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United Way meets

The Plymouth Community United Way holds its 2013 annual meeting and awards presentation 7:30-9 a.m. Friday, March 15, at Comcast, 41112 Concept Drive, Plymouth.

The public is welcome. The morning begins with networking and a continental breakfast, followed by the meeting at 8 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new board members and officers, and includes reports on the organization's 2012 finances and programs. PCUW Board of Directors Chairman Paul Hood recognizes contributors with Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards as well as those for Community Service.

To RSVP, call Cindy Bumgardner at (734) 453-6870, ext. 2, or email to cindy.bumgardner@pcuw.org by Friday, Feb. 22. For more information, visit www.plymouthunitedway.org.

Trash time

Although Canton's Administration Building will be closed for the Presidents' Day holiday Monday, Feb. 18, Canton Waste Recycling will still collect refuse and recycling. The holiday will not delay CWR's collection schedule.

All refuse and recycling must be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. to ensure pickup. For questions or more information on solid waste collection, visit www.cantonmi.org or call CWR at (734) 397-5801.

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P-C students top state on MEAP scores

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Scores posted by Plymouth-Canton students on the MEAP test have historically been higher than state averages in all grades and on all tests.

Scores for 2012 were no different.

For more in-depth scores go to the Michigan Department of Education website at www.mich-

igan.gov/meap.

Plymouth-Canton students bested the state averages, in some cases by a wide margin, in all seven grades and on all 18 tests taken last fall.

Plymouth-Canton math scores were between 19 and 30 points higher than the state averages, while reading scores were at least 9 percent higher than

state scores.

Jeanne Farina, the district's assistant superintendent for instructional services, said the success was indicative of the quality of the teachers and the students.

"I think it's attributed to our outstanding teachers and the educational quality of Plymouth-Canton schools," Farina said. "We're committed to student learning in all subject areas. It's

one of the many ways, and many forms of data, that we use to evaluate how our instructional decisions impact student learning."

Scores were made public Monday by the Michigan Department of Education. The tests were administered last fall.

Farina was particularly happy with students' performance

Please see MEAP, A6

Valentine adventure



Carol Gonella assembles a display of flowers at Keller & Stein.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton couple on a 70-year journey

Every Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love. But this Valentine's Day is a little sweeter for a Canton couple who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary just one day earlier.

Irma Perpignone said, "I do," to Rodney Kujat on Feb. 13, 1943, at Our Lady Gate of Heaven Catholic Church in Detroit. Rodney, now 91, and Irma,

now 87, had no idea the journey that began on a snowy February day would take them through a military deployment, the birth of eight children, a job managing a bed and breakfast on Mackinac Island and a stint as Santa and Mrs. Claus for the Canton-based Keller & Stein Flor-

Please see COUPLE, A2

Cupid is cash cow for local businesses

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton jewelers, florists and restaurants are cashing in for Valentine's Day as Cupid draws back his bow and aims a romantic arrow at lovestruck couples across the township.

Showroom of Elegance sales professional Felicia Haggerty said one Canton man spent \$2,800 on a dia-

mond engagement ring as he plans a Valentine's Day marriage proposal. Haggerty didn't divulge the customer's name; these jewelers do know how to keep a secret.

Across town, Keller & Stein Florist employees raced against the love clock as "hundreds and hundreds" of customers placed orders for roses, orchids, tulips, daffodils and other flow-

ers, said store manager and designer Roberta Pritchard.

"We will have customers calling up until 6 o'clock the night of Valentine's Day in a panic," she said. "By far, roses are the big deal."

Gearing up

Pritchard gave a tour Tuesday of Keller & Stein

Please see CUPID, A2



Irma and Rodney Kujat with their son Thomas (far left) and daughter Nancy (far right).

Local Catholics note 'time of transition'

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Catholics in western Wayne County joined many around the world this week in expressing shock over the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, and wonder over who will next lead their church.

Pope Benedict, 85, the spiritu-

al leader of the world's approximately 1.2 billion Roman Catholics, announced Monday that he will step down on Thursday, Feb. 28, saying he no longer has the strength to properly carry out his duties. It will be the first time since 1415 that a pope has relinquished the office.

"I don't see how anybody could not be surprised. He alluded to

it a few times, and a bit more frequently recently, but when something doesn't happen for 600 years and then it does, you have to be surprised," said the Rev. Tom Slowinski, pastor at St. Thomas a' Becket in Canton Township. "Certainly no one was expecting it."

"You never expect something like that to happen," said Steven

Monaghan, a lay pastoral associate at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth Township. "The legacy has been it has been a position held for life."

Pope Benedict, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was selected to lead the church after Pope John Paul II died in 2005

Please see CATHOLICS, A3

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CUPID

Continued from page A1

coolers filled with flow-ers, especially roses of all colors — red, yel-low, pink, white, laven-der, blue, orange. She pre-fers the esperance rose, a blend of pink and white. "This is a soft rose," she said, "and it opens up really big."

Restaurants rang-ing from Antonio's Cuci-na Italiana to Hayden's Grill & Bar to Real Bar-BQ geared up for one of the busiest dining-out nights of the year. This year marked Real Bar-BQ's first Valentine's Day at Ford and Lilley roads in Canton.

"I think we'll see a lot of couples for Valentine's Day. It's geared toward couples," general manag-er Jim Thibault said.

Real BarBQ was among the Canton eateries offer-ing specials throughout the Valentine's Day week-end whether couples plan to dine in or carry out.

Tuesday morning, Showroom of Elegance, on Canton Center north of Ford, had been busy as customers shopped for gifts such as sterling sil-ber or 14-carat gold Pan-dora beads — some of them heart-shaped — for bracelets.

"We're in the mood for love here at the Show-room of Elegance," Hag-gerty said with a smile.

Busiest day

Some Pandora beads had the tiny words "I love you" engraved, and employee Sharon Hager had showed a mother-daugh-ter bead with a two-sided red heart. Sapphire and tanzanite beads also are popular.

"Pandora beads are the hottest right now," Hag-gerty said. Showroom also had a man's watch with a heart-shaped face.

Keller & Stein, at Mich-igan Avenue and Lil-ley, had an arch-shaped Christmas tree they kept



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Felicia Haggerty and Sharon Hamel sell a lot of Pandora jewelry this time of year at Showroom of Elegance.



Roberta Pritchard and her favorite, esperance roses.

on the floor so they could adorn it with red heart-shaped valentines.

"Valentine's Day is our single busiest day of the year," Pritchard said, with the Mother's Day rush being spread across more days.

Pritchard said Keller & Stein was handing orders from 78 communities across a wide swath of southeast Michigan. That

makes for a lot of deliv-eries, many of them made to workplaces where flower recipients can show off their flowers.

"A lot of people want their flowers delivered to businesses," Pritchard said. "They want to make an impression."

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COUPLE

Continued from page A1

rist's annual Christmas celebration.

Irma remembers the wedding well. "World War II was in progress and many of the things you needed for the wedding you just couldn't get because of ration-ing," she said. "We saved ration points so I could buy my wedding shoes. Rodney's father got us a ham, on the black mar-ket, to feed the wedding guests."

The wedding recep-tion was held at Irma's home in Detroit and she recalled there was so much snow that after-noon that the wedding guests had to push each other's cars down the side street onto the main street. The couple honey-mooned in Chicago. Rod-ney recalls quite viv-idly the cab ride from the train station.

"We got in the cab and rode for miles until we got to our hotel," Rodney said. "The next morning, we looked out the hotel window and there was the train station, right across the street."

Their first child, Michael, was born in March 1944 and, on April 25, Rodney said good-bye to his bride and his one-month-old son and headed to boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Base in Illi-nois. He served in the U.S. Navy on an LST (Landing Ship, Tank) until he was honorably discharged at the end of World War II.

He returned to his pre-vious position as a jour-neymen diemaker at Ford Motor Co., eventually tak-ing a position with Gen-eral Motors, where he worked as a diemaker with the Cadillac Motor Car Division until his retirement in 1976. In the interim years, the couple had seven addition-al children. In addition



Irma and Rodney Kujat on their wedding day, Feb. 13, 1943.

to Michael, they are the proud parents of Thomas, Theresa, Suzanne, Mary Anne, Janet, Nancy and Jonathan.

After Rodney's retire-ment, the couple moved to Lexington, Mich. In the summers, they man-aged Metivier Inn, a bed and breakfast on Macki-nac Island. They unoffi-cially retired again in the early 1990s after running the bed and breakfast for a number of years.

At that time, they moved to Wayne. "We loved Lexington, where many of my rel-a-tives lived, but at that time in our lives we want-ed to be closer to our adult children and grand-children, who were most-ly living in the Detroit area," Irma said.

Within a few years, Irma, who had always loved plants and garden-ing, got a job working at Keller & Stein Green-

house in Canton. When Keller & Stein needed a couple to play Santa and Mrs. Claus at its hol-i-day open house, Irma and Rodney were a natural choice. "I really enjoyed meeting all the kids and their parents," Rodney said.

Last August, the couple moved into an apart-ment at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill in Canton.

"My family has been truly blessed that my par-ents have been able to live out the commitment they made 70 years ago when they vowed to have and to hold each other, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health," said Nancy, their young-est daughter, now 55.

"Their enduring love is a lasting legacy for their eight children and their spouses, as well as their 21 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren."

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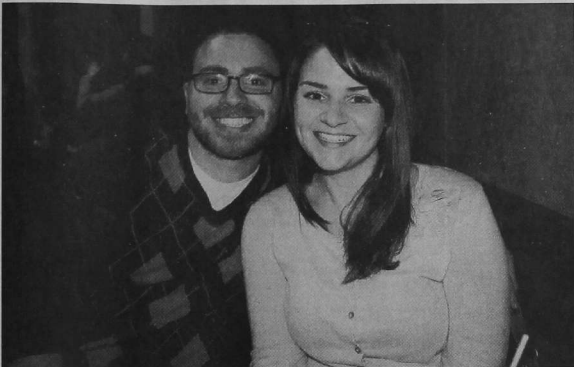
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Elizabeth "Biz" Maher and fiancé Nicholas Gallo are excited about Maher's acceptance into the University of Michigan's Alternative Spring Break program.

Canton woman spends spring break preserving history

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton resident Elizabeth "Biz" Maher grew up watching classic movies such as "Rebecca," "Singin' in the Rain," and those beach party movies that portrayed college students escaping for sun and fun during spring break.

Apparently she didn't take the beach films to heart.

Rather than tanning in Florida or sipping margaritas in Mexico, Maher has been accepted through her University of Michigan master's degree studies for an Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program to work March 4-8 at New York City's Paley Center for Media.

Her weeklong stint preserving media-related information from television, radio and print media just might be a springboard for her dream of working in film preservation at the University of California Los Angeles Film & Television Archive.

Wouldn't that be a class?

"I would love to work there," said Maher, who got her nickname "Biz" during a fifth-grade camp. "The camp counselor for Biz in 1971 got the name Little Biz."

Maher, 27, is on one of five U-M teams given a rare opportunity, and collectively they hope to raise \$25,000 to offset the university's costs to keep the ASB program going for future students. Maher alone is trying to raise just \$1,000, and it's a long web link, but donors may help by going



Elizabeth "Biz" Maher, with fiancé Nicholas Gallo, is on her way to New York for a one-week Alternative Spring Break at the Paley Center for Media.

to www.crowdrise.com/informationaccessanditinerary/fundraiser/bizmaher.

Her fiancé, Nicholas Gallo, said he is proud of the Canton native he plans to marry in October.

"Her hard work, selflessness and dedication make me proud to get to call her my wife soon," Gallo said. "I'm proud of her fundraising, I'm proud of her giving back, and I'm proud of her character. She inspires me to be better, and I hope she does the same to her fellow students at U of M and in New York City. I can't wait to spend the rest of our lives together."

Maher earned her U-M undergraduate degree in screen arts and culture and worked for three years in Hollywood on pre- and post-production for movies such as "Bullesque," "Warrior," independent films and the yet-unreleased "Kerosene Cowboys" by Mario Van Peebles. She worked for ICO VFX, visual effects company.

Maher returned to U-M to earn her master's degree in science and information, specializing in areas such as preservation of information and archive management. She wants to help preserve film and television.

"I am such a classic movie buff," she said. "That's what I grew up loving and watching." Gallo said, "I'm busy trying to attain her goals. She's taking five classes and working two U-M jobs, one in the visual resources collection for the History of Art Department and another in the Donald Hall Collection within the Screen Arts & Cultures program."

She somehow finds time to plan her Oct. 5 wedding to Gallo, whom she met while they were volunteering for the Turner Classic Movies film festival at the TCL Chinese Theatre, formerly by Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The landmark draws an estimated four million people a year and is fronted by a Chinese pagoda and the hand and footprints of famous film

stars captured in cement.

Maher's and Gallo's work shifts overlapped when they met in April 2010.

"Meeting Biz was like the meet-cute in a movie," Gallo, a Nebraska native, said, "and she changed my life forever. Since moving to Michigan with Biz, I've seen her continue to change not only my life, but those around her for the better."

Sounds like a script for a movie, one that Maher just might someday preserve for history.

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School district finalizes bond try

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday finalized the language it will use in seeking a \$114.4 million bond in May, and got one more favorable vote than it did a week earlier.

Long-time board member Judy Mardigian, the board's vice president who last week said seeking the bond with so little time to sell it to the community was a mistake, switched positions this week, siding with president John Barrett, secretary Adrienne Davis and treasurer Sheila Paton in a 5-2 vote that solidified the decision and authorized the district's bond attorneys to file ballot language.

The decision means Plymouth-Canton voters will be asked May 7 to approve the \$114 million bond which will, among other things, be used to build a new middle school in Canton, replace the district's aging bus fleet and provide enough technology to eventually outfit each of the district's more than 18,000 students with their own digital devices.

Mardigian said she changed her mind because she wanted to signal her support of the overall bond package. Her "no" last week, she said, was simply her statement about the lack of time to promote the bond.

"I've always said I'm solidly behind the bond, (but) when asked whether I wanted to go with May versus another date, I didn't want to do that. I thought we needed more time," Mardigian said.

"(When) it was clear it was going to go through, I wanted to make sure people knew I'm behind the bond."

"I don't have concerns about the package," she added. "It's a really good package and a fantastic opportunity for the community to improve their schools. I hope we're going to be successful."

If the bond passes, construction would start on the new building this summer, with the new school ready for students at the beginning of the 2015/16 school year.

The bus plan would replace some 10 percent of buses per year as they reach 10 years old or 150,000 miles over the next 10 years, while the technology plan — which will provide a device to every student and teacher in the district — will be implemented over a five-year span.

Some trustees wanted to wait for the fall to go for the bond, but Brodie Killian, the district's executive director for business services, said the district would only be able to sell \$80 million in bonds without raising taxes. As it is, the district will forego a scheduled decrease in the debt levy to pay for the bond.

Trustees Mark Horvath and Mike Maloney repeated last week's votes against the bond. Maloney said last week there are still too many questions. Horvath this week said what he perceives as a lack of a solid plan for selling and implementing the bond kept him in the "no" column.

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CATHOLICS

Continued from page A1

after nearly 26 years as pope. Pope Benedict's successor will be chosen, perhaps as early as March, by church cardinals from around the world who are under the age of 80.

Time of transition

"It's really going to be an interesting time of transition for the Catholic church. It'll be interesting to see who is selected as the next pope," said Brian Broderick, a member at Good Counsel.

"Who knows who that new leader is going to be? It's going to be a situation where we don't know," said the Rev. Ron Richards, pastor at St. John Neumann in Canton. "What our prayers have to be is that the Holy Spirit is acting in the hearts of those men who are choosing the new pope."

Slowski and Richards

expressed admiration for the pope's decision to step down.

"It shows his humanity," Slowski said. "You've got to be strong to admit weakness, to say on the world stage, 'Hey, I just can't do this, and you're better served with someone more energetic.' Personally I think that's his legacy."

"I think it's a very humble thing the Holy Father is doing. The easy thing would be for him to stay until he passed away, because that's what's been done for 600 years," said Richards.

Follows a legend

Several people also agreed Pope Benedict had a tough act to follow in John Paul II, who traveled widely, was beloved around the world and was credited with being helpful and the Soviet Union's domination of Eastern Europe.

"I think he did a very good job filling that void that was left," Slowski

ki said of Pope Benedict. "You're following a legend."

"He just has a different personality, I think, than (Pope John Paul II), who seemed to be more open to traveling around the world. It's just a different style," said Broderick. "It should be a time of great excitement for the church."

Monaghan said he doesn't put much stock in "prognosticators" who are "throwing out their opinions" about who will be the next pope. Of the 209 Catholic cardinals throughout the world, just over half are eligible to vote to choose a pope.

"This is at such a higher spiritual level," Monaghan said. "God knows who the next pope is going to be, and I know that divine decision will be placed in the hearts of each and every one of those cardinals."

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CANTON CRIME WATCH



Walmart assault

1 Canton police are investigating reports of a woman assaulting an employee of the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue west of Belleville Road after during a retail fraud incident that occurred about 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Police sent to the store after receiving reports of a 58-year-old intoxicated woman who concealed merchandise and tried to flee from employees before she fell near the exit, a police report said. An employee tried to help the woman up, but she grabbed the worker by the hair and dragged her toward the parking lot, pulling out some of her hair in the process, the report said.

The suspect was seen getting into a green Ford Taurus and striking two other vehicles as she fled.

A police investigation revealed the woman had a Saline address, but a man who lived there told police the suspect no longer was a resident at the location. Police learned the suspect also is wanted in Pittsfield Township for a January incident involving retail fraud and fleeing and eluding authorities.

Identity theft

2 A Canton woman applying for an apartment was shocked to learn she was denied because of her credit score, which apparently was lowered after she became a victim of identity theft, a police report said.

The 25-year-old woman, who has been living on Creeks Bend northwest of Geddes and Canton Center, noti-

fied police last Thursday after she received the denial. She checked her credit score online and found numerous items in her name that had been turned over to a collections agency, even though she hadn't purchased the items herself.

Car theft

3 A 29-year-old woman told police her 2006 Ford Focus was stolen from her residence in the Sherwood Village mobile home community southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty roads. She said the car was stolen sometime prior to 6 a.m. Feb. 5.

The woman told police she was behind on her payments but had received no notification or threat that the vehicle was going to be repossessed.

Dogs at large

4 Police went to Elmhurst, southeast of Ford and Sheldon roads, and met with the Varnum Police company on reports of two dogs running loose in the neighborhood. The company had picked up the dogs on another occasion earlier this month, a police report said.

Police met with the owner, who lived on Elmhurst, and was told that the dogs had apparently escaped from a basement window she believed she had repaired. The dogs were described as a female pit bull and a male golden retriever.

The owner was issued a citation for having dogs at large.

—By Darrell Clem

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

CRIME WATCH

Woman admits to shoplifting at supermarket

An Ann Arbor woman told police that financial hardship prompted her theft of cans of cat food, two packages of antacid tablets and a pair of reading glasses at a Plymouth Township supermarket on Feb. 6.

The woman, 54, was confronted by the manager at the Busch's supermarket on Sheldon Road at Five Mile after trying to exit the store without paying for the items, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. Police said the woman calmly awaited their arrival at the store.

The manager told police that an employee had altered him of the possible shoplifting, and then he followed the woman for several minutes, watching as she left without paying for the items. He confronted her in the store vestibule.

The woman said she had been dropped off at the store by a friend, police said. She said she had undergone recent financial hardship and had just found a new job.

Police issued her a misdemeanor shoplifting ticket with a Tuesday, Feb. 26, court date.

Fraud report

A township man reported Friday that his Social Security number had been stolen recently.

The man told police he was filing his income taxes via computer on Feb. 4 and was informed that his number had already been used in another filing.

He reported the incident to the Internal Revenue Service, a police report said, and was told the agency would investigate.

Car part stolen

The catalytic converter from a Chevrolet Cavalier was stolen late Feb. 7 or early Feb. 8 as the car sat outside the Plymouth House Apartments, on Postiff Avenue near Ann Arbor Road.

The owner told police the card had been parked about 2 p.m. Feb. 7 and the theft was discovered about 2 p.m. the next day.

Catalytic converters are valued by scrapppers for the precious metals inside.

—By Matt Jachman

Power Squadron offers boating safety classes

It may be cold and snowy, but for people already thinking about the boating season, now is the time to get prepared.

With several new boating laws now in effect that impact those who boat or use personal watercraft on Michigan waters, Dearborn Sail and Power Squadron, a local squadron of the U.S. Power Squadrons, is offering a boating class at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland, beginning Feb. 25, and at Canton High School, 8415 N. Canton Center Road, Canton, beginning Feb. 27.

The class includes basic boating safety, required equipment, rules of the road, state and local regulations, adverse conditions, emergencies and much more. PWC/Proficiency Certificate will be issued to passing students. They run eight weeks, with two additional weeks offered as an option for those who are interested in learning some basics of charting. More information can be found at www.dearborn-squadron.org/education.html, by calling (734) 434-5469, or emailing JanaHiker@gmail.com.



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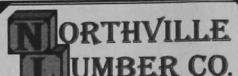


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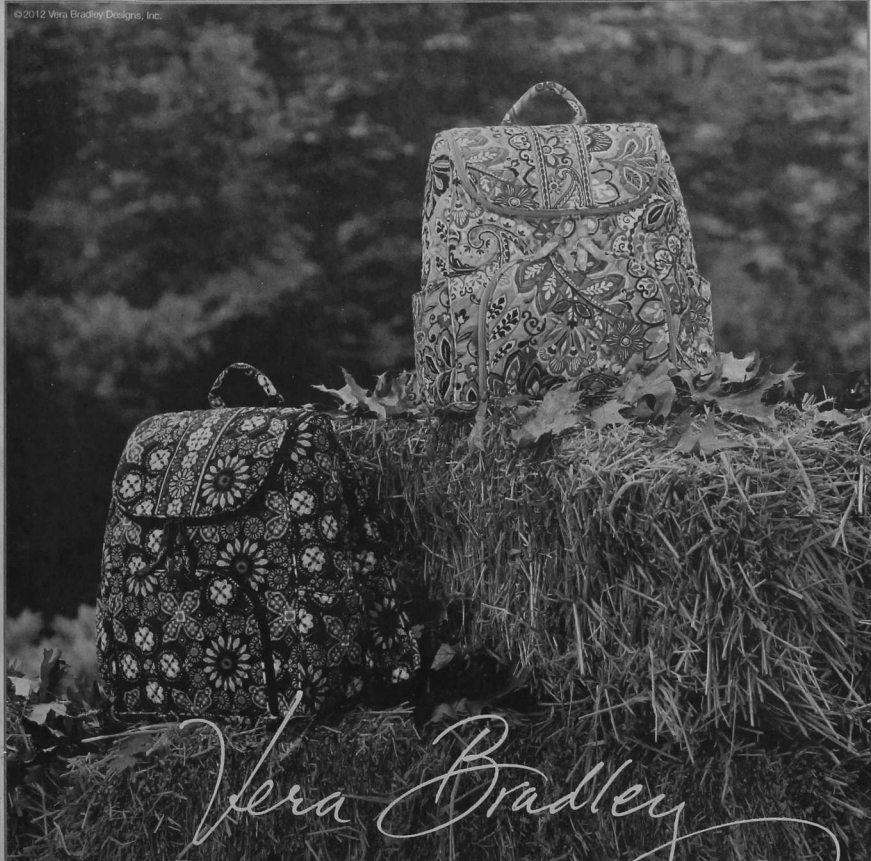
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Dancers step out for Valentine party

Dad's and daughters from around the area put on their dancing shoes and stepped out together for a fun Valentine's event over the weekend at Canton's Summit on the Park.

This year's Butterfly Ball, Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance, was spread over two days to give as many dads and daughters a chance to dance their shoes off as possible.

"The Daddy/Daughter Dance is a chance for fathers and daughters to dress up and enjoy a great evening together," said Jennifer Provenzano, Canton Recreation Special-

ist. "This event provides a great way for young ladies to strengthen their relationships with their fathers. This annual Valentine's tradition is a celebration of the special bond fathers and grandfathers have with their daughters and granddaughters of all ages.

"It really is a treasured experience where dads and daughters can create special memories that they'll cherish forever," she added.

Dancers took advantage of keepsake photos and even had their faces painted as part of the celebration.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The feet were tappin' and the joint was jumpin' as dads and daughters took part in the annual Butterfly Ball Friday at the Summit in Canton.



Dave Cordon makes sure that daughter Mikaela's corsage is just right. Mikaela is 8 years old.



Ken Van Such spins his twins, 8-year-olds Kenna and Kaley, at Friday's Butterfly Ball in the Summit on the Park. The dance was one of three over the weekend that gave dads and daughters a chance to celebrate.



Keith Baum and 5-year-old daughter Sarah enjoyed the Butterfly Ball.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON'S 2012 MEAP RESULTS						
3RD GRADE						
	Math Met	Math Included	Reading Met	Reading Included		
2009	97%	1,389	94%	1,389		
2010	98%	1,338	92%	1,336		
2011	54%	1,283	73%	1,283		
2012	60%	1,189	80%	1,183		
4TH GRADE						
	Math Met	Math Included	Reading Met	Reading Included	Writing Met	Writing Included
2009	97%	1,423	90%	1,416	NA	NA
2010	96%	1,400	91%	1,398	61%	1,398
2011	63%	1,291	82%	1,268	57%	1,269
2012	66%	1,239	78%	1,229	70%	1,230
5TH GRADE						
	Math Met	Math Included	Reading Met	Reading Included	Science Met	Science Included
2009	94%	1,459	92%	1,457	92%	1,459
2010	93%	1,441	93%	1,436	89%	1,441
2011	69%	1,350	83%	1,335	23%	1,370
2012	72%	1,264	81%	1,254	17%	1,313
6TH GRADE						
	Math Met	Math Included	Reading Met	Reading Included	S. Studies Met	S. Studies Included
2009	95%	1,381	94%	1,380	87%	1,385
2010	95%	1,476	93%	1,472	88%	1,475
2011	69%	1,391	79%	1,381	45%	1,414
2012	71%	1,305	80%	1,293	40%	1,351
7TH GRADE						
	Math Met	Math Included	Reading Met	Reading Included	Writing Met	Writing Included
2009	93%	1,415	91%	1,413	NA	NA
2010	93%	1,418	91%	1,415	66%	1,415
2011	61%	1,491	75%	1,479	66%	1,482
2012	65%	1,359	77%	1,354	70%	1,354
8TH GRADE						
	Math Met	Math Included	Reading Met	Reading Included	Science Met	Science Included
2009	89%	1,423	91%	1,421	87%	1,423
2010	93%	1,411	90%	1,408	89%	1,410
2011	59%	1,426	73%	1,419	22%	1,433
2012	59%	1,480	77%	1,484	23%	1,512
9TH GRADE						
	S. Studies Met	S. Studies Included				
2009	87%	1,647				
2010	85%	1,597				
2011	41%	1,566				
2012	40%	1,631				

*These results are for all buildings in the Plymouth-Canton district. The chart shows the percentage of students who passed — meaning they "met" or exceeded standards — by grade and subject for the 2009 through 2012 school years. "Included" indicates the number of students tested.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

MEAP

Continued from page A1

in math, were scores at nearly all tested grade levels jumped 2- to 3-percent.

She said teachers and administrators have "provided intense" focus on math, making a commitment to raise math scores.

"We've looked at professional development and areas we can really hone in on in math where we've maybe not done so

well (in the past)," Farina said. "It's starting to really pay off."

Not all of the news was good. District scores dipped by several percentage points in some areas compared to 2011 scores. Fourth-grade reading was down 4 percent, while fifth-grade science scores were down 6 percent and sixth-grade social studies scores dropped 5 percent.

Farina said the dropoffs, while a reason to look more close-

ly at those areas, are not necessarily a cause for alarm. Despite the drops, those scores, she pointed out, were still well above state averages.

"It's not something we're alarmed with unless we start seeing a downward trend in future years," she said. "For now, we maintain the course we've been setting in our classrooms and keep doing what we've been doing."

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Catholic high school for girls puts emphasis on service, leadership

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Samantha Blewett, 16, transferred from Ladywood High School in Livonia to St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Wixom.

"I transferred mostly for spiritual reasons," said Blewett, a SCA sophomore from Farmington Hills. "I felt like I was at home."

The Catholic girls high school on Napier south of Grand River opened in 2010 in temporary quarters on Beck Road just north of I-96. Students and staff moved to the sparkling new building the next year, with 92 girls in ninth through 11th grades enrolled. Next year will see SCA's first graduating class.

"I feel like I could count on anyone here," said Blewett, active in the Ambassadors Club which introduces new families to the school. The daughter of Kelly Campbell, Blewett's in volleyball, softball, the Glanna Molla (pro-life) Society, and Mass Music Choir. She'd like to be a physical therapist and is considering Wayne State University, Grand Valley State University, Northern Michigan University or Oakland University.

Haley Harris, 14, of Westland is a SCA freshman and daughter of Kim Harris and Tony Harris. She's involved in the recent production of *Cinderella*, the school's first play.

"I designed the shirts and designed the programs," said Harris, who also is working backstage. She too was at Ladywood.

"We took a tour here and we really liked it," Harris said. "Everybody was so nice. Everyone was just so welcoming."

Headed to college

The school, at 28200 Napier, features a rigorous college prep curriculum, including mandatory Latin as well as many Advanced Placement classes. The school has a capacity for 700 girls.

Kathy Tarnacki's in her second year as principal, and began by driving in from Jackson. Her family's moving to Brighton.

"The mission," the 31-year educator said of



St. Catherine of Siena Academy student Danielle Mersch gets some assistance from art teacher Mary Jane Samberg in a project at the Wixom school on Jan. 29. St. Catherine's opened in Wixom, just a few hundred feet from Novi's Catholic Central campus, in 2011. The 164,000-square-foot school currently has 92 students and should have a class of 190 next year. The school has enough room for almost 900 students and staff.

her job's appeal. "Just being together with other young women kinds of removes some of the challenges they face in co-ed situations."

The faith aspect matters a great deal to Tarnacki, a former Plymouth resident who taught in Plymouth-Canton schools and Plymouth's Our Lady of Good Counsel grade school.

"That's what drew me here," she said. The culture sends confusing messages on dignity and worth to young women, and the educators like to counteract that.

"This mission provides them with such a clear picture of what God intends for them as women," Tarnacki said. "It's so varied."

Some students will pursue law, medicine or other careers. "For some, it's going to be having a family and building a home," the principal said. Women learn to use their strengths to the fullest.

"These girls are going to be well-prepared for any avenue they might follow in their college careers," Tarnacki said.

The independent Catholic school is run by a foundation board under the Archdiocese of Detroit, said Lia Johnston of Ann Arbor, director of marketing and development.

The school is available by phone at (248) 946-4848 or online at www.saintcatherineacademy.org.

A mission trip to the Dominican Republic was recently included in Epoch Week, which also featured many service projects closer to home.

The school draws primarily from the I-96 corridor, Johnston said.

"There is a tremendous need," she said of that being identified by then-Cardinal Adam Maida. "We want them to come in and discover who God wants them to be."

Mary Wilson teaches biology and AP chemistry and is a South Lyon resident. This is Wilson's first year teaching; she holds a Ph.D. in microbiology from U-M, as well as a U-M public health master's and a bachelor's in biochemistry from Texas A&M University.

"I've always been big in youth groups," Wilson said. She was doing infectious disease research when the SCA job opened.

'Girls are amazing'

"It almost seems like I was guided here," Wilson said. "Our girls are amazing."

She aims to give girls an understanding of science, including a recent trip to U-M labs by 13 girls. "I think that was something I missed out on," she said. "I try to bring that real-world perspective."

Many SCA girls are the oldest in their families, Rivard added, and the school helps them prepare for college testing and admissions.

Residents speak out at Dems' Listening Tour

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

The House Democrats' Listening Tour came to Canton Monday and drew about 35 residents who had something to say about education, taxes and health care.

Three Democratic state House members — Dian Slavens of Canton, Robert Kosowski of Westland and Andrew Kandrevas of Southgate — appeared at the meeting held at the Canton Public Library. They were joined by Rep. Jim Townsend, D-Royal Oak, the Democrats' policy chairman, and Rep. Henry Yanez, D-Sterling Heights.

"My Democratic colleagues and I are fighting the Republican agenda against middle-class families," Slavens told residents. "Now we are holding this listening tour to hear from you, to take your stories back to Lansing, and to add your voices to our own in the struggle against this short-sighted plan."

The representatives took comments from audience members, several of whom utilized notes in making remarks touching on several topics.

Plymouth resident Tim Rorabach said he was unhappy with the new taxation of retiree pensions and would like to see that law repealed. He was also concerned about the high cost of college in the state.

"I'd like to see you push back on the privatization of education, that a business paradigm is the only solution to the problem," Rorabach said. "It's not the answer to everything, especially not education. The answer to edu-



State Rep. Dian Slavens of Canton speaks at the Democratic Listening Stop Tour. With Slavens are Reps. Jim Townsend, Andrew Kandrevas, Robert Kosowski and Henry Yanez.

cation is we need a laser-like focus on what is good for kids. With privatization, it's let's make a profit and see what we can do to educate kids."

Townsend agreed, noting that Microsoft and Apple are great companies but you wouldn't want them to be responsible for educating children.

School funding

Another resident spoke about the disparity of funding for school districts across the state.

A retired teacher commented that she wanted to make sure people understood that charter schools are for-profit operations — something a lot of people don't realize.

"I would also like to ask the Republicans why public school teachers are the bad guys? I have a bachelor's and a master's degree — as much education as a lawyer. So does my daughter, who is a teacher," she said. "Why are we the enemies? Please make a case



Barb Case brings her concerns to the legislators.

for us."

Also education-related, another resident was concerned about proposed bills that would encourage teachers and school administrators to get concealed weapons permit so they could be armed at school.

"We need to weigh the risks of an accidental shooting or a teacher being overpowered and the gun being used on them," the resident said. "There are so many other options that we can take."

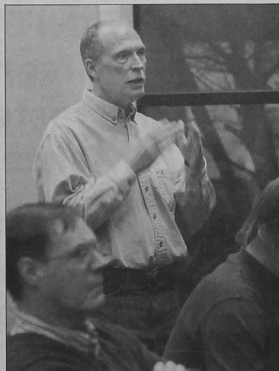
Other residents expressed opposition to any tax increases, includ-

ing Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed gas and vehicle registration hikes to fund road and bridge constructions.

The proposal is to increase the tax on fuel to 33 cents per gallon — up from 19 cents per gallon for unleaded fuel and 15 cents per gallon for diesel. Vehicle registration fees would see a 60 percent increase for cars and light trucks, a 25 percent hike for big trucks and trailers to generate \$508 million.

Upside down

"The tax system in



Plymouth resident Tim Rorabach is recently retired and his pension will be taxed for the first time. He speaks about public school education, calling for a "laser-like focus" on public education and saying "We don't want to be a backwater state."

Michigan is upside down. You'd think higher earners would pay more taxes since they are benefiting more from state services," said Townsend. "If you make \$365,000 or more income, you pay 5 percent in state and local taxes. If you make less than \$30,000, you pay nearly 10 percent. Certain people are not paying as much as they should."

Capping catastrophic medical coverage was an issue for another resident, who noted one serious accident could bankrupt a family without coverage.

And regarding roads, he said the weight of trucks needs to be limited to stop damage to the roads.

The Democrats are making stops around the state to get comments from residents on the Republican agenda. For more, visit www.real-statefourstate.com.

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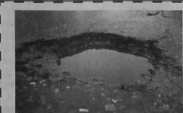
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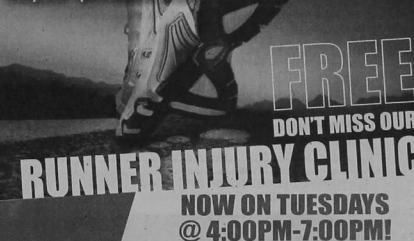
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AG appeals dismissal of felony charges against former McCotter staffers

Attorney General Bill Schuette filed an appeal Tuesday with the Michigan Court of Appeals challenging the dismissal of felony conspiracy charges against two former congressional staff members for their involvement in former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter's petition scandal.

"Michigan citizens deserve and expect the highest standard of public integrity," Schuette said in a prepared statement. "The message here is crystal clear — if you break the law, there are consequences. No one is above the law. We will continue to prosecute this disgraceful violation of the public trust."

On Jan. 18, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Margie Braxton dismissed the charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony filed against both defendants. The Attorney General's office opposed the dismissal in court and filed an appeal Tuesday.

Don Yowchuang, 33, of Farmington Hills, who worked as deputy district director for the former congressman, pleaded no contest Nov. 27 before Braxton to 10 counts of forgery, a five-year felony, and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor. Yowchuang was sentenced by Braxton Jan. 18 to three years' probation. If he violates probation, he



Seewald



Yowchuang

must serve the last year in a county jail or prison; complete 200 hours of community service; repay all court costs and fees; and, he is required to report any contact with police or loss of employment to his assigned probation officer.

Paul Seewald, 47, of Livonia, who worked as district director for the former congressman, pleaded guilty Nov. 27 before Braxton to nine counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Seewald was sentenced by Braxton Jan. 18 to the following: two years' probation; 100 hours of community service; repayment of all court costs and fees; and, he is required to report any contact with police or loss of employment to his assigned probation officer.

On Aug. 9, Schuette announced the results of an investigation by the Attorney General's Public Integrity Unit into the alleged fraud surrounding nominating petitions filed in May 2012 on behalf of McCotter. At that announcement, Schuette explained the former congressman was "asleep at the switch" and

that four staff members were to face criminal charges.

Schuette alleged that members of McCotter's Michigan staff were involved in a deliberate fraud involving a pattern of paying and altering petitions in order to qualify the five-term congressman for the 2012 Michigan ballot.

On Sept. 18, Lorianne O'Brady, 52, of Livonia, who worked as a scheduler to the former congressman, pleaded no contest in Wayne County's 16th District Court before Judge Kathleen J. McCann to five counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor. She was sentenced to 20 days in jail or 20 days in a work program. Following that sentence, she will serve 18 months' probation, with the first 12 months as reporting probation.

O'Brady was also ordered to pay \$2,625 in fines and court costs. Mary Melissa Turnbull, 58, of Howell, who was McCotter's district representative, was bound over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court where she faces one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony, and one count of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a 93-day misdemeanor.

Turnbull is next due in court for trial on her sentence before Circuit Judge Leo Bowman on April 16. Her trial will begin June 3.

Invest for performance, not out of sense of loyalty

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I was reading this weekend and noticed how many articles incorporated a Valentine's Day theme. One of those articles dealt with investments "you should fall in love with on Valentine's Day." Although it was written tongue-in-cheek, it brought up something I always mention at seminars and that is "investors should never fall in love with their investments."

After all, how much love did companies such as General Motors and Kmart show their investors when they went into bankruptcy? I'm sure shareholders of those companies will tell you that during the bankruptcy process, the companies did not even give them the time of day. The bottom line is that an investment is an item on a statement. It is meant to accomplish a goal and if it doesn't there's no reason to retain it.

I have professionally been involved with investments for more than 25 years. One of the mistakes investors make is that sometimes they are afraid to sell an investment because of loyalty. When General Motors was in its downward cycle heading toward bankruptcy, because of their loyalty, too many investors refused to sell the stock. I have seen the same thing with mutual funds and



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

just about every type of investment. It explains why a stock or a mutual fund can underperform for years and

investors still retain it. Loyalty is important but not when it comes to your investments. Never hesitate to sell an investment when it either no longer fits your strategy or when it underperforms.

I believe to be a successful investor, the focus should be on your overall strategy and not individual investments. Independent surveys have confirmed that investors who have the right allocation have a greater chance of being more successful than those who are focused on individual investments.

If you have a stock or a mutual fund in your portfolio and it has been there for a while, that doesn't mean that you should continue to hold it. Even if it has performed admirably that is not a reason to retain an investment. The reason to retain an investment is because it fits with the overall strategy and allocation. If it no longer fits, sell it.

It is incumbent upon investors to look at how their investments are performing. My general rule is that once I'm in an investment, I'm going to

be in there for two to three years. However, if after that period the investment is underperforming others in its same category, then I sell. That doesn't mean if an investment has one bad year I'm automatically going to dump it. I won't. However, if it underperforms for a significant length of time, why stay with it?

It sort of reminds me of a fund I used to like, the Janus Fund. Back in the early to mid-1990s, I recommended the Janus Fund because it was a great performing fund. However, somewhere down the road it lost its direction. I did not hesitate to sell it even though I made a lot of money from it in the past.

When it comes to an investment, the bottom line is how it's performing. It is more important than how it did in the past.

Investors cannot buy and ignore an investment. Even if it's an investment that has been your portfolio for decades, determine whether it still belongs. The question I ask when it comes to whether I should retain an investment is if I didn't already own it would I buy it? If I can't answer yes, then my next question is why am I retaining the investment now?

The reason we invest money is to make money. Loyalty is great but that's when you deal with family and friends and other issues. It's not for investments. Therefore, the next time you look at your portfolio, don't let emotions dictate, let performance rule the day. Good luck!

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

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CHAMBER CHAT

Development workshop

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a Business Development Workshop, "Building Your Net Worth Through Your Network," 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

The workshop features Greg Peters, "The Reluctant Networker," who will help participants learn:

- Two simple keys to a productive networking mindset
- Why selling at the event is so hard and what to do instead
- Why 95 percent of people fail at their net working

There is no cost to attend, but the event can only accommodate 30 people. To RSVP call (734) 453-1540 or email ter@plymouthmich.org.

MAX membership

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

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

Speed networking

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a "Speed networking" event Thursday, Feb. 14, from 7:45-9:15 a.m. at Panache 447,



Dig in

Penn Station opened their new restaurant in Plymouth at the corner of Ann Arbor and Sheldon roads in the same plaza as Kroger. They feature an array of mouth-watering grilled East Coast-style submarine sandwiches and fresh-cut fries. Cutting the ribbon on their new location is owner Stewart Napier, his staff, public officials and Chamber Ambassadors. The restaurant can be reached by calling (734) 459-2500.

447 Forest in downtown Plymouth.

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

The \$10 cost includes breakfast. To sign up for this event call (734) 453-1540 or email ter@plymouthmich.org.

Chamber map

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce will be distributing 5,000 maps during 2013 and 2014. Valuable advertising space is available on the map

for companies/organizations wanting to promote themselves to visitors and residents. These maps are distributed through the Chamber office (indoor and outdoor displays), local hotels, real estate agencies, new resident welcome bags, apartment complexes, wedding parties for out-of-town guests and visitors to the community.

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

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

Idea man

Way Vuyles, president of Logos Communications, was selected from over 5,000 submissions to be featured in The 2013 Woman's Advantage Shared Wisdom Calendar. The calendar provides advice for women business owners from influential women leaders across the U.S. and Canada.

Mary Cantando, Growth Expert of The Woman's Advantage, announced Vuyles' advice is included in this year's calendar. Her quote appears on April 30 and reads, "Continually connect clients with others and they'll stay connected with you."

This marks Vuyles' fifth consecutive appearance in the calendar. Vuyles' quote was selected because it was powerful yet easy to understand. Her idea is relevant to almost every woman in business today, said Cantando. "Women business owners and those who dream of starting a business will learn so much from the advice provided by Way Vuyles and the other successful women quoted in the calendar," she added.

The Woman's Advantage 2013 Calendar provides sound bites of advice on key business issues including: organization, promotion, sales, and human resources.

Military tax service

Cole, Newton & Duran, Certified Public Accountants in Livonia and Plymouth, are offering complimentary tax advice to the rapidly growing company. National Guard members called to active duty as well as regular military receiving combat pay.

The office is located at 1095 S. Main, Plymouth, (734) 427-2030 to schedule an appointment.

Company offers tire safety tips

Officials at Mobile Tire Company offer the following tips for tire safety, recognizing that tires are an important investment and the only thing between the road and the safety of your family.

Following are a few indicators of when your tires might be going bad to prevent a dangerous emergency.

- The first thing to look for is tread depth. If the weather conditions are snowy, then Mobile Tire Company recommends replacing your tires at 6/32-inch. If the weather is predominantly rain, then your tires should be replaced when they hit 4/32-inch. Worst case, tires should be replaced when they hit 2/32-inch, as the manufacturer inserts a "wear bar" at that depth to let you know the tire is no longer safe to be driven on.

If you are driving on a rainy freeway at 70 mph, the difference between 2/32" and 4/32" is nearly 100 feet, or six car lengths, of stopping distance.

• Next, look for small tears, cuts or punctures. If they are small, say a quarter-inch or less, they may be repairable by a qualified tire technician. If these small issues have been causing a slow leak and the tire has been driven with low air pressure, there could be internal damage and should be inspected.

If there are any damaged sections in the sidewall or within one inch of the shoulder, the tire will need to be replaced. It is not safe to repair those sections of the tire. Again, if the tire has been driven with low to no, air pressure, it could be damaged and should be inspected by a tire professional.

• Other signs of tire

damage are bulges in the sidewall, uneven wear spots, blisters, separation bubbles, steel cords showing or other hazardous debris or damage to the tire sidewall or shoulder.

These are usually signs of structural damage to the tire and should not be driven on until inspected by a professional.

• As the tire ages, it will show signs of wear by cracking and dry rot. This could happen any where on the tire and could be part of normal age or could be severe, if the tread is starting to separate. Tires that are five years old or more should be inspected for these possible conditions.

To learn more about tires, or for a free inspection, call Mobile Tire at (734) 506-TIRE or visit www.mobiletirecompany.com.

Roundtable features state legislators

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a business roundtable that will feature legislators from the local area prepared to discuss issues being considered in the current legislative session.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, (R-Plymouth Township), and state Sen. Pat Colbeck, (R-Canton), are the featured guests at the roundtable, set for 3-4 p.m. Friday, March 1, at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. Heise and Colbeck will meet with chamber members for a discussion "about important public policy issues fac-

ing Michigan," officials said. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear a short overview by each legislator about the issues being considered in this session and then the majority of the time will be devoted to questions and answers.

Topics to be covered include:

- The proposed road repair funding through increased gas taxes and other fees
- Education funding

• Reform of the Michigan no-fault auto insurance system

Colbeck proposed State budget.

• Other topics you bring to the round table

There is no charge to attend. Attendees can park in the back of the building in the parking ramp off of Harvey and come in the back door to the office.

For more information, call the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, (734) 453-1540.



Heise



Colbeck

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

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

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

Tuesday, March 5	9 am- Noon	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 11	2 pm- 5 pm 6 pm- 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 13	9 am- Noon 2 pm- 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Thursday, March 14	9 am- Noon	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 16	9 am- 11 am	First Come - First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received by mail or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 4:30pm.

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

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

Published: February 14, 17 and 21, 2013

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for Medical and Prescription Drug, Dental, Vision, Stoploss Carve Out Coverage (duplicate current coverage), Flexible Spending Account Administration and COBRA Administration. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Matt Duprey, Account Coordinator, Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. at (248) 430-2789 or matthew.duprey@gbg.com. Technical questions should also be directed to Matt Duprey. Sealed proposals are due to the PCCS - E. McClelland Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI or on or before 1:00 a.m., Friday, February 22, 2013. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

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

Published: February 7, 2013

A75794290 3x5

CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2013 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2013 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 7, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Monday, March 11, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2013 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 11, 2013.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 11, 2013 by 9:00 p.m. Petitioners are not accepted.

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

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

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

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Published: February 14, 17 and 21, 2013

A75794290 3x5

OUR VIEWS



BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth Garden Club's annual plant sale will be here before you know it.

Living green

Nature knows spring is coming in the near future

Forget the few inches of snow that closed schools throughout Wayne County on Friday.

Forget the salt, the shovel, the boots and gloves, because while the calendar may say we are in the dead of winter, there are the stirrings of life that say spring is on the way.

The trees know it, with the leaf buds growing robust right on time this February, and apparently so does ACO Hardware, whose circular in the Feb. 3 edition of the *Canton Observer*, in a show of proactive optimism, advertised a lawn fertilizer.

But that's not all.

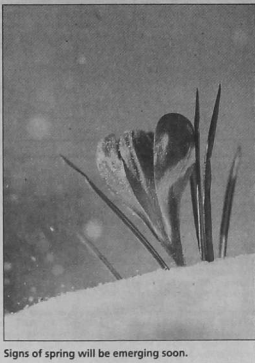
Later this month, the Friends of the Rouge host a workshop, "Naturalizing the Home Garden: A Native Garden Design Workshop for Beginners," where gardeners of all levels can learn how to design a garden with native wildflowers. Experts will be available to assist attendees with plant selection and garden design. If you want to take part, they're asking you to bring a site sketch or Google map of your yard. The workshop is intended for those with little to no experience gardening with native plants.

It takes place 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, in the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center in Canton. Can't make that one? Similar programs are planned for Farmington Hills April 24 and again in Bloomfield Hills on March 12.

Just as optimistic as ACO is the Plymouth Garden Club, which already has its members perusing seed catalogs to get ready for its annual plant sale (set for May 18).

Spring is also a good time to think about energy conservation, recycling and other basic tasks for energy and environmental sustainability in the community. And even the birds seem to know that daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. on March 10, one short month away.

Recognizing that the song of the turtle will soon be heard in the land, the *Canton Observer* has pruned and replanted its Taking Root Garden Calendar, which you will find in today's edition. Turn to it each week for opportunities to get back to nature. Be sure to send in your garden and outdoor-related events to bkadrich@hometownlife.com, and think green!



Signs of spring will be emerging soon.

CANTON OBSERVER
A GANNETT COMPANY

Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

With Presidents Day coming, we'd like to know which U.S. president you would most like to meet if you have the chance?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"John Adams because he was instrumental in getting the Declaration of Independence passed, and he took a stand (on the XYZ affair) when it was unpopular. That probably cost him his job."

Kirste Moline
Canton



"I'd have to go with Mr. Lincoln. He arguably kept the country together during its darkest time, and he was a humble and smart guy."

Josh Duncan
Westland



"Franklin Roosevelt. I like what his wife stood for, feminism and equal rights in the 1930s, and FDR is my favorite president."

Antonio Bradley
Canton



"I guess Abraham Lincoln, because of the divide in the country and what he did to unite the country."

Aaron Walters
Canton

LETTERS

Thanks for 'March' story

Thank you for your recent article (Jan. 27) in the *Canton Observer* about the "March for Life" in Washington.

I appreciate the educational aspect. Many people reading this article will now know the horrendous effect of the Supreme Court decision 40 years ago: 55 million abortions performed in the United States.

Although about 500,000 people were in attendance, there was nary a word from the media. Speaking for many, again, thanks so much.

Barb Schmid
Canton

Praying for mother

My baby boy, when 15 months old, died from wallowing (drain cleaner). It contains dye. I had put some in the kitchen drain, left the lid ajar, and the spoon I had used on the back of the counter by the faucet, to be used for repeat treatment in five minutes.

I stepped three feet away from the kitchen door into the bathroom to comb my hair. The mirror was next to the door. My son was occupied with his

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, *Canton Observer*, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

toys in the playpen in the living room area. In about three or four minutes, I heard a cry. The baby had climbed out of his playpen and I think he used the handles of the drawers to climb up to the counter and spoon the Drano into his mouth.

Between 15 and 18 months old, I have learned and others have had similar experiences, is the most dangerous age for a baby until you can reason with a

child. They grow strong enough to climb anywhere, climb anything, open anything faster than anything you can imagine.

When I saw the front-page article about Andrea Rodgers, I knew what had happened. Both of our occurrences were accidents. If this young mother had not wanted this baby, she could have arranged an abortion, but she carried him and delivered him. She must have love for this baby.

Fortunately, when this happened to me, my husband, family, neighbors and friends, and even strangers, grieved with me. Not one person ever accused me of anything. Of course, this happened in 1963 — things were different then. I still grieve for him, but have given him into God's care.

I just turned 86 years old. I have never written to an editor, but I believe this mother is suffering enough without more sorrow from people who do not understand the above. This girl has made some poor decisions, but we need to recognize an accident on her part.

I pray for her release.

Carol Hardy
Canton

GUEST COLUMN

More gun control emboldens criminals

By Frank Finch
Guest Columnist

I have read in the *Canton Observer* for several weeks now letter after letter from citizens suggesting some things about so-called "assault weapons" and other lawfully possessed firearms. We are all very aware of what occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary school in December.



Frank Finch

The opinions run the gamut from blaming the National Rifle Association (NRA) directly for violence to actually suggesting that law-abiding owners of self-loading rifles such as an AR-15 keep them in their basements with future intention of pointing them at soldiers returning home for the holidays. We have also read here and elsewhere how some feel that no citizen "needs" to own one of the rifles that have now been demonized by the media and by misdirected citizens. I would suggest that we have a Bill of Rights in this country and not a "Bill of Needs."

Quite honestly, people do use the AR-15 self-loading rifle for hunting these days and also for

self-defense. The rifle itself is just that, self loading or semi-automatic. What it is not is fully automatic and therefore is not an "assault weapon." That term is actually one that was coined some time ago by media outlets who want to sensationalize something for their own agenda.

Fully automatic rifles require special licensing and are not sold over the counter as some might wish you to believe. Self-loading rifles in the .30 caliber range are much more devastating and are owned by most Michigan citizens. But those law-abiding citizens were never accused of wanting to turn their rifles on our military men and women like one writer suggested a month ago.

For someone to even think about something is absurd and as a veteran myself, I can say that both my fellow veterans and my fellow officers have sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution and not an oath of blind loyalty to a person who sits in a public office.

I served in the military for 10 years and am now entering my 20th year of service as a federal officer. I deal with convicted felons every work day and I know first-hand what felons are capable of. The NRA is comprised of members and is not some faceless behemoth like many have portrayed it to be. The NRA is

simply representing its membership and is defending our rights to self defense. If the NRA is so malignant, why have their membership numbers increased by 8,000 members per day since December 2012?

There needs to be a broader and more honest discussion in this country about violence and our vice president and president failed to facilitate one. There was no meaningful dialogue about violent movies, video gaming or addressing real changes to the mental health system of our Country. What we are being told now instead, is that they have dusted off an old game plan from Senator Feinstein's career long attempt to disarm the law abiding.

More gun control laws, bans or confiscation will only embolden criminals and imprison the law-abiding in their own homes. If that is what you want, be sure to take a tour of a correctional facility or prison first to see what we deal with daily and ask yourself if you really want to lose your rights to self-defense and place your own personal security solely in the hands of government. When seconds count, the police are only minutes away.

Canton resident Frank Finch has been a law enforcement officer for more than 20 years.



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Founders Brewery of Michigan \$9⁹⁹ All Varieties	Wine Tasting Dinner Featuring French Wines February 28 at 6:30 p.m. \$50⁰⁰ Advance Tickets Only		Angry Orchard Ciders Dry, Crisp, Ginger \$8⁹⁹ 6 packs only

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Top Sirloin Steak \$5⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.	Whole Fryers \$13⁹⁹ lb. Save 50¢ lb.	Entree of the Week Chicken Cordon Bleu \$4⁹⁹ lb. Save \$1.00 lb.	Home Fries or Hash Browns \$2⁴⁹ pkg.
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10/\$10	69¢ lb 72 count	2/\$4	99¢ head	\$1.29 lb	2/\$4

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Starkist Chunk Light Tuna	5/\$5
Colavita Pasta No Limit	4/\$5
Joe's Gourmet Pasta Sauces	\$3.99 Save \$1.00 lb
Delallo Authentic Beans	10/\$10

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Youngs Double Chocolate Stout	\$9.99 4 Pack
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SECTION B • (CP)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

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

PCA cagers win rematch

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The first time Plymouth Christian Academy squared off against Oakland Christian this season, the Lancers burned the Eagles for 24 first-quarter points.

But PCA head coach Dominique Washington made some defensive adjustments ahead of Tuesday's rematch and they paid off with a 51-44 home victory.

"It was all about defense tonight, just buying in to the defensive mindset," Washington said. "Understanding that offensively I think we're fine. ... But do we have enough guys who have enough heart to say my man's not going to score?"

Switching the D from man-to-man to zone worked as Oakland Christian scored just five points in the opening frame and 14 for the first half.

Defense first

"They scored 24 points against us in the first quarter the first time around," Washington noted. "And they didn't have 24 points in the first half. Kudos to my guys for buying in."

Pressure defense also stifled Lancers' guard John Van Noord, who drained five triples and scored 18 points in the teams' first matchup. On Tuesday, he failed to score a point.

PCA's balanced offense was helped by Mick Noel (17 points, four steals) with Drew Ibach tallying 10

Please see PCA, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Plymouth Christian's Daniel Jipping (No. 3) puts up a shot Tuesday night.



BRIAN QUINTOS
Salem's Alek Zultowski (No. 2) watches action during a recent contest. Zultowski is an important member of the KLAA South Division co-champs, on and off the ice.

Taking aim at his goals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Alek Zultowski was a kid, he ripped hundreds of pucks at hockey nets in his basement, ultimately shredding the twine.

"I just destroyed them (nets) because I shot so many pucks on them," the playmaking Salem senior forward said during a recent interview at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Those tireless workouts epitomized Zultowski's passion for hockey and desire to someday compete on a Division I college or AAA Mid-jet Majors team. That passion hasn't waned one bit in the years since.

"I want to take hockey as far as I can go with it," said Zultowski, 17. "I'm going to try my best and if I'm able to play at that level — I always wanted to play Division I — I'm going to try."

Transformation

The willingness to embrace a heavy workload also helped Zultowski transform himself from a skinny kid into one monster of a player for the Rocks.

"When Alek came in and skated with us in the summer (before his sophomore year), it was actually a big deal when



Chasing down a puck during a recent game is Salem's Alek Zultowski (No. 2).

he got to 100 pounds," Salem varsity boys hockey coach Ryan Ossennmacher said. "It was a big moment when he came over and said, 'Hey coach, I'm over 100 pounds now.'"

"He was as little of a player as we've ever taken before. We knew he was skilled, but from a size perspective, we really didn't know what to expect."

Ossennmacher knows what he has in Zultowski more than two years later, namely a special player and key catalyst behind Salem's second-half

THE ZULTOWSKI FILE

Who: Alek Zultowski, 17, Salem High School senior. The 5-10, 150-pounder is a forward and assistant captain for the Rocks varsity boys hockey team.

Pucks: He began playing as a young boy at Plymouth Cultural Center, in the Mini Mites program. He started travel hockey at age 9 with the Plymouth Stingrays and later competed on travel teams such as Victory Honda, the Farmington Fire and Suburban Stars.

Progress: Zultowski carries a 3.3 grade-point average and was on Salem's varsity boys tennis team last fall.

Family: His parents are Rebecca and Dave Zultowski of Plymouth.

push into state title contender status.

"What's happened in the last two years is he's continued to work hard and now he's just bigger (5-10, 150) than he was," Ossennmacher said. "So the skill level is still there and he's bigger. When you put those two things together, I

Please see ZULTOWSKI, B2

BOYS HOOPS

Rocks' title bid stymied

By Jeff Thelsen
Staff Writer

South Lyon boys basketball turned a one-point deficit into a blowout in just one quarter Monday at home with the KLAA Central Division title on the line.

Defending KLAA champion Salem, which won the previous matchup, held a 35-34 lead heading into the fourth.

From there, it was all South Lyon and its defense.

The Rocks (11-5, 7-3) gave up the first nine points and South Lyon finished on an 8-0 run as the big home crowd erupted in celebration.

"They controlled the tempo of the game the whole way. They deserved it," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We didn't execute as well this game. We didn't accept the challenge. We didn't come out tough enough. They came out and just bombed us all the time. Start to finish, there was no doubt really."

"We've got another chance (in the KLAA tournament). We'll see what we can do."

Salem struggled offensively all night, hitting just 13 of 43 shots and 3 of 13 from beyond the arc.

Nate Sass and Austin Whitted scored eight points each to lead Salem. Chris Dierker had seven, and no other Salem player scored more than five points.

"It feels great. I'm so happy for these guys," said Lion coach Doug Host. "They've worked

Please see HOOPS, B3

Big-time trio

Plymouth soccer players sign with D-I schools

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

National Signing Day wasn't just about football at Plymouth High School.

On Feb. 6, varsity girls soccer players Stephanie Dillon, Zoe Foster, Madi Lewis all officially signed national letters of intent to play Division-I women's soccer.

Dillon committed to Miami University of Ohio, Foster to University of North Dakota and Lewis to University of Michigan.

"It's huge," said Wildcats head coach Jeff Neschich about the sign-

ings. "Stephanie, Madi and Zoe, it's just their dedication to the sport, to their craft."

All three — also members of the Michigan Hawks elite club program — said it was an honor to sign on the same day and be part of Plymouth's biggest class of D-I recruits in its decade-plus existence.

"I think it's pretty special because all three of us have worked really hard, not just with high school but really with all of our soccer careers," said midfielder Dillon. "I'm really proud to be committing

to a college with them (on the same day)."

Echoing those comments was Lewis, a high-scoring forward who decided to sign with the University of Michigan instead of Ohio State or Louisville.

"It's really exciting, I'm really proud," said Lewis, also a midfielder. "I think it's really cool that there's three of us from the same soccer team that are committing to D-I schools."

Lewis said she decided on Michigan because she was immediately com-

Please see SIGNINGS, B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth girls soccer players Stephanie Dillon (second from left), Madi Lewis and Zoe Foster (second from right) all signed with Division-I colleges on National Signing Day. Flanking them are coach Jeff Neschich and co-athletic director Sue Heinzmann.

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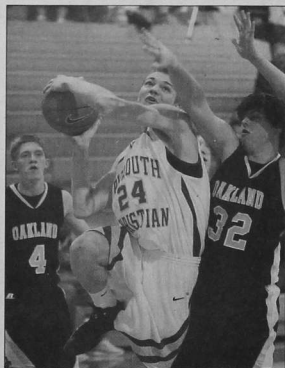
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland Christian's Preston Lasala (No. 32) and John Van Noord (No. 4) converge on Drew Ibach (No. 24) of Plymouth Christian during Tuesday's game.

PCA

Continued from page B1

points continued with five rebounds.

Scoring eight points each were Daniel Jipping (10 rebounds) and Alex Huber while 6-3 senior forward Matt Sumner excelled with seven points and 17 rebounds.

"He's one of those hybrid players," said Washington about Sumner. "He's not a guy who's only going to score. He's not a guy who's only going to get rebounds. He does a little bit of everything and he does it well."

The Eagles (9-6 overall, 4-6 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Blue Division) built a 18-14 half-time lead and went on a 15-9 run in the third to open up some breathing room (33-23 entering the fourth).

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ZULTOWSKI

Continued from page B1

would venture to even call him a dominant player this year.

What a year

Zultowski indeed is crafting a special season both for himself and the Rocks.

Following a 3-0 record at the Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase in Chelsea, Salem (15-6-1) jumped to No. 9 in the state rankings (for Division 1). The Rocks also are co-champions of the KLAAS South Division with campus rival Plymouth.

"We want to go all the way," said Zultowski, an assistant captain. "Me and the other captains have been talking about it all year. We want to get to Compuware, we want to beat Plymouth or Canton in the second round of the playoffs and take it one game at a time."

For much of the season, Zultowski was among the top scorers in the KLAAS, according to the MHSAA Hockey Hub website. Going into Thursday's game, he has 13 goals, 33 assists and 46 points. He trails linemate Jake Sealy (14-34-48) who tallied eight goals over the three Showcase games to jump in front on the leaderboard.

They have more room to skate, stickhandle, pass and shoot in part because of the spade work turned in by linemate Jason



BRIAN QUINTOS

Salem's Alek Zultowski (No. 2) slides the puck to a teammate during a recent game. In the background for the Rocks is linemate Jason Newel (No. 26).

Newel — a big-bodied presence who hits and wreaks havoc on defenders.

"The two of them (Zultowski and Sealy) are dynamic and they work well together," Ossenmacher said. "Sometimes when you have two players of that caliber, you have a tendency to try and split them up because you don't feel there's enough puck on the ice to go around for both of them."

"But they're both unselfish by nature."

Doing things right

Zultowski almost blushes when told his offensive production has been among the best in the state this winter. He emphasized he gets more enjoyment out of team success than he does out of personal achievement.

"I like making plays and finding guys in open

spaces," he said. "I have a little bit of finesse in my game, but I'm always thinking defense first. That's the most important part of the game, although I'll score a goal here and there."

According to Zultowski, individual statistics are merely a byproduct of doing things the right way. He encourages his teammates to do the same.

"If I see someone not doing what they need to do, not putting in an effort, I get on their case a little bit," Zultowski said. "But I'm the first person to tell them if they do something right, too."

Of course, nothing gets the message across better than leading by example. "I want to be that guy

that my team can depend on in those tough situations where we need a goal, or we need some energy," he said. "I love being that guy, having

Salem 3-0 at Chelsea 'Showcase'

Salem went 3-0 at the Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase in Chelsea to continue the team's red-hot play.

The Rocks defeated Chelsea, Clarkston and Grand Haven by a combined score of 13-6, not allowing two goals in any of the contests.

"We competed very well all week and our team defense did a nice job in all three games," Rocks head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said.

The victories increased Salem's win streak to nine and elevated the Rocks (15-6-1) to No. 9 in the Division 1 state rankings.

Opening the week for the Rocks was the 4-2 win over Chelsea on Feb. 4, at the Chelsea Arctic Coliseum.

Parker Godfrey earned the victory in net, with Jake Sealy and Noah Willer netting goals on the power play.

Last Thursday, defenseman and team captain

Kyle Downey led the way with a three-goal hat trick to support the goaltending of Anthony Veresan.

Closing out Salem's perfect week was Friday's 3-2 victory over Grand Haven. Leading the way with two goals was Jason Newel, while goalie Godfrey posted the win.

Meanwhile, the Canton Chiefs split two games at the showcase, falling 3-1 to Davison on Feb. 5 but coming back Feb. 6 with a 6-0 victory over Romeo.

The MPHSH Showcase is dubbed the latest such display in the history of Michigan public high school athletics.

"It is a fantastic event that brings in public schools from across the state," Ossenmacher said. "All the programs are community based and the showcase allows each team to represent their community and school on a much larger scale than a typical game would provide."

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Penguins rout Country Day, stop 2-game skid

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins scored seven goals in the first period Tuesday in an 8-0 mercy-rule rout of host Detroit Country Day.

PCS stopped a two-game losing streak with the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win.

Forwards Cortny McCaodo and Jenna Carter each scored twice in the opening stanza, with other markers by Elizabeth O'Donohue, Annelise Niermann and Jordan Patterson.

McCaodo opened the scoring surge at 5:37 of

GIRLS HOCKEY

the first, with Morgan Cusumano and Ashley Saunders setting it up.

Carter then netted the next two PCS goals, with Patterson setting up both of them. Other assists on Carter's markers were collected by Kayla Savioe and Emily King.

Cusumano drew the lone assist on the next goal, scored by Niermann to put the Pens up 4-0.

McCaodo then tallied her second of the period, from Cusumano and King and the lead grew to 6-0 shortly thereafter on a

goal by O'Donohue (from Sydney Smith).

It was a 7-0 edge when Patterson finished a scoring play started by Savioe and Carter with just 24 seconds remaining in the frame.

Patterson scored again, early in the second period (from Gabrielle Godre and Smith) to make it 8-0 and involve the mercy rule.

Registering the shut-out for the Penguins was goalie Gwen Gaudika.

On Feb. 2, Carter, Patterson and Niermann scored single goals, but the Penguins lost 4-3 in

overtime to Walled Lake at Suburban Ice.

PCS dropped a 5-0 result to Port Huron on Jan. 29 at Canton Arctic Edge.

CRANBROOK 4, PCS 3 (OT):

The visiting Penguins dropped this game in overtime to Cranbrook Saturday night at Wallace Arena.

Scoring two goals for PCS was Ashley Saunders with Jordan Patterson also scoring. Earning assists for the Penguins were Jenna Carter and Elizabeth O'Donohue.

(It was incorrectly reported in Sunday's Observer that the Penguins lost. We apologize for that error.)

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Co-captains help keep 'Cats on track

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Soon after Kenn Forbes took over as head coach of Plymouth's varsity boys swim team, his new co-captains reached out to him.

Nick Weber, Cameron Earls and Gunnar Savaloja wanted to have an informal chat with Forbes, to know what was expected of him and vice versa.

"We sat down, the three captains and I," Forbes recalled. "We talked for two hours about whatever they wanted to ask me questions about."

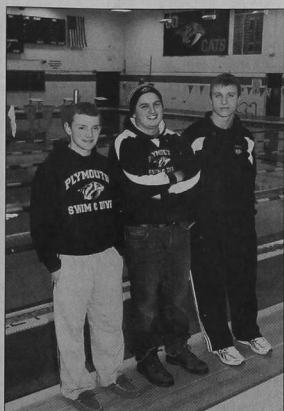
"Just get to know me and feel me out for the year, and there haven't been any issues."

The senior co-captains — all in their fourth season and members of the National Honor Society — indeed have been the glue to what has been a most satisfying season for the team.

Last week, they clinched the KLAA South Division title with a convincing 115-68 triumph over defending champs Westland John Glenn.

Several individuals also are looking forward to qualifying for the Division I state meet, including Weber and Earls.

And at Saturday's MIS-CA meet at Eastern Michigan University, Weber and Earls each competed in two individual events and as part of two relays. "They're phenomenal



LAUREN EARLS

Plymouth's senior co-captains, (from left) Nick Weber, Gunnar Savaloja and Cameron Earls, have been instrumental in the varsity boys swim team's successful season.

kids," Forbes said. "It's a good dynamic because Cam is all business. He just goes. Everyone looks up to him with his power, speed and experience."

"Nick, tremendous work ethic. He's a little more talkative. He gets the guys going."

"And then Gunnar is the moral support that really keeps everybody together."

Forbes added that he "couldn't ask for better captains. They're a great group of guys."

Earning respect
The admiration definitely is mutual.

"Coach Forbes has done an amazing job in his first year," Savaloja said. "It is always tough to try and gain the respect (of) a new team but he has

earned it from Day 1.

"He really knows what he's doing and we continue to drop times."

Weber, who swims the 200-yard freestyle, 200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke, said Forbes' hands-on approach is a key reason the Wildcats have excelled.

"At first I was nervous about having a new coach for my senior season but coach Forbes has gone above and beyond expectations," Weber noted. "Our dryland has been amped up greatly from past years."

"He is greatly involved with practices whether it's showing us technique or cheering us on when doing race pace sets." According to Earls, whose favorite events are the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke, emphasized that having Forbes take over from the coach he had his first three seasons (Doug Schade) was something he had to get used to.

"It was a big change for me at first," Earls said. "But coach Forbes has earned my respect because he cares about helping us all reach our goals."

Energy boost

The trio also brings plenty of positive energy to the pool, to help their teammates maximize their potential.

"The job of being a captain is to be someone your teammates can look

up to, keep them focused at practice and pump everybody up for meets," Weber said. "It's important for team success because your teammates look up to you at practice and at meets. The team feeds off of the energy of the captains. If we're just sitting down at meets and not cheering for our teammates, then the rest of the team won't either."

Concurring was Savaloja, who he explained is more of a utility swimmer with no specific events or state cuts. "Being a captain is really a very important job because you are kind of the link between coaches and the other swimmers," Savaloja said. "At our age there is something about having someone your age get you pumped up that is really special."

Earls takes his job seriously, too.

"The role of captain is important because it is important to organize, motivate, and direct the less experienced athletes," Earls said, "who need support and direction so they can be the best swimmers they can be."

With that mindset, it's almost as though Forbes has three extra assistant coaches who have the same mission as he does. "I wish I could have them a few more years," Forbes said.

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BOYS SWIM RESULTS

MICH. INTERSCHOLASTIC SWIM COACHES ASSOC.

BOYS SWIM MEET RESULTS

Feb. 9 at EMU's Jones Pool

200-yard medley relay:

1. Saline (David Boland, Josh

Ehrman, Michael Bundas, Adam

Whitener), 1:32.58; 11. Salem,

1:41.33; 27. Plymouth (Cameron

Earls, Garrett Beauprez, Nick

Webster, Alexander Wilson),

1:45.86.

200 freestyle: 1. Jonathan

Zofchak (Dexter), 1:44.09; 12. Ja-

son Zhang (Salem), 1:48.06 (aq)

200 individual medley: 1.

Chris Klein (Ann Arbor Pioneer),

1:51.76; 20. Weber (Plymouth),

2:05.91; 29. Charles Liu (Salem),

2:06.90; 34. Matt Poirier (Salem),

2:07.42; 36. Beauprez (Ply-

mouth), 2:09.59.

500 freestyle: 1. Ehrman (Sa-

line), 2:11.69; Jason Basanez

(Salem), 2:34.89; Jerry Bah (Sa-

lem), 2:38.88; 90. Kenny McMani-

mon (Salem), 2:39.95.

1-meter diving: 1. Brennan

Labar (St. Johns), 434.90 points.

100 butterfly: 1. Boland (Sa-

line), 49.76; 31. Earls (Plymouth),

55.65; 54. Saline (Salem), 57.20; 58.

Wesley (West Ottawa), 47.35;

28. Poirier (Salem), 50.46; 57.

Basanez (Salem), 51.68.

500 freestyle: 1. Arakelian

(Stevens), 4:43.18; 25. Turner

Solterman (Salem), 4:59.45; 31.

Liu (Salem), 5:02.31.

100 backstroke: 1. Saline

(Whitener, Boland, Bundas,

Ehrman), 1:25.29; 10. Salem,

1:30.85 (aq); 50. Plymouth (al-

exander Johnson, Weber, Ryan

Heize, Wilson), 1:35.66.

100 freestyle relay: 1. Ferrara

(Stevens), 5:18.71; 42. Zhang

(Salem), 55.97 (aq); 16. Earls

(Plymouth), 56.38 (aq); 41.

Patrick Casey (Salem), 58.09;

44. Benjamin Yang (Plymouth),

58.66.

100 breaststroke: 1. John

Schulz (Bloomfield Hills Laher),

59.49; 10. Solterman (Salem),

1:01.95 (aq); 36. Smaran Bhatk-

va (Salem), 1:04.12.

400 freestyle relay: 1.

Midland Dow (Jackson Goethe,

Ben Martin, Nehemiah Mork,

Michael Poirier), 3:11.90; 30.

Plymouth (Earls, Weber, Heize,

Wilson), 3:29.26; 35. Salem,

3:31.44.

(aq) MSAA state cut qualifier)

'Cats fall just short; Chiefs win share of KLAA South

Westland John Glenn had to really work to gain a piece of the KLAA South Division boys basketball title Tuesday night.

Upset-minded Plymouth took the host Rockets to the limit before falling, 52-49.

Glenn, which improved to 14-2 overall, shares the South crown with Canton at 9-1.

The Rockets, however, will be the top seed entering the first round

of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association playoffs based on a tie-breaker criteria. They will open 7 p.m. Friday at home against 7-9 Novi, the fourth-seed from the KLAA Central.

Plymouth (6-10, 4-6), which led 31-30 after three quarters, got a game-high 20 points from Josh Priebe, who hit three 3-pointers.

Jake Dyens chipped in with 10 points and Tyler Gambin added nine.

"We played a really good game, probably one of our best of the season," Wildcats' head coach Mike Soukup said. "But we just didn't have enough firepower at the end to win out."

Glenn connected on 11-of-18 free throws, while Plymouth made 6-of-10.

Plymouth (No. 3 seed in the KLAA South) will host Salem (No. 2 seed in the Central) at 7 p.m. Friday.

CANTON 69, FRANKLIN 34: Josh Mayberry and Adnan Bayz each tallied 14 points

Tuesday as the host Chiefs (11-5, 9-1) gained a share of the KLAA South crown with a win over Livonia Franklin (6-11, 2-7).

Ryan Planey and Jordan

Nobles chipped in with 11 and 10 points respectively, while Canton, which led 26-14 at halftime, became the first to open with a 26-9 third-period run.

The 6-foot-8 Nobles also blocked six shots, while Greg Williams chipped in with eight points as the Chiefs shot 55 percent from the field (30-of-55).

Canton's 'D' a bit better than Salem's

This is how much of a defensive struggle Tuesday's KLAA Kensington Conference girls basketball tournament opener between Canton and Salem was.

In the third quarter, each team managed just one point.

But by that time, the host Chiefs were up 20-15 and went on from there to post a 31-17 victory.

Paige Aresco led the Chiefs with 14 points, while Shannon Perry (eight points), Taylor Hunley (six points) and Rachel Winters (six steals) helped the cause.

The Park games are always tough, "Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "I thought the

girls hung in there and played well. They played a great defensive game."

The victory moves Canton into Thursday's semifinal against Novi.

NORTHVILLE 48, PLYMOUTH 36: A slow start Tuesday doomed visiting Plymouth in the opening game of the KLAA Kensington Conference girls basketball tournament.

Plymouth (7-9) committed 18 turnovers and hit 31.7 percent of field-goal tries (13-41) compared to a 64.7 clip by the Mustangs.

Northville took a 20-6 lead after one and cruised from there.

Kylie Robb and Jada Woody led Plymouth with 10 and nine points, respectively. Center Shelby Cheston led the team with eight rebounds.

CANTON 35, FRANKLIN 20: Paige Aresco tallied 15 points to lead Canton to this KLAA South Division girls basketball win Monday over host Livonia

Franklin. Rachel Winters and Taylor Hunley added eight and seven, respectively, for Canton, which led by only three at halftime, 14-11, before taking control with a 14-2 third-quarter run.

"Holding them to two points in the third was a solid defensive effort," Chiefs head coach Brian Samulski said.

SALEM 44, SOUTH LYON 19: In a KLAA Central Division tilt Monday, the host Rocks (7-9, 6-4) cruised throughout behind 16 points by Breanne Beaver on her "Senior Night."

Also strong for Salem was Janyra Wilson, with six points and 10 rebounds.

"She (Wilson) did a fabulous job on the offensive boards," Salem head coach Fred Thomason said.

The Rocks led 10-5 after one and 22-13 at halftime. They really blew the game open in the fourth outscoring South Lyon by a 14-1 margin.

run capped off by another three from Whitted with four minutes to play in the quarter.

South Lyon got a three from Connor Weidman as the Lions closed the quarter on a 7-2 run to trail 35-34 in what looked like a game that would come down to the last possession.

The fourth quarter was all South Lyon.

ter.

Monday's game started with back-and-forth play throughout the first with Dierker doing almost

all of the scoring for the Rocks with seven of the team's nine points. He would not score the rest of the way.

South Lyon (12-3, 8-2) got four points each from Luke Short and Dominick Quinlan to lead 10-9 through one.

The teams traded five-point runs twice in the second quarter, but the difference came from a late three from South Lyon's Tommy Averill for his only points of the game and a 25-21 for the Lion at the intermission.

Salem came out of half-time red hot with three from Sato to ignite a 12-2

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The teams traded five-point runs twice in the second quarter, but the difference came from a late three from South Lyon's Tommy Averill for his only points of the game and a 25-21 for the Lion at the intermission.

Salem came out of half-time red hot with three from Sato to ignite a 12-2

run capped off by another three from Whitted with four minutes to play in the quarter.

South Lyon got a three from Connor Weidman as the Lions closed the quarter on a 7-2 run to trail 35-34 in what looked like a game that would come down to the last possession.

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SIGNINGS

Continued from page B1

fortable with the coaching staff (led by Greg Ryan) and future teammates. "I just really liked him and he's really turning the program around," Lewis emphasized. "And I liked the girls, they're all really nice. I thought I fit in well with them."

New opportunity

Foster signed in December to play at Siena Heights (NAIA), but then came an unexpected opportunity with North Dakota. North Dakota coaches were impressed by Foster's play at various soccer showcases and contacted Saints' coach Scott Oliver. About Foster decommitting.

"I've been working toward this my whole life," Foster said. "It's always been one of my goals. I'm a really thankful and blessed to have this opportunity."

She added that the Oliver "took it pretty well, he just said 'Let me know if I change my mind.'"

According to Stephanie, it will be an added bonus to go to the same university her dad attended in the late 1970s.

Tim Dillon graduated from Salem in 1975, having been part of a state championship team with the Rocks, and then went on to Miami of Ohio.

Her choice

Wilson was completely unbiased in the choices where I wanted to go to school," Stephanie said. "That's what I really liked about it. I think if he would have pushed it on me I wouldn't have wanted to go there."

Concurring was her dad, among the players' family members on hand for the Plymouth sign-off ceremony and reception.

"She considered a lot of other schools," Tim Dillon said. "I think she was looking to give other schools a chance besides Miami - and then she came back to Miami."

"It's a great school and I think he'll do very well there. They have a lot more facilities down there so it's a little different. But it's still a small MAC (Mid-American Conference) school that has a great tradition and history down there."

Neschich said he is glad the D-I recruits will have one more season at Plymouth, because the talent is going to make another long post-season run.

In 2010, when Dillon and Foster were freshmen, the Wildcats made it to the Division I state finals before bowing to Novi. Lewis is entering her second year with the team after two seasons with Plymouth's varsity girls track and field team.

"It's going to be fun," Neschich noted. "I'm working with a great group of kids that's we have coming back."

The coach also is confident the college-bound players will have high hopes for their Plymouth swan song.

"We have the strongest team, the closest team anyone could ever have," Foster stressed. "We have great team chemistry."

Concurring was Dillon, who said the Wildcats have the ingredients to be a state champion.

"I think we are one of the most competitive teams out there," Dillon said. "I think we're definitely going to be a huge threat to the other teams."

Wilson sparks Whalers to key win

OHL HOCKEY

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Having missed chunks of the 2012-13 Plymouth Whalers season due to various camps, tournaments and suspension, forward Tom Wilson admitted it's been difficult to get into the flow this season.

"That's the thing about juniors, you kind of live up and down," said Wilson, following Saturday's 7-3 win over Owen Sound at Compuware Arena. "I went to World Juniors. I was hoping to make that. I was one of the last cuts so that was pretty tough."

"But the thing about hockey is there's always time to bounce back."

Such was the case for Miller's Whalers against the big, physical Atlanta.

Wilson, perhaps revved up by ex-Plymouth linemate JT Miller scoring two goals Thursday in his NHL debut with the New York Rangers, registered two goals and assisted on two others in the victory. His efforts were rewarded with selection as the game's first star.

"I think all the guys were talking about that," said Wilson. "He's an old linemate so we're pretty proud to see him net those first two goals the other night."

Wilson, a Washington Capitals prospect who previously attended the NHL team's abbreviated post-lockout training



Plymouth Whalers forward Tom Wilson (No. 10) celebrates after a teammate scored in the third period Saturday against Owen Sound goalie Jordan Binnington (No. 31). At left for the Whalers is Vince Trocheck (No. 25).

camp, is a physical player who can mix things up, take hits to make plays and play with an edge.

He also wears his emotions on his jersey sleeve. On Saturday, after the Whalers were called for what he thought was a questionable penalty, Wilson repeatedly slammed his stick on the ice in frustration.

Yet it's that kind of intensity that makes him a valuable player for coach Mike Vellucci's team, which needed a victory to leapfrog Sault Ste. Marie for the OHL West Division lead.

For a while Saturday, before 2,867 fans, it seemed as though the effects of Friday's disappointing 6-3 loss to Barrie would linger over.

Barrie scored four goals in the third period to defeat the Whalers, and the next night Owen Sound put Plymouth in an

early 20-hole Saturday on goals by Zach Nastasiuk and Kyle Hope.

Wilson, however, reversed the momentum when he tallied his 14th goal of the season at 16:13. Assisting were forward Ryan Hartman and defenseman Austin Levi (Farmington Hills). With less than a minute to play in the first, the Whalers tied the game at 2-2 and Wilson made it happen. He fed the puck to forward Vince Trocheck, who fired it past Jordan Binnington for his 34th goal of the season and 10th in 12 games since his trade to Plymouth.

Finding a way

"Good teams find a way to win after a loss," said Vellucci, recalling what he told his team before Saturday's contest. "And stick together, no matter if we get down or not."

TROCHECK SCORES 4

The Plymouth Whalers stayed in first place in the OHL West Division with Sunday's 5-2 victory at Brampton.

Scoring four of the Whalers' goals was Vince Trocheck, who now has 38 for the season. Also scoring was Tom Wilson (one goal, two assists). Ryan Hartman picked up two helpers and goalie Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 34 of 36 shots. Plymouth improved to 28-16-5-4, good for 65 points. Second-place Sault Ste. Marie lost Sunday and remained three points back in the division.

We got down two and I'm proud of them because they stuck together."

"There was no whining or complaining, they just had to go take care of business. They did it."

There was a temporary setback early in the second period, however.

Cameron Brace was tripped up as he zipped in on Whalers goalie Matt Mahalak (31 shots, 28 saves) and was awarded a penalty shot. Brace then made good on the opportunity, going 5-3 to put Owen Sound up 3-2.

Wilson (Plymouth High School) answered the call yet again at 7:48. He banged in a rebound to tie the game at 3-3 with Trocheck and Hartman drawing helpers. Finally, at 12:45 on the

power play, Plymouth took the lead. Forward Garrett Meurs skated behind the Owen Sound net toward the left corner and flicked a shot toward the blue paint. The puck banked in off Binnington's leg for Meurs' 24th goal of the season.

Defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto and forward Michael Whaley padded the lead to 6-3 with third-period markers against Binnington (39 shots, 33 saves). Wilson set up Curcuruto's goal, a slap shot from above the right circle that changed direction after hitting an Owen Sound player's stick.

Closing out the scoring with an empty netter at 18:51 was winger Cody Sault Ste. Marie.

The win, coupled with Sault Ste. Marie's loss to Peterborough, put the Whalers (27-16-5-4, 63 points) back in front of the Greyhounds (29-20-12-2, 62 points) entering Sunday's action. It was a big win for another reason, Vellucci emphasized.

"Every body's playing for a good spot," he said. "That's a good team. Owen Sound's ahead of us (in the Western Conference) and we went 2-2 against them the last two games. We may play them in the first round. That would be a heck of a series."

No doubt Wilson would make an impact on that, too.

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PCEP grapplers advance to individual regionals

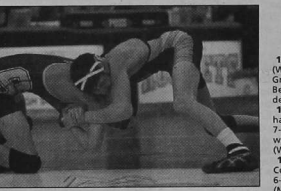
Thirteen Plymouth-Canton Educational Park wrestlers still have a chance to make it all the way to the Palace of Auburn Hills for next month's Division I individual finals.

That's because they finished in the top three in their weight classes at last weekend's individual district at Salem.

Next is the next round of matches, D1 individual regionals Saturday at Canton.

Salem's Mitchell Gross and Plymouth's Mohamed Youssef won at 189 and 103, respectively. Gross needed overtime to defeat Bedford's Coddie Bettencourt (6-4) while Youssef pinned Westland John Glenn's Chase Spanos in 5:41.

Finishing second on the day from PCEP were Salem's Tyler Gross (160), Canton's Griffin DeMarrs (119) and Ben Richman (125), and Plymouth's Jon



Plymouth's Mohamed Youssef (right) goes to work in a 103-pound matchup at the Division I individual districts at Salem High School. He ultimately finished first in his weight class.

Conn (135), Alec Breckenridge (140) and Hussein Yousif (145). Also qualifying for the individual regionals were third-place finisher Chase Kallil (Plymouth, 130) and fourth-place finishers Joey Shaver (Plymouth, 160), K.J. Wooley (Canton, 215), Terry Berry (Plymouth, 119) and Santos Nielson (Plymouth, 145).

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

(Top 4 qualify for regional)

Feb. 9 at SALINE

160 pounds: Mike Green (Woodhaven) d. Tyler Gross (Salem), 12-8; 3rd place: Ben Beaulac (Tempesta) d. Joey Shaver (Plymouth), 5-4. 171: Derek Hillman (Woodhaven) d. Sam Ekanen (Wayne), 7-3; 3rd: David Lijewski (Bedford) won by default over Justin Patton (Woodhaven).

189: Mitchell Gross (Salem) d. Coddie Bettencourt (Bedford), 6-4 (overtime); 3rd: Dan Green (Monroe) d. Chris Gutmann (Woodhaven), 8-6 (OT).

215: Brandon Snyder (Bedford) d. Jahl Hillard (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 7-4; 3rd: Jordan Brandon (Westland John Glenn) won by major dec. over K.J. Wooley (Canton), 11-3.

285: Manny Haddad (Livonia Churchill) d. Adam Ortman (Bedford), 4-3; 3rd: Dylan Morantes (John Glenn) d. Aaron Mauldin (Wayne), 5-4.

103: Mohamed Youssef (Plymouth) pinned Chase Spanos (John Glenn), 5:41; 3rd: Tyler Rogalier (Bedford) d. Billy Cobb (Pioneer), 4-2 (OT).

112: Kyle Gillies (John Glenn)

d. Austin Koehler (Bellville), 11-4; 3rd: Tyler Tisknor (Saline) p. Matt Horn (Woodhaven), 3-34.

119: Mitch Rogalier (Bedford) won by major dec. over Richard DeMaris (Canton), 11-3; 3rd: Kevin Hyngh (John Glenn) d. Ben Beaulac (Tempesta), 5-4.

125: Mitch Pawlak (Bedford) won by default over Ben Griffin (Canton); 3rd: Jon Locklear (Churchill) p. Keegan Page (Pioneer), 2-05.

130: Jordan Markey (Ypsilanti Lincoln) d. Jake Helminski (Bedford), 5-0; 3rd: Jake Kallil (Plymouth) p. Brett Quinn (John Glenn), 2-56.

135: Nate O'Brien (Saline) d. Jon Conn (Plymouth), 11-3; 3rd: Logan Dietrich (Monroe) d. Robert Frater (Pioneer), 3-2.

140: Allen Parker (Wayne) d. Alec Breckenridge (Plymouth), 3-2; 3rd: Quandre Thomas (Pioneer) p. Hussein Youssef (Plymouth), 3-2.

145: Travis Mann (John Glenn) p. Hussein Youssef (Plymouth), 3-2; 3rd: Jake Lasker (Woodhaven) d. Josus Nielson (Plymouth), 3-1.

152: Jordan Snyder (Bedford) d. Alec Cornelius (Lincoln), 7-5; 3rd: Connor Harmon (Monroe) d. Jared Ammons (Woodhaven), 7-0.

Record week for 'Cats, Chiefs

Salem boys roll to Valentine's victory

Plymouth and Canton are breaking girls gymnastics records left and right.

On Tuesday, Plymouth celebrated 'Senior Night' with a 141.50-to-140.30 victory over Salem - setting a new points record in the process. "The girls have done it since their seniors put it all together," Plymouth coach Pam Yockey said.

"Every gymnast did their part."

Perhaps the biggest individual showing for the Wildcats, however, was by freshman Rebecca Simu. She set the team's all-around record with a 35.75 score. She nailed uneven parallel bars with a 9.125 to duplicate her first record-setting mark of the season.

Simu tallied 8.95 on floor exercise, 8.9 on vault and 8.75 on balance beam.

Plymouth senior co-captain Jane McCurry approached her school-record routine on floor exercise with a 9.4, falling just shy of first-place Morgan Soper (9.425) of

GYMNASTICS

Salem. McCurry also finished in a fourth-place tie on vault with sophomore teammate Kayla Janesvick (8.95). They trailed Salem's 1-2-3 punch of Soper (9.1), Brittany Ramirez and Brooke Allgeyer (9.0 each).

Other top performances by the Wildcats included senior co-captain Sarah Uhlman (9.05 on floor, fourth), junior Brenna Connolly (9.25 on floor, third), freshman Sam Fontana (8.85 on bars, second) and freshman Haley Metzger (8.65 on beam, fourth).

Salem's Andrea Merlotti (9.1 on beam, first; 8.85 on bars), Ramirez (8.825 on bars) and Paulette Martino (8.875 on floor) rounded out top performances at the dual meet.

Yockey is optimistic her team (9-2) with the only losses to Canton and Brighton) will continue to excel at Saturday's KLAAs tournament at Walled Lake.

Chiefs break mark

Canton's amazing run continued with last Wednesday's 149-70, 136 victory over visiting Farmington - a new school record for the Chiefs.

Nicole Lasceki, Erica Lucas, Maciea Green, Jocelyn Moraw, Hailey Hodgson and Maddie Dill "all worked all-around and swept the top six AAAs scores," Canton head coach John Cunningham reported.

The Chiefs, 30-0 overall, took 26 of the top 30 places.

Following are Canton's results from the meet: Vault: 1. Lucas, 9.4; 2. (tie) Lasceki, 9.2; 4. Hodgson, 9.2; 5. Lucas, 9.2; 6. Moraw, 9.0.

Bars: 1. Moraw, 9.6; 2. Lucas, 9.15; 3. Green, 9.05; 4. Toal, 8.775.

Beam: 1. Lasceki, 9.5; 2. (tie) Hodgson, Toal, 9.475; 4. Moraw, 9.425; 5. Green, 9.3; 6. Lucas, 8.85.

Floor: 1. (tie) Lasceki, Toal, 9.6; 3. Moraw, 9.55; 4. Toal, 9.45; Lucas, 9.05.

Salem boys roll to Valentine's victory

Salem's varsity boys bowling team added to its string of 2012-13 achievements with a first-place finish at Sunday's Valentine's Tournament at Novi Lakes.

The KLAAs Central Division co-leaders registered a 3.911 pin count to best Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (3.774) and Canton (3.663). Plymouth finished eighth with a total of 3.496.

The Rocks featured three bowlers to crack the top 10: Kevin Williams (second, 215-176-218-609), Jimmy Bowling (seventh, 188-246-155-589) and Steven Cadwell (17th, 221-156-167-594).

Canton's top performer was 20th-place Aaron Madsen, who rolled a 176-190-167-533 series. Placing 24th and 25th respectively for the Chiefs were Michael Richards (529) and Alex Champagne (525).

PREP BOWLING

For Plymouth, Jordan Orzser's 179-168-212-593 series earned him 16th place while Charlie Anderson finished 18th with a 538 series.

In the girls tourney, Westland John Glenn's 3,535 was good for first place, ahead of Howell (3,429) and Salem (3,385). Placing ninth was Canton (3,018) while Plymouth's tally of 2,973 was good for 11th.

Finishing first overall all was Salem's Kristin Larkins, who rolled a 171-224-216-637 series. Teammate Bridget Maul was fifth (240-156-155-551) while Canton's Beth Stark placed 10th with a 152-186-189-527 series.

Also in the top 20 from the Park were Emily Fraser (Plymouth, 14th, 505) and Brianna Bailey (Canton, 19th, 495).

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Ministry offers support, love to strip club workers

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Laura Urenda gave nearly 500 Valentine's Day gifts to strip club workers last weekend.

Women at 20 Detroit-area clubs received stickers, candy, cosmetics, scarves, headbands, Valentine's Day cards and information about counseling, mentoring and education services.

"The things we take into the clubs are purposeful. They may seem like fun girly gifts, but they are relationship starters," said Urenda, a Westland resident and founder of My Sister Song ministry at Connection Church in Canton.

Urenda, 49, and her outreach group regularly visit women in Detroit-area clubs, bringing them messages of hope and love, along

with small gifts.

"We end up going around holiday times. We try to do themes. For Valentines Day we did pretty little mesh bags ... we put in a valentine and candy and lip balm. I always put in a contact card and I also put a love note in every bag because we want to speak right to the heart of the girl."

"Our motivation is for them to know they are loved and valued and that they have a purpose for greater things."

Urenda said many of the nearly 5,000 women she and her team have met since 2009, aren't accustomed to receiving gifts with no strings attached. Urenda makes it clear to recipients that there's no hidden agenda.

"We are the eyes, ears, hands and feet of Jesus. We listen to their stories and we love on them."

"We don't cram anything down anyone's throat. The clubs know that we're just there because we care about the girls. We are there to love on them and provide them with resources. We're invited in on their turf and we love them where they are."

"We would never ask a girl to leave the industry. We believe (change) is more powerful when it comes from her. There are other ways to walk with her."

Similar past

Urenda, who is married, founded My Sister Song on the suggestion of her minister, Harmony Star Dust, a former exotic dancer with a similar outreach in California was scheduled to speak at Connection Church and the pastor encouraged Urenda to attend the presentation.

"Little did my pastor know that I had



Members of My Sister Song outreach team, including Laura Urenda, (third from left), have made it their mission to let women in strip clubs know that they are valued and loved.

experience in the club scene. I had worked as a hostess at a club for a short time."

Urenda, who discovered that she and the speaker had both worked at the same club in California years before, began to build her own ministry. She assembled a small and reliable group of women to help her with outreach to the clubs, created a prayer team and recruited office and gift bag assembly volunteers, as well as a baker who makes gourmet cookies for each visit.

No judging

Other members of her outreach team tell personal stories of drug abuse, domestic violence, suicide attempts and exotic dancing. They can identify with the women they visit in Detroit-area clubs.

"A lot of women expect us to hate them. But we say, hey, we get it. We've been there. God loves you and we love you too."

Urenda isn't certain how many women have left the club scene because of My Sister Song's influence. She said the group sees many new women—and young women—at every outreach event, but she is hopeful that the ministry's message of love and validation has tugged at their hearts.

"Every now and then there will be a girl who has a lot going on, but she doesn't know her value. She just needs someone to say I believe in you," Urenda said. "I've watched them take off and fly."

"We've seen girls start brand new lives. They've gotten good jobs and custody of their kids, off drugs and alcohol and they've developed a church family."

Watching their baptism into Christianity "is the most precious thing in the world," she added.

My Sister Song welcomes volunteers to help with fundraising, gift bag assembly, and other tasks. The ministry also accepts donations, which are tax-deductible through Connection Church. Visit www.mysistersong.com for more information.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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DEGRAFF, PHOEBE CAMPBELL

Age 90, of Bloomfield Township. At home on February 8, 2013, from heart failure. Preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Daniel C. DeGraff. Survived by daughters Debra DeGraff and Gretchen (Frank) Newman and granddaughters Anna (fiance Denis Griffin) and Grace Newman. Phoebe taught piano for over 50 years, directed the handbell choir at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, and was an adjudicator for numerous music festivals. Service at Great Lakes National Cemetery will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Birmingham Musicale Philanthropic Fund, 18301 W. 13 Mile Rd., B2, Southfield, MI 48076.



OLIVER, WILLIAM

Age 71 of Northville, passed away at his home on Weds, Feb. 6th, surrounded by his loving family. Bill was born in Detroit to parents Lawrence and Grace Oliver. A 1959 graduate of Cody High School, he later attended the Center for Creative Studies. Although he made his living as the owner of "Bill Oliver's Wallpaper & Painting", his passion for art, in various media, remained his lifelong passion. Bill was a founding member of Detroit Focus (Cass Corridor Artists) in the 1970's, a past member of the Visual Arts Association of Livonia, and a current, contributing member of the Northville Art House. Bill is remembered as an outstanding talent and accomplished artist whose works were exhibited in many local and national art shows. He was an avid gardener and collector of art, glass and pottery. He also gave of his personal time to deliver meals on wheels in the Northville and Livonia areas for many years. In addition to his loving wife, Elsie, he is survived by his mother Grace, sister Susan Threet (Larry), son Adam Oliver, daughter Amy Galico (Mike), son Andy Oliver (Debbie), step-sons Matt Unsworth (Jennifer) and Don Unsworth (Amy). He is also survived by eight grandchildren, two nieces, and beloved dog Tracie. A memorial service celebrating Bill's life and beautiful art is planned for a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to the Northville Art House, Angela Hospice, the Animal Rescue Shelter of your choice, or Promise Village Home for Children.

Arrangements were entrusted to Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Directors, 10091 Northville Rd., Northville.

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OLSON, ALTA L.

February 8, 2013, age 86 of Plymouth, Beloved wife of the late John. Loving mother of David (Theresa), Jon (Colleen), Mark (the late Nancy) and Kurt (Patricia). Adored Grandfather of Markus, Kevin, Nicholas, Ryan, Lauren, Elodie and Alice. Funeral Service Friday 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 4601 W. Ann Arbor Road, (Between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth Visitation Thursday 6-9 PM. Interment Riverside Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Salvation Army. To share a memory, visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



SCHWANTES, THANE N.

Age 34, died suddenly February 8, 2013. Beloved husband of Michelle. Loving father of Elin. Dearest son of Ken and Judy. Dear brother of Eric. Son-in-law of Charles and Suzanne Krisher. Also survived by aunts, uncles, cousins and a host of family and friends. Funeral Service at the R.C. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Road, Livonia, Saturday at 11 a.m. Visitation Friday from 1 - 9 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Thane Schwantes Family Trust C/O Chase Bank. Please share a memory at www.rgharris.com

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Local band releases first CD at Redford tavern

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Clatter, a three-man band with a huge repertoire of Motown and classic rock tunes, got a thumbs up from listeners at a CD release party of original songs in Clinton Township last weekend.

"As my sons would say, it was off the hook," said Kim Madeleine, guitarist from Livonia. He figures that most of the party-goers that night were friends, family and eastside fans, eager to hear the original songs on "Name in Lights," the band's debut CD.

"I'm looking forward to reactions on this side of town," he added. "I think people will like it. I'm proud of what we did."

He and band members, bass player Lou Wysocki of Detroit, and drummer Dennis Zavis of Farmington Hills, are looking for a repeat of last weekend's enthusiastic crowd when they perform "Name in Lights" Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Timberwolf Tavern, 25641 Plymouth Road, Redford Township.

The Timberwolf is among the band's usual haunts that draws an audience eager to hear — and dance to — familiar Motown and classic rock songs.

"We're not a typical band that plays 50 songs. We have 150 songs we can draw from. We play stuff that others don't, but it's all danceable. People come to dance and hear their favorite songs."



The Clatter performs class rock and Motown hits, as well as original tunes.



The cover of The Clatter's new CD

Madeleine noted, "It was a passion for us to get this on a CD. It's a labor of love for us because we like the songs we've written and we think people will, too."

Two-year project

Although individually, Madeleine, Wysocki and Zavis played in various bands for years, they came together as The Clatter in 2008 and began recording their debut CD in 2011, completing it nearly two years later.

"When I was 19, you could spend a week recording in the studio. You didn't leave the studio. You ate pizza and slept on couches," Madeleine said. "We all have busy personal schedules and a busy schedule with the band, because we're playing

all the time. It (recording) took a while to do, but we never lost sight of the fact that we'd get it done."

Band members all have day jobs in addition to their weekend music gigs and weekly rehearsal sessions. Madeleine owns a public relations firm and teaches in the journalism department at Oakland University. Zavis owns a manufacturing company in Madison Heights and Wysocki works with computer systems. Both Madeleine and Wysocki also have children. Madeleine's two sons have graduated from college and Wysocki has children both in high school and out of college.

All ages

Although The Clatter draws an audience of mostly 40- to 50-year-olds, younger listeners recognize and appreciate their repertoire.

"We play Tom Petty for my one son and another kid likes the Rolling Stones. They grew up with us listening to it," Madeleine said. "We have 20-somethings come up and request songs. We have a good following for our regular stuff."

He hopes the Timberwolf audience will enjoy the original songs, too.

"This is fun for us. We love doing this."

He said the band plans to start recording a second CD this summer.

For more information about The Clatter, visit www.theclatter.net. Call the Timberwolf Tavern at (313) 937-1218.



The Clatter is Kim Madeleine (seated) of Livonia, Lou Wysocki of Detroit (left) and Dennis Zavis of Farmington Hills.

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"Stairway" is part of the adult writing contest.



Adults who enter the "Short on Words" contest may find inspiration in this photo.



Youngsters may find inspiration in this photo of a dog, for the "Short on Words" contest.

Photos inspire contest entries

Preservation Dental is accepting entries for Northville's Arts & Acts Festival's literature contest, "Short on Words."

Entrants in two age categories — 18 years or over and 17 years and younger — write a short story or poetry based on one of the contest's selected photographs. The criteria are the same for both age groups, however, the photo selection is different and the featured photos are clearly marked for the appropriate age category. Submissions that do not address one of the designated photos will be disqualified.

The Arts & Acts celebration will be held June 28-30 in downtown Northville.

Here's the criteria for all "Short on Words" submissions:

- All entries must speak to one of the featured photos. See them at preservationdental.com.
- Entries can be a poem or a short story that are no more than 1,500 words.
- Each entry must have a title and be typed, double-spaced, and single-sided only.
- Pages must be numbered, but no other identifying marks may appear.
- A cover page must be included and must list the title of the submission.



"Joan of Arc" is designed to inspire adult writers.



This photo of a tree is part of both the adult and youth writing competitions.



This photo is designed to inspire young writers who enter the "Short on Words" competition.

- mission, the name of the author, the photo that inspires the piece, an e-mail address and/or contact phone number.
- Author biographies are optional.
- Entries will not be

Please see **CONTEST, B7**

CONTEST

Continued from page B6

- returned.
- One submission form, three copies of the entry, and one \$10 entry fee should be mailed to Preservation Dental, Attention: Denise Jenkins, 371 E. Main St., Northville MI 48167.
 - All entry fees are non-refundable.
 - All entries must be postmarked no later than April 12.
 - Make checks or money orders payable to Northville Art House.
 - The cash award for this year's 1st Place Adult contest winner is \$100; 1st Place Young Adult contest winner is \$50; other awards are \$50 and \$25 in both age categories.
 - A reception to honor all authors will be held Friday, June 28. Winners will be announced at the reception.

Arts Crafts

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

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

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

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

GALLERY@VT

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

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

Details: Mixed media by Sabrina Nelson

Contact: (734) 394-5308

LIBERTY STREET BREW PUB

Time/Dates: Exhibit through March 30; pub hours are 3 p.m.-midnight, Monday-Thursday; 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday; and noon-midnight, Sunday

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

Details: Second annual group show by Art Circle 5x. This year's show features the artist challenge "Icons, Myths and Legends"

Contact: (734) 207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

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

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

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

Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Dates: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through February

Location: Plymouth Commu-

nity Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Rock music poster graphic design from Gary Grimshaw, former artist at the Grande Ballroom, is on display along with poster works by artists for the San Francisco Band, Moonalice.

Contact: (734) 416-4278

Film

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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

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

Contact: ccbbc.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 15-16 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Hitchcock," 53

Coming up: 7 p.m. Thursday-Fri-

day, Feb. 21-22 and 28, and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 23-24, "Lincoln," "Parental Guidance" will run 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 3

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Dates: 8 p.m. Feb. 22, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 23

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: "The Letter," starring Bette Davis; \$4

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

Music

10 NORTH BAR & GRILLE

Time/Dates: 9 p.m. to approximately 1 a.m. Feb. 16

Location: 24555 Novi Road, Novi

Details: Free live music with Soul Hustler, Motown, classic covers and current hits. All ages welcome. Food and drink specials all night long

Contact: (248) 365-4720; 10northbar.com



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Light, lenses and La Marzocco

It's all about the people

By Dan Dean
Staff Columnist

There is something about great coffee and great photographs.

The parallels are almost too numerous to mention. From the beauty of the landscapes where coffee is grown

and the people who grow it, to sitting in a comfortable chair with a perfect cup checking out a great

“coffee table” book,

there is some sort of creative and similar emotion evoked by both.

When I realized that working in newspapers was likely to go the way of silver 35mm film, I decided to get in front of the situation and open a coffee shop. It seemed a natural extension from my days behind the lens.

Back in the day, I got to

watch Chuck Taylor high-tops (different pair for each day), blue jeans, a Banana Republic Photojournalist Vest (or a T-shirt and sport coat), keep the beard I grew in high school in anticipation of working someday as a photojournalist and I carried around a bag of equipment that was worth well more than the car I drove. Let's face it—I had a very, very cool gig. The man never made me wear any stink-in' necktie.

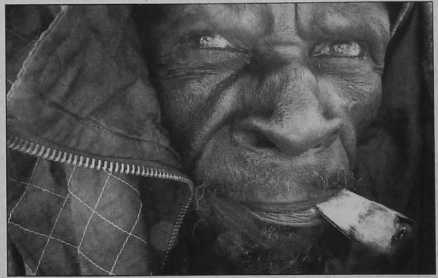
And when my days behind the counter of my own coffee shop came a bit later in life—today I see another set of cool, albeit probably as poor as we were, kids. For many the beard is still there, but add the requisite arm tats, dark-rimmed glasses, replace the 36-pocket shooter's vest for a three-piece suit vest picked up at the local Salvation Army store, maybe keep the high-tops and add a knit hat and a scarf. Let me introduce the hipster barista standing behind an espresso machine

worth far more than the bicycle they rode into work on.

Ah—the parallels are endless.

There are the contests, debates about Nikon or Canon cameras, La Marzocco or Nuova Simonelli espresso machines, intense discussions about technique, ISO, beans, pixels, grinders, light and countless other variables about what makes a great photograph or the perfect cup of coffee. Yet the best thing about both professions goes well beyond how well a V60 is poured or a peak moment captured, because the best thing about both jobs is the people. And the best pros in both fields have an innate sense in how to interact and make others feel at home.

The great photojournalists will capture the essence of a Fortune 500 company CEO at 10 a.m. and then make a soulful portrait of a guy selling hubcaps for a living at noon. Think of some of the great photojournalism moments over the



JEFF TAYLOR | PT'S COFFEE ROASTING CO.

This soulful portrait is a great example of how coffee and photojournalism are all about the people. In this case a coffee farmer from Burundi captured by coffee professional and former photojournalist, Jeff Taylor, while on a coffee buying trip.

years, and what comes to mind is the incredible access the best photographers have gained to put themselves in position to capture those moments.

Leading a newbie customer by the hand through myriad coffee terminology, taste profiles, affects of altitude, processing and roasting, not to mention brew method, can be a lot like explaining the wiring diagram for a new car to a kindergartner.

The best baristas deliver just the right amount of information to put a new customer at ease. They explain the benefits of properly steamed milk and recognize and acknowledge the regular who just walked in the door as they hand the new customer her first latte with a perfectly poured Rosetta.

I miss shooting and I miss pouring lattes, but most of all, as I sit at my desk going on 10

years behind-the-scenes, I miss the people. But hey, I still do not have to wear a tie, I could wear my Chucks—but my feet will not allow it—and I believe the iPhone camera is still worth more than the car I drive.

Dan Dean is AME of presentation for O&E Media. The former staff photographer and coffee shop owner can be reached by e-mail at ddean@hometownlife.com.

Get creative at meal time

When it comes to adding flavor and variety to your family meals, sometimes a little creativity is necessary. Here are some easy ideas to get you going.

- Make it a family affair. Get the whole family involved in planning and making dinner. Depending on their ages, each family member can help in some way. Some can mix and stir, others can chop and sauté. Take turns being the chef and, along with a parent, each child can plan, make and serve everything based on their own culinary inspiration. It may not be a conventional dinner, but it will be a fun learning experience for the whole family.
- Look to the pantry for inspiration. You may

already have what you need to put a delicious twist on an old favorite. Look for ways to use familiar ingredients in new ways. Syrup can be turned into a savory glaze for meats, and pancake mix can be turned into savory dumplings in a flash.

- Make breakfast for dinner. There are so many things to love about breakfast, so don't be held back by the time of day. Use breakfast for dinner as an opportunity to give morning favorites a dinner twist. Set out tasty garnish options like fresh herbs, nuts, fruits and syrups, so everyone can customize their special dinner.
- For more creative recipes and meal ideas, check out www.facebook.com/HungryJack.



Family-Time Pizza

Yield: 8 slices
Prep Time: 15 min
Cook Time: 24 min

Olive oil no-stick cooking spray

3 cups Hungry Jack Complete Buttermilk Pancake & Waffle Mix (just Add Water)

1 cup water
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 (14 ounce) jar prepared pizza sauce (1 1/2 cups)
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Heat oven to 425°F. Coat 12-inch pizza pan or 15- by 10-inch baking pan with no-stick cooking spray.

Combine pancake mix, water and olive oil in large bowl. Stir until dough pulls away from sides of bowl. Knead 2 minutes on surface lightly dusted with additional pancake mix.

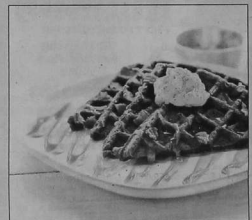
Pat evenly into prepared pan. Flute edge if desired.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until starting to brown lightly. Spread with pizza sauce. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake an additional 12 to 14 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and light golden brown.

Variations:

1. Italian Sausage: Layer 1/2 pound Italian sweet sausage, cooked, drained and crumbled on top of cheese.
2. Pepperoni: Layer 1/2 pound sliced pepperoni on top of cheese.
3. Vegetable: Layer 1/2 cup diced green pepper, sliced mushrooms or chopped onions on top of cheese.

Courtesy of Family Features



Chocolate Waffles with Caramel Syrup and Bacon

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes
Makes: 5 servings

Waffles:

1 cup water
1 cup vegetable oil
1 large egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 packet (7 ounces) Hungry Jack Easy Pack Chocolate Chip Pancake Mix or 1 packet (7 ounces) Hungry Jack Easy Pack Pillsbury Funfetti Buttermilk Pancake Mix

1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
3 tablespoons sugar
No-stick cooking spray

Caramel Syrup:

1 cup Hungry Jack Original Syrup
1 cup caramel-flavored sundae syrup
Whipped cream

Ground cinnamon to taste
1 cup dried cooked bacon

For Waffles:

Heat waffle iron according to manufacturer's directions. Whisk water, oil, egg and vanilla in large bowl. Stir in pancake mix, cocoa and sugar until evenly moistened. Allow to stand 1 minute.

Coat waffle iron with no-stick cooking spray. Pour 1/2 cup batter for each waffle into waffle iron. Bake 4 to 5 minutes or until done. Repeat to make a total of 10 4-inch waffles.

For Caramel Syrup:

Whisk together original syrup and caramel flavored syrup in small bowl. Drizzle 1 tablespoon on serving plates. Cut 2 waffles in half diagonally to make 4 triangles. Arrange on top of syrup.

Top with additional caramel flavored syrup, whipped cream, a sprinkle of cinnamon and bacon pieces. Repeat to make additional servings.

CITY BITES

Pepper sauce

LIVONIA — Westborn Market has added 313 Foodie Sauce by Street Eatz to its Made in Michigan product shelves. Chef Tom Keshishian created the vegan, gluten-free sauce in 1989 when he was working as an executive chef at Italian Cucina in Plymouth. Over the years he perfected his “Fla-

vor over Heat” recipe that calls for habanero peppers, Michigan cherries and other “secret” ingredients. The sauce is meant to “enhance flavors in all your favorite dishes,” according to Chef Tom. It's designed to “go with everything.” Look for it at Westborn Market at 14925 Middlebelt, as well as 27659 Woodward Ave., Berkley and 21755

Michigan Ave., Dearborn. A \$4.49 ounce bottle retails for \$5. www.streeteatz.com

Anniversary

FARMINGTON HILLS — Jaws Jumbo Burgers is celebrating six years in Farmington Hills by giving customers 1/3 pound ground sirloin burger, along with 1/2 pound of fries

and a 24 ounces of soda for \$6.49 from Sunday-Thursday, Feb. 24-28. The restaurant is located at 29216 Orchard Lake Road near 13 Mile. Visit www.jawsjumboburgers.net or call (248) 855-2228. Jaws Jumbo Burgers accepts cash only.

Fish Fry time

LIVONIA — American

Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh, offers a Lenten fish fry with “all you can eat” cod that includes a choice of French fries or mac & cheese, along with cole slaw. Price is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Dinner is served 5-8 p.m. Fridays through March 29. No fish fry will be offered on Feb. 22. (734) 427-5630.

Real estate association executive announces his retirement

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dale E. Smith, CEO of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, recently announced his upcoming retirement. The West Bloomfield resident, at the helm 12 years, will stay on for a transition time.

He oversaw the merger of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, where he'd worked from the Farmington office, with the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors to form GMAR.

The 2010 merger is a point of pride for Smith, who previously worked in a similar capacity at a larger association in New Orleans, La. He's a native of the Chicago area, and is married, with the couple's daughter making her home near Chicago.

The Michigan Association of Realtors and National Association of Realtors will assist with a national search. "That's kind of how they got me when I came," said Smith, who wanted

to return to the Midwest. That'll be a seven- to nine-month process.

"You always look at the things you did most recently," he said. The merger brought more resources and better communication through tough times in the housing industry, he said.

"The number of days on the market is better," he said of metro Detroit real estate now. Financing remains an issue, he said.

"There is such a lack of housing now. The inventory is very low at this point."

The CEO position usually takes a business degree with a finance background, Smith said. He's one of some five executives in Michigan with associations who have real estate backgrounds.

"That really helped," he said. He saw the position as being more about member services and helping the public. Smith has certifications and taught industry certification courses to other executives.

"Every association is unique," he said. He was just



Dale E. Smith

giving GMAR volunteers direction, "kind of like writing your own obituary."

Smith has adapted to new technology. "The business has changed so much and you need to keep your eyes open," he said. "Education is just primary. The business is changing so quickly."

He relies on a network of dozens.

Smith said an executive without real estate experience needs trusted advisors. He's proud of GMAR educational programming.

"You had to be a step ahead of what the market is." The skill set is changing quickly, he said.

"It is still a person-to-person business."

In the 1980s, Smith wrote a manual sold to NAR that he's now rewriting as one of his pre-retirement projects.

"I really haven't given a lot of thought to that," he said of other retirement plans.

He agreed some good real estate professionals couldn't make it in the tough industry of the past five years. It has driven a lot of people out of the business that had to support their families.

The Michigan field is almost 40 percent of those licensed today as were three years ago.

"That's unfortunate for the public," Smith added.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

ADA, pool use issue complex

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: How do we know when the use of our pool constitutes a public accommodation under the ADA when we have guests at the pool?

A: That is sometimes a very difficult issue to resolve, particularly, because it is fact intensive. However, it is fair to say that cases

have held that and occasional use of an exempt commercial or private facility by the general public is not sufficient to convert

that facility into a public accommodation under the ADA. Under this rationale, where a clubhouse may be rented to an owner and guests from outside the community an argument can be made that it is not the general public, but only invited guests that are permitted to attend on an occasional basis, and therefore, such use does not convert the clubhouse into a place of public accommodation. As always, you should get an opinion from your legal counsel.

Q: Our association has an issue with the placement of safety devices like carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers, etc. Please let me know who I should contact since we have initially contacted our lawyer.

A: I don't think your lawyer should be telling the association where to place its safety devices, but rather he or she should be referring you to literature and suggest a safety expert. Nor do we think the association should get into any unit common element distinction. If a fire or CO can kill your neighbor, it is a board safety problem. Obviously, treating the problem at the association level assures competent installation and economies of scale. As counsel, I emphasize that the association should disregard the distinction between common elements and units noting that smoke, fire, insect, mold, water, pesticides, etc. do not respect borders and a remedy using borders is complicated, if not futile. A single building should have a single solution for everyone's benefit.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (423) 644-4433 or visit bmmeisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 15-19, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
45588 Augusta Dr	\$321,000
4710 Bing Dr	\$313,000
40561 Bluesprings Ct	\$243,000
1218 Centennial Dr	\$349,000
4401 Cornerstone Dr	\$75,000
44710 Crestmont Dr	\$195,000
1762 Fox Woods Dr	\$150,000
1174 Dundee Dr	\$200,000
267 Fairfield Cir	\$129,000
7162 Fox Woods Dr	\$250,000
1584 Glenford Blvd	\$260,000
48016 Hanford Rd	\$229,000
1125 Heatherlea Ct	\$335,000
4237 Hunters Cir E	\$69,000
43464 Lipka Ct	\$145,000
2770 W Woods Blvd	\$226,000
44444 Newburyport Dr	\$46,000

2011 Pinecroft Dr	\$80,000
45559 Radnor Rd	\$270,000
44439 Saylor Dr	\$29,000
48671 Stoneridge Dr	\$202,000
48075 Sunnyside Dr	\$425,000
41366 Westfield Cir	\$160,000
GARDEN CITY	
31024 Bittersweet Ln	\$170,000
28628 Bridge St	\$42,000
1500 Gilman St	\$125,000
LIVONIA	
34909 Six Mile Rd	\$147,000
34581 Breton Dr	\$268,000
18682 Canton Rd	\$180,000
17111 Cross Winds Dr	\$170,000
15100 Dorais St	\$101,000
15101 Gary Ln	\$120,000
9333 Gillman St	\$95,000
18984 Gillman St	\$30,000
15178 Golfview Dr	\$190,000
30157 Grandon St	\$85,000
21311 Grandon St	\$48,000
20201 Melvin St	\$48,000
9919 Merriman Rd	\$51,000
31720 Middleboro St	\$112,000

29680 Minton St	\$105,000
34916 Perth St	\$128,000
31117 Robert Dr	\$146,000
33945 Roycroft St	\$125,000
18789 Southampton St	\$175,000
32470 Wisconsin St	\$113,000
NORTHVILLE	
19081 Angell Blvd	\$584,000
19340 Clement Rd	\$100,000
17248 Crestbrook Dr	\$624,000
19533 Dartmouth Pl	\$80,000
43619 Prestwick Cir S	\$476,000
46798 Red Oak Dr	\$520,000
39702 Rockcrest Ln	\$137,000
39436 Springwater Dr	\$144,000
17111 Glenmore	\$510,000
45790 Tournament Dr	\$785,000
PLYMOUTH	
500 Ford St	\$49,000
742 Kellogg St	\$65,000
9230 Marlowe Ave	\$100,000
932 Penniman Ave	\$700,000
48949 Pinehill Dr	\$367,000
49409 Plymouth Way	\$130,000
1101 S Harvey St	\$251,000
REDFORD	
13949 Beech Daly Rd	\$31,000

17657 Beech Daly Rd	\$40,000
15108 Delaware Ave	\$163,000
18450 Denby	\$335,000
25275 E Deborah	\$61,000
19245 Garfield	\$24,000
19317 Garfield	\$20,000
17711 Glenmore	\$35,000
9971 Grayfield	\$30,000
26320 Kenneth	\$66,000
18644 Kinloch	\$24,000
13570 Marion	\$55,000
14282 Marshall Dr	\$132,000
12943 Sarasota	\$45,000
12731 Tecumseh	\$71,000
WESTLAND	
1631 Ackley Ave	\$61,000
1649 Berkshire St	\$75,000
8281 Bristol St	\$15,000
33835 Cowan Rd	\$108,000
9971 Donna St	\$73,000
3325 Flamingo St	\$65,000
38367 Greenwood St	\$24,000
82549 Hazelwood St	\$64,000
31024 Merritt Dr	\$95,000
39216 Nottingham St	\$90,000
38530 Warren Rd	\$189,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 1-5, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
17135 Buckingham Ave	\$168,000
18540 Hillcrest St	\$217,000
18580 Hillcrest St	\$418,000
16309 Kirkshire Ave	\$105,000
16295 Madeline St	\$245,000
19933 Old Pond Ct	\$420,000
31255 W Chilton Dr	\$300,000
BIRMINGHAM	
2280 Attard	\$240,000
647 Bennaville Ave	\$147,000
1700 Cole St	\$154,000
847 Davis Ave	\$486,000
1655 Hazel St	\$170,000
1563 Lakeside Dr	\$275,000
449 N Eton St # 504	\$55,000
220 Ravine Rd	\$400,000
539 S Bates St	\$425,000
1700 Safford Ave	\$149,000
600 W Union St # 210	\$270,000
2299 W Lincoln St	\$239,000
1679 Washington Blvd	\$235,000
2031 Windermere Dr	\$293,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
2140 Lancaster Dr	\$150,000
1293 Ashover Dr	\$195,000

1293 Ashover Dr	\$175,000
2003 Eagle Pointe	\$170,000
433 Fox Hills Dr # 7	\$49,000
1319 Knollcrest Cir	\$225,000
2644 Roxie Rd	\$180,000
18347 Sandwood Dr	\$120,000
6847 W Bend Dr	\$313,000
68850 White Pine Dr	\$51,000
180 Woodwind Dr	\$161,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1294 Ashover Dr	\$175,000
54 Hilldale Rd	\$120,000
5621 Melrose Wood Ln	\$250,000
1655 Pebbleshire Rd	\$336,000
6124 Thorncrest Dr	\$275,000
26000 W 14 Mile Rd	\$128,000
7991 Woodbank Dr	\$228,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
1046 Applebrook Dr	\$308,000
8925 Cynthia Ct	\$195,000
85 E Beechdale St	\$171,000
1655 Huron River Dr	\$156,000
6030 Strawberry Cir	\$250,000
1270 Vanstone Dr	\$133,000
8690 Wise Rd	\$135,000
FARMINGTON	
23010 Hawthorne St Unit C101	\$30,000
21333 Lilac St	\$104,000
22868 Maple Ave	\$115,000
32380 Marblehead Rd	\$116,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
36494 Bingham Ct	\$130,000

25434 Bridgepath Ln	\$245,000
31010 Club House Ln	\$125,000
37167 Congress Rd	\$225,000
38244 French Pond	\$315,000
23062 Glenmoor Hts	\$100,000
26967 Harrow Dr	\$320,000
35150 Hillside Dr	\$126,000
35160 Hillside Dr	\$133,000
36978 Kirby St	\$166,000
29455 Sylvan	\$145,000
28839 Lincolnview Dr	\$135,000
25345 Lyncastile St	\$170,000
29455 Sylvan	\$145,000
27329 W Skye Dr	\$260,000
27857 Westleigh Rd	\$120,000
22154 Wingate Ct	\$45,000
FRANKLIN	
30180 Helmandale Dr	\$245,000
Lathrup Village	\$57,000
28711 Eldorado Pl	\$57,000
MILFORD	
814 Abbey Ln	\$145,000
1738 Milford Hts	\$135,000
NOVI	
43050 12 Oaks Crescent Dr #	\$140,000
29926 Arden Trl	\$485,000
50593 Billen Dr	\$503,000
30161 Brightwood Dr	\$265,000
39546 Burton Dr	\$115,000
54929 Chatham St	\$140,000
50833 Chesapeake Dr	\$572,000
51391 Chesapeake Dr	\$611,000
24686 Christina Ln	\$189,000
39429 Country Ln	\$65,000

50254 Drakes Bay Dr	\$1,225,000
21785 Greendale Dr	\$323,000
27909 Hopkins Dr	\$133,000
25810 Island Lake Dr	\$475,000
25842 Island Lake Dr	\$458,000
24792 Kings Pointe	\$179,000
31144 Lagoon Dr	\$245,000
217 Linhart St	\$149,000
26778 Maxwell Ct	\$45,000
27022 Maxwell Ct	\$74,000
47664 Molding Bird Ct	\$338,000
20266 Piccadilly Cir	\$393,000
24329 Saybrook Ct	\$576,000
1957 West Lake Dr	\$219,000
SOUTH LYON	
24080 Griswold Rd	\$224,000
23948 Lyon Ridge Dr	\$261,000
956 Oak Creek Dr	\$205,000
61724 Rambling Way	\$115,000
33764 Springwood Dr	\$25,000
33932 Springwood Dr	\$25,000
SOUTHFIELD	
18640 Autumn Ln	\$128,000
22454 Chatsford Circuit St	\$119,000
19570 Eldridge Ln	\$74,000
26049 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$40,000
2340 Independence Dr	\$111,000
30160 Northgate Ln	\$104,000
23253 Russell St	\$100,000
28458 Tavistock Trl	\$105,000
WHITE LAKE	
41 Alston Ln	\$258,000
9105 Glasgow Dr	\$145,000
8771 Trenton Dr	\$238,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you own more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures and what it takes to get started. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizations will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved. Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at (248) 782-7130 or e-mail june.quantum@gmail.com for your

reservation or additional information.

Free foreclosure tours

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

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP

with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update.

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. each first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Koehler at (313) 277-4168.

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February is TRUCK MONTH!

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Aunts, Uncles, Nieces & Nephews now qualify for the GM Employee Purchase Program!



#3C1466D

2013 MALIBU LS – EMPLOYEE SPECIALS

\$40 with \$2945 down **\$81** with \$1999 down

\$124 with \$999 down

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT – 24 MONTH LEASE – 10,000 MILES/YEAR



#3C1270

2013 CRUZE LS – EVERYONE PRICING

\$44 with \$2945 down **\$85** with \$1999 down

\$129 with \$999 down

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT – 24 MONTH LEASE – 10,000 MILES/YEAR



#3R356

2013 EQUINOX LS – EMPLOYEE SPECIALS

\$99 with \$2999 down **\$142** with \$1999 down

\$185 with \$999 down

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT – 24 MONTH LEASE – 10,000 MILES/YEAR



#3R157

2013 TRAVERSE LS – EMPLOYEE SPECIALS

\$79 with \$2999 down **\$121** with \$1999 down

\$163 with \$999 down

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT – 24 MONTH LEASE – 10,000 MILES/YEAR

NO CREDIT APPLICATION DENIED

- Bankruptcy • Slow Pay
- First Time Buyer • Divorce
- Limited Credit

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2011 MALIBU	Low Miles	\$15,581	2011 SILVERADO LTZ	\$23,921
2009 IMPALA	Loaded	\$13,319	2010 SILVERADO	Ready to work. \$16,990
2010 CAMARO SS	Power	\$28,480	2010 EQUINOX	Just reduced - \$16,990
2009 TRAVESE LT	Lots of toys	\$20,999	2012 SONIC	4500 miles! \$15,482

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