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Farewell to 'Z'

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Principal Bill Zolkowski announced he'll retire when the school year ends in June.

Zolkowski, who left Thurston High School in Redford to become the first Park principal in July 2009, said simply

"it's time" for him to move into a new phase of his life. "I have other things I want to

do while I still have the energy to do them," Zolkowski said. "It's just time. I have some regrets (about the decision). I walk through the halls and see things I still love and I think, 'Am I doing the right thing?' Then I talked to my wife, and yes, it's absolutely the right thing."

Zolkowski spent seven years as the principal at Thurston before moving to Plymouth-Canton.

Plymouth-Canton Supt. Jeremy Hughes said at a Board of Education meeting Tuesday the leadership structure will be evaluated in the wake of Zolkowski's retirement. No decision has been made yet on replacing Zolkowski.

Tax town hall

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, hosts an informative town hall 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at the Canton Township Administration Building to answer residents' questions on the recent changes to the state tax structure.

Community members can find out more about the changes, connect with resources that might be helpful as they prepare for the new tax system, and share their thoughts on the new tax burden imposed on Michigan families. Slavens will be joined by Lois Beerbaum of H&R Block and Kay Diggs of AARP of Michigan.

Senior party

The committee putting together the 2012 PCEP All Night Senior Party hosts a fundraiser Tuesday at the Canton Cinema from 6-10 p.m. The party earns 50 percent of concession sales if the movie goer brings a coupon printed off at home.

There will be coupons available in the lobby, organizers said, but those only earn 25 percent of the concession sales.

For more information and to get coupons, e-mail Cathi Macko at cathikenmacko@yahoo.com.

INDEX

- Community Life..... B5
- Crossword Puzzle..... C3
- Education..... A4
- Health..... B9
- Homes..... C2
- Jobs..... C1
- Obituaries..... B8
- Services..... C2
- Sports..... B1
- Wheels..... C4

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Canton faces water rate hike as officials weigh restrictions

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton would be slapped with an 8.3 percent water rate hike if preliminary figures released by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department hold true.

"It's a little bit lower than what we expected," Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said, "but it's still a big increase."

The figures are almost certain to change as Canton officials crunch numbers and calculate

local costs of providing water and maintaining the infrastructure to do it. Rate hikes typically become effective May 1 after local leaders announce public forums in mid-March to explain the increases.

Preliminary figures indicate rate hikes could approach 30 percent for some suburban communities.

Canton also has received word of a 6.5-percent increase from Detroit for the sewer portion of rates, Faas said, although

that number also is expected to change after Wayne County and local officials finish their own calculations for costs.

Public forum

In yet another piece to a complex rate puzzle, Canton officials are considering mandatory restrictions intended to ease future rate hikes and address low water pressure in some areas. The proposal is set for a public forum 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, inside the Canton

Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center.

The new ordinance, if adopted, would force residents and businesses with odd-numbered addresses to do outdoor watering only on odd-numbered calendar days. Consumers with even-numbered addresses would have to comply with even-numbered days.

All consumers who use automated irrigation systems such

Please see WATER, A6



Building bridge manipulator, Mentor Sameer Praikh of Bosch Corp., talks with programmer Nathan Sherrit and mechanical students Emmanuel Uwoma and Joel Adler.

Robotics squad aims at FIRST districts

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Eddie McClendon would hate it. But when Plymouth-Canton's robotics team, FIRST Team 862 Lightning Robotics, heads to district competition at Kettering University March 2-3, they're taking his namesake, a robot named "Eddie," with them.

While "Eddie" carries with him the responsibility of handling the basketball game tasks that have been assigned as this year's robotics task, the 72-member team will carry the memories of the former team member who died of bone cancer in 2010.

His death, said Kristen Todd, his teammate back then, was like losing a member of the family, because that's what Lightning Robotics is all about.

**ROBOTICS
ROUNDUP**

Who: Plymouth-Canton's FIRST Robotics team, Lightning Robotics Team 862

What: 2012 FIRST Robotics district competition

Where: Kettering University in Flint

When: March 2-3

Why: Game plan is to build a robot to score baskets in various hoops for points

'It's a family'

"It's not just a team, it's a family," said Todd, who organized the first robot unveil and symposium Thursday in the Salem High School auditorium. "When the war

Please see ROBOTICS, A4



Lightning Robotics members Ian Pudney (from left), Jeff Middleton and Jeff Hess will drive 'Eddie' in the upcoming FIRST Robotics competition.

District still adjusting to new MEAP standards

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

School officials shouldn't have been surprised that MEAP scores released Wednesday — the first scores using the state's new, more rigorous proficiency standards — show students aren't as prepared as they should be for college.

And they weren't. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials, like school administrators around the state, knew the scores — though higher or level in 13 of 18 areas — weren't going to be high enough to reach Adequate Yearly Progress status.

"Many of our schools raised their scores," said Dana Jones, the district's director of academic and assessment services. "It's too soon to know if we made AYP. The state raised the cut scores significantly. We can't worry about that; this is the new standard, and we've got to get there."

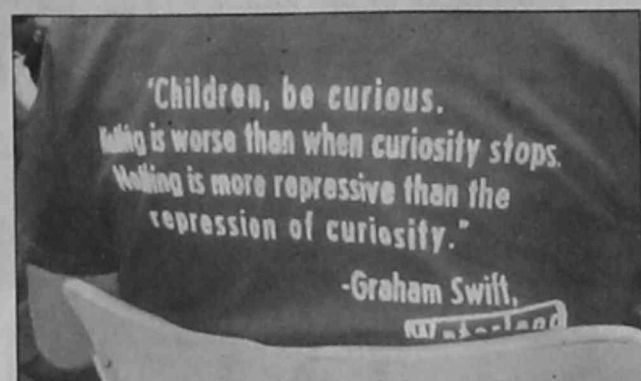
Michigan Department of Education spokesperson Jan Ellis said the state started talking about toughening the standards "well over a year ago."

Tougher standards

The state applied the more rigorous cut scores operationally for the first time to the 2011 scores while also applying the new cut scores to MEAP results from prior years to provide a meaningful comparison of the percentage of students proficient in each content area across the years.

Please see MEAP, A2

Panel OKs 'Waterland' for AP use



At last week's review committee hearing, 'Waterland' supporters wore this T-shirt emblazoned with a quote from author Graham Swift, who penned the book in 1983.

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Waterland, the 1983 Graham Swift novel that started a months-long controversy over its appropriateness for use in an Advanced Placement English curriculum, will live to teach another day.

The nine-member panel convened last week to consider the merits of a complaint brought by the Canton parents of an AP student offended by the book, and the defense of its use by the teachers charged with the program, decided in an anonymous vote to leave *Waterland* in the curriculum.

The committee met in a public meet-

ing Feb. 8 and heard from Barb and Matt Dame of Canton, who brought the complaint, and from AP English teachers Brian Read and Gretchen Miller. They met again in a closed meeting Monday and cast their anonymous votes this week.

Erin MacGregor, the district's director of secondary education who facilitated the review committee, said committee members were impressed with arguments made by both sides. However, he said, the argument Read and Miller made that *Waterland* and *Beloved*, Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning nov-

Please see 'WATERLAND', A2

MEAP

Continued from page A1

The old standard simply asked students to show a basic understanding of the material, while the new standards are based on how students would need to score to be ready for college and careers. Under the new system, students must get some 65 percent of the answers correct to pass the exams, compared to some 39 percent under the old standards.

"We passed new grade-level expectations, and we set the proficiency levels at a basic level to give schools time to integrate the more rigorous standards that were coming," said Michigan Department of Education spokesperson Jan Ellis. "There still was a very small percentage, maybe 20 percent, who were college ready."

Although Plymouth-Canton students still managed increased scores, the state averages weren't good when the new standards were applied. Consider:

- In math, 37 percent of students in grades 3-8 passed the MEAP exam. Plymouth-Canton students in grades 3-8 averaged 62.5 percent.

- State averages were better in reading, at 63 percent. Plymouth-Canton averaged 77.5 percent.

- The average pass rate in science statewide was 16 percent; Plymouth-Canton's was 22.5.

- Writing scores averaged 46 percent around the state; in Plymouth-Canton it was 61.5.

- Ninth-graders statewide scored 29 percent on the social studies test; Plymouth-Canton students hit 41 percent.

Waiver request

Federal No Child Left Behind guidelines call for schools to be 100 percent AYP proficient by 2014. Ellis noted the state board is preparing to request a waiver from the federal government for the 2011 scores to give the state a chance to evaluate.

In the meantime, educators plan to keep the focus on student achievement.

"We need to ensure all students receive either the technical skills to get a job, or additional schooling," Ellis said. "Number one is, we want to make sure parents don't have to pay for remedial classes because students didn't learn what they needed to learn (in high school). We want to make sure our students can get the best jobs available."

Jones is confident the district's ongoing move to match the state's more rigorous common-core curriculum should right the MEAP ship once adjustments are made.

"Our curriculum will be more rigorous," Jones said. "The common-core state curriculum is more rigorous, and we're working on ours to bring it to that level. We have work to do, definitely. If we were looking at last year's (cut) scores, we'd be celebrating. But there is a new standard, and we have to move forward."

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Plymouth - Canton Community Schools

District average

Percentage of students who were "proficient." Writing was new to 4th and 7th grades in 2010.

Grade	2009	2010	2011
3rd Grade			
Math	53.5	55.1	54
Reading	75.7	74.4	73
4th Grade			
Math	62.1	60.2	63.0
Reading	76.6	74.9	82.0
Writing		38.5	37.0
5th Grade			
Math	70	68.3	69.0
Reading	79.2	79.6	83.0
Science	18.2	27.8	23.0
6th Grade			
Math	72.8	64.3	69.0
Reading	78.8	76.5	79.0
S. Studies	48.1	42.1	45.0
7th Grade			
Math	62.4	58.6	61.0
Reading	71.8	74.1	75.0
Writing		66.0	66.0
8th Grade			
Math	59.2	54.6	59.0
Reading	69.8	71.8	73.0
Science	22.6	22.0	22.0
9th Grade			
S. Studies	53.1	44.8	41.0

Source: Michigan Department of Education

'WATERLAND'

Continued from page A1

el which had its own review hearing last month, fit together within the framework of the curriculum was a selling point.

"The feedback I heard was truly how impressed they were with the instructional program the teachers deliver," MacGregor said. "What I heard this time was the way the two novels play off each other really well and work into the curriculum really well. What they heard from the teachers, I think, made that argument very solid."

Matt Dame could not be reached for comment.

Read, who introduced the books some 10 years ago, said he was glad the committee opted to keep *Waterland* in the curriculum, and hoped the distractions caused by the controversy would end.

"I think we gave a very reasoned defense of it, so the (ruling) doesn't surprise me," Read said. "I'm happy. Hopefully, this will bring that all to an end."

Waterland has been out of the curriculum since Supt. Jeremy Hughes removed it in mid-December. Read said although *Waterland* has now been approved for teaching, it's too late to reintroduce it this year.

"We just finished (Friday) the unit that sort of brings those books together," Read said. "There's no time this year."

The book will be returned to the curriculum in the fall. At last week's public meeting of the review committee, Read and Miller said adjustments will be made to the syllabus to provide a more strident warning to parents whose students are considering the AP English course.

While the decision of the committee is not binding on the administration, Hughes has said he would abide by the rulings of both review committees.

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Detroit man gets year in county jail

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Detroit man who ambushed his ex-girlfriend in her Canton home and sexually assaulted her will spend one year in the Wayne County Jail.

Kerenski Caldwell, 43, also will remain on probation for five years after he was sentenced Thursday by Wayne County Circuit Judge Patricia Fresard, a court clerk said.

Caldwell's sentencing came after Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said he pleaded guilty Jan. 18 to second-degree criminal sexual conduct, stalking and domestic violence.

His plea agreement resulted in more serious charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and first-degree home invasion being dropped. If convicted as charged, he could have faced penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Caldwell's former girlfriend testified against him in November during his preliminary hearing in 35th District Court. She wept and her body was visibly shaking as she recounted what happened inside her Canton home last Oct. 12 when Caldwell hid in her bath-



Caldwell

room before she came home.

"He grabbed me by the neck and pushed me

against the wall," she said, accusing Caldwell of forcing her to the floor, sexually assaulting her, dragging her to a bed and continuing to attack her.

The victim said she punched and kicked Caldwell and managed to call 9-1-1 when he momentarily left the room.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, Caldwell already had spent years in prison for a criminal history including armed robbery, retail fraud, embezzlement, felonious assault and felony firearms. The incidents date back as far as 1990.

Caldwell's ex-girlfriend testified in November she suspected wrongdoing when she entered her home Oct. 12 and wasn't greeted by her dog, who had been placed on a sun porch.

She said she had known Caldwell for three years but they had decided to end their relationship and "remain friends."

dclm@hometownlife.com
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Woman pleads guilty in cop assault

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton woman suspected of driving under the influence of drugs found herself in deeper legal trouble following allegations she assaulted two police officers who obtained a court order to have her blood drawn at a health-care facility.

Police say the incident shows what officers sometimes endure while enforcing the law.

The 45-year-old woman could have faced penalties ranging up to two years in jail if she had been convicted of two counts of assaulting police officers who pulled her over near Haggerty and Kop-

pernick after another motorist reported an erratic driver, Detective Andrew Kelley said.

However, she is facing lesser penalties after she pleaded guilty Friday to reduced, misdemeanor charges of attempting to resist and obstruct the officers.

She had been charged amid allegations she was "fighting and kicking" the officers inside the Oakwood Health-care facility in Canton, Kelley said. The woman's blood test results weren't yet known.

Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said the incident should serve as a reminder for motorists — including those suspected of using drugs — to comply with police

officers who are merely trying to protect other drivers on the road.

"You run the risk of getting arrested, and you may have to submit to a blood test," Schreiner said. "That is part of being a responsible driver. The public expects people to drive within the limits of the law and to drive sober."

Police officers who have a court order to have blood drawn have the law on their side, Schreiner said.

"You just simply can't refuse," he said. "It doesn't give anyone the authority to kick and assault police officers who have a duty to protect motorists. They have an obligation to keep the roads safe."

The woman had been arraigned Feb. 8 for an incident Kelley said happened just before 8:30 p.m. Feb. 6. Neither of the officers was seriously injured.

The woman had a prior run-in with authorities following charges she was operating a vehicle while impaired in 2010, Kelley said.

Schreiner said he hopes others can learn from the alleged assault on police officers who are merely doing their jobs.

"It's not only a show of what officers have to endure from time to time," he said. "It's also a display of our officers handling it professionally and appropriately while doing their job."

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Stacey Turnipseed, RN
Director of Nursing

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ROBOTICS

Continued from page A1

was too hard (for Eddie) to fight alone, Lightning Robotics was right there to fight right next to him."

Now the team will take "Eddie" to Kettering to fight another battle. They've been working on him since January, when they got the game plan from the FIRST (For Inspiration and Respect of Science and Technology) Robotics program developed by Segway electric vehicle inventor Dean Kamen.

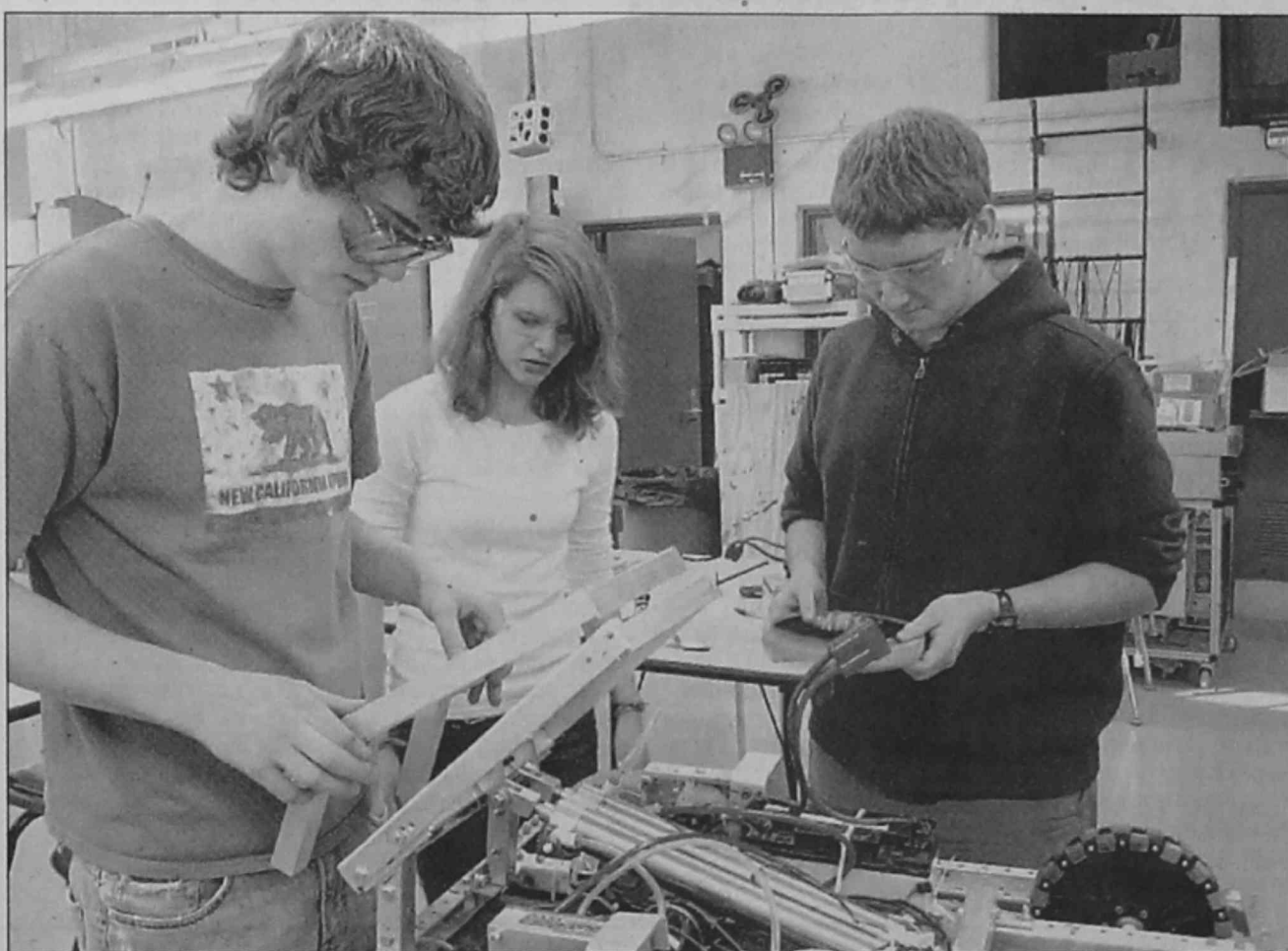
That opened a six-week window for the team, with its seven subgroups, to develop, build and program the robot to take on the challenge. The team's subgroups — manufacturing, programming, computer-aided design, electrical, marketing, scouting and website design — wasted no time getting started.

"We usually start that same day," said Sarah Leeson, a Salem High School junior from Canton. "You don't get much time, and you can't waste it."

Student-run

The team is totally student run, with an elected board of officers headed by current team president David Nikolits, a Canton High School senior from Plymouth. And that's not easy, considering it's an extracurricular program.

"It's hard," Nikolits admitted. "We have to fit this in with school and homework. Our parent mentors make sure school comes first. But it's worth it."



Team members Eric Devey, Kristin King and Tim Condron work on the bridge manipulator.



Matt Kohls takes a look at 'Eddie' from a computer-aided design perspective.

While the students make the decisions, they have plenty of support. Jay Obsniuk originated the team some 13 years

ago, and other teacher and parent mentors help out. And the program is done with a team of mentors from Bosch Corp.,



Tim Condron on the drill press as the building of 'Eddie' commences.

with offices in Farmington and Plymouth.

Bosch support

A team of engineers from Bosch — five full time, two part time — not

only oversees the engineering portion, but also has a hand in how the team uses the \$16,000 cash donation the company makes. "This is important ...



Freshman Brandon Diehl suited up as 'Gigawatt,' mascot for Plymouth-Canton's Lighting Robotics team.

this is the next generation of engineers," said Chris Morgan, a calibration engineer and Bosch's lead mentor for FIRST robotics. "This is a way to make sure kids understand science, technology, engineering and math disciplines. They're getting a crash course in Engineering 101."

It's a crash course the kids love, and it becomes a huge part of their lives. How huge? At one point, according to his dad, they wheeled Eddie McClendon to a robotics build on a gurney, and from that gurney Eddie was helping a freshman understand the rigors of the team.

How huge? The team heard about Eddie's April 2010 death while on their way home from the Michigan state robotics championship.

So how would he feel about having the robot namesake?

"Oh, he'd hate it!" said Edwin McClendon, Jr., Eddie's father and now a parent mentor for the team. "But that's Eddie. When he was sick, people always wanted to ask him about it, and he'd just walk away. He never wanted it to be about him."

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Canton replaces aging vehicles

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Amid a U.S. auto industry rebound that has General Motors Corp. reporting a record \$7.6 billion in profits last year, Canton Township has weighed in on new sales by spending \$149,067 to replace six aging vehicles among its fleet of 170 cars and trucks.

What's more, Canton stuck with Michigan-based dealerships as the township board Tuesday decided to replace four police cars and two public works trucks that had racked up as many as 156,630 miles for just one vehicle.

Rather than facing the scrap heap, the old vehicles will either be assigned for less-intense use or auctioned off.

For the police department, Canton will buy three new Ford Taurus patrol cars and replace a 2007 Ford Expedition with a four-wheel drive Ford Explorer for a combined cost of \$97,165 from Lansing-based Signature Ford, chosen through

Macomb County as the best bid.

For the public works division, local officials will replace two GMC trucks — one 14 years old, the other 12 — with two new GMC Sierra pickups for a combined \$52,902 from Westland-based Red Holman GMC.

Canton's police cars, which can encounter rough driving, typically are replaced after the 100,000-mile mark for safety and liability purposes, Faas said. That mileage is far above the national average of 70,800 miles cited by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Canton Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek partly attributed the longevity of local police cars to hard work by Canton's in-house mechanics.

"Not only are (the police cars) being taken care of, but we're convinced they're being taken care of the right way," Nemecek said. "We've had no problem getting 100,000 to 110,000 miles on our cars before rotating them out. It has been working out great for us."

Cox calls for Ficano to resign

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, has called for County Executive Robert Ficano to resign.

Cox called for Ficano's resignation Thursday at a commission meeting inside the commission chambers at the Guardian Building.

Cox's statements came one day after the FBI charged Wayne County's former Chief Information Officer Tahir Kazmi with extortion, theft and obstruction of justice. The FBI also charged Zayd Allebban, another member of the IT department, with obstruction of justice.

"Why does any duly elected commissioner have to put up with the corruption, incompetence and pettiness of the Ficano administration?" Cox asked. "Does anyone here know one employee — one employee out of our 4,300 employees — who is proud to say they are a public servant in Wayne County? Mr. Ficano and his administration have given a black eye to public service in Wayne County."

Cox said Ficano has "stonewalled" the commission on questions regarding spending. "He said there were no more severances; then we found out he was hid-



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

ing even bigger severances than Ms. (Turkia) Mullin," Cox said. "So I am going to say what most every one of those 1.8 million citizens have been saying. We need a leader who is not someone hiding out in a bunker on the 31st floor. We need a leader who is man enough to come before this commission and answer our questions. We need a leader — man or woman — who is strong enough to lead this troubled county. We need that leader now and it isn't Bob Ficano."

"Wayne County needs those of us on this commission to speak truth to power. It needs us to be silent no longer. So today I call on Bob Ficano to resign and let Wayne County move on."

Ficano issued a statement in response to Cox's statement.

"The commissioner's statements today are obvious political grandstanding that cannot be taken seriously and are not wor-

thy of a response," Ficano said. "I am not resigning, and there have been no allegations of wrongdoing made against me. My administration will continue to be cooperative with the federal authorities."

One other county commissioner — Bernard Parker, D-Detroit — also believes Ficano should step down.

It appears that other Democrats on the commission want more accountability and answers.

County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, a Democrat from Canton, said Ficano needs to sit down with commissioners and tell them what's going on.

"If he's not willing to do that, then enough is enough ... a lot of the commissioners feel that way," McNamara said. "He's misled us ... he's gone around the rules that govern how we do business. He needs to get out of that bunker on the 31st floor, tell us what happened and stop spoon-feeding the truth to us. Enough is enough."

Local community leaders are not joining Cox in her call for Ficano's resignation.

Canton Township Super-

visor Phil LaJoy, while stopping short of saying Ficano should resign, said Wayne County has obvious problems.

"I think there are some significant issues, and they need to be addressed," LaJoy said. "I don't think things are getting better. The problem for me is, every day it's something new. Somehow, somehow, these things need to be figured out."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume declined to comment on Cox's call for Ficano's resignation. He said county employees have always been attuned to the needs of Plymouth Township residents.

"Plymouth Township works cooperatively with the Wayne County administration, including the executive's office and individual Wayne County departments," Reaume said.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey would not comment on Cox's statement, nor would he comment when asked if he agreed with her or what he thought about the federal investigation of Wayne County.

Staff Writers Brad Kadrich and Sue Mason contributed to this story.

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These episodes exhibit the features of gout, but swelling is missing and repeat attacks so soon after therapy, is not in keeping with gout. The response of cortisone controls the pain, but the need for repeated doses brings the risk of steroid side effects such as bone loss and vulnerability to infection.

To date, investigators have found no correlation of this arthritis with changes in thyroid or kidney function, presence of diabetes or use of medications such as diuretics. Nor does any medicine other than steroids stop an episode.

This arthritis seems connected with aging, and with changes in bone chemistry. Until research uncovers the biochemical events leading to the acute episodes physicians see, the medical community must continue to treat and advise with caution.

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Canton threatens lawsuit to install water main

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton's elected leaders are threatening a lawsuit against a group of west-side property owners unless they agree to allow the township to install a new water main along the east side of Denton Road between Geddes and Mott.

Township officials are hopeful the 15 homeowners will avert a condemnation lawsuit by accepting what Municipal Services Director Tim Faas called "a good-faith offer" allowing Canton to install the

water main and restore the property.

"There should be very little disruption to the property," Faas said.

Firing a new salvo, the Canton Township Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to authorize the lawsuit against any property owner who tries to block the project by refusing to accept the offer by late this week.

"I see this as being purely procedural," Trustee Pat Williams said of the board's decision.

Canton officials say the water main is needed to address low-

pressure problems that have plagued Canton's southwest side.

Moreover, the project would bring water service to residents and allow the installation of fire hydrants. One house on Denton Road was gutted by a Jan. 12 fire that forced firefighters to haul water to the site.

"We need to put the water (main) in there," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

Water-pressure problems on Canton's southwest side are among the community's worst. Local officials are hopeful the residents have held out until

now as a bargaining chip to get what they can for allowing the water main on their property.

Any condemnation lawsuit would be filed in Wayne County Circuit Court — a move intended to allow Canton to seize property only for purposes of using the easement for a water main.

"We're hoping to do it this year, probably late summer or early fall," Faas said.

As part of the offer to property owners, he said, Canton has agreed to waive the front-footage fees for residents to tap into the water system. At an

estimated \$17.51 per foot, that would amount to \$1,751 for a house with a 100-foot-wide lot.

Canton officials say the new water main would represent the last leg of water-system work along Denton Road, making service more reliable in the area.

"The water line has to go in for the future development of that area," Williams said, calling the project "a win-win at the end of the day" for Canton and, specifically, Denton Road residents.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

WATER

Continued from page A1

as timed lawn sprinklers would have to limit those activities to midnight to 6 a.m. or face potential fines.

The latest rate hikes and possible mandatory restrictions point to escalating problems that frustrate local residents and officials alike.

This year's figures are the first since suburban officials gained representation on the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners, though long-time critics of Detroit rate hikes say it appears nothing can reverse the upward trend.

"My initial reaction is, it's absolutely outrageous that the city of Detroit would put these (new) numbers out there," Canton Township Trustee John Anthony said. "They have been dysfunctional for years, and the suburbs who contribute the most amount of money to the system are suffering. It's grossly unfair."

"How in the hell do they

come up with these numbers? Do they just have a dart board?" Anthony asked.

Property values

Even though reduced water usage doesn't equate to smaller rate hikes, Anthony predicted local consumers will react to yet another increase by watering their lawns less and letting their grass turn brown — a move he said could hurt property values.

"It's just a snowball effect that these rates have," he said.

Last spring, Canton customers ended up paying an average 7 percent more for water-sewer rates — less than the preliminary 10.3 percent water rate hike from Detroit — after local officials factored in lower sewer costs from areas served by the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority.

The 7-percent increase amounted to \$92 more a year for an average customer using 32,283 gallons of water every three-

month billing cycle. It was far less than the 16.9 percent water-sewer rate hike imposed in 2010.

Detroit officials have long said that, even if consumers reduce their water usage, the aging water-sewer system still has to generate enough revenue to pay for maintenance and improvements.

On one positive note, Faas said Canton's water system is apparently losing only a small amount of water compared to huge losses in some communities. He said Canton's "unaccounted for" water loss was just 1.1 percent last year, which he called "a good thing for rates and fairness in what our customers pay."

According to the American Water Works Association, water losses of 3-5 percent for a community of Canton's size places it in the "best-in-class" performance, Faas said, "so clearly we're proud of that figure."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

Notice is hereby given that a primary election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. below is a listing of the offices and proposals that will be on the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary Election. Sections are Partisan and Proposal.

Partisan Section:

President of the United States

Proposal Section:

Fire SAD Ballot Language

A proposal to create a special assessment district for fire services comprising all of the land of the Charter Township of Plymouth except tax exempt property under Public Act 33 of the Public Acts of 1951, MCL 41.801 et seq., thereby authorizing the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees, after public hearing, to annually assess and levy on the lands specially benefited an ad valorem special assessment based on the taxable value of the property in the special assessment district, in an amount not to exceed .10 percent of the taxable value of the property assessed (10 mills) for fire vehicles, equipment, apparatus and housing; and further authorizing the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees, after public hearing, to annually assess and levy on the lands specially benefited an ad valorem special assessment based on the taxable value of the property in the special assessment district, if the amount necessary for operation and maintenance of fire services.

Shall the proposed Special Assessment Fire District be created and the assessment be authorized?

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NEW POLLING LOCATIONS ARE:

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Precinct 2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft Rd
Precinct 3	Township Hall	9955 N Haggerty Rd
Precinct 4	Fiegel Elementary School	39750 Joy Rd
Precinct 5	Isbister Elementary School	9300 Canton Center Rd
Precinct 6	West Middle School	44401 W Ann Arbor Trl
Precinct 7	Church of the Nazarene	45801 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 8	Praise Baptist Church	45000 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 9	Living Word Church	46500 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 10	NorthRidge Church	49555 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 11	Risen Christ Lutheran Church	46250 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 12	Pioneer Middle School	46081 Ann Arbor Rd W

All polling locations are handicapped accessible.

Applications for Absentee ballots may be obtained during regular business hours, which are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Plymouth Township Clerk's Office
9955 N Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

On Saturday, February 25, 2012, the Clerk's Offices will be open; 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to issue Absentee ballots to qualified voters in person.

On Monday, February 27, 2012, qualified voters may be issued an Absentee ballot in person, and shall vote them in the Clerk's Offices until 4:00 p.m.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Township Clerk

Publish: February 19, 2012

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W-W board to interview four legal firms

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board has narrowed to four the list of law firms it will interview to serve as the district's general counsel. "The process started last fall and we've done a lot of work, now the legal committee needs suggestions on how you want to proceed," said board President Carol Middel. "The board needs to give the committee direction on how to do this process."

Twelve legal firms responded to the district's request for a proposal. The proposals were reviewed by board members over a three-week period and were rated on a five-point scale related to such things as knowledge of school law, board governance, civil rights, with districts of similar size and with municipal and corporate law.

The firms also earned additional points for factors deemed important like the degree of experience in laws affecting public school districts,

the cost of their services and their "reputation and ability to provide broad legal services promptly and effectively."

Top four

In a study session held last week, the board agreed to meet with representatives of the law firms of Dickson Wright, Collins and Blaha, Clark Hill and Lusk and Albertson. The board will interview two firms at a time at two special meetings. The firms will have an opportunity to do a 15-minute presentation, then the board will do two rounds of questions. The first round will be generic questions asked of all four firms, while the second round will be questions specific to each firm.

"I think the interview will be 45 minutes to an hour with each law firm between the presentation and out questions," said board Secretary Cindy Schofield. "I think they should do presentations because it will give

us a feel for their personalities and their skills. When they do the presentation, I don't want someone from their marketing firm, I want the lead attorney in front of us."

Board Trustee Frederick Weaver had initially suggested interviewing the top six firms "because there seems to be a significant drop off after number six."

"The top six would provide enough flavor to allow the board to look at what they're offering and not be restrictive," he said.

Schofield, however, questioned the idea of interviewing firms that would cost the district more in legal fees.

"When we went in to this process the stated goal was to save the district money, so why interview a firm that is more expensive than our current firm (Lusk and Albertson) and given the fact our department heads have given excellent reviews for current firm," said Schofield.

"Why interview a firm that on the list below our current firm."

"I agree with Cindy on that," said board Treasurer Shawna Walker. "The top four have the higher numbers."

"There seems to be a natural break between four and five," added Middel.

Interview questions

Board members were asked to come with ques-

tions in advance of the study session that could be used in the interview process. The trustees will receive copies of the top four RFPs to develop questions specific to those firms. School Superintendent Greg Baracy also asked that copies be provided to department heads who could also provide them with questions.

He also suggested that Middel or another

board member meet with the district's Human Resources director to go over the questions.

"If you're concerned about the type of questions, you could review them with Human Resources to see if they meet the guidelines of a good, solid interview," he said.

The board expects to begin the interview process sometime after next week's mid-winter recess.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:25
- JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (PG) 11:40 AM
- THE WOMAN IN BLACK (PG-13)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:50
- BIG MIRACLE (PG)
11:35, 1:55, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10
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Treasure Hunters Come to Livonia!

By Jason Delong
THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow
STAFF WRITER

Got Gold? This week, visitors can cash in on antiques, collectibles, gold, silver, coins or just about anything that is old.

THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow is not affiliated with or related to the Antiques Roadshow television series, PBS or WGBH

Clean out your attics, closets and lock boxes because Treasure Hunters are coming to Livonia. Event specialists will be in town examining antiques, collectibles, gold and silver.

While they will accept anything that's old, they will be focusing on gold and silver coins made before 1970, military items, toys and trains, musical instruments, pocket and wrist watches. Scrap gold is expected to be a popular category this week due to soaring gold prices.

Buyers for the event have noticed a tremendous increase in the amount of

"U.S. coins made before 1970 are most sought after by collectors. Coins made before 1970 are 90% silver and valuable because of the silver content or could be worth even more if one happens to be a rare date."

gold coming to the event and for good reason. Record gold prices have event guests cashing in on broken jewelry or jewelry they don't wear anymore with our "fair and honest" purchase offers.

Treasure Hunters encourage anyone planning a visit to take a minute and examine their jewelry box or their lock box at the bank and gather anything that's gold. If a guest

is not sure if something is gold, bring it anyway and the event staff will test it for free. Other gold items of interest include gold coins, gold ounces, gold proof sets and dental gold.

Other types of items event specialists hope to see include old toys and train sets. Archie Davis, THR's toy specialist spoke about some of the top toys getting great offers. "Old tin windup toys from the late 1800's through the 1960's are in great demand now," said Davis, "Especially those that are character related. Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, the Flintstones or any character toys are sought. Old Buddy L toys from the 1920's to 1960's are in demand." Basically any toys made before 1970 are wanted. Train sets made by Lionel, American Flyer, Marklin and others have the potential to fetch a large sum. Davis also stressed, "Toys with boxes and in mint condition bring sensational prices. Most of the toys that come

to the event are not in perfect shape but can still bring good prices from collectors."

When specialist Tom Fuller was asked what he enjoyed most about

working at the event, he was quick to answer, "Old coins and paper currency. For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated with collecting coins. I would go

through the change in my parents grocery store looking for rare dates and errors. Once, I found a silver quarter that I sold for \$300.00. Not bad for an 8 year old."

Fuller went on to explain that any U.S. coins made before 1970 are most sought after by collectors. Coins made before 1970 are 90% silver and valuable because of the



Above • A Gentleman sits with Mike Delong with anticipation as the event specialist examines his collectibles.

"If you go to the event, you can cash-in your items for competitive prices. THR's representatives will be available to assess and purchase your items at the Holiday Inn, Tuesday through Saturday, in Livonia."

silver content or could be worth even more if one happens to be a rare date. "We help people sort through their coins for unique dates. We buy all types of coins at the event from wheat pennies to buffalo nickels, which are valuable from one coin to an entire truckload. See you at THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow." said Fuller.

www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com

February 21st - 25th

Tues - Fri: 9AM - 6PM & Saturday: 9AM - 4PM

FREE ADMISSION

Holiday Inn
(Formerly Radisson)

17123 Laurel Park Dr. N • Livonia, MI 48152

Directions: 734.464.1300 Show Info: 217.787.7767



Cash in with the power of the International Collectors Association. Members are looking for the following types of items!

• **COINS** Any and all coins made before 1970. This includes all silver and gold coins, dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. All conditions wanted!

• **GOLD & SILVER PRICES AT 40 YEAR HIGH!** for platinum, gold and silver during this event. Broken jewelry, dental gold, old coins, pocket watches, Kruggerands, Gold bars Canadian Maple Leafs, etc.

• **JEWELRY** Gold, Silver, Platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and all types of stones, metals, etc. Rings, bracelets, necklaces, all others including broken jewelry. Early costume jewelry wanted.

• **WRIST & POCKET WATCHES** Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Chopard, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Illinois, Hamilton, all others.

• **TOYS, TRAINS & DOLLS** All types of toys made before 1970 including: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, train sets, all gauges, accessories, individual cars, Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all other trains, Barbie Dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, Characters, German, all makers accepted.

• **MILITARY ITEMS, SWORDS** Civil War, Revolutionary War, WWI, WWII, etc. Items of interest include swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear and letters. The older the swords, the better. All types wanted.

• **ADVERTISING ITEMS** Metal and Porcelain signs, gas companies, beer and liquor makers, automobile, implements, etc.

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- Fender
- Gibson
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- Gretsch
- Rickenbacker
- National
- And others

Is your family attic filled with old and forgotten memories?

Most pre-1970 bisque, china, paper mâché, wood, and wax dolls are considered desirable by collectors. If your doll has original clothing, wigs, shoes and undergarments, that increases its value.

Many toy cars, robots, Tonka and trains made before 1970 are wanted by International Collectors Association members as well.

We Buy Waterman's Autograph Albums



- Gather items of interest (as explained below) from your attic, garage, basement, etc. There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring
- No appointment necessary
- If interested in selling, we will consult our collector's database to see if a buyer exists; 90% of all items have offers in our database
- The offer is made on the spot on behalf of our collectors making the offer
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot and ship the item to the collector. The collector pays all shipping and handling charges
- You get 100% of the offer with no hidden fees



All sports memorabilia is in high demand including: Pre 1970's baseball cards; autographed baseballs, footballs & basketballs; jerseys; signed photos; etc...



THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow event runs Tuesday through Saturday in Livonia.

Gold and Coin Prices High, Cash In Now

"It's a modern day gold rush," said Treasure Hunters President, Jeff Parsons.

Gold is now trading near 40 year highs, and you can cash in at THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow. All types of gold are wanted, including gold



coins, Krugerrands, Maple Leafs, and other gold bars, etc. All gold jewelry, including broken jewelry is accepted. Anything gold and silver is wanted.

We represent many of the world's top numismatic coin collectors. We have been directly involved in millions of dollars worth of rare cash and coin sales over the past 15 years.

Our private collectors are seeking all types of rare coins and currency.

We have the resources available to pay competitive prices for all types of rare coins or entire collections. We can arrange a private discreet meeting with you at your bank or in one of our private suites. Whether you are ready to sell your life long collection or you are settling an estate we are at your service. We are professional, honest and discreet.

WE BUY 10¢ & 12¢ COMIC BOOKS!

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2 CENT PIECE
UP TO \$2,000*



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BUFFALO NICKEL
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JEFFERSON "WAR" NICKEL
UP TO \$2,000*



LIBERTY "V" NICKEL
UP TO \$2,800*



SHIELD NICKEL
UP TO \$4,000*



CAPPED BUST HALF DIME
UP TO \$10,000*



BARBER DIME
UP TO \$2,800*



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UP TO \$3,600*



SEATED LIBERTY DIME
UP TO \$6,500*



STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER
UP TO \$4,400*



BARBER QUARTER
UP TO \$3,200*



WALKING LIBERTY HALF DOLLAR
UP TO \$4,700*



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BARBER HALF DOLLAR
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MORGAN SILVER DOLLAR
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GOLD COIN**
UP TO \$3,800*



**\$5 LIBERTY HEAD
GOLD COIN**
UP TO \$4,500*



**\$10 INDIAN
GOLD COIN**
UP TO \$5,500*



**\$20 ST. GAUDENS
GOLD COIN**
UP TO \$6,800*



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GOLD HALF DOLLAR**
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GOLD DOLLAR TYPE II
UP TO \$14,000*



**\$5 DRAPED BUST
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UP TO \$40,000*



**FLOWING HAIR STELLA
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*This amount depends upon rarity, condition
and what collectors are willing to pay

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<p>2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LTD AWD STK# J11GC224</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$35,726</p> <p>BUY FOR \$522* /Mo. WITH \$0 DOWN</p> <p>BUY FOR \$500* /Mo. WITH \$1500 DOWN</p> <p>BUY FOR \$480* /Mo. WITH \$3000 DOWN</p>	<p>2012 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO STK# J12GC108</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$26,064</p> <p>BUY FOR \$318* LEASE \$217* 24 Mos. /Mo.</p>
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<p>2012 DODGE JOURNEY SE STK# D12J012</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$15,741</p> <p>BUY FOR \$173* LEASE \$103* 24 Mos. /Mo.</p>	<p>2012 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT 4X4 STK# J12L060</p> <p>\$17,563</p> <p>BUY FOR \$198* LEASE \$111* 24 Mos. /Mo.</p>

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Pay off charge cards and diversify portfolio with windfall

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my late 50s and receiving Social Security disability. I just received a settlement from Social Security and after I pay the taxes and legal fees, I will have approximately \$30,000. Currently, I do not need any additional income and I don't think I will need the money for at least 10 years.

After reading one of your past columns, I did refinance using the HARP mortgage and I'm locked in at 3 1/4 percent. In addition, I have \$5,000 on an outstanding charge card where the interest rate is 9.9 percent. I also have another \$10,000 in charge card debt, however, it is at 2 percent. The rate will adjust May 1.

I consider myself a moderate investor and my current portfolio, which is approximately \$150,000, is 50 percent U.S. stocks, 5 percent large, foreign stocks and 45 percent U.S. treasury. I would appreciate any suggestions.

A: My first recommendation is pay off both charge cards. In regards to the charge card that you are paying 9.9 percent, it is a no-brainer — pay this card off.

After all, by paying off this high-interest rate charge card, you're guaranteeing yourself a 9.9-percent return.

In today's world, most investors would agree that 9.9 percent is an

excellent rate of return. As to the other card, because your gimmick rate is set to expire in the very near

future, I think it also makes sense to pay it off. I have no doubt that when the rate adjusts in May, your rate will rise dramatically.

In the past, many people would transfer the balance to another gimmick rate deal and keep doing that. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as it used to be. You may find that you are unable to do this. Therefore, pay off both cards now.

I love the idea that you are looking at long-term growth for the remaining money. Based upon that and what you currently have in your portfolio, I recommend investing the remaining \$15,000 in an emerging market fund. At this point, you don't have this asset class in your portfolio.

Emerging market funds invest in new economies such as China and India. It used to be that only aggressive investors invested in an emerging market fund, however, that is no longer the case. Today, all invest-

tors need to maintain a position in emerging market funds for diversification purposes.

A couple of no-load (no commission) funds to consider are the Fidelity Emerging Market Fund and the Acadian Emerging Market Fund. The Vanguard Emerging Market Stock Index is another good fund to consider.

When I got involved in this business more than 25 years ago, investing internationally was considered the cutting edge. Investing in emerging markets was unheard of.

As far as I'm concerned, just about all investors need positions in large company international, small company international and emerging markets. Just as large corporations now think globally, investors need to do the same thing. Investing internationally is not aggressive nor is it unpatriotic. It is smart and over the long run, the smart investors are the ones who end up with more money in their pocket, and that is exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Canton man dies in U.P. crash

Authorities say a Canton man has died during a snowmobile accident in the Upper Peninsula.

According to published reports, 65-year-old Carl Dale Peterson of Canton died after his snowmobile hit a tree

Thursday afternoon in Adams Township in Houghton County.

The crash happened along the North Freda trail. The Houghton County Sheriff's Department said the crash is under investigation.

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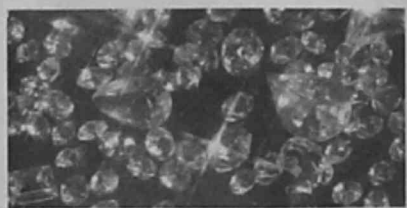
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Spring forward to a good night's sleep with Garden City Hospital.



Having trouble sleeping? Believe it or not, Daylight Savings Time can play havoc with your sleep schedule. Come discuss a variety of sleep related topics with the board certified "GCH Dream Team". From insomnia to sleep aids, the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan will help you rest easier...and better!

Tuesday, March 6, 2012
5:30 pm – Registration
6:00 pm – Presentation

Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan
35600 Central City Parkway • Westland, MI 48185
(Located in the Westland Specialty Center; adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods)

This event is free to the public and includes speakers:

- **Medical Director of the Sleep Disorders Center of MI, John Morrison, Jr., DO**
Reviews and explains the various sleep disorders
- **Pharmacist, Lisa Cayo, R. Ph.**
Discusses over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids, and the interactions and effects of medications
- **Sleep Medicine Specialist, Amal Omran, MD**
Provides an overview of sleep disorders in children
- **Diabetes Educator, Sharon Goodsell, RN**
Explains the link between Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and diabetes

Plus, tour our technologically advanced facility

Also, on-hand to discuss the latest products and services for improving sleep are: Garden City Home Medical Equipment and Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc.

There will also be a prize drawing that will include gift cards and more!

Light refreshments will be served, but space is limited and registration is required. To reserve your space, or for more information, call 734.458.3330



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Romney talks business at chamber luncheon

By Stacy Jenkins
Observer Staff Writer

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said all the right words to a crowd of more than 500 Thursday at a lunch co-hosted by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I liked how he talked how important Michigan is, and about bringing businesses back to Michigan," said Mark LaBerge, an ambassador with the Livonia Chamber.

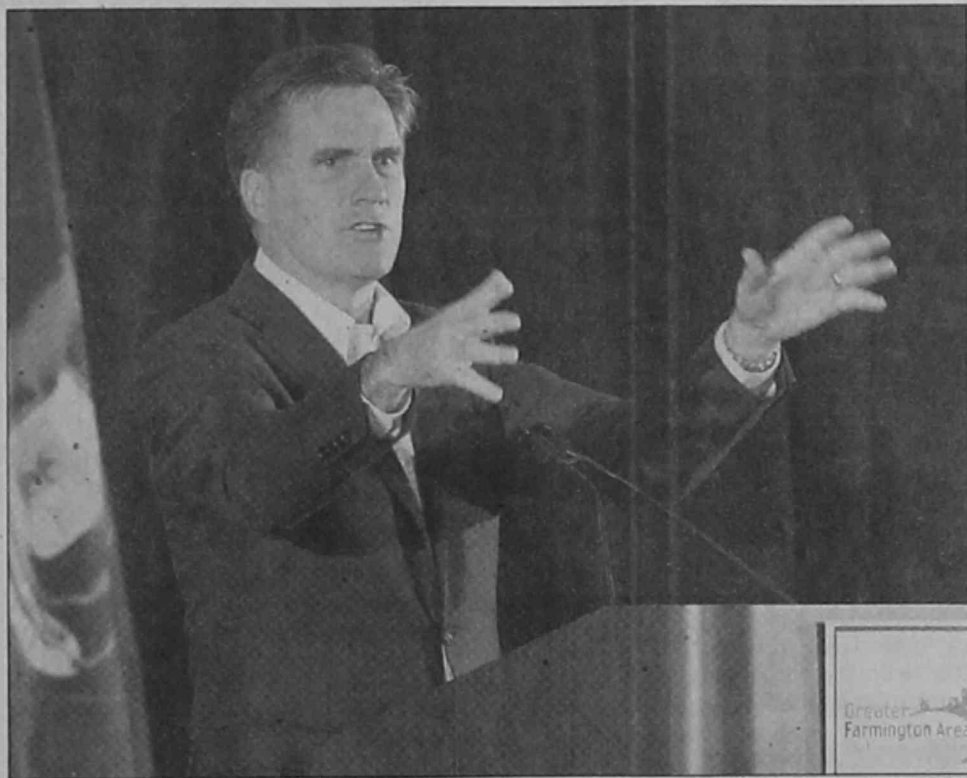
His son, Andy LaBerge, of Livonia, who is 22, said he was impressed by Romney's words — and his spirit.

"I think he truly believes in America," he said. "My generation is looking for jobs — and for the president himself to hold to his promises. That's the biggest thing that's caused anger and disapproval in our current president, in my generation."

The longtime businessman and former Massachusetts governor made a strategic stop on the campaign trail, just hours before key opponent Rick Santorum was scheduled to speak at the Oakland County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner in neighboring Novi.

The Republican presidential primary in Michigan is Feb. 28.

Romney was joined by family members and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder at the event, held at the Farmington Hills



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mitt Romney said many Obama administration actions are anti-business.

Manor. Snyder, Thursday, publicly endorsed Romney in a *Detroit News* guest column, and offered words of support before Romney took the stage.

He means business

Snyder pointed out Michigan "had been at the bottom, for a decade, of all 50 states," but is now repositioned as a leader in a fiscal turnaround that has erased a \$1.5 billion debt and eliminated \$5.6 billion in long-term liability.

He also touted the elimination of the Michigan Business Tax and Michigan's recent climb from 49th to seventh best in

the nation for corporate taxation.

"We are now becoming a role model for the rest of the United States, in what success is all about and what teamwork is all about," he said.

Change in D.C.

Snyder said Washington D.C. is holding the state back.

"Washington is a divided place and the job is not getting done," he said.

"We need the leadership in Washington to get that job done. To do that, we need the right people, leading the charge. We have a person in Governor Romney who has that

background. He has a great combination of private sector experience ... and being the chief executive of a state."

Romney echoed his experience in the private sector as being essential in knowing the nuances of how to run a government.

He was preaching to the choir, to a room filled with Chamber of Commerce members who own or manage businesses.

"In the private sector that you all live in, you're either fiscally conservative or you're out of business," he said. "You can't borrow money year after year and spend more than you take in, or you'll go bankrupt. And, if you don't balance your budget, you'll kill your enterprise."

operations at Garden City Hospital, said Romney's speech was "very fruitful and insightful."

"He is a man who can hopefully lead the American people in the right direction," she said.


Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said Romney's speech was so spot-on and succinct, he told him afterward, that he should make audio copies and distribute it all over the country. He liked that Romney explained his private sector background and why it's important in government — and how he would make it work.

"It was one of his most effective presentations," said Kirksey. "I thought both governors gave outstanding speeches."

Inspiring

Debra Williams of Livonia, vice president of

sjenkins@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2369



CITY OF PLYMOUTH

"PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE"

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Presidential Primary Election will be held in the City of Plymouth, Michigan on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**, for the purpose of nominating candidates of the Republican and Democratic Parties for the following office:

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Applications for absentee ballots may be requested, or applied for in person, from the City of Plymouth, office of the City Clerk, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170. Telephone number is 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225.

Absentee ballots will be issued to qualified absentee voters if they apply in person at the City Clerk's offices from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, February 25, 2012. On Monday, February 27, 2012, absentee voters may apply for and receive ballots and vote them in the Clerk's office from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Polling locations in the City of Plymouth are as follows:

PRECINCT #1, #2, #3, & #4 CULTURAL CENTER
525 Farmer Street

Any questions concerning obtaining ballots, registering to vote or voting locations, can be directed to the City Clerk's office.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: February 19, 2012 OE076662 - 3x4.5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

NOTICE OF HEARING

ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

Tuesday, March 6	9 am - Noon	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 12	2 pm - 5 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 14	9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Thursday, March 15	9 am - Noon	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 17	9 am - 11 am	First Come - First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received by mail or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Friday, March 23, 2012 at 4:30 pm.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 16, 19 and 23, 2012 OE0767968 - 3x5

ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed proposals will be received for the construction of the Plymouth Township 2012 Barrier Free Sidewalk Ramp Improvements by the Plymouth Charter Township as Owner, until 10:00 AM Local Time, on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read:

Major Estimated Work:

Concrete Sidewalk and Ramp	7,345	S.F.
Concrete Curb	700	L.F.
Detectable Warning Strips	65	EA.

Funding for the project work is being obtained through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project and that the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, in accordance with Executive Order 11246 Equal Employment Opportunity and Notice of Requirements for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity.

The Contractor must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, July 2, 1964 (Title 40 USC 276A to 276a-7), the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, September 28, 1965 No. 11246, all United States Department of Labor Regulations and Standards Title 29, 1,3, and 5, and Title 18, USC Section 874, known as "Anti-Kickback Act", and the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

The Contractor shall comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 USC 1857 et seq., the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 USC 1251 et seq., and the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect thereto, at 40 CFR Part 15, as amended.

Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 on or after January 31, 2012. Bid documents may be mailed for a charge of \$10.00.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check in the amount of 5% of the bid, payable to the Owner, as security for acceptance of the contract. A bid bond in the Michigan Standard Form issued by an approved surety company may be furnished in lieu of a Certified Check.

No bidder may withdraw his proposal within 60 days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The right is reserved by the Owner to reject any or all proposals, either in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities therein.

Signed: Joe Bridgman, Clerk
Plymouth Charter Township

Publish: February 5 & 19, 2012 OE0768004 - 3x6.8

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Family Center helps clients get back on their feet

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A large overdue DTE Energy bill and issues with housing brought Christina King and her five children to the Wayne County Family Center about four months ago.

"It's been decent (at the center). I'm working on housing, schooling and getting myself out of debt," said King, 28, who

has 11-year-old twin boys, 7-year-old twin girls and a 9-year-old son. "I'm making progress."

The Wayne County Family Center is one of the few homeless shelters in Michigan where family members can stay together in the same room. The 24 families - currently 79 people, including 55 children - don't share their room with anyone else.

Before coming to the center, King said she and



Christina King, 28, and her son Marctwan Thomas, 9, have been staying at the Wayne County Family Center for about four months. King, who also has two sets of twins, had been living in Detroit in a home without electricity.

the children had lived in a place without electricity for eight months.

"I'm trying to get a business and finish up my schooling," said King, who is working to complete her GED. "I would like to open a clubhouse for kids and adults."

Common dilemma
With a large debt still owed to DTE, King is faced with the problem of trying to deal with past debt and trying to support her family going for-

ward. That's a common dilemma for family center clients.

"If bills need to be paid and you're not working, the debt is still growing," said Wayne County Family Center Director Angela Pilarski. "Getting out of poverty isn't as easy as getting a job. It's not that they aren't trying."

As clients struggle to get back on their feet, Pilarski said they often don't make enough money at jobs or are under-

The only criteria for families to receive help at the family center is homelessness. Families can stay up to two years although but the average is six to seven months.

Some families had trouble with large utility bills or another financial issues that resulted in homelessness, said Brenda Johnson, program administrator.

"Some were living in homes that were in foreclosure and the landlord didn't tell them. Or a landlord gets people into a house and didn't own it," said Johnson. "There is a loss of jobs. Some owners lost their homes."

When clients meet with case managers, Johnson said they determine what the clients see as their obstacles and set goals to help them move forward with their lives.

Outreach program
A single parent, Johnson said, would be

encouraged to apply for jobs that would work around the children's school schedule. Once a family has left the center, there is a six-month outreach program that helps them connect with after school care.

"We try to promote getting families into Section 8 subsidized housing. It's affordable," said Johnson. "The rent goes down, if your income drops. It doesn't mean you get put out of your home. It's secure housing."

Many families are struggling economically, Pilarski said, with housing being a major problem.

"It's very emotional to try to get the best for your kids, your intentions might not come to fruition," Pilarski said. "That's why trying to connect people to all these services is essential. It's very difficult to negotiate."

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Notice of Public Sale of Liened Property

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on March 8th, 2012, 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 E20 Cosey, Household Goods: Unit J19, Nash Household Goods: Unit K20 Garrison, Household Goods: Unit A11 Healy, Household Goods: Unit J32 King, Household Goods: Units H30, I11, I28 Brant, Household Goods: Unit G05 Didario, Household Goods: Unit K09 Ray, Household Goods.

Publish: February 19 & 26, 2012

OE0878806_2x2.5

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Technology Department
1036 S. Haggerty Road
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Telephone: 734-416-2711

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Interpreter services available upon request to Technology Dept, 734-416-2708

Publish: February 19, 23 & 26, 2012

OE0878809 - 2x8

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Tuesday, March 6, 2012 Loc Performance Products, Inc.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider the request of Loc Performance Products, Inc. for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for the cost of machinery, equipment, furniture, and fixtures located at 13505 Haggerty Rd, Haggerty, L.L.C., Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

The request of Loc Performance Products, Inc. is on file in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

During the public hearing any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered. Contact phone number is 734-354-3224.

The public hearing, commencing at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday March 6, 2012, will be held in the Town Hall at the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

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Growth Works applauds young people who overcome

By Julie Brown
Observer Staff Writer

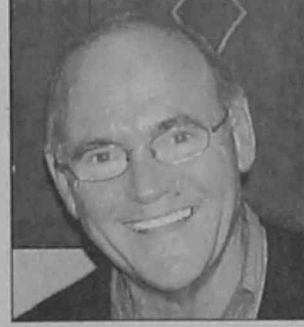
Area young people and adults were lauded Thursday at the annual Growth Works Recognition & Awards Dinner. Each year, the agency acknowledges endeavors of young people who successfully address significant obstacles in their lives. Some have come to Plymouth-based Growth Works through the juvenile justice system and have been in the Western Wayne Care Management Organization, one of five delinquency agencies established by Wayne County to serve the needs of delinquent wards. "We like to acknowledge the progress youth have made in improving their lives," said Dale Yagiela, executive director. "And also people in the community who have been helpful in that process." Growth Works started in 1971 in its same downtown Plymouth building with Yagiela as the first



Honoree Austin Thomas shares his thoughts at the dinner.

employee. "A lot of our supporters and friends come together" each year at the dinner, he said, including the Growth Works board, county commissioners and those who work in juvenile justice with Wayne County and agencies including Growth Works, Wolverine Human Services and others.

'Nice moment'
"These are folks who all play a role. We're always dealing with the difficult parts of this, so this is really a nice moment," Yagiela said of the evening. WWCMO relies heavily on Growth Works' Addiction and Recovery Treatment efforts. Tiffany Willoughby of Farmington Hills and



The late Ronald Harrison was honored at the Growth Works dinner. He introduced the idea of adolescent substance abuse treatment to the agency in the early 1980s and was a recovering person himself.

Joseph Taylor of Garden City were recognized for efforts toward continued success in the community following program services from Western Wayne Care Management

Organization. Austin Thomas of Plymouth, Sean Hyde of Plymouth and Marissa Thilman of Ypsilanti were recognized for continuing commitment and efforts toward recovery and achievement following services in Community Intervention and Treatment. During the dinner at Fox Hills Golf Club, three Growth Works board members were lauded for years of service: Steve Harper, 30; Pete Wilson, 25; and Don Morgan, 20. Community Awards recipients included Jim Belknap of Royal Oak, who retired last year as the deputy director for Juvenile Justice Services for Wayne County and was a "charter member" of the county's Care Management effort. Commu-

nity Awards recognize efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people. "He was really instrumental in working out policy and process issues. He really was a good teacher to our staff," Yagiela said. Keith Johnston of Belleville also received a Community Award. Johnston is a businessman who's active in the Van Buren/Belleville communities. He has been active in that area's WWCMO Community Team. "He's really been helpful in working with kids we have coming out of residential programs," the executive director said. The community team is an effort to connect community stakeholders to the youth in the CMO.

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Santorum calls Michigan primary 'game changer'

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Declaring Michigan "is in a high-stake place" in the November elections, Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum fired up an already energized crowd of 1,400 at the annual Oakland County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner Thursday in Novi.

The former U.S. Senator criticized the current administration and outlined his vision for a United States that is "built on the concepts that made America great."

Held at the Suburban Collection Showplace, the event reportedly drew record numbers, dwarfing the typical attendance of some 500 seen at past years'



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former Sen. Rick Santorum greets the Oakland County Republican Party at their Feb. 16 dinner in Novi.

Lincoln Day dinners. Santorum, the final speaker in a lineup that

included Gov. Rick Snyder, Ann Romney and Rev. C.L. Bryant, out-

lined a conservative agenda that embraces "foundational freedoms," economic opportunity for all and limited government — buoyed by solid family values. This, he said, is the key to once again making America "the model for the world."

Calling President Barack Obama "divider in chief" and describing the current Congress as "horribly unpopular," Santorum said "we don't have the leadership to remind us what brought us together, what made us great."

America, he said, "is a great country because we believe in a great society being built from the ground up, a great society that trusts free people."

He also spoke out

against Obama's "over-reaching and over-burdening regulation" that he said is thwarting free enterprise and job growth. "It's crushing and destroying the goose that laid the golden egg," he said.

Santorum said Obama "is a president that doesn't believe in you." "You need someone who can paint a picture of an America that puts people to work, not make them dependent," he said.

Noting that his relatives emigrated to the United States knowing they would find opportunity and freedom, Santorum said people "need to elect someone who understands the heart and soul of America's values, to go out and talk to the American people, to remind us who we are and what brings us together."

This is a "time of great consequence," Santorum added. "And Michigan, Michigan is in the center. You have an opportunity to be a game changer in the primary. You

have an opportunity to be a game changer in the general election."

In the crowd were several Milford High School students, who said they were selected for the event by their advanced placement government teacher.

"I am a conservative, but I still haven't picked a candidate," said 18-year-old William Schoenle, a senior.

Fellow student Chris Orr said he wanted to attend "just to get involved in government."

"And to keep my options open," he said.

Novi resident Jack Donnelly said he was "here for great government."

"I just want to hear what they have to say. I haven't totally made up my mind (for the primary), but I will."

"And I think it's inspiring to see all the young people here," Donnelly said. "It's very encouraging."

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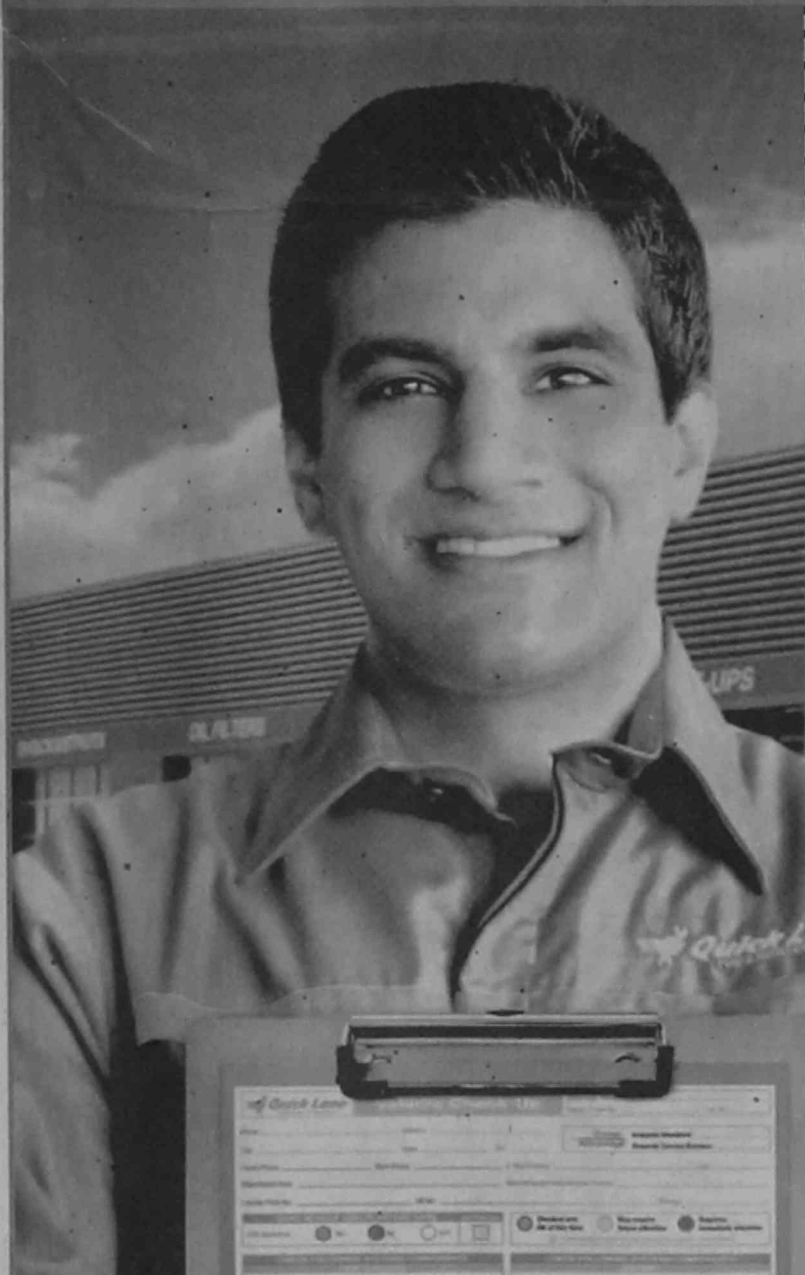
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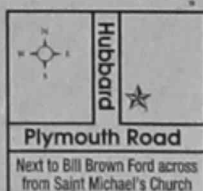
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SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR
tsmith@hometownlife.com
734-469-4128

Crushing loss for Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Only three bouts separated Plymouth's wrestling team from reaching the finals of Wednesday's Division 1 team district regionals at Garden City High School.

But like the proverbial tug of a carpet beneath them, the Wildcats — who led much of the dual meet — were unable to close the deal

against Farmington, losing 38-36 after the Falcons were victorious via the pin route at 171, 189 and by void at 215.

Ryan Southerland started Farmington's late comeback. He pinned Cody Hunley in 1:28 at 171.

The pivotal bout at 189 nearly went five minutes before Farmington's Trent Bekker took down senior Matt Walsh — called in to service despite weighing around 150 pounds. Then at 215, P.J. Hicks won by void to complete the rally.

Valiant effort

"We knew we couldn't fill 215 with the team we had there that day and we knew their kid at 171 (Southerland) is pretty talented," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "... We were really trying to win that 189 match. We sent out Matt Walsh, a senior for us.

"Matt wrestled at 152 on Saturday at individual districts and we put him out at 189 and said 'Hey

Please see WILDCATS, B4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Five Plymouth Wildcats football players (seated) recently celebrated with their parents after signing to play collegiately. From left are: Robert Riche, with mom Christine Riche; Davon White and mom Lula White; Faris Abraham, with Curt Wachlarz, Amy Wachlarz and Sam Wachlarz; Shaun Austin, with Vince Austin and Karen Austin; and Tyler Goble, with Lisa Goble and Ron Goble.

College 'Cats

Plymouth gridders sign, eager to tackle next challenge

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

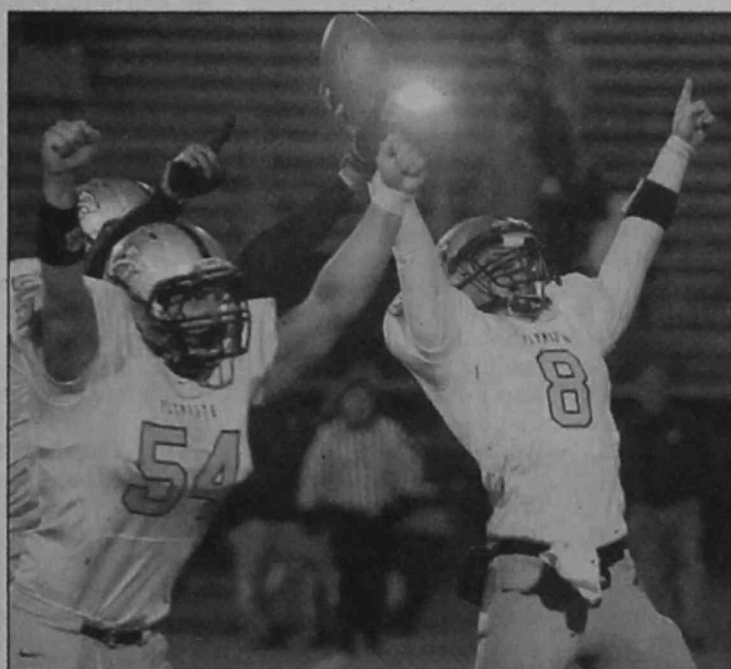
Success on the football field is something six Plymouth Wildcats have in common, having reached the Division 1 state finals in 2010.

For six of those players, they have another common thread — signing to play college football.

Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk introduced five of those players at a Feb. 9 press conference, delayed a week after National Signing Day because some of the parents were not available for the unveiling.

"We're at 46 kids that have used football as the platform to get to the next level since I took over (in 2007)," Sawchuk said. "We're very proud of that. These kids have done a great job of listening to the coaching staff and buying in to what we're selling them about good grades."

Headed to Division I programs are linebacker Tyler Goble (United States Naval Academy) and offensive line-



Plymouth's Tyler Goble (No. 54) and Shaun Austin (No. 8) celebrate after winning a playoff game in 2010. Both recently signed to play college football.

man Robert Riche (University of Buffalo).

D-II recruits include quarterback-turned-safety Shaun Austin (Michigan Tech University), linebacker Faris

Abraham (Northwood University) and running back Donte Fox (Grand Valley State University).

Please see SIGN, B3

Solid Rocks zap Zebras

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Salem's combination of size and inside skill trumped Wayne Memorial's run-and-gun style Friday night as the Rocks defeated the Zebras 60-49 in the opener of the KLAA boys basketball tournament.

A 17-rebound, five-block performance by Salem junior forward Chris Dierker and a double-double by senior guard Tyler Stewart (20 points, 11 boards) sparked

BOYS BASKETBALL

the home win. The Rocks (15-2) will host South Lyon at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the semifinals. Ensuring that matchup was the Lions' 60-55 win Friday over Canton.

Veteran Salem head coach Bob Brodie told his squad to expect a fast-paced game with a lot of shots and that's what happened.

Wayne (8-9) made just 19-of-80 shots from the floor (including 4-of-23 from behind the arc) for a dismal 23 percent. The Rocks weren't much better (22-of-62, 35 percent).

No time or space

"I don't know how many of them were threes," Brodie said. "But we were expecting a lot of threes and a lot of shots. That's their forte.

"They don't spend much time on offense whatsoever. So we wanted to make sure we challenged their outside shots and not give them free looks out there. ... We got a couple blocks early and then they were a little shellshocked."

Salem's work on the boards also was crucial, as the Rocks out-rebounded Wayne by a 60-41 margin.

According to Wayne head coach Mike Schuette, Salem's ability to block or bother the Zebras out on the perimeter, especially early on, contributed to his team's slow start (trailing 17-12 after one quarter and 31-22 at halftime).

"We're not real big," Schuette said. "And when we look at all those big bodies in here, I think it does a little to the psyche and alters some of the things we may do otherwise.

"But once we got into the flow of

Please see ROCKS, B2

KLAA GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Buzzer-beater topples Chiefs

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Not many shots found the bottom of the bucket Thursday night at Novi, but the host Wildcats made the only one that counted in their 37-35 win over Canton.

The KLAA girls basketball championship semifinal came down to a roller-coaster final minute, with the game deadlocked 35-35.

First, Novi was called for a five-second violation with 26 seconds left. Then Canton senior point guard Robyn Mack drove the lane with a chance to win the game, but her attempt missed the mark.

Then with four seconds left in regulation and overtime looming, the

Wildcats in-bounded the ball from their end of the court — a long toss that found senior Taylor Pavlika, who hit her layup as time expired.

Canton head coach Brian Samulski took the blame for Mack's unsuccessful field-goal bid.

"You put the ball in Robyn's hands down the stretch and see what we can get done," Samulski said. "I just think she got buried a little too deep (in the paint).

"That's not Robyn's fault it's my fault. We should have spread them out a little more and gave her a little help with a ball screen."

Another buzzer-beater at the end of the

Please see CHIEFS, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Kylie Robb (No. 4) dribbles her way past John Glenn's Abbey Wright (No. 2) during Thursday's game.

Plymouth can't stop high-flying Rockets

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear was correct in his assessment that defeating Westland John Glenn would be a tough task in Thursday night's KLAA girls basketball semifinal.

But despite losing 59-40 to the KLAA South Division champions, de Bear was singing the praises of his squad (11-7).

"They are a good team with some awfully good players," de Bear said. "Last week when we played them we lost the rebounding battle pretty lopsided. Tonight we did a lot better at that. Our kids played so hard."

The Wildcats might have "kept fighting,"

but they could not subdue John Glenn's talented trio of Erica Covile (14 points), Joslyn Massey (14 points) and Shakeya Graves (13 points).

John Glenn (16-2) now advances to play Novi in Monday night's conference title tilt. Novi edged Canton 37-35 in Thursday's other semifinal.

Leading Plymouth with 13 points was Jada Woody; who de Bear said "was very active near the rim."

Alyssa Burris again provided a spark, with two treys for her six points along with three assists.

Chipping in with five points was Kylie Robb and Plymouth received

Please see PLYMOUTH, B2



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Rocks' rally falls short

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Shorthanded Salem poured it on late in the third period Wednesday against host Howell in a KLAA crossover varsity boys hockey game.

But the Rocks could not overcome a costly, short-handed goal earlier in the frame and fell 5-2 to the Highlanders on Howell's senior night at Grand Oaks Ice Arena. The three-goal differential was due to a pair of Howell empty netters in the final minute.

With Salem (7-11-1) down 2-1 about five minutes into the third, Howell senior forwards Collin Myers and Jordan Mitter combined for the crushing goal. Myers centered the puck to Mitter, who buried it past junior goalie George Veresan — left helpless on the play.

"It was just a breakdown," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "We had a mistake defensively. They're quick, if you make any sort of mistake they're going to capitalize."

"They've got to be one of the faster teams we've played."

But despite missing injured top center Alek Zultowski and forward Jack Driscoll, the Rocks kept firing away in hopes of at least forcing overtime.

With 3:51 to play, junior

BOYS HOCKEY

forward Jake Fedel and senior forward Austin Sartorius stormed the Howell goal with Fedel finally nudging the puck past Howell junior netminder Bryce Goulah.

Earning the second assist for Salem was sophomore defenseman Colin Pietron.

"Their goalie played really well," Ossenmacher said. "Even the last goal we scored, we probably had four or five whacks at it from two feet outside the net."

The Highlanders (15-5-3) then salted away the victory on empty-net markers by Myers and senior forward Zach Nitschman.

"I thought it was a pretty good game, 5-2 probably doesn't tell the story," Ossenmacher said. "But I thought our guys played well. We're still short-handed a couple guys. We need all hands on deck. The guys who were here battled."

Salem took a 1-0 lead in the first period when Sartorius — who skated strong all night — sent a wrist shot from the left point that eluded Goulah. Earning assists on the goal were senior defenseman Kyle Eggenberger and Fedel.

A solid period by Veresan (12 saves in the first period, 25 stops for the game) enabled Salem to take that 1-0 lead into

the intermission.

Howell, however, tied the game with 5:14 left in the second and took a 2-1 lead a few minutes later.

On the equalizer, junior forward Casey O'Doherty rushed down the right wing and snapped a high shot over Veresan's glove.

Then with just 1:02 to play in the second, sophomore defenseman Matt Passino also went top shelf to put Howell ahead. Assisting were forwards A.J. Mitter and Ethan Doyle.

CHELSEA SHOWCASE: Salem went 0-2 at last weekend's Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase in Chelsea.

The Rocks lost 5-0 to Chelsea and were edged 5-4 by East Kentwood.

Scoring twice against East Kentwood was senior forward Mark McGee.

BRIGHTON 4, CANTON 1

Scoring for the visiting Chiefs in Wednesday's KLAA boys hockey crossover featuring two division champions was senior Andrew Gorski, with assists from senior Duggan Tear and junior Chandler Berlin.

Taking the loss in net for Canton (12-8) was Robbie Beydoun, who had a solid game despite the outcome.

The Bulldogs improved to 14-3-2 with the victory.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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Penguins senior forward Nicole Natelborg (No. 7) rushes down the ice ahead of Northville's Katelyn Hilmer (No. 32) during Tuesday night's girls hockey game at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton.

Penguins best D1 rival

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Division 1 rivals are proving no hindrance to the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team.

On Tuesday night at Arctic Edge Arena, the Penguins improved to 5-2 against D1 teams in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League with an impressive 2-1 overtime victory over Northville.

Scoring both goals for the Penguins (13-3-1 overall, 12-3 in the MMGSHSL) was senior forward Nicole Natelborg — one of five players honored on Senior Night.

Natelborg ripped a shot past goalie Avery Allman with 1:52 to go in over-

GIRLS HOCKEY

time to give the Pens the victory.

Setting up the winner was senior forward Mariah Tucker, who broke in with Natelborg on a 2-on-1 rush. An outlet pass by senior center Jackie Lough started the play.

Giving PCS a chance to win was senior netminder Kaitlyn Allard, who was outstanding in stopping 29 of 30 Mustang shots.

Also honored before the game was senior defenseman and team captain Emily Bullock.

Penguins assistant coach Brad Johnson said the players were challenged to come out with more urgency in the third period, after Northville's Sarah Blackhurst tied the

game 1-1 in the second.

"After two periods, we (the coaching staff) were not pleased with the effort and let them know the winning team would be the team that worked the hardest in the third period," Johnson said. "Our effort through the first two periods would not be enough to win this game."

PCS came out flying in the third and outshot the Mustangs 12-4. Only the goaltending of Allman kept the game tied through regulation.

Opening the scoring was Natelborg, in the first minute of the opening period, with Lough assisting.

The Penguins will play Saturday at Grosse Pointe North.

SIGN

Continued from page B1

Fox, who Sawchuk said is "going to be a stud" at Grand Valley, was not at the Feb. 9 press conference.

Defensive lineman Davon White signed with D-III William Penn University near Des Moines, Iowa.

Sharing the dream

That such a large contingent of Plymouth players earned full-ride scholarships is a source of much pride for Austin and others.

"These guys mean the world to me," Austin said. "Every single one of them is keeping their dream going, keeping playing football. I wish we could play together, but everyone knows that's just not realistic. But I'm just proud of every one of them, I'm happy for them."

Austin decided to go to the Upper Peninsula because of the quality of the college, its football program and his love of winter sports such as snowmobiling.

"It's Up North, in the boons, up in the U.P., it's the GLAC, it's good competition," Austin said. "I wanted to play. ... Plus the school is great academically, which is the biggest point."

Sawchuk said the quarterback who led the 2010 playoff run (and the 2011 team that went 8-2) should have little trouble adjusting to safety.

"He's thrown against defenses so I'm pretty sure he knows what the defenses are doing," the coach said.

Gridiron reunions

According to Abraham, playing closer to home in the Midland, Mich. area, "to have so many guys that are going to colleges shows how good our team was and how much football means to us."

Abraham said he is looking forward to going up against other Plymouth alumni in the GLIAC, such as Austin and Fox.

"That will be fun, playing against my (high school) teammates and coming back to my family sometimes on the weekends," Abraham noted. "It's not that far."

Sawchuk, meanwhile, said Northwood "got a steal" in Abraham.

"This kid's tough as nails," he said. "He's a heckuva football player

WHERE THEY'RE GOING

Six players from the Plymouth football team have signed on with colleges. They include the following:

• **Tyler Goble, LB, United States Naval Academy (Division I):** The 18-year-old Goble chose Navy over Stanford and had several other offers. He brings a 3.85 grade point average and is leaning toward a degree in business or medicine. Immediately following college he will begin a five-year stint in the U.S. military. His parents are Ron and Lisa.

• **Robert Riche, OL, University of Buffalo (D-I):** Riche, 17, will work toward a degree in international business. His parents are Christine and Warren; his dad lives and works in Dubai, U.A.E. He carries a 3.5 GPA.

• **Shaun Austin, DB, Michigan Tech University (D-II):** Plymouth's quarterback of the 2010 state finalists, the 17-year-old Austin will play defensive secondary and special teams in the Upper Peninsula. He considered the University of Dayton and Hope College, Owner of a 3.6 GPA, his parents are Vince and Karen.

• **Faris Abraham, LB, Northwood University (D-II):** The 18-year-old Abraham, who carries a 3.0 GPA, decided on Northwood over several other interested colleges, including Wayne State and Grand Valley State. He is looking to major in sports management. His parents are Curt and Amy Wachlarz.

• **Donte Fox, RB, Grand Valley State University (D-II):** Fox was not able to attend the Feb. 9 press conference to announce the Plymouth signings.

• **Davon White, DL, William Penn University (D-III):** He chose to go to the Iowa college instead of Robert Morris (Chicago area) and Michigan schools such as Saginaw Valley and Grand Valley. His mom is Lula; his father, David, is deceased. Davon is interested in a career in criminal justice.

and he's only going to get bigger, too."

For Goble, his decision to sign with the U.S. Naval Academy (located in Maryland) will enable him to fulfill his longtime dream of playing college football while opening the door to a subsequent, five-year stint in the Navy or Marine Corps.

"They kind of came in after football season ended," Goble said. "But the more I looked into it, and the more I realized it was a really good fit, I'm really excited to go. I'm excited for the opportunity."

Goble cited the efforts of Sawchuk and Plymouth's recruiting coordinator Carl Lowe for helping him and all of the college signees.

"They were great the whole process," Goble said. "They really helped us out."

Sawchuk said the hard-hitting Goble has a good chance to see action as a freshman, if not at linebacker than on special teams.

New chapter

Also D-I bound is Riche, who excelled on both sides of the football as a lineman at Plymouth. He'll play offensive line at Buffalo.

Riche chose to go to upstate New York instead of signing with any of

five Midwest Athletic Conference schools that offered scholarships.

"It means a lot, it will be the first time I've lived outside Michigan," Riche said. "I wanted to experience something new and the coaching staff's amazing there and the whole campus is amazing. They've treated me like family."

Deciding to play college football at D-III William Penn in Iowa is White, who considered Robert Morris University (near Chicago) and D-II Michigan colleges.

"I'm ready to start a new chapter in my life," said White, adding that he selected William Penn because of "the coaches, how friendly they are, the character that their team has."

"I talked to some of their players and they were so cool that they welcomed me even before I signed."

Like his teammates at the press conference, White said being part of such a large, college-bound contingent validated their dedication and success at Plymouth.

"It feels good," he noted with a smile. "We all worked hard for it so we deserved what we got."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

'Cats girls lax meeting

Anyone interested in playing Plymouth High School girls lacrosse in the spring should circle Thursday, March 1, on their calendars. At 7 p.m., there will be a mandatory parent and player meeting in room 401 at Plymouth High School.

Rockettes pom clinic

The Salem Rockettes Kids Clinic is just around the corner, slated from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 10. Participants will learn various routines, receive a T-shirt and pom poms and be invited to perform at the annual Rockette Show. To download the clinic flyer, go to www.pompon.salemrocks.com and click on documents.

Play GCYBSA ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs. The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also home to a Competitive League and travel programs (Boys Cardinals, Girls Pride Fast Pitch). For more information, go to www.gcybsa.com or contact Coralee Ott at (734) 394-5358, via e-mail at cott@canton-mi.org.

Whalers' to host YMCA spring leagues

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for spring co-ed soccer and girls volleyball leagues. Both leagues run from April 16 through June 9. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$84 for program members or \$115 for community members. The registration deadline is March 30. If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

YMCA starts registration

The Plymouth Family YMCA is registering for its instructional clinics. The focus of these programs will be on fun, exercise and social interaction through sports instruction. Clinics include Tiny Tikes Sports Sampler (ages 3-5), Preschool Basketball (ages 4-5) and Y Pucks (ages 6-8). The programs run the weeks of March 6 through April 17. All classes are held

in local schools during the week. For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Baseball clinics

Baseball fundamentals are on tap for youngsters looking to improve their skills, at the forthcoming Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic. Participants in grades 1-8 will receive age-appropriate instruction from 2012 Plymouth Varsity baseball coaches and players. Stations will include hitting, pitching, infield, outfield, catching and radar gun readings. Sessions, in the Plymouth High School gymnasium, will take place: 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 17 (for those in grades 1-4); Saturday March 31 (for those in grades 5-8). The pre-registration cost, which includes snack, is \$20. The fee is \$25 the day of the clinic. Pre-registration is urged, as the camp is limited to 100. Go to www.baseball.plymouthwildcats.com for more information.

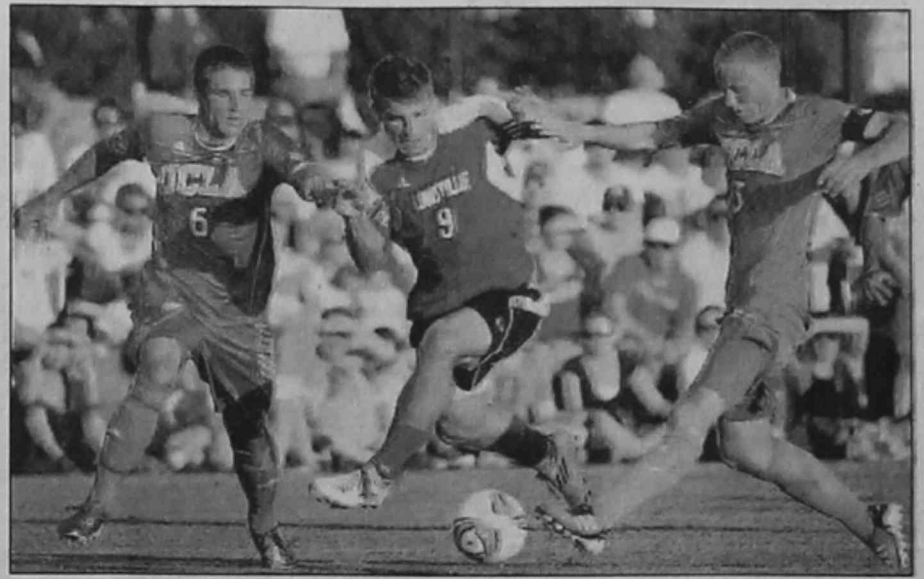
Salem baseball camp

Learn all about baseball from Salem's varsity players and coaching staff. The annual Salem Varsity Baseball Clinic will take place Saturdays March 24 and 31 in the high school gym. For a fee of \$28, kids will get three hours of instruction, focusing on pitching, hitting and all phases of fielding, along with a T-shirt. Each player should bring a baseball glove and hat to one of the following sessions, space permitting: Session 1: Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. to noon, ages 11-14; 14; Session 2: Saturday, March 24, 1-4 p.m., ages 7-10; Session 3: Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. to noon, ages 7-10; Session 4: Saturday, March 31, 1-4 p.m., ages 7-10. For more information, call Mary Theisen at (734) 354-9181 or e-mail salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com.

MU softball casino trip

The Madonna University women's softball team will sponsor a fundraiser charter bus trip to Greektown Casino from 3:30-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. The cost is \$30 for each passenger, who will also receive a \$20 voucher to use at the casino. Refreshments will be served on the bus. You must be 21 years or older and have a valid photo I.D. to make the bus trip. Reservations are due by Friday, Feb. 10. For more information, e-mail MU softball coach Al White at awhite@madonna.edu.

Rolfe drafted by MLS Dynamo



Professional soccer is calling the name of Colin Rolfe, a 2008 graduate of Plymouth High School and First Team All-American at the University of Louisville for two consecutive years. Rolfe (No. 9 above) recently was selected in the first round of the MLS Superdraft by the Houston Dynamo. He is the thought to be the first Plymouth soccer alum to move on to the pro ranks. Rolfe always was a cut above, according to his coach at Plymouth, Jeff Neschich. "His pace of play and strength with the ball set him apart from high school players. His ability to take over the game (included) often beating two or three players at a time."

WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

Matt, you're our best shot at winning this thing, you got to go out and do what you can."

Guernsey said Walsh had a 4-0 lead going into the third period, but "went to his back and the weight difference probably made a big difference by that point. But without him we wouldn't have had any chance. He wrestled really well."

Of course, the reward for the Falcons for pulling out the win was going up against powerhouse Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in the team regional final. The Shamrockers won 70-9.

"We wanted the opportunity to wrestle CC," Guernsey noted. "But at the same time we were well aware of what would have happened had we wrestled them. ... If I could put money on it, I'd put it on them winning it all (at state finals)."

Despite the disappointing finish, seven Plymouth wrestlers were slated to compete in Saturday's individual regionals at Saline — Said Youssef, Chase Kallil, Alec Breckenridge, Brandon Harris, Jon Conn, Mohamad

Youssef and Trey Berry.

They comprise the largest Plymouth contingent to reach the regionals, one step away from making the state finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Six of those wrestlers earned points Wednesday.

Plymouth got off to a strong start against the Falcons. After Farmington won two of the first three bouts, the Wildcats reeled off four straight wins to build a lead.

Successive wins by Berry (119, major decision), Kallil (fall in 5:36), Conn (fall in 4:24) and Breckenridge (by void) put Plymouth in the driver's seat. At least for a while.

Two matches later, Said Youssef tallied a 20-3 technical fall over Marcello Perez and Joey Shaver nipped Matt Justice 7-6 at 160.

"The guys wrestled tough," Guernsey added. "Farmington's got a good team. They were a good matchup for us."

"A lot of our good kids wrestled a lot of their good kids, at the end of the day they were a more-balanced team that night."

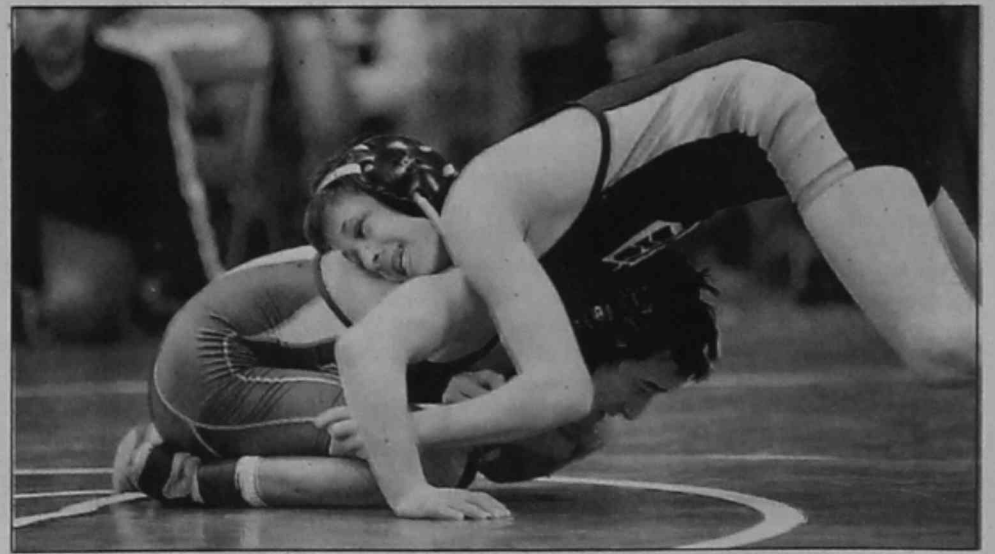
DIVISION 1 REGIONAL TEAM WRESTLING DUALS FARMINGTON 38 PLYMOUTH 36 Feb. 15 at Garden City

Semifinal Match

285 pounds: Mike Purry (F) major dec. over Adam Pulong, 24-11; **103:** Brandon Harris (P) pin. Chase Walkowiak, 3:39; **112:** Nimantha Herath (F) major dec. over Mohammed Youssef, 13-4; **119:** Trey Berry (P) major dec. over Eric O'Neill, 12-4; **125:** Chase Kallil (P) pin. Mannie Govantes, 5:36; **130:** Jon Conn (P) pin. Brandon Schulz, 4:24; **135:** Alec Breckenridge (P) won by void; **140:** Wes Kuttilla (F) pin. Hussein Youssef, 5:45; **145:** Said Youssef (P) tech. fall over Marcello Perez, 20-3; **152:** Mike Rankin (F) pin. John Rubio, 1:56; **160:** Joey Shaver (P) dec. Matt Justice, 7-6; **171:** Ryan Southerland (F) pin. Cody Hunley, 1:28; **189:** Trent Bekker (F) pin. Matt Walsh, 4:51; **215:** P.J. Hicks (F) won by void.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL 70 FARMINGTON 9

Feb. 15 at Garden City Championship Match
103 pounds: Parker O'Brien (CC) won by void; **112:** Zack Colone (CC) pin. Nimantha Herath, 5:11; **119:** Evan Toth (CC) pin. Eric O'Neill, 1:41; **125:** Mannie Govantes (F) pin. Casey Hogari, 1:45; **130:** Ken Bade (CC) pin. Brandon Schulz, 1:19; **135:** Malik Amine (CC) won by void; **140:** Riley Hanson (CC) pin. Wes Kuttilla, 1:32; **145:** Mike Rankin (F) dec. Alex Goings, 5-3; **152:** Alec Mooradian (CC) pin. Matt Justice, 1:40; **160:** Nick Mason (CC) pin. Alec Perlestein, 0:21; **171:** Andrew Garcia (CC) major dec. over Ryan Southerland, 14-1; **189:** Kevin Beazley (CC) pin. Mannie Sanchez, 0:30; **215:** Jay Peterson (CC) pin. P.J. Hicks, 3:20; **285:** Bob Coe (CC) pin. Mike Purry, 3:40.



JOHN KEMSKI

Plymouth's Jon Conn (right) subdues Novi's Alejandro Albyeme in their third-place bout at 130 during the Feb. 11 Division 1 team districts. Conn also won his matchup at Wednesday's team regionals against Farmington.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2012 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2012 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 6, 2012 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 13, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 19, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2012 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 19, 2012.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 19, 2012 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 253.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: February 16, 19 & 23, 2012

Church observes Lent with daily gifts, deeds

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Spencer Rife went on a "plastic fast," and gave up credit cards for Lent two years ago.

Last year, the Southfield man kept his complaining in check between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

This year, Rife and other members of Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, will give gifts to friends, family — even strangers — every day, for all 45 days of Lent.

"Our pastor, Steve (Schafer) has always been so creative and inspiring when it comes to his spiritual leadership about Lent and other spiritual ideas and events," said Rife, who has attended the church with his wife, Lynn, for 27 years. "In fact I was serving on the trustee board nine years ago when he came to us and asked for a hefty loan that he guaranteed would all be paid back plus some. His idea then was to give every one in the congregation \$20, what he called God's money. He instructed us to go do some good with it and make it multiply. Some made things to sell, some baked cookies ... and many events were done for the good of the community and for our church and of course the loan we approved got completely paid back plus, just as he had said."

Rife looks forward to reading a list of 87 suggested good deeds and gifts meant to help participants jumpstart the Lenten project this



week. Schafer, who compiled the "45 Days of Giving" ideas, with the help of some church members, will distribute the list to the congregation on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 26. The 87 ideas, along with a checklist of dates, are printed on a flyer the size of a dollar bill, for easy folding into a wallet.

Creative giving

Schafer said the project isn't specific to Lent but works well with the Christian observance

because the season encourages sacrifice.

"It could be a summer project. It could be any time of the year," he said. "I always try to do something creative during the Lenten season."

Schafer encouraged church members to give up their credit cards and make a "plastic fast" during Lent two years ago. Last year, church-goers wore purple bracelets that they moved from wrist to wrist each time they whined during Mt. Hope's "complained-

free" Lenten season.

Schafer developed the giving project after becoming aware of a book called *29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life*. Its author, battling multiple sclerosis, sought advice from an African healer, who told her to give to others. The book follows her 29-day journey.

"I don't completely buy into the philosophy of it being a healing process," Schafer said.

Please see LENT, B6

TRY THESE ACTS OF KINDNESS

Here's a portion of Mt. Hope Congregational Church's list of 87 ideas for giving to others:

1. Give a hug to a family member who doesn't "do" hugs (or an "I love you" in the same situation)
2. Take a trip to the park with the grandkids.
3. Do a family member's laundry, bathroom, cleaning, dishes.
4. Make a meal for someone who isn't grieving or shut in — just a surprise.
5. Spend the day taking pictures of someone's day-to-day life and then send them the pictures.
6. Give your pet a special treat.
7. Take flowers to someone — just because.
8. Write an anonymous thank you note to mail deliverers everywhere and drop it into the corner mail box.
9. Leave a stack of quarters in the do-it-yourself car wash.
10. Clean out your craft supplies and take them to an elementary school.
11. Pay for the person behind you in the fast food drive through lane.
12. Teach Sunday school for one Sunday.
13. Listen. But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listen.
14. Send a card or letter to a friend or acquaintance sharing how that person has influenced their life.
15. Help a friend or neighbor with snow removal/yard work.
16. When driving, look for opportunities to allow other drivers to turn, merge, or enter traffic in front of you.
17. Leave loose change in random places.
18. Offer candy mints to those around you in church or leave wrapped candy mints on the church pews before the service.
19. Take your neighbor's trash cans back up to his house on trash day.
20. Recycle.
21. Offer to walk someone's dog or take care of their pet for the day/weekend.
22. Offer to drive a "shut in" to church or an activity.
23. Volunteer at Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, Capuchin Soup Kitchen.
24. Donate returnable bottles to an organization (youth group; Scouts; school groups).
25. Make a special candlelight dinner for your family.
26. Borrow your spouse's car then get it cleaned inside and out and return it with a full tank of gas.
27. Burn a CD of significant songs and leave it in someone's CD player.
28. Pick up trash in your neighborhood.
29. Collect your spare change and donate it.
30. Ask to speak to a restaurant manager and tell what good service you got from your waitperson.
31. Leave a piece of fruit in your mailbox with a note of appreciation to your mail carrier.
32. Smile at complete strangers.
33. Give blood.
34. Make a treat or hot cocoa mix and deliver it to your church staff with a note of appreciation.
35. Forgive someone who has wronged you.

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Couple celebrates milestone anniversary

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Dale and Billie (Brown) Collins share a love that never quits. "If anyone asks how did we make it over 70 years, I simply quote an old tune I learned as a kid, and I used it as a goal at school, at work, in retirement... 'get your hat and get your coat, put your troubles on the doorstep and just direct your feet to the sunny side of the street.' A positive attitude beats negative every time," Dale said. "We've always had a good marriage and good children," Billie noted. The Canton couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Jan. 31. They were married in 1942 at a small wedding in Dearborn, after meeting through Dale's stepmother, who was a member of Billie's family. "He lived in Michigan and I lived in Oklahoma. I came up to Michigan to help my cousin out." Bil-



lie, 88, said. "From the time we saw each other we decided we'd get married." Was it love at first sight? "I think it was," she said. They lived apart for three years while Dale served in the U.S. Army and then settled in Canton and began raising a family. Their children are Judy Walkowiak, Jerrie Sigworth, Randy Collins and Roger Collins, all of Canton. The couple also has six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Dale, 88, retired in 1984 from

Detroit Edison, where he had managed the art department. He developed painting skills while in high school, Billie said. "He didn't think anything would come of it, but it did. He was hired by Detroit Edison when he was in high school. They had a magazine and did a lot of advertising." Dale continues to paint in both oil and watercolor in retirement. "My husband is a pretty good artist and loves to go places where he can see things that intrigue him." Billie enjoys homemaking and spending time with her family. "We live near our children. Every Sunday the whole family gets together and someone cooks," Billie said. Her favorite contribution to the meal is "good old-fashioned Oklahoma cornbread" without sugar. The couple celebrated their milestone anniversary with a large family get together. "It was very nice, very well done," Billie said.



Billie and Dale Collins of Canton celebrated 70 years of marriage last month.



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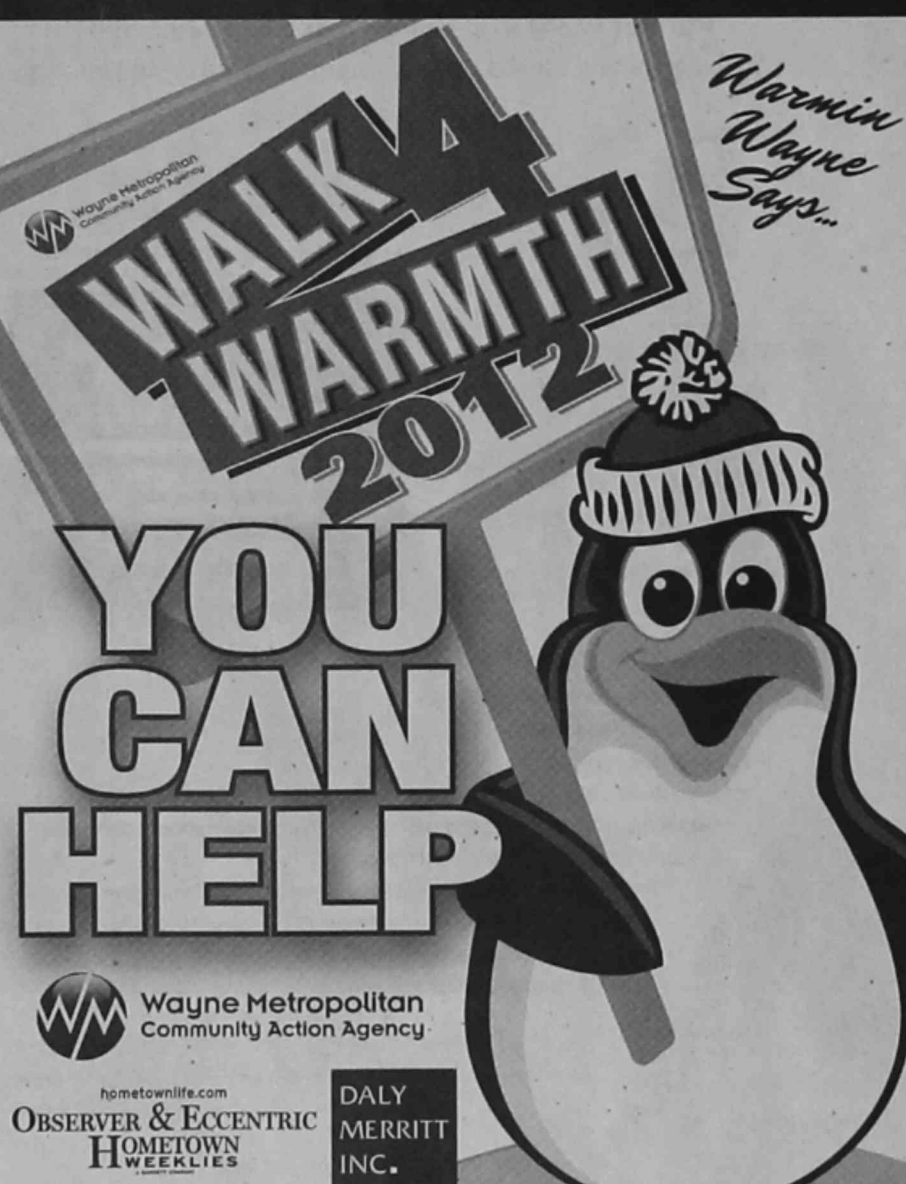
LENT

Continued from page B5

referring to the book. "But it certainly can't hurt. The idea was to get her outside of herself and think of someone else and that is what Lent is all about. We have to get outside of ourselves for a while."

Suggestions
Schafer began compiling a list of good works and gifts meant to inspire congregants and help them adhere to the Lenten project. "I didn't want it to come down to materialism. Some of those things on the list are material items, but none are substantial in terms of (financial) value." When he began to run out of ideas, church members, like Shari Haverty of Livonia, pitched in. If she follows her own suggestions this Lent, Haverty will pay for a stranger's meal at a restaurant drive-thru window and will help someone with yard work. "I think the greatest gift we can give someone is our time and attention," she said. "Every week when I pray with our choir, I remind them that we never know when we might affect someone's day, in a positive, blessed way. So it is important to pay attention, lend a hand, write a note and give with the Spirit." Wendy Hardy, a Livonia resident and member of Mt. Hope for 38 years, also added ideas to the gift list, including donating blood and complimenting others. "It is so easy to get caught up in the day to day activities and forget those around you. With our busy schedule and crazy routine it is easy to not make time for others, whether it is to read in a classroom, volunteer at church or pay it forward in the line at the coffee shop," she said, adding that she, her husband, Paul, and their son, Mitchell, will try to do their part to make "someone else's day just a little bit brighter." Schafer hasn't decided if the church will set aside time for members to share stories about their gift project experiences, but said the Sunday after Easter might be a good time for such testimonials. Mt. Hope Congregational Church is located at 30330 Schoolcraft, between Middlebelt and Merriman; www.mthope.com.

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Find a health study through online registry

The University of Michigan Health System recently added its 10,000th research volunteer to its participant registry.

In spite of the major milestone, there's still a need for research participants at U-M and nationwide. A lack of volunteers slows progress in the fight against cancer, diabetes, depression and other devastating illnesses. Many studies seek healthy volunteers as well as those with a specific condition or ailment.

"To us, these volunteers are nothing short of heroes because they're helping scientists find cures, improve individuals' quality of life and move health research forward," stated Molly White, manager of the clinical research recruitment program at the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research, (MICHR). "Polls have shown that more than 90 percent of Americans recognize the importance of clinical research to the advancement of medical science, yet the vast majority know very little about the research process or how to get involved."

That's where MICHR comes in. Founded in 2006, the institute helps to support researchers across U-M and helps bridge researchers and the community.

MICHR is committed to moving medicine forward with safe and innovative studies, and in assisting research



Volunteers are needed for health studies on such topics as knees and joint problem at the University of Michigan.

teams across campus to find volunteers who are interested in participating in studies.

The online registry at UMClinicalStudies.org allows prospective volunteers to search or browse the studies that are looking for volunteers. It also can match would-be participants based on eligibility criteria, health status and the volunteer's preferences.

Since the registry's launch in 2007, it has been used to enroll participants in more than 500 studies. Study teams report that in many cases, the Web site was instrumental in helping

them meet their recruitment goals. When there aren't enough participants, studies can languish or even be canceled. This free resource also helps to lower the costs of individual studies because less money needs to be spent on recruitment advertising.

"We'd like to invite everyone to check out the online registry and see if there's a study that would be of interest to them," White said. "No matter who you are, how old you are, or whether you're healthy or have a health condition, there's probably a study out there that could use your help."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

February

ANGEL KISSES FUNDRAISER

Angel Kisses, a group dedicated to raising awareness of late-term pregnancy and infant loss, will present its fourth annual fundraiser, 2-8 p.m. Feb. 25, at Woody's Diner, 208 W. Fifth, in Royal Oak. The group's mission is to help raise awareness of late-term pregnancy and infant loss, and also to help improve the quality and quantity of support and services available to families who experience such a loss. The fundraiser includes a silent auction, item raffles, 50/50 raffles and a candle-lit moment of silence. Woody's Diner will also donate 20 percent of food and beverage sales during the hours of the event. All proceeds will go toward fulfilling Angel Kisses' 2012 goals, including funding the launch of Beaumont Hospital's new standard of care for families who experience pregnancy and newborn loss. This standard will include training staff for bedside care and

the handling of bereavement mementos. For more information visit www.angelkisses.org or e-mail to amyallen@angelkisses.org.

BOWLATHON

RSVPs are due Feb. 27 for a Bowlathon set for 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4 at the Town and Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Garden City Hospital's staff team "Reaching for a Cure" presents the event, which will raise money for the American Cancer Society. Cost is \$20 per person and includes shoe rental, 3 games, and pizza. There will be a chance to win a gift basket. RSVP to Jamie at (734) 634-5701 or ly1as@yahoo.com.

CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

Maple Grove Educational Programs for Children of Alcoholics offers "Celebrating Families," a free education and support program for children, ages 5-17, and their parents/caregivers, 5:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays, through March 28 at Maple Grove Center in West Bloomfield. The program is designed for

children living with chronic stress due to family challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness. Each day's activities focus on learning skill-building through games and crafts. Topics covered include feelings, self-worth, communication, coping, defenses, alcohol and other drug use, safe decision-making, getting help and learning how to take care of themselves. To register, contact Maple Grove Community Education at (248) 661-6170 or e-mail mce_cp@hfhs.org.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

• Heart Walk 2012 celebrates American Heart Month, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 25 at Westland Mall, 35000 Warren Road, Westland. Dress in comfortable clothing and bring all your heart-related questions for a panel of experts. A hospital pharmacist will be on hand to answer medication questions; free health screening on site; and Pulse EMS will be on hand for support. All events are free. Heart risk assessments will be offered on site. Call (734) 458-3248 to reserve.

Canton begins planning Relay for Life

Canton community members will kick off their Relay For Life season 6:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at Dodson Elementary School 205 North Beck Road.

Families, caregivers, cancer survivors, schools, local organizations and others will ring in the new season with a rally that explains how Relay for Life benefits the American Cancer Society's goal to save lives and create more birthdays.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is an overnight community celebration. Individuals and teams camp out, picnic, dance, play games and take turns circling around a track "relay" style to raise funds and fight cancer. The event opens as cancer survivors

lead the way around the track and are honored with the Survivor Lap. As the sun begins to set, the warm glow of hundreds of luminaria light the field in an emotional silent ceremony. Each bag lit is in honor of a loved one who won the fight against cancer.

Started in 1985, Relay For Life began with one man who circled around a track for 24 hours raising \$27,000. Relay For Life has grown to more than 5,000 communities and over 25 countries worldwide.

For more information about Relay for Life in Canton as well as other communities, call (800) 227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org/relay.

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

SUPER BOWL ADS KEEP ON RESONATING FOR AUTO BRANDS

By Dale Buss

Yes, no one's quite sure yet how the flap over Chrysler's Clint Eastwood Super Bowl spot is going to end up, with the continuing argument over its potential political implications. Chrysler avows no political intent, and do does



Dale Buss

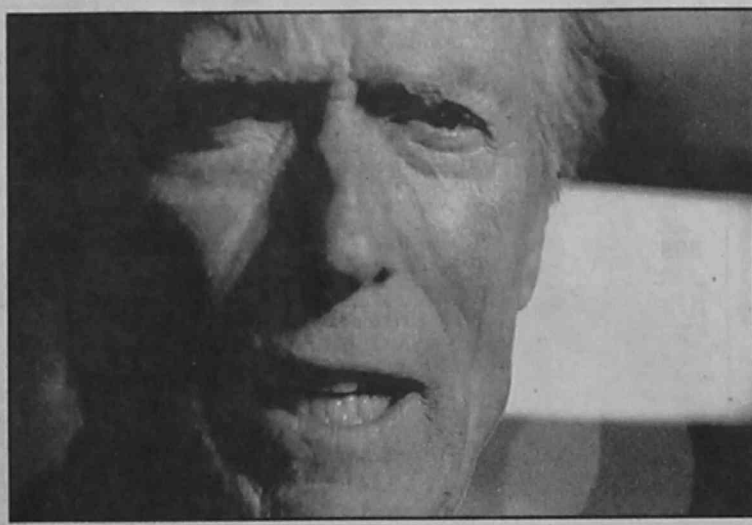
what the winning and losing brands were among other automakers after viewers and consumers, as well as the pundits, got a chance to react to their ads during the Big Game, which car brands dominated. Here's how how

the other auto brands fared:

Volkswagen: The brand behind the other automotive hit of last year's Super Bowl scored big with reviewers and Edmunds.com visitors with "The Dog Strikes Back," its SB46 commercial featuring the slimmed-down dog chasing the new-profile Volkswagen Beetle.

Toyota: After the couple of years that Toyota has had, it's unfortunate that the brand's couple of spots for the new Toyota Camry missed the mark. There was too much attention in "Connections," for instance, to the legacy of Camry. How does that help viewers understand that they've got to get back to Camry via the new 2012 model?

Lexus: Lexus needs its new GS to be a hit, and it's a worthy car. But the actual vehicle got only a beauty shot and little discussion in "Beast," the Lexus model's Super Bowl



Chrysler's Clint Eastwood ad dominated much of the post-Super Bowl national discussion.

debut ad, which also hinted of more great new models to come. A relatively weak effort.

Fiat: Edmunds.com visitors blew out server circuits finding out more about the Abarth after Fiat's sexy Super Bowl spot, a spot called "Seduction" that previously ran in Italy. Hard to call that anything other than a big success.

Honda: A lot of pre-game buzz was generated following a Matthew Broderick teaser hinting at an updated Ferris Bueller's Day Off for a mystery brand. But maybe all the pre-publicity helped prepare Super Bowl fans to watch the actual Game Day commercial when it aired and focus a bit more on the new CR-V. At least this spot displayed the vehicle's capabilities and appeal. It should help.

Acura: Long the fading brand among the Japanese Big Three of luxury, Acura needs to

get back on the radars of American luxury buyers. A Super Bowl ad is a great way to do it, especially a funny spot featuring boomer-favored celebrities like Jerry Seinfeld and Jay Leno. Too bad the NSX they raved about won't be available for a while.

Chevrolet: Maybe the brand finally has found a way to make its much-criticized "Chevy Runs Deep" slogan resonate in a meaningful way. That was one commonality among the ads for Silverado, Sonic and Camaro. The Silverado piece could become a classic for its once-in-a-lifetime 2012 context, for its creative execution and for how it got under the skin of Ford.

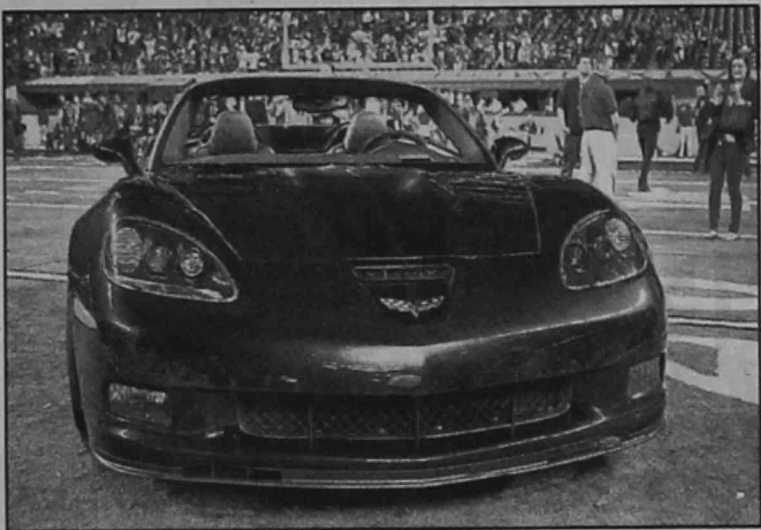
Cadillac: For decades, Cadillac has dreamed of fielding a truly competitive small sedan, and executives believe they finally have one in

the ATS to be released later this year. There was no subtlety in a commercial showing the ATS circling a test track in Germany known as "Green Hell." They must believe the car can compete with the BMW 3 Series.

Hyundai: Hyundai of America President John Krafcik wanted to go for more "memorable" Super Bowl ads this time around. Not sure the brand really achieved that, although they were popular with Edmunds.com visitors. And Hyundai's spots did serve to dimensionalize the brand even further with U.S. viewers.

Audi: The brand had the field to itself among German luxury makes for the day and chose to continue its Super Bowl tack of using humor to underscore an important attribute in its "Vampire Party" spot. In the last few years, that attribute was "new luxury" that is pushing to supplant the old-fogey BMW and Mercedes-Benz brands. This time, Audi went for a more limited objective - highlighting the blazing headlights on its new S7 - and managed to achieve it with the vampire-vanquishing spot.

Kia: No more stuffed sock monkeys, but Kia's spot ("A Dream Car for Real Life") was still a fantasy ad. Only this one didn't really serve the Optima very well. The brand clearly has found its groove with NBA sponsorship and Blake Griffin and probably should have stayed there.



Chevrolet got some extra Super Bowl buzz from awarding a Corvette Grand Sport Convertible Centennial Edition to game MVP Eli Manning.

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EPA estimated 19 city / 26 hwy mpg

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\$1000 DOWN

\$237*

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SIGN & DRIVE

\$294*

\$0 due at signing

NEW/2012 Ford Escape Limited

EPA estimated 21 city / 28 hwy mpg

Sun & Sync Package

Buy for \$21,589+

MSRP \$29,940

Featuring: 302A Package, Chrome Wheels, Luxury Package, Moonroof, Premium Sound. 10 at this price - 490 available



24 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN

\$183*

\$1404 due at signing

SIGN & DRIVE

\$241*

\$0 due at signing

NEW/2012 Ford Fusion SEL

EPA estimated 23 city / 33 hwy mpg

Loaded, Leather, Moonroof

Buy for \$19,938+

MSRP \$29,085

Featuring: Sync, Automatic, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Keyless Entry, Satellite Radio, BLIS, Rearview Camera, Reverse Sensing. 10 at this price - 293 available



24 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN

\$172*

\$1347 due at signing

SIGN & DRIVE

\$227*

\$0 due at signing

NEW/2012 Ford Focus SE

EPA estimated 28 city / 38 hwy mpg

Sport Package

Buy for \$16,825+

MSRP \$22,475

Featuring: Automatic, Cruise Control, Rear Spoiler, Power Windows, Sport Package, Heated Seats. 5 at this price - 200 available



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Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN

\$168*

\$1298 due at signing

SIGN & DRIVE

\$222*

\$0 due at signing

NEW/2012 Ford Explorer XLT

EPA estimated 17 city / 23 hwy mpg

Buy for \$29,916+

MSRP \$37,010

Featuring: Sync, Reverse Sensing, Keyless Entry, Power Windows, Power Locks, Power Liftgate. 3 at this price - 55 available



24 month lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

\$1000 DOWN

\$325*

\$1434 due at signing

SIGN & DRIVE

\$383*

\$0 due at signing

NEW/2012 Ford Fiesta SE

EPA estimated 29 city / 38 hwy mpg

Buy for \$14,718+

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Featuring: Sport Appearance Pkg., SYNC and Sound, Automatic, Ambient Lighting, Satellite Radio, Heated Seats, Keyless Entry Key Pad. 3 at this price - 72 available



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