



POWER PLAY
BAND ROCKS AT LOCAL VENUES
ENTERTAINMENT, B6

POTATOES — MORE THAN FRENCH FRIES
FOOD, B8

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS
SECTION B



Hall closed

The Easter holiday and a contract provision are combining to close Canton Township Hall for an extended weekend.

Township Hall, located at 1150 S. Canton Center, will be closed Friday for Good Friday. It will be closed again Monday due to a furlough day for township employees.

Township offices resume their normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

Computer conviction

A Canton-based computer company and its owner were sentenced Friday for trafficking in counterfeit goods and services and violating environmental laws after the owner, Mark Glover, pleaded guilty.

In a statement, Barbara L. McQuade, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, said Glover was sentenced to 40 months in jail, two years of supervised release and a \$10,000 fine.

The company, Discount Computers, was hit with a \$2 million fine and must pay \$10,839 in restitution. The company was also cited for storing and disposing of hazardous waste without a permit.

A large part of DCC's business, according to McQuade, involved exporting used monitors to the Middle East and Asia. Egypt prohibits importing computer equipment more than five years old, and McQuade said the company replaced original factory labels on used monitors with counterfeit labels that reflected a more recent manufacture date.

Chamber auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual dinner auction from 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 20, at Burton Manor in Livonia.

The event features more than 200 raffles, trips to Cabo San Lucas and Boyne Mountain, airline tickets, jewelry and more. Two winners will go home with \$1,000 in cash. The night also includes a strolling dinner and open bar.

Cost is \$75 per person. Contact the chamber office, (734) 453-4040, for additional information regarding donations, sponsorships or attending.

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District leaders stump for bond

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

More days before Canton voters start receiving their absentee ballots by mail, Plymouth-Canton school officials are ramping up their efforts to win support for a \$114 million bond proposal for a new middle school, improvements to existing buildings, increased spending for classroom technology and replacement of aging buses.

Departing Superintendent Jeremy Hughes, who leaves his job

"It (Central Middle School) is old ... It's archaic."

TOM YACK
Canton Township trustee

June 30, and new school board trustee Kim Crouch pitched the plan Tuesday evening during a Canton Township Board of Trustees session that will air on local cable television.



Hughes gave a 30-minute overview of how the 17,685-student school district would spend the money, while Crouch made a much shorter, direct appeal for community support for the May 7 ballot measure.

District officials are scheduled to make a similar presentation April 9 to the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, Crouch said.

Hughes said the bond proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$410 a year, but he said taxpayers wouldn't

feel the pinch because it simply replaces what would have been a decrease in Plymouth-Canton's debt levy.

"This will not increase the tax rate that people are currently paying for school bonds," Hughes said.

Central 'archaic'

Hughes touted the bond proposal as a way to pay for a new middle school, on Cherry Hill Road west of Canton, to replace

Please see **BOND, A2**

Easter excitement



Gabriel Stratton, an 18-month-old from Dearborn, goes hunting for Easter eggs at this year's Easter Eggstravaganza held at Heritage Park in Canton. For more on the fun had by hunters and to see more photos, please turn to page A6.

Residents hit with cost of sidewalk fix

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Hundreds of residents in southwest Canton are facing an average price tag of just over \$200 to fix damaged sidewalks along their properties.

The expense comes as Canton, moving to avert trip-and-fall lawsuits against residents and the township, embarks on the 15th year of its sidewalk-repair program.

Just over 1,000 homeowners are facing repairs to sidewalks that are cracked, slumped, buckled or otherwise damaged, including sections made potentially hazardous by standing water.

Canton began its sidewalk-repair program in 1999, and this year's average cost of \$200 compares to a price tag of roughly \$250 cited last year by township officials.

"It's a little lower," Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said Tuesday evening, after the Canton Township Board of Trustees agreed to move forward with this year's repairs.

Canton will have to pay for repairs along sidewalks not considered the responsibility of property owners.

Subdivisions in this year's repair program include Central Park Estates Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Central Park South Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Kimberly Meadows, Meadow Villages of Canton Nos. 1 and 2, and other miscellaneous locations.

In an unusual twist, no homeowners showed up Tuesday for a public hearing on sidewalk repairs. Afterward, however, Trustee Pat Williams said he expects residents to begin inquiries after they realize how much they will have to pay for their repairs.

Local officials initiated a systematic repair of sidewalks after the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that Canton and other townships had a responsibility to protect the public. Canton had fought a flurry of lawsuits filed by

Please see **SIDEWALKS, A3**

Gun charge stays, trial ordered in Verizon robbery

Eric James-Lee Wilkins listens to the proceedings during a hearing at 35th District Court in Plymouth. Wilkins is one of three teens charged in the robbery of a Canton Verizon store.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A 35th District Court judge has rejected an attempt by defendant Eric James-Lee Wilkins to fend off gun-related charges arising from allegations he was involved in a Canton Verizon store robbery, although Wilkins isn't accused of carrying the

semiautomatic assault rifle used to blast open a sliding glass door an employee had locked.

Judge Ronald Lowe issued his decision Monday, refusing to dismiss a felony firearm charge, punishable by a mandatory two-year prison term, and a four-year felony of discharging a firearm into a building. Lowe's ruling mirrored a deci-

sion he made one week ago against defendant Dantez Lamar Boykin-Johnson.

Defense attorney Vincent Toussaint conceded in court there was "no question" Wilkins aided in the robbery. However, he argued Wilkins shouldn't face gun charges amid allegations the third defendant, Anto-

Please see **ROBBERY, A3**

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School board OKs pact with new chief

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The new superintendent for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is signed, sealed and all but delivered.

The district's Board of Education Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution agreeing to a three-year deal for Michael Meissen, currently the supervisor of school improvement and student achievement for Milwaukee Public Schools in Milwaukee, Wis. (The vote was actually 6-0, with Trustee Mark Horvath absent).

Meissen, chosen over the district's executive director for finance, Brodie Killian, and the

board agreed to a contract that pays Meissen \$212,000 a year, plus benefits. The agreement runs from July 1 and runs through June 30, 2016.

"I've spoken to Dr. Meissen, and he is very excited to get started," board President John Barrett said Tuesday.

Meissen will replace Jeremy Hughes, whose contract expires at the end of June. Hughes has served since taking the job on an interim basis in 2011.

While he doesn't officially start until July 1, Barrett said Meissen has agreed to come to the district for at least a couple of days per month until then to learn the district, meet staff and



Dr. Michael Meissen and the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education have reached agreement on Meissen's three-year contract to become superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

begin the transition process. Meissen was chosen over Killian largely because of the broader experience he's had

in public education. Prior to his current position, Meissen spent six years as the superintendent of the Allenard Township High School District #87 in Glen Ellyn, Ill. That district has some 9,000 students and serves nine different municipalities.

He's also been a principal at the high school, middle school and grade school levels, as well as having experience as an athletic director.

Meissen and Killian were the only candidates brought back for a second interview. A third candidate, Adrian Public Schools Superintendent Christopher Timmis, withdrew after the first round of interviews.

Meissen earned his bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1981, got his master's in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 and earned his Ph.D. in educational administration in December 1990.

"I like that (Plymouth-Canton) is a district that has a demonstrated record of excellence and wants to continue to achieve greatness," Meissen said after his second interview. "I want to get into a district with a board that wants to continue working toward greatness. This is a really strong district."

Meissen earned his bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1981, got his master's in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 and earned his Ph.D. in educational administration in December 1990.

Meissen earned his bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1981, got his master's in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 and earned his Ph.D. in educational administration in December 1990.

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BOND

Continued from page A1

aging Central Middle School, and the said the money would allow for new middle school computer labs and an expansion of the district's STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—academics.

Township Trustee Tom Yack, a former school board trustee, said Central Middle School is in dire need of replacing. "It's old," he said. "It's archaic."

Township Trustee Steven Sneideman, also a former school board member, said he has long hoped for a way to reduce teacher-pupil ratios in classrooms he indicated are too crowded.

"To do that," he said, "we need more classrooms."

Hughes said the bond proposal would boost classroom technology and the district's information technology infrastructure—partly by gradually buying computer devices for every student over the next five years.

Staying competitive
"We see this as putting in their hands an electronic textbook," Hughes said.

Moreover, building improvements would be

made across the district, plus the bond proposal would allow officials to ratchet up their efforts to replace an aging fleet of 130 buses. Middle schools would receive additions except for Discovery, which can accommodate improvements without expanding the building.

Hughes said state aid for schools has remained flat for the last four years. He called the bond proposal necessary to help the district remain competitive.

Crouch, meanwhile, made a short statement simply urging support for the bond proposal.

Hughes and Crouch addressed the township board on the same night the Plymouth-Canton school board approved a three-year contract for incoming Superintendent Michael Meissen, currently supervisor of school improvement and student achievement for Milwaukee Public Schools in Wisconsin.

Canton Township Trustee John Anthony said Tuesday he believes Hughes has shown strong leadership during his tenure as Plymouth-Canton superintendent. He commended Hughes for "a tremendous job."

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Choirs score big at choral festival

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choirs earned high marks for their performances at MSVMA District Choral Festival held at Northville High School March 21-22.

Under the direction of Jennifer Kopp and Valerie Said, five choirs

—Allegro, Dulcissima, Chamber Choir, Madrigal Singers, and Festival Singers—all earned either an Excellent or Superior rating and have been invited to perform at State Choral Festival to be held April 25-26 at Holt High School.

All seven curricular

choirs at P-CEP attended the festival, sponsored by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. Each choir prepared two contrasting pieces, which were then performed for a panel of three highly respected judges. In addition, each choir was required to complete an

adjudicated sight-reading exercise and a clinic with one of the judges.

The P-CEP Choirs will host a Festival Concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at Salem High School. Each choir will perform their festival music at this concert. Tickets are \$5 and are sold at the door.

AROUND CANTON

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

BLOOD DRIVE

Date/Time: Friday, March 29, 7-10:45 a.m. and 2:45-6:45 p.m.
Location: St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley in Canton

Details: The American Red Cross hosts a blood drive at St. Thomas a'Becket Church in Canton. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: To make an appointment, call Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Date/Time: Monday, April 8, 6-8:30 p.m.
Location: Canton Coney Island, 8533 N. Lilley in Canton

Details: Guest speaker David Tennes, a Civil War historian, highlights the meeting of the Canton Women's Connection. Tennes will talk about people and places from Michigan connected to the Civil War.

Contact: RSVP by April 5 to June Nichola at (313) 610-2561 or email junenicholas@comcast.net

MUSIC BOOSTERS ENSEMBLE

Date/Time: Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Plymouth High School

Details: The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters will be holding their Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Ensemble with more than 100 unique exhibitors. In addition, there will be entertainment provided by student musicians, a raffle, door prizes, concessions and a bake sale. There is a \$2 admission fee.

ROAD RALLY

Date/Time: Saturday, April 27, check-in begins at 3:30 p.m.
Location: Check-in is at Smith Elementary School, 1298 McKinley in Plymouth

Details: Registration is now open for the annual Plymouth Newcomers and Neighbors Road Rally. Competing teams race around the city solving puzzles, performing activities, and enjoying an evening on the town. The rally ends at a final dinner party

AROUND CANTON

location. The ally begins at 4 p.m., and projected arrival time at final destination is 7:30 p.m. Early-bird registration ends April 1, but participants can still register (for \$25) until April 7.

Contact: Pete and Eileen Ganster at (734) 718-4589 or pganster@comcast.net

SHOPS SHOPPING

Date/Time: Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to noon
Location: Plymouth High School

Details: Shoppers can find the "perfect" formal dress, with many long and short dresses from which to choose. There will also be formal shoes and jewelry. Nothing priced higher than \$10. Donations of dresses, jewelry and shoes are accepted from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays at Plymouth High School.

Contact: Lisa Benages@pcmail.net

MOM 2 MOM

Date/Time: Saturday, May 4, 8-30 a.m.
Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh in Livonia

Details: St. Edith Church hosts its Mom-2-Mom Sale, with 74 tables of gently-used maternity, baby, and kids' items, a bake sale and refreshments. Proceeds benefit St. Edith's St. Kenneth MOPS.

Contact: www.stekmops.org or on Facebook at St. Edith's St. Kenneth Mom-to-Mom Sale

CRAFTERS WANTED

Date/Time: Sept. 6-8, during Fall Festival hours
Location: Plymouth

Details: Organizers say it's not to early to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. The spaces are limited and are filling up quickly. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.

Contact: For more information contact Colleen Brown at craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com or (734) 455-1614.

GIVING HOPE

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth

Details: "Give the Girls a Boost" is coming, an opportunity to support a good cause and enjoy a "Girls' Night Out" to benefit the Giving Hope

Women's Giving Circle. The group is also looking for business sponsors.

Contact: For more information and to register, go to: cantonfoundation.org

MILLER WOODS TOURS

Dates/Times: Sundays, April 14, 21 and 28, 2-4 p.m.

Location: Miller Woods (Powell Road, east of Ridge between N. Territorial and Ann Arbor Road)

Details: Free, guided tours will occur in April to see the native spring wildflowers in Miller Woods. Tours depend on when the flowers are blooming, but are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 21 and 28. Check the website at millerwoods.com for up-to-date tour dates. Tours start every half hour. Park on side of road. Sorry, no dogs allowed in the nature preserve.

SEWING GUILD

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

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: This Plymouth-Canton neighborhood group is open to sewists of all levels. The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer" followed by "3D Filing Geese-hands on" on March 7; "Charity Applique" April 11 (note date change); and "Machine or Hand Applique Quilt Block-hands on" on May 2.

Contact: For more information e-mail aspc@comcast.net

MASTERING MEDITATION

Date/Time: Saturday, March 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: The Center - Massage, Yoga Wellness Studio, 1200 Ann Arbor in Plymouth

Details: Dr. Kapila Castoldi offers a free introductory series on mastering meditation. Topics include concentration, relaxation and meditation techniques; creating a meditative lifestyle; self-awareness through meditation. Castoldi has studied meditation under the guidance of Indian spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy for 27 years. It is offered free of charge by the Sri Chinmoy Centre of Ann Arbor as a community service.
Contact: For information call (734) 994-7114.

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Canton woman bound for trial on embezzling charges

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer



Mansfield

A Canton woman accused of embezzling more than \$465,000 from her Plymouth employer admitted taking money, though she seemed surprised by the amount, the company president has testified.

Erica L. Mansfield, 39-year-old former administrative assistant for AspenTech Consulting Group, confessed last June when she was called into a company room to discuss company checks she allegedly made out to herself, Gregory Knapp, company president, said.

"She said she needed the money, that there were financial troubles within the family," Knapp said.

His testimony Friday convinced 58th District Judge Michael Geronzo to order Mansfield to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on a charge of embezzling more than \$100,000 during a six-year

period before she was fired last summer from AspenTech, a business software and consulting company.

Mansfield, free on a \$500,000 personal bond, could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison if she is convicted.

Unauthorized checks

Knapp testified he confronted Mansfield, who had worked for AspenTech since 2005, after he reviewed bank accounts and learned she had written checks to herself that Knapp didn't authorize. He said his name appeared on the checks.

"It was a forged signature," he said, adding the checks "were completely outside the scope of anything I authorized."

Knapp testified he learned money was missing from AspenTech after the firm was

witnessing an uptick in business, though the increased business didn't appear to improve cash flow.

Under questioning by defense attorney John Freeman, Knapp said he never saw Mansfield sign any of the purportedly falsified checks, nor did he hire a handwriting expert to analyze signatures.

Knapp said Mansfield's job duties included writing company checks to pay invoices, but he said she didn't have the authority to sign the checks. During his testimony, Knapp pointed to an inches-thick binder he said contained documents showing what he called falsified checks.

Knapp testified he confronted Mansfield after he learned it appeared checks had been written for her amounting to more than \$460,000. He said she seemed surprised by the amount but admitted taking money.

"I asked her how much she believed she took," Knapp said

in court. "She said she didn't know."

Knapp said Mansfield, a mother of two young children, admitted she needed money due to family troubles. He said part of that involved a stroke her boyfriend's father had suffered.

Knapp was accompanied by his son Marshall when Mansfield was questioned in the workplace. Freeman argued the conversation shouldn't be admissible in court, saying the defendant may have felt coerced.

Sporing partners

Freeman, a former federal prosecutor, and Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Eric Sterbis sparred at times over the evidence. Moreover, Freeman raised questions about how closely Knapp had kept watch on the company's finances.

Knapp acknowledged he once fired an accountant, yet he stood by his statements that he believes Mansfield had taken

the money. Knapp said he believed Mansfield was a good employee before he began to learn of missing money.

Knapp's son Marshall, part owner in the company, testified the accountant also had the authority to sign company checks.

Gregory Knapp went to police last June after he found discrepancies in company financial records. Plymouth Lt. Jamie Grabowski, the detective who investigated the case, used a search warrant to obtain records of a bank account held by Mansfield, and documented that nearly \$240,000 in fraudulent checks had been deposited in it since 2008.

The records were incomplete, Grabowski noted in his report. AspenTech, with an office on Ann Arbor Trail, offers business consulting and other services related to computer-based management methods.

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Busch's close to Canton opening

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Busch's Fresh Food Market is inching closer to rolling out its first Canton store, but company officials this week said they couldn't yet confirm a precise opening date.

"We'll open as soon as we possibly can," Carol Varga, Busch's director of facilities, said Tuesday. "We've been waiting to give that date yet."

Her remarks came as she and project architect Lonny Zimmerman appeared before the Canton Township Board of Trustees, which approved a special land use and site plan for the 53,000-square-foot store.

Filling spaces

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," township Trustee Pat Williams told Varga and Zimmerman. "We've been waiting for a very long time."

Local officials have long sought to market empty spaces such as the former Farmer Jack store.

"That empty building has been an eyesore in the community far too long," Williams said.

In a sweeping vote, the seven-member township board approved the Busch proposals Tuesday night. Supervisor Phil LaJoy said the company needed a vote of support for the special land use because the grocery chain intends to have an outdoor area for produce and flowers.

Date-dodging

Dodging questions about an opening date, Zimmerman said he and company officials are moving forward cautiously because they hope to make the Canton-based store even better than others.

"To achieve that level of quality," he said,

"we don't want to rush through it."

Meanwhile, Larkin underscored Busch's commitment to the communities it serves. She cited the company's Cash for Education program that has put nearly \$1.5 million into area schools during the last five years. She said the company already has a strong partnership with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools through the Plymouth Township store at Five Mile and Sheldon roads. She said Busch's is eager to expand those ties with its Canton store.

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ROBBERY

Continued from page A1

no Jerome Porter, fired the AR-15 weapon that got the three 18-year-old men inside to seize merchandise such as cell phones from the Verizon store on Ford Road east of Sheldon.

Low indicated the three teens are accused of setting out to commit an armed robbery when the incident happened around 11 a.m. Feb. 25.

"It's kind of hard to do if you don't have a weapon," Low said.

Toussaint said he is likely to appeal Lowe's decision in Wayne County Circuit Court. Lowe has now ruled that Wilkins, Boykin-Johnson and Porter all should stand trial on the gun charges and additional counts of armed robbery, breaking and entering a building with intent to commit a crime, first-degree retail fraud, receiving and concealing stolen property over \$1,000 and illegal entry without the building owner's permission.

Wilkins and Porter, both of Inkster, and Boykin-Johnson of Westland are now facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after they all have waived their right to a preliminary examination in 35th District Court. Wilkins became the last to forgo his hearing Monday after Lowe ruled against him on the weapons charges.

In court Monday, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Eric Sterbis argued that all three defendants should face the same charges because they all hatched the robbery plan. Moreover, he indicated a video shows Wilkins tried to force his way into the Verizon store inside the locked door before a vestibule was shot open.

"Wilkins can be seen



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eric James-Lee Wilkins stands before Judge Ron Lowe with his attorney, Vincent Toussaint.

attempting to kick out the door unsuccessfully," Sterbis said.

Porter then fired the shot that allowed the men to seize electronics such as phones, Sterbis said.

Statements in court Monday indicated Boykin-Johnson drove the car to the scene. Canton police say the three men fled the store, led police on a car chase and ran on foot before they were captured hiding in a storm cellar of a home on Willard Drive, near Oakview and Saltz.

In his ruling, Lowe said Wilkins, like the other defendants, had numerous opportunities to back out of the robbery. Porter, Wilkins and Boykin-Johnson have remained jailed with \$1 million cash bonds.

The three also are accused of a break-in on Feb. 25 of the Verizon store at 3750 Ann Arbor Road in Livonia. A window was smashed, then five cell phones, two tablets and \$400 cash were taken from the store. The men are charged with breaking and entering a building with intent and with larceny in a building.

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Woman donates mom's hair cut 74 years ago

A family treasure sat on Caroline Van Gorder's dresser most of her life: An 18-inch lock of her mother's hair that was cut about 74 years ago.

Her mother, Francis Tench, cut the brown and auburn strands around 1939 when Van Gorder was about 10 years old. "She saved it for me because I am the only daughter; she thought I may want to have it," said Van Gorder, 83, of Canton, adding that she still remembers the moment when her mother cut the hair and gave it to her. Her mother was born in 1898. "I've had it all these years, always wrapped it in tissue so it wouldn't get on my dresser."

Van Gorder was married for 50 years before her husband, John Donald, passed away in 2002 at age 72. With no children of her own to pass it on to, Van Gorder decided to donate the family heirloom to a cause that would honor her mother's gift.

Survival mode

Her mother survived breast cancer at age 65, but passed away at age 79 due to throat cancer. Van Gorder survived a bout of uterine cancer at age 64. "I wanted to do something for children or adults who could use it," she said. "That was the type of person my mother was. If someone could use something, she would help them."

Her St. Mary Mercy Hospital physician recommended to approach the Helen Palmer Image



Caroline Van Gorder (left), 83, of Canton, donates her mother's hair that was cut about 74 years ago. Van Gorder stands with Trish Tyl, a licensed clinical cosmetologist with the Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Recovery Center, a St. Mary Mercy service, that specializes in image rehabilitation for cancer patients. The Image Recovery Center services include skin care analysis, hand and nail care, massage therapy, hair replacement and headwear, and more, for those coping with cancer.

"My immediate thought was what a special gift to give to us," said Trish Tyl, licensed clinical cosmetologist, Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital. "It's more than just hair; it's hair with history."

Great hair

Tyl was also surprised with the hair's excellent condition; the strands still had shine without knots or snarls. One end was

tied with a band while the other end still bounced with natural curl.

"It looked like it was freshly cut," Tyl said. The Image Recovery Center sends all hair donations to Children with Hairloss, a non-profit organization based in Rockwood, Mich. that makes wigs out of human hair for children suffering from medically-related hair loss, such as cancer.

Tyl said specialists at the hospital's Image Recovery Center routinely helps chemotherapy patients with hair loss, and that's why "when we look at hair, we look at it as part of a person," she said. "I felt Caroline was passing on her life and legacy." That's how Van Gorder feels.

must complete the work by late May, Faas said. Otherwise, they can use a company hired by the township, which expects to complete its work from early June through mid-July.

Residents who notice green dots painted on their sidewalks will have to pay for those repairs, while

red dots reflect the township's responsibility. Faas said property owners seeking a reinspection of their proposed repairs may call township engineering services at (734) 394-5150 for a reinspection.

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SIDEWALKS

Continued from page A1
people claiming trip-and-fall injuries. Lawsuit payouts typically range from \$5,000 to \$50,000, Faas said.

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Changing course

Rouge River has gone from open sewer to potential urban water trail

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Columnist

If you mention the Rouge River to someone from the Detroit area, the thought might conjure up images of industry, which only makes sense considering the river had been for years synonymous with Ford Motor Company's River Rouge Complex. Affectionately known as The Rouge, the massive factory that became the



Kurt Kuban

world's largest in 1928 as it cranked out instant mobility for the masses still casts quite a shadow above the lower reaches of our modest little river.

And the Ford factory is not alone. The area between the Ford complex and Zug Island where the Rouge River ultimately runs its course and empties into the Detroit River is an industrial landscape straight from a post-apocalyptic, sci-fi movie. It is the very buckle of the Rust Belt — an area where the Rouge River famously caught fire in 1969. It is also the area where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers paved much of the river channel in a misguided effort to curb flooding back in the 1970s.

Not surprisingly, many people equated the Rouge River with the pollution that despoiled it. That's what happens when a watershed is located in the cradle of the automo-



KURT KUBAN

It wasn't that long ago that canoeing on the Rouge River seemed like a pipe dream. However, a number of communities — including Canton Township and Wayne, along with Wayne County Parks — hopes to get a federal grant to designate the Lower Rouge River an urban water trail that would provide 25 miles of canoeing/kayaking, including

through this section of Wayne.

And when you consider the stormwater and sanitary pollution that municipalities along over Wayne and Oakland counties flushed into the river every time there was a thunderstorm, you begin to see how the Rouge River ended up getting listed by the EPA as a Great Lakes AOC - Area of Concern (www.epa.gov/greatlakes/aoc/rouge/river/index.html). The reality is, for years, much of this urban river system was pretty much off limits to people.

That dubious history, however, shrouds some very positive news about the Rouge (www.therouge.org). Volunteers have removed a mountain of garbage — everything from cars and shopping carts to liquor bottles and especially a small

army of dedicated volunteers who have fought for a generation to bring the river back from the brink. Beginning in the 1980s, millions of mostly federal but plenty of local dollars have been spent to curb pollution, especially the sanitary discharges that plagued the river for years (and still do in some places).

Just as encouraging, there has been a successful grassroots effort involved as well. Over the last 25 years, thousands of area residents have volunteered in the annual Rouge Rescue cleanup, led by the group Friends of the Rouge (www.therouge.org). Volunteers have removed a mountain of garbage — everything from cars and shopping carts to liquor bottles (and just about every-

thing else imaginable). And sure enough, the river is coming back to life, especially in communities that have implemented best practices. Water quality has improved, including dissolved oxygen levels. Fish and aquatic insects have made a comeback in portions of the river where they had disappeared years ago.

Most of the 48 Rouge communities have joined together to form the ARC, or Alliance of Rouge Communities (www.allianceofrougecommunities.com), which has allowed a pooling of resources to heal the watershed. For example, in the city of Wayne, ARC secured a federal grant and led the effort last fall to remove an obsolete dam dating back to the 1930s. With the dam removed, fish, including salmon and steelhead, can now move up from the Great Lakes all the way to the headwaters in Canton Township and Washtenaw County where they will be able to spawn with greater success.

Many Rouge communities are now realizing what a fantastic resource they have in their own backyards, and there is an ongoing effort to reconnect residents to the river. This movement is picking up momentum as the water quality continues to improve. In recent years, for instance, volunteers have hacked away at logjams to open up the Lower Branch of the Rouge to canoeing, especially

in the city of Wayne — home to a half dozen river miles. In addition to locals who do paddle the river on occasion, large group trips organized by Friends of the Rouge each fall have proven more and more popular. Last October, for example, a group of more than 50 people participated in the trip, which took them past the dam removal site for the first time.

I recently sat in on a meeting with numerous Rouge River stakeholders who agreed to partner up and pursue an "urban waterway" designation for the Lower Branch, which begins in Washtenaw County and generally follows Michigan Avenue through Canton Township, Wayne, Westland, Inkster, and Dearborn before reaching the Detroit River. Despite the fact that there are a half million people living in these communities, the river flows through a wooded corridor that resembles northern Michigan in many places.

The stakeholders in this effort — including Dearborn, Canton, Wayne, Wayne County and the Alliance of Rouge Communities — are collaborating to get a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Urban Waters program. They want to designate the Lower Branch from Canton Township all the way to the Detroit River as an "Urban Water Trail".

Riverside Kayak Connection and Heavier Canoe Rental are also on board with the effort. They are located on the east side of the Detroit River as the Riverside Kayak Connection is located in Wyandotte near the Detroit River, and Heavier is actually based in Milford in the Huron River watershed (though they do rent canoes on Newburgh Lake in the Rouge watershed). The owners of both establishments see the urban waterway concept as a great way to promote "getting outdoors" but they also recognize the potential to capitalize on people reconnecting with the river. Paddling sports have always been very popular in Michigan. In a watershed of 1.5 million people, a few of them are bound to rent canoes or purchase kayaks.

This urban water trail is roughly 25 miles long, and would allow paddlers

a day long journey from Canton to the Detroit River — through sections of peaceful woodland and past historic structures like Henry Ford's incredible Fairlane Estate, the River Rouge Complex and even Zug Island. Once out in the Detroit River, people will be able to paddle in the shadows of passing freighters plying the waters of the Great Lakes.

Much work needs to be done to make this possible. The communities need to establish canoe launches along the route, not to mention bathroom facilities and parking. The stakeholders hope to get the grant to do this work. The fact that much of the land is already park land and in public hands makes these tasks much easier.

The biggest struggle will be to open up the logjams along the route — and keep them open. Friends of the Rouge led an expedition on this route two years ago, which I happened to be part of, and we encountered nearly 200 logjams of various sizes. It will take many volunteer hours, and hopefully some work by municipal crews to open up the entire route. With more and more people taking an interest in the Rouge, however, this is certainly possible.

The bottom line is canoeing on the Rouge River is no longer a pipe dream. I recently read an article published in the Detroit Free Press back in 1985 that all but declared the Rouge a defunct river. We stole a quote the great Mark Twain, the reports of the Rouge's demise were greatly exaggerated. Yes, people were responsible for nearly killing the river, but they are now leading the charge in its renaissance.

Changing perceptions isn't always easy — especially when you are talking about the Rouge River. But once people start seeing kayakers and canoes moving through their communities, chances are they won't be thinking about all that industry downstream.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the Northville Record and also covers environmental issues for O&E Media. He welcomes feedback at kkuban@hometownlife.com.

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Proposed Rouge River Water Trail

Dog Scout troop donates canine masks

Julie Benson heard the statistics: Every year approximately 4,000 humans die in house fires and 40,000 family pets are killed, the leading cause of death from fire being asphyxiation.

When Benson, the leader to a local Dog Scout troop, heard this, she knew she wanted to do something with her troop members to take action and help save as many animals as possible.

So, with the help of troop 217 members Melissa Perez of Wayne, Michelle Neu of Taylor and Vickie Lomas of Walled Lake, Benson helped collect more than \$500 in returnable cans and bottles in order to purchase six full canine oxygen mask kits.

"Pets are members of our families, they aren't just pets to the people of my Dog Scouts of America troop," said Benson, a Novi resident who leads Troop 217. "What better way to serve the community than to help pets, throughout the metro Detroit area, that may not have a chance of surviving without the aid of these masks."

The kits (which contain a large, medium, and small mask) will be distributed to Huron Valley Ambulance, who in turn will issue to EMS and local fire houses in Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties.

Benson and fellow troop members will present the canine oxygen mask kits to Eric Fields 10 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at the HVA's Plymouth station, located at 1270 Goldsmith in Plymouth.

Dog Scouts of America is a non-profit organization that promotes reinforcement training and responsible pet ownership. For more information on Dog Scouts of America visit www.dogscouts.org. Anyone interested in joining the local troop can contact Benson at benjoni@earthlink.net.

Suspects face trial in crime spree

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Two Detroit men are facing trial on charges arising from a suburban crime spree that authorities say included an armed robbery inside a Canton Family Dollar store and conspiracy to rob a Westland Cash Advance store.

Eric Anthony Reed, 21, and Raymond Maurice Whitley, 19, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if they are convicted of a robbery-related spree that police say began Jan. 29 in Taylor and ended when Westland Police captured the suspects Feb. 16.

According to Wayne County Circuit Court documents, Reed and Whitley are charged

with armed robberies in Canton, Taylor and Allen Park and conspiracy to commit another offense in Westland. The two men are jailed with cash bonds totaling over \$500,000.

Reed and Whitley are facing trial after they voluntarily waived their preliminary examinations last Friday in Plymouth 35th District Court, which handled charges from the four communities.

Reed faces trial for additional counts of felony firearm and second-degree criminal sexual conduct out of Canton. Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said Reed was accused of fending a female employee during a robbery that occurred just before 9 p.m. Feb. 6 inside the Family Dollar store on Joy Road near I-275.



Whitley



Reed

"There was inappropriate contact between the suspect and a female in the store," Schreiner said.

Reed and Whitley are accused of seizing cell phones from Family Dollar workers and taking money from the store, Schreiner said.

Westland Police arrested the defendants Feb. 16 after two men arrived outside the Cash Advance store at 208 S. Mer-

riman. The men had arrived before the store opened, police said, and a male employee refused to open the door for two men described as wearing hoods.

"The men left. The teller knew there had been robberies of cash stores, so he decided to go the Chase Bank branch to make a deposit," Westland Police Sgt. Randy Thivierge has said. "While he was at the bank, he saw the suspects' vehicle at a Burger King drive-through."

The employee got a license plate number and called police as the suspects returned to the business. He again refused to let the suspects in with their hoods up.

Westland Police said the

license plate didn't belong to the car driven by the suspects, who were stopped by police.

"The driver didn't have a license and a gun was found in the car," Thivierge said.

Once police had the pair in custody, they were identified as suspects in the Canton robbery.

"One of our dispatchers remembered an article in the Observer from Canton (about an armed robbery)," Westland Police Sgt. Dan Serrano said. "We printed out the photos. One of the suspects was wearing the same clothes he was arrested in."

Staff Writer LeAnne Rogers contributed to this story.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Brazen thief

A Canton man said he was astounded when he looked out a window of his home and saw a well-dressed woman stealing a 40-pound lawn jockey from his property on Cherry Hill Road between Beck and Denton.

"It just astounded me," he told the Observer on Tuesday.

The victim said the incident happened on a recent March evening. He said he saw the woman, about 35 years old, pick up the lawn jockey and stagger back to a car and drive off. He said he was even more shocked when he learned she had taken a cast aluminum horse head that had been mounted on a metal post on his deck.

He said the woman drove off in a small black sedan. He said he contacted the Observer so other residents could be on the alert.

Gun threats

A Canton High School resource officer notified police after a female student made what appeared to be threat-

ening remarks about a gun, a police report said.

The incident happened Monday afternoon. During a group discussion about the stresses of high school life, the 17-year-old student reportedly said "I wish I could kill them" and indicated she wished she knew where her father kept his gun, the report said.

She was referred to a school resource officer, began crying and said she didn't mean what she had said. Her father was contacted to make sure he properly locks any guns away that he has.

The father indicated that his daughter has been bullied at school and on social media, the police report said.

Disgruntled worker

An employee of a Canton company on Haggerty south of Michigan Avenue contacted police after a fired employee made what was perceived as threatening remarks Saturday afternoon, a police report said.

The 26-year-old worker had earlier argued with other employees in what

led to a scuffle, a police report said. The employee was fired, but before he left he threatened to return with others, the report said.

There was no indication he actually did.

Phone scam

A man went to the Canton Police Station last Thursday evening to report he had received a Verizon bill in the mail for activation of five new phones he never bought. He said the bill was \$430.

The man contacted the company and was told someone had called in, provided his personal information and opened an account. He told police he cancelled the account and phone numbers, but he wanted to file a formal police report.

Identity theft

A 67-year-old woman who lives on Cavalier, southeast of Saltz and Sheldon, contacted Canton Police last Thursday to report she had been the victim of an apparent identity theft.

She told police that she had received notification from the Internal Revenue Service on two occasions in February that her Social Security number had been used to file a 2012 tax return. The woman hadn't yet filed her taxes. She notified the IRS, credit report-

ing agencies, banks the Social Security Administration and credit card companies of the incident, along with police.

Copper stolen

A home on Hartford, northeast of Ford and Lilley roads, was stripped of copper piping after an intruder cut water lines in the basement sometime prior to March 19, a police report said.

A realty company in charge of the home told police the house had been shown because it is on the market. It is believed that a sliding glass door was unlocked.

The police report indicated 40 feet of copper pipe was stolen.

Car missing

A 21-year-old resident of Stoneybrook Park Apartments, southwest of Joy Road and I-275, told police he noticed his black Chrysler 200 was missing from the parking lot Friday night.

He told police he was behind on his payments, but Canton Police had not received any notification that any employee of a company was going to the site to repossess the vehicle, leaving the owner to question if his car had been stolen.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Suspicious substance

Employees at Comcast, the cable television and communications company with a regional office on Concept Drive in Plymouth Township, reported receiving a suspicious powdery substance in the mail on March 20.

No injuries were reported, and a Plymouth Township Police Department report said the blue material looked like glitter.

It had been received through the mail earlier that day, a Comcast security official told police, in an envelope that also contained a blank sheet of paper. There were a name and an East Lansing address on the envelope, but Comcast could not match the name or the address to a customer.

Police could not find a match in their records between the name and the address given, the report said.

Local hazardous waste officials, through the Plymouth Community Fire Department, advised employees who

had contact with the substance to throw it away and wash their hands.

Comcast reported receiving a threat, on average, every two weeks.

Fraud thwarted

A township woman reported that a credit card of hers had been compromised recently, but that no charges had been made on it. The card was canceled and the woman advised to check her credit report.

The woman told police March 19 that she had received a call from the fraud division at her bank, saying someone with access to the card number, her birthdate and other personal information had inquired about activating it to make purchases during an overseas trip. The bank had apparently flagged the call as suspicious.

The woman filed the police report for followup by the bank's investigative division.

— By Matt Jachman

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Egg hunters' delight!

Mother Nature cooperated, and hundreds of youngsters from around the area took advantage Saturday as Canton Township hosted its annual Easter Eggstravaganza in and around Heritage Park.

Kids ages 11 and younger got a chance to meet, and have their pictures taken with, the Easter Bunny, and to hunt for eggs around spacious Heritage Park.

There were animals to pet, and crafts to build and entertainment in the gym at the Summit on the Park, as well as the always-popular egg hunts.



PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDON

Eager youngsters wait to get the word for the Easter egg hunt attended by hundreds of kids at Heritage Park in Canton.



Savanah Chapman, 7, of Wixom feeds Snoopy, an 8-week-old Nigerian Dwarf Goat at the Eggstravaganza held in Canton.



Harrison Qian, a 4-year-old from Canton, keeps his eyes peeled for Easter eggs that are scattered in the playscape at Heritage Park in Canton.



Mickey, Isabella, Ulah and Logan Mohacst of Livonia enjoy a visit with the Easter Bunny at this year's Easter Eggstravaganza.



Brothers Jake and Gabe Christensen of Canton pet one of the many animals on hand at this year's Easter Eggstravaganza held in Canton's Heritage Park.

Hiller's adds new mobility carts to help disabled patrons

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Heather Pizar of Northville Township used to have a tough time shopping with her 10-year-old daughter, Sarah, who has Mowat-Wilson syndrome, which creates mobility limitations. Whenever Heather would go shopping, she would have to push the grocery cart and, at the same time, pull Sarah in her adaptive stroller, which was difficult.

Thanks to Pizar's hard work and the kindness of Hiller's Markets, that's no longer true. Hiller's recently purchased one of the carts for disabled loved ones of each of its seven Michigan stores, making it much easier for Pizar and Sarah, who attends Cooke School in Northville. Hiller's has a Plymouth-area store at 5 Mile



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hiller's Vice President Justin Hiller has made sure that all of his stores have one of the "Caroline's Carts" that patron Heather Pizar utilizes for her daughter Sarah, 10, who has problems riding in a typical grocery cart. The cart, with an attached seat, is capable of safely welcoming a person with disabilities — with its swing-out handles.

and Hagersty — it's Hiller's Market that has really taken the initiative. No one made them do this. I was just so impressed by them," said

Heather Pizar. "Hiller's stepped right up and said 'We want them in our store.'" Justin Hiller, Hiller's vice president, said the

move was a no-brainer. "It's just all about the customers," he said. His dad and grandfather in the business taught him that.

The cart was designed by Alabama mom Drew Ann Long, who got a manufacturer and is now instrumental in marketing it via www.carolines-cart.com.

"I saw an advertisement in a trade magazine," said Hiller. "I think the majority of people just don't think how difficult it is" to shop with a disabled person.

Caroline's Carts can accommodate an adult up to 250 pounds, said Pizar, who is married to Sandor. They have four children.

Hiller said he paid \$850 per cart, about twice what a regular grocery cart costs. The retailer takes on maintenance responsibility. The cart has a foot-operated brake.

"It's just starting to get traction now," he said of the local effort. "It's been a very positive response. I think there are still those individuals who take advantage of them."

He's heard thanks from Pizar, who worked for about a year and a half on the effort and also approached other grocers. Her daughter was diagnosed at age 4 with the fairly rare disorder, which causes seizures.

"She is mobile and she loves to get outside and play," Pizar said of Sarah. "I'm not the only parent in the community who could benefit from this."

The Caroline's Cart has a harness. Its handles swing open to allow the disabled person to sit facing the shopper, which Pizar said is helpful for her daughter to be able to see her.

"So that's another

advantage of the cart. I'm just so impressed with this mom designing this," Pizar added.

"I can't tell you how convenient it will be. It's a real blessing, absolutely," Hiller's said to her. "We're going to lead by example. I'm just really touched and impressed by that statement."

The Hiller family bought the Caroline's Carts as part of their philosophy of doing business. Justin Hiller said it wasn't difficult to buy the carts over the phone and have them delivered.

"It's equally important we do good as individuals" — the third-generation owner said. "That's what we're trying to do. This is just more about helping our fellow man. We try to help the community as much as we can."

jbrown@hometownlife.com

World events can't help but influence U.S. markets

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

It seems lately that things have been pretty good. Unemployment has stopped, spending has been on the rise and the market keeps moving forward. Then all of a sudden, we hear about a bailout of the Cyprus economy and once again fears about Europe start causing problems in our markets.

Many may be questioning why what happens in Cyprus affects U.S. markets. After all, Cyprus is a very small economy and the bailout was only \$12 billion. Don't get me wrong, \$12 billion is a lot of money, but not when you consider the bailouts of other countries and the bailouts here including that of the auto industry.

The question is why the proposed Cyprus bailout caused a problem. The answer is two-fold.

We no longer live in an American economy; we live in a world economy. What happens in other markets, other economies, affects the United States. Economies around the world are interconnected, so defaults in one part of the world can have a domino effect.

Closer to home, think about how the world economy affects Ford or GM or even a company like Domino's pizza that



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

has more international franchises than U.S. ones. That is why when problems develop in one economy, the consequences spread throughout the world. I also believe that the market's reaction to the Cyprus bailout has to do with the terms of the bailout.

Taxation uproar

One of the terms dealt with the taxation of accounts in Cyprus banks. The tax—as high as 10 percent—was to be levied on all bank accounts, no matter the size. The proposal caused an uproar in Cyprus and around the world, particularly in other European countries. If they can tax bank accounts in Cyprus, what was preventing them from taxing bank accounts in other European nations that may require bailouts? After all, one of the reasons for the bailout is to promote confidence in the financial system. If you start having special taxes on bank accounts, the opposite will happen. People won't have confidence in the banking system and will rush to banks to liqui-

date their accounts. To me, this was an obvious reaction and shouldn't have surprised anyone. However, the European regulators were taken aback by the reaction. The head scratcher to me is how they could be surprised at the outrage. However, I'm not sure if anyone believes that. The reaction of investors throughout the European union was they also doubted the proposal.

It would be nice to go back to the old days, when foreign markets had little if any effect on ours. That's a pipedream. The reality is we live in a world economy and everything is interrelated. What happens around the world has a direct impact on our markets and our economy. That is why for years I've been encouraging investors to diversify portfolios to make sure they include international investments, including a portion in emerging markets.

What happens in the far corners of the world has a ripple effect that affects all of us.

Good luck!

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

Gov. Nikki Haley to speak at Wayne 11th Republican Dinner

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will be the featured speaker April 25 at the annual Lincoln Reagan Dinner held by the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee.

The fund-raising event is



Haley

an opportunity for voters to network with elected officials, community activists and precinct delegates, as well as to hear first-hand the Republican message. The dinner will be held at Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft Road, in Livonia, and is open to the general public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a Private VIP Photo Reception with the governor; a social gathering time for general attendees is at 6 p.m., and the dinner program begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$700 for a table

of 10. (Deadline for tickets is April 19). Tickets for the VIP Photo Reception are \$150 per person. Inquiries can be handled by emailing chair@wayne11th.com and checking wayne11th.com

The goal of the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee is to deliver the Republican message through outreach and grassroots efforts. "We can't only rely on party loyalists for our support," said Paul Cusick, chairman of the Wayne 11th CDRC. "We need to bring our message to the average citizen and enlist their support for our efforts to bring common-sense leadership to this country. This dinner helps us raise the resources needed to get our message out to the general public, especially our younger voters."

One of the strongest fiscal conservatives in state government, Haley was first elected to represent the 87th District in Lex-

ington County in 2004, as a virtual unknown. In 2008, Rep. Haley was sent back to the State House with 83 percent of the vote—the highest percentage earned by any lawmaker facing a contested South Carolina election that year. She was elected as governor on Nov. 2, 2010.

Her time in government has been marked by conservative leadership and an unwavering commitment to the taxpayers' bottom line. She has fought wasteful spending for several years, pushed for smaller, more efficient government, and led the fight for accountability and transparency that, before her arrival, was sorely lacking in the Legislature.

The Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee covers the communities of Canton Township, Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Their focus is primarily on state and local election efforts.

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Tips for small businesses about using social media

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist



Tech Savvy
Jon Gunnells

competitor has a few more likes.

3. Start Small With Metrics – We are in an age of big data and social media

data is something even professionals can get lost in. When looking at YouTube insights, Facebook insights or measuring conversation volumes, pick a few key numbers to look at. My favorites are impressions, reach and engagement metrics such as comments, video views, or replies. After understanding these key metrics, expand using common sense. Do you need to understand day-to-day increases in video views? Probably not. But it might make sense to look at month-to-month increases in Facebook likes, or the best time to post content.

4. Have A Plan – This might be the most important tip for any small business on non-profit on the social web. If you don't have a set posting schedule or time to engage with your key demographics on message boards or blogs just stop. With social media you are either in or out – there is no halfway. A Twitter account or Facebook page with no new content is like a website with outdated content information.

5. Use Resources Wisely – There's a reason big companies don't have marketing managers and CEOs running their social pres-

ence: Social is time-consuming. Small companies may not have the luxury of dedicated social staff – and if that's the case, do your research on Google. Instead of spending a day's time to find the best time to post for your brand, look for research or white papers on Facebook's peak activity time, or key information on your industry.

6. Don't Overwhelm Fans – When considering what and when to post content remember not to overload fans with information they don't need. If you post too much, fans will hide your content making your fan count even less important. Additionally, you can look into Facebook's post level data (by clicking and exporting insights) to see if any specific content has driven fans to unlike or unsubscribe for your page.

7. Have Fun – Social media is a two-way street. Followers and potential followers want to have fun, not listen to constant sales pitches. Try applying the 80-20 rule when posting content. Eighty percent should be topical, conversational, helpful and of added value. The other 20 percent can be what I refer to as "shameless self promotion."

While these tips won't make your brand the next Red Bull or Taco Bell, they will make your social presence more effective and efficient.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? Email Jonathan.Gunnells@gmail.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Divas turned out in droves for the chamber's annual Diva Day promotion Friday. Chamber executive director Wes Graff called the event "a huge success" for local businesses.

Divas out in force for annual event

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Jaya Wilson of Canton did some serious shopping during Saturday's Diva Day in downtown Plymouth.

"It's nice," Wilson said, pausing at Basket Creations on Forest. "Everyone's been so friendly, and the good deals you get."

Wilson, who also liked the snacks, was shopping for herself, as well as for Easter baskets and birthdays. "Just great stuff," she said. "Even for your puppies. I have two grandpuppies, I should say."

The March 23 day-long event, offered by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, featured hot pink feather boas for the first 500 women. "I like to see all the boas," said Wilson, who got one. "It makes it fun."

Nearby at Gigi's Model on Ann Arbor Trail, owner Beverly Whitty was also pleased. "It's been great," Whitty said of Diva Day. "We had the Divas out as soon as we opened the door."

Chamber executive director Wes Graff was pleased with the turnout. "The day was a huge success for the local businesses," Graff said. "Attendance was much-improved this year."

The chamber event was later last year, and



Divas of all ages took advantage of the annual Diva Day event.

Whitty liked having it before Easter this year. "These are great," she said. "They always carry us through. The charms are awesome. Even though it's a little chilly, they (shoppers) still come out."

Her business has been there nine years. "They're in a buying mood," Whitty said of the Divas, who wanted spring color for their wardrobes. "They're ready to have spring hit."

Staffer Chanelle Boucher was busy Saturday at Creatopia on Ann Arbor Trail, where many customers were painting pottery and socializing. "It's been crazy," said Boucher, who's pursuing her master's degree through Bennington College in Vermont. "Feather boas are everywhere."

Creatopia had a 14-person birthday party Saturday, followed by a 12-

person birthday party that day. "We've been packed all day," Boucher said. "Everyone's having a really good time, especially because it's sunny out."

Canton resident Stella Delap owns Basket Creations and is a fan of Diva Day.

"It's been going really well," Delap said. "It's been wonderful to see all the ladies out and having fun. It's been a great turnout. People can take their time and get to all the stores."

Delap also found women in a shopping mood, including for themselves. "They really help business," she said of such events. "They're expecting to have a good time. It's just so nice to see."

Staffers were tired but happy at TranquilTea on Ann Arbor Trail. "We are pooped," said owner Colleen Cannon, a Livonia resident. "At least I'm pooped. Feathers are everywhere."

Chocolate Charmer was a big seller on Diva Day, featuring crushed malted milk balls and tea. "The staff also had 'Shades of Grey,' a play on the books featuring more exotic Earl Grey blends which sold well, too."

"We're doing fabulous," Cannon said between customers. "It's a really good event."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

New teammate

Bank of Ann Arbor officials announced Robert Rose has joined its team as Vice President and Senior Loan Officer, serving existing and new business clients out of its Plymouth office.

Rose has more than 28 years of banking experience in providing needs-based business banking solutions to businesses and their owners in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties. He was most recently with Citizen's Bank.

"(Rose's) focus on customer service and his desire to provide a closer connection for the client with the decision maker in a highly successful and growth oriented community bank format has brought him to Bank of Ann Arbor," said Tim Marshall, President & CEO, Bank of Ann Arbor. "We are absolutely delighted he's joined the high-performing banking team at our Plymouth office."

Rose holds a bachelor's degree from Albion College. He serves the community through his involvement with the Triumph Home Health Care, Automation Alley, Livonia Chamber, United Way and CYO Coach. Rose and his family live in the Plymouth community.

Cheerleading champs

Rage, the junior level 4 team from Plymouth-based Premier Athletics Michigan Extreme traveled recently to the CCA Midwest National Championships in Columbus, Ohio, and came home with the best trophies.

Rage finished first in its division and won named the Level 4 grand champion. The team finished in the top 10 of 182 competing teams.

Athletes competing for coaches Rachelle Frusti and Kevin Enna included Sarah Bowler, Bethany Caswell, Maddie DeGroot, Caitlin Farrant, Olivia Ferrantino, Gabrielle Georghson, Olivia Georghson, Julia Marshall, Megan Mattalot, Anna Molnar, Christina Molnar, Payton Olson, Amanda Owsley, Shayla Pate, Morgan Rosen, Mourgain Shepard, Alexis Smith, Dakota Steyer, Cassidy Teer, Sam Tear and Claire Zgoda.

Marywood seeks public input

Marywood Nursing Care Center in Livonia has once again been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of Michigan's best nursing homes for 2013. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to rate Marywood a 5-Star facility.

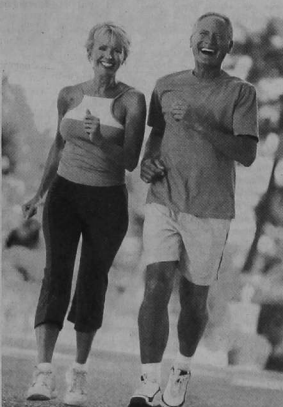
In the rapidly changing landscape of health care today, Marywood is now examining how it can best respond in order to continue offering 5-Star quality care. Guided by its board of directors an effort is under way to solicit ideas, concerns and opinions from various Marywood stakeholders, including the local Livonia community and others living in Southeast Michigan. The input will assist the board in identifying strategic pathways for the next several years.

A brief on-line survey can easily be found on Marywood's Nursing Care Center website: www.marywoodnursingcarecenter.org, just look for the Survey Monkey link.

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April 23, 2013
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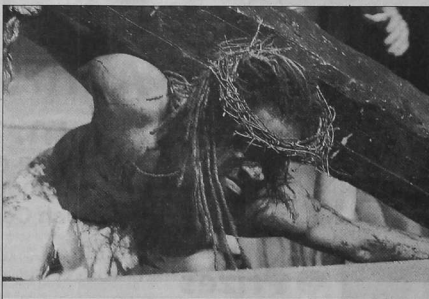
OUR VIEWS

Rich traditions mark Easter and Passover

The rich traditions of faith and family come together this week with special significance as Christians and Jews around the world celebrate Easter and Passover. They are celebrations filled with the foundation stories that are recounted ritually each year.

For Christians, Easter is about the redemption of people through the sacrifice of Christ and the eternal life given to those who believe in him. Holy Week retells and commemorates Christ's last days on Earth and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Jews, Passover recounts the remembrance of deliverance and redemption from 400 years of slavery in Egypt and the exodus to the Promised Land. It lasts for eight days and commemorates the sparing of Hebrew families when God punished Egypt by killing the firstborn in every family.



Easter is a celebration of resurrection and redemption. Passover celebrates deliverance and liberation. The stories are thousands of years old, but their messages transcend time. Even today people from Libya, Afghanistan and Somalia seek

to be saved and to be delivered from oppression.

What would we say or what would do if these two historic events took place today? What would we post on Facebook about them?

Would we like, would we comment, would we share? What would we tweet? Who would get our Instagram?

In this day of being connected 24/7, it is not technology but the words of people we don't know, from a different time and a different place who continue to offer us hope of freedom, renewal, redemption and resurrection.

It is our faith that guides us, and it is that faith that is being renewed this week.

Whether you worship Easter Sunday at a church or are concluding Passover with your family at home, know that those around you are also sharing in the hope and the renewal that faith offers.

GUEST COLUMN

Arts play key role in state's economic future

By Jennifer Goulet
Guest Columnist

Collaborate. Create. Connect. These themes set the stage at the Governor's Economic Summit in mid-March that strategically engaged business, education and emerging leaders to define approaches aligning Michigan's rich talent supply with the workforce needs of Michigan's employers. As Michigan continues on a strategic pathway of reinvention, we have important decisions to make.

How can we maximize our state's assets in innovation and creativity to equip emerging talent to possess the skills needed by employers today and into the future? What must we do to ensure talent is attracted to live and work in Michigan communities, finding both meaningful career opportunities and a vibrant quality of life?

Studies abound documenting the critical role the arts play in educating our children: not only through arts programs like music, theater or dance but also by incorporating the arts throughout academic curriculum.

With inclusion of the arts in education, students gain valuable skills in creative and innovative problem-solving; critical thinking and reasoning; teamwork; and communication. Results for increased academic achievement overall, and especially in subjects like science, math, engineering and technology, a mastery of which is in high demand, have been a proven benefit of integrated arts.

Many of these skills were directly detailed as "projected demand" skills by 2018 at the Governor's Economic Summit. The arts prepare our students to gain these top-ranked skills employers need and ensure a talented workforce for our future. We must engage all of our assets to prepare our students.

And yet, there's much work ahead to guarantee Michigan students have access to the arts in their schools and educational experience. The Michigan Arts Education Census, released in September 2012 by ArtServe Michigan and Michigan Youth Arts, confirmed the grim reality that at least 108,000 K thru 12 students in Michigan schools have no access to the arts. None.

This is in sobering contrast to the notion of equipping our future talent to meet the needs of Michigan's employers for continued economic growth statewide. We must bring this number to "zero" by embracing strategic and collective efforts across public, private and nonprofit sectors to secure a future of equitable access to the arts and creativity for all Michigan students.

We also can't lose sight of the importance placemaking plays in attracting and retaining talent in Michigan communities. The Summit referenced a study from the Michigan Colleges Foundation indicating placemaking as an important factor in keeping college graduates in Michigan, with 42 percent of graduates citing vibrant communities as a necessity for post-graduate life. The arts contribute significantly to generating that community vibe where the spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship is valued and nurtured and where creative minds seek to locate and be inspired by their peers.

While the arts are so often perceived as "great to have" but not essential, especially in tight economic times, we must embrace its critical role in equipping tomorrow's talented workforce, creating job and economic opportunities and cultivating a vibrant sense of place in our communities. We urge support of the Governor's recommended \$1 million increase in the state's investment in its arts and cultural assets for FY 2014 - an important step in rebuilding funding to levels more closely aligned with the creative sector's significant return on investment for Michigan. The creative industries must be engaged in the "heavy-lifting" of Michigan's economic development strategies, or we miss the strategic advantage that could lie ahead.

Jennifer Goulet is the president and CEO of ArtServe Michigan. She can be reached at jennifer@artserveimichigan.org.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Which team is more likely to reach the Final Four in the NCAA men's basketball tournament — the University of Michigan or Michigan State?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I'm going with Michigan State. I just like Michigan State."

Taylor Griffin
Westland



"Michigan State. They're a lot more consistent and they've got great coaching. But, I'm a Buckeye (for Ohio State)."

David Coleman
Canton



"Michigan State."

Mahadevan Sangunar
Canton



"Neither one. They will both probably lose their next game, but I was happy they both made it to the Sweet 16."

Terry Higgins
Canton



Jennifer Goulet

LETTERS

Support school bond

May 7 is an important date for all residents of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. On that day, citizens from throughout the district will be voting on a \$114 million bond proposal that is essential to the continued excellence of our schools and our communities.

The best feature of this bond is that it will provide necessary improvements and upgrades for our children while leaving school tax rates unchanged. We urge all of our neighbors to become informed about this important measure:

- Necessary infrastructure and facility improvements throughout the district, benefiting every school and every child without diverting vital resources from the classroom.
- Enhanced security to protect our most precious asset, our children.
- Technology upgrades essential to keeping our children competitive in the demanding 21st century job market.
- State-of-the-art STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Labs at all middle schools.
- New buses to ensure our students arrive at school safely and ready to learn.
- A new, modern middle school in Canton that more efficiently and effectively serves the district's population.
- Equitable educational opportunities and learning environments for all of our students, a guiding principle of the Plymouth-Canton community.

It is crucial concerned community members realize that without the bond, most of these enhancements will have to be addressed regardless in order to keep PCS competitive with surrounding districts. Far from being a wish list, the items in the

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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bond are imminent needs. Without the bond, the only other option to meet these vital needs is to reduce resources flowing to classrooms.

All funds from the bond will work locally, maintaining PCS as a top-ranked, destination district, one that will increase property values by continuing to attract quality teachers, administrators and residents to the Plymouth-Canton Community. Our district has traditionally run very lean, using proceeds from bonds to fund major capital investments. Because of the care they have shown over many years with our tax dollars we now have this exceptional opportunity.

We urge all citizens of the district to become informed voters. If you have questions about the bond, PCS has provided detailed information at the following: pcs.k12.mi.us/2013bond

Anyone interested in helping to pass the bond can e-mail voteyespcs@gmail.com. You can also join us on Facebook.

Denise Zander and Sommer Foster
co-chairs, Vote Yes for PCS
Citizen Committee

BLOCK engages youth

I attended the meeting for the youth BLOCK program on Thursday, March 14. The meeting took place at the BLOCK center itself and it was attended by many parents who voiced their concern over losing this valuable program.

This program serves youth from 11-17 years of age. It keeps them engaged and supervised while many of their parents work. Many of the families struggle with finding supervision while they work, and the program helps keep their kids safe, giving them peace of mind. I was dismayed to see that there was not any township elected officials, nor school board members, there. This was a well-publicized meeting and the parents wanted to be heard.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, studies have shown that the after-school hours can be dangerous for children. Statistics show that 29 percent of all juvenile offenses occur on school days between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and that the number of violent crimes committed, doubles in the hour immediately after school is let out.

After-school programs are an opportunity to further engage students in academic, social and physical activities.

The township needs to keep this program and the school district should also participate in funding.

I encourage parents to call the Canton township staff and elected officials many times, until another facility is announced for a new location. The safety of these children not only affects themselves and their families, but also the community.

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak
Canton

Bentivolio: Government spending out of control

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer



Congressman Kerry Bentivolio speaks with Livonia architect Ben Tisio.

The numbers are staggering. The United States faces a national debt of \$17 trillion. Federal spending for 2013 is estimated at \$3.8 trillion. The sequester budget alone was estimated at \$85 billion.

On Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio highlighted his push to cut government spending and gave a legislative update to a breakfast audience consisting of members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce at Schoolcraft College.

Bentivolio believes congressional spending is out of control. "If we were to pay \$1 trillion off, we have to cut \$500 million each week for four years," Bentivolio said. That amount — 2½ percent — is all that needs to be cut to reach the \$1 trillion, Bentivolio said. "Do you think you could cut 2½ percent from your budget? Sure. Why can't the government?"

Bentivolio said opponents of the cuts say that travelers will wait in longer lines because of fewer TSA agents or police and fire furloughs will

impact public safety, but Bentivolio believes the number of federal employees can be cut in other areas. "What about the bureaucrats in between?" he asked. "It's amazing how much we are wasting on government programs."

Obamacare will drive up costs

The Affordable Health Care Act will add up to three costs and regulations, he said. As an example of gov-

ernment regulation, Bentivolio cited his reindeer ranch. Bentivolio, who used the reindeer to participate in parades over the past 20 years, had the area fenced, but was required by the state to send in an inspection report and pay \$400 each year.

Bentivolio said he inspected his fence "every day" to make sure his investment — his reindeer — didn't run away. "And they send a DNR agent to my house," Bentivolio said. "Unbelievable." Bentivolio introduced

his first bill in February, which offers small business owners a six-month grace period to correct a violation of federal regulations without penalty, as long as the violation "doesn't threaten or jeopardize human life."

On health care, Bentivolio said even Congress doesn't know what the Affordable Health Care Act will cost. "We know it will raise taxes, and bankrupt the country," Bentivolio said. "Even if taxes go up, we won't be able to pay for it in six years."

Bentivolio compared government health care programs to his days serving in the military when he needed a prescription. It took two days from the pharmacy on the base, when he could have received the prescription within two hours at a local retail store, he said.

One of the attendees asked Bentivolio what he was doing to get his message on government spending to the public. Bentivolio said he created a video on his website to discuss the sequester. "Let's put it in perspective so that everyone can understand it," Bentivolio said.

Bentivolio also has opened an office on Commerce Township near M-5 and Maple Road.

Immigration issue

On immigration, Bentivolio said he expected to tour the Arizona and New Mexico borders in early April to learn more about the immigration issue. Some immigrants cross the border illegally to enjoy the same economic freedoms as Americans, Bentivolio said. "They are still breaking the law."

Some who cross the border illegally try to get benefits, namely Social Security, and even unemployment, Bentivolio said. Government agencies are rated on the number of "customers" they obtain for these benefits,

he said. On the other hand, workers are needed for jobs in this country, he added. Produce is rotting in the fields of Alabama, New Mexico and Arizona because no workers are available to pick them, Bentivolio said. "We are going to need those workers," Bentivolio said. "My job is to look at the pros and cons."

Attendees at the breakfast agreed with Bentivolio on some of the issues. Pamela Armon, community director of Oakmont in Livonia, attended the breakfast with another Oakmont employee. "When you live here in Livonia, it's important to know what is going on in Washington," Armon said. On the issues, Armon believed government can't always take care of everyone. "We have a hard time taking care of our own, let alone additional people from another country," she said.

Tom Karabatakis, owner of Promotional Concepts, thought Bentivolio was honest and liked his discussion about regulations. But Karabatakis was also frustrated. "You hear problems but not solutions," Karabatakis said. "You need some action to find some solutions. It's frustrating. Everyone is always talking about the problems. You need someone to sit down and decide to run with it."

Council on Aging, Hospice present series

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging and Hospice of Michigan present a series focused on caregivers and those who need hospice services.

• "Caring for the Caregiver," Thursday, April 4, noon (fitness room) — This talk will walk caregivers through the caregiver kit Hospice of Michigan has developed.

oped. The kit offers caregivers practical suggestions, tools and resources to assist them with caregiving.

• "Have You Had The Talk?" Thursday, April 25, noon (fitness room) — This talk will walk caregivers through the "Have You Had The Talk" kit Hospice of Michigan has developed. The kit offers worksheets, tools and

resources to assist clients should they ever need to rely on someone else for medical care and decision making. Officials said the best time to plan and prepare is "when there is no emergency, no crisis, no scrambling."


• "Except for Six," Thursday, May 2, 12:30 p.m. (banquet center) — The one-hour Hospice of Michigan documenta-

ry film "Except for Six" takes a subject Hospice officials said "most of us would rather ignore and humanizes it. It is a reflection on the time of a person's life that everyone must eventually deal with — the end of life."

The Plymouth Cultural Center is located at 525 Farmer in Plymouth. To RSVP, call (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

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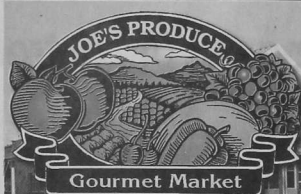
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Try Our Pies: Coconut Cream, Lemon Meringue & Key Lime	\$12.99 & up Great for Easter
We Now Have Oberon Beer	\$8.99 6 PR. + DEP. Save \$1.00
Part of bread	

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COME SEE WHAT'S BLOOMING IN JOE'S FLORAL DEPARTMENT	
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SECTION B • (CP)
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SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR
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GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW - PT. 2

Duhl no stranger to Salem soccer

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Scott Duhl knows all about the Salem way, from a first-team all-state player in the 1990s and then in recent years as an assistant coach to Ed McCarthy.

Duhl also has several years under his belt as a coach within the Salem girls soccer program, most recently in 2010.

That familiarity will help Duhl as he succeeds Joe Nora at the helm of the Salem varsity girls soccer team this season, which began Wednesday night against Livonia Churchill. "Taking over for Joe Nora will be very difficult," emphasized Duhl, in a recent e-mail to the *Observer*. "Joe had over 100 career wins and had a lot

of soccer experience both playing and coaching. Joe was also a coach of mine as a youth player growing up in Plymouth-Canton.

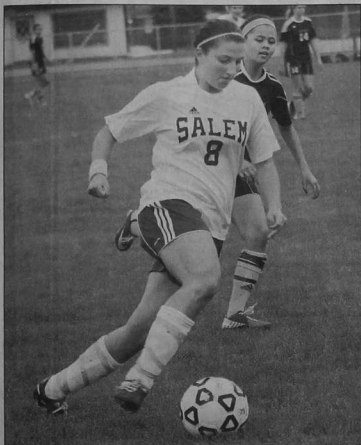
"So, being that I coached along side of him and had him as a coach, I have high regard for him and think he did a great job in his tenure." Duhl, an assistant for McCarthy since 2004, also has plenty of sideline experience with elite club programs. On his resume are stints with the Michigan Wolves (2007 to present), U16 CSA Wolves Academy (2010 to present) and Michigan Bucks semiprofessional men's team (2011, 2012).

Another aspect of Nora's coaching philosophy that Duhl brings is his penchant for getting the most out of what he has on the roster.



Duhl

Please see SOCCER, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the top returnees for Salem's varsity girls soccer team is junior defender Olivia Kaye (No. 8), shown during a 2012 game.

Canton youth grid camps

Several Canton Chiefs football camps are just around the corner.

• From June 10-13 and July 15-18 (5-7:30 p.m. for each Monday-through-Thursday session) is the Canton Football Skills Camp for kids entering grades seven-nine in the fall. Call Canton freshman head coach Rich Mui at (248) 229-2738 for more information.

• The Canton Football Wing T Camp is slated to take place 2-5 p.m. Monday, June 17, and 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, through Thursday, June 20. It is for players entering grades 10-12. Call Canton varsity head coach Tim Baechler at (734) 455-7691 for more information.

• From Monday, June 24, through Thursday, June 27, (from 9 a.m. to noon each day) will be the Canton Football Fundamental Camp, for youngsters entering grades three-six in the fall. For more information, contact Enza Lanava at (313) 300-1173.

All of the sessions will take place at the Canton High School varsity football field.

Chiefs score big to help out Kelly's Kidz

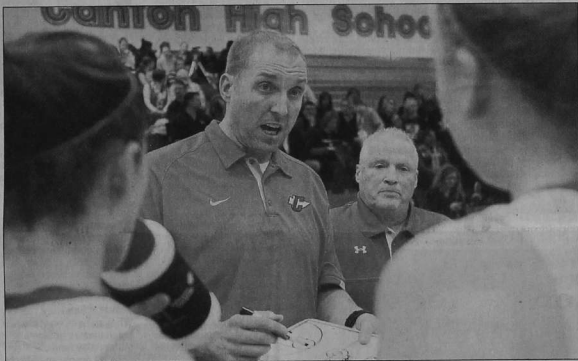
'The money we donated is going to do something fantastic for the community. And that is more important than the players receiving a gift at the banquet.'

PAIGE ARESCO,
Canton player

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Stuffing the ball through baskets has nothing over stuffing envelopes to help Kelly's Kidz. Just ask the Canton varsity girls basketball team, which at Sunday's team banquet donated a check for an undisclosed amount to the local charity — money that will enable as many as eight children with special needs to play baseball in the Miracle League later this year.

"The money we donated is going to do something fantastic for the community," junior forward Paige Aresco emphasized. "And that is more important than the play-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Here, Canton varsity girls basketball players listen to instruction from their coaches, Brian Samulski and Bob Blohm during a 2012-13 game. The coaches also want their players to be solid citizens off the court, as they demonstrated with a recent donation to Kelly's Kidz.

ers receiving a gift at the banquet."

Aresco and others on the Chiefs already are active in community service, many through the National Honor Society.

In November, noted Aresco, the varsity team went to the house of Kelly's Kidz co-founder Kelly Hermann (sister-in-law of Canton girls basketball coach Brian Samulski) to stuff envelopes for their fundraising efforts. The players have done so for the past several years.

This year, it was decided time and money would

be the way to go. "Kelly's Kidz is such a fantastic organization," Aresco said. "And since we are familiar with them, we thought they would be a perfect charity to donate to."

The team collected money through various

fundraising endeavors as well as through the sale of concessions at home games. Funds were earmarked for Kelly's Kidz instead of for player gifts such as coffee mugs or computer mouse pads.

Please see DONATION, B4

League seeks football alums

Full-contact alumni football games are on the way to the Plymouth-Canton area, and Alumni Football USA is or is looking for past high school players to join the fledgling circuit.

The organization (located at the Alumni-FootballUSA.com Web site) is organizing a full-contact football game "representing your old school against a top rival."

According to a press release from media director Christie Fauburn of Alumni Football USA, "These are complete high school rules games. We organize the event and supply all equipment. You supply the greatest hits."

Go to the website listed above or call (866) U-Get-Hit for more information. Only the first 40 players per roster will get to play.

GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW - PT. 1

Tennis coaches see potential

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's and Canton's varsity girls tennis teams will have a different look in 2013, but coaches remain optimistic for the coming season.

According to Salem coach Lin Ware, the influx of four freshmen to the roster should spark the Rocks — who already feature fourth-year varsity player Ashley Walker at No. 1 singles.

"There's no doubt that Walker is the key player. The senior is described by Ware as "a big hitter with an all-around game" who is slated to play women's tennis at Wayne State University.

"One of the freshmen we picked up is Chelsea Yu who will move high into the singles lineup," Ware noted. "Chelsea is a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ashley Walker, shown in this file photo, is beginning her fourth season with Salem's varsity girls tennis team. She is slated to play women's tennis at Wayne State University.

Please see TENNIS, B3

Canton girls lacrosse clinics

The sport of girls lacrosse is still growing, and youngsters interested in learning to play the sport have a great opportunity.

Canton Chiefs girls lacrosse team is hosting lacrosse clinics for elementary and middle school kids on Saturday, April 20.

From 10 a.m. to noon will be the clinic for elementary school students; the middle school clinic will be from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$35, with no experience required.

To register, go through Plymouth-Canton Community Education at (734) 416-2937 or go to communityeducation.pccs.k12.mi.us for more information.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Among the best

During the 2012-13 varsity girls bowling season, Plymouth's Emily Fraser (left) is congratulated by teammate Caitlyn Webb after throwing a strike. Both were selected to the All-Observer team, which is profiled on B3.

Blazers thaw out, best Churchill

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

At least the sun was out Friday afternoon despite the lingering winter-like weather conditions and temperatures still hovering below 40.

Livonia Ladywood and host Livonia Churchill, however, were able to launch their 2013 girls soccer season on time.

And it was Ladywood that was basking in the sun following a 2-1 victory over the Chargers as Junior Jenna Urso tallied the game-winning goal with only 13:54 remaining off an assist from fellow junior Abigail Pelon.

"This is the second time we've been outside, maybe the third," Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker said. "We've been inside the whole week, not outside one time. I think they've been in the same boat. This weather has been unbelievable."

The Blazers, coming off a 21-3-2 season, struck first for a 1-0 advantage on senior Domenique Sarnecky's goal, set up by senior defender Liz Danger with just 1:14 to play in the opening half.

"We have a different look to us, obviously," said Shingledecker, who lost leading scorer Kelly Capoccia (24 goals) and top playmaker Paige Brennan (27 assists) to graduation. "When you take Paige and Kelly out of the equation, it's a different team. We have lots of good players."

How they mix together ... we'll wait and see."

The Blazers were missing starting goalkeeper Sara Even and veteran forward DeYana Walker, both of whom were out with injuries.

"The possession side of things was spot on," Shingledecker said.

"Then it's a matter of putting the final touches on things ... you've got to score when you possess the ball like we did. We're going to have to get goals from an abundance of people. It's not going to be one 'Dom' can do it. And when DeYana is here, she'll do it. And Jenna showed she can do it. We have lots of good players and we just have to take care of business. And they will."

Keeping it close

Churchill was forced to defend its end for most of first half, but the Chargers kept it a one-goal game thanks to the goalkeeping of senior Alexis Tzafaroglou.

"She (Tzafaroglou) made all the right decisions today," Churchill first-year coach Reid Friedrichs said. "She made a lot of great saves by being in the right spot. She made a great save right there at the end by coming out. It was a little unlucky on their game-winner because she made another great decision. If my goalie can make the decisions Alexis makes — putting herself in the right spots all the time — then we're going to be a lot better for it."

Churchill made a game of it with 17:22 left in the match on junior Kelsey Parrinello's goal from junior Kacie Murray. But Urso's goal just 3:38 later proved to be the difference.

Whitney Bauriedl, filling in for Even in goal, received solid play from her defense, led by left back Marissa Ozog, a junior.

"I thought Marissa was excellent," Shingledecker said. "She's always a big part of our attack coming out of the back line and I thought she was really, really good today."

"And (junior) Emily

Huddleston is as a good midfielder as anybody in the state. I like our team. We've just got to take care of business and score goals."

Meanwhile, despite very limited practice time outdoors, Friedrichs may have found a starter in sophomore Sedija Nedam.

"I needed a fast defender," the Churchill coach said, "someone who could start and handle the pressure of a game. ... I was looking for one for days and Sedija plays outside the mid and I put her in the center back. When she came out, they (Ladywood) scored and when she came back in they didn't score. She was our best player on the field for us in the first half. She did a great, great job for being in a new position. She's a sophomore and was thrown in the middle because she was needed there and she responded really well. She did great."

Some other Chargers also put in a good work rate as well.

"Kelsey Parrinello played a very good game," Friedrichs said. "Lauren Wynns, the freshman, played well up top, as well as Karly Munroe in the midfield. Rachel Tomassi played well in the back. We did a pretty good job."

Despite the loss, Friedrichs was upbeat about his team's play heading in to two tough road matches this week against Northville (Monday) and Salem (Wednesday).

"For where we've been, we've come a long way," said the Churchill coach, who inherited a 4-10-5 squad from a year ago. "I enjoyed our effort and I was very pleased."

emons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851

OHL PLAYOFFS



PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

Mitchell Heard (No. 15) of the Plymouth Whalers, shown from earlier this season, is one of many players making offensive contributions in the team's first-round OHL series against Sarnia.

Whalers one win from sweep

The Plymouth Whalers are within reach of a sweep of their first-round OHL Western Conference playoff series against Sarnia, following Monday's 5-2 victory in Game 3.

Plymouth jumped out to a 2-0 lead at the RBC Centre in Sarnia before the contest was four minutes old with Richard Rake-ll and Ryan Hartman finding the range against Sting goalie JP Anderson.

After Sarnia got on the board at 5:57, when Nickolas Latta scored an unassisted goal against Plymouth netminder Alex Nedeljkovic, the Whalers regained a two-goal edge before the period ended.

Making it 3-1 at 10:49 of the first was Stefan Noesen, on a play set up by Cody Payne and Vince Trocheck (three assists).

Hartman's second of the game, from Trocheck and Tom Wilson, opened up a 4-1 lead when 13:05 play by Cody Payne and Vince Trocheck (three assists).

Both teams scored in the third, with Rake-ll garnering his second marker of the contest at 16:49. Assisting were Noesen and Sebastian Utriva.

Nedeljkovic won for the third straight game against Sarnia, making 19 saves. Anderson stopped 39 of 44 shots directed his way.

The Whalers will have a chance to sweep the series 7 p.m. Wednesday in Sar-



Ryan Hartman, shown from earlier in Game 3 Monday night against Sarnia.

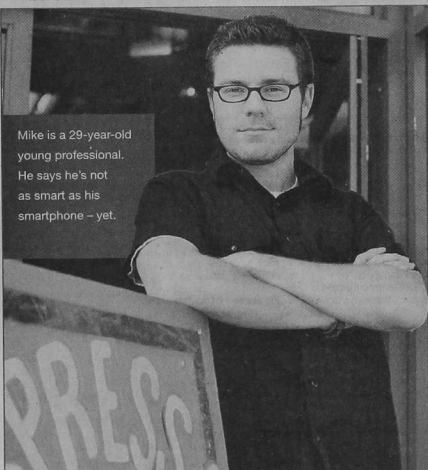
nia. But if the Sting stave off elimination, the teams will reconvene 7 p.m. Friday at Compuware Arena for Game 5.

Plymouth opened the best-of-7 series with Friday's 11-2 rout at Compuware. On Saturday, the Whalers hung on for a 3-2 home victory before just under 3,000 fans.

Zach Lorentz and Mitchell Heard each had a goal and an assist with Wilson scoring the other goal for

Plymouth. The contest was 1-1 after 20 minutes before Lorentz and Wilson each scored in the second stanza to make it a 3-1 contest entering the third. A power-play goal by Sarnia's Reid Bouch-er closed the gap to a goal and Sarnia kept pressing, outshooting the Whalers 13-7 in the frame.

Nedeljkovic held the fort, however, and Sarnia could not send the game to overtime.



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SOCCER

Continued from page B1

High hopes

He doesn't expect that to change this spring, as the Rocks look to make some noise in the KLAACentral Division despite being relatively young.

"I have high expectations for the group," Duhl said. "We're going to be a team that at every moment of the game has 11 very capable young women making good choices."

"We might not have a dream team player on the roster, but we have a lot of very good players that want to win and compete at the highest level."

Leading the way on the field will be senior forwards Emily Barfuss and Emma Baruffi, who are both "capable of scoring goals but are very much different how they go about the game. Emi-

ly's energy and ability to beat people off the dribble will cause opponents fits while Emma is a play-maker and more of a target player."

Forward/midfielders Nancy Krutty and Ali Eggenberger, also seniors, are expected to be catalysts as well.

"Both will play critical roles for us if we are going to have any success," Duhl noted.

Other returnees include juniors Olivia Kaye, Taylor Jaaska and Kati Binsfield.

Kaye is Salem's best defender who is an excellent passer and student of the game while Jaaska is poised under pressure while Binsfield is relentless on the pitch.

"All three will play critical roles in the back-line, defending and helping build the game as we come forward," he said.

Perhaps the team's most talented player is sophomore Kylie Knight, who

can play in the back or at

midfield. Junior Morgan Sieritel is a solid passer and striker "who we will rely on to cover lots of ground and to play a ton of minutes," Duhl said.

Freshmen with a good chance to make an impact are defender Leah Mossi and midfielder Caroline Simko.

He described Mossi as "fast, composed and a terrific passer" and Simko as a player with the ability "to score from distance as well as make the right pass in the final moment."

Others who Duhl listed as players with potential to help the cause include senior defender/midfielders Sarah Martin and Emily Kummer, juniors Madie Hawks, Beth Miller, Alex Norman (goalie) Aly Mann and sophomores Hayley Rodgers and Kaitlyn Pelech.

tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Football clinic
The Livonia Stevenson Youth Football Clinic for students currently in grades 2-6 will be from Saturday, May 18 at the high school turf field. The camp is free. Check-in starts at 9 a.m. at the school's north cafeteria. Clinic T-shirts are available for \$8 (must be received by May 16.

For more information, e-mail Stevenson variety football coach Matt Fieldner at mfieldner@livonia-publicschools.org.

Gymnastics camp
The 2013 Livonia Blue summer gymnastics camp will offer three sessions (four days each) for ages 11-and-up from 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 17-

20, July 15-18 and Aug. 19-22 at the Churchill High School gymnastics room.

The cost is \$70 (one week), \$130 (two weeks) or \$180 (three weeks). The registration deadline is Friday, June 7.

For more information, e-mail Livonia Blue coach Lisa Bromfield at MissLisa621@yahoo.com.

Girls bowlers go target in the north

FIRST TEAM
Caitlyn Webb, Jr., Plymouth: A second individual regional championship in two years provides evidence that Webb is one of the elite girls bowlers in Observersland. Webb tallied a 1,194 total—including a 276 game to win the Division 1 individual regional at Super Bowl in Canton, thus qualifying for the D1 individual state finals for the third year in a row.

In Muskegon, Webb's total of 1,175 for three games in the qualifying block enabled her to finish fourth and make it to the Round of 16. There, she came up short 391-378 to Heather Baur of Davison. She also was named to the SHLAA team.

And the best Webb has to offer could be in her senior season, if her career trajectory of improving each year is any indication. "I am looking forward to next season and can't wait to see what she will accomplish," coach Tammy Thornton said. "She is an extremely talented bowler. As a coach it is very rewarding when your bowler does well. I am so proud of her."

Rae'ven Turner, Sr., North Farmington: In her third varsity season, Turner averaged 197.6 in 70 match games with 64 games over 165. She started the season by winning the OAA singles championship. In match play, she defeated all 10 girls opponents with a record of 233, 257 and 236 without a single open frame.

Turner was the medalist at the Farmington Eastern tournament with a 625 series. She was third overall and made the Ladywood Holiday all-tournament team. Caitlyn averaged 195.5 in 13 league games, was 12th in the Oakland County tourney and sixth at the Mercy Invite. Another notable score was a 269 she bowled in a final match with Royal Oak. Turner also bowled four of the team's top-10, all-time best games and six of the top-10, all-time best games.

"Rae'ven has just completed her third season as our anchor bowler and her first season as captain," coach Mitch Horner said. "We are so fortunate to have her returning for one more year. She is a tireless worker and has watched her average climb from 175 to 197. This season marked her second trip to the state finals. With her willingness to work and her dedication to the team, she is poised to have an outstanding senior season."

Kristin Larkins, Sr., Salem: The Rocks' team captain capped off an outstanding four-year varsity career, averaging 133 in the KLA (good for all-conference) and rolling a high grade of 267.

At the D1 regionals, Larkins finished fifth with a total score of 1,080 to qualify for the state finals a third consecutive year.

At the Round of 16 at the D1 individual finals in Muskegon, where she lost 399-371 to eventual state champion Barbara Larkin of Grand Lodge.

Larkins placed fifth in the qualifying block, rolling a 244 game along the way. "I was one of our anchors and I handled this tough position with such ease," coach Kathie Hahn said. "She carried herself with such grace and professionalism on the lanes and off. We wish her only the best in her future."

Maria Walawender, Sr., Mercy: Walawender led in the starting lineup for four years and was the Mercy team captain the past two seasons. She averaged 182 in the Catholic League and made the all-Catholic team for the third year in a row. Walawender won the Oakland County championship with an outstanding 6-0 series that included games of 202, 247 and 224.

In the biggest events of the year—Oakland County, Catholic League, regional and state tournaments, Walawender averaged 189. At the regional, she packed four strikes in a row in the last six games, moving up from fifth to 10th place and qualify for the state finals.

"Coaches Mike and Vicki Kowalski are very proud of Maria's accomplishments and I thank her for being an outstanding anchor bowler in leading Mercy to a 10-0 record in the Oakland County tournament," Kowalski said.

Olivia Cabildo, Soph., Westland Glenn: The sophomore posted a 181 average en route to all-KLAAs honors and a third-place finish at the regional.



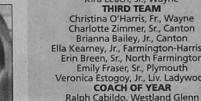
Caitlyn Webb
Plymouth



Rae'ven Turner
N. Farmington



Kristin Larkins
Salem



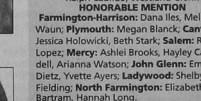
Maria Walawender
Mercy



Olivia Cabildo
John Glenn



Caylin Doran
Farmington-Harr.



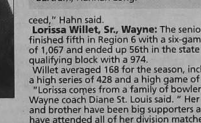
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John Glenn



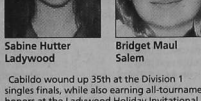
Sabine Hutter
Ladywood



Bridget Maul
Salem



Lorissa Willet
Wayne



Caylin Doran
Farmington-Harr.



Kira Leach
Wayne

Cabildo wound up 35th at the Division 1 singles finals, while also earning all-tournament honors at the Ladywood Holiday Invitational. She also posted the high game and second high series at the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Tournament.

"Olivia came back this year with a lot of experience," Glenn coach Ralph Cabildo said. "She is mentally tough when it comes down to pressure moments and knows how to handle those moments. Her biggest strength is being a team player and trying to pick up the team when things are not going well."

Caylin Doran, Jr., Farmington-Harrison: Doran, who made the all-area second team last year, had the Oakland Activities Association's highest average (199) during the past season and is a two-time, All-OAA selection. A three-year varsity letter winner, Doran improved her season average by six pins to 193. She also bowled 21 games of 200 or better with a high game of 264 and best series of 477. Doran was voted the team MVP by her teammates and coaches for the second year in a row.

"At her current pace, Caylin will end up being the most decorated girl bowler in Farmington-Harrison program history," coach Dennis Herman said. "She has bowled anchor for us the last two seasons, and she has clinched many matches with her heroics in the 10th frame. We are definitely excited to have Caylin back to lead our girls program next season as well."

SECOND TEAM
Julia Huren, Sr., Westland Glenn: The freshman posted a team-best 150 average while earning all-KLAAs honors. Huren posted both high series and high games in the last two seasons, and she clinched many matches with her heroics in the 10th frame. We are definitely excited to have Caylin back to lead our girls program next season as well.

Olivia Cabildo, Soph., Westland Glenn: The sophomore posted a 181 average en route to all-KLAAs honors and a third-place finish at the regional.

GIRLS LACROSSE
 followed up with Tuesdays 22-9 romp over Dexter.

Against the Dreadnaughts, senior captain Hattie Swanson scored seven goals while freshman Natalie Nowicki scored six and Ali Holmquist chipped in with five.

Making nine stops for the vic-

tory was goalie Megan Wieloch. "We were really able to get offense going early," Plymouth head coach Bob Hill said. "We won the majority of the draws and that always leads to scoring chances, which we were able to capitalize on."

In the win over North-Harrison, the big gun was Swanson with five markers (she already

has 12 in two games) with

'cats rev it up to start season

The Plymouth Wildcats' varsity girls lacrosse team didn't need long to kick things into high gear this season.

After two games, both victories, Plymouth enjoyed a 29-12 edge in scoring over opponent Dexter and North Farmington-Harrison.

On Monday, the Wildcats posted a 7-3 win over the Hawks and

Sign up for 'Cats softball clinic
 Hurry up if you are a softball player interested in getting up to speed for the 2013 season.

The Plymouth Wildcats Softball Clinic will take place Saturday, April 13, in the Plymouth High School gymnasium, 8400 N. Beck Road in Canton.

For just \$45 per session, campers receive lunch, a T-shirt and FAST instruction for Fundamentals, Agility, Speed and Technique.

There will be intermediate and advanced sessions. The registration deadline is Friday, March 29. Make checks payable to Plymouth Wildcat Softball and mail to Cindy Senkbeil, 7506 Andover Drive, Canton MI 48187.

Girls hoops camps
 • The Canton High School girls basketball camp is slated for 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, June 3, through Thursday, June 6. It is for girls entering grades 7-10.

Canton's basketball staff will oversee the proceedings. The cost to register is \$60, including a camp T-shirt.

• Meanwhile, girls going into

SPORTS ROUNDUP

grades 4-7 will have the chance to sign up for the "Hoops" camp set to take place 1-3 p.m. Monday, June 24, through Thursday, June 27, at Canton. Taking part will be the coaching staffs from Plymouth, Salem and Canton. It costs \$60 to sign up, with campers receiving a T-shirt.

For both basketball camps, go to www.communityeducation.pecc.k12.mi.us to sign up.

Birney scores 3
 Kylie Birney of Plymouth (Livonia Ladywood) had a multi-goal game Sunday for the University of Detroit Mercy women's lacrosse team, but it wasn't enough in a 12-10 loss to the Winthrop Eagles.

MU baseball postponed
 The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference baseball series between No. 24 Madonna University and Davenport slated for March 23-24 at Litch Park has been postponed due to cold temperatures and snow in the forecast.

Per WHAC policy, two of the four games will be made up at a later date.

Madonna has had its first three WHAC series altered due to weather and has been idle since March 9.

The Madonna softball team, 10-11 overall, returns to action at 4 p.m. Wednesday when its newly renovated field will be rededicated against non-conference foe Albion College.

Young riders sought
 The Washtenaw Saints Football Team, of the Christian Athletic League of America, is looking for interested young men (grades 6-12) to join the team for the upcoming 2013 fall season.

There are no tryouts and everyone will get a chance to compete. Practices start in July and will be run out of Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor.

To be added to the contact list please contact coach John Weisberg at (734) 926-4513 or by e-mail at weisbergjohn@aol.com.

Soccer camps
 The Michigan Wolves/Hawks Soccer Club will stage a spring break boys and girls soccer camp from 9-11 a.m. (ages 6-

2012-13 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BOWLING FIRST TEAM
 Caitlyn Webb, Jr., Plymouth
 Rae'ven Turner, Jr., North Farmington
 Kristin Larkins, Sr., Salem
 Maria Walawender, Sr., Mercy
 Olivia Cabildo, Soph., Westland Glenn
 Caylin Doran, Jr., Farmington-Harrison

SECOND TEAM
 Julia Huren, Sr., Westland Glenn
 Sabine Hutter, Sr., Ladywood
 Bridget Maul, Sr., Salem
 Lorissa Willet, Sr., Wayne
 Kira Leach, Sr., Wayne

THIRD TEAM
 Christina O'Harris, Fr., Wayne
 Charlotte Zimmer, Sr., Canton
 Brianna Bailey, Jr., Canton
 Ella Kearney, Jr., Farmington-Harrison
 Erin Green, Sr., North Farmington
 Emily Fraser, Sr., Plymouth
 Veronica Ecology, Jr., Liv. Ladywood

COACH OF YEAR
 Ralph Cabildo, Westland Glenn
HONORABLE MENTION
 Farmington-Harrison: Dana Iles, Melissa Waun; Plymouth: Megan Blank; Canton: Jessica Holowicki, Beth Stark; Salem: Rachel Lopez; Mercy: Ashley Brooks, Hayley Caddell; Arianna Watson; John Glenn: Emily Dietz; Yvette Averett; Ladywood: Shelby Fielding; North Farmington: Elizabeth Bartram; Hannah Long.

Hahn said:
Lorissa Willet, Sr., Wayne: The senior finished fifth in Region 6 with a six-game total of 1,067 and ending up 56th in the state singles qualifying block with a 974.

Willet averaged 168 for the season, including a high series of 428 and a high game of 247. "Lorissa comes from a family of bowlers," Wayne coach Diane S. Louis said. "Her parents and brother have all been supporters and have attended all of her school matches and tournaments."

Willet plans to bowl at Shickofsky College and major in culinary arts with hopes of transferring to the University of Florida.

Kira Leach, Sr., Wayne: The senior placed eighth in Region 6 with a 1,039 total including a high game of 214.

Leach also took 31st in the state singles qualifying block with a total of 1,119 including a 214 high game.

She averaged 165 for the season with a high series of 413 and a high game of 221.

"Kira will graduate 36th in her class and will be attending Alma College where she'll study elementary education," Louis said. "She will also continue to bowl as a member of the Alma College team."

COACH OF THE YEAR
Ralph Cabildo, Westland Glenn: The first-year coach guided the Rockets to a perfect 15-0 season along with KLAAs Central Division and Division 1 regional titles.

The Lady Rockets took fifth in the qualifying block at the Division 1 state finals before being eliminated by eventual state champion Davison in the match play quarterfinals.

Cabildo captured the Valentine's Invitational at Novi Bowl and earned elementary All-Catholic Division and P-C's and Wayne County all-time awards.

"I'm really tried to do this, but I think, was really getting the girls to become a team," said Cabildo, who also coached as a volunteer for the past year. "We had talent last year, also, but the big thing is the girls becoming a team. That is what makes a team successful. The most part of the game is what I stress more than anything."

The 53-year-old Cabildo also is entering his third season as the Glenn varsity girls soccer coach. He also owns RC & DJ Video Productions in Westland.

Steelheaders meet April 2
 Captains Dave Engel and Bill Balle of Best Chance TCo Char- ters will be the featured speakers for the Metro West Steel-headers meeting at 7 p.m. Tues- day, April 2, at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Learn about Lake Michigan charter boat fishing for king and coho salmon, steelhead, lake trout and brown trout. All meet- ings are open to the public.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2700.

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TENNIS

Continued from page B1

seniors Katie Vane, Julia Meireles and Ali Collingwood will be the top players in the doubles lineup.

Others on the squad do bring plenty of club tennis experience. "While we will be a young team, I think they all have good ten- nis backgrounds that will keep us competitive in the KLAAs," Ware said.

The Rocks recently tied for first in an indoor doubles tourna- ment, "Midnite Madness" at HVTC.

Salem was scheduled to open the season Wednesday against Livonia Churchill.

Meanwhile, Canton will have a streamlined roster in 2013, but one that coach Barb Lehmann sees promise in.

"The level of skill is a great improvement from last year with Jennifer Ghandour and Cait- lin Orr as senior members of the team," noted Lehmann in an e- mail to the Observer.

Returning senior captain and singles player Hannah Ferree will be instrumental to the team's success in the KLAAs South—not only on the court but as a team leader.

So will singles player Maddison Johnson, not to mention Ghandour and Orr.

"We have a number of juniors that have played all year," Leh- mann commented. "Due to the court play I have seen, it will be one of the best seasons."

Lehmann's lineup is still tak- ing shape, with the official open- er set for April 9 against Wayne Memorial.

Note: Preview information about Plymouth will be published in an upcoming issue of the Observer.

DONATION

Continued from page B1

That check was presented to Hermann at the team's post-season awards banquet. She was there with her 10-year-old daughter Maggie, the inspiration behind the charity. Maggie has cerebral palsy.

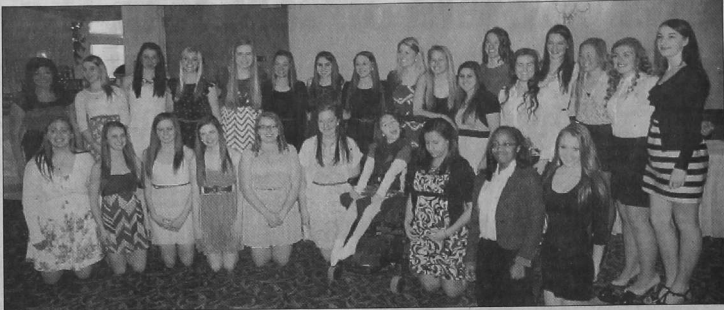
More than sports

"It is really special to know that the money we are donating is going to help many families," noted Aresco, adding that the players are fully aware that "there is more to life than just sports. Sometimes student-athletes get so caught up in sports that they forget there are other important aspects of life."

According to Hermann, the word about Kelly's Kids and what it does to help families with special needs children continues to grow thanks to such selfless efforts.

(It should be noted that other student-athletes and teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park also contribute time to serve Kelly's Kidz.)

"When I spoke at the banquet," Hermann said, "the one thing that I



Canton girls' basketball players pose with 10-year-old Maggie Hermann (front row, fourth from right), the inspiration behind Kelly's Kidz, during Sunday's team banquet following donation of a check to the local charity.

notice every year when the players come on court is that there always one or two girls that show an interest and begin to ask questions about Maggie. Or why we do what we do.

"And it is my belief that it only takes a few to begin to make a difference in the lives of many."

Kelly's Kidz is a not-for-profit organization run out of her home. Just

under \$400,000 has been generated in five years with that money helping nearly 60 families, she said.

As described on the organization's website, Kelly's Kidz was created "to provide financial assistance and resources to physically-impaired children with special needs and to create an opportunity for them to lead the best life" that they can.

"I think it of these (basketball players) are touched by the reality that these special needs kids are just like they are," she noted. "They just function in a different way."

Samulski, meanwhile, had high praise for the players and their families.

"I think it's absolutely awesome that the parents and players approached me with this

idea about donating to a charity instead of getting each player a small gift at the banquet," Samulski stressed. "I am very fortunate to be coaching at Canton, each year we have outstanding student-athletes in our program and that is because of their upbringing and their outstanding families."

"I think this is a great example of how great our players and parents are. They truly understand

it's not only about basketball but it's also about teaching life lessons and giving back to the community when you can."

For information about Kelly's Kidz, go to www.kellyskidz.net. For information about the Miracle League (which has a field in Plymouth), go to www.miracleleagueofplymouth.org.

tmsh1@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128

Blazers embark on bid for encore

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The 2012 girls softball season was nothing short of remarkable for one team — Livonia Ladywood.

The Blazers finished 40-2 and captured their first-ever MHSAA state championship when they defeated Saginaw Swan

GIRLS SOFTBALL Valley, 4-0, for the coveted Division 2 title.

Topping the season in 2013 will be a daunting task for the Blazers, especially after losing four-year pitcher Briana Combs (Cleveland State), Miss Softball and the Michigan Gateador. Player of the Year, along with catcher Alyssa Kashat (Davenport University) and second baseman Carl San Millan (Livonia University of Flight).

But back-up pitcher Lauren Hays, the hero in her last year's state final after Combs went down with a leg injury, will toe the slab full-time this season with the help of returning infielders Celeste Fidge, Haley Lawrence and Andria Gietl.

And sixth-year Ladywood coach Scott Combs has not backed off from putting together another challenging schedule.

"We have scheduled every tough Division 1 team and pitcher that we can find," Combs said. "By tournament time our underclassmen will know our system and strongly contribute."

Next-door neighbors Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (20-5) and Lutheran High Westland (16-16) will now butt heads in the Blue Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Huron Valley, which captured the MIAC Red and Division 4 district titles last season, virtually returns its starting lineup intact to compete every day. We look to grow as a team and improve as we take on a different schedule this year."

Lutheran Westland also returns its top two pitchers in sophomore Emily Hahn and junior Lindsey Ebert.

LIVONIA LADYWOOD Head coach: Scott Combs, sixth year.

League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).

Last year's overall record: 40-2.

Title won last year: Division 2 state, regional, district.

Catholic A-B Division, Central

Division, Wisconsin Invitational champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Briana Combs (first-team All-Area), Carl San Millan (first-team All-Area), Alyssa Kashat (first-team All-Area); Nicole Payne, Kristin Esterhold, Brittany DeCamillo, Michelle Nelson.

Leading returnees: Celeste Fidge, Sr. 3B (second-team All-Area); Andria Gietl, Sr. 1B (second-team All-Area); Lauren Hayes, Jr. P; Haley Lawrence, Jr. SS; Anna Larkes, Soph. C.

Promising newcomers: Erica Selakowski, Fr. inf.; Mary Kate Warner, Fr. C; Rosa Price, Fr. P; Rachel Hendrickson, Fr. OF; Alivia Craig, Fr. OF.

Combo 2013 season outlook: "We won't have as many 1-0 wins as the last four years — we had over 25. We will pitch as a committee. And our hitting lineup, eventually, can be as good or better than our best teams. We have 10 returning letter winners, including all starters at the corner infield spots, along with at least two others who I expect to be here. There are 10 new players. We expect to challenge for the Catholic League and state titles every year and this year no different."

LUTHERAN Head coach: Paul Gusé, eighth year.

League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Blue Division).

Last year's overall record: 16-16.

Notable losses to graduation: Marisa Hahn (second-team All-Area); Hannah Conley, Erica Killian.

Leading returnees: Sam Roberts, Sr. 1B; Shannon Albott, Sr. 2B; Aldreanna Fikes, Sr. C; Lindsey Ebert, Jr. P (6-4, 45 ERA); Emily Hahn, Soph. P (10-11, 110 Ks, 131 IP).

Promising newcomers: To be determined.

Gusé's 2013 season outlook: "The loss of three 4-year starters will be tough to overcome. We have big holes to fill on the left side of the infield. Our pitching should be good."

HURON VALLEY Head coach: Eric Ruth, 16th year.

League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Blue Division).

Last year's overall record: 20-5.

Titles won last year: MIAC Red Division and Division 4 district champs.

Notable losses to graduation: Meghan Kubinski; Julie St. John, Soph. P (second-team All-Area, MIAC MVP); Ashley Hever, Jr. 1B; Bethany Schaefer, Soph. 2B; Brooke Kuehn, Jr. SS; Jessie Strauch, Soph. 3B (first-team All-MIAC); Lauren Jones, Jr. OF (first-team All-MIAC); Dayna Schroeder, Jr. OF (first-team All-MIAC); Anne St. John, Soph. OF (first-team All-MIAC); Sarah Setian, Jr. OF.

Promising newcomers: Madison Ott, Fr. C.

Ruth's 2013 season outlook: "We return a great deal of experience from last year's team. We are in the (MIAC) Blue Division this year, which means we have to come ready to compete every day. We look to grow as a team and improve as we take on a different schedule this year."

MU softball back home sub-.500

The Madonna University women's softball team split a pair of games March 9 to wind up 8-10 on its spring trip at the Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational Games at Lincoln Park.

Erin Mayes (2-for-4) and Emma Cook each knocked in two runs,

while Bree Crampton pitched a four-hit, complete-game shutout in an 8-0 victory over Purdue North Central (Ind.).

Crampton struck out seven and did not allow a walk in seven innings to even her record at 4-4.

Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) also

added two hits.

The loss dropped North Central to 1-3.

In the nightcap, Carly Land held the Crusaders to five hits over seven innings as No. 22-ranked William Penn (Pa.) rolled to an 8-2 win.

Molly Miller went 2-for-4 with three RBI

for William Penn (11-6), while Arielle Cox had two hits in a losing cause.

Crampton, the losing pitcher, allowed five earned runs on five hits and five walks in 2.2 innings before giving way to Carlee Meek, who worked the final 3.1 innings.

Familiar face returns to Madonna

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Mark Zathay has come full circle.

No stranger to Madonna University athletics, Zathay played soccer for the Crusaders from 1994-97 and coached the MU women to five straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference titles, including a trip to the NAIA Nationals in 2005.

The 36-year-old Zathay, a Livonia Churchill High grad, will take over the Madonna men's program, replacing Eric Scott, who resigned Feb. 8 to coach the Albion College women's team.

"I am excited about this opportunity," said Zathay, who resides in Redford.

"This step in my coaching

journey is one that is very emotional one. Madonna was very much a second home for me when I was a student-athlete and later a coach. Both soccer programs have a rich history.

"I look forward to the opportunity to serve the men's program and hope to continue to build upon the shoulders of the previous players and coaches who gave so much to the game."

Under Scott, MU finished 22-24-7 during his three seasons, which included a WHAC playoff championship and a NAIA National Tournament appearance in 2011.

"I'm very pleased that we were able to get such a great coach and even better person in Mark," MU athletic director Bryan Kizzo said. "His roots with Madonna soccer date back to the inception of the program and he has remained a strong supporter of both the men's and women's teams through the years. I'm excited for the future of the program."

A three-time selection as WHAC Coach of the Year (2002, '04, '05), 21 of Zathay's women's players earned first-team All-WHAC honors.

All five of Zathay's teams were ranked in the NAIA Coaches' top 25 poll at some point during the season with 2005 team leading at No. 8.

Zathay is the women's soccer leader in career wins (71), posting a 71-21-12 mark in his five seasons for a 740 winning percentage.

A member of the first-ever MU men's soccer team in 1994 and a two-time team captain, Zathay is a 2000 graduate of Madonna with a degree in history and a certificate in secondary education.

Zathay also earned a masters degree in sports administration from Wayne State and has served as an adjunct instructor at MU.

Zathay was the technical director for the Michigan Rush and the director of the boys Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program.

Zathay will be coaching the men's soccer team in 2013.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Triple Threat cagers

Canton-based Triple Threat Training is opening the doors for sixth-grade girls interested in joining T3, a brand new travel basketball team.

Spokesman Dominique Washington said sixth-graders would play in eight to 10 tournaments throughout the local area.

A parent information meeting is slated for 7 p.m. Friday, April 5, at High Velocity (located on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center Road), where more details about practice times and tournament locations will be presented.

Parents wanting more information can send an email to TripleThreatTrainingM1@gmail.com or call (734) 341-1336.

Football coaches

Livonia Franklin is seeking two assistant football coaches for the 2013 season.

Applicants must be able

to demonstrate knowledge and proven ability to train and teach the fundamentals with prior high school coaching experience.

For more information, e-mail Franklin variety coach Chris Kelbert at ckelbert@livoniapublicschools.org.

Foul shot contest

The third annual Contest of American League Post 32-Livonia Youth Free Throw championship will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday, April 6, at Memorial Church of Christ Gymnasium, 35475 Five Mile Road (between Levan and Farmington roads).

First place and runner-up trophies will be awarded, along with door prizes, for the following age groups: 6-and-under, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.

The cost is \$5 per participant (payable at registration) will all proceeds going to Blum's Landing, a Michigan bed and breakfast for returning wounded vet-

erans.

Former Grand Valley State and University of Michigan basketball player Jerret Smith will also be making an appearance.

For more information, call Charles Wagner at (248) 420-8472.

Pom pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom squad will stage a clinic for grades three through high school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the high school fieldhouse.

Included in the \$25 cost is a light snack, CD and T-shirt. You must be registered by Friday, April 5.

For more information, email Kelly Sikorski at kelsikorski@bcglobal.net.

Senior softball

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

August.

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

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

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

Steelheads meet

Captains Dave Engel and Bill Bale of Best Chance Tso Charters will be the featured speakers for the Metro West Steelchaders meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2 at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Learn Boat Lake Michigan charter boat fishing for king and coho salmon, steelhead, and brown trout. All meetings are open to the public.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

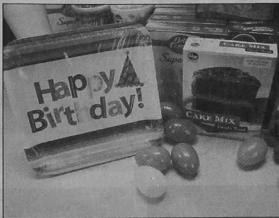
Egg hunt benefits kids in foster care

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Youngsters will hunt for Easter eggs on Good Friday at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia, but will give away the goodies connected with their search. "Basically, I wanted to turn an egg hunt upside down. We tried to give the traditional egg hunt a twist," said Rachel Benton, director of Family and Children's Ministry for the church. "This is something new we're trying out this year. We wanted to offer something for the community ... to celebrate Easter in a meaningful way."

Children will collect plastic eggs and then trade them in for a chance to create a "birthday kit" for a child in foster care at the United Methodist Children's Home in Redford. They'll choose a cake mix, frosting, party supplies, balloons and other components to a birthday celebration. They'll also decorate a gift bag to contain the items.

The church will donate 100 birthday kits to the foster care facility. Benton said the activity helps young participants learn how to give to others. The egg hunt is one of several events planned during the Easter Fair that will run 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., March 29, at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Wayne Road and Newburg.



Children who egg hunt on Good Friday at Newburg United Methodist Church, will get a chance to build birthday kits for youngsters in foster care. Kits will contain cake mix, frosting and birthday party supplies.

Lunch will be served and children who participate in six activities will receive a small prize and candy.

"We'll have a couple of crafts, cookie decorating, games like bean bag toss," Benton said. "We have an interactive Bible story that will run through the entire event. It starts with Jesus on Palm Sunday and ends with the Resurrection. We tell the story in engaging and age-appropriate ways."

Youngsters will get a chance to participate in the story by waving palms, tasting "Last Supper" bread, and visiting Jesus' tomb.

"It's our hope that they really feel engaged." The fair is aimed at families with infants, toddlers and elementary-aged youngsters and is

open to the community. Benton said the church's pastor chose Good Friday for the fair because families—including those planning to attend Wayne County's annual Marchmallow Drop at nearby Nankin Mill in Westland—might be more likely to drive by and drop in.

"It's unconventional, but we thought we'd give it a try. We want people to come and enjoy their time together. Easter is about God's love and the gift of life. Our hope is that by offering this event, families will be able to experience the components of that narrative."

The church will hold its Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

For more information call (734) 422-0149 or visit www.newburgumc.org.

Passages

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Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



GRAHAM, EWING "DALE"
March 23, 2013, age 96 of Westland. Beloved husband of the late Gloria. Dear father of Sandra (Dana) Holzhansen, Dwayne (Tammy), and Cynthia (Danny) Costantino. Brother of Wayne. Grandfather of ten and great-grandfather of many. Funeral services from the Uht Funeral Home, Westland. Wednesday 10 a.m. Visitation at the funeral home Tuesday 2-9pm. Burial to take place at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, Michigan. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uht.com.



LEVINE, DR. SEYMOUR EARL
Age 82, of Livonia, Michigan, died March 22, 2013. Dr. Levine was a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force and an educator in Livonia Public Schools. Beloved husband for 58 years of Maxine Levine. Cherished father of Ian (Cindy) Levine, Monica Levine, Robin Motisi and Peter (Janice Carolyn Davis) Levine. Proud grandfather of Anthony Motisi and Talia Motisi. Loving brother of Ronald (Dorale) Levine. Dear brother-in-law of Susan Goldberg and the late Dr. Bertram Goldberg. Also survived by Cindy's children Dr. Garce (Major Derek Oliver) Preston and Casey Preston, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

PAWLAK, ROSEMARY A.
Age 76, March 26, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Alfred Sr. Dear mother of Renee (Paul) Ferber, Tonia (Kim) Taylor, Michael (Kim) and the late Alfred Jr. Mother-in-law of Diane Pawlak. Grandmother of Daniel, Cory, Avery, Benjamin Connor, Joy and the late Erika. Sister of Joanna McKay. Visitation Friday 3-9 pm with an evening Roster, Funeral service Saturday 10am at the John N. Santucci & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (Btwn Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). www.santuccifuneralhomes.com

Santucci Funeral Home



RAWLINS, MICHAEL B.
Of Monroe, Michigan, home town of Garden City, Michigan. Born February 23, 1963 died unexpectedly Saturday March 23, 2013 one month after his 50th birthday. He was a beloved husband to Kellie and stepfather to Angel, Willie and Destiny. He is also survived by his parents Paul and Debra Rawlins, brother Robert (Holly) and sister Lisa (Tom). He was an amazing Uncle to Allison, Ryan, Keegan and Jill Robinson. You will forever be in our hearts and prayers. Visitation was Wednesday and will be Thursday, March 28, 2013 12pm until time of service Thursday 2pm at The Ridge Chapel-Martenson Family of Funerals Home, 2272 West Jefferson, Trenton. Memorial contributions to honor Michael's life may be made payable to DECU Financial. To share a memory visit www.martenson.com

LEVIN, MARVIN DANIEL
Age 85, March 24, 2013. Dr. Marvin was the loving husband of the late Eleanor Rimer (McPail) for 46 years and the late Dorothy Rimer (Thomas) for 11 years, the dear father of Kenneth (Jan), Daniel (Helene) and Ted and beloved son of the late John and Martha Rimer. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren, Jessica, Kyle, Erin, Sara, Emily and Kealey, as well as his brother John. Marvin was predeceased by his sister Dolores (Thomas) for 11 years, and Donald (Tina) and step brother Roger and brother in law James McPail. Marvin was a Marine veteran. He was a union carpenter for 65 years. Marvin loved being a Sunday School Teacher at Redford Baptist Church for over 50 years. He was a huge Constantine Falcons fan. A memorial service will take place at St. Mary's on Wed. March 27, 2013 with Pastor Danny Langley officiating. Both services will take place at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 3700 W. Six Mile (East of Newburg), Livonia, Michigan 48152. Interment will take place at Parkview Cemetery in Livonia. In lieu of flowers, Marvin's family asks that donations be made to Cross Point Meadows Church, Constantine Track/football of 1 Am My Brothers Keeper Church of Detroit. A guest book can be signed at www.harrywillfuneralhome.com

OLESNAVAGE, JOSEPH
Joseph Olesnavage, age 92, of Lexington, formerly Birmingham died Sunday March 24. He is survived by his wife Jeanette (Charley), 5 sons (John (Margaret), Joseph (Sue), Mark (Judy), Paul, and Jim (Terri)), and daughters Margery (Tom) Vogel, and Mary Ann (John) Cary. Services were held at 11 AM Wednesday March 27 at St. Denis Catholic Church, Lexington. Read full obituary at www.pomeroyfuneralhomes.com

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

March

BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 30
Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft, east of Inkster, Redford
Details: Bethany, an organization serving Catholics and other Christians, offers a singles dance. Tickets are \$13. Beer, wine, pop, snacks and coffee are included
Contact: (586) 264-0284
CAMP ENROLLMENT
Time/Date: Now through May 31

Location: Consuming Fire Christian Center, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland
Details: The Center is enrolling kids and teens, age 5-15, for its six-week BibleHome-work Enrichment Camp that will run July 8-Aug. 16. Full day sessions are \$700 and a half-day is \$480. Families get a \$25 discount for added siblings for the full day rate. \$10 discount for the half-day rate. A non-refundable \$100 registration fee at the time of enrollment secures a place at camp. All tuition must be paid in full by May 31. Cost includes the registration fee, snacks, materials for class, tutoring in most subjects and assessment testing
Contact: Melanice Staten or Sylvia Brown at (734) 266-2293

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC
ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Tridentine Latin Mass
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
38100 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200
Mass Schedule
First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m.
Saturday Mass 1:00 & 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Masses 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.
Confession Board Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)
Rosedale Gardens
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
8001 Rosedale St. Chicago, Illinois, MI
(734) 422-0464
Friends in Faith Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am
Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
For information about our many programs.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
WARD CHURCH
2080 N. 16th Road
Livonia, MI 48150
www.wardchurch.org
Traditional Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Contemporary Worship at 8:00 & 11 a.m.
Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m.
The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 1270 AM.

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96
www.christoursavior.org
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am
Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am
Early Childhood Center Phone 734-571-8413
Staffed Nursery Available
Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Pastors: Dr. Robert E. Geyer, Jr. & Creighton
734-522-6830

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE
PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1000 N. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 462-3300
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 8:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HERBIBOYER DRUGS AND COSMETICS CENTER
(734) 462-3196

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
A Church for Seasoned Saints
OPEN ARMS CHURCH
Worship: Sunday 10:30 am
Wednesday 7 pm
Pastor: Grady Jensen & Music Minister: Abe Fazlizi
33815 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia 48152
Between Farmington & Moravia
Friends in Faith Service
248.471.5282
Church As You Remember it!

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School
1781 Farmington Road, Livonia (20801) 7346
Worship Services
Sundays: 8:30 AM & 11 AM
Tuesdays: 7:00 PM
www.stpaulslutheran.org

PRESBYTERIAN
Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • Sixteen Sixteen Road
Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

UNITY WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES
Friends of Unity
774 North Sheldon Road
Plymouth, MI
(979) North Commercial (1st building)
www.friendsofunity.org
Nursery Services and Youth Programs 12 a.m.
Thursday Evening, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. (Free) (Free)
734.454.0015

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
1343 Pennington, Plymouth
Church: (734) 463-3392
Cottontownery Worship at 8:00 & 11 a.m.
www.spslutheran.org
WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Worship 9:30am
EASTER WEEK SERVICES:
Thurs 7pm, Good Fri 1pm,
Sat 7am, Sun 10am & 9:30am

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Antioch Lutheran Church
www.antiochlc.com
(248) 626-7906
Sunday Worship 8:30 am
Mondays/Thursdays 9:00 and 7:00 pm
Good Friday 7:30 pm
Easter Vigil
Saturday at 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil Services
at 7:00 and 8:00 am

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

Power Play

Local band plays classic rock with high energy, experience

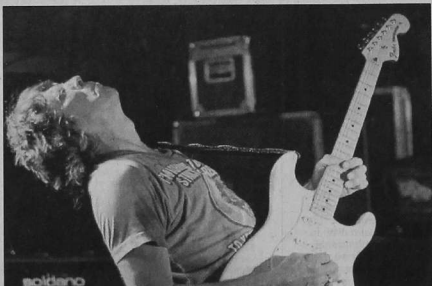
By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Mike Smith knows exactly what sets his group, Power Play, apart from other cover bands — showmanship and experience.

"We do more than just stand there and play," said Smith, a Livonia resident. "We do what would be like a 70s rock show, where there is a lot of movement. I play guitar behind my back and we go out and interact with the audience."

"People want to see something that is kind of exciting instead of just a pretty girl in an evening gown and a bunch of overweight, bald guys standing behind her playing. Our band has a younger vibe, even though we're older guys."

Smith began playing guitar at age 9 and has performed with numerous bands over the years. Dave Tatro on bass and Mario Resto on drums, both of Livonia, played together with Resto's brother, Luis, throughout the U.S. and Canada before Smith recruited them for Power Play two years ago. Resto, who plays drums and sings,



Mike Smith, founder of Power Play, rocks out.

composed and produced two CDs and has written music for television, radio and Web projects. April Hudson, vocals, sang with various local bands before joining Power Play a little over a year ago. Smith founded the band five years ago, but didn't find the right mix of performers until Tatro, Resto and Hudson came along.

"It went through different combinations," he said. "The last couple of years we've tried to get the group estab-

lished solidly, with some solid booking, a solid following. We're starting to pick up steam."

Playing at Spree

With his wife, Tama, in charge of booking for the band, Power Play has picked up regular gigs at T.C. Gators in Canton and Bayside Sports Grill in Walled Lake. The group's spring-summer schedule also includes weddings, country club appearances, a senior all-night party at North-



www.powerplaydetroit.com

ville High School, Lake-a-Palooza at Grass Lake and a coveted spot in the music line-up on the main stage at Livonia Spree. The band will play the evening of the annual festival's fireworks display.

"Everything is clicking and hopefully it will continue," said Tama, who also assists with managing her husband's carpentry business. "We're really excited about Spree. I'm always looking for new opportunities, but the band sells itself once they play somewhere and people see them."

She said the band plays mostly classic rock, but includes some current sounds. The set list is an eclectic mix of music by Cee Lo Green, Adele, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Maroon 5, AC/DC, Rolling Stones, Pink, Foo Fighters, Ozzy Osbourne and Dave Matthews, among many others.

"The musicians have been around and are a cut above the rest. They've been in the business a long time. That's what makes them special."

Performing nightly
Tama and Mike Smith



Weekdays, April Hudson works with heavy machinery outdoors at Schoolcraft College. On weekends she sings with Power Play.



Mario Resto of Livonia sings and plays drums with Power Play.



Dave Tatro of Livonia plays bass and sings.

met while working at Jamie's on 7, a popular spot for live music in Livonia several years ago. She was a waitress and he played with a house band called Undercover.

"We played over 3,000 nights — 300 nights a year for 10 years. That was 1982-92," Mike Smith recalled. "Those were very formative years for me. We used to have national acts come in from time to time and we got a chance to play as a warm-up for them. When you're playing night after night, that's where you really develop your chops. You learn to work a live audience and read the room. A lot of bands make a set list and never vary from it. But we'll change on the fly. That's something that comes with experience."

After Smith left Jamie's, he focused on family — the couple have three sons — recording in his home studio and working in his carpentry business.

"I just got back into the live (performances) about five years ago. I had kind of dropped out of it," he said. An acquaintance from his years at Jamie's invited him to play with a band. He did, but it didn't take long before he assembled his own group.

"We all get along. I love playing with these guys," said Hudson, whose day job entails snow removal, mowing and other grounds maintenance at Schoolcraft College. She looks forward to their appearance at Livonia Spree because it will introduce the band to "a whole new group of people."

"I'm super excited," she said.

You don't have to wait for Livonia Spree to see Power Play. Catch their act at 9 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Bayside Sports Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, in Walled Lake. They also will perform at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at T.C. Gators 42775 Ford Road, Canton.

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Concert raises funds to feed the hungry

Tom Birchler of Livonia will take the stage at Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, along with his brothers, Dave, Keith, Jim and John, for the family's "Jamm'n' to End Famine" concert on April 26.

The concert was inspired by the brothers' father, Don Birchler, who reached out to help others when needed. Proceeds from the concert will pay for food that will be packaged by volunteers at a Kids Against Hunger event in June at Marian.

"All of the Birchlers had our first experiences performing on this very stage back in our high school days," Tom Birchler wrote in a press release. "I remember winning the Marian/Rice talent show there and getting seriously bitten by the performing bug."

The sixth annual concert will start with a pre-concert reception and sweet table in the school auditorium lobby from 7-8 p.m. Music will start at 8 p.m. Marian High School is located at 7225 Lahser.

Performers will include The Paisley Fogg, a 1960s-style rock band, featur-

ing David, Keith and Tom Birchler; The Grunions, a jazz a Cappella group with John Birchler, and Moose Wampler & the Overdays, a 1950s party rock group, featuring Jim Birchler.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. They are available at the door or in advance by e-mailing Tom Birchler at tbirchler@mi.rr.com or by calling (248) 722-1830.

Kids Against Hunger works with churches and local nonprofits to package its specially formulated soy casserole for delivery in the US and 40 other countries to feed starving children and their families. Since 2004, volunteers have packaged more than 10 million meals in Michigan. They've been distributed to disaster victims, starving people worldwide and to food shelters in the Great Lakes states. Since 2008, Jamm'n' to End Famine has raised funds for more than 75,000 of those meals.

For more about Kids Against Hunger, visit www.kidsagainsthungercoalition.com. For more about Jamm'n' to End Famine, visit www.thepaisleyfogg.com/shows.



The Stray Birds will perform April 12 at Trinity Theatre in Livonia.



The Farmington Hills-based Chamber Music Society of Detroit will present Gryphon in concert April 6 at the Seligman Center in Beverly Hills.

Arts Crafts

CITY GALLERY
Time/Date: Exhibit runs through April 12
Location: In the Costick Center lobby, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Works by Farmington Hills resident, Bob Aikins
Contact: Aikins at www.AikinsAviationArt.com; (248) 473-1800 for Costick Center

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission
Exhibits: Motor City Music: Detroit Photographs: Then and Now, through June 16; Shirin Neshat, includes eight video installations and two series of photos, April 7-July 7; printmaking by Ellsworth Kelly, May 24-Sept. 8
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

GALLERY@VT
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through March 26
Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Works by the Ann Arbor Fibersarts Guild
Contact: (734) 394-5308

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through April
Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: "Spaces & Places," is the PCA's 4th annual open juried exhibit
Contact: (734) 416-4278

Film
PENN THEATRE
Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 29-30
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "Hop," a 2001 animated film, \$3
Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE
Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 5 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 6
Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit
Details: Three Stooges Festival, featuring the films "Women Haters," "Movie Maniacs," "Disorder in the Court," "False Alarms," "Mutts to You," and "Three Missing Links," tickets are \$5
Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

Music
BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY
Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month.
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Includes open mic performances along with a featured act. Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also available
Contact: Scott Ludwig at BSpresident@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869

GET OUT!

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, April 6
Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, on the campus of Detroit Country Day, Beverly Hills
Details: Gryphon Trio will perform music by Haydn, Chan Ka Nin, Christos Hatzis and Mendelssohn. Tickets range from \$30-\$60
Contact: www.ChamberMusicDetroit.org or (248) 855-0970

JAZZ AT THE ELKS
Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans
Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE
Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Tim Grimm, April 5; Bill Bynum and Company with Robert Stark, April 6; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and Bill Edwards, April 7; The Stray Birds with Red Tail Ring, April 12; Antone Difuria, April 13; Derek Webb, April 14; Barzin, April 19; Blue Water Ramblers, April 20. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted
Contact: (734) 464-6302

Something different
DETROIT ZOO
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily
Location: 1-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free
Special program: Frog-Watch training classes for 2013 will be held 1-4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, and 1-4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center. The "citizen science" program teaches volunteers how to identify frogs and toads by their breeding calls and gather and record data that supports a national network. For more information or to register, e-mail Rebecca Johnson, associate curator of amphibians, at rjohnson@dzo.org

Bunnyville: The event, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 30, will feature treats, games, crafts, live entertainment, animal enrichment, photos with the Easter Bunny, and an egg hunt. Visitors who donate a canned or other non-perishable food item for donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank, will receive a program admission price of \$8.
Contact: (248) 541-5717

MARSHMALLOW DROP

Time/Date: 11 a.m., Friday, March 29
Location: Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland
Details: More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter to thousands of children below, who scramble to collect these goodies and trade them in to receive a prize. Children will be divided into age groups, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to fully participate.
Contact: (734) 261-1990

Historical

GREENFIELD VILLAGE
Time/Date: April 27-28, May 4-5 and 11-12
Location: 20900 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn
Details: Tickets are on sale now for "Day Out with Thomas: The Go Go Thomas Tour 2013," which gives youngsters a chance to climb aboard Thomas the Tank Engine and take a 25-minute ride. The event includes Thomas-related activities, such as storytelling and arts & crafts. Train rides depart every 30 minutes, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are \$11.75 for members, 1 and older and includes free admission to Greenfield Village. Ticket prices for non-members are \$11.75 for children, 1-4; \$27.75 for youth, 5-12; \$33.75 for adults, 13-61; and \$32.75 for seniors, 62 and up
PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through June 9
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: New "Made in America" exhibit highlights America's contributions to industry, with a special emphasis on Michigan-made products. Visitors will find iconic American-made products throughout the Museum's "Main Street," including a 1931 Ford Model A pick-up truck belonging to Margaret Dunning, the Museum's major benefactor. Other notable items include eight pedal cars from the collection of Greg Gladki of Westland. Many more items from the Museum's collections are scattered throughout the exhibit, giving visitors a full sense of American ingenuity. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

Don't be left behind...Call 734-582-8363 today to learn more about advertising in OUT ON THE TOWN!

Smashed Potato Bar

Yield: 4 servings
 2 pounds potatoes, washed and quartered
 ½ cup milk, warmed
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 ½ cup plain yogurt or light sour cream
 Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Place potatoes into a soup pot and add water until they are completely covered. Lightly salt water and place over medium-high heat.

Cook potatoes for 15 to 25 minutes until they are soft, but not falling apart. Carefully drain the water and return them to the pot they were cooked in.

Kids can: Use a potato masher to achieve desired texture, being careful not to work the potatoes too much. They also can add milk, butter and yogurt to mashed potatoes. Stir ingredients to combine. Taste mashed potatoes and season them with salt and pepper. Add any extra flavorings or toppings and serve warm.

Chef Justin's tips: Use a combination of purple, yellow and red potatoes to make multi-colored mashed potatoes. Leave the skin on the potatoes for extra nutrients. Don't over-mash the potatoes; overworking can cause them to become gummy.

Potato Bar toppings:

- Low fat yogurt or low fat sour cream
- Chives/scallions
- Cheese
- Bacon bits
- Fresh herbs
- Sun-dried tomatoes
- Lemon

Potato and Green Bean Salad

Yield: 10 servings

½ pound green beans, washed, ends trimmed and cut into thirds
 2 pounds potatoes, washed, peeled and diced large
 ½ cup low-fat mayonnaise
 2 lemons, juiced
 ¼ cup olive oil
 3 bell peppers, seeded and diced small
 1 cup fresh parsley, chopped fine
 1 red onion, diced small
 Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Kids can: Snap the ends off the beans and break them into thirds.

Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and water; set aside.

Fill large-sized stock pot ¾ full with lightly salted water. Bring to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Add green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using a hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place into the ice water to stop them from cooking. After the green beans have cooled down, remove them from the ice water and set aside.

Carefully add cut potatoes to same boiling water. Greens beans were cooked in. Cook potatoes in boiling water for around 15 minutes, depending on size. Once tender, drain and rinse with cold water.

Kids can: In large mixing bowl, combine mayonnaise, lemon juice and olive oil. Stir the mayonnaise mixture to combine. Add all of the rest of the ingredients to the bowl and lightly stir to combine all flavors. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Keep potato salad cold in the refrigerator and stir before serving on favorite greens.



Mashed Potato Bar



Chef Justin Timineri

French fries are one of a kid's favorite things to eat. But there's a whole lot more that can be made from delicious, nutritious potatoes.

"There are so many different kinds of potatoes that can be flavored in just about any way you like," said Chef Justin Timineri, executive chef and culinary ambassador, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. "Get the kids into the kitchen with you and experiment with making potato dishes the whole family will enjoy."

Potatoes are a good source of potassium (for your muscles and growth), vitamin B6 (to help fight illness and help your nerves function), and fiber (for digestion). Most of the nutrients are right under the skin—leave the skin on whenever possible.

You can find more recipes that will have the kids saying, "Pass the potatoes, please!" at <http://bit.ly/fipotato>.

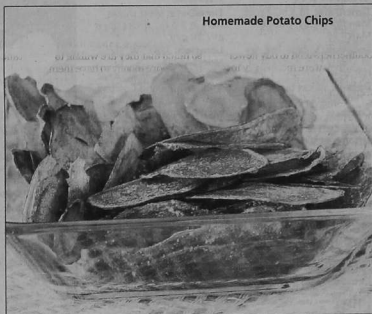


Potato and Green Bean Salad



Roasted Campfire Pockets

Pass the potatoes, please



Homemade Potato Chips

Roasted Campfire Pockets

Yield: 4 servings

20 fingerling potatoes, sliced thin
 1 large onion, sliced
 2 bell peppers, sliced
 2 cups mushrooms, sliced
 2 tablespoons fresh herbs, chopped fine (basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary)
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat, or an oven at 375°F. In medium sized mixing bowl combine potatoes, onion, bell peppers, mushrooms, herbs and olive oil. Stir ingredients to combine and season lightly with salt and pepper.

Make 4 12-by12-inch squares of aluminum foil and lay them out to be stuffed. Place a chicken breast in the middle of each foil square, and lightly season with salt and pepper. Evenly distribute vegetable mixture on top of each chicken breast. Fold each packet so that a tight seal is formed and all the food is contained.

Grill packets, or bake them in the oven, for 20 to 30 minutes until internal temperature of chicken reaches 165°F. Remove packets from heat and let cool slightly. Open packets carefully as hot steam may rush out.

Kids Can: Help slice veggies and stuff their pockets with their favorites.

Homemade Potato Chips

Yield: 4 servings

4 medium fingerling potatoes, unpeeled (mixed colors)
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 Pan release spray
 Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
 Additional seasonings (see below)
 Special equipment needed: French mandolin

Preheat oven to 425°F. Rinse and dry potatoes. Slice potatoes as thin as possible with a mandolin.

Place sliced potatoes in medium sized mixing bowl and rinse several times with warm water. Lightly squeeze and dry potatoes.

Kids can: Place sliced potatoes back in a dry mixing bowl and add olive oil. Toss potatoes to make sure they are evenly coated with the oil, using a little more oil if needed.

Lightly spray a cookie sheet with pan release spray. Lay sliced potatoes in a single layer on cookie sheet. Place cookie sheet in oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown and crispy.

Remove cookie sheet from oven and let cool slightly. Use a thin spatula to remove potatoes from cookie sheet into a mixing bowl.

Kids can: While they are still warm, season chips with their choice of seasoning, a favorite dried spice mix such as Greek, Cajun or barbecue.

REAL ESTATE

in-law suites, storage space among buyers' top picks

Purchasing a home is an important life decision, and many factors can influence the home choices buyers make.

The National Association of Realtors 2013 Profile of Buyers' Home Feature Preferences examines the features buyers prefer when it comes to purchasing a home, as well as the differences in preferences when it comes to factors such as region, demographics and household composition. The survey captures buyers who purchased a home between 2010 and 2012.

"Deciding where to live comes with a lot of options, but buyers quickly realize that some features are more important than others when it comes to choosing the right house for them," said NAR President Gary Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif. "Buyers need to have a clear idea of what features are important to them and know where they are willing to compromise in this respect. Realtors can bring buyers home. Realtors visit hundreds of homes with buyers each year, and have a unique understanding of what buyers value in their local markets."

Geography and demography strongly influence what buyers value in a home. The typical recently purchased home was 1,860 square feet and was built in 1996. Repeat buyers, buyers of new homes, married couples and families with children typically purchased larger homes. First-time buyers and single women tended to buy older homes. The typical buyer purchased a home with three bedrooms and two full bathrooms. Slightly over half of the homes purchased were on a single level.

Southerners tend to buy newer homes; they were more likely to want a home less than five years old and in a wooded lot with trees when compared to other regions. Not surprisingly, buyers in the South also placed a higher importance on central air conditioning.

While more than three-fourths—78 percent—of all buyers purchased a home with a garage, garages were more popular among new-home buyers, Mid-

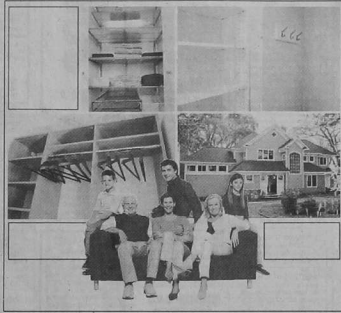
westerners, and suburbanites. Forty-one percent of homes purchased had a basement, but this feature was more popular among buyers in the Midwest and Northeast. Northeastern buyers also value hardwood floors more than people in other regions. Southerners typically bought the largest home at 2,000 square feet. Those in the Northeast followed closely behind with a typical home purchase of 1,850 square feet.

Among buyers 55 and older, 42 percent considered finding a single-level home very important, compared to just 11 percent of buyers under age 35. Single women also placed higher importance on single-level homes, while single men wanted finished basements. Both single men and married couples placed higher importance on new kitchen appliances.

Among all 33 home features in the survey, central air conditioning was the most important to the most buyers; 65 percent of buyers considered this feature very important. The next most important feature was a walk-in closet in the master bedroom; 39 percent of buyers considered this feature very important. Closely behind was having a home that was cable, satellite TV, and/or Internet ready, as well as an en-suite master bathroom.

When it came to actually buying a home, among buyers who considered central AC and cable, satellite TV, and/or Internet ready very or somewhat important, 94 percent bought a home with these features. The next most common feature was an eat-in kitchen; 89 percent of buyers who thought this was an important purchased a home with an eat-in kitchen.

Buyers value some features so much that they are willing to spend more money to have them. Sixty-nine percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with central AC would be willing to pay \$2,520 more for a home with this feature. Sixty-nine percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with new kitchen appliances would be willing to pay \$1,840 more for a home with this feature. A walk-in closet in the master bedroom was the third most common feature on



which buyers would spend more. Sixty percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a walk-in closet would be willing to pay \$1,350 more for a home with this feature.

The features on which buyers placed the highest dollar value were waterfront properties and homes that were less than five years old. Thirty-two percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$5,420 more for a home with a waterfront, and 40 percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$5,020 more for a home that was less than five years old.

The rooms that buyers were willing to pay the most for were a basement and an in-law suite. Thirty-three percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$3,200 more for a home with a basement, and 20 percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$2,520 more for a home with an in-law suite.

When it came to features that buyers want in a home, 55 percent of buyers thought it was very important to have a living room, although buyers in the Northeast placed more importance on a home with a dining room. Buyers aged 55 and older placed more importance on a bedroom on the main level of the house. Buyers aged 35 to 54 placed more importance on a laundry room, while those with children placed more importance on a family room.

The two most common rooms buyers were willing to spend more for were a laundry room and a den/study/home office/library. Sixty-three percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a laundry room would be willing to pay \$1,590 more for a home with this room. Forty-four percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a den/study/home office/library would

be willing to pay \$1,920 more for a home with this room.

Although 97 percent of recent buyers were satisfied with their home purchase, there are always features buyers would like that they don't have, said NAR Vice President of Research Paul Bishop. "Most satisfied homeowners still said they would like more or larger closets and storage space. In addition, nearly half of recent buyers would prefer a larger kitchen, and two out of five would prefer a larger home overall."

Within three months of a home purchase, 53 percent of buyers undertook a home improvement project. The typical buyer spent \$4,500 on various projects. Remodeling the kitchen was the most common home improvement project; 47 percent of buyers undertook a project in the kitchen. Bathrooms were a close second at 44 percent. Forty-one percent of buyers who made home improvements added or replaced lighting, and 37 percent added or replaced appliances soon after becoming a homeowner.

In October 2012, a sample of households that had purchased any type of residence real estate during 2010 to 2012 and still owned the property was surveyed. The survey sample was drawn from a representative panel of U.S. households monitored and maintained by an established survey research firm. A total of 2,005 qualified households responded to the survey. Households were sampled to meet age and income quotas representative of all home buyers drawn from the 2011 NAR Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers.

The 2013 Profile of Buyers' Home Feature Preferences can be ordered by calling (800) 874-6500, or online at www.realtor.org/products/research. The study costs \$1495 for NAR members and \$1995 for nonmembers.

Co-op has legal status

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: Does the co-op have a right to decide who is buying the cooperative shares unlike a condominium?

A: So long as the co-op is not violating any laws such as human rights violations, they have the right to determine who will be shareholders with them. Remember that Barbra Streisand and Richard Nixon were co-op members in New York because the co-op was concerned about the paparazzi that would be hanging around trying to take pictures. Of course, the co-op board must exercise sound business judgment and must weigh the fact that the shareholder that is trying to sell will be upset if they nix the sale. On the other hand, the co-op might have a right of first refusal as well.



Robert Meisner

Q: I am wondering if we, as a homeowner, have an obligation to disclose that there was a murder/suicide in the home which we have purchased, assuming we want to sell it. I know that it is of concern to some prospective purchasers. What do you think?

A: While each case has to be decided on its facts, and depending upon the individual state's law, in a recent case out of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, the court has stated that the fact that a murder occurred in a house falls into the category of homeowner-buyer concerns best left to the term caveat emptor, i.e., let the buyer beware. The decision went beyond considering whether a court-ordered disclosure should be disclosed, essentially holding no psychological defects need to be disclosed because they are not considered under state law. It has also been argued that this court's opinion could apply to such diverse circumstances as a past rape on the property, a sex offender living next door, or even a high crime neighborhood. In any event, caution being the better part of valor, you may want to consider discussing it with your lawyer before issuing a disclosure statement.

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 \$1 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column should be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 26-30, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON		
2443 Amber Dr	\$190,000	
7483 Briargate Ct	\$391,000	
6869 Bridgmont Dr	\$235,000	
39714 W. Bay Dr	\$127,000	
2353 Cleveland Way	\$195,000	
7379 Corbett Dr	\$180,000	
4090 Elizabeth Ave	\$113,000	
7429 Erbman Dr	\$197,000	
47385 Fairlawn Ct	\$206,000	
4020 Hordley Dr	\$164,000	
44188 Harline Dr	\$157,000	
411 Innsbrook Dr	\$323,000	
1203 Knightbridge Rd	\$150,000	
1475 N. Morton Taylor Rd	\$259,000	
8228 Newbury Ct S	\$560,000	
7224 Peachtree Ct	\$192,000	
378 Pleasant Ridge Dr	\$291,000	
2006 S Lilley Rd	\$255,000	
43930 Saltz Rd	\$75,000	
302 Selkirk St	\$132,000	

378 Sylvan Dr	\$415,000		15645 Fitzgerald St	\$124,000	
6820 Tiffany Cr	\$258,000		23033 Grandon St	\$95,000	
4590 Torrey Hills Ct	\$331,000		1402 Oakcrest St	\$104,000	
46919 Torrey Hills Ct	\$321,000		16353 Levitt Rd	\$90,000	
46989 Torrey Hills Ct	\$258,000		8954 Melvin St	\$125,000	
823 Torrey Hills Dr	\$260,000		9735 Newburgh Rd	\$72,000	
36008 W. Warren	\$380,000		3657 Pinetree St	\$123,000	
GARDEN CITY			14663 Richfield St	\$123,000	
32711 Alvin St	\$66,000		1919 Robert Dr	\$110,000	
2049 N. Dixie	\$42,000		14119 S. Luovona Cres	\$186,000	
31454 Dover St	\$105,000		20018 Southampton Dr	\$275,000	
28842 Elmwood St	\$65,000		10289 Wayne Rd	\$37,000	
2741 Thornton Way	\$59,000		3051 Woodstream Dr	\$110,000	
31904 Hennepin St	\$140,000		19421 Cardene Ct	\$134,000	
6161 Lathen St	\$28,000		40683 Coachwood Cir	\$347,000	
2915 Maplewood St	\$42,000		300 E Gady St	\$225,000	
28509 Marquette St	\$35,000		605 Grace St	\$475,000	
33746 Marquette St	\$125,000		1910 Malvern Ct	\$110,000	
6736 Schaller St	\$110,000		15972 Morningstar	\$146,000	
LYONIA			28926 Mulfield Rd	\$255,000	
20005 Angling St	\$159,000		19520 Norridge Dr	\$74,000	
28713 Bayberry Park Dr	\$370,000		18020 Stonebrook Dr	\$516,000	
2968 Beatrice St	\$184,000		1198 Plymouth St	\$65,000	
14012 Blackburn St	\$184,000		12257 Chandler Dr	\$44,000	
32904 Bobrich Ct	\$170,000		48071 Colony Farms Cir	\$158,000	
1186 Columbus St	\$220,000		22854 Penton Risk Ct	\$259,000	
16266 Fairway St	\$320,000		776 Deer Ct	\$123,000	
17900 Fairway St	\$174,000				
21435 Riverbend Rd	\$240,000				
16926 Farmington Rd	\$110,000				

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 5-9, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS		
32285 Auburn Dr	\$172,000	
18378 Bedford St	\$310,000	
32355 Bell Vine Tr	\$280,000	
11436 Fairfax Ave	\$133,000	
31571 Mayfair Ln	\$248,000	
BRIMINGHAM		
8115 Chapin Ave	\$475,000	
1036 Quenton Rd	\$725,000	
1327 Garland Rd	\$520,000	
1695 Shipland Blvd	\$130,000	
1190 Wakefield St	\$417,000	
884 Woodside St	\$425,000	
BLOOMFIELD HILLS		
4518 Brightmore Rd	\$540,000	
199 Barrington Rd	\$190,000	
1245 Waverly Rd	\$145,000	
2483 Wildbrook Run	\$269,000	
COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP		
6117 Birchcrest Ln	\$381,000	
3252 Edgemont St	\$186,000	
1932 Hamshire Rd	\$295,000	
4051 Hawthwood Dr	\$250,000	
5958 Lochmore Dr	\$210,000	
FARMINGTON HILLS		
23091 Laykay Way	\$55,000	
22736 Power Rd	\$80,000	
FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP		
30645 Charleston Ct	\$121,000	
30823 Country Ridge Cir	\$210,000	
38456 Darbyshire	\$122,000	
3900 E. Grandview	\$192,000	
30055 Kimberley Ct	\$230,000	
29511 Mullane Dr	\$160,000	
21432 Riverwalk Ct	\$240,000	
21770 Rural St	\$49,000	
21785 S Brandon St	\$90,000	

29747 Sierra Point Cir	\$125,000		25317 Sutton Ct	\$50,000	
29970 Southbrook St	\$171,000		39847 Village Wood Ln	\$42,000	
30501 Woodstream Dr	\$189,000		2405 White Plains Dr	\$90,000	
Lathrup Village			28194 Wolcott Dr	\$87,000	
1822 Roseland Blvd	\$94,000		SOUTH LYON		
2899 Southfield Rd	\$160,000		25900 Barabona	\$218,000	
MILFORD			1021 Fountain View Dr	\$84,000	
30782 Artesian Dr	\$44,000		24351 Edgemont St	\$40,000	
1220 Old Millford Farms	\$295,000		61130 Saddlecreek Dr	\$313,000	
312 Riverbend St	\$25,000		11054 Serene Ct	\$195,000	
178 Turnberry Ct	\$226,000		22950 Valleywood	\$140,000	
4239 Windmill Farms	\$465,000		23790 Valleywood Dr	\$328,000	
NOVI			200375 Lakeridge	\$218,000	
45615 Bristol Cir	\$232,000		20321 Cornerstone Village Dr	\$57,000	
43120 Emerson Way	\$267,000		29295 Quarry Crescent Dr	\$125,000	
21801 Greenleaf Dr	\$300,000		20219 Ruddy Ct	\$70,000	
45221 Gwinnett Loop	\$180,000		19776 W Nile Midge Rd	\$40,000	
45483 Gwinnett Loop	\$171,000		602 Farnsworth Dr	\$86,000	
27552 Harrington Way	\$45,000		8498 Huron River Dr	\$174,000	
27548 Harrington Way	\$45,000		666 Red Bank Dr	\$20,000	
41617 Monterey Dr	\$180,000				
22854 Penton Risk Ct	\$259,000				
41782 Prismo Dr	\$123,000				
27468 Blain St	\$235,000				

HOMES for a BRAND NEW 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2138 S.F. home with all appliances including washer/dryer, plus central air w/ shed. Monthly payment of \$100 based on 5% down, \$800 plus \$89 fee, 1% fee

WESTLAND MIDWINTER... 3000 sq ft plus 50 more. Very clean, finished, nice lot, no pets. Blemish free. 734-729-6202

FREE RENT UNTIL MAY 31! 2917-3700. 1500 sq ft home. 3+ bedrooms. 2 full baths. 1.5 car garage. 734-729-6202

COMPLETE DRIVWAY GRIP... 734-729-6202. Electrical. Family Electrical. Heating - Clean Up.

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Parts Manager. Resident Manager. Property Manager. Vet Assistant. Call Clinic. Full Time. Experience required. Must submit photo. Apply in person at 2647 Grand River Farmington Hills. Phone fax resume: 248-578-8222

Accounts Payable. Must have a good attitude & solid work ethic. Must be capable of managing records daily & accurately. Must have monthly statements from vendors. Must be weekly check runs. Must have excellent insurance & network & software support as needed. Know sales and be able to sell. Salary, Bonus & Equity negotiable. Email: amy@trystal.com

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WESTLAND 3 bdrm duplex. Very nice! 318-9060. WESTLAND 3 bdrm duplex, 2 bath, 1.5 car garage. 734-729-6202

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Table with columns: 30 Yr, Pts, 15 Yr, Pts, Other. Rows include 1st Choice Mortgage Lending, Accurate Mortgage Solutions, AFI Financial, Ameriplex Mortgage Corp., Client Services by Gold Star, Co-op Services Credit Union, Dearborn Federal Savings Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Gold Star Mortgage, Group One Mortgage, Mortgages by Gold Star, Sierra Pacific Mortgage.



Sports Utility
BUICK ENCLAVE 2008
 Blazer, 177,895.
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 City, 41,919.
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 white, 44,514.
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 ting 1.9% 528,000. 1320PUSA
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 Bright white, red, and alloy!
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 Sunroof, heated seats, West
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 condition. Financing. Great
 owner, very clean vehicle, well
 maintained. 50,000 miles.
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 Black 57,700.
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 Blue, 0.000 miles!
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BUICK, GMC
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1987 Suzuki Samurai 1987
 Wicker 596, only 77K miles.
 \$2000. Call me after 7 or text
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FORD F-150 2003
 5Crate, King Ranch, 44K, fully
 equipped, \$11,480. 1317008A
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FORD F350 C10A 2006
 Diesel, King Ranch, 20K one
 owner miles!
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FORD F150 2008
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Auto Misc.
LUCRINE CX 2008
 Red, 14,500.
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FORD EDGE 2010
 AWD, chrome, Certified,
 1.9%, 574,17144A,
 \$22,980
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FORD ESCAPE XLT 2008
 121,116. A/C, leather, Nav.,
 2007, 17,400.
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FORD ESCAPE 2010
 121,116. A/C, leather, Nav.,
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Jeep
GRAND CHEROKEE 2007
 Silver, Silver, Leads, and 4WD
 89,000. Call me after 7 or text
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 44K. Fully equipped, 4WD, and
 1.9% 67,800. 1320PUSA
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 44K. Fully equipped, 4WD, and
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Cadillac
2010 NINE CHEV CAR 2012
 13,000 miles, Black, leather.
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Cadillac
CADILLAC 2011
 Blue Haze LT with RS pkg & al-
 loy! Silver, 20K, 22,980
 Only \$23,811!
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Cadillac
CADILLAC 2010
 121,116. A/C, leather, Nav.,
 2007, 17,400.
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Jeep Wrangler 2008
 44K. Hardtop, 4WD, and
 1.9% 67,800. 1320PUSA
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 Cherry Red, auto, sport, and
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 V-6, New tires, oil, waxes,
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 only. 5800 SOLD!
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 Recent repairs, Excellent cond.
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Ford Focus 4 DR 2007
 Auto, air, full power, super
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 1370475, 56,900.
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Mercury
MILAN 2006 - V6, Forest white,
 drive, keypad, 210K mt. Fully
 loaded. 65,000 mi. 2006.
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MILAN PREMIER 2010
 69K miles, 200K Certified,
 1.9%, \$7,950.
Low LaRiche

Nissan
MURANO 2007
 AWD, 60,100.
BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
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Nissan
NISSAN SENTRA 2010
 SE, SRV, 66K, 8 Spd.
 Must call me!
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\$83 with \$2999 down
 24 Mo. \$127 with \$1999 down
 36 Mo. \$164 with \$999 down

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

2013 CRUZE LS - EVERYONE PRICING

\$62 with \$2999 down
 24 Mo. \$105 with \$1999 down
 36 Mo. \$149 with \$999 down

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

2013 EQUINOX LS - EMPLOYEE SPECIALS

\$112 with \$2999 down
 24 Mo. \$155 with \$1999 down
 36 Mo. \$199 with \$999 down

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

2013 TRAVERSE LS - EMPLOYEE SPECIALS

\$44 with \$2999 down
 24 Mo. \$86 with \$1999 down
 36 Mo. \$128 with \$999 down

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

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