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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

SUNDAY 02.28.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Home values up in city, township

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Rising residential property values in the Plymouths indicate the continued strength of the area's housing market.

Home values are up about 10 percent in the city and about 5.5 percent in the township over a year ago, according to figures from WCA Assessing, a private company contracted by

both communities to do property assessment work.

The figures are averages, across each community, and based on studies of home sales from October 2013 through September of last year.

Added to increases in 2015 of 9 percent in the township and 12 percent in the city, the numbers indicate the market is increasingly putting the depressed values of the recent

Great Recession in the rear-view mirror.

"Plymouth, it's really good. Both are still good," said Pam Hicks, a Realtor with Real Estate One on Ann Arbor Road. "People still want to move to Plymouth. It's a desirable area."

The higher values will have a minimal effect on property taxes, as Proposal A, a 1994 ballot proposal approved by

Michigan voters, limits annual increases in a property's taxable value to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Inflation being low, taxable values are going up just three-tenths of a percent.

'Love to be in Plymouth'

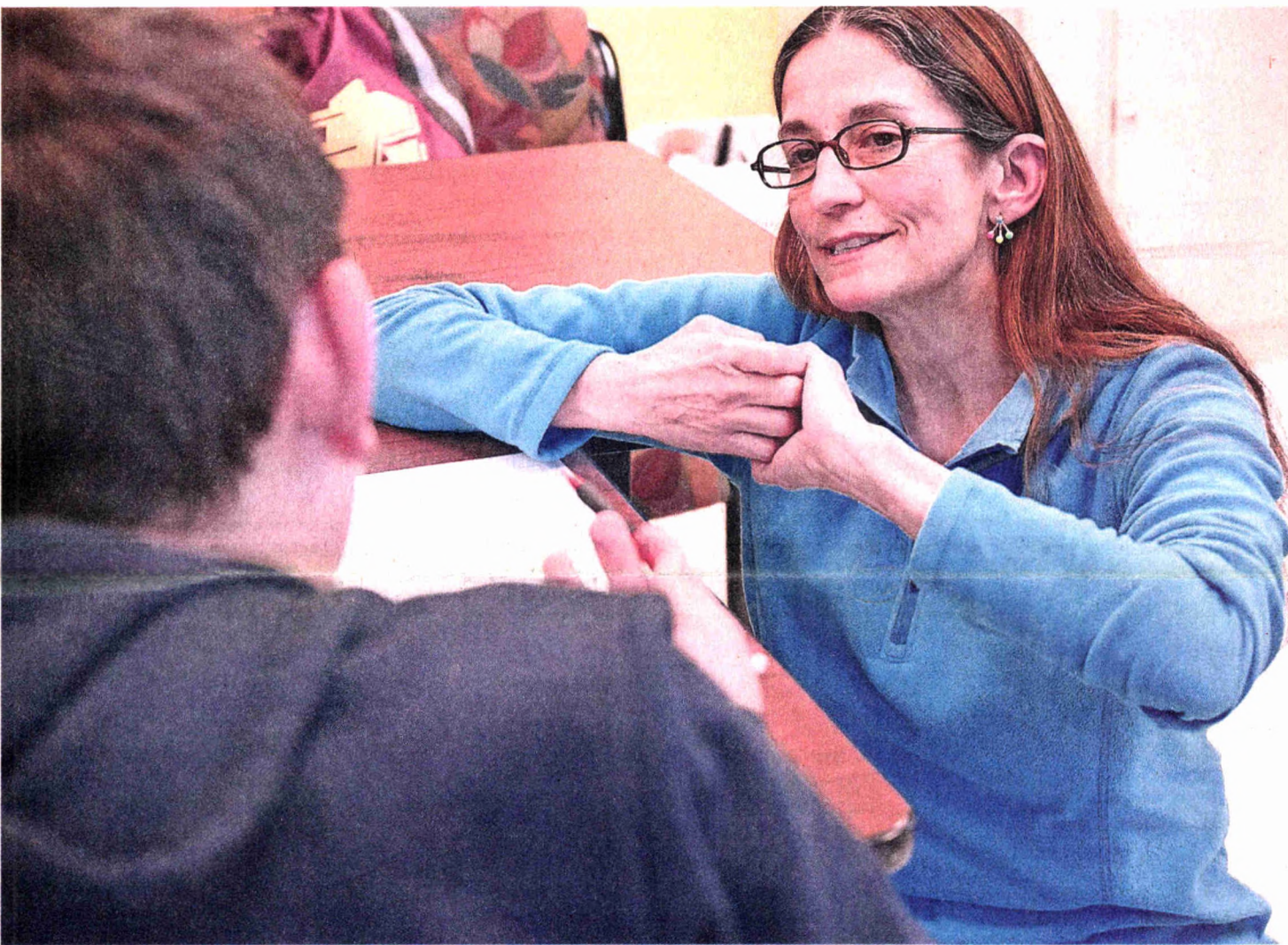
Hicks, who is ranked among the top 5 percent of Realtors in the country, said the local market is strong at many price

points. That's especially true for homes priced below \$200,000 — which are increasingly hard to find — and also for those between \$200,000 and \$400,000, she said.

"People love to be in Plymouth," said Hicks, comparing the market to others in the area that have retained their luster, such as Ann Arbor, Birm

See **VALUES**, Page A2

LOCAL TEACHER EARNS AMERICAN LEGION AWARD



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Trombley works with student Jared Petzold, describing the use of the hyphen to bring words together.

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Amy Trombley's teaching has touched a generation of students in the Plymouth-Canton area.

Longtime fellow teacher Cynthia Bernstein, the leader at New School High, where Trombley teaches language arts, recalls a mother who stopped in recently to enroll her son.

"The mother was a former student of

Amy's who could not hold back tears when speaking of Amy and the way she encouraged her when no one else had," Bernstein said in nominating Trombley for an American Legion award. "She wanted the same for her son."

Trombley, who spent nearly 20 years with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, brings that same connection to her new job at New School, where it's an important part of the culture, Bernstein said.

"Most people do an awful lot better

when they feel they have some kind of bond," said Bernstein, who launched New School last summer with other local educators. "Amy sets the tone of, really, just a great deal of caring for the kids."

Trombley has high expectations for her students, Bernstein said, and is a good example for younger teachers.

"We work together super-well as a team, all the teachers here," Trombley

See **TEACHER**, Page A8

Salem pool likely to bear swim coach Chuck Olson's name

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

He has been called an inspiration and a fixture in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district. And by the looks of it, Salem High School swim coach Chuck Olson's

legacy will continue long after he retires at the end of the school year.

Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt announced that, after months of planning and policy development, the effort is underway to name the Salem High School natatorium

as the Charles E. Olson Natatorium, a first for the school district. The final decision will be made in two months. The interim months are designed to allow the public to comment on the effort, Merritt said.

When Olson retires this June, he will have devoted 45

years to the district and the swim program, which, Merritt said, he has "shaped and defined."

Although school district officials are working on revenue generating efforts,

See **OLSON**, Page A9

According to Brandon, who detailed the program for board members, the SOC program fulfills three board goals: closing the achievement gap, balancing the district budget and increasing market share with

See **CHOICE**, Page A8



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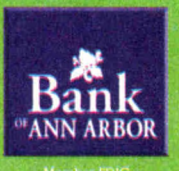
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Canton's top cop ending 28-year run, moving on

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler confirmed Friday he is leaving his job April 30, ending a 28-year run that saw him climb the ranks from patrol officer to Canton's top law enforcement position.

"This has been a phenomenal community to work for and a great experience," he said.

Mutchler has been Canton's public safety director just over three years, overseeing 83 sworn police officers and 65 firefighters, among other employees. His departure for a job as deputy director of police services in Northville Township, starting May 9, came as a surprise to Canton officials.

"It was kind of a shock for me and a dis-

appointment to hear that he would be leaving," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "He has been a tremendous asset to the community and the (public safety) department. He has been a great leader. He has done just an outstanding job and he will be incredibly missed. I'm very sorry to see him go."

Township Trustee John Anthony, a retired FBI special agent, said Mutchler is among Michigan's best public safety leaders.

"I think he's one of the finest public safety directors I have ever met," Anthony said. "He has been responsible for helping to make Canton the safe community it is. I think the world of Todd and the work he has done for us."

Mutchler is retiring



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler, shown here after he attended the FBI National Academy, is moving on.

from his \$131,628-a-year position April 30 and will qualify to receive his pension, but the amount wasn't known Friday. He will be paid \$114,000 at his new job in Northville Township.

"It's not just about the

money," he said.

Rather, Mutchler said he has accomplished much in Canton and he is ready to hand over the reins.

"I feel like part of my job in a leadership capacity is to get out of the

way for the next level of leadership," he said. "I think the department has come a long way."

LaJoy said Friday the process for replacing Mutchler hasn't yet been decided.

Northville Township Manager Chip Snider said Friday that Mutchler "will add the necessary leadership and depth" to his new position.

"Todd has a solid background in building and maintaining strong relationships with the community, which continues with the values and commitment of Northville's Public Safety Department," Snider said.

Mutchler described himself as "very excited to join their team there."

In Canton, Mutchler ushered in an era of policing relying on

CompStat, which compiles crime data to guide crime-fighting efforts. It allows police to focus on crime trends and on neighborhoods witnessing an uptick in incidents.

Mutchler said Canton had an 18-percent drop last year, alone, in the most serious felony crimes.

"That's a huge milestone and accomplishment," he said.

Mutchler was named Canton Police Officer of the Year in 1997. He also initiated a Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition that won a major civil rights award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

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VALUES

Continued from Page A1

mingham and Bloomfield Hills.

The higher values in the city and township seem to confirm the results of a study by Smart Asset, a financial technology company, that ranked the Plymouth housing market as the fifth-healthiest in Michigan. Only Grandville, Comstock Park and Byron Center — all in the Grand Rapids area — and Huntington Woods in Oakland County were ranked higher.

National ranking

Plymouth was also ranked 55th by SmartAsset among about 2,000 housing markets studied nationwide. The entire 48170 ZIP code is considered to be the Plymouth market, SmartAsset spokesman Steve Sabato said.

SmartAsset ranked

LOCAL BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULES

The boards of review in Plymouth and Plymouth Township will be meeting next month to consider appeals by homeowners of the latest property assessments. Appeals can be made of assessments, taxable values and property classifications.

In both communities, a written petition of appeal must be filed before a board of review appearance and appeals by petition only can also be made if received by the board by Monday, March 21.

Board of review petitions can be found online through the Michigan Department of Treasury. Plymouth Township also has its own version of petition forms.

Homeowners' appeals must be made at the local board of review level if they want to preserve their rights to appeal before the Michigan Tax Tribunal (for valuation and exemption appeals) or the State Tax Commission (for classification appeals).

Appellants should provide evidence to support their contention that an assessment is too high, such as documentation of comparable properties in the neighborhood that sold at lower prices or a recent appraisal reflecting the fair market value of the home. Appellants should keep in mind that a property's market

the housing markets by looking at their affordability, stability, fluidity

(the faster homes sell, on average, the more fluid the market) and the risk

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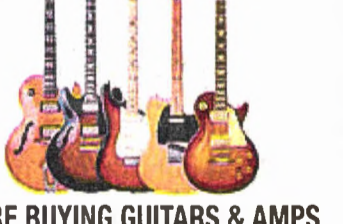
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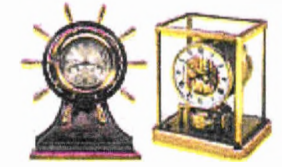
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Man credits Canton employees for saving his life

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Barry Mullinix's day was like any other when he went to Canton's Summit on the Park recreation center to jog and lift weights.

At 74, the Plymouth resident simply wanted to get some exercise.

Then, his day took a horrifying turn for the worse as he went into cardiac arrest and collapsed in a restroom stall of the men's aquatic-center locker room.

He wasn't breathing. He had no pulse.

Summit employees sprang into action, giving Mullinix chest compressions and then using an automatic external defibrillator to shock his heart. Lifeguards gave three more cycles of CPR until Canton paramedics arrived and took over.

"If I had been anywhere else, I would have died," Mullinix said. "They were tremendous. It's a miracle. I am so



Barry Mullinix (front, second from left) is joined in the front row by township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Canton Leisure Services employees Nicole Saval, Lisa Ryan, Sorin Oprican and CLS Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz. In the back row are CLS employees Jason Lombardo, Nick DeHetre, Steve Robb, Brad Chiasson and Devin McCafferty.



Barry Mullinix, with wife Barbara, says Canton employees saved his life.

thankful."

His remarks came Tuesday night after the Canton Township Board of Trustees honored eight Summit employees for using their emergency training to save Mullinix.

Mullinix, who spent 41 days in a hospital and had quadruple heart bypass surgery, was accompanied Tuesday by his wife Barbara, who

also praised the Summit employees for saving her husband's life.

"I think it was phenomenal. It was like all the angels were lined up to facilitate his rebirth," she said.

During the meeting, township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Canton Leisure Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz honored eight Sum-

mit employees with resolutions honoring their heroic efforts. State Sen. Patrick Colbeck also sent resolutions from his office.

Bilbrey-Honsowetz gave a public synopsis of what happened when Mullinix went into cardiac arrest Nov. 6.

Summit employees made a 9-1-1 call and lifeguards evacuated all

swimming pool areas so they could tend to Mullinix. Building attendant Steve Robb worked to pull Mullinix from the bathroom stall as the lifeguard team of Brad Chiasson, Sorin Oprican, Nick DeHetre, Devin McCafferty, Alex Petrarca, Lisa Ryan and Nicole Saval gave chest compressions and followed up with the defibrillator and more CPR.

Paramedics arrived,

continued treatment and took Mullinix to a hospital.

Bilbrey-Honsowetz said the Summit lifeguards "are very well-trained to keep calm and cool" and do what they need to do — in this case, save Mullinix's life. "They were tremendous."

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Canton man marks 100 years of family, friends, good health

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

For Melvin Rising, there are plenty of reasons why he has had the pleasure of turning 100 years old this month.

"There's no numbers left," the Canton resident said, referring to his age. He lives at the Four Seasons Nursing Center in Westland.

But he attributes staying active and, well, a shot of whiskey every now and then hasn't hurt, either. "He road his bike until he was 80," said his daughter Betty, one of six children. "He would collect pop cans. He said he wasn't riding his bike for free."

Rising also continued gardening at his Canton



Melvin Rising and his family at his 100th birthday party. From left are his children Patty Burbo, Dennis Rising, Barb Cusin, Bob Rising and Ken Rising. Sitting with Rising is his wife Wilma and daughter Betty Platte.

home until he was 95. And there are those McDonald's hamburgers he has loved so much. When visiting Monday, his family presented him

with a bacon burger. While there are plenty out there who would say McDonald's burgers and whiskey may not be the way to a healthy life,

Rising might be the anomaly. He didn't go to the doctor until he was 89, his family said.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, Rising wife Wilma, 84, and his children kicked off a birthday day party that left him delighted. By the way, Rising also has 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. His children are Betty Platte, Patty Burbo of Canton, Barb Cusin, Ken Rising, Mike Rising of Garden City and Dennis Rising.

"He's all over the place," daughter Patty said, adding that her dad, now in a wheelchair because his legs are weak, stops to talk to everyone he can at Four Seasons, where he moved to in August last

year. Married to Rising for 64 years, Wilma said she never expected her husband to reach the 100 milestone, but is glad he has.

Wilma, who was raised on a Kentucky farm, met Melvin when she worked at Cunningham's drugstore. He stopped for coffee and asked her if she would go with him to the ball game that evening. Wilma told him she couldn't because she had to work: "He told me, 'I'll be here then to take you home.'"

No doubt Rising has witnessed a lot of history in 100 years. "He'll bring up living through the Depression and the CCW camp in Tennessee, where he worked," Wilma said.

In his 100 years, Rising was born in North Dakota, moved to Minnesota and Tennessee and, finally, to Michigan, where he tested airplanes for Ford Motor Co. He also worked on the railway, for General Motors and for Parke-Davis for 20 years.

The father who knew how to save money always told his kids, "wake up in the morning and rejoice," daughter Betty said.

Patty recalls her dad reminding his kids that, "You have to get along with people and talk to people."

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Special Observer & Eccentric Reader Offer

Breakthrough relief for back pain and sciatica

By: Sam Potter
Health Correspondent



IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the USA with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

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Mention this article (CODE: BOS37SCID5) and Greg will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of \$195 to just \$37. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

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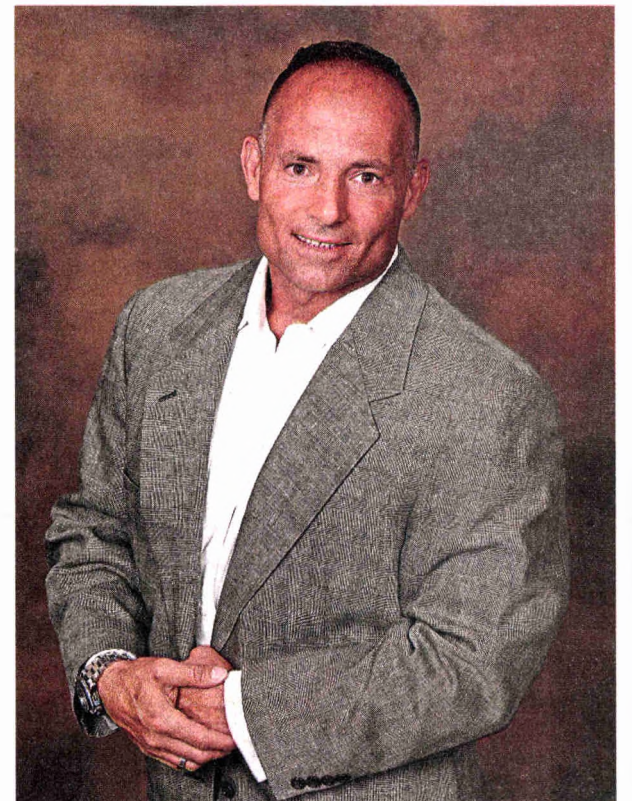
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You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away do leave a message.

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Sciatica Relief Expert Greg Kramer, says: In 20 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain.

P-C Color Guard takes No. 1 in competition

Dawn Pyko
Correspondent

An elderly woman tapped me on the shoulder while in the stands: "When does Plymouth-Canton take the floor?" I replied, "Three more and they perform." The woman turned to her daughter and said, "Text your father, tell him we are going to be late." She wasn't the only one in the stands eagerly anticipating the debut of this year's Plymouth-Canton Color Guard show, "Flight of the Monarch."

Twenty-five young women took the floor on a tarp painted as a butterfly wing. The crowd was on their feet supporting and encouraging the Color Guard from Plymouth-Canton. The excitement in the stands was unbelievable, but it didn't distract the team members. They were determined, focused and eager to showcase their performance at the West Bloomfield Invitational in early February.

The show is a sophisticated depiction of the metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly. It was designed by Color Guard directors Rachel Nelson and Lucas Schmidt. The squad is costumed in black representing a cocoon. As the show develops, the cocoon is shed and the color is exposed on members' costumes as the butterfly symbolically emerges and takes flight.

The squad is competing in the most challenging scholastic class in the Michigan Color Guard circuit. In its first performance, it scored 66, placing it in the No. 1 spot in the state of Michigan. The squad has had an incredibly busy past couple of months, competing in the marching band state competition, performing in the Tournament of Roses Parade and, most recently, preparing its show.

Following the competition, I spoke with junior captain Cath-



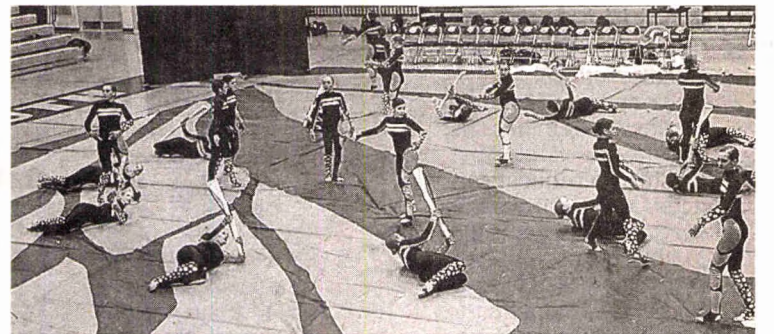
MICHAEL VASILNEK

An eloquent toss by Autumn Short.

The squad is competing in the most challenging scholastic class in the Michigan Color Guard circuit. In its first performance, it scored 66.

erine Christenson: "At this point the show is only 50 percent complete. We will spend the remainder of the season finishing, polishing and per-

fecting the show for our national competition in April." Kaleigh Pyko, also a junior captain, said that "in California the crowd treated us like celebrities, but it was nothing compared to the roar that came from the stands on Saturday night, when we executed a flawless performance. Every time we caught our flags and nailed our choreography, the crowd erupted in excitement." It is early in the season and the squad's performance highlighted its precision, grace and dedication - the show is starting to take flight. The Plymouth-Canton Color Guard also performed in competition Feb. 20 at Milford High School.



MICHAEL VASILNEK

The Plymouth-Canton Color Guard performs performing at the West Bloomfield Invitational earlier in February.



FILE PHOTO

Junior captains Catherine Christenson and Kaleigh Pyko.

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Talking trash: P-CCS plans maintenance changes

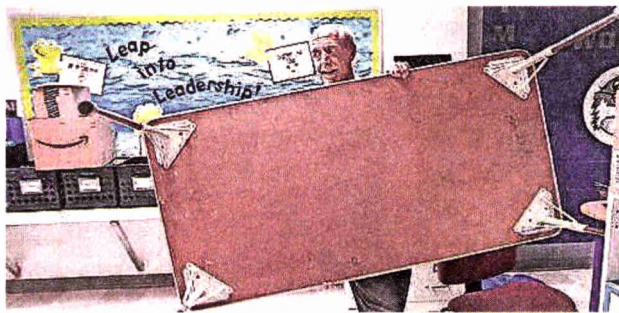
Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

After continuing complaints about cleanliness and maintenance in the Plymouth-Canton schools, some changes are underway designed to improve accountability, including allow building staff to request services.

"It's really more of a 24-hour feedback," Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt told the school board Tuesday night.

Merritt updated the board on efforts to improve custodial services, which are contracted with GBRs in Grand Rapids. The district also has plant engineers, school district employees, involved in maintenance.

Working with GBRs



FILE PHOTO

Just before school opened last fall, P-CCS plant engineer Mike Lardin replaced tables after stripping and waxing the floors in the Tonda resource room.

and Mike Peterson, district director of operations, the immediate push is to establish "standards of clean," a process of accountability and customer service. "We are trying to determine what it takes to get to clean," Merritt said.

Teachers this academic year have complained

about what they believe is a lack of cleanliness in the school buildings. In December, Peterson presented an evaluation of GBRs improvements. At that time, some board members questioned how the evaluation was completed because it was led, in part, by GBR officials.

At the time, Trustee Mike Maloney requested various documents, including how the cleaning services were rated. On Tuesday, Maloney said he never received the requested documents. "I want to know how they came up with those numbers," Maloney said, adding "nobody believed those numbers. 'I want to know how a thinking, caring person can rate those buildings at a plus-nine.'"

Merritt assured Maloney that he would receive those documents as part of the board notes issued this past Friday, which were expected to provide details about Merritt's efforts to improve maintenance.

Merritt's improvement plans include at the building level to open up to all participants the

ability to put in work orders for custodial services. The plan does include some training, including a password. In response to Trustee Kate Borninski's questions, Merritt said teachers will not be required to put in work orders.

A second part of an improvement plan will be the development of a book or plan for each school. They will include diagrams of the building and what is expected and when in custodial services. "We are getting these manuals for our schools," Merritt said, adding the idea came through GBRs and what the company does for another client, the Northville Public Schools district.

Also on tap are internal and external audits that will provide a check and balance system to improve cleanliness. Prototypes will be established at the schools, with the help of administrators, teachers, office staff and plant engineers. The prototypes will highlight what is needed at each school and how it will be accomplished, a tool, Merritt said, that will be helpful in planning for the district budget.

"These are some things we are going to do immediately," she said. "We'll continue to talk within this open forum."

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Township board approves plan for new shops coming to Canton's Ford Road corridor

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A six-tenant shopping center, creating as many as 120 jobs, will be built on what is now the Zax Auto Wash site on Ford Road, west of Haggerty, in Canton, officials say.

Frank Jarbou, president of Symmetry Management & Development Co., said construction of the 14,060-square-foot Shops of Canton could begin this spring. He said tenants could be open for business in November.

Local officials say Zax Auto Wash isn't likely to be demolished until just before construction of the Shops of Canton begins.

Jarbou said Tom+Chee, a gourmet grilled cheese and tomato soup



CANTON TOWNSHIP

This is a drawing of what the new Shops of Canton will look like on Ford Road.

restaurant, has been confirmed for the shopping center as talks continue with other potential tenants.

Jarbou said the project amounts to an investment of "several million dollars" in Canton. It will be next door to a similar shopping center — also a Jarbou property — that houses businesses such as Olga's Kitchen.

The latest project won site plan approval Tues-

day night from the Canton Township Board of Trustees. It marks the latest project along Canton's bustling Ford Road shopping corridor.

"This will create 100 to 120 jobs," Jarbou said.

It wasn't immediately known how many jobs will be lost when Zax Auto Wash — a longtime Ford Road business — closes. It was once known as Lighthouse Car Wash. The township board

approved the Shops of Canton site plan after the Canton Planning Commission gave it the go-ahead. Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the company still has to go through the engineering design and building permit process before work can begin on the site.

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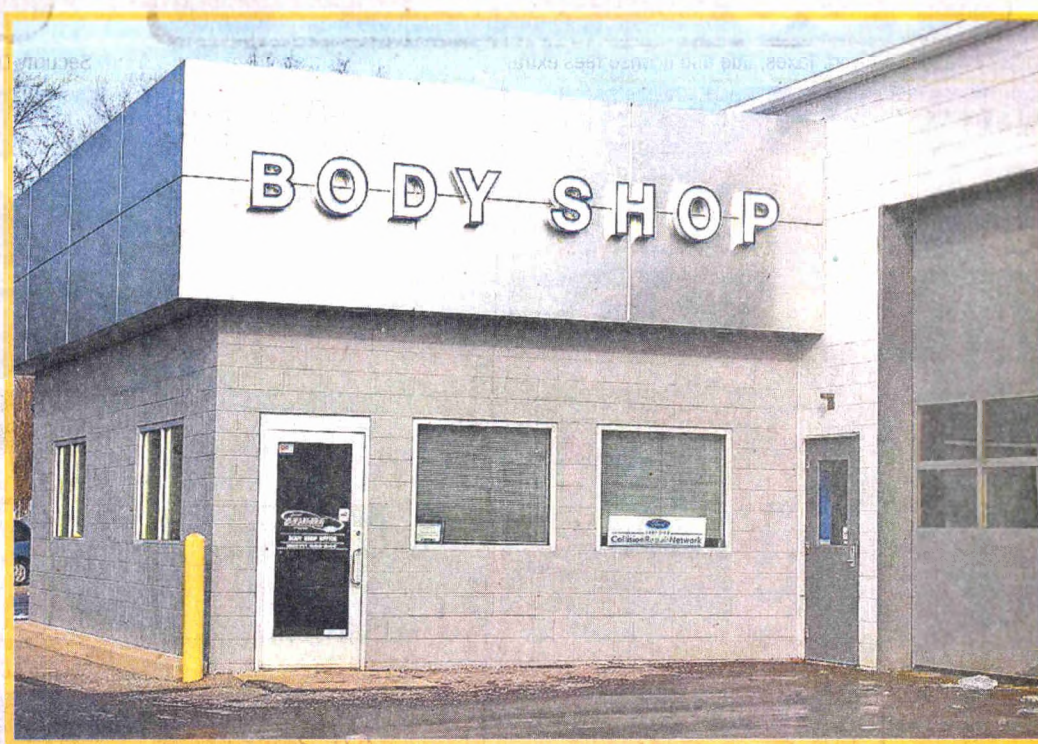
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TEACHER

Continued from Page A1

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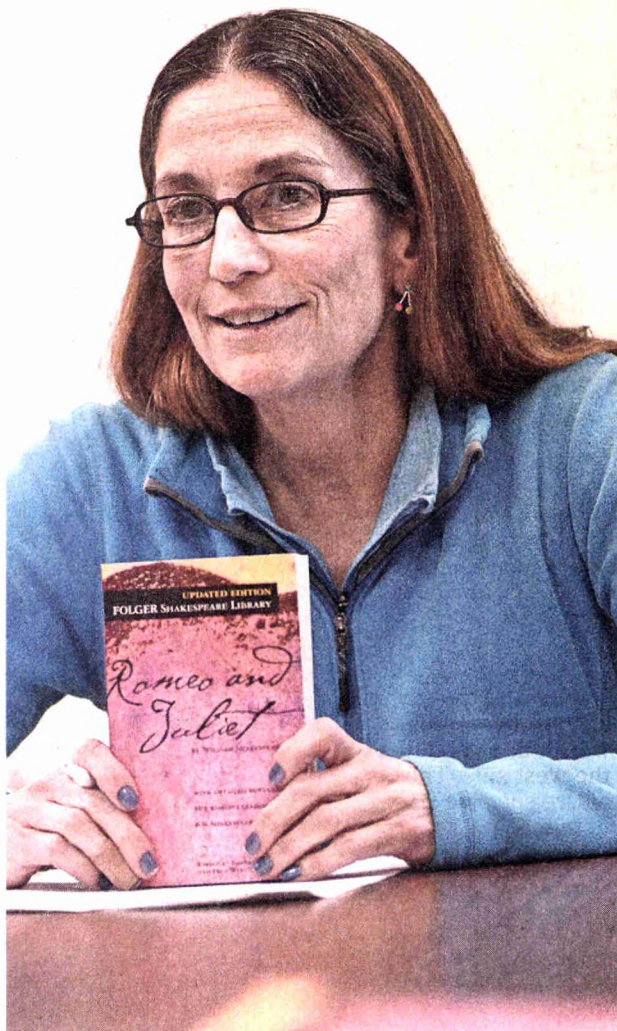
She was recently named one of five American Legion teachers of the year in Michigan for 2016. The award is based on competence, community involvement and the school's involvement in programs that demonstrate patriotism or community service.

She must have gotten high marks in the patriotism category: Trombley spent 30 years in the Army Reserve, where she was an officer. She is now in the retired reserves.

"I actually loved doing both jobs," Trombley said Wednesday during her lunch break. "I'm a high-energy person, so that actually worked out well for me."

Trombley teaches English to New School's freshmen and sophomores, plus reading and creative and expository writing. She also leads the yearbook class, which is documenting New School's inaugural year, plus a class that's writing a student handbook.

Her high energy was apparent in her 1 p.m. class Wednesday as Trombley introduced a small group of students to William Shakespeare for their reading of *Romeo and Juliet*. It was her task, she told them,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Trombley is one of five American Legion teachers of the year in Michigan.

to convince them that Shakespeare, handed down through the centuries, was worth holding onto.

"I love teaching Shakespeare," she told students. "If you can

read Shakespeare and decipher it, you should be able to transfer that (skill) to other writings."

Trombley and Bernstein, a retired Salem High School English teacher, have been ac-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Trombley works with student Jared Petzold.

computer cataloging and checkout system, for the small library in her classroom, as an example: A group of students researched different systems, recommended one and implemented it, she said.

"In the real world, that's what you do," she said.

Trombley said her enthusiasm is fueled by seeing that ideas are clicking with students. "I absolutely love those moments," she said.

As she's teaching students, she added, they're often teaching her as well.

"They see things a little bit differently, so they're able to contribute to the conversation from a different generation or a different perspective," she said.

Trombley's American Legion award comes with \$500 for an education project and Trombley plans to use the money to supplement the yearbook budget.

"We want to make sure that every kid can have a book," Bernstein said.

New School High, in the education wing of the Risen Christ Church, is chartered by Central Michigan University and is open to students from the Plymouth-Canton area and surrounding communities. The school has no religious affiliation and is tuition-free.

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734-678-8432
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student Emily McMillan looks through William Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet.'

quainted for years and Trombley was on board early as New School was being organized, Bernstein said.

"I really didn't know what we would need or how it would go," she

said. "Amy, right from the beginning, just really wanted to do this."

Teaching the teacher

Trombley likes the charter school's hands-on approach. She cited the

CHOICE

Continued from Page A1

greater student enrollment.

But Brandon added that SOC really doesn't complete improved market share, which has been defined as increasing the numbers of students within the Plymouth-Canton district boundaries who attend the public schools. "We understand what we have to achieve there," Brandon said, referring to market

share.

According to the proposed plan, the SOC program will remain limited, with 250 seats and open to Wayne County residents only. Not all available SOC have been filled during the four years of the program.

In the current school year, the district has brought in an estimated \$1.4 million in revenue. Per-pupil funding follows the student, which is how P-CCS can increase revenue with additional students. According to state rules, the district will

receive the per-pupil foundation allowance of either the district the student comes from or Plymouth-Canton, whichever is lowest. Plymouth-Canton has been the lowest because a majority of SOC students come from the Wayne-Westland and Van Buren school districts.

The plan for the 2016-17 school year includes continuing the intra-district transfer program with consideration given to current students before SOC placements. It will also continue with

the P-CCS non-resident employee program. That includes placements for kindergarten through eighth grade, with staff choosing the elementary or middle school building if space is available. High school placements will be allowed, with assignment at specific schools determined at random.

The P-CCS SOC program has increased its enrollment each year over its four-year history. In 2012-13, eight students

enrolled. In 2013-14, 14 students enrolled. In 2014-15, 73 students were enrolled and, this year, 102 students are enrolled in the program. Over the four years, the configuration has changed for grades in which SOC are enrolled.

In making their case for SOC continuation, Brandon and Merritt documented the academic achievements of the out-of-district students, as well as behavior. But

Maloney questioned the data, particularly the third-grade findings that have SOC students at a 67-percent achievement versus in-district students at 78 percent. "That's a big gap," he said, adding he does not agree that the program should be considered successful. "I'm not seeing that in the data."

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Canton salon reopens after fire

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton salon and spa owner has refused to let a fire and severe water damage shut down her business in a two-story Victorian building in Cherry Hill Village.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass," said Melissa Huetter, owner of Indigo Salon, Spa & Boutique. "It's all about perseverance and resilience."

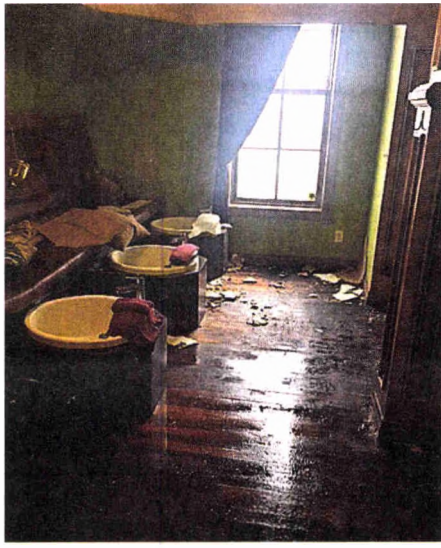
Huetter was out of town — hundreds of miles away — when she got word that a second-story fire occurred about 4 a.m. Friday, Feb. 12, inside Indigo Salon. She caught a flight home within hours.

Huetter said there was speculation the fire was electrical, but an official cause hasn't been determined.

The fire set off an alarm and a sprinkler system that doused the blaze before Canton firefighters arrived.

"If the sprinkler system hadn't been there," Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein said, "that building could have been a total loss."

Because the fire oc-



Water did extensive damage to the pedicure suite at Indigo Salon, Spa & Boutique.



Melissa Huetter says her salon is open with full service with "modified logistics" until repairs have been completed.

curred about 4 a.m., Stoecklein said, the salon, located at Cherry Hill and Ridge roads, could have been engulfed in flames before anyone noticed it.

Still, Huetter said the sprinkler system caused widespread water damage to 50-60 percent of her salon because it sent water from the second floor throughout much of the west side of the building.

"I had water coming

out of my doors," she said. "There was enough water to fill a swimming pool."

The fire forced the salon to close for the busy Valentine's Day weekend, but Huetter reopened the following Tuesday.

Repairs are continuing, but Huetter and her 36 employees have managed to resume full service ranging from massages to facials to body waxing.

She said the east side of the building wasn't damaged like the west side. The entire spa side was untouched.

"We are still offering everything that we originally offered," Huetter said. "We are just doing it with modified logistics."

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Plymouth Township firefighters responded to the call Friday afternoon.

Plymouth Twp. firefighters put out home fire Friday

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

A Friday afternoon fire at a home at Plymouth Crossing and Schoolcraft Road was extinguished by the Plymouth Township Fire Department with no injuries and minimal damage.

"Get everybody out of the house. Call 9-1-1," township Fire Chief Daniel Phillips said as he emerged from the home, where the homeowner had put gasoline on a fireplace to get it going.

"Never want to do (that)," Phillips said. "Using gasoline to start fires is one of the worst things to do. The vapors ignited."

Phillips also reminded

residents to have a smoke alarm on each level and one for each bedroom, as well as working carbon monoxide detectors.

Homeowner James Roger Shaw said, "I poured some gas on it. That's what started the fire. At the time, it didn't seem that small. There's a lot worse fires that happen elsewhere. I think Detroit's the worst."

Added Shaw, "Jesus Christ works in wonderful ways. He blesses us."

The fire department classified the fire as accidental. "At least nobody got hurt," said Shaw, who will contact his insurance company.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

OLSON

Continued from Page A1

such as allowing naming rights, honoring Olson is not the same thing.

"Some things we can do to honor our employees and they don't cost us anything," Merritt added.

Kim Villarosa, Salem principal, provided the school board with a folder full of letters from current and former students and parents supporting the move to name the natatorium after Olson, who began his swimming career at the Plymouth Mayflower Swim Club in 1957. He

served as a physical education teacher for the district from 1970 to 2001 and coached boys and girls swim teams from 1974 to 2015.

"Our hope is to honor coach Olson for all of his efforts while serving in this district," Villarosa said. "His legacy will live on in our community."

Tom Workman, 1984 Salem grad, cited Olson's involvement in the community and including swim team members in community efforts. That includes the annual Rotary chicken barbecue dinner during which swim team members husk some 10,000-15,000 ears of corn. He also

alerted the school board to the 700 Facebook followers who are supporting the naming.

"You're talking about one of Plymouth's finest," Workman said, adding that naming the natatorium after Olson will illustrate the coach's influence on the community "for decades and decades to come."

Trustee Michael Siegrist urged the board — in two months — to adopt the naming resolution. "I lived in the Salem pool," he said. "(Olson) was a fixture."

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Coach Chuck Olson is one of the Salem Wall of Champion honorees. He is pictured in the third row, far left.

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Canton couple reveals today's Vietnam

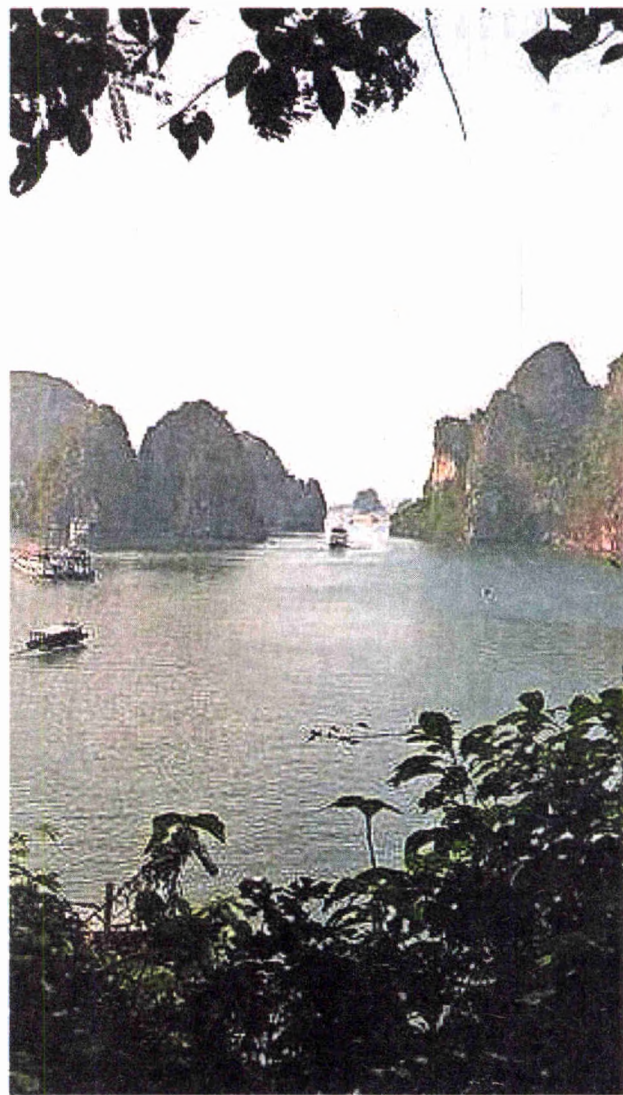
Jay Young
Correspondent

Although a close neighbor geographically to Thailand, Vietnam is different in several ways as we were to discover after a short flight from Bangkok to Hanoi. For example, Vietnam has been occupied by various foreign powers throughout its history, including China, for more than a millennium, France and Japan. By contrast, Thailand was never colonized by a foreign power.

Although both countries' citizens rely heavily on motor scooters for transportation, the incessant noise from blaring horns in Vietnamese cities was in sharp contrast to the relative quiet in Thailand, where it is considered in poor form to use them. Vietnamese cuisine traditionally features a combination of five distinct flavors: spicy, sour, bitter, salty and sweet. This contrasted with Thai food, which although delicious, was somewhat less spicy.

Although our Overseas Adventure Travel guide emphasized the positive relationship that exists today between his country and the U.S. (diplomatic relations were established in 1995), it was a bit surreal to be in the capital city of a former enemy during the Vietnam War. This was particularly apparent when we visited the War Remnants Museum and the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison, where many downed American pilots were held. The history of the war, as interpreted by the victors, was distinctly different in these museums from the way many Americans view the decade-long conflict and its aftermath.

A visit to Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum in central Hanoi, where his embalmed body is displayed, further emphasized the differences



A view of Halong Bay, a UNESCO world heritage site in the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam.

between this one-party socialist state and an open, democratic society. The communist principles he espoused are enshrined today in Vietnam's current government. However, after 10 years of a disastrous planned economy, economic and political reforms enacted in 1986 have resulted in the country now experiencing one of the highest economic growth rates in the world. This was evidenced by a mammoth Samsung factory on the outskirts of Hanoi, employing thousands of workers and the source of most of the Samsung smart phones sold in the

U.S. After visiting the excellent Museum of Ethnology, where we learned about the 54 ethnic groups that make up the cultural diversity of this ancient land, we concluded our three-day stay in Hanoi by enjoying a water puppet show. This 1,000-year-old art form, which the French called the "souls of the Vietnamese rice fields," involves puppets suspended in water. The plays are performed by master puppeteers, who must sit semi-submerged behind a screen while manipulating the water-resistant wooden puppets. Stories depict vil-

Our trip ... was put into perspective ... when we met for lunch with former Viet Cong soldiers, who displayed no malice to us or our country.

lagers, farm animals and dragons interacting in a variety of scenarios.

Twenty miles north of Hanoi is the rural village of Tho Ha, located on an island in the Nhu Nguyer River. Accessible only by an ancient ferry, the villagers specialize in the production of rice paper, a staple of many Vietnamese dishes. Although its production has been mechanized by some, we visited a family that still makes the edible, almost transparent, "paper" by hand, drying it on bamboo racks in the sun.

World Heritage sites

Leaving Hanoi, we drove for several hours to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Halong Bay and an overnight aboard a junk, a traditional Vietnamese wooden sail boat. With its clear, emerald waters and 3,000-foot velvety cloaked mountains rising dramatically from the sea, it is little wonder this place has been the inspiration for generations of Vietnamese poets. This region of the Gulf of Tonkin is populated by fishermen who live with their families on sampans. They go about their daily lives harvesting the natural riches of the sea amid a spectacular backdrop of innumerable caves, beaches, soaring cliffs and grottoes.

Following our overnight in Halong Bay, we flew to another UNESCO World Heritage site, Hue. The former imperial capital of the Nguyen Dynasty during a time recognized as the golden age of Vietnam, Hue has been a main cultural, religious and educational center of Vietnam for

centuries. The World Heritage designation is the moated, walled citadel, home of Vietnam's last emperors. We first took a ride on the Perfume River aboard a dragon boat to see the seven-story Thien Mu Pagoda and later toured the Imperial Enclosure inside the Forbidden Purple City, the area reserved for the emperor and his retinue.

Our next stop farther down the coast was Hoi An, an ancient, well-preserved port town that's changed little in the past 200 years. After many centuries of maritime trade, the town boasts a multi-cultural air. Traders from Persia, Arabia, China, Japan and India, as well as the first Christian missionaries to reach Vietnam, all left their mark along its colorful, lantern-strewn streets. Many of Hoi An's historic homes have been maintained with their brick exteriors and dark, wooden interiors and are open to the public.

We traveled from Hoi An through rice fields near Cat's Tooth Mountain to My Son Sanctuary, Vietnam's most significant archeological site from the Champa kingdom, which prospered from the second to the 15th centuries. The red brick ruins reflected a heavy influence from Hinduism in the delicate temple carvings.

The next morning, we flew to the town of Nha Trang and boarded trawlers to visit a local fishing village on Mieu Island. While there, we tried navigating in unique basket boats, which are large tightly-woven bamboo baskets sealed with tar and used to ferry people or produce between fishing boats and shore.

From Nha Trang, we climbed through rugged mountain passes to the city of Dalat, named the "City of Eternal Spring" due to its mild year-round climate. It is famous as a university center and for hundreds of greenhouses where exquisite flowers are grown for export. Later, we visited the isolated

village of Buon Chuoi and met the chief of the Chil people, a hill tribe that practices subsistence farming. One of the so-called Montagnards, or highlander tribes, they were widely recruited as fighters during the Vietnam War.

We embarked on the final leg of our journey via a short flight to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. Today it is a bustling, modern seaport and the country's largest city, with a population of nine million (and six million motor scooters!). After touring some well-known landmarks such as the Catholic Cathedral of Notre Dame, the historic Post Office and the majestic Opera House, we journeyed outside the city to discover Vietnam's famous Mekong River Delta.

While in the delta region, we visited the village of Cu Chi, which sits atop a vast maze of underground tunnels stretching more than 125 miles. This huge network allowed thousands of Viet Cong fighters and villagers to hide and control a large area near Saigon during the war. The Viet Cong worked continuously more than 25 years to expand this three-level network. It included mess halls, meeting rooms, an operating theater, a tiny cinema, small factories and vast ammunition stores. We found this to be a very emotional experience after viewing the display of booby traps the Viet Cong used against American soldiers.

Our trip to Saigon and this diverse country was put into perspective following our visit to Chu Chi, when we met for lunch with former Viet Cong soldiers, who displayed no malice to us or our country. Forty years after the war, the scars have mostly healed. Today, the Vietnamese are friendly and welcoming. We must never forget the sacrifices our soldiers made there, but perhaps it's time to "turn the page" and visit this beautiful and fascinating land in peace and harmony.

For more information about Overseas Adventure Travel tours, go to www.oattravel.com

Canton resident Jay Young is former director of community relations for the Livonia Public Schools. Retired in 2007, he likes to travel and do volunteer work in various places in this country and around the world.

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Steve King & the Dittilies will perform at Canton arts partnership's fundraiser

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities is kicking off its winter fundraiser "Old Time Rock-n-Roll" featuring Steve King & the Dittilies at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton.

The event boasts the fifth time King has performed for the fundraiser that contributes to ongoing efforts to transform the historic Henry Ford Village Factory into the Village Arts Factory at Ridge and Cherry Hill roads.

"People have asked why we keep inviting the same band. Well, we sell it out every time he comes," said Jill Engel, partnership executive director. "We have 400 seats and have more than 300 sold. It is phenomenal."

The event features a welcome reception at the theater that will feature samples from Plymouth restaurants Aqua, Barrio and Ironwood.

At 8 p.m., guests will have an opportunity to sing along and dance to the band. "We have a wide age range of guests



Crews work on the factory on the 14-acre site at Ridge and Cherry Hill roads.

— from 30s to 80s. Steve King plays a wide variety of music," Engel said.

An additional treat for the evening will be a performance by a 2015 Canton Idol Middle School winner, Grace Rembinski, 12, who sings in the Discovery Middle School Choir and Beckridge Girls Choir. Rembinski is a seventh-grade national junior honor student at Discovery. She will perform during the welcome reception.

The event includes

Iron Mountain, as the main sponsor, marketing sponsors Community Financial Credit Union and *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, while the reception sponsors are IBEX Insurance Agency & Aisin World Corp. of America.

Tickets are \$35 per person and may be purchased at www.cantonvillageartsfactory.org or at 734-394-5300.

The fundraiser is a step toward transforming the Henry Ford Vil-

lage Factory into the Village Arts Factory, which has been under preparation since its purchase in 2012. Construction and renovation are expected to get fully underway this year, Engel said.

The 14-acre site is formerly known as auto magnate Henry Ford's Village Industry. The site includes a dormitory, the Ford factory — both of which are on the National Historic Register — and an industrial ware-



Rembinski

of inquiries already — the factory could boast a brewery and eatery. There are plans for an art and healing program, which will tie back to the history of the site and Ford's interest in helping veterans.

"Our goal is to have an open house on our property this spring for the public to come out to visit and hear the story behind our project," Engel said.

In an attempt to market the Village Arts Factory to the general public, Engel was given the job of assigning a project to Leadership Canton. Participants will develop a plan to market Canton amenities, such as the Village Theater, the Summit and banquet center, Softball City, the Canton library, and of course, the Village Arts Factory.

"How do we reach people of all ages and cultures to share the places located in their backyard?" Engel asked, referring to the marketing project.

For more information about the Village Arts Factory, go to www.partnershipforarts.org.

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Accordionist Soave, a Detroit native, will join Michigan Philharmonic for March concert

Accordion virtuoso and Detroit native Peter Soave will join the Michigan Philharmonic next month to perform a modern work by California composer Max Simoncic.

The program, "An Accordion Affair," is at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at


First United Methodist Church. Simoncic's piece is called *Accordion Concerto* and Soave performed it at its world premiere in Stockton, Calif., in 2011.

The program will also include *Dance of the Tumblers* from *The Snow*

Maiden, by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and *Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major* by Sergei Prokofiev. The Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra will join the Michigan Phil for the performance of *Dance of the Tumblers*.


First United Methodist is at 45201 North Territorial. A 1:15 p.m. talk will precede the concert.

For more information and to reserve tickets, go to the Michigan Phil's website, <http://www.michiganphil.org/index.html>.



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Seminar goal should be education

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Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Social Security and they recommended to me that I take Social Security today and put the proceeds into an annuity. They told me the annuity would grow tax-deferred and then I could start drawing down on it once I retired. My question to you is, Do you think this strategy makes sense? I am in a 28-percent tax bracket.

A: That strategy makes sense for only one person: the person selling you the annuity. From a tax standpoint and a financial standpoint, the strategy makes no sense.

First, let's look at the tax consequence. What they did not tell you is that your Social Security is going to be subject to tax. In your situation, since you earn more than \$34,000, 85 percent of your Social Security will be subject to income tax. As you mentioned, your

current bracket is 28 percent, which means you will pay 28 percent tax, plus state income taxes on 85 percent of your Social Security. On the other hand, if you wait to take Social Security until you're no longer working, your Social Security will virtually be tax-free. After all, since your only taxable income will be your Social Security, you will basically be in a zero percent tax bracket.

From a financial standpoint, the strategy also makes no sense. By delaying Social Security until the time that you sell your business, you're earning basically 8 percent on your earnings. By putting the money into the annuity, you're only going to earn about 1 percent. From a pure financial standpoint, this strategy makes no sense. What would you rather earn, 1 percent or 8 percent?

When it comes to collecting Social Security, it's important that you have a strategy; no one strategy fits everyone. Look at your individual situation before you make a decision.

With regard to going to seminars, I always caution people to be careful. It's not that I'm against seminars; I have done hundreds throughout my career. I do caution attending seminars where the goal is to sell you something. Many of these seminars are high-pressure — why put yourself in that uncomfortable position? All the seminars I give, whether they're at public libraries or through an organization, are free and meant to educate someone, not sell them anything.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bands of heavier snow made late Thursday morning treacherous for downtown Plymouth pedestrians and a never-ending task for those trying to keep the sidewalks clear.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jason Beaudoin of Plymouth Township and sons Luke, 8, and Sam, 6, take advantage of a snow day and sled down a hill in Hines Park.

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'A Night for the Museum' celebrates Dunning

The Plymouth Historical Museum's annual gala event, "A Night for the Museum," will be held Saturday, March 12, at the Fox Hills Golden Fox. This year's event is a special one, as it will celebrate Margaret Dunning, the museum's major benefactor, who died last year at the age of 104.

"Margaret lived here on Penniman Avenue in the same house since she was a teenager," museum Director Liz Kerstens said. Dunning paid for building the original museum building in the early 1970s and then donated the funding for the addition that was built in early 2000.

"She was devoted to preserving the history of this community and she charged the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum to maintain the museum as a vibrant and



Last year's Plymouth Historical Museum's annual gala.

welcoming place for visitors," Kerstens said. "We do not receive government funding of any kind, so we work very hard with the gala and other events to ensure

that we are able to continue the work Margaret started."

More than 100 volunteers give their time and talents at the museum for everything from

maintenance, exhibits, archives, education and as guides. "We even receive donations from former Plymouth residents who now live in other parts of the coun-

try," Kerstens said. "They still feel a connection to the community and its history. Plymouth is just that kind of place."

Community businesses have donated a generous number of items for the raffle and live auction that will take place at the gala March 12. Some of the most unique and exciting live auction items attendees can look forward to bidding on include Santa Claus coming to your house, a princess party, Carrie Underwood tickets, "really good" Detroit Tigers tickets, a ride on a fire truck in the Plymouth 4th of July Parade and a private tea at the Markham/Wilcox House.

Tickets to "A Night for the Museum" are still available. Contact the Plymouth Historical Museum at 734-455-8940 or purchase online at <http://www.plymouth-history.org/events/>.

The evening will be beset by raffles, spirited live auction, socializing, hors d'oeuvres, libations, plated dinner – even a collectible souvenir gift. Throw in some historical Plymouth intrigue and gossip and it will be a night you'll not soon forget!

The Plymouth Historical Museum is a privately funded membership organization dedicated to preserving, teaching and displaying our community's history in its 26,000-square-foot facility on Main Street in downtown Plymouth. The museum is proud to host a number of activities and welcome upward of 8,000 visitors per year.

The museum is located at 155 S. Main Street. Hours of operation are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Closed holidays.

Observer & Eccentric to connect businesses with seniors at annual expo

The *Observer & Eccentric* presents the 13th annual Spring Senior Expo, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

This tradition for seniors features diverse demonstrations and workshops, local business exhibitors, prizes, free admission, free parking and free refreshments. Learn to live healthy, make wise financial decisions and enhance life to make it the best ever.

Businesses wishing to participate can take advantage of various exhibitor and sponsorship packages.

Prior to the expo, a Spring Senior Expo special publication will be inserted into all *Observer*, *Novi News*, *Northville Record*, *Milford Times* and *South Lyon Herald* newspapers Thursday, March 31, and in all *Eccentric* newspapers Sunday, April 3. This special publication will feature articles, interests and resources for today's seniors. The publication will also include participating local business exhibitors and information on all demonstrations and workshops being offered



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 13th annual Spring Senior Expo will be held April 5 inside Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center.

for this year's event.

For those interested in greater involvement and exposure, there are speaking, advertorial and various sponsorship level opportunities.

Businesses interested in learning more about how to become an exhibitor or sponsor should contact Choya Jordan at 248-926-2203 or cbjordan@michigan.com.

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Dr. Stewart: In many cases you can but it is important to ask your physician why CPAP would be better for you than an oral appliance. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine has approved oral appliance therapy as a first line treatment for those patients diagnosed with mild or moderate sleep apnea and also for those with severe sleep apnea who are unable to tolerate or cannot wear CPAP devices. Some patients with severe sleep apnea need to wear both an oral appliance and CPAP, which helps reduce CPAP pressures and make it more comfortable and tolerable to use. Guidelines also state that the oral appliance must be custom fitted and adjustable with follow up done by a qualified dentist.

If you have questions about your sleep difficulties then contact Dr. Stewart's Sleep Better Michigan practice.

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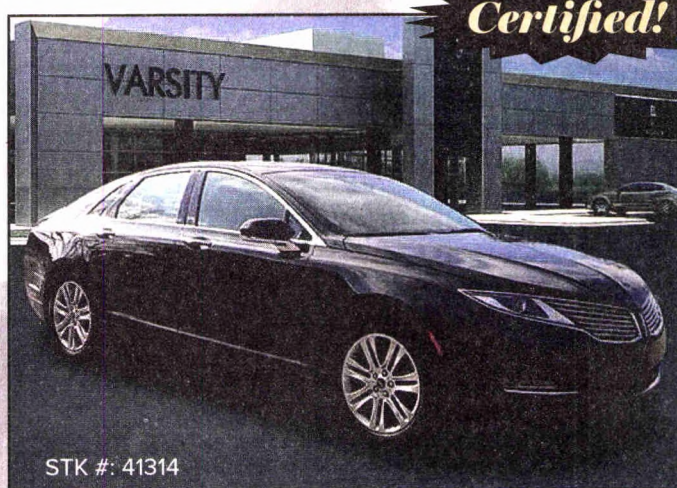
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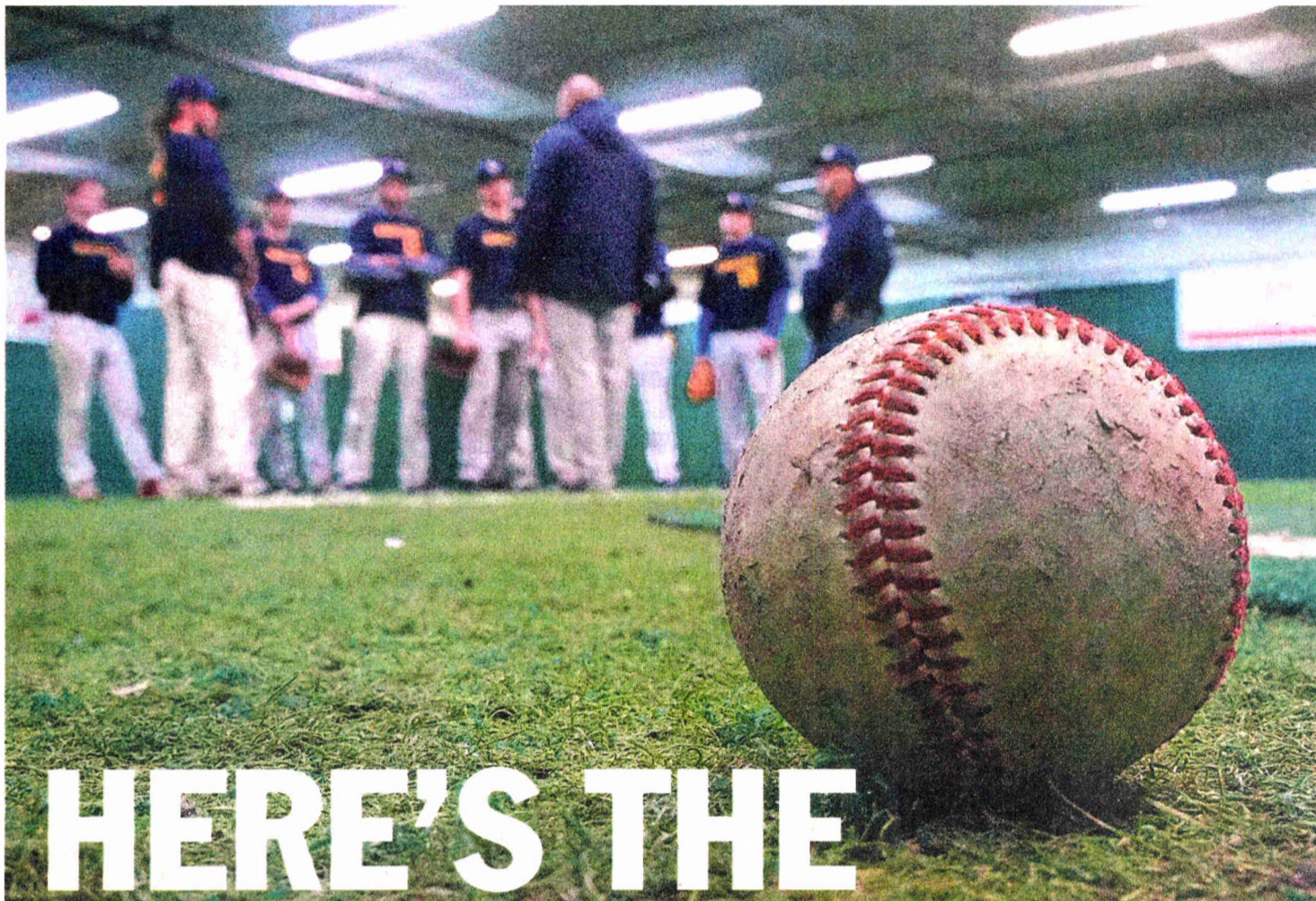
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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE BASEBALL



HERE'S THE PITCH!

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Schoolcraft baseball players meet before beginning indoor drills.

Schoolcraft's debut baseball program swings into action with Florida junket

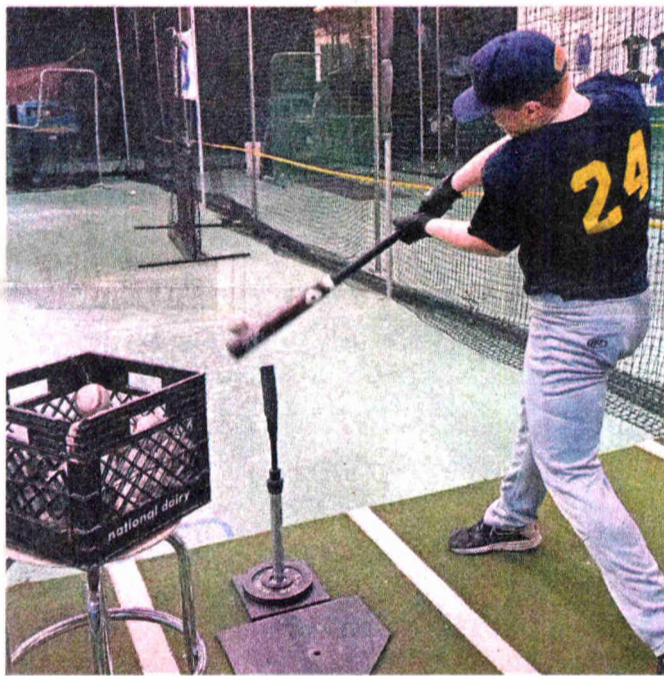
Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When rumors started circulating last spring that Schoolcraft College was about to begin a baseball program, players' ears perked up.

It made late-season games between Canton and Plymouth even that much more interesting than usual.

For Chiefs catcher Nick Romanowski and Wildcats outfielder-pitcher Jared Merandi, who both were on Schoolcraft's radar from the beginning, it meant facing each other as rivals fully aware that once 2016 rolled around, they'd be teammates in Ocelots blue and gold.

"We figured out later in the season that we were both going to Schoolcraft," Romanowski said Wednesday before taking



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lacing liners off the tee during Wednesday's practice is Nick Romanowski, who played high school baseball for the Canton Chiefs.

cuts during indoor practice at the Skillbuilder Batters Box in Dearborn Heights. "So I thought that was cool, playing each other and knowing we were going to be teammates later on.

"And (infielder) Steve (Szymanski) from Churchill, too. It was cool that I knew I would be teammates with these guys after playing them."

According to Merandi, it's pretty special to be on the same side with former KLAA rivals. Even better is being in from the beginning as baseball takes root at Schoolcraft.

"It feels great, being the first of something," Merandi said. "We're always going to be down there in the history books, so it's a pretty cool feeling."

To a man, there's no disagreement about that, especially as the Ocelots embark on a

See PROGRAM, Page B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Taking it to the rim Friday night against Livonia Churchill is Canton senior Obi Okoli.

CONFERENCE FINAL

Ryan Express derails Churchill

Canton big man tallies 19 points, 11 boards

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Logan Ryan, the Canton boys basketball team's "Chief" operating officer, can drain threes, block shots, throw down dunks and tell a good joke — all with an easy-going flair.

The 6-foot-7 stretch forward's repertoire was on full-force display Friday night as he led Canton to a 52-42 triumph over visiting Livonia Churchill (12-7) in the KLAA Kensington Conference championship game.

The Chiefs (19-0) will host Thursday's 7 p.m. KLAA Association title game against the winner of the Hartland-Walled Lake Western game.

Ryan converted his first three shots — a game-opening slam followed by two twine-tickling triples — kick-starting a 19-point night that included 11 rebounds, two steals, a pair of rejections and who knows how many tension-breaking one-liners.

"It's great playing with Logan," Canton senior guard Hamoudy Turfe said. "He's a character. He's always calm and cracking jokes; he keeps us loose. He's never serious and he

See BOYS, Page B2

KENSINGTON CONFERENCE FINAL

Talented Wayne trio stymies Chiefs

Zebras parlay strong first half into 45-37 win over Canton girls

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Seemingly every time the basketball found itself in the hands of Wayne Memorial's Amara Chikwe or Camree Clegg in the first half, it swished through the cords to make life tougher for the Canton Chiefs.

Launching a variety of perfect shots from points all over the Canton end of the gymnasium Friday night, Chikwe, Clegg and freshman guard Jeanae Terry combined for 28

of the Zebras' first-half output of 30 points.

They were unstoppable in taking a 30-20 lead into the intermission of the Kensington Conference final at Canton and the Chiefs had no answer after that, as Wayne earned a 45-37 victory.

"The first half, they shot 40 percent and that put us in a hole we couldn't get out of," said Canton junior forward Erin Hult, who had a pretty good night herself with 17 points. "We had a lot of turnovers in the first half and they got easy buckets."

Wayne (15-4) slowed down offensively in the second half, managing only 15 points.

But the Chiefs (15-4) still fell behind, 40-26, after three quarters and only got to within

six in the final minutes (43-37) following a jumper by Hult from the left corner with about 1:30 to go.

Not even a three-minute stretch when the dangerous Chikwe (18 points, 11 in the first half) was sitting on the bench in foul trouble (she had four) could lift Canton back into serious contention for the victory.

With Chikwe on the sideline, Zebras head coach Jarvis Mitchell remained confident simply because he had two of his three aces — all in their first year with the team — still on the court.

One of them, sophomore guard Clegg, a transfer from Detroit Country Day who

See GIRLS, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Wayne Memorial's Amara Chikwe (left) tries to alter a shot by Canton's Madison Archibald during Friday's conference final.

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BOYS

Continued from Page B1

never gets mad, so he keeps us in check.”

While Turfe's skill set isn't quite as flamboyant as Ryan's, the 5-11 guard does things that don't go unnoticed by his teammates and coaches.

The highlight of his solid 12-point night was a six-point scoring stretch early in the third quarter that helped stretch the Chiefs' lead to 28-19.

“What Hamoudy does is so vital to this team's success,” Ryan said. “He plays good defense, he helps us get open and he can hit the three. It really is a privilege having him on this team.”

“Hamoudy's been doing this for us all season,” Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. “He scores in stretches for us a lot. Sometimes when our offense gets stale, he's the one who will score four, six or eight points in a row for us.”

The first half of Friday's game was a defense-dominated chess match in which both teams struggled to find open looks.

Canton, which carried a 22-15 lead into the half, made just 8-of-23 first-half shots against Churchill's revolving defenses, which included a scrappy 1-3-1 zone trap.

The Chargers' shooting was even colder as they connected on just 6-of-20 shots. Normally a dangerous perimeter shooting team, Churchill canned just 1-of-11 first-half triple tries.

“When you play against their zone, you have to move the ball and be patient because they have guys running all over the place,” Turfe said. “You have to move the ball fast and move without the ball.”

Both teams did a lock-down job against usually dangerous scorers: Joan Andoni of Churchill, who was limited to just four points (all in the second half), and Obi Okoli of Canton, who was held without a field-goal attempt in the first half before contributing two fourth-quarter buckets.

Trailing 28-19 in the wake of Turfe's third-quarter scoring barrage, the Chargers went to work, rallying hard thanks to aggressive play from junior Jerron Hampton (eight points) and senior Jon Hovermale (17 points), whose and-one fast-break layup at the 1:59 mark of the third quarter brought Churchill to within 31-30.

But just when it looked like robust crowd might be in for a



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's varsity boys basketball team celebrates Friday after defeating Livonia Churchill to win the Kensington Conference championship.

down-to-the-wire finish, Canton did what 19-0 teams do, reeling off a 13-0 run that stretched to the 4:25 mark of the final quarter to put the game on ice.

The game-changing roll included a top-of-the-key three by freshman guard B. Artis White and two soft triples from Ryan.

Ryan put an exclamation point on the night with a two-hand slam with 1:51 left, extending Canton's lead to 47-33.

“Logan is a nightmare match-up for people,” Reddy said, “because he has a nice tough outside and he's tough around the rim, too.”

The conference title is Canton's first since 2013.

“The past two years, we were bounced out in the first round, so it's nice to win it again,” Reddy said. “I'm happy for the guys because they've been working hard the past three, four months and during the off-season to get to this point.”

PLYMOUTH 52, MILFORD 35: Brent Davis scored 16 points while Frank Brown tallied 10 points and 11 rebounds to lift the Wildcats to a KLAAs tournament consolation win Friday. Chipping in seven and five points, respectively, were Pete Carravallah and A.J. Neal. Plymouth improved to 8-11.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Putting up a soft jumper for Canton is freshman guard B. Artis White (right).

GIRLS

Continued from Page B1

scored 13, came up with a highlight-reel over the head layup, opening up a 43-32 edge.

Chance to rally

If the Chiefs were to claw back into the game, it would have been following a high-glasser from the key that Hult scored with 3:33 to go to slice the Wayne lead to 43-35.

Hult was fouled on the play (she did miss the foul shot) and pumped her first in the air as she tried to pump up her teammates.

Seeing that emotion was Mitchell, who turned to Chikwe and told her to get back into the game — with directions to avoid being whistled for a fifth foul.

“The last thing I want them to do is get too much momentum where I can't put out that fire,” said Mitchell, whose team went from 0-20 in 2014-15 to co-KLAAs champs in one season. “Canton is one of those teams, they're like a California wildfire. Once they get going, man, it's going to take a whole bunch of water to put 'em out.”

“So I saw the spark going (on the Hult basket). I saw the first tree burning, I said, ‘Wait, before that second tree catches on fire, let me make sure this don't spread.’”

The Zebras and Chiefs originally were set to play Wednesday, but a snowstorm postponed the contest to Friday. Because of that — and with Class A districts beginning Monday — Wayne will share the association title with whomever wins Friday's Lakes Conference final.

In the final minutes, the Zebras almost played keepaway as Terry, Chikwe and Clegg kept throwing the ball around the perimeter while seconds whittled off the clock.

“I got great guards that handle the ball very well. I trust them blindly,” Mitchell



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Madison Wolfbauer (left) defends against Wayne Memorial's Mya Garrett during Friday's conference final.

said. “They know how important it is to take care off the basketball. They've been doing it all year.”

Earlier in the game, the Zebras took care of scoring the basketball, too.

“Give Wayne credit. They're an athletic team, they shot well, they shot 40 percent in the first half and they know how to play basketball,” Canton coach Rob Heitmeyer said. “I was proud of our girls; they were very spirited.”

“You saw at the end they played like lions. We always say if you do your absolute best, that's success. Our girls

gave it their best shot tonight.”

Chikwe came to Wayne from Ann Arbor Huron, where she averaged five points per game last year. Needless to say, she took her game up a few notches with the Zebras and that continued Friday.

“That's the thing, Camree is probably our best player, but Amara is our engine,” Mitchell said. “Without Amara, you don't get the Camree that you see. Because she gets every rebound, she alters shots and plays extremely tough. She is an absolute pleasure to coach.”

According to Chikwe, she felt confident during warmups

and that carried over into the first quarter, when she drained a pair of treys to help the Zebras go up 18-14 after one.

“I had confidence and, during warmup, I felt I'd be able to knock down some shots,” Chikwe said. “Coach Jarvis, he's helped me to come out of my comfort zone and be a bigger and stronger player.”

Several other Canton players had solid performances. Junior forward Madison Wolfbauer had 11 rebounds (six on the offensive end), while junior guard Brianna Finn scored seven points.

Adding six points and five

rebounds was junior forward Shanya Butler.

“Tonight, we held Wayne to 45 points, which was a 15-point improvement from our last game,” Heitmeyer said. “Heading into districts, every possession matters. We're just going to continue to work on our defense. I think we can score with the best of them.”

Canton, in the Plymouth district, will host Salem at 6:30 p.m. Monday, while the Zebras face district host Westland John Glenn at 5 p.m. Monday.

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USA HOCKEY

Feeling blue: NTDP U17s lose on disputed goal

Bloomington prevails after referees allow questionable tally in OT

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Thursday's USHL game between the NTDP Under-17 team and Bloomington was perhaps the most complete effort turned in this season by his team, U17 head coach Don Granato said.

Unfortunately for Granato and his squad, however, the only goal scored in the contest was in overtime by the Thunder — a disputed one at that — as Bloomington posted a hard-fought 1-0 victory at USA Hockey Arena.

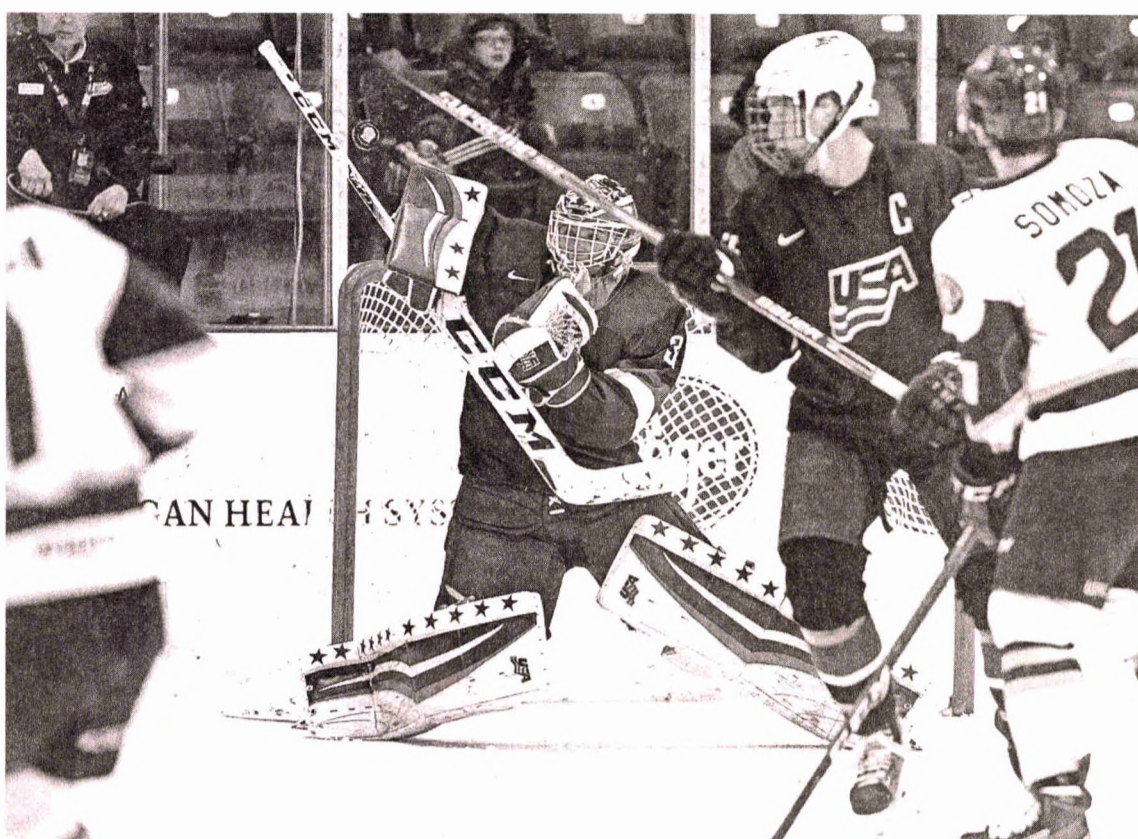
"It was our best game of a 64-minute focus," Granato said. "We went down to five defensemen, which is two fewer than we have and they had to play a smarter game and a more efficient game and they did."

"(Bloomington) is a great team as far as a stingy team. They protect the front of their net well, they protect the rush against well. So we had to fight for every inch and I thought our guys did a tremendous job of battling."

On the winning goal, at 3:57 of overtime, Bloomington defenseman Wyatt Kalynuk skated deep into the left circle and waited until a teammate could park himself in the crease.

Kalynuk then launched a wrist shot that U17 goalie Adam Scheel wasn't able to get in front of thanks to the unwanted company.

The puck nestled inside the right post and the goal was



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Tracking the puck as he did throughout Thursday's game against Bloomington at USA Hockey Arena is NTDP Under-17 goalie Adam Scheel.

allowed to stand, despite what Granato thought was clear-cut goaltender interference.

"We have the benefit of video; he was standing in the crease, no question," Granato said shortly after watching the play on a monitor in his office. "He's in the crease, so the goalie can't come out on the angle or push out on the angle, which he was trying to do."

"The crease is there; that's the goalie's territory. It's unfortunate."

Scheel stopped all 26 shots

he saw in regulation and was closing in on his first shutout of the season. He wasn't making any excuses about the deciding play.

"I was pretty confident out there; our whole team was pretty confident," Scheel said. "It sucks not coming out of there with the win, but we got a point out of it."

"I should have battled through it. ... I didn't see it that much."

Tough luck

Scheel was strong all night, with superb support from his defense, which made sure any rebounds were swept away.

One of his best saves was on a point-blank shot by Jake Durflinger during a Bloomington power play in the middle period.

Then early in the third, the goalie stretched far to his right to deny a bid by Jeremy Davies, who skated wide to the left of the net before turning

and shooting the puck. "We've struggled playing a full 60 minutes so far this season and I think that was the first game we played a full 60 minutes, really good focus from everyone," Scheel said. "That's the positive we got to take out of it. Tonight was a good game for me, but it's just one."

Granato lamented a "couple bad breaks" earlier that could have put the game into the win column for Team USA (now 17-19-4-1; Bloomington improved to 25-17-3-1).

"(Grant) Mismash could have had a breakaway if there were five more seconds on the clock at the end of the (third period)," Granato said. "We were going in two-on-one (during the second period) when two of their players collided and they blew the whistle."

"I don't think we had another two-on-one in the game. It was just one of those nights."

Making 24 stops for the shutout was Hayden Lavigne.

Granato said the way his team played Thursday was much better than in Sunday's 5-2 loss to Muskegon.

"They continue to show real positive signs of getting stronger as a team," Granato said. "And an increased effort of work ethic, an increased level of self-expectation, an increased level of determination, an elevation of personal standard."

"There's a lot of things that are real positive signs moving forward."

Next up for the U17s is Sunday's 2 p.m. home game against Omaha.

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Senior Rocks toasted



SALEM HOCKEY

Salem's coaches and six senior players celebrate senior night Tuesday at Plymouth Cultural Center (front row, from left): Evan Newel, Miles Dougherty and Zach Goleniak and (back row, from left) Bailey Thompson, Nick Callegari and Nathan Homrich. The Rocks defeated Howell, 3-0.

KLAA BOYS HOCKEY

Northville holds off Plymouth for win

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The outcome wasn't decided until the final seconds Tuesday as host Northville held off Plymouth in a boys hockey game at Novi Ice Arena, 4-3.

With the win, the state-ranked Mustangs (No. 5 in Division 1) improved to 16-7-1 overall, while the Wildcats slipped to 12-11-1.

It was 2-2 after one period as Northville's Brendan Hicks opened the scoring at 3:49 from Sam Bradley and Jimmy Dales, but Plymouth's Zack Weiner answered on a power play from James Baldwin and Kyle Kozler at 5:21.

Alex Iafrate put Northville back on top 2-1 at 13:50 of the same period from Bradley and Zac Osaer before Plymouth's Jake Sylvester knotted it at 2-2 just four seconds before the period ended off assists from Colton Burke and Ryan Radwan.

Northville's Kyle Dann made it 3-2 at 6:35 of the second and the Mustangs took a two-goal lead on Anthony Solack's power-play goal from Jack Sargent and Dales at 2:34 of the third.

The Wildcats closed the gap to 4-3 with 5:51 to go in regulation on Alex Bump's goal from Ryan Radwan and C.J. Mullenax.

But Northville held on for the victory, fighting off heavy Plymouth pressure during a six-on-four in the final minute after taking a penalty.

Osaer came up with a huge block of a Wildcat's shot with only five seconds remaining to preserve the victory.

Northville goaltender Brett Miller turned aside 32 shots, while Trevor McManus had 31 saves for Plymouth.

bemons@hometownlife.com

TRAVEL SOCCER

Wolves to host clinic March 6

The Michigan Wolves elite club soccer program is hosting a free one-day clinic Sunday, March 6, at Legacy Center in Brighton.

The clinic is open to players from any club.

Following is the schedule for the day: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., instruction for players with birth year 2002 or 2003; 12:15-1:30 p.m., Under-18 Michigan Wolves game; 1:30-3 p.m. instruction for players with birth year 2004 or 2005. In addition to instruction from the club's coaches, each participant will receive a Michigan Wolves clinic T-shirt.

Legacy Center is located at 9299 Goble Drive in Brighton.

Go to www.michiganwolveshawks.com and scroll down for registration link.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Dierker goes out with a bang for Crusaders

Despite receiving a career-high 29 points from junior Chris Dierker (Salem High School), Madonna men's basketball team fell on the road Wednesday in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference quarterfinal game, 70-58, to fourth-seeded Aquinas.

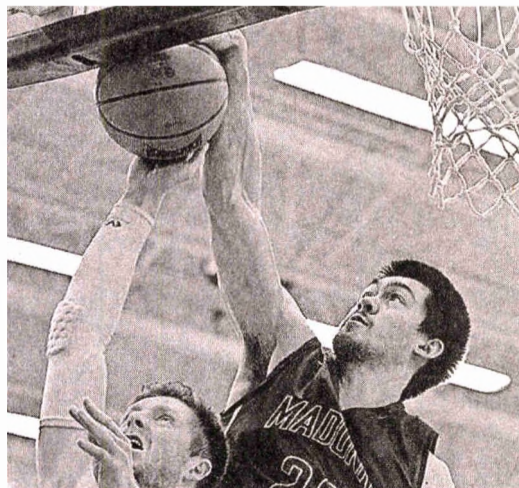
The Crusaders finished the season with an overall record of 17-14, while Aquinas (21-10) moved on to meet the winner of Friday's Davenport-Siena Heights game in the conference semifinals.

The Crusaders shot 32 percent from the floor in each half compared to a 43-percent clip for the Saints.

Dierker had the hot hand for MU early and often, pouring in 15 first-half points to keep the Crusaders within striking distance at the break.

Dierker's first-half flurry accounted for more than half of the Crusaders points in the opening half as they trailed the Saints, 37-29.

Khalil Malone (Pontiac-Waterford Mott High School) checked in with four points in the first half, while Clarke



MADONNA UNIVERSITY
Madonna's Chris Dierker is pictured blocking a shot during a game earlier this month.

Lamb (St. Clair High School) reeled in a team-high six rebounds in 11 minutes.

The Saints pulled away early in the second half, taking a 47-32 lead over the Crusaders at the 16:29 mark. The Crusaders battled back to get to within seven on several occasions before timely shots by the Saints ultimately led Madonna's demise.

Dierker, who canned 10-of-18 shots, was followed by Malone

and Andrew Myers (Clarkston) who chimed in with six points each, while Dean Kolstad (Gull Lake High School) grabbed eight rebounds.

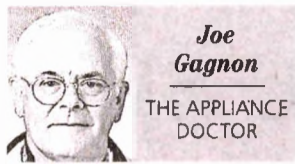
Dierker finished with seven rebounds, one shy of his season average.

Playing in their final game for Madonna were seniors Zak Lewis (Petoskey) and Tyler Stewart (Salem), who combined for seven points and six rebounds.

Consumers need timely warnings about appliance defects

Let me begin this column with a big thank you to all you readers who called me or emailed me on my last column about my three-day Amish visit. I can only add that it was a trip of a lifetime and opened my eyes to what a wonderful way of life they live. Valorie and I did have dinner at their home when the temperature was 61 degrees, just a week ago, and I did finally have a ride in a buggy going down the road.

Meanwhile, I've spent some time with state Rep. Gary Glenn discussing a proposed law dealing with appliance recalls. It appears he will be doing some research



Joe Gagnon
THE APPLIANCE DOCTOR

and putting it into a format to be brought up in a committee meeting in the state Legislature. Here's my view on the problem: We all know what happens in the auto industry when a defect is discovered in a vehicle — immediate action is taken to ensure customers are safe while driving. A failure to report a defect is taken very seriously and stiff fines are imposed.

In the case of major or small appliances, there is hardly any action taken

to notify homeowners of such a defect. Today, millions of appliance owners have appliances in their homes that are under recall and they do not know of their potential to cause a fire. The fact that manufacturers are making the information available is not enough. Television and the media play a small role in informing consumers and, with luck, you may see it on a one-time basis. This is just not enough and, as a result, people are dying because they have failed to contact a manufacturer regarding a fault in a product that can cause a fire and be repaired free of charge.

Warranty cards

The published information stating that a warranty registration card should be sent in on the purchase of an appliance is not working because manufacturers simply aren't notifying customers. And they're saving money for each customer they don't notify. All of this is a very serious problem in America today with the potential to become much worse once the Chinese start to export appliances into this country; that is right around the corner.

A recent story on Canadian television had two appliance service technicians, each with more than 30 years of

experience, explain the lack of quality in products today and the much-reduced life expectancy of major appliances. It seems that the only goal of production today is to make more money than last year. The cost of installing cheap parts from overseas is of no consequence and neither is the health of the person spending their money.

Is there a solution to this world-wide problem? There are times in our history when we do ask our government to intercede and this is an occurrence of just that. I believe that appliance makers have the capability to install a warning light on each product to

be activated by technology with the push of a button. Each manufacturer should be held responsible to make sure that the warning light goes on any product they produce. As in the auto industry, they will be dealt with severely for failing to do so. These are the companies that make billions of dollars from your everyday customer and can certainly afford to ensure future sales through customer care policies such as described. Stay tuned.

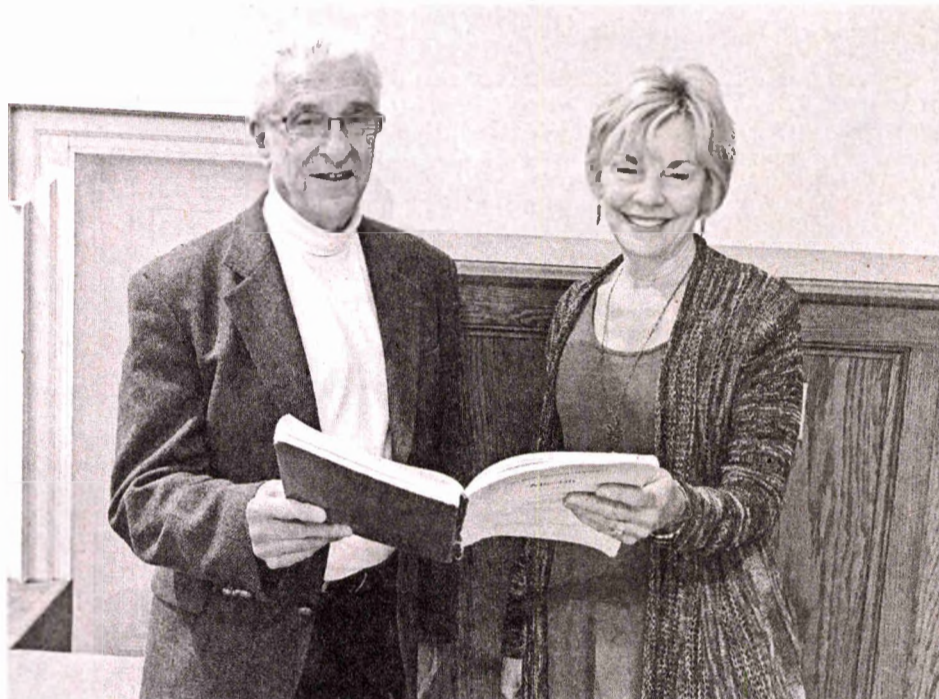
Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. each Saturday on WAAM-AM (1600). You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmlr.com.

Northville, Plymouth Presbyterian choirs sing 'Messiah'

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth and First Presbyterian Church of Northville are planning a joint presentation of Handel's *Messiah* Sunday, March 20, at the downtown Northville church. The concert will be presented at 6 p.m. and will feature the combined choirs of the two churches, professional soloists and musicians from the Great Lakes Consort.

The Northville church presented *Messiah* every December for many years. When Carole Halmekangas, interim director of music at FPCN, decided to revive the tradition, she contacted Jerry Smith at the Plymouth church to see if he and his choir would be interested in a joint concert. The two musicians worked together for 27 years at Ward Presbyterian Church and continue to maintain a warm friendship and respect for each other's musical talents.

Both musicians have



Carole Halmekangas, interim director of music at FPCN, contacted Jerry Smith at the Plymouth church to see if he and his choir would be interested in a joint concert.

been active in the Detroit music scene for many years and earned their doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan. Halmekangas

served at Ward Presbyterian Church for 45 years until her retirement in 2012 and has been with First Presbyterian Church of North-

ville since 2014. She has been an organist, accompanist and choral direc-

tor for many Detroit musical groups. Smith has had a long career as both an educator and choral director. He currently serves First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth as director of music ministries.

This Easter concert will focus on Part II of Handel's *Messiah*. Part II contains work that illustrates the suffering and resurrection of Christ and culminates with the *Hallelujah Chorus*. The concert will also feature other favorite arias and choruses, including *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*.

The two choirs have been practicing separately for several months and recently met for the first of their two joint rehearsals. "The sound was amazing," Halmekangas said. "Both choirs were well-prepared and I was so impressed with their technical ability, as well as the beauty of their singing. Even though the

combined choir contains more than 60 members, they are able to sing softly and with great emotion as well as with enormous power. Concert-goers are in for a real treat."

The concert will feature professional soloists Kim Swan (soprano), Louise Fisher (alto), James Moore (tenor) and Theodore Jones (baritone).

The chorus and soloists will be accompanied by Sharon Smith at the piano, Halmekangas at the organ and members of the Great Lakes Consort playing string instruments. Jerry Smith will be at the podium as director.

The concert is open to the public at no charge. A free will offering will be accepted to help cover the cost of the professional musicians. A reception following the concert will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Northville.

ADVERTISEMENT Request for Proposals Plymouth Canton Community Schools "21st Century Classroom Project - Phase 3"

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

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

Bid Publication	On or after the aforementioned date, an Invitation-to-Bid will be available to interested Vendors. Request for Proposals (RFP) drawings and documentation, which describes the project in detail, will be available by contacting Russ Gill russ.gill@stantec.com at Stantec Architecture (formerly SHW Group) email only. Site visitation shall be scheduled on March 1, 2016 at 3:30pm at Bird Elementary School, located at 220 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 A second visitation will be scheduled on March 2, 2016 at 3:30pm EST (if required).	Mar. 1, 2016
Bid Publication	A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held at the following location: Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170 Attendees shall meet in the PCCS "Board Room" at the appointed date and time.	Mar 1, 2016 2:30 PM EST
Bidder's Questions	Deadline for all questions pertaining to this RFP shall be issued in writing (email) and directed to the Bid Administrator: russ.gill@stantec.com .	Mar. 16, 2016 by 12:00 Noon EST
Answers to Bidder's Questions	Responses to questions will be issued on an addendum and submitted through NewForma to the interested Vendors.	Mar. 17, 2016 by 5:00 PM EST
Proposals Due	Deadline for delivery of bids. Proposals shall be delivered as stated above to the following address: Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170 ATTN: "21st Century Classroom Project - Phase 3". Late bids/proposals will be returned unopened. Plymouth Canton Community Schools will not consider or accept a bid/proposal received after the deadline stated herein. PCCS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals and waive any informality or irregularities in any qualifications should the School District consider this right and to be in its best interest.	Mar. 30, 2016 by 1:00 PM EST
Public Opening & Reading of Pricing	Public Opening of RFP's. Location of the public opening shall be: Plymouth Canton Community Schools E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170	Mar. 30, 2016 1:00 PM EST
PCCS RFP Review	Review of Proposals by PCCS Bid Evaluation Team.	Mar. 30-31, 2016
Post-Bid Review Conferences	Interview shortlisted candidates. Date(s) and time(s) are subject to change. Shortlisted candidates will be advised of their post-bid review conference either by phone or email. The decision to interview candidates is at the sole discretion of the Owner.	Apr. 1, 2016 (times to be determined)
Award Date (on or after)	Intent to Award Contract shall be conducted on or after this date.	Apr. 26, 2016

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Former business exec spends hours trapping feral cats

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The toughest part about trapping cats is the waiting. "I remember the time my friend and I were in a trailer park. We were there for hours. We were starving. We had to go to the bathroom," says Cheryl Phillips, who snares feral felines for spaying and neutering.

The weather can be grueling, too.

"Blizzard, I've done that before. I've been out there trapping in sub-zero temperatures."

And the travel can be exhausting.

"I've gone as far as Flint, Owosso, wherever I'm needed."

Since 2012, Phillips, a Northville resident, has caught more than 100 "community cats" — the feral animals and abandoned pets that roam neighborhoods and often live in outdoor colonies. Working in conjunction with the Humane Society of Huron Valley's TNR (trap-neuter-release) program, Phillips often spends weekends trapping cats and transporting them to HSHV where they are spayed or neutered, given rabies vaccinations and are micro-chipped. When they've recovered from surgery, she returns them to the trapping site for release. The idea is to stop the reproduction cycle and ultimately reduce the number of community cats, along with cat intakes at animal shelters. At HSHV stray cat intakes dropped 23 percent since the program started.

"We have to stop this overpopulation," says Phillips, who blames the problem on irresponsible cat owners and shelters that release cats for adoption before they are spayed and neutered. "I try to do whatever I can."

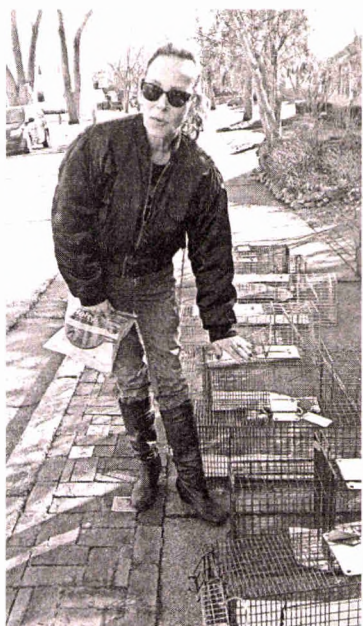
Phillips, who is married and owns three cats, retired in 2014 from Masco Corp., where she served as vice president and director of global purchasing. She is an adjunct professor at University of Michigan - Dearborn and, after retirement, turned consulting work into a full time job. She served on the board of the Michigan Humane Society (MHS) for five years, but became increasingly critical of its shelter practices and euthanasia rate. She quit the board in June 2011 — and three other board members followed.

Phillips didn't allow the experience to rob her passion for animals. She became more tenacious than ever, taking TNR classes at HSHV and then responding to calls for help.

"I've been all over the place. There was one cat in Ann Arbor ... I had to go back four times to try to get him. Sometimes they are so smart."

Setting the bait

On a recent Saturday morning, Phillips, and her helpers, Gayle Dickerson of Westland and Nancy Tranchida of Commerce Township, hoped the trapping would be fast and easy. They'd caught a break in the weather, with sunshine and



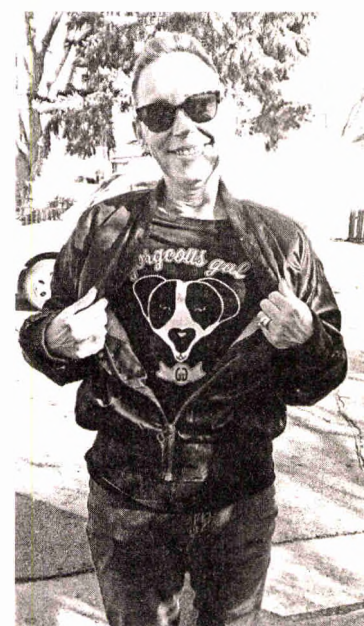
SHARON DARGAY
Cheryl Phillips lines up traps before moving them to the front porch of a home in Rochester.



SHARON DARGAY
Cheryl Phillips of Northville adds tuna to her cat trap.



Nancy Tranchida of Commerce gets ready to spoon tuna onto plates for the traps.



SHARON DARGAY
Cheryl Phillips of Northville shows off the logo of her new book about a pit bull she rescued. She also named a nonprofit foundation after the dog.



SHARON DARGAY
Cheryl Phillips uses a combination of her own traps and traps from the Humane Society of Huron Valley.



Cheryl Phillips' book is written from a rescued pit bull's perspective.



Nancy Tranchida (left) and Cheryl Phillips get ready to fill traps with food.

a morning air that felt like spring.

They prepped nine traps with soft padding and small plates of tuna, before placing them on the front porch at Patricia Kane's house in Rochester. Kane began providing food, fresh water and shelter to a colony of neighborhood cats three years ago. The colony population decreased, but nine kittens recently joined the group. Fearing they would soon reproduce, she called Phillips for help.

"We had re-homed everybody except two cats. We were pretty happy. And we hadn't seen those cats around the neighborhood," Kane said. "And then neighbors alerted me this year that kittens were born, but they did nothing. They'd pick up the kittens and pet them, then put them back and did not do a thing about them."

"So, they come here and once they come I have to deal with it."

Phillips and her crew often

spend hours in their cars, waiting patiently for the traps to close. They take breaks at local restaurants and then return to the trapping site to wait longer. After the cats are trapped, Phillips immediately takes them to HSHV, where she has after-hours access to the building.

Three community cats warily checked out Kane's front porch but didn't take the bait and left. Phillips and Kane figured strong winds and too many traps made the animals uneasy.

The group left empty-handed after more than eight hours on the job. Phillips vowed she would return.

Rescuing

"Believe me we have spent many hours in areas that we didn't even see a cat," said Dickerson, who began assisting after Phillips trapped a cat for her. "I was given her name and she came out and trapped him, had him fixed and now he's at my house. His name is

Buddy."

Tranchida worked with Phillips at Masco and helped her friend with rescues even before she started trapping cats.

"We were on the way back from a meeting and I was following Cheryl," Tranchida said, adding that Phillips stopped her car and allowed a stray dog to jump in. "She was in the car with him and I ran to get a bowl, leash, collar and everything. When you're with Cheryl you never know what's going to happen."

Last year Phillips rescued a dog from the Southfield expressway. She has taken abandoned kittens from beneath shrubbery and at vacant homes. She once trapped a skunk inadvertently, but sweet-talked it from the cage and it didn't retaliate.

"My car is full of rescue stuff all the time," Phillips said. "I have everything in there." She even keeps a bale of straw in her car during winter for outdoor dog houses and

cat shelters. "I've always loved animals."

She started a nonprofit foundation and named it after a pit bull, "GG" (Gorgeous Girl) that she rescued in 2009 while working on a Habitat for Humanity house in Detroit. She even wrote a short novel, "GG's Journey, From Lost To Loved" from the dog's perspective. GG tells her own story of being homeless, found, placed in a shelter where she was misunderstood because of breed stereotypes, fostered and then adopted. The book was released in November and is available from amazon.com and through ggjourney.com in digital and paperback versions.

Phillips hopes the story brings awareness to the plight of homeless animals, especially pit bulls. She plans to use proceeds to continue her rescue work. Her long-range plans include opening a cat sanctuary in north Oakland County, where at-risk children could connect with felines.

Labs fetch first place in AKC breed popularity ranking

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Labrador retrievers rank first in purebred popularity. They've been the top dog in America for the past 25 years, according to the American Kennel Club, (AKC).

The organization tallies purebred dog registrations each year and uses those statistics as the basis for its annual breed popularity list, which it released this week. According to AKC's 2015 stats, the Labrador retriever took the top spot.

Marla Stuck isn't surprised. "I think it's because they are naturally a friendly dog. They are super duper smart and they are easy to train and good with children. You can't have a better family dog. If you want a guard dog, you're not going to get a Lab," said

Stuck, president of MI Lab Rescue.

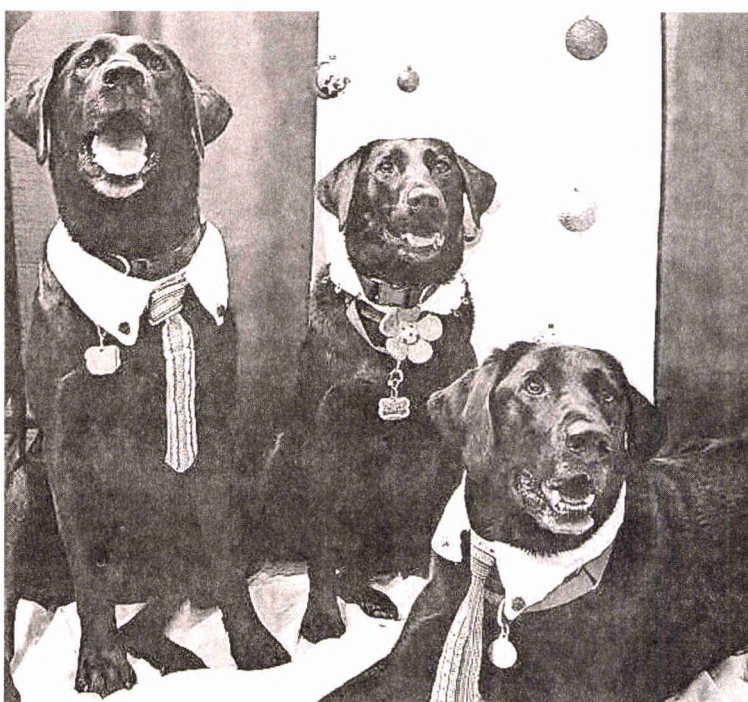
But there's a downside to popularity.

"People go to the breeder and buy these puppies and then no one wants to potty train and clean up," Stuck said. "People buy this dog because they want to go hunting and then they never hunt. Or they don't want to train them and don't understand positive training like we do. They don't want to

walk them. Labs are athletes and if you don't exercise them, it makes them go crazy."

Or they buy a puppy as a family Christmas gift, but soon discover dog ownership is too much work.

"So, a lot of people don't understand basic stuff before getting a dog and how much



MI Lab Rescue president, Marla Stuck, loves black Labs. Her fur kids are Baloo, Jasmyn and Doc.

TOP 10 AKC DOG BREEDS IN AMERICA

1. Labrador retriever — "Friendly, active, outgoing. Labs play well with others."
2. German shepherd — "Smart, confident, courageous and steady. A true dog lover's dog."
3. Golden retriever — "Intelligent, friendly and devoted."
4. Bulldog — "Calm, courageous and friendly, dignified but amusing."
5. Beagle — "Curious, friendly, merry...loving and lovable, happy, easygoing and companionable."
6. French bulldog — "Playful, smart, adaptable and completely irresistible."
7. Yorkshire terrier — "Affectionate, sprightly, tomboyish."
8. Poodle — "Active, proud, very smart."
9. Rottweiler — "Confident guardian, loving, reserved with strangers and affectionate and loyal with his family."
10. Boxer — "Active, bright, fun-loving, and loyal."



Therapy Choirs of Michigan to sing in Lansing

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan will sing its 18th annual Capitol Concert, noon-1 p.m. March 2 at the Capitol in Lansing. The show is free of charge and open to the public.

The Farmington Hills-based organization consists of singers with special needs, such as traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, Down's syndrome, autism, blindness, mental illness and other challenges. They perform in three choirs, the original Therapychoir, the Macomb Oakland Regional

Center Singers in Auburn Hills, and the Livingston County Special Needs Singing Group. Community members, known as "Volunteer Voices," also sing with the groups.

Speakers at the performance will include State Rep. Christine Greig, a representative from the National Association of Mental Illness, and speakers from The Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault Insurance (CPAN), and experts in the field of rehabilitation.

For more information visit TCM's website at: www.therapychoirs.org.



SUBMITTED
Therapy Choirs of Michigan sings in the Capitol in Lansing.

TOP DOGS

Continued from Page B6

work it is. The shelters are full of the number one breed."

A quick check of Petfinder.com turns up 525 Labs or Lab mixes for adoption within 100 miles of Livonia's 48150 zip code. Eighty-seven German shepherds, AKC's second most popular breed, are listed for adoption within the same geographic area.

Stuck started the Ypsilanti-based rescue two years ago upon the urging of an acquaintance. The non-profit organization has a seven-member board of directors and volunteers who foster the dogs. MI Lab Rescue adopted out 16 dogs its first year, 23 dogs last year and four this year. Stuck said the organization placed two new rescued Labs in foster care this week.

"She was a puppy mill dog," Stuck described one of the newcomers.



This yellow Lab is in foster care with MI Lab Rescue. She'll be available for adoption after she is spayed and an ear infection has healed.

SUBMITTED

"They used her as a puppy mill dog and then tied her to a picnic table at a

shelter up north and drove away."

Dog decides

Stuck said all of the

rescue's dogs are vetted and spayed or neutered. The organization requires a home visit and a meet and greet before an adoption is finalized. The dogs have the final say.

"I tell people if the dog doesn't want to be with you, the dog won't be with you."

Stuck recalls one potential adopter that passed the home visit, but failed to make the cut after the dog became shy, stressed and urinated inside the house.

"My vice president knelt down and (the dog) put both paws around her head and hugged her tight. When I opened the door she made a beeline for my van."

New life

In some cases, dogs go from a rags-to-riches existence when they're placed with a new family. Stuck said an adopter in Plymouth offered the perfect setting — a big backyard — for their rescued Lab, which initially had been heartworm positive and came

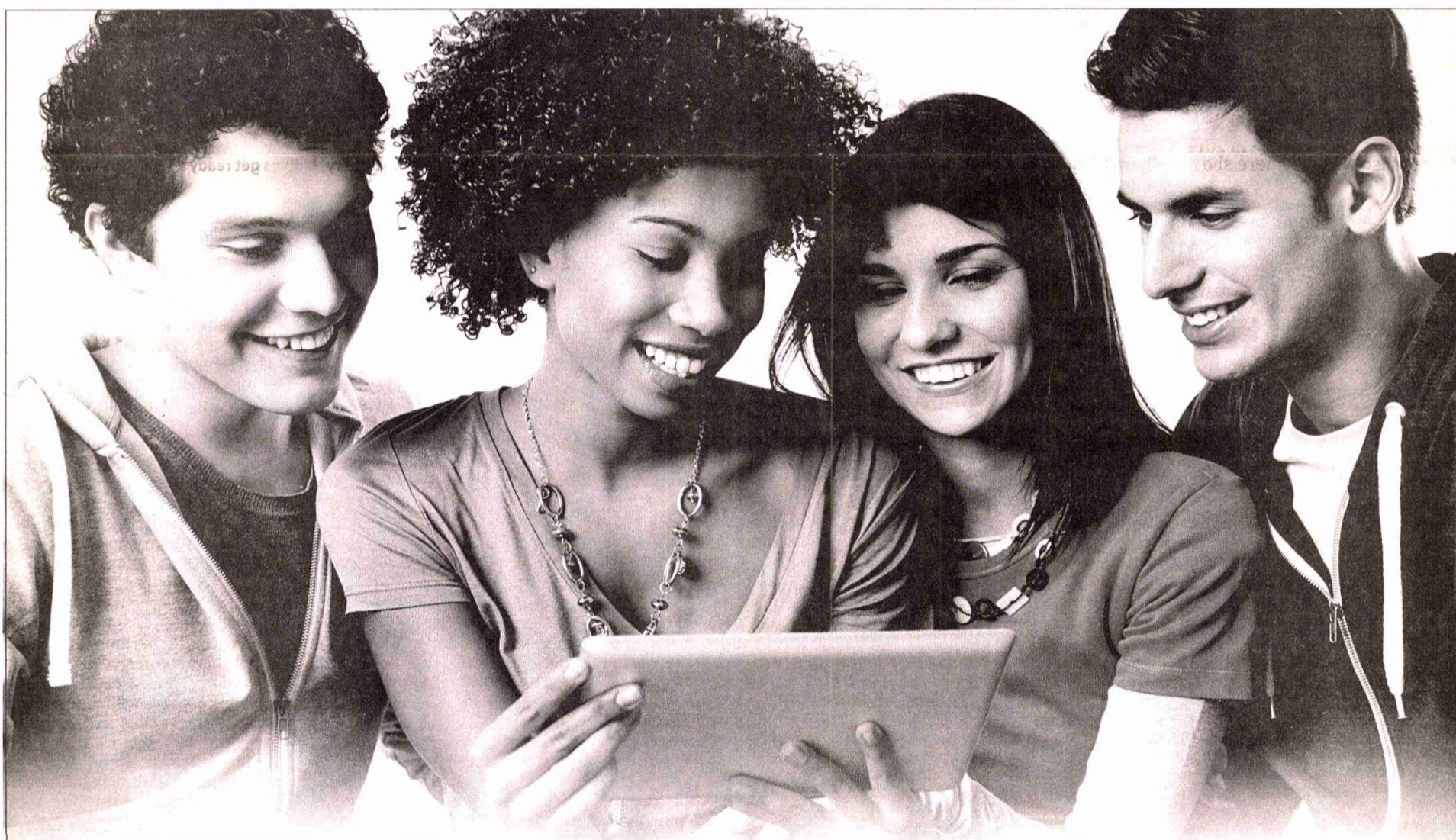
from a shelter in Mobile, Ala.

"We got quite a few of ours from Alabama. We had one pup that had been tossed out onto a highway in Alabama. Someone took it to a shelter there, but it was a high-kill shelter."

MI Lab Rescue pulls dogs from high-kill shelters in Michigan and Alabama. Its adoption fees are \$250 per dog. Stuck said her organization spends approximately \$1,000 on each dog it prepares for adoption. All of its members are volunteers and they rely on donations to pay expenses.

Its first fundraising event is a four-person golf scramble, 10 a.m. May 21, at Pine View Golf Course, 5820 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. Register for MI Lab Rescue's Par For Pups golf outing or check out the rescue's success stories and adoptable dogs at milabrescue.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

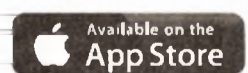


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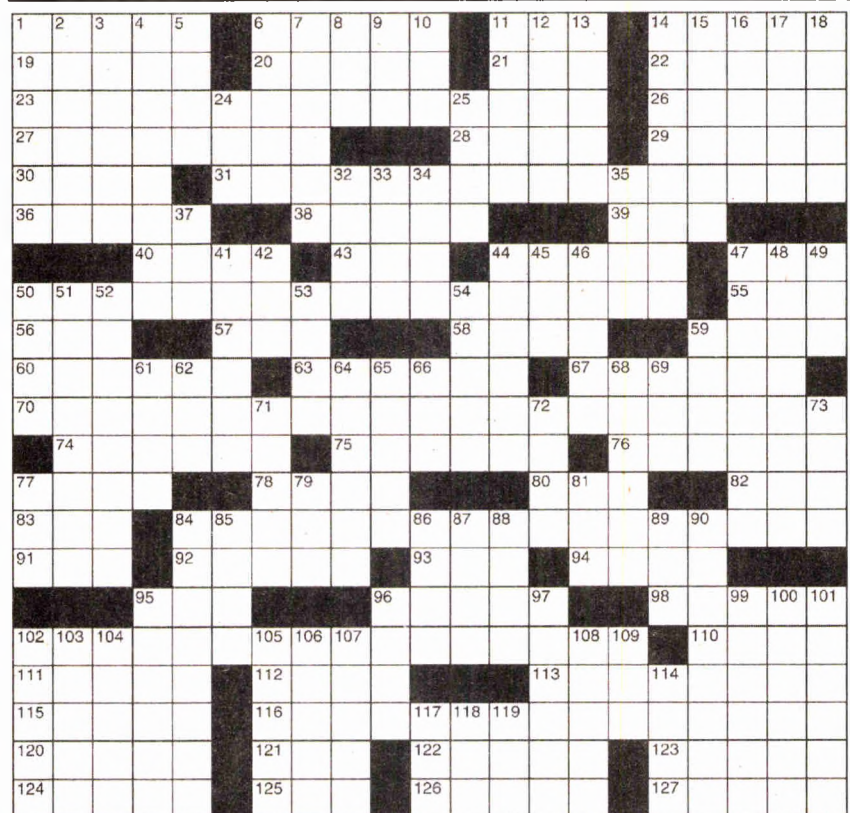
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER



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ACROSS

- 1 Sag down
- 6 "Your Business" channel
- 11 Solo seen with Chewbacca
- 14 Snapshot
- 19 Meet with fellow grads
- 20 Classic name in arcades
- 21 Santa — Zoo
- 22 Biblical king in Matthew
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 26 "I come from — down under" (1991 hit song lyric)
- 27 English king called "the Conqueror"
- 28 Sunrise side
- 29 Concerning kidneys
- 30 Airline to Lod
- 31 Riddle, part 2
- 36 1987 NFL MVP John
- 38 Some tournament rounds, informally

DOWN

- 1 Bank in a check transaction
- 2 Replenish the stock of
- 3 Make illegal
- 4 "He's a priest," per Ogdan Nash
- 5 Gilpin of "Frasier"
- 6 Molten rock
- 7 Giant step
- 8 No, in Ayr
- 9 Lingerie garment
- 10 Op. — (abbr. in a footnote)
- 11 Responses to jokes
- 12 "— of robins in her hair": Joyce Kilmer
- 13 Three-nation pact of '94
- 14 Old Jewish sectarian
- 15 Capital of Montana
- 16 Bornean ape, briefly
- 17 Relating to musical pitch
- 18 In an unusual way
- 24 Spa reaction
- 25 100-yr. stretches
- 32 Ballet bend

ACROSS

- 39 "There — god!"
- 40 Comply with
- 43 Ore — (maker of Crispers!)
- 44 Sticky stuff
- 47 Vainglory
- 50 Riddle, part 3
- 55 Down time
- 56 "Eh" grade
- 57 Very old
- 58 Choir female
- 59 High-school grad, e.g.
- 60 Stick (to)
- 63 Catch sight of
- 67 State-of-mind missions, in military slang
- 70 Riddle, part 4
- 74 Diving result
- 75 Not casual
- 76 Lead role in "La Cage aux Folles"
- 77 End in — (finish evenly)
- 78 Océano filler
- 80 Thai language
- 82 Little peeve
- 83 Part of DOJ: Abbr.

DOWN

- 84 Riddle, part 5
- 91 Certain poem
- 92 Check cashier, say
- 93 Kicker Groza
- 94 Seeks some answers
- 95 Brand of brake fluid
- 96 "Greetings"
- 98 Calyx part
- 102 End of the riddle
- 110 Firework part
- 111 City near Giza
- 112 Holy likeness
- 113 Prehensile-tailed fish
- 115 Fight
- 116 Riddle's answer
- 120 Nobel winner Joliot-Curie
- 121 Immense time span
- 122 Subparts
- 123 Penetrating
- 124 Was nervy enough
- 125 007, 'for one
- 126 Ballerina's skill, in Paris
- 127 Actress Witherspoon

DOWN

- 33 Verdi work
- 34 Apple option
- 35 — and kin
- 37 Kobe cash
- 41 Florida birds
- 42 Driver's peg
- 44 Medusas' counterparts
- 45 At a boat's back
- 46 "It's hard to — Trane"
- 47 GOP symbol
- 48 Fights noisily
- 49 Have title to
- 50 Bankbook ID
- 51 Put back on the roster
- 52 Certain organ part
- 53 Bygone bird
- 54 Long-eared leapers
- 59 Little city
- 61 Qualified
- 62 By means of
- 64 Hang in there
- 65 Prized violin, for short
- 66 Fidel's friend
- 68 Pabst beer
- 69 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
- 71 Of ill repute
- 72 Goller Sandy
- 73 Film terrier
- 77 Big whoop

DOWN

- 79 "Shucks"
- 81 Sly-fox
- 84 Bought the film rights to
- 85 Performs like Snoop Lion
- 86 Makeup of Hawaii
- 87 Noodlehead
- 88 Waikiki wiggling
- 89 Accepts
- 90 Send in troops, e.g.
- 95 Holy place
- 96 Innuendo
- 97 Inceptions
- 99 Chase
- 100 Frozen or liquid things
- 101 "Joan of Arc" star
- 102 Pungent
- 103 Dr. of radio
- 104 Winter coat feature
- 105 Hill helpers
- 106 Inside story
- 107 Singer Bono
- 108 Tantalize
- 109 Snead of golf
- 114 Frosty coat stuff
- 117 "Slung" stuff
- 118 — steady basis
- 119 Wine, in Paris

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

VISION CHECK WORD SEARCH

EXAMINATIONFSDCVTEDES
 AEHLOUSNTALOYUYUEKRO
 NTPGSLFIRIPYHKCLTPOVG
 IASCHDGETRPGKPRLSXVPG
 TLDIAOGCHPNRAEEOICPSN
 EIAOGTVSGUMERTPRSILLI
 RDSYYOAEIFFGTLETKIIL
 RNYNLGLRSFFPOMEEMETA
 ETOYEVEOAKOOIOGMLRLR
 TUOIRRLYUMCTITMIOAAAEE
 EPNPTTEFLPLTDNLCHTMT
 MXEOPPEFLRADAACTOPE
 OPRMIGIMPRGHGXOHCMM
 NAVMDSRRYUOATTFPPEOO
 OSEEXDIACHPTSHTAOTRL
 TRAHCFTVSPSCICPPNGENL
 FIELDTSTHEALOPODREI
 LGONIOSCOPERPXDOILAP
 GMGSUOERTIVRPERLRDLU
 KKRERFRACTIONLYLUGCX P

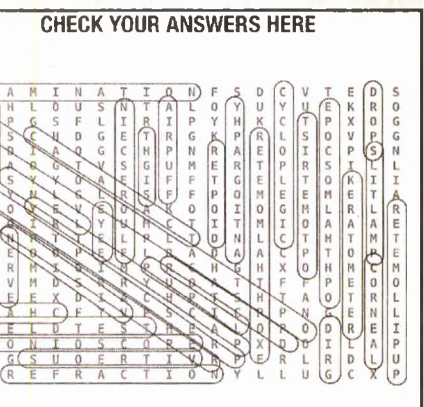
WORDS

- AIRPUFF
- ANTIDROPHY
- CATARACT
- CHART
- CORNEAL
- CYCLOPLEGIC
- DILATE
- DIOPTER
- DOCTOR
- DROPS
- EXAMINATION
- EXOPHTHALMOMETER
- EYE
- FIELD TEST
- FLUORESCEN
- GONIOSCOPE
- GRID
- KERATOMETER
- LENS
- NERVE
- OPHTHALMOLOGIST
- OPHTHALMOSCOPE
- OPTOMETRIST
- PACHYMETRY
- PRESCRIPTION
- PUPIL
- PUPILLOMETER
- REFRACTION
- RETINA
- SIGHT
- SLIT LAMP
- TONOMETER
- TOPOGRAPHER
- VISION
- VITREOUS

Crossword Answers

DROOP	MSNBC	HANA	PHOTO
REUNE	ATARI	ANAN	HEROD
AFTERA	GREATC	CHEF	ALAND
WILLIAM	EAST	RENA	L
ELAL	HADPAIN	STAKING	L
ELWAY	ELIMS	ISA	L
MEET	IDA	PASTE	EGO
ARRANGE	DEACHOF	THE	LOW
CEE	REO	ALTO	TEEN
CLEAVE	DES	CRO	PSYOPS
TIDBITS	ON	THE	PLATEWHA
SPLASH	DRESSY	RENAT	A
ATIE	AGUA	LAO	NIT
DEP	ORDER	IDHESH	OUTTO
ODE	PAYEE	LOU	ASKS
STP	HELLO	SEPAL	
ALLHI	SASSISTANTS	FUSE	
CAIRO	ISSON	SEAHORSE	
RUNIN	DONTMOVE	AMORSEL	
IRENE	EON	UNITS	ACUTE
DIARED	SPY	DIANSE	REESE

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YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO APARTMENT LIVING

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



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Thomas F. Taylor Towers
 Now Accepting Applications
 Senior Citizen Residence
 62 & Older.
 1 & 2 Bedroom
 36500 Marquette • Westland, MI 48185
 (734) 326-0700
 Equal Housing Opportunity

WAYNE
TAE KEUK VILLAGE
 Korean American Community Housing Services Inc.
 3712 Williams St. Wayne, MI 48184
 Phone: 734-729-7920, 729-3432
 Fax: 734-729-0938
TTY: 866-656-9826
TTD: 800-649-3777
 • Section 8 apartments for the elderly and disabled
 • 1 studio available Jan. 16
 • Applicant must be either at least 62 years of age or disabled
 • Emergency Medical Call System
 • Rent includes Heat, Water and Trash Removal
 taekukvillage@yahoo.com
 Professionally managed by Legacy, LLC

INKSTER
THOMPSON TOWER APARTMENTS
 Affordable Housing for Seniors 62+ or disabled
 1 & 2 bedroom apartments - all utilities included!
 Immediate Occupancy
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 Our features include:
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We will match your tax refund up to **\$3,500** as a credit when you purchase a select home from **AJR**.*

Hurry offer ends February 29, 2016!

Now offering lease with option to own in select communities!

Homes from \$23,900 to \$75,900

PLYMOUTH HILLS

Call Sarah in Plymouth at **734.414.9760**
www.ajrhomesales.com

*WAC, certain restrictions apply. Cannot be combined with any other incentive. No cash value. See housing consultant for details. Please bring ad to receive offer. Offer expires 2-29-16.

Homes

INKSTER Move Right In
 3 bdrm, open floor plan in this brick ranch home. kitchen w/stove. CA \$16,000
 Great Value
 3 bdrm, 1,885 sq ft ranch home. Formal dining room. Large mud room. Finish bsmt w/full bath and fireplace. \$18,000
Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

WESTLAND Huge Yard
 2 bdrm ranch, eat-in kitchen w/stove & micro. LR w/French doors to fenced yard. 2 car GA \$19,000
 Brick Ranch
 3 BDRMs, master has lav. Kitchen w/appliances & dining area w/doorwall to fenced yard, partially fin bsmt, possible 4th bdrm. CA \$78,000
Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

Open Houses

Bloomfield Hills OPEN SUN
 1pm-4pm 4154 Antique Lane Beautiful 5 bdrm w/library & 2 1/2 baths located nr. Long Lake & Franklin. Home boasts kitchen w/ granite & island, extensive landscaping, formal living & dining, wet bar w/fridge in family rm., newer furnace & air, finished bsmt, attached shed, retractable awning over deck, sprinkler system & alarm. Bloomfield Hills Schools! Asking only \$392,000. Call Wayne Kern at 800-500-6823 for info

Condos

Prestigious Bloomfield Hills Ranch Condo in Woodlands on Gilbert Lake.
 For Sale By Owner until March 15. Totally renovated in 2014 2-3 bd, 3 full baths. 2000 sq ft ranch, full basement, hrdw frs, open floor plan, private backyard. Gated & guarded community w/pool & pool house. \$495,000 Call 248.239.1606. NO AGENTS

Cemetery Lots

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\$299 moves you in PLUS FREE RENT UNTIL APRIL 2016!

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CHILDS LAKE ESTATES
 4377 Old Plank Road
 Milford
248-257-5365
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RENTALS
 HomeFinder.com

Apartment For Rent

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Homes For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS 1,200 sq. ft. 3 br beautiful ranch, appliances, fenced yd., \$990/mo 248-342-0314

LIVONIA SCHOOLS MUST SEE!
 3br huge garage & workshop new high-end kitchen & bath no smoking no pets \$1200/mo. 248-569-4751

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\$699 moves you in!**
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 3 bedroom, 2 bath & 4 bedroom, 2 bath homes
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 South Lyon Schools!
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	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.5	0	2.75	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.375	0	2.625	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.625	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.125	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0	3	0.125
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.75	0	3.25	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.625	0.25	3	0

Above information available as of 2/25/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at **www.rmcreport.com**.

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 Beautiful 1,932 sq ft 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home with a carport with an attached shed.
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 Offer expires 2/29/2016 **Some restrictions apply EHO

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Homes

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