



CANTON ONE ACTS FESTIVAL
ENTERTAINMENT, B6

BOOST PROTEIN WITH SOY
FOOD, B8



Softball HALL OF FAME
DALTON GA 2012
...TO GOD BE THE GLORY...
SPORTS, B1

CANTON WOMAN, 93, IS YOUNG AT HEART
SPORTS, B1

Gentle request

Melissa McLaughlin looked out at the sea of faces at Tuesday's Canton Township Board of Trustees, the first of 2013, and had one request.

McLaughlin, the township treasurer filling in for an ailing Supervisor Phil Lajoie, who missed the meeting, started the meeting with a little bit of levity as a packed house — nearly all residents attending public hearings on a pair of special assessment district decisions for road work — looked on.

"Our supervisor, Phil Lajoie, is under the weather and won't be here, so you get me," McLaughlin told the crowd. "Be gentle!" They were.

Liquor served

The Canton Township Board of Trustees Tuesday approved a Class C liquor license, allowing Sunday service, to the New Ruby Buffet, located at 5848 N. Sheldon in Canton.

Canton Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, who chaired Tuesday's meeting, said New Ruby Buffet is the only restaurant serving Oriental food in a buffet style.

The restaurant's owners, she pointed out, have invested more than \$100,000 in the restaurant.

Literacy help

The Community Literacy Council, a volunteer, nonprofit organization whose aim is to improve adult literacy in Plymouth-Canton and surrounding areas of western Wayne County, needs volunteers.

The agency provides free literacy tutoring to adults via one-on-one instruction or small conversation groups. Tutors undergo 14 hours of training and customize each of their lessons to the individual needs of their students.

In 2012, tutors volunteered more than 3,000 hours promoting literacy in the community.

The group's biggest event of the year, its 22nd annual Spelling Bee, takes place March 13 at the Canton High School DuBois Little Theater.

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McLaughlin



Flying high

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Nick McMahon of Plymouth, the operations director at McMahon Helicopters in Canton Township, flew during filming for the new Tom Cruise movie 'Jack Reacher,' and this year landed work in music videos for two rap stars, Big Sean and 50 Cent.

Creative work offers lift as Canton helicopter business changes

By Matt Zachman
Observer Staff Writer

A Plymouth helicopter pilot whose company is rooted in Detroit's automobile industry is making a mark in Hollywood and in the popular music world.

Nick McMahon, operations director at McMahon Helicopters in Canton Township, flew for the new Tom Cruise movie 'Jack Reacher' and this year landed work in music videos for two major rap stars. His company has an impressive list of aerial camera-work experience — from live Super Bowl stadium flyovers to aerial shots for television commercials — and that list has grown rapidly in recent years.

It's all part of McMahon Helicopters' evolution as the nature of its business mainly — the parts-hauler of last resort for automakers — changes, and as Michigan and the Detroit area continue to attract filmmakers.

"We basically reinvented ourselves all over in the last 10 years," said McMahon recently during at his company's



Nick McMahon closes the engine bay doors on their large Sikorski helicopter, located in the maintenance hangar.

headquarters.

The business was founded by his father, Brian, in 1980, and it was the elder McMahon's experience in television news and his pioneering of aerial camera systems and helicopter camera mounts, that lifted the company's creative work

to its current level.

"When I started doing it there were not too many people specializing in it," said Brian McMahon, who is still active with the company, by phone. He had to design spe-

Please see HELICOPTER, A2

Board OKs SADs for road repairs

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Residents in two Canton subdivisions will have crumbling roads repaired after the Canton Township Board of Trustees Tuesday approved special assessment districts to deal with the issue.

Residents in both Lexington Square and the Wethersfield Condominium complex had asked the township for the SADs last year in response to deteriorating roads in both subdivisions.

Action on the requests was delayed because township policy limits such work to projects valued at more than \$500,000, according to Tim Faas, the township's director of municipal services. When taken individually, neither project meets that threshold, he said, but taken together they cross it by a wide margin.

Lexington Square is a 126-home subdivision located at Cherry Hill and Sheldon. Built in the late 1980s, residents have been complaining about the quality of roads for some time.

"Everyone in the sub has maintained their property, but the roads are getting worse and worse," said Bob Davis, who lives in Lexington Square. "We've patched it, but that doesn't hold. The project is a real necessity, and we just hope it gets done sooner rather than later."

Lexington Square Homeowners Association officials said the association has been putting between \$500 and \$800 a year into patching the roads, but say it isn't enough.

"We definitely need to have this project done as fast as possible," homeowners association President Dan Popoff said.

The song remained the same for Wethersfield. A 155-home community at Palmer and Haggerty built in 1995, it suffers from deteriorating roads.

Larry Hoelscher said he's lived in

Please see SAD, A2

Barrett gets second term leading school board

John Barrett was re-elected as president of the Plymouth-Canton Community School Board of Education Tuesday.

A Plymouth resident, former high school principal in Farmington and former Plymouth city commissioner, Barrett thanked his colleagues, applauding the talent of the district and adding "I am proud to be part of this board."

Also elected were Judy Mardigan, vice president, Adrienne Davis, secretary, and Sheila Paton, treasurer. Mardigan, the board's longest-serving member, served as secretary in 2012 while Davis served as

vice president. Barrett and Paton, a financial analyst at the University of Michigan Health System, were elected to the board in November 2011. Paton is the only board member with children attending Plymouth-Canton schools.

All officers were elected unanimously. The terms end Dec. 31.

Other business conducted at the board's annual organization meeting included approving bylaws setting regular meetings (7 p.m. on third Tuesday of each month at the board office — E.J. McClelland Edu-

cation Center, 454 S. Harvey in downtown Plymouth), naming banks and other depositories for school funds and investments and naming general counsel (Collins and Blaha, P.C.) and special counsel for specific legal issues (LaPointe and Associates, P.C.; Thrur Law Firm, P.C.; Lacey & Jones, LLP and Clark Hill, P.L.C.).

Stauder, Barch and Associates was named the financial consults for 2013. The board's next meeting is Jan. 22 at which trustees are expected to discuss a bond issue to pay for new technology and building improvements.



Dr. John Barrett, here presenting 2012 graduate Alan League with his diploma at last year's commencement, won a second term Tuesday as president of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

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AROUND CANTON

"Around Town" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkdrich@hometownlife.com.

FREE THROW CONTEST

Date/Time: Jan. 19, 10 a.m.

Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton
Details: Knights of Columbus, Father Victor J. Renaud Council #3292 of Plymouth, hosts a free-throw shooting contest. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of state competition for 2013 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship...

Contact: For entry forms or additional information contact Andrew Bishop at ahlp1@comcast.net.

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

Date/Time: Saturday, Jan. 19, 1-4 p.m.

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 3666 Cherry Hill in Westland (between Newburgh and Wayne Road)

Details: Seniors Helping Seniors hosts a grand-opening open house featuring food and drink and drawings for free gifts. Learn about services, providing in-home care and support for seniors by seniors...

Contact: For more information, call (734) 996-9570 or email seniorshelpingseniors14@gmail.com

EUCHRE TOURNAY

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Details: Canton Lions Club members will be holding a Euchre tournament. An ante of \$25 (payable with cash or check at the door) without pre-registration. Save \$5 at the door by paying \$20 with pre-registration...

Contact: Pre-register your first and last name by calling (734) 358-4280 or email CantonLionsEuchre@yahoo.com by Jan. 30.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Date/Time: Monday, Jan. 14, 6-8:30 p.m.

Location: Canton Coney Island, 8533 N. Lilley Road, in a strip mall across the street from Mettetal Airport next to the Secretary of State office, south of Joy Rod on the west side of Lilley.

Details: Canton Women's Connection hosts their meeting featuring guest speaker Margaret O'Rourke-Kelly, PhD and author of "Phenomenal Woman: The Dora Stockman Story." Dora Stockman was the first woman to win a statewide election to public office in Michigan...

Contact: June Nicholas, (313) 610-2561 or junenicholas@comcast.net

CORRECTION

A story in the Sunday, Jan. 6, Canton Observer ("Numbers down, need up for local families") should have said the Plymouth Goodfellows helped 95 Plymouth families this year.

Canton turning part of Sheldon into green space

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

The Canton Township Board of Trustees Tuesday agreed to take jurisdiction of a short portion of Sheldon Road away from Wayne County. The move was expected since road work expanding the road around the Canton Center-Sheldon-Sheldon Center exchange was conceived a couple of years ago.

The stretch of Sheldon now belonging to Canton Township is some 600 feet long north of Cranberry. It's a part of the road that was abandoned when the road work was completed. According to Tim Faas, Canton's director of municipal services, the move had been expected since the project began.

With little other use for the road, the township will turn it into a

green space, according to Tim Faas, the township's director of municipal services.

The township will plant grass and, according to Faas, obtained a \$1,500 grant from the Alliance of Rouge Communities to purchase trees. The township will be responsible for the expense of planting them.

Trustee Pat Williams wondered if the property could be sold off, either

in whole or in parcels, to business owners in the area, but Faas said the agreement with Wayne County didn't allow such a sale.

Faas also pointed out homeowners in Mayfair Village, the subdivision that abuts the road, weren't interested in taking responsibility for it, either.

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HELICOPTER

Continued from page A1

cialized camera systems and mounts for the work, he added. "There just weren't any."

Another son, Nate McMahon, also works for the company; he is a pilot but concentrates on Internet and marketing work, his father said.

Business evolution

McMahon, the company, runs four helicopters, three Bells and a giant Sikorsky that's mainly used for carrying freight, out of a hangar near Mettetal Airport.

Nick McMahon describes the company as the emergency parts-chopper for auto-body factories facing an assembly-line shutdown because of a supply truck breakdown or a batch of bad parts.

"We're the emergency service that gets them by," said McMahon; the choppers can fly directly from components suppliers in the Great Lakes area to the factories in need of the parts, he said.

It's an expensive way to deliver a small amount of freight, but less costly than an unscheduled shutdown, McMahon added.

That work was keeping the company busy for much of the 1990s and the early 2000s, but the downturn in the industry dur-



BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Nick McMahon provides complete services to the film industry.

ing the Great Recession changed that picture. "It's been a rough ride," McMahon said of auto parts delivery. "The last 10 years have been tough." The company also flies passengers — usually top-level executives — but that part of the business has been reduced, he said.

But film, television and video work, projects the company would turn down years ago in favor of the more steady freight business, has picked up, McMahon said. "We've evolved and changed our business accordingly," he said.

Creative experience

Companies that do similar creative work are more common in New York and Hollywood,

he said, but few and far between further inland.

"It's a specialized field," he said. "It's not something that just anyone can do and do."

McMahon said he and his father have learned what directors are looking for in a given scene or aerial shot and are able to translate the creative ideas of directors who don't have flying experience into a finished product.

"You get to know what look they want, what looks good and what looks bad and how to line it up," he said.

For Jack Reacher, McMahon played a police helicopter pilot for a chase scene filmed in Pittsburgh in late 2011; his on-screen partner was also an experienced fi-

er. Another pilot flew the copter with the camera filming McMahon and his co-pilot.

"The scene involved a lot of low-flying, and McMahon isn't sure what made it into the movie."

In October, McMahon worked for three days with rapper 50 Cent on a video for his single My Life, which was released in late November. Featuring Eminem and Adam Levine (from the TV talent show The Voice), the locally made video depicts the singers on the run from a low-flying helicopter that's trying to put a searchlight on them.

"That was definitely a highlight," McMahon said of his work on the video. "I like that there's a lot of helicopter in it." Usually, he said, his flying work is behind the camera, not on it. McMahon also worked on another video last year with rapper Big Sean.

Brian McMahon said Nick is a "natural pilot" who flew with him often as a boy and seemed to pick up the skill by osmosis. He was flying before he was licensed to drive, he said.

"Neither one of my sons were steered by me at all" into the helicopter business, he said. "If I had tried to steer them in that direction they probably wouldn't have done it."

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SAD

Continued from page A1

Wethersfield for 16 years and supports the SAD.

"The roads are getting bad," he said. "We've been spending more and more money each year to keep them repaired, and it's getting worse. It's just throwing money away."

According to Faas, the area is ripe for this kind of project.

"Wethersfield is a perfect candidate for having its roads done now," Faas said. "If you wait even just a couple of years, the cost would go up significantly."

Faas said the project, which will get two more public hearings, will likely cost in the \$500,000 to \$600,000 range. There is no per-resident cost estimate yet because



A packed house of residents turned out at Tuesday's Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting to show support for special assessment districts to fix roads in the Lexington Square and Wethersfield subdivisions.

engineering work still must be completed but, Faas said, assuming the project gets the green light, it could be completed fairly quickly.

"With the various levels of

approval from the board, these projects still could be completed this year," Faas said.

bkdrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8999

Observer Newspapers advertisement including contact information for Community Office, Newsroom, and Advertisers.

American Coney Island Chili Dogs advertisement for a new location in Canton, Michigan, featuring hot dogs and chili dogs.

Nationwide advertisement for Heidi Kussurells Agency Inc., offering home and life insurance services.

Pair sentenced for fleeing police

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A defendant who led Canton police on a car chase during a mail theft investigation has been sentenced to one to five years in prison.

Lee Andrew Qualls, 45, was sentenced in December by Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin after pleading guilty to charges of assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer and attempting to flee and elude authorities, a court clerk said.

Qualls also conceded he drove with a suspended license.

Qualls accepted the plea after prosecuting and defense attorneys reached an agreement to dismiss other charges including stealing or retaining without consent a financial transaction device and larceny between \$1,000 and \$20,000.

Co-defendant Herman Robinson III, 36, was sentenced in December to two years probation for a single charge of assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer.

Canton police arrested the pair in early April after a local resident reported a suspicious vehicle approaching mailboxes in the Cherry Hill-Beck Road area.

Qualls was charged following accusations he led Canton police on a car chase that ended in a shopping center parking lot near Michigan Avenue and Canton Center, where police say he tried to flee on foot before he was captured along with Robinson.

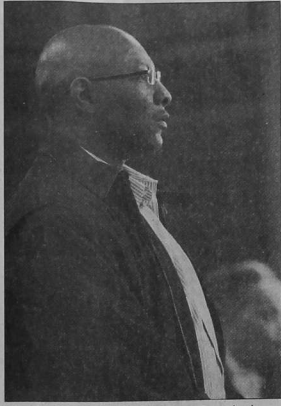
At the time, Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said police "retrieved a large collec-

tion of mail" allegedly taken in Canton and other communities.

Qualls' decision to plead guilty averted a trial and a potential term of life in prison as a repeat offender. He had previously served time in prison for identity theft and fleeing from police.

Robinson could have faced three years in prison rather than probation. Qualls had given an Ohio address at the time of his arrest, while Robinson was believed to have been living in Ypsilanti.

ddem@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238



Lee Andrew Qualls, 45, was sentenced in December by Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin after pleading guilty to charges of assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer and attempting to flee and elude authorities.

Board OKs Salem assistant principal

Todd Noonan, a former teacher at Royal Oak High School, was named assistant principal at Salem High School. The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education confirmed Noonan's hiring Tuesday.

He replaces Lawrence Stroughter, who left in December to become principal at Harrison High School in the Farmington School District. Noonan, a Farmington resident, was among 11 candidates and four finalists interviewed for the job at Salem.



Noonan

The district received 104 responses to the job posting. Noonan starts Jan. 28.

Noonan began working at Royal Oak High School in 2002, and served as dean and student accounting advisor from 2007-2011. He previously worked at Fremont High School in Oakland, CA, in 2002. In Fremont he taught six classes of 35 student in a culturally and economically diverse school district with a large English Language

Learner student population.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish from Kalamazoo College and a master's in educational leadership from Wayne State University.

Before teaching, Noonan worked as an account manager of client partner services at CNET Network Inc. in San Francisco.



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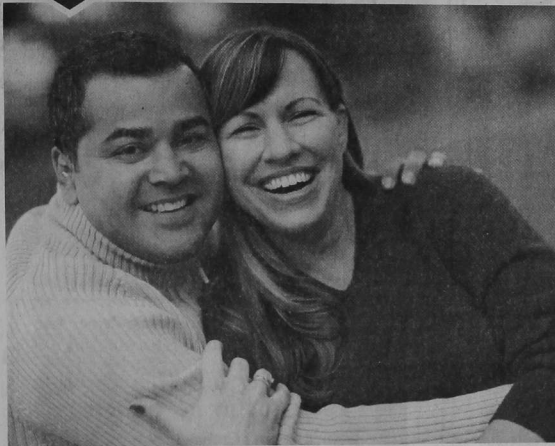
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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Telephone harassment

A Canton woman complained to police she was being harassed by her grandson's father.

Although the woman had instructed the father only to contact her regarding her grandson, the man continued to harass her via text messages, according to police reports.

The man has sent texts referencing other family members, and also threatening to file a personal protection order against family members to keep them from seeing the grandson.

Police contacted the man and advised him not to contact the woman again. According to the police report, the man made a comment about contacting the woman's employer, and laughed it off when the police officer repeated the warning not to contact her.

Drug bust

While patrolling, a Canton police officer saw a black Jeep Cherokee drive across the front parking lot of the Days Inn in the area of Michigan Ave. and Lotz, then disappear around the west end of the building.

The Jeep reappeared minutes later and moved onto Lotz Road. The officer noted the Jeep had a malfunctioning tail light, so he affected a traffic stop.

The officer discovered the driver was operating with a suspended driver's license, and that both passengers in the car had outstanding warrants out of Dearborn Heights. All three suspects were arrested.

While searching the vehicle, officers found an unlabeled pill bottle containing 45 pills in the center console. All three suspects denied knowledge of the pills.

Officers confirmed the pills were Hydrocodone, a Schedule 3 narcotic.

Failed fraud

Officers were dispatched to the Michigan Ave., Walmart for a retail fraud in progress call.

As the officer was headed to Walmart, he was advised the suspect was running northbound through the Walmart parking lot toward Michigan Ave., according to police reports. Upon arrival, the officer could not locate the suspect.

The officer met with the store's Loss Prevention Officer, who said the suspect had placed a television in a shopping cart, then attempted to leave the store without paying for the television.

When the LPO approached him, the suspect took off running, abandoning the cart with the television.

The LPO followed the suspect had entered the store with a white female, but that she'd lost sight of the woman. The Canton officer and the Walmart LPO reviewed security video and found both suspects.

The man was wearing a Detroit Lions jacket over a red striped polo shirt and blue jeans. He had a mustache/goatee. The woman was described wearing a brown jacket with a white stripe and blue jeans.

Retail fraud

Officers were dispatched to the Michigan Ave., Walmart where four teenage boys suspected of retail fraud were walking through the parking lot.

The dispatcher had advised the responding officer the four had left the merchandise behind. Police found all four suspects and placed them in patrol cars. Police said at least one of the suspects smelled of marijuana, according to the report.

The Loss Prevention Officer told police the four subjects were involved in the theft of an Xbox 360 Kinect controller valued at \$110.

She said she'd seen the four enter the store together. She said one suspect stole the controller, while the other three acted as "look-outs." The LPO said the suspect took the controller out of the box and stashed it down the front of his pants, and all four left the store.

She said as the suspects fled, the one with the controller took it out of his pants and left it atop a nearby car, from where she retrieved it. A search of the suspects produced small bags of suspected marijuana from two of the suspects.

Car parts taken

A Canton man said he parked his car in the northwest corner of the Emagine Theater parking lot on Ford Road around 7:45 p.m., and when he came out two hours later, the center hub caps had been stolen from all four wheels.

There were no witnesses, and police have no suspects.

Hit and run

Police were dispatched to the scene of a hit-and-run vehicle damage report on Willard.

Upon arrival, according to police reports, the officer found a white Ford Taurus parked on the east side of Willard, legally parked facing northbound. The owner told police she'd parked it around 9 p.m., and when she came back around 11:30 p.m., she saw it had been hit.

Police noted the only tire tracks led to a house across the street, but upon investigation found no damage to any of that home's vehicles.

No evidence from the unknown vehicle was left behind at the scene.

—By Durrell Clem

Serving Plymouth

Northville City Firefighter Karen Westfall has been with the department for 13 years. She is a graduate of Bentley High School in Livonia and a 32-year resident of Plymouth Township, where she and her husband, a retired career firefighter, raised their three children. She has one grandchild and a second on the way. Westfall served with the Northfield Township Fire Department for nearly 10 years where she rose to the rank of duty shift captain. She is certified Firefighter 1 & 2, Emergency Medical Technician, Hazmat Operations and Fire Officer 1.



Driver recovering from crash injuries

By Durrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

The accident occurred shortly before 12:30 p.m. Friday, closing a section of Ford Road for hours as police responded to the scene to investigate the accident.

Police said the woman's car was struck by the westbound semitractor trailer and then pushed back into the eastbound lane, where it was then struck from behind by another car driven by a 26-year-old Garden City woman who was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Neither vehicle had passengers. The crash was one of two serious accidents during the early days of 2013 in Canton. A 41-year-old man died last Thursday morning after he apparently suffered a medical condition, crossed the center lane and struck another vehicle on Canton Center at Hanford.

"We are continuing to investigate possible causes, including the possibility of a medical cause," Schreiner said. "It does not appear drugs or alcohol were a factor, but we're continuing to investigate all possibilities. "Our primary concern is to let the driver get well," he said. "We're thankful that she survived."

The woman was airlifted to the University of Michigan Hospital. A 61-year-old man driving the truck was treated at the scene.

"We are continuing to investigate possible causes, including the possibility of a medical cause," Schreiner said. "It does not appear drugs or alcohol were a factor, but we're continuing to investigate all possibilities. "Our primary concern is to let the driver get well," he said. "We're thankful that she survived."

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"We're continuing to investigate all possibilities. "Our primary concern is to let the driver get well," he said. "We're thankful that she survived."

—By Durrell Clem

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Vandalism

The vandalism occurred around 6 p.m. Dec. 27 and just before 7 a.m. the next day, a police report said. There was nothing reported stolen from the car.

Wheel theft

Two wheels and the tires on them were reported stolen from a Ford Edge parked at Blackwell Ford, on Plymouth Road just east of Haggerty, on Monday.

Wheel theft

The wheels had been stolen some time since Friday, the sales manager told police.

The wheels had been stolen some time since Friday, the sales manager told police.

—By Matt Jachman

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Tax law changes important; main goal keeping money in your pocket

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Over the last couple months there has been much speculation as to what would happen with the fiscal cliff. Everyone was speculating as to what would happen if the parties did not reach some sort of compromise. Not surprisingly, after putting the American people through the wringer, Democrats and Republicans finally did reach an agreement. Unfortunately, the agreement doesn't resolve the issues. The can was just kicked down the road again. That being said, the agreement signed into law will affect many of us.

One of the changes is an increase in payroll taxes. Payroll taxes are different than income taxes because they're based



Rick Bloom

upon gross earnings. For the last two years, employees paid approximately 4.2 percent of their wages for payroll taxes. That number increases to 6.2 percent in 2013. That means for the average worker who earns about \$40,000 a year a biweekly check will be about \$32 less than it was last year.

There also will be an increase for some taxpayers in their income tax bracket. For individuals who have income over \$400,000 or a married couple who has income over \$450,000, the top bracket will increase to 39.6 percent. Currently,

the top rate is 35 percent. For some investors who are in the high brackets (\$400,000 of income for a single person or \$450,000 for a married couple) the rate on dividends and capital gains will increase. Currently, the maximum rate for dividends and capital gains is 15 percent. That new rate will now be 20 percent.

Many of those taxpayers will also be hit with an additional 3.8 percent tax. This was not part of the fiscal cliff deal but rather is due to Obamacare. The results of the fiscal cliff deal will be that many middle-income taxpayers will no longer be subject to the alternative minimum tax. Under the new law, the income exemption for the alternative minimum tax has been made permanent and will be adjusted for inflation. The new law also lim-

its personal exemptions and itemized deductions for high income taxpayers. Taxpayers who have income over \$422,500 will no longer qualify for a personal exemption. In addition, under the new law, homeowners who receive personal forgiveness or who go through a short sale or foreclosure will not have to pay the tax on the amount of debt forgiven in 2013.

Married couples will continue to receive the standard deduction that is twice that of individuals. This helps reduce the impact of the marriage penalty.

One other major change in the law deals with estate taxes. The estate tax exemption will be \$5.12 million and will be indexed to inflation. In addition, the top estate tax rate will rise from 35 percent to 40 percent. If a change was not made, the estate tax exemption would have been \$1 million dollars per person.

This provides a brief overview of just some of the changes in the new tax law. I believe it is important to understand the tax laws so you can take advantage of them. However, when it comes to taxes, the goal is not to

lower your taxes but rather, to have more money in your pocket.

My philosophy is, you don't want to do anything for tax reasons alone. You want to do things that make good economic sense. If you do so, you'll end up with more money in your pocket and that is exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

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

Blood drives aim to address need

According to Red Cross officials, the Red Cross nationally needs 17,000 blood donations each day for patients in need. The Red Cross encourages people to give someone hope by donating blood.

"It's a gift that doesn't cost a thing but can offer patients another season with family and friends," said the Red Cross' Diane Risko. "Blood donations typically drop during the winter months. Every day, patients count on

generous volunteer blood donors to give the gift of life."

All who come to one of the following blood drives will be entered into a monthly raffle for a \$500 Visa Gift card.

- Jan. 13, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty in Plymouth.
- Jan. 17, 2:30-8:15 p.m., Gallimore Elementary School, 8375 Sheldon in Canton.
- Jan. 24, 11 a.m. to 7:45

p.m., Gardner White, 39453 Ford Road in Canton.

- Jan. 25, 1-6:45 p.m., Central Middle School, 6500 Church in Plymouth.
- Jan. 28, 1:30-7:15 p.m., Trinity Presbyterical Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.
- Jan. 29, 1:30-7:15 p.m., St. Michaels Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

Donors can call (313) 594-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org.



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Children's entertainer comes to Village Theater stage

Red Grammer, one of today's premier entertainers of children and families in America, will perform a special show at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26.

Armed with nothing more than his stunning voice, a guitar, and some of the best songs ever written for kids and their families, Grammer lifts his audiences to a place where hearts are filled to the brim and everything is possible. Bursting with energy, irrefragible joy, and an obvious love for the entire human race this award-winning entertainer mesmerizes and engages his listeners, young and old.

"We are delighted to bring this Grammy-nominated recording artist, who has set the gold standard for writing and performing contemporary children's music, to Canton," said Canton Arts Coordinator Jennifer Tobin. "Red and his wife (co-lyricist Kathy Grammer) have created a treasure trove of music for families that has a universal appeal and cuts across generations, backgrounds, ethnicities and religions."

The ideas and themes that permeate the Grammer's music arise from their belief that children are intelligent, inquisitive and come into this world "pre-wired" to learn how to work together and understand each other. Children are supported to be problem-solvers, embrace diversity, and live up to their highest reality, laughing and singing as they go.

Grammer can be heard nourishing the hearts and souls of both young and old via his multiple award-winning recordings, his numerous appearances on television (The Today Show, CBS This Morning, Nickelodeon, Showtime, PBS, and The Disney Channel), and his new video/DVD.

Grammer's recordings are also widely used in schools to enrich conflict resolution and character education programs. One of them, Teaching Peace, was named by The All Music Guide "one of the top five children's recordings of all time" and was given a rare Parent's Choice Classic Children's Audio Award. Grammer has recorded six albums for kids and families, two for adults and tours extensively around the world.

Tickets for the Village Theater show are \$16 for adults and \$14 for youth and seniors and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5460. Tickets can also be purchased at The Village Theater Box Office one hour prior to show time.



Award-winning children's entertainer Red Grammer comes to the Village Theater in Canton for a 2 p.m. performance Jan. 26.

VanDam, Zona to entertain, educate crowds at big fishing show this weekend

Two of the biggest names in bass fishing, Michigan natives Kevin VanDam and Mark Zona, will make special appearances at the 2013 Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit (UFD), Jan. 10-13 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

VanDam is one of the world's most accomplished fishermen with four Bassmaster Classic championships and seven B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year titles on his resume. His seminars at past UFD events have been both entertaining and educational and attended by beginner anglers and seasoned pros alike. KVD, as fans know him, will make a special appearance on Thursday, Jan. 10, at the show.

Zona is well known as a passionate and opinionated angler and expert on bass tournament fishing. He made a reputation for himself in the industry with a rod and reel, and now hosts his own show on the Outdoor Channel - Zona's Awesome Fishing Show. He has appeared as a host on several ESPN Outdoors shows. Zona entertains and inspires fans with his high-powered seminars and will make a special appearance at UFD on Friday, Jan. 11.

More than 75 other free fishing seminars by some of the top anglers in the country are scheduled during the four-day event. Marianne Huskey, the first female ever to win the Angler Insight Marketing (AIM) Angler of the Year; Mark Martin, "The Original Champ" of the Professional Walleye Trail (PWT) Championship; Jonathan VanDam, a rising bass-fishing star and the second youngest angler ever to win a Bassmaster Elite Series title (Saturday and Sunday only); and Hall-of-Fame muskie guide Bob Brunner are some of the other big names scheduled to appear.

"I don't know of any other show in the country with a powerhouse lineup like the one we have assembled for the Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit," says UFD show manager Adam Starr.

Special features galore

The Hawk Trough, a mobile 5,000-gallon fish tank that is transported to locations around the country as an attraction and seminar platform, returns after an absence of several years. Once on location, the tank is stocked with fish, and angling



Check out the newest fishing gear at the Ultimate Fishing Show at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. Jan. 10-13.

DETAILS

Event: 2013 Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit
Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, Grand River between Taft and Beck roads, Novi
Dates: Jan. 10-13
Hours: Thursday, 3-9:30 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Admission: \$10 for adults and \$4 for children 6 to 14. There is no charge for children 5 and under. Discount coupons are available at Wendy's Restaurants and online at www.UltimateFishingShow.com Free on Thursday for patrons who bring six cans/boxes or four pounds of non-perishable food items to donate to the annual Michigan Sportsman Against Hunger food drive. The food will be collected by volunteers from local conservation organizations and donated to the Red Cross & area food banks.
Parking: \$5 per entry parking rate for on-site parking.
Web: www.UltimateFishingShow.com
Phone: 800-328-6550

experts provide seminars and demonstrations throughout the show. Audience participation by both seasoned anglers and freckle-faced kids keeps the crowd entertained throughout the day.
An indoor lake? You bet. With more than 110,000 gallons of water, Lake Ultimate provides seminar leaders to present from their rigged fishing boats. By trolling and casting, they actually catch fish while instructing spectators on the intricacies of their sport.
Nationally recognized Grilling Buddies will appear all four days of the show. Mad Dog & Merrill are self-proclaimed "Merrillologists," who travel the

country entertaining and educating thousands of backyard enthusiasts on the finer points of grilling cuisine. Their seminars, cookbooks and videos show people how easy it is to be creative and to entertain in their own backyards.
The Michigan Charter Boat Association will provide show patrons with an opportunity to experience simulated Great Lakes fishing with the Virtual Fishing Simulator. Participants hold a trolling rod in hand and watch a video as a salmon hits their lure. Then the fun begins as the participant attempts to land the salmon while the simulator fights back like a live fish. There is a small

fee to participate and all proceeds benefit the MCBA's scholarship fund.
New this year is the Virtual Reality Simulator, offering show patrons the unique opportunity to enjoy the thrill of water skiing or wakeboarding - in January, without getting wet. Experience the simulated thrill of throwing a back roll on a wakeboard or hitting a ski jump at 80 mph and flying 240 feet in the air.
With more than 400,000 licensed anglers living within an hour's drive of Suburban Collection Showplace, the Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit is smack dab in the middle of America's largest freshwater fishing market.
Anglers attend the annual show to find the season's best value on fishing boats and angling gear and to book fishing adventures

from the dozens of professional guides, charter boat captains, lodges and outfitters.
Several downstate dealers including Wilson Marine and Wonderland Marine West are bringing more than 200 new fishing boats, complete with motors and trailers and fully tricked out for immediate angling action. They will unveil the state's most complete assortment of fishing boats representing 40 brands at the new year's best prices.
Because of its sheer size, the show attracts representatives from major manufacturers such as Stren, Berkley, Fenwick, Lowrance, Okuma, Shimano, Offshore Tackle and Bert's Custom Tackle and others.
Many guides, outfitters, lodges, charter fishing captains and other

destination vendors have reserved space again this year. "Outfitters Expo" is a popular show within the show that offers fishing and family vacations throughout Michigan, the Great Lakes, Canada and beyond. Patrons can compare costs and services by speaking directly to lodge owners, fishing guides and even bush plane pilots.
The show attracts anglers of all ages and levels of experience. The Trout Pond will have live rainbows for "kids" young and old to catch and some lucky anglers win prizes every day. The Michigan B.A.S.S. Federation clubs will hold their Casting Kids competition on Saturday and Sunday. Children receive casting instruction from representatives of the Michigan B.A.S.S. Federation clubs and then compete for accuracy.

Lots of promotions and prizes

of the show and a special run of only 1,000 has been made just for this event. Make sure to attend early to secure this valuable collector's item. Factory experts from Eppinger Mfg. will be at the show every day to answer questions.
The first 500 attendees to the show on Saturday and Sunday will receive a free Quick Fillet Tool.
The Ultimate Fishing Show has teamed up with Michigan's own Quick Fillet Company to make this special offer possible. Every angler has room for a Quick Fillet Tool in his or her tackle box.

Second Faerie Gathering planned for February

By Susan Steinmueller
Observer Staff Writer

Diane Rothman believes faeries may well have attended the first Farmington Faerie Gathering last year. "Faeries love music, dancing, and people having fun," said Rothman, owner of The Sacred Sage downtown.

Rothman is planning the second annual Farmington Faerie Gathering from Feb. 14-16.

The three-day event will include a Faerie Door Scavenger Hunt; a Rose Garden Faerie tea; and a Sun, Moon and Stars Faerie Ball.

Rothman said the events will be fun for everyone, whether they believe in faeries — or as she does — or not.

Rothman said fairy gatherings are held around the country. She decided to organize one after attending a couple of them.

Last year's event was well attended with about 75 people at the faerie ball, and a couple of hundred people participating in the scavenger hunt, generally in groups, she said.

Eighteen merchants participated, this year there are 25, Rothman said.

Winter fun

Rothman said another reason she decided to organize the event is that "January and February are really quiet months, and there are no other activities during that time."

As for Valentine's Day, "we had a lot of people who came to the ball to celebrate Valentines Day last year."

Following are details of the gathering:

• **Faerie Door Scavenger Hunt:** The hunt will be through participating downtown Farmington shops, Feb. 14-16. There will be two hunts, one for adults and one for children.

Players will receive a goody bag with the scavenger hunt play card and instructions, and a brochure listing the event activities and coupons and information from downtown Farmington merchants.

The play card will lead players around to participating merchants where they will have to find the faerie door and collect a clue that will lead them to the next merchant.

They have three days to complete the scavenger hunt. This allows time for browsing and shopping in the participating shops along the way. Completed play cards will be entered into a drawing for prize baskets. If players spend \$25 in participating shops they are entered into a drawing for a second prize basket.

• **Rose Garden Faerie Tea:** The tea, for all ages, will be the afternoon of Feb. 16 in The Village Mall at Grand River and Farmington. \$10 includes tea, treats and faerie entertainment. There are two seatings, at 1 and 3 p.m.

• **Ginger's Café Faerie Tea:** 1-3 p.m. Friday Feb. 15, includes herbal tea, scones with cream and jam, sparkling juice and faerie tea sandwiches. There will also be mini magical cupcakes. \$21.95 per person.

• **The Sun, Moon and Stars Faerie Ball:** This will be held at Grand Cel-



Do you believe in faeries? Diane Rothman, owner of Sacred Sage, believes faeries were at the first Farmington Faerie Gathering last year.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMIZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Diane Rothman, owner of Sacred Sage in downtown Farmington, is planning the annual 'Farmington Faerie Gathering' in February.



Diane Rothman, owner of Sacred Sage in downtown Farmington, is preparing for the annual 'Farmington Faerie Gathering' in February.

ebrations on Grand River the evening of Feb. 16 for adults 21 and over. Tickets are \$25 and include open bar, appetizers, DJ, and a costume contest to elect the Faerie King and Queen.

Lots of activities

In conjunction with the gathering, Faerie vendors will be located in The Village Mall on Saturday, Feb. 16.

"We are looking for faerie-ish face painters, vendors, entertainment, etc.," said Rothman, with vendor tables being \$20. Free activities around

downtown on Saturday Feb. 16 include: Victorian Lace Elegance: Guess the number of tea bags in the jar to win a prize; The Sacred Sage: Faerie oracle card readings and visit the Faerieland Diorama; The Vines: Make your own Faerie crown;

Farmington Downtown Development Authority: Make your own leprechaun mask, location to be decided.

For more information, see the website www.farmingtonfaeriegathering.com.

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Two ex-McCotter staffers will learn fate Jan. 18

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Two former staffers of Thaddeus McCotter will learn their fate Jan. 18 when they are to be sentenced on felony counts in the petition fraud case.

A hearing on a motion to quash a remaining charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony, against Paul Seewald, McCotter's former district director, and Don Yowchuang, former district director, was originally scheduled for Wednesday before Wayne County Circuit Judge Margie Braxton, but the hearing was postponed. Braxton said she will rule on the motion before the sentencing.

Both Yowchuang and Seewald entered pleas Nov. 27 in connection with McCotter's petition scandal. Yowchuang of Farmington

Hills, who worked as deputy district director for the former congressman, pleaded no contest in Wayne County's 3rd Circuit Court before Braxton to 10 counts of forgery, a five-year felony, and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Seewald of Livonia, who worked as district director for the former congressman, pleaded guilty to nine misdemeanor counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator. The misdemeanor is punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

The remaining charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner remains pending against both Yowchuang and Seewald.

On Aug. 9, 2012, Schuette announced the results of an investigation by the attorney general's Public Integrity Unit into the alleged fraud sur-



Seewald



Yowchuang

rounding nominating petitions filed in May 2012 on behalf of McCotter. At that announcement, Schuette explained the former congressman was "asleep at the switch" and that four staff members faced criminal charges. Schuette alleged that members of McCotter's staff were involved in a deliberate fraud involving a pattern of copying and altering petitions in order to qualify the five-term congressman for the 2012 Michigan ballot.

On Sept. 18, Lorianne O'Brady, 52, of Livonia, who worked as a scheduler to the former congressman, plead-

ed no contest in Wayne County's 16th District Court before Judge Kathleen J. McCann to five counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

O'Brady was sentenced to 20 days in jail or 20 days in a work program followed by 18 months probation with the first 12 months as reporting probation. O'Brady was also ordered to pay \$2,625 in fines and court costs.

The fourth staffer, Mary Melissa Turnbull of Howell, faces one count of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator and one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner. She was bound over for trial Nov. 1 on both charges by Judge Dennis Drury of Troy's 52-4 District Court.

McCotter was not charged, as there was no direct evidence of his involvement, according to Schuette.

In earlier interviews with

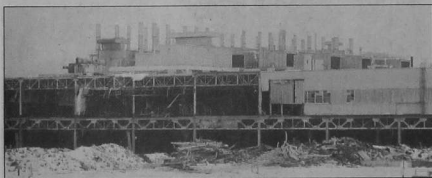
the Observer, attorneys representing Seewald and Yowchuang were surprised that no plea agreements were offered as their clients had cooperated in the investigation. Mark Mandell, Seewald's attorney, added that the attorney general's investigation didn't go far enough in finding out who actually cut and pasted the fraudulent signatures.

Seewald has dedicated his life to public service, and community activities, like Livonia youth football, Mandell said. "He's never even had a traffic ticket," Mandell said.

Schuette opposed the defense attorney's motion to quash the charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, according to spokeswoman Joy Yearout, and the attorney general's office will continue to argue against it in court.

kabracm@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2391 | Twitter: @KenAbracz

Buyer of most of Ford's plant site envisions mixed-use development



The Wixom Ford plant has begun to be torn down beginning with its north-facing buildings. The last car rolled off the 4.7-million-square-foot plant in 2007.

By JC Reindl
Gannett News Service

Ford has sold three-quarters of its giant former Wixom Assembly plant property to an industrial site redeveloper and may sell most of the rest to home improvement retailer Menards.

The automaker's real estate arm announced Jan. 4 that it closed the land deal in late December for 239 acres of the 317-acre factory site near

I-96 off Wixom Road.

Brian Wilson, the lead partner of the new property owner, Trinity Barrow Development, said he will start demolishing what remains of the 4.3 million-square-foot complex in late March. He envisions replacing the plant with a mixed-use development of commercial, industrial and retail, and perhaps even a park or recreation area.

Ford shuttered the factory in May 2007, dealing

a major blow to the City of Wixom's tax base.

Highly publicized plans by Ford and then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm to transform the idled property into a \$725-million renewable energy park unraveled in 2011 when an out-of-state battery maker and a solar energy company couldn't obtain enough financing from the U.S. Energy Department.

Trinity Barrow Management is a subsidiary of New York-based Barrow Development, whose specialty is "repurposing obsolete real estate."

The selling price was not disclosed, although Wilson said he paid Ford in cash.

Wilson, co-founder of Barrow Development, said there is interest in the development from several commercial and industrial businesses. But his firm has yet to draw up site plans or agree to prospective tenants. The next step after demolition, he said, is to choose the right anchor for the project while remaining flexible about what goes there.

Too many unsuccessful redevelopment projects made the mistake of getting locked in to a certain concept, he said.

"We just don't know what's going to go there," said Wilson, a Massachusetts native who bought a residence in Royal Oak so he can monitor the site.

"We have 50 different scenarios that are floating,"

Wilson said his project may not need the tax credits that come with the property, although they could come in handy for his future end users. The Michigan Economic Growth Authority board has approved a \$6.3-million tax credit and two, \$10-million Brownfield tax credits.

For Barrow Development, the Wixom site's redevelopment will be its largest undertaking in its 12-year history. Barrow Development's past projects include the redevelopment of an industrial center in Fairfield, Ohio, and the ongoing redevelopment of a former Bell Laboratories building in Columbus, Ohio.

Ford Land, which handled the sale, remains in talks with Menards to buy a separate 45-acre section of the property that is nearest to I-96. Under one scenario, the retailer could place its store on 15 acres and market the rest. Demolition began late last year on that smaller segment of the factory.

Ford will retain ownership of a 32-acre parcel near the back of the property that was a landfill. The massive production complex opened in 1957 and last made Lincoln Town Cars. It employed nearly 5,500 workers at its 1970s peak but only 1,100 when it closed.

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- § New Zealand Double Lamb Chops *gilled to order with a pistachio-mint pesto*

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Vacant restaurant gets new life as Hibachi Grill

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Tony Dong worked in the restaurant business for decades until, in 2007, he ventured out on his own and opened his very first business. Five years later, the Chinese native has 75 Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffets scattered around the country, including one of the newest in Westland.

"We're very excited at the response of the people," said Sophie Weng, Dong's daughter and the restaurant's manager. "Some people come in and tell us it looks so different. All the people say it is so comfortable and clean and that when they come back they will bring their family."

Dong spent almost six months remodeling and expanding a former restaurant in the shopping center at Wayne Road and Hunter into the new international style buffet restaurant, offering Chinese, Japanese, Italian and American food. The restaurant seats 520 people and has a 200-seat banquet room for special events.

Dong has picked the locations of shuttered Old Country Buffets for his family-owned restaurants, replacing the generic buffet atmosphere with chandeliers and color-themed interiors. The Westland Old Country Buffet was shuttered in January 2011 after its parent company, Minnesota-based Buffets Inc. and all of its subsidiaries, filed voluntary petitions for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Hibachi Grill joins Char House breathing new life into closed restaurants in and near the city's Dine and Shop District. Char



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Patrons of the Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffet find plenty of choices of 10 buffet tables filled with Chinese, Japanese, Italian and American food.

House on Warren Road opened last July.

While the color themes include yellow and purple, the Westland Hibachi Grill is done in brown, reflected in the walls, widow shades and table and chairs. A chandelier is a fixture in all Hibachi Grills, and the Westland store has three that light up the buffet area, the sushi bar and hibachi grill where customers can watch their selections cooked. There are also a salad bar and ice cream bar as well one featuring cakes made by Weng's mother, Ai Hua Chen.

"She's a great cook," said Weng.

According to Weng, there are more than 250 items on the buffet bar, including traditional Chinese favorites like fried rice and spring rolls, and several specialty items like Hibachi chicken, beef tenderloin and Italian shrimp. The American cuisine includes pizza, barbecued chicken and pork, mashed pota-



Connie Thomas of Westland, has dined at the Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffet twice and reports that "Everything I've had is just great."

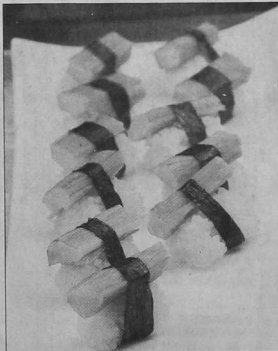
toes and pasta.

The Westland buffet is the fourth such restaurant Dong has opened in Michigan. The first one was in Flint, followed by Taylor and Clinton Township. A fifth one will open soon in Kalamazoo.

The restaurants at one time were called Teppanyaki, but Dong has now settled on Hibachi

Grill and Supreme Buffet. The supreme, according to Weng, is "because the buffet is huge." And he's able to keep the restaurants in the family because he and Chen have five brothers and five sisters.

"They brought in their brothers and sisters, their parents, their children and their friends," said



Sushi is a featured cuisine.

Weng who has worked in almost every one of her father's restaurants. "We have 35 people working in the kitchen and nine servers, two cashiers and myself in the dining room."

The makeover and cuisine has proved popular with patrons. Open-

ing day, the family hoped to make \$5,000, but ended up taking in \$10,000. Last Sunday, cars were parked in the lot almost to Wayne Road.

"People were talking about having to walk a long way," Weng said. "We were very crowded for our opening, too."

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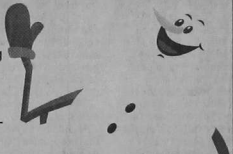
Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

Winter Family Fun!



Scoop's Coloring Contest!

Color a picture of Scoop having fun this winter or create your own drawing of winter fun. You could win an Angry Birds 'Knock on Wood' Board Game. To obtain Scoop's coloring page go to [facebook.com/ScoopTheNewsHound](https://www.facebook.com/ScoopTheNewsHound) and look for Scoop's coloring contest. Submit your drawings to cbjordan@hometownlife.com or mail to Scoop The Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth MI 48170.



Winter Fun! Coloring Contest

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- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|
| David Kott | Novi | Jan. 1 |
| Madeblynn Richard | Garden City | Jan. 7 |
| Abigail Brunwell | Northville | Jan. 11 |
| Bradley White | Canton | Jan. 12 |
| Hope Drogmiller | Novi | Jan. 18 |
| Brandon Lewandowski | Garden City | Jan. 29 |

New Year's Goal!

Scoop wants to help you set your goals! List what you would like to achieve over the next year. Keep your list safe throughout the year and see how many goals you accomplish. Here is a chart to help you.

Types of Goals	What is your Goal?	Why do you want to reach this Goal?	What steps do you need to make to achieve this goal?	Who can help you reach your Goal?	When will you have this goal accomplished by?
Friends and family					
Health and fitness					
Saving and Giving					
Education and Training					
Leisure and Recreation					
Faith and Community					
Other					

Example: For Scoop's Faith & Community Goal...Scoops wants to make someone smile!

Brain Teaser

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Deadline for submissions:

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 All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Media by close of the business day on **January 27**
 or email your form to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.



American Coney Island, the home of the original Detroit 'Coney Dog,' opens a new, 50-seat restaurant on Michigan Avenue in Canton on Saturday.

Family brings 'Detroit Coney' to Canton

American Coney Island, the home of the original Detroit "Coney Dog," will open a new restaurant in Canton on Saturday, Jan. 12. The new location at 44532 Michigan Avenue will feature a 30-seat restaurant where diners can opt to eat in, carry-out or drive-thru, the first for American Coney Island.

Serving up traditional coney dogs, the restaurant will also offer other ACI menu favorites such as Greek salad, spinach pie and baklava.

As part of the grand opening celebration, American Coney Island will offer free coney hot dogs to the first 50 customers (one per person) beginning at 9 a.m., and

99 cent coneys from 2-3 p.m. on Jan. 12. In addition, for each coney purchased, customers will receive an entry form into a drawing for a chance win a free coney hot dog a week for a year (52 weeks). The drawing takes place at 11 p.m. (need not be present to win) and winner will be notified the next day.

"Customers have asked us for years to open another American Coney Island in the metro Detroit area and the timing and location for this new restaurant in Canton was ideal," said Grace Kerros, third generation owner of American Coney Island. "While our original downtown loca-

tion will always be a destination spot for our loyal coney fans, we are looking forward to serving the Canton and surrounding communities."

In the past several years, the 95-year-old iconic family owned American Coney Island has expanded to the Detroit Zoo, Ford Field and, most recently, opened its first out-of-state location in The D Las Vegas Hotel and Casino.

The new restaurant will open Jan. 12 at 8 a.m. and hours of operation will be Sunday to Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday to Saturday 7 a.m. to midnight.

Founded by Gust Kerros in 1917, American Coney Island is Detroit's oldest

family run restaurant and is the original home of the famous Detroit "Coney Dog" with chili, mustard and onions. American Coney Island, located at 114 W. Lafayette in downtown Detroit, has been owned by three generations of the Kerros Family: Gust, his son Charles and today, Charles' daughter Grace is the first woman owner.

The restaurant has been featured on 'The Today Show, Iron Chef Michael Symon's "Food Feuds" on Food Network and Travel Channel's "Food Wars" - and won best Coney Dog in Detroit on both Food Feuds and Food Wars.

For more information, visit www.AmericanConeyIsland.com

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank acquisition

Bank of Ann Arbor announced it has acquired Ervin Leasing Company, a privately held national equipment leasing and finance company founded in 1978 and headquartered in Ann Arbor.

Ervin Leasing, a subsidiary of parent company Ervin Industries, has been a highly successful and growth oriented leasing company since its founding in 1978. After successfully navigating the economic downturn in 2008 and 2009, the company began to ramp up sales in 2010.

However, Ervin Leasing's funding sources, previously providing lines of credit in the range of \$100 million, remained on the sidelines, leading to Ervin Industries' decision to seek out a new owner who could provide funding for growth. After seeking proposals from banks and private equity firms, Bank of Ann Arbor was chosen as the successor to Ervin Industries as the new owner of Ervin Leasing.

"We are super excited about this opportunity to join forces with Ervin Leasing and further diversify our product offerings," said Timothy G. Marshall, Bank of Ann Arbor's President & CEO. "Bank of Ann Arbor has a substantial level of liquidity to fund the anticipated growth of the newly acquired leasing company. Having done business with Ervin Leasing for over ten years, we know the company very well and admire the strong and experienced management team and its seasoned employees who will all join our Bank of Ann Arbor team."

"We chose Bank of Ann Arbor as the new owner of Ervin Leasing based on our strong desire to affiliate with a company who would hire all of our local staff, has a similar culture that is growth oriented and a great place to work, and has an impeccable reputation," said Bruce Gaffney, President and CEO of Ervin Leasing. "We also have maintained a very strong credit culture over the history of the company which is similar to the credit culture at Bank of Ann Arbor. I am confident that our companies will be a great fit for years to come."

Ervin Leasing will remain at its current office location at 3893 Research Park Dr., Ann Arbor.

Cider winners

Jim and Becky Engelsma of Engelsma's Apple Barn have taken home another first place win in the 16th annual Michigan Apple Cider Contest. The cider makers have received first place in the contest four times, in 2005, 2007, 2010 and this year.

"I am honored to represent our industry again, and recognize that there are many people that have made this win possible," said Jim Engelsma. "I am very proud of our industry, even on the toughest year we have ever gone through, everyone is still hard at work doing what they do best."

The cider contest had a unique feel this year, as cider makers, judges and contest organizers reflected on a difficult year for the Michigan apple industry.

Other honors in the 2012 cider contest went to Mary Emmett of Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill in Plymouth, Mich., who took home second place. Third place went to Jim and Michelle Goldstein of He's Cider Mill in Romeo, Mich.

CHAMBER CHAT

Chamber breakfast

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its inaugural State of the Chamber Breakfast Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 8 a.m. at the Summit on the Park.

Chamber President Thomas Paden will present the chamber's annual report letting members know what has been accomplished during the past year and moving towards the future.

Also, 35th District Court Judge Mike Gerou will be on hand to facilitate the installation of the 2013 Board of Directors.

Cost is \$10 per person, and reservations are required. The event is sponsored by Bovitz, CPA, P.C., Showroom of Elegance and Premier Development Solutions.

For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-1040.

Business workshop

The Plymouth Community Chamber hosts its Business Development Workshop, "The 13 Ways Small Businesses Can Jump Start Their Year," 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in the chamber's meeting room.

Business owners and entrepreneurs are encouraged to attend. There is no cost, but the event can only accommodate 25 people.

In this 60 minute workshop participants will learn how to identify and how to remedy the 13 not so common mistakes that small business owners make and how to turn them into revenue producing opportunities in 2013.

Be prepared to learn:

- Three ideas that will prevent from sabotaging your own business success
- A simple formula for handling customer complaints
- Three key ideas that will help you gain and keep new clients
- One proven strategy for multiplying your efforts and getting more done

The presenter, Tom Borg, is president of Tom Borg Consulting, LLC. He is a specialist in helping small businesses find, attract, sell to and keep the right kind of clients to maintain an increasingly profitable business.

There is no cost to attend, but we can only accommodate 25 people. To RSVP contact ter@plymouthchic.org or call (734) 453-1540.

Kick-off breakfast

Chamber Chairman Mark Baker of PNC Bank, and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors host the annual Chamber Kick-off Breakfast 7:30-9 a.m. Wednes-



Grand opening

Barwis Methods Training Center recently cut the ribbon on their location at 44191 Plymouth Oaks Blvd. Owner Mike Barwis is the former U-M Director of Strength and Conditioning, including direct responsibility for the football team. He also worked in the same capacity for West Virginia University and is a consultant to the New York Mets. Pictured are his staff and members of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

day, Jan. 23, at The Inn at St. John's. The event will feature presentation of a new five-year plan for the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

"We are working on new dynamic ways we can serve our members and better promote the area to attract residents, businesses and visitors," said Wes Graff, executive director of the Plymouth chamber. "We also will introduce our Board of Directors, highlight upcoming events, provide opportunities for members to volunteer and introduce our new Chamber app."

The event will feature exhibit stations to learn more about the Chamber's initiatives and committees. There will also be the opportunity to join committees and volunteer to help with Chamber events.

Last year the breakfast attracted 140 members, making it one of the best networking opportunities of the year. The cost to attend this event is \$5. Reservations must be made by Friday, Jan. 20.

The Inn at St. John's is located at 44045 Sheldon (the corner of Sheldon and Five Mile roads).

To register, contact the chamber at ter@plymouthchic.org or call (734) 453-1540.

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OUR VIEWS

Speak up Add your voice to educators' cries

A lot of people were rattled by the flurry of bills passed by the Michigan Legislature in its lame-duck session late last month. But the one that seemed to shake up the most people locally was a proposed sweeping restructuring of the state's public education system.

Jeremy Hughes, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, was pretty succinct in his assessment.

"It's basically a dismantling of public schools," Hughes said. Among its provisions was the expansion of the Education Achievement Authority, essentially creating one statewide school district under control of the governor, not the state superintendent of education. It also would allow for the broad expansion of charter schools and even would have allowed the state to take vacant school district buildings to be used for charter schools, which could operate in direct competition to the local public schools.

The governor and state legislators who supported the concept made the point that something has to be done to help the failing and underachieving schools.

It's a valid argument — but not when it comes to Plymouth-Canton, or any of the other fine, quality school districts across the state that are in no sense failing.

Plymouth-Canton officials were a little taken aback to find several of their schools listed by the state as "Focus" schools based on the gap between the top 30 percent and bottom 30 percent of its students. (The list of Michigan's 358 Focus schools also includes schools in districts like Bloomfield Hills, Grosse Pointe and Troy.)

Like officials in good-performance districts, the Plymouth-Canton Board had already recognized shortcomings in some of its achievement groups, and had already begun dealing with the issue.

"It is important for the community to understand that we have recognized the achievement gap and have been working on solutions," Hughes pointed out. "Even before the state announced the Focus school designations, the Board of Education created an achievement goal to deliver 133 percent growth this year for non-proficient students. Our board is insisting we raise the floor and close the gap. It's also important to recognize that we are a high-performing district, and large numbers of our students do very well on state assessments."

Local educators have raised a ruckus over what the state was proposing and bombarded their legislators to oppose the plan. They went public, urging residents to speak out against the plan.

School boards passed resolutions opposing the changes and urged Congress to overhaul the No Child Left Behind legislation. They also asked Congress to amend the federal Budget Control Act to mitigate any cuts to education that would have resulted from sequestration if the so-called "fiscal cliff" had not been averted.

It was, and that became moot — for now. But the point is that the districts finally have stood up and said no to what they think is wrong.

It's about time. Such resolutions do carry weight. They let the legislators know that they are not happy with what they are doing and they assure parents and other district residents they are looking out for their interests. But even more important, the school boards informed parents and taxpayers at large about what was at stake.

Over the years — decades even — schools have been saddled with a variety of unintended mandates and ill-conceived programs like No Child Left Behind and the onerous, and pointless, MEAP tests.

Most of this has been met with begrudging acceptance. Now, at last, our school boards have found a voice and have spoken up.

In response, the Legislature has stripped much of the features of the bills that would have been most detrimental to the local schools. The matter is expected to be taken up again in the new legislative session.

No doubt, our local educators will keep an eye on and speak out about the action. But they can't keep up the full court press alone.

Our school boards need the help of parents, grandparents, the business community and the average taxpayer out there to say, "We've got your back," and then go one step further.

Tell legislators that making education a priority in 2013 will earn them your vote in future elections.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's the best thing that happened to you last year?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I think it's spending time with my family, and I got a new car."

Rebecca Mabie
Canton



"The health of our three children."

David Szaraz
Canton



"Obama being re-elected."

Amy Szaraz
Canton



"That I still have my parents with me."

Patty Dempsey
Canton

LETTERS

Draw, stranger

Using guns against guns will solve the killing problem? Put guns in the hands of teachers to prevent others from using guns against them in schools? Dump another responsibility on teachers who are already overloaded with concerns far beyond their primary teaching duties?

Teachers experience a wide variety of emotional moments during the course of a teaching day. Reactions usually are controlled, but what about the time when conflict at home, an individual student's severe negative behavior, a misinterpretation of an action, or just a bad day might lead to a reaction on the part of a teacher with an unfortunate outcome?

Dealing with human reaction under stress is a sensitive area, and teachers must not be placed in a situation where they might react incorrectly.

The NRA, rather than take any positive action toward solving the killing problem, just suggests that someone else deals with it, namely anyone but them. Imagine the change in the comfort and sanctity of a church when individuals are attending services wearing sidearms.

According to the NRA, ministers, priests rabbis, imams etc., also would qualify as gun bearers. Those individuals, including teach-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com
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Fax: (313) 223-3318
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.
Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

ers, whose lives are emotionally and physically geared to trust, understanding and compassion would be reduced to the level of a sheriff in the old wild, wild west.

Draw, stranger ...

Ron DePentis
Canton

Better sportsmanship

The Canton community has always taken great pride in the services that we provide for our children. We strive for the best schools and for a fine community sports program that will prepare

them for a successful future. The residents of our community are proud to sponsor the Canton Cup, a soccer competition that attracts young athletes from other states and from Canada. We should be proud of these endeavors.

However, the soccer program at High Velocity Sports is a black mark on Canton's fine reputation. We are all aware that this facility is a privately-owned for-profit business, but I believe that, as a community, we should address the low standards of sportsmanship that is tolerated by the management there.

Children participate in soccer to promote good health and to learn the skills of competition and the tools of good sportsmanship. We must insist that the officials who referee the games be knowledgeable, unbiased and mature in their contact with our kids.

Too many of those hired at High Velocity do not meet even the minimum requirements. Should we teach our kids to be silent and allow unfairness to be the standard? I, for one, think that there are times when we should speak up. Hopefully public pressure will cause the management at High Velocity to step up and raise their standards to match those of the Canton Community.

Karen Krahmalikov
Canton

STAFF COLUMN

After Sandy Hook: More guns not the solution to school safety issues

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

I don't like guns. Frankly, they scare me. When I was in the Air Force, the guys at the gun range had to count the shots in my target and the target next to me just so I could qualify with the M-16.

I don't understand the fascination gun-owners have with them.

On the other hand, gun owners don't understand my fascination with Barney Manilow either. They don't seem to begrudge me mine, so I don't begrudge them theirs.

That doesn't mean I think guns should be allowed to be carried anywhere, gun owners don't understand my fascination with Barney Manilow either. They don't seem to begrudge me mine, so I don't begrudge them theirs.

where the owner wishes to take them. That's why it frustrates me to hear reasonable people leaping to the conclusion, in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, that the best way to keep our children safe is to put armed guards in every school building.

At first, I understood the knee-jerk reaction. Twenty of our most precious resources died in that massacre, which was far more than an attack on an elementary school. It was an attack on our consciousness, on our souls. And we need to protect those most innocent among us.

of our school buildings. Now apply that logic to Sandy Hook. What are the chances that single volunteer is going to be in the right place, at the right time, when Adam Lanza makes his assault on the school?

If the armed guard is at one end of the building when Lanza enters the other end, what good has he done? Lanza peppered the school with more than 100 bullets while killing 26 people, including 20 children. If the armed guard had gotten to him, and managed to stop him, say halfway through the rampage, it's true 13 lives would have been spared. And maybe that's a good argument in favor of putting the guard in the building in the first place.

But what happens when the volunteer misses Lanza and hits a teacher? What happens when the guard, whose qualifications we don't know yet, misses Lanza and hits a student? What happens when the guard shoots at Lanza and misses, enraging the shooter even further and prompting an even larger massacre?

Then there's the pragmatic side. Where do we get the volunteers? Administrators and teachers? Former military members? Off-duty police officers? The guy down the street who happens to own a handgun? And who decides what level of training these people need? And who verifies they have it?

But we put police officers in every building? Plymouth-Canton alone has 26 buildings; the Plymouth Township Police Department has 21 officers. How's that going to work? And who pays for all of this extra

security? I defy anyone to find a local school district who can afford it now, much less when Gov. Rick Snyder gets done gutting — excuse me, restructuring — public education funding. On Meet the Press, NRA vice president Wayne LaPierre ducked when asked if the NRA will help pay for it. It probably would at first, but I suspect that particular funding source would dry up pretty quickly.

Besides, I just don't believe it's a good idea. Putting more weapons — more bullets — in the school environment just seems wrong. If it's such a good idea, where's all the support? I personally haven't heard many educators or law-enforcement officials support it. If those folks don't like it, why should we?

But you can't suggest anything else without being labeled anti-gun. You can't suggest the gun-show loophole for gun purchases be closed without hearing "You're trying to take away my guns." And you certainly can't suggest that your next-door-neighbor has no real use for an AR-47 without being labeled a liberal who wants to take away that neighbor's Second Amendment rights.

For the record, if you don't care how many Manilow CDs I have, I don't care how many AK-47s you have. I just don't think bringing them into the schools does anything but exacerbate the problem.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



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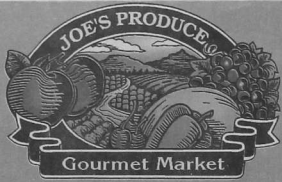
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Wildcats gear up

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Staying sharp during the holidays in order to be prepared for the start of the KLA South Division schedule is what Plymouth varsity wrestling coach expected by having the Wildcats compete in some high-caliber invitational.

One week after finishing fourth at the Milford Yeti Challenge, a split squad fared well Saturday at two venues.

BOYS WRESTLING
took five wrestlers to the Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Invitational and four of them returned with medals. And at the Highlander Duels at Howell, remaining Wildcats competed and earned a 34-31 win over Rockford.

"Wrestlers who had good days of competition (at Howell) included Joey Shaver, Brandon Harris, Collin Reed and Sofus Nielson," noted Guernsey in an e-mail to the Observer. "While the outcome as far as team record is concerned was not as successful as the team hoped it was a good experience for many of the younger wrestlers going into the always challenging KLA South schedule."

Plymouth opened that phase of the season Wednesday against Livonia Franklin and Wayne Memorial. Results were not available as of press time.

In the highly competitive invite at Catholic Central, still-undefeated Mohamed Youssef (fourth at 113), Trey Berry (sixth at 119), Jon Conn (sixth at 135) and Alec Breckenridge (fifth at 140) won medals while Hussein Youssef "looked strong at 145 wrestling very talented opponents but fell just short of placing," Guernsey added.

On Dec. 28 at the Yeti Challenge, Plymouth went 2-2 on the day, winning the first two matchups only to lose 54-21 to Swan Valley in the championship semifinal. The Wildcats

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**



Proudly displaying her plaque after being inducted last September into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame is 93-year-old Jerry Gawura of Canton.

Ageless wonder

Still-active 93-year-old Canton woman stays young at heart

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

One of the most heartwarming stories of the Plymouth-Canton area during 2012 had to be the September induction of 93-year-old Jerry Gawura into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

Now it's 2013 and the Canton resident is doing more than basking in her glory.

The softball team she traveled with and played on since the late 1980s (Michigan Mavericks) had to be disbanded after the 2009 season due to players' various health issues and their other interests.

"I wanted to play one more year at least," Gawura said last week. "But four of the 80-year-olds decided to get into something else."

With that, the Mavericks' practice field (Moeller Field in Garden City) became less crowded.

It also meant Gawura's softball days were over, yet not-



Sending the ball toward home plate during a 2006 contest is Michigan Mavericks pitcher Jerry Gawura. She played with the team until it disbanded in 2009, but she still plays volleyball among other activities.

ing seems to slow her down — not even stomach cancer, knee replacement surgery or macular degeneration (an eye disease that hampers vision).

For example, with her 94th birthday looming in March, Gawura continues to play vol-

Please see **GAWURA, B3**

Aleardi traded by Whalers

Plymouth Whalers general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci Monday announced the acquisition of 19-year-old left winger Zach Lorentz from the Windsor Spitfires in exchange for 20-year-old right wing Alex Aleardi (Farmington Hills).

Ontario Hockey League teams had until noon on Wednesday to cut down to three overage players (1992 birthdays) on their respective rosters. The trade allows Plymouth to keep defensemen Colin MacDonald and Austin Levi and center Mitchell Heard as the team's overage players.

Windsor has an overage slot available, so the deal was made for Aleardi, who was acquired by the Whalers from the Windsor Spitfires on Sept. 20, 2010, from Belleville for a pair second-round draft choices.

Aleardi scored 71 goals and 62 assists for 113 points in 164 career games with the Whalers.

Lorentz is no stranger to the Western Conference. Originally selected in 12th round (223rd overall) by the Kitchener Rangers in the 2009 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection, Lorentz played two seasons in Kitchener, enjoying his best overall season with the Rangers last year when he scored 19 goals and 14 assists for 33 points.

Lorentz is no stranger to the Western Conference. Originally selected in 12th round (223rd overall) by the Kitchener Rangers in the 2009 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection, Lorentz played two seasons in Kitchener, enjoying his best overall season with the Rangers last year when he scored 19 goals and 14 assists for 33 points.

Canton lacrosse

The Canton boys lacrosse team will hold its mandatory meeting for all parents, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, in Room 133 of Canton High School.

Call Maura Topper at (734) 454-4864 for more information.

Baseball tryouts

Open tryouts to fill out roster spots for the 2013 Livonia City Thunder 12-and-under baseball team will be from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at Precision Baseball, 7835 Market St., Canton.

There are no residency requirements an open to all players who are 12 by May 1, 2013.

For more information, e-mail livonia@livoniacitythunder.com or visit livoniacitythunder@gmail.com; or www.livoniacitythunder.com.

Please see **HOOPS, B4**

Eagles' offense grounded by Liggett

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last season's Miss Basketball, Madison Ristovski, graduated after leading Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett to the Class C finals.

But her two sisters — Haleigh and Lola Ristovski — helped the Knights host Plymouth Christian Academy on Tuesday night that the Class D Eagles will have a battle on their hands at the top of the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference-Blue Division standings.

They did it by playing pressure defense and forcing PCA to rush shots as Liggett never trailed in a 47-29 victory.

"They (Eagles) just panicked under a little bit of pressure," PCA head coach Carol Gerulis said. "We

haven't played a really competitive team in a couple weeks, so I think it's hard to engage back into that kind of game."

Liggett head coach Omar Ahart, whose team improved to 2-4 overall and 1-0 in the MIAAC-Blue, praised his team for its aggressive defense.

Top contributors in that area were senior forward Haleigh Ristovski (11 rebounds, six steals, four blocks along with six points), sophomore guard Jessica Rottzoli (15 points to lead all scorers and nine boards) and senior point guard Ariana Castillo (six points, four boards, three steals).

Chipping in with 10 points was sophomore guard Lola Ristovski.

"This (PCA) is an outside shooting team from what I understood," Ahart said. "And our man-to-man defense, our speed, that's

what we're trying to preach and that's what makes us different at Liggett now.

"We got to defend, we don't have Miss Basketball (Madison Ristovski) anymore," Ahart described that as "getting out, closing out" to stop drives to the basket and uncontested perimeter shots.

According to Gerulis, her players found it difficult to get quality inside shots as the game proceeded. In the first half, they missed a number of layups and put-back attempts.

"We just didn't look inside either," she said. "We kept the ball outside, we didn't do a good job of looking inside and finding the open player."

Plymouth Christian (5-3, 2-1) battled Liggett tough in the first quarter, cutting a 9-3 deficit down to 12-10 by the



Plymouth Christian Academy's Jennifer Malcolm (No. 25), shown from last season, tallied eight points and nine rebounds in Tuesday's game against Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

January

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 30
Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Details: The Rev. Ron Richards, a canon lawyer with experience working on the Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Detroit, will present information about annulments in a question and answer format. He'll answer such questions as: What is an annulment? How does one get an annulment? How long does it take to get an annulment? Call the parish office to register.

BIBLE STUDY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, starting Jan. 14 and 9:30 a.m. Friday, starting Jan. 18
Location: Praise Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial, Plymouth.
Details: Beth Moore's 10-week Bible study for women will explore the account of the building of the Tabernacle and, ultimately, the significance of its intricate design, the pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for a woman's walk with God today.

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 20
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All you can eat panakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, apple sauce, coffee, tea, juice. Sponsored by St. Theodore Missions Club.

DUELING PIANOS

Time/Date: Doors open 7 p.m., show starts 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12
Location: St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road, Westland
Details: Light refreshments, 50/50 raffle and cash bar. Tickets are \$20 and available at the church office.

able at the church office
Contact: (734) 421-6130
FILM
Time/Date: Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and movie starts at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia
Details: Screening of "October Baby," a film about a young woman who discovers she was adopted after a failed abortion attempt. She embarks on a journey to discover her hidden past in this film by the same producers as "Courageous" and "FireProof"
Contact: www.christoursavior.org

FILM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills
Details: Free movie night features the film "Sarah's Choice," about a career woman who has an unexpected pregnancy. She envisions three options and then makes a choice. There will be a special meal of braised country ribs (free will offering) along with the film. Call the church for dinner reservations
Contact: (248) 553-3380

FILM

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: The church and AAA Pregnancy Resource Center show "The Voice of John," a documentary about abortion and pro-choice laws. Admission is free and free child care will be available during the movie
Contact: (734) 459-3333

FILM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 16
Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23295 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: The church shows the film, "The Freedom Riders," which looks at Americans who deliberately violated Jim Crow laws in southern states in 1961. Admission is free
Contact: (248) 354-4488; www.northwestuu.org

GREEN FILM SERIES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17
Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham
Details: PRI's John Hockenberry goes inside the organizations that fought the scientific establishment to shift the direction of the climate debate. Film is followed by a discussion with Kathryn L. Saville, Ph.D., an authorized presenter of the Climate Reality Project, trained director by former Vice President Al Gore. Free admission. Sponsored by the church's Green Ministry
Contact: www.cbucc.org

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31
Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Junction, Livonia
Details: Tour the school, talk to our parents and staff during this open house for the school, which includes classes for preschool through middle school, CVO sports, bus transportation for Livonia residents, and flexible payment plans. Registration packets will be available at the open house
Contact: www.saintgenieve.org or call (734) 425-4420

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13
Location: Prentis Apartments community room, 10 Mile east of Greenfield in Oak Park
Details: The Pomegranate Guild of Southwestern Michigan is a group that studies and creates Judaic needlework. It will hold a "Stitch and Kvell," with members showing off recent projects
Contact: Judy Galperin at (248) 661-5337

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 5 p.m. cash bar, 6 p.m. dinner, Wednesday, Jan. 16
Location: G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, one block south of Eight Mile, Livonia
Details: Cost is \$18 and includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards, games, and conversation until 9 p.m. Reservations by Jan. 11, 2013
Other activities: Celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013 at St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth; stay at 3157 Selwood Road, Plymouth
Contact: Carol at (412) 662-8000 for dinner; Pat at (734) 895-6246 for Mass

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AYLWARD, ROBERT GEORGE
Age 77, of Livonia and formerly of Detroit passed away peacefully on December 20, 2012. Son of the late Alexander and Gertrude Aylward, brother of Joan Brantigan, uncle to Gail Gordon and Dale Brantigan. Robert (Bob) valued friendships and he enjoyed mentoring. His passions were cars, horses, and travel. A memorial luncheon will be held in celebration of his life on January 13, 2013 in Farmington Hills. Details will be provided by calling 248.880.7339



BAWULSKI, LUKE AUSTIN
24, of Farmington, died suddenly January 7, 2013. Luke will be remembered as a kind and compassionate soul who had a smile for everyone and was loved in return. He enjoyed working out, disc golf and coin collecting. He deeply loved his nephews, Curt and Reed. Luke is lovingly survived by his father, Ronald; mother, Cynthia; sister, Brooklyn (Scott) Gehlinger, brother, Eric; grandparents, Elaine (the late Fred) Bawulski, and Joan and John Weld; and nephews, Curt and Reed Gehlinger. Funeral Ceremony Saturday, January 12th, 10:00 am at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Visitation Friday 1-9 pm. Interment Farmington Oakwood Cemetery. Luke is truly loved and will be sorely missed.
heenev-sundquist.com



SCHNEEBERGER, DERRILL W. "DUTCH"
Age 84, of Farmington, January 7, 2013. Dutch was an Army Master Sergeant and Korean War Veteran; a graduate of Central Michigan University. Lifetime member of the Elks, longtime member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. He was an avid U of M fan and community volunteer; active in his fraternity, Phi Sigma Epsilon; and the Boy and Girl Scouts; he received the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts. Dutch was married to Barbara, his wife of 57 years; father of Jill (Phillip) Craig Lindsey (Kristoffer) Granning and Todd (Patricia) Schneebberger; grandfather of Anders, Evan and Stefan Granning; Jacob, Nicholas and Cole Schneebberger; and Maxwell Craig; great grandfather of Brianna and Rowen Granning. Uncle of Laura Hallan and Rick Hessel. Dutch was preceded in death by his sisters, Janet and Barbara. Visitation, Sunday, January 13, 10:00-4:00 pm at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Funeral Mass Monday, January 14, 10:00 am (in state 9:30 am) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23616 Power Rd., Farmington. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts suggested to: Forgotten Harvest.
heenev-sundquist.com

FLOWERS

MARILYN ANNE (nee: Sullivan)
Age 75, December 21, 2012. Survived by her husband William, her aunt Dorothy Coon and several nieces and nephews. Marilyn was extremely active in both Redford and Redford Aldergate United Methodist Churches where she served in many different capacities in support and service. She will be remembered for her hard work, dedication, can do spirit and loyalty to friends and family. She will be dearly missed. A memorial service has been planned for Friday, January 11, 2013 at 11:00 am at Redford Aldergate United Methodist. Family will receive visitors at 11:00 with a service at 12 noon with a luncheon to follow.

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Grid of church advertisements including: CATHOLIC (St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, St. Theodore Social Hall), PRESBYTERIAN (Rosedale Gardens, Fellowship Presbyterian Church), EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN (St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School), LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church), CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE (Plymouth Church of the Nazarene), ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (Open Arms Church), UNITY WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES (Friends of Unity), and EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (Antioch Lutheran Church).

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival celebrates playwrights, offers comedy, drama

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

TLC Productions received so many submissions for its second Canton One Acts Festival that it stopped collecting the contest entries a month early. "We probably could have gotten more, but we closed it down 30 days before the deadline. We received 101," said Christopher Tremblay, who founded the acting/writing troupe, along with Linda Pohl and Tim Chanko, all Canton residents. "We picked 18 for dramatic readings from the 101. The judges met and finalized the shows. This is such a testament to the quality of writing in southeast Michigan."

Judges chose eight finalists from the 18 readings. The final eight will take the stage at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Admission is \$12. Call (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or visit www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or cantontheater.com, and click on "tickets." They're also available at the door. The box office opens one hour before curtain.

The biennial playwrighting contest drew entries from across the country this year. Playwrights paid \$12 each for their works to be read and considered for staging. The entry fees will help TLC Productions cover its costs in producing the plays and will enable it to award cash prizes for the top three plays.

New this year is the festival's "R" rating. "There's no nudity. It's primarily because of adult language and theme," Tremblay noted. "There's nothing extreme. I felt in addition to language, some of the plays were a little more edgy this year." The contest called for shorter



Leanne Young (left) of South Lyon plays Liz and Tim Chanko of Canton plays Steve in the play, "Who Goes to Russia?" by Redford Township resident Maureen Paraventi. In the background are Patrick Wears of Canton as Mark and Natalie Barosso of Ann Arbor as Marie.

pieces this year, enabling judges to choose eight plays — two more than were produced in 2011. Each runs 10-20 minutes.

This year's festival also includes a piece by TLC Productions. Tremblay penned *Priced to Sell*, a humorous play about a garage sale. It's not eligible for prize money, but will keep the audience entertained when the curtain falls after each of the other plays.

"We decided we didn't want any down time between plays," Tremblay said. "*Priced to Sell* doesn't have a heavy plot. It can easily be chunked out into segments without losing continuity."

Tremblay edited the piece into five smaller segments that will appear throughout the festival between the end and beginning of other works.

"I sporadically go to garage sales. I think they are a funny part of American culture," he said. "I had a long drive home one day from Pennsylvania and ended up writing two pages of random ideas and weaving them together. Some are things that happened in my family and some are stories I've heard. It's designed to poke some fun at something that everyone is familiar with."

Mysteries, thrillers

Jake Zinke of Canton found inspiration in puzzles and mysteries for his play, *The Replacement*, about a home health worker and an elderly patient who piece together clues about a murder. Brion Scheidel, also a Canton resident, turned his ideas for a novel into the one-act play, *Saving JFK*, after dis-

covering that Stephen King had published a similar thriller.

"One of the ideas I had was for a story about someone who needs to go back in time and prevent JFK from being assassinated," said Scheidel, a software developer who has written poems, songs and stories. "I had the idea for about 15 years. I had notes I had taken and I had done research on events around JFK's assassination. It had been sitting in the back of my mind for a long time. But I never found time to progress farther than a lot of notes and research."

He heard about the Canton One Acts Festival shortly after learning that Stephen King's new novel also focused on a time traveller and the JFK assassination. "I decided to take the climax

of my story and make it into a one-act play."

Scheidel has never written a play. He read through a few scripts and researched online.

"It's very different than a short story or novel. It's more focused on dialogue and interaction between characters rather than describing how people feeling or what they are seeing.

"I found it to be an easy transition."

First play

Maureen Paraventi of Redford Township, writes non-fiction stories as an assistant editor for *Industrial Safety & Hygiene News*. She also has penned three novels and is active in community theater.

Who Goes to Russia? is her first one-act play.

"What motivated me was that I went to see the one-act festival that was put on a few years ago. It was all original material," she said.

"Novels live in the desk drawer... but to write a play and see it come to life is completely different. Playwriting has so much more immediate satisfaction."

Her play is a "dramedy" about two married couples who confront issues of infidelity, complacency and secrecy. They're in a rut as they attempt to sustain their long-term relationships, but still in love.

Paraventi also directed her work.

"It was a great learning experience. I did the smartest thing possible and got the best actors. I'm so pleased with this cast."

The other plays are *Security Blanket* by Nicole L.V. Mullis of Battle Creek; *Slick Dame* by Kay Poirio of Kailua, Hawaii; *Carmen Garmin* by Maria Rudin of Sarnel, Fla., and *I Can Feel It Coming On* by Carl Williams of Houston, Texas.

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Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission
Exhibits: Faberge: The Rise and Fall, The Collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, through Jan. 21, 2013; Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3, 2013
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

LIBERTY STREET BREW PUB

Time/Date: Artist reception, 5-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25; exhibit through Jan. 31; pub hours are 3 p.m.-midnight, Monday-Thursday, 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday, and noon-midnight, Sunday
Location: 149 W. Liberty St., Plymouth; Upper Hall Gallery
Details: Paintings by Kate Paul
Contact: (734) 207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Jan. 26; artist talk and reception runs 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Patricia Candor: Hiding in Plain Sight," presents the personal and creative evolution of an artist from 1978 through the present. Candor is a long-time adjunct professor at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and Lawrence Technological College
Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events,
Location: 31 Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Realee Edger's realistic paintings feature classic and vintage autos.
Contact: (734) 416-4278

Auditions
FARMINGTON PLAYERS
Time/Date: Registration at 1:30 p.m., auditions begin at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 20
Location: Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 West Twelve Mile Road Farmington Hills
Details: Auditions for "Legally Blonde," a musical with more than 40 parts. Vocal audition cuts and monologue options are available at www.farmingtonplayers.org. Click the Legally Blonde home page and select the link for vocal cuts or monologue options. Those auditioning should dress comfortably and prepare a 50- to 90-second monologue for the reading audition. They'll also be required to sing, read and dance.
Contact: Jason Wilhoite at (734) 765-4535 or legallyblonde@farmingtonplayers.org

PAUL'S PLAYERS

Time/Date: 6-9 p.m. Jan. 14 and 16
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Open auditions for "Quilters," a musical that celebrates a pioneer woman and her daughters as they record the family's hardships and joys in the exquisite quilts they make by hand, each quilt 'block' commemorating an event in their lives. Participants should bring a prepared song (with sheet music) that shows their singing range. An accompanist will be provided. Actors should wear comfortable clothing. They will be asked to read from the script and learn some simple movement. Roles include seven women of varying ages, from 15 and up, and voice ranges. Performance dates are May 3-5 and 10-12

SCHOLCRAFT COLLEGE
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 15-16
Location: Liberal Arts Theater, main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia
Details: Auditions for Shakespeare's "Hamlet" edited by James Hartman. No experience is necessary and auditions are open to the general public as well as students and non students
Contact: James Hartman at (734) 462-4400, ext. 5270

MAPLE THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Feb. 6-7
Location: 4136 Maple, west of Telegraph, Bloomfield Township
Details: Meet seven survivors of profound loss in the documentary, "Transforming Loss," by Judith Burdick, licensed psychotherapist. Learn what the human spirit is capable of in times of trauma and tragedy. Burdick will be on hand for the premiere of her new film. The screening is sponsored by Temple Beth El. Tickets are free and available by pre-registering online at www.transforminglossdocumentary.com. Click on the "register" tab
Contact: (248) 808-5569

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 12-13
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "Cloud Atlas," \$3
Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 18, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 19, prizes will be awarded to all Marilyn Monroe
Location: 1455 Novi

NESTOR TORRES PERFORMS
Time/Date: 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Jazz Cafe in Detroit
Details: Latin Jazz All Stars performs Afro Cuban, Salsa, Brazilian, and Latin Jazz. Performers include Arturo O'Farrill, pianist; Chumbo Corniel, percussionist; Nestor Torres, on flute; and Steve Berrios on drums. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door
Contact: (313) 887-8501; www.musichall.org



LOOK-ALIKES
Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit
Details: "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," \$4
Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

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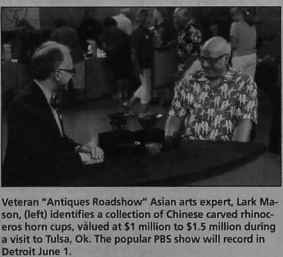
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Veteran "Antiques Roadshow" Asian arts expert, Lark Mason, (left) identifies a collection of Chinese carved rhinoceros horn cups, valued at \$1 million to \$1.5 million during a visit to Tulsa, Ok. The popular PBS show will record in Detroit June 1.

'Antiques Roadshow' plans Detroit stop

Detroit will kick off *Antiques Roadshow's* summer tour June 1. "We're very excited to be coming to Detroit," said Mariel MacNaughton, an account executive for the popular PBS program, in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "We have 3,000 tickets to give out — all are free and randomly drawn." MacNaughton couldn't confirm the venue in Detroit, but said viewers can apply for tickets now through the show's website at pbs.org/antiques. Or call (888) 762-3749. Ticket recipients will receive two admissions to the show, which features experts offering free evaluations of antiques and collectibles. They also must bring at least one and no more than two items for appraisal in order to be admitted to the event. All ticket holders are guaranteed a verbal appraisal. *Antiques Roadshow's* "Furniture Roundup" also seeks large pieces of furniture to appraise and display on the set at the event. Applicants must

live within 50 miles of Detroit or the other tour locations. Furniture that is selected for the show will be transported to and from the event at no cost to the owner. The owner will receive two free tickets and is required to attend the event. No grandfather or other tall case clocks, pianos or non-furniture items will be considered for the "Furniture Roundup." Complete furniture submission rules are available online at pbs.org/antiques or by calling (888) 762-3749. In addition to Detroit, *Antiques Roadshow* will visit Jacksonville, Fla., Anaheim, Calif., Boise, Idaho, Knoxville, Tenn., Baton Rouge, La., Kansas City, Mo., and Richmond, Va. Programs taped during the 2013 summer tour will make up *Roadshow's* 18th broadcast season on PBS, premiering in January 2014. The 17th broadcast season began Jan. 7. The show airs at 8 p.m. Monday in Detroit. — By Sharon Dargatz

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NATIONAL SOUP MONTH



Cuban Black Soybean Soup

Boost protein in soup with soy foods

January is National Soup Month, a perfect time to combat the cold with hearty, hot fare. The Soyfoods Council is offering easy-to-make hot ideas that include globally-inspired soup recipes such as Miso Chicken Soup with Snow Peas and Tofu, Broccoli Chowder, Cuban Black Soybean Soup, Gouda Soup and Great Plains Harvest Soup. Not only are these soups rich with vegetables and flavor, they're also packed with soy protein.

Soyfoods have played an important role in Asian cuisines for centuries. In recent years they have become popular in Western countries because of their nutrition and health properties. Soyfoods are excellent sources of high-quality protein and provide a healthy mix of polyunsaturated fat. In addition, independent of their nutrient content, there is evidence indicating soyfoods reduce risk of several chronic diseases including coronary heart disease, osteoporosis and certain forms of cancer.

Soup boasts a history that probably goes back to the roots of cooking. It's a convenient one-pot meal that combines readily available ingredients and favorite seasonings. When you add soyfoods into the ingredient mix, you're adding approximately 7 to 15 grams of heart-healthy protein. It's easy to incorporate soy milk, canned soybeans or tofu to your favorite soup recipes. If you're on the lookout for new and appetizing

ideas, though, the following soups will provide inspiration.

Miso Chicken Soup with Snow Peas and Tofu is a simple-to-make soup with a depth of flavor the whole family will love. The recipe features chicken quarters, fresh ginger, miso paste, water-packed firm tofu cut into cubes, and snow or snap peas.

Another quick recipe, Broccoli Chowder, is an ideal recipe for busy days. This warming soup combines vegetable broth, frozen chopped broccoli, canned creamed corn and plain soy milk. Seasonings include onion, garlic, oregano and black pepper.

The robust Cuban Black Soybean Soup is made with a base of low-sodium beef broth, combined with canned black soybeans, smoked ham, onions, green pepper and celery. Seasonings include red pepper flakes, cumin and dried oregano. Cheese-lovers appreciate the rich texture of Gouda Soup. It's flavored with Spanish onion, leeks, celery root, chopped or grated Gouda cheese and seasonings that include bay leaves and thyme sprigs. The soup is made with chicken stock and plain soy milk.

Great Plains Harvest Soup brings soybeans, vegetables, rice and potatoes together in a creamy broth. Visit The Soyfoods Council website — www.the soyfoods council.com — for recipes that will have you celebrating National Soup Month.



Harvested soybeans

Cuban Black Soybean Soup

Makes 6 servings

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup diced onion
- ¼ cup diced green pepper
- ¼ cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced smoked ham
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (15-ounce) cans black soybeans, not drained
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 pinches dried oregano
- 3 cups low-sodium beef broth
- 1 teaspoon salt

1. In large saucepan over medium high heat, heat oil. Add ham, onion, green pepper and celery and cook, stirring frequently, until vegetables are almost tender, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook another minute.

2. Add all remaining ingredients. Heat to boiling, then reduce to a simmer and cook 45 minutes. (If soup gets too thick, add more water or broth as needed.)

3. Serve and enjoy.

Gouda Soup

- 3 tablespoons soybean oil
- 1 large Spanish onion, sliced thinly (12 ounces)
- 7 ounces diced leek (white and light green portion only) (2 ½ cups)
- 8 ½ ounces diced celery root (2 cups)
- 7 cup chicken stock
- 2 cup unsweetened soy milk
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 thyme sprigs
- 8-12 ounces chopped or grated Gouda cheese

Salt and white pepper to taste

1. In a large saucepan, sauté onion, leek and celery root in soybean oil. Sauté over medium heat so that the vegetables do not caramelize.

2. When the vegetables are soft, add chicken stock, soy milk, bay leaf, and thyme. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer.

3. Cook for 30 minutes or until the vegetables are very soft.

4. Remove the bay leaf and thyme. Process the soup in a blender until smooth. (Be very careful as the soup is hot. Hold a towel on top of the blender so that the soup does not come out of the blender.)

5. Place the soup back into a saucepan. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to a bare simmer. Add cheese and stir until the cheese is completely melted. Verify seasoning and serve.



Miso Chicken Soup with Snow Peas and Tofu

This classic miso soup is adapted from a recipe in "A Spoonful of Ginger" by Nina Simons. It's a splendid way to spotlight tofu. Make sure to use the water-packed firm variety.

- 3 pounds chicken quarters
- 12 cups water
- 8 slices fresh ginger, smashed lightly with the flat side of a knife
- ½ cup miso paste
- 1 pound water-packed firm tofu, cut into cubes
- ¾ pound snow or snap peas, strings removed
- 3 tablespoons minced green onion

1. Combine chicken and water and ginger in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer 1 ½ hours. Remove chicken and cool. Discard ginger.

Scoop out and reserve ½ cup broth.

2. Remove the meat from the chicken, and shred. Discard skin and bones. Add chicken to broth. In small bowl, combine reserved broth and the miso paste; stir until smooth.

3. Add tofu and snow peas to soup and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and add miso mixture, and stir well. Ladle soup into serving bowls; top with green onions. Yield: 6 servings.

Great Plains Harvest Soup

Chef Christopher Koetke, Associate Dean at The School of Culinary Arts of Kendall College in Chicago, Ill., developed this recipe that uses a bevy of soy ingredients. MicroSoy Super Spuds are instant potato and soy flakes. You can also find them labelled I.M. Healthy Instant Mashed Potatoes. Added at the end, they thicken up the soup beautifully. You can find them in the green section of most grocery stores.

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup diced onion
- ¼ cup diced carrot
- ½ cup diced celery
- ½ cup diced leek
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 10 cups chicken stock
- 2 bay leaves
- 8 branches of fresh thyme
- 1 ½ teaspoons fresh sage
- 1 cup cooked wild rice
- 1 (15-ounce) can yellow or black soybeans
- 1 cup shelled edamame
- ¼ teaspoon white pepper
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup half-and-half or light cream

(1 (15-ounce) package MicroSoy Super Spud or I.M. Healthy Instant Mashed Potatoes

2. Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat, add onion, carrot, celery, and leek. Sauté 5 minutes. Add garlic, sauté 3 minutes. Add stock, bay leaves, thyme, sage and wild rice. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook for 40 minutes. Add canned soybeans, edamame, salt, pepper, and cream. Cook 10 minutes or until heated through.

2. In a blender, combine MicroSoy Super Spuds with 2 cups of stock from the soup.



Great Plains Harvest Soup

Allow to sit for 2 minutes in the blender. Then, blend until smooth. Add to soup. Bring to a simmer. Serve immediately. Sprinkle with chopped parsley. Yield: 12 cups (serving size: 1 ½ cups).

Calories 320 (37 percent from fat); fat 13g (sat fat 0.1g, mono fat 0.1g, poly fat 0.2g); protein 13.9g; carbohydrate 38.7g; fiber 4g; cholesterol 26mg; iron 1.4mg; sodium 1331mg; calcium 115mg

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