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Central issue

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education decided to close Central Middle School and build a new middle school in Canton, if voters pass the \$114 million bond 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. The *Canton Observer* wants to hear from readers: What would you do with Central Middle School? Please email your thoughts to CantonObserver@hometownlife.com or post your comments on our Facebook at hometownlife.com.

Culinary cash

Old World Olive Press hosts a fundraiser for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park culinary team 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Rock Cafe in Salem High School.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25 per person with all ticket proceeds going to the P-CEP culinary and hospitality teams to help with their expenses for the State Culinary Competition in mid-March. The dinner, to be prepared by the culinary team and some of the culinary program members, will include a shared appetizer and dessert, salad and main course. Variations in the menu can be made for food allergies, etc. Tickets can be purchased at Old World Olive Press, 467 Forest in Plymouth, or by phone at (734) 667-2755.

Job shop

Canton Leisure Services is currently seeking part-time and seasonal employees to work this spring and summer in a variety of challenging and rewarding positions.

Applications are available online at www.cantonmi.org or at Canton's Human Resources Department, located on the first floor of the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center.

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Motorists are divided on Snyder road plan

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to raise gas taxes and increase vehicle registration fees to pay for \$1.2 billion a year in repairs to crumbling roads and bridges left Canton motorists sharply divided.

"I don't think it's the right time with gas prices already sky-high," Theodore Williams II said,

after driving his 2001 GMC Jimmy to the Canton Public Library. "It's hard to get from Point A to Point B if you can't afford the gas."

Williams conceded Michigan roads are deteriorating, but he said transportation officials should hold construction companies responsible for shoddy work that he said causes roads to crumble long before they should. Snyder's new budget propos-

al calls for raising the tax on unleaded fuel by 14 cents a gallon and diesel fuel by 18 cents a gallon — leaving both types of fuel with a comparable tax of 33 cents a gallon.

Snyder unveiled his 2014 budget Thursday, focusing on a wide range of issues such as roads, education, health care, job growth and public safety. Many observers view price hikes for fuel and vehicle registration fees

as among the most controversial because they affect such large numbers of residents, many of them still reeling from a tough economy.

Conditional support

Scott Applegate, 25, said he could support higher gas taxes with certain conditions.

"I would support it if (the mon-

Please see **ROAD PLAN, A2**



Joshua Undlin measures a spool that he will use for his Rube Goldberg project.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

STEM learning Academy provides students pathway options

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Sena Al-Ado has always wanted to go into medicine, so when Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators decided to add a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Academy, she was one of the first in line to sign up.

Knowing she wanted as much time as possible spent focusing on science classes because that would be her chosen field, Al-Ado joined some 200 students in taking advantage of the district's first-time offering.

"The STEM Academy allows you to personalize your schedule in such a way that you enjoy school," Al-Ado said. "Your classes are geared toward what you are most



Vatsala Singh, Talia Trela and Bailey Brown build a ramp for their Rube Goldberg projects.

interested in. I love science, so I chose to take the biomedical pathway."

The STEM Academy, housed at Canton High School and

one of three (STEM, Arts and International) opened in the fall, is designed to give Plym-

Please see **STEM, A2**

Canton replaces aging vehicles

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton officials, vowing to keep public safety a top priority, have agreed to spend \$258,041 to replace aging vehicles for police officers, the fire department and public works division.

The latest move comes as local employees have racked up more than 120,000 miles on most vehicles being replaced, with mileage on one crime-scene Ford Expedition reaching the 143,000-mile mark.

As some communities struggle to cope with deteriorating public safety equipment, township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Canton has benefited by adopting a plan to gradually replace vehicles on a rotating basis rather than face a sudden crisis.

Moreover, LaJoy said Canton's vehicle maintenance employees have worked hard to make sure township-owned cars and trucks are driven as long as possible before they are auctioned off or kept for less-intense usage by local workers.

"Public safety is one of the critical elements of any community in keeping it safe," LaJoy said. "We have committed to the people to keep our service levels up. Our whole thing is to keep Canton vibrant and keep it moving forward. We want people to live here and shop here."

"One of the basic elements to keep it that way is public safety," he added. "We want to have as safe a community as we can possibly have, and we need to equip our people to do that."

Please see **VEHICLES, A2**

Coyote sightings on the rise

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

This isn't an old cartoon featuring Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner—Canton residents are seriously reporting an increase in coyote sightings across the community.

And while coyotes rarely attack people, Canton police say the wild animals are opportunistic and may prey on small dogs and cats left unattended.

Authorities issued an alert Thursday citing an increase in the number of calls from residents reporting coyotes in Canton. According to the Mich-

igan Department of Natural Resources, coyotes can be found throughout the state including urban and suburban areas and subdivisions.

The Michigan Humane Society reported Thursday that recent sightings also have occurred in the Farmington Hills area. Just a few years ago, the National Wildlife Foundation reported a coyote sighting in New York City's Central Park, where it was chased and finally subdued with a tranquilizer dart. Closer to home, a Westland woman once

Please see **COYOTE, A3**

Play day



BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)
Matt Jones of Canton hits the slopes at Plymouth Township Park for a little play time in the wake of the winter storm that dumped a ton of snow on the local area Friday. For more playful sights, please see page A6.

STEM

Continued from page A1

outh-Canton a more attractive curriculum and was one of the ways administrators decided to try to remain competitive in the education marketplace.

STEM Academy students take six classes, with four of them STEM-related. STEM students are drawn down two career pathways, including engineering and biomedical science, that administrators believe will always provide careers.

"It's important because it gives students more direction as to where they want to go with their futures," said Danielle Ramos, the STEM Academy leader. "It gives them more options. These (STEM) classes are smaller learning communities. They're in other general classes the other two hours."

Drawing a crowd

As administrators prepared for its opening last year, they weren't sure, Ramos said, how much interest there would actually be. For a May 2012 parent meeting, they made up some 250 fliers explaining the academy.

But some 700-800 people showed up. "I don't think anybody had a clue how many seats we were going to fill," Ramos said. "We ended up accepting all the students (about 200) who applied. This year's academy had four incom-



Calvin Rogers and Bryan Brauchler work on their Rubik's cube project.

ing classes for biomedical, two more for engineering."

The classes were limited by space. "It's what we can house here," Ramos said. "It's what we have space for."

Al-Ado, the daughter of Dr. Muhammad and Nazeha Al-Ado of Canton, believes the hands-on nature of the curriculum is attractive to students.

It uses demonstration and visual teaching techniques different from those found in traditional classrooms.

"STEM provides a fresh feel to school," said Al-Ado, who serves as a student ambassador for the program. "Learning dense material is easier and more engaging. Major concepts are easily understood due to the consistent labs and activities. Studying for exams is simple because you would have already had hands-on experience with that concept."

Always available
STEM is popular because "you see it all over TV," said Ramos, who believes the future is going to be "all about science and engineering," with careers available in

both for the foreseeable future.

"Kids will always have a career if they go into science, the same with engineering," Ramos said. "Technology is doing nothing but expanding. I can't see it getting any smaller."

That's why Ramos believes offering a STEM Academy was so important for Plymouth-Canton Schools, since preparing students for the future is what school is supposed to be all about.

"We're trying to make kids more well-rounded in these roles that will be increasing in the future," she said. "The kids are pretty excited."

Ramos said while the academy has gotten off to a good start, it'll be a while — another few years, until it encompasses all four high school grades — before administrators can really gauge its impact.

"It's going to take three or four years to really get this academy rolling," she said. "Once we've gone through these four years, it's really going to take off."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899 | Twitter: @bkadrich

ROAD PLAN

Continued from page A1

ey) goes strictly toward roads and as long as they stop using salt on the roads," Applegate said.

Still, he had his doubts state officials would properly spend the money.

"They most likely wouldn't use it wisely," he said.

Snyder's proposal would use federal registration fees to rise 25 percent for big trucks and trailers and 60 percent for cars and light trucks.

An informal poll in Canton revealed Kiki Nice, 25, could support the higher costs — but only for specific purposes.

"It would have to go for roads, bridges, waterway dredging and environmental protection," Nice said.

Canton resident Robert Hellie said he doesn't like the idea of increasing the gas tax on a per-gallon basis, though he said he understands the goal of collecting the money from people who use roads the most.

"I understand the logic of it why they want to do it," he said.

Like others, Hellie said he isn't sure the money collected from the higher taxes would entirely be spent properly.

Canton Township Super-

visor Phil LaJoy, a former state House member who served on the Transportation Committee, said there's no doubt Michigan roads need fixing.

"I think we need to improve our roads," he said. "We need to do something, whether we increase the gas tax or some other kind of mechanism to fix roads."

LaJoy suggested the state consider changing the formula for the way money is distributed for road work.

"I think there should be some provision somewhere for local road dollars for subdivisions," LaJoy said, adding that the only recourse for Canton and many communities is through a special assessment.

Like many residents, LaJoy said officials need to prove they are being efficient when it comes to spending money for road work.

Other issues

On other issues, Snyder called for expanding Medicaid because "the bottom line is better care at a lower cost."

It's not just about watching money from Washington, he said, and some officials say the state has to come to grips that President Obama's health care initiative is being implemented.

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, didn't appear convinced the federal Affordable Care Act will ever be fully implemented.

"If you're seeing reticence or push back from us, I don't think it's a done deal that the Affordable Care Act is going to be coming into play," Colbeck said. "If for one am leery about tying my horse to that wagon."

Meanwhile, Snyder also called for \$268.1 million to provide incentive-based payments to local units of government that meet best practices and an additional \$85.1 million for constitutional and county revenue-sharing payments.

Though he hadn't had time Thursday to study the proposal at length, LaJoy said Canton could potentially benefit from those dollars.

He said (constitutional revenue-sharing) number went up, that would be revenue for us based on population," he said.

Referring to best practices, he said, "We've made every commitment. If they want to judge us on best practices, I think we've got a lot to offer."

Gannett News Service contributed to this story.

cdlem@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238
Twitter: @CantonObserver

CORRECTION

A photograph of firefighter Scott Rice that appeared in Thursday's *Canton Observer* should have pointed out the photo was provided courtesy Ruth Oldson Photography.

VEHICLES

Continued from page A1

Municipal Services
Director Tim Faas said Canton has deemed new purchases when possible, without compromising public safety.

Canton benefits on prices by joining other communities in what is essentially a purchasing pool. Here's a snapshot of the latest vehicle purchases, approved Tuesday in a 7-0 vote by the Canton Town-

ship Board of Trustees:
• Four new Ford Taurus police patrol vehicles and one crime-scene Ford Explorer will be bought for a total price tag of \$120,991.

• Two canine officer Chevy Tahoes will be purchased for a combined price of \$83,844.

• Two GMC trucks will be bought for the Public Works Division for a total of \$57,152, replacing vehicles the township had kept as long as 18 years.
• One Ford Explorer

will be bought for \$26,054 and used by the fire chief, replacing an older vehicle that had accumulated 133,500 miles. The chief's old car will be rotated to the deputy chief.

Faas said the township had set aside money for the planned vehicle purchases. Canton will continue to use some of the older vehicles and auction others.

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Library event touts Parks' life

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer



Local author and award-winning author Gregory J. Reed tells one of his many interesting stories about Rosa Parks.

includes a display on loan from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Walk to Freedom in Detroit in 1963. Reed came to Canton less than a week after he returned from Los Angeles, where he earned the NAACP's Image Award for his latest book, "Obama Talks Back: Global Lessons — A Dialogue With America's Young Leaders." He also penned two books with Parks: "Quiet Strength: The Faith, the Hope and the Heart of a Woman Who Changed a Nation" and "Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue With Today's Youth."

A longtime friend of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks told a Canton group Thursday that he made a to-do list after he became her attorney in 1980, at a time when she had largely slipped from public consciousness and many people believed she had died.

Detroit attorney Gregory J. Reed checked the Presidential Medal of Freedom off his list after Parks received it in 1996 from President Bill Clinton.

Three years later, Reed marked off the Congressional Gold Medal after Parks earned one of the highest honors bestowed by the U.S. government.

Finally, on what would have been Parks' 100th birthday, Reed and others celebrated a commemorative "forever" stamp issued Monday by the U.S. Postal Service to honor Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat on a public bus in Montgomery, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1955, helped topple an era of segregation that scarred a nation.

Parks' courage

"I learned so much about humility and courage through Mrs. Parks that I adopted a lot of her ways," Reed said. "She became a friend and a person I miss so much today."

Reed appeared during the Canton Public Library's celebration of Black History Month, which also

Canton resident Linda Svacha brought her granddaughter Madison Cantrell, 9, to hear Reed's address after they recently visited The Henry Ford and saw the restored bus where Parks made a quiet yet courageous stand against racism.

"It was cool," Madison said.

In his address, Reed said he first met Parks in 1977 when she came to a private show of a play he produced about Dr. King at the Music Hall Center for Performing Arts in Detroit. He said he used proceeds from the show to buy a new car for Parks, who was living a humble life, and he prayed to become an ambassador for her.

Befriending her

Three years later, Reed said Parks came to his Detroit law office to hire him as her attorney. Her husband Raymond had since died.

"I never charged her," Reed said.

"I became more of a friend to her."

Reed said Parks and her story have been largely misunderstood. He said she was a fine orator even though many believe she was always quiet spoken. And he said she had worked with the NAACP in Alabama, though she never intended to become a civil rights icon. Others had protested as she did on public buses.

"There had been other people who had been arrested," Reed said, "but they didn't have the character (that Parks had), and they acted belligerently."

COYOTE

Continued from page A1

contacted the *Observer* after her small dog was attacked by a coyote in her back yard, which bordered Hines Park.

Canton police say residents are most likely to spot coyotes during their breeding season from mid-January into March. They are active day and night, though peak activity tends to occur at sunrise and sunset.

Local authorities have urged local residents never to touch a coyote or intentionally feed one, though coyotes may be drawn to garbage, outdoor vegetables and pet food.

That said, residents are urged to eliminate all outdoor sources of food, especially for domestic pets. Moreover, Canton police urge placing garbage outside on the morning of pick-up by Canton Waste Recycling, rather than leaving it out overnight.

Wood and brush piles also should be cleared as a possible habitat for mice and other small animals that may attract coyotes. Residents shouldn't let their pets roam free — and especially keep them indoors at night or accompany them outside.

Police officials say wild animals such as coyotes

should not necessarily be perceived as a threat.

"If residents feel they are in danger of a coyote," Special Services Lt. Deb Newsome said, "or if they observe a coyote in obvious distress, they should contact the police department."

Call (734) 394-5400, or report emergency situations at 9-1-1. Barring a threatening situation or a coyote in distress, officials encourage residents to follow the tips provided by authorities.

National Wildlife officials say coyotes have been spotted in Detroit, New York, Chicago, Beverly Hills, St. Louis, Boston and Washington, D.C., among other urban areas.

Local officials say coyotes can be difficult to distinguish from a medium-sized German shepherd from a distance. The size and weight of coyotes are commonly overestimated because of their long fur masking a bone structure that is slightly smaller than most domestic dogs.

When running, coyotes carry their tail below the level of their backs. According to public health officials, bites from coyotes occur less frequently than bites from snakes, rodents and dogs.

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Canton teacher having some fun with the Bard

Shannon McNutt took a look at the Spotlight Players' production of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and immediately knew what to do. She expanded the cast. McNutt, a former actress herself who teaches drama at Canton High School, stretched the original three-member cast to eight, creating an ensemble of actors ranging in age from 19-50 she's confident will knock the audience's socks off when the production hits the stage Feb. 15 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

"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."

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.

And it doesn't matter, she said, if audience members love or hate Shakespeare — or know nothing about him at all. "You don't have to know anything about Shakespeare to have a blast with this," said McNutt. 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 com-



The entire cast of Spotlight Players' production of *"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)"* is local, including Plymouth-Canton residents in the cast include Bethany Basanese, Tim Chanko, Tommy Fafalios, Julie Franklin, Hannah Sayre Fox and Kyle Kimlick, as well as Dave Durham of Garden City and Leanne Young of South Lyon.

dies are performed within a single monologue, for example, Othello is turned into a two-minute 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," McNutt said. "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 improv-

sational moments. It's not an improvised show, but there are bits and pieces scattered throughout where you can make current and local references."

Not only is McNutt directing, but the entire cast from the area, giving "The Complete Works" a decidedly local flavor. Plymouth-Canton residents in the cast include Bethany Basanese, Tim Chanko, Tommy Fafalios, Julie Franklin, Hannah Sayre Fox and Kyle Kimlick. Rounding out the ensemble are Dave Durham of Garden City and Leanne Young of South

Lyon. The play is being produced by Judy Cannizzaro.

The play runs Feb. 15-17 and Feb. 22-24 at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and students under 19. They're available by calling (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460, online at www.spotlightplayers.org, in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Elementary open house

Future and present families have a first-time opportunity to get an up-close look at how elementary schools in Plymouth-Canton look and what they have to offer when the district hosts its first Elementary Open House Monday, Feb. 11, from 6:30-8 p.m.

The event will feature Elementary experts in an informational meeting to learn about the programs and curriculum offered in the district's 15 elementary schools. Parents with children who will be ready for kindergarten this fall are welcome to register early for kindergarten programs at this event. This includes traditional kindergarten, Young 5's and half-day kindergarten. Additional information on these options will be presented. The Elementary Open House takes place at Hoben Elementary School, 44680 Saltz, in Canton.

Damaris award

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District Senior (who attends Canton, Plymouth, Salem or Starkweather) who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with the annual \$1,000 Damaris Fine Arts Scholarship.

Applications will be accepted April 15-22, with artwork to be Juried April 23-30. The Damaris will be announced May 3.

Student artwork will be judged on its originality, creativity, and use of material. Artwork will be professionally juried.

This award is open to all students who are entered in the P-CCS Annual Art Show.

The Damaris Fine Arts Award was established in memory of Damaris (Dee) Schulte by her family: husband, Dick, sons, Philip and Mike. Dee, an artist in her own right, had a Bachelor's Degree in Art and a Master's Degree in Art Education. This award honors Dee as an artist and recognizes the dedication and many contributions she made to the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Goddard scholarship

The Goddard School located in Canton is now accepting applications for the 2013 Anthony A. Martino Memorial Scholarship (AAMMS).

The \$10,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a junior or senior high school student who graduated from The Goddard School's Pre-K or Kindergarten program.

The AAMMS is named in memory of the founder of The Goddard School franchise system, and is given to an alumnus who has demonstrated Martino's work ethic, perseverance and commitment to the community. To apply for the AAMMS, eligible students must submit a completed scholarship application by March 27, along with a 30- to 120-second video essay about how their Goddard School experience influenced their career path or education. Video essays should be mailed to 1016 West Ninth Ave, King of Prussia, PA, 19406 - ATTN: Scholarship.

For more information about the Anthony A. Martino Memorial Scholarship, visit www.goddardschool.com/approach-to-education/scholarship.




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The Plymouth Community United Way is organizing its next Rake-N-Go event to help seniors and disabled persons on Saturday, April 27. Applicants should sign up by March 15.

Rake-N-Go applications are available for seniors, volunteers

Senior citizens or disabled persons who could use a hand with yard cleanup this spring are getting their chance.

Plymouth Community United Way, in conjunction with Comcast Care Days, is organizing a Rake-N-Go Saturday, April 27, in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton.

Seniors and disabled individuals in need of

help to clean their yards should call (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or e-mail betty.nolan@pcuw.org before Friday, March 15.

"It's a great partnership with the community," said Marie Morrow, President, Plymouth Community United Way.

Volunteers are needed as well to clean yards and do light outdoor chores. Come alone, with your family or bring a team of co-workers or friends.

Volunteers are asked to bring rakes, garden tools,

hedge trimmers, and gloves. PCUW will supply yard waste bags. Deadline to apply is Friday, April 12.

For a volunteer or senior application, visit www.plymouthunitedway.org. Plymouth Community United Way organizes two raking events a year: Make a Difference Day in fall and Rake-N-Go in spring. Last year, more than 520 volunteers cleaned 88 yards of senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Fox Hills hosts museum fundraiser to include fun ride

Where is the only place you have the opportunity to win a ride in a beautiful, luxurious 1930 Packard driven by 102-year-old Margaret Dunning?

It's the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual auction fundraiser, "A Night FOR the Museum," to be held Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Fox Hills Golden Fox.

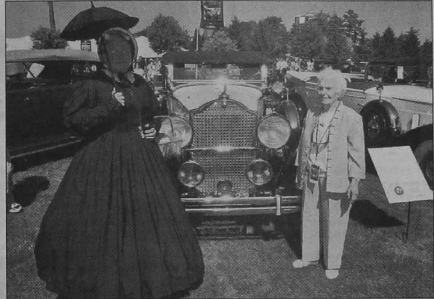
A ride with Dunning in her Packard is only one highlight of the museum's upcoming event. Merchants in Plymouth and surrounding areas have stepped up and donated

numerous items for the live auction and raffle. Some highlights of the more than 80 items include tickets for a Detroit Red Wings game, a one-year World Deluxe membership to Ancestry.com, golf at Fox Hills and tickets to The Henry Ford.

In addition to the live auction and raffles, diners will be entertained during dinner with dulcimer music. The live auction is emceed by Plymouth stalwart Fred Hill, famous for his Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team. The ticket price of \$75

per person includes appetizers, a plated gourmet dinner, and dessert; a cash bar will also be available. Tickets can be purchased at the museum during open hours or online at www.plymouthhistory.org/events/A-Night-FOR-the-Museum_ET118.html/SortBox=201302 using PayPal.

Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Golden Fox at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, west of Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.



Plymouth Historical Museum executive director Liz Kerstens with Margaret Dunning and Dunning's Packard, a ride in which is one of the items up for auction at the museum fundraiser.

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My goal for this year is to help as many people as possible to reach their goal weight and reclaim their lives! Will you be one of them? If you are suffering with a weight problem or any of the related illnesses that go along with it, don't wait another minute. Let me help you out. This seminar could literally change your life the way that it has for so many people just like you.

If you are dealing with a weight problem I sincerely want to help you get your life back. Are you frustrated with trying so many gimmicks and still dealing with weight issues? Are you sick of the hype and false hope? Have you given up on losing weight? If you are serious about losing your weight once and for all, then call to reserve your seat right now. This one hour seminar could be the beginning of a new life for you. Don't miss it!



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Snow day a chance for winter play



Nikki Place of Northville had a good ride on the hill. She brought her kids, Conor, 8 years old, and Calla, 10 years, plus nephew Adam Albrecht, 10 years old, of Canton, to Plymouth Township Park Friday.



Quick ride down. Slow walk back up the hill.



The sledding hill at Plymouth Township Park had a good crowd Friday afternoon, since schools were closed throughout the area, due to the storm.



Andrew Loehnis, of Canton, enjoys a snow day at Plymouth Township Park.



Ken Sutton of Northville enjoys a slide with granddaughter Chloe Kay Stickle, 3½, of Canton.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Calla Place, 10, and brother Conor Place, 8, slide down the hill. They are from Northville.

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Don't worry: You still have time to avoid penalty

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I have a tax problem. A friend of mine prepares my tax return. She's been doing my return for about 35 years and I've never had a problem. This year when I took my tax return to her she told me that I would have to pay a substantial penalty for failing to take my required minimum distribution. She informed me that when you turn 70½, which I did in March of last year, you had to take a distribution or be subject to a substantial penalty. I never knew that I was responsible for this is there anything I can do to avoid the penalty? I should also



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

about the IRS or paying a penalty.

Many people misinterpret the tax law when it comes to required minimum distributions believing that when you

mention that I don't want to do anything to get my friend in trouble.

A: I have some good news. You do not have to pay a penalty. Your friend misinterpreted the tax law. You don't have to worry

turn 70½ you have to take a distribution or there is a penalty. What the law actually says is that you must take your first required minimum distribution by April 1 of the year after you turn 70½. Subsequent required minimum distributions must be taken by the end of each calendar year, however, you can delay your first required distribution.

In your case (since you turned 70½ last year), you are not required to take a distribution until April 1, 2013.

The penalties for failing to take a required minimum distribution are severe — 50 per-

cent. Therefore, it is important that if you are over 70½ you comply with this requirement. If you should have made a distribution but didn't, don't wait for the IRS to contact you and assess the penalty. Be proactive. File Form 5329 and attach a letter to the form and ask the IRS for a waiver. You may be surprised to hear this, but the IRS has been generous with its waivers. If you can show a reasonable basis for the error, you have a very good chance of avoiding the penalty. It is however, more difficult to waive the penalty after it has been assessed.

Keep in mind that the required minimum distribution requirement does not just apply to IRAs, but any qualified retirement account 401(k) and 403(b) except Roth type accounts. One of the great benefits of a Roth is it grows tax free and it is not subject to required minimum distributions. Good luck!

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

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Lousma hopes to inspire children to explore science

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Jack Lousma studied engineering at the University of Michigan and did his postgraduate work through the U.S. Navy. A Marine fighter pilot, the next logical step was to become an astronaut. But the Michigan native didn't realize he could apply to be one, he was waiting to be "called."

That was until he was handed a newsletter that said NASA was looking for Marine pilots.

"I had the requirements and the chance to apply," said Lousma. "I knew I wouldn't make it, if I didn't apply. Nineteen were selected for astronauts in 1966. Two were Marines and I was one of them."

Lousma was at Willow Run Airport Thursday to meet with volunteers and officials of the Yankee Air Museum in preparation for a NASA Fly Me to the Moon Exhibit that opens Tuesday, Feb. 12. The Ann Arbor resident was the guest of honor at the free "launch" party Saturday evening where he will speak about his experiences as an astronaut.

While he planned to talk about things like his two-month stay on Sky Lab-3, which included two space walks, and his test flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia, Lousma also hoped to inspire youngsters about the opportunities available through science.

"Inventions are occurring at greater rates than before, STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—is what has taken us from the early days of space flight to now," he said. "STEM is interesting, exciting and on the cutting edge of what's



Retired astronaut Jack Lousma stands by a one-third scale model of the lunar module that will be on display during the Yankee Air Museum's NASA Fly Me to the MOON Exhibit which opens Tuesday.

going on. All the discoveries and exploration is why we know so much about things like medicine. It begins with science and discovering how the world works and then taking that knowledge and putting it to work inventing things."

He points to the space program as an example. In the early days, when they were flying, they were still using slide rules. The computer used to fly astronauts to the moon and back has less power than today's cell phone.

"If you can inspire kids with the changes that happen, then there's no end to it, it's about education is about," he said. "And then there's no end to it."

Lousma's interest in airplanes was picked by a

cousin, a fighter pilot who flew his World War II fighter so low "it almost tore the shingles off a barn" in Zeeland. As a kid, he built model airplanes and then went on to study aeronautical engineering and a career in the military. He was part of the Apollo program. He was a member of the astronaut support crews for the Apollo 9, 10 and 13 and was training for one of the last three flights to the moon when the program was cancelled. He moved on to the next program—long durations in space with Sky Lab. He got his ride into space in 1973 and spent two months on Sky Lab, where he did two space walks.

"It was more than I imagined, it was an unique experience," Lousma said of the launch. "I got to see the earth like I'd never seen it before. I realized how small we are in the realm of things. It reinforced my faith in creation."

Sixty scientific experiments were done while Lousma was aboard Sky Lab. The aim was to find out the effects of long-term effects of weightlessness on humans. Lousma said it became instinctive to float around Sky Lab, but when he returned to earth, he found it took longer to acclimate to gravity.

"The doctors had said I was OK in six days, but it took me three weeks to run two miles at the same speed as when I left," he said. "The longer you're in weightlessness, the longer it takes to readapt."

It's been 40 years since he was on Sky Lab and every year Lousma has a physical to monitor any changes related to his stay in space. It's been found astronauts have a higher incidence of cataracts and lose 1-2 percent of bone mass for every month of weightlessness. Those who stay in space four, five, six months have problems with their vision due to intercranial pressure on the optic nerve, he said.

Lousma admits it was a "big disappointment" not to have made it to the moon, but the trip to Sky Lab—"There weren't many rides into space at the time, and anyone was a good one"—was a memorable one. He rates the launch and the re-entry as No. 1 and 2, but the thing he will remember most is his space walks. He spent 11 hours outside Sky Lab during his stay.

Now he is focused on sharing his love of space with younger children.

"I'd like to inspire the kids like I was inspired, that's what will take us into the future," he said.

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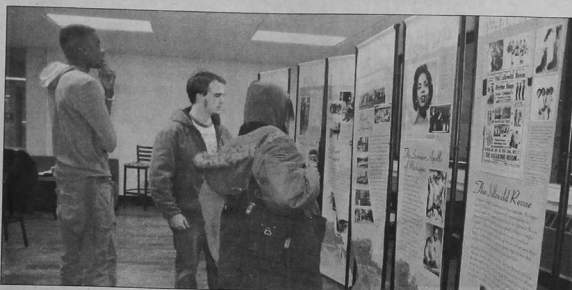
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The exhibit, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday in the Lower Waterman area of the VisTA Tech Center on the college's main campus in Livonia, traces Idlewild's history from its inception in the early 20th century to present day.

Schoolcraft hosts 'Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan' traveling exhibit

Schoolcraft College in Livonia is hosting a special traveling exhibit, "Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan," through Friday, Feb. 15. The exhibit, on loan from Michigan State University, features photographs and historical information about this unique resort community that welcomed African-Americans from the 1920s-60s. Located in rural northwestern Michigan, Idlewild was one of only a few resorts in the United States where African-Americans could vaca-

tion and purchase property during a segregated time in the nation's history. Idlewild was an active year-round community and was visited by well-known entertainers and professionals. In fact, at its peak it was the most popular resort in the Midwest with as many as 25,000 people visiting at the height of summer. When the 1964 Civil Rights Act opened up other resorts to African-Americans, Idlewild's boomtown period subsided, but the community continues to be an

important place for vacationers, retirees and a special place for young generations of African-Americans seeking to learn about their heritage.

The exhibit, which is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday in the Lower Waterman area of the VisTA Tech Center on the college's main campus in Livonia, traces Idlewild's history from its inception in the early 20th century to present day. Through words and images, it glimpses behind the often-told stories of

Idlewild's entertainment scene during its heyday to tell the full story of a community that has survived the challenges of historical change.

The "Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan" exhibit is hosted by Schoolcraft College's Bridging Barriers group, the Student Activities Office and is made possible by a grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

Schoolcraft College is on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads.

Schoolcraft holds Kids on Campus open house

Schoolcraft College's Kids on Campus program will continue to delight kids with unique camp offerings in the arts, acting, cooking, computers, culinary, writing, math, science, as well as career-oriented learning opportunities, and traditional academic skills workshops.

Going into its 34th year, this year's Kids on Campus program has many stimulating camps and workshops for children who will be entering first-12th-grade this fall.

Campers and their parents can attend a free open house 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, to learn more about

the upcoming summer camps, meet instructors, ask questions, visit the campus, see demonstrations and register on-site for the more than 60 different week-long programs, which run July 8-Aug. 2.

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the Michigan Child Identification Program. The Kids on Campus Open House and Michigan Child Identification Program event will take place simultaneously in the VisTA Tech Center, located on the main campus of Schoolcraft College. For more information call (734) 462-4488 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/KOC.

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DOES NOT INCLUDE FURNITURE.
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CHOOSE FROM WOOD WALL DECOR, AND FINISHED DECORATIVE WOOD ACCESSORIES.
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DOES NOT INCLUDE CRAFT STAINED GLASS OR GLASS TABLETOPS.
- Decorative Crosses**
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VALENTINE'S, EASTER, "THE SPRING SHOP" & SUMMER ITEMS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN SALE UNLESS SPECIFIED

All Valentine's Day Items 30% OFF

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- Plants
- Garden Wall Decor & More

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SUMMER ONLY - FEB 15

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- Paper Plates & Napkins
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- Baskets & Plastic Eggs
- Crafts & More

All Easter Items 30% OFF

- Fish Animals
- Paper Plates & Napkins
- Home & Party Decor
- Baskets & Plastic Eggs
- Crafts & More

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting February 19, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0759 x 217

Published: February 10, 2013

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Dinners include choice of potato fries or mashed, coleslaw, rice & butter, and choice of coffee, hot tea or milk. Carry out delivery not included. Taxes not included. No substitutions.

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

SLAVENS COFFEE

Dates: Monday, Feb. 11, and Monday, Feb. 25

Locations and times: Feb. 11, 8-9 a.m., Belleville Charhouse, 524 Main, 10-11 a.m., Daydream Cafe, 47192 Michigan Ave., Feb. 25, 11 a.m.-noon, September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler, Van Buren; Feb. 25, 4-5 p.m., Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center.

Details: State Rep. Dian Slavens (D-Canton) invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours. Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and

**New Hope Center gets grant**

The Greater Detroit Office of New York Life located in Southfield awarded New Hope Center for Grief Support a \$10,000 grant to offer professional and administrative support for their eight week bereavement workshops. The grant will help with training facilitators and coordinating the program. New Hope Center has been working with New York Life's managing partner, Thomas Bello, Karen Laing, New Hope Center for Grief Support's new executive director, Cathy Clough, who is the founder of New Hope Center for Grief Support, and Steve Rowley. For more information about the New Hope Center for Grief Support, which is located at 315 Griswold in Northville, visit www.newhopecenter.net.

Van Buren Township.

Contact: Call toll-free 888-347-8021 or send an email to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov.

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.

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: This Plymouth-Canton neighborhood group is open to sewists of all levels. The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer," followed by "3D Fing Geese-hands on" on March 7; "Charity

auction" April 11 (note date change); and "Machine or Hand Applique Quilt Block-hands on" on May 2.

Contact: For more information email asgpc@comcast.net

TABLE-TOP GAMES

Date/Time: Feb. 16, 2-4 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth District Library is offering an afternoon of table top board and card games for adults. Games such as Settlers of Catan, Monopoly and 7 Wonders, will be provided or attendees can bring their own games. Treats will be provided by Friends of the Library.

Contact: Sign-up is requested online, in person, or by phone at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Date/Time: Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608 in Plymouth.

Details: The Depression Bipolar Support Alliance is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group.

Contact: Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 for directions.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group. "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email achristensen@cchcnet.net.

DIABETES SUPPORT

Date/Time: 2nd Thursday of the month, 2-3:30 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.

Contact: Call Fern Vining at (734) 454-0859.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PUBLIC NOTICE**

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthmi.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Charter Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates in 2013: February 12, March 12 & 26, April 9, May 14 & 28, June 15, July 23, August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and December 10.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Special meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Publish: February 10, 2013

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MAT2 offers high school seniors work-study program

High school seniors in southeast Michigan can gain advanced manufacturing work skills while earning a paycheck through a pilot program offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and participating employers.

The Michigan Advanced Technician Training (MAT2) program combines classroom instruction with paid work experience in a three-year, no-cost program in the field of mechatronics, a combination of mechanical engineering, electronics, computer technology and information technology.

"Michigan's business future and our state's economic vitality will depend on a workforce with the necessary talents and training for the jobs of tomorrow," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "The MAT2 program is a first step toward meeting critical employer needs and will equip students with experience and skills they need to succeed in today's high-tech world."

Accepted MAT2 students will earn an associate's degree at one of two community colleges — Heri Ford Community College or Oakland Community College — while they earn a paycheck and gain on the job experience with a participating company. Tuition is paid by the employer and in exchange, the student commits to remaining on the job for at least two years after successful completion of the program.

The MAT2 participating employers include:

- Benteler Automotive Corporation — Develops and produces innovative products for the automotive industry.

- Brose — Delivers mechatronic systems and electric drives to automotive manufacturers and suppliers.

- Detroit Diesel — Manufactures a complete line of heavy-duty diesel engines, axles and transmissions for the on-highway and vocational market.

- KOSTAL — Develops and manufactures technologically advanced electronic, electro-mechanical and mechatronic products.

- ZF — International supplier of automotive drive-line and chassis technology.

The deadline to apply for the MAT2 program is Feb. 15. To learn more about the program and the application process, go online to www.mitalent.org/mat2/.

TV series sets up in township home

It's not every day one's house becomes a movie set. Yet for Dr. Debra Christian, a speech language pathologist living in Plymouth Township, it is a fairly regular occurrence.

In the last two years, Christian's two-story colonial — perched high atop a hill overlooking trees, gardens and live roaming peacocks — has become a setting for local film and television producers. First and most recently was "Lee Martin's The Midnight Hour," the cult television series which has received national press over the years as the first sustained original scripted TV show to come out of Michigan.

In 2010, the series filmed an episode called "Don't Look Under the Bed" at Christian's home. Now in its fifth season, the production returned this weekend to film "Don't Turn Out the Lights."

"The two stories have nothing to do with each other," Christian said. "But the producers thought it would be of an homage to reference the title in their first show they filmed in my house years ago."

For the shows producers, filming at the well-appointed home represents an excellent opportunity. "It's a beautiful place," said series creator Lee Martin. "And it has a striking foyer and staircase which are well suited



'Midnight Hour' producer Lee Martin with Plymouth Township resident Dr. Debra Christian, in whose home an episode was filmed over the weekend.



Lee Martin directs actors and positions props during filming of an episode of "The Midnight Hour."

ed to filming a murder mystery, which is what we'll be doing there this weekend."

For Christian and her family, it's all in a day's work. Since registering her home with the Mich-



Filming gets rolling for "The Midnight Hour," taped this weekend in the Plymouth Township home of Dr. Debra Christian.



Actors from "The Midnight Hour" with some of the makeup being used in the episode.

igan Film Office as a potential filming location in 2010, she has worked with other producers and productions as well. "I've become kind of a resource for the local film industry," she said, laughing. "They love to film here and we enjoy helping people realize

their dreams and seeing the finished product on screen."

Viewers can see Christian's home when "Don't Turn Out the Lights" airs on "Midnight Hour" every Thursday and Saturday this May. Visit <http://leemartinsmidnighthour.com> for details.

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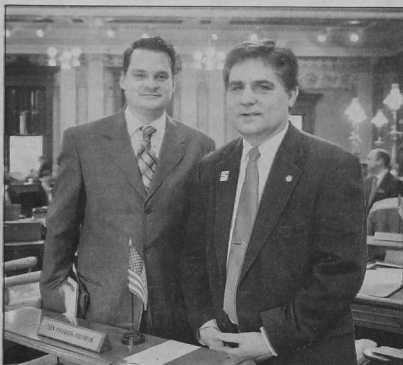
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Capitol step



Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, welcomes Pastor Brad Cannon (left) to the Michigan Senate. Cannon is the pastor at Solid Rock Church in Plymouth. He delivered the invocation before the Senate session.

Montessori earns accreditation

Plymouth-Canton Montessori School officials announced the school has earned a five-year accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the country's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

According to Kay Neff, Head of School, the accreditation process is a rigorous one that includes an extensive self-study to measure its program and services against the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria. The school also received an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to

ensure the school's program meets each of the 10 standards and is subject to unannounced visits anytime during the five-year period.

Plymouth-Canton Montessori's parent school Dearborn Heights Montessori Center, which includes a toddler program, also earned the new five-year accreditation. Both schools were first accredited by NAEYC in 1998.

"Receiving the NAEYC accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are receiving the best care and early learning experiences possible," said Neff.

NAEYC reports that

more than 6,000 programs nationwide, serving 600,000 young children, are accredited. Plymouth-Canton Montessori School and DHMC are among only 131 NAEYC accredited programs in Michigan.

"We also received several commendations from NAEYC including establishing and fostering reciprocal family and community relationships," Neff said. "This is indeed a tribute to our families, teachers and staff."

For additional information and program availability at Plymouth-Canton Montessori School, call (734) 459-1550 or visit www.pcmontessori.org.

ON CAMPUS

Northern Michigan

Northern Michigan University announced the

Dean's List for the Fall 2012 semester.

Two local students — Erica Bingham of Canton and Emily Patton of Plymouth — qualified with a grade point average of 4.00.

Alma College

Alma College announced the names of those students who earned Dean's List honors for outstanding academic performance during the 2012 fall term.

Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Making the list from Canton were Alyssa Leright, Chelsie Myers and Lindsey Schmidt.

Making the list from Plymouth were Kalya Berinti and Erin Rodes.

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U.S. is built on cultural strengths, differences of many

By Tom Watkins
Guest Columnist

It's the Year of the Snake — Happy New Year!
No, the "year of the snake" is not a reference to politics.

Most Michiganders welcomed the New Year several weeks ago. But the tradition of our Chinese friends and neighbors celebrates the new year beginning on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Michigan, two beautiful peninsulas surrounded by 20 percent of the world's fresh water, does not make us an island. As a bellwether state, leading the way on social and political issues of the day, we have historically embraced new cultures and traditions of people who make Michigan their home.

I am proud to say that Gov. Rick Snyder grasps the importance of being



Tom Watkins

open to the peoples of the world and has dubbed himself, "the most immigrant-friendly governor in America."

Considering all the anti-immigration rhetoric that permeates in some political quarters, here is one aspect of the governor we should all respect. Michigan's diversity has been and will remain a core strength of our state and nation.

This great state has been built on the diversity of people who came from all across the globe — Germany, Italy, Poland, England, Ireland, Norway, Wales, Italy, Spain and Africa. Those from nearly all corners of the planet have been absorbed into



our tapestry of strength. Some arrived in America in search of a better life while some were ripped from their ancestral homes and forced to make this new world their home.

Celebrating differences

The Chinese New Year 4711 begins on Feb. 10. The Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration on the Chinese calendar. This year — 2013 — is an especially auspicious year — ushering in the

Year of the Snake. Handed down since ancient times, legend has it that Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve different animals came and Buddha declared that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that creature's personality.

The characteristics of the snake are tempered by one of the five Chinese elements of earth, fire, metal, water and wood overlaying a five-year cycle of characteristics on the original 12-year cycle. This year is the year of the water snake.

While dragon is considered the most powerful and lucky among the 12 Chinese zodiac creatures, the snake most resembles the dragon in appearance and is sometimes called the "Little Dragon."

It is likely that some of the aura of the pow-

erful dragon rubbed off onto the person born in the Year of the Snake and considered likely that success follows the person born in the Year of the Snake during "their" year.

Great opportunities may be presented in the Year of the Snake so persons born in these years (1929, 1941, 1953, 1966, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013) might maximize their considerable skills, guarding against complacency and indifference.

Those born in snake years are acute, aware, wise, charming, cunning, gregarious, generous, and smart. Water Snakes are influential and insightful. They manage others well to help achieve their aims and goals. Good in organizations, they are generally motivated and intellectual, very determined and resolute about success.

Did I mention I was

born in the Year of the Snake?

Others who share the honor include: Brad Pitt, Bob Dylan, Oprah Winfrey, Virginia Woolf, Grete Garbo and Mao.

Here in a state surrounded by the waters of the Great Lakes, let the Chinese New Year create another reminder that with diversity, comes strength.

So as they say in Chinese — Xinxin kuaili — Happy New Year. Congratulations and be prosperous!

Tom Watkins, a former Michigan state superintendent of schools, is a U.S./China business and educational consultant. His interest in China was sparked by his fourth grade teacher. He has been working to build two-way educational, cultural and economic bridges with China his entire adult life. He can be reached at tdwtkins88@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public deserves to know

In 2012, Rick Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, researched 2012 Supreme Court television advertising and found that "of the \$15 million of documentable spending, just over 25 percent can be attributed to identifiable donors; 75 percent cannot." There are no spending records for the many millions more that were spent on direct mailings.

Now that the 2012 election is over, it is a relief not to have all those TV and radio ads and printed campaign literature

besieging us. But if we forget what happened last year, we risk even more problems in the next election.

We don't know who paid for those ads and mailings. Current laws allow the majority of campaign donations to occur in secret. That's not right. Michigan voters need the facts. The money behind campaigns must become public knowledge.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly and federal Judge James Ryan co-lead the bipartisan Michigan Judicial Selection Task Force which recommended improvements to the way that Michigan selects judges. One of the most important recom-

mendations from the task force was that "All money spent to characterize candidates for the Michigan Supreme Court should be reported and ascribed to its sources, not just the committee whose name appears on the disclaimer of an advertisement." People in Michigan deserve to know who is paying to influence their votes. Knowing where a candidate gets his or her contributions is helpful for voters to make an informed decision.

As Justice Kelly and Judge Ryan have pointed out, "Michigan has gained a reputation for Supreme Court election campaigns that are among the most

expensive, least transparent and most partisan in the country."

The League of Women Voters of Michigan has organized public forums titled: Dark Money in Judicial Selection: A Threat to Impartial Justice? The first four forums will be:

Ann Arbor: Feb. 11, 7 p.m., University of Michigan Law School, Room 250, Hutchins Hall Northwest Wayne County: Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Schoolcraft College, VistaTech Center Oakland County: March 11, 7 p.m., Oakland University Lansing: March 12, 7 p.m., Thomas M. Cooley Law School Justice Kelly and Rich Robinson will present recommen-

dations from the JSTF report. Newly elected Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack will join the panel at the Ann Arbor forum.

These events give Michigan citizens an opportunity to learn more about the problems with our current system for selecting judges and begin thinking about what solutions might be most effective. You can obtain more information, including the full report of the JSTF, at the League website: www.lwvmi.org and by attending one of the forums.

Angela Ryan, president League of Women Voters, Northwest Wayne County

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¹ To be eligible for the \$395 processing fee waiver, customers must close on a new Flagstar mortgage and open any new Flagstar personal checking account. Checking account must be opened at least 48 hours prior to mortgage closing with a recurring monthly direct deposit of at least \$250 established. Checking account must remain open for a minimum of 180 days or an early account closing fee and the \$395 mortgage processing fee will be assessed. Existing Flagstar checking account customers are not eligible for this offer. Discount will be applied at closing. The borrower is responsible for all other closing costs and prepaid expenses. This offer cannot be used to reduce any other fees and cannot be combined with any other mortgage fee reduction offer. Processing fee offer is not available on VA loans. VA — Veterans Administration. Mortgage application date must be before June 30, 2013. All borrowers subject to qualification, underwriting, terms, and conditions. Terms, conditions, and rates subject to change without notice. Offer available to Michigan residents only.

² To be eligible for the \$200 bonus offer, the customer must close on a new Flagstar mortgage, open any new Flagstar personal checking account, and establish automatic mortgage payments from new checking account with one automatic mortgage payment occurring within 90 days of mortgage close date. Existing Flagstar checking account customers are not eligible for this offer. The \$200 cash bonus will be deposited into the customer's new checking account within 30 days after meeting qualifications above. Minimum \$50 deposit to open a checking account. A minimum balance is required to avoid monthly service fees on SimplyPlus or SimplyMax checking. SimplyPlus monthly service fee is \$10, SimplyMax monthly service fee is \$25, but there are ways to avoid the monthly service fee. Some accounts may not be eligible based on billing structure, product type, or other constraints. For new interest-bearing checking accounts, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 1/2/13.

The APY depends on account type and balance. **SimplyPlus Checking:** \$0-\$9,999.99/0.10% APY, \$10,000-\$24,999.99/0.20% APY, \$25,000-\$99,999.99/0.25% APY. **SimplyMax Checking:** \$0-\$4,999.99/0.15% APY, \$5,000-\$24,999.99/0.25% APY, \$25,000-\$49,999.99/0.30% APY, \$50,000-\$99,999.99/0.35% APY, \$100,000-\$999,999.99/0.40% APY, \$1,000,000-\$999,999.99/0.50% APY. Interest rates are variable and subject to change. Fees may reduce earnings on the account. This offer is limited to one per household. New account(s) must remain open for a minimum of 180 days or an early account closing fee will be assessed along with the \$200 bonus payment. For tax purposes, the customer will receive a 1099-INT form from Flagstar. This offer expires June 30, 2013. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. Loan programs available only to qualified borrowers; underwriting terms and conditions apply. Offer available to Michigan residents only.

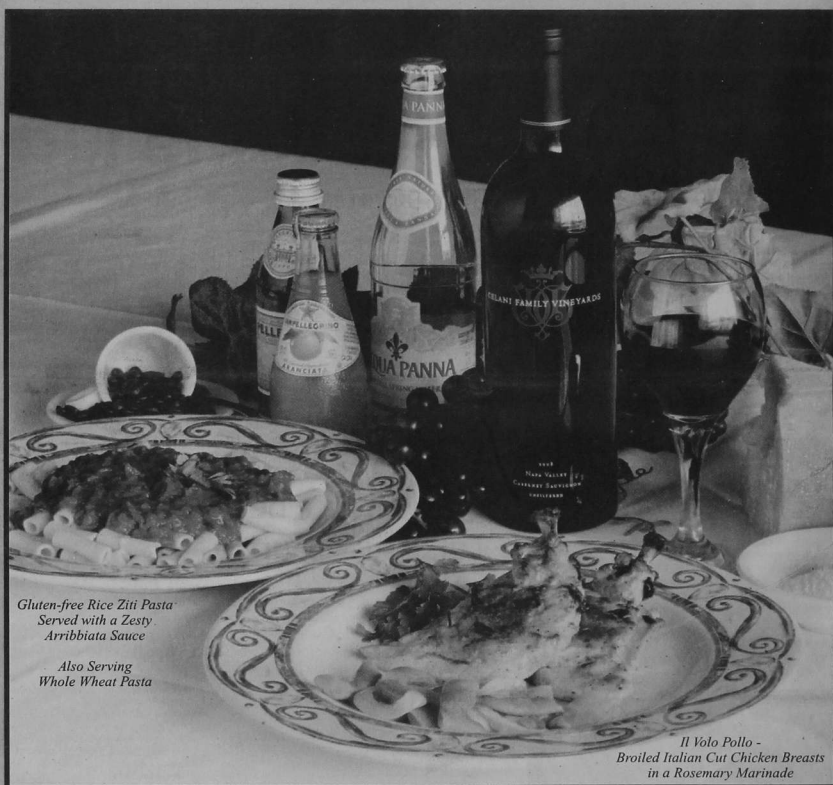
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2013 NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Plymouth duo ready for some D-I football

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Jamarl Eiland II and Nate Emminger grew up playing youth football, with the Canton Lions.

From there, they enjoyed four very successful seasons with the Plymouth Wildcats, and now both are on their way to Division I programs in the NCAA.

On National Signing Day, the Plymouth seniors and first-team All-Observer selections made it official: Eiland signed with the University at Buffalo, Emminger with Valparaiso University.

"This is a dream come true," said the 17-year-old Eiland, Plymouth's quarterback who will be a running back and return kickoffs for the Bulls. "Ever since we played younger ball we were some of the top players in our age group."

"It was always something like 'How crazy would it be if we could all go play college football?'"

Emminger, 5-7 defensive back who had a penchant for making big plays for the Wildcats, said he'll return kicks and compete for a spot on defense. Signing with the D-I AA program based in Indiana came down to finding a place where

he'd get on the field as a freshman.

"I like to play, I didn't want to go somewhere where I would just sit and wait," stressed Emminger, also 17. "I wanted to play immediately, which is what I'll have the opportunity to do."

Thumbs up

Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk likes the choices they made.

"I really don't know much about Valparaiso, but Division I is Division I," Sawchuk said. "The Buffalo staff is pretty special, Jamarl's going to do a great job there."

"They're both such good character kids, there's no doubt in my mind that they're going to make it a better place as soon as they walk on the campus."

Eiland emphasized that finding a college where he felt at ease was a key factor to his decision. "They showed the most interest in me out of any school," said Eiland, holder of a 3.5 grade point average who will study communications or physical therapy. "They came and met me, they e-mailed me and without me ever having to go to

Please see **PLYMOUTH, B3**



BRIAN QUINTOS

Canton senior Cam Dillard happily wears the team colors of the Division I Florida Gators during a National Signing Day ceremony.

Sunshine kid

Chiefs' Dillard can't wait to get started with D-I Florida

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton senior Cam Dillard is going to the Sunshine State, to play for the Division I Florida Gators.

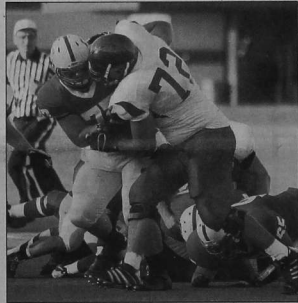
But he won't forget the place where he honed his considerable skills as a punishing-yet-mobile offensive lineman.

During Wednesday's National Signing Day ceremony at Canton High School, Dillard modeled his new University of Florida pullover and cap. The All-Observer first-teamer also hoisted his red-and-white Canton Chiefs jersey emblazoned with double 7s — an appropriate choice given the fact he considers himself a pretty lucky guy.

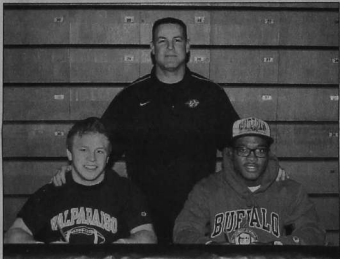
"This means everything, it's truly a blessing to have this opportunity," said Dillard following the ceremony. "I've been looking for it since I was a little kid and now it's a reality."

Twenty-three other scholarship

Please see **DILLARD, B3**

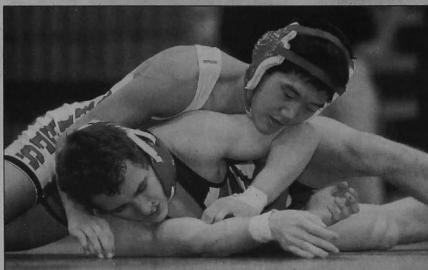


Florida-bound Cam Dillard (No. 77) goes head to head against Midland's Steven Elmer early last season. Elmer committed to Notre Dame.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth seniors (seated, from left) Nate Emminger and Jamarl Eiland made it official that they will leave the state to play college football. Sharing the big day was Wildcats' football coach Mike Sawchuk.



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN MD

Canton's Richard DeMarois gets the upper hand against Livonia Churchill's Josh Perez, in the 119-pound matchup of the team district finals.

Chiefs cruise to district title

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was only the Division 1 team district wrestling finals at Plymouth High School.

Yet the way Canton junior Ben Griffin fought through an apparent knee injury Wednesday to win at 125 pounds against Livonia Churchill's Jonathan Locklear, you'd have thought he was embroiled in the state finals at the Palace.

Griffin literally got up off the mat after writhing in pain early during the second period and went on to post a 13-4 victory. That gave the Chiefs a 14-0 lead and they went on to a 61-6 win to advance to the D1 team regionals Wednesday at Westland John Glenn. Canton (19-11) will face the host Rock-

ets, who defeated Wayne Memorial in another district final.

"The kid's tough," said Canton head coach Cory Mancuso about Griffin. "Last year at the end of the year he got hurt and gutted it out. He had a groin injury and ended up being the state runner-up (at 112)."

"The kid's just super tough. There's no way he wasn't wrestling for his team today. That's why he's a leader."

Another Canton junior who is battling injury, Alec Pantaleo, competed for the first time in a month since breaking a hand against Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

Pantaleo — defending state champion at 135 — earned a win at 152 by pinning

Please see **MAT TITLE, B2**

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02/07/13

Friday hoops postponed

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

The closing of area schools Friday for a snow day has left athletic directors scrambling to find make-up dates in both boys and girls basketball.

This is the status for following girls basketball games:

- Novi at Livonia Stevenson (rescheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9);
- Canton at Livonia Franklin (rescheduled

- for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11);
- Westland John Glenn at Plymouth (cancelled);
- Wayne Memorial at Livonia Churchill (cancelled);
- Lutheran Westland at Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (to be rescheduled at a later date);
- South Lyon at Salem (information not available as of press time). This is the status for the following boys basketball games:
- Salem at South Lyon

- (rescheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11);
- Stevenson at Novi (rescheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11);
- Churchill at Wayne (rescheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12);
- Plymouth at John Glenn (rescheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12);
- Franklin at Canton (rescheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12);
- Lutheran Westland at Huron Valley Lutheran (to be rescheduled at a later date).

Wildcats win battle of top-7 hockey teams

Plymouth's hockey team handed Macomb Dakota its second loss of the season en route to its 17th win, 4-2, Friday at Kennedy Ice Arena as part of the Trenton Showcase.

In a battle of two of the state's leading Division 1 teams, the Wildcats' power play made the difference, clicking for three scores with the extra man in five chances.

"When you hold a team like Dakota to only two goals and hand them their second loss, you have to play a good game," said head coach Gerry Vento.

Senior defenseman Dean Gunther scored a pair of third-period goals for the Wildcats. With the Wildcats clinging to a 2-1 lead entering the third period, Gunther scored a power-play goal 2:16 into the final period. He added an unassisted goal, his seventh of the season, 9:40 into the period for a 4-1 Plymouth advantage.

Sixth-ranked Plymouth carried the play for most of the final period, outshooting Cougars 14-7 in the period and 33-22 for the game.

For seventh-ranked Dakota, Marc DiGrande scored with 2:07 left in the game, but Plymouth goalie Erik Vanden Bosch closed out the game for his eight win of the season.

"I was really happy with our defensive effort," Vento added. "I thought we were able to control the play for most of most of the game."

Sophomore defenseman Jake

Zaborowski opened the scoring with a power-play goal, his third of the season, 2:57 into the game. The Cougars tied the game with a power-play goal by Sammy Sihl 6:57 into the second period.

Plymouth responded late in the middle period when senior forward Spencer Godin scored on the power-play for his second goal of the season.

The Trenton Showcase is an annual three-day series of high school hockey games coordinated by the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League, featuring dozens of teams from across the Midwest and Ontario.

PLYMOUTH 4, COUNTRY DAY 0: The Wildcats dominated the Yellowjackets with a 29-shot onslaught and two shorthanded goals for its sixth shutout victory of the season Thursday in the Trenton Showcase.

Sophomore forward Josh Smith led the offensive attack with two goals and one assist. Senior forward Nick Schultz chipped in three assists.

"I was really impressed with the way Josh Smith has played," Vento said. "He has been getting better and better each week, and he was our best player in this game."

Smith's second goal was shorthanded, giving him seven goals on the season. Zach Taviers scored shorthanded for his 16th goal. Junior forward Mike Schultz added his 21st tally.

Sophomore goalie Jared Maddock stopped all 14 Country Day shots en route to his fourth shutout and ninth victory of the season.

"We did a good job of containing them," Vento added. "I was a little disappointed in the power play. We gave them. That is when they generated chances."

MAT TITLE

Continued from page B1

Plymouth's Jeff Motes in 1:23. He helped the Chiefs earn a 40-30 triumph over the Wildcats.

But Pantaleo did not wrestle against Churchill and Mancuso ruled him out of any team or individual tournaments the rest of this season.

"We're pretty beat up," Mancuso said. "Every match our guys are weighing in at a weight below and we bump them up. We're asking a lot out of our guys."

Almost a sweep

The Chiefs steamrolled their way to the victory over Churchill, winning all but the 130-pound match and pinning opponents in the final four bouts.

Setting the tone was freshman Ryan Apley in the opening 112-pound match.

Apley was about to garner four points for Canton with a 14-2 lead entering the final seconds against Zach Smith. But just before the horn sounded, Apley pinned Smith for two extra points.

Richard DeMarois (at 119) and Griffin followed with convincing wins and it quickly was a 14-point spread for the Chiefs.

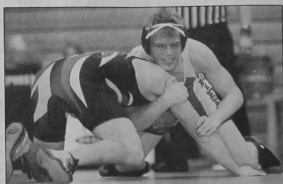
The only blemish on Canton's scoresheet was when Churchill 130-pounder Jake Hale pinned senior Ryan Siegler in 3:05.

In quick succession, Marc Przybylski (135), Jacob Thornton (140), Paul Tracy (a pin at 145), Ty Jassman (152) and Nick Durocher (160) won their bouts to expand the Chiefs' already-wide margin to 34-6.

Closing out the team district finals in convincing fashion were Allan Beckman (189), Ken Wooley (215), heavyweight Andrew Blevins and freshman Sam Orr (103).

All four pinned their opponents. Blevins, a sophomore, needed just 40 seconds to bring down Churchill sophomore Jacob Mercieca.

"This was kind of the ultimate goal this year, to get here," said Mancuso, following the presentation of the district trophy and medals. "We're a young team, we got a lot coming back, we're improving every week."



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN MD

In the 145-pound bout of Wednesday's team district finals at Plymouth, Canton's Paul Tracy (right) goes to work against Justin Baker of Livonia Churchill.

"We're going to go out there next week (at John Glenn) and give it everything we've got, but it's going to be tough. It's going to be real tough."

Late rally

Against Plymouth (19-12), the Chiefs trailed 30-24 entering the upper weight bouts.

Canton took a 36-30 lead thanks to victories via fall at 189 and 215 and closed the comeback out with an 8-0 win at heavyweight. The 189 bout was the spark Canton needed. It was a close battle between Canton's Jevon Hill and Plymouth's Michael Jordan, and nearly made it to overtime. But Hill finally lifted Jordan high off the mat and slammed him down for the pin at 5:39.

The momentum carried over into the 215 match-up. It took 4:11 for Beckman to finally get a fall against Ronnie Dancere and put the Chiefs ahead. Then in the heavyweight bout, Wooley won by major decision over Adam Dulong.

"Everybody on the team really wrestled hard," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "It's just that Canton was a little better today."

"They just won a couple swing matches. ... Their guys went and got bonus points and we didn't."

Looking ahead

Salem (6-13) fell to Churchill 40-31 in the other semifinal dual meet.

Posting victories for the Rocks were Alex Arble (112), Caleb McCabe (135), James Upshaw (160), Tyler Gross (171), Bekim Muca (189) and Mitchell Gross (215).

"We put up a good fight against Churchill," Rocks' head coach Pete Israel said. "We're going

to miss (seniors) Tyler Gross, Alex Arble, Tyler Agostini, Riley Daxdader. But hopefully we'll have guys that step up in their place."

Both Guernsey and Israel said they were anticipating how their wrestlers would do at the State-hosted DI individual districts.

"We should have a good day there," Guernsey noted. "Our team for a long time has always done a lot better at individual tournaments than we have at team stuff."

"We have a lot of very talented individuals. We're hoping to get seven or eight guys through to regionals."

He listed Mohamed Youssef, Brandon Harris (who returned to action Wednesday at 112 and posted a major decision against Canton's Apley), Terry Berry, Chase Kallil, Jon Conn, Alec Breckenridge and Joey Shaver as candidates to advance.

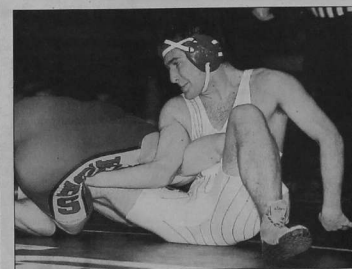
"Maybe (also) Hussein in Youssef and Spencer Schiftra," Guernsey said. "And we're going to bring up some unheralded guys stuck behind guys like Cohn and Breckenridge. We're going to bring some guys who haven't had many varsity matches and see if they can get out."

Israel said he expects Tyler Gross, Arble, Agostini and Daxdader to have success at Saline along with a few others.

"Mitchell Gross and Caleb McCabe, who are sophomores, should do well," he said. "I'm looking forward to getting a bunch of guys to regionals."

"I just told the guys just place top four in the rest of your tournaments and you'll be good."

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DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Salem's Tyler Gross (right), shown in the 171 title matchup at the recent Observer-Land Invitational, is one of several key seniors who will be missed next season.

BOYS WRESTLING RESULTS

TEAM DISTRICT FINALS
CANTON 61
LIVONIA CHURCHILL 6
Feb. 6 at Plymouth

112 pounds: Ryan Apley (C) pinned Zachary Smith, 5:59; 119: Richard DeMarois (Q) won by major decision over Josh Perez, 9-0; 125: Ben Griffin (C) maj. dec. Jonathan Locklear, 13-4; 130: Jake Hale (LC) p. Ryan Siegler, 3:05; 135: Przybylski (Q) won by technical fall over Jake Humphrey, 16-0; 140: Jacob Thornton (Q) win in overtime over Zachary Leck, 9-7; 145: Paul Tracy (C) p. Justin Baker, 2:34; 152: Ty Jassman (C) win in OT over Ben Leck, 7:5; 160: Nicholas Durocher (Q) disallowed Colin Englehart, 8-6; 171: Jevon Hill (C) dec. Jacob Sarna, 11-8; 189: Allan Beckman (C) p. Alex Lemonecilli, 1:35; 215: Ken Wooley (C) p. Chad Cacicco, 1:37; 285: Andrew Blevins (C) p. Jacob Mercieca, 0-40; 103: Sam Orr (C) p. Spencer Blanchard, 2:33.

TEAM DISTRICT SEMIFINALS
CANTON 40
PLYMOUTH 30
Feb. 6 at Plymouth

103 pounds: Mohamed Youssef (P) pinned Harrison Samoy, 5:47; 112: Jeff Harris (P) won by technical fall over Ryan Apley, 22-6; 119: Richard DeMarois (C) p. Terry Berry, 3:00; 125: Ben Griffin

(C) p. Spencer Schiftra, 3:19; 130: Charles Kallil (P) disallowed Ryan Siegler, 10-5; 135: Jon Conn (P) dec. Marc Przybylski, 5-1; 140: Alec Breckenridge (P) p. Jacob Thornton, 5:25; 145: Hussein Youssef (P) dec. Ty Jassman, 7-2; 152: Alec Pantaleo (C) p. Jeffery Motes, 1:23; 160: Nicholas Durocher (C) p. Terek Tarnimi, 5:32; 171: Joseph Shaver (P) won by major decision over Kyle Schwieter, 20-8; 189: Jevon Hill (C) p. Michael Jordan, 5:39; 215: Allan Beckman (C) p. Ronnie Dancere, 4-1; 285: Ken Wooley maj. dec. Adam Dulong, 8-0.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 40
SALEM 31
Feb. 6 at Plymouth
103 pounds: Spencer Blanchard (LC) pinned Andrew Lindsay, 2:28; 112: Alex Arble (LC) p. Zachary Smith, 1:45; 119: Josh Perez (LC) won by major decision over Cameron Shaughnessy, 17-6; 125: Jonathan Locklear (LC) p. Greg Shaver, 6:52; 130: Jake Hale (LC) won by forfeit; 135: Caleb McCabe (S) disallowed Jake Humphrey, 6-2; 140: Zachary Leck (LC) p. Jake Judge, 1:09; 145: Justin Baker (LC) dec. Hamad Abed, 9-3; 152: Tom Rudd (LC) won by forfeit; 166: James Upshaw (LC) maj. dec. Matt Seimaz, 9-0; 171: Tyler Gross (S) p. Jacob Sarna, 2:27; 189: Bekim Muca (S) p. Alex Lemonecilli, 0-29; 215: Mitchell Gross (S) p. Jacob Mercieca, 2:25; 285: Emmanuel Haddad (LC) dec. John Agostini, 4-2.

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2013 NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Smaller schools, big dreams

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Tim Baechler's football players don't have to land scholarships with Division I colleges for him to be as proud as a coach can be.

Such was the case Wednesday when Canton seniors Malcolm Hollingsworth and Matt McCoy signed their national letters of intent.

"These kids signing today are special kids," Baechler said to those attending a National Signing Day ceremony.

Hollingsworth — a big-play running back who set a new Chiefs' record by averaging 150 yards per game in 2012 — signed with Lake Erie College, a Division II program near Cleveland.

Making official his signing with D-II Saginaw Valley State University was McCoy, a tight end and defensive back who was named the Chiefs' 2012 MVP.

Oh, and by the way, a third Canton player took part in the signing ceremony. That would be offensive lineman Cam Dillard, who is headed for D-I Florida.

Comfort zone

Although Hollingsworth and McCoy might be red-shirted as freshmen, both 17-year-olds said their future schools were a good fit both academically and on the gridiron.

"When I went to Lake Erie I was just impressed by everything I saw," Hollingsworth said. "They



Saginaw Valley State University is where Canton senior Matt McCoy will play college football.

evaluated me and they let me evaluate them as a whole, with the campus life and the programs of study that they had there.

"I was just impressed by the team chemistry and how it's an up-and-coming school and I'd like to be part of something new," Hollingsworth, whose GPA borders on 3.5, is looking into studying finance at the school.

Another plus that went into his decision was the smaller number of students that go there.

"It's a small campus, I like that too," Hollingsworth said. "I will be able to learn better in the smaller classrooms."

Family atmosphere

McCoy, whose parents are Cheryl and Keith McCoy, also felt right at home his first trip to SVSU.

"Three weeks ago I went on my first visit up there, and you know, it was all about family," McCoy noted. "I felt right at home the



Off to the races for another touchdown last season is Canton's Malcolm Hollingsworth (No. 10), who will play at Lake Erie College.

minute I went there. That's what sold me on Saginaw Valley.

"And the coaches guaranteed me they were going to have a great year and it's going to be a great experience."

McCoy said he might be a reserve in the defensive backfield if he isn't red-shirted. He'll look into



Canton senior Malcolm Hollingsworth puts pen to paper on National Signing Day. He'll play Division II football at Lake Erie College.

studying for a degree in kinesiology, too.

No matter what, he'll have longtime friend Kyle Cameron there with him on the team and as a roommate. Cameron, a Salem High School senior, also signed with SVSU on Wednesday. Baechler later said how gratifying it is to see quality student-athletes such as Hollingsworth and McCoy are rewarded with the chance to join college programs.

"For a small guy (5-7, 170), I'm just so thankful that Lake Erie saw something in him that we have known about him," said Baechler, about Hollingsworth. "But unfortunately, a lot of kids don't get that offers that are that small because they're afraid they're going to get hurt or be too easy to get tackled."

"I'm very thankful to Lake Erie for giving him a shot."

A blessing

So is Malcolm's dad, Ed, who held up the Storm's

2013 schedule and urged folks to watch a game.

"We were hoping and praying for some type of financial support to get him through college, to get him started," said Ted Hollingsworth, whose wife Denise also was at the ceremony. "But the beautiful thing that was a tremendous blessing for us, not only did the coaches down there whenever we visited the facilities, they wanted him."

"They want him to be a part of the program and I feel real comfortable sending my son down there," Saginaw Valley's scholarship for McCoy also was applauded by Baechler.

"That kid needed a scholarship to be able to get to college, to afford college," Baechler said. "So I'm so happy that he has a future. He's going to make it happen for himself."

timsmith@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128

DILLARD

Continued from page B1

offers (including from D-I Oregon and Arkansas) didn't sway the 6-4, 290-pounder's decision or desire to join the Gators — a program with the nation's fourth-best recruiting class as ranked by Rivals.com.

"I'm an SEC guy and I picked Florida for some reason and I've always loved them ever since I was a little kid," Dillard said. "It worked out pretty well. It's a dream come true."

Dillard, 17, is pretty much a dream player, too, according to Canton coach Tim Baechler.

"He's a tough kid, a hard-working kid, and obviously he's gifted with some speed and size," Baechler said. "That's the big factor. There's the agility, he has great hips and feet."

"Plus he's a football player. He wants to go block people. He wants to go hit people."

Top notch

Baechler said Florida is getting a 4-star recruit and an even better person.

"Cam's a great kid, he works so hard," Baechler emphasized. "Even in-season people don't realize he'll work out at 5 a.m. and he'll make sure he got his list in. And he deserves the success."

Dillard follows two Canton alumni into Division I, namely wide receiver Devin Thomas (Michigan State) and running back Kevin Buford (Iowa).

Thomas went on to play the National Football League and that's the place Dillard eventually wants to be.

"That's the dream, that's the goal," said Dillard, wearing his trademark wide smile.

Can he make it to the NFL following his Florida career?

"Absolutely, I think so," Dillard said. "I just got to stay focused and do it right, do my job on the field."

Baechler probably wouldn't be shocked to see Dillard turn pro someday.

Proving them wrong

However, the veteran Chiefs coach knows Dillard will first need to become an impact player in the Southeastern Football Conference.

"He got all the tools, now he'll be playing the best of the best," Baechler said. "It's going to be tough to get on the field, but hopefully he'll figure it out."

Dillard, whose parents George and Ann proudly attended the Florida unveiling, shook his head when talking about how he is the third recent Canton player to sign with a D-I program.

"That's crazy to think that we're starting to get these kinds of kids," Dillard said. "Every year kids are just getting better and better. You can see it, our record's getting better every year."

Meanwhile, Baechler relishes that major colleges are recruiting and signing Canton players despite the criticism of some "naysayers" about the Chiefs' trademark, triple-back offense.

"It feels good from the just proves to people that it doesn't matter what offense or defense you're running," he said. "It's the kid, it's talent."

And Cam Dillard has plenty of that, something other SEC teams are about to find out.

Salem gridders 'at home' with SVSU

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For all intents and purposes, Kyle Cameron's 18th birthday present came 10 days early.

The Salem senior defensive end and co-captain Wednesday signed his national letter of intent to play at Saginaw Valley State University — the very campus where his parents met.

When he visited the campus during the recruiting process, he saw for himself just what Mike and Pam Cameron kept telling him.

Namely, that Saginaw Valley is an exceptional place to get an education, compete in NCAA Division II athletics and join the Cardinals' extended family.

Kyle emphasized the family aspect during the ceremony at Salem High School to announce his college signing.

"What really made my decision was all the coaches treated me like family and I was very welcomed," said Kyle Cameron, adding that he immediately noticed how students "all support their teams."

His parents also were pleased that the 6-1, 225-pounder chose Saginaw Valley instead of Hillsdale College or Ferris State University. It means the SVSU-Cameron connection continues.

"I'm very proud of him, very excited," said Mike Cameron, himself a former Cardinals' football player.

Pam Cameron played women's softball at Saginaw Valley and agreed that the campus will be the perfect place for Kyle to live, study and compete.

Although Kyle Cameron probably will be red-shirted his freshman year, he is enthusiastic about getting started on the next phase of his young life — on and off the gridiron.

Also enthused for Cameron and other Cardinals' recruits to get started is head football coach Jim Collins, commenting about the class of 2013 on the university web site.

"This class is filled with explosive play-



makers, dominating blockers and relentless defenders," Collins said. "Most important, these are all men of high character with impressive academic credentials."

Cameron, the owner of a 3.35 grade-point average, is looking forward to pursuing a degree in business administration.

He'll have company

Helping him get acclimated will be longtime friend and future roommate Matt McCoy, the Canton senior who earlier Wednesday announced he will play football for the Cards.

"It's really cool how we used to go to elementary school and middle school," said Cameron, about McCoy. "And now ... in college we're going to be together." And now ... in college we're going to be together ... a decade ago when they were teammates on the Plymouth-Canton Stealers. Each attended the other's signing ceremony Wednesday.

"I've known him (Cameron) since second grade," McCoy said about his football friend.

Also on hand Wednesday were Salem head coach Kurt Britnell and his assistant coach-

"This is a great opportunity to continue his education and play football," Britnell said. "He's just a great kid, (from a) great family. He's worked extremely hard to earn this. I'm very, very proud of him."

Cameron follows 2012 grad Marcus Houston, who last year signed to play football at William Penn University in Iowa.

Two years ago, Ethan Walsh went to Wayne State and Austin Root went to Ferris State.

Britnell said current seniors Cam Werner and Youssef Barakat are expected to sign to play college football in the coming weeks. The coach spoke glowingly about Cameron, who was named to the 2012 All-Observer second team. And the young football player returned the favor.

"It's just being a great honor to be coached by these guys (at Salem)," Cameron added. "It's nice that our class changed the program around."

Last season, the Rocks finished 5-4 and narrowly missed making the state playoffs for the first time in more than a decade.

timsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

PLYMOUTH

Continued from page B1

a camp they offered me (a full scholarship). They just showed that they really wanted me so I felt comfortable."

According to Emminger, who might get a business degree, Valparaiso also is a quality place to study "so I can find a good job right after college."

Emminger will be about three hours away from metro Detroit,

which suits Nate's dad Doug Emminger just fine.

That's because Doug and Theresa Emminger's older son Phil (a 2011 Plymouth grad) is playing cornerback at Robert Morris University in the Chicago area.

"It's pretty cool, the kids are buying into it," Doug Emminger said. "They played 37 freshmen and sophomores last year. So they're young, they're getting better."

A lot of the games they played were competitive.

Meanwhile, Doug added that the football scholarships for Eiland and Emminger cap off rewarding careers at Plymouth — where he said the "best coaching staff" in Michigan is assembled.

Eiland — who had parents Jamar Eiland and Kenyatta Lewis and other family members on hand for the ceremony inside Plymouth's gymnasium — spoke glowingly about his football experience in high school.

"Ever since I came in

as a freshman it was a whole new level of football," Eiland said. "It was more than just football. It was about being a teammate and a brother. I think Plymouth football really helped me grow into the man I am today."

New challenges

Both players now have opportunities to continue maturing as athletes.

Of course, they'll have to deal with the usual challenges that prep stars encounter when they join their college

teams.

"They'll find out it's going to be a little tougher than walking in and being the best guy in high school," Sawchuk cautioned.

"There's a whole lot of players that are just as good as them so that means they got to work harder to get there."

What's good for Eiland and Emminger is they already know all about that thanks to being a Wildcat.

timsmith@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128

timsmith@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128

Youngsters spark 'Cats in division clincher

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Kenn Forbes has been pleasantly surprised in his first season as the Plymouth varsity boys swim coach.

After five years at Red-ford Union, Forbes has already helped mold the Wildcats into a divisional champion.

Plymouth clinched the KLAAS South dual meet title outright Thursday night with a 115-68 victory over host Westland John Glenn, the defending division champ.

"We have a lot of underclass talent," said Forbes, whose team finished 5-0 in the KLAAS South.

"My freshman and sophomores are swimming as fast or faster than my seniors and juniors, and it sounds like we have a lot of talent coming up from the eighth grade, so hopefully in the next few years we can build off it."

Plymouth started the meet by going one-two in the 200-yard medley relay and parlayed that with victories in the 200- and 400 freestyle relays.

Earning individual all-firs for Plymouth were: Nick Weber, 200



DOUGLASS BARGERSTOCK

One of a number of Plymouth swimmers who helped the Wildcats clinch the KLAAS South Division title on Thursday was Nick Weber.

IM (2:11.82); Connor McDermott, 1-meter diving (179.95 points); Cameron Earls, 100 butterfly (56.96); Garrett Beapuz, 500 freestyle (5:18.38); Aniketh Visai, 100 backstroke (1:03.16); and Tyler Kazmierczuk, 100 breaststroke (1:16.44).

Forbes said his team "exceeded" expectations.

"We figured it (the margin) would be 16 points on paper," Forbes said.

"There were a lot of good races. This was our best

meet in terms of heads-up competition. They have a heckuva group of kids at John Glenn. It's sad to see 11 of them go (graduate).

"We all had decent times. I think Alex Johnson, one of my juniors, really stepped up. In the last couple of weeks he's really turned it up. My freshman class—Keegan Kendall—he got another PR in the backstroke (1:06.42). Garrett Beapuz, another freshman, took some firsts tonight. They all swam well. We



DOUGLASS BARGERSTOCK

Plymouth's Cameron Earls swims during Thursday's division-clinching dual meet at Westland John Glenn.

got another eight or 10 PR's."

Glenn's title divisional run last year included razor thin wins over Plymouth (96-90) and Canton (94-92).

"We knew that they (Plymouth) were better than we were, but we swam well," said Glenn seventh-year coach Bob Harding said. "We moved some people around a little bit. We got four new incoming swimmers this year and we needed more than that because we lost

11 (graduated) last year."

Glenn's top performer was Cody Hodges, a junior, who swept the 50- and 100 freestyles with times of 24.27 and 53.39, respectively. Senior Josh Wakeford added a first in the 200 freestyle (1:54.16).

Same Forbes, meanwhile,

tried to downplay the showdown between the unbeaten

"We approach each meet like it's a normal meet," he said. "We don't do any spe-

cial preparations. We do the same thing. We look at their times, we look at our times. We just basically make it routine so the guys get in the habit and they don't get thrown off by anything else."

But although the future looks even brighter, Forbes likes what he sees so far in his current group.

"We're in a very good situation," he said, "especially being undefeated going into the division championship. I couldn't ask for a better team. The guys are amazing. They work hard, they swim hard and they get along. And they have a lot of fun doing it. I couldn't ask for anything more."

The six-team KLAAS South Division meet will begin at noon Saturday, Feb. 15 at Glenn. Plymouth last won that title in 2010 after Canton won it in 2011 and Glenn in 2012. "We lost one dual meet this year," said Harding, whose team is 6-1 overall. "Plymouth handled everybody and they're just better than we are at this point."

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Thirteen members of Canton's varsity boys swim team were honored Thursday on 'Senior Night.' They include (kneeling from left) co-captains Mike Carlson, Bryan Tolinski, Michael Wilyard; (standing from left) Chris Jenner, Travis Alber, Saul Paul, Josh Joy, Nick Lazich, Nicholas Valli, Nathan Benjamin, Kyle Bindas, Alex Sogge and Kyle Spencer.

Turnaround keyed by Canton seniors

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Much of the first half of the season was a struggle for Canton's varsity boys swim team.

But thanks in large part to the efforts and leadership of the Chiefs' seniors, the team turned things around with three consecutive dual meet victories.

The latest was Thursday's 103-68 win over Livonia Franklin on "Senior Night" at Canton.

"They were really very excited about it being Senior Night and they all swam very, very well," Canton head coach Dave Le said. "I was extremely surprised, most of them posted their best times of the season so far."

"Overall it was a very good meet for them."

Senior co-captains Mike Carlson, Bryan Tolinski and Michael Wilyard and 10 other seniors chipped in as the Chiefs improved to 3-5 overall and 3-3 in the KLAAS South Division.

Le said several of the seniors also turned in personal bests—or swim strong races if they didn't.

For example, Wilyard swam his leg of the 200-yard medley relay about a second faster than his pre-

vious best.

He and seniors Kyle Bindas, Alex Sogge and Chris Jenner teamed up for Canton's second-place tandem in the medley relay—which came in at 1:58.73.

Demonstrating the Chiefs' improving depth, that quartet trailed the event-winning Canton unit of Gerard Niemann, Alex Bourdreau, Nathan Albin and John Everitt (1:57.19). Also dropping their times were seniors Josh Joy (first in the 200 freestyle with a 2:05.96) and Jenner (second in the 50 free with a 25.76).

"Chris finally broke the 26-second mark," Le said. "He's been close several times."

Bindas finished first in the 50 free with a 25.09 mark. Another senior, Nathan Benjamin, won the 500 free with a time of 5:53.69.

With a total of 30 sophomores and freshmen, the Chiefs needed several younger swimmers to start making strides and Le said they are doing just that.

The trend continued against the Patriots.

"Cole Malhotra in the (100) butterfly dropped over a second," said Le, noting that the freshman placed second with a time of 1:06.77.

Bourdreau and Niemann

improved on previous bests in the 100 breaststroke, although they did not place.

Gearing up

"All across the board there were a lot of dropped times," Le said. "We've been working pretty hard trying to get ready for division meet (Feb. 16 at Westland John Glenn) and conference meet."

"For them to be matching the times they've done already in the season or even exceeding them a little bit makes me very excited for what they can do when they're rested and ready for the division meet."

According to Le, much of the credit for the team's second-half improvement should go to the seniors.

"It's been a tough season in terms of injuries, illness and some inexperience and the seniors have really stepped up," Le said. "They've been keeping a positive attitude, keeping the work going."

"Really our success the last few weeks is directly attributable to the entire senior class."

The 13 seniors are Travis Alber, Benjamin, Bindas, Carlson, Jenner, Joy, Nick Lazich, Saul Paul, Sogge, Kyle Spencer, Tolinski, Nicholas Valli and Wilyard.

and perhaps sign up to play "the fastest game on turf."

Those unable to make the meeting can go to www.lacrosse.salemrooks.com for information.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS
PLYMOUTH 115 WESTLAND GLENN 68
Feb. 7, 7th John Glenn

200-yard medley relay: 1. Plymouth (Cameron Earls, Garrett Beapuz, Nick Weber, Ryan Heinze), 1:50.6; 2. Plymouth (Benjamin Yang, Aniketh Visai, Alexander Johnson, Andrew Lusk), 1:54.91; 3. John Glenn (Jason Burckitt, Petr Orzech, Steve Leblanc, Nat Alford), 2:05.97.

200 freestyle: 1. Josh Wakeford (WIG), 1:54.16; 2. Beapuz (P), 1:55.53; 3. Aaron Alholina (WIG), 2:00.15.

200 individual medley: 1. Weber (P), 2:11.82; 2. Visai (P), 2:18.06; 3. John Kukula (WIG), 2:19.54.

50 freestyle: 1. Cody Hodges (WIG), 24.27; 2. Heinze (P), 24.55; 3. Burckitt (WIG), 24.79.

1-meter diving: 1. Connor McManus (P), 179.95 points; 2. Dave Cunningham (WIG), 164.80; 3. Grant Hoberth (P), 128.65.

100 butterfly: 1. Earls (P), 56.96; 2. Weber (P), 59.59; 3. Wakeford (WIG), 1:00.0.

100 freestyle: 1. Hodges (WIG), 53.39; 2. Johnson (P), 54.96; 3. Earls (P), 55.18.

200 freestyle: 1. Beapuz (P), 5:18.38; 2. Yang (P), 5:27.76; 3. A. Alholina (WIG), 5:31.51.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Earls, Weber, Heinze, Alexander Wilson), 1:36.46; 2. John Glenn (Hodges, Kukula, Burckitt, Wakeford), 1:36.83; 3. Plymouth (Brandon Burger, Tyler Kazmierczuk, Bronson Knowles, Lusk), 1:46.81.

100 backstroke: 1. Visai (P), 1:03.16; 2. Keegan Kendall (P), 1:06.42; 3. Josh Ferguson (WIG), 1:14.77.

100 breaststroke: 1. Kazmierczuk (P), 1:16.44; 2. Orzech (P), 1:18.9; 3. Plymouth (Yang, Visai, Johnson, Beapuz), 3:42.11; 4. John Glenn (Hodges, Brad Alholina, A. Alholina, Wakeford), 3:43.16; 5. John Glenn (Burckitt, Kukula, Chris Sabal, Jacob Deering), 4:00.33.

Dual meet records: Plymouth, 5-0 KLAAS South Division (clinched title); John Glenn, 6-1 overall, 4-1 KLAAS South.

CANTON 103 FRANKLIN 68
Feb. 7 at Canton

200-yard medley relay: 1. Canton (Gerard Niemann, Alex Bourdreau, Nathan Albin, John Everitt), 1:57.19; 2. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Michael Wilyard, Alex Sogge, Chris Jenner), 1:58.73; 3. Livonia Franklin (Justin Larkins, Alex Herrick, Austin Klotz, Jorge Forgas), 2:05.96.

200 freestyle: 1. Josh Joy (C), 2:05.96; 2. Cole Malhotra (C), 2:11.66; 3. Jack Chaney (C), 2:15.53; 4. Ryan Coston (P), 2:28.08; 5. Ethan Nordstrom (P), 2:49.10.

200 individual medley: 1. Albin (C), 2:34.42; 2. Forgas (P), 2:36.87; 3. Jay Alskar (P), 2:47.75; 4. Michael Peppers (P), 2:53.21; 5. Paul Galt (P), 3:32.39.

50 freestyle: 1. Bindas (C), 25.09; 2. Jenner (C), 25.76; 3. Francis Mina (L), 31.18; 4. Cooper Ken (L), 32.69; 5. Danny Kay (P), 35.25.

1-meter diving: 1. Austin Teltow (C), 153.00 points.

100 butterfly: 1. Larkins (L), 55.52; 2. Malhot (C), 1:06.77; 3. Klotz (L), 1:07.02; 4. Herrick (L), 1:08.48; 5. Wilyard (C), 1:11.14.

100 freestyle: 1. Niemann (C), 55.23; 2. Joy (C), 57.90; 3. Noah Adams (C), 1:00.5; 4. Paul Sturgis (L), 1:11.50; 5. Gavin Lambert (L), 1:12.45.

500 freestyle: 1. Nathan Benjamin (C), 5:53.69; 2. Joy (C), 5:58.44; 3. Ryan Heinze (P), 5:58.44; 4. Connor Klotz (C), 6:34.44; 5. Kyle Perelli (L), 7:47.43.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Bindas, Joy, Jenner, Alex Sogge), 1:43.70; 2. Canton (Everitt, Andrew Loehnis, Adams, Anthony Garbarino), 1:48.40; 3. Livonia Franklin (Klotz, Nordstrom, Coston, Lusk), 2:05.01.

100 backstroke: 1. Larkins (L), 1:02.55; 2. Livonia (C), 1:12.29; 3. Albin (C), 1:14.45; 4. Travis Alber (C), 1:14.56; 5. Forgas (L), 1:16.58.

100 breaststroke: 1. Athava (L), 1:40.19; 2. Galt (L), 1:48.52; 3. Mina (L), 1:49.45.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Livonia Franklin (Herrick, Klotz, Forgas, Larkins), 3:52.58; 2. Livonia Franklin (Drew Niemiec, Keane, Lambert, Coston), 4:57.88; 3. Canton (Jenner, Joy, Bindas, Albin), 5:00.33.

Dual meet records: Canton, 3-5 overall, 3-3 KLAAS South Division; Franklin, 0-2 overall, 0-2 KLAAS South.

CANTON 68 VPSILANT 85
Feb. 8 at Canton

200-yard medley relay: 1. Vpsilant, 1:54.80; 2. Canton (Gerard Niemann, Alex Bourdreau, Nathan Albin, Travis Majors), 1:56.21; 3. Canton (Jack Adams, Grant Kuri, Cole Malhotra, John Everitt), 2:04.47.

200 freestyle: 1. Vpsilant, 2:05.96; 2. Jack Adams (C), 2:13.01; 3. Rex Simmons (V), 2:23.79.

200 individual medley: 1. Rex Pappas (V), 2:17.19; 2. Niemann (C), 2:20.49; 3. Bourdreau (C), 2:22.99; 4. Jack Davis (V), 2:31.32; 5. Elijah Cox (V), 2:49.05.

50 freestyle: 1. Terrence Everett (V), 26.18; 2. Adam Javay (V), 27.44; 3. David Lambert (V), 27.10; 4. Adam Chaney (C), 27.75; 5. Noah Crampton (V), 30.34.

100 butterfly: 1. Malhotra (C), 1:05.03; 2. Zachary Green (V), 1:10.83; 3. Taran Wesels (V), 1:18.44; 4. John Tump (V), 1:18.47; 5. Connor Klotz (L), 1:22.84.

200 freestyle: 1. Myles Roberts (V), 53.68; 2. Albin (C), 56.35; 3. Joy (C), 57.37; 4. Green (V), 1:00.00; 5. Chaney (C), 1:00.16.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Nathan Benjamin (C), 5:53.79; 2. Malhot (C), 6:07.85; 3. Simmons (V), 6:25.83; 4. Austin Green (V), 7:29.15; 5. Klotz (L), 7:07.54; 2. Adam Javay (V), 27.44; 3. David Lambert (V), 27.10; 4. Adam Chaney (C), 27.75; 5. Noah Crampton (V), 30.34.

100 backstroke: 1. Roberts (V), 1:04.84; 2. Davis (V), 1:06.23; 3. Klotz (L), 1:10.24; 4. Alex Middleton (C), 1:12.35; 5. Anthony Garbarino (C), 1:22.84.

100 breaststroke: 1. Klotz (L), 1:16.58; 2. Michael Peppers (P), 1:10.07; 3. Michael Wilyard (C), 1:12.95; 4. Grant Kuri (C), 1:19.37; 5. Cox (V), 1:21.97.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Malhotra, Niemann, Albin, Bourdreau), 3:37.27; 2. Vpsilant, 3:50.98; 3. Canton (N. Adams, Everett, Wilyard, Joy), 4:00.24.

Pens drop third straight

A tough stretch for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins' girls hockey team continued with Tuesday's 8-0 loss at Detroit Country Day.

On Feb. 2, PCS lost 4-3 in overtime to Walled Lake at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills.

Scoring for the Penguins were Jenna Carter and Ashley Saunders and Beth Johnson. Jordan Patterson (unassisted) and Ameliese Niemann (Patterson) to open up a 3-1 lead.

But Emma Croner and Meryll Miller netted goals

in the third period against Becky Lout to send the game into OT. Kyle Armstrong then won it for the Wild with an unassisted tally.

The Penguins, meanwhile, were defeated 5-0 by Port Huron on Jan. 29 at Arctic Edge.

PCA girls finish strong

Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team pulled away in the fourth quarter Thursday against Everett Collegiate, winning 42-34.

The Eagles (12-4 overall) tied 22-16 at halftime and 27-25 after three frames despite offensive struggles, said head coach Carol Gerulis.

It took a clutch triple by Karen Windle (10 points, eight rebounds, seven steals) in the final seconds of the third to take the lead going into the fourth.

Then, the Eagles parlayed a patient attack into 15 fourth quarter points to complete the win.

Helping the cause was Emily Gerulis (12 points, eight rebounds), who sank six of eight free-throw attempts in the fourth.

"Our team played well and finished a game even though we were missing shots," Gerulis said.

PCA received several key defensive contributions. Gerulis said Rachel Fuller (eight points, four steals), Rachel Smith (eight points) and Jenny Malcolm all chipped in.

Jenna Abraham, meanwhile, drained a key three in the fourth to help PCA close it out.

UIGETT 55 PCA 37: Gross Pointe Woods Academy-Liggett rolled to this MAC Blue victory over visiting Plymouth Christian Academy on Tuesday.

Rachel Smith and Emily Gerulis led PCA (11-4 overall, 7-2 in the conference) to eight points, respectively.

FEB. 14, LUTHERAN NW 16: In the Eagle homecoming game on Feb. 14, Martha Mullett scored 19 points to spark this lopsided MAC Blue win.

PCA broke out to a 16-4 edge after one quarter and never let up. Emily Gerulis and Rachel Fuller each registered eight points while Emma Croner and Meryll Miller added three points, respectively.

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Happy Valentine's Day!



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Haiden Richmond	Inkster	Feb. 17
Peyton Wilder	Dearborn Hgts.	Feb. 21
Valerie Zamora	Livonia	Feb. 28
Ryan Mason	Warren	Feb. 29

Wanted!

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about? Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.



Photo Contest

Mail your photo entry to Scoop The Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 or email to cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Boy or Girl: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

*Parent's Printed Name: _____

*Parent's Signature: _____

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Coordinator/Contributing Writer:
Chore Jordan, Marketing Manager
Design/Layout:
Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?
Email cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Deadline for submissions:

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

Scoop's Winter Fun



Solomon Cross Hageman, Colleen Hageman, Linda Alley and Timmy Alley all from South Lyon.



American Dance Academy Dance troop in South Lyon.



Audrey Grove, Eden Dorelley, Alex Groves and Brennan Donnelley all from South Lyon.

Addison and Delaney Smith from South Lyon.

Scoop's Coloring Contest Favorites!

All of the drawings were GREAT!

Our grand prize winner is Aset Hill who received the board game Angry Bird Knock on Wood. Everyone received an Angry Bird coloring book. Great Job!



Winter Cold Kids making snowmen, angels snow falling from the sky. Kids of all ages play in that winter snow and best of all the steaming hot cocoa winter.
By Aset Hill
Aset Hill
Age: 12



Jacob Youall
Age: 8



Mayra Ponce
Age: 11



DeAngelo Bowles
Age: 12



Nicky Palatier
Age: 10



Mykah Telley
Age: 12



Jared Smith
Age: 11



Jasde Horas
Age: 11

Riddles & Giggles...



HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA!



Riddle: Which month has 28 days in it?
Answer: All of them

Scoop: Knock, knock

Scoop's Friend: Who's there?

Scoop: Police

Scoop's Friend: Police Who?

Scoop: Police let me in, it's cold out here!



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Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, MI 48170
All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Media by close of the business day on **February 28**
or email your form to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Looking sharp

Farmington Hills woman turns heads with her hats

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Can't wear a hat? Linda Sweeney says you can — and you'll look good wearing it. "Everyone can wear a hat. It just needs to be custom-made for them," said the Farmington Hills milliner.

"There is a saying called the 10 commandments of wearing a hat. I don't remember them all, but one of them is you're not supposed to wear a hat wider than your shoulders. But let me tell you, it's all in the confidence. I've seen (short) women who will rock in a wide-brimmed hat with confidence. They know they look good and they can pull it off. You know, confidence is everything."

Sweeney, owner of Forever Sweeney Millinery & Designs, LLC., supplies the custom fit for her couture creations that range from casual to dressy with a retro flair to fancy and flamboyant. Her most popular hat, called "The Snappy Casual," sports an angled brim that can be turned up or down. Its brim can be dressed up with detachable embellishments or adorned with a simple pin or silk flower to pair with blue jeans.

"It's popular because women can wear it any-

GO RED

Forever Sweeney Millinery & Designs, LLC.

Linda Sweeney of Farmington Hills makes one-of-a-kind, custom-made hats. She also does presentations on the history of hats. She and her colleague, Yolanda Haynes of Southfield, create private

hat parties and tea parties for churches and women's organizations. Sweeney's hats are shown at Rolan's Boutique in Southfield and Offin Rivers Accessories in Detroit. For more information about Sweeney's custom designs, call (248) 426-HATS or visit foreversweeney.com.

Go Red For Women Luncheon: Registration begins at 9 a.m., followed by a health expo and luncheon at noon, Friday, Feb. 15, at the MGM Grand in Detroit. The event will include health screenings, health seminars, vendor displays and a silent auction that includes the red "fascinator" hat donated by Linda Sweeney, a milliner from Farmington Hills. The program also will include the auction of 10 dolls outfitted by International Academy of Design & Technology students. Tickets are \$175. For more information call Catherine Smith, GO Red For Women director at (248) 936-5831 or visit www.detroitgoredforwomen.org.



Linda E. Sweeney wears one of the many hats she designs, blocks and sews by hand.

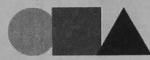
where. Versatility is the key. I like to give people options. I make a hat but want them to get several looks out of it," Sweeney said. "Times have changed and we're not in the day when women always have big, fancy hats on."

But for customers who want something stunning and unique for a dressy look, Sweeney is happy to oblige. Her home design studio is stocked with feathers, sequins, beads, netting,

Please see HATS, B7



Yolanda Haynes of Southfield models the "Fascinating Heart" hat made by Linda E. Sweeney of Farmington Hills. Sweeney incorporated two heart-shaped embellishments into the piece and donated it to the Go Red For Women Luncheon's silent auction.



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HATS

Continued from page B6

silk flowers and bolts of various fabrics, from velvets and velours to mud cloth and felt.

"I'm an old movie buff. So, I like the fashions of the '20s and '30s. When I watch old movies, I really get inspired," she said.

Sweeney also admires British millinery fashion, especially the "fascinators" or cocktail-style hats that were visible among guests at the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton two years ago. Fascinators are elaborate, trimmed hair decorations built on a headband or clip.

Giving back

Sweeney donated a red fascinator to the silent auction at the Go Red For Women Luncheon, on Feb. 15 in Detroit. The event is aimed at raising funds for cardiovascular research. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women.

"It's a great event and it has opened my eyes to heart healthy awareness," said Sweeney, who has donated hats to the auction for the past three years. "I really was amazed that so many women die from heart disease."

"This is my small way to give back. It's fun and a way to contribute my talent to the community. Custom millinery is what I do and what I really enjoy. It's something I do when I'm not working the corporate world."

Sweeney designs, sews and blocks her custom hats at night and on weekends. By day she works in the legal realm of the utility industry.



Sweeney embellishes her hats with feathers, flowers and other decorations.

Young seamstress

Sweeney learned her sewing skills from her mother and made many of her own outfits while growing up. By the time she graduated from high school and began taking classes in court reporting, she had put her interest in sewing aside.

It wasn't until she and her late husband, Howard, were expecting their first child, that she revived her skills, a response to the high cost of ready-to-wear maternity clothing.

The sewing led to hat-making and millinery classes as she and her husband, who worked in law enforcement, decided to turn a hobby into a business. Sweeney taught Howard all she learned in the classes she took. He did most of the hat blocking — stretching pieces into shape — and she sewed.

"I was making hats at night and on weekends and home schooling during the day," said Sweeney, who taught her three children at home. She enrolled at the University of Michigan-Dearborn to study human resources when her two youngest children began attending classes at a charter high school. She also continued to design and make

hats on the side.

"It was a lot of hard work and when I look back on it, I think, ooh, how did I do that?"

Other passions

Sweeney enjoys spending spare time with her 4-year-old grandson and roller skating at Riverside Arena in Livonia.

She frequently talks about the history of hats for women's organizations and churches and often works with her friend, Yolanda Haynes of Southfield, on events that combine hat fittings or history presentations with tea parties. Haynes brings tea for tasting and talks about its past. Sweeney offers fittings, talks about the history of hats and shows her creations. Attendees can buy hats on the spot or commission Sweeney to make one especially for them.

Although Sweeney maintains a website for her hat business, she doesn't sell over the Internet.

"I found that most people, because I'm local, want to see a hat, feel a hat," she said. "And I'll meet people at a boutique in a heartbeat."

For more information about her hat designs, visit www.foreversweeney.com



Hats on display in Linda Sweeney's work room include styles made from mud cloth, silk, velvet felt, and straw fabrics.

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Social Scene



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

Molly Marshall of Ferndale, (left) Wendy Luczak of Berkley, Kerri Mulvihill of Livonia and John McManus of Huntington Woods enjoy the 3rd Annual Heidelberg Project Fundraiser at the Fine Arts Theater in Detroit. Graffiti was the event theme, street-wear chic was the dress code and some of the best art around from Michigan was for sale. The Heidelberg Project is a two-block area on Detroit's east side that consists of art installations made from everyday, discarded objects.



Yolanda and David Tisdale of West Bloomfield and Micki Grossman of Farmington Hills attend the Saks Fifth Avenue Kick-off fundraiser that was held Wednesday to benefit Beaumont Children's Hospital, Southeastern Michigan American Red Cross and the Detroit Institute of the Arts (DIA). Customers who use their Saks Fifth Avenue credit card this month will help benefit the charities. Saks will donate 5 percent of each purchase to the organizations. Saks.com also will support the initiative by giving 5 percent of online purchases made with a registered Saks card, to the Red Cross. Saks Fifth Avenue Off Fifth will ask customers their charity preference at point of purchase.

REUNIONS

Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Got a class photo or yearbook picture to go with the information? Send it along as a jpg attachment.

DETROIT GESU CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1956

A reunion is planned for Aug. 17. Call Jack Sayed at (810) 231-9230.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1968

A 45-year class reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 7. For information contact Susan Keith Johnson at sjohnson4@comcast.net.

SOUTH LYON

CLASS OF 1963

A 50th class reunion is planned for July 20. For more information contact Barbara Cook at (248) 349-5582.

Arthritis Today

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THE AGING HAND

Self-care begins with the hand. The ability to dress one's self, feed, clothe and clean independently assumes fingers sufficiently dexterous to hold a spoon, place a button and wipe a towel.

The elderly are warned about nidding the home of throw rugs to avoid falls and the broken bones that follow. The aged receive instructions to keep small objects out of their path because old eyes cannot see small objects. However, no one speaks on ways to preserve hand function.

But first, what can happen to the aging hand?

The most common problem is osteoarthritis. When this occurs, the knuckles of the fingers lose their ability to open and close or in medical terms, extend and flex, in their usual fashion. Usually this loss of motion comes on with little accompanying pain. However, at times an involved knuckle will swell and pain possibility for days. Eventually the pain leaves; the stiffness never does.

Treatment consists of knowing that the pain and loss of use of the hand is temporary. Using heat and acetaminophen will accelerate resolution, but medicine has nothing to offer to prevent osteoarthritis; its presence and extent are determined by the patient's genes.

Gout in the hand or wrist can present a similar picture, but is different in that the onset is sudden and the pain is intense. Physicians usually have little difficulty in making a diagnosis of gout in the hand, though there may be a problem distinguishing gout from acute injury or infection. Resolution requires receiving appropriate gout therapy, prevention of gout attacks in not possible; careful diet may be helpful but is not sufficient.

On the road again

Technicians needed for appliance work

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

Many years ago I asked my three sons, Shawn Mark and Andrew, to learn the trade of appliance repair. Each of them had a part-time job working for me at my shop and working for the father is not always an easy task.

After school they would pedal their bikes and arrive ready to learn. I would give them a particular appliance and they would strip it down and put all the parts in a box and then have to put it all back together. They will tell you today that they did the same thing over and over until they knew what each component did, how it functioned and how it failed. They learned by repetition just as I did some 50 years ago. From all of that, the boys have learned a trade that will always keep them employed anywhere in this country.

My middle son, Mark, owns a repair company in Livonia and a few weeks ago I put on the boots and blue jeans and spent three days with him making service calls at homes which had a broken major appliance. I told him not to tell customers that I was his father



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

but rather just introduce me as his helper. That was a waste of words because people recognized the face and I ended up doing a lot of talking and really enjoyed meeting the customer.

One of the first things I did was go to the appliance wholesaler and purchase a box containing 100 screwdriver bits. In the old days there was a Philips screwdriver and straight but today there are many different screws used by the manufacturers and I know why. They simply don't want you fixing your own appliances. They make it as difficult as possible to take anything apart and I've had many calls from homeowners who have not got a screwdriver to match the screw on the product. Maybe the engineers don't think a Philips screw will hold two pieces of metal together even though it has worked well for the past 75 years. Anything to screw up the do-it-yourselfer.

Mark and I fixed several appliances in those three days and it really feels good when a homeowner smiles and says: "I'm so glad I don't have to buy a new one." I had a feeling of depression when we had to tell them that repairs would be too expensive and they needed a new one. I did feel good about giving them some tips on how to shop.

In those three days I was alarmed at how many things I noticed that put some of these homeowners in potential dangerous situations. I saw dryer vent

lines that were plugged up solid and a few were the old fashioned plastic and much too long. These vent lines were the reason for the failure of their clothes dryers.

I saw gas cans located next to the hot water heater along with paint cans and clothes piled high on the floor. I did not see one smoke or fire alarm located on the ceiling above the laundry pair.

I saw a small extension cord used to run electricity to a chest freezer which could easily run the compressor. What I noticed wrong in these homes I pointed out to the person in charge and I only hope that steps were taken to correct a dangerous condition. Needless to say it was an exciting three days on the road and I intend to do again very soon.

In today's world we hear so much about college graduates who are not finding employment in their chosen fields and the lack of vocational teaching as we once knew. I know that in the appliance repair industry we are needing thousands of technicians across this country. Just maybe, someone reading this has the where-with-all to influence a teaching facility to move forward. I might be able to find a few retirees who could teach the sons and daughters on how to get on the road again. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to apd@tvmi.com.

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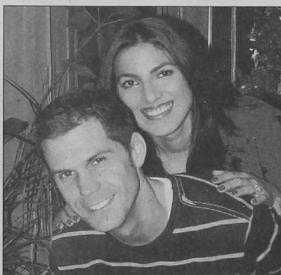
Milestones

Arvizu-Auer

Yesenia Arvizu and Ryan Auer announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Tina and Miguel Arvizu of Encinitas, Calif. Her fiancé is the son of Donna and Michael Auer of Canton.

The couple will be married in June 2013 and will reside in San Diego, Calif.



Ella Marie Cook

Ella Marie Cook was born Dec. 26, 2012, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

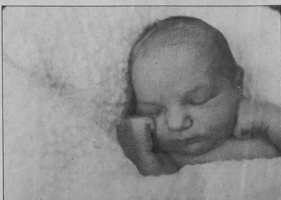
Parents are Tyler and Sara Cook of Canton.

Grandparents are William and Janice Higgins of Canton and David and Pamela Cook of Plymouth. Delite McAllister of Plymouth is Ella's great-grandmother.

Celia Irene Leyna Cone

Celia Irene Leyna Cone was born Jan. 20, 2013, at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

Parents are Joseph Cone and Katherine Howard-Cone of Canton.



Joshua Thomas Kenneth Douglass

Joshua Thomas Kenneth Douglass was born Nov. 17, 2012, at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn.

His parents are Kenneth and Christine Douglass of Livonia.

Grandparents are Thomas and Cathy Haas of Livonia and Jeff and Linda Douglass of Westland.



Lehmer-McCart

Holly Suzanne Lehmer and David Paul McCart Jr. announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Kim and Dave Lehmer of Canton, plans to graduate in May 2013 from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport with a master's degree in speech-language pathology.

Her fiancé, son of David and Brenda McCart of Shreveport, La., is production director for Townsquare Media and an on-air personality for K94.5 Shreveport.



A June 2013 wedding is planned at First United Methodist Church in Northville.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



HOULIHAN, RUTH A.
Age 90, of Farmington, MI, died Feb. 6, 2012. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington



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 Atkins 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 Ardmore 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 (Alan), Dwayne (Pat), and Diana (Dan). Twelve grandchildren: Brian, Laura (Aaron), Chad, Cody, Jeremy, Jordan, Emma, Drew, Joshua, Ashley, Chris, and Alysa. Great-grandchildren of Orion. Services were held at Fred Wood Funeral Home Rice Chapel, Livonia. Memorial Donations may be made to Angela Hospice Development Office, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154.

Please share memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com



BARANSKI, DAVID
Age 65 of Plymouth, unexpectedly passed Feb. 2, 2013. fondly known to many as Mr. B. Dear husband of Sandy. Loving father of Leanne (Terry) Vassallo, Proulx, Doreen of St. Louis, and Aidan. Son of the late Stanley & Irene. Dear step-son of Marian Woychik. Mr. Baranski was a pasted the GNC Store in Brighton for 18 years and worked as a Regulatory Specialist for Terumo. Cardiovascular in Ann Arbor. He will be greatly missed by many family members and friends. The family will gather with friends Sat March 16th 12 noon until the 2 PM Memorial Service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., (between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. There will be a second Memorial Service in the Chicago area. Date, time, & location to be determined. Proud donor of over 100 points of blood, memorial contributions may be made to American Red Cross, 4624 Packard, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 or Gift of Life, 3661 Riverpark Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

View Online
www.hometownlife.com



MCCORMICK, JOHN F.
Age 95, recent (2009) Plymouth resident, died Wednesday, January 30, 2013, in Ann Arbor's VA Medical Center. He was born November 12, 1917, in Boston, MA, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1937 retiring in 1961 as an Aviation Ordnanceman Chief. On completing his Naval Reserve obligation John was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade which he held during WWII. He then worked in Old Dominion University's (Norfolk, VA) data centers from 1962 retiring again in 1980. John is survived by one sister Mrs. Agnes Sullivan of Quincy, MA, four sons Terry L. Merrifield & Danny B. Merrifield (VA) and Kenneth E. McCormick, Timothy B. McCormick (MI), four grandchildren: Sandie, Molly, John, and Jacqueline, and five great grandchildren along with numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one son, Joel F. McCormick and his loving wife of 55 years Mary T. (Fennell) Merrifield. A graveside service is planned, in May, at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, VA. Donations can go to www.FeedingAmerica.org in memory of Dale and Paul. Francoe related-hobbies of fishing, crabbing, gardening, preserving, baking and sharing a good meal in America which he so valiantly served as a young man. Local McCormick family members will receive friends, neighbors, & care-partners from 3 pm to 5 pm on Saturday, February 9th, at Benignia's, 40441 Ann Arbor Rd. in Plymouth, MI.

STEVENS, HOLLIS
Age 59, February 2, 2013. Dear son of Dale and Paul, Francoe Joanne Bryant, Grandfather of Damon, Layla, Felicity and Skylar. Brother of Sharon, Paolette, (Bob) Sharon. Retired from General Motors and worked for the State of Michigan. He was a member of the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist of the Forbidden Wheels. Funeral services will be held at the John N. Santucci & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd. (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill), Garden City, Michigan. www.santuccifuneralhome.com

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

MORRIS, JAMES M.

February 7, 2013. Age 81 of Wayne. Beloved husband of the late Eudora. Dear father of Anita (Robert) Crumley, Charles, Stephen (Christina), and the late Michael James. Brother to Larry (Ruth). Grandfather of Jamie Carlson, Stacy Wimer, Charles, Eric, Michael Crumley, Stephen Jr., Matthew and Allison. Great-grandfather to Chayne Carlson, Sophia Wimer, Clark Crumley, Sabrina and Samantha, and Griffin Wimer. Funeral services from The Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Monday, 11:30am. Visitation from the funeral home Sunday 1-9pm. Additional services and burial to take place in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas.

Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfl.com



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

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24
Location: St. Damian Catholic School, 29892 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

CONCERT

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 his 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 Marquis, 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. They're available by calling the church office

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 Luetke. 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 fee of charge

Contact: newbeginningsolg@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

Contact: (248) 354-4488

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13 and 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) 261-1455 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 Detroit, 6500 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, columnist and author of "The Fed-up Man of Faith," argues against Rabbi Harold Kushner's bestselling "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: Loka 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

CDC recommends hepatitis C test for baby boomers

When Martha Saly, director of the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR), learned she had hepatitis C, a virus that attacks the liver, she was in disbelief. Saly never suspected she might be infected with the hepatitis C virus, and unfortunately, cases like Saly's are not uncommon.

Most of the 3.2 million Americans who are living with hepatitis C don't know they are infected. That's why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released hepatitis C screening recommendations calling for all adults born from 1945 through 1965, also known as baby boomers, to get tested for hepatitis C.

"This test can mean the difference between life and death — it did for me," Saly said. "You can live with hepatitis C for decades without feeling sick, but liver damage can occur silently during this time, which can lead to more serious problems such as cirrhosis and liver cancer."

Saly knows firsthand the importance of testing baby boomers for hepatitis C and offers five reasons why CDC's new hepatitis C testing recommendations matter to you:

1. Anyone can get hepatitis C.

Millions of Americans have hepatitis C and many of them don't know how or when they were infected. People born from 1945 through 1965 are five times more likely than other adults



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently recommended that adults born from 1945 through 1965, also known as baby boomers, to get tested for hepatitis C.

to be infected with hepatitis C and account for more than 75 percent of all American adults living with the disease.

2. Don't assume you've been tested.

"More than a decade ago, I was fortunate to have a proactive doctor who tested me for hepatitis C, but that wasn't the norm then and unfortunately hepatitis C is still not typically included in routine blood tests," Saly said.

3. It's a one-time test that will ease your mind.

For more than 95 percent of boomers, the simple hepatitis C blood-test is followed by reas-

suring news. But for the people who are infected, the test and resulting treatment could mean the difference between life and death. "Knowing whether or not you have hepatitis C can help you make important decisions about your health," Saly said.

4. Treatments are available.

For those who find out they have hepatitis C, medicines are available that can effectively treat up to 75 percent of infections and additional, promising treatments are currently in development.

"Treatments for hepatitis C can delay or even reverse the effects of liver damage and in some cases can eliminate the virus from the body."

5. This test could save your life.

"I saved mine," Saly said. "I was very lucky to be tested, treated and cured 12 years ago. But for every person like me, there are three people with hepatitis C out there who don't know they have it."

These testing recommendations from CDC could help identify an estimated 800,000 people with hepatitis C and save tens of thousands. "Baby boomers need to talk to their doctor about getting tested for hepatitis C," Saly said. "It's a no-brainer."

To learn more about hepatitis C go to www.nvhr.org or visit the CDC's Know More Hepatitis campaign website: www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

February

HEART DISEASE & WOMEN

A free lecture about heart disease and women is set for 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28 at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital, Private Dining Rooms 1-3, 6777 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Attendees can learn about the differences in symptoms, the expert resources available, and the important steps they can take to reduce their risk of heart disease. A light dinner will be provided, and valet parking will be available. Register by calling (800) 532-2411 or at www.henryford.com/heart.

JOINT REPLACEMENT

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars with orthopedic surgeons and expert staff who will answer your questions, discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures, and available implant options. Upcoming sessions are 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29 with David Mendelson, MD, and Wednesday, March 27 with Jeffrey Mendelson, MD. All meetings are held in Classroom 10 at the hospital, located on Five Mile and Levan in Livonia. Register by calling (734) 655-2345.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

The event, hosted by St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will feature a presentation focusing on women's cardiovascular health, Thursday, Feb. 21, in the hospital's South Auditorium. "Know Your Numbers" screenings — blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index — as well as massages will be offered from 4-6:45 p.m., and Dr. Delair Gardi, M.D., a St. Mary Mercy cardiologist, will speak from 7-8:30 p.m. Participants will learn about reducing their risk for heart disease, as well as heart conditions,


including coronary artery disease, abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia), aortic valve disease, cardiomyopathy, aortic aneurysm, stroke and heart attack. Light refreshments, prizes and community vendors will be provided. Registration for this event is required. There is no charge, but a \$5 good-will donation is requested to benefit Marian Women's Center Programs. Call the Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1182 to register. Or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

LUPUS SUPPORT

The Michigan Lupus Foundation will hold a lupus support group meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Meetings are designed to help individuals with lupus and their family and friends get connected with each other, and gain a better understanding of the disease and insight into how to fight it. For more information visit www.milupus.org, or call (800) 705-6677.

WEIGHT LOSS WORKSHOP

An eight-week workshop, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, beginning Feb. 11, at Botsford Hospital, 28500 Grand River Ave., in Farmington Hills, aims to get participants focused on building healthy eating habits and losing weight. Weekly topics will be customized to reflect the group's specific challenges and goals. A registered dietitian from Botsford Hospital's Diabetes & Nutrition Department will lead the sessions, which will include weekly weigh-ins, support and encouragement in activities and demonstrations, meal-planning advice and recipes, helpful tips and strategies, and nutrition advice. Cost: \$80. Space is limited. Call (248) 477-6100 to register.



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Eat Better Live Longer

...Start with a Heart Healthy Diet!

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Linda Main
Food & Nutrition Services

One in every three deaths in the U.S. is attributed to heart disease and stroke. February is National Heart Month and this week, Garden City Hospital's Director of Food & Nutrition Services and Registered Dietitian, Linda Main, shares her views on eating "Heart Smart".

Q: After my most recent physical, my doctor informed me my blood pressure and cholesterol levels are too high for someone my age and weight. He has given me six months to get them down or he wants me to start taking medication to do the job. I already workout three times a week, but I want to know what I can do with my diet. Please advise.

A: What you eat affects your risk for having heart disease and poor blood circulation, which can lead to a heart attack or stroke. With heart disease, plaque (a fatty substance) builds up in the arteries. Over time, this buildup causes the arteries to narrow and harden, and as a result, the heart does not get all the blood it needs to work properly, causing chest pain or a heart attack. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel bringing blood to the brain becomes blocked by fatty deposits lining the vessel walls.

A heart healthy diet is really quite simple and consists of eating lean meat/protein, low saturated fats and "whole foods", foods that are unprocessed and unrefined. The following choices are ideal for a heart healthy lifestyle:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Grains (whole wheat, oatmeal, brown rice, barley, buckwheat, bulgur, millet, quinoa)
- Low-fat versions of milk, cheese, yogurt, and other milk products
- Fish, skinless poultry, lean meats, dry beans, eggs and nuts
- Polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats (found in fish, nuts, vegetable oils)

The following foods should be limited:

- Sodium
- Sugar
- Saturated fat (deli meat, ice cream, butter, lard, mayonnaise)
- Trans fat (found in processed foods such as cakes, cookies, margarine, potato chips, corn chips)

For help with personalized eating plans, you may want to consult a registered dietitian. GCH offers a variety of nutrition and weight management services to help you achieve your health goals. These services are often covered by insurance. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 734.458.4330.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL WANTS TO HELP YOU ON THE ROAD TO HEALTHIER LIVING!

Join us on Saturday, February 23 at Westland Mall for "Love Your Heart", a celebration of heart healthy living.

Enjoy a live cooking demonstration with chefs from Schoolcraft College, GCH Cardiologist Dr. Nizam Habbab discusses "Taking Care of Your Heart For Life", prizes, giveaways and more!

To learn more about this event, as well as GCH fitness classes, visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

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JOBS

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Seven jobs for people who like to travel

Susan Ricker,
CareerBuilder Writer

Traveling can be more than just taking a break for a few days. For those who love to travel, it's about seeing the world and interacting with people from different cultures. Some may enjoy traveling so much that they make it a part of their job. Here are seven occupations for people who like to travel:

1. Airline and commercial pilot*

What they do: Airline and commercial pilots fly and navigate airplanes or helicopters. Pilots spend a considerable amount of time away from home, because flights often involve overnight layovers. Typical education level that most workers need to enter this occupation: Many pilots learn to fly in the military, but a growing number have an associate or bachelor's degree from a civilian flight school. All pilots who are paid to transport passengers or cargo must have a commercial pilot's license. 2010 median pay: \$92,660

2. Anthropologist and archaeologist

What they do: Anthropologists and archaeologists study the origin, development and behavior of human beings, past and present. They examine the cultures, languages, archaeological remains and physical characteristics of

people in various parts of the world. Although some anthropologists and archaeologists work in an office, many work in laboratories or travel occasionally for fieldwork. Typical education level: Master's degree 2010 median pay: \$54,230

3. Geographer

What they do: Geographers study the Earth and its land, features and inhabitants. They research the physical or human geographic characteristics of a region, ranging in scale from local to global. Most geographers work for the federal government. Some travel to foreign countries or remote locations for fieldwork. Typical education level: Bachelor's degree 2010 median pay: \$72,800

4. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck driver

What they do: Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers transport goods to and from locations. They deliver goods over intercity routes, sometimes spanning several states. Long-haul truck drivers can be away from home for days or weeks at a time and spend much of their time alone. Typical education level: High-school diploma or equivalent 2010 median pay: \$37,770

5. Meeting, convention and event planner



What they do: Meeting, convention and event planners coordinate all aspects of professional meetings and events, such as choosing meeting locations and arranging transportation. They work on-site at hotels or convention centers, and they often travel to attend events and visit prospective meeting sites. Typical education level: Bachelor's degree 2010 median pay: \$45,260

6. Reporter, correspondent and broadcast news analyst

What they do: Reporters, correspondents and broadcast news analysts inform the

public about news and events happening locally, nationally and internationally. They work for newspapers, magazines, websites, television and radio. Reporters and correspondents spend a lot of time in the field, conducting interviews and investigating stories. Typical education level: Bachelor's degree 2010 median pay: \$36,000

7. Train engineer and operator

What they do: Train engineers and operators ensure that freight and passenger trains stay on schedule and travel safely. Train engineers drive trains, while train opera-

tors work the brakes, signals or switches. Locomotive engineers drive trains between stations, and rail-yard engineers move trains around in a rail yard. Typical education level: High-school diploma or equivalent 2010 median pay: \$46,100

*All median annual pay figures, job descriptions and education levels are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

OE2312207

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ASSISTANT COMMUNITY DIRECTOR
For Livonia Senior Living Facility. Experience in sales and marketing. Must be able to work evenings and weekends. Email resume to: huff@careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

BOOKKEEPER - Full Charge
Flexible hours. 30-40 hrs/week. Must be able to work computer skills. Livonia company. Email resume to: huff@careerbuilder.com

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Part-time. Warehouse. Local. Delivery. No experience necessary. Call for info: 734-722-4527 or email: phillips@careerbuilder.com

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Part-time. Warehouse. Local. Delivery. No experience necessary. Call for info: 734-722-4527 or email: phillips@careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

FABRICATOR
Structural Steel. Must be able to read blueprints. Local. Call for info: 734-722-4527 or email: phillips@careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

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Help Wanted - General

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