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Central issue

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has made the decision to close venerable Central Middle School and build a new middle school in Canton, if voters pass the \$114 million bond the district will seek in May.

Central Middle School is the oldest building in the school district, having served as the original Plymouth High School. School board members have begun to debate what to do with the building, and over the years options have been discussed ranging from selling the property to converting it to board office space.

So the Canton Observer wants to know from its readers: What would you do with Central Middle School? Please email your thoughts to Canton Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Bonny passes

Bonny Dore, who founded the student radio station WSPD for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, died Saturday after a long battle with blood cancer.

Dore, a graduate of the University of Michigan, had a long career in broadcasting. She was the general manager and founder of WSPD-FM (88.1). She also worked in public television. She helped create the award-winning children's series *Vegetable Soup* for PBS and went on to create and produce another award-winning kids' educational program, *Hot Fudge*, for ABC.

Dore was also a past president of Women in Film and co-chaired the Caucus for Television Producers, Writers and Directors.



Dore

School board sets May 7 bond election

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Canton corporate attorney Kim Crouch brought new meaning to the phrase "out of the frying pan and into the fire" Tuesday night.

Crouch was chosen from among four finalists to fill the vacant seat on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education. Three hours later, she cast one of

Board picks new trustee, A3.

the deciding votes on whether — and when — the school district will seek a \$114 million bond to, among other things, replace Central Middle School.

The board voted 4-3 to seek the bond, which administrators say will also make the district a leader in the use of technology, in a May 7 election. Crouch was

joined in approving the measure by President John Barrett, Secretary Adrienne Davis and Treasurer Sheila Paton.

Vice President Judy Mardigan, who sat on the board during failed bond elections in 2006 and 2007, voted against the date, as did Trustees Mark Horvath and Mike Maloney.

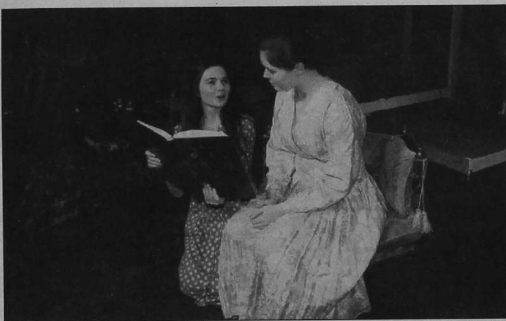
"The question is, do we want to be a good district or a great

district?" Crouch said. "Being a visionary requires you take a little risk."

Lower amount

The date was set after much discussion about the pros and cons of going after the bond so quickly. Brodie Killian, the district's executive director of busi-

Please see ELECTION, A2



Kelley Connelly (left) plays Laura, while Madeline Klozik takes on the role of Laura's mother, Amanda, in the Park Players' production of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," opening this weekend at the Canton Little Theater.

'Glass' in the house

Park Players take on Tennessee Williams

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer



Sean Larson plays Tom, through whose memory The Glass Menagerie is told.

With a shorter-than-usual rehearsal period and a large-cast, over-the-top comedy production coming up in the spring, Park Players director Paul Bird was looking for something on a smaller scale for the troupe's winter production.

That's why the Players will produce the Tennessee Williams play *The Glass Menagerie* beginning Friday on the stage at Canton Little Theater in Canton High School.

"The other show this semester is *Legally Blonde*, which has a huge cast and is a way-over-the-top comedy," Bird said. "I thought I'd like to do something

DETAILS

What: Park Players' production of *The Glass Menagerie*
When: Feb. 8-9, Feb. 14-16, all performances 7 p.m.

Where: Canton Little Theater, Canton High School

Tickets: \$10

Cast: Directed by Paul Bird; featuring Madeline Klozik as Amanda, Sean Larson as Tom, Kelley Donnelly as Laura and Joey Courtney as Jim.

Please see 'GLASS,' A10

Canton OKs course pact with Casper

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

As expected, Canton Township has awarded a five-year contract to Virginia-based Billy Casper Golf to manage the Fellows Creek golf course, ending a 34-year run by a local family-owned company.

Local officials say Canton is projected to reap a net benefit of \$760,295 by switching companies, compared to just \$170,478 by staying with the Dan Ross family.

In a sweeping decision Tuesday night, the seven-member Canton Township Board of Trustees approved a new contract ushering in what officials say will be a better marketing plan, a new golf course irrigation system and options to terminate the new pact if Billy Casper Golf fails to deliver what it promises.

"It's probably one of the most complete contracts I have ever seen," Trustee Tom Yack said.

The board's golf course talks drew only taken questioning Tuesday, compared to a crowd that packed a November session when officials decided to pursue a contract with the new company.

Casper support

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy read aloud a letter he received Tuesday in support of Billy Casper Golf from his counterpart in Plymouth Township, Supervisor Richard Reame, regarding a switch that community made in 2011 from the Ross family's Fellows Creek Golf Club of Canton.

Please see COURSE, A3

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Target plans to tackle grocery market

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton shoppers appear divided over Target's plans to expand its grocery sections inside nine metro Detroit locations, including the store on Ford Road west of Morton Taylor.

Target is expected to start selling produce, meats and other staples sometime in March.

"I think it's a great idea," Sue Price said Monday afternoon while leaving the Ford Road Target store with husband Louis. "It'll give the other grocery stores like Meijer, Walmart and Kroger more competition."

The Prices, Canton residents for 37 years, said consumers benefit by increased competition.

"I think it's good," Sue Price said. Across the parking lot on a snowy afternoon, Marilyn and Robert Little of Canton had a different opinion. They would prefer Target to remain as it is.

"I don't think it's a good idea (to add more groceries)," Marilyn Little said. "It looks like they've already cut back in some areas like the card section."

Marilyn Little said she prefers to buy



BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Please see TARGET, A3

Canton shoppers are expected to be able to add groceries to their carts at the Target store on Ford Road in Canton starting sometime in March.



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Chicago pair waive hearing in fraud case

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Two Chicago-area men are facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for allegations they used fraudulent credit cards at Canton banks to obtain cash advances.

Tiras Kaneil Prothro and Tabrian Jovan Collins, both 29, could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison if they are convicted of one count each of obtaining \$1,000 to \$20,000

under false pretenses and two counts each of having fraudulent financial transaction devices in their possession.

In a move that averted testimony, Prothro and Collins voluntarily waived their right to a preliminary examination as they appeared Friday in front of 35th District Judge James Plakas.

Canton police arrested the defendants Jan. 16 as they left the Bank of America Branch on Michigan Avenue near Canton Center, Detective Sgt. Dave



Collins



Prothro

Schreiner has said, and it is believed the pair had gone to at least three area banks.

Township police nabbed the defendants after "we were

alerted to their (alleged) activity" and officers rushed to the Bank of America branch, Schreiner said.

Prothro and Collins are accused of using fraudulent credit cards to obtain cash advances, but Schreiner said some banks apparently turned them away. Local police believe the pair may be wanted in other areas as far away as Illinois.

On Friday, Plakas allowed Prothro and Collins to remain out of custody with \$50,000

personal bonds each. They appeared for their court hearing and have been described as cooperative.

If convicted, the men could face five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for obtaining between \$1,000 and \$20,000 under false pretenses. They could face four years and a \$5,000 fine if found guilty of using a fraudulent financial transaction device.

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AROUND CANTON

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

RECORD SHOW

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Salem High School cafeteria
Details: 88.1 The Park, the student radio station for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, will present their fifth annual Record

Show. Collectors will find thousands of vinyl records, CD's, import only releases, 45s and 78s, T-shirts, posters, and other collectibles. The music will span many genres including rock, jazz, pop, country, R&B and folk. The show will also feature special giveaways and door prizes. Tickets are \$3, \$5 for early admission between 9 and 10 a.m. All of the proceeds will benefit 88.1 The Park, and will help the station to continue serving the community with unique programming and broadcast training for students.

Salem High School is located at 46181 Joy in Canton.

Contact: Find out more about the station at www.881ThePark.com.

SNOW EVENT

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail

Details: Looking for a great way to get outdoors and enjoy a winter walk? Then Bundle up and join Canton Leisure Services Snow Skiing and Snow Shoeing event. Enjoy the great outdoors during this winter adventure, where you'll be able to investigate the trail by skis or snowshoes. The Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail, located off Michigan Avenue at Morton Taylor, is a great winter destination for the whole family. Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment.

Contact: Call (734) 394-5460.

ELECTION

Continued from page A1

ness services, said waiting until the fall to give the district more time would be expensive.

Kilian said the district could only seek \$80 million in a later election if it wanted to stick to its pledge to not raise taxes (the bond would hold the debt levy at 4.1 mills, rather than allowing for that millage rate to shrink as debt is paid off).

Mardigian said while she wholeheartedly supports the bond package, she thinks seeking it in 90 days leaves the district too little time to convince voters.

"I'm totally in support of this package ... I have been a longtime proponent of replacing Central Middle School," Mardigian said. "I've been through two bonds that passed and two that failed, and I think May is really aggressive. I'm very concerned about not getting it right the first time."

But to Davis, the idea of waiting until the fall, when it would cost the district \$34 million, wasn't the way to go.

"I can't believe these trustees will walk away from \$34 million," Davis

said. "Parents would come screaming. It's about the kids."

Technology roll-out

Board members made their decision after listening to presentations about technology, including the idea of buying computer devices for every teacher and student K-12 over the next five years, another about the budgetary affects of going for the bond in May versus waiting until later in the year, and about the timeline of building a new middle school.

"We're extremely excited about this," said Jeanne Farina, the district's assistant superintendent for instructional services. "Our teachers are excited, our administrators are excited, and this is absolutely the right thing to do."

With the world in general — and Michigan standardized testing in particular — going the way of technology, Farina wants to start rolling out the computer devices to teachers next year, and then to more teachers and students each of the following years. By the 2017-18 school year, students would have technology on a 1:1 basis.

Kilian said Plymouth-Canton was putting some

\$15 million toward technology, with just under \$11 million going toward the 1:1 initiative. By contrast, Superintendent Jeremy Hughes pointed out, Livonia's school board just approved seeking a \$195 million bond, with some \$30 million going toward technology.

Mardigian said she still isn't convinced the technology portion of the bond is the right way to go — "Of the entire bond, this is the part I'm struggling with the most," she said — but Paton said she believes "this is the way kids learn" today.

"My kids have their friends over, and they're all sitting on the couch with their devices," Paton said. "This is absolutely the right thing to do. It's a no-brainer."

Malone said he still has questions about the bond — the actual package and the timing — and voted against going ahead with it. "I'm not ready to support going forward right now," Malone said. "I had a lot of questions ... I'm concerned about the technology plan and the capacity. Right now, I would vote no to call for an election in May. I'm not ready to answer questions citizens will ask me."

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

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School board tabs new member

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

During her interview for the vacant seat on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Trustees, Canton corporate attorney Kimberley Crouch was asked how she'd recommend handling a potential budget shortfall.

Her answer was for the board to decide "what the district wants to be," then set the priorities for how to get there.

Now Crouch, who has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and her juris doctorate from the University of Illinois, gets to help shape that vision after being chosen from a field of four finalists seeking to replace Barry Simescu, who resigned last month. She'll finish out Simescu's term, which expires in November 2014.

"I was very excited," said Crouch, an attorney for General Motors' Information Technology Process Team & Global Privacy Center in Detroit. "There were a lot of good candidates, so to think (the board) picked me out of those candidates was exciting."



Plymouth-Canton Board of Education President John Barrett swears in new Trustee Kim Crouch during Tuesday's board meeting. Crouch was chosen to replace the departed Barry Simescu, who resigned last month.

In addition to her legal background, Crouch also spent a few summers as a general assignment reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Her legal career has included a stint with the research and development

division of Pfizer, Inc., in Ann Arbor.

Crouch was chosen after the board narrowed the 19 candidates (26 people originally applied, but seven dropped out for various reasons or didn't

show up for interviews). Board president John Barrett cited Crouch's involvement with the district as a key factor in the decision.

"One of the factors was her history of involvement with

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools," Barrett said. "She's been involved with various committees and community projects. That was a key element."

Other finalists included Julie Rowe of Canton, a senior at the University of Michigan and the Midwest Public Policy Organization for the American Association of University Women; Jeff Ames of Canton, a strategy/performance management professional with Six Sigma Leadership Experience; and Brian Jansen of Canton, who works for Ford Credit and who has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Michigan State.

Crouch was thrown into the fire on her first night. After being sworn in Tuesday by Barrett, Crouch had to immediately take part in a decision to schedule a \$114 million bond election. The board is also wrestling with the hiring of a new superintendent.

"This is a really good time to be on the school board," Crouch said. "There are lots of important decisions to be made."

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COURSE

Continued from page A1

"That selection has proved to be the proper direction for our Hill-top Golf Course, as Billy Casper Golf has operated in a manner that has enhanced the course, improved the golf experience and increased the number of golf rounds and revenue to the township," Reame wrote.

Canton's new contract involves a five-year term with an option for another five-year extension. Billy Casper Golf will operate as Fellows Creek Golf Management and receive a base management fee

of \$7,500 a month.

Canton and the new company will agree to an annual budget, and Canton Leisure Services Debbie Bilbre-Honowetz said the township has final approval of pricing for golf course rates.

The new company is expected to provide the township with a comprehensive list of all golf course outings, leagues and events on a quarterly basis. Billy Casper Golf also is expected to implement an annual marketing plan for the 27-hole golf course on Lot 2 north of Michigan Avenue.

Continue practice

In response to neighbors' concerns, the company is expected to continue the Ross family's practice of maintaining a small strip of condominium property adjacent to Fellows Creek golf course.

Trustee Steven Sneide-man hadn't yet been elected to the board in November when the decision was made to pursue a contract with Billy Casper Golf. But he supported Tuesday's decision after being assured that Canton could opt to terminate the new contract if the company falls short of its obligations.

Meanwhile, Canton resident Jim Aaron asked township officials why

they haven't made a move to hire an outside firm to manage the Pheasant Run golf course on Summit Parkway west of Canton Center. That proposal was shelved in November.

Local officials have said they are, for now, working to develop a cost-cutting plan with three full-time township employees and other part-time, seasonal workers.

"We're working hard with current staff to see if they can find ways to reduce expenses and save money," LaJoy said.

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TARGET

Continued from page A1

groceries at places such as Meijer and Kroger. She said she is concerned Target's grocery expansion could lead to less choices for other merchandise.

In the spirit of disclosure, Robert Little said he works for Kroger, but he said he doubts Target can compete with larger grocery stores for items such as fresh produce.

Target's changes aren't resulting in any addition being built onto the store. Rather, Canton Community Planner Jeff Goulet said the expansion of the grocery line is strictly an

internal renovation.

Target already has a large supermarket component in Warren. Others also are planned in Rochester, Livonia, Commerce Township, Auburn Hills, Southfield, Clinton Township and Troy.

"It's about convenience, saving time, getting more things done with just one stop," said Annette Miller, Target's senior vice president of grocery.

Target's grocery stores are typically along one of the side walls of stores.

Gannett News Service contributed to this story.

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Township house fire blamed on space heater

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A fire that extensively damaged a house on Plymouth Township's west side Monday is being blamed on a space heater that got too close to combustible material and ignited it.

Firefighters from the Plymouth Community Fire Department, with mutual-aid assistance from the city of Northville and Northville Township departments, were on the scene of the blaze, on Essex Court in the area of Ridge and North Territorial, for several hours beginning about 6 p.m. Monday. There were no injuries, and four adolescent children had evacuated the house by the time firefighters arrived, said PCFD Lt. Scott Gross.

The fire started in the walk-out basement of the two-story colonial, Gross said, and the basement sustained fire, smoke and water damage. The upper floors were damaged more by smoke than by fire, he said.

PCFD Chief Mark Wendel said Tuesday that while the investigation was continuing, the fire appeared to have started when a space heater ignited either a bed in the basement or the bedding on it.

"Indications are the space heater was too close to the bed and the bed and/or bedding caught on fire," said Wendel. "It was an accidental fire."

Gross said the children at the home pointed out the probable cause of the fire when fire crews arrived.

The fire was reported just before 6 p.m., Wendel said he was not sure who reported it. Firefighters arrived about five minutes later, he said.

"That fire was pretty well going by the time we got there," Wendel said.

Engines from the PCFD's Station 1 and Station 3 responded, along with six firefighters who were on duty. Mutual aid was requested and received from the Northville and Northville Township departments; Northville firefighters responded from that department's station in the city of Plymouth.

Firefighters used water to put out the fire and broke open some windows to ventilate the building, Gross said. The mother of the children arrived home while firefighters were on the scene, he said.

Emergency services workers from the Plymouth Corps of the Salvation Army brought a canteen truck to the scene to supply firefighters with drinks and snacks during the incident. Firefighters were on the scene until at least 10:30 p.m.

Wendel said the house will need major repairs. "There's substantial damage throughout the entire house," including charred or scorched floor joists, burned flooring on the first floor, especially in the kitchen, and smoke and steam damage throughout the house.

"It's going to be a substantial repair job," Wendel said.

The house was secured by an emergency board-up company, and the family was staying with relatives on Monday night.

Wendel said the incident was "an extremely significant fire" and that he appreciated the assistance from the Northville and Northville Township departments.

"All the crews on this scene did an outstanding job," the chief said. "I'm very pleased with the operation, all aspects of it."

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Domestic dispute

Canton police went to a residence on Tyler, southeast of Cherry Hill and I-275, to investigate a domestic violence incident in which a woman's boyfriend allegedly stole her 2011 Lexus, cell phone, stereo and portable fireplace.

The incident unfolded about 10 a.m. Jan. 29. The victim told police that her boyfriend entered her home through the garage. According to a police report, she heard him coming up the stairs of her residence, where she said he pushed her, ripped her cell phone away from her and began collecting some of his belongings.

The victim told police she started to call for help on her home phone, but her boyfriend ripped the cord out of the wall. She told authorities she tried to leave in her car in the garage, but she said her boyfriend shut the garage door, pulled her out of the car, took her keys away from her and then got in her car and fled in it.

The woman told police she used to live with the suspect. The incident remained under investigation.

Theft from car

A 21-year-old Canton woman notified police after someone smashed into the front driver's side of her Ford Escape and stole her purse and GPS unit.

She told police the incident happened between 3 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. Sunday while her vehicle was parked southwest of the McDonald's restaurant at Michigan Avenue and Canton Center. According to a police report, the purse containing an old identification card, along with the GPS unit worth \$150, had been placed in the center console area of her car.

Police have repeatedly advised drivers to make sure their valuables are protected as much as possible from would-be criminals who might see them.



Serving Plymouth

Firefighter Scott Rice has been with the Northville/Plymouth fire department for three years. Before that, he served 21 years as a paid-on-call firefighter for both the Plymouth City and Plymouth Community Fire Departments. Over the years Rice has immersed himself in the Plymouth community, volunteering countless hours to numerous local causes. Rice is respected by his peers for his attention to detail, motivation, and love of the fire service. Rice began working as a vehicle mechanic with the United Parcel Service in 1986, and rose to his current position of Fleet Manager. He graduated from Plymouth-Salem High School and Ferns State University. Rice is married and has two children. He is certified Firefighter 1&2, Hazmat Operations, Medical First Responder and Fire Pump Operator 1&2.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Jewelry, cash stolen

A pearl necklace and a small safe with cash and documents in it were reported stolen following the Jan. 31 daytime burglary of a house on Edinburg Drive, in the area of North Territorial and Beck.

The front door of the house had been forced in, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, and pieces of the door frame were lying inside the house.

The master bedroom had been ransacked, police said, while other rooms in the house appeared to have been undisturbed. The burglary occurred some time on the morning of Jan. 31 while no one was at home.

Police said the burglar or burglars appeared to have exited the house through the attached garage.

Garage burglary

A Toro snowblower was reported stolen from the attached garage of a house on Burning Tree Lane, in the area of Beck and North Territorial, after a burglary late last month or early this month.

The theft occurred between Jan. 28 and Sunday afternoon, a police report said. It was not reported whether the garage had been left unlocked, but police said there were no signs of forced entry.



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Police ticket owners of ailing Wolfhound

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton police rescued an ailing Irish Wolfhound and issued a citation to its owner for animal cruelty after the dog was found staying outside in bone-chilling temperatures with no food or water and sores on its body, according to a police report.

Police and Huron Valley Humane Society officials are warning owners of dogs, cats, horses and other animals to make sure they are properly cared for during harsh winter conditions.

Police went to a house on Geddes west of Denton after receiving a complaint Friday that the dog had been left outside in 16-degree weather, but a police report said other conditions made the temperature feel like minus 12 degrees.

The dog was found under a tarp that was loosely attached to the house, and it had a cage behind the home that had no protective covering, the report said. It also wasn't on a leash.

Residents of the house gave conflicting statements about how long the dog had been outside, though one woman said it had been outdoors for two days. The police report indicated the dog had been sick.

The owner relinquished control of the dog and was issued a citation for animal cruelty. Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said police turned the dog over to the Huron Valley Humane Society.

"Our department has an arrangement with the Huron Valley Humane Society to house dogs for

us in that type of situation," he said.

Owners can in some cases still be required to pay for the expense of the animal's upkeep, he said.

Schreiner said the incident should serve as a reminder for pet owners to keep their pets safe during frigid temperatures — or they could lose them and face penalties.

The humane society gets calls every winter about dogs living in deplorable conditions.

"There are a lot of dogs who live their lives outside on a chain who are in complete misery right now," according to a statement issued by Matt Schaefer, Huron Valley Humane Society director of animal cruelty investigations.

"Each year we have cases where dogs literally freeze to death. We want to reduce the unnecessary suffering of our companion animals."

"Unfortunately, Michigan state law does not prevent dogs from living outside," Schaefer said, "but the law does require proper shelter and bedding. During the freezing winter months we have zero tolerance for dogs found living outside without appropriate protection, and if found to be in danger, those animals will be removed for their own safety."

Suspected animal cruelty involving dogs, cats, horses or other animals may be reported to the humane society at (734) 661-3512 or to the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

Much more information is available online at www.hshv.org.

ddm@hometownlife.com
(734) 222-2238

Canton opens winter market

Canton's Winter Market kicks off 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Cady-Boyer Barn, in Preservation Park on Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill.

Market manager Tina Lloyd said nearly 20 local vendors will be selling their goods.

Among the highlights: • Chef Paul will be cooking from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

• The Miller Elementary Brownie Daisy Troop will be holding a pasta collection — and collecting cash donations — for Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry.

• Recipe cards will be available featuring Prochaska Farms Czech pork chops and mixed green salad. Mike Prochaska makes his own sauerkraut which is used in the recipe and will be available for sale at the Market.

• Goods will include fresh produce grown in hoop houses along with frozen blueberries, peaches and cherries.

• Food will include farm eggs, gluten free baking mixes, smoked fish, hand-blended teas, honey, artisan cheese, anti-biotic & hormone free, grass fed meats, conventional meats, pierogis, pasties, sauces, mustards, dressings, popcorn for popping, sauerkraut, hand cut jerky, meat sticks, granola, jam and baked goods including gluten free, sugar free and veggie.

• Arts and crafts are to include hand-crafted soap, soy candles and room sprays.

• Vendors set to attend include Bobbin Honey, Boyer Meat Processing, Captain John's



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Winter Market kicks off 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Cady-Boyer Barn, in Preservation Park on Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill. Market manager Tina Lloyd said nearly 20 local vendors will be selling their goods.

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Shaping up

Crew gets Yankee Lady ready for flying season



The pride of the Yankee Air Museum, the Yankee Lady, is one of nine of the World War II bombers still flying.

Like a champion prizefighter, Yankee Lady, the meticulously restored Boeing B-17, spends the offseason strengthening and conditioning.

She has been in her hangar since late October, receiving attention from her handlers under the watchful eyes of Yankee Air Museum's B-17 Crew Chief Norm Ellickson and Chief Mechanic Paul Hakala. Together with teams of volunteer craftsmen and master mechanics they spend countless hours through these winter months to keep this Flying Fortress in top-flight shape.

Virtually every inch of the World War II four-engine heavy bomber is inspected and touched in preparation for the flying season beginning in April. There is a specific schedule for routine maintenance and overhauls, but this ground crew pours over the finest details to keep Yankee Lady in the award-winning condition her fans have come to expect.

"Since the Yankee Air Force completed the nine-year restoration of this B-17 in 1995, we've clocked about 2,500 hours of flight time at an average speed of 150 mph," said Ellickson, a Milan resident. "That's about 375,000 miles, or nearly 15 times around the world, without any serious problems."

Hangar 1

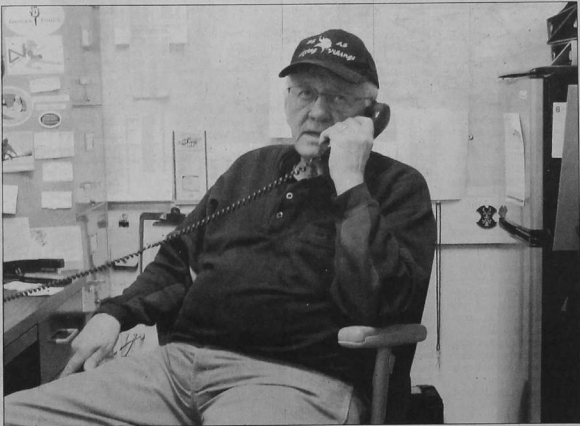
Ellickson explained that every autumn, after completing an FAA certified inspection and comprehensive maintenance list of more than 500 items, Yankee Lady is typically stored for the winter. This year, for the first time ever, the Yankee Air Museum has a full-time mechanic, and the plane is in the heated Hangar 1 at Willow Run.

"This is huge," said Ellickson. "A heated hangar and full-time mechanic means we can get at some projects we couldn't ordinarily do in winter. For example, we've been able to repaint the vertical stabilizer and wing tips, be re-overhauling the main landing gear, replacing all brakes and much more."

Ellickson was among the original group of aviation enthusiasts who raised the \$250,000 to buy the aircraft in 1986. Originally built in 1945 by the Vega Division of Lockheed Aircraft (under license by Boeing), this "model B-17" was one of the last ever delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force. In fact, when the plane was delivered, World War II was drawing to a close, so it was never flown overseas. The combat strength of a B-17 is legendary, and Yankee Lady has always flown peacetime missions, contributing to her pristine condition.

It's interesting to work on this plane, said Hakala, a Canton resident. "I'm impressed with the technology of the late 1930s and how much thought went into this craft. It's well built and should last many more years. One challenge I've found is finding replacement parts for damaged or worn parts. However, depending on the part, the museum's skilled craftsmen are able to repair or fabricate new ones."

Hakala could show. His interest in aviation dates back to when he was a teenager and obtained his private pilot's license. An Army veteran, he spent three years working on a variety of helicopters. Upon leaving the service he returned to school and earned his FAA Airframe and Powerplant License.



Yankee Air Museum B-17 Crew Chief Norm Ellickson spends many wintry mornings on the phone hunting up bomber parts and resources.



Yankee Lady Chief Mechanic Paul Hakala inspects the hydraulic lines within the landing gear housing.

Humbled by B-17 Hakala then went to work at Environmental Research Institute of Michigan. At ERIM, which was later acquired by General Dynamics, he maintained and flew as flight mechanic on a variety of aircraft used for research. His first was the De Havilland DHC-4A Caribou, now proudly displayed in the museum's airpark. For more than 26 years, he served

as a mechanic, then director of maintenance and chief inspector. Still, he seems humbled by the B-17 and the volunteers working along side of him.

"Once the plane was parked for the season, we drained the engines of oil and began working the inspection items, doing pressure checks and the usual electrical tests," said Hakala. "We found one engine cylinder to be a little under the specs in compression testing, so it was overhauled and replaced."

Hakala added that the Yankee Lady's Ground Crew, comprised of stalwart Yankee Air Museum volunteers, work on some major projects as well. The entire 36,000-pound aircraft was recently

put on jack stands so the wheels could be removed and brakes replaced.

"We noticed the trunnion bushings were slightly worn, so this is a good opportunity to replace them as well," he said.

The trunnion is a cylindrical shaft on which the landing gear shock strut assembly pivots when the landing gear is retracted after takeoff or extended for landing. A fully loaded, combat ready B-17 weighed about 65,500 pounds and the trunnion bears the weight. The bushings are the replaceable greased sleeves that provide the primary bearing surface at which the landing gear supports the plane.

'Significant'

"To me, the most significant accomplishment has been painting the tail and wing tips," said Hakala. "It's the same as restoring an historic flag. We want people to see and respect the colors of the 381st Bombardment Group which this plane honors."

According to Hakala, a late G model B-17, the plane was originally delivered in natural metal finish. The aircraft has been painted in the markings of a typical B-17G assigned to the 8th Air Force, 381st Bomb Group as a memorial to the late Joseph Slavik who flew 35 missions as a pilot with the 381st. Mr. Slavik made a significant contribution to help purchase the plane.

The "Yankee Lady" name and nose art do not replicate an actual combat veteran B-17, but are meant to be representative of the era. The wing tips, vertical and horizontal stabilizers have been repainted Spectramaster Red, making the gleaming skin and lettering really pop.

Network of friends

Keeping the Yankee Lady in her award-winning condition requires special talent and lots of financial resources. It also requires a network of friends who are engineers and artisans. Ellickson, began his career as an aircraft mechanic when he was 19. He retired from Northwest Airlines as regional maintenance manager at Detroit/Wayne County Metropolitan Airport. He was the leader of the Yankee Lady restoration effort. His warm and affable nature is as legendary as the aircraft on which the labors of love are focused.

"I'm a pretty lucky guy," he said. "I get to work on history's greatest airplane with the greatest people in the world. Whenever I need a rare part or advice, I can pick up the phone and help is there."

Ellickson talks about his friends all across the country with whom he shares aircraft parts and expertise. Whether it is sewing new, authentic seats, to fabricating major assemblies from blueprints, Ellickson seems to have a contact for everything.

"There are only nine B-17s still flying, and we stick together pretty well," he continued. "It's very costly though. We needed to overhaul the number four engine in July and that cost us about \$35,000."

Ellickson speculates that as more B-17s retire, the availability of parts will decrease and the costs will increase. Just a few years ago it cost \$400.00 to recap a tire. Today, that cost has risen to \$995. Ellickson just sent five tires out for recapping.

Ellickson said that every hour the Fortress flies costs about \$3,500 in fuel, supplies and maintenance, but sponsorships defray some of the cost. While on station or at an air show, the museum will also sell Flight Experience (FLEX) Rides, tours and items from the museum store to further raise funds.

"I don't mind a high-cost, high-maintenance lady at all," said Ellickson.

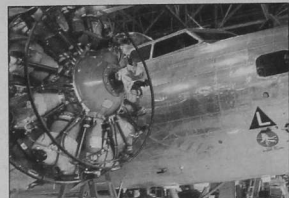
"When we're at an air show and we see a World War II B-17 veteran reunite with this airplane, the point of our freedom is driven home and all this effort is worth it," said Hakala.

"We'll keep her flying as long as humanly possible, our veterans deserve nothing less," Ellickson added.

Established in 1981, the Yankee Air Museum is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. For more information about YAM, visit the www.yankeeairmuseum.org website.



The B-17 now sports freshly painted tail markings honoring the U.S. Army Air Force 381st Bombardment Group.



Yankee Lady with her engine cowlings removed and ladders in place for detailed inspections.

CHAMBER CHAT

MAX membership

The Canton Chamber of Commerce sponsors "Membership to the MAX" 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at the chamber office, 45525 Hanford.

To better serve you, Membership to the MAX will show you how to use the Canton Chamber to its full capacity. It is the chamber's goal to help its members redeem all of the advantages that accompanies their membership. Reservations are required, call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com.

Speed networking

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a "speed networking" event Thursday, Feb. 14, from 7-9:15 a.m. at Panache 447, 447 Forest in downtown Plymouth.

Speed Networking is like Speed Dating (on Valentine's Day) for businesses. With Speed Networking, members will have the opportunity to meet 20-25 businesses in one hour. This structured networking event will allow you to meet most of the people in the room and within two minutes learn about each others companies.

To sign up for this event call (734) 453-1540 or email teri@plymouthchic.org.

Chamber map

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce will be distributing 5,000 maps during 2013 and 2014. Valuable advertising space is available on the map for companies/organizations wanting to promote themselves to visitors and residents. These maps are distributed through the Chamber office (indoor and outdoor displays), local hotels, real estate agents, new resident welcome bags, apartment complexes, wedding parties for out-of-town guests and visitors to the community.

For advertisers the map uses full color and advertising to promote the venues, products and services. Also, complimentary stands for easy distribution can be provided to advertisers for their own location.

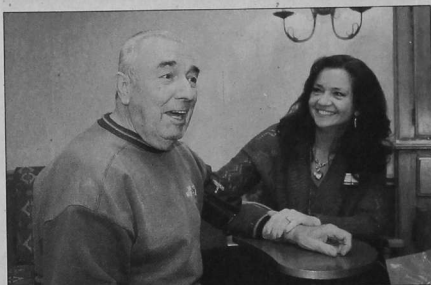
Contracts for advertising need to be signed Feb. 16. Contact Mike Brace (Embrace Marketing) at 734-560-6642 or mab746@yahoo.com.

Black tie

Bob and Sandy's Black Tie Fundraiser takes place starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at the White Castle on Telegraph just south of Michigan Ave.

All proceeds will benefit the Open Door Ministries Food Bank.

RSVPs needed by Feb. 7 to slk@comcast.net or (734) 718-7991.



Karl Ehrenfield of Plymouth has his blood pressure checked with Joann Maddux, Heartland of Canton's director of nursing, during Friday's Heart Health Fair.

Heartland health fair draws a crowd

For the second year, Heartland of Canton hosted a "Heart Health Fair" in conjunction with "Go Red for Women" day.

And, for the second year, it was a popular attraction. More than 150 people took part Friday, taking advantage of blood pressure screenings, blood sugar checks, body mass index assessments, heart healthy cooking demonstrations, home exercise tips, target heart rate assessments, and education on health apps and the American Heart Association website.

The event was open to the Plymouth/Canton community, patients, and employees of Heartland of Canton, a 150-bed skilled nursing and subacute rehab facility.

Lindsay Charefour, CTRS Director of Therapeutic Recreation for Heartland, said the event was created to mirror



Heartland of Canton Administrator Renee Hamilton educates Canton resident Shirley Reynolds on blood pressure readings at Friday's health fair.

similar events people could find at the Summit in Canton or in downtown Plymouth.

"When recreation therapists assess patients upon admission to the facility, we find many of them are seeking more education on their diagnosis, utilizing technology, and community resources to pursue their leisure/recreation interests," Charefour said. "Participants are able to speak with our health care professionals about their symptoms and diagnosis, influencing factors such as their body mass index and blood pressure, and treatment interventions including exercise, nutrition, and pursuit of recreation interests."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obstetrics office

Westside Obstetrics and Gynecology recently relocated their Canton office to the St. Joseph Mercy Canton Health Building at 1600 S. Canton Center Road, Suite 350, Canton, with phone number (734) 398-0600.

Westside Obstetrics and Gynecology specializes in women's health for all ages. Each of the six physicians is board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and all of them are committed to listening to needs, explaining treatment options, and delivering compassionate care.

The Westside Obstetrics and Gynecology physicians deliver at the Miracle of Life Birthing Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, which has private and spacious labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum suites.

For more information about the services at Westside Obstetrics and Gynecology, please visit stmarymercy.org/wso.

New agents

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel has recently welcomed a number of new sales professionals to the rapidly growing company, including Michelle Jarrott of Plymouth.

"We are very pleased that these exceptional people have chosen Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel," said John North, CBWM COO. "They bring with them unique and diverse business skills that will fit well into our 'next-generation' culture."

Founded in 1950, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is a Troy-based real estate brokerage with 15 offices and more than 400 real estate sales associates in

Michigan. For more information, please visit www.cbwm.com.

Minute Clinic

MinuteClinic, the largest provider of retail-based medical clinics in the United States, has opened a new CVS/pharmacy store in Canton at 45300 Cherry Hill Road. It is the first clinic location in Canton and the third in Wayne County.

"Since opening our first store-based clinic in Michigan in 2006, we have helped expand access to high-quality, convenient and affordable care to thousands of residents who have visited us at convenient CVS/pharmacy locations near where they live and work."

Andrew Sussman, M.D., president, MinuteClinic and senior vice president/associate chief medical officer, CVS Caremark Corporation. "We believe MinuteClinic can be part of the solution to Michigan's efforts to broaden access to quality health services."

MinuteClinic nurse practitioners and physician assistants specialize in family health care and can diagnose, treat and write prescriptions for common family illnesses such as strep throat and ear, eye, sinus, bladder and bronchial infections.

Minor wounds, abrasions and joint sprains are treated, and common vaccinations such as influenza, tetanus, pneumonia and Hepatitis A & B are available at most locations. Walk-in camp, sports, college and DOT appointments are available daily.

No appointments are required at MinuteClinic and most health insurance is accepted. The MinuteClinic operates 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

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With so many new fashion stores, Novi Town Center is sure to have the perfect Valentine's Day gift for your special someone.

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Get "Something Extra" for Valentine's Day from ULTA Beauty!

Selected Novi Town Center stores will be giving away ULTA beauty creams with any purchase of \$50 or more. Look for the poster in the window for a "something extra" Valentine's Day gift.



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Westside physicians include (from left) Karol Otteman, Catherine Winslow, Michael Gatt, Ramneet Mangat, Karin Dimon and Timothy Johnson.

Hines Park to get First Responders Memorial

Wayne County will honor its fallen fire/EMS and police officers with a new memorial that will be constructed in Hines Park in Plymouth Township.

"This memorial will stand as a beautiful tribute to honor and remember those brave men and women, whom, while on duty for a Wayne County community, selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve us all," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

The First Responders Memorial will be located 1.5 acres of Hines Park at the corner of Hines Drive and Haggerty Road. Memorial elements include monuments, seat walls, concrete walkways, a paver plaza, parking, lighting, site furnishings and plantings. The

monument will display names of responders who lost their lives in the line of duty and will provide the opportunity to honor fallen responders in the future. Construction will begin on May 1.

Ficano made the announcement at a breakfast he hosted Tuesday. The guests included Wayne County commissioners, mayors, fire/EMS officials and police chiefs as well as their union representatives. Current drawings of the First Responders Memorial were unveiled at the gathering, held at the Warren Valley Banquet Center in Dearborn Heights.

In addition to the memorial project, Wayne County Parks will be hosting its initial First Responders Memorial Half Marathon and 5K

run on Saturday, Oct. 5. The run will take place on the western end of Hines Park and will end at the new memorial. Wayne County Parks is partnering with Running Fit in producing the event. Registration will begin on March 1 and is open to the public. Awards will be given to participants who win team challenges and competitions during the races. Half marathon finishers will receive medals.

Proceeds from the races will go toward the maintenance of the First Responders Memorial. The memorial is being funded through the parks millage. The millage is a tax levy that helps to ensure quality maintenance and upkeep for the parks throughout Wayne County.

Determination helps teen drop 130 pounds

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Henry Blicke's only 17, but he can definitely tell older people with New Year's weight loss resolutions a thing or two.

The Northville High School senior lost 120 pounds over 9 months in his junior year, and an additional 10 pounds over the next month and a half to two months. He's kept the weight off thanks to a good diet and exercise.

"Really, it's just eating healthy," said Blicke, who doesn't eat after 6 p.m. each day. "I run every day."

He's the son of Laura and Fred, and has three older brothers, Will, 23, Brody, 22, and John, 21, who were athletes at NHS.

Henry Blicke says he was thin as a young child, but slowly is weight progressively got away from him.

"As I got older, I gained weight. It was a progressive thing," he said.

"I'm a very motivated person," he added.

"Once I start something, I'm not likely to quit."

He's in the Drama Club at NHS and his lower weight makes dancing easier, and increases the roles he can play. Blicke did "Hairspray," the spring musical last year after he'd lost weight.

and had to wear a "fat suit" for the John Travolta role.

"It was kind of ironic," said Northville Township neighbor Shelly Bush, mom to Henry's best friend, Emily Bush, also an NHS senior. The two seniors run three or



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

four miles daily. Henry used to accompany Emily on runs on his bicycle and remembers it was an effort to keep up even riding when he was heavy. She had exercises from being on the varsity soccer team for her friend.

"He's shocked me with his dedication," Emily Bush said. "I would offer him what I'm eating and he would never take it."

Blicke, now a 30 skinny in pants, started at a size 46. When he couldn't fit into his 44s, he vowed to slim down.

When he was losing weight, he'd have a Slim-fast, coffee, lemon water and vitamin for breakfast. Lunch was salad or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. When rehearsing for the show, he'd have a Subway for dinner, or a sandwich from his mom. He often has soup and sandwich combos or a Caesar salad.

Blicke allows himself a small sweet treat, such as mini Reese's peanut butter and chocolate cups. Now at dinners, his mom has salad regularly

and a fruit bowl. Henry used to accompany Emily on runs on his bicycle and remembers it was an effort to keep up even riding when he was heavy. She had exercises from being on the varsity soccer team for her friend.

"I've been told I have an infectious happiness. I don't think it's really changed the way I am, the way I view people," Blicke said. He recalled one bully in second grade who teased, but Blicke told his older brother about the bullying and it ended.

Blicke's been accepted at Western Michigan University, and will audition for The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. He noted his family and friends supported him in weight loss, with "Do whatever makes you happy."

"It's stayed off for roughly a year now," he said. "It's just kind of a lifestyle."

Blicke summed up his accomplishment by encouraging others to lose weight for themselves, and not for other people. It's best to set small goals, he added, and work from there.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Station hosts annual record show

Student radio station 88.1 The Park, which serves Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, will present their fifth annual Record Show on Saturday Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Salem High School Cafeteria.

Collectors will find thousands of vinyl records, CD's, import only releases, 45's and 78's, T-shirts, posters and other collectibles. The music will span many genres including rock, jazz, pop, country, R&B and folk. The show will also feature special giveaways and door prizes.

"We love presenting this record show," station manager Bill Keith said. "I enjoy being there when a person finds that special album they've been searching for. We have a lot of fun hanging out with people that love music."

Tickets are \$3, \$5 for early admission between 9-10 a.m. Students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools will receive free admission with a student ID.

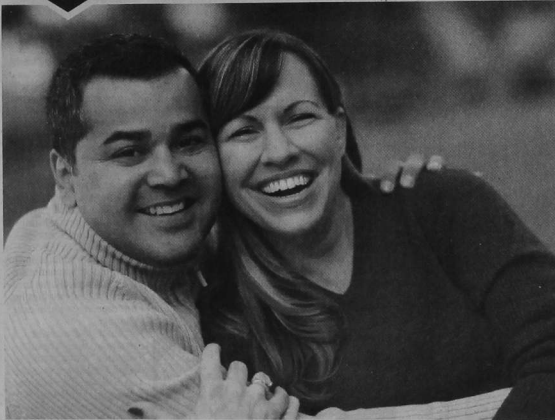
All of the proceeds will benefit 88.1 The Park, and will help the station to continue serving the community with unique programming and broadcast training for students.

Salem High School is located at 46181 Joy Road in Canton. The Salem High School Cafeteria is located on the first floor, just inside the main entrance to the school.

The station is staffed by students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools. The station has been serving the community since Feb. 14, 1972. Listeners can find out more about the station at www.881ThePark.com.

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Gentleman caller Jim (Joey Courtney) and Laura (Kelley Donnelley) share a dance in "The Glass Menagerie."



Canton High School senior Sara Kadish, the stage manager for "The Glass Menagerie," helps cast members through their lines during a Tuesday rehearsal.



Light crew chief Reilly Wong works her magic with the lighting board during a rehearsal of "The Glass Menagerie."



The play is rife with conflict between Amanda (Madeline Klozik) and Tom (Sean Larson).



Sophomore Madeline Klozik is Amanda, the matriarch of the Wingfield family, in "The Glass Menagerie."

'GLASS'

Continued from page A1

smaller, and (Menagerie) seemed like a perfect complement."

The *Glass Menagerie* is a four-character play detailing the struggles of Amanda Wingfield, a faded Southern belle abandoned by her husband who is trying to raise her two children under harsh financial conditions. Some believe the play is based on Williams' own life.

The cast and stage crew have only been rehearsing since mid-January, with practice cut short by a late return from the holidays.

"That's another reason I wanted a smaller play," Bird said. "We've only been rehearsing three and a half weeks, which is considerably shorter than we're used to."

Casting call

That hasn't deterred the cast, three of whom worked together previously in last year's production of *Hotel Perdisso*. Madeline Klozik, a sophomore at Salem High School, is cast in the role of Amanda, the key fig-

ure who is in nearly every scene.

"Amanda is one of those people who likes to hear herself talk," said Klozik, last on the stage in a Forever After production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Village Theater in Canton. "She's worried about her family, trying to get (daughter) Laura some security in her life."

It's the daughter who is at the center of the play, as Amanda tries to find her security and enlists the help of son Tom, who brings home a "gentleman caller." A childhood illness has left her with a limp, and she has an inferiority complex that has caused her to be isolated from the outside world. Portraying Laura's nearly anti-social personality was the big challenge for Kelley Donnelley, an outgoing Plymouth High School senior and one of three *Perdisso* alumni.

"Laura is an introvert and my personality is very much an extravert," Donnelley said. "She's so shy in front of people, she has severe social anxiety. It's pretty hard (to play her) because it's so opposite of who I am as a person."

Sean Larson, a Plym-

outh High School senior who plays embattled son Tom, Laura's younger brother who works at a shoe warehouse to support his family but is frustrated by his job and aspires to be a poet. He escapes from reality through nightly trips to the movies and local bars.

Tough play

The play is rife with conflict between Amanda and Tom, something Larson found difficult to play opposite good friend Madeline Klozik.

"Madam I were close before the show," Larson said with a smile. "To have that kind of friction with her isn't anything I'm used to."

Rounding out the cast is Joey Courtney, a Canton High School senior who plays the "gentleman caller." Jim, hoodwinked by Tom into calling on Laura, what Tom doesn't know is that Jim is actually engaged to be married.

"He's very self-centered," Courtney said. "In high school, he was a big shot, and he still thinks he's a big shot. It kind of carried over into his adulthood."

Cast members think the show's dark parts make it an unusual choice for a high school production, but they're eager to carry it off.

"Most (high school) shows are lighter and warmer," said Canton High School senior Sara Kadish, the play's stage manager. "This is definitely not a happy show."

Williams' style also presented challenges.

"It's not an easy play to do," Bird said. "Tennessee Williams' style is very poetic, so it's not the kind of conversational speech they're used to. The fact they haven't had as much time to practice has also been a challenge."

But Kadish said the cast has been up to the challenge, and is ready.

"They have more of a struggle because there's only four of them, so they have more lines," Kadish said. "They come prepared, and with such a small cast it's easy to work together. They're a really great group."

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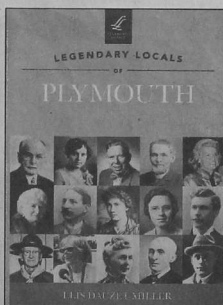
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By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Last week for the first time since October 2007, the Dow Jones Industrial Average broke through the 14,000 mark. No doubt this is good news for investors. After all, just four years ago the Dow was in the 6,000 range. Obviously, it's much better when the market is rising as opposed to when it's in decline. That being said, the question is how should individual investors, like you and I react to Dow 14,000?

Investors should not change their course of action just because of this good run. Focus on what is important as opposed to what is currently happening in the market. All too often, investors tend to focus on the market as to when they should buy and sell. As far as I'm concerned, this is not the way to be a successful investor. While the market is important, however, it's not nearly as important as what an investor is trying to achieve. It's not the market; it's your goals and objectives that determine how and when you invest. Investors look at the market and if they think it's going up they buy. If they think it's going down, they sell. This strategy is a form of market timing and it does not work. The market is irrational over the short run. Good news is bad news and bad news is good news.

When you try to time the market you have to be correct twice — once when you buy and once when you sell. As far as I know, no one has been able to successful-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

If you're a long-term investor you need to be in the market and stay with it despite all of the ups and downs. On the other hand, if you need your money in one or two years, it shouldn't be invested in the market. The market is too aggressive over the short run. A successful investor in today's world needs

to manage risk. The best way to do this is to invest based upon goals and objectives.

I read a troubling story recently that said many individual investors had started to rush back into the market. These individuals are not investing based upon goals and objectives, they are trying to time the market. What eventually happens is when the market goes south, they will end up being among the first to bail out. Their strategy of buying high and selling low is not a prescription for success.

As many famous investors have said, it's not timing the market; it's time in the market that really determines success.

No doubt I am much happier when the Dow is over 14,000 than where it was four years ago. However, my individual portfolio and for those that I manage have a strategy and the discipline to stay with that strategy. Investors who don't have a strategy are at the mercy of the market. Investors who do have a strategy and the discipline to follow it will find that despite some occasional short-term pain, there will be long-term gains. Good luck!

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

Lecture focuses on legendary locals

Legendary Locals of Plymouth is a new Arcadia book about Plymouth by Leis Dauzet-Miller, released in January.



Dauzet-Miller

The book draws upon numerous collections and stories of those in Plymouth's past and current residents who affected change within the community. According to Liz Kerstens, executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, the book focuses on people such as:

- The Houghtons and Bennetts, "who helped put Plymouth on the map";
- Sanford Burr, whose family history runs deep in Plymouth and "who

loves sharing stories of the town's earlier days";

- Margaret Dunning, whose philanthropy has added to Plymouth's charm;

- and Joanne Winkelman Hulce, whose vision and love of the arts has added to the quality of life in Plymouth.

Dauzet-Miller will talk about the book at the Feb. 14 meeting of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, which begins at 7:30 p.m. The museum has copies of the book available for sale in the Museum Store and copies will be available during the meeting. The author will sign purchased copies.

Dauzet-Miller is a volunteer at the Plymouth Historical Museum and a long-time resident and educator. This lecture is free and open to the public.

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OUR VIEWS

Looking back

Use February to explore black history

If you're tuned into the special observances that spring up throughout the year, you know that February is Black History Month, 28 days set aside to explore the contributions of black Americans to our country, our culture and our lives.

The observance dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. The son of former slaves, Woodson was disturbed that black Americans, even though they figured in, were ignored in history books and decided to take on the challenge of writing them into the nation's history.

Woodson chose the second week in February because of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, who played important roles in the abolition of slavery. But February is filled with even more important dates. A few examples:

- The Underground Railroad providing black slaves with safe passage to freedom was established in February 1838.

- Congress approved the 13th amendment ending slavery in 1865 and the 15th amendment giving African American men the right to vote in 1870.

- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City in 1909.

- The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels, took his oath of office on 1870.

Our understanding of who we are is steeped in our knowledge of our past. We cannot know where we're going without knowing where we've been. We need to know all of the people who have played a role in shaping our country, everyone from George Washington



Reed

to Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama and everyone in between.

The Canton Public Library hosts a program honoring civil rights icons Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. among the programs the library is rolling out for Black History Month. Unfortunately, the Plymouth District Library isn't featuring any events to honor similar contributions.

In Canton, though, Detroit attorney and award-winning author Gregory J. Reed, who worked to secure Parks the Medal of Freedom and a postage stamp issued to honor the 100th anniversary of her birthday, brings a wealth of knowledge after he served as her lawyer, traveled with her and became her close friend.

Reed is set to speak at 7 p.m. tonight (Thursday), at the Canton library, 1200 S. Canton Center. The event is free and open to the public.

History is a living document, each day a new page is written, and as our country continues to evolve, more and more of the pages are being filled with the successes of all Americans. We look forward to the day when it's not black history or white history, but our history, where we identified with those who have shaped our country not by the color of their skin, but by their deeds and accomplishments.

Even Woodson looked forward to that day, when he wrote: "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice."

COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you celebrate Valentine's Day, or is it just a Hallmark holiday?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I like to spend Valentine's Day with my husband, but he believes it's a Hallmark holiday. The 21st is our anniversary, so he says I have to choose one or the other."

Bouakhanh Greene
Canton



"It's just a Hallmark holiday."

Kelly Vassas
Canton



"For me, it's a Hallmark holiday, but it's not in my religion to date. In our religion, we believe you should love a person every day."

Eman Saead
Canton



"To me, every day is a special day, because the older I get, the more I appreciate every day. Any reason to celebrate is a good reason."

Pamela Lundy
Belleville

LETTERS

Wonderful event

I want to thank all who were involved in putting on such a wonderful event honoring Martin Luther King Jr. at the Cherry Hill Village Theatre. The opening program was creative and moving and I appreciated the honest questions and answers provided by the Morehouse College panel. The music that was provided by the New Hope church truly raised my spirits.

I am grateful that our township has committed to not only officially recognizing and honoring the MLK holiday but also has people talented and committed to making this holiday impactful for those who wish to remember and celebrate Dr. King's legacy.

the Rev. Bryan Smith
pastor, Geneva Presbyterian Church

Final term?

The talk from Lansing is that we have to find another source of funding for the roads. I'm here to tell you that with just one transfer, our road needs will be taken care of.

If they take the sales tax we pay on each gallon of gas, divert it

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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from the general fund, and turn it over to the highway department, that would solve the shortage problem. This will work because we now have the lowest unemployment rate in the country, everyone who needed a job has one, the underemployed now make a decent wage, our treasury is overflowing, and ...

Uh-oh. Sorry. I was just informed that none of this has

occurred. It turns out that the predictions and rhetoric from the governor and Republican lawmakers was nothing but them selling snake oil. So, go ahead and raise the sales tax, the vehicle registration tax, the driver's license tax and gasoline tax.

After all, the seniors who now pay income taxes, all the homeowners who lost the property tax credit, the unemployed who lost six weeks of coverage and the families that lost the child care deduction can surely afford to pay more.

But on the bright side, damn it, we know how to take care of the rich and powerful in this state!

And on behalf of these corporate tycoons, let's give a shout out to two of our very own, Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Rep. Kurt Heise. Gentlemen, take a bow — none of this would have been possible without your undying loyalty to these people.

We can only wait and see what rabbits they pull out of the hat during this session which, hopefully, is the final term for both of them.

James Huddleston
Canton

STAFF COLUMN

Toys lose in gun debate, but what about the real things?

An abundance of caution has become the response when it comes to children and toys guns.

This was illustrated recently in Plymouth when a boy with a toy pistol, playing with friends in a wooded area near an elementary school, was reported to police by someone who mistook the plastic gun for the real thing.



Matt Jachman

Responding police officers could not locate the boy, but were able to track him down the 10th and ascertain the pistol was a toy — made of clear plastic so as not to appear real — that used air pressure to shoot plastic pellets with little force. No crime, no harm done, police said, but meanwhile rumors about the incident had gathered momentum on social media, and police were forced to explain what happened and quell the rumors.

With memories of the Sandy Hook, Conn., massacre and other mass shootings still fresh in the public's mind, and a highly charged atmosphere in general when it comes to guns, this was a completely appropriate response.

One can't fault a witness for reporting what she or he honestly thought was a gun — what if it turned out to be real, went unreported, and someone had gotten hurt? Neither can one fault the police for responding cautiously, following up and acting promptly to calm public fears. With so many real guns out there, they've got to take every such report seriously.

The fact that the kids were playing near a school — though it was not a school day, the witness may not have known that — may have made the situation as described sound even more urgent.

This isn't the first time police locally have responded to reports of guns that turned out to be fake, and news reports nationally show schoolchildren have gotten in trouble just for using their hands to make pistol gestures.

Perhaps, for the reasons above, this is as it should be. Plymouth has Jamie Grabowski's quarters, at the prospect of people carrying real, loaded pistols into crowded public places where they're normal-

ly aren't found, such as stadiums, schools and churches. (A lame-duck bill that would've allowed that for concealed pistol-license holders was vetoed by Gov. Rick Snyder just after Sandy Hook.)

What seems odd, when juxtaposed with the caution with which we address guns that turn out to be toys, is the sometimes ho-hum response to open-carry advocates' insistence on strapping their no-question-about-it real guns when they go out to dinner or head to the library or the contentious city council meeting.

Perhaps this, too, is as it should be — the Second Amendment, of course, talks about the people's right to keep and bear arms, not Timmy's right to keep and play with a plastic pistol.

But I suggest there is plenty of room in the Second Amendment (which links the keeping of arms to "a well-regulated militia") for limits that balance rights with common sense and safety; and that maybe we can talk about some of the real guns out there with the same kind of caution with which we talk about the toys.

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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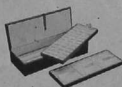
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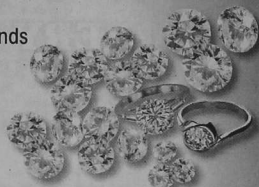
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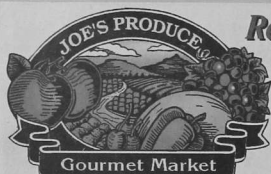
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TIM SMITH, EDITOR
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SPORTS

Rocks' win sets up showdown

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's varsity boys basketball team controls its own destiny after all in the quest for back-to-back KLAAL Central Division championships.

The Rocks outlasted visiting Novi 55-53 Tuesday night and can claim the division crown outright if they can defeat co-leaders South Lyon on Friday.

Only a late 17-4 surge by the Wildcats — featuring a trio of 3-balls by Nelson Cagle — made the final score deceptively close.

"We kind of lost our composure late in the game," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "Thank goodness we had a pretty good lead. But I told the kids, you got to lock in at the end."

Both first-place teams

BOYS HOOPS

carry 7-2 divisional records into that winner-take-all contest at South Lyon. The Lions were upset 54-45 by Northville Tuesday night.

"We're going to try and defend our championship," Brodie said. "We're division champs and they have to take it from us. But like I said, it's not going to be easy."

"... At least we're at this point where we have a chance. I thought a couple times there we might not have had a chance."

Stronger start

One of those times might have been after Friday's gut-wrenching overtime loss to Livonia Stevenson, a game Brodie said his team hurt itself with a sluggish start.



Salem boys basketball coach Bob Brodie and his team can win a second straight KLAAL South title with a win Friday at South Lyon.

"We started slow against Stevenson and made sure we weren't going to come out of the blocks that slow this time," Brodie stressed. "And they didn't, they came out determined."

Salem (11-4, 7-2) ended

did just that, building a 21-9 lead after one frame with senior forward Chris Dierker (17 points, 12 rebounds, three steals) muscling his way into the paint for rebounds and buckets.

The Rocks went on a

11-0 run to close out the frame, and there were plenty of players chipping in.

Dierker — whose work at both ends sparked Salem's 39-25 rebounding

Please see HOOPS, B3

Senior softball

A newly formed team in the 65-and-over Western Wayne County Suburban Softball League is seeking slow-pitch players the summer season, which runs from May through August.

Games will be played at 10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in the Livonia, Canton and Westland areas.

The league is governed by ASA senior slow-pitch rules. A nominal fee will be assessed to cover incidental team and league expenses.

For more information, call Bob Mosher at (734) 502-7477 or Doug Curry at (248) 767-0828.

Hoop clinic for shooting

The Metro Basketball Association will offer a shooting clinic (grades three-eight) from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at Huron Valley Lutheran High School, located at 33740 Cowan, a half-mile east of Warren Road, Westland.

The cost is \$35 (if pre-registered by Feb. 15) or \$45 at the door for the Pro Shot Shooting System clinic.

For more information, visit www.metrobasketball.org.

You can also call Kevin Wilkinson at (313) 406-2722 (office) or (313) 247-5405 (cell).

CANTON INVITATIONAL

Nemesis nips Chiefs yet again

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs continue to play bridesmaid to defending state champion Grand Ledge, with another second-place finish — this time at Saturday's Canton Invitational.

Grand Ledge trailed Canton by a 2-point margin entering the final event, where the Chiefs dropped the event and the meet.

Yet Chiefs' girls gymnastics coach John Cunningham isn't losing hope that the 2013 state finals will have a different result, despite the Comets edging Canton 147.675 to 146.700.

"I told the girls that it was fun making Grand Ledge sweat," Cunningham stressed. "But if we can only beat them once, I would choose to the MHSAA state meet."

Cunningham then added that the Chiefs "have lots of achievable areas to improve."

Several other Observerland teams cracked the top 10 (out of

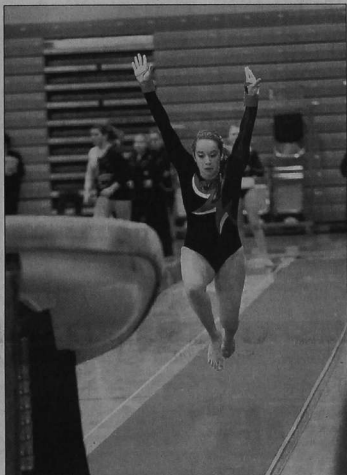
19 teams), with Livonia Red finishing fourth with 139.300 points. In fifth with a 138.000 tally was Farmington, followed by Plymouth (seventh, 137.625), Livonia Blue (eighth, 136.550) and Salem (ninth, 136.300).

A key reason for Canton's near invite title was Melissa Green, who Cunningham said "led the medal charge" in Division 1 with nines on all four events and finished third in all-around scoring with a 37.150 total.

"Melissa Green is our reason for success," Cunningham said. "She is our most consistent high-level performer who always comes through."

Sophomore Jocelyn Moraw also had an excellent day, finishing fifth in D1 all-around (36.850), highlighted by a second-place showing on floor exercise (9.425).

Another Canton highlight in D1 was freshman Maddie Toal's 9.725 on balance beam. That was the highest score of the day for the



Chiefs' senior Nicole Lasecki starts her vault routine at Saturday's Canton Invitational.

Please see INVITE, B2

Springboard

Swimmers look for MISCA success, state cuts

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

This weekend's MISCA boys swimming and diving meet promises participants a fast pool and a fast track for a spot in the Division 1 state meet in early March.

Several swimmers from Plymouth and Salem will compete at Saturday's Michigan Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association meet at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

On Friday, also at EMU, Plymouth senior Connor McManus will be the lone Park participant at the MISCA diving competition.

To earn MHSAA cuts, swimmers must pare time off their MISCA cuts. For example, someone in the 200

freestyle qualifies for the MISCA meet with a time of 1:55.29 seconds; they'd need to clock in at 1:48.79 Saturday to earn a spot at the state meet in Holland (March 8-9).

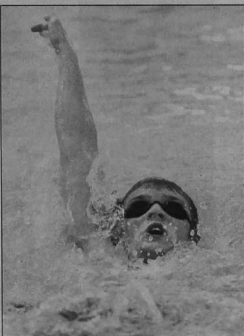
"Swimming at Eastern's pool, it's the best experience you can have," Plymouth first-year head coach Kenn Forbes said. "It's one of the fastest pools in the country. They're almost guaranteed to drop time at MISCA." "We have our last dual meet against John Glenn. So I hope that they're rested."

Little resistance

Veteran Salem head coach Chuck

Please see SWIM, B2

Nick Weber (above) is among several Plymouth Wildcats to compete at the MISCA meet. Salem also will have a contingent at EMU.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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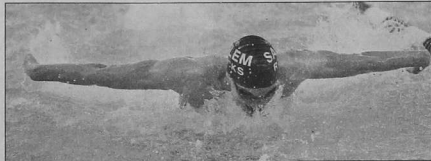
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BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS
CANTON 103
CHURCHILL 80
Jan. 31 at Canton
200-yard medley relay: 1. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Alex Bourdreau, Trevis Matijara, Gerard Niemann), 1:52.63; 2. Livonia Churchill (Daniel Saltzmann, Franklin Qiu, Jose Melendez, Jackson Norwood), 1:55.79; 3. Canton (Anthony Garbarino, Ali Ghannam, Nathan Albin, Chris Jenner), 2:26.15.
500 freestyle: 1. Qiu (L.C.), 2:03.52; 2. Michael Wilyard (C.), 2:06.59; 3. Nathan Benjamin (C.), 2:12.22.
200 individual medley: 1. Bourdreau (C.), 2:21.21; 2. Melendez (L.C.), 2:27.60; 3. Jack Chaney (C.), 2:40.34.

50 freestyle: 1. Matijara (C.), 25.30; 2. Daniel Saltzmann (L.C.), 25.45; 3. Bindas (C.), 25.67.
1-meter diving: 1. Ethan Burke (L.C.), 192.20 points; 2. Austin Tetlow (C.), 126.80; 3. Kameron Stanger (L.C.), 117.80.
100 butterfly: 1. Melendez (L.C.), 1:03.90; 2. Niemann (C.), 1:04.72; 3. Malhot (C.), 1:08.2.
100 freestyle: 1. Qiu (L.C.), 54.43; 2. Matijara (C.), 54.99; 3. Norwood (L.C.), 57.38.
500 freestyle: 1. Kyle Reppenhagen (L.C.), 5:48.84; 2. Benjamin (C.), 5:48.89; 3. Chaney (C.), 6:16.25.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Matijara, Bindas, Joy Niemann), 1:41.30; 2. Canton (Jenner, Kyle Spence, John Everett, Andrew Loehnis), 1:48.33; 3. Livonia Churchill (Kameron Stanger, Soules, Fetter, Reppenhagen), 1:56.77.
100 backstroke: 1. Saltzmann (L.C.), 1:05.90; 2. Norwood (L.C.), 1:13.25; 3. Travis Alber (C.), 1:14.72.
100 breaststroke: 1. Bourdreau (C.), 1:08.13; 2. Wilyard (C.), 1:13.80; 3. Grant Kunil (C.), 1:19.14.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Livonia Churchill (Qiu, Melendez, Norwood, Saltzmann), 3:46.45; 2. Canton (Niemann, Jenner, Qiu, Bindas), 3:51.48; 3. Canton (Albin, Spence, Noah Adams, Benjamin), 4:11.12.
Dual meet records: Canton, 1-5 overall; 1-3 KLAAS South Division; Churchill, 2-2 overall, 1-3 KLAAS South.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Turner Solterman will participate at the EMU-hosted MISCA meet.

SWIM

Continued from page B1

Olson said the design of the EMU pool lends itself to fast swims.

"It has very few waves," Olson said. "The design really cuts down on the wave action. And...it's one of the deepest pools in the state, so you don't get that underwater turbulence."

He said Jason Zhang and Turner Solterman have already made their MHSAA cuts, but would still like to go for personal bests. Other Salem swimmers at the MISCA meet want to join them.

Those include Jason Basanese, Brian Kuang, Jerry Bai, Smaran Bhaktava, Patrick Casey, Matt Paintz and Charles Liu. "I would hope we would get three or four new state

cuts out of those," Olson said. Plymouth's MISCA contingent includes Cameron Earls, Nick Weber, Benjamin Yang in individual events.

The Wildcats also have the 200 medley relay team (Earls, Garrett Beauprez, Weber and Alex Wilson) and 400 free relay team (Earls, Weber, Beauprez and Ryan Heinze) in action at EMU.

In order for the relays to make state cuts, times will need to be trimmed by nine and 17 seconds, respectively.

Canton did not have any swimmers qualify for the MISCA meet, head coach Dave Le said.

Great preparation
Forbes emphasized that success at the MISCA meet helps swimmers gear up for the state meet. "The atmosphere is sim-

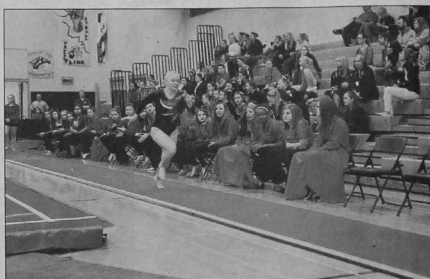
ilar and can help prepare them on how to handle the pressures of a 'big meet,'" Forbes said. "Especially for those who have not made a state meet before."

Meanwhile, he added that the dynamics of the EMU pool can boost swimmers' confidence that they can better their MISCA cuts.

"If a swimmer is stuck on a time for too long they can begin to doubt themselves in their ability to go faster," Forbes said. "EMU's pool is ideal for helping break those (mental) walls down."

"It's a fast pool to swim in, and I think being at a college/university may get them more hyped." Friday's diving meet is slated for 6 p.m. Swimming events begin noon Saturday.

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PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Sprinting into her vault routine in Division 1 competition at the Canton Invitational is Erica Lucas of the Chiefs.

INVITE

Continued from page B1

Chiefs and Toul missed setting a new school record by .025.

Farmington's Carina Nicole Lasecki had an excellent tournament. She placed second on uneven parallel bars (8.95) and third in all-around (35.5) to lead all Observantland gymnasts.

Making the D2 top 10, in addition to Lasecki, were Livonia Blue's Bri Rhoad (fourth, 35.275), Canton's Erica Lucas (fifth, 35.150), Livonia Red's Marissa McVey (sixth, 35.025) and Shannon Diaz (tied for eighth, 34.725).

Salem's Brittany Ramirez and Farmington's Alyssa Millhoff (tied for 10th, 34.700).

Cunningham said it was good to see Lucas performed well in her return to competition following injuries. She took first on vault with a 9.55 score.

Salem featured two others who finished among the top 20 in D2: Morgan Soper (18th, 33.625, highlighted by third place on floor, 9.250) and Andrea Merlotti (19th, 33.500). The Rocks had success in D2 on vault, with three gymnasts among the top 10. Ramirez fin-



Plymouth senior Jane McCurry gets into it during her floor exercise routine at the Canton Invitational.

ished fourth (9.125), followed by Brooke Algeyer (eighth, 9.050) and Merlotti (ninth, 9.0).

None of Plymouth's contingent scored high in D2 all-around, primarily because coach Pam Yockey limited each gymnast to two or three events. Only senior Sarah Uhlman and freshman Rebecca Simu participated in three events, tallying 26.75 and 24.5, respectively. Uhlman placed fourth on beam with a 9.4 score.

Two other Wildcats nearly reached the 9.0 mark in an event. Katie Salanga's 8.925 on beam was good for ninth (just behind eighth-place Merlotti's 8.975) while Jane McGowan finished in ninth place on floor with a 8.9 mark.

Meanwhile, Canton freshman Hailey Hodgson's score of 8.9 earned her 12th place on vault in the D2 standings.

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GIRLS GYMNASICS RESULTS

CANTON INVITATIONAL
Feb. 2 at Plymouth H.S.

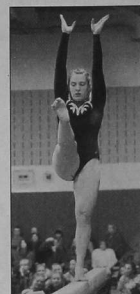
TEAM RESULTS: 1. Grand Ledge, 9.675 points; 2. Canton, 146.700; 3. Forest Hills, 139.525; 4. Livonia Red, 139.300; 5. Farmington, 138.000; 6. Brighton, 137.725; 7. Plymouth, 137.625; 8. Livonia Blue, 136.550; 9. Salem, 136.300; 10. Freehold, 135.775; 11. Holt, 134.850; 12. Howell, 134.700; 13. Grosse Pointe, 132.375; 14. Northville, 129.725; 15. Sturgis, 126.950; 16. Western, 124.775; 17. Fraser, 112.325; 18. Troy, 112.300; 19. Pinckney, 117.075.

DIVISION 1
Vault: 1. Ashley Hestall (Pinckney), 9.625; 6. (tie) Melissa Green (Canton), 9.400; 9. (tie) Carina Wright (Farmington), 9.350; 11. Jocelyn Moraw (Canton), 8.925.
Parallel Bars: 1. Sara Pelletier (Grand Ledge), 9.675; 4. Katie Kretschmar (Liv. Red), 9.125; 5. Green (Cntr), 9.100; 7. Moraw (Cntr), 8.925; 11. Maddie Toal (Cntr), 8.725; 13. Wright (Ftn), 8.625; 15. Rebecca Simu (Plymouth), 8.625.

Balance Beam: 1. Christina Shabert (Troy), 8.875; 2. Toal (Cntr), 8.725; 4. Moraw (Cntr), 8.575; 7. Green (Cntr), 8.325; 10. Kretschmar (L. Red), 8.975; 12. Wright (Ftn), 8.800; 19. Simu (Ftn), 8.750.
Floor Exercise: 1. Shabert (Troy), 9.700; 2. Moraw (Cntr), 9.425; 5. Wright (Ftn), 9.350; 6. Green (Cntr), 9.325; 12. Toal (Cntr), 8.850; 15. Simu (Ftn), 8.675.

All-Around: 1. Shabert (Troy), 38.325; 3. Green (Cntr), 37.150; 5. Moraw (Cntr), 36.850; 8. Wright (Ftn), 36.125.

DIVISION 2
Vault: 1. Erica Lucas (Canton), 9.550; 4. Bri Rhoad (Livonia Blue), 9.225; 5. Maggie McGowan (Livonia Red), 9.150; 6. Brittany Ramirez (Salem), 9.125; 8. Brooke Algeyer (Simu), 9.050; 9. (tie) Claire Saunders (Farmington), 8.925; 10. Alyssa Millhoff (Ftn), 8.900; 15. Jamie Jasinski



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem's Morgan Soper, shown from earlier this season, competed in Division 2 at the Canton Invitational.

(L. Blue), 8.825; 16. Allison White (L. Blue), 8.800; 19. (tie), Deanna Burns (Ftn), 8.750; 8. (tie) Lucas (Cntr), 8.700; 8. (tie) Lucas (Cntr), 8.700; 8. (tie) Lucas (Cntr), 8.700; 26. Morgan Soper (Simu), 8.625; 27. (tie) Jane McCurry (Ply), 8.600; 34. (tie) Emily Chatterjee (L. Blue), 8.450; 51. (tie) Sydney Grenier (L. Red), 8.350; 52. (tie) Nicole Lasecki (Cntr), 8.350; 53. (tie) Kayla Janeski (Ply), 8.350; 54. (tie) Sydney Grenier (L. Red), 8.350; 55. (tie) Welch (Ply), 8.300; 56. Jackie Dzurigot (L. Red), 8.450; 57. Shannon Diaz (L. Red), 8.350; 58. Megan Campbell (Ftn), 8.250.

Parallel Bars: 1. Lauren Clark (Grand Ledge), 9.075; 2. Lasecki (Cntr), 8.950; 3. Rhoades (L. Blue), 8.850; 5. Samantha Fontana (Ply), 8.775; 6. Ramirez (Simu), 8.750; 8. (tie) Lucas (Cntr), 8.725; 10. (tie) Millhoff (Ftn), 8.625; 12. Haley Metz (Ply), 8.475; 15. Diaz (L. Red), 8.450; 16. Marissa Lapinski (Ftn), 8.350; 18. McVey (L. Red), 8.325; 19. Marissa Lapinski (Ftn), 8.300; 24. Welch (Ply), 8.175; 25. (tie) Campbell (Ftn), 8.150; 33. McGowan (L. Red), 8.150; 33. McGowan (L. Red), 8.150.

7.925; 35. Chatterjee (L. Blue), 7.875; 36. (tie) Jillian Zafarana (L. Blue), Dzurigot (L. Red), 7.825; 38. Paulette Martino (Simu), 7.775; 46. Zukowski (L. Blue), 7.525; 49. Merlotti (Simu), 7.400; 50. Molly McVey (Ply), 7.375; 51. Nicole Sokolowski (L. Blue), 7.250; 55. Algeyer (Cntr), 7.100.

Balance Beam: 1. Clark (GL), 9.575; 2. McVey (L. Blue), 9.550; 3. Uhlman (Ply), 9.400; 6. Rhoad (L. Blue), 9.300; 7. Diaz (L. Red), 9.050; 8. Merlotti (Simu), 8.975; 9. Salanga (Ply), 8.925; 10. Lasecki (Cntr), 8.900; 11. Ramirez (Simu), 8.825; 16. (tie) Metz (Ply), 8.600; 18. Lucas (Cntr), 8.525; 20. Millhoff (Ftn), 8.500; 21. Zukowski (L. Blue), 8.450; 22. Zafarana (L. Blue), 8.400; 26. Grenier (L. Red), 8.275; 29. Kristina Franchi (Ftn), 8.200; 34. Lapinski (Cntr), 8.050; 36. White (L. Blue), 8.025; 37. McGowan (L. Red), 8.000; 39. Fontana (Ply), 7.950; 45. (tie) Zukowski (L. Blue), 7.800; 47. Martino (Simu), 7.750; 54. Soper (Simu), 7.600; 57. Schuch (Ftn), 7.600.

Floor Exercise: 1. Clark (GL), 9.550; 3. Soper (Simu), 9.250; 5. Lasecki (Cntr), 9.100; 6. (tie) Chatterjee (L. Blue), 9.075; 8. McGowan (L. Red), 8.925; 9. 39.775; 5. Lucas (Cntr), 35.150; 6. McGowan (L. Red), 35.025; 8. Diaz (L. Red), 34.725; 10. (tie) Millhoff (Ftn), Ramirez (Simu), 34.700; 14. McGowan (L. Red), 34.000; 16. Zukowski (Cntr), 33.825; 18. Soper (Simu), 33.625; 19. Merlotti (Simu), 33.500.

Whalers let 'Ned' do it

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers had a collective chip on their shoulder and took it out on the Peterborough Petes with 27 shots and three goals in the opening period of Saturday's 4-1 victory at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth's foul mood stemmed from Friday's loss to Sault Ste. Marie, compounded by Whalers' top goaltender Matt Mahalak being knocked out of the lineup after he got run over in the first period of a 6-5 loss.

"I think we felt we deserved a little better last night, probably didn't get the result we felt we should have," Plymouth assistant coach Don Elland said. "And we couldn't afford to give this one up. It's a tight race and we got to win every chance we get, just got to get on a streak."

Mahalak tested negative for a concussion, but he still didn't dress for the game.

No worries for the Whalers, however, as backup Alex Nedeljkovic is playing a strong game. He scored 38 of 39 shots, including all but one out of 28 directed his

OHL HOCKEY

way during the final 40 minutes.

"Right now I'm just trying to grab a hold of the opportunity I was given," said Nedeljkovic, who improved his record to 7-1-1. "Matty got hurt, which was unfortunate, but now I got to step up and perform as the starting goaltender until he gets back."

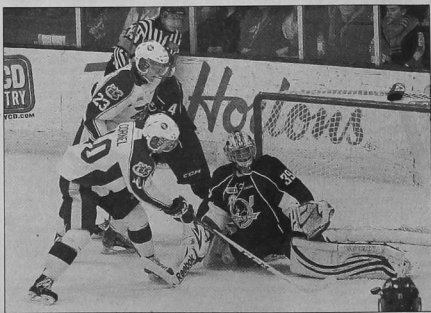
"Definitely my forwards and defensemen really helped out a lot. They were a big part of 38 saves."

By the time Peterborough decided to test Nedeljkovic, however, the Whalers had a commanding 3-0 lead to the delight of nearly 2,700 fans.

On the board

The OHL West Division-leading Whalers (26-15-4, 61 points) needed just 35 seconds following the opening puck drop to take a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto scored on assists from blueliner Nick Malysiak and center Vince Trocheck.

Plymouth kept peppering Petes goalie Michael Giugovaz, and went up 2-



Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (No. 39) makes a kick save Saturday to thwart a scoring bid by Peterborough's Eric Cornel (No. 10). At left is Stephen Pierog (No. 23) of the Petes.

0 at 8:23 on a power-play goal by forward Matt Misteale.

Trocheck whipped a centering pass to Misteale in the low slot and he made no mistake. Also assisting was forward Mitchell Heard.

Before the end of the first, Misteale jammed the puck past Giugovaz for his second of the

night and 25th of the season.

Assisting on the tally were forwards Tom Wilson — back in the lineup after serving an OHL levied suspension — and defenseman Austin Levi.

Elland said Wilson's return was a shot in the arm for the team. "It's huge. When Tom's not in the lineup there's a lot of

brave guys on the other team."

All it took was 41 seconds of the second period for Plymouth to pad the lead to 4-0.

Trocheck earned his third assist of the night on the play. He threaded a pass to Curcuruto who snapped a wrist shot from between the circles inside the right spot.

In 10 games since coming over from Saginaw, Trocheck has been an offensive force with seven goals and 15 assists for 22 points.

A subsequent Peterborough power play fired up the Petes, who started to force the issue around Nedeljkovic.

Good backup plan

But they didn't have much success against the youngster, who turned 17 in early January.

The Petes (16-28-3-4, 39 points) didn't break the shutout until 3:34 of the final period (on their 31st shot) when Nelson Armstrong one-timed a pass from Cody Thompson.

"It was a good confidence boost for him," said Elland about Nedeljkovic. "I think all the guys have confidence in either goalie but Ned played well tonight."

Elland said the Whalers are hopeful that Mahalak will be ready to play next weekend, when they host Barrie and Owen Sound (7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, respectively).

If not, they know they have a pretty good Plan B.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128

Rocks grab share of KLAA South title

Jake Sealy and Alek Zultowski spearheaded Salem's offense Saturday night as the Rocks defeated Livonia Churchill 5-2 to win the KLAA South Division co-championship.

Sealy scored twice and had three assists to figure in all of the Rocks' scoring while Zultowski tallied a goal and two assists.

The victory gave Salem a 10-4-1 record overall and 73-1 mark in the division — tying for first with Plymouth as both

BOYS HOCKEY

Salem have 15 points.

Sealy varsity boys hockey coach Ryan Osennmacher said the two Park squads will officially be co-champions.

But the Rocks won the tie-breaker for seeding purposes in the KLAA tournament.

"I thought we competed well against a good Churchill team," Osennmacher said. "But there were points in the game that we did not match

their energy.

"I think the importance of the game may have led to some tentative play on our part."

The strong play of Salem goalie Parker Godfrey kept the Chargers (8-10-1, 4-6-1) from getting back in the game.

Godfrey stopped 19 of 21 shots and "made some big saves when we needed them," Osennmacher said.

Churchill freshman netminder Alec Calvaruso made 15 saves.

Spartans' goalie stuns CC

By Brad Emons
Observer/Staff Writer

There probably were not enough superlatives to go around regarding the play of goaltender Connor Humitz following Livonia Stevenson's 1-0 hockey win Saturday afternoon over Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

The senior was certainly the straw that stirred the drink as he made 37 saves to propel the Spartans to a signature victory over the host Shamrocks at Compuware Arena.

"He (Humitz) is playing inspired hockey right now," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team improved to 14-5-1 overall. "Any time you have a third-year senior back there, he knows what it takes. He's really stepped up his preparation, you can tell. He's dialed in right now. I'm very proud of him and happy for him."

Humitz was the second-ranked team in Division 1. "I was just thinking — one puck, one shot," Humitz said. "See every shot and cover everything you've got and try holding the puck."

All they needed

Although outshot 29-10 through the first two periods, the Spartans picked up their pace entering the third.

And when CC took a penalty with less than a minute remaining in the second period, Stevenson was able to pounce as Devin Kelly knocked home a rebound shot past CC netminder Ryan Mulka just 28 seconds into the third.

Dominic Lutz, who took the initial shot from the point, drew an assist along with Tyler Irvine to give Stevenson a power play goal.

"It was a simple as getting a puck to the net and getting a rebound," Mitchell said. "I'd like to say I drew it all up, but we just had to get pucks to the net."

Bolstered by the game's first goal, the Spartans appeared to have even more jump in its step during the final 17 minutes as they outshot the Shamrocks 9-8.

"We talked about just working on our process on what we do and how we play," said Mitchell, whose team is ranked in the top 10 in Division 2. "And then if we

get to running around, get out of it and get back to our style. Try to do what we do and focus on what we do."

CC (13-6 overall) couldn't capitalize on its first two power play opportunities, but got one more chance when Stevenson defenseman Travis Harvey was called for holding with 9:52 remaining.

But the Spartans were able to fight off another CC power play effort and held on for the victory during the final 90 seconds after Mulka (18 saves) was pulled for the extra attacker.

"Give Stevenson all the credit in the world," CC coach Todd Johnson said. "They were blocking shots and they were great around the front of their net. They had a good plan through neutral ice to slow us down. They executed and their guys were committed."

Johnson also gave kudos to the Stevenson netminder. "He had a great game."

Afterwards, the Spartans sang the school fight song in the dressing room to celebrate their victory over a highly-acclaimed opponent.

"It means a lot," Humitz said. "They (CC) are a good team. We came in here, played great, it's awesome. It feels good."

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(313) 222-6851

Salem keglers down Rockets

There's one team that seems to have Westland John Glenn's number when it comes to boys bowling.

For the second time this season, Salem knocked off the Rockets in a KLAA Central Division match at Vision Lanes, 18-12. The Rocks also beat Glenn on Jan. 19 at Super Bowl, 19-11.

Tyler Snyder paced Salem with 450 two-game series and the Rocks (13-2, 9-2) pulled even with Glenn (13-2, 9-2) for the division lead.

Glenn quipped a chance to seal the match victory after taking a 10-0 lead in the Baker games.

"We struck out in the 10th frame putting the pressure on their anchor," Glenn coach Ron Staples said.

But Salem's Kevin Williams was up to the task as he struck out to give the Rocks a 10-pin total of 1,013 to 1,003 to close the gap to 10-7.

"That was the turning point," Staples said. "We had a chance to win the

match early and did not. We left the door cracked and Salem kicked it open."

"They (Salem) bowled very well in the second game and we never had a chance to clinch the match."

Steven White paced Glenn with a 411 two-game set.

"If there is such a thing as a good loss, this might be it," Staples said. "We have had things easy for the past few weeks and this will help us to really focus for the conference and regional."

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for **Medical and Prescription Drug, Dental, Vision, Stoploss Carve Out Coverage (duplicate current coverage), Flexible Spending Account Administration and COBRA Administration**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Matt Duprey, Account Coordinator, Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. at (248) 430-2789 or matthew.duprey@gbg.com. Technical questions should also be directed to Matt Duprey. Sealed proposals are due to the PCS - E-J McElendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI on or before 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 22, 2013. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Adrienne Davis, Secretary

Publish: February 7, 2013

APR0709 - 342

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on Monday, February 18th, 2013 at 9:30 A.M. at the Extra Space Storage facility located at:

6729 N. Canton Center Rd.
Canton, Michigan 48187
(734) 459-4821

The personal goods stored herein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothing, and appliances.

I338 LeAnn Decker (a.k.a. Leann Decker)
D128 Brad Rigoni

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Publish: January 31 & February 7th, 2013

APR0709 - 342

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on February 18th, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: 38875 Grand River Ave Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of the sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

The personal goods stored herein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothing, and appliances.

Farmington Hills:	Unit #	No description on lease
Luther W Glenn	A2	
Miguel West	D221	Household furniture
Miguel West	D265	Household furniture
Miguel West	D350	Household furniture
Edith Falls	B27	Household
Shawnya Walker	B63	Clothes, furniture, tools, small appliances, and more.
Jacelyn Rockey	C227	Household items
Melvin Steed	A44	Household items
Julie Christine	D6	General household items
E-Enterprises LLC	A56	General household items

Publish: January 31, 2013

APR0709 - 342

Church plans effective parenting workshop

The Mariam Center at St. Mary Orthodox Church will offer a parenting seminar 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at the church, located at 1800 Merriman, Livonia.

Registration is \$10 and is available at saintmarylivonia.com. The cost includes lunch.

Guest speaker will be Dr. John Chirban, clinical instructor in psychology at

Harvard Medical School at The Cambridge Health Alliance. Chirban has a special interest in integrative studies of medicine, psychology and religion and was named Senior Fellow at the Center

for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University in 2003. He also serves as professor of psychology and chairman of the Human Development Program at Hellenic College.

He has authored several books and will sign copies at the conclusion of his lecture. For more information, call the Rev. Jim King at (734) 422-0010.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Darpage at sdarpage@hometownlife.com.

February

BREAKFAST
Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Sunday, Feb. 17
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All you can eat pancake and French toast breakfast with ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice and milk. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10.

Contact: (734) 425-4421

CONFERENCE
Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10
Location: Sacred Heart Banquet & Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, east of Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Christian concert for children starring Rob Evans, "The Donut Man," and the sidekick, Duncan, the musician is nationally known for Bible story-songs. Admission is \$5 per person; kids, 3 and under are admitted free.

Contact: Rev. Joseph Marqu, Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, at (734) 522-3166

DINNER DANCE
Time/Date: 6:11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: This Valentine's Day event will include a sit down dinner, DJ and dancing, and photo booth for special memories. Tickets are \$35 per couple or \$20 per person.

Contact: (248) 553-3380

DIVORCE SUPPORT
Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14
Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Junior High Commons, 1062 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: New Beginnings support group for divorced Catholics, holds its next monthly meeting which will include a talk by the Rev. Ben Luedtke. Participants also will meet in small group discussions, giving them the opportunity to discuss issues related to divorce and faith in a safe, confidential, and prayerful environment. Pre-registration for this event is recommended and free of charge.

Contact: newbeginnings-solc@gmail.com

FILM
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 20
Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway

Details: Reel Events Film Series features "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North." The film follows the descendants of the DeWolff family as they retrace the triangle of the slave trade from Ghana, to Cuba, to Rhode Island. Admission is free.

GRIEF SUPPORT
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13 and Feb. 20

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: The church and L.J. Griffin Funeral Homes present "Grieving with Great Hope," a five-week grief support series that offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for people who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Presenters will include the Rev. Bill Tindall as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry.

Contact: St. Michael's at (734) 261-4455 or www.goodmourningministry.net

LECTURE
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11
Location: The Berman Center for Performing Arts, on the campus of the Jewish Community Center of De-

troit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, columnist and author of "The Fed-up Man of Faith," argues against Rabbi Harold Kushner's best-selling "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People" and boldly guides listeners to the conclusion that challenging God and his actions is not just a right but also a foremost obligation for human beings. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Contact: (248) 661-1900 or www.theberman.org

LENTEN SERVICE
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13-March 20
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Free soup and sandwich supper served at 6 p.m. before the Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 13 and free treats after the other services. The theme is "Names of Wondrous Love."

Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

OPEN HOUSE
Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24
Location: St. Damian Catholic School, 28992 Joy, Westland

Details: Take a guided tour of the school, which includes preschool-eighth grades, meet the staff members who will be available to answer questions/concerns and have conversation with other parents and students. St. Damian has interactive Smartboards in every classroom, Apple iPads and a technology lab. St. Damian offers latchkey programming, CVO sports, foreign language, music, computers, art, and physical education with more than 3 acres of outdoor sports fields. Bus transportation is available for Livonia residents and Westland residents within the Livonia School District.

Contact: (734) 427-1680; www.stdamian.com

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • eoebits@hometownlife.com

Deadlines Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



KIRKMAN, DORIS R.

February 3, 2013, age 95. Loving wife of the late Ernest. Cherished mother of Robert (Patience), the late Kenneth (Michelle) and Donna (Terry) Cheney. Beloved grandmother of 9 and great-grandmother of 12. Visitation Thursday 3-5 & 6-8:30 p.m. at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Funeral Service Friday 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



ATKINS, MARY ADA

Passed away on February 2, of natural causes. She was born on June 29, 1929 in Mayfield, Kentucky. She moved to Michigan in 1946, and married Herman Adams in 1952. After he enlisted in the U.S. Navy they lived in Key West, settling in Livonia in 1956. She was a long time member of Livonia Baptist Church.

For years Mary volunteered at the Baptist Center in downtown Detroit and Andromeda Nursing Home in Livonia. She enjoyed quilting and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Herman. She leaves behind her children: Dennis (Gail), Donald (Pam), Lynn (Walt), Dwayne (Pat), and Diann (Dan). Twelve grandchildren: Brian, Laura (Aaron), Chad, Cody, Jeremy, Jordan, Emma, Drew, Joshua, Ashley, Chris, and Alysa. Great-grandmother of Orion. Services were held at Fred Wood Funeral Home Rice Chapel, Livonia. Memorial Donations may be made to Angelia Hospital Development Office, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154.

Please share memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

STEVENS, HOLIS

Age 59, February 2, 2013. Dear father of Dale and Paul. Finance Joanne Bryant. Grandfather of Damon, Layla, Felicity and Skylar. Brother of Sharon Ketter, Paulette (Bob) Sharon. Retired from General Motors and from the Garden City Police Reserve Unit and member of the Forbidden Wheels. Funeral services were held at the John N. Santeu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill), Garden City.

www.santeufuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

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The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 95.0 AM

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Tuesdays: 8:00 P.M.
Website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

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774 North Sheldon Road
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• www.friendsofunity.org
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Flowers, Potpourri, Licensed Youth Pastor
734-454-0015

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www.christoursavior.org
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Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
hursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

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Open Holy Communion at all services

For Information

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Shakespeare to choral music

Laugh, cry, sing at local theaters this month

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

It doesn't matter if you love Shakespeare or hate Shakespeare, Sharon McNutt says she has the perfect play for you.

"You don't have to know anything about Shakespeare to have a blast with this," said McNutt, who is directing *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* for Spotlight Players in Canton.

The comedy is among a variety of productions opening at local community theaters over the next two weeks. Barefoot Productions in Plymouth offers a romance in time for Valentine's Day; Farmington Players plans a drama starting Feb. 15; Inspire Theatre in Westland mixes the wild west and an interactive murder mystery at a dinner theater show this weekend; and Paul's Players in Livonia offers a vocal music show for its winter fundraiser.

Spotlight Players' show brings a bit of everything — comedy, drama, tragedy, history, improvisation — to the stage in a wacky look at all of Shakespeare's works.

McNutt, a former actress who teaches drama at Canton High School, expanded the original three-man cast to eight players, creating an ensemble that includes both men and women, in ages that range from 19-50.

"I love ensemble work where you don't have a star. Everyone shines and it's very collaborative," she said. "I love true collaboration and that's what drew me."

McNutt describes the comedy as "a fast-paced zany romp" with improvised moments, local references and audience interaction, with Shakespeare's plays interpreted through various art forms. All of his comedies are performed with in a single monologue, for example, *Othello* is turned into a two-min-



Fifth Season will sing at a fundraiser for Paul's Players in Livonia.

ute rap song and *Titus Andronicus* becomes a cooking show segment.

"There's a lot of dying and tons of props and pulling people on stage. You could see this show in 100 different cities and have 100 different performances because the audiences would be different and their responses would be different."

"You have a script and the script is memorized but it's open for improvisational moments. It's not an improvised show, but there are bits and pieces scattered throughout where you can make current and local references."

In Plymouth

Barefoot Production's upcoming production of *Kind Sir* is more nostalgic with a slight edge than contemporary and provocative, according to Mary Tablac, Barefoot head of marketing and development. It tells the story of a commitment shy diplomat and is set in high-society, 1950s New York.



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) interprets "Titus Andronicus" as a cooking show and turns his other works upside down. Spotlight Players perform the wacky show beginning Feb. 15 in Canton.

"It's a sophisticated show, but there's a lot of sharp humor. The show premiered on Broadway in 1951, so you see a lot of that screwball comedy vibe, where all the characters lob quick little bon mots at each other; they're all very clever people," Tablac wrote in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "Both of the lead characters are jealous and a little needy, but they don't want to let the other person know that. Maureen Paraventi (playing Jane Kimball) and Adam Weakley (Philip-Clair) play them as people who've been around the block a few times, but then this moody teenager side comes out when either one thinks they have a romantic rival."

Chris Steves of Woodhaven, David Alexander of Redford, and Eric Bloch and Linda McCallister, both of Ann Arbor, round out the cast.

Stevens, also a costumer, has an eye for period detail, Tablac noted. That helps recreate shows like *Kind Sir*, with accuracy. Appropriate props also round out the setting.

"We do have a fairly thorough — for lack of a better word — props room, but we're always on the lookout for hard-to-find pieces. Having worked as the props master in the past, I usually scour antique malls and estate sales. My favorites are Town & Country in Livonia and RedPurpose in Westland," Tablac said. "Thankfully, Beth Duey is



Adam Weakley of Whitmore Lake and Maureen Paraventi of Redford take on the lead roles in "Kind Sir," opening Feb. 14 at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

taking time from her normal duties as props curator from Tipping Point Theatre in Northville to help us source items for this show, particularly the dozens of red and yellow roses Jane receives from her suitors."

All music

Paul's Players' upcoming show is pure nostalgia — with a tuncful twist.

Jerry Smith, who developed the choral program at Bentley High School in Livonia, and then went on to create the Creative and Performing Arts Program (CAPA) at Churchill High School, will perform a benefit show for the Players' with his family and friends.

"We have known each other for a lot of years. My son was in his choir. Jerry helped me get a job in Livonia," said Pat Hutchison, Paul's Players director and a retired Livonia teacher. "My first theater job was at Bentley. His daughter was my accompanist for one of the musicals there and his other daughter was a student."

Smith's daughter, Kimberly Swan, is among the performers in the show that also features Smith and his wife, Sharon, on piano; The Artists' Ensemble, a group Smith developed while at Tynedale College; and Fifth Season, a women's vocal ensemble directed by Sharon Smith.

Swan will sing operatic vignettes with students from her vocal studio. Fifth Season and The Artists' Ensemble will perform various kinds of chorale music.

"It's a very different kind of program. What I like about it is that it's so eclectic," Hutchison said.

A dessert buffet and coffee bar follows each concert, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. Admission is \$10.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) opens at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 and runs at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 16 and 23. Matinees are at 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 24. *Kind Sir* opens Thurs-

day, Feb. 14 and runs at 2 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, through Feb. 24 at the Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. Tickets are \$16 general audience and \$14 for students and seniors. Call (734) 560-1493; www.justgobarefoot.com.

Other shows

• Inspire Theatre presents *Silver City*, an interactive murder mystery dinner theater by Anne and Christopher Mara. Audience members may dress in costume to blend into the "old west" as they dine and kick back at The Red Hat Saloon, while helping a cast of crazy characters solve a mystery. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 8-9 and 15-16, at 33445 Warren Road, Westland. Dinner and show tickets are \$35. Advanced ticket sales only at (734) 751-7057; inspiretheatre.com

• Farmington Players presents *Rabbit Hole*, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 15-March 2 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 and 24, at the Barn Theatre, 23232 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. The drama looks at a couple as they try to put their lives together after their son's accidental death. Tickets are \$14 and \$16. Call (248) 553-2955 or visit farmingtonplayers.org.

• Two Muses Theater will donate a portion of proceeds from its children's show, *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?*, to Starfish Family Services. The show runs 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, 16, 23; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, 17, 24, in the theater inside Barnes & Noble, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. The show is a combination of *The Three Little Pigs* and *Little Red Riding Hood*, with the big bad wolf stuck between the two stories. Each performance includes other child-friendly activities, a raffle drawing and post-performance autograph sessions during which parents will have the opportunity to take their children's pictures with the characters. Advance tickets are \$10 and \$8 for children, 3-10. No babes in arms or children under 3. Tickets at the door are an additional \$2. Call (248) 850-9919.

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Farmington Players presents the drama "Rabbit Hole" beginning Feb. 15. Performers include Cynthia Tupper (left) of Farmington Hills, Kelly Voigt of Farmington, Laurel Stroud of Redford Township and Jay McNeil of West Bloomfield.



Members of the Harmonytown Chorus surprise a singing valentine recipient last year. The singers are Dan Latimer, (left, back row), Frank Adams, Howard Goldman, Mark Pritchard, Tony Pyrkosz, (left front row) and Bruce Jonasz.

Send your sweetie a harmonious valentine

The Harmonytown Chorus is on a mission to spread a little love this Valentine's Day.

The group will deliver singing valentines Thursday, Feb. 14 as it has for the past 12 Valentine's Days. Recipients will receive two heart-felt, harmonious songs, a rose and a personalized card. The sender chooses the location and delivery

time when making the appointment. Cost is \$40.

The singers will travel to Plymouth, Livonia, Canton, Novi, Northville, Westland, Garden City, Inkster, Farmington Hills and surrounding areas to deliver singing valentines.

Call (734) 743-1764 or visit wesingbarbershop.com to make arrangements.

GET OUT!

Arts Crafts

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Hidden Treasures: An Experiment in through March 3; Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs: Then and Now, through June 16; Shirin Ne-shat, includes eight video installations and two series of photos, April 7-July 7

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

GALLERY 6V7

Time/Dates: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, Feb. 1-24

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Mixed media by Sabrina Nelson

Contact: (734) 394-5308

LIBERTY STREET BREW PUB

Time/Dates: Artist reception, 5-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8; exhibit through March 30; pub hours are 3 p.m.-midnight, Monday-Thursday, 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday, and noon-midnight, Sunday

Location: 149 W. Liberty St., Plymouth; Upper Hall Gallery

Details: Second annual group show by Art Circle Six. This year's show features the artist challenge "Icons, Myths and Legends"

Contact: (734) 207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Dates: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 23

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: 7th Annual Member Exhibition is an all-media, non-juried show

Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Dates: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through February, artist reception, poster print sale and signing, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Rock music poster graphic design from Gary Grisham, former artist at the Grande Ballroom, will be on display along with poster works by artists for the San Francisco Band, Moonalice. Proceeds from sale of the Moonalice poster will go toward PCAC programming

Contact: (734) 416-4278

Film

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Feb. 19

Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, UCC, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills

Details: "Carbon Nation" is a documentary about climate change and what the world needs to do to slow it down. Admission is free

Contact: cbucc.org

MAPLE THEATRE

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7

Location: 4136 Maple, west of Telegraph, Bloomfield Township

Details: Meet seven survivors of profound loss in the documentary, "Transforming Loss," by Judith Burdick, licensed psychotherapist. Learn what the human spirit is capable of in times of trauma and tragedy. Burdick will be on hand for the premiere of her new film. The screening is sponsored by Temple Beth El. Tickets are free and available by pre-registering online at www.transforminglossdocumentary.com. Click on the "register" tab

Contact: (248) 808-5569

PENN THEATRE

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7 and 14, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 8, 9, and 10 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Life of Pi," \$3

Contact: (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Dates: 8 p.m. Feb. 8, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 9

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: "Pillow Talk," \$4

Contact: (313) 537-2560, www.redfordtheatre.com

Music

10 NORTH BAR & GRILLE

Time/Dates: 9 p.m. to approximately 1 a.m.

Location: 24555 Novi Road, Novi

Details: Free live music series with The Party, 80s cover band, Feb. 8; Soul Hustler, Motown, classic covers and current hits, Feb. 16. All ages welcome. Food and drink specials all night long

Contact: (248) 365-4270, 10northbar.com

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Dates: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month

Location: The MWN Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSPresident@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869



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Bring a taste of New Orleans to your table at Mardi Gras

It's time to don colorful beads, a costume and celebrate Mardi Gras. Feb. 12 marks "Fat Tuesday," the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

In New Orleans, La., revelers will mark the end of the carnival season Tuesday with Mardi Gras masks, costumes, beads and elaborate parades. In Cajun country masked participants on horseback, foot or trailer go from house to house singing and dancing for the owners, while begging for ingredients for a communal gumbo.

What brings both city and country celebrations together is hearty party food. Try a gumbo or jambalaya for your own weekend Mardi Gras party and don't forget the traditional King Cake with the doll tucked inside.

For more Mardi Gras recipes visit

Spicy Grilled Shrimp Skewers with Creole Mustard Dipping Sauce

Makes 6 servings

Creole Mustard Dipping Sauce:

- 1 cup Creole mustard or stone-ground mustard
- 1 tablespoon orange marmalade
- 2 teaspoons Tabasco Original Red Sauce

Skewers:

- 2 bunches scallions
 - 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
 - 1 pound andouille sausage
 - 2 tablespoons Tabasco Original Red Sauce
- Soak skewers completely in water at least 30 minutes.

Combine mustard, orange marmalade and Tabasco Sauce in small bowl. Set aside.

Preheat grill or broiler.

Divide scallions into individual strips. Blanch strips in boiling water for 30 seconds. Drain skewers.

Thread 2 shrimp and 1 sausage slice onto each skewer, twisting a scallion strip around each skewer. Repeat with remaining skewers, shrimp, sausage and scallions. Broil skewers with Tabasco Sauce.

Place skewers on grill. Grill 5 to 8 minutes, turning once until shrimp are cooked through.

Eula Mae's Sausage and Shrimp Gumbo

Makes 8 servings

Recipe from "Eula Mae's Cajun Kitchen Cookbook"

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 pound andouille (or other spicy smoked sausage), cut crosswise into 1-inch-thick slices
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chopped yellow onions
- 1 cup seeded and chopped green bell peppers
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups sliced fresh okra or one (10-ounce) package frozen sliced okra, thawed

- 1 teaspoon salt, or more to taste
- 1 teaspoon cayenne, or more to taste
- 1 teaspoon Tabasco Original Red Sauce
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 pound medium-size shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 cup chopped green onions (green part only)
- Hot cooked long-grain white rice

Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and cook, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes. Remove the sausage with a slotted spoon and set aside. Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in the flour and



cook, stirring constantly, until the roux is light brown, about 2 minutes. Add the onions, bell peppers, and garlic, and cook, stirring frequently, until soft, about 5 minutes. Gradually stir in the broth and blend until smooth. Bring to a boil. Add the sausage, okra, salt, cayenne, Tabasco Sauce, and bay leaves, reduce the heat to medium-low, and simmer for 20 minutes.

Stir in the shrimp and green onions and simmer until the shrimp turn pink, about 5 minutes. Remove the bay leaves and serve in soup bowls over rice.

Buffalo Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya

Makes 12 to 14 servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pounds andouille sausage, cut into 1/2-inch-thick rounds
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs or breasts, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

- 1 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper, divided
- 2 large bell peppers, seeded and chopped (about 4 cups)
- 5 ribs celery, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 3 onions, chopped (about 3 1/2 cups)
- 2 jalapeños, seeded and chopped
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons Tabasco Buffalo Style Hot Sauce, divided
- 4 dried bay leaves
- 3 (14.5-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- 3 cups long-grain rice
- 6 cups chicken stock

Heat a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add olive oil and heat 30 seconds. Add sausage and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned, about 5 minutes. Transfer sausage to a large bowl. Add chicken, sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon of

the salt and 1/2 teaspoon of the pepper, and cook and stir until just cooked through, about 5 minutes. Transfer chicken to the bowl with the sausage.

Add bell peppers, celery, onion, jalapeño and remaining salt and pepper to Dutch oven, and cook over medium-high heat until vegetables start to soften, about 8 minutes. Add garlic and 2 tablespoons of the Tabasco Buffalo Style Sauce to the pan and cook 3 minutes more. Return the meat mixture to the pan. Add bay leaves and tomatoes and cook and stir, about 5 minutes. At this stage the mixture can be refrigerated for several hours or overnight.

When ready to proceed, heat meat mixture over medium-high heat. Stir rice into hot meat mixture and cook 3 minutes. Add the stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes. Stir in remaining 2 tablespoons Tabasco Buffalo Style Sauce and let sit covered for 10 minutes.

Local residents look up winning party food recipes

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Kristin Dolmetsch of Northville scored a first place win for her taco and hot sauce creation in the Joe's Produce "Super Recipe Contest." "It combined my two favorite things, food and football," said Dolmetsch, in an e-mail to the Observer. "I'm an avid cook and love sharing my recipes."

The contest challenged cooks to create an appetizer, side dish, main entree or dessert appropriate for a Super Bowl party.

Dolmetsch prepared her winning tacos in a cooking segment with Jay Towers on Fox-2 and won a \$50 gift card to Joe's Produce, a gourmet and produce market in Livonia.

Second place winner and recipient of a deli tray certificate was Valada Sargent of Farmington Hills for her shredded chicken and corn cakes.

Third prize, of a \$25 gift certificate, went to Michelle Voineag of Northville Township for her chili.

Dolmetsch, who writes a food blog called "Dolo's Kitchen," said she figured the contest would be fun and would give her an opportunity to share the recipe beyond her blog if she won.

"It was a lot of fun getting to share one of my favorite taco recipes. I hope others find them just as delicious as I do," she said.

What sets her Chorizo Street Tacos apart from others?

"These tacos are simple Mexican street food. They aren't masked by sour cream, cheese, and other guilty pleasures. The ingredients are really able to shine. They're quick, spicy, smoky, and fresh. I make these at least

once a month, if not more. They are definitely in my dinner rotation, they're so easy, it's nice to have in your back pocket when you want something quick and delicious."

Dolmetsch is engaged and plans to tie the knot this July. "Not sure what we are more excited about, being married or Joe's Produce catering our wedding."

Sargent said she was pleased that the market sponsored a recipe contest.

"This was my first recipe contest, but it won't be my last. Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined entering a recipe contest. It was fun to get out of my comfort zone and do something different. I'm no chef or professional, but I really do enjoy cooking fresh and healthy food."

She entered her recipe for Duper Super Shredded Chicken and Corn Cakes because the food is filling, tasty and easy to make.

Voineag, owner of Super-Slow Zone, a health and exercise franchise in Northville, hoped her Super Bowl Super Black Bean Chili would appeal to her clients, but also be versatile enough to serve to anyone. Voineag said the recipe makes use of produce from Joe's, is easy to make and a healthful dining choice.

"I never entered a contest before. I love to cook new and healthy creations but I usually do not write them down. I had to make a test batch and carefully keep track of the ingredients," she said. "On Sundays I like to spend time eating healthier versions of tasty dishes. I share recipes and food with my clients and they have been begging for more and encouraging me to write a cookbook."

Chorizo Street Tacos with Chipotle Hot Sauce

By Kristin Dolmetsch, first place winner
Makes about 20 tacos

Tacos:

- 1 pound of Joe's Produce Housemade Ground Chorizo
- 1/2 white onion, minced
- 1 cup of cilantro, chopped
- Juice of 1 lime
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 20 corn tortillas
- 1 teaspoon corn or vegetable oil
- Chipotle Hot Sauce (recipe below)

1. Brown chorizo in a skillet over medium high until browned and cooked throughout (about 10 minutes). Turn heat down to low to keep warm until you are ready to assemble your tacos.

2. In a small separate bowl, combine onion, cilantro and lime

3. Mix onion/cilantro mixture until well-incorporated and season with salt/pepper to taste. Set aside until ready for taco assembly.

4. To heat tortillas, place corn/vegetable oil in a non-stick skillet and heat over medium-low heat.

5. Place 1 tortilla in the skillet 1 minute on each side until warm and soft. Repeat until all tortillas are heated adding extra oil if the skillet gets too dry.

6. To assemble the tacos, place chorizo in warm tortilla, top with onion/cilantro mixture, squeeze chipotle hot sauce.

7. Devour!

Chipotle Hot Sauce

- 3-4 Chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
- 1 large beefsteak tomato sliced in half
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and left whole
- 1 large, white onion
- 1/2 cup of water

Salt to taste

1. Place all ingredients in a small saucepan over medium heat.

2. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes until soft, stirring occasionally.

3. Place saucepan contents into a blender or food processor.

Blend until smooth.

5. Set aside to cool.

6. Store hot sauce in air-tight Tupperware container or plastic bottle for up to two weeks. Great on just about everything!

Duper Super Shredded Chicken and Corn Cakes

By Valada Sargent, second place winner
Yields: About one dozen small chicken corn cakes

- 2 cups cooked OR rotisserie chicken breast, shredded
- 1 teaspoon diced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup salsa (I recommend Michigan-made "Chuck and Dave's Sweet Onion Salsa" — yummy!)
- 1 cup fresh corn from the cob
- 1 cup diced tomatoes with green chiles
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup cornmeal

Preheat oven to 350°F. Thoroughly mix eggs and cornmeal. Combine all other ingredients with egg/meal. Use an ice cream scoop to place mixture in greased muffin pan. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Top with a dollop of chilled salsa, serve hot and enjoy.

Super Bowl Super Black Bean Chili

By Michelle Voineag, third place winner
This recipe is inspired by my recent trip to Joe's Produce.

- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 yellow bell peppers, chopped
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 15-ounce cans black beans, rinsed & well drained
- 1 can tomato with green chiles
- 1 can tomato with roasted garlic & onion
- 2 cups low salt tomato juice

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium high heat. Add the chopped onion, pepper, cumin and salt. Sauté until onion & peppers are soft, approximately 10 minutes. Add all other ingredients, bring to a boil and then reduce heat to medium and cook for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove approximately half of the chili and place in blender or food processor. Blend and return to pot. Can be made in advance; refrigerate, then reheat.

Serving options: Eat a bowl of chili, as is, or add toppings such as chopped tomato, chopped onion, chopped jalapeño peppers, cheddar cheese. Also great with corn chips or on a hot dog or a Not Dog.

REAL ESTATE

Housing affordability favors Midwest, including the Detroit region

With 11 months of data reported, 2012 will clearly go down as a record year for favorable housing affordability conditions, and a great year for buyers who could get a mortgage, according to the National Association of Realtors.

NAR's national Housing Affordability Index stood at 198.2 in November, based on the relationship between median home price, median family income and average mortgage interest rate. The higher the index, the greater the household purchasing power, record-keeping began in 1970.

An index of 100 is defined as the level where a median-income household has exactly enough income to qualify for the purchase of a median-priced existing single-family home, assuming a 20 percent down payment and 25 percent of gross income devoted to mortgage principal and interest payments. For first-time buyers making small down payments, the affordability levels are relatively lower.

For all of 2012, NAR projects the housing affordability index to be a record high 194, up from 186 in 2011, which was the previous record. November's reading was 2.5 index points below October, but up 1.5 index points from a year earlier.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said home buyers are able to stay well within their budgets. "Although 2012 was the highest on record, the excessively tight underwriting precluded many would-be homebuyers from locking-in generational low interest rates," he said. "Rising home prices



and a gradual uptrend in mortgage interest rates will offset set improvements in family income, but 2013 likely will be the third best on record in terms of household buying power. A window of opportunity remains open for buyers who can qualify for a mortgage."

Tony Schippa, Coldwell Banker Preferred of Plymouth Realtor and past president of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, said, "I think because the market is turning around, people are employed. I think people are realizing now is the time to go out and buy a house."

"Right now, we have a shortage of inventory," Plymouth resident Schippa said. He cited a condo in Northville at \$130,000 that sold recently within 48 hours.

"Even in the \$300, \$400s, you're getting multiple offers. I think you're going to continue to see that grow."

Schippa thinks interest rates on home loans may rise. "As we know, things don't stay low



forever, unfortunately. Now is definitely a good time to get in the market and get yourself a home."

It's also been Schippa's experience that the Midwest is traditionally more affordable than the East and West Coasts. "The Midwest is kind of a more stable market. I think you have more transients on the coasts."

"We were the first ones to go down with the manufacturing jobs going away, a few years ago. The Upper Peninsula, even during recent down times, 'they have a more stable economy with so many jobs relying on the auto industry. They still kept pretty steady numbers.'"

The shortage of housing inventory has impacted both sellers and buyers, Schippa said. "Offering 80 cents on the dollar isn't working anymore." Some buyers who fear appraisal issues, and are willing to pay. "We will continue to move forward," he said of Michigan's economy. Realtors and their Political Action Committee are contributing to the business cli-

mate in Michigan, Schippa added.

NAR projects the housing affordability index to average 160 during 2013, which means on a national basis that a median-income family would have 160 percent of the income needed to purchase a median-priced existing single-family home. Conditions vary widely, with the highest buying power in the Midwest. Even in the West, where the regional index is lower, they typically family is well positioned in most markets.

NAR President Gary Thomas, a broker-owner of Evergreen Realty in Villa Park, Calif., said the minor erosion in affordability conditions moving forward could be mitigated by bank and regulatory policies.

"Clearer rules from the government regarding future lawsuits and buybacks of Fannie and Freddie loans could encourage banks to use their massive cash holdings to originate more loans," he said.

"A more sensible lending environment that makes it easier for other financially qualified buyers to get a mortgage would allow many more households to enter the market, boosting home sales as much as 10 to 15 percent," Thomas said.

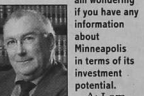
The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing one million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Downtown Minneapolis on the grow

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I am in the commercial real estate business with respect to large skyscrapers. I am wondering



Robert Meisner

if you have any information about Minneapolis in terms of its investment potential. A: I am advised that a major California real estate company has invested over \$200 million dollars in buying a 50-story tower in downtown Minneapolis. Basically, most of the buildings in the downtown area are occupied by the high 90 percent being a secondary market. Minneapolis, based upon my recent analysis and visit, is thriving in the downtown area, particularly, because of the Target Center. It may well be a growing commercial center for the rapid transit.

Q: I am finding it difficult to find a good Realtor who is willing to give me the time I need to look at various homes in the community in which I strive to live. Do you have any recommendations on how we can find a good Realtor?

A: Like finding a good lawyer, the best way to find a good Realtor is by word of mouth from someone who has had an opportunity to work with that Realtor. Of course, not everyone gets along with everyone else, and that is not an absolute guarantee. Obviously, the major firms have websites that provide the credentials for their real estate agents. You are best advised to have a real estate broker, who is affiliated with a company that has a good track record of accomplishment and does not have any complaints filed against it with the state regulatory body. In any event, when you find a prospective Realtor, you should ask for references from that Realtor in order to check their experience and ability to give you the service to which you are entitled.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium 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. He can be reached at (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 8-12, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
4973 Beckley Dr	\$182,000
62372 Belleauwood Ct	\$165,000
6607 Burnham Dr	\$160,000
7797 Christopher Rd	\$150,000
7638 Corbin Dr	\$176,000
44974 Danbury Rd	\$258,000
5150 Elmhurst St	\$205,000
408 Elmington Ct	\$431,000
2134 Fairway Cir	\$158,000
44804 Forest Trail Dr	\$195,000
47377 Fredericksburg St	\$121,000
42339 Glenview Ct	\$200,000
4918 Harold Ln	\$81,000
1149 Heatherlea Ct	\$30,000
1355 Hendrie	\$297,000
7393 Hillboro Dr	\$160,000
6648 Kennesaw Rd	\$410,000
46453 Kilmeary Ct	\$180,000
50336 Lawndome Rd	\$77,000
142 Madison Ct	\$421,000
41500 Metairie Dr	\$177,000
272 Nassau Ct	\$216,000
49061 Northampton Ct	\$445,000
1712 Nowland Ct	\$196,000
5901 Oakwood Ave	\$29,000
1606 Peninsula St	\$174,000
4642 Pond Run	\$202,000
1100 Ransom Dr	\$140,000
42161 Saratoga Cir	\$145,000
44237 Southampton Dr	\$140,000
2918 Stanton St	\$235,000

43509 W Arbor Way Dr	\$60,000
48650 Wildrose Dr	\$395,000
GARDEN CITY	
29133 Alvin St	\$100,000
27559 Cambridge St	\$15,000
30423 Dawson St	\$160,000
6411 Golfview St	\$100,000
5434 Helen St	\$40,000
7031 Helen St	\$55,000
7188 Middlebelt Rd	\$274,000
28515 Pardo St	\$260,000
3253 Kossly Ave	\$72,000
31133 Sheridan St	\$39,000
32527 Sheridan St	\$41,000
LIVONIA	
32456 Barkle St	\$126,000
11405 Cranston St	\$145,000
35200 Fairway	\$350,000
36380 Fairway Dr	\$300,000
18234 Farmington Rd	\$56,000
18939 Flamingo Blvd	\$145,000
14087 Golfview St	\$125,000
11025 Ingram St	\$139,000
18646 Irving St	\$136,000
18973 Irving St	\$125,000
37937 Jansen St	\$92,000
11408 Melrose St	\$155,000
19631 Melvin St	\$110,000
37524 N Laurel Park Dr	\$110,000
37553 Newburg Park Dr	\$198,000
37654 Northfield Ave	\$220,000
35416 Northington Dr	\$230,000
34334 Orangewood Ln	\$144,000
39129 Parkview Dr	\$108,000
20054 Parkville St	\$49,000
11104 Springwood Dr	\$110,000
29615 Ravine Dr	\$172,000
20265 Rensselaer St	\$13,000
39320 Ross St	\$125,000
3511 W Hickory Grove Rd #12	\$108,000
37255 Seabrook Dr	\$330,000
18486 Southampton St	\$272,000

14243 Sunset St	\$111,000
11346 Sunset St	\$132,000
18059 University Park Dr	\$60,000
9049 W Deborah Ct	\$129,000
32488 Washington St	\$130,000
19972 Weyher St	\$84,000
9918 Woodring St	\$65,000
NORTHVILLE	
18871 Bayberry Way	\$498,000
48252 Binghamton Ct	\$550,000
44406 Broadmoor Blvd	\$453,000
44420 Broadmoor Blvd	\$463,000
44426 Broadmoor Blvd	\$466,000
16148 Crystal Downs E	\$514,000
46543 Crystal Downs W	\$493,000
19373 Crystal Lake Dr	\$85,000
39571 Dun Rovin Dr	\$265,000
18059 University Park Dr	\$129,000
735 Grandview Dr	\$456,000
16093 Homestead Cir	\$340,000
16295 Horseshoe Dr	\$427,000
19548 Mann Ct	\$30,000
46277 Marwood Dr	\$477,000
16406 Mulberry Way	\$277,000
41882 Pon Meadow Dr	\$296,000
15361 Prestwick Cir N	\$477,000
43587 Prestwick Cir S	\$474,000
516 Spring Dr	\$189,000
327 Saint Lawrence Blvd	\$225,000
20330 Spry Ln	\$800,000
41899 Waterfall Rd	\$287,000
16147 Westminster Dr	\$273,000
PLYMOUTH	
11524 Aspen Dr	\$142,000
11344 Bellwood Dr	\$315,000
6931 Bluebonnet Dr	\$285,000
44763 Charnwood Dr	\$299,000
48080 Colony Farms Cir	\$132,000
14805 Fairbrook Dr	\$179,000
41059 Greenbrook Ln	\$153,000
13433 Hidden Creek Dr	\$254,000

40164 Newport Dr	\$68,000
40852 Newport Dr	\$68,000
9280 Northern Ave	\$135,000
9275 Tavistock Dr	\$103,000
REDFORD	
18383 Beech Daly Rd	\$37,000
18636 Brady	\$10,000
14242 Breakfast Dr	\$147,000
12073 Columbia	\$47,000
11355 Crosley	\$89,000
25251 E Deborah	\$70,000
17324 Garfield	\$18,000
20407 Garfield	\$26,000
20039 Indian	\$70,000
19296 Inkster Rd	\$15,000
12111 Mason Dr	\$145,000
16025 Neagauze	\$36,000
13243 Northwood	\$47,000
1514 Salem Ct	\$46,000
25457 Westgate Dr	\$40,000
WESTLAND	
33007 Akron St	\$5,000
30492 Birchwood St	\$60,000
31025 Fernwood Dr	\$30,000
8273 Bristol St	\$35,000
34870 Fairchild St	\$48,000
31025 Fernwood Dr	\$30,000
32240 Harvard St	\$41,000
85389 Hunter Ave	\$42,000
32341 Liberty Blvd	\$22,000
7806 Manor Dr	\$23,000
30149 Merritt St	\$45,000
33023 Merwin Ct	\$90,000
460 Kent Ln	\$60,000
32561 Palmer Rd	\$7,000
825 Patricia Place Dr	\$156,000
16265 Dowling St	\$83,000
38588 Scott Dr	\$45,000
786 Summerfield Dr	\$65,000
33513 Unicorn Ct	\$67,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the weeks of Sept. 24-28, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BIRMINGHAM	
731 Chagin Ave	\$300,000
1495 Dorchester Rd	\$411,000
2497 Fairway Dr	\$1,300,000
2937 Glenwood St	\$320,000
1221 Latham St	\$440,000
595 N Old Woodward Ave	\$172,000
11309 Springfield St	\$129,000
272 Westchester Way	\$1,200,000
111 Willis St #203	\$458,000
BLUEMOUND HILLS	
4584 Kirkwood Rd	\$569,000
27 S Berkshire Rd	\$200,000
2229 Aldridge Dr	\$220,000
150 E Long Lake Rd # 5	\$95,000

1939 Eagle Pointe	\$165,000
475 Haddonrigg Dr	\$248,000
135 W Hickory Grove Rd	\$496,000
5291 Woodview Dr	\$248,000
BLUEMOUND TOWNSHIP	
40577 Hidden Woods Dr	\$282,000
1892 Pine Ridge Ln	\$215,000
8205 Pemberton Rd	\$15,000
1100 W Hickory Grove Rd #12	\$30,000
3836 Wedgewood Dr	\$310,000
CONCORD TOWNSHIP	
626 Andrews St	\$105,000
2313 Brigrantine	\$252,000
8215 Cooley Lake Dr	\$374,000
2207 Palmetto	\$40,000
FARMINGTON	
23815 Ravine Dr	\$110,000
21056 Birchwood St	\$110,000
32318 Shawnee Rd	\$110,000
35564 Pine Point	\$70,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
28601 Glenbrook Dr	\$272,000

28890 Hidden Trl	\$315,000
32318 Old Forge Ln	\$180,000
24731 Bromington Way	\$117,000
59086 Carriage Ln	\$29,000
29404 Windmill Ct	\$29,000
FRANKLIN	
2315 Courtlands	\$728,000
Lathrup Village	
24462 Lathrup Dr	\$150,000
15922 W 11th Mile Rd	\$60,000
2775 Lathrup Dr	\$357,000
NOVATON	
4373 Ashbury Dr	\$425,000
45224 Bartlett Dr	\$84,000
27652 Belgrave Pl	\$45,000
30165 Burlington Dr	\$296,000
41905 Canterbury Dr	\$116,000
27866 Declaration Dr	\$66,000
22100 Edgewater Dr	\$112,000
23175 Maple Lea St	\$250,000
151 Pen Ln	\$79,000
47284 Robin Ct	\$275,000
28248 Wolcott Dr	\$91,000

28254 Wolcott Dr	\$84,000
SOUTH LYON	
24731 Bromington Way	\$40,000
59086 Carriage Ln	\$23,000
1087 Colh Dr	\$271,000
23865 Fairviewwood Dr W	\$50,000
57680 Deere Ct	\$50,000
53792 Edgewood Dr	\$219,000
24492 Glenwood Dr	\$48,000
59008 Peters Barn Dr	\$76,000
940 S Parkwood Dr	\$171,000
53859 Springwood Dr	\$216,000
53890 Springwood Dr	\$216,000
23343 Spyglass Hill Dr	\$355,000
54561 Vineyardwood Dr	\$40,000
SOUTHFIELD	
27250 Bradford Ln	\$111,000
27324 Plumbrooke Dr	\$40,000
21000 Tavock Trl	\$145,000
25428 Woodville Pl	\$74,000
WHITE LAKE	
620 Kent Ln	\$285,000
185 McCarty Dr	\$162,000
8679 Morro Ct	\$250,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Howard Hanna
In the New Year, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services has confirmed its commitment to the state of Michigan and specifically Ann Arbor with improved services.

Howard Hanna has solidi-

fied the management team in Michigan. This change means that the managers will no longer be listing or selling properties. The sole purpose of this full-time team will be to dedicate support to the locations and agents they serve.

President of Howard Hanna Ohio & Michigan, Howard W. "Hoby" Hanna IV looks forward to 2013 and the pending opportunities in the Southeast Michigan market. "We are pleased to have such a capable management staff who will help with the growth we foresee in 2013," he said.

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