCormick and Mark Tampakes), with OCC coming in second (carvers Matt Larsen and Klapec) and third (carvers Seeterlin and Jon Mannschreck).



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Night views of the melting ice.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kermit and Miss Piggy, sweating in the brutal January sun.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Henry Ford Community College carving team member Angelina Adkins works on her sculpture during Saturday's competition.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rob Parent (foreground) and Carson Miller, Of Sun and Snow, groom the cross country trail. They spent the week living in a van, working on making snow every night.



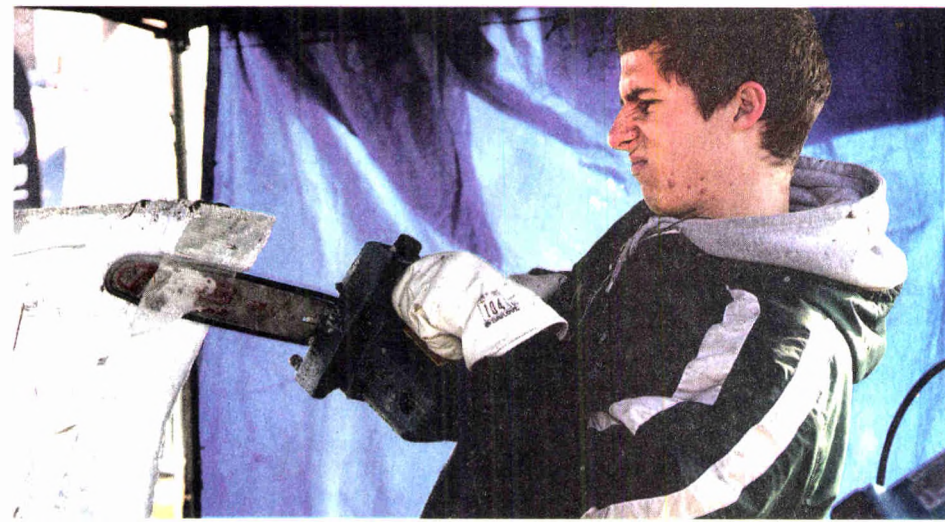
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eric Gifford helps 6-year-old daughter Ellen on the Sun & Snow cross country ski trail. They are from Northville.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brad Ather watches 3 year old son Oliver hit the puck down the ice ramp. Oliver shot and scored. They are from Royal Oak.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland Community College culinary team member James Seeterlin works on his sculpture.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland Community College student Cherilyn Martinez carves a seahorse.

Canton Qdoba will host grand opening

Qdoba Mexican Eats®, the fast-casual restaurant, will open its newest location at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 41420 Ford Road in Canton. As part of the grand opening, Qdoba will host a donation drive to benefit Mittens for Detroit, a charity whose purpose is to collect, purchase and distribute new, unused mittens and gloves to children and adults in need in Detroit. Through Jan. 31, the new location

will collect new and unused gloves and mittens in support of the organization. Bring in a pair and you'll receive free chips and queso in exchange for your donation. Qdoba fans will immediately notice that the new location is unlike any other Qdoba in the area. The facility will feature a bold, new color scheme and distinctive furnishings and amenities, like free WiFi. The

brand's design is matched by its menu, which includes Qdoba's new line of Knockout Tacos made with fresh tortillas cooked in-house on a comal — a smooth, flat griddle common in Mexico and Central America. The new Canton Qdoba will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Find out more at www.Qdoba.com.

Stay the course during these turbulent times

Brutal — that is the only way you can describe how the markets began the new year. Across the board, markets were down on average 6 percent during the first week of 2016. This makes it the worse opening week on Wall Street in history. The news is full of doom and gloom and, as a result, investors are nervous. That's why I think it's important to take a step back and understand what's happening before you decide to make a move. Remember, one of the keys of investing is don't let short-term comfort cause long-term pain.

If you take a step back and analyze what's happening, it's clear that China has been the main reason for the downturn. China, which has been the fuel that's driven the world's growth over the last number of years and whose economy has been growing at an incredible pace, has started to slow down. As a result, the markets have had an adverse reaction. It's not that we didn't know that China was slowing, but every time there's a new report that confirms it, markets are adversely affected. It is important to understand China is the second largest economy in the world. When the Chinese economy slows down, it has a domino effect.

The other major reason for the market sell-off has been oil prices, which continue to fall. In fact, oil prices are now around \$33 a



Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

barrel, where they were in 2004. A drop in energy prices is a double-edged sword. As consumers, we love the fact that we can fill up our tanks at less than \$2 a gallon. The other side is that many economies throughout the world are dependent upon energy prices, including ours. Numerous oil wells throughout the United States have been shut down because of low energy prices. As a result, jobs are lost and local economies are hurt.

The question we're faced with as investors is, What do we do? Do we sell off and wait it out or do we stay the course? My problem with selling out is that, now what? Do you leave your money in cash that is paying virtually nothing? You are losing purchasing power because we know the cost of living is going up much faster than the return you're getting in the bank.

It would be nice if we could get out of the market when it's retreating and get back in when it starts going up, but that's nearly impossible to do. Markets in today's world can change direction relatively quickly. Don't forget, last August we saw a 10-percent correction before markets bounced back. As I've said many times in the past, it is impossible to

time the market because good news is bad news and bad news is good news. When you attempt to time the markets, you have to be right twice: once when you buy and once when you sell. No one's been able to do that consistently.

The other option is to stay the course. For investors that have well-balanced and diversified portfolios based upon their individual goals and objectives, market corrections are the norm. Reality is that markets are always volatile and, as investors, we have to accept that. The reason that investors need a game plan is for times such as these.

I know it hurts when the market goes down. I am an investor and, when markets retreat, my accounts retreat as well. What I constantly focus on are my goals and objectives, not where the market is at any given point in time. Markets are volatile and fickle, but my goals and objectives are not. If you maintain focus during these turbulent and volatile times, you will prosper over the long run. But if you try to constantly time the market, it's no different than the hamster and the wheel — you run and run, but you've gone nowhere.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomasstmanagement.com. Email him questions at rick@bloomasstmanagement.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Library will offer alternate entrance

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 14, the Plymouth District Library will offer an alternate barrier-free entrance for library users. While new guardrails are being installed on the library's standard barrier-free ramp, individuals seeking easy access into the building will be able to enter at the staff entrance, located behind city hall and the fire station.

"We are very pleased that the installation of our permanent guardrails will take place this week," Library Director Carol Souchock said. "Our customers have been very patient and we appreciate that."

This alternate entrance was utilized this past summer when the library's main entrance was being repaired. Library staff members will be posted at this entrance to provide assistance. Additional handicap parking will be available near the alternate barrier-free entrance during the project. Signage will direct library users to the alternate entrance.

The main entry will remain open for those who do not require barrier-free access.

For more information, contact the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 242.

Named director

Pamela D. Lewis has been named director of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan. She succeeds David O. Egner, who was recently named president and CEO of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation.

NEI is one of the nation's largest philanthropic partnerships, funded by 12 national and regional foundations and managed by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. It is in its eighth year of innovative funding and the development of public/private partnerships that have helped create more than 17,000 jobs and 1,600 companies throughout the region.

"Pam is a highly talented economic development expert who will bring important continuity to NEI's work, as well as the vision to guide the NEI team in defining a strategy for its next important phase," said Steven K. Hamp, NEI chair.

Lewis, who has an engineering degree from Michigan State Univer-



Lewis

sity, served as deputy team leader of NEI under Egner. She joined the initiative in 2011 as senior program officer, after serving as a member of the Kauffman Foundation's Detroit team, overseeing national entrepreneurial programs. She was recently named as one of the top 25 women in technology in Michigan by *Crain's Detroit*.

"Pam has been instrumental to the success of NEI and we are pleased that she will lead the initiative during its next chapter," said Mariam C. Noland, president of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. "As a champion of innovation in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors, with strong Detroit roots, Pam has excelled at breaking down boundaries and bringing diverse constituencies together to move our region forward."

Lewis began her career at DTE Energy, spending 15 years in roles ranging from analyst to manager of process management and continuous improvement initiatives. At NextEnergy, she managed entrepreneurial programs focused on accelerating clean energy start-ups.

Townships gather

More than 1,000 local officials and guests, representing hundreds of townships from 68 counties across Michigan, will convene next week for the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state.

The Michigan Townships Association will host its 2016 Annual Educational Conference & Expo, Jan. 19-22 at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. Township officials from all corners of the state will gather for three days of education — including more than 70 educational sessions — and networking at the event, which also includes the largest municipal expo in the state, with more than 100 exhibitors.

This year's conference

aims to recharge township officials while also encouraging them to re-engage, re-think, re-invent and re-build their ideas of what it means to be a leader in the 21st century. Detroit native and entrepreneur Josh Linkner will provide the keynote address at the conference, focusing on how attendees can forge their legacy through public service.

Education is the focus of the week and officials can choose from dozens of sessions throughout the event, providing them with information on statutory duties and core township services, as well as township trends and legislative updates.

Sessions will cover revitalizing board meetings, utilizing Twitter, handling invasive species and how trails can be an economic and cultural benefit to communities, among many other topics.

Presenters include the state's foremost policy and governance experts, including Chris Thomas, director for the state Bureau of Elections, Michigan Department of State; and planning expert Mark Wyckoff, director of the Planning & Zoning Center at Michigan State University and senior associate director of the MSU Land Policy Institute.

"By attending our conference, township officials will leave re-energized and re-dedicated to leading Michigan's communities, residents and businesses forward, toward a prosperous future," MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill said. "During the week, they will gather knowledge and insights from a multitude of local government experts, as well as their peers, to improve their own township's services and operations, and even more effectively and efficiently govern their communities."

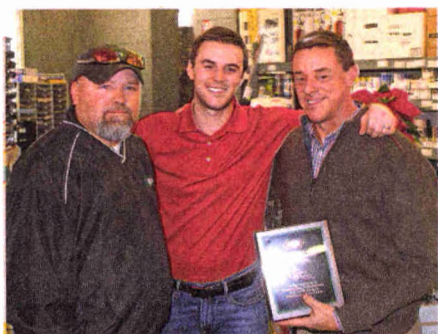
U.S. Rep. Candice Miller will also be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her career serving Michigan residents, from serving 12 years as supervisor of Harrison Township to seven terms in the U.S. Congress. Miller will receive the award at the conference's annual banquet, Thursday, Jan. 21. The banquet is preceded by a legislative reception, which will be attended by township officials and dozens of Michigan senators and representatives.

Ace Cutting a top Minnich dealer for 2015

Minnich Manufacturing awarded its Northern Region's Top Dealer Award to Ace Cutting Equipment.

Ace Cutting led Minnich's Northern Region, which includes 21 states, in sales and represented a majority of its products. With its high attention to customer service and satisfaction, Ace Cutting has proven to be a big part of the Minnich Family of dealers, the company said.

Ace Cutting Equipment is an American-



Pictured are (from left) Mike Sansom, Minnich Northern Region sales representative; Steve Measel, Ace Cutting salesman; and Ron Measel, Ace Cutting owner.

owned family business which offers more than 100 years of combined experience in the concrete and masonry cut-

ting industry. Ace Cutting is at 25806 Novi Road in Novi. Find it online at acecutting.com.

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Peters: State to play a key role in auto technology

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., wants to make sure Michigan plays a key role in helping the automotive industry take some giant leaps in technology.

"It's not about torque and horsepower — although those are my two favorite things and they're still incredibly important," Peters said Monday while touring the floor of the 2016 North American International Auto Show. "We're going to see computer technologies and self-driving capabilities and communication between cars that's going to revolutionize how we think about automobiles."

Peters noted how 2015 saw record-breaking auto sales with nearly 17.5 million vehicles sold in the United States. He expects the growth to continue through 2016.

"It's wonderful to be here to see the lineup of automobiles," he said. "Today is a testimony to the fact the auto industry is alive and well and experiencing incredible growth ... so this is all good for Michigan and the greater Detroit area."

In the long term, Peters said the industry needs to continue to focus on some of the new



U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters (left), touring the Fiat Chrysler exhibit at the North American International Auto Show with Head of Quality Mark Chernoby.

technologies that are quickly emerging, such as vehicle-to-vehicle communications (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure technology (V2I).

"It's estimated in the next few years that with some of the safety applications that are coming online that we could eliminate up to 80 percent of all car crashes, which is really a big deal, espe-

cially when you consider over 30,000 people die on the highways each year," said Peters, a member of Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee. "If you can eliminate those accidents, you're saving tens of thousands of lives."

Peters said new technology will allow roads and bridges to "communicate" with vehicles and

provide adequate warning, for example, when there's a spot of black ice on the road ahead.

In terms of automated vehicles, Peters said the University of Michigan already has a 35-acre test track for driverless cars that opened last summer. A much larger testing track of almost 300 acres is in the planning stages at Willow Run.

"So we want to make sure Michigan is at the forefront of it," he said. "So that's our auto suppliers, our auto manufacturers and our universities ... the University of Michigan is taking a major international leadership role."

Presidential election
As President Barack Obama finishes his last

year in office, Peters said he's looking forward to welcoming Obama next week, when the president flies into Detroit to personally tour the auto show.

Looking forward, Peters is endorsing Hillary Clinton as the country's next president.

"I believe she's going to be the nominee and she's going to win in the fall," he said. "I think you look at what's happening on the Republican side and they're all pushing to the far right and being extreme on issues — it may help them win a Republican primary, but they're out of step with where the majority of the American people are."

Peters said he just returned from a tour of the Middle East that included stops in Turkey, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

"I talked to a lot of folks who were really concerned with some of the rhetoric that's coming out of the presidential campaign," he said. "That's not how we think about America ... we think of America as being inclusive, a welcoming place for everyone. It goes to the core of our values."

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ZF Group shares its plans for the future at auto show

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

ZF Group isn't wasting any time after purchasing Livonia-based TRW Automotive last year.

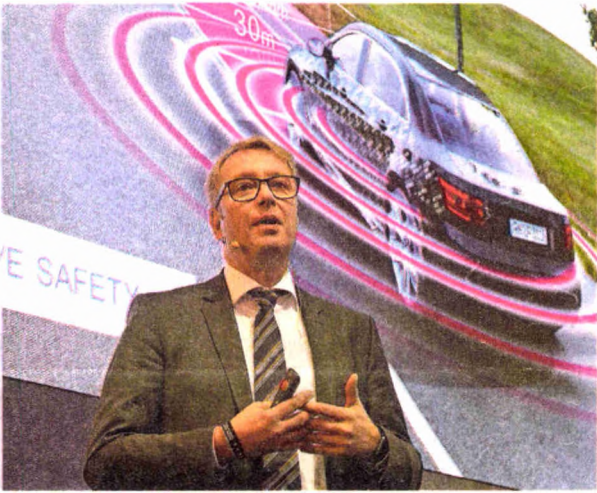
The company discussed its plans for driving technology during a press event Monday at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Stefan Sommer, CEO of ZF Group, said the company is moving forward with the three trends it envisions becoming most important in automated driving, something he said will become important not just for places such as freeways, but in more urban settings as well.

"We are also seeing it significantly in the city environment, in valet parking and what you can imagine further on," he said. "If we are talking about automatic driving, we talk about basically three major technologies, which are: see, think, act."

Some of that technology includes automatic braking, rear-braking assist and products that already exist but continue to see improvements as national regulations become more stringent.

"Active safety is one key element of our product strategy, but we shouldn't forget pas-



Stefan Sommer is CEO of ZF Group.

senger safety," Sommer said. "And there is huge opportunities in this as well."

That passenger safety included airbags that deployed between the front seats to prevent the passengers from hitting heads in the result of an accident, plus a rear-passenger airbag that deploys to protect a passenger sitting in back.

"Safety is not only for the front, it's for the rear as well," Sommer said.

He touted the work being done with the company's "innovation car," which has several newer features to it. Described as an "advanced urban vehicle," Sommer said the vehicle is also able to upload

data to the cloud to share information from the vehicle.

The system running the vehicle is also on two separate electric engines, allowing for a wider turn radius for the front wheels. That, along with more space in front because of a lack of a combustion engine, increases the turn radius from 45 degrees up to 75 degrees.

"Why is this possible? Because, as you can see, it is a pure electric car," he said. "Two engines on each side, which allows us to ... steer the car in a very sharp way."

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ZF Group is moving its headquarters from Northville to Livonia.

ZF moving headquarters to Livonia

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Add one more company moving its global headquarters to Livonia. This time, it's a company that already has a strong presence in the city.

ZF North American, based in Northville, announced during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit this week it plans on moving east to Livonia. ZF Group bought the former Livonia-based TRW about a year ago for more than \$12 billion.

The auto parts supplier, which focuses on drive line and chassis technology, as well as autonomous driving technologies, will move into the former TRW headquarters, 12001 Tech Center Dr., in Livonia.

The move will allow employees who work closely with others in similar divisions the opportunity to be closer to one another, said Bryan Johnson, head of cor-

porate communications for ZF North America.

"We're going to name the Livonia location the headquarters for the region for the global group," said Johnson, a Canton resident. "It really provides us with the opportunity to bring certain areas of the business together."

"In Livonia, we already had a global operation, so we had a good infrastructure in place for that. And in Northville, it was more of a regional group."

A transition team will evaluate needs over the next six months and it could take 18-24 months to completely transition from the Northville site to Livonia.

The Livonia office has about 1,200 employees, while the Northville office has about 400; both have employees coming from across the region. No new construction or building enhancements are expected to the current Livonia office to

accommodate the move.

The Northville facility will continue to be used, mostly as a sales and engineering facility. The number of employees at each location is not expected to change immediately, though it could in the future with more hiring planned for the company.

"Once we can move out of the corporate people, we already have open positions," Johnson said. "We're hiring at both locations."

The company is the latest in the past year to move its headquarters to Livonia. Taylor-based Masco Corp. announced last summer it would move its world headquarters to Livonia in a brand-new building at Schoolcraft College. That project broke ground in the fall and is expected to wrap up work sometime this year.

John Wilkerson, a senior communications manager with ZF TRW, said with the company being in Livonia since 1993, it has built a strong report with many local entities, including local government and education.

"We have a really good relationship with the school system in Livonia, with the city," said Wilkerson, who said he formerly sat on the Livonia Chamber of Commerce board. "It's been an excellent place to work. It has a great location in the metro area, very centrally located. It's been a really good relationship and it's something we certainly want to continue."

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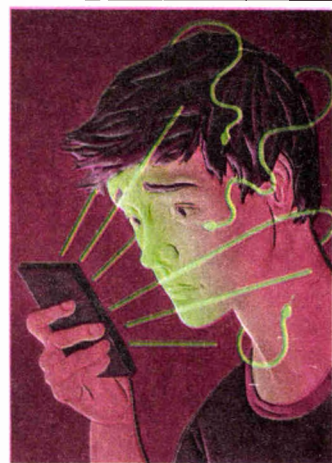
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal For Student Pictures for Five Middle Schools Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, and Plymouth Canton Community Schools at kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J. McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **Friday, January 29, 2016 at 10:00 am**. Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed- "Photography Service Bid". The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Kate Borniniski

OUR VIEW

Celebrate King holiday, explore religious and ethnic diversity close to home

There's a great line in the movie *The American President* from a couple of decades back. Michael Douglas, as the U.S. president, says, "America isn't easy. America is advanced citizenship. You gotta want it bad, 'cause it's gonna put up a fight."

The specific context in which Douglas, as President Andrew Shepherd, spoke in the 1995 movie was a personal attack on him and a loved one by a political rival. The film's larger point shows that, throughout our nation's history, we have indeed faced advanced citizenship while striving to live up to the ideals of our founders. The state of the world today, with terrorism and fear on the rise, is dividing our nation once again.

This month, many communities will celebrate observances of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose leadership of the U.S. civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s forever changed America. Some communities take a more active role than others do in honoring the King and discussing how America has changed and hopefully advanced since his 1968 assassination.

Locally, many of our communities are changing, too, becoming more ethnically diverse and becoming home to those of multiple faiths.

This is particularly important in a time of fear in the U.S. and worldwide, as evidenced by the recent attacks in Paris and closer to home. It's understandable to worry for the safety of your loved ones, but we must avoid becoming a nation so gripped by fear that we stereotype those who are different and fail to see our commonalities.

In the wake of World War II, many Germans struggled with their role in the Nazi Holocaust, which killed millions of Jews and others. If more in their nation had spoken out earlier — and been more informed by a free press of their government's actions — who knows how different history would have been?

It's all too easy now to look at Muslims and others of Middle Eastern background with suspicion, to question their motives and allegiance to this country, where many are U.S. citizens. We must not let history repeat itself by allowing legitimate law enforcement concerns and practices to be overridden by fear and abuse of power.

Why not participate in your local Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance or visit a nearby community if no such observance is available? The public schools are closed for students Monday. Schools that remain

in session for MLK Day typically focus on age-appropriate curriculum on civil rights and related issues in their classrooms.

Students live in an increasingly complex world and will be expected to live and work with those of many diverse backgrounds. If their childhood and teen experiences have been limited to others similar to them, how well-prepared will they be for that world? Don't forget, too, that many public libraries offer a wealth of information on issues of racial and ethnic diversity, with librarians who choose those materials well-informed on what will suit readers and viewers of varying ages.

Dialogue is the key to welcoming new neighbors to our communities whose backgrounds vary from our own. Don't think your question is silly; speak up in the forums that are available in which to learn about people's heritage, beliefs and religious practices.

Don't underestimate the power of food, either, in such gatherings. There's a Christian hymn that says, "May we who eat be bread for other," and often the simple but common act of breaking bread together (and learning of foods of different cultures) helps to "break the ice."

LETTERS

GOP and gender equality

It appears that gender equality may at last be on the horizon in our state, at least in the political arena. By that I mean men in the "new" Republican Party now have to share the title extremists with the "fairer sex." Rep. Lisa Lyons managed to slip language into a bill during a late night ses-

sion that further eroded union rights, further opens the door to, for lack of a better word, political graft and also handicaps local governments from advising the public about millage issues. Lyons had previously approved the voter suppression bill that will increase your time at the polling place.

State Republican Chairwoman Ronna Rom-

ney-McDaniel has reportedly stated she has no problem waiting in line the extra time the bill is going to require. I wonder if she would make that same statement in one of our urban areas that will be most affected by this partisan piece of crap?

Both Lyons and McDaniels should be awarded the Leona ("only small people pay taxes") Helmsley award for their contributions to the right wing causes.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson seems to be the only politician with any integrity left standing in what was once a truly "Grand Old Party."

James Huddleston
Canton

WRITE US

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

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Email: jmaliszewski@hometownlife.com

End fireworks

In July 2015, I had numerous issues with neighbors using fireworks. My dog is traumatized. My home, the brick, windows, roof and yard have been hit by debris. I have heard and seen the hits on my windows. My brick has white marks on it and my roof had remnants of rockets and shell devices.

I spent a lot of time cleaning my yard. I spent a lot of time trying to comfort my dog and determine the best time to take the dog out to do his business. I spent a lot of time not sleeping as the fireworks went on and on, past the "legal" time. This is all minor compared to the trauma that military veterans with PTSD must have experienced. It is also

minor compared to those who may have lost their lives or have been injured due to fireworks.

Is the state's revenue of a few million dollars worth the trauma, potential harm to property and individuals and loss of life? No.

There are House Bills 4725 and 4726 and Senate Bills 450 and 451 that will repeal the 2011 Michigan Fireworks (non) Safety Act.

I encourage all constituents to write their senators and state representatives to pass these important bills. If there is action, perhaps the 2011 Michigan Fireworks (non) Safety Act can be repealed before the Fourth of July!

Karen Curtsinger
Canton

CANTON OBSERVER

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BOYS BASKETBALL



PCA's Luke Yakuber (right) tries to ward off Southfield Christian defender Jalen Bouldes during Tuesday's MIAC contest. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Plymouth's Cassidy Lewis pushes the basketball up the floor Tuesday night.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lewis returns to spark 'Cats

Plymouth offense too much for Pats

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The first few weeks of the 2015-16 girls basketball season have not gone according to plan for the Plymouth Wildcats.

Starting the season 1-6, a skid exacerbated by the absence of top scorer Cassidy Lewis due to an undisclosed injury, the Wildcats were eager to get back on track Tuesday against KLAA South Division rival Livonia Franklin.

Lewis' return to the lineup helped immensely against the visiting Patriots. She scored four treys among 14 points, sparking Plymouth's 60-24 victory.

"Cass is one of our leaders; we always talk about Cass," Plymouth first-year head coach Ryan Ballard said. "It's been a big boost to get her back."

Sophomore Chantal Ledoux also had a strong game, scoring nine points for the Wildcats (2-6, 1-1).

"It was nice to finally get back on the winning side of things," Ballard said. "The kids have been working really, really hard. We haven't given up and we're still working and trying to get better every day."

Franklin fell to 0-8 overall and 0-2 in the division.

Plymouth will look to make it two straight wins Friday at Livonia Churchill.

(GIRLS) CANTON 54, JOHN GLENN 52 (OT): After falling behind 12-4 entering the second quarter Tuesday, the Chiefs chipped away to force overtime — behind clutch shooting by Brianna Finn (15 points) and

GROWING PAINS

Plymouth Christian coach views lopsided loss to Southfield Christian as opportunity to learn

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

From the get-go Tuesday night, Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team got schooled by its bigger, faster, more-experienced opponent.

By the time the first quarter of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division match-up was over, visiting Southfield Christian enjoyed a 26-13 edge — quickly flicking off an early push by PCA.

Sophomore guard Matt Malcolm had drained back-to-back treys in 20 seconds to briefly turn a five-point hole into an 8-5 advantage just 1:10 into the game.

The game went downhill fast from there, at least from the home team's perspective, as Southfield Christian rolled to an 83-35 victory.

"We're young; we started four sophomores tonight," PCA head coach Matt Windle said, concurring that facing a team that has racked up three recent Class D state titles (but now playing in Class C) can only help the learning and growing process. "Playing against a powerhouse like Southfield Christian, eyes can get big and we can start off on our heels. But I thought we started off strong."

"It almost hurt us that Matt came out

See EAGLES, Page B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Focusing on the basket Tuesday night is PCA sophomore Matt Malcolm, who scored 16 points in a losing effort.

See ROUNDUP, Page B2

COLLEGE SIGNING

Skaff's cool about joining Polar Bears

Salem senior commits to Ohio Northern cross country, track programs

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There is something to be said for comfort zones and Griffin Skaff has found his as a distance runner at the prep and soon-to-be collegiate levels.

The Salem senior recently signed to join the Ohio Northern University men's cross country and track and field

programs. Skaff, a member of the all-Observer boys cross country second team after a consistently solid season, is enthusiastic about joining the Polar Bears — coached by Division III all-Ohio Coach of the Year Jason Maus — in 2016-17.

"Coach Maus runs a solid program, similar to Salem, and I think I'll feel comfortable right from the get-go," said Skaff, whose parents (Erin and Don) and brother (Derek) were at the recent signing ceremony at Salem High School.

The Polar Bears cross coun-

try squad is basking in the glow of winning the 2015 Ohio Athletic Conference championship.

Rocks coach Steve Aspinall said Skaff "has grown leaps and bounds as a runner since the summer before his junior year, when he committed to running year round."

During his freshman and sophomore years, Skaff played soccer in the fall (and ran track in the spring).

"Since his first cross country race, he has steadily improved until he was a solid

See SKAFF, Page B2



SALEM ATHLETICS
Griffin Skaff (seated) celebrates along with family members after signing to run cross country at Ohio Northern University. Standing are (from left): mother Erin Skaff, brother Derek Skaff and father Don Skaff.

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SUPER BOWL OSTING FUNDRAISER

Philanthropy is right down their alley

Timnith
Staff Writer

On the surfe, it's just bowling on a 'ndom late Saturday in the middle of January."

But it all ds much deeper than that for senior student-athletes Brynna Samuels, Rachel Dez and Rachel Pfannes. The National Honor Society members are the driving force behind Saturday's bowling fundraiser for the Live Like Max Foundation.



Samuels

For just 20, a person can spend a couple of hours locking down pins at Super Bowl in Canton (c Ford Road, near Canon Center Road) while helping knock out the kind of heart ailment that in 2014 killed 20-year-old Max Pardington.

With all three of us being athletes, we wanted to choose an organization that fit a little closer to us and the first one that came to mind was the Live Like Max Foundation," said Samuels, who along with Lopez is on Salem's varsity girls bowling team.

Pardington was an elite athlete and the picture of health when he died suddenly from an enlarged heart. Trough efforts such as those by Samuels, Pfannes and Lopez, the hope is that future student-athletes will be able to step such a fate from happen-

BOWLING FOR MAX

What: Fundraiser for the Live Like Max Foundation.

When/where: 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday at Super Bowl Lanes, on Ford Road near Canton Center Road, in Canton.

Why: National Honor Society students Brynna Samuels, Rachel Pfannes and Rachel Lopez, all Salem seniors, spearheaded the fundraiser in honor of Max Pardington, a seemingly healthy 20-year-old who died suddenly in 2014 from an enlarged heart.

Dollars raised Saturday continue the Live Like Max Foundation's ongoing quest to provide "necessary heart checks for high school athletes to prevent this from happening to any other family."

Cost: \$20 per person, covering the cost of shoes, pizza, pop and bowling.

Raffle: Baskets provided by area businesses such as Yogurt Palooza, Imagine Theaters, Kilwins and others will be raffled off (\$1 for one ticket, \$2 for two tickets, \$5 for eight tickets).

Info: Email hrtofachamp@gmail.com.

ing to them.

Bowling was a no-doubter for the trio when it came time to decide how to help the Live Like Max mission.

"We decided to do a bowling event, because Rachel Lopez and I are already at that bowling alley four days of the week," Samuels said. "So we already knew who to contact and (also) because it is fun and

available to do during the winter."

Samuels — also on Salem's varsity girls track and field squad, as is Pfannes — said feedback around the Park about the philanthropic project has been extremely positive.

"I have heard a bunch of 'This is nice what you guys are doing' and 'Congratulations, because this is a huge thing you are taking on,'" she said. "They have all been around the same: positive, encouraging and gratifying because (we) can take this leadership opportunity and apply it to many other things."

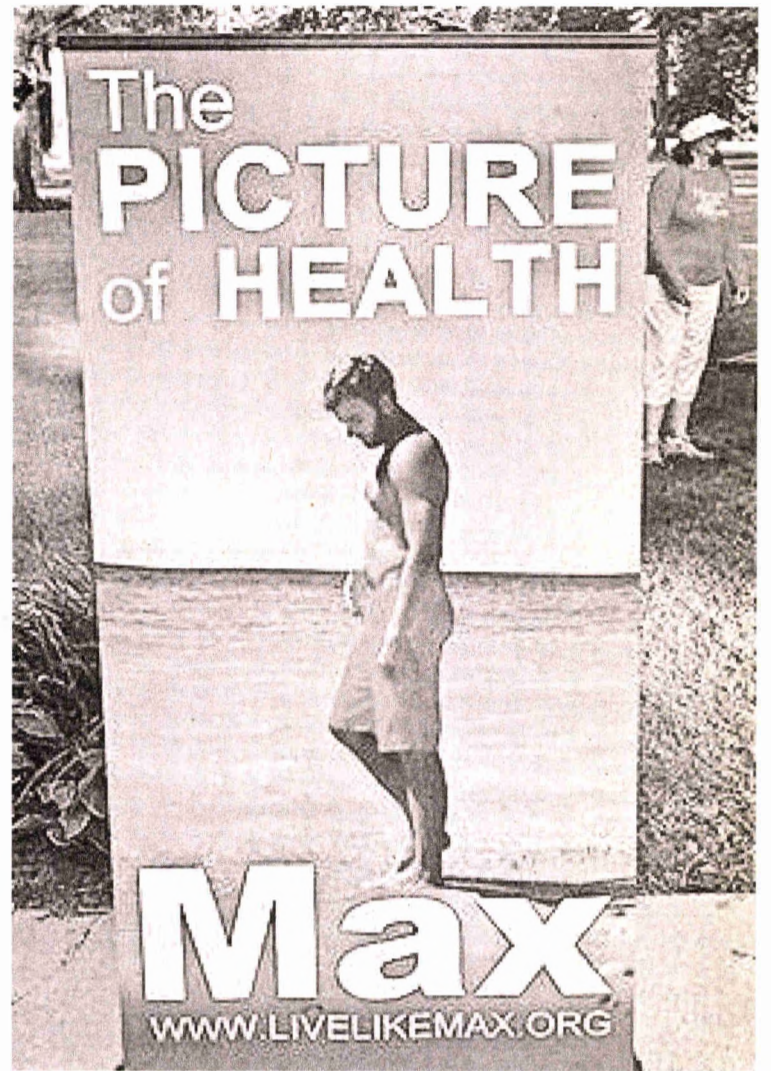
Local businesses got behind the students as they went about completing their project, providing baskets that will be raffled off.

The students have covered all the bases in advance of the event, which is scheduled for 7:30-10 p.m.

"We have gone to social media to make an event on Facebook and have invited people to it," Samuels said. "We have placed fliers up around all three high schools, have made an announcement for the school news and have even left sheets at Super Bowl."

With months of dedication and effort behind them, now it's time for Samuels, Lopez and Pfannes to bask in the glory of a job well done and literally let the pins fall where they may.

Certainly, many others will turn out Saturday night to make sure they do.



COURTESY PARDINGTON FAMILY

Max Pardington indeed was "The Picture of Health," but he died suddenly in 2014 from an undetected enlarged heart. Super Bowl in Canton is hosting a fundraiser Saturday.

REP WRESTLING

Despite going 0-4, CC Super Duals beneficial

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Although going an uncharacteristic 0-4 Saturday in its own Super Duals tournament, Novi Detroit Catholic Central's wrestling team hopes to reap the benefits down the road.

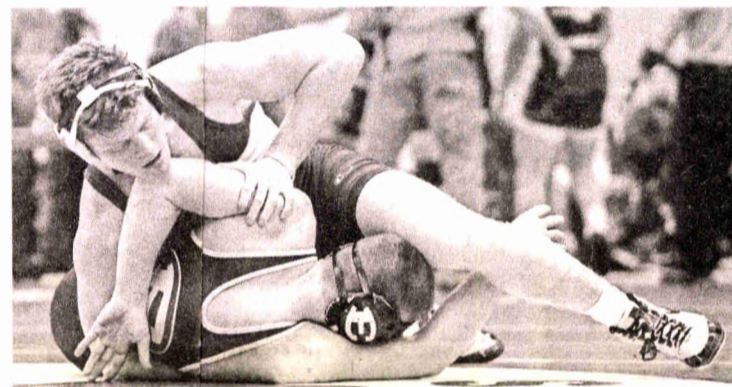
Last year's national champion and ninth-ranked Oak Park (Ill.) River Forest defeated the Shamrocks in the opener, 40-24, while Portage (Ind.), ranked sixth in its state rankings, downed CC, 41-22.

Two highly-regarded Ohio schools, Lakewood St. Edward, ranked No. 7 nationally by *USA Today*, and Brecksville defeated the Shamrocks by scores of 58-11 and 40-29, respectively.

St. Edward captured all four matches on the day to improve to 16-1 overall. The Eagles' lone loss this season is to Buchanan (Calif.).

"Our guys made a choice to attend Catholic Central to be challenged academically, athletically and spiritually," said CC coach Mitch Hancock, whose team took on four of the Midwest's prep powers while slipping to 6-5 overall. "We have an intense schedule this year and it's to prepare our guys for the postseason. Records shift to 0-0 in the postseason."

Leading the way with four wins apiece on the day for the Shamrocks were junior Ty Morland (182 pounds) and freshman Kevon Davenport (120). Heavyweight Nick Jenkins finished 3-1, while Connor Curnutte (195) went 2-2.



SCOTT CONFÉ

Junior Tyler Morland (top) won all four of his 182-pound matches in the CC Super Duals, including a win against Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward.

"We could've wrestled at a local tournament up the road, possibly gone 5-1 on the day and walked out like super heroes," Hancock said. "We wrestled three of the toughest teams in the country and saw many bright signs from our guys. I'm proud of the way they competed and wrestled."

The Shamrocks return to action at 6 p.m. Friday when they travel to take on defending MHSAA Division 1 state champion Brighton.

Dual setback

Two of the state's Division 1 wrestling titans collided Jan. 6, with visiting Davison escaping with a 29-23 dual meet triumph over host CC.

Davenport (125 pounds) and Cam Amine (35) started the meet with victories for CC before the Cardinals won five straight weight classes to take a 23-8 advantage.

Morland stopped the bleeding for the Shamrocks when he bumped up to 189 to decision top-ranked Brendan McMill, 3-1. Jackson Ross (215) followed with a win over No. 5-ranked Tanner Thomas, while Jenkins (285) pulled CC within striking distance with a pin.

At 103, Rhett Newton battled, but lost on what was to be a tying take-down at the end of regulation. Junior David Rastique then earned a 7-2 victory over Raymond Cole at 112 to pull the Shamrocks to within three, 26-23.

Davison, which knocked CC out of last year's quarterfinal in Battle Creek, sewed up the victory at 119 pounds when state champ A.J. Facundo decisively defeated Stone Moscovic, 8-2.

"Our guys always compete hard," Hancock said. "That was an 8-6 dual, with us losing several close matches that could have gone either way."

EAGLES

Continued from Page B1

hot and hit two threes, because they shadowed him so quickly, he had to really work to get his own shot."

Malcolm scored 10 of his team's first-quarter points, but managed only six more after that. Chipping in eight points was senior Levi Yakuber, while Layne Pries drained two triples for six total points.

Blue streak

On the other side, it was a blur of blue as the relentless visitors (also called the Eagles) hit shots from well behind the arc — particularly Richard Feagin, who did the trick twice in the first half from the MHSAA logo near the PCA bench — and also dominated the glass for easy put-backs and jams.

Leading the charge for Southfield Christian (6-1) was Marlo Brown, with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Contributing 15 points each were siblings Bryce Washington and Brock Washington, while Caleb Hunter (10 points) and Feagin (nine points) also made their presence known.

"They do a nice job," Southfield Christian head coach Josh Baker said about the Washington brothers. "Both of those guys scored real well and then Marlo, like usual, he rebounds and passes, too."

"We had 43 rebounds, 12 offensive boards at the half, and that was big for us."

Plymouth Christian (3-3, 0-2) was outrebounded 43-29, with Malcolm grabbing seven. Another sticking point for PCA was the inability to finish numerous layups and put-back attempts during the first half.

Windle emphasized jitters might have contributed to those misses, as well as the

go-go-go pace of Southfield Christian.

"In terms of finishing, we couldn't do it," Windle said. "And part of it had to ... you can say it's a little bit of nerves."

"But I think a lot of it has to do with them being so on the go that (we) just got tired a little bit. When it comes to that (fatigue), you may have difficulty finishing at the basket."

The first-year coach added that not having Brian Schlientz available due to illness took away one of his team's better defenders. He then cited first-quarter foul trouble by Max Okolo, usually a top rebounder for the Eagles.

"It was the David and Goliath story," Windle said. "Nobody expects us to win, but we have to push through it and play with heart."

"We gave it all we could. I think we would have given them a lot bigger and better of a game if we didn't get called for so many fouls."

Under pressure

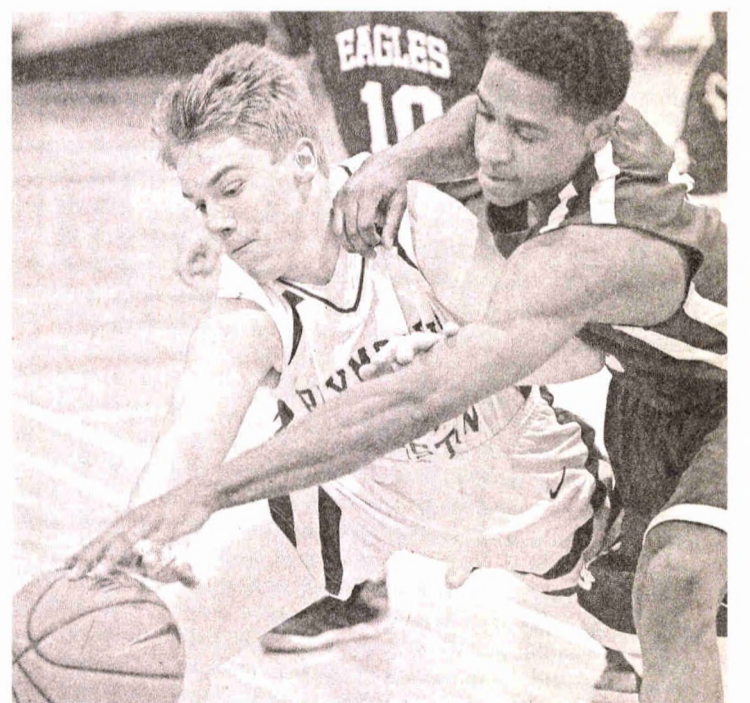
Malcolm acknowledged feeling the extra defensive pressure immediately after he swished soaring treys from each corner to give PCA its only edge of the night.

"They're tough. They put somebody right on me and they were face-guarding me the whole time," Malcolm said. "They have long arms and they're quick."

He added that his team "played tough and gave it our all. That's all you can ask for in a game like that."

"I thought we gambled a little bit and gave them some open looks and they shot it well (at the start)," Baker said, noting Malcolm's early hot streak. "So we tried to just stay solid and keep them in front."

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Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Battling for the basketball are Plymouth Christian's Layne Pries (left) and Southfield Christian's Marlo Brown.

PREP GYMNASTICS

Invitationals help Park teams stay sharp

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Two Park varsity gymnastics teams literally are getting into the routine, with solid showings Saturday.

Plymouth scored a new season-high with 138.3 points at the Fraser Invitational, earning runner-up honors. Meanwhile, Canton finished third the same day at the Lowell Invitational.

For the Wildcats, coach Pam Yockey cited "strong all-around seniors Haley Metz, Rebeca Simu and Emily Welch" with seconds and thirds in Divisions 1 or 2.

Victorious on vault in D2 competition was Welch, with a score of 8.7.

Simu earned second place on floor exercise in D1 while taking third on beam; Metz tallied second on both vault

and balare beam. Another standout was senior Sam Fontana, second on vault in D2.

Yockey also pointed to the growth of gymnasts and team leaders Adriana Tao and Eva Eila. Tao, a junior, finished second on uneven parallel bars third on beam and fifth on floor for D2.

Plymouth trailed only GrossPointe United, victorious with a 139.475 team score.

Canton recap

At Lowell, Canton finished third out of 14 teams with 133.4 points, behind Rockford (143) and Livonia Blue (134.5).

Ittie Dickson led the Chiefs with four excellent evs in D1, finishing fourth in the all-around with 34.525. She placed third on bars with 8.8 and her 8.95 on floor was

good for eighth.

Also strong in D1 was Jana Hilditch. She was sixth in all-around (34.05), with 9.25 on floor earning her sixth.

Leading Canton's D2 contingent was Hailey Hodgson, who posted a 9.05 score on vault for second place. She also was fifth on floor (9.125) and fourth in the all-around (33.65).

Consistency enabled Rachel Socha to finish eighth in all-around (32.55), while freshman Katherine Najduk made her debut with a "nice bar routine" of 8.375 (sixth), while finishing 10th in all-around with 31.725, coach John Cunningham said.

The Chiefs look to defend their team championship at the Jeanne Caruss Invitational this Saturday.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



Detroit native Beth Stalker.



Jill Jack and the American Songbook Band.



Paul King is vocalist for The Rhythm Society Orchestra.

Kittens & Crooners

Live jazz series coming to downtown Northville

With Northville's live music options limited mainly to summertime events like Arts & Acts, Friday Night Concerts and Victorian Festival, a local company has decided to test the waters and expand offerings by presenting a four-part jazz series at the Tipping Point Theatre.

Kittens & Crooners features four of metro Detroit's top vocalists and their bands on selected Saturdays. The series kicked off Jan. 9 with Brad McNett. The remaining shows feature Jill Jack & The American Songbook Band — March 12; Paul King — May 14; and Beth Stalker — July 9.

"This series focuses on the classic jazz vocalists — like Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole," said producer Whitney Stone, of Brighton-based 2 Stones Events, "and the singers we've selected fit the bill perfectly."

In addition, ticket holders will dine on appetizers from area restaurants and explore a variety of wines provided by local shops.

Another element of this series brings in the Northville Art House, which has been using 2 Stones Events to book the musical portion of the annual Arts & Acts Festival since 2012.

At each of the four shows, the Art House will bring in select pieces from one of its featured artists to display in the theater. Concert attendees can even purchase the art with portions of the proceeds going to Tipping Point and the Art House.

"This venue is known for its intimate setting," Stone said. "Depending on the configuration, it only seats between 105 and 120. For live jazz, the sound and visuals will be out-

standing — no TVs blasting sports or any of the other typical drawbacks of clubs and bars."

Doors open at 7 p.m., with wine tasting and appetizers until 7:45 p.m. The shows will run 8-10 p.m. with a brief intermission. There will also be a cash bar with wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages available.

Tickets are \$30, but patrons can save 10 percent by purchasing the four-show series. Tipping Point season ticket holders will also receive a 10-percent discount.

"We want these shows to be an elegant evening of great jazz, wine, art and food — all right here in downtown Northville," Stone said. "The Tipping Point, Art House and 2 Stones are blasting this series out to nearly 10,000 emails twice a month, so I wouldn't wait too long to get tickets."

To purchase tickets online, go to www.2StonesEvents.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the Tipping Point Theatre (361 E. Cady St.) from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 6:30-10 p.m. Friday. For more information and for business partnership opportunities, call 586-484-8797.

"This is also a great opportunity for businesses to get in front of a select audience and be part of a truly unique event in Northville," Stone said.

Series lineup

» **March 12** — Jill Jack & The American Songbook Band: Thirty-seven time Detroit award-winning singer/songwriter Jack and longtime drummer Ron Pangborn have talked about putting a project together that celebrates the music they both love — The American Songbook. Selecting some of the best musicians in Detroit, they have captured the beautiful essence of the music of an era

long ago. Come celebrate with them as they will take you on their musical journey.

» **May 14** — Paul King: The crooner describes his style as "a mixture of Mel Tormé, Joe Williams and Frank Sinatra — with a dash of Cab Calloway thrown in." Detroit's *Metro Times* wrote: "His voice has been banned in some nightclubs for inducing public displays of affection on the dance floor."

King, vocalist for The Rhythm Society Orchestra, has been featured on a number of local television and radio programs. He has also performed with veterans of some famous big bands, including Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Sam Donahue, Joe Williams, Lionel Hampton and Big Joe Turner.

» **July 9** — Beth Stalker: A Detroit native and seven-time Detroit Music Awards winner, Stalker is no stranger to the music biz, beginning her career at the age of 4. Known then as "Little Liz," she released her first full-length album, *Jesus Loves Me*. Soon after, she began touring and making appearances on several local television shows. And though she loved the glitz and glam of the music industry, she took some time away from the spotlight to focus on school.

At 20, Stalker was back at it, releasing her second album, *Here with You*. The album garnered much praise at the Detroit Music Awards, earning her six awards. One year later, she recorded and released *Hallelujah I Love Him*. But her journey didn't end there. In 2008, she auditioned for *American Idol*, making it to Hollywood after receiving the highly coveted "golden ticket." In 2012, Stalker released an EP titled *A Reason to Smile*. Currently, she's hard at work on her fourth full-length album, her first project to be recorded and released by Decibel.

Detroit Zoo stays wild for winter

Temperatures may be frosty, but there's still plenty of wildlife to see this time of year at the Detroit Zoo, which is coming off a record-breaking year of attendance.

The family-friendly "Wild Winter" weekends are returning from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 16-17 and Feb. 6-7 at the Ford Education Center in Royal Oak. The events are free with zoo admission.

Gray wolves, wolverines, Japanese macaques, tigers, camels, polar bears, arctic foxes and red pandas can all be seen outside, according to a press release.

Visitors can also explore various indoor areas, too, including the Edward Mardigian Sr. River Otter Habitat, the Matilda R. Wilson Free-Flight Aviary, Butterfly Garden Holden Reptile Conservation Center, National Amphibian Conservation Center, Great Apes of Harambee and Penguinium.

The zoo is open 362 days a year. "When it's too cold for the giraffes and rhinos to be outside, there are indoor viewing areas where visitors can see these majestic animals year-round," Detroit Zoological Society executive director and CEO Ron Kagan stated.



Snowflakes fall on Wazi, a gray wolf, at the Detroit Zoo.



An arctic fox roams on a naturalistic habitat at the Detroit Zoo.



Rofu, a red panda, scampers around the zoo.

New record

In 2015, a modern-record of 1,476,378 people came to the zoo, breaking the 1997 record by more than 100,000. It's also the ninth straight year that attendance has topped 1 million, the zoo said.

Popular attractions this year included: the annual Wild Lights holiday light display, which attracted more than

144,000 people; the Cotton Family Wolf Wilderness, which opened in June; and the Dinosauria exhibit with 40 animatronic dinosaurs, the zoo said.

"Good weather for most of the year, Wild Lights, wolves, dinosaurs and continued improvements in operations and facilities are all contributing factors," Kagan stated. "We're grateful to our community for another fantastic

year and look forward to providing even more outstanding experiences."

The zoo is home to 2,500 animals representing 270 species that live on 125 acres of naturalistic habitats.

Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

THINKSTOCK



Swap up with sausage

Chicken wings, guacamole and cheesy dips are America's top choices for most big game day menus, but the same recipes year after year can get tiring. Forget the same old spread and surprise your guests with a little more taste and pizzazz this year.

Put these tips into play for a winning combination your team can celebrate.

Swap up with sausage. Transform typical dishes by swapping sausage into recipes, such as chili and nachos, which typically incorporate ground beef. The built-in flavor lends great taste and convenience to these dishes. Instead of chips and queso, add brat sausage to your nachos to make brat-chos.

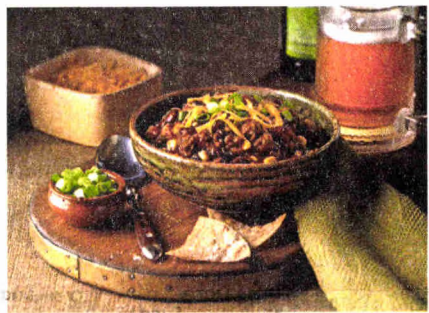
Use unexpected ingredients. Many dips and sides prominently feature the gooey goodness of cheese. Put a fresh spin on these dishes with high-quality, sophisticated options that feature more robust flavors, such as pungent blue cheese, smoked Gouda or tangy goat cheese.

Sweeten up your spread. To mix in sweet with the savory options, find a spot on the table for some fresh fruit flavor. Favorites such as fruit salad, fruit pizza or fruit kabobs can make for a delectable treat to accompany the rest of your game-day fare.

Mix it up. Smoky flavors and bourbon are trending upward in kitchens, backyards, bars and restaurants across the country. Combine the two for a creative spin to your beverage spread. Seep Johnsonville Fully Cooked Smoked Brats in bourbon for about a day to extract smoky and savory flavors and mix the bourbon for a modern twist on the Manhattan cocktail.

Or give this MVP Chili recipe a try!

— Courtesy of Family Features



MVP CHILI

2 packages of Johnsonville Hot Italian Sausage Links (use mild links for less spicy chili)
1 large onion
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons chili powder (use mild chili powder for less spicy chili)
½ teaspoon cumin
1 bottle (12 ounces) dark beer (OK to substitute light beer or 1 cup beef stock)
1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1 can (15.5 ounces) red kidney beans
1 can (15.5 ounces) black beans
1-1.5 cups corn (frozen or fresh off the cob)
salt and pepper

1. De-case sausage and sauté in large pot; use wooden spoon to crumble sausage as it cooks.
2. Once sausage is nicely browned, stir in onion, garlic, chili powder and cumin and continue cooking until onion softens, about 5 minutes.
3. Add beer and allow it to simmer for an additional 5 minutes, scraping up any brown bits from the bottom of the pan.
4. Stir in tomatoes and tomato paste and allow it to simmer, uncovered for an additional 10-15 minutes on medium-low, stirring occasionally.
5. Taste and adjust seasonings with salt and pepper.
6. Finally, stir in beans and corn.
7. Let this come to a simmer and it's ready to serve! (Can be prepared a day ahead.)



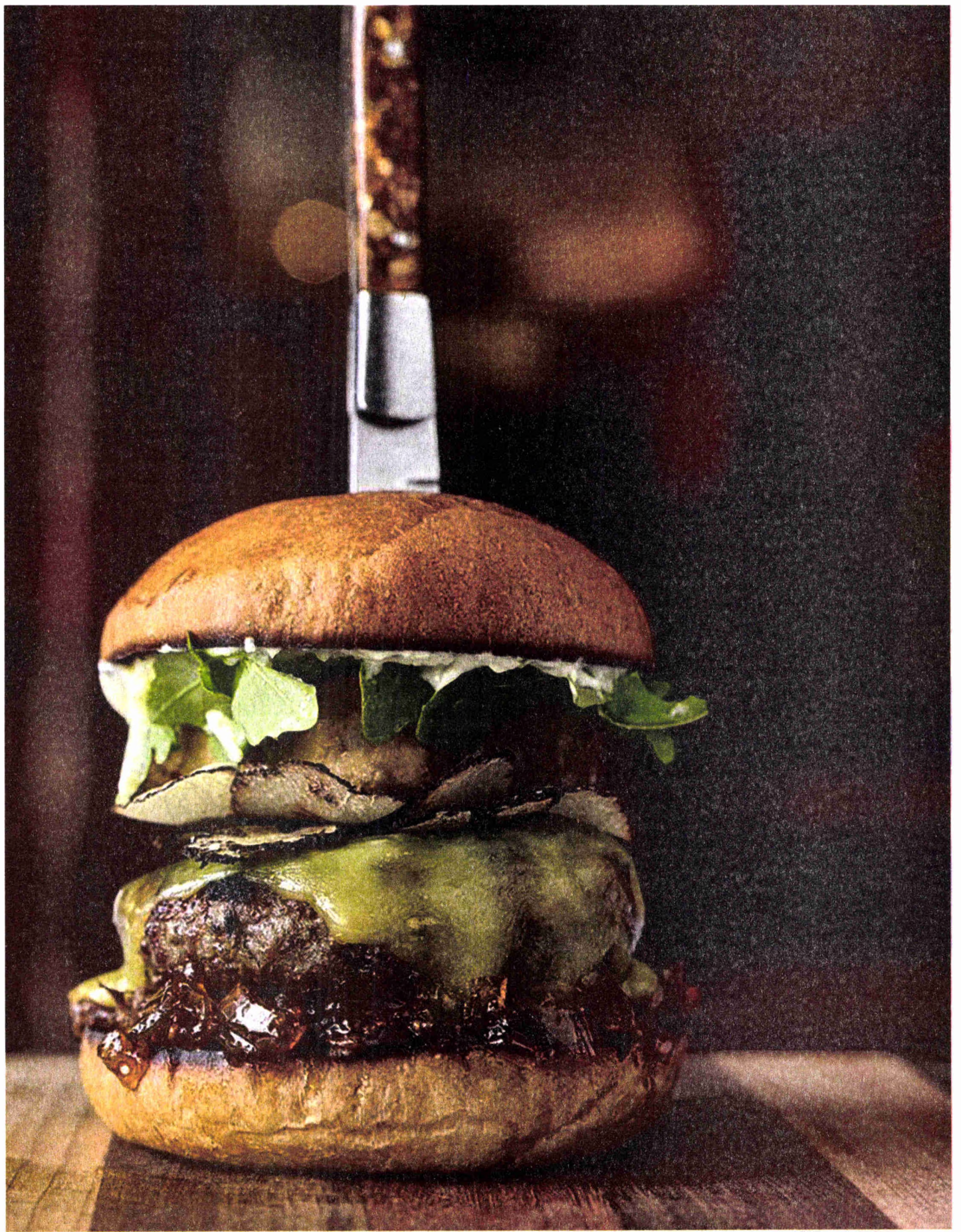
SMOKY SAUSAGE MANHATTAN

2 ounces Sausage-Infused Bourbon
1 ounce Sweet Vermouth
1 dash Angostura Bitters
3 Cherries

In ice filled mixing glass, add all ingredients and stir for at least 30 seconds. Strain into martini glass and garnish with 3 cherries on a pick.

Sausage-Infused Bourbon

1. Cut Johnsonville Fully Cooked Smoked Split Rope Sausage into ½-inch slices.
2. In glass jar with tight lid (canning jar is ideal) add sliced brat with 6 ounces of bourbon and let sit for 24-48 hours.
3. Strain through coffee filter into clean container.
4. Discard sliced brats.



At \$55, the Rugby Grille Foie Burger is possibly the most expensive hamburger in Michigan.

JOE VAUGHN

Birmingham restaurant introduces \$55 hamburger

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

If you're tired of steak or lobster, there's always the \$55 hamburger at the Townsend Hotel's Rugby Grille in Birmingham.

Chef Damian Yopek is the creator behind the Rugby Grille Foie Burger. Sold exclusively at dinner, the burger is composed of waygu beef, sweet onion jam, seared foie gras, arugula, braised short rib, parmesan aioli, burgundy truffles and Thomasville tomme cheese. It's served with a side of burgundy truffle fries.

"The \$55 hamburger is pretty much an opulent hamburger," Yopek said. "We know hamburgers aren't supposed to cost that much, but we wanted to offer something unique with great flavor. It's gratifying and satisfying and a good conversation piece."

Yopek said the eight-ounce burger has been on the menu for three weeks and took off right away. The first one to purchase one was a food blogger by the name of Grace D, who gave it a great review on Yelp.

"First time dining here and it was delicious," she blogged about the Rug-

by Grille. "Sat up at the bar and had a nice glass of wine with the new Foie Burger. This burger is outstanding!"

Yopek promises the burger is not as heavy as it appears. As for the competition, he challenges anyone in town to come up with a better burger.

"It's possibly the most expensive burger in Michigan — and the tastiest," he said.

Talk about drawing a line in the grill.

"I don't know what sort of magic they can put in a hamburger to charge \$55," said Kelly Cobb, whose family owns and operates the Hunter House on Woodward Avenue. "My guess is it has to be 25 times the size of a regular hamburger."

The popular slider at Hunter House will cost a customer \$2.23 — with tax. A cheeseburger is \$2.49. Paula Deen herself deemed their sliders as one of the 10 best hamburgers in the country in 2015.

"I think there's beauty in simplicity — that's what Hunter House is all about," Cobb said. "We're no frills ... we just use a lot of fresh ingredients to make a juicy burger."

Bri Traver, supervisor at the Town-

house on Pierce Street, said the bistro's award-winning juicy hamburger is a cut above the competition when it comes to flavor.

"I stand by our burger for sure," she said. "It's so good that I come in here on my days off just to have one."

The Townhouse Burger is a 10-ounce proprietary blend of prime steak cuts that are dry-aged for 28 days, prepared daily and hand-patted to order on a Plugra butter brioche bun, topped with bourbon glazed onions and aged white cheddar.

It's served with Townhouse fries and costs \$19.

"We never season it, and when we cook it on the grill we never press it so you savor that first juicy bite," Traver said. "Let's see the Townsend step up to that game!"

Yopek, who grew up in South Lyon, shrugs off the good-natured taunts. He insists what he created is nothing less than a culinary masterpiece with some sizzle.

"Our first trial run ended up being a \$500 hamburger," he said with a smile. "This one is much better."

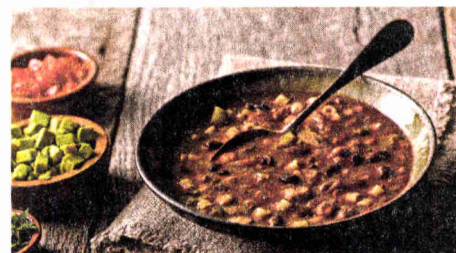
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Add simple, satisfying soup to the spread

SOUTHWESTERN BEAN AND PASTA SOUP

Preparation time: 25 minute
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 8

2 cans (15 ounces each) READ Southwestern Bean Salad, divided
1 tablespoon olive or canola oil
¾ cup chopped bell pepper
½ cup sliced green onions
1 small jalapeno, seeded and finely chopped
1 large clove garlic, minced
1 can (14.5 ounces) no-salt-added diced tomatoes
1 carton (32 ounces) low sodium, reduced-fat vegetable or chicken broth, divided
1 cup water
½ cup ditalini pasta, uncooked
Optional toppings:
sour cream
plain yogurt



Southwestern Bean and Pasta Soup

chopped cilantro
avocado
tomatoes

Place contents of one can bean salad in blender or food processor. Process until partially pureed, with small chunks remaining. In large soup pot or Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot. Add bell

pepper and onions; cook and stir about 2 minutes to soften. Add jalapeno; cook and stir 1 minute. Add garlic; cook and stir 30 seconds. Stir in pureed bean salad; add second can of bean salad and tomatoes. Add 3 cups of broth and water. Bring to boil; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 15 minutes. Add pasta; cook 7-9 minutes, or until pasta is al dente. Add additional broth as desired for consistency. Serve with toppings, as desired. Variations: During step two, cook ½ pound lean ground beef, chicken or turkey breast in oil, stirring frequently until cooked through. Add pepper and onions and continue as recipe directs; add additional oil 1 teaspoon at a time if needed for cooking vegetables. Nutrition information per serving (¼ of recipe): 180 calories; 6 g protein; 26 g carbohydrate; 5 g total fat; 530 mg sodium; 0 mg cholesterol; 6 g dietary fiber; 11 mg iron; 0.06 mg thiamin; 944 IU vitamin A; 13 mg vitamin C.

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