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Pooch pride

Canton Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin was happy to support the township board's move to increase the number of dogs residents can have from three to five.

But she's not sure there'd be support for the measure within her own family.

She joked that her lone dog Tootsie, a black Labrador retriever, would question the need for the ordinance.

"If you ask Tootsie, she would think it's an aberration to have more than one dog in the house: Why would you need that?" McLaughlin said.

See the full story on page A2.

Robotics success

Plymouth-Canton's Lightning Robotics team competed last weekend at Grand Valley State University in the West Michigan District.

The team finished the qualifying rounds with a 10-2 record and the top seed.

They came back to win the best-of-three quarterfinal after losing the first match, then won the semifinal and final rounds in two straight.

Though the winning margin in the finals was only 140-137.

Lightning Robotics 862 also won its second straight Engineering Inspiration Award, celebrating the team's outstanding efforts in advancing respect/appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school and their community.

With the fifth-highest point total in the state, the team qualified for the state competition April 11-13 at Eastern Michigan University.

Laugh line

Speakers at Wednesday's state-of-the-community event in Plymouth used a computer slide show to illustrate their remarks, and freshman Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, a Republican from Canton Township, used one slide to draw hearty chuckles as well.

Price, kicking off the four-speaker luncheon at Plymouth Manor, told the audience his talk on the county was going to cover "the good, the bad and the ugly." That was followed on the screen at his left by a large photo of Price, labeled "The Ugly," and was probably the biggest laugh line of the event.

INDEX	
Community Life.....	B5
Crossword Puzzle.....	C3
Education.....	A4
Health.....	B10
Homes.....	C2
Jobs.....	C1
Obituaries.....	B9
Services.....	C3
Sports.....	B1
Wheels.....	C4

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Boulevard idea gains traction

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A proposal to transform Ford Road into a boulevard in Canton is gaining momentum as the Michigan Department of Transportation narrows the list of options to ease traffic congestion along the bustling thoroughfare.

"I think a boulevard is what's going to happen," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

His remarks came as MDOT

officials Wednesday evening visited Summit on the Park to gauge public opinion as they inch toward finding a solution to fix one of Michigan's most accident-prone, traffic-clogged roads.

Corette Yung, MDOT project manager, said public support appears to lean toward the boulevard concept, based on feedback the state has received. The plan also calls for paving Lotz Road from Cherry Hill to Ford.

"The support is very overwhelming from the community," Yung said Wednesday.

A formal decision on a Ford Road fix is expected by early to mid-summer, said Matt Wendling, senior engineer for Wilbur Smith Associates, a consulting firm hired by MDOT to spearhead the latest study.

"We are not far from making that decision," he said.

Please see FORD ROAD, A2



BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Resident Frank Tintinalli looks at the plans for Ford Road at an MDOT-sponsored meeting Thursday.

Library cards inaugural award

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

The Canton Public Library has clinched a major national award — the first of its kind — amid sweeping praise by supporters who say its leaders and employees have made an immeasurable difference across this community and beyond.

Chosen among nearly 100 libraries across the nation, Canton has captured the inaugural Library Aware Community Award and a \$10,000 donation — welcomed by a local library that has broadened its mission despite an economic downturn and a meager \$5 million budget.

"This is great. To have this recognition is really significant," library Director Eva Davis said. Canton's single-branch library, with a starting 84,378 cardholders, beat out its competitors for the award, bestowed by Library Journal and LibraryAware, a product of EBSCO Publishing's NovelList Division.

"We're so excited for them," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "They've done such an outstanding job these forty years, and I think Eva has been a great leader with the library. I'm just so excited for them and the community. Everybody knows how good that library is. It's one of the jewels of our community."

Further the mission

LibraryAware singled out the Canton library for circulating 1.8 million items and accumulating 600,000 visits a year, offering 1,086 programs attended by 35,000 residents and working with businesses, non-profit agencies and community organizations to further its board-adopted mission of connecting the community.

That, it has. Consider just a few ways:

- It has partnered with Starfish Family Services, an area agency that provides families of at-risk children with parenting workshops and babysitting services.
- Employees have brought in trained "reading dogs" to help children overcome difficulties by reading to friendly pets.
- The library and other partners initiated a Business Resource Center to help local businesses struggling

Please see LIBRARY, A3



Swathi Banger reads "Will You Still Love Me?" by Carol Roth, to 5-year-old son Neel Banger.



National Honor Society tutor Eliza Burnstein works with 5-year-old Audrey Wolfe.

Canton, MSP team to arrest suspect in robberies

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A family connection to the suspect in the Feb. 6 robbery of the Canton Family Dollar store apparently led a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement team to the arrest of a Detroit police officer for allegedly organizing several robberies around Wayne County.

Detroit Police Officer Clifton Whatley, a 34-year-old Canton resident, was arraigned Thursday in 23rd District Court in Taylor for allegedly organizing several robberies around Wayne County, including the Family Dollar in Canton. Whatley is also a suspect in a series of robberies, including in Tay-



Whatley

the Wayne County Prosecutor's office described as Whatley's "long-time friend."

The Wayne County Prosecutor's office said Whatley faces three counts of armed robbery, two counts of bank robbery, three counts of unlawful imprisonment, one count of conducting

a criminal enterprise and felony firearm.

Whatley was arraigned Thursday and given a \$1 million cash bond. He is scheduled to be back in court April 8.

According to the prosecutor's office, Whatley has been employed as a police officer since 2000 and was most recently assigned to the day shift in the Central District.

According to Canton Police Lt. Debra Newsome, Canton's special services lieutenant, Whatley is a relative of Raymond Maurice Whatley of Detroit, one of two men (along with fellow Detroiters Eric Anthony Reed) facing charges in a series of robberies including the Family Dollar.

"We gathered information that (Clifton Whatley) might be directly involved," Newsome said. "We took (Reed and Raymond Whatley) into custody, and identified Clifton Whatley at a later date."

Newsome said Canton police contacted the Michigan State Police Corruption unit for help in the investigation. The MSP unit and the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, Newsome said, partnered to bring the case home.

"We worked very closely with the Michigan State Police who, by the way, did a fantastic job, as did the prosecutor's office," Newsome said. "We were very thankful to have their help."

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Canton eases pooch restrictions

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton canines have scored a victory of tail-wagging, drooping proportions after township officials have agreed to ease a three-pooch limit on local pet owners, allowing households to have as many as five dogs.

It comes with a cost, though. Canton residents who have four or five dogs will have to pay \$75 a year for an "animal fanciers" permit, face a Canton Public Safety Department inspection and keep records on file with the township clerk's office.

The less-restrictive dog rules are expected to take effect April 18 after the Canton Township Board of Trustees adopts an amended ordinance on sec-

ond reading. A first-round approval came Tuesday evening.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said the new rules are intended to balance the rights of dog lovers and their neighbors. To that end, pet owners still could face tighter restrictions imposed by subdivision and homeowners associations, those still trump the amended township guidelines.

Good compromise

"Your personal wants and needs have to be balanced against the impact of what that means for your neighbors," McLaughlin said. "I think there has to be a rational approach to this. When you exceed three dogs, that's more of an impact on any subdivision property. You could have five rottweilers

— that's a lot of dog out in the yard."

McLaughlin said she is hopeful the five-dog limit will accommodate dog lovers and their neighbors. "I think it's a good compromise," she said. On a personal note, she joked that her lone dog Tootsie, a black Labrador retriever, would question the need for the ordinance.

"If you ask Tootsie, she would think it's an aberration to have more than one dog in the house: Why would you need that?"

Canton moved to the five-dog limit after a local couple, Jennie and Alexander Yee, moved here with their young son, Jacob, and learned they violated the former three-pooch limit with their four cocker spaniel mix pets named Bentley, Shel-

by, Beamer and Edge.

It has been a year since the Yees pleaded with township officials to change the rules, and local leaders put the old rule in limbo as they explored possible changes. Jennie Yee had told township officials she couldn't bear facing a decision of parting with one of the four dogs, calling them "our family."

Welcome news

She had welcomed news months ago that Canton was moving toward a five-dog limit. "That's fabulous," she said. "I'm delighted to hear that." Local officials had taken their time revising dog rules. Supervisor Phil LaJoy had said Canton leaders sought to get it right the first time.

Canton requires a license

for all dogs and demands they be up to date on their shots. It costs just \$5 to renew a license for each dog up to three, but the \$75-per-household "animal fanciers" permit is more costly because of measures such as inspections.

Township Attorney Kristin Kalk outlined the latest rules Tuesday during a township board meeting. She said Canton still has the authority to confiscate dogs that are routinely allowed to roam neighborhoods, victims of cruelty or not licensed.

LaJoy said Canton could choose to amend the new rules, including fees, once officials determine the trust cost of the changes.

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FORD ROAD

Continued from page A1

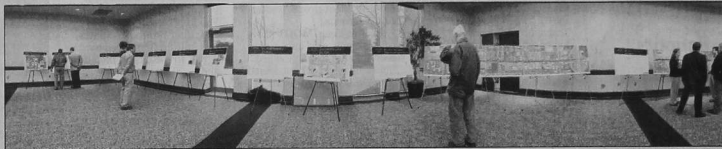
Wendling said officials hope to reach a consensus among MDOT, Canton Township, the local Downtown Development Authority, Westland and federal highway authorities.

Trio of options

"We have to make sure everybody is on board," he said.

MDOT has narrowed down the Ford Road plan to three options:

- Do nothing. Most everyone calls this option unacceptable.
- Adopt a Band-Aid approach by adding a westbound Ford lane from I-275 to Sheldon and an eastbound lane from Lilley to Hagerty, along with better turn



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The plans seem to stretch on forever in this panoramic view of the room where the hearing is held.

lanes at key intersections.

• Transform Ford Road into a boulevard by adding greenery and landscaping to separate east and west lanes, widening the road to three lanes in certain areas; prohibiting left turns at major intersections; and installing turn-around lanes similar to those on Michigan Avenue.

MDOT has eliminat-

ed other options such as reshaping the I-275/Ford interchange — a plan killed by federal officials — and adding costly new interchanges along the interstate at Cherry Hill and Warren roads.

MDOT and local officials say that leaves the boulevard as likely the best alternative, considering Ford Road in coming years will have to undergo a major reconstruction, regardless.

"If anything, the facts are kind of pointing in that direction because Ford Road will have to be improved anyway," Wendling said.

Best case

Wendling, Yung and others have said officials would try to disrupt Canton's main shopping corridor as little as possible during construction, though traffic snarls and other difficulties would be unavoidable.

MDOT still would have to figure out a funding mechanism, and Wendling said the costs could approach the \$40 million mark.

In a best-case scenario, Yung said the project could be finished in five years, although that estimate is tentative at best. State Sen. Patrick Col-

beck, R-Canton, attended Wednesday's forum and said he supports the boulevard concept as long as Lotz Road is paved between Cherry Hill and Ford. Earlier, he had held out hope the I-275/Ford interchange could be altered.

Canton resident Dale Hartford, 53, said he believes the boulevard should be accompanied by new exits from I-275 at Warren Road. He said he has lived in Canton since he was 3 years old.

"I stay away from Ford Road at all cost," he said. Resident John Kowalski, a retired Ford Motor Co. skilled trades employee, said he had hoped MDOT could move forward with installing new ramps from the southbound I-275 exit onto Hagerty Road, allowing motorists



MDOT engineer Gorette Yung talks about options for Ford Road.

to bypass Ford Road. Like many, he just wants the traffic congestion to ease. "Whatever they do, do it," he said. "It can't be any worse than what we've got."

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LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

against economic difficulties.

The facility brings in National Home Society students to tutor other pupils who are having difficulties at school.

- It borrowed a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. exhibit from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History to celebrate Black History Month.

- The library unveiled on its website, www.canton.org, archives of *Canton Observer* editions dating back to 1974, providing Canton with a source of history.

- Storytime programs have been taken to places as diverse as Waltonwood, a senior citizen complex, and the Canton Farmers Market.

- Employees organize numerous cultural activities to embrace Canton's diverse population.

Bridging cultures

Just recently, the library was awarded a special collection by the National Endowment for the Humanities known as "Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys." It added 25 new books, three new films and free access for one year to Oxford Islamic Studies Online.

Elaine Skrynski, adult services librarian, said collections such as this can help patrons better understand one another — a goal of the library's mission to connect the local community. She worked on a grant for the Muslim collection.

"I believe this collection certainly addresses a minority group that is very important to us," Skrynski said.

Laurie Golden, the



Friends of the Library volunteer staffer Chris Dancy at the library's used book store, Second Hand Prose.

library's marketing and communications director, said the library is planning a series of programs to complement the Muslim collection.

Moreover, Golden said the Canton library has materials in some 20 languages, marking its commitment to patrons who have settled here from around the world. Most any day, the library and its patrons are a microcosm of the larger Canton community.

Canton library supporters say the facility has a seemingly endless array of programs and services that are meticulously planned and carried out by a staff of about 100 full- and part-time employees.

Giving support

Marybeth Levine, who created the non-profit Detroit Area Diaper Bank in 2009 to help agencies and families with a need forgotten by the social safety net, said the library has supported her efforts from the beginning. Moreover, the library every fall hosts its Stuff the Truck diaper-collection campaign and has collected more than 100,000 diapers for children and incontinent adults.

"The library has been

absolutely crucial to establishing us locally," Levine said. "I don't even know if I can quantify it. It kind of gave validity to what we were doing because the library got involved. The library gave us such a boost and has continued to sponsor our anchor event. We are beyond thankful for their partnership."

With details still to come, the Canton library is planning a special celebration May 10 to formally accept the Library-Aware \$10,000 donation.

Yet, even now, library leaders and employees seem to have a heightened sense of pride after winning an inaugural national award.

It's the library's moment to shine, and Davis and others are embracing it.

"I absolutely believe we bring quality of life to the community," she said.

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PHOTOS BY THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

Five-year-old Aleina Telang, visiting the library with mom, Yoko Telang, and 18-month-old sister Celica Telang.



Aza Tulba, 2-year-old, Myar Tulba, 6-year-old Kareem Bashir and Nihal Osman take advantage of the Canton Public Library.

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The Plymouth Housing Commission is revising its approved FY 2012 Agency Plan. It is available for review at the Commission's Office, located at 3160 Sheridan Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. The Commission's hours of operation are Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm. In addition, a public hearing will be held on May 22, 2013 at the Commission's office at 5:30pm. Everyone is invited.

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The lucky 14 Farrand Elementary School students who won a ride to McDonald's in a limousine were excited to pile in and get moving.

Farrand kids read to ride

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Many of the kids at Farrand Elementary had never ridden in a limousine before, so a limo ride to McDonald's was a pretty attractive carrot for the school's March is Reading month competition.

And it certainly worked, at least for 14 of the school's students who won spots in the limo by reading at night with their parents.

Lauren Snell, a first/second-grade teacher at Farrand, said the kids didn't know the prize when they entered the contest, designed to encourage reading not only in school, but at home with families. The younger kids (K-2) had to read 15 minutes a night, while the older students (3-5) had to do 30 minutes.

"We want to motivate kids to be reading at home," Snell said. "It's something we want them to be doing with their parents. Parents need to know how important that is."

Students had to do the reading, fill out a log and have their parents sign it. Those slips were then placed into a raffle. While Snell wasn't sure exactly how many students took part, it was a lot.

"Each week we gathered a bunch," she said, smiling. "So it was definitely motivating."

Fourth-grader Andrew Schwartz read *Mystery on Mackinac Island* to earn his



Farrand Elementary's March is Reading Month raffle resulted in 14 winners of a limo ride to McDonald's.

sit in the limo, provided by Millennium Limousines, Inc.

"I think it's cool," Andrew said. "I've never been in one of those long cars before."

Farrand Principal Kay Elaster said she was proud of her students. "I'm proud they took up the challenge and followed through," she said — and knows how important literacy is.

"Literacy is a way of life," Elaster said. "As we move to the common-core state standards, they talk about real-world context. Having students engaged in literacy is a big part of that."

While she was excited to take part in the contest and loves to read, for second-grader Natalie Holmes, it was all about the ride.

"I've never been in (a limo) before," said Natalie, who read her *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books to satisfy contest rules. "I'm really excited."

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Guest readers push literacy

Dodson Elementary School in Canton recently held a Guest Reader Day as part of the Rockin' and Readin' celebration of the March Reading Month observance.

More than 40 guest readers visited classrooms March 20 during the day's special events. Members of the school's Student Council also provided the visitors with personal guided tours of the building and shared specific news about the various achievements and awards granted to the school.

Guest readers included Plymouth-Canton Community Schools staffers, local community leaders, representatives from the Canton police and fire departments, Chris Edmonds from radio station 105.1, Judge James Plakas from the 35th District Court and many others.

Joan Noricks, recently retired president of the Canton Community Foundation, shared *The Little Old Man Who Could Not Read* by Irma Simonton Black with the children.

"I love to have the chance to share my grandchildren's favorite book and love to encourage the joy of reading," said Noricks, who visited Cathie Kerr's classroom. "This has been the best part since I've retired. I've been reading



Lisa Harston LeDoux and her sidekick, Barry the Banana, share a book with Cathy Tyler's fourth/fifth-grade class.

voraciously."

Kareem Dudar, 8, was Noricks' Student Council tour guide during the morning.

"It was fun," Kareem said. "We were here to tell about our school, Camp Dodson and our poetry books. I liked showing Mrs. Noricks our school."



Canton Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin was part of the guest-reader lineup for Dodson Elementary's celebration of March is Reading Month.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF THE CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE MAY 7, 2013 SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to Plymouth Township residents that April 8, 2013, is the last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in the May 7, 2013 Special Election. The Special Election is being held for the purpose of voting on one Plymouth-Canton Community Schools proposal as follows:

GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$114,400,000

A copy of the full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan 48170; Phone (734) 416-2700.

Residents of Plymouth Township who are not already registered to vote may register at a Secretary of State Branch Office or State Designated Agency or by visiting the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Mail-in registrations postmarked by April 8, 2013, will also be accepted.

Nancy Conzelman
Plymouth Township Clerk

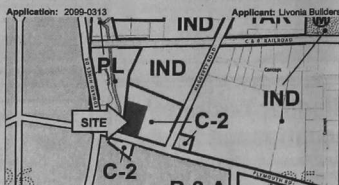
Published: March 31, 2013

APR08/13 - 0424

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED ACTION: Request Approval of a Planned Unit Development Option
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, April 17, 2013
TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 PM
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting approval of a PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OPTION for parcels R-78-029-99-0004-000 pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99. The property is located north of Plymouth Road, east of Edward Hines Drive, south of the C&O Railroad, and west of Haggerty Road. The site is zoned C-2 (General Commercial).



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: for parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID no.(s): R-78-029-99-0004-000

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270 extension 5. The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting or hearings on one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone: 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service)

KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: March 31, 2013

APR08/13 - 0424

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It's raining ... marshmallows in Hines Park

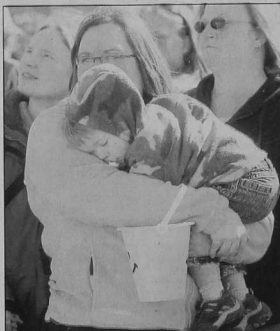
A few degrees colder and they might have been mistaken them for snowflakes, but it was actually 20,000 marshmallows dumped from a helicopter circling over the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland Friday morning.

Nice weather brought out a large crowd of kids ready, willing and able to scramble once the marshmallows hit the ground. A non-competitive event, youngsters only need one marshmallow to receive a treat.

The falling marshmallows were a delight to see for the children, who waited to collect the goodies. They were divided into three separate age groups — 4 and younger, 5-7, and 8 and older — to make sure each and everyone had a chance to participate.

This is the 29th year Wayne County Parks has held the Marshmallow Drop at Nankin Mills in Westland and Elizabeth Park in Trenton. The event was co-sponsored by TTC Holdings and Taylor Ford.

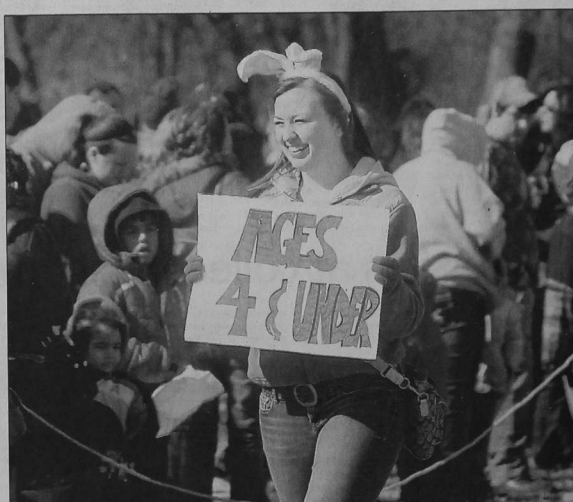
The Marshmallow Drop is the first of many events planned by Wayne County Parks for 2013. For more information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call (734) 261-1990.



Sarah Pelletier holds son Andrew who just got tired of waiting for the marshmallows to fall.



They didn't have to tell youngster twice when it was time to go for the marshmallows which they turned in for a prize.



Livonia resident and volunteer Emily Snitchler helps with crowd control at the 29th annual Marshmallow Drop.

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Sophie Watt came from Commerce Township to be a part of the annual marshmallow drop.

Christian Cronkrite of Westland had a full basket of marshmallows to turn in for a prize.

The helicopter crew has become pros at dumping 20,000 marshmallows for the children waiting below.

Kenah Bullion and Audrianna Ditzek with mom Kelly Ditzek meet the Easter Bunny.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both Attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be **no fee charged until after the case is won**. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Beaumont, state promote safe sleep

Educational video features parents who have lost infants

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

ROYAL OAK — Shantae Lee was at work when she received the phone call that changed her life.

The call was from her husband, who told her when he went to check on their 3-month-old baby, Lailah, she wasn't breathing.

Lailah had been put to sleep on her stomach, just like Lee had done with her two older children, causing her to accidentally suffocate.

Lee said it could have happened to anyone, but the Novi mom doesn't want anyone else to have to endure the pain she has had to deal with the last two years.

In an effort to educate parents and caregivers, Lee was among a group of parents who shared their stories of loss with the Michigan Departments of Human Services and Community Health for a video they created about safe sleep initiatives.

A portion of the video was shown Monday afternoon at the Beaumont Children's Hospital in Royal Oak, where Michigan first lady Sue Snyder also announced her support of the program.

"This is such an important message, not just for new parents, but for anyone who has children or works with them," Lee said.

She said unsafe sleep practices, such as laying an infant on their stomach to sleep, or allowing them to sleep with a parent because it seems like the only way the child will be quiet, isn't worth it.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MUELLER

Michigan first lady Sue Snyder (right) talks with Stacy, holding new baby Alaina, and Michael Bambach at Beaumont Hospital on Monday where she announced her support of the state's safe sleep initiatives. Beaumont is the first hospital in the state to partner with the Michigan Departments of Human Services and Community Health in an effort to curtail the nearly 150 infant deaths annually due to unsafe sleep environments.

"The pain that comes from losing that child is not worth those few more moments of rest," Lee said. "It's not worth the lifetime you will lose."

In the last three years, 424 babies in Michigan have died due to unsafe sleep environments, including 144 in 2012. And thus far this year there have been at least 13 infant deaths in Detroit and five in the rest of Wayne County.

"The death of a baby is devastating," Snyder said. "And when this tragedy is preventable, the loss is nearly unbearable. It's a pain and a regret I hope we can spare every family in Michigan."

Canton residents Paul and Paula Mallia also lost their son Michael to accidental asphyxia and shared their story on the

video.

Michael was at day care in 2002 when the quilt put over top of the Pack 'N Play he was sleeping in to block out the sunlight fell on him.

Paula said she hopes her personal story reaches others so it doesn't happen to them, too.

"I don't want anyone else to have to live through our hell," she said. "Not a day goes by that I don't think about him."

Their older daughter, Brianna, was 5 years old when Michael died, and she said she still misses him a lot.

"I looked at him not only as my little brother but as a best buddy," she said. "Now he's my guardian angel always looking over me."

Dr. Fozia Saleem-Rasheed, a neonatologist

at Beaumont Children's Hospital, said the hospital has created a task force of health care professionals who have "made it their mission" to teach families safe sleep practices.

They preach the ABC's of safe sleep, which are that babies should sleep alone, on their back and in a crib. There are no quilts, no comforters, no stuffed animals and no bumpers. Babies also should never share beds with another person, and the use of pacifiers at nap and bedtime is encouraged.

"Where you put your baby to sleep can be the difference between life or death," she said.

Beaumont is the first hospital to partner with



Audrey Kalasky, clinical nurse specialist at Beaumont Hospital, talks about how to prevent infant deaths by making sure their sleep environment is safe. Babies should be alone, on their back and in a crib without any blankets or stuffed animals around, much like how newborn twin Hadley Roth is sleeping.

the state departments by airing the video through the hospital television system. The goal is to partner with other hospitals and make the video available to all new parents.

Maura Corrigan, director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, said they have appointed safe sleep coordinators in all the counties where there are difficulties with safe sleep environments, and hopes

the message of those who have lost infants has an impact on others.

"Each one of the deaths from unsafe sleep environments is a preventable death," she said. "It's undeniable and it's imperative that we act together."

The video is available for viewing at www.michigan.gov/safesleep.

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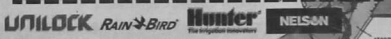
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Concert throws thread of hope to kids at risk

Some of Michigan's most respected musical performers will be on the stage at Twissley Auditorium at Washtenaw Community College on Saturday April 13, to raise the money they need to fund their work helping incarcerated and at-risk youth in Michigan.

Folk music legend Josh White Jr., Irish-inspired singer/songwriter Kitty Donohoe, blues master Reverend Robert Jones, and other stars yet to be announced will join award-winning humorist and singer/songwriter Mike Ball on stage in the Spring Concert for Lost Voices.

Lost Voices is a Michigan nonprofit that conducts music writing and performing workshops with incarcerated and at-risk youth.

"Growing up is about choices, and sometimes young people make bad ones," said Ball, who founded Lost Voices. "We work with kids who are in trouble, most of them locked up, because of bad choices they have made. We help them learn how to express their feelings in



Spring Concert for Lost Voices will help the nonprofit conduct music writing and performing workshops with incarcerated and at-risk youth.

ways other than the destructive patterns that have been their way of life."

Lost Voices was born in 2006 when Ball, an author, syndicated humor columnist and folk musician, started a creative writing class for the young men at the W. J. Maxey Boys Training School in Whitmore Lake. With initial funding from the

Michigan Humanities Council, Ball's work quickly evolved into a music writing program in which the kids write the lyrics, and Ball, working in tandem with folk and blues musicians like White, Donohoe and Jones, transforms their thoughts into music.

At the end of the workshop, the kids go on stage, backed by

the professional musicians, to perform their work for peers, teachers, councilors, and parents.

Ball and his Lost Voices teams mostly work with incarcerated boys and girls between the ages of 12-18. "These are really talented children," said Ball, "Granted, many of them have done bad things, or they wouldn't be locked up. But they are still kids, and beneath it all they are not all that different from your kids or mine. I always find it pretty amazing how much they are willing to dig down into their deepest feelings, how much they are willing to reveal in their songs."

The April 13 Concert will feature songs written in the Lost Voices program.

"We can't bring the kids out on stage for you to meet them, but we can do the next best thing - we can sing your their songs. Josh, Kitty and Robert and I have all worked on the 'front lines' with the kids, and we all have songs from them

that we are moved to perform," Ball said.

The concert is a major fundraiser for the group, the latest in a series going back to 2007. In past years, Lost Voices Concerts have featured acts like Peter Madcat Ruth, Matt Watroba, Charlie Allen Martin, Cats and The Fiddler, Jen Cass, Salem Witchcraft, Annie and Rod Capps, Shari Kane and Dave Steele.

The Concert kicks off at 6:30 p.m. in the Towles Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building on the WCC Campus with an opening act of students from the Washtenaw Community College Performing Arts programs.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, with student tickets available for \$15 and Gold Circle Reserved Seating for \$50. Tickets are available online at <http://LVSpring2013.brownpapertickets.com> and at the door.

To learn more about Lost Voices and the concert go online to <http://lostvoices.org>.

Inheritance beneficiaries typically owe no taxes

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: Last year, a relative passed away and I received a home as an inheritance. I originally planned to live in the house, but changed my mind and decided to sell it. I ended up closing on the house in December and I netted about \$150,000 on the sale. How much tax do I have to pay on the \$150,000? I have been told that I have to pay tax on the entire \$150,000 because that is what's on the 1099. That doesn't seem right to me. When I received the house from the inheritance, I was told that for estate tax purposes it was valued at \$140,000. Hopefully, you can give me some good news with



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

regards to taxes.

A: I do have some good news for you. Whoever told you that you have to pay tax on

the entire \$150,000 is just wrong. Even though you received a 1099 for the \$150,000, that doesn't mean that you have to pay taxes on the entire amount. The 1099 that's issued on the sale of real estate is more for informational purposes in that it notifies the Internal Revenue Service that a

sale was completed. What confuses people is that they assume inheritances are subject to taxes similar to the receipt of income. Fortunately, that is not the case. In the majority of cases when you receive an inheritance, you, the beneficiary, are receiving the money tax-free. If there are any estate taxes, they are taxed to the estate itself, not to the beneficiary. Therefore, in the majority of cases when someone receives an inheritance, there are no taxes. There is, however, one major caveat to this rule. When you inherit a qualified account such as an IRA, 401(k) or when you inherit an annuity, there are income tax consequences. As an example, if you inher-

it a traditional IRA that's valued at \$10,000, since income taxes have never been paid on that \$10,000, you, the beneficiary, must pay income taxes on the \$10,000. That doesn't necessarily mean that you have to pay it in one lump sum as there are different options available, but the bottom line is you must pay taxes on that amount.

If you inherit someone's annuity, there are also income tax consequences. The amount of the annuity, less the deceased basis, must be reported as income. For example, if an annuity is worth \$50,000 and it was originally purchased for \$40,000, the difference is \$10,000. The person who inherits that

annuity would be paying tax on \$10,000.

Because a house is not a qualified account, there is no income tax consequence when you inherit someone's home. However, just like when you sell property, eventually when someone sells property that they inherited, there could be a tax consequence. In your situation, the amount you would pay taxes on would be the sale price — \$150,000, less the basis \$140,000 (\$10,000). And the real good news is that it's taxed at the long-term capital gains rate.

One last note, for tax purposes, there is a difference between an inheritance and a gift. An inher-

itance, something you receive based upon someone's death, allows you to receive a new basis based on the fair market value of the property at the date of death. When you receive a gift, which is a transfer of property during the donor's lifetime, you take a transfer basis, which is the same basis the donor had. These two different tax consequences can result in major tax differences. Good luck!

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

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Dodson fourth-grader Payton Stanecki was recently published in the Michigan Reading Association Kaleidoscope.

Dodson writer honored for poetry

Dodson fourth-grader Payton Stanecki, 9, was recently honored in Grand Rapids at the Michigan Reading Association's Annual Conference.

Her poem, entitled "Best Friends," was published in the *Kaleidoscope* magazine with a collection of pieces from students in schools from across the state of Michigan. The winners were invited to attend a Young Authors' event at the Amway Grand Hotel and were entertained by author Kevin Kammeraad in a pre-luncheon session. The students received medals and were honored for their success in writing by the attendees. Following the luncheon Canton teenager-

er Taylor Joseph was the featured main speaker of the event. She has successfully written and published several young adult novels. The Young Authors were able to ask questions and to interact with Joseph following the event.

Payton, the daughter of Paul and Heidi Stanecki of Canton, said she enjoyed attending the event with her parents, her 11-year-old sister Paige, and Bonnie Goodrich, Dodson's Literacy teacher.

"It made me feel really good inside when I first found out that I was going to be published," Payton said. "My mom was crying. I like writing and it was an honor to represent my school."

Diamond earrings, artwork and a basket of Pope John Paul II memorabilia are among the items that will help raise funds at Madonna University's All Aboard for Student Scholarships event. The cruise-themed dinner and auction takes place, Friday, April 12, at Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center. Boarding passes are \$75 each.

In addition to a strolling dinner of foods from such ports of call as Poland, China, Italy and the Middle East, the event features a silent auction with more than 160 items donated by many area businesses. Auction committee member Julie DePodesta, of Livonia, donated, among other things, an abstract painting by her cousin and accomplished artist Tino Zago.

Born in Italy, Zago spent his formative years in the Detroit area where he studied at Cranbrook Academy of Art. He also studied at Yale University and now lives in New York. His artwork can be found in museums and corporate collections in Michigan and throughout the United States.



Angela Ansara-Bahu, of MJ Diamonds, presents Andrea Nodge, of Madonna University, with one of three pairs of diamond earrings for the Purser's Diamond Pull at All Aboard for Student Scholarships.

Asked why she was so involved in helping make Madonna's event a success, DePodesta said, "God has blessed me in so many ways. I try to put my heart and soul in every activity or project I take on. I get involved because it comes naturally—a gift from God."

A special Purser's Diamond Pull at the event gives guests the opportunity to purchase a chance

to win one of three pairs of diamond earrings valued at \$1,500. The earrings, along with a sea of cubic zirconia earrings, were donated by Angela Ansara-Bahu, owner of MJ Diamonds at Laurel Park Mall in Livonia.

As manager of an independent, family-owned business Ansara-Bahu enjoys giving back to the community. "I love the Livonia community, and there-

fore love to support groups like Madonna," she said. WJ's Ken Rogalski will be the ships cruise director/emcee, and entertainment for the evening includes a strolling Italian accordion player and a student crooner with a cruise ship lounge act. Reservations for All Aboard can be made online at www.madonna.edu/allaboard, or by calling (734) 432-5602.

Rouge River group needs bug hunters

Friends of the Rouge needs volunteers to help look for stoneflies, mayflies and other aquatic insects at the annual Spring Bug Hunt on April 20. Interested volunteers must pre-register by Friday, April 5.

Children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult.

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. at the University of Michigan-

Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center. Volunteers are assigned to teams of four-eight people who each travel to two sites where, under the direction of a trained team leader, they look for living things in samples collected from the river. The number and type of bugs found is used to assess each site and data are submitted to the state and Rouge communities.

The Spring Bug Hunt is part of a long-term monitoring program that began in 1998. It is coordinated by Friends of the Rouge and supported by the Erb Family Foundation and the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.therouge.org. Additionally, Friends of the Rouge is offering training for Bug Hunt Team Leaders on April 13.

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Super Show features arts, crafts from disabled

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Teddy Fitzmaurice, president of Teddy's Ts, designs, paints and sells his T-shirts promoting human rights and disability advocacy, which he'll be doing at the Super Show at Laurel Park Place on April 6.

He also has Down syndrome, and transitioned out of 26 years of public school education, graduating from high school in 2003.

The Livonia event features handcrafted items including ceramics, paintings, jewelry, T-shirts and hats, and it's open to anyone in Michigan who makes handcrafted items to sell or has a micro-enterprise, one-person business.

All vendors keep funds they collect from sales of their products or services. Organizers say this is the only regularly scheduled event that supports Michigan people with disabilities. The event was previously held monthly at various locations in

Novi during 2012.

The Fitzmaurice family lives in West Bloomfield. "We used to live in Novi, though," said mom Susan Fitzmaurice. Her son is 29 and lives independently next to her in a duplex condo.

He was involved in the Atrium Mall of Novi shows in the past. "Hopefully, we're going to make a go of it. They're being very welcoming," she said of the new Laurel Park Place location.

"They're extending a lot of service to us to get it off the ground."

People with significant disabilities have limited employment options.

"They want to work just like everybody else wants to work. By having a micro-enterprise, that's one way you can gain that respect."

"This isn't about charity," she said of the good quality products. "You're buying it because it's a nice quality item, and you want it."

She noted when meeting new people, "What do you do for a living?" is a



Teddy Fitzmaurice of West Bloomfield met President Bill Clinton during a Michigan visit, and gave him a T-shirt of Fitzmaurice's design.

common early question. "But the folks who do this have an answer to that question. It's really as much about selling and helping people be able to get out there." It's important for the community to see disabled people as having an "impor-

tant place in our communities," she said.

Teddy Fitzmaurice, who began his business in April 2006, likes to take cooking classes at Schoolcraft College. He has taken his T-shirts to a number of out-of-state sites, and spent the summer

DETAILS

The Oakland County Business Association Michigan, a not-for-profit organization, will present the Saturday Super Show, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Laurel Park Place (Six Mile and Newburgh roads in Livonia). Admission is free.

For information, visit www.SaturdaySuperShow.com or email saturdaysupershow@gmail.com.

of 2010 learning to silk-screen.

"President Clinton has one. Jennifer Granholm has one," his mom said. The former president has one that says "I vote. Do you?" with the Statue of Liberty in a wheelchair.

"That's his own design." He met Clinton during a Michigan visit, and also presented one to Granholm, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and members of Congress.

"We are part of the community. We shouldn't be sidelined," Susan Fitzmaurice said of the larger message.

There are 68 tables for the show, she said. Fitzmaurice anticipates there will still be room for vendors, due to cancellations. A wait list may need to be started: "Hopefully they'll be able to come."

Clients from many local agencies that assist disabled people have been contacted to participate in the Super Show, including Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, Easter Seals, Community Network Services, United Cerebral Palsy, Community Choices, Judson Center of Royal Oak, New Center Community Mental Health, Northbrook Psychological Clinic of Novi, Novi Psychiatry and Psychology, Oakland County Community Mental Health, Wayne County Mental Health, Wolverine Human Services of Detroit, and others.

Podiatrists help patients locally, internationally

Drs. Lawrence Fallat of Canton and Pamela Morrison of Dearborn recently returned from a week-long tour to Tecpan, Guatemala, where they performed clubfoot reconstructive surgeries on crippled children and surgical correction of untreated trauma to the foot and ankle to remote villagers.

During their stay, they performed 31 surgeries and saw approximately 130 patients in a clinic. Medical conditions, ranging from severe neurological deformities to tumors, were treated.

Fallat has been going on medical missions for the past 15 years with Morrison joining him for the past seven. Their missions have taken them to the Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Honduras and most recently Guatemala.

Both doctors said they find these trips "very rewarding," and that "providing crippled chil-



Dr. Lawrence Fallat and Dr. Pam Morrison with patients in Guatemala. Fallat was raised in Taylor and currently resides in Canton. Morrison is a life-long Dearborn resident.

dren the opportunity to walk and have a chance at a normal life" keeps them returning year after year.

They will be making a return trip to Guatemala in May to check on the patients they operated on this past February.

In addition to their private practice in Taylor (Lawrence Fallat, DPM, PC), the doctors run the Oakwood Annapolis Podiatric Surgical Residency and have an office in Canton. As well as international medical missions, Fallat, who was raised in Taylor and currently resides in Canton, and Morrison, a life-long Dearborn resident, volunteer monthly at a local clinic, providing free care to uninsured diabetics in Wayne County.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PLANNING COMMISSION**

PROPOSED ACTION: Request Approval of a Cluster Housing Option

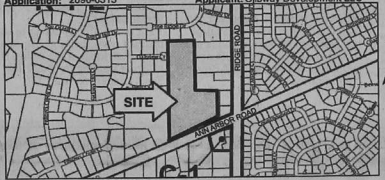
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, APRIL 17, 2013

TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 PM

PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting approval of a CLUSTER HOUSING OPTION for parcels R-78-048-99-0013-000 and R-78-048-99-0006-000, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99. The property is located north of Ann Arbor Road and west of Ridge Road. The site is zoned R-1-E (Single Family Residential).

Application: 2098-0313 **Applicant:** Oubway Development LLC



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: for parcels descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID no(s): R-78-048-99-0013-000 & R-78-048-99-0006-000

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270 extension 5. The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings or hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone: 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service)

**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Publish: March 31, 2013 #770679-3-07

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PLANNING COMMISSION**

PROPOSED ACTION: Request Approval of a Tentative Preliminary PLAT


DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, APRIL 17, 2013

TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 PM

PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting approval of a TENTATIVE PRELIMINARY PLAT for parcels R-78-048-99-0013-000 and R-78-048-99-0006-000. The property is located north of Ann Arbor Road and west of Ridge Road. The site is zoned R-1-E (Single Family Residential).

Application: 2097-A-0313 **Applicant:** Oubway Development LLC



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: for parcels descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID no(s): R-78-048-99-0013-000 & R-78-048-99-0006-000

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270 extension 5. The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Publish: March 31, 2013 #770679-3-07

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PLANNING COMMISSION**

PROPOSED ACTION: AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP

REZONE FROM: AG, Agricultural District

REZONE TO: R-1-S, Single Family Residential District


DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, April 17, 2013

TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 PM

PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received a proposed petition to rezone the western portion of parcel R-78-042-99-0002-701 from AG, Agricultural District to R-1-S, Single Family Residential District.

Application: 2098-0313 **Location:** North of North Territorial Road, East of Naper Road



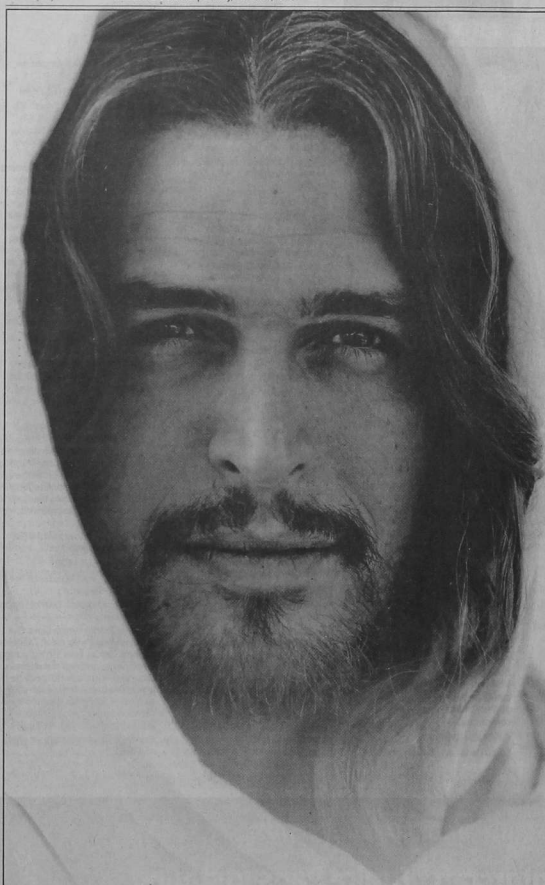
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-042-99-0002-701.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270 ext. 5. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth Township, MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone: 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Publish: March 31, 2013 #770679-3-08



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SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR
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734-469-4128

BOYS LACROSSE PREVIEW

Salem's offense clicking

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's varsity boys lacrosse team promises to score a bushel full of goals this season and that's just fine as far as first-year head coach Paul Nemzek is concerned.

In fact, with three games in the books, the Rocks have done just that — scoring in double figures each contest, including 13-7 and 12-9 victories over Howell and Walled Lake Northern to open the season.

That isn't a complete surprise, with high-scoring senior co-captains Brandon Lee and Patrick Kretschmer returning.

Lee and Kretschmer paced Salem with 50 and 49 goals, respectively, in 2012. In the opener, Kretschmer scored eight times with Lee adding a pair along with three assists.

Yet Nemzek emphasized that scoring goals isn't the only trick in the Salem playbook.

"We have great team size and speed," Nemzek said, listing reasons other teams in the KLAAs should be paying attention to Salem. "We expect to be physically and mentally tougher than our opponents. We expect to compete for our league championship. We believe we are contenders in our region for the state playoffs."

Provided the Rocks follow the script, Nemzek envisions winning "the close games that get away from us in the past." That could mean at least 10 victories.

In 2012, Salem finished 9-9 and lost in the second round of the regionals.

Plenty to offer

Several other returning players who bring a lot to the table include senior co-captain and

Please see LACROSSE, B2



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Autumn Burin has a lot to smile about these days, gearing up for the Boston Marathon and knowing her efforts will help children in need.

Miles for mankind

Salem alum's putting 'World' spin on running the Boston Marathon

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Autumn Burin isn't your typical college go-getter with big aspirations to make a difference someday.

The 19-year-old Salem High School graduate is making it happen right now — running April 15 in the 117th annual Boston Marathon. But that's only the first leg of the story, if you will.

Not only did she decide to run the 26.2-mile trek as casually as some kids her age choose what MP3 file to download, she opted to run for Team World Vision in Boston.

Then with the goal of helping build wells to bring clean water to underprivileged children in Africa, she collected more than



Autumn Burin's shoes are made for running in the Boston Marathon.

\$1,000 for the effort. Sponsors pledged whatever they could, from \$25 on up.

"(World Vision) is an organization that helps children in Africa," said Burin, now a freshman at Grand Valley State University. "It provides them with clean water, shelter, food."

"The specific thing I was raising money for was wells for chil-

dren. So \$50 bought a child clean water for life. So that was pretty cool. Clean drinking water."

Why not Boston?

Burin's ticket to run arrived in April 2012, when she competed in the Dearborn Martian Marathon. It was her first marathon, and she finished in three hours, 22 minutes — below the Boston Marathon qualifying time of 3:40.

"I wasn't really expecting to qualify, especially for my first race," Burin said. "But I did and every runner kind of wants to run the Boston Marathon at one point."

"I kind of just thought, 'You know, it's a good time, the best

Please see BOSTON, B3

Salem netters win opener

Strong singles and doubles play Wednesday lifted host Salem to a 7-2 girls tennis victory over Livonia Churchill in the Rocks' season opener.

Senior Ashley Walker won 6-0, 6-2 at No. 1 singles. Also posting wins in singles play for the Rocks were No. 2 Chelsea Yu (6-2, 6-1) and No. 4 Kylie Enright (6-4, 7-5). The Rocks were victorious in four doubles flights. Wins were recorded by the tandems of seniors Katie Venia and Julia Merieles at No. 1; senior Abi Collingwood and freshman Kylie Flynn at No. 2; juniors Rachel Herschok and Kendall Berghofer at No. 3; and freshmen Ashmi Nagar and Madison Kulk at No. 5.

UDM to host bowling final

The University of Detroit Mercy will host the 2013 NCAA Women's Bowling Championships April 11-13 at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton, Mich.

The seeded, eight-team field consists of Central Missouri, Maryland-Eastern Shore, Nebraska, Arkansas State, Vanderbilt, Sam Houston State, Wisconsin-Whitewater and Fairleigh Dickinson.

Tickets can be purchased on www.ncaa.com prior to the championship. For more information about the National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship, log on to www.ncaa.com.

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 7-9 in the fall. Call Canton freshman head coach Rich Mui at (248) 229-2736 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 Baehler 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 3-6 in the fall.

For more information, contact Enza Lavana at (313) 300-1173. Go to www.cantonchiefsfootball.com to download forms for each camp.

GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW PART 3

Jelling as unit key for young Chiefs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The ingredients are changing, but Canton varsity girls soccer coach Jeannine Reddy still likes the recipe. Gone from the 2012 team that went 17-3-3 and reached the Division 1 quarterfinals are Ally Krause, Megan Trapp, Robyn Mack and Rachel Winters.

And the 2013 Chiefs are off to a slow start, losing their first two games. Still, Reddy is optimistic that her current roster features a sprinkling of key returnees and newcomers with plenty of potential will get the job done in the KLAAs South Division.

"We have things to work on, as any young team would," Reddy said. "But we will get better and comfortable with each other's game and learn to mesh together. We have to play simple and composed."

The arrival of spring break will help as the Chiefs look to rebound

from losses of 1-0 to Saline and 4-2 to Novi to open the schedule.

"In the KLAAs South, we have a very good Plymouth team to tackle this season," she said. "The challenge every year is beating Plymouth in our division to win it. It should be a fun and interesting season."

Essential to any success is the play of a handful of key returnees. Junior Gabby Epelman (verbally committed to the University of Toledo) and senior co-captain Natalie Schmidt will team up in the back, and Reddy expects them to be among the conference's best tandems.

"Both are strong defenders offering different aspects to the game," Reddy said. "Gabby scored the winning goal against Northville last year (in the district final). She is a hard-working, smart and fast player who will have a great impact on and off the field."

"Natalie plays with composure and has a great knowledge of the game."

Please see SOCCER, B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

One of Canton's top returning players is Erica Lucas (No. 23), showing during Thursday's contest against Novi.

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'Cats kick off season on the right foot

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

A solid all-around performance Wednesday night lifted host Plymouth to a 2-1 victory over Novi in a KLAAs cross-over varsity girls soccer match.

Scoring the winning goal with about five minutes left was senior midfielder Morgan Klabunde, fielding a crossing pass from senior forward Madi Lewis and going top shelf.

"Morgan first-timed it and it found its way into the upper corner of the net," Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich said. "It was just a nicely slotted shot from just outside the box, close to the top of the box."

Making sure that lead held up was Plymouth junior goalkeeper Kylie Robb and her impressive defense.

"She (Robb) had a couple really nice saves and she was strong on some set plays and corner kicks that they had," Neschich noted. "She had good control of the box, she's just a solid leader for us in the back."

Lewis' goal got the Wildcats on the board in the first half, and the teams were tied 1-1 at the intermission.

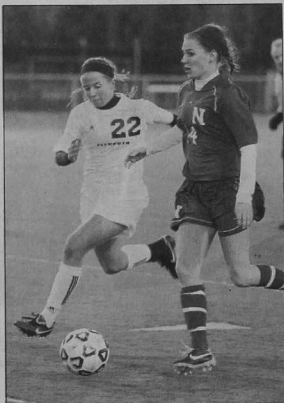
According to Neschich, the victory was a strong start to the season—although there won't be a chance to gain any momentum for a while due to the spring break. Plymouth's next contest is Monday, April 7 against Ann Arbor Skyline.

"Novi is a really strong team," Neschich said. "Our kids came out and played really well. They stood up to them and it was a good outcome for us."

Rocks win opener

On Wednesday night in a girls soccer matchup of KLAAs teams, Salem's Morgan Siterlet scored in the first half and it held up as the Rocks won their season opener, 1-0, at Livonia Churchill.

Assisting on Siterlet's goal were Caroline Simko and Emily Barfuss. Earning the shut-out with two saves was goalie Ali Eggenberger. Salem head coach Scott Duhl said Eggenberger-



Plymouth's Stephanie Dillon (No. 22) wins the foot race against a Novi player during Wednesday night's varsity girls soccer match.

er had "terrific" support in the back from defenders Katie Binsfeld, Olivia Kaye, Taylor Jaaska and

Kaitlyn Pelech.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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SOCCER

Continued from page B1

She is a great defender and will be a big help in the back."

The other senior co-captain is center-midfielder Tracy Moore, whose direct approach to the position is a plus.

"She plays simple and creates opportunities for our offense," Reddy said. "She works hard and has great skills and knowledge of the game. She helps control the middle offensively and defensively."

They're versatile

Also back are junior Erica Lucas and sopho-

more Chloe Donlin, who are versatile enough to sparkle wherever they play.

Reddy said third-year varsity player Lucas has "great vision of the field, hard-working and creates lots of opportunities in the middle or up top for us."

Likewise, Donlin is ver-

satile and athletic—plus she is healthy after missing much of the 2012 season.

"She is a diverse player, strong and hard-working," Reddy said. "She will be great in the midfield, defense and even offense. She has improved from last season and is going to be a big part of our team this season."

Promising players include freshmen Maddie Lucas (Erica's sister) and Natalie Winters (Rachel's sister).

"I'm excited to see what both freshmen can add to our team," Reddy said. Lucas will start at forward and Reddy is eager to see how much the newcomer's work ethic and offensive savvy translate into scoring chances.

Winters will be a starter at midfield and can chip in at forward as needed. She is "another great player with knowledge of the game."

NOVI 4, CANTON 2: On Thursday night at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Chiefs (0-2) dropped this KLAAs cross-over matchup.

Scoring for Canton were Natalie Winters and Taylor Dailon.

Novi built a 3-0 halftime lead and warded off Canton's comeback bid in the second half.

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LACROSSE

Continued from page B1

defensesman Phil Suttin, senior attacker P.J. Rogers, junior attacker Jason Newel (22 goals in 2012) and senior goaltender Justin Oldani, beginning his second season as the Salem starter.

Those aren't the only players with valuable varsity experience. Up front will be junior Parker Godfrey and senior Turner Soltermann. Returning midfielders include senior Jake Perkins and juniors Austin McKee, Alan Grewal and Joel Martin.

On defense, the Rocks feature returnees such as senior Cameron Hussey, junior Robert Charara and sophomore Adam Cousineau.

Backing up Oldani in net is sophomore Mack Baker.

New to the scene are five players with skill and toughness, some with

football and hockey backgrounds.

Slated to play both mid-field and attack will be sophomore Noah Willer, who Nemenz said has "great hands."

Junior Vince Troher will bring physicality and "excellent stick skills" to his defensive post. Paul Sommerville, a junior defender, is solid in positioning and technique. He also is big and strong, the coach noted.

Perhaps the fastest player on the squad is sophomore midfielder Joe Krause.

Another sophomore midfielder is Austin McKee, who Nemenz said is promising in his role as a short stick defensive player.

Entering the spring break, the Rocks are 2-1 (they lost 14-13 Thursday at Bloomfield Hills) with the next game set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at Hartland.

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Transition game key to Chiefs' chances

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs will look to be a physical squad that presses hard and turns opponents' mistakes into scoring chances.

Coach Hank Lewandowski hasn't had much of a chance to see the Chiefs in action yet due to March weather and a gap in scheduling.

But Canton will play homes games against Hartland and Belleville after returning from spring break.

Top returning players are senior attacker Tim Popp, junior goaltender Colin Smith (both who are co-captains), junior defenseman Jake Evavol, junior attacker Kyle Top-

per and junior midfielders Max Kwichen and Gerald Belanger.

"He (Popp) does bring a scorer's mentality to his game," Lewandowski noted. "He is able to put himself in position to score the game evolves."

"Our offense will flow through him."

Key to the defensive side of things will be Smith, who the coach said "brings leadership to our closed defense. He is agile and is able to position himself quickly to stop shots."

He added to keep an eye on promising mid-fielder Brocton Baechler, in his first season with the team.

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Canton racks up 16-9 win

Six players scored two goals or more Monday to spark Canton's varsity girls lacrosse team to a 16-9 win over Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard in the Chiefs' season opener.

Senior midfielder Annelle Niernmann set the tone, scoring three goals in the first half to put Canton up 8-4.

Niernmann tallied her fourth of the game in the second half. She finished with six points.

Also registering a hat trick was junior midfielder Connie Cox. Tallying two goals each were senior attacker Kelly Harris (also two assists), sophomore attacker Kelsey Tucker, junior midfielder Annika Nuler and senior midfielder Cassidy Tucker.

The 16th goal of the night was scored by junior attacker Alexis O'Flynn.

"I was especially pleased with the number of different goal scorers and the number of assisted goals," Canton coach Dave Bower said.

"It shows that we are starting to play unselfish, team-centered ball, which was one of our main goals coming in to the season."

"Still, we have plenty to work on before heading into the KLAAs schedule."

SALEM 13, DEXTER 4: The Rocks evened their record at 1-1 for the season with this victory Wednesday night against the Dreadnaughts.

Kiersten Vala's three goals led the attack. Also scoring were Jenna Carter, Bridget Kerwin, Bridget Maul, Allissa Amel and Shannon Fitzpatrick. Sharing goaltending duties for the win were Sarah Bowerman and Samantha Howell, each playing a half.

Salem head coach Dave Medley credited his team for its offense-by-committee approach.

"I was particularly pleased with ball-control play by Sarah Edgecomb and Joslyn Longe."

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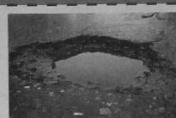
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03/15/13 03/15/13

Running's all in the family for Burins

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's no debating Autumn Burin is pretty good at putting her best foot forward.

Turns out she has a pretty good sidekick to keep her going.

Her mom, Laurie Burin, is there to encourage her 19-year-old daughter in the latter's ongoing preparation for the prestigious Boston Marathon.

Not that Autumn needs much encouragement.

"I've done a lot of bike riding," said Laurie, recently accompanying Autumn to the teen's former stomping grounds — the track at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"I've learned to be a pretty good bike rider."

"She'll run and I'll ride the bike because there's no way I



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurie Burin (left) and daughter Autumn (right) are spending lots of quality time as the younger Burin trains for the Boston Marathon. Laurie rides her bike next to Autumn during practice runs.

can run that far. So she'll go out for hours at a time on the back

dirt roads by our house." When mom can't be there,

Autumn makes sure to hit the roads such as Napier and Godfredson for long junkets with her boyfriend.

That would be 2012 Canton High School graduate Jackson Lytle, who is a freshman at Grand Valley State University

also with Autumn.

They also get in some miles up at Grand Valley.

"I average like 50-to-60 miles a week," Autumn said. "We usually run whenever we can, our

long runs are on Sundays."

"They've been around 20 (miles) lately. So, they're fun. We kind of stick with what's

familiar."

And although Laurie isn't really a runner, she is becoming one whether she wants to or not.

After all, as a Christmas present, Autumn paid her mom's registration fee to participate

in the upcoming Dexter-Ann Arbor Half Marathon.

"She's been training for that,"

Autumn noted. "I'm trying to shape her to be a runner even though she is really angry at me for doing that."

Besides riding the bike next to Autumn, Laurie is doing plenty of running of her own for that early June event. Also in the Dexter-Ann Arbor race will be the younger Burin and Lytle.

"I was very, very surprised to get that, wasn't expecting that at all," said Laurie, remembering her reaction to the unusual present. "It took me a while to accept that gift very happily."

With that, the Burins couldn't help but laugh about it.

"Well, I'll see her at the start," Laurie added. "That's about it."

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BOSTON

Continued from page B1

time is now' sort of thing, when I'm young and I still have a lot of time on my hands. I might as well do it when I'm young and I can do it and just take the opportunity when I have it."

Soon after making the cut, Autumn decided to parlay her running in the Boston Marathon into dollars for a worthy cause.

However, it wasn't until the fall before she decided World Vision would be the perfect charity to run for.

Burin zeroed in on World Vision after talking to several Ridgerunners of Northridge Church in Plymouth Township (where the Burins attend).

Those runners had participated in October at the Chicago Marathon, to benefit World Vision.

Although Autumn isn't affiliated with the Ridgerunners, she immediately knew what she wanted to do.

"So I was like, 'I'll just run in my own,'" Burin said. "I'll run the Boston Marathon and try to raise money."

Of course, it takes money to make money. Because there are expenses involved in doing the Boston Marathon, she had to get parents Laurie and Brett Burin on board with the idea.

That didn't take long.

"They've always been very supportive of me, no matter what," Burin said.



"I wasn't really expecting to qualify, especially for my first race. But I did and every runner kind of wants to run the Boston Marathon at one point."

AUTUMN BURIN
Salem High grad

"When I said I wanted to do Boston Marathon they were like, 'Great, let's do this thing!'"

"So I definitely couldn't do it without their help."

Worth the price

Laurie Burin joked that it might be tough if Autumn makes Boston a habit.

"There is an entry fee, \$150," her mother said. "But then we have to fly her out, because she's got school. So we are driving (along with 10-year-old son Elijah), so we'll have the driving costs and her flying costs."

"And the food and hotel,

MARATHON GIRL

Who: Making her first appearance April 15 at the Boston Marathon will be 19-year-old Canton resident Autumn Burin. She is a 2012 graduate of Salem High School, where she was an accomplished student-athlete. Autumn is a freshman at Grand Valley State University. She is pursuing a degree in communications and so far has a 4.0 grade-point average.

About World Vision: World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization "dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice." World Vision provides "hope and assistance" to approximately 100 million people in nearly 100 countries around the globe. Burin found out about the organization through others at Northridge Church in Plymouth Township, where she attends.

Raising money: Facebook and email helped Burin connect with people about her running at the Boston Marathon for Team World Vision. She has a page set up at www.teamworldvision.org, where people can click on an athlete's name and donate from there. So far, Burin has raised

more than \$1,000.

On the run: At Salem, she ran on the Rocks varsity cross country team for four seasons and was team captain. She also was on the girls' track and field team for one season.

Future: Burin, whose parents are Laurie and Brett Burin of Canton, is interested in starting her own nonprofit organization. "I'd like to start my own nonprofit one day," she said. "I'd like to help middle school and high school girls either with self-esteem issues or learn more about exercise and nutrition."

Quotes: On Burin's World Vision web page (at.worldvision.org), here's how she sums up running the Boston Marathon to help others: "There are far too many hurting people out there and I have been so overly blessed with these two legs of mine and an unexplainable desire to run and just keep running."

Proud mom: "I could not be more proud of my daughter," Laurie Burin said. "She constantly shows dedication, drive and conviction in everything she does. In addition, she takes into consideration the needs of others, always looking for ways to help and make a positive impact."

Continuing her passion

Besides her parents, she credited Salem girls cross country coach Dave Gerlach (now also coach of the girls' track and field team) for lighting a fire to be the best she can be at whatever she decides to go after.

"He (Gerlach) helped me a lot. He actually got me really passionate about not just running, but racing and pushing myself more toward an actual goal."

Burin said. "Because I've always liked running, but I never liked racing until he actually kind of believed

in me.

"He was the first one to actually believe I could race and do well if I pushed myself... I don't think I could have done it without him. He was a big inspiration."

When told about Burin's decision to run the Boston Marathon, Gerlach was thrilled to say the least.

"Autumn's determination and passion for running has carried on to her college life," Gerlach said. "We at the Salem cross country program are very proud of Autumn and her passion to continue to reach new goals."

That passion and determination — plus knowing her efforts will help needy children — are why Burin can't wait to get to the starting line.

Whatever physical pain she might endure that Monday in mid-April pales in comparison to the exhilaration of soaking in the Boston Marathon atmosphere, let alone finishing the legendary race.

"It will just be so exciting to be there with all those people," Burin said. "Just like being in the city, the mental part will just take care of itself."

"All these people around you cheering for you. I just think it will be a really cool experience."

Something else is pretty sweet, too. Thanks to Autumn Burin pledging to help others through World Vision, the loudest cheers she'll elicit won't be about a marathon.

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Whalers moving on to Round 2

A power-play goal by Mitchell Heard with three seconds remaining in the second period Wednesday night snapped a 2-2 tie and propelled the Plymouth Whalers to a 5-2 victory over host Sarina to sweep the first-round OHL series. Heard teamed up with Vince Trocheck and Connor Carrick for that goal as well as an insurance goal at 12:59 of the third, also with the extra man. Heard's two goals in Game 4 gave him three for the series.

OHL PLAYOFFS

Also scoring twice for Plymouth was Trocheck (two goals, two assists) to give him four goals in the Western Conference quarterfinal. The fifth goal for the Whalers was netted by Garrett Meurs. Carrick and Tom Wilson each registered two assists while rookie goalie Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 22 of 24 shots for the victory.

Sarina goals were scored by Bryan Moore, to give the Sting a 1-0 lead just 21 seconds into the tilt at the RBC Centre, and by Nickolas Latta at 19:39 of the fifth to even things up 2-2 entering the opening intermission.

Goalie JP Anderson stopped 43 of 48 Plymouth shots.

The Whalers now will wait to begin the Western Conference semifinals. The OHL has announced that the first two games of Round 2 will take place 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Sunday, April 7, both at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth is awaiting the final result of the Owen Sound-Sault Ste. Marie series and the Kitchener-Guelph series. When those series are completed (as late as next Tuesday evening), the Whalers would have an opponent for the next round.

Crusaders love new softball home

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Chicks certainly do dig the long ball as the unveiling of the newly constructed University Field proved to be home friendly Wednesday for the Madonna women's softball team.

With the wind blowing out from behind home plate and towards left and center field, the Crusaders belted three in the opener en route and went on to sweep winless Albion College in a pair of five-inning mercies, 8-0 and 11-1.

Senior right fielder Amber Raffko had the distinction of collecting the first hit at the

new park with a one-out single in the second inning. The Monroe High product finished the game going 3-for-3, including a 2-run inside-the-park homer to help spark a 6-run MU uprising in the bottom of the fourth inning to break a scoreless tie.

Junior first baseman Erin Mayes, however, posted the first homer when she cleared the left field fence with a solo shot.

Also going yard to lead off the bottom of the fifth inning was designated player Caitlyn Keuevalar, who went 2-for-3 along with sophomore center fielder Kaleigh Creighton (North Farmington).

Second baseman Emma Cook added two RBI and Katie Fenech's walk-off RBI single was more than enough support for MU sophomore starting pitcher Bree Crampton (6-6), who held the Britons to two hits and a pair of walks while striking out 10 for the shutout.

Nicole Roman collected two hits for Albion, while starter Sarah Bucholz (8-8) took the loss.

In Game Two, Cook went 3-for-4 with three RBIs as the Crusaders scored eight times in the first inning and three more in the fourth.

Mayes contributed two hits

and two RBI, while Kasey Triewerler also had two hits.

Raffko also completed a perfect day at the plate going 1-for-1 with two RBIs. Creighton also knocked in two runs.

MU starter Carlee Meek (3-1) allowed one run (unearned) on four hits and two walks.

Roman (0-3), the losing pitcher, couldn't get out of the first inning allowed eight earned runs on six hits and four walks.

The non-conference sweep improved the Crusaders' overall record to 12-11, while Albion slipped to 0-12.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

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.

Young gridders sought

The Washnet 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 con-

tact coach John Weisberg at (734) 926-4513 or by e-mail at weisbergj@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 6-14) and noon-2 p.m. (ages 9-16), Monday through Thursday, April 1-4, the Jaycee Park, located at 19800 Mayfield Street, Livonia.

The cost of the four-day camp is \$75 (includes T-shirt).

The Wolves/Hawks Academy for boys and girls ages 4-9 will be from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, April 8 through May 22, at Jaycee Park.

For information, visit michiganwolveshawks.com, or email bradley1515@sbglobal.net.

Champion boys bowlers lead impressive cast

FIRST TEAM

Steven White, Sr., Westland Glenn: The co-captain and four-year performer led the Kensington Lakes Activities Association with a 216.93 average while leading the Rockets to Central Division and KLAAs Tournament crowns.

The All-KLAA pick was also Division 1 Region 6 champion with a 1,254 total and earned a spot in the round of 16 at the state singles finals after placing 16th in the qualifying block with a 1,217 total.

White, who also captured a doubles title with teammate Mark Kassab for the first time in school history, posted a two-game high series of 522, including a high game of 279. "Steve shows no emotion and just bowls and bowls very well," Glenn coach Ron Staples said. "He's a Division 1 All-State selection."

"He makes the adjustment when needed and throws one of the most powerful balls I have seen in a long time."

White, a scholar-athlete honoree, also excels in the classroom posting a 3.8 grade-point average this past semester.

Shane Ramboldo, Jr., Wayne: The senior, who carried a 213.6 average, placed sixth in the regional with an 1,186 and finished 17th in the qualifying block in the Division 1 finals with a 1,216 (missing the cut by one pin).

Ramboldo's season was highlighted by a 300 game Feb. 16 at Novi Bowl. He also made the match play (with Kody Wojewski) in the KLAAs doubles tourney.

"I have known Shane since he was in the youth leagues at Town 'N' Country (Lanes) and have watched him grow into a fine young man," Wayne coach Bob Jaworski said. "He also made the All-KLAA selection."

"I will miss him and I wish him all the best."

Kaylup Richards, Sr., Liv. Clarencville: The senior averaged 202.79 for the season, including a high game of 236 for the MHSA Division 3 team champions.

Richards just missed qualifying for the state singles finals after finishing 11th and missing by a mere two pins with 1,164 total at the Flat Rock Lanes regional.

"Kaylup listens intently and tries to do different things," Clarencville coach Phil Horowitz said. "He was a strong, overpowering bowler and we got him to be more of a finesse bowler."

Kevin Williams, Sr., Salem: The senior captain and four-year varsity bowler not only was the Rockets' anchor in the lineup, he was a steady influence overall for the Division 1 state champions. After Williams helped Salem capture the D1 team regional at Super Bowl in Canton, he finished fourth the following day at the individual regional with a tally of 1,158.

Then, at the D1 team finals in Muskegon, the Rockets needed Williams to come through with a pressure-packed 3-10 spare to lift Salem to a victory in the quarter-finals against Roseville.

The win in the finals against Saginaw Heritage capped off a strong year from start-to-finish: Salem had an overall record of 13-2 during the regular season and shared the KLAAs Central Division title with Westland John Glenn (10-2).

Williams' efforts to make all that success happen were duly noted. He made the All-KLAA team with an average of 199 and had a season's best score of 287.



Steven White
John Glenn



Shane Ramboldo
Wayne



Kaylup Richards
Clarencville



Kevin Williams
Salem



Brandon Allison
Salem



Aaron Madsen
Canton



Mike Russom
John Glenn



Aaron Radner
N. Farmington



Steven Cadwell
Salem



Alex Champagne
Canton



Kody Wojewski
Wayne



Tyler Fox
Clarencville



Kathie Hahn
Salem coach



Phil Horowitz
Cville coach

"Kevin has true passion for bowling," coach Kathie Hahn said. "He's a team motivator and calming force when it's needed. He took being a captain seriously and was a strong leader."

"We were fortunate to have Kevin on the varsity for four years. His contributions to the team, his game and his team spirit will be missed."

Brandon Allison, Jr., Salem: Salem's sophomore, Allison was all right to say the least as he sparked the Rockets to the team title.

The junior scholar-athlete, who averaged 196 with a high game of 279, rolled a 247 game in the semifinals of the D1 team finals against Jackson to make it to the championship match. Allison also had plenty of success in the individual state tournament. At the D1 individual regional, he posted a sixth-place total of 1,144 and the following week made the Round of 16 in Muskegon with a 1,223 total score.

His season ended in the Round of 16, falling 396-386 to eventual finalist Alex Zarbaugh of Belleville.

Hahn is losing Williams, but is enthusiastic about Allison taking over the team's leading role in 2013-14.

"Brandon was without a doubt the most improved bowler over this past season," Hahn said. "His contributions to the team were remarkable. He lifted his team so many times with real big games.... (He) never gets rattled, which makes him a great person to have on any team."

Aaron Madsen, Soph., Canton: Sporting a team-leading season's average of 202, the Canton sophomore qualified for the D1 individual finals after posting a third-place showing of 1,179 — including a high game of 225 — at the individual regional.

Although he did not make the qualifying block at the following week's finals, Madsen was steady as is in helping the Chiefs earn second place at the D1 team regional behind eventual state champion Salem.

Madsen's season, highlighted by a 279 game, helped the Chiefs post a regular season record of 11-4.

He was named to the All-KLAA team and, with two seasons left with the Chiefs could potentially compile one of the best bowling careers in Canton school history.

"Aaron is a hard worker as far as his game goes," coach Karl Brubaker said. "He was put into the anchor spot this year and did a great job. I look forward to having him on the team next year to make another year at states."

SECOND TEAM

Mike Russom, Jr., Westland Glenn: The junior ranked third in

2012-13 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS BOWLING

FIRST TEAM

Steven White, Sr., Westland Glenn
Shane Ramboldo, Jr., Wayne
Kevin Williams, Sr., Salem
Brandon Allison, Jr., Salem
Aaron Madsen, Soph., Canton
Mike Russom, Jr., Westland Glenn
Aaron Radner, Sr., North Farmington
Steven Cadwell, Jr., Salem
Alex Champagne, Sr., Canton
Kody Wojewski, Soph., Wayne
Tyler Fox, Sr., Liv. Clarencville

THIRD TEAM

Conner Weber, Fr., Wayne
Michael Richards, Jr., Canton
Josh Pozan, Jr., Canton
Alex Zazaian, Sr., North Farmington
Kameron Caldwell, Sr., N. Farmington
Steven Brusseau, Jr., Westland Glenn
Kyle Kissand, Sr., Liv. Clarencville

COACH OF YEAR

Kathie Hahn, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION

Clarencville: Ricky Rutenbar, John Glenn; Mark Kassab, Billy Wicker, Ryan McGinnis; Wayne: Austin St. Peter, Matt Mikulec; Plymouth: Ryan Riva, Evan Grimm; Salem: Jimmy Bowling, Nolan Rhodes, Tyler Snyder; Canton: Mitchell Zelenak; North Farmington: Anthony Lee; Farmington-Harrison: Jason Teamer.

the KLAAs with a 205.2 average for the KLAAs Association and Central Division champions.

"Once Mike finds the line, he is practically unstoppable," Staples said. "Mike throws a two-handed ball and can strike with the best in our league. He worked hard on making his spares, especially the dreaded 10-pin. The scary thing is Mike can get a lot better. I expect big things from him next year. He will be our anchor and I am sure he will embrace this new role."

Russom, a scholar-athlete, also embraces his role as a student posting a 4.0 G.P.A. this semester. **Aaron Radner, Sr., North Farmington:** Radner helped the Raiders win three tournaments (Early Bird, Mercy, QAA) and the QAA White Division championship with a 10-0 record. A team captain and anchor bowler for two seasons, Radner averaged 202 in 61 match games, bowling better than 200 in 31. His average in 33 league games was 201.55.

Radner was first at the Early Bird tournament with a 730 series, sixth at Ladywood (622), ninth at Oakland County (622) and third at Merit (716). He also had a two-game, 487 series in a dual match with crosstown rival Farmington-Harrison, and he was a finalist in the Clarencville doubles tourney (266-244).

"Aaron has been our best bowler over the past two seasons," coach Mike Horner said. "Other than a sub-par day at the regional (13th), he shot superla-

tive scores all season, leading the team to its best season in school history."

"Aaron is a complete student of the game. He drives himself to improve each day in practice, as well as being very active in and off season. His hard work paid off as he showed up each season better than he was the previous year. His mental toughness, dedication and leadership will be difficult to replace next year."

Steven Cadwell, Jr., Salem: The epitome of consistency rolled Salem's biggest game this season — a 289 — and made a big impact on a team that shared the division title and went on to garner the D1 team championship.

Cadwell's season average of 202 earned him a spot on the all-conference team, but Hahn sees even bigger and better things ahead.

"Steven has what a coach would call natural talent," Hahn said. "(He has) excellent form and is very solid at the foul line. This is where he gets his consistency from."

Although he did not qualify for the individual finals, he did throw a 213 game in the team championship game against Saginaw Heritage (the top score posted in the match by any Salem bowler).

His 233 game in the semifinals against Jackson also proved to be a boost to the Rockets' title hopes.

Alex Champagne, Sr., Canton: Averaging just a shade under 202 pins over 24 games, Champagne was another instrumental piece to the Chiefs' team success. He also rolled a 280 game, the top score by a Canton bowler this season.

Champagne, like Madsen, was selected to the All-KLAA team. His efforts as a "great leader" and the leadoff bowler were crucial to Canton finishing third at the D1 team regional before taking eighth overall at the team finals.

"Alex is a great competitor always showing a lot of heart and determination," Brubaker said. "He has a never quit mentality that will take him along way in whatever life has in store for him."

Kody Wojewski, Jr., Wayne: The junior placed fifth in the regional with an 1,187 and was 12th in the Division 1 singles qualifying block where he scored a 1,284 before being eliminated in the Round of 16.

The All-KLAA choice averaged 199 for the season. Kody also had a good year for us, his second in a row since transferring from John Glenn," Jaworski said. "He is a steady performer, throwing some clutch shots at the times we needed. I expect him to play a big role in next year's team as a senior."

Tyler Fox, Sr., Liv. Clarencville: The senior co-captain averaged 197.35 for the season including a 255 high game.

At the Division 3 regional at Flat Rock Lanes, Fox rolled an 1,164 to finish 10th and took 36th in the state singles qualifying block.

White was the team and league leader in dividend Fox also came through in the clutch for the Division 3 state team champions.

"Tyler hates to be anchored and would do anything to be fifth," Horowitz said. "In the last game (at the state finals), he was the only one who could come on to throw it in the pocket."

He's a big, bubbly guy who likes to have a good time and have fun. He's a really nice kid."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kathie Hahn, Salem: It was a dream season for Salem's varsity boys bowling. It was a dream coach Kathie Hahn said he is "still pinching myself" over the Rockets' first Division 1 team championship.

Hahn, with assistant coaches Glenn Clark and Crystal Webb, led the squad (13-2 overall) to a share of the KLAAs Central Division championship (10-2).

The Rockets went to win the D1 team regional at Super Bowl in Canton and follow up by closing out the title in Muskegon. "I've never seen a group of boys bow so hard and so consistently all season," said Hahn, a coach for more than 13 seasons over two stints.

She was part of the group that brought bowling back to Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in time for the 2008-09 school year. "Nothing has been more rewarding than coaching Salem High School for the past five years," Hahn continued. "This season was a dream."

Spearheading the title run were Salem's all-conference bowlers Kevin Williams and Steven Cadwell, along with Brandon Allison, Jimmy Bowling, Nolan Rhodes, Tyler Snyder, Zachery Gonyea, Kuch Kurth and Tony Praszynski.

Phil Horowitz, Liv. Clarencville: The 74-year-old coach went out in style guiding the Trojans to the Division 3 state championship.

"We didn't have any highlights or superstars," said Horowitz, who coached Trojans the past four seasons in his second stint. "I've had better teams average-wise, but this team had one goal in mind — go to regional, qualify, and go to states." Everybody did their part, he said.

The Trojans also captured the regional title at Flat Rock Lanes as well. "I guess if I could have written the script, I would have written the script," said Horowitz, an avid competitor himself who bowled anywhere from 12-to-15 tournaments a year in both All-Star Classic and senior men's leagues.

The Trojans as a part-time financial planner, Horowitz will retire from coaching to keep tabs now on his grand daughter, who just completed her freshman bowling season at Starkston High.

"Everything kind of fell in place," the outgoing coach said. "Now I can watch her next three years."

'Cats to bank on mostly new cast

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW

Don't expect to see Plymouth varsity girls tennis coach Robert McLaren complaining about the graduation of last year's No. 1 singles player Lindsay Stemmer and eight others from the 2012 roster.

Instead, McLaren is mixing and matching to find out where certain players best fit into this year's lineup. "Obviously, we have a much younger team this year," McLaren emphasized. "But I think we will still be very competitive in our division (KLAAs South)."

"Our two biggest divisional matches are coming up against (Livonia) Churchill and Canton (the week of April 8-12). We will definitely know how

we stack up after those matches."

McLaren does have three returning singles players, including sophomore Keerthi Chakraborty (No. 1), junior Miranda Cerny (No. 2) and senior co-captain Kirithi Duraiswamy at No. 3.

Coming for the fourth singles spot are senior Marlowe Susselman, freshman Swetha Duraiswamy and sophomore Sarah Gamble.

Of that trio, whoever does not win the fourth singles spot will move down to No. 1 doubles. "Keerthi has worked very hard in the off-season to prepare for her new role at No. 1 singles," McLaren said. "Her game is much improved this year."

Despite most of last year's doubles lineup graduating, "we are lucky to have a mix of young freshmen and returning seniors who are ready to step into those spots."

At No. 2 doubles will be sophomores Lauren Conley and Emma Mulanex, with freshman Amber Tseng and sophomore Tiah Horton set for No. 3 doubles.

Seniors Alize Creek and Kym Fazio are slated for No. 4 doubles. At No. 5 doubles will be seniors Shannon Huff and (co-captain) Hannah Cobane.

Challenging the older time in the doubles lineup are freshmen Alyssa Lopez and senior Amber Maroudis.

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Balancing Earth

Musical duo sings for seniors, kids and everyone in between

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The senior citizens were ready to rock.

With their motorized scooters and walkers parked in a lounge area at Hechtman Apartments in West Bloomfield, some 80 residents from the complex gathered on a recent Monday night to clap their hands, tap their toes and sing along with live music.

It was the kind of audience that singing duo Suzanne MacDermid and Jim Coury of Plymouth love best.

"We know you were born to be wild, all you birthday babies," teased MacDermid, as Coury began strumming guitar chords to the 1968 Steppenwolf song.

Although none of their listeners appeared ready to "get their motors running" or "head out on the highway" the appreciative elderly crowd did clap their hands to the beat and sing along to the refrain as MacDermid crooned "Born to be Wi-i-ild, Born to be Wi-i-ild."

MacDermid and Coury were in full performance mode that night, belting out songs for one of their favorite age groups. They performed a 90-minute set, including love songs, rollicking Irish ditties, show tunes and classic rock, while mixing in commentary, questions and jokes.

"They are so important to us," MacDermid said later. "That's a part of the joy with seniors. Seniors are so full of knowledge. They are so smart... but

they don't get enough attention and they don't get enough respect. We want to let them know we love them, care about them and support them."

Since forming their act, called Balancing Earth, two years ago, MacDermid and Coury have performed extensively for senior citizen groups and in senior residences and centers. They also sing for children at preschool centers and schools and tailor their concerts to suit the occasion, whether it's a private party, country club or veteran's hospital.

"For the kids, it's nice to teach them to open the door for grandma when she gets out of the car. We talk to them about brushing their teeth, putting their seat belt on. All of those things," said MacDermid, who has a knack for character voices.

While Coury plays guitar and harmonica, MacDermid keeps rhythm with maracas, conga drum and an assortment of other percussion instruments. They both sing, with MacDermid usually taking the lead vocally and with audience interaction.

"We gear it to the group. If it's children, then it's child-based things they can understand," said MacDermid, who is married and the 50-something-year-old mother of twins. "If it's adults, then it's something more interesting for them. If you're sitting there hearing one song after another song after another song, it's tiring. It's tiring for the audience to do nothing.



Suzanne MacDermid plays a percussion instrument while Jim Coury strums guitar.

ing. That's why I talk to them and have questions, especially with seniors. We bring their memories to life."

Forming a duo

The pair met while singing in the choir at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township. Coury, who also is married, played guitar to pass the time between worship services. MacDermid started singing along to his strumming and it wasn't long before they began building a repertoire. They played at Plymouth Orchards and Cedar Mill that fall and then picked up a few more gigs around the holidays. In January 2012, they began keeping track of their performances.

"We had 117 gigs last year," said Coury, 62, a former salesman who plays music full time. "I'm trying to break that record this year."

Coury taught himself to play the guitar while growing up in Detroit. In Germany, while serving with the U.S. military during the mid-1970s, he performed with several bands, including with Eric Burdon.

"The biggest show we ever did was for 10,000 people. It was really a nice feeling to be there and to be recognized as an entertainer there. When I got back to the states I went on my own, playing guitar by myself."

Writing songs

MacDermid, who grew up in



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An animated Suzanne MacDermid talks to the audience.



Suzanne MacDermid and Jim Coury don hats to perform a few Irish tunes.

Bloomfield Hills, said she has always loved musicals and theater. She worked as a nurse for 23 years at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, quitting, at age 42, to become a full-time mom after her children were born. She has volunteered at Spotlight on Youth, where her children have been involved in youth theater. MacDermid also penned a children's book about her family's hamster and has written numerous songs with

Coury.

"We have more than an album of songs and we're working on copy writing that," she said. "If we get involved with America's Got Talent, it would be a lot easier and less stressful to get their take on it. We'd love for them to take us under their wing and help us get songs recorded."

The duo auditioned for the NBC network show in January in Columbus, Ohio. They were encouraged by the show's response to their 90-second performance that included portions of three songs. They haven't received a call back, but they haven't lost hope.

"You needed to wow the judges and I think we did a great job," Coury said.

For more information about Balancing Earth, visit their Facebook page. Or contact Coury at (734) 459-1088 or jim-coury@hotmail.com.



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Youths perform passion play with modern twist

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The annual passion play at St. Valentine Church in Redford is more than just an Easter tradition.

"It's an eighth grade privilege after they receive confirmation," said Lynne O'Brien, director of faith formation. "We confirmed 30 children on March 20. They perform the passion play, which is right out of the gospel."

The recently-confirmed eighth graders — some students at St. Valentine School and some from catechism classes — gave the Bible story a modern spin last week, pantomiming scenes from Palm Sunday through the Resurrection as a narrator told the story. The ensemble cast dressed in black, and the main character wore a simple, white T-shirt sporting the word, Jesus. They donned colorful tie-dyed shirts for the final, joyous resurrection scene in the play they called "What a Week for Jesus."

"The kids, they really respond to it," said Bonnie Danic, secretary for the religious education department. "They know when to get into character and they believe it."

She and Jan Eskin, religious education teacher, and Meghan Chateau, eighth grade teacher, directed the drama that included upbeat music from *Godspell*.

Chateau said parents and other parishioners enjoy watching the contemporary passion play



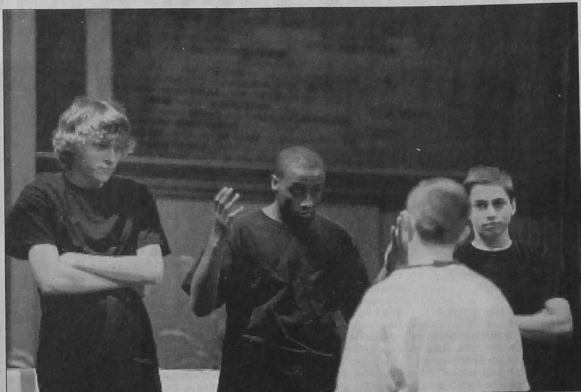
Rachel Walker (left) and Nicole Sepulveda look on as Mary Kate Barnauskas nails Jesus (Evan Beaudoin) to the cross.

during Holy Week every year.

"I think they are really touched by it. It really touches them to see people at this age taking it seriously," she said. "It helps (students) personally connect to Jesus' death and resurrection more personally and helps them realize the importance of it."

Evan Beaudoin and Jakob Bowles took turns playing the role of Jesus during productions held last Monday, Wednesday and on Good Friday.

"Ever since I saw it in kindergarten, I thought, this is actually really cool. I can't wait to do this. And here I am," said Evan, who attends St. Valentine School. "I didn't come to this



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Trevor Martin (left) and Jimmy Nicola (right) watch as Ehrlich Bell, who plays Pontius Pilate, asks Jesus, "Are you the son of God?" Jakob Bowles (foreground) portrays Jesus.

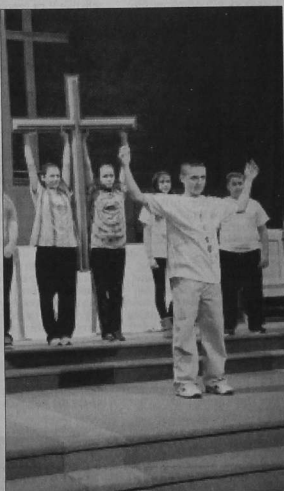


Jakob Bowles, one of students who played Jesus during Holy Week, listens as the crowd chants, "Crucify him."

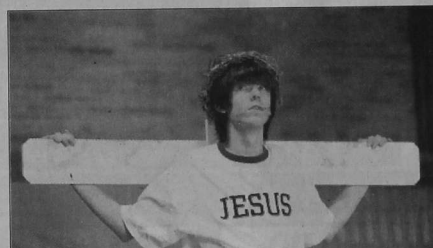
school until sixth grade, so the first time I saw it was sixth grade and I thought it was very cool," added Ehrlich Bell, who played Pontius Pilate. Olivia Blackmer played "rock, scissors,

paper" with another student, vying for the role of Veronica. Olivia lost, but was given an ensemble part that allowed her to handle one of the simple props used in the play. She said "What a Week for Jesus" enhanced the meaning of Easter.

"Easter is the time to realize how much Jesus suffered so we could go to heaven," she said. "It's not just about getting presents for Easter. It's not just the Easter bunny. There's a reason behind it."



Jesus (Jakob Bowles) has risen at the end of "What a Week for Jesus."



Jesus (Evan Beaudoin) is ready to die on the cross as music plays, "Lord, I'm dying."



Women's Services

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Fundraiser kicks off undergarment campaign

Give The Girls a Boost, an initiative to assist local women and girls with breast care, starts Wednesday, April 10, with a fashion show, boutique, raffle and food tastings, at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, a fund of the Canton Community Foundation, presents the signature event with all proceeds going to purchase new bras and undergarments for the Plymouth-Canton Community Clothing Bank, which is housed at Salem High School. Strategic Staffing Solutions, an international IT company based in Detroit and owned by a Salem High School graduate, is the event sponsor.

"The Clothing Bank has an on-going need for all clothes, but especially new bras and underwear for women and teens," said Nancy Eggenberger, president of the Giving Circle. "This will be the first in what we hope is a whole series of events to promote breast care and wellness for local women and girls."

Buying new undergarments is just the start of the campaign that Eggenberger

hopes will eventually include additional services such as mammograms and screenings, breast care education and on-going support to the Clothing Bank. The group also plans to provide undergarments for clients of First Step and other local social service agencies.

Give The Girls a Boost will start at 7 p.m. with refreshments and a boutique gallery featuring jewelry craftsmen, specialty clothing and small home goods. The mini runway event will show garments from various local merchants. Much of it will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, available at www.CantonFoundation.org or by e-mailing to GivingHopeWGC@gmail.com. Tickets at the door will be \$30.

The Giving Circle was started in 2006 by a group of local women who wanted to learn more about philanthropy and local needs in the community. The group has granted more than \$25,000 to groups such as First Step, Girl Scouts, Starfish Family Services, and local schools and libraries.

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at dargay@hometownlife.com.

Livonia Garden Club

Pat Mann, who is also known as the 'Hyper-tufa Lady,' will talk about herbs and 'growing organic' at the Livonia Garden Club's next meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia.

Mann is involved in the Chef's Garden at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Light refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome to attend. For more information visit www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardclub.

Miller Woods Tours

See native spring wildflowers blooming at Miller Woods in Plymouth Township during free, guided tours from 2-4 p.m., leaving every half hour, Sunday, April 14, 21 and 28. These dates are weather dependent because the flowers don't always bloom when expected. Check the Miller Woods website, www.millerwoods.com, starting in April for last-minute changes to the dates

when flowers are in bloom.

Entrance to the nature preserve is on Powell Road, just east of Ridge Road, between N. Territorial and Ann Arbor Roads. No dogs are allowed in the nature preserve.

English Gardens

A free presentation will offer suggestions on keeping insects, small and large animals at bay in the garden, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3.

Annual garden party weekend includes "Top 10 Garden Tips" by Nancy Szerlag on April 6 at 10 a.m. in West Bloomfield and 1 p.m. in Royal Oak. April 7 in Dearborn Heights; "The Best, Easiest Perennials" by Janet Macunovich, at 10 a.m. April 6 in Royal Oak and on April 7 at 12:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 3:30 p.m. in West Bloomfield; "Top 10 Lawn Care Tips" by Ashton Ritchie, Scotts Co., on April 6 at 10 a.m. in

Dearborn Heights, 1 p.m. in Ann Arbor and 4 p.m. in Royal Oak; and "New Vegetable Plants from Burpee Home Gardens," by Mason Day, on April 6 at 10 a.m. in Ann Arbor, 1 p.m. in West Bloomfield, and 4 p.m. in Dearborn Heights, and at 12:30 p.m. April 7 in Royal Oak. The presentations all are free of charge.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506.

Attracting birds

Learn how to attract birds to your garden at the next meeting of the Dearborn Heights Garden Club, 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 4, at the Canfield Center, 1801 N. Beech-Daly, Dearborn Heights. Bring a lunch. Free; (313) 563-5753.

Senior citizen group marks 40th anniversary in high style

The Golden Agers, a senior citizens group, will celebrate its 40th anniversary at 11 a.m., Monday, April 15, at the Memorial Church of Christ, 39475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Golden Agers met at the Kenwood Church of Christ in Livonia for 19 years before moving to Memorial. Members of other local churches began to join Golden Agers meetings and today the group draws participants from more than 20 cities and 18 churches in Wayne, Livingston, and Oakland counties.

The group meets the third Monday of the

month, April-December, at Memorial. Any retired person is welcome to attend. Led by Ralph Congdon, Golden Agers meets for fellowship, lunch, entertainment, and outreach projects. It also makes a monthly contribution to Great Lakes Christian Homes in Holt and donates crafts for its fall boutique. Members also help with the "Tabs for Tots" program and contribute boxes of cereal to the food pantry at Memorial Church of Christ. In the past, the group has reached out to Lutheran Senior City in Columbus, Ohio, the Detroit Rescue Mission,

the American Cancer Foundation, and many others.

Mark McGilvrey, Memorial minister, and Todd Lackie, pastor at Kenwood Church, will speak at the anniversary meeting in April. The Fifth Season, a ladies vocal ensemble, and Lesley Dills, minister of art and music at Memorial Church will sing. There will be a video looking back at the past 40 years of Golden Agers. Luncheon will be at 11 a.m. and the program will begin at noon.

Questions? Call the church office at (734) 464-6722.

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Wellness educator Sandy Baumann, M.S., will offer a series of classes about holistic solutions to common health challenges next month.

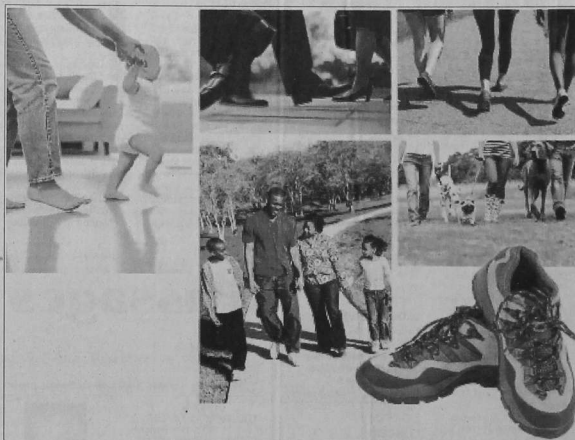
The classes are sponsored by the Livonia Family YMCA, and take place at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile, Livonia. YMCA membership is not required for participation, but preregistration is required at least three days before each class. Call the YMCA at (734) 261-2161.

Baumann's classes are:

- **Good News for High Blood Pressure** will teach participants how to combine easy lifestyle changes with healthy food choices, low-cost vitamins, minerals, and supplements and stress-management strategies to achieve a healthy blood pressure. The class meets 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10. Cost is \$27. The required workbook is \$10 payable in cash at class. Register by April 8.

- **Sleep Well at Last!** is aimed at individuals who have trouble falling asleep or who wake up in the middle of the night. They'll learn simple lifestyle changes, daily habits, and discover low-cost supplements to improve sleep without medications. More sleep can lead to lower blood pressure, weight loss, better moods, and less stressful days. The class runs 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17. Cost is \$27. The required workbook is \$10 payable in cash at class. Register before April 15.

- **Rebuild Your Bones** Naturally will offer simple, non-prescription strategies for strengthening bones and reducing the risk for fractures. Participants may bring their bone density reports to analyze risk for fracture. The class runs 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 1. Cost is \$32. The required workbook is \$12, payable in cash at class. Register before April 29.



Striding toward your good health: Take a fitness break on National Walking Day

Slip into your comfortable sneakers and keep your camera at hand on Wednesday, April 3.

It's National Walking Day, when thousands of individuals nationwide will take a 30-minute fitness break to improve their health by walking briskly. "Heart disease remains

the country's number one killer and research shows that poor lifestyle is a major contributor," said Jennifer Marquette, vice president of the American Heart Association's Heart Walk campaign. "Walking is the single most effective form of exercise to achieve heart health. In fact, for every hour of very brisk walking, life expectancy may increase for some adults by two hours."

According to the American Heart Association, physical activity is critical for good health, but less than half of adults get enough daily exercise.

Adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week to see the health benefits of physical activity such as low blood pressure, improved bone health, weight maintenance after weight loss, better sleep and more energy.

"From walking clubs and paths to cooking tips and easy-made recipes, the Heart Association's My Heart, My Life, healthy living initiative is working to help individuals want families understand how to get active and eat healthy."

The American Heart Association will launch a month-long Instagram

promotion, "Show Us Your Moves," in conjunction with National Walking Day, encouraging individuals to submit photos of their favorite fun physical activity. Selected photos will be featured every week on www.heart.org and on American Heart Association social media pages.

For "Show Us Your Moves" rules and directions, visit www.heart.org/nationalwalkingday. To find an American Heart Association Heart Walk, walking path, walking club and other healthy living resources, visit www.heart.org/myheartmylife.

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"We're having a baby! ...Now what do we do?"

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Haddad
Obstetrics/Gynecology

Finding out you're pregnant is an exciting time for most families and mothers to be. Excitement, however, is often tempered with anxiety of the unknown. This is especially true for first time moms, women who struggled with infertility before becoming pregnant, and those with a history of pregnancy complications. Obstetrician and Garden City Hospital Health Expert, Dr. Chad Haddad, explores ways to ease some of the stress associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Q: I was thrilled when I showed my husband our positive pregnancy test result, but almost immediately, I started to become nervous. There were so many questions, so many choices and so many decisions to be made. Both of my sisters have children and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, even though both approached their pregnancies in very different ways. While my older sister went a more traditional route, and loved her OB-GYN, my younger sister encouraged me to look into a nurse midwife. Can you help me understand the difference between the two and what it means for my pregnancy?

A: For most people, choosing a certified nurse midwife (CNM) or an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN), is a matter of personal preference that is easier to make if you can pinpoint what issues are important to you and ask questions. This may be their individual credentials, views on pain medication or simply a matter of convenience that impacts your decision. Knowing the basics about these practitioners can smooth the way to a happier, healthier pregnancy and birth.

It's important to note there are many other important differences between an OB-GYN and a CNM. For instance, a midwife can independently guide and support a healthy pregnancy, while an OB-GYN must be involved in high-risk situations and surgical interventions, such as C-section deliveries.

Fortunately, this really doesn't need to be an either/or situation. Many area physician practices, like mine, have nurse midwives on staff to enhance the pregnancy experience. This is an ideal situation for women who seek both piece of mind as well as the personal and emotional support of a nurse midwife.

Q: Is it true that I can't get pain medication or an epidural if I deliver with a midwife?

A: Many women are surprised to learn that a CNM can request an epidural and pain management options during labor. Certified nurse midwives in the birthing unit of a hospital have the same authority as an OB-GYN to order epidurals for their patients. Remember, neither the CNM nor OB-GYN actually administers the epidural, an anesthesiologist does.

If you would like to read more from GCH Health Experts like Dr. Haddad, on a variety of important health issues, visit GCH.org and click the Health Generations icon.

Do you have a health or medical question for one of the GCH Health Experts? Visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.