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Empty seat

After accepting former Trustee Barry Simescu's resignation from the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education last week, administrators and board



members have established the system they'll use to replace him. The district will take "letters of interest" from the vacant seat through 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22. The selected applicant will then serve the remainder of Simescu's term, which expires in November 2014.

Interested applicants can submit letters to the board office, 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth, or by email to board President John Barrett at john.barrett@pcsmail.net.

Interviews are currently scheduled for Feb. 4. If a substantial number of letters is received — there were 13 people on the November 2011 ballot — the board may schedule more than one night of interviews.

King day

The Canton community will once again honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a special tribute, "Building Bridges: Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Monday, Jan. 21, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The pre-event reception starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by the main program at 6 p.m. A biography of Dr. King's life will also be presented in dramatic form: "Spirit of the Man — Martin Luther King Jr." was written and produced by Regina Shamberger, a member of the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage, as well as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sub-Committee.

Canton ponders water storage to ease rates

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

At a cost of \$8.3 million, a water storage tower southeast of Joy and Morton Taylor roads on Canton's north side appears the least expensive among four proposals revealed Tuesday in a new feasibility study drafted by an outside consulting firm, OHM Advisors.

The report comes as Canton officials consider building a water storage facility to

soften — or perhaps reduce — water rates by easing peak-hour usage that can strain the embattled Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's supply system. "If we can reduce the peak hour (usage), we can reduce the rates," Vyto Kaunelis, OHM principal engineer, told Canton officials during a new round of talks Tuesday night. OHM's report indicated that a 2.5-million-gallon water tower or ground-level storage facility could slash what Canton pays

DWSD each year by \$2.9 million, ushering in a 28 percent savings. "That's a lot of money," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. Township Trustee Steven Sneiderman said he is hopeful that could lower local water rates by as much as 10 percent, though other officials said those hopes may be overly optimistic. Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said even if a water storage facility shaves nearly \$3 million off the \$10 million paid to Detroit, that's only part of Can-

ton's overall water-related costs of \$33 million a year. Nonetheless, local officials intend to weigh the potential benefits and costs of storing water as they seek ways to trim expenses in Canton, the 10th largest water-consuming community in southeast Michigan with 30,000 customers. Some residents have implored Canton to consider water storage to combat water rates that

Please see WATER, A3



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Doug Finan moves pallets of food for Open Door Ministry, which distributed a record-shattering 1.61 million pounds of food in 2012.

Ministry turns 10, sets another record

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry, has marked its 10th year by helping yet another record number of area families fight hunger.

"Families are still hurting," Director Steve Darr said Monday afternoon, inside the vast warehouse on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue.

Open Door Ministry, a nonprofit offshoot of Canton-based Connection Church, ended 2012 by helping an average 459 families each week keep food on the table. That amounted to feeding nearly 1,400 mouths every week in homes where jobs have been lost, work remains elusive and scarce dollars force choices between paying for shelter or groceries.

That compared to an aver-



Open Door Ministry Director Steve Darr said of his ministry's record-setting year: "Families are still hurting."

age of 407 families the previous year. "That's a pretty big jump," said Darr, a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer. Amid help from Gleaners Community Food Bank, Forgotten Harvest, grocery retailers, churches and area

residents, Open Door distributed a record-shattering 1.61 million pounds of food in 2012, compared to 1.55 million pounds in 2011. Recipients line up in cars every Thursday outside the warehouse for help.

Food and jobs

Rather than just provide food, Open Door also has a jobs bank it uses to help clients find work. Michele Yoder, a University of Michigan-Dearborn assistant professor, volunteers her time to help those in need get the resumes and job-hunting skills they need in hopes they can find work.

The goal, Darr said, is to fight hunger until Open Door's clients can hopefully return to self-sufficiency, and the organization has a small army of volunteers to carry out its mission. One-on-one counseling also is offered.

Please see MINISTRY, A2

DADA chief: Auto show big, exciting

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Northville Township resident Scott LaRiche said he'll be running on fumes and drinking lots of coffee the next two weeks.

The vice president/executive manager at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township is president of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, the group responsible for oversight of one of the world's most important auto shows — the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit.

He described this show as one of the most thrilling. "Last year's auto show, the big theme was 'we're back,'" he said. "And now, it has taken off to a whole new level with the excitement."

Attendance numbers dropped in recent years, but a significant rebound is expected this year, LaRiche said. He's hoping to see between 800,000 and 850,000 people come through Cobo Center this January, up from the 770,000 last year.

"I think we're going to have 850,000, weather permitting," he said. "It's a big number."

Several indicators point to a recovery by the auto show for LaRiche, including

Please see AUTO SHOW, A3



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Scott LaRiche, of Plymouth's Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, talks with D&E Media reporter David Veselenak during the Media Day of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. LaRiche is also on the Executive Committee of the auto show.

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MINISTRY

Continued from page A1

Monday afternoon, Forgotten Harvest truck driver Larry Moore of Inkster delivered 5,000 pounds of meat, baked goods and other items to Open Door after collecting food that was close to being discarded by Walmart stores in Canton, Livonia and Belleville and the Kroger store on Michigan Avenue in Canton.

"I love helping everyone I can help," Moore said. "That's what motivates me."

Open Door volunteer Doug Finan of Taylor helped Moore get pallets of food moved into the warehouse. Finan has been helping since a decade ago, and he shops for sharply price-discounted foods to complement what is donated. On average, Open Door



Jackie Darr of Open Door Ministry and Larry Moore of Forgotten Harvest sort the food.

spends only 2 cents a pound for food.

"I get the satisfaction of helping people," Finan said. Open Door helps families in communities such as Canton, Westland, Livonia, Plymouth, Garden City, Redford, Belleville, Inkster and Ypsilanti. It started seeing an uptick in need several years ago when the economy tanked, costing many wage earners their

jobs and forcing them to choose between paying for mortgages, rent, cars, prescription medication and other needs.

One man alone has sent out 4,000 resumes, Darr said. Many people still are looking for jobs, and they rely on Open Door as a safety net for food. "GMAC will call up and ask where's the car payment," Darr said, "but Kroger won't call people

to tell them they haven't been in for food."

Extending help

Typically, Open Door sets a four-month goal to try to help people return to self-sufficiency, and clients are expected to use the job bank to try to find work. After the initial food-assistance period has ended, the help can be extended if families are trying to help themselves but are facing obstacles.

Last year marked the fourth consecutive year Open Door's food distribution surpassed the one-million-pound mark.

Open Door Ministry used to lease its warehouse, but decided to stay put and buy it with no end in sight for hunger. Connection Church bought the 48,000-square-foot building for \$290,000 — far less than the previous owners had originally asked — and Open Door already has repaid about \$90,000.

Donors who want to help pay for the building through Open Door's "Heart of Caring" campaign may go to www.opendoorfoodministry.org. Those who want to send personal checks — either for food or for the warehouse — may mail them to Open Door Ministry, 4301 S. Lilley Road, Canton, MI 48188. Donors are asked to note on their checks which effort they are supporting.

As Open Door's outreach has grown, so has its support. Darr said some 40 different organizations are involved in helping.

Monday afternoon, after truck driver Larry Moore made his delivery, Jackie Darr, who runs Open Door with husband Steve, began sorting out food for this week's program. It has been a decade of hard volunteer work, but she said she and others don't mind because they are doing what Jesus Christ would want.

"That makes it a lot easier," she said. "This is our life. This is what we do."

'Magical Night' benefits Open Door

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Dig out the leisure suits and halter dresses and sip a Sloe Gin Fizz or Harvey Wallbanger — disco is returning to Canton.

The real John Travolta isn't expected to revive his Saturday Night Live dance moves, though a few Bee Gees tunes might be heard as the Canton Community Foundation revives disco and rolls out the Hollywood-style red carpet for its fifth annual Magical Night with the Stars.

It all starts at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, inside the Emagine Theater, 39535 Ford Road east of Lotz, during a benefit to help the Gleaners Community Food bank and Canton-based Open Door Ministry food pantry.

An estimated 200 tickets are being sold.

"We had a sell-out crowd at last year's Magical Night event, and we are hoping for the same this year," Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks said.

"Guests are encouraged to dig out their leisure suits and halter dresses and come humming their favorite Bee Gees tune," Noricks said Emagine Canton repeatedly makes Magical Night "very special for the foundation and its guests."

The foundation selected Gleaners and Open Door as beneficiaries because of a continuing need among area families who need help.

"Unfortunately, hunger is still real in the community," Noricks said, "and the need grows instead of diminishes. We think it's really important that we address those needs, and those partner agencies (Gleaners and Open

Door) are doing great work in our community," Steve Darr, Open Door Ministry director, said the nonprofit organization helps an average 459 families each week.

Magical Night attendees can buy tickets ranging from \$100 for an individual to \$5,000 for sponsors who get reserved tables for 20 with preferred seating, among other perks. The night includes a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m., a strolling dinner and dessert 6:30-8:15 p.m., a choice of a first-run movie at 8:30 p.m. and popcorn.

To select among a range of ticket offers, register at the foundation's website at www.cantonfoundation.org, for more information, call (734) 495-1200.

Magical Night guests can participate in activities such as a photo booth and a "Lucky Star" raffle. This year's retro disco theme is intended as fun, yet Noricks said the event is intended to combat a problem that's hard to punch through.

"This is such an important event for us and for the food pantries, especially when the economy has created such a need for struggling families," she said.

Open Door Ministry typically helps 459 families — or nearly 1,400 people — each week, and it is trying to raise money to pay for its building on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue. Gleaners supplies food to more than 500 area food banks including Open Door and has received some \$25,000 in help from the Canton Community Foundation, Noricks said.

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If local reaction means much, fans just 'glad' to have hockey

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Way back when, Joan Tingsstad had a sister who wanted to marry Red Wings great Gordie Howe so badly that she cried when he married someone else.

Howe has long since been forgiven, and now Tingsstad, a Northville resident who caught Red Wings practice Tuesday at Plymouth Township's Computware Arena, is equally ready to forgive the NHL for the lock-out that cost her half a season. Tingsstad, who said she's a fan "from the Abel-Lindsay-Howe" era, watched the practice with her daughter and fellow fan, Holly Evans of Westland.

"A lot of people are really mad, but I'm not," Tingsstad said of the lockout, which nearly cut the NHL season in half. "I love hockey. I'm looking forward to the season."

Fans have crowded into Computware Arena to watch the Red Wings practice the last few days, including Tuesday night's Red and White scrimmage. Local fans, at least, are seemingly willing to forgive both the players and the league for the 113-day lockout that



Glenn Aldrich of Canton has Red Wing Patrick Eaves sign his copy of the book 'Hockey Gods' following a practice session at Computware Arena Tuesday.

cost so much of the season (the Wings open the regular season Saturday at St. Louis).

Larry Rafalski of Canton said he watched the lockout and said he "could see the players' point and the clubs' point." He said it was exciting to see them up close in the friendly confines of Computware.

"They looked good considering how long they've been off," Rafalski said. "It was great to see them up close. Their reflexes are amazing. (But) with that long break, you lose something. I hope it doesn't hurt them."

Zak Fadden and Shannon Perry, both Plymouth residents, took in the practice together. Fadden said he thought the NHL took a growth step last year, with the Los Angeles Kings winning their first Stanley Cup.

"I thought the NHL grew last year, but the lockout might have hurt that," Fadden said. "I'm just glad they're back."

"It was fun," Perry said of watching them practice. "I love the Red Wings."

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WATER

Continued from page A1

in some years have soared. Kounellis said communities such as Van Buren Township have indeed eased their costs by building towers.

A 2.5-million-gallon water storage facility would take three years to design and build. OHM's report cited four alternatives:

- An elevated water tower southeast of Joy and Morton Taylor on land owned by DWSD for a cost of \$8.3 million.

- A ground-level storage facility on the same DWSD site for \$8.5 million.

- An elevated water tower southeast of Joy and Beck roads on property owned by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for \$9.4 million.

- A ground-level facility at the Joy-Beck site for \$9.8 million.

Those officials haven't locked in on either proposal — or whether to even build a storage facility — LaJoy said township and school officials had a meeting earlier Tuesday to discuss the possible use of school district land.

"They seemed very receptive," he said.

Moreover, LaJoy said any plan to move forward with water storage would lead to public hearings to seek comment from residents and water consumers.

Local officials have indicated the debt for a water storage facility likely would be paid

off over a 20-year period. Faas estimated the annual cost at \$800,000 to \$900,000 — money that would come from Canton's water-sewer fund.

Kounellis projected Canton's water tower would be 200 feet tall, with a steel storage area 105 feet in diameter and a concrete base 60 feet in diameter. Due to the proximity of Mettetal Airport on Canton's north end, Clerk Terry Bennett said officials would need to investigate issues such as flight patterns with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Canton officials remain concerned that, no matter what they do, DWSD — now undergoing a major restructuring — could change the rules and thwart local money-saving efforts.

"I don't trust them," Trustee Pat Williams said. "They have a culture of corruption."

Trustee John Anthony agreed but said he is hopeful now that Canton's own James Fausone and other suburban representatives have become part of a regional water board.

"I've moved from despair to cautiously optimistic," Anthony said.

Kounellis said DWSD has declined to confirm it will leave unchanged the way it calculates water rates that are used to justify what it charges area communities.

"They are not willing to commit to keeping the same rate methodology," he said.

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AUTO SHOW

Continued from page A1

ing the number of new media members attending this week, as well as the attendance figures for the charity gala, taking place Friday night.

LaRiche said numbers have increased 25 percent from last year's gala, which benefits more than just the auto show.

"We're going to see a big, big change," he said. "And the bonus for that is, you have about \$3 million for children's charities last year. This year, it's going to be closer to \$4 mil-

lion." Many local dealers are offering auto show specials on cars this month, and LaRiche hopes the specials will increase consumer visits to showrooms afterward.

His hope is that the buzz created in Detroit this month will continue throughout the year.

"It's going to bring people here, of course, and then bring people into the showroom," he said. "Some of the consumers were waiting until all the auto show bonus money was announced. This week, it's all coming in."

The highlights that he's seen

so far this week include the 2014 Chevrolet Corvette, one of the most anticipated releases during the auto show. In addition, the naming of the Cadillac ATS — another General Motors brand — as Car of the Year signified to LaRiche that the show will be good to GM.

"It's a real big hit for GM," he said. "This will be a big show for us."

But other makes have stepped up their displays as well, LaRiche said. More than 500 cars are on display this year.

"I really haven't had a chance to walk the whole floor, but

I know that Mercedes has a brand-new display," he said. "They really spent a lot of time and money to get that happening."

And his favorite car at the show? He didn't even have to think about it.

"It has to be the Corvette," he said. "It is gorgeous."

LaRiche, a third-generation dealer, has been part of the family business with his father, Lou, and brothers, John and Robert, for more than 30 years (all of whom are active in day-to-day operations at various locations).

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet on

Plymouth Road was established in 1970 by his father, Lou.

Scott LaRiche has served as a DADA board member for six years, beginning with his position as Dealer Line Group chairman for Chevrolet. He served as DADA treasurer/secretary and vice president prior to his election as president in December 2012.

Joining LaRiche on the NAIAS Executive Committee are chairman Jim Seavitt, owner of Village Ford in Dearborn, and vice chairman Bob Shuman, owner of Shuman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Walled Lake.

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Canton woman victim of money scam

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

An 82-year-old Canton woman became an apparent victim of a money scam after she received a letter by mail alleging she was entered in a \$3.9 million contest and advising her to supply a \$20 personal check.

The woman mailed the check but she contacted Canton police Monday to report she declined two subsequent requests after she received other letters indicating she could win large amounts of money.

Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said no one should send a check

that contains personal information if they in any way suspect they are falling victim to a money scam.

"People really have to be conscientious about safeguarding their personal information and not fall victim to others who are preying on getting that information by using these kinds of tricks," he said. "Be leery of scams and contests you're not familiar with and don't fall victim to predators."

Elderly people can become more prone to such scams, Schreiner said, and he urged anyone to contact the Canton Police Department at

(734) 394-5400 for advice if they receive mailings or phone calls that seem suspicious.

The 82-year-old victim said she mailed the initial check out to F.A.A. She said she received other letters from companies dubbed Allocated Department Authority and Entry Entitlement Services, both of which had a post office box address out of Miami, Fla. None of the letters had phone numbers listed.

The woman told police that she contacted Publishers Clearing House and was told the companies were fraudulent.

Schreiner warned that scam artists can repro-

duce a personal check and siphon money out of bank accounts. He advised anyone who has fallen victim to such a scam to close the account in question and open a new one.

Schreiner said victims can become even more susceptible if their personal checks contain information such as a driver's license number or telephone number.

"Protect your personal information like you would protect any other possessions that are important or valuable to you," he said.

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Serving Plymouth



Capt. Brady Westfall has been with the dept. for 36 years. He is a graduate of Northville High, and has strong ties to both the Plymouth and Northville communities. His father was born and raised in Plymouth, and retired as a Northville police lieutenant and fire captain. His grandfather was a retired Plymouth police officer and firefighter. Brady's tireless effort and dedication to duty have been instrumental in the standup of operations at the Plymouth Station. He served three years in the U.S. Army as a combat medic, and today works for Kocian Excavating. Westfall is married with two children, and three grandchildren.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Fraud times two

Two incidents of fraud, one involving a debit card and the other a credit card, were reported to police in Plymouth Township on Friday.

One was discovered the day before, when a township woman was informed by her bank that her debit card had been used at an Office Max store in Herbin, Ill., a township police report said.

The woman canceled the card, and reported the incident to police the next day, telling them she had given no one permission to use the card, the report said.

The second incident was discovered Friday, when a township man received a phone call to verify an on-line credit-card purchase he had not made, a police report said. He also canceled the card, and reported the fraud to police the same day.

The man also found that several other unauthorized purchases had recently been made with the card, police said.

Theft attempt

Two wheel covers on a Hyundai were the targets of a theft attempt on the night of Jan. 10 or early the next day.

The covers were not taken, the complainant told police, but there was damage to the car. The car was parked off of Newport Drive, in the area of Haggerty and Joy Road, when the attempt occurred between about 8 p.m. Jan. 10 and just before 8:30 a.m. Friday, police said.

Lift lifted

Part of an aluminum boat lift was reported stolen Friday from behind a building on Cleat Street, south of Five Mile and west of Sheldon Road, police said.

The lift had been padlocked to a utility pole, police said, but had been partially dismantled by the thief or thieves, with the parts left behind still attached to the pole.

The theft occurred between about 5:30 p.m. Jan. 10 and 9:30 a.m. Friday, a police report said. The complainant told police the lift had been the target of a theft attempt in recent months, and that's why he had locked it to the pole. He said a pickup or flatbed truck would have been needed to haul the lift away.

—By Darrell Clem

—By Matt Juchman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Party on

A loud party brought Canton police to Crossbow Circle in the Meadow Townhomes complex northeast of Palmer and Haggerty after a neighbor reported a disturbance, a police report said.

A neighbor notified police about 5 a.m. Saturday of a loud party in which people were arguing and fighting. She told police it is a recurring problem at the residence.

Police went to the scene and saw 15-20 people inside the residence, drinking and shouting. Officers knocked on the door, and a 19-year-old resident said she would keep it quiet the rest of the morning, a police report said.

A half hour later, police received another call of shouting and fighting, and when they

arrived they encountered about 10 people outside of the residence. Police dispersed the group and went inside, where they found what was described in a police report as a stripper pole, open bottles of liquor, beer and wine.

The woman who lives there isn't of legal drinking age, but she told police she had friends over and they got out of hand. She was cited for having an open house party, according to the report.

The woman told police she has a young daughter who was staying with an ex-boyfriend at the time of the party.

Car flipped

Canton police went to South Lotz and Van Boren roads about 1 a.m. Friday after receiving a report that a white Toyota Corol-

la was on its side off the north side of Van Boren, a police report said.

The car had heavy front-end damage.

Police traced the car to a 29-year-old Wayne man who told authorities he was on his way to pick up his girlfriend when he hit a large puddle of water, lost control of the car, ran off the road and struck a tree — causing the car to land on its side, the police report said.

The man told police he had his 1-year-old son with him at the time, but nobody was seriously injured.

According to the report, the man said he didn't contact police because he had a suspended driver's license and outstanding warrants for having a dog at large and failing to appear in court on an alcohol charge.

The police report indi-

cated the man was being cited for leaving the scene of the accident, driving while his license was suspended and operating an unregistered vehicle, in addition to the earlier warrants he had.

Cable confusion

A 45-year-old Canton woman who lives on Indiana Creek, southwest of Warren and Canton Center, notified police Sunday that DTE and Comcast accounts had been fraudulently opened in her home.

The woman told police the accounts had been opened in November. She became aware of the fraud after she checked her credit report.

According to a police report, the Comcast account was linked to a Warren Road address in Detroit that is no longer valid.

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ZF Group continues to grow in Northville

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

There is a positive vibe emanating through the North American headquarters of ZF Group in Northville Township these days.

The German company had a record setting 2012 — which included a total sales volume of \$23 billion, increasing the number of employees to 75,000 worldwide and investing \$1.7 billion in research and development — that is expected to continue into this year.

According to the company's website, ZF Group develops and produces transmissions, steering systems, axles and chassis components, as well as complete systems for passenger cars, commercial vehicles and off-road machinery.

future and we believe we can continue our story of successful growth of new innovation of new technologies in the future," ZF Group CEO Stefan Sommer said at the first press conference Tuesday at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The company's success is showing in Northville Township, as construction is nearly complete on an expansion to the facility.

The building, which also serves as a technical center, was built in 1999, with a major expansion done in 2004. This final project was done to aid an expanding steering group within the company.

Bryan Johnson, a Canton resident and manager of marketing and communications for the ZF Group, said it is nearing 500 employees as the company's presence in

North America increases. "We have key products and technologies that are being adapted more and more to the American market," he said.

Improving fuel efficiency has been a major area of focus for the ZF Group, and a new nine-speed automatic transmission is expected to help in that regard. Sommer said it will offer fuel savings from 10 percent up to 16 percent.

"We have the right products for the right market and we really meet the general trend of the world, especially in automotive," he said.

As the company continues to grow worldwide, the Northville Township headquarters is focusing on attracting talent locally. Alexandra Iordache, a Shelby Township resident and member of the marketing and communica-

tions department for ZF Group, said Jan. 25 the company will be hosting a "college day" to help students learn about the many opportunities within ZF Group.

Johnson said the goal is to build relationships and find new talent.

The current employees also are reaching out to do more community service, something Johnson said cannot be a one-time thing.

Several employees donated their time to tear down a house in Redford with Bright Builders and also volunteered at a soup kitchen last year.

"It gives you a sense of ownership and it has to be part of our culture," he said. "It's something we are growing into."



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Thomas Wenzel, senior manager of the ZF Group, talks about the company's nine-speed automatic transmissions at Monday's North American International Auto Show in Detroit. ZF has a research and development facility in Northville Township.



Oakmont Northville resident Leatha Litsenberger receives a greeting from a well-wisher on Jan. 8 as she celebrated her 103rd birthday two days early at the Northville assisted living community. Litsenberger was born Jan. 10, 1910. To her right are two other 100-year-olds, Theresa Ujic and Ruth Franson (right).

Woman reflects on century-plus of life

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Leatha Litsenberger, 103, was a career woman long before it became fashionable.

"I was a salesgirl," said Litsenberger of Northville Township on her birthday, Thursday, Jan. 10. "I was a buyer and head salesgirl at a dress shop in Plymouth."

The longtime Northville resident worked many years at Cassidy's, owned by Norma Cassidy in downtown Plymouth.

"I had regular steady ones," she recalled of customers. "I had my little book on their sizes. I knew their taste and just what they wanted."

When she'd go to lunch on work days, "Mrs. Cassidy would say, 'She'll be back in a little while.'" Only Litsenberger could wait on those Cassidy's customers.

She agreed life in general has improved over her century-plus. "I think so. More things to do. We had to make up our own things to do," she said.

She went to high school in Maine and followed her sister to Northville.

"I was 33 years old when I came here, I came to visit my sister and stayed." Litsenberger married Robert, a Northville native, and built a life here. She hadn't seen her sister since high school, as travel was more difficult, so that was good. Her older sister came here alone and then married.

She recalled men who shopped for their wives at Cassidy's, and how she would pick those gifts

and wrap them: "They didn't know what was in it until she opened it," Litsenberger said.

During World War II, the shop stayed open later on Fridays to accommodate women working for Kelsey-Hayes.

There was also Plymouth's Dunning's dress shop, later Minerva-Dunning's, and Litsenberger was good friends with a woman who staffed it. "I wasn't mad at her." She remembers the Mayflower Hotel in downtown Plymouth. "I used to go there for my lunch at noon. I had a lot of meals at the Mayflower."

Her niece may take her to Plymouth soon, and Litsenberger wondered if people would recognize her.

"A lot of changes. I didn't have white hair." She doesn't have big secrets to longevity.

"I didn't expect to live this long. Get up in the morning and go to bed at night, that's it." She lives now at Oakmont Northville.

"I've had fun here too," she said of Oakmont. "I know a lot of people. I like it."

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North American International Auto Show • Jan. 19-27

Local dealers like the buzz about Cadillac ATS, Ram 1500

By David Veselenak and Nathan Mueller
Staff Writers

Edward Pobur is looking forward to a good year of sales.

With the Cadillac ATS being named North American Car of the Year earlier this week, the sales manager at Cadillac of Novi is hoping the award will prop up the vehicle line and attract interest that might not have been there before.

"It gives you a leg up on the competition," he said. "It has a long shelf life."

Pobur said he still has customers come in looking for the Cadillac CTS, which was a finalist for North American Car of the Year in 2008, showing the power of winning the prestigious award.

Also named North American Truck/Utility of the Year was the Ram 1500. Paul Schmid, salesman at Snehkamp Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Redford Township, said the award is a great one, since it's garnered so much interest with buyers.

"Everybody is wanting to come in and get information on them," the Farmington Hills resident said. "We cannot keep the brochures on the shelves."



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Dennis Locklear polishes up the Ram 1500 before the North American Car and Truck of the Year awards were announced Monday. The vehicle won top honors for truck/utility.

The top honors, awarded after a jury vote from several dozen journalists in North America, returned to domestic automakers after going to two international makers last year. The car award is the first for Cadillac and the fifth for General Motors. The win is Chrysler's third for trucks.

This was the first year with a change in the title for the awards. With an emergence of utility vehicles coming into the marketplace, those were also considered for the North

American Truck/Utility of the Year.

Other finalists for North American Car of the Year included the Ford Fusion and Honda Accord. Finalists for North American Truck/Utility of the Year were Ford C-Max and Mazda CX-5.

Several factors led to the ATS winning the award, Pobur said. He believed an aggressive marketing campaign by Cadillac is helping the consumer buzz, showcasing the wide range of options and branding the ATS as a car

different than its competitors.

"It rivals any of the small, sedan segments of the marketplace. We can stack that car up against any of those cars and win the battle," Pobur said. "We haven't been able to say that in years past." Bob Pollock, general manager at Don Massey Cadillac in Plymouth, said ATS sales in January have surpassed all of December before the announcement. He expects them to get even better after the award.



The Cadillac ATS was named North American Car of the Year earlier this week.

"Anybody looking at a car in that segment owes it to themselves to drive the car," he said. "It truly competes and performs and handles better than the BMW and Audi offerings in its class."

Cadillac's chief engineer, David Leone, said the idea with the ATS was to lighten the vehicle, something that consumers will begin to see more as the company releases more vehicles.

"The performance's laser-light focus was on being nimble, quick and fun to drive," he said. "To do so, we wanted to be the lightest in the segment, and we accomplished just that. It took a new way of thinking, and a new way of engineering to get that done. This is the first of many new vehicles where you're going to see that

fresh new approach."

The Ram 1500 returned to the podium after nearly 20 years. It won North American Truck of the Year while still under the Dodge name in 1994.

Fred Diaz, president and CEO Ram Truck Brand and Chrysler de Mexico, called the honor a "surreal moment" considering "the hell" the company went through three years ago.

"This means so much," Diaz said. "It's the proudest moment ever for the Ram Truck Brand to be able to accept this award."

That multi-purpose function is appealing to customers stopping in at Snehkamp.

"The pickup truck isn't what it used to be anymore," Schmid said. "It gets great fuel economy and people are using it for 'practical purposes.'"

Jonsson Controls highlights new seat design

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

One of the automotive seats being featured at this year's North American International Auto Show has Wayne County roots.

Jonsson Controls released several new seats this week at Cobo Center in Detroit, including one seat design director, Thomas Gould highlighted called the Gen 3 Synergy Seat, a luxury seat designed to be light and comfortable.

"This is really a showcase of a lot of things coming together," he said. "The seats are the product of many area workers at the company's Plymouth Township office, Gould said. About 30 designers and many engineers have put in time at the Plymouth Township location, 49200 Halyard Drive, to design the seats."

The collaboration of employees around the world in several locations helped bring the seat to fruition, Gould said.

"All the different regions rely on each other for technologies, and then we transfer those technologies and share them across the region," he said.

The seat is designed with dual layers of foam to provide comfort for both long- and short-term drives, a low-mass fiberglass composite back and Climate Fabric inserts that will move away from the chair's occupants.

While no vehicles currently have the Gen 3 Synergy Seats installed in them, Gould said his design team is happy with the result of the seats.

The composite back is a big step for the seat, Gould said, because it eliminates the need for additional materials on the chair, decreasing the weight of the chair.

"That's exposed in the back," he said. "We don't have to put structures



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ronald Bedro of Jonsson Control's shows off some of the Plymouth-based automotive components' seating solutions at the media day-opening press conference. Bedro is in charge of the company's Foam Header and Restraint division.

in there that are going to cover it up." It's a process that began last spring and continued through the summer and fall.

"We pretty much start this in May," he said. "We start beginning talking about what the strategy is, how things come together."

Another announcement made Monday could have an indirect positive effect on the Plymouth facility.

Alex Molinaroli, a vice president of Jonsson Controls, said the company has moved all of its lithium ion battery production from France to its

facility to Holland, Mich. "We're now supporting our major OE customers, as well as several global development contracts out of Holland," he said.

Gould said a sort of "trickle down" effect from the production shifting locally could increase sales efforts and could lead to more work for Plymouth.

"The group we have working in Plymouth primarily works with our customers," he said. "As those needs grow, our industry is expanding, the needs there will be expanded as well."

AUTO SHOW BRIEFS

Interactive displays

Looking for something to do at the North American International Auto Show besides see the cars? Many displays give patrons the opportunity to experience the cars. Here are just a few of the interactive exhibits:

- To satisfy the video gamers at the show, a simulation booth with the game Gran Turismo is offered at the Chevrolet display. Two people at a time can hop into the vehicles and test-drive the cars in a simulator. If you're fast, you'll have another honor coming your way: your name on the chalk leaderboard at the Chevy display.

- Drive Land, a simulator powered by the Microsoft Kinect set, is available at the Toyota display. Drivers can sit in a real Prius seat, and simulate driving on the screen by just using their hands to maneuver the vehicle.

- A different type of simulation is offered at the Michelin display. Have you ever wondered what the road would feel like from a tire's perspective? Michelin gives patrons the exact opportunity. Two users at a time step onto the simulator, placing their hands and feet on designated areas. Hit start and the hand and foot areas begin to vibrate and simulation what a tire would feel on the road.

- One of the more intricate simulators resides in the Ford display. The ST Simulator places riders into a pod complete with hydraulics and allows riders to simulate the ride in a Ford vehicle. The simulator requires a waiver, and riders must be at least 5-foot-2. Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian present who can be present for the ride and sign the liability waiver.

Show opens

The auto show opens to the public at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, and continues through Sunday, Jan. 27.

Show hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (no admittance after 9 p.m.) Jan. 19-26. The show ends Jan. 27 and hours that day are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (no admittance after 6 p.m.). Tickets are \$12 per person and \$6 for seniors (65 and older) and children (7-12 years old). Children ages 6 and under are free with parent or guardian.

Going to Friday gala?

If you are going to Friday's Auto Show Charity Preview we want to hear from you.

Julie Yolles of Birmingham, O&E Media's Social Scene columnist, and Bill Bresler, O&E Media photographer, will cover the event — one of the hottest parties of the year.

If you would love to hear from local residents in advance so I can meet them at Cobo Center the night of the preview or at one of the local insider auto parties," said Yolles, who will also be at the charity preview Friday.

Contact Yolles at yolles@comcast.net or call her at (248) 642-9465. Contact Bresler by leaving a Facebook message or text (734) 788-8099.

Marketing to younger, tech-savvy buyers

Northville resident Mike Murphy knows Ford is going to need young buyers to ensure his company will succeed.

Those 18- to 34-year-olds are a market looking to combine technology, affordability and sustainability into their vehicles, a set of criteria Ford is taking very seriously.

"They are critical and at the forefront of our products," said Murphy, Ford's Global C-Car marketing manager.

Murphy is one of many area residents working at this year's auto show, and has

worked specifically in trying to market smaller vehicles to buyers in the beginning stages of their car-buying lives.

Murphy said the car seeing the most movement with younger buyers, including those in the Detroit area, is the Fiesta, a compact car introduced in recent years and geared toward younger drivers.

The hope, Murphy said, is that those driving Fiestas or other smaller cars, such as the Focus, will be happy with their experience and stay loyal to the Ford brand. The cars other younger drivers have flocked to include the Mustang, Escape and Focus.

"Fiesta is clearly our gateway for younger customers," he said.

Many of the vehicles aimed toward those new drivers employ technology they're used to with other devices, Murphy said. Included are Bluetooth and MyFord Touch, an entertainment and communications system located inside the car with a touch screen.

And it isn't just the cars themselves that Murphy touts as being catered to younger drivers. With more people without well-paying jobs and some who can't

afford a car, Ford financial staffers have stepped in and offered financing rates sometimes lower than what banks and lenders are able to match.

With more young people with bad credit or no credit being able to buy with a low APR, the likelihood of those drivers coming to Ford has increased, Murphy said.

"The ability to finance that product over a reasonable amount of time, that's definitely brought us a higher conquest rate," he said. "It's our highest amount of new customers coming into the Ford portfolio."

International festival wows a crowd

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Canton's International Festival Saturday, which featured music, dance and drama from around the world, was expected to provide a look at various cultures.

It didn't disappoint. The annual program offers entertainment celebrating diverse customs and traditions. Various cultural groups will offer dance performances representing places such as India, Tahiti, Hawaii, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland, China, the Middle East and the United States.

"My wife, Susie, and I were able to attend and really enjoyed the event," said Don Turner of Canton. "We felt lucky to have an opportunity to learn and enjoy aspects of other cultures right in our own community. It was great entertainment

and made us proud to help celebrate the diversity that makes up Canton Township."

The event included choral performances by the New Century Chinese School and the Plymouth-Canton Chinese Learning Center. Other performances include The Yangtze Melody Group and opera singers Sonja Srinivasan and Errin Brooks from The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, with accompaniment by pianist Raffaela Medoro-Naurato. New this year: the Motor City Ukies, a Ukulele Band; the Kopskens School of Highland Dance; and Dancin' Feet Competition Team of Canton. Youth from New Hope Church will offer performances by Praise Dancers, Mimes of Ministry and Steppers of Soul.

An international food table offered small snacks from various countries.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Young dancers watch "Ta Ge" by the adult performers in the Dong Yun Dance Group, from Plymouth-Canton Chinese Learning Center.

"I was totally impressed with the variety and the quality of the presentations," said Deana Salhaney of Canton. "It is good to see so many cultures represented within our township. I found everyone to be so willing

and eager to share information about their cultures. I also got a chance (very nicely) to sample a few of the goodies from various countries."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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Richa Javkar makes a henna design, a traditional Indian art called mehndi, on Mari Skinner's hand. They are both 12 years old.



Rehearsing before they go on stage, Fawn Kopas, Chris Kozaczynski and Craig Fuller, belong to the Motor City Ukies.



Young dancers from the New Century Chinese School perform their dance.

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Learn to use new gadgets, technology at the library

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

free one on one tutoring sessions are available to residents who know how to use a mouse. There will be

drop-in tutoring at the Northville Public Library on Saturday Jan. 26, Feb. 9 and Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. Community members may also pre-register for tutoring on Thursday Jan. 17 or Feb. 14 for 40-minute sessions. All computer training is made possible through teen volunteers.

Like the Canton Public Library, the Northville Public Library has eBook help available. Users can pre-register for 40-minute training sessions that are held each Thursday night between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

In Livonia, the Civic Center Library has one on one tutoring by appointment. The Civic Center Library also offers basic, weekly computer sessions for Microsoft Office and other computer programs and monthly eReader courses.

Libraries are also a great resource to download free content for your devices. The Novi Public Library for instance offers free and legal downloads of popular music, eBooks and audio books. For

instance, users can download up to three free songs per week through the Novi Public Library, via Sony Music and iODA catalogs.

And just about every local library has many more tools for residents who may be in a pinch. Basic, internet-enabled computer workstations, printers, scanners and fax machines are staples of libraries that can help you don't have a computer or your computer breaks.

The Plymouth Public Library for instance has computers available to those with a library card. They even have special sections for teens and adults plus dedicated computers for family research and job searches, plus email kiosks and free wireless internet. The Canton Public Library has similar offers with wireless internet, printing and more than 150 computers for kids, teens and adults.

So before you get frustrated with a potentially-difficult learning curve on your new computer or tablet, contact your local library to see what resources they have to help. It is a much more reasonable option than expensive in-home tutoring, online courses or self-help DVDs.

Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jon.gunnells@gmail.com, follow him on Twitter @GunnSDW.

The holiday season brought you a new piece of technology but you don't know how to use it? You don't need to pay top dollar to start learning how to use your new gadget - whether it may be a smartphone, tablet, camera, eReader or computer.

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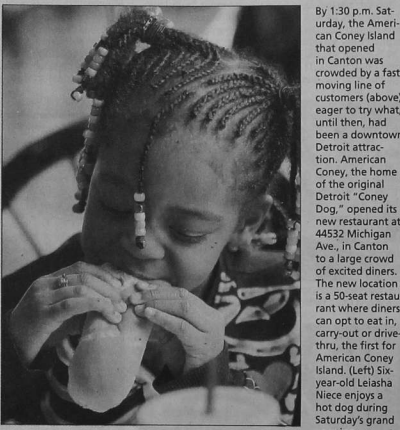
"In Canton, we have user groups on Jan. 29 and a class for Kindle Users on Jan. 16," said Laurie Golden, marketing and communications manager of the Canton Public Library. "We also have a blog with tips, tricks and instructional videos. Our librarians also offer eReader support by phone or walk-ins."

The Canton Public Library blog is located at <https://www.cantonpl.org/ebooks>

Canton however, isn't the only community offering technology support to community members. The Farmington Community Library has upcoming eReader and Kindle courses and Jan. 22 is the next one. Libraries in Plymouth, Dearborn and Royal Oak are also offering eReader and Kindle support throughout the month of January.

In Northville, free computer classes and

American arrival



By 1:30 p.m. Saturday, the American Coney Island that opened in Canton was crowded by a fast-moving line of customers (above) eager to try what, until then, had been a downtown Detroit attraction. American Coney, the home of the original Detroit "Coney Dog," opened its new restaurant at 44532 Michigan Ave., in Canton to a large crowd of excited diners. The new location is a 50-seat restaurant where diners can opt to eat in, carry-out or drive-thru, the first for American Coney Island. (Left) Six-year-old Lalasha Niece enjoys a hot dog during Saturday's grand opening.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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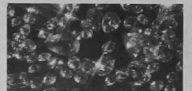
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Yazaki exec

Yazaki North America, Inc., headquartered in Canton, announced the promotion of Gregory Rochowiak to Vice President of Engineering of the United States Original Equipment Manufacturers Business Unit, reporting to Colleen Haley, Executive



Rochowiak

Vice President, US OEM Business Unit. In this role, Gregory is responsible for the execution of design deliverables for North American programs including tool, process, and design quality. During his career at Yazaki, his global leadership responsibility for these customers has continued to expand, including executing global programs, driving common templates and tool sets, and global customer interface.

"We believe (Rochowiak's) leadership and his contribution to the Engineering team's business results and customer satisfaction will play a vital role in our global business, and we look forward to his continued growth with Yazaki," Haley said.

Rochowiak has been in the automotive industry for more than 25 years, starting his career as an Electrician assembling control panels for automotive machine tools. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology from Lawrence Technological University.

Painter's palate

D&M Art Studio in Canton and Vintner's Canton Winery combine their love for painting and wine. Jan. 18 and Feb. 2 as they present "The Painter's Palate," a night for participants to explore their inner artist and their love of wine.

D&M owner Sharon Dillenbeck will guide painters as they create a canvas painting if a famous master, while Kathy and Darryl Nowacki of Vintner's guide them through a tasting of award-winning wines.

Participants are asked to bring a small hors d'oeuvre for 6-8 fellow artists to accompany the wines served.

For more information or to make a reservation, call D&M Art Studio at (734) 453-3710, or Vintner's at (734) 354-9463.

Sardine success

The Sardine Room received the distinction of being listed by *Detroit News Food critic Molly Abraham* as one of the 13 best restaurants to visit. Here is the link: <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/2013/01/03/OPINION03/301030303ixzz2GvZAGX0>

Earlier, *Detroit Free Press Food Critic Sylvia Rector* rated The Sardine Room as one of the best new restaurants of 2012. The entire review is at <http://www.freep.com/article/2012/12/21/ENT08/312130185/10-best-new-restaurants-2012-metro-Detroit/0dyssey=tab1opnews1text/FRONTPAGE>.

CHAMBER CHAT

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. Wednesday, 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 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@plymouthchm.org or call (734) 453-1540.

Email power

Tamara Jaros and Kim Schott will reveal the closely-guarded secrets to attracting and keeping more visitors on your website and social media sites, cutting lead costs, being seen by more prospects, increasing sales and profits at a seminar. "How to attract all the customers you need using the POW. ER of Email Marketing." Thursday, Jan. 24, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Canton Chamber of Commerce, 45525 Hartford.

To register online go to <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event>.

Read the fine print on charge card offers

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

We live in a world that is constantly changing. This year alone the change in tax laws will impact the personal finances of all consumers. Because of the pace of change, we have a tendency to think if "it ain't broke, don't fix it." In other words, if we could put things on automatic pilot and leave it as is, that is sometimes the preferred course. Unfortunately, we sometimes do so to our own detriment.

Whether it's broken or not, one area that we should look at is our relationship with our charge cards. I'm frequently asked which charge card is the best. My answer is no one charge card is the best. The key is to find one that best suits your situation. How you use your charge card should be the determining factor in what card you use.

Too many people focus on the rewards that a charge card offers. However, rewards are not the most important thing. It reminds me of when banks gave a free gift (such as a toaster oven) to anyone who would open an account. All too often, people focused on the toaster oven as opposed to the interest they received. The same is true with charge cards. People sometimes are so focused on the rewards that they don't factor in how much the rewards cost.

The first step in determining which charge card to select is identify how the card will be used. Do you use it as a means of convenience? In other words, do you pay your bill every month, or



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

do you use it as a means of financing? If you do not pay your bill at the end of the month and carry a balance, then the most important thing to focus on is the interest rate and not the perks.

Many people mistakenly believe that all charge cards have the same interest rate and are computed the same way; that is not the case. For example, some have a variable rate while others are fixed. If you carry a balance focus should be on the interest you pay. If you find a card that is consumer-friendly and that charges a low rate of interest, consider it. If you can save a few percentage points on interest, the money will add up more than any rewards you could receive.

It is important to look at all fees involved with a card whether or not you carry a balance. For example, some charge cards charge an annual fee. In addition, some cards have high fees if you are late on a payment and some even raise your interest if you miss a payment deadline. These things are important. One late fee may wipe out any benefits that you may have accrued.

For those who don't carry a balance and use a charge card as a means of convenience, one key area to examine is the grace period, the time you have to make a payment once you receive a bill. Some charge cards no longer have a

grace period so you start paying interest from the date of purchase. Even if you pay your bill on time, there is an interest charge.

Only after you understand how you use your charge card and what fees are involved, should you consider the perks. Even though some of the perks sound great, some aren't worth that much. The key is to focus on rewards and benefits that you will actually use.

Read the fine print before you sign up for a new charge card. Marketing materials may tell you one thing, but the fine print will give you the whole story. If you want to know about late fees, cash advances or policy regarding shopping in a foreign country, read the fine print.

We all use charge cards. They are an important financial and a fact of life in America. Because of that, it is important to make sure you're using the right card at all times. Do your homework and shop around for the best card that makes sense. There are lots of websites to help. One site that I use is www.bankrate.com.

Just like everything else in our society, the terms of your charge card may have changed. Over the next month or so, spend some time reviewing how you use your charge card to determine if you're using the right one. If not, there's no time like the present for a change. 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.

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The most HD choices	YES	NO
The most live sports	YES	NO
WatchESPN app so you can watch your favorite ESPN content anywhere on your iPhone® or iPad®	YES	NO
The fastest Internet	YES	NO
The fastest in-home Wi-Fi with the most coverage in your home	YES	NO
More Internet protection included at no additional cost with Norton™ Security Suite, IDENTITY GUARD™ and Comcast Security Backup & Share	YES	NO
Advanced home phone calling features like Readable Voicemail and Text Messaging at no extra cost	YES	NO
Skype™ video calling on your TV with HD-quality video	YES	NO

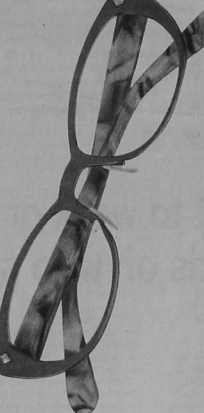
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OUR VIEWS

The right voice With much on agenda, kids are top priority

When Barry Simescu resigned his seat on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education last week, the board lost arguably its most analytical, reasoned voice. Now it's up to the other six board members to find the right replacement. And we hope they pick someone who has no other agenda than the success of the students.

The position is bound to draw plenty of interest, considering 13 people were on the November 2011 ballot that saw current trustees Sheila Paton, John Barrett, Mark Horvath and Mike Maloney.

Maloney finished just ahead of incumbent Nancy Eggenberger, with Mike Andro and Matt Dame sixth and seventh, respectively. Dame and Andro ran as a team with Horvath and Maloney.

The board has several issues to deal with in the next few months — a potential bond request that's expected to be decided at Tuesday's meeting, the selection of a new superintendent to replace Dr. Jeremy Hughes, who leaves at the end of this school year, and yet another looming budget question.

We would have preferred that Simescu stayed until these decisions were made, because his reasonable approach would have benefited the board and the district. But Simescu, who took on additional responsibility at work and felt he could no longer give the board his full attention, felt it would be better for the new board member to get involved in the discussion and be a part of the decisions.

The new voice needs to be cut from similar cloth as Simescu's. It should be someone who is familiar with district issues, particularly the budget, and who has no particular axe to grind with either the board or the administration. Certainly, sharp minds and varying personalities shouldn't be discarded in favor of someone who will simply vote in lock-step with any or all of the remaining board members.

The November 2011 election got politicized, and none of that should enter into the choice of Simescu's replacement.

In choosing the new board member, the board should only keep one agenda in mind:

What is best for students in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Ice festival a must-see

The Plymouth Ice Festival has become such a staple of life around these parts, so synonymous with Plymouth, that it's difficult to believe there's anyone around who doesn't know about it.

But there are, and this weekend those folks get the chance to find out firsthand what all the fuss is about.

The 31st annual festival brings some of the same things it brings every year — some 100 statues carved from thousands of blocks of ice, a college carving competition and the chainsaw carving demonstration that has become popular the last couple of years.

It's going to look a little different this year, with a couple of additions in a synthetic skating rink and a snowboarding display behind E.G. Nick's Restaurant on Forest Avenue. It also brings back the wildly popular cross country ski path.

But the heart of the festival is still there. It still features professional carvers, including home-grown champions like Ted Wakar of Canton and Tajana Rakaur of Plymouth, along with the traditional collegiate competition.

Kellogg Park is, as always, the heart of the festival. Booths and activities have typically lined Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail, but last year's festival was expanded to include Forest Avenue, which offered sculptures, live music and a petting zoo for children, and this year's event will include Forest plus Penman Avenue.

All that adds up to this: If you've seen it before, it's worth seeing again. If you've never taken the opportunity, have a look this year.

It's a memory that'll be frozen in your mind forever.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you planning to go to the North American International Auto Show? Why or why not?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"My schedule doesn't permit me to go."

Gary Harper
Canton



"I don't know. Maybe. I haven't thought about it."

Judy Schantz
Canton



"I'm not going because I don't plan on buying a car this year. My car is only two years old, and you get to see all the cars on TV."

Barbara Smyth
Canton



"Yes, I'm taking my three kids. My two boys are into it, but my daughter, not as much."

Kimberly Freeman
Belleville

LETTERS

Lauding Slavens

State Rep. Kurt Heise has criticized Canton Rep. Dian Slavens and Taylor Rep. Douglas Geiss for not falling in lock-step and voting for House Speaker Jase Bolger.

According to Kurt Heise, all should be forgiven. Never mind that Bolger is a target of a grand jury regarding election fraud. Never mind that Bolger, and Heise, put the screws to the masses to help the few.

"Can't we all just get along?" Kurt Heise lauds Bolger for giving corporate leaders \$2.5 billion that should have gone to our treasury. Billions, by the way, that haven't, and won't, create a single job.

When U-M economist George Fulton was asked about this largesse bestowed by Bolger and Heise, he said, "My suspicion is the tax cuts went into pockets rather than creating jobs."

So, I applaud Reps. Slavens and Geiss and hope they keep bringing to light all the shenanigans that the right wing Tea Party lackeys in Lansing have, and will, continue to do.

James Huddleston
Canton

Value for money

Ever wonder where all of your state taxpayer dollars go? I do. In fact, it was one of the questions that led me to run for office.

As a concerned citizen, I had

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:

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requested state spending information from our representatives. I was frustrated by the lack of useful information provided in response to my queries. Upon entering into public service myself, I understand why my previous requests met with such poor results. They didn't have access to the information either.

Thankfully, the lack of useful spending data has now been addressed with the passage of SB 802, which I introduced to require all state departments to publicly disclose how they are spending our money. The spending plans for each department in state government will soon be posted online for all 10,000,000 citizens of Michigan to review and analyze.

Each state department will be responsible for defining their core

services (i.e. the reason for their existence), their support services (i.e. IT, HR, Accounting, Legal ... or overhead), and their work projects (i.e. their investments toward the improvement of their core and/or support services). For each service or work project, we will be able to see how much is spent on salaries, benefits, contracts and more.

Coupled with the passage of Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker's SB 21 regarding metrics, we will now have the first statutory basis in our state's history for determining the price of government services and engage in "value for money" appropriations discussions!

This new public act will promote limited government by providing us with a valuable tool to rein in government spending. In addition, it will arm legislators and residents with the data we need to manage our government services more like a business so that we maximize the value of every tax dollar that we spend and improve customer service.

It is my hope that the availability of this information will also help open the door to more civil, bipartisan discussions of spending priorities in state government ... and perhaps even to set the stage for such discussions to occur at the federal level.

Patrick Colbeck
state senator, District 7

STAFF COLUMN

Right to work or freeloader? Depends on who's speaking ...

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The political and media professions are dependent on rhetorical shorthand, stock words and phrases used to convey complex information, ideas and policies that, if fully explained, would bog down an article, newscast, position paper or speech.

Oftentimes, this shorthand harmlessly, if shallowly, gets the job done, helping the casual reader or listener get from Point A to Point B to Point C without having to understand the inner workings of, for example, the banking system or the Internet. It's not ideal, but a fact in our soundbite, mile-a-minute society, and, as a reporter for a general audience whose range of topics is not limited by his personal expertise, it is a strategy I have employed myself.

However, there are times when these words of convenience are deliberately deceptive, used to gloss over unpleasant facts, conceal the truth, and sell ideas that, had they been more closely scrutinized, might not be received very well. Case in point — now there's a stock phrase for you — is "right to work."

The phrase is dishonest in the way it has been employed thousands of times in Michigan in the media and among the political class during the last few weeks.

The "right-to-work" legislation signed into law last month is more accurately described as giving workers in union shops the ability to benefit from collective bargaining — wages, benefits and working conditions — without having to pay for that advocacy through union dues or an agency fee.

The term "right to work" is far from neutral, but completely skewed toward those who favor the policy, putting a sunny facade on a controversial idea that, at its base, promotes freeloading.

Who, after all, could be against the right to work? The very title implies that it is a no-brainer that only trolls standing in the way of progress could oppose.

But from the opposite point of view, the policy could just as accurately be described as "right to freeloader" or "right to exploit." Yet no media professional would allow those kinds of biased descriptive phrases into an "objective" story, outside of direct quotes, nor should they. So why does "right to work" get a pass? A little further from the debate — but not too far — "right to work" is described as something along the lines of "the right not

to join a union as a condition of employment," implying that all of us in Michigan had to knuckle under to big, bad "union bosses" before the right-to-work crowd rescued us.

The facts that there were already protections of individual rights, and that some 83 percent of the state's work force is not unionized anyway, were ignored. (It should be noted that the new law mysteriously denies this magical "right to work" to unionized police officers and firefighters. But maybe that's fodder for another column.)

My criticism of the phrase "right to work" cuts decidedly against the right — a label I usually avoid, but that fits here — but the dishonest use of shorthand knows no ideology. The media needs to be more careful to distinguish between the innocuous cliché and the deceptive label, and not afraid to call out politicians who use the latter. Audiences need to be more skeptical when such stock terms are casually thrown about, when the description becomes the sales pitch.

Matt Jachman is a reporter for the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or via e-mail at mjachman@hometownlife.com.

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SECTION B (CP)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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SPORTS

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Hey Hockeytown, Whalers never left

True fans of the Plymouth Whalers understandably must be having a spike in blood pressure this week.

Numerous media reports keep returning to the phrase "hockey finally is back," when it never left venues such as Plymouth Township's Compuware Arena, a long-time home of the OHL Whalers.

And don't forget about hockey, prep and youth hockey making noise in

rinks all around the area. Hey, Plymouth's Wildcats are 13-1 and could be a state championship contender.

Hockey never left for those who love it at any level they can get it. Making it feel like a hockey stick in the gut to fans such as Livonian Steve Martin is the fact the Detroit Red Wings took over Compuware for three days this week. Those Red Wings came in to town for a quick tune-up before unveiling the 2013 model Saturday night, following the unfathomable NHL lock-out.

And, as predictable as can be, a throng of media types armed with lap-



RENA LAVERTY

Vince Trocheck (No. 25), shown chasing Erie's Stephen Harper (No. 10) during Saturday's game at Compuware Arena, is one of many Plymouth Whalers worth catching.

tops, video recorders and video equipment filled the facility to hurriedly dispatch various blogs, tweets and even full-

blown reports. You say 40-year-old Mike Knuble's making a comeback bid? Really? It's a story.

That's to be expected in so-called Hockeytown.

But where was everybody in September, October, November and December to watch an exciting Whalers team featuring 11 — that's right, 11 — players who belong to National Hockey League teams?

Attendance has been decent this season, but good seats can be had for almost every Plymouth contest.

On Saturday night against Erie, a less-than-capacity crowd of about 3,300 fans came out to watch an exciting game featuring two standouts of Team USA's

Please see SMITH, B3

K-of-C foul shot contest

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at St. Thomas a Beckett Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. All age-group contestants will be recognized for their participation in the event, which will progress through local, district and state competition. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call Dave Langel at (734) 516-4930 or e-mail dlengel2@yahoo.com.

Learning curve

Rocks take Novi to the wire, but fall short

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The points stopped falling in the fourth quarter for Salem's varsity girls basketball team Tuesday against visiting Novi. But Rocks' veteran head coach Fred Thomann is confident it's only a matter of time before his hard-working team starts to score and win more consistently.

Although Salem carried a 25-4 lead into the fourth quarter of the KLA A Central Division matchup, it was all Novi in the fourth. The division-leading Wildcats outscored the Rocks 10-4 in the final frame to earn a 35-29 victory.

"We're working really hard on learning how to close out games," Thomann said. "And we're so close, the last three losses we had were gettable and we just couldn't get them."

"We were tied or ahead in all three of those losses — Plymouth, Northville and now Novi."

After falling behind 20-15 at halftime, the Rocks (2-7 overall, 2-2 in the KLA A Central) went on a 10-0 run to open the

third. A layup by forward Bre Beaver (11 points) opened up a 25-20 Salem lead with about three minutes to play in the third.

Stopping that run was a trey by Novi's Amanda Geiger (10 points) with 2:20 left in the frame to cut the lead to a deuce and the Wildcats really got it going in the fourth with a mix of strong defensive pressure and tough luck around the basket for Salem.

"They didn't do anything that we didn't expect," Thomann said. "When the heat comes on you got to do a better job of executing."

"We did a little bit of it, but we had a couple key turnovers, a couple missed shots."

Thomann cited one series where the Rocks "had five offensive rebounds trying to score and we couldn't get the dang thing in. That was a huge possession right there."

Novi (9-1 overall, 4-0 in the KLA A Central) lost starting point guard Kerri McMahan to an ankle injury in the first half. McMahan didn't register a

Please see HOOPS, B4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem junior guard Kayla Kavulich (No. 3) battles for the basketball with Novi's Jade Antolec (left) and Malory Daschke during Tuesday's game.

Jones to host pitcher clinic

Detroit Tigers pitching coach Jeff Jones, along with the Livonia Stevenson High baseball program, will stage two sessions of pitching clinics Sunday, Jan. 20, at the high school fieldhouse.

Session 1 (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by Session 2 (ages 13-18) 12:30-2:30 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per person. For more information, call Stevenson varsity baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623 or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.

Salem needs discus coach

The Salem varsity girls track and field team is looking for an assistant coach who specializes in the throwing events. Please contact head coach Dave Gerlach at (734) 416-7708 or SalemGirlsTrackandField@ccsmail.net if interested.

Turner Solterman of Salem swims toward a second-place finish Tuesday in the 500-yard freestyle.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem depth sinks young Chiefs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Tuesday's campus matchup between Salem and Canton pitted varsity boys swim teams currently in different phases. The veteran Rocks posted a 125-60 victory over Canton's young squad in a KLA A cross-over dual meet at Salem High School's natatorium.

"We were able to move some guys around, give some others shots at swimming for some points," said Salem head coach Chuck Olson, whose team improved to 3-0. "They had some decent swims. The more information you have the easier it is to make out your lineup."

As for the Chiefs, head coach Dave Le didn't sound like his

team — which has a combined 29 freshmen and sophomores — lost by 65 points to drop to 3-0 on the year.

"They've made a ton of progress so far," Le said. "From the first day of practice until now you can see huge improvement."

"I'm excited to see what happens at the end of the year and in the years going forward for them."

Le didn't want to single out any of his swimmers, but stressed that the Chiefs "had some pretty good swims all across the board."

Trying things out
Olson said his experimentation with the lineup revealed that distance freestyler Brian Kuang is a pretty good

backstroke. Kuang won the 100 backstroke with a time of 59.51.

"He broke a minute in the 100 back, which is a good swim for Brian (and) will help our team, having that flexibility," Olson noted.

Another swimmer showing versatility was freestyler Matt Pairitz, second to teammate Charles Liu in the 200 IM. Liu finished in 2:09.90; Pairitz swam the race in 2:13.49.

"Matt swam the IM tonight, he hasn't had many opportunities to do that," Olson continued. "He had a nice swim there, and showed some potential."

"It's that kind of meet, you experiment a little bit."

Please see SWIMMING, B2

Chiefs' draw feels like win

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Turns out this season's biggest triumph for Canton's varsity boys hockey team was a tie.

On Saturday at Arctic Edge Arena, the Chiefs earned a 2-2 draw against Muskegon Mona Shores, the No. 4-ranked team in Division 1. Entering the contest, the Sailors had won all 13 games.

"We were their first blemish," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said. "They (Chiefs) feel pretty good, obviously."

That tie followed Friday's 4-2 victory over Forest Hills Northeastern.

Since starting the season 0-8, the Chiefs stand at 3-10-1 (3-2-1 since the holiday break) and hope to continue making progress ahead of the KLA A and state tournament.

"We're building toward playoffs and every game we're trying to give ourselves a new goal," Majszak said. "When we came back from break, our goal was to play at a higher level and we did that."

Against Mona Shores, sophomore forwards Cooper Rice (from senior forward and captain Matt Cox) and Tommy Kiddle scored, with Kiddle pouncing on a loose puck in the high slot and blasting it home.

"He's come out of nowhere," Majszak said about Kiddle. "He had three goals and two assists this past weekend. He's been on fire."

Flicking the puck into the Mona Shores zone to start the play was Cox.

Please see ICERS, B2

Salem tennis meeting set

A mandatory meeting for those interested in playing Salem girls tennis this spring is slated for 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, in the Salem High School library.

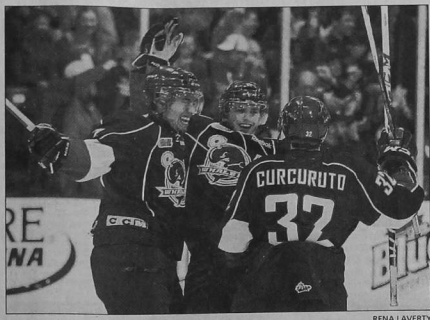
Forms will be filled out and uniforms ordered for the upcoming season. This will be the only opportunity to order a uniform.

Interested players should bring a current physical dated after April 30, 2012, as well as the following: health care policy information; a copy of parent's driver's license and car insurance for team travel; a check made out to Salem Girls Tennis to order a uniform.

Taylor earns GLIAC award

For the second time this season, Grand Valley State University senior forward Brianna Taylor (Livonia Franklin) was named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference North Division women's basketball Player of the Week.

The 5-foot-10 Taylor scored a season-high 30 points in a win Saturday over visiting Tech after scoring 24 in the victory Thursday against Northern Michigan.



Ryan Hartman (middle) celebrates with Plymouth Whalers' teammates Austin Levi (left) and Reynaldo Curcuruto after scoring one of his three goals Saturday against Erie.

'Golden' combo sparks Whalers

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last week's trade for forward Vince Trocheck is paying huge immediate dividends for the Plymouth Whalers, with Exhibit A being Saturday's 4-3 overtime win over Erie.

Trocheck tallied three assists, moved like a bullet train and hit like a sledgehammer during every shift with linemates Ryan Hartman and Cody Payne. Compuware Arena cracked with electricity whenever they took the ice.

And Hartman—who led the way with a hat trick, including the winning goal at 20 seconds of overtime—could only smile and shake his head when asked about Trocheck following the Ontario Hockey League contest.

"It's easy to play with a guy like that," Hartman said. "He's a great player, he puts up a lot of points and you can see why."

Having a guy like that really brings up the whole team and it's been awesome so far."

On the winning goal, Trocheck skated into the right circle in Erie's zone and wired the puck across to Hartman.

Otters goalie Oscar Dansk barely moved on the subsequent blast, into the top-right corner.

"It was a cross-ice pass and no one was really around, so I just thought I'd throw it on the net," Hartman said. "It hap-

OHL HOCKEY

pened to go in."

Dynamic duo

For the 3,271 fans in attendance, it was obvious that the Trocheck-Hartman combo brought over some mojo from the World Junior Championships. They were teammates on gold medal-winning Team USA.

Concurring was Whalers coach and general manager Mike Vellucci, who Dec. 10 pulled the trigger on the deal that sent forward Zach Bratina and three draft picks to Saginaw.

"They're both good players," Vellucci said. "They played over on the deal that sent forward Zach Bratina and three draft picks to Saginaw."

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the goal, which Payne completed with a nice deflection in front of Dansk.

Plymouth's first two goals were netted by Hartman (16 goals). He scored at 11:35 of the opening period on a feed from Garrett Meurs.

Hartman's persistence resulted in a power-play goal at 16:30 of the middle period. He jammed his own rebound past Dansk (40 saves), with assists to Trocheck and defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto.

The game might not have turned in Plymouth's favor without outstanding penalty killing earlier in the second. The Whalers fought off a four-minute penalty, with goaltender Matt Mahalak (20 saves) stopping all three shots he faced during that stretch.

Now Plymouth will look to add to a modest two-game winning streak with 7 p.m. home games Friday against Mississippi and Saturday against Sault Ste. Marie.

Having Trocheck and Hartman back from World Juniors will help alleviate the sting of having forwards Tom Wilson, Stefan Neesen and Rickard Rakell at National Hockey League camps this week. All are expected to rejoin the Whalers this weekend.

"They have to come back if they don't make the NHL," Vellucci said.

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watched the Whalers win one game in the final month and two others in overtime.

"It's a good bang for the buck to come here and watch the top-rated stars of the future," Martin said.

Men, quite a few of the OHL players most 'hockey' fans miss out on will someday grace the ice at Joe Louis Arena. Some might even wear red and white.

Then, people will trip over themselves to see what they can do. Of course, that's well into the future.

As for now, the Wings will be gone by Thursday and Compuware will be back to normal. The Whalers play Friday and Saturday and not one TV station will be there.

That's just how it is in Red Wing Town. It's enough to give head-aches to genuine hockey lovers who appreciate all levels of the game.

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached at tmth@hometownlife.com or (734) 469-4128.

Wildcats pass test with comeback

BOYS HOCKEY

I thought we matched them in those departments."

See-saw affair

It was a back-and-forth battle for the first two periods. Plymouth opened the scoring with Schutlz's first goal 3:07 into the game as he poked home a rebound created by a shot by junior forward Zach Tavernier.

The Blue Devils (11-4-1) responded later in the period with a power play goal by C.J. Wilkins. The goal ended a streak of 33 consecutive successful penalty kills by the Wildcats.

Sault took a 2-1 lead 7:41 into the second period on a power-play goal by Will Gauthier, but the Wildcats responded 15 seconds later with senior forward Nick Schutlz's 22nd goal of the season. He also added four assists in the game.

The Blue Devils regained the lead less than three minutes later with another power-play goal by Gauthier, but the Wildcats tied it 1-1:54 later

with Tavernier's 11th goal of the season.

Sophomore goalie Jared Maddock stopped 29 of 32 shots to earn his seventh win of the season. Plymouth (13-1-1) fired 31 shots at Sault goalie Jacob Schopp and converted two on net power-play chances.

"Jared made some big saves to keep us in the game, and in the third period, I thought we were the better-conditioned team, and that made a big difference," Vento added. "Without a doubt, it was a team effort, and it made for a great weekend."

PLYMOUTH 8, CHEBOYGAN 6: The Wildcats blitzed the Chiefs for a mercy victory that ended early in the third period at the Taffy Abel Arena on Friday.

Nick Schutlz led the attack with four goals (two short-handed) and two assists in the game. Plymouth also got scores from Tavernier, Burke, Mike Schutlz and senior forward Tom Kelly. Senior forward Mitch Claggett chipped in two assists.

Sophomore goalie Erik VandenBoutch stopped all 14 shots he faced to earn his second shutout and sixth victory of the season.

Plymouth fired 27 shots on goal and scored on one of two power-play chances.

Salem boys second at PCS bowling tournament

The Westland John Glenn boys bowling team racked up a total of 3,517 pins to capture the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Tournament Saturday at Super Bowl in Canton.

Salem, which had beaten Glenn earlier in the week, was runner-up with 3,398.

Canton finished fourth (3,281) while Plymouth came in 10th with a 3,065 tally.

"We were in first place after the first game," Rocks' head coach Keith Hahn said. "But then the spare shooting killed us that second game and dropped us down to second, which was we were able to hold onto."

Salem rolled a total of 3,398, including a total of 756 in the four baker games. In the first regular game, the Rocks defeated the Rockets 951-921.

Kevin Williams spearheaded the Game 1 win away with a 256 game. He finished with a 614, good for third place behind overall winner Michael Richards of Canton. (205-248-211-664) and

South Lyon East's Jeremy Dismore (194-213-244-651).

Other impressive Salem showings were turned in by 13th-place Steven Cadwell (188-166-265-59) and Tyler Snyder (182-149-195-526).

For the Chiefs, Richards rolled 200 games in each game, highlighted by his 248 in the Game 2.

Alex Champagne (157-173-186-516) and Aaron Madsen (164-164-182-510) also had solid showings.

Plymouth's top bowler for the day was Ryan Riva, who placed 18th with a 167-175-192-534 scoreline.

Zach Behr had a 351 series over two games (178 high score) while Evan Grimmer chipped in with a 156-201-132-489 scoreline.

Maul 4th overall

Waterford Mott came away with the PCS girls tournament title with a 3,212 total, while PCEP teams finished 7-9.

The top individual performer from the

Park was Salem's Bridget Maul. She came in fourth overall with a 162-182-193-537 series.

In the team standings, Plymouth finished seventh with a 2,784 total. The Wilds were followed by Salem (eighth, 2,760) and Canton (ninth, 2,655).

Finishing Plymouth was Emily Fraser, who finished 16th with a 189-159-155-503 scoreline. Teammate Megan Blackman came in 20th, rolling a 492 series with a high game of 179.

Chipping in for the Wildcats was Caitlyn Webb. She only bowled two games, but tallied a 375 series (203, 172).

Pacing the Chiefs was 11th place Brianna Bailey, who registered a 167-143-197-507 scoreline, followed by Charlotte Zimmer (135-133-204-472) and Jessica Holowicki (131-151-131-413).

In addition to Maul, the Rocks featured Kristin Larkin's 145-169-192-506 series (13th place) with the next finisher being Rachel Lopez (147-123-143-413).

Salem grapplers showing promise

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It's still early in the high school wrestling season, but Salem head coach Pete Israel takes the upward trend of some of his athletes.

Consider Saturday's Blue Water Classic at Port Huron Northern.

At that invitational, five Salem wrestlers posted—including two individual championships.

At 160 pounds, Tyler Gross needed just 1:26 to pin Anchor Bay's Ross Morissette in the finals. With that, Gross won the championship of his weight class for the third consecutive invitational, Israel said.

Also earning a championship was 189-pounder Mitchell Gross, a 7-5 decision over Port Huron's Jordan Cor-

by made it back-to-back titles for the sophomore.

"Mitchell continues to wrestle with great mat savvy," Israel noted. "As a sophomore he has good presence and mat awareness."

Coming in fourth at Northern was Caleb McCabe, in the 130-pound weight class.

"Caleb's been keeping improving week after week and showed it with a fourth place finish," Israel added. "As Caleb does the little things he needs to do, I see more improvement yet to come."

Sixths were registered by Bekim Mucca (215) and Alex Arble (112) and Israel is optimistic both wrestlers will continue to move up the ladder.

"Bekim's a smaller 215-pounder (and) was weight disadvantaged," he said. "But he did well using his

strength and technique."

Israel said Arble "needs to keep working hard and good things will come."

The coach cited second-place showings at the recent Okla. Invitational and Salem Elks varsity tournament.

After Wednesday's road dual meet at South Lyon East, the Rocks will compete at this weekend's Williamson Tournament.

FRANKLIN 40, PLYMOUTH 35: On Jan. 9, the Wildcats were edged by Livonia Franklin in a matchup of KLAS South Division teams.

Earning firsts for Plymouth were Collin Reed (193), Mo Pascal (121), and Harris (119). Terry Bray (125), John Conn (135), Alec Breckenridge (148) and Hussein Yousef (145).

Berry, Conn and Breckenridge all pinned their opponents. tmth@hometownlife.com
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SMITH

Continued from page B1

recent gold-medal championship at the World Juniors.

And there was a free concert of country music following the game as a bonus.

For those who did come out, such as season-ticket holder Martin, they watched an incredible performance by Plymouth forwards Ryan Hartman and Vince Trocheck, the latter a recent acquisition by the Whalers.

"I'm literally right in their face, due to the cozy arena, are big-league worthy speed, playmaking, bone-crunching hits and spectacular saves.

Big-league talent
Many nights, most local media members stay home. But the corridors of Compuware are usually filled with NHL scouts taking notes.

Remember Tyler Seguin? He played two scintillating seasons for the Whalers and already is an established star with the Boston Bruins.

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

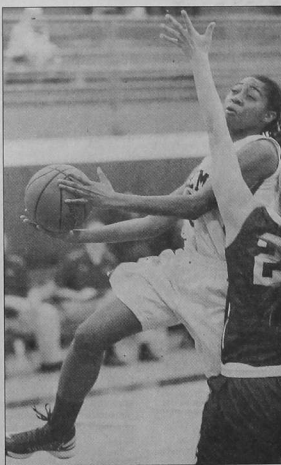
point before the injury, largely due to the defensive shadowing of Salem guard Kavulich. "She (Kavulich) did a really nice job on her," Thomann said. "We had solid team D for the most part."

The Rocks hung in there despite not having Beaver on the floor for most of the first half after collecting three early fouls.

Other Salem contributions were turned in by guard Janyra Wilson (10 points, including six free throws), Kavulich (four points) and Shara Long (four points each).

Despite the loss, which ended Salem's modest two-game winning streak, Thomann sees better days ahead.

"The one thing I really like about this group is they work really hard," Thomann emphasized. "They're going to start figuring this out." Salem visits South Lyon at 7 p.m. Friday.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Taking it strong to the basket Tuesday night is Salem's Janyra Wilson (No. 4). While Novy defender Kristin Schubring (No. 23) tries in vain to stop her.

'Cats, Chiefs topple KLAAs opponents

Plymouth defeated host Wayne Memorial 56-48 Tuesday night in a KLAAs South Division varsity boys basketball contest. The Wildcats, who improved to 4-6 overall and 2-2 in the division, led 26-22 at halftime and picked up the pace in the second half.

"We had a strong third quarter," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "And we pulled away at the end with some free throws."

For Plymouth, Josh Priebe continued his fine season with 13 points to lead the team.

Shane Clark tallied 11 points and led the Wildcats with seven rebounds. Other contributions came from Jake Divens (eight points), Sid Acharya (five points, five boards) and Brendan Swanson (four points, six

BOYS BASKETBALL

boards). Rafael Parks scored 10 points for Wayne (2-7, 0-4). Soukup said Friday's home game against Westland John Glenn will be another key test in the KLAAs South for his squad.

CANTON 45, CHURCHILL 31: The host Chiefs (5-3, 3-1 in the KLAAs South) defeated Livonia Churchill (3-6, 1-3) Tuesday night to make it three victories in a row.

"Greg Williams was very solid tonight and we did an excellent job defensively, especially in the third quarter," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. A 1-3 edge in the fourth quarter helped the Chiefs finish off the Chargers, who made only 23 percent of their shots from the field (10-43) for the night.

Williams paced the Canton attack with 12 points and chipped in with seven rebounds — six at the defensive end. Josh Mayberry (11 points, five steals), Scott Gring (six points,

six boards), Davon Taylor (six points) and Jordan Nobles (seven boards, three steals) made their presence known.

NOVI 64, SALEM 60: A furious fourth-quarter rally by Salem (7-3, 3-1 in the KLAAs South) kept Novy (5-4, 3-1).

The Rocks trailed 49-40 after three frames and cranked up the offense in the fourth, outscoring the Wildcats 20-15. But it wasn't enough.

Nate Sassi had a strong game for Salem, with 16 points along with seven rebounds. Chris Dierker (13 points, nine boards), KJ Mack (eight points, three steals), Austin Whitted and Ahmad Khalid (seven points each) chipped in.

Salem had an off night shooting-wise, making 34 percent of field-goal attempts (20-59). The Rocks will look to bounce back Friday night in a home game against South Lyon.

PCA 74, GRASS LAKE 44: Mick Noel registered 20 points to spearhead Plymouth Christian Academy's road victory Monday night at Grass Lake.

Also playing strong games were the Eagles (7-1) over Daniel Jipping (13 points, 10 rebounds), Alex Huber (12 points) and Drew Ibach (nine points, 14 boards, six assists, four blocks).

PCA will host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (No. 2 in Class D) for a big MIAC matchup. Tip-off is at 8:30 p.m.

Area teams come up big

Another game, another strong defensive performance by Canton's varsity girls basketball team.

The visiting Chiefs gave up just 11 first-half points Tuesday and went on to a 39-29 KLAAs South Division win over Livonia Churchill.

Canton improved to 7-3 overall and 3-1 in the KLAAs South. As was the case Friday against Plymouth, Paige Arnesco made the offensive force for the Chiefs. She scored 14 points.

Helping the cause were Rachel Winters (nine points, five steals), Taylor Hunley and Alanna Brown (eight points each).

Hunley helped seal the victory with perfect free-throw shooting in the final minutes. "I thought we defended really well," Samulski said. "Rach (Winters) got us off to a good start offensively shooting the ball from the perimeter."

Canton went up 21-11 at halftime and pretty much maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the way.

"Taylor did great, the job going 6-6 from the line down the stretch," he said. "Paige was solid, Alanna played a great second half and Nat's (Natalie Winters) presence on the ball was awesome."

"It was a battle but the kids did a great job of fighting through it and getting it done."

Canton will host Livonia Franklin 7 p.m. Friday in another division matchup.

PLYMOUTH 66, WAYNE 22: A big disparity on the glass Tuesday night fueled the host Wildcats (4-6 overall, 3-1 in

GIRLS BASKETBALL

the KLAAs South Division) to this romp over Wayne Memorial.

Jada Woody scored 20 points for the Wildcats, with Shelby Cheston (12 points, 11 rebounds) and Kylie Robb (10 points) also in double figures. Ashley Bland led the Zebras with 12 points.

Plymouth outboarded Wayne by a 34-8 margin, with Cheston, Torrie Johnson (nine rebounds) and Leah Klicinski (seven boards) along with nine points) doing most of the damage.

Wayne also committed 24 turnovers (to 11 by Plymouth), which led to many more chances for the Wildcats to score. Plymouth hit 30 of 70 field-goal attempts (42.9 percent) while the Zebras took only 40 shots, making nine (22.5 percent).

After leading 13-8 after the scoring edge in the second to go up 29-8 at halftime and defend and we hit the offensive boards (23)," Plymouth coach Bob De Bear said. "We really shared the ball (21 assists) and scored inside. Everyone contributed."

Strong passing also sparked the victory, with Cheston and Lexie McGehee each contributing five assists and Johnson four.

PCA 49, CHANDLER PARK 40: A big second half propelled Plymouth Christian Academy (6-3) to this home victory Monday night.

It was a 25-19 Chandler Park lead entering the third quarter, but the Eagles turned things around with 16-6 frame to go up 35-31 entering the fourth.

PCA added to that lead in the final stanza, with contributions from Jenny Malcolm (16 points, seven rebounds), Kenyon Windle (eight points, five rebounds), Rachael Fuller (eight points) and Emily Gerulis (seven points, 12 rebounds, six assists, five steals, four blocks). Playing well against Gerulis was PCA's press was Jenna Abraham.

Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis said she talked to the team at halftime about concentrating on making more layups and in-close buckets in the second half, and that's

what happened. After intermission, for example, Fuller scored all of her points on four back-door cuts.

"Jenny Malcolm had a good game all around for us," she said. "Karen Windle and Emily Gerulis both had good defensive night... (and) Emily also had a good all-around game."

Others who helped the cause on D were Rachel Smith and Martha Mink.

LUTL WESTLAND 41, BAPTIST PARK 25: Aldreanna Fikes led Westland with 12 rebounds and two blocks Tuesday night.

Westland's Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division win over host Taylor Baptist Park Christian (4-5, 1-4).

Angela Morrison and Alisa Flury added eight and six points, respectively, for the Warriors, who won their third straight.

LUTH SOUTH 38, HVL 29: Junior Kristina Smock scored 17 points and sent Molly Roebke added 15 Tuesday to propel Newport Lutheran (2-5, 2-2) to a Mid-West Division win over visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (5-3, 2-3).

"We have to play our four quarters," said HVL coach Kris Ruth, whose team was outscored 13-2 in the second period.

South made only 8-of-19 free throws, while Huron Valley made just 3-of-12.

DIVINE CHILD 59, LADYWOOD 27: Divine Child (7-2, 2-0) in the Catholic League Central Division encounter.

The Blazers, who played without injured starting senior point-guardie Andie Anastos, also got 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists from senior forward Sara Evon.

Morgan Blair led the victorious Falcons with 22 points while Nicole Urbancik added 14.

Divine Child, which led 37-19 at halftime, made 12-of-19 free throws.

Ladywood hit 10-of-15.

McGrath paces Madonna women

Livonia Stevenson's Kaylee McGrath tallied a team-high 20 points and senior guard Kristie Porada added a career-high 17 to power the Madonna University women's basketball team to a 78-52 win against Aquinas College.

McGrath, which jumped out to a 40-24 halftime lead, is 11-7 overall and 7-4 in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Shantelle Herring, a senior guard, also scored 17 in the win as the Crusaders shots 25-of-59 from the floor (42.4 percent) and 23-of-31 from the foul line (74.2 percent).

Aquinas (9-8, 5-6) got 17 off the bench from Marisa Marx and 13 off the bench from Shelby Carter.

The Saints shot only 18-of-55 from the floor (32.7 percent) and a dismal 10-of-27 from the foul line (37 percent).

HENRY FORD 71, S'GRAFF 65: Marissa Carr grabbed 13 points and carried 13 rebounds to spark Henry Ford



Schoolcraft's Brianna Berberet (22) launches a shot against Henry Ford in Saturday's game while Nicole Urbancik added 14.

GARY KELTYKA

Community College (9-6, 2-2) to an MCCA Eastern Conference comeback win Saturday at Schoolcraft College (4-10, 1-3).

The Hawks, who also got 18 points and 14 rebounds from Dejanique Reddix, erased a 13-point second-half deficit. Alsha Payne chipped in with nine points and 10 boards for Henry Ford, which is coached by Leslie Williams (formerly of Wayne Memorial).

Courtney Dyer led the Lady

Ocelots with 23 points, while Alexis Smith (20 points) came off the bench to score 12 points and grab six rebounds.

Brianna Berberet (Salem) added 11 points and seven boards, while Ajai Meeks had nine points and 10 rebounds before fouling out (and receiving a technical foul).

Schoolcraft was outscored 56-52 in the first half and 74 from the field (33.8 percent) to go along with 23 turnovers.

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NOTICE PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

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Thank You PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Publish January 17 & 24, 2013

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

By-Law Nos. 0164.1: Regular Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (except the regular meeting in July will be on the third Tuesday) and there will be no meeting on the first Tuesday in April and the second Tuesday in February and December) at 7:00 p.m. at the following location (except as agreed herein) unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the members:

E. J. McClendon Educational Center 454 South Harvey Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170

By-Law No. 0164.2 Special Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Special meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, and place of such special meetings, or by a majority vote of the Board.

Service of the notice shall be by:

- 1. Delivering the notices to the members personally at least twenty-four (24) hours before such meeting is to take place, or
2. Leaving the notice at the member's residence with a person of the household at least twenty-four (24) hours before such meeting is to take place, or
3. Depositing the notice in a government mail receptacle enclosed in a sealed envelope plainly addressed to such member at his/her last known address at least seventy-two (72) hours before such meeting is to take place.

Services as above described may be made by a member of the Board or any employee of the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE of each special meeting and of each rescheduled regular or special meeting shall be given by posting a copy of the NOTICE on the message board at the front entrance to the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, at least eight (8) business days prior to the meeting.

Publish: January 17, 2013

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Published on Thursday, February 14, 2013 (Observer and Hometown newspapers only)

Improve job-finding skills, networking at Plymouth church

NorthRidge Church in Plymouth has reorganized its Jobseeker's care group, designed to help individuals find employment.

"It's more structured and there is a topic each week," said Marjio Swanson, care coordinator. "Before that it was come as you are and tell us what kind of job you're looking for. It was more loosely structured, a more random kind of evening." Led by two church vol-

unteers, the program now includes different topics, covered from 7-9 p.m. on Monday. The schedule repeats every six weeks. The Jan. 21 session will focus on using social media to find job postings, tips on LinkedIn and Twitter, networking for introverts and more.

The meeting on Jan. 28 will include discussion about body language, among other topics and the Feb. 5 session will help participants consid-

er their choices and planning for employment. The program will continue Feb. 18 with a look at the job market and skills that every employer wants. The following Monday, Feb. 25, the group will consider resumes and "elevator speeches."

"It's an open, drop-in type of format. It's a networking type of meeting," Swanson said. "There's no cost and no registration needed."

Jobseekers is one of more than 20 different support groups offered on Monday nights at the church.

"We offer a wide variety — single dads, anger, addiction, healthy living," Swanson said.

She said attendance at the Jobseekers sessions recently had decreased. The new format is designed to renew interest in the program.

"We feel people were getting discouraged or

giving up, learning to adjust to a lifestyle on unemployment. That's why my leaders are trying to do something different with it."

The weekly schedule is

available on the NorthRidge website at northridgechurch.com. The church is located at 49555 N. Territorial Road; (734) 414-7777.

By Sharon Dargay

RELIGION CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 20
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All you can eat pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, apple sauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10
Contact: (734) 425-4421

FILM
Time/Date: Doors open at 3:30 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

GREEN FILM SERIES
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17
Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham

Details: PR's John Hock-embury 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. Savoie, Ph.D., an authorized presenter of the Climate Reality Project, trained directly by former Vice President Al Gore. Free admission. Sponsored by the church's Green Ministry
Contact: www.cbucc.org

GRIEF SUPPORT
Time/Date: 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday, beginning Jan. 30
Location: Congregation Shary Zedeck, 27375 Bell, Southfield

Details: Runs through March 6, is nonsectarian and designed for those who have lost a spouse. Call the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section for information and registration. There is no charge but donations are accepted
Contact: (248) 355-3300, Ext. 0

OPEN HOUSE
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 31
Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Tour the school, talk to other parents and staff during this open house for the school, which includes classes for preschool through middle school, CYO sports, bus transportation for Livonia residents, and flexible payment plans. Registration packets will be available at the open house
Contact: www.saintgenevieve.org or call (734) 425-4421

OPEN HOUSE
Time/Date: 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27
Location: 11311 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: St. Michael's School, Livonia's oldest and largest K-8 parochial school, invites all interested families to take student-led tours of their facilities, to meet staff members who will be available to answer questions and concerns, and to share refreshments and conversation with other parents and students. St. Michael's, SE Michigan's only two-time MANS accredited School of Distinction, offers a traditional faith-filled environment, with a commitment to high academic standards, service to others, a strong science and technology curriculum, coupled with many opportunities for significant parent involvement and extracurricular activities such as sports and scouts.

St. Michael's offers half or full-day kindergarten, latch-key programming, and an extended curriculum which includes computer science, art, music, and Spanish.
Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 226, or www.livonia-st-michael.org

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

January

ANNULMENTS

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
Contact: (734) 455-5910

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 Old Testament tabernacle, 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. Participants will be challenged to prepare their hearts to become a home for God's love and glory. Cost is \$15 for a workbook. All women are welcome
Contact: (734) 542-9816 or irenejim@hotmail.com

BREAKFAST
Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper



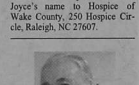
FLYNN, ELWOOD 'JOE'
Age 85, January 13, 2013. Beloved husband of Sue. Dear father of Peter (Mary). Grandfather of Matthew & Shawn. Brother of Iola Sharp and Earl Flynn. Brother-in-law of Gilbert J. Stebbins, Patricia (Ellen) Grifflin, John J. Stebbins, Elizabeth Stebbins and Lydia Stebbins. In state Thursday 10:30 am followed by the 11:30 am Funeral Service at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City (Just South of Ford Rd.). Family suggests memorials to Garden City Presbyterian Church. Arrangements by Santek & Son Funeral Home, www.Santekfuneralhome.com



LUDWIG, JOYCE CLARK
Age 83, Joyce was a devout Christian that went to be with the Lord on January 9th, 2013. Loving mother of Cathy (Larry) Headloff of Florida and Barb (Mike) Anthony of North Carolina. Will also be missed by her grandchildren Preston, Meredith and Matt and her granddaughters Noah and Sammy. Survived by her brother Neal Clark of Texas. Joyce proudly worked for 28 years at Schoolcraft College. Visitation Wednesday 4-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., in Livonia. Funeral Thursday in state at 11 am until the time of service at 11 am at Grace Lutheran Church, 25630 Grand River Ave., in Redford. Interment Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti. Memorial contributions may be made in Joyce's name to Hospice of Wake County, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607.



SCHIEER, JANET K.
Age 75, January 13, 2013 of Cadillac formerly of Farmington. Beloved wife of Charles. Dear mother of David (Michelle), Mary (Robert) Bash, Martha (Harrison Y) Smith, Elizabeth (Randy) Dick. Also survived by 9 grandchildren. Funeral Service Friday at 11:30am at the R.G. & G.H. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Thursday 4-8pm. Those wishing to make a contribution in Janet's name are asked to consider the United Methodist Women's Association of Farmington or American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, Grand Rapids. Please share a memory at www.rghfharrs.com



ROGERS, DON H.
Age 69, January 15, 2013 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Barbara. Loving father of David and Deborah (Lynn) Craig. Dear brother of Lois (John) Erickson and Gail (Jim) Smith. Dear grandfather of Cameron, David, Robert, Emily, James, Molly and Matthew. Funeral Service Friday 11am at R.G. & G.H. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Thursday 2-9 pm. Please share a memory at www.rghfharrs.com

Your Invitation to Worship

<p style="text-align: center;">CATHOLIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions: Hear Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 5:00 P.M.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rosedale Gardens PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 8011 Rosedale in Chicago (Livonia, MI) (Between Morristown & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Children's Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARD CHURCH 4000 1/2 Mile Road 24575 Grand www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Program available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 111.9 on 106.9 FM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am - Nursery Staffed Nursery Available Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Dawnport, Bayre, & Creden 734-572-6830</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 11000 Plymouth Road Livonia, MI 48154 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HOMES FOR SENIORS, GARDEN CITY CENTER (734) 465-3198</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Step Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Dr. Jeffrey A. Frazzini Assoc. Pastor: Alex Frazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia 48152 Between Plymouth and North 7 Mile Across from Joe's Practice 248.471.5202</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 Farmington Road Livonia Worship Services Sundays: 8:30 A.M. & 11 A.M. www.stpaulslutheran.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">UNITY WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friends of Unity 774 North Sheldon Road Plymouth, MI (Formerly Community Arts Building) www.friendsunity.org Singer/Instrumentalist and Youth & Family Ministry Fluency in Spanish, Licensed Unity Teacher 734.454.0015</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Antioch Lutheran Church 13115 Grand River Ave. Livonia, MI 48154 (248) 626-7906 www.antiochlutheran.org Come to the celebration of our new pastor! David H. Anderson Saturday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. Featuring special music and special Bible Catechesis. All are welcome. Sunday services 8:30 and 11 a.m.</p>			

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

Talent on four paws

Cats, dogs and friends bring comedy show to Redford Theatre



By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

When Gregory Popovich does his sound check at the Redford Theatre on Jan. 26, he'll insist that his theater troupe also takes a smell check. "I have them go on stage and smell and check it out. They walk around on stage. If I do a show without this, they look around during the show and wonder what is going on."

His stars, walking on four paws, will take about 20 minutes to get acquainted with the stage before they're comfortable enough to perform without losing focus during their Popovich Comedy Pet Theater show.

"We have more than 30 pets including 14 cats, 12 dogs, three geese, two parrots and mice," said Popovich, 48, who performs regularly with his cast at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. The show will kick off its three-month tour in Detroit at the Redford Theatre, then travel throughout the Midwest and East Coast before returning home, where Popovich, and his wife live with their furry and feathered brood. His daughter, who has assisted with the show, is at college.

Circus family

Popovich, who holds several world records in juggling and gold medals in international competition, has performed for



A cat takes a willing dog for a stroll during a scene in Popovich Comedy Pet Theater's show.

most of his life. The Russian-born son of circus performers — his parents both juggled and trained dogs — began assisting on stage with his mother's dog act as a child. He learned to juggle when he was 6 and became a member of the Moscow Circus 11 years later. He earned a featured spot in 1992 at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, where he eventually shared the stage with felines.

Popovich began adding cats to the show after introducing the family kitten into his clown act. The audience's enthusiastic response compelled him to create a "Cat Skills" routine that featured felines he had rescued from shelters. The show, combining his juggling and his performing cats, toured Japan before returning to Las Vegas, where he added shelter dogs into the act. The feline and canine stars went on the road, touring Europe, and North and South America in 2000. When the tour ended five years later, Popovich added birds, rats and ferrets into the performance, which also found a new venue in Las Vegas.

He describes the Popovich Comedy Pet Theater as a variety show.

"I have eight people

working with me. Four help with the pets and I have four acrobats from the Moscow Circus. This is not only a pet show. There is physical comedy," he said, adding that he also juggles in the show. "Of course, the main attraction, the stars, are the pets. We are the human chorus line."

Natural talent

All of his cats and dogs are from shelters. With a full contingent of performers — and a couple of retired pets at home — Popovich doesn't add to the cast often these days. When he does search for a new pet, he looks for "natural talent" in the rows of shelter kennels and cages.

"I don't push them to do something. I try to let the pets play, and I play with them, and see what they can do, what they like to do," he explained his method of selecting cast members. "I create a part for them. I see what kind of pet is fit for an idea I have."

Rather than teaching his stars to perform specific stunts and tricks, he helps them show off their individual personalities and talents. If a cat likes to climb, it performs that action in a routine on stage. If a dog likes to

jump, it shows off its skill for the audience.

"I have a dog that just looks good. When I ask in dog school (a routine) to give an answer and come to the board, he is always hiding behind his desk. He doesn't want to do difficult tricks or jumping. He looks like a lazy student. I created this part for him. It's more funny than action."

"I use natural habits in the show," he said. "The mice are interesting pets. They are smart. By nature if you give them feed they go to a higher level naturally." He integrates that habit into a routine that has mice moving from lower to higher levels.

Working with a new dog or cat requires a few months to gain trust and build confidence, and another six to nine months to learn routines. Popovich uses voice commands to cue his stars.

Adopting from shelters

One of his favorite stunts includes a piggy-back-riding cat and a dog. "One of the most difficult tricks came when puppy and kitty were playing in the backyard and sometimes the kitty would jump on the dog. I'm proud of this because the pets gave me the idea for the trick," he said. "I repeated and repeated it and sewed a special jacket for the dog. It became one of my trademarks."

"It's emotional. Every routine involves a scene about a homeless circus performer, played by Popovich, and a homeless dog that steals his lunch. "It's emotional. Every routine involves a scene about a homeless circus performer, played by Popovich, and a homeless dog that steals his lunch. He has no friends and finally he finds a friend on the street."

The routine conveys a subtle message about finding adoptable "friends" at animal shelters, a practice that Popovich promotes. "If after my show a few people go to the shelter, I feel that my main mission is complete."

Gregory Popovich strikes a pose with two of his many performing pets.

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Auditions set for youth interested in performing

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will hold open auditions for its youth theater group, Plymouth Uptown Players (PUPS), 1:5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Open auditions for *Wonderland* also will be held 1:30-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Suggested audition times in Plymouth are for age groups are: 1-1:45 p.m., kindergartners through second graders; 2-2:45 p.m., third graders through fifth graders; 3:30-5 p.m., sixth graders through eighth graders. Siblings may audition during the same time period. If actors can't audition on Sunday, they may call the Council to make other arrangements.

Actors should prepare a monologue of a minute or less in length to read for the audition. The director also will have pieces to read. Everyone who auditions will get a part in the play.

The cost is \$150 per actor, with a 10 percent discount for additional siblings registered for the same season. A Council membership is also required.

Registration forms, medical and photo releases and complete season rehearsal schedule are available at www.plymoutharts.com.

The main goal of the PUPS program is to have fun while making the participants feel comfortable and confident in front of a live audience. Actors will learn stage direction, cues, blocking, voice projection, role-play, character

ization and improvisation.

Rehearsals are held Sunday afternoons through the April performance day.

Staff from Northville's Tipping Pointe Theatre directs the program.

Farmington Hills

No advance preparation is needed for the *Wonderland* auditions. The play is an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic *Through the Looking Glass*, with all the characters from the original tale including Alice, the Cheshire Cat, the White Rabbit, and more, with many parts for young actors in two large casts.

Audition times are 1:30-3 p.m. for grades 3 and 4; 3-4:30 p.m. for grades 5 and 6; and 4:30-6 p.m. for grades 7-12. Participants should bring a recent school photo to the audition. All other materials will be supplied. Audition forms are available at www.fhgov.com under Cultural Arts/Youth Theatre.

Rehearsal dates are times vary from Feb. 13-April 21, with leading roles requiring more rehearsals than supporting cast. Actors cast in the show must pay a registration fee and attend a mandatory parent meeting from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Costick Center. Final show dates are April 25-28. *Wonderland* is produced in conjunction with Sky's the Limit Productions.

Youth theatre participants make new friends, build confidence, and learn about theater productions.

For more information, call the Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1859.

Party tent offers music, drinks, festival viewing area

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you belly up to the bar at E.G. Nicks this weekend, make sure you're wearing layers.

The restaurant will get into the spirit of the Plymouth Ice Festival by offering two outdoor serving bars sculpted from ice. One will be located on the restaurant's patio and the other under a heated tent, the MGM Party Lot Lodge.

"You don't lean on the bar for sure," advised Frank Agostini, E.G. Nicks owner, as he considered the challenge of tending bar — or ordering drinks — on ice. "They are big. They are nine- or 10-block sculptures. Plus they carve something to store bottles. They make it so well, it's a structure, like anything else."

This is the restaurant's third winter tent. It will be open from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19. The Bluescasters will perform from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and JR and the Sellouts take the stage 7 p.m.-midnight Saturday.

"It's like a lodge, with music, tables and drink specials. The heated tent is a place to go out and have a good time."

Patrons can watch the AGA Nation Downtown Rail Jam, involving ski and snowboard competitions, from the tent. The patio on Forest Ave. is heated, although not tented, and offers a view of Rail Jam's snowboard and skiing instructional clinics.

"It looks like the weather will be perfect to come out and enjoy the ice," Agostini said. "This place



GLENN YEAGER

The ice bar at E.G. Nicks serves specialty drinks during last year's Plymouth Ice Festival.

will be hopping. We'll have drink specials and giveaways." Ski shots — alcohol shots served on a single ski with participants all drinking them at once — and an ice luge will be

available. At the luge, the bartender pours a drink down the icy chute and the customer is "at the bottom to receive it." Look for hot drinks like "Toasted Caramel Mocha," as well as cider,

snow cones and other creations at the outdoor bars.

"We're limited in what we can pour out there. You're at an ice bar. It's not plumbed in with Coke guns," Agostini added.

The party tent and Rail Jam are the tip of the iceberg in terms of activities at the Plymouth Ice Festival, which will run 3-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20.

The event also will include a skating rink — complete with skate rentals — in Kellogg Park, ice sculptures and carving demonstrations. A speed carving competition is set for 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19 and college carving contests will be held both festival days.

The Eastern Michigan University Choir will sing

at opening ceremonies at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18 on the main stage in the Kellogg Park area. Radio Disney will take the main stage from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, followed by a winter fashion show from 3:40-5 p.m. The fashion show will repeat from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20.

A Made in Michigan Marketplace will be stationed along Forest Ave., and food vendors will offer gourmet dining options. A warming tent located in the Gathering, across from Kellogg Park will feature local vendors, product demonstrations and seating. Free arts and crafts projects will be available from 1-4 p.m. both festival days in the warming tent.

For more information call (855) 423-3378 or e-mail to info@plymouthicefestival.com.



Visitors can try the rock wall, among other features, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center open house, Sunday, Jan. 20.

Try free classes at rec center open house

Swim, rock climb, take a demo class or a guided tour at Livonia Community Recreation Center's open house, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 15100 Hubbard, at Five Mile.

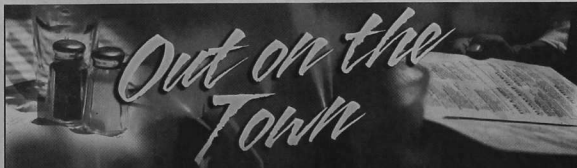
- Admission is free and the center is open to residents and non-residents alike.
- Free demo classes on the day of the event include:
- 11:30 a.m. - Express Women on Weights
 - Noon - Express Core
 - 12:30 p.m. - Express Zumba
 - 1 p.m. - Express Yoga
 - 1:30 p.m. - Super Kids Karate
 - 2 p.m. - Kung Fu
 - 2:30 p.m. - Tai Chi
 - 3 p.m. - The Kwon Do

Emphasizing in Self Defense. The giant water slide will open at noon. The Center includes a leisure pool, lap pool, rock wall, game room, splash pad, fitness hub, soccer fields, water tube slide, indoor track, skate park, locker rooms, indoor and roller hockey rinks, vending area, dry sauna, sand volleyball courts, kid quarters, tree fort play area, massage therapy, two gymnasiums, outdoor walking path, personal training, sports leagues, adult lounge, physical therapy and sports medicine clinic, and more.

For more information call (734) 466-2900.



"Basic Elements" by Celeste Roe of Farmington is among the works on display in the Best of the Best show, noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, noon to 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, through Jan. 25 at Lawrence Street Gallery, 220 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Allen Brooks of Livonia also has a photo on display in the show.



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The sweet and spicy secret to the perfect meal

If you're looking for a main dish recipe that will wow your guests, there's a secret ingredient you should know about. Inside its soft velvety skin, and wrapped in a slightly spicy aroma, is a honey-like sweetness with a subtle berry flavor that many cooks find extraordinary. What is it? The fig.

Figs, both fresh and dried, offer a unique flavor that can be used in both sweet and savory dishes. Their intense sweetness is well complemented by tangy balsamic or sherry vinegars, salty cured meats such as ham and prosciutto, roasted meats, and warm herbs and spices such as rosemary, thyme, cinnamon and cardamom.

Figs aren't only rich in flavor, they're rich in nutrients. They bring antioxidants and all-important dietary fiber with every delicious bite. Available year-round, California Dried Figs are ready to eat right out of the package or are easily diced, sliced or poached for cooking and baking.

For more information about fresh and dried fig recipes and tips, visit www.californiafigs.com.



Turkey Sliders with California Pepper Fig Salsa

Fig-Cocoa Glazed Beef Tenderloin

From Robert Del Grande, RDG + Bar Annie, Houston TX
Serves: 16

Fig-Cocoa Glaze:
8 ounces dried California Mission figs; stemmed and quartered
6 cloves garlic, peeled
1 cup water
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons vinegar
½ cup extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon cocoa powder
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1-tablespoon cocoa vinegar
2 ½ to 3 pounds fully-trimmed beef tenderloin
Mission Fig Steak Sauce:
8 ounces dried California Mission figs; stemmed and quartered
2 guajillo, ancho or New Mexico chiles; stemmed and seeded
½ white onion; peeled and coarsely chopped
4 cloves garlic, peeled
1 bay leaf
1 quart water
1 chipotle chile canned in adobo or 1 tablespoon smoked chile sauce
1 ½ teaspoons sherry vinegar
1 ½ teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Fig-Cocoa Glaze:
Combine quartered figs and garlic in 1-quart saucepan. Stir in water, sugar and vinegar; bring to a boil and simmer gently for about 30 minutes or until figs are soft. Cool. Put into blender container and add remaining ingredients; process until smooth, adding water as needed to make a slightly thick paste. Store in refrigerator.

Tenderloin:
Preheat oven to 400°F. Rub tenderloin generously with glaze and arrange on rack in roasting pan. Place in oven and roast for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 300°F and roast for 20 minutes more, or until internal temperature is 145°F for rare to 160°F for medium.

Mission Fig Steak Sauce:
Combine quartered figs, chiles, onion, garlic, bay leaf and water in 2-quart saucepan; heat to a boil and simmer gently, about 30 minutes or until figs are soft. Cool.

Turn into blender container and add remaining ingredients; process until smooth, adding water as needed to desired consistency. Store in refrigerator.

To serve, let tenderloin stand for 10 to 15 minutes when done. Then, slice and serve with Mission Fig Steak Sauce on the side.



Fig-Cocoa Glazed Beef Tenderloin

Halibut with Asian Fig and Ginger Sauce



Halibut with Asian Fig and Ginger Sauce

Serves 4

Asian Fig and Ginger Sauce:
4 ounces dried California Calimyrna figs; stemmed and quartered
2 cloves garlic, chopped
½ white onion, chopped
2 Fresno chiles; stems and seeds removed
1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger root
1 ½ cups clam juice
¼ cup cream
½ teaspoon sesame oil
1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
½ teaspoon salt
4 halibut fillets, 6 to 8 ounces each
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cups water
1 teaspoon salt
8 jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined
2 cups water
½ teaspoon salt
2 cups hot cooked long grain white rice
1 tablespoon butter
4 fresh or dried California Calimyrna figs stemmed and sliced
2 tablespoons chopped chives

Asian Fig and Ginger Sauce:
In 2-quart saucepan, combine figs, garlic, onion, chiles, fresh ginger root and clam juice. Heat to simmer, and cook about 20 minutes until figs are softened. Set aside to cool. Turn into blender container, and process until smooth, about 30 seconds. Return to saucepan, and set aside.

Halibut and Shrimp:
In large heavy skillet, heat olive oil on hot. Gently sauté halibut on both sides until golden brown. Reduce heat and continue to cook until just cooked through.

In 2-quart saucepan, combine shrimp with water and salt. Heat to a boil, and drain, immediately. Turn into warm skillet with halibut and keep warm until ready to serve.

To serve, reheat sauce to simmer, and stir in cream, sesame seed oil, lime juice and salt. Divide 1/2 cup hot cooked rice onto each of 4 warm dinner plates, and layer halibut on top. Divide and spoon sauce over and around. Garnish with poached shrimp, sliced figs and chopped chives.

Turkey Sliders with California Pepper Fig Salsa

Yields: 12 Sliders
For main dish; 12 (1 Slider for appetizer)

California Pepper Fig Salsa:

2 ½ cups diced fresh California figs
½ cup diced red bell pepper
½ cup golden raisins
2 green onions, thinly sliced
1 jalapeno pepper; stemmed, seeded and minced
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
½ teaspoon ground ginger

Sliders:

1 package (20 ounces) fresh lean ground turkey
1 cup finely minced dried California figs
½ cup sliced green onions
2 tablespoons chopped herbs, i.e. fresh marjoram, thyme, rosemary, and sage; or to taste

½ teaspoon sea salt
1 cup baby arugula
12 small dinner rolls, cut in half, horizontally
Combine Salsa ingredients in medium bowl and stir together. Cover and chill for several hours.

For Sliders, combine turkey, minced dried figs, green onions, herbs and sea salt in medium bowl and mix to combine well. Divide and shape into 12 small, flat burgers. Generously oil grill or barbecue and cook over medium-high heat for 3 to 5 minutes on each side, until done (165°F).

Arrange a few arugula leaves on bottom half of each roll; top with turkey burger and spoon on salsa. Replace tops and secure with toothpicks, if desired. Serve with additional salsa on the side.

Fig and Apple Stir Fry with Chicken

Serves 8

Stir-Fry Sauce:
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon water
½ cup low-sodium chicken broth
2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
½ teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon ground red pepper (optional)
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons canola oil
3 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, diced (about 1 pound)
8 dried California figs, stemmed and chopped
1 unpeeled red apple, diced
1 cup snow peas, stem ends removed
1 carrot, peeled and sliced
2 baby bok choy, trimmed
1 scallion, sliced
½ cup cashews
½ cup prepared Stir-Fry Sauce (recipe above)

For Stir-Fry Sauce, dissolve cornstarch in water; add remaining ingredients and mix together well. Set aside. Heat large skillet or wok to very hot. Add 1 tablespoon oil and stir-fry chicken until golden; remove and set aside. Add 1 teaspoon oil; reheat pan and add figs, apples, snow peas and carrot; cook for 3 to 4 minutes. Remove and set aside with chicken.

Reheat pan to very hot again and add remaining 1 teaspoon oil. Add bok choy and toss for 1 minute. Add chicken-fig mixture, scallions, cashews, and Stir-Fry Sauce; toss to coat well, and cook until sauce is transparent. Serve with rice or noodles.

California Fig and Blue Cheese Fritters

Yields: 32 fritters

½ cup half-and-half
8 tablespoons (4 ounces) unsalted butter, cut into ¼-inch cubes
½ teaspoon kosher salt
½ cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
3 large eggs, lightly beaten
½ teaspoon dried thyme
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
3 ounces crumbled blue cheese
2 cups finely grated dry jack cheese
½ cup stemmed and coarsely chopped dried California figs
Vegetable oil, for deep frying

In a small saucepan, over medium heat, bring the half-and-half, butter, and salt to a boil. Remove from heat and whisk in the flour. Return to the heat, cook, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until the mixture draws back from the sides of the pan, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Add the eggs, one at a time, stirring to incorporate each before adding the next one. Stir in the thyme and mustard. Allow mixture to cool completely. Add both the cheese and the figs. Line a baking sheet with waxed or parchment paper. With a small scoop or a tablespoon measure, make 1-inch balls of dough, and place on the prepared sheet. Continue with the remaining dough. Fill a large, deep, heavy-bottomed saucepan or stockpot, fitted with a candy or deep-fat thermometer, halfway with oil. Bring to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with paper towels. Fry the fritters 4 to 5 at a time, being careful not to crowd, until browned, 3 to 4 minutes. Drain on towels and serve hot.

REAL ESTATE

Home Builders Association: Climb predicted in single-family building

The Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBA Michigan) is forecasting that single-family home construction in 2013 will increase by 39 percent over 2012 levels. HBA Michigan attributes the positive forecast to a stronger Michigan economy and state legislation aimed at stimulating the housing industry.

"With record low new home production for the past several years, pent up demand is finally beginning to burst through in the marketplace," noted Robert Filka, CEO of HBA Michigan. "When combined with positive tax and regulatory changes that will encourage more investment, our outlook is more optimistic than it's been in nearly a decade."

The number of single-family home permits recorded year-to-date in Michigan was up 36 percent through the end of October 2012. Those are the latest numbers available from the US Census Bureau. Current projections are for some 10,000 single-family home permits to be issued in Michigan for all of 2012.

Looking ahead at single-family home permits in 2013 — following a reasonable solution to the U.S. "fiscal cliff" negotiations — HBA Michigan forecasts 13,928 permits to be issued in the coming year. In addition to stronger economic factors, Filka said the housing industry will be assisted next year



Willie Norwood (left) and Dale Graham of Norwood Boyle Construction Services posed by a vacant house they company remodeled in Redford as part of SNAP, a federal stimulus program. Builders are optimistic about an upswing in residential building activity for 2013.

by a new law adopted by the state legislature and recently signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. Public Act 494 of 2012 reduces the tax on new inventory homes that are constructed by home builders.

"Reducing this punitive tax on inventory homes will lower risk and encourage homebuilders to construct more

homes in the future," said Filka. "Building inventory homes is a critical marketing tool that has proven successful in generating new home sales. Thanks to the foresight of the legislature and the governor, homebuilders will now be able to invest more in our communities under the state."

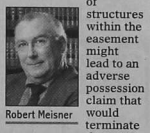
The Home Builders Association of Michigan is a professional trade association comprised of 27 local homebuilder associations around the state and their builder, subcontractor and supplier members. HBA of Michigan works to promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing affordability.

Talk to neighbor before suit

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I have a unique situation where my neighbor constructed within a 40-foot-wide easement on my property that ran parallel to the roadway laid out in the easement and placed log decks and other personal property on the other side of the road creating a "cow chute." These acts narrowed the area in which cars could pass. Do I have a basis to sue my neighbor for what he did? He claims that the width of the easement was only a 12-to-14-foot paved area based on the historical use.

A: While it is obviously fact intensive, in a similar case, a Washington State appellate court held that your neighbor's placement



of structures within the easement might lead to an adverse possession claim that terminate the easement. In addition, a zoning ordinance that prohibited the location of buildings and structures within the easement made what would have been your neighbor's activities a nuisance per se, requiring removal of the fence and other property. It may result in a lawsuit, but you should advise your neighbor of the legal ramifications of what he has done.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 10-14, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
43599 Abbey Cir	\$213,000
6938 Ardley Rd	\$110,000
6713 Carlson Rd	\$203,000
7114 Copper Creek Cir	\$112,000
1704 Crowsland Ln	\$316,000
1689 Dundas Rd	\$128,000
48515 Gladstone Rd	\$373,000
47120 Glenhurst Dr	\$255,000
42243 Hartford Ct	\$123,000
40464 Haverhill Cir	\$192,000
8002 Labana Ct	\$306,000
45576 Morningdale Rd	\$130,000
41765 Tottenham Rd	\$288,000
45636 S Stonewood Rd	\$178,000

3607 Shepherd Ln	\$175,000
43175 Simsbury St	\$170,000
1763 Thistle Dr	\$200,000
1277 W Crystal Cir	\$168,000
8650 Westchester Ln	\$165,000
GARDEN CITY	
2800 Cambridge St	\$34,000
1552 Henry Ruff Rd	\$120,000
221 Hubbard St	\$66,000
LIVONIA	
36706 Angelinae Cir	\$132,000
11345 Arcola St	\$58,000
11015 Blackburn St	\$92,000
31812 Bretton St	\$100,000
14546 Cayell St	\$182,000
17608 Dolores St	\$80,000
15743 Edington St	\$119,000
16856 Farmington Rd	\$140,000
27464 Five Mile Rd	\$40,000
34009 Fonville Dr	\$175,000
27505 Goff St	\$25,000
16029 Harrison St	\$127,000
15446 Knollton St	\$180,000
9819 Melrose St	\$146,000

28450 Pickford St	\$105,000
16574 Rougeway St	\$90,000
15201 Santa Anita St	\$47,000
14206 Sunset St	\$129,000
17899 University Park Dr	\$77,000
29887 Westfield St	\$98,000
NORTHVILLE	
44456 Birchwood Ct	\$333,000
373 Linden St	\$239,000
42754 Lyric Ct	\$83,000
320 Orchard Dr	\$440,000
49650 S Glacier	\$346,000
19804 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$252,000
511 W Cady St	\$289,000
PLYMOUTH	
346 Auburn St	\$425,000
1115 Dewey St	\$228,000
1725 N Beck Rd	\$285,000
730 Penman Ave # 203	\$185,000
730 Penman Ave # 301	\$232,000
101 S Union St Unit 203	\$150,000
45309 Stonehedge Dr	\$220,000
8865 Trillium Ln	\$274,000
REDFORD	

17615 Centralia	\$21,000
15574 Fox	\$34,000
17740 Bayford	\$40,000
26940 Lyndon	\$20,000
15478 Macarthur	\$74,000
16642 Macarthur	\$55,000
13478 Marion	\$34,000
9558 Mercedes	\$30,000
12845 Mercedes	\$47,000
8838 Riverview	\$39,000
WESTLAND	
39062 Avondale St	\$43,000
33647 Blackfoot St	\$35,000
8275 Carrousel Blvd	\$69,000
2104 Edgerton Ct	\$15,000
32372 Fairchild St	\$32,000
29938 Gladys Ave	\$113,000
33423 Hivley St	\$115,000
25196 Manchester St	\$19,000
33452 Melton St	\$42,000
37612 N Butler Cir	\$105,000
8401 Narise St	\$140,000
2038 S Parent Ave	\$32,000

Q: I am in a situation where one of my tenants has suffered some lead poisoning. He is now claiming that I am responsible under a negligence theory, even though I am not responsible for maintaining the premises. What do you think?

A: Well, it all depends upon the state in which you are involved, but in a similar case in Virginia, the court held that absent fraud or concealment a landlord who has given possession of the premises to the tenant owes no duty of care to maintain the premises since that duty rests with the tenant.

In that case, the court rejected the argument that the landlord's retention of the right to enter to make repairs created a duty because this reserved right did not displace the tenant's full right of possession. The court also found that the state's statutory requirement that the landlords comply with building codes created a contractual warranty but not a tort liability. Moreover, the court dismissed a claim under common law negligence for failure to warn of the presence of lead paint which is, of course, required in Michigan because a landlord had made a lead paint disclosure and the condition was obvious and open to view. Obviously, you should consult with your own attorney with respect to the claim.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condo-Minimum Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisnerlaw.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 10-14, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
16664 Beechwood Ave	\$210,000
19690 Beverly Rd	\$298,000
15725 Birchwood Ave	\$105,000
31245 Old Stage Rd	\$402,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
23810 Ravinview Ct	\$273,000
BIRMINGHAM	
355 Hanna St	\$265,000
920 N Glenhurst Dr	\$565,000
644 Ridgedale Ave	\$350,000
172 Ridgevale Ave	\$276,000
811 Tottenham Rd	\$320,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	

186 Eileen Dr	\$78,000
2850 Aspen Ln	\$127,000
2925 Farmington Rd	\$40,000
2925 Farmington Rd	\$40,000
6450 Gilbert Lake Rd	\$285,000
46600 Lahser Rd	\$1,500,000
215 Martell Dr	\$45,000
2945 S Woodward Ave Unit 69	\$110,000
1260 Stuyvesant Rd	\$400,000
100 W Hickory Grove Rd # 8	\$39,000
543,000	
1263 Wabek Hill Ct	\$369,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1965 Lone Pine Rd	\$299,000
1551 Old Chatham Dr	\$218,000
651 Sedgfielde Dr	\$150,000
729 Upper Scotsborough Way	\$275,000
COMMERCER TOWNSHIP	
3243 Lacosta Ct	\$240,000
2294 Palmetto	\$240,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	

28965 Appleblossom Ln	\$280,000
25336 Beleaf St	\$124,000
30402 Club House Ct	\$120,000
28339 Green Willow St	\$130,000
25739 Killeigh Ct	\$205,000
30779 Knighton Dr	\$267,000
28900 Lake Park Dr	\$190,000
38428 Saratoga Cir	\$150,000
31699 Staman Cir	\$125,000
28860 W 12 Mile Rd # 608	\$43,000
28576 W Nine Mile Rd	\$90,000
MILFORD	
864 E Liberty St	\$237,000
1056 Eagle Nest Dr	\$230,000
2860 Honeywell Lake Rd	\$390,000
850 Laurel Ln	\$200,000
620 Millard Meadows Dr	\$345,000
303 Teromli Trl	\$300,000
1419 Timber Ridge Ct	\$567,000
217 W Commerce St	\$275,000
NOVI	
45200 Bartlett Dr	\$84,000
28159 Carlton Way Dr	\$135,000

41682 Charleston Ln	\$190,000
29052 Heartstone Dr	\$265,000
40518 Lenox Park Dr	\$258,000
22398 Hill Top	\$185,000
24759 Willowbrook Rd	\$295,000
SOUTH LYON	
10265 Nine Mile Ln	\$61,000
24605 Brompton Way	\$40,000
24601 Brompton Way	\$320,000
639 E Crest Ln	\$129,000
57877 International Dr	\$155,000
61069 Toppsfield Ln	\$264,000
623 Wellington Dr	\$243,000
SOUTHFIELD	
18950 Goldwin St	\$115,000
20365 Harbor Ln	\$82,000
15801 Providence Dr # 12a	\$53,000
25471 Saint James	\$69,000
WHITE LAKE	
9480 Cedar Island Rd	\$175,000
576 Farnsworth Dr	\$118,000
1075 Oxford Lake Rd	\$75,000
8365 Pontiac Lake Rd # 4	\$24,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar
Learn about a \$50,000 income guarantee. Thursday, Jan. 17, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth.

For more information, contact Jim Raines at (734) 459-4700 or jimrains@kw.com.

Short sales
If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures and what it takes to get started. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved. Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum

Real Estate is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Additional parking along the street in back. Please call the office at (248) 782-7130 or e-mail june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Free foreclosure tours
Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addvalue.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Seminar on Tuesdays
A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Colonial

Mortgage Corp., 3919 Plymouth Road, Livonia.
Len about reverse mortgages. RSPV with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Investors
The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. each first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Koehler at (313) 277-4168.

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Well-dressed
6 Semishere material
17 Scolding
23 Bumper-to-bumper
44 Intelligence
15 1960s attire
17 Canine command
18 Pharmacist - Lily
19 Barely sufficient
20 Intense anger
21 Regard as
23 Puffed-grain cereal
24 Fortas and Vidalia
25 Remnant
27 Paged through
29 Drag along
31 California's Big - universe
32 Winkle-free
35 Toe woe

DOWN
38 In no time
39 Metal in solder
41 Fancil end
43 Dentist's 'J'
44 Liability
51 Scolding
56 Bauxite or pichblendite
47 Not here
48 Kitchen gadget
49 Snow veggie
50 Remain undamaged
52 Involving more risk
54 Wins against 55
On a large scale

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU
1 9 8 6 5 2
6 2 5 8 9
5 9 1 3 4
3 2 1 6 8
2 1 4 8 6 3
2 8 7 5 3 7
5 6 3 7 1 5
Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box.

GET ORGANIZED WORD SEARCH
WORDS
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BACKUP FILING
BASEMENT GARAGE
BASKETBALL MEMORY
BIBLIOTECA MISS
CABINET NEXT
CLEAN ORGANIZE
CLOSET PAPERS
COMPUTER RECYCLE
CONCENTRATE SALE
CONDENSE SCAN
CULL SHELVING
DESK SORTING
DIGITAL STACKED
DOCUMENTS STORAGE
DRAWERS TRASH

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE
Sudoku
Word Search

JOBS
CareerBuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

DRIVER-TRUCKER
Wanted, & Hgn. Exp. not necessary. Must live in near Lyons, Call M-F 8pm. (734) 268-6666

Education

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Help Wanted - General

ACCOUNTANT - EXP'D
January - April, must have General Accounting & Credit Manager for their floral & cake dept. Must have leadership, floral & bakery design & cake exp. Email resumes and letter and salary history to: christian12@aol.com

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For Retail & Cafe Dept.
Retail Department Manager is seeking to hire an exp'd & creative Asst. Manager for their floral & cake dept. Must have leadership, floral & bakery design & cake exp. Email resumes and letter and salary history to: christian12@aol.com

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Needed FT or PT
Call Ken 248-600-2911 or 610-629-5644

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needed on a temporary contract to be the evaluation and testing of a new epoxy compound for its potential commercial use in the battery sector. I interested individuals may send resume and contact us at: ichenneth@hottmail.net

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Work with developmentally disabled adults. Workload (734) 722-4390 or

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DIRECT CARE WORKER
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Help Wanted - General

LABORER
Laborer
Department of Public Services
Charter Township of Monroe

The Mayor and Sewer Division seeks a qualified person to fill a full-time Laborer position at \$11.96 an hour with excellent benefits. Job responsibilities include, but not limited to, repair water meters, maintenance and emergency repair to waterline and manholes.

Qualifications include: high school diploma or equivalent, previous experience in laborer position, possess a current valid Michigan Operator's License, and OSHA Permit Type B.

Applications are available at our website www.monroetwp.com or by dropping copies to: Charter Township of Monroe, Human Resources, 44445 Du Mira Rd, Northville, MI 48168 or 432-4374.

Friday, February 7, 2013. Resumes will only be accepted without an application.

Equal Employment Opportunity.

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT
Full-time person needed for maintenance at 1000 Westland. Requires general knowledge of preventative maintenance. Fax resume to: (734) 722-5866

PET SITTER HELPER
Part-time pet care/walker. Must be reliable, responsible, flexible, honest. Available 7 days a week. Email resumes to: petcare@petcare.com

Q.C. INSPECTOR
Minimum 2 years experience preferred. Familiar with self-stud and use of precision hand gauges. Basic machining experience a plus. Overhead with excellent benefit package. Apply before 7:00 a.m. in person or send resume to: Ventura@raopac.net

SKILLED LABOR
Immediate positions available. CNC Mill, Set Up & Operator. EDM, Set Up & Operator. • PARTS FINISHER

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Lynn - 10am-4pm
Lynn - 10am-4pm
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located to work in Farmington, MI & remote unattended locations throughout U.S. multiple openings. All positions involve use of 1 or more of the following: JSP, Oracle, HTML, ASP, JMS, JAX, JEE, VB Script, JavaScript, MS, Visual Basic, Delphi, C++, Java, PHP, Natural Language Processing, Quality Control, Back's or Master's for foreign (not equiv) in related field. Some new exp. req'd depending on position. For some positions no banking exp. applicants must have exp using 1 or more skills listed above. All jobs also have some openings requiring night exp. only.

For certain positions, we accept temp exp. in related exp. or exp. equally suitable comm. of educ., training & exp. qualifying applicant to perform job duties. Travel/Relocation expenses available in related field. Some new exp. req'd depending on position. For some positions no banking exp. applicants must have exp using 1 or more skills listed above. All jobs also have some openings requiring night exp. only.

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Help Wanted - General

TELEMARKETER/ APPOINTMENT SETTER
Exp. 6-Division Systems, United Lake. Motivated person to make outbound 820 calls re: self-appl. with excellent effective communication. Good resume & specific power needed in Technology. Compensation: \$15.00/hr. + commission. Email resume to: comsh@bny.com or call 248-940-3400 x210

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Part-time, 20 hours per wk., Tue-Fri. Chiropractic United Methodist Church. Send resume: clarc@unitedumc.org

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER
Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

FRONT OFFICE COORDINATOR
Immediate FT position avail. with a very busy sales office. Must be organized & manage a multi-line work directly with vendor and manage a multi-line work directly with vendor and manage a multi-line work directly with vendor. Send resume to: beta_center@yahoo.com

Help Wanted - Medical

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT
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Medical Billing Assistant
Along Office - 9800 Woodward 32-35 hrs/wk. Exp. Salary & Benefits Exp. in MOST Green. Letter Resume + Names of references. MUST be included with application. Fax: 248-532-6182

Food - Beverage

• COOKS - With Pizza Exp.
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A Gannett Company

Observer & Eccentric Media specializes in community-based information on a variety of platforms - print, web, mobile and video. O&E Media publishes 13 individually edited newspapers, a website and more than 75 specialty sections and specialty products annually. The staff includes more than 40 journalists, 25 advertising account executives and other key support personnel in circulation and production. O&E Media - Because local matters. Come join our team.

Observer and Eccentric Media is looking for an Account Executive for the Birmingham, MI Territory. This position will work out of the Sterling Heights, MI location.

RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Hometown Weeklies; Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new business. The Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

REQUIREMENTS: An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.

Our Company
Gannett is a media and marketing solutions company with a diverse portfolio of broadcast, digital, mobile and publishing companies. Gannett provides consumers easy access to the things that matter most to them - any way and anywhere.

Gannett's portfolio of trusted brands helps business customers connect with these highly engaged audiences through its industry-leading marketing services, customized solutions and national-to-local-to-personal reach.

The company's 82 U.S. daily newspapers, including USA TODAY, reach 11.6 million readers every weekday and 12 million readers every Sunday, providing important news and information from their customers' neighborhoods and around the globe. USA TODAY, the nation's No. 1 newspaper in print circulation, and USATODAY.com reach a combined 6.6 million readers daily.

The Broadcasting Division's 23 TV stations reach 21 million households, covering 18.2 percent of the U.S. population. Through its Captivate subsidiary, the Broadcasting Division delivers news, information and advertising to a highly desirable audience demographic on 9.5 million screens located in elevators of office towers and select hotel lobbies in 25 major cities across North America.

Newspaper is one of the U.K.'s leading regional community news providers and its digital portfolio of newspaper and online-only brands attracts nearly 7.5 million unique users each month. It has a portfolio of 17 daily paid-for newspapers and more than 200 weekly newspapers, magazines and trade publications. Newquest owns a successful online publisher called s1, which is a leading recruitment site in Scotland. Gannett is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity for all persons.

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