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Board OKs fireworks; trustees blast VIP party

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees approved a \$34,500 fireworks show for July, despite push-back from some trustees who said the VIP viewing party that goes with it is too lavish.

It was the first time the annual fireworks contract had

been put out for bids and it went to Zembali Fireworks Manufacturing Co. of New Castle, Pa. Zembali, the high bidder, also had last year's \$40,000 fireworks contract.

The Sunday, July 3, Plymouth Community Fireworks Display at Hilltop Golf Course, with viewing at Plymouth Township Park, will have more than 4,300 shells.

The only other bidder, Great Lakes Fireworks of Eastpointe, had a price of just under \$29,000, but was not able to provide a required certificate for \$10 million in insurance until June 25. Treasurer Ron Edwards, who annually raises money for the show and organizes it, said that could leave the township in the lurch.

"If they don't have that

certificate then, we're one week away from the fireworks with no insurance," he said.

The company was able to show proof of \$5 million in insurance, Edwards said.

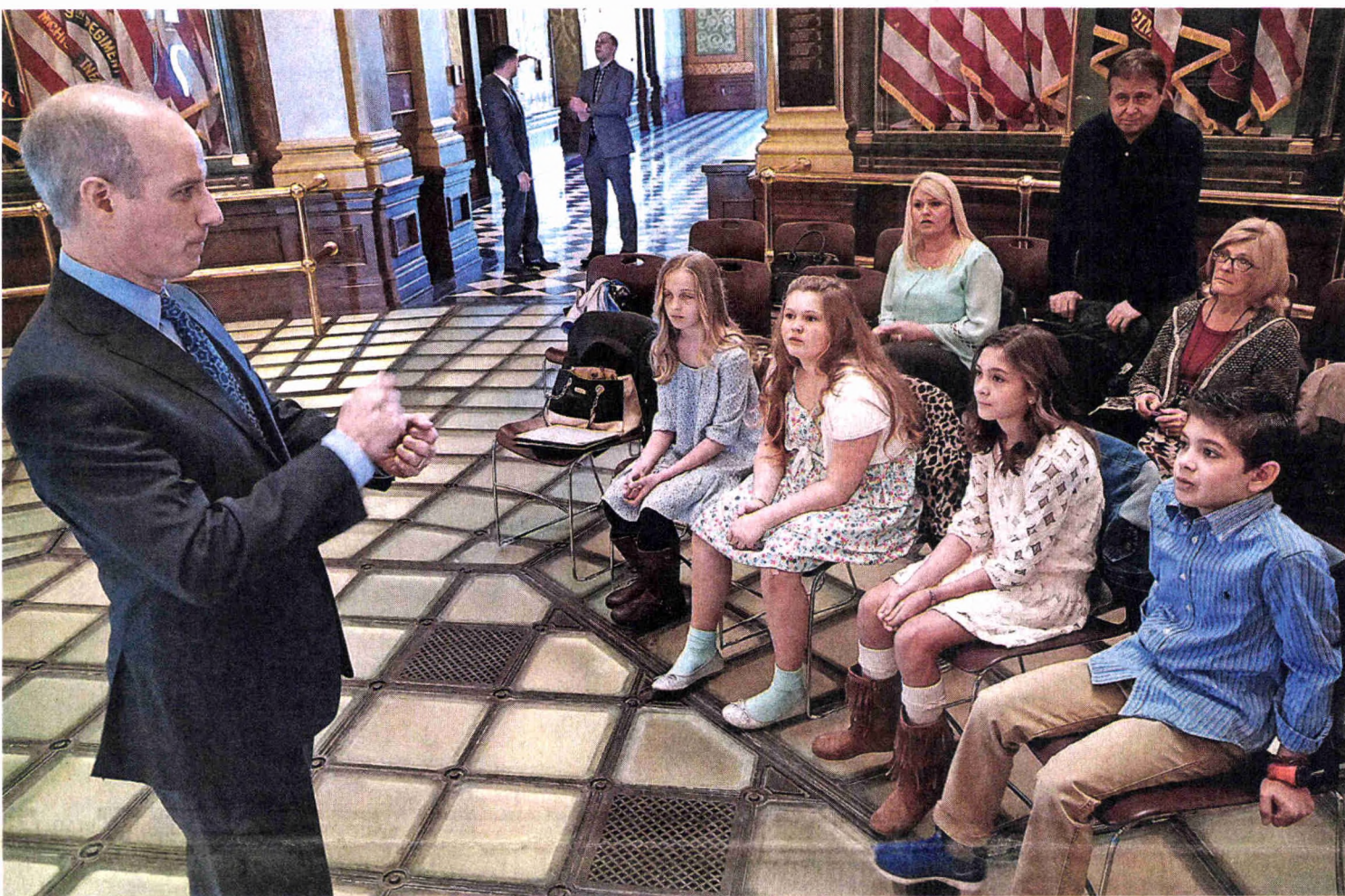
Trustee Bob Doroshewitz questioned what was "magic" about \$10 million in insurance.

"I don't think 100 million's enough if there's a disaster," he said.

The contract was approved with a 6-1 voice vote, with Curmi being the lone dissenter.

Edwards later said Great Lakes' original bid did not meet the township's specifications for the type of pyrotechnics expected, but that he liked the company.

See FIREWORKS, Page A2



WDIV-TV (Channel 4) meteorologist Paul Gross speaks with Dodson Elementary students Madison Yeager, Camille Dyer, Olivia Schuck and Aidan Schuck.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dodson students win poster contest

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

From more than 300 entries, the four winners of this year's statewide Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest all came from Dodson Elementary in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

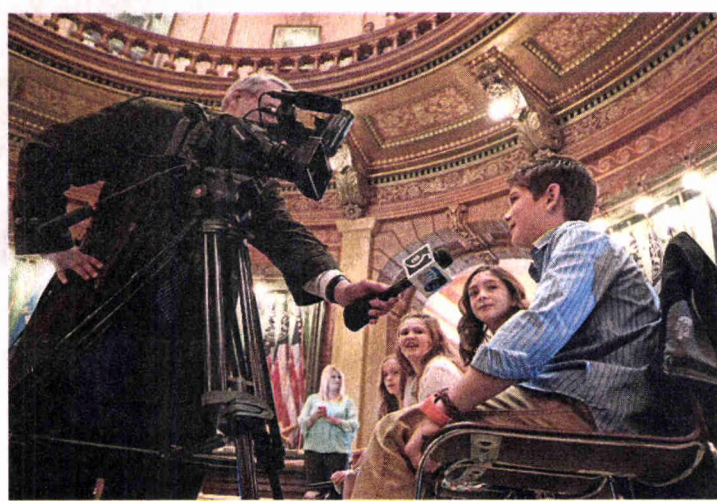
As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 10-16), they were honored Tuesday at the state Capitol Building.

Fifth-grader Olivia Schuck took first place for the second year in a row, fifth-grader Camille Oyer came in second, fifth-grader Madison Yeager took third and fourth-grader Aidan Schuck received honorable mention.

"The judging is done in a way that no names are seen," Dodson Elementary literacy intervention teacher Bonnie Goodrich said. "When (the judging committee) did take a look at the names, they thought it was incredible that all four were from our school, especially Olivia, since she won last year."

According to the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, the poster contest was open to any Michigan student enrolled in fourth or fifth grade during the 2015-16 school year and asked students to illustrate what individuals and families should do to pre-

See CONTEST, Page A4



Each of the Dodson students is interviewed by local Lansing television. Aidan Schuck has answers to a few questions from the cameraman.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Texting to 9-1-1 now available in western Wayne County

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Those in western Wayne County unable to call 9-1-1 now have another option: via text message.

The announcement that the text-to-9-1-1 service is now available to those within the

western part of Wayne County was made Friday morning at the Plymouth District Library with government leaders from many of the communities making up the Conference of Western Wayne, a collaboration of several communities that meet on a regular basis.

"The Conference of Western

Wayne mayors, supervisors and public safety officials began researching text-to-9-1-1 best practices in 2015 after exchanging policy ideas" with public safety officials in Oakland County, said Westland Mayor Bill Wild, chairman of the Conference of Western Wayne. "Anyone who is within

the borders of the 18 CWW communities can use this service as long as they have a texting plan with one of the four major carriers."

The service, meant as a complement to traditional 9-1-1 service, is available to

See TEXTING, Page A3

'Exciting time'

"I think it's an exciting time and a chance to really make a difference and, if people give me that chance, I'll really work hard at it," he said Friday.

He listed public education funding and infrastructure repair — specifically, to roads — as two issues at the top of his list.

He said the state's recent approach to increasing road funding has included weighing down any packages, such as the ballot measure that voters rejected last May, to the point where they become unpalatable.

"Rather than just doing it

See SULLIVAN, Page A3

Former county commissioner joins Dem House race

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The field of candidates competing to represent the Plymouth-Canton-Northville area in the Michigan Legislature got more crowded Tuesday.

John J. Sullivan of Northville Township, an attorney and a former Wayne County commissioner, filed as a Democrat in the 20th District state House of Representatives race. He will face Colleen Pobur, a Plymouth City Commission member, for the Democratic nomination; there are three Republicans running for the GOP nod.

Sullivan

The five hopefuls want to succeed Rep.

Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, who is in his third two-year state House term and cannot seek re-election because of term limits.

Sullivan, 45, was a county commissioner for eight years, from 1999 through 2006, representing a district that included the city of Wayne, where he lived, plus Canton Township, Belleville and other communities. He was the commission's vice chairman during his last two terms.

Sullivan said he's been encouraged by friends and former constituents to run for the House.



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Canton winter market ends Sunday

Spring has arrived, but Canton has announced what is being called the Canton Farmers Market's last winter-season market of the year.

It happens 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday (April 17) at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

The market offers a wide assortment of Michigan-grown and made products, including honey, produce, baked goods, jams, artisan cheese and breads, farm-raised meats and hand-crafted items.

Featured vendors at are Bobilin Honey; Classic Gifts & Bakes; Crunch Granola; Good Times Kettle Corn; Jar Head Salsa & Tortilla Chips; Kapnick Orchards; Lula Bre's Sweet

Eats featuring jams and jellies; Farmhouse Market featuring cheesecakes; Prochaska Farms; Farmington Soap Works; Pick Michigan featuring fresh eggs, Homemade Tortillas; Steinhauer Farms featuring pork, beef and chicken; U.P. Pasties; and the Pasta Shop.

The Canton Farmers Market will kick off its regular season 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge.

For more information about the Canton Farmers Market, go to www.cantonmi.org/496 or send an email to cantonfarmersmarket@cantonmi.org.

P-CEP students run 'super' fundraiser

Runners and walkers will lace up Sunday, May 1, for the sixth annual Super Jess 5K Charity Run at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The event is a fundraiser for Plymouth-Canton families and individuals who are going through a medical crisis. Dubbed the SJ5K for short, the event includes a five-kilometer (3.2 miles) and a one-mile course. The pre-race ceremony begins at 7:45 a.m.

Since 2011, the SJ5K has raised more than \$230,000 and has provided support and financial help to 14 different families.

The SJ5K is organized and run by P-CEP National Honor Society students. It is named for Jesse Lindlbauer, who was a P-CEP student when he suffered a traumatic brain injury due to illness; the Lindlbauer family benefited from the first SJ5K in 2011.



Runners participate in the 2015 Super Jess 5K Charity Run at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. This year's fundraiser is Sunday, May 1.

There are five recipients this year, including Ann Slomkowski, a teacher at West Middle School who is battling cancer for the second time; Torrance Johnson, an Eriksson Elementary

student with muscular dystrophy; and Chris White, a 21-year-old alumni with a brain tumor.

To sign up for the 2016 SJ5K or form a team, donate, volunteer at the event or become a sponsor, go to www.sj5k.org. The site

includes a history of the event, photographs from last year's race and stories about the people and families the fundraiser has helped.

Charlotte Clark, coordinator of the 2016 SJ5K, can be reached via email at sj5kcommunity@gmail.com.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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FIREWORKS

Continued from Page A1

Party criticized

Doroshewitz and Trustee Chuck Curmi also objected Tuesday to the fireworks viewing party, which includes a meal, alcoholic drinks and a separate viewing area, that the township throws to thank volunteers and sponsors who've contributed money toward the fireworks and the annual Good Old-Fashioned Family Picnic at township park July 4.

Doroshewitz said serving alcohol presents a liability and joked that the township doesn't need to fly in "orchids from Hawaii" in order to please donors. (Edwards

later said that leis were not distributed to guests last year, but have been in the past.)

"I guess I'd rather not even solicit the people," said Curmi, who has advocated the fireworks show be run by a community group or service club and not the township.

Edwards said big donors — both companies and individuals donate — like the party.

"I don't care what anybody says, you take the party out of it, you take the money out of it," he said.

"These people are willing to donate in order for the people of this community to have a great Fourth of July event," he added.

Edwards later said the sponsor event costs between \$8,000 and \$12,000,

depending on food prices and what's on the menu, and that it's attended by 600-700 people. Money for the event comes from the sponsors and donors themselves, he said.

The issue of parking was another point of contention Tuesday. The board voted 4-3 to have the Plymouth-Canton Stars, a group affiliated with Special Olympics Michigan, handle the fireworks parking, which costs \$5 a vehicle. It will be the Stars organization's third year managing fireworks parking.

Edwards said parking fees usually total about \$6,000 and are split evenly between the township and the group handling the parking. The township's portion goes back toward the Fourth of July events, he said.

"Why do we need to take a cut? Let's put the money back into the community," said Doroshewitz, who, along with Curmi and Trustee Mike Kelly, voted against the parking arrangement. Voting for it were Edwards, Supervisor Shannon Price, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustee Steve Mann.

Later, Doroshewitz said he would have preferred having two organizations sharing parking-management duties and splitting the fees.

Edwards said that if more money for the fireworks than the \$34,500 is raised, he will return to the board for further approval.

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Barone seeks two-year county commission term

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Citing the county's financial troubles and road funding as top priorities, Wayne County Commissioner Joe Barone has confirmed his campaign to defend his 10th District seat this election season.

Barone, an attorney, is seeking election to his first two-year term after he was appointed last April to fill a commission vacancy created by Shannon Price's departure to become Plymouth Township supervisor. The district includes Canton and Plymouth townships and the city of Plymouth.

"One thing, first and

foremost, we've got to continue down this path of righting the financial ship," Barone said, adding later, "That has to be the top priority."

Barone, during his first year in office, said Wayne County has begun to pull out of a budgetary crisis after the state of Michigan declared it was in a financial emergency. Barone was among the commissioners who last August voted to enter a consent agreement with the state to avoid bankruptcy or an appointed



Barone

emergency manager. "I wanted to make sure our residents still had a say in their county government," Barone, R-Plymouth Township, said. "An emergency manager or bankruptcy would have completely stripped us of all local control."

Barone, in a prepared statement, said Wayne County Executive Warren Evans and the commission have cooperated to eliminate a \$52 million structural deficit and an \$82 million accumulated deficit.

"We have reduced unfunded financial obligations by \$1 billion and we are now on a course to once again have a financially stable Wayne

County," Barone said. "For the first time in eight years, we actually have a budget surplus. I am hopeful that Wayne County will be out of this financial emergency within the next few months."

"A financially stable Wayne County is essential to all of us here in Canton and Plymouth to ensure that we see the return on our property tax investment that our residents so rightfully deserve," he said. "I will continue fighting for that return on investment for the residents of the 10th District."

During a telephone interview Thursday, Barone also cited road funding as one of his

priorities. He said he is pushing to continue a two-year township road initiative that, for Canton alone, brought in \$3 million to repair some subdivision streets.

"I believe it's very important for us to continue this program," he said, though he said a decision hasn't been announced.

Barone said he led the charge to oppose "summer surprise" tax increases by the county without voter input, referring to a 2015 judgment levy that was imposed to pay for underfunded pension obligations. He also cited accomplishments such as the township roads initiative, completion of

several major road projects in the 10th District and continued funding for a western Wayne County therapeutic recreation program that serves special-needs people.

Barone, a 20-year resident of Wayne County, said Wayne County has made progress, but "our work is not done."

"It's critical that we prevent a recurrence of past practices so we can have a better Wayne County for our children, our families and future generations to come," he said.

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SULLIVAN

Continued from Page A1

right and getting it done, everyone says, 'Let's add this to it, let's add that to it,'" he said.

Sullivan said the corporate tax cut of about \$1.8 billion approved during Gov. Rick Snyder's first year in office "could've fixed our road problem right there."

He was on the state parole board from 2009-11, hearing appeals from parole-eligible prisoners. The job, he said, gave him a look at state government and he saw a lot of waste in the Department of Corrections.

For example, he said, the number of state prisoners fell by about 11,000 during his tenure and several prisons were closed, but the corrections budget didn't go down.

"I think the state has gotten too top-heavy. There are a lot of areas where they could save money and make a lot of cuts," Sullivan said.

When it comes to education funding, Sullivan isn't a big fan of charter schools. "The charter schools and all these basically private schools keep siphoning money away from the public schools," he said.

Community investment

Sullivan said good schools, good infrastructure like roads and good services like public safety would be better investments, as the state tries to attract and retain businesses and jobs, than corporate tax breaks. Businesses — and people — will gravitate to places that have made those quality-of-life investments, he said.

"The government's not there to give back to businesses, it's there provide to the people," he said.

Sullivan said the 20th District is considered "slightly Republican," but that there's a chance for it to go Democratic this year. In his first county commission term, Sullivan succeeded a Republican, Bruce Patterson, despite hearing from a lot of people that couldn't be done.

Sullivan is married with two sons, both at Northville High School, and a married step-daughter. His wife Sharon is a middle school teacher in the Wayne-Westland Community School District.

Sullivan said he plans to "keep it friendly in the primary" with Pobur and save campaign resources for a general-election battle. The Republican candidates are Jeff Noble of Plymouth Township, a local pastor; Joe Smith of Plymouth Township, the office manager for a landscaping firm; and Chris Roosen, a former Northville Township trustee.

The primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 2, and the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

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TEXTING

Continued from Page A1

cellphones on AT&T, Verizon, Sprint or T-Mobile and must be done through SMS. Messages to 9-1-1 cannot be sent via messaging apps that use WiFi such as WhatsApp.

"You have to have a texting plan with one of the four major carriers," said Jordan Sellek, Conference of Western Wayne's executive director.

The service will only accept messages that are just text at this time. It's possible videos and photos could be accepted by 9-1-1 dispatchers at a later date.

Several other areas

in Michigan, including Oakland and Macomb counties, have already implemented text-to-9-1-1 services or are in the process of implementing it.

Leaders still recommend making voice phone calls to 9-1-1 if possible, but if that's not an option, a text message can be sent. Safety officials ask that users submit their address in the initial brief message to 9-1-1 so that dispatchers know the location. Dispatchers will then send messages back with the messenger to get more information.

The 18 communities that implemented it Friday are the only ones in Wayne County where the service will currently work.

"If the texter is in an area that does not sup-



DAVID VESELENAK

Livonia police chief Curtis Caid speaks Friday morning at the Plymouth District Library during a press event announcing the text-to-9-1-1 service that launched in western Wayne County.

port text-to-9-1-1, they will receive a bounce-back message informing them that 9-1-1 is not

COMMUNITIES WHERE TEXT-TO-9-1-1 IS OPERATIONAL

- Belleville
- Dearborn
- Dearborn Heights
- Garden City
- Inkster
- Livonia
- Northville
- Northville Township
- Plymouth
- Plymouth Township
- Romulus
- Wayne
- Westland
- Redford Township
- Canton Township
- Van Buren Township
- Sumpter Township
- Huron Township

available in their area," Wild said.

The service will offer not only 9-1-1 service for those who are in a situa-

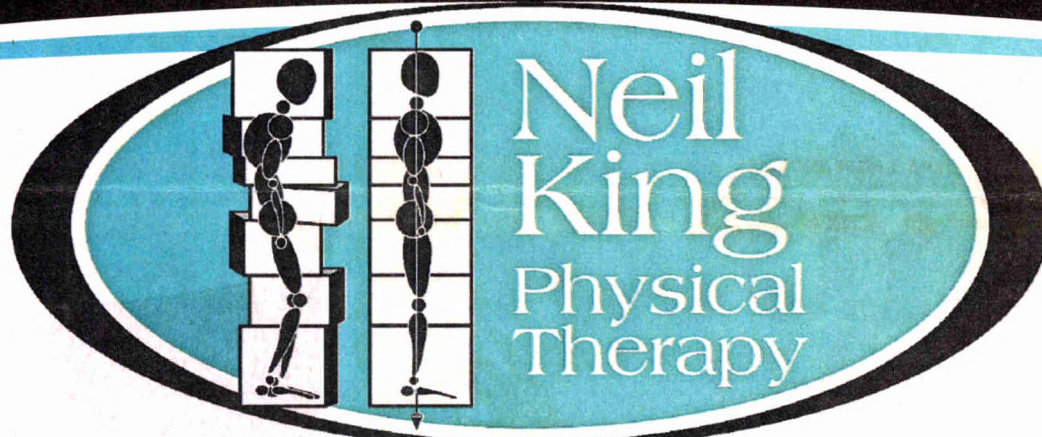
tion where calling may endanger their lives, such as domestic violence or kidnapping situations, but also for the deaf and hard-of-hearing who need emergency help, Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid said.

"There's an estimated 54 million individuals with disabilities in the United States with more than 37 million individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or have a speech disability who could benefit from text-to-9-1-1," he said.

With infrastructure in place for the service, Wild said, the program will not cost anything additional to member communities.

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CONTEST

Continued from Page A1

pare for Michigan severe weather, such as snowstorms, severe cold, tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning or floods.

Posters were judged in February at the National Service Office in White Lake on both the clarity of the preparedness message and the quality of the art. The judging committee looked for posters with simple, clear messages that were easy to read and also for those that contained bright and visible artwork that complemented the poster's overall message.

Goodrich, who promoted the contest to all fourth- and fifth-graders at the school, said all poster work was completed at home. Approximately 30 posters in the contest were submitted by Dodson students.

Dodson Elementary Principal Dr. April Quasarano said these students and Goodrich have "changed the way we interact and understand the environment (weather) around us."

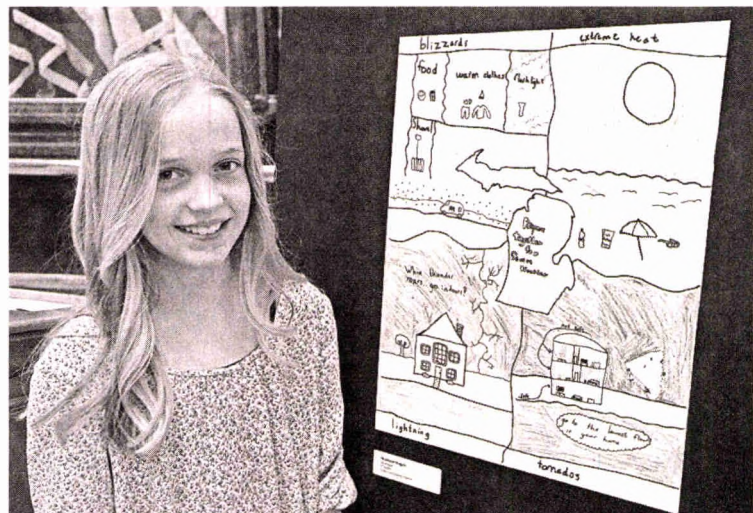
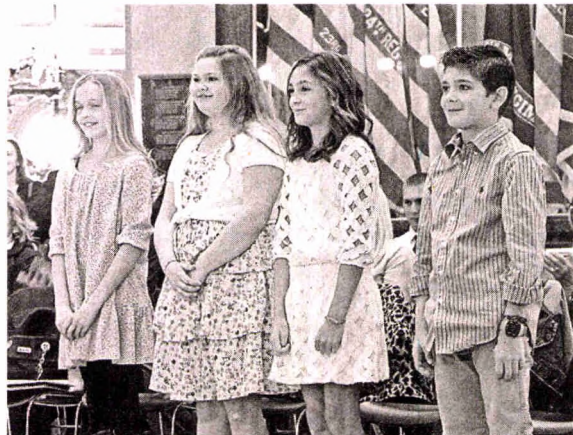
Referring to the school's weather club that was started by Goodrich, Quasarano said, "There is excitement every day when they come to school and collect our own Dodson weather and report it out on our broadcast school news."

Goodrich obtained a full weather station at Dodson through an Educational Excellence Foundation grant and decided to start a weather club for fourth- and fifth-graders last spring.

"The weather club is not at all related to being a literacy intervention teacher," Goodrich said. "I just love science and used to teach math and science at a middle school. I have also just always been intrigued by weather."

The weather club meets each Thursday at lunch, but students are required to take data, record data and submit the data to the National Weather Center every school day and

Applause for Madison Yeager, Camille Dyer, Olivia Schuck and Aidan Schuck. The students from Dodson Elementary swept the awards for severe weather posters.



Madison Yeager earned third place in the poster contest.

take turns every week during summer vacation. Olivia, Camille and Madison are all members of the club and Aidan has begun filling out his application to join.

"It's fun, because we learn more about weather," Camille said. "We go outside and measure the rain gauge every day."

Tuesday's ceremony in Lansing took place on the first floor rotunda in the state Capitol Building, where students' posters were unveiled and displayed. There was a presentation, tour of the state's Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and a luncheon.

"I thought it was a wonderful experience for the kids to

be honored at the Capitol Building," Olivia and Aidan's father Jeffrey Schuck said. "It was really a special event for the kids."

In addition to medals, the first-place prize was \$200, second-place prize \$100, third-place prize \$75 and the honorable mention recipient received \$50. Both Olivia and Camille said they plan to save their winnings.

Olivia's poster will be reproduced and sent to every elementary school in the state.

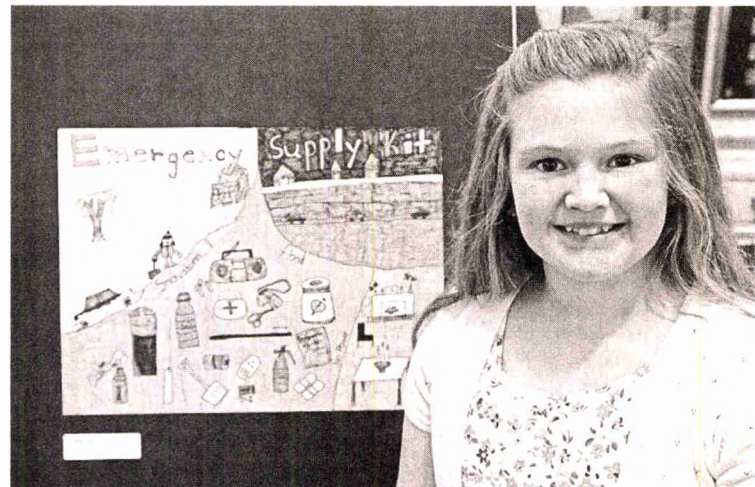
"It was fun," Olivia said. "I was surprised I won again." Go to www.mcswa.com to view the four winning posters.

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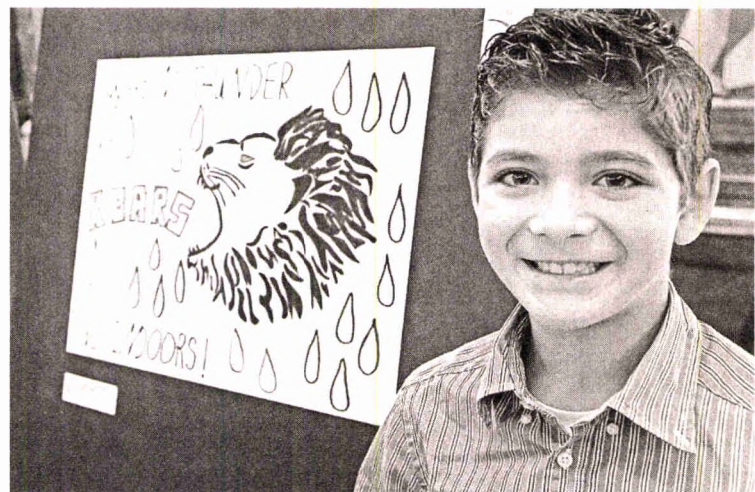
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Olivia Schuck earned first-place honors.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Camille Dyer is the second-place winner.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Aidan Schuck earned an honorable mention for his poster. Aidan is the only fourth-grader in the group.

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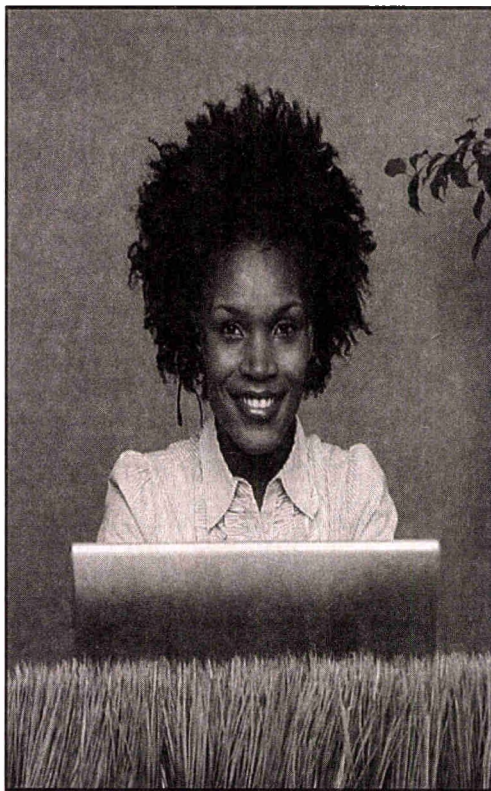
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Municipal leaders work to fill commercial vacancies

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Older, more established communities face blight issues. Garden City Mayor Randy Walker said his top complaint from residents is blight, including residential and commercial.

"We deal with both," Walker said. He noted the former Metropolitan Lincoln dealership on Ford Road in Garden City had issues before it was re-purposed to partial private commercial use.

"We had to go out and cut the grass," Walker said. "We want the city to look good all around."

Some commercial properties that are vacant are bank-owned, he noted. "Every city has the same issues. All cities have crime, all cities have blight," Walker said.

Communities that were once mainly agricultural and now suburban also face challenges. Public safety leaders in Canton help with vandalism issues at vacant properties, although Kristen Thomas, economic development manager for the township, said vacancies aren't a major issue. The Busch's super-



The Bathey property, in Plymouth, has had several plans for redevelopment that never materialized.

market at Canton Center and Cherry Hill roads has had ongoing issues with a delayed opening, now set for this fall.

"It's very much nipped in the bud," she said of vandalism issues with vacancies. The Busch's has sat vacant in recent years, although it has been well-maintained.

Canton Township is one busy place, especially along Ford Road and now Michigan Avenue. "The more businesses

you have, the more businesses want to be there," said Thomas. "They want to be there because of the traffic counts."

Canton has attracted many national retailers and even international, with the Swedish IKEA on Ford Road. "It creates this kind of synergy," said Thomas, in her job four years and with Canton Township some 19 years.

National retailers look for criteria and statistics, she noted. "We just hap-

pen to fit the bill, especially on Ford Road," she said.

Thomas described higher-end residential development in Canton, south of Ford Road as well as south of Cherry Hill Road starting in the 1980s. Canton became less rural/agricultural, with its development pushing south and west.

"It kind of put Canton on the map, I think," she said. When I-275 was built in the 1970s, "Canton was very agri-



The six-story Northville Psychiatric Hospital main building, on Seven Mile Road in Northville Township, has been, for the most part, unoccupied since it officially closed in 2003.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Empty buildings can be a struggle for all metro Detroit communities, to varying degrees, as one suburban mayor notes. Such structures sit vacant and can attract vandals and other crime, as well as impacting local property values and aesthetics. Observer & Eccentric staffers took a look at the issues of nuisance buildings, talking to local government officials for their take, as well as others with knowledge of the subject.

helped," she said. "It's not just willy-nilly."

Commercial zoning districts are pretty firm, she said: "It's very carefully thought out."

Canton has no downtown, but its leaders tout other amenities. "Plymouth is great and their downtown is great. We try to capitalize on what we do have," Thomas said, including Leisure Services and its extensive programming, the Summit on the Park

See VACANCIES, Page A12

Northville-based architects see the world and Detroit suburbs' potential, too

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Architect Bob Piatek sees potential for Detroit and its suburbs in reuse of buildings.

Of downtown Detroit, Piatek said, "It's incredible what's happening down there. There's no place now for apartments. And also office space now" is in great demand in downtown Detroit.

He sees heavy mixed



Piatek

use in the next two years, including boutique hotels, apartments and townhouses in downtown Detroit.

Piatek is director for the Detroit office, based in Northville, of HKS Architects, a worldwide architecture firm. "We love being here," he said

of Northville.

Suburban Detroit communities have a center, he said, in some cases a downtown or a central spot. "That's where diversity is," he explained, both in terms of people, but also walkability, culture and entertainment.

"That's what the young folks are really looking for," he said. Young people and some empty-nesters are relocating to urban centers, with older people re-

maining in suburbs.

Royal Oak sees growth, change

He cited Royal Oak locally as a suburb with a diversity of things, as well as large cities like Chicago and Boston. "How do we keep that interest?" Piatek said of local leaders. "That'll be a constant renewal for any city."

He earned his architecture degree in a four-year program, which

then had a fifth year added, at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. Piatek has been with HKS Architects about 18 years and in the field in this region some 35 years.

"There's a lot of potential for those, depending," he said of vacant suburban buildings. "If a building has a good structure and a good exterior, then adaptive reuse makes a lot of sense."

Some buildings in the

suburbs have been identified as historic, he noted, "or just because it's been around in the community. It just depends on matching the building to what the use is."

Older buildings with good structure can have their mechanical, electrical and plumbing gutted without much difficulty, Piatek noted. "You see a lot of that happening in urban centers," he said.

Northland mall in Southfield was developed "specifically for big-scale retail. That takes some real thought" to reuse, he said, including inviting the developers to weigh in on best use of the campus with its extensive parking.

"That's a much harder thing to get at," he said.

Piatek described a Sears building he recently saw on a Memphis trip in which no one developer could use it. That city teamed several developers for the downtown site, including St.

See PIATEK, Page A12

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The Plymouth Housing Commission is pleased to be opening its Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List on April 28, 2016 through May 3, 2016. After May 3rd, the waiting list will be closed and the application will no longer be available. All applications must be completed and submitted on-line.

The application can be obtained via a link on our website <http://www.pdhousing.net> or go directly to <https://plymouth2016.hdwaitinglist.com>. DO NOT come to the Plymouth Housing Commission offices, we will NOT be distributing any applications. If you need access to a computer and the internet, you can go to your local library. For any updated information refer to our website. For any updated information you may call (734)455-3670, extension 224.

Published: April 17 & 24, 2016

Notice of Public Sale of Liened Property

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on May 5th, 2016, 1:00 PM at 40671 Joy Road Canton, MI. 48187 County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on property stored at 40671 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit C212 Johnson, Household Goods: Unit A15 Austin, Household Goods: Unit A19, D35 Doub, Household Goods: Unit A33 Childers, Household Goods: Unit A39 Chiesa, Household Goods: Unit B04 Mathews, Household Goods: Unit B13 Gaciach, Household Goods: Unit B14 Webb, Household Goods: Unit C101 Gross, Household Goods: Unit C224 Steele, Household Goods: Unit C214 Adamowicz, Household Goods: Unit D17 Bentley, Household Goods: Unit D43 Boyd, Household Goods: Unit E35 Mattioli, Household Goods: Unit F11 Bentley, Household Goods: Unit E39 Bowman, Household Goods, Unit E44 Dobbins, Household Goods: Unit F06 Thomas Jr., Household Goods: Unit F19 Weaver, Household Goods: Unit F26 Pierce, Household Goods: Unit G24 Hissong, Household Goods: Unit G32 Yharbrough, Household Goods: Unit G43 Smith, Household Goods: Unit H29 Young, Household Goods: Unit I 29 Glover, Household Goods: Unit I42 Dennis, Household Goods: Unit J03 McQueen, Household Goods: Unit J24 Santos, Household Goods: Unit J32 Mikitaroff, Household Goods: Unit J46 Brady, Household Goods: Unit K03 Hills, Household Goods: Unit K43 Wamack, Household Goods.

Published: April 17 & 24, 2016

Find the appealing 2015 Rogue at Nissan of Canton

The 2015 Nissan Rogue is an appealing compact SUV with a robust exterior and a high-quality look. Its sporty appearance is complemented with updated interior features. You can check out the available models at Nissan of Canton located at 42175 Michigan Avenue, just west of I-275.

Styling

Nissan has definitely succeeded in crafting a compact SUV that many find appealing. The Nissan-family look is in full force, with more than a passing resemblance to the bigger Pathfinder. The look is more aggressive than its competitors, with bulging wheel arches and a bigger nose than the Honda CR-V or Toyota RAV4. Seventeen-inch steel wheels are standard on the base S trim, with 17-inch alloy wheels standard on the midlevel SV trim and 18-inch alloy wheels standard on the topline SL trim. New LED running lights up front and angular taillights make the Rogue distinctive even in the dark.

How it drives

The Rogue's powertrain is a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine making 170 horsepower and mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission. Front-wheel drive is standard and all-wheel drive an option.

Handling is sharp. The thick steering wheel delivers excellent feedback to the driver. Brakes are very strong and firm, with excellent pedal feel and no noticeable fade.

The standard front-wheel-drive Rogue gets an EPA-rated 26/33/28 mpg city/highway/combined.

Interior

Nissan paid a lot of attention to the interior,



The 2015 Nissan Rogue's bold, sharp bodylines offer a sporty and confident appearance, balancing its sleek style with an aggressive stance provided by large wheelwells and available 18-inch wheels and tires.



Nissan paid a lot of attention to the interior, creating a cabin that is inviting, attractive and comfortable for a variety of body types.

creating a cabin that is inviting, attractive and comfortable for a variety of body types. Slide into the driver's seat and the combination of command seating and low dashboard creates excellent visibility to the front and sides.

Seating is flexible, spacious and comfortable.

The second row of seats is also quite spacious at 37.9 inches, with

much more legroom than expected for a compact SUV, stadium-style layout and long, tall windows for rear seat passengers.

Ergonomics and electronics

Gauges are easily visible through the steering wheel and include a 5-inch color LCD, the largest in any Nissan product, to display a variety of customizable vehicle information.

A full complement of information and entertainment electronics are available, including navigation, satellite radio and Bluetooth streaming audio and phone connectivity. The Rogue features not only a backup camera but Nissan's Around View Monitor, which uses cameras to display a 360-degree live feed of the Rogue's environment on the touchscreen.

Cargo and storage

Pop the rear hatch (a power liftgate is optional) to reveal a spacious cargo area with low bumper liftover. The second-row seats fold flat in a 40/20/40 split, and the levers are accessible with a stretch from the cargo area to unlatch the seatbacks. Fold the front passenger seat flat as well to get a cargo area able to accommodate an 8-foot ladder. For models without the third-row seat, under-floor storage is presented with two reconfigurable dividers that can also act as pack-

age shelves.

The Rogue cargo volume area is 39.3 cubic feet of space available behind the second row of seats.

Some notable features of the 2015 Rogue include the following:

Exterior highlights

- » 17-inch steel wheels; 17- and 18-inch alloy wheels available
- » Halogen headlights
- » LED daytime running lights
- » Rear spoiler
- » Available power moonroof
- » Available fog lights
- » Available power liftgate
- » Available heated outside mirrors

Interior highlights

- » Available front seat warmers
- » Six-way adjustable driver's seat
- » Six front storage areas
- » Available Nissan-Connect™ with navigation
- » Available Nissan Voice Recognition

» Available Travel Link

Under the Hood

- » 170-horsepower, 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine
- » Continuously Variable Transmission
- » Front- or all-wheel drive
- » Active Trace Control, Active Engine Braking and Active Ride Control

Safety features

- » Required in every new car: front airbags, anti-lock brakes and an electronic stability system
- » Blind spot warning
- » Lane departure warning
- » Forward collision warning
- » Rollover sensor
- » Child safety rear door locks
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- » Available Moving Object Detection
- » Available Around View Monitor

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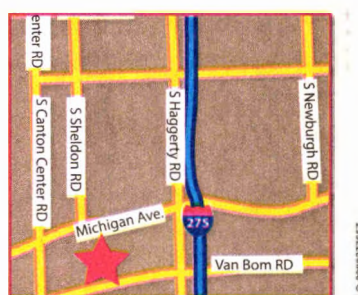


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Farmington Players go 'Full Monty' on stage

The Farmington Players are inviting audiences to "enjoy the irresistible musical comedy" "The Full Monty," the heartwarming tale of underdogs who triumph over adversity by baring more than just their souls.

"This gritty and edgy musical comedy is a fantastic and beautiful story that challenges the heart," said director Tim Timmer of Wayne.

The Full Monty runs April 29 through May 21 at the Farmington Players Barn Theater in Farmington Hills. Audiences are forewarned: "The Full Monty" is rated 'R' for language and sexually suggestive content.

Reserved seats are available now at the box office 248-553-2955 or at www.farmingtonplayers.org. Patrons requesting tickets may also send an email to: boxoffice@farmingtonplayers.org.

The plot: Desperate times call for desperate measures. When six unemployed steel workers



"The Full Monty" cast (from left): Walter Middlebrook of Detroit, Michael Rea of Livonia, Eric Henrickson of Ferndale, Dan Clair of Canton, Jim Moll of Farmington Hills and Patrick Wehner of Bloomfield Hills.

from Buffalo feel like they've been left on the scrap heap of life, they resort to some extraordinary measures to lift themselves up. Astonished by women's enthusiasm for touring Chipendale dancers, the underdogs decide to make money by showing the locals how "real men" do it: by going all the way with "The Full Monty."

Ladies night

Every Friday night is "Ladies Night" at The Barn, through the run of the show. Each woman who purchases a ticket to see "The Full Monty" will receive a raffle ticket making her eligible to win a door prize. The raffle will take place during intermission at each of the four Friday shows (April 29, May 6, May 13 and May 20). Prizes include jewelry, massage, scarves, gift baskets, gift certificates for spa services, travel and clothing, plus cosmetics and skin care products.

The show runs Friday through Sunday, April 29 through May 21 (with a special 8 p.m. show Thursday, May 19). Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Reserved seats (\$20 adults, \$18 students/seniors) are available at www.farmingtonplayers.org or by calling the box office at 248-553-2955. You can also send an email to boxoffice@farmingtonplayers.org.

The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Archdiocese plans to merge three Westland parishes

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Lou Stremich has only attended two parishes in her entire life. Now she's being forced to add a third.

Stremich, a 90-year-old Westland resident, is among the hundreds of parishioners at three Catholic churches in Westland affected by the Archdiocese of Detroit's decision to merge into one parish.

Congregations at St. Damian Catholic Church and Divine Savior Parish will be merged with church-goers at St. Theodore effective July 1, following the archdiocese's decision to merge the three parishes in a cost-savings move.

The decision doesn't come as a surprise — officials have been studying the idea for a couple of years now — but doesn't go down any more smoothly for Stremich, who has only attended Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth Township and Divine Savior, where she's been the last 32 years.

"I think this is rotten," she said simply. "They waited so long to do it. It's like you've been sitting on a time bomb, waiting for it to go off. It's like losing members of your family."

The plan has been in the works since February 2012, when Archbishop Allen Vigneron issued a pastoral letter calling for strategies for every parish in the archdiocese. The idea back then, according to information provided by the archdiocese, was for St. Damian and St. Theodore to merge first, then for that cluster to join with Divine Savior.

At a meeting hosted by the archdiocese at



BRAD KADRICH

Several hundred people turned out for a meeting on the merger of three Westland parishes.

Churchill High School in Livonia last Sunday, the Most Rev. Francis Reiss, auxiliary bishop for the south region, said the overriding factor was money, pointing out that cutting down to one electric bill, one gas bill, etc., would provide a great deal of savings.

"That's a significant savings," Reiss said. "Things are happening so fast and we're caught in the wave. We're trying to be good stewards of what people have given us over the years."

While it's all indirectly about finances, there are several statistics the archdiocese's transition team considered:

» Number of priests — There were 414 priests to serve 313 parishes in 2000; in 2015 there were 254 priests to serve 227 parishes. At this point, according to statistics provided at the meeting, the archdiocese has 215 priests. Reiss, in fact, is a retired priest serving as administrator at St. Damian, St. Theodore and Divine Savior.

» Catholic households — All three parishes have experienced a decline in registered households since 2000. St. Theodore is down from 1,950 to 1,075; St. Damian has declined from 726 to 587; and Divine Savior has dropped from 702 to 313.

Two of the three parishes (Divine Savior, \$451,000; and St. Damian, \$2.5 million) have outstanding loan balances to the Loan Deposit program. Reiss said St. Damian's was largely accrued trying to keep its school alive.

Parishioners were surveyed for potential names for the new parish, which will be housed at St. Theodore.

Staffing for the new parish, including the priest, has not yet been determined. Tony Latarski, director of the office of pastoral planning and leadership services, told the crowd at Churchill that current staff at all three parishes will be allowed to apply for jobs. "I think we could have kept the church going with the community we had," said Joe Newton, a member of Divine Savior for 43 years. "It was just a matter of time before (the church's) debt was paid off."

The biggest question among those at last week's meeting was the length of time it took the archdiocese to put the plan in motion, a question to which Reiss had no answer.

"It's like, 'When is it going to happen?'" Livonia resident Paula Montagna said. "We've been sitting around four years waiting for someone to make a decision."

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Developer: Finding right space key to fill vacancies

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Location still plays a big factor when it comes to developing land or buildings that have sat vacant over the years. Just ask Jeffrey Schostak, a vice president and director of development with Livonia-based and major area developer Schostak Bros.

Building on desirable, vacant land is great, but it needs to be in a great place to really bring in interest.

"I think with vacant land, really, the key is a good piece of dirt," he said. "Middlebelt Road, for example. That corridor has become one of the busiest retail corridors in metro Detroit."

Schostak Bros. has some stake in Livonia along Middlebelt, south of I-96, owning several restaurants along that stretch, which has gone from fairly vacant to jam-packed in the last several years, with the development of restaurants, big-box stores and retail centers.

But moving on vacant properties that still have older buildings designed for another use is a bit trickier for developers,

Schostak said, as many tenants are looking to jump right into a facility without having to make many changes to it.

The company has been involved with new developments in several area communities, including Livonia, Redford, Northville Township and Salem Township, to name a few.

That's why the company has moved forward with revitalizing the former Home Depot site, 12100 Inkster, in Redford. The 14-acre property, located just north of Plymouth Road, has been vacant for several years after Home Depot moved farther west.

"Retail location didn't work anymore and they moved to Middlebelt Road," Schostak said. "Then it turned into an office space. Now you're sitting on the market for a couple years trying to lease or sell a building."

Today, the company is looking to turn that site into mostly light industrial, with some space reserved for keeping some commercial options available.

Getting it ready for potential clients and knowing what they want before it being shown is a key to moving these large

vacant properties off the market, Schostak said. If a company can move right in without having to make many changes, more movement on a piece of property can happen at a faster pace.

Working with locals

These developments tend to not be worked on solely by developers. Lots of other stakeholders play a role, including local municipalities, many of whom work with zoning requirements, site plans and other conditions that affect the property.

Schostak said working with entities has gotten better as the economy improves from the recession and that the company has generally had good relationships with surrounding communities when they're looking to develop. With tax bases seeing increases and a need for more revenue emerges, he said working with local governments has moved to a better location.

"Any redevelopment deal takes a large amount of public-private collaboration," he said. "Things got a little easier post-recession."

UDM architecture dean touts thoughtful development 'that's going to last'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Will Wittig's architecture students at the University of Detroit Mercy often like older buildings.

"But that's not really a new phenomenon," said Wittig, UDM's dean of the School of Architecture. Architecture students often like to preserve and reuse structures.

"There's so many different scenarios," he said of abandoned commercial buildings, including ownership, condition and location. "There are so many variables in place."

Added Wittig, "Any time there's a building that's left unattended, that's problematic for the surrounding community on many levels."

That varies with scale, location and surroundings, he noted. "Certainly, when you have pockets of disinvestment, that's a negative," said Wittig, who holds an M.A. in architecture from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a B.A. in architecture from the University of Kansas.

"It's always problematic to have problems of vacancies. It makes the

prospect of new development that much more challenging. It then takes a bigger effort to get more development happening," he said.



Wittig

Wittig isn't familiar with the abandoned House of Denmark store site on Plymouth Road in Livonia and said he couldn't speak with knowledge on the Northland mall issues in Southfield. He noted investors don't like a risk "on a neighborhood that doesn't seem to be moving in the right direction."

A larger abandoned building may be easier to address with better surroundings, he said. It's more the percentage of properties not cared for and less the size of an abandoned property.

A commercial site may be left by a tenant "that just isn't attractive in the current market. That kind of scenario can be challenging. It usually takes care of itself over time."

There's been a general tendency in commercial real estate in the past 50 years for developers to

be short-sighted and build low-quality structures, Wittig said. "There's been a throw-away attitude, particularly toward commercial real estate investment."

He noted some "big box" stores that are abandoned and the same chain store opened a quarter-mile away.

"It ought to be done in a thoughtful way that's going to last," Wittig said of development, in which the use will change, but the building remain. The owner/developer may not see that possibility short term, he said.

"It's more complicated, of course. We're (architects) definitely trained to want to work with existing buildings," he said. That's not feasible with all structures, as some aren't well-built, Wittig noted.

"There are opportunities to renovate and reuse existing buildings quite often. We're always looking for opportunities to re-purpose buildings," Wittig said of architects.

He said it's "simplistic" to conclude growth of downtown and Midtown Detroit has necessarily led to abandoned suburban commercial sites.

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VACANCIES

Continued from Page A6

building and a diverse population.

"Because of our size, we are able to provide those services to our residents," she said of recreation and other programming.

'As smooth as possible'

Canton did a redevelopment/marketing study a couple of years ago, looking at where there's room to build or redevelop.

op, while trying to identify any retail gaps. Information went out to brokers.

"We try to make the process for them as smooth as possible," she said of brokers and establishing businesses.

Thomas also touted the International Council of Shopping Centers, which holds an annual conference in Las Vegas. "We bring our marketing study there and we get it in their hands," she said of big businesses. "It's a good way to make our presence known."

The Chipotle restaurant

chain is coming to Canton, the result of ongoing efforts by local leaders. "Sometimes it takes a few years for the tree to bear fruit," she said.

Khalvani Stephens is economic development director for the city of Farmington Hills, where he's been a year, and worked before that for the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and the city of Pontiac.

"I would say that's true, thankfully," Stephens said of minimal vacancies in Farmington Hills. "Part of it is geog-

raphy. We are well-placed."

An engineering hub for a business in the Hills makes serving clients easier, noted Stephens, who also praised city staff, services and processes such as inspections. "We're very easy to deal with," he said.

When a Farmington Hills building becomes partially vacant, city officials find out if a tenant is desired. "Especially with our larger businesses, we try to have conversations with them as often as possible," Stephens said.

'Having those relationships really helps'

One local business outgrew its site and re-

located within Farmington Hills. City staff members kept up with plans on the outgrown building so they were able to tout it as a site for others. "Just having those relationships really helps," Stephens said.

Understanding local commercial inventory "allows you to be quicker on your feet," Stephens added. He, too, works with brokers. "This is very much a collaborative effort."

Farmington Hills also has a master plan in place, which is updated. Stephens cited basics of a community — health, safety and welfare — along with people needing a place to live, play and "have the income to pay for their living and recreational activities."

A functional community includes locating different uses "so they have the least negative effect on another," he said. An industry with many trucks and smokestacks, for example, isn't suited to a residential area on either side.

He favors putting functions adjacent that "at the very least are not going to have negative effects one on the other."

Farmington Hills doesn't participate in the Las Vegas International Council of Shopping Centers conference, but does in some such metro Detroit events. Stephens said those are good for franchisees and building owners to meet.

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PIATEK

Continued from Page A6

Jude Children's Research Hospital offices, condominiums and apartments.

Some 1970s office buildings weren't made to last, Piatek said: "They were built to be turned over quickly."

'Going to stand forever'

That's true also of recent "big box" retail with its lightweight joists and other features. Of structures from the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, he said, "They're going to stand forever. It's just

gutting them and making them work."

Royal Oak and Ferndale have such buildings, which have been used for apartments, retail and restaurants, he said: "It's an evaluation of what you have as current stock."

Owners and developers now often hire firms on feasibility of sites "and determine if that building's going to be viable to do that," Piatek said.

His firm has done local hospital work, for the Detroit Medical Center, Beaumont and St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Bigger patient

rooms were a factor in the tear-down and two new patient towers at the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor site for St. Joseph Mercy.

"Technology demands a lot of space now, especially in hospitals," he said, adding floor to floor heights and exteriors walls were also factors at that hospital. "Technology's always changing. Hospitals have to be very flexible."

New equipment for operating rooms and patient rooms also influences design, he said.

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Madonna University students explore entertainment careers in L.A. trek

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Madonna University students visited Los Angeles over spring break to learn about careers in film, TV and more.

Meghan Griesbeck, 20, a Highland Township resident, was among them. "I loved L.A.," said Griesbeck, a junior in broadcast and cinema arts. "I thought it was amazing. We were meeting with people in the industry."

She liked meeting directors, producers and a writer. "So we were really able to completely delve into the whole experience of Hollywood," said Griesbeck, a Western Michigan University transfer who graduated from Milford High School in 2013.

A total of 21 undergraduates and two Madonna faculty members headed to Hollywood for spring break, said Sue Boyd, a faculty member in broadcast and cinema arts from Highland. "We've been going out to Hollywood for probably 10 years," she said. "We've made such great connections."

'A giving community'

Added Boyd, on the faculty 35 years, "It's pretty amazing the people they get to meet. The arts seems to be such a giving community."

In past years, Madonna students had gone to Los Angeles in October and participated in a Project Accessible Hollywood that included a film festival. This year's focus was on tours and meeting industry pros.

"Spring break is a perfect fit for us," Boyd said. "They feel like they're getting a little break, too," she added of students.

Griesbeck liked the

Sunset Gower Studios visit, where a lot of ABC and HBO shows are made, including "How To Get Away With Murder," for which they visited the set.

She liked an on-location lunch there, too. She's unsure of post-graduation plans and is interested in TV or film producing.

"Michigan doesn't have a huge incentive anymore," she noted of film making, although many Madonna alumni work in the industry here. "It depends on what kind of opportunities."

'Great opportunity'

Kara Kwiecinski, 19, of Plymouth Township is a Madonna sophomore in broadcast and cinema arts. She graduated from Plymouth Salem High School in 2014 and has a Madonna marketing minor.

"I thought it was a great opportunity," Kwiecinski said of the trip. "They were just so willing to talk to us. It was really cool."

Like Griesbeck, this was Kwiecinski's first Madonna L.A. trip, although she's visited with family. Kwiecinski had been planning on directing and found her West Coast trek opened her mind to other options.

Kwiecinski met a makeup artist she liked, as well as an actor/director who's close to students' age. He has done a lot of work with Disney.

"They're pursuing their dreams already," Kwiecinski said. "We can do that, too."

Of the trip, she said, laughingly, "Since we come from Michigan, the weather. Seeing what we're doing in Michigan really comes into play. That was the best part, just knowing what we're doing is worth it." Kwiecinski plans to



Madonna University students Nancy Boyd and Meghan Griesbeck are startled to "meet" famed director Alfred Hitchcock during their L.A. trek.



Dani Nunley of Madonna University pauses on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

return her senior year. "It was very educational. It was also very fun, too," she said. "It was a great trip."

Nancy Boyd, 20, is a Madonna junior with a

double major in music as well as broadcast and cinema arts. She's from Highland and a 2013 Milford High School graduate.

"Oh, I loved it," said Nancy Boyd, who also visited L.A. as a Madonna freshman. "It was really great. We had so many opportunities. We actually reach out to people who work in the industry and get an inside look."

She noted Madonna's student visit goes beyond a standard Universal Studios tour. "I really enjoyed talking to the script analyst," Boyd said. "It was great talking to him about what makes a compelling story."

He's also a screenwriter who reads a lot of scripts; he recommends

some be made, others considered with changes. "He definitely encouraged all of us to read scripts," to improve their own writing, student Boyd said.

She hopes to become a screenwriter and director. "I would love to hear an audience react to a film I've made," Boyd said. She recommends Madonna for film, radio and TV students, noting its hands-on approach.

Sue Boyd added, "We never know what's going to happen, which is good. We try to give them a range of things. You don't learn those things in a book. You need to go out and talk to people."

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Yessian to be honored at Detroit Music Awards

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

You might not know Dan Yessian, but there's a good chance you know his work.

Recognizable and time-tested jingles for Dittrich Furs, Think Ford First, Little Caesar's Pizza Pizza - his.

More recent creations: music for TV's "The Voice," "Sunday Night Football," "The Blacklist" and more - his.

Songs heard in movie trailers and at theme parks, in commercials for Macy's, Disney, McDonald's, Dos Equis, Mercedes Benz, Coca-Cola, United Airlines and on and on and on - his.

He's likely even touched your world - or that of your kids - through the learning/fun-based songs he composed for the classic "Hot Fudge," "The Electric

Company" or "Sesame Street" television shows.

A career spanning 43 years, and counting. A career to be celebrated, indeed.

Yessian, composer and founder of the award-winning musical production company, Yessian Music Inc. headquartered in Farmington Hills, has been selected for another honor - this time a Distinguished Achievement Award to be presented at the Detroit Music Awards ceremony April 29 at the Fillmore Detroit. Also honored with a Distinguished Achievement Award that evening will be multi-platinum superstar Kid Rock and Motown Records' late founding press officer and publicist Al Abrams.

"This award is rather special because it originates from the Detroit area - that's significant," Yessian said. "Detroit is

where I grew up and where my company originated, where my family resides. It (gives me) a heartfelt feeling, especially with the amount of talent we have in Detroit."

It's interesting to note that Yessian - despite his professional accomplishments and success - has never learned to read sheet music, or to write it. He recalls his earliest music lessons, for the clarinet, consisted of his teacher coming to his house and playing songs which Yessian would memorize "by ear," and then play for him at the next week's lesson. Besides the clarinet, he eventually learned to play the saxophone and piano using the same method.

"It's not the way to learn music, but luckily for me it worked. It doesn't happen that way for everybody," he said.



Dan Yessian, at the Abbey Road Studios in London while working on a commercial piece a few years ago.

Yessian studied English and speech at Wayne State University and after graduation took a job as a teacher at Redford High School, not far from where he grew up. Four years into it, he called it quits.

"The music bug got to me, so I left teaching - much to the chagrin of my parents," he said.

In the early years of Yessian Music, he operated out of a converted bait and tackle shop on Grand River Avenue in Farmington. That's where he met with Hal Dittrich and got the Dittrich Furs gig in the early 1970s - using an arranger, as he has continued to do, to transfer what he creates onto paper. Fast forward 40-plus years and Yessian Music has not only its Farmington Hills studio, but also locations in Los Angeles, New York City and Hamburg, Germany.

"In my career, the Detroit area has served me quite well," he said.

Yessian makes his home in Milford Township with his wife Kathy. He no longer creates music for commercials - though he still produces it - and instead mainly focuses on composing pop and classical tunes. And he's quite pleased with a recent accomplishment: completing "Armenian Trilogy," a piano and violin duet, with Kurt

Schreitmueller, a staff musician for 30 years.

The DMAs

Yessian chuckles in anticipation of meeting Kid Rock at the awards ceremony - though, he said, he's not sure if the singer plans to attend.

"The only thing we have in common, I think, is he smokes cigars and I smoke cigars," he said, laughing. "I asked people 'What do I call him - Mr. Rock, or what? Then I found out his name is Bob ... but I do hope he shows up. I really would like to meet him.'"

The event, which is open to ages 18 and over, will feature a variety of performers including Victoria Reed, alt-rock songstress and daughter of Silver Bullet Band saxophonist Alto Reed, Gospel artist Tim Bowman Jr., Motor City punk-noise group Child Bite, new hip-hop collective Def By Stereo, and a special performance by Jill Jack and the Detroit Women's Project featuring Carolyn Striho, Julianne Ankley, Chris McCall, Mary McGuire, Tasha Owens, Jamie Sue Seal, Rio Scafone and the Jill Jack Band. The show will also have all-star tributes to Glenn Frey and Marcus Belgrave, as well as a special opening medley covering Detroit's music history by

the Motor City All Stars. More performers are also expected.

The Detroit Music Awards Foundation, a not-for-profit organization established in 1992, supports and recognizes Detroit's musical community. At the April 29 event, more than 70 awards will be presented, honoring 11 musical genres - from rock to rap, country to classical, Americana to electronic.

DMA winners are determined by local musicians and music industry professionals in southeastern Michigan. Voting is done through the Internet. For a list of 2016 nominees and past winners, visit www.detroitmusicawards.net.

Also, Detroit music fans can visit the DMAF website to vote for their favorite artist to receive the Opportunity Detroit People's Choice Award - and download their song for free. The winner will be announced at the awards show.

General public tickets to the DMA event start at \$25 and are available at the Fillmore box office or at LiveNation.com. VIP tickets and tables are limited and available by contacting Terri Koggenhop at tkoggenhop@gmail.com.

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REMEMBERING JIM SHINN

'Gentleman Jim' was friend, mentor

MISCA Hall of Fame diving coach Shinn never let disability get him down

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Jim Shinn labored to breathe in his final days, but friends always lit the spark of life in him.

Not even 46 years confined to a wheelchair after a horrible trampoline accident during his senior year at the old Plymouth High School snuffed out the longtime diving coach's love of people.

Consider lifelong friend Mark LaPointe, who grew up with Shinn on Ann Street in Plymouth during the 1950s and 1960s and maintained a warm connection through the ensuing decades.



COURTESY SHINN FAMILY
Jim Shinn loved nature. Here he is photographed at Kensington Metropark.

Just a few days before the 63-year-old Shinn died April 7 from respiratory complica-

tions, LaPointe visited his old buddy and took a lunch order.

"Jim was always nostalgic about Plymouth," said LaPointe, the longtime Central Middle School coach and gym teacher. "He used to love to go to Daly's Drive-In. ... Jim loved the Daly burger, onion rings and a cherry Coke."

LaPointe brought the lunch to Shinn's home (which he shared with devoted caregiver and companion, Annette Kraus) and the former teammates on the informal "Ann Street Lions" neighborhood football team chowed down and reminisced.

See SHINN, Page B2



COURTESY MARK LAPOINTE
Salem diving coach Jim Shinn (left) watches as Natalie McClumpha gets ready to launch into a dive in this mid-1970s photo.

PLYMOUTH VS. SALEM BASEBALL



Plymouth second baseman Jake MacBrien slaps a tag on Salem's Erich Payne to complete a double play in the first inning Friday.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PREP SOFTBALL

Mihalic powers Rocks to victory

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Salem's Kristin Mihalic stepped into the batter's box during the third inning Friday against Plymouth pitcher Jenny Bressler, she already had a home run under her belt.

So all Mihalic did was take a deep breath and launch a grand slam to left, the key blow in an eight-run inning that opened up a 10-2 lead against their Park varsity softball rivals. When all was said and done, the visiting Rocks won 10-4 and improved to 3-1 in the KLAA.

"It was a pretty good feeling, especially with the count, having two strikes," said the junior utility player, whose first homer of the afternoon led off the contest. "I needed to take a deep breath and relax. And it felt really good coming off the bat."

Mihalic said it also felt "really good" to beat the Wildcats, the team that ended Salem's season in the district finals last year.

Getting the big rally started for Salem was sophomore shortstop Morgan Overaitis (3-for-4),

See ROCKS, Page B3

CLUTCH 'CATS SINK ROCKS

Plymouth's two-out hits key in win over Salem

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Practice makes perfect — and perfectly placed base hits — for the Plymouth Wildcats and the team rolled Friday to an 8-3 win over Salem as a result.

On two occasions during the varsity baseball game between Kensington Conference rivals, it was Plymouth senior Justin Raylean doing the damage.

In the bottom of the third, with two on and two out in a scoreless game, Raylean remembered about the team's push during practice to deliver in the clutch.

Facing Salem senior pitcher Eric Scott, Raylean did just that by driving a hard ground ball to right field to score both Evan Claggett and Mike Matovina.

"We worked on it at practice and it felt good to come through for the team," said Raylean, 2-for-3 with four RBIs. "I knew any other guy up there would have done the same thing.

"I was comfortable up



Salem senior pitcher Eric Scott fires the baseball toward home plate Friday afternoon.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

there. I knew he was going to throw a fastball and I was waiting on it. I just put a good swing on it."

"He (Raylean) had two great hits for us. We've been working on team swings when we have guys on base."

JASON CRAIN
Plymouth coach

Twice as nice

Raylean's sequel was pretty good, too. He laced a single up the middle, again with two on and two out, making it 6-1.

"He had two great hits for us," said Plymouth head coach Jason Crain, whose team improved to 5-2 overall and 4-0 in the conference. "We've been working on team swings when we have guys on base, maximizing the runners.


"Fortunately for him and a few other of our guys, they got hits and we scored two or three runs (instead of one). We've been focusing a lot on just making sure we get the bat on the ball with guys in

See BASEBALL, Page B2




BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Staying focused at the plate is Salem's Kara Hutchison, who had two hits against Plymouth.



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U18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Keller's big game sparks U.S. to victory

U.S. Men's National Under-18 team wins 8-2 over Russia

Kailer Yamamoto recorded four points and Clayton Keller scored two goals and added one assist as the U.S. Men's Under-18 National Team downed Russia, 8-2, Thursday at Grand Forks, N.D.

Playing its tournament opener, the United States opened scoring 3:44 into the first period, when Adam Fox sprung Keller with an outlet pass through center. Keller

skated in and fired a shot that found space under Maxim Zhukov's right leg pad and into the net.

Less than a minute later, Trent Frederic backhanded a pass to James Sanchez, who ripped a shot over the shoulder of Zhukov. Russia sliced the U.S. lead in half at the 5:17 mark, capitalizing on a rebound opportunity to the right of the net.

Russia tied the game, 2-2, just over two minutes into the second period off a wrap-around goal. After a outstretched stick save by Jake Oettinger, the U.S. pressed up ice and responded as Keller



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY
One of the key contributors to Team USA's opening tourney win was Clayton Keller, shown during the regular season with the NTDP U18s.

ler flung a shot toward the net from the goal line that ricocheted off Zhukov and in.

Fourteen seconds later, off the ensuing face-off, the U.S. worked the puck to Kieffer Bellows, whose shot slid under Zhukov to double the the U.S. advantage. Joey Anderson and J.D. Greenway assisted.

The U.S. extended its lead, 5-2, when Yamamoto tipped a Chad Krysz shot past Zhukov 6:19 into the third period. Anderson stuffed home a rebound at 7:30 on the power play and the U.S. went up, 6-2. Krysz and Keller earned assists on the play.

Yamamoto scored his second of the period when a centering attempt was

knocked past Zhukov by a Russian defenseman. Logan Brown and Casey Mittelstadt collected the assists.

Brown joined in on the scoring with six minutes remaining in the game as the U.S. pulled away. Yamamoto and Griffin Luce recorded assists on Brown's goal.

Oettinger made 19 saves for the United States, while Zhukov and Danil Tarasov combined for 37 saves for Russia.

The U.S. Men's Under-18 National Team was scheduled to continue preliminary play Saturday against Sweden.

SHINN

Continued from Page B1

"He stayed the same, even though he knew his time on this Earth was short," LaPointe said, adding that Shinn was permitted to leave St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor last month in order to live out his remaining days under the watch of Livonia-based Angela Hospice. "He had a lot of complications because of the fact he was so long as a quad and things start to break down.

"Essentially, he passed away due to respiratory complications. He couldn't breathe."

What a legacy

LaPointe also lifted Shinn's spirits by unfurling a blue-and-white banner, introducing what will be the Jim Shinn Diving Well at Salem High School. Later this year, the banner will be placed on a wall inside the school's natatorium.

"He knew about the banner and that we were going to name the diving well and, finally, he was able to see the banner," LaPointe said. "We took it to the house when he got home, opened it up and showed it to him. He showed some emotion and Jim never did show a lot of emotion outwardly.

"He got a little choked up when he saw it. After I left, he said to Annette, 'That's fantastic that somebody would do that for me.'"

Once that is unveiled, Shinn's undeniable and indelible legacy will be there for all to take in.

For starters, he was a state qualifier in diving in 1968-69 and 1969-70 for the old Plymouth Rocks. His coaching career at then-new Salem began in 1973 and continued until he retired in 2008; he guided boys and girls divers from 1975-2008 on head coach Chuck Olson's teams.

The Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association inducted Shinn into its Hall of Fame in 1991, an honor noted on the new banner.

"He just had a good rapport with the divers," Olson said. "He cared a lot about making them better. He certainly meant a lot to both the girls and boys swim teams for a

Jim Shinn Diving Well

State Diving Qualifier
Plymouth High-1968-69



PHS

Michigan Interscholastic
Swim Coaches Association
Hall of Fame Inductee-1991

PSHS

Salem Diving Coach
Boys: 1975-2008
Girls: 1975-2008



SHS

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
This is how the banner honoring Jim Shinn, to be put up inside the Salem natatorium, will look when it is unveiled later this year.

long period of time."

Among Shinn's diving students was Joe Rudelic, a 1982 Salem graduate and school record holder in diving. He credited Shinn's ability to teach and communicate for his own growth in the sport after learning it from scratch as a ninth-grader.

Great communicator

Despite Shinn being in a wheelchair, coaching tips and advice always hit the mark with Salem divers such as Rudelic.

"You really didn't even notice that," Rudelic said. "It was a very strange thing ... but you knew with his experience and his history being a diver himself that he was somebody you could trust.

"Once you started talking to him and just the way he could explain things was probably better than a lot of people who weren't confined to a chair. ... He could sit there and describe to you verbally, he could use his arms and talk about reaching. But to get you to understand what he was trying to transfer in terms of information and guidance, he was able to do that very well."

Rudelic added that Shinn was a "mentor" more than a coach.

"You could talk to him about anything," Rudelic said.

"Whether it was diving, whether it was little things happening in your life. You could sit

there and talk to him and you'd get an honest opinion."

What Rudelic said he learned from his high school days was how to maintain an even keel. "One of the biggest things I learned from him was don't let yourself get too high on the good things, don't let yourself get low when things don't work out the way you want to," he said.

Beating the odds

Starting March 26, 1970, Shinn had every reason to shut out everybody and everything from his life. Of course, he didn't.

LaPointe last week described the events of that fateful day, when the high school senior slipped on a trampoline and broke his neck.

"It was a Thursday, the day before Good Friday," LaPointe said. "He was working out after school, in the gym on a trampoline. He was a senior, he had just finished his high school season. The class of '70.

"He was really working very hard; that was Jim's MO. He was just a hard worker."

Even though the season was over, Shinn wanted to perfect a 2½ somersault. He was sweaty and his legs wet as he attempted to "throw hard and tuck. He slipped on his legs and opened up early and came down on his neck."

Following the accident, doctors told Shinn's parents and siblings (Tom, John and

Martha) they didn't think he would survive the night.

Shinn beat those long odds and continued doing so for just over 46 years.

Many interests

Positive attitude, love of others and Kraus' friendship had a lot to do with that unexpected longevity.

"He was just such a good person that people naturally gravitated to him," LaPointe said. "His divers loved him."

Rudelic recalled that Shinn "loved to coach, but I think he just really liked people. He was a pretty darn good artist, too. He used to do some pen-and-ink drawings."

Art was just one of several hobbies that helped Shinn stay as active as he could. Some of those interests actually began during childhood.

When he was a youngster growing up on Ann Street, he and LaPointe used to play with toy trucks and cars — and often built AMT Model Cars, entering contests held at Jerry's Shoe and Hobby Shop in town.

"Jim was a truck nut, a toy nut," LaPointe said. "When I walked down the street and met him for the first time, he was playing in the back yard in kind of a sand box thing. Playing with trucks.

"I loved trucks and cars and brought my trucks down. A relationship was formed. I've known him for 57 years."

THE SHINN FILE

Who: Jim Shinn, 63, died April 7. He was a state qualifier at the old Plymouth High School in diving and went on to coach boys and girls diving at Salem High School for more than three decades.

Honors: Shinn is a 1991 inductee of the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Later this year, at Salem, the pool's diving well will be named in his honor.

Family ties: His siblings are Tom (Sandy), John (Donna) and Martha Shinn. The Shinn's grew up on Ann Street in Plymouth; at the time of his death, Jim shared a home in Plymouth with his friend and caregiver, Annette Kraus.

Always strong

That friendship really never wavered, although it was interrupted for a few years when LaPointe went to Ferris State University to play football.

Just as near and dear to Shinn's heart was nature. He and Kraus enjoyed regular trips to Kensington Metropark in recent years.

"He used to sit in his wheelchair at Kensington and chickadees would alight on him," LaPointe said. "They would just come and fly and sit on his arm, sit on his shoulders. That's the kind of person he was."

Meanwhile, LaPointe has one more thing he'd like to do to honor his old friend — nominate Shinn for Salem's new hall of fame, which had its first induction class earlier this year.

"He didn't even know about it and nobody talked to him about it," LaPointe said. "My intention is to nominate him in the fall, when they open up the nominations for the second class.

"He should go in, because he's a hall of fame coach. He coached for 34 years. He's a quadriplegic and he coached diving, very successfully. How do you not put somebody like that in?"

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BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

scoring position and less than two outs and it showed today."

Salem head coach John Wright, whose team dropped to 4-2 and 2-2, lamented what might have been had Scott been able to put Raylean away in the fourth.

Scott was ahead 0-2 in the count and was one pitch away from leaving the bases loaded giving up just two runs in the inning.

Two-out damage

"They hit the ball really well today," said Wright, whose team was out, 10-4. "They did a really good job with two outs. I think they scored six or seven of their runs with two outs. Hats off to them.

"It's a long season. I think we learned a lot and you don't get better if you're not making mistakes. We made some mistakes today and I we hope to get better as the year goes on."

Pitching five strong innings for the Wildcats was senior starter Josh Sulak, who fanned five while displaying a nifty arsenal.

"Josh throws a minimum of three pitches for strikes," Crain said. "He mixed it up well today, controlled his tempo well.

"And it's a growing process



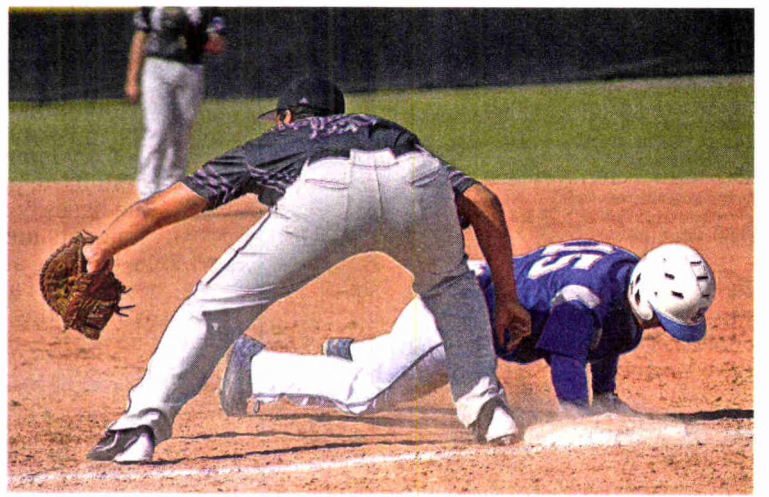
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ripping a single for Salem during Friday's game against Plymouth is Erich Payne.

through the year. He came out and pitched for us Monday against South Lyon East, he got the win but wasn't quite as sharp as he was today."

The lone hits he gave up were singles by Alex Nicholson, Matt Brooks and Erich Payne; Salem's fourth hit, a single by Jake Seipenko, was in the seventh against Plymouth

reliever Brendan Lacorato.

In addition to Raylean, top Plymouth batters included Evan Claggett (2-for-3, run), Pete Carravallah (1-for-3, RBI) and Austin Scheffer (1-for-2, two runs, two RBIs), who slammed a double halfway up the right-field fence to score two runs in the third, making it 4-1.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Diving back to first base is Salem's Erich Payne, while Plymouth's Brendan Lacorato stretches for the ball.

Early runs

Plymouth took a quick 2-0 lead in the second on Raylean's first timely hit, but the Rocks got one back in the third to briefly get close. Brooks led off with a single and scored on Shane Prevo's groundout.

Salem nearly tied the game on an infield chopper, but Plymouth shortstop Kyle Wolter charged the ball and fired to the plate, where senior catcher Claggett tagged out Logan Marshall.

Then came the game-altering bottom of the third, which opened with laser-beam singles by Jake MacBrien and Lac-

orato. Scott's third offering was belted by Scheffer for a two-run double.

An error and hit batsman loaded the bases and Scott got a strikeout to nearly wiggle off the hook. Raylean had other ideas, delivering two runs with a single.

Carravallah then singled to bring home Matovina, capping the five-run inning.

The Rocks scored in the fourth on Trevor Ganaw's grounder, but Plymouth answered in the bottom half on hits by Wolter, Claggett and an RBI by Chase. Marshall brought home Salem's final run in the seventh.

GOLF, TENNIS ROUNDUP

Chiefs, Rocks middle of pack at Farmington invite

Plymouth girls netters rout two opponents

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Park teams competed Thursday at the Farmington Invitational held at par-71 Farmington Hills Golf Club.

Winning the invite with 311 total points was Warren De La Salle, followed by Northville (319).

Finishing seventh with 347 was Canton while Salem came in 10th with a 363 tally. Plymouth did not participate.

For the Chiefs, Phillip Conrad and Suhas Potluri each registered 83 scores, followed by Brian Oldani (85), Dominic Dimaya (96) and Brenden Chan (99).

Salem's top performer, with an 87, was Adam Marcero. He was followed by Hayden Winch (88), Shawn Weldon (91), Bryce Henderson (99) and Matt Danis (101).

Next up is Sunday's PCS Invitational at 1 p.m. Sunday at Fox Hills Golden Fox Golf Course.

Girls tennis

Plymouth's varsity girls tennis team opened the KLAA season with lopsided victories over Livonia Franklin and Wayne Memorial.

On Tuesday, the Wildcats won 7-2 over the host Patriots. In singles play, freshman Jessica Braun won at No. 1 with a 6-2, 6-0 win.

Also prevailing at No. 3 singles was sophomore Kara Hug (6-3, 6-2).

Plymouth swept the doubles flights. Victorious were the following: 1 doubles, Alyssa Lopez-Eei Li Martin (6-1, 6-0); 2 doubles, Amy Luo-Justine Ko (6-3, 6-0); 3 doubles, Arwa Harawala-Kriya Shah (6-4, 6-2); 4 doubles, Allie Baker-Manasi Sharma (6-4, 6-4); 5 doubles, Alayna Stults-Olivia Schafer (6-0, 6-0).

» It was more of the same dominance throughout the lineup Thursday against the visiting Zebras.

Braun (6-0, 6-0), Hug (6-2, 6-2), sophomores Swetha Duraiswamy (6-0, 6-1) and Dani Escalera-Sanchez (6-4, 6-2) won their singles flights.

The Wildcats won every doubles matchup, starting with Lopez-Martin's 6-0, 6-0 victory at 1.

Other wins were scored by Ko-Luo (6-0, 6-0), Harawala-Baker (6-2, 6-0), Schaffer-Stults (6-0, 6-0) and seniors Emily Solecki-Freya Hoffler (6-2, 6-0).

CANTON TENNIS: On Thursday, the host Chiefs lost 6-3 to Livonia Franklin. Earning wins for Canton were No. 2 singles player Marquette Winston, the No. 1 doubles team of Megan Griffin-Cindy Stulch and the No. 2 doubles team of Heather Thibault-Emily Naegelin.

Canton also swept to a 9-0 victory Tuesday over Westland John Glenn.

SALEM TENNIS: The Rocks defeated South Lyon 8-1 on Thursday but lost 7-2 Tuesday to Novi.

Against Novi, victorious for Salem were No. 1 singles player, senior Chelsea Yu (6-3, 6-0) and freshman Lizzy Lu (6-4, 7-6).

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton's Suhas Potluri, shown in this undated file photo, shot an 83 at the Farmington Invitational.

TRACK & FIELD

Speedy Rocks making noise

Talented sprint crew catalyst as Salem wins big over South Lyon East

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

To paraphrase the world champion Kansas City Royals, "that's what speed do."

Salem's varsity boys track and field team is bursting out of the chute, underscored by Tuesday's 107-30 romp over South Lyon East.

Leading the fast charge was the 400-meter relay team of sophomores Andrew Davis, Vershawn Patrick, seniors Freddie McGee and Jacob Miller. The speedy quartet won with a time of 44.83, but an indication of the Rocks' team depth, the second- and third-place teams also were Salem (49.19, 49.44).

"There is a healthy competition within our sprint crew," Salem sprint coach Tom Crawford said. "They celebrate the success of each other but it also drives them to be better."

"If Andrew and Vershawn keep pushing each other it will be difficult for our competition to keep up."

There's no denying the sprint crew is deep and talented. McGee, who is becoming a relay specialist, "is really fast coming out of the blocks and he works to perfect that start," head coach Dale Maskill said.

Davis is asserting himself as a sophomore, winning the 100 and 200 dashes with respective times of 11.26 and 23.07 seconds.

Miller is a senior leader



SALEM ATHLETICS
Salem's 400-meter relay team of (from left) Vershawn Patrick, Freddie McGee, Jacob Miller and Andrew Davis is off to a fast start this season.

"who can do it all from 100 to 400 and he is a 20-foot long jumper," Maskill added.

Don't forget about Patrick, who often seems like a blur to opponents.

Others include Ryan Young, Jason Warras, Christian Pearson and Trevor Nowaske.

Maskill said Young and Warras both compete in the 200- and 400-meter runs as well as the 800- and 1,600-meter relays. Pearson "adds fast 100 times to the mix" while Nowaske "has gotten faster in his first two meets."

Other chipping in for the

Rocks against the Cougars were sophomore thrower Alex Howie (personal bests of 44-0 in the shot put and 131-2 in the discus, good for second and third place, respectively), freshman distance runner Luke Haran (6-0 in high jump; 17-8 in long jump.)

Plymouth recap

Also Tuesday, the Plymouth varsity boys track team lost 105-32 to Livonia Churchill.

Earning firsts for the Wildcats were Ethan Byrnes (1,600- and 3,200-meter runs), Cameron Knight (high jump), Gabriel

Paquette (long jump) and the 1,600-meter relay team of Joey Ahearn, Matt Weiner, Cade Ahlijian and Ryan Schmatz.

Several Plymouth athletes came in third. Those included Byrnes (800), Ahearn (400, long jump), Martino Deltoro (100 hurdles), Robert Florence (shot put), Brennan Brooks (high jump) and Christian Vacca (pole vault).

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ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

who homered to center.

"She was overdue. She had probably one of the best games of her career today," Rocks head coach Bonnie South-erland said. "We're happy this was her big breakout game. I couldn't be more pleased with our offense today. Everybody was swinging the bat hard."

"We struggled with Bressler last year in districts, so to see the girls come out and really read her well is great."

She also cited the strong pitching of sophomore Maddy Rosiewicz, who for the most part shut down the always-tough Wildcats (2-1). She also helped her own cause with a 2-for-4 day at the plate.

Others contributing to a 12-hit attack were senior catcher Kara Hutchison (2-4), sophomores Makayleigh Silverman and Caroline Miller (RBI hits).

Plymouth could not claw closer to the Rocks until the seventh, scoring two runs on a base hit by sophomore Whitney Holden.

"I think the seventh inning is an inning I want my girls to remember," Plymouth head coach Lauren Evans said. "We get two runners on (Bressler, freshman Haley Gagnon) and I looked at my sophomore leader Whitney Holden and I said, 'I need a base hit, I don't care how you do it.'"

"Her base hit turned into two runs because of my aggressive base-running. And that's what I ask of my team every day. Come in, hit the ball hard, put the ball in play and run the bases."

Other Plymouth standouts included Bressler (two doubles in three at-bats), sophomore Jess Tucci (2-for-4) and senior Rachel Zerona, with a diving catch in the outfield.

Canton recap

The visiting Chiefs scored seven runs in the first inning of Wednesday's KLAA South twinbill opener against Westland John Glenn and won 20-0.

Getting the rout started with back-to-back triples were Elizabeth Yager (2-for-3, three runs) and Olivia Grant (three runs).

Canton also blanked the Rockets in Game 2, 10-0.

On Thursday, Canton edged South Lyon, 7-6, behind a complete-game performance from pitcher Makenna Payne.

Salem recap

The visiting Rocks split Wednesday's KLAA Central doubleheader at Northville, winning 7-6 but falling 14-5 in the nightcap.

Morgan Overaitis smacked two doubles and a triple, while Kara Hutchison singled, doubled and homered. Chipping in two hits was Kristin Mihalic, while Maddy Rosiewicz, Jordan Hazel and Caroline Miller also registered hits.

Rosiewicz earned the pitching win, allowing seven hits, walking three and striking out three for Salem.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Plymouth sophomore Jenny Bressler sends a pitch on its way Friday against Salem.



DAVE PAYNE
Canton pitcher Peyton Philbeck sends a pitch toward a Westland John Glenn batter on Wednesday.

PREP LACROSSE

Chiefs' offense rolls over Belleville

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The season is off to a red-hot start for Canton's varsity boys lacrosse team, picking up a fourth-straight win with Thursday's 15-5 victory over host Belleville.

It took an offensive onslaught in the second half to put the game away as Canton only led 4-2 at halftime, dealing with Belleville's stingy defense.

Canton did score three in the opening quarter, including senior attackman Carson Pakula's first of four goals along with single tallies by junior attackman Drew Montgomery and sophomore midfielder Chase Meredith.

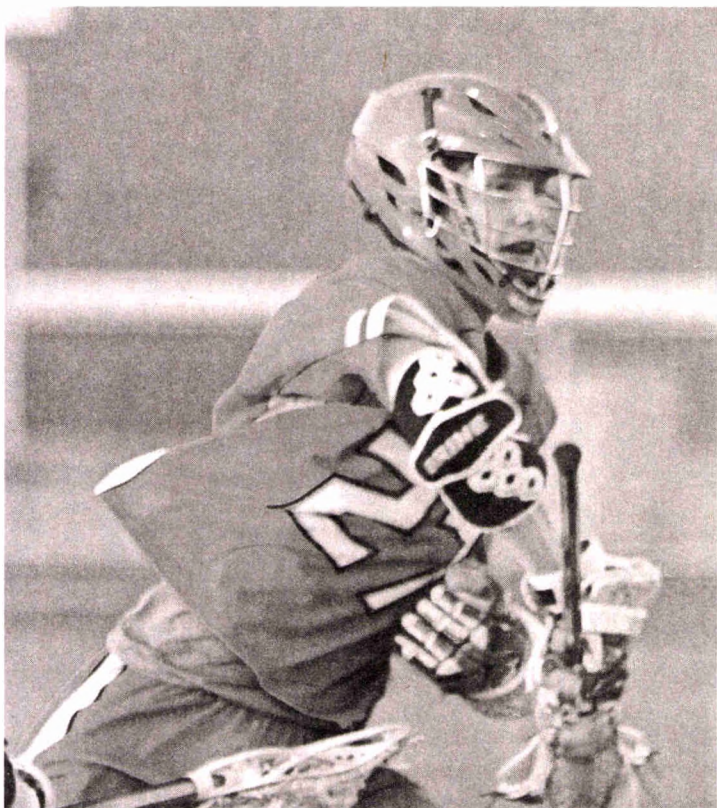
In the second quarter, the Chiefs upped their lead to 4-0 when sophomore midfielder Nick Polydoros found the back of the Belleville net.

But the Tigers responded with a pair of goals just before halftime to slice the Canton advantage to 4-2 going into the intermission.

After a halftime pep talk, Canton senior midfielder Ben Phillips found the range with a pair of goals early in the third quarter.

Assisting on Phillips' two goals were Polydoros and senior midfielder Micah Rinke.

Belleville did not go quietly, despite what the final score turned out to be, get-



JIM KREBS

Canton's Micah Rinke, shown from last season, was a catalyst in Thursday's victory.

ting two shots past Canton senior goalkeeper Trevor Stahl.

The rest of the night, however, the Tigers could hardly solve Stahl, who came up big, denying several shots on the doorstep.

And at the other end of the

field, it was all Canton.

The Chiefs built up a 10-4 lead after three quarters, with a four-goal surge starting with Rinke's first tally of the night.

Polydoros then scored and Montgomery blasted two more shots into the Belleville

net before the quarter ended. Canton kept the attack coming in the final quarter, with Pakula registering three more goals and Meredith chipping in his second of the contest.

Belleville managed one final goal, in the fourth.

A big plus for the Chiefs was dominance in the face-off circle by sophomore midfielder Connor Flannigan. He won more than 80 percent of draws — a key in Canton's offense enjoying possession for stretches.

Supporting Stahl in the back were senior defensemen Kumar Johnson, Jacob Wickens and junior D-men Steven Szymusiak and Reid McDonnell.

That quartet kept dangerous chances to a minimum and Stahl was there when needed.

Canton will look to keep the ball rolling Monday against Waterford in the Chiefs' home opener.

PLYMOUTH (BOYS) 5, HURON VALLEY UNITED 4: The Wildcats earned a tough overtime victory Wednesday, with senior Trevor McManus outstanding between the pipes.

Scoring three goals for Plymouth was Nolan Quellette, while Ian Gozdor scored the equalizer and Carson Miller the winner.

Helping the cause with stellar defense were Nate Messer and Bradley Tyszkiewicz.

PLYMOUTH (GIRLS) 21, WLN 8: Offense came in bunches for Plymouth in a win over Walled Lake Northern. Marissa Cirino and Natalie Nowicki each scored five goals, while Michelle Cirino contributed three.

Other Wildcats on the score sheet included Cathryn VandenBosch and Cierra Steiner (two goals each), Karl Schoen, Emily LeBlanc and Madeleine Caswell (one goal each).

BOYS LACROSSE

Mustangs race to victory over Cranbrook

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Anthony Salamone finished with three goals and two assists, while Brennan Sweeney chipped in a goal and five assists Monday as Northville improved its boys lacrosse record to 3-0 with a 12-8 win at home over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

Zach Tardich and Connor Sweeney added three goals and two assists, respectively, while Harry Dyson, Josh Bentley and Spencer Gonda each contributed a goal. Brendan Hicks also collected an assist.

Gonda was also 9-of-22 on face-offs.

The Mustangs, who led 8-4 at halftime, were led defensively by goalie Jeff Varner (12 saves), Abe Khoury (four ground balls) and Ty Kilar (three ground balls).

"It was a good, solid game and our guys played hard," Northville coach Greg Durham said.

Jacob Cook scored three goals, while Willis Reasoner added two goals and an assist for the Cranes (0-3).

NORTHVILLE 19, BELLEVILLE 3: Despite a slow start, the Mustangs (2-0) rolled to a non-conference win Friday over the host Tigers (3-1).

"We were careless, threw the ball away, so I called a timeout," said Northville coach Greg Durham, whose team led 3-1 after one quarter. "We had to be more aggressive. They picked it up and they played a lot better."

Northville led 9-2 at halftime and outscored Belleville 10-1 in the second half as Brennan Sweeney led the way with two goals and eight assists.

Midfielder Ty Kilar added four goals and two assists, while Connor Sweeney and Zach Tardich chipped in four and three goals, respectively.

Josh Bentley and Harry Dyson each contributed two goals and one assist, while Brendan Hicks and Jacob Accardo scored a goal apiece. Anthony Salamone also drew an assist.

Meanwhile, Spencer Gonda continued his strong play, going 21-of-27 exclusively on face-offs.

Kyle Condino and Abe Khoury led in ground balls with eight and four, respectively, while goalies Jeff Varner and Vaughn Browser combined for six saves.

NORTHVILLE 19, HOWELL 4: The Mustangs (1-0) were hitting on all cylinders April 5 as they rolled over the visiting Highlanders (0-1) at Tom Holzer Field.

Coach Greg Durham's squad dominated from start to finish while building a 12-1 halftime advantage.

Brothers Brennan (one goal, seven assists) and Connor (four goals, one assist) Sweeney led the way offensively.

Josh Bentley, Jacob Accardo and Harry Dyson each contributed hat a trick, while Zach Tardich chipped in two goals apiece. Other goals came from Brendan Hicks and Jacob Murphy.

"We ran our offense efficiently and we're starting to get it," Durham said. "It's a motion offense and the kids are doing a pretty good job."

(Brennan) Sweeney was feeding the ball like a machine. He was seeing everything. Accardo played well and Dyson was all over the field."

Dyson also came up with eight ground balls, while Spencer Gonda won 88 percent of his 23 face-offs to go along with five ground balls.

Goalies Jeff Varner and Vaughn Browser combined to make eight saves for Northville.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Canton grid meeting

The Canton football season doesn't kickoff until August, but the first official order of business is just around the corner.

On Tuesday, May 10, Canton football staff members and the boosters club are holding a mandatory meeting for all 2016 players and their parents.

At 6 p.m. players and parents new to the program will convene in the Canton High School cafeteria. All returning players and par-

ents will join them at 6:30 p.m.

Coaches will give information and expectations about the program and answer any questions. Team merchandise also will be available.

One of the topics to be discussed is an overview of offseason workouts.

Any questions can be directed to head coach Tim Baechler via email at tim.baechler@pcck12.com.

Plymouth grid meeting

The Plymouth Wildcats football staff and boosters is holding a mandatory meeting for 2016 players and parents from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 at Plymouth High School.

The meeting, which will take place in the cafeteria, is for all levels.

At the meeting, the entire football staff will be introduced and they will answer any questions pertaining to the upcoming season.

Also, important paperwork will be handed out and there will be a discussion

about "the expectations and responsibilities of becoming a Plymouth Wildcat football player."

Booster president Mike Humm will speak about the importance of getting involved with the club, along with fundraising responsibilities.

Team merchandise will be available to purchase before and after the meeting.

Any questions or concerns, contact Coach Mike Sawchuk at 734-765-1766 or email michael.sawchuk@pcck12.com

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A GANNETT COMPANY

Happy hour, power breakfast proceeds buy meals for kids



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

This Thursday, more than 600 women will get together for the 23rd Annual Women's Power Breakfast (WPB), a benefit for Gleaners Community Food Bank. The event has gotten so large and successful that Gleaners has added a second powerful component — the WPB Happy Hour.

Sponsored by Michigan.com, the 3rd Annual Women's Power Happy Hour was just held at the MGM Grand Detroit. Over 350 women — and a few good men — enjoyed socializing, spirits and savoring.

The Women's Power Breakfast Happy Hour raised nearly \$37,000 which benefits Gleaners' Million Meal Match campaign to provide one million meals to kids in southeast Michigan this spring. Every dollar donated to Gleaners during the campaign will be matched by PNC Bank and other generous supporters. Normally, \$1 provides three meals, but during the Million Meal Match, \$1 provides six meals for hungry children across southeast Michigan. Of every dollar donated, Gleaners uses 94 cents for food and food programs. So WPB Happy Hour raised enough for 110,232 meals. The 2015 Women's



JULIE YOLLES

Beth Gotthelf of corporate sponsor Butzel Long, Detroit Councilwoman Janee Ayers and Livonia resident Kathleen Lomako, executive director of SEMCOG, enjoy the WPB Happy Hour at the MGM Grand Hotel.



JULIE YOLLES

Representing corporate event sponsor Delta Dental at the 3rd Annual Women's Power Breakfast Happy Hour are Sara Eziuku of Canton and Julie Truskowski of Clarkston.

Power Breakfast chairs are Birmingham resident Beth Gotthelf, Butzel Long director of innovation and Plymouth resident and United Road Services CEO Kathleen McCann. Sally McCrady, President of the PNC Foundation is the honorary chair and Bloomfield Hills resident Dulcie Rosenfeld is the WPB founding chair. The 23rd Annual

Women's Power Breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. Thursday, April 21 at Eastern Market, Shed 2, 2934 Russell Street in Detroit. Tickets (\$150) can be purchased online at www.womenspower-breakfast.org.

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



JULIE YOLLES
Spencer Hayes of Farmington Hills and Mike Pierce of WJR are among the few good men among a sea of 350 women at the 3rd Annual Women's Power Breakfast Happy Hour.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

CAMPBELL



GARALD L., D.P.M. 70, died on March 28, 2016, in Tempe, Arizona. Gary Campbell was born on May 19, 1945, to Alexander and Joyce Campbell. He was raised in Detroit and graduated from Denby High School and Wayne State University. He married Nadine Wycinsky in 1969. They moved to Tempe in 1972 to open Gary's podiatry practice and start a family. In over 40 years of practicing podiatry, Gary served in many community capacities, made numerous contributions to the art of practicing medicine, and touched many lives. Survivors include his three children, Andrea Helderman (Burke), Colleen Campbell, and Scott Campbell (Angela); two grandchildren, Daniel and Cole Helderman; his sister, Bonnie Wojtaszak (Greg); his niece, Kim Sherlock (Brian) and her three boys; and his mother, Joyce Campbell. He was preceded in death by his wife and father. Services were held in Tempe on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

LEASIA



FLORENCE MADELYN April 10, 2016, peacefully at home. Age 91. Loving and supportive wife of the late Richard S. Dear mother of Susan Hermentit-Cooper (David), Richard Leasia (Nancy), Denise Duquette (Thomas VanHerweg), Edge Leasia (Beverly), Shelly Leasia, Steve Leasia, and the late Michael Leasia. Cherished grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of three. She loved golf and travel, and most of all, was dedicated to her family and grandkids, especially her special son, Mikey, always putting them first. Florence was also very proud of all of her late husband's accomplishments. Memorial service will be held privately. Memorial tributes to Special Olympics Michigan, Southeast Regional Office, 4084 John R., Troy, MI 48065. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248)549-0500. View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com.

POPPENGER



WILLIAM HOWARD JR. September 2, 1942 - April 6, 2016. Bill retired from the City of Livonia Planning Department; he served as Vice President of the Livonia Jaycees, and also worked for the Detroit Free Press and Home Depot. He resided in Rosedale Gardens throughout his life moving to Hamburg, MI in 1996 and Utah in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Helen "Missy"; sons Christopher, Carson (Amy) and three precious granddaughters, Belle, Emma and Katelyn; and his sister, Jo Ann P. McFall (Jim). His youngest son, Adam and parents William and Grace Poppenger preceded him in death. Services were held on April 16, 2016 at Alpine Bible Church. Condolences to the family may be sent to 422 S. 780 W. Lehi, Utah 84043

SAYLES



JOSEPH B. Age 90, of Jensen Beach, Florida and Plymouth, Michigan died peacefully Monday, April 4, 2016 at Waters Edge in Palm City, FL. Born in Westville, Illinois. He grew up in Detroit, MI where he attended McKenzie HS and later at Michigan State. Joe has always had a love of the water, spending early years on Houghton Lake, MI working at his parents - Benedict I. (Slucinskas) and Estelle Sayles-General Store tending boats and fishing. In his late teens he joined the Coast Guard where he sailed the Great Lakes before serving in WWII serving on the USS Cambria and the USCG Cutter John C. Spencer. In 1950 he joined Ford Motor where he worked for over 35 years, retiring in January 1988. Joe was a member of the Colonial Plymouth Kiwanis Club for many years where he met his current wife, Marcia at their Charity Golf Outing. They were married a year later in August of 1993. During the year they met they found they had a lot in common: their Catholic Faith, Community Service, Golf and vacationing on Hutchinson Island, FL where they wintered for the last 20 years living on the ocean. He was pre-deceased by his wife Clara B. (Eshleman) of 42 years, his brother Edward Prentiss and his sister Angeline Prentiss, as well as his natural parents John J. and Elenore (Yurgutis) Prentiss (Pranaitis) who both died while he was very young. Surviving are his wife of nearly 23 years Marcia, his step-daughter Lori Morrison (Michael Paige) of Canton, MI, his sister Patricia Huben of Lauderdale, FL, his son Michael (Terri) Sayles of Carmel, IN. Four grandchildren, Claire (Andy) Harry, Lauren (Brian) Arledge, Nicholas and Sarah Sayles. Four great grandchildren, Ella and Levi Harry, Abby and Zach Arledge. A Memorial Mass was said at Holy Family Catholic Church, Port St. Lucie, FL, April 14, 2016. Interment will be at Holy Sepulcher in Southfield, MI at a later date. In lieu of flowers family requests that memorial donations be made in his name to Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, attn: Michelle Bracey, 33762 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150 or Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth, MI. Online guest book at www.AllCounty.Com

L'ITALIEN



YVON JEAN June 24, 1922 - April 8, 2016. Resided in Alpharetta, Georgia, formerly a 50 year resident of Plymouth, Michigan. Yvon J. L'Italien, retired research chemist with Pfizer (Warner-Lambert-Parke Davis), died peacefully on Friday, April 8, 2016 in Alpharetta, Georgia surrounded by his family. He was 93. Yvon was born June 24, 1922 in Trois Pistoles, Quebec Canada to Epiphane L'Italien and Yvonne (Fortin) and enjoyed a memorable childhood with 13 siblings. He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1942 to 1945. Following his formal education in 1947 at Laval University in Quebec City he moved to the United States after gaining employment as a research chemist for Parke-Davis Laboratories. The following year, Yvon married Celine (Drouin), also a native of Quebec, and they established their home in Detroit, Michigan. In 1959, he moved his family to Plymouth, Michigan where lived for 50 years raising three sons and two daughters; Michel, Rene, Constance, Lucie and Marc. Yvon loved his children and was always extremely proud of his family. He enjoyed traveling with them, taking annual trips to Quebec to reinforce their heritage and French language. In 1973 Yvon lost his daughter Constance (19) to cystic fibrosis. Two years later, he lost his dear wife Celine (50) to cancer. Yvon was fortunate to marry the second love of his life, Genevieve Cloutier in 1978. He retired from Pfizer in 1983 having acquired many patents for his research and discovery of stimulants and depressants, as well as memory drugs for Alzheimer's and dementia. Until Genevieve's death in 2008, they spent their time traveling, visiting their families, pursuing various hobbies and enjoying life. Yvon especially enjoyed his dear Canadian expatriate friends, referred to as the "French-group". In 2009 Yvon moved to Atlanta Georgia where he lived with his daughter Lucie and her husband Bill St. Antoine. Yvon was the devoted father of Michel Litalien (Sonja) and his daughter Alexandria, Rene Litalien (Jon) and daughters Shannon and Katelyn, Constance (deceased), Lucie St. Antoine (William) and daughters Caroline and Danielle, and Marc Litalien (Amy Cranch). He is also survived by his step children: Shari Daher-Jubenville (Mel), children Monique, Andrew, Christopher, Michael Scholey (deceased) children Eric, Kevin, Michael and 10 great grandchildren. Yvon was cremated and will later be interred in his birth town of Trois Pistoles Quebec, Canada. Memorial Tributes may be made to: The Alzheimer's Association. See more at: www.alz.org/donate. Please sign the online guestbook at www.northsidechapel.com

DUNKEL



JOHN A. died peacefully on March 5, 2016 at his home. Mr. Dunkel was born February 8, 1926 in Royal Oak, Michigan to James Blaine and Martha Schuler Dunkel. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1944 as a navigator. He graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio in 1952. Mr. Dunkel and his family lived in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan from 1952 to 2016. He owned Target Corporation in Fenton, Michigan until 2011. He was an enthusiastic member of Red Run Golf Club and loved to travel in his work and for pleasure with his wife Elaine, and their children. Surviving are his wife, Elaine (Hilde); son, Randall of St. Clair Michigan; his daughter, Barbara of Istan, Spain; sister, Jane Chilcott of Tucson, Arizona; Charles of Santa Rosa, California; his grandchildren, Forrest and Jenhis of Rochester, Michigan and Elaine Prieto of Estepona, Spain; and two great-grandchildren, Adalina and Graham.

FISCHER



PHILLIP 63, of Redford, died April 14, 2016. Phillip is the cherished husband of the late Cleo (d. 2014). Phillip is survived by his siblings, Johnny (Sharon) Fischer, Benno R. (Joy) Fischer, and David (Cande) Fischer. Uncle to Tammy, Michael, Tina, Janette, Melissa, and Tanya; great-uncle of 16 nieces and nephews. Visitation Monday, April 18, 2-8 p.m. at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (between 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Funeral service Tuesday, April 19, 11:00 a.m. (visitation 9:00 a.m.) also at the funeral home. Interment Oakland Hills Memorial Park.

May you find comfort in family & friends

It's time to ramp up the national conversation about mental health

A few weeks ago I was able to attend the National Alliance of Mental Illness - Metro (NAMI - Metro's) annual fundraising dinner. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell was the speaker of the evening. She wonderfully shared her experiences of growing up in a family where there were members with mental illness. She emphasized how, back then, it was never talked about. She addressed the question "When are we going to start talking, in our society about mental health and mental illness?"

With May, National Mental Health Awareness Month, almost upon us, we'll have plenty of opportunities to focus on the issue. As readers of this column know, we are and have been putting our two cents in, when it comes to talking about mental health. "Our Mental Health," is now in its 15th year with 200-plus archived articles available to the public at the Farmington Public Library.

In the past

On Feb. 5, 1963, President J. F. Kennedy sent a series of proposals to fight mental illness to Congress. He said: "These afflictions have been long neglected, occur more frequently, affect more people and can require more prolonged treatments, and can cause more individual and family suffering than any other conditions in American life."

Shortly after Kennedy's speech, Oakland County became the first county in Michigan to establish a community mental health board to implement mental health programs. Oakland County Mental Health Services, as well as many like-minded mental health authorities nationwide, continue to promote mental health. They struggle the seemingly endless battle of government funding reductions and the lack of true parity by insur-



Len McCulloch
GUEST COLUMNIST

ance companies. And, the question — "When are we going to start talking about mental health?" — is still being asked.

Tragedy

Focusing on this issue frequently seems to come about in the aftermath of major catastrophes that involve mental illness, such as the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre and Columbine High School killings.

In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook massacre, a great amount of attention was given to the issues of mental health and the terrible price paid for not talking about it enough. However, progress is still pursued. Next month is a prime example. During May, Mental Health Awareness Month, there will be more discussion in schools about mental health. Some schools even hold classes in mental health first aid.

The justice system has developed mental illness courts where the guilt, innocence, and the mental illness involved in criminal behavior is addressed. It is a forgone conclusion that mentally healthy people do not commit mass murders. Yet, it remains the case that our prisons and populations of homeless people comprise a huge percentage of citizens with mental health problems incarcerated and/or abandoned by society.

We have come a long way in decreasing the stigma about mental illness since President Kennedy's speech over 50 years ago. But, there is still stigma and a reluctance to talk about it.

Did you know that many legendary persons have suffered from major mental illnesses? These include Patty Duke, Winston Churchill, Jimmy Piersall, Abraham Lincoln, Beethoven,

Robin Williams and Rosemary Kennedy, younger sister of J. F. K., who was given a lobotomy at age 23.

Did you know that the word stigma is derived from the Latin term for "brand" that marks someone as a slave or criminal? Also, many studies have shown that up to 75 percent of the visits made to a primary care physician or family doctor are for problems related to psychological factors and turn out to have no physical/organic cause.

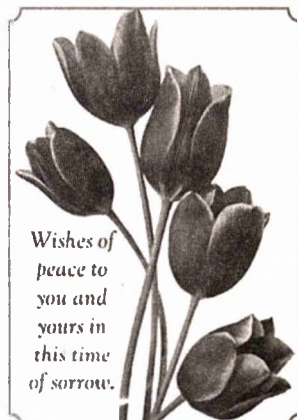
Raising awareness

Next month there will be gatherings promoting awareness, free mental health screenings, local rallies, and more. The importance of events like these cannot be emphasized enough. There is no shortage of resources for treatment of mental health problems. We need to continue talking and listening and paying attention to the efforts of like-minded organizations such as NAMI - Metro. We must continue to adapt Congresswoman Dingell's approach to spreading the word far and wide by speaking about these issues louder and more often.

Learn more about mental health by visiting these websites:

- » NAMI-Metro www.nami-metro.org.
- » The Michigan Association of Professional Psychologists at www.e-mapp.org.
- » The Therapy Choirs of Michigan at www.therapychoirs.net.
- » Michigan Mental Health Authority www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

L. J. McCulloch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association who is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, addictions and social work. His monthly column: "Our Mental Health" is archived at www.farm.lib.org. McCulloch can be reached at 248-474-2763 ext.222 for a courtesy consultation.



Green thumb? No need with glass garden decor

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Forget the trowel and plants.

I started my gardening with a steel rod and a glob of 2,300-degree molten glass Thursday, by "growing" a Percolla Reed at the Glass Academy in Dearborn.

It was the perfect time to make a glass garden ornament that will be cooled and ready to plant among early season lettuce and kale in my backyard next weekend. April isn't just the start of the gardening season, but it historically has been a month to celebrate glass art in Michigan. Although the Michigan Glass Month committee has begun promoting year-round events on its Michigan Glass website, there still are plenty of glass art-related activities happening this month and in May.

Habatat Galleries in Royal Oak opens its 44th Annual Glass International Award Exhibition with a reception, 8-10 p.m. Saturday, May 7. Michigan Hot Glass Workshop in Detroit shows ceramics, glass and print images, 6:30-10:30 April 30, and it teaches glass blowing year-round. Epiphany Glass Studio in Pontiac holds its spring show and sale, along with glassblowing demonstrations May 7-8.

The Glass Academy's Mom & Me - Glass & Tea combines tea and treats with a glass flower-making session, May 7-8, 14-15. Other glass experiences, including a beer mug night, coffee night and bead-making run throughout the year. The Percolla Reed series, like many spring perennial plants, lasts just a few months. It's replaced by a leaf-making class in the fall, followed by icicles in the winter and will return next spring. Reed classes run through June.

An experience

"The thing that you might not be aware of is how the Glass Academy teaches," co-founder Michelle Plucinsky said in an e-mail. "It's more about an 'experience' with glass vs. teaching students to be glassblowers."

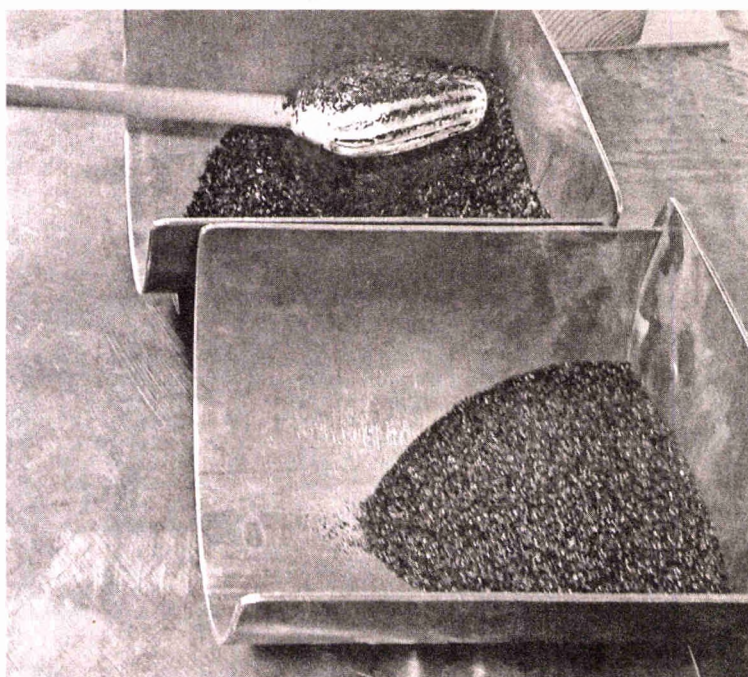
That was good to know, as I headed into the studio this week for my reed-making experience. Although each of the five students in class got the chance to blow through a hollow rod and inflate gooey, hot glass into a delicate bubble, the reed-making session was more about glass sculpting.

"Blowing glass and making something takes a lot of practice," said instructor Logan Albers of Milan. "I have my first blown piece sitting at home on a shelf and it's the ugliest, most lop-sided cup you've ever seen. It takes a lot of practice."

Glass sculpting is a matter of gathering the class from a 2,100-degree furnace onto the end of a solid "punty" rod, then using a combination of tools, more heat, more glass and



Percolla Reeds

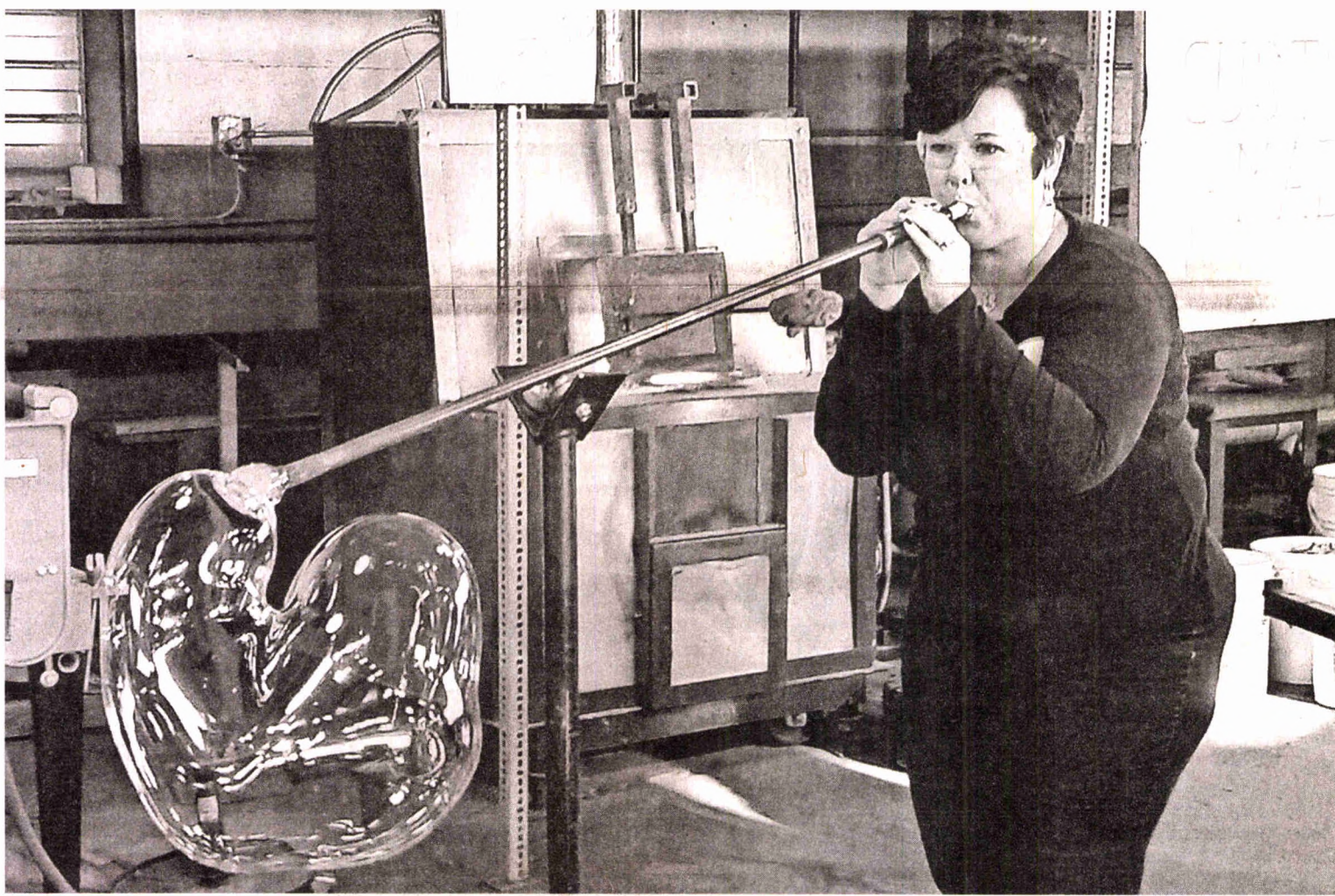


Hot glass that has been shaped in a mold is covered in colored glass pieces.



SHARON DARGAY

Sally Sayed of Dearborn gets a little help from instructor Logan Albers as she curls the tip of her reed.



SHARON DARGAY

See GARDEN, Page B7

Jenai Close of Dearborn makes a glass bubble before trying her hand at reed-making.

Grow backyard-to-table produce with these garden tips

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you plan to start a vegetable garden this spring, you'll need good soil, seeds or plants, water and bees.

Don't forget the bees. "You get better results if you have bees around to pollinate. I'm a honeybee keeper and I've seen a big improvement having bees around," says Darrell Youngquest, a Farmington Hills resident and plant buyer for English Gardens. "Honeybees are a lot of work."

"Mason and cutter bees are very good pollinators. They're adept at pollinating and you don't have to tend to a hive. Don't be scared. They're not going to sting you and you don't have to have a mask. These are fly-sized bees."

English Gardens sells houses for Mason bees and cutter bees. Youngquest said they're about eight-by-eight inches and can be hung from a pole or a tree.

"They even come with a certificate to get the bee larvae."

Besides pollinators, you'll need to get your soil in shape, figure out where to plant, and



SHARON DARGAY
Cold weather plants, including spinach, lettuce, bok choy, can be planted this month.

keep your garden free of weeds and pests. Here's Youngquest's advice:

Sunny placement

Pick the sunniest area in your yard, one that will get sun from about 10 a.m. to 6

p.m. "Sometimes it's deceiving this time of year. A lot of trees haven't got leaves. Then may comes along and it's shady. When you plant, keep that in mind."

Bambi and friends

If your yard attracts deer, rabbits or groundhogs, plan to enclose the garden with a 3-foot fence for smaller animals or 8-foot for deer. Deer fencing, a black, plastic screening, can be tied to poles spaced around the garden. Chicken wire will work for smaller animals. Place it six inches into the ground to prevent digging.

Prep the soil

"Vegetables and fruits and herbs take a lot of nutrients out of the soil. If you don't enrich it every year, the harvest won't be as good as it could be." Use a mix of organic compost, fertilizer with cow manure and top soil in the garden. "If you do blueberries, which are very popular, plant with lots of peat moss. Blueberries require acidic soil." Buy a soil analysis kit and test the soil for its nutrient and acid content.

Clay is for pottery

You don't want to plant in clay. "The easiest way to get around clay is to garden in raised beds." Pile the good soil on top of the clay soil. Enclose the soil in a raised bed made of boulders or boards. "Stay away from pressure-treated woods because they've got chemicals in them. Stay away from concrete blocks."

When to plant

You can plant cold weather crops, lettuce, spinach, carrots, cabbages, onions. Hold off until mid-May for tomatoes and peppers, watermelons and other warm weather crops. If you're getting antsy to plant, you can use a cloche to safeguard plants, such as strawberries and thyme. "It's a plastic dome and we've got some with vents on the top. It's like a mini greenhouse and helps keep it warm." Or try a "floating cover," a white, lightweight cloth that can cover plants at night if the temperature dips to 32 degrees.

Maintenance

Weed to keep them from robbing nutrients from your vegetable plants. Prune and

keep tomatoes from touching the ground. Mulch with straw, not wood bark. "Straw helps keep weeds down. Bark, as it breaks down, tends to leach nitrogen from the soil." Manage insect pests by picking them off plants or using a pesticide designed for food crops. "Butterflies and moths have a caterpillar stage and they are voracious eaters. There are Japanese beetles and stink bugs. You do a little every day and you do have to catch it early."

New plants

» Brazelberry, a dwarf blueberry plant, is good for landscape and fruit production.

» Mr. Stripey is a grafted tomato with a hearty, disease-resistant root stalk.

» Short snack cucumber produces 4-inch vegetables that are perfect for snacking.

» Dragon's tongue green bean is an heirloom bush bean with blue and white stripes. "It's kind of cool."

» "I've got hula berry strawberries. They're white with a pineapple flavor."

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Observatory director: From Beverly Hills to Vatican

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

It was a combined love of science and religion that lifted Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno from a small Catholic school in Michigan to director of the Vatican Observatory in Rome.

Consolmagno, 63, attended Our Lady Queen of Martyrs through eighth grade, graduating in 1966. On Monday, he spoke to a packed audience of parishioners at the Beverly Hills church about his amazing journey.

It began with the unfolding of the space age.

"In 1957, when I was in kindergarten, Sputnik was launched," he told the parish. "In 1969, the summer before my senior year in high school, rockets were landing on the moon ... the space age was going on in front of us, live on television. Science was in the air."

Soft spoken with a friendly sense of humor, Consolmagno admitted he was always "a nerd" when it came to science. He earned his master's degree at MIT and a Ph.D. in planetary science from the University of Arizona.

After becoming a Jesuit in 1989, he was assigned to the observatory at the papal palace.

"For the first 18 years, my office was above the pope's bedroom. And I was the one guy in the church above the pope," he told the parish with a big smile.



Brother Guy Consolmagno spoke at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Beverly Hills.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pope Francis appointed him as director of the observatory in 2015. Consolmagno admits he still gets goosebumps whenever he points the Vatican telescope toward the stars.

'God's inspiration'

After the presentation, Patrick Carzon, 20, of Farmington, a physics student at Lawrence Technological University, said he found it interesting how

Consolmagno seamlessly navigated his way between the church and science.

"That was probably the best thing about the talk," Carzon said. "And the idea you can come from anywhere and become the chief of the Vatican Observatory."

School principal Joe Vincler said the theme to this year's Science Day at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs happens to

be astronomy, making the visit even more special.

"He represents exactly what we teach here," Vincler said. "It's the combination of science and education with our Catholic faith — he sums up what we're all about."

Parishioner Judy Cancro of Royal Oak personally thanked Consolmagno for the inspiring talk.

"It's wonderful that he has

such a grasp of the deepest things, and yet he enjoys the simplest things in life. It makes us so proud to have him from this parish," Cancro said. "He's open to God's inspiration in whatever he does."

Consolmagno shared his love of meteorite rocks and the joy of discovering the universe. He spoke about the oceans of water hidden beneath the moons of Jupiter, asking the audience to imagine "an intelligent tuna" living in that body of water.

"You're living in a universe that has a top and a bottom — how would you ever know that there was a universe outside of the universe you're living in?" he asked the parish. "And what are the limits of the universe that you and I are living in ... that we don't even know what we can't see."

Before returning to the Vatican, Consolmagno spoke to the students at OLQM on Tuesday and visited classrooms for the first time since graduating almost 50 years ago. Staffer Mary Staeger said the students presented him with an ABC book of bible verses as a gift to Pope Francis.

"It's that Catholic community," Staeger said of the special homecoming visit. "It's just the connection we have. We all stay together and come back ... almost like *The Lion King*, I guess."

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GARDEN

Continued from Page B6

rolling the rod to form shapes and meld colors. The artist sits on a bench seat with the rod resting on metal stands on both sides of the bench. A 2,300-degree heating furnace helps to keep the glass pliable while sculpting.

"If you want to feel adventurous and roll the pipe yourself, you will put your hand in this shiny area. If I see you reaching for this part of the pipe, I'll slap you," Albers

teased, pointing to the charred portion of the rod. "I've never burned a student. I have touched that area." He showed off a burn scar on his wrist as proof.

Peaks, valleys

Albers worked one-on-one with each participant. He gathered the glass on the rod, rolling the glob into a slight conical shape on a metal table, before plunging it back into the glass furnace and then into a mold to create a ridged pattern. The glass, marked with "peaks" and "valleys" took another roll on the table before

Albers placed it into a bin of colored glass pieces.

"When I roll it across the table, the peaks all get chilled," he explained, placing my glob of glass into the spearmint green color I had chosen. "All the colors will stay in the (warm) valleys."

I took a seat on the bench while Albers simultaneously plunged the glass into a heating furnace and coached me on holding the big, metal tweezers for the best control. I used them to pinch the end of the hot glass into a little tab then switched to scissor-like diamond shears to hold the tab

and pull while he rolled the rod in place. A heat-resistant glove might have come in handy right about then. The glass was as pliable as taffy, but thousands of degrees hotter.

After whacking off the pull tab, Albers gathered more clear glass, letting some of the excess drip off like honey into a bucket.

With another tug, a long pull, and a few squeezes, the reed began to take a slender shape. With tweezers in hand, I turned my wrist and the tip of the glass curled. A quick blast with the blow torch polished the rough tip.

The glass reeds cool slowly in an annealing oven and reach room temperature in about 14 hours. Artisans will attach a metal rod to the bottom of the glass and the Percolla Reeds will be ready to go home in a week — just in time for a little outdoor gardening.

To learn more about the Glass Academy, visit glassacademy.com. For more about Habatat's exhibit, visit habatat.com. Visit Michigan Hot Glass Workshop at michiganhotglass.com. Visit Epiphany Glass at epiphanyglass.com.

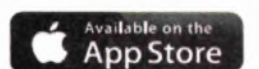
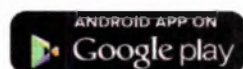
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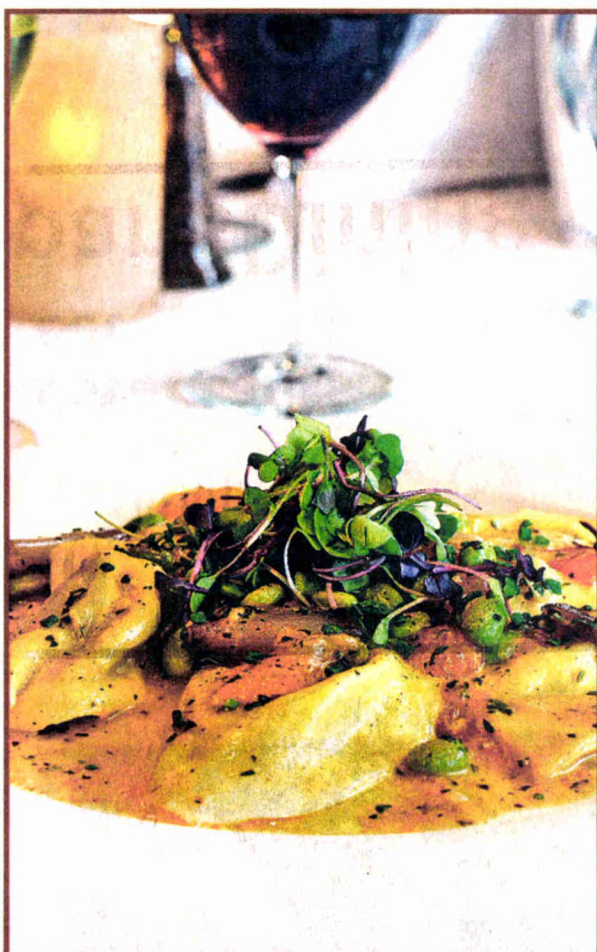
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Common mistakes can derail your first job hunt

BY DEBRA AUERBACH
 CAREERBUILDER

Job seekers just entering the workforce may be eager to land their first gigs ASAP. While enthusiasm is a positive thing, it shouldn't be at the expense of doing thorough research and taking the time to really prepare for all stages of the job-search process.

If you're new to the working world, here are some common mistakes to avoid so you can set yourself up for a more successful search.

Having an unprofessional social media presence

You know those pictures of you partying in college that are all over Facebook? It may be time to take those down — if you want to get a job. According to a 2015 CareerBuilder survey, 48 percent of hiring managers who screen candidates via social networks have found information that caused them not to hire someone.

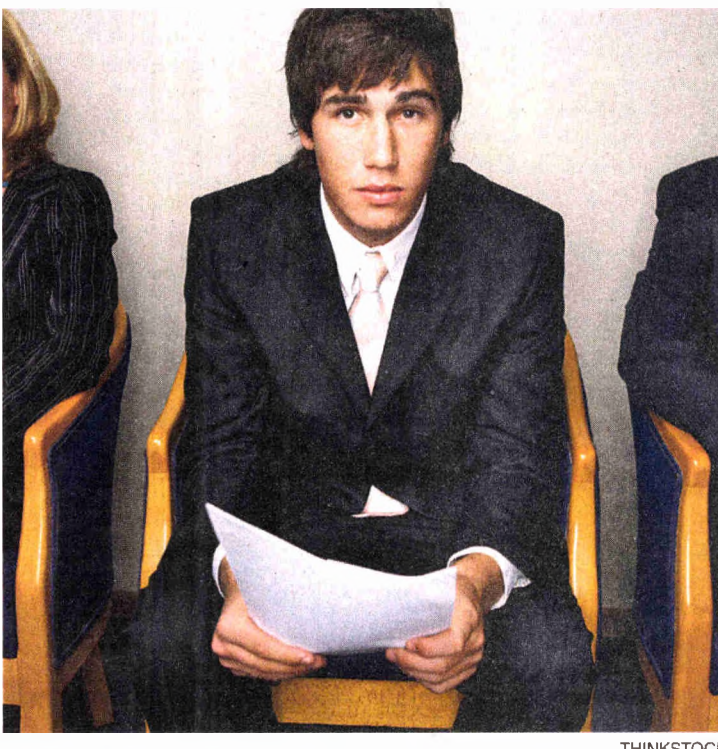
"Let your social media persona match the professional image you want to portray to employers," says Stefanié B. Lomax, president and CEO of the career consulting service HRPro4You. "If you want to keep your image of being fun intact with your friends, mark

your Facebook page private and take other necessary security protocols on other social media platforms to make sure that you aren't presenting an image that you don't want to get judged by."

Using a generic résumé and cover letter

"Résumés need to be tailored to a specific role and responsibilities," says Susan Peppercorn, a career coach and founder of Boston-based Positive Workplace Partners. "Inexperienced job seekers often assume that a one-size-fits-all résumé is all they need and often don't understand why they don't hear back. Unless you've taken the time to show how your experience and skills meet the needs of the employer, you'll never make it through the screening process."

The same customization rules apply to your cover letter. "The most common mistake I've seen is sending a generic cover letter that doesn't explain why you're applying for the job (or) why you're the best fit," says Ilana Zalika, co-founder of Resound Marketing, a public relations firm. "Take the time to research the job and the company and draw a connection between your background and the position available. If there's no connection, address it head-



THINKSTOCK

on and explain what other characteristics you have that make you a great fit — maybe you're a fast learner or have a personal passion for the job at hand."

Being unprepared for interviews

If you've avoided making the above mistakes and have landed an interview, don't ruin your chances by being unprepared. "Going into an interview blind puts you at a disadvantage and will not make a good first impression," says Lela Reynolds, a senior

career consultant at personal-branding firm Resume Strategists. "Research the company, department and details about the job. Look at the company's LinkedIn page and social media presence, spend time on their website and do thorough online searches. ... Also make sure to research the interviewer to learn about their role with the company, as well as their career path and education to identify any commonalities that may help you build rapport."

And don't forget to come prepared with questions —

something first-time job seekers don't always do, Reynolds says. "During an interview, when asked if you have any questions, responding with 'No, you've answered all my questions' doesn't demonstrate interest in the job and the company, which are key things interviewers look for. Prepare questions that are specific to the role, the company and its culture, growth opportunities and competitive landscape."

Not following up

Following up post-interview can be intimidating, and newer job seekers may be fearful of coming across as too aggressive. Yet a well-timed and appropriate follow-up can make a big difference, Lomax says. "I have had numerous conversations with hiring managers who were undecided between two candidates, and then one sent a thank-you note/email, and the decision was made. Not following up or thanking the interviewers for their time is a big no-no. ... It's a small detail that has a huge impact for the better."

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

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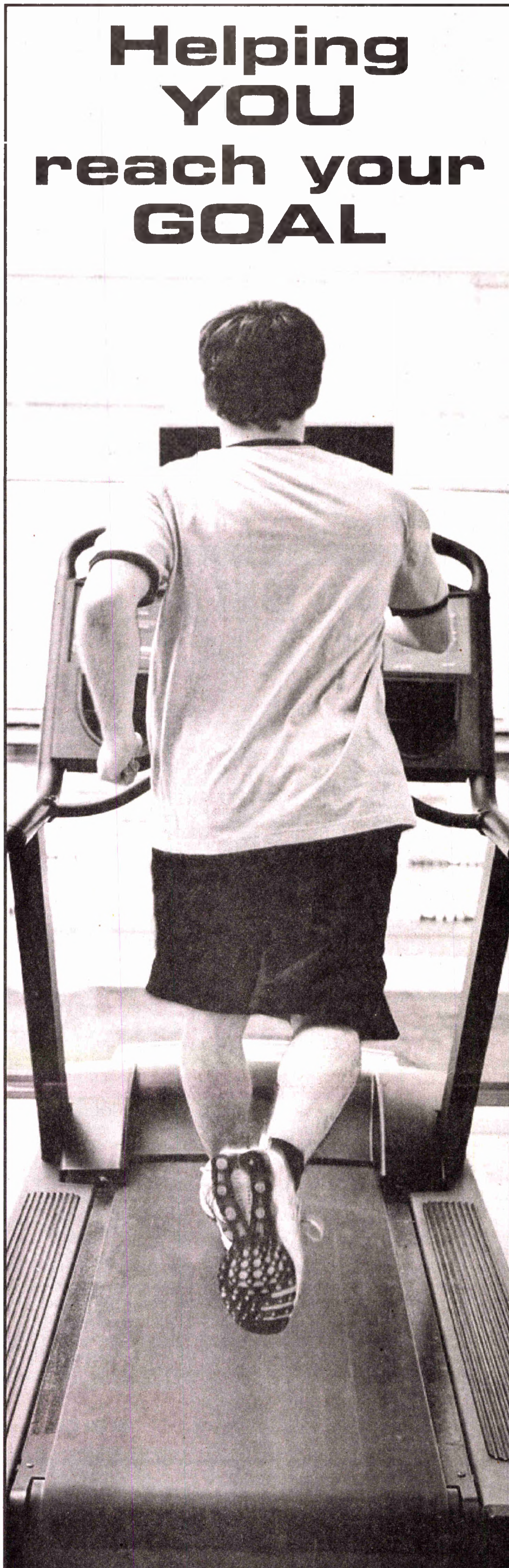
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Place a call incorrectly
 - 8 "Alley —!"
 - 11 — toe in the water
 - 15 Spat
 - 19 1979 Michael Caine film
 - 20 Sergeant's inferior
 - 22 Arab leader
 - 23 Had a different opinion
 - 25 Court plea, for short
 - 26 — the Greek (1964 film)
 - 27 Average mark
 - 28 French department
 - 29 Ax parts
 - 30 Mei of the old Giants
 - 31 1954 hit song with a biblical title
 - 35 Cyberspace letters
 - 37 Sigh of satisfaction
 - 38 Lott of football
 - 39 Valued highly
 - 42 "The Thing" star Russell
 - 43 Lose vigor
 - 45 Ship out
 - 46 Career-completion celebrations
 - 51 Canadian station name
 - 52 Spanish arena cry
 - 53 A — (slightly)
 - 54 Haughtiness
 - 58 "So it's you!"
 - 59 Bank offering for creditworthy customers
 - 66 Focuses in college
 - 68 Kochi sash
 - 69 Quarterback
 - 70 Like some high-quality models
 - 77 "I'm cold!"
 - 78 Bidding site
 - 79 180 degrees from SSE
 - 80 — Lingus
 - 81 Film director Kazan
 - 82 Formation of new areas of oceanic crust
 - 89 Mane locale
 - 93 In the past
 - 94 Minimal tide type
 - 95 Sudden pain
 - 96 Oblong pastry
 - 98 Bards' dusks
 - 99 Weight revealer
 - 101 Trainers looking for pins
 - 105 Clumsy ship
 - 108 Ticket details
 - 109 Regular pay
 - 110 Stable scrap
 - 111 "Along — spider ..."
 - 113 With 11-Down, settled for
 - 114 Takes a defensive position
 - 118 New — (Enya type)
 - 119 Kiss
 - 120 Divert
 - 121 Actors Beatty and Sparks
 - 122 Bodega, e.g.
 - 123 Profs' helpers
 - 124 Any of four long pairs featured in this puzzle
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Seder bread
 - 2 — the Sheriff
 - 3 Terse
 - 4 Paint crudely
 - 5 Sitcom actress Swenson
 - 6 NCAA part: Abbr.
 - 7 Nutlike Chinese fruit
 - 8 Band of eight
 - 9 Sound of awe
 - 10 Med lead-in
 - 11 See 113-Across
 - 12 Dubliners, e.g.
 - 13 1990s Toyota
 - 14 Bar brew
 - 15 Bone attachments
 - 16 Coca of comedy
 - 17 Enters one following another
 - 18 Iced
 - 21 Like some even distributions
 - 24 Eye, to Yves
 - 29 Inflated self
 - 31 Walk in shallow water
 - 32 — monde (high society)
 - 33 Old West's Wyatt
 - 34 Hankering
 - 35 Italian opera singer Pinza
 - 36 Debussy's "La —"
 - 39 Piece of audiophile equipment, briefly
 - 40 Divvy up again
 - 41 "This pays the rent, at least"
 - 42 Leg part
 - 43 Sirius, say
 - 44 Adjutant
 - 47 "Li'l ol' me?"
 - 48 Shade tree
 - 49 Artery: Abbr.
 - 50 Composer Erik
 - 55 Nettle
 - 56 "— Rose" (Nat King Cole hit)
 - 57 Eyeballing
 - 59 Victimizes, with "on"
 - 60 Blog feed inlets
 - 61 Electrojet bit
 - 62 Heat's org
 - 63 Up to, informally
 - 64 Downcast
 - 65 Anger greatly
 - 67 One — kind
 - 71 Hose hitch
 - 72 Lowdown
 - 73 Barn hooter
 - 74 Shocked reaction
 - 75 Sales staffer
 - 76 Opp. of departure
 - 81 Faico of "Oz"
 - 83 English peer
 - 84 Amoeba
 - 85 Wine: Prefix
 - 86 Tabula —
 - 87 Greek vowels
 - 88 Pointed tool
 - 89 Ted Koppel, for one
 - 90 Area of a plot of land
 - 91 Petitioned
 - 92 Events after Lent
 - 97 Cheez- — (crackers)
 - 98 Breakfast china item
 - 99 Old Iranian VIP
 - 100 Et — (and so forth)
 - 102 "In my dreams!"
 - 103 Stupor: Prefix
 - 104 Fowl sheds
 - 105 "My Cherie —"
 - 106 Oscar de la —
 - 107 Casey of countdowns
 - 111 Irene of "Fame"
 - 112 Awestruck
 - 114 Trig function
 - 115 Have chow
 - 116 RR depot
 - 117 — Ho Lee (scientist in 2000 headlines)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
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46							47	48				49			50						
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smccllellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

THERAPEUTIC WORD SEARCH

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

- WORDS**
- ADAPTIVE
 - ADJUSTMENTS
 - AUDITORY
 - AWARENESS
 - BILATERAL
 - COCONTRACTION
 - CONSTANCY
 - COORDINATION
 - DIRECTIONALITY
 - DYSPRAXIA
 - EQUILIBRIUM
 - EXTENSION
 - FINE
 - FIXATION
 - FOCUSING
 - FUNCTION
 - GROSS
 - HYPERSENSITIVITY
 - INPUT
 - INTEGRATION
 - MIDLINE
 - MILESTONES
 - MODULATION
 - MOTOR
 - NEUROLOGICAL
 - ORIENTATION
 - PERCEPTION
 - POSTURAL
 - PREFERENCES
 - PROGRESS
 - RECEPTIVE
 - REGULATION
 - RESPONSE
 - SKILLS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Crossword Answers

MISDIAL	OOP	DIPATIFF		
ASHANTI	CORPORAL	EMIR		
THOUGHT	OTHERWISE	NOLO		
ZORBA	CEE	OISE	EDGES	
OTTRE	WHIT	NER	THOUG	GOEST
PRIZED	KURT	SAG	SEN	
RETIREMENT	PARTIES			
ESSO	OLE	TAD	AIRS	
AHA	PRIME	INTEREST	STRATE	
MAJORS	OBI	AIKMAN		
PROFESSIONAL	GRADE	BRR		
EBAY	NNW	AER	ELIA	
SEAF	COORS	SPREADING		
NAPE	A	ONE	AP	TWING
ECLAIR	LEENS	SCALE		
WRESTLING	COACHES	ARK		
SEATS	WAGE	OAT	CAMEA	
MADE	CIRCLES	THER	WAGONS	
AGER	OSCULATE	THE	ROUTE	
NEDS	SHOP	TAS	ANAGRAM	

Word Search

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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Car Report

Chrysler Has Potential Hit with New Pacifica Minivan, Supported by Jim Gaffigan's 'Dad Brand'



By Dale Buss

When it came to promoting the new Chrysler Pacifica minivan as a paradigm-buster, Fiat Chrysler CMO Olivier Francois would have had to invent Jim Gaffigan—if the wholesome dad, comedian and author didn't already exist.

But instead, Fiat Chrysler was able to strike an effective relationship with Gaffigan—who has appeared in more than 200 commercials, including as the



latest incarnation of Colonel Sanders for KFC—as the personification of a “Dad Brand” for the vehicle that it hopes will shake up the stodgy minivan segment that Chrysler created 30 years ago.

“The modern minivan consumer can't be completely fulfilled with messages about this box-like vehicle about roominess, safety and practicality alone,” Francois told me. “There's a lot of competition these days when it

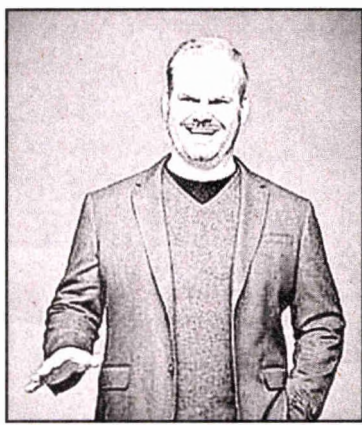
comes to vehicles with three rows. So we turned to the importance of storytelling, as we always have done.”

Case in point: Super Bowl ads including the “God Made a Farmer” spot and the Eminem “Imported From Detroit” commercial.

“But we recognized that we were not going to sell our new minivan based on telling some big, overarching, timeless truth about the family, about America, about the American family,” Francois continued. “We were going to win the pitch on features, because there are many new ones in Pacifica. But we needed a twist and to be engaging, credible and relevant.”

And so Gaffigan, the comedian who stars in a self-titled sitcom on TV Land, is at the center of a slate of humorous new TV commercials for Pacifica, which is a huge new product bet for Fiat Chrysler.

“When I started navigating



the web and was looking at all these stand-up comedians” for potential dads to fill the role, Francois said, “I said, ‘Gaffigan is my man.’”

Pacifica isn't an all-new vehicle; not by a long shot. It is replacing the venerable Town & Country minivan in a segment that has shrunk over the years, and in a Chrysler-brand product lineup with only three members.

In Gaffigan, Francois chose a formerly relatively obscure comic who has become a certified star over the last few years, with two New York Times bestselling books to his credit, and now movie roles, as well as his longstanding side career as a pitchman. Interestingly, he's portrayed as a classic suburban dad and husband, even though the comedian and wife Jeannie Gaffigan are raising their kids in downtown New York (which is depicted in the TV Land show).

But Pacifica offers a new name as well as a fresh approach to minivans, with a streamlined new exterior design and lots of new features: 37 “minivan firsts,” the company says, “for an unprecedented total of 115 innovations.”

And Francois's tack in marketing the new vehicle is groundbreaking as well: For the first time in a major, serious way, a minivan brand is appealing to fathers in a segment whose vehicles long have been associated with soccer moms. Chrysler especially wants to capture millennial fathers of young kids,



Jim Gaffigan in a Chrysler Pacifica.

of course.

Gaffigan warms easily to the role in the ads, showing off Pacifica's features while being playful with his kids and yet lovingly naughty and sometimes incompetent in a comfortable sitcom-dad kind of way.

As a spokesman, Gaffigan's other credentials also are impeccable, because he is a real father of five young kids—who, with Jeannie Gaffigan appear in the ads as well—with a “strong point of view on fatherhood and modern-day parenting,” as Francois put it in a press release.

“I really didn't want an endorser at any cost. I wanted a real dad or maybe a series of dads,” Francois told me. “Then when I realized that this crazy, funny guy happened to be the dad of five kids, and they're

all young—which is typical of minivan buyers—he was our guy.”

Francois added, “As the Chrysler brand is reinventing the minivan from the ground up, the objective of our campaign is to challenge the conventional category stereotypes and appeal to a new generation of minivan buyers, including younger families. To do that, authenticity is key, with real-life language and an endorser” who has credibility. (It no doubt helps that Gaffigan is famous for “working clean.”)

It's a promising start for selling Pacifica. And Francois promises much more content, soon, by way of new ads starring the Gaffigan clan. Fiat Chrysler has lots of good material for promoting its important new Chrysler vehicle of 2015, and Francois wants Americans to see it.

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