

PROM DRESS BARGAINS
COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL
SPORTS, B4

LIFE-SAVING ADVICE ON WEATHER DISASTERS
USA WEEKEND



Mr. Swick

Moment of silence

The late Ryan Swick, a Canton firefighter who lost his battle with cancer last May, was remembered Wednesday during the Canton Fire Department's annual awards ceremony. Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler called for prayers and a moment of silence "as we continue to heal from this tremendous loss." Swick had been honored in 2011 as Canton Firefighter of the Year.

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Board takes to road to pitch school bond



'We're doing everything we can to have people understand what's in the package in a relatively short period of time.'

JUDY MARDIGIAN
Plymouth-Canton Board of Education

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Judy Mardigian has seen her share of bonds in the last 16 years, and the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education's longest-serving member sees real parallels

between the \$114.4-million bond the district is seeking in May and the bond voters passed in 2004.

That bond "did a lot of good for this community," Mardigian said, because it allowed the district to make building repairs,

pave parking lots, correct bus drop-off issues and buy buses officials otherwise would have had to fund out of a depleted general fund.

That makes for a lot of similarities with the current

Please see BOND, A2

Trail cleaning

Spring has finally sprung in southeast Michigan, and the Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail are taking advantage, staging a series of cleanups on the Wayne County portion of the trail from 5:30-7 p.m. at the following locations:

- Tuesday, April 16, in Northville Township near Five Mile. Volunteers are meeting at Oasis Golf Center on Five Mile east of Hagerly.

- Thursday, April 18, in Canton Township near Michigan Ave. Volunteers meet at Wendy's on Michigan Avenue at Lotz.

- Tuesday, April 23, in Canton Township near Koppernick. Volunteers meet in the parking lot on the south side of Koppernick east of Commerce Boulevard.

Workers will focus on picking up a winter's worth of accumulated trash and are being encouraged to bring work gloves.

For more information, call Dave Duffield at (248) 982-8775, check out <http://i-275.michigantrails.org>, or visit the Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail on Facebook.

Female firefighter makes history

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Wendy Murphy-Stevens made history Wednesday evening as she became the first woman ever named Canton Firefighter of the Year, clinching top honors during the Canton Fire Department's 14th annual awards ceremony.

Yet she humbly shrugged off her milestone achievement, saying her goals are saving lives and dousing fires rather than making history.

"I feel humbled," she said, before a crowd inside the Village Theater at Cherry Hill gave her a standing ovation. "I don't think anybody can do this job by themselves. I can't believe I'm being singled out."

Murphy-Stevens earned her title on the same night she won several other awards — three of them for saving lives as a paramedic responding to medical runs. She has received accolades for a stellar job performance during her 21-year Canton career,

Please see MAKING HISTORY, B3



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wendy Murphy-Stevens, Canton Firefighter of the Year, is flanked by son Ty to her left and, to her right, daughter Taryn, son Tristan and husband Greg on the evening she won the Canton Fire Department's top award.

Ironman 'just doing my job'

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Firefighter Frank Rehling seemed destined as a young child to follow his dream career.

"I grew up six blocks from a fire station in Redford, hearing the sirens at all hours of the day," he recalls. "It just grew on me."

Now, Rehling has become a leader after responding to 717 fires and medical runs last year — the most among 61 firefighter paramedics who form the Canton Fire Department.

He takes it in stride. "I'm just doing my job," he said. Perhaps, but his efforts earned him the prestigious Ironman Award during the department's 14th annual awards ceremony Wednesday evening at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"Frank is an outstanding employee who works hard and steps up to the plate," Fire Chief Joshua Meier said, just prior to the awards ceremony. "He does it every day with a smile on his face."

Rehling, a Redford resident who attended the Schoolcraft College Fire Academy, became a Canton firefighter in October 2011 after serving a decade as a dispatcher. He works out of Fire Station No. 2 on Warren between Haggerty and

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A judge refused Friday to reduce a \$100,000 cash bond for Jesse Adam Hermann.

Judge denies lower bond in predator case

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A judge refused Friday to reduce a \$100,000 cash bond for accused child predator Jesse Adam Hermann, charged amid allegations he tried to have sex with a Canton woman and her 3-year-old daughter.

Instead, 35th District Judge Michael Gerou issued an order for the Wayne County Jail to provide medical care for Hermann, 34, who apparently sustained an injury to his right lower leg.

"He has been bitten by some sort of a spider or a rodent — we're not sure — in the Wayne County Jail," defense attorney David Cripps said in court.

Gerou ordered medical care after Cripps indicated Hermann needed help beyond an antibiotic he already was given, but the judge refused to reduce the bond.

"Given the gravity of the offense, I think the bond is appropriate," Gerou said.

Second phase

The latest development came Friday as the second phase of Hermann's preliminary exam was adjourned until May 10 because Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Keith Clark was stuck in a Detroit courtroom on another case.

It marked the second time Cripps had sought to have Hermann's bond reduced. Three

weeks ago, during the initial phase of Hermann's exam, Cripps argued that Hermann, a Jewish man from Walled Lake, wasn't getting the kosher food he needed in jail.

Gerou issued an order for the jail to provide kosher food, and Cripps has since said the accommodations have been made.

In court Friday, Cripps said he didn't believe Hermann is a flight risk or a danger to the community. Moreover, Cripps said, "his mother is here showing strong support for him, as she always is."

Canton Detective Andrew Kelley argued against the bond reduction and told Gerou, "I still

Please see DENIED, A2

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Planners offer severe weather tips

Severe Weather Awareness Week starts today (Sunday), and Canton's Emergency Management staffers are encouraging residents to review thunderstorm, lightning, tornado and flood-safety procedures.

In a release this week, township emergency planner Kathy Rich talked about a tornado that touched down in Dexter shortly after 5 p.m. March 15. The tornado, she said, brought winds up to 135 mph that destroyed 13 homes and did major damage to more than 100 homes and buildings.

"Due to early warning notifications and residents heeding that warning, no one was killed or severely injured," Rich wrote.

Canton's Emergency Management Office is urging residents not to be complacent when it comes to severe weather. The best time to prepare for severe weather, officials said, is before it happens. Among their tips:

- Have a plan in place for your family and your pets.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio.
- Be sure everyone knows where to go and what to do in case of severe weather, no matter where you are.

For more information contact Canton's Emergency Management Office at (734) 394-5357, email krich@cantontm.org or visit Canton's Public Safety website at www.cantontm.org

DENIED

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think the conditions are good where they're at."

Hermann, described by Cripps as a former truck driver and self-employed artist, could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison if he is convicted as charged of two counts each of child sex-

ually abusive activity and using a computer to communicate with another person to commit a crime.

Facebook message

A Canton mother testified in graphic detail March 22 how she and a man, purportedly Hermann, corresponded by Facebook instant message. She went to authorities after she said an attempt was made to

have sex with her and her young daughter.

Canton police arrested Hermann Feb. 13 when he came to the Holiday Inn Express near Lotz Road and Michigan Avenue, allegedly to meet with the mother and child.

The woman testified March 22 that she received Facebook messages — since turned over to police — describing how Hermann wanted to kiss, fondle and have sexual contact with her and her daughter.

"I dream of a lady sharing her daughter with me," according to one of many Facebook messages read aloud in court.

Detective Kelley has testified that Hermann admitted "his intention was to have sexual relations with (the mother) and her 3-year-old daughter." Kelley said Hermann conceded his actions were "a mistake."

Clark, the prosecutor, had argued against a bond reduction on March 22, saying authorities believe Hermann "is a threat to community safety."

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BOND

Continued from page A1

rent bond proposal, with which the district hopes to replace its buses, buy technology on a 1:1 ratio for students and teachers, build a new middle school to replace the aging Central Middle School and make other facility repairs officials say they won't be able to manage without the bond.

"That 2004 bond was sort of an 'extreme makeover' and it did a lot of good for this community," Mardigian said. "If we hadn't done it, we'd have had to find a way to repair and keep the buildings running for all of these years. There are a lot of things in this (2013) bond for bare-bones things. There are some very real parallels."

To make that argument to voters, board members and administrators have taken their presentation on the road, talking to PTOs, civic organizations, homeowners associations and municipal bodies. Jeremy Hughes, the district's superintendent, and Kim Crouch, the school board's newest member, pitched the bond to the Canton Township Board of Trustees a couple of weeks ago.

Road show

Up next is the Plymouth Township board, where officials will discuss the bond Tuesday. The Plymouth Township board meets 7 p.m. in the township hall meeting room, 9955 N. Hagerly.

"The goal is to inform these groups about the bond and make sure they have the facts regarding it, and answer any questions they might have," said

GET THE DETAILS

What: Community forms on Plymouth-Canton's \$114.4-million bond proposal

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25

Where: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer in Plymouth, and the DuBois Little Theater inside Canton High School, 8415 Canton Center in Canton.

Why: To hear Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials explain the details about the bond proposal, which, if passed, would pay for technology advancements, a bus replacement program, a new middle school and other facilities repairs and upgrades.

Contact: For information, call (734) 416-2755.

board Treasurer Sheila Paton, who said she'd probably "do about 15" of the presentations by the time the May 7 election comes. "We're getting great questions. People don't appreciate how few people vote in these elections. In the last several school or bond elections, only about 15,000 people voted, and about 70 percent of those are voting absentee. That's crazy. So the more people you can inform, the better chance you have."

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said that, while the township board as a whole doesn't endorse political issues, trustees still appreciated the information.

"It gave them an opportunity to do that, so anyone who catches that on cable or who was in the audience, gets the perspective from the superintendent and board members on the issue," LaJoy said.

After the meeting, several Canton trustees — including Pat Williams and Tom Yack — posted Facebook messages supporting the bond. LaJoy said, speaking strictly as a resident, that he can get behind the bond.

Knocking on doors

"I'm in favor of it (personally)," LaJoy

said. "I'd like to see a new middle school in Canton. We have the vast majority of the kids here, and I think some of them get transported quite a way. If there's going to be a new middle school, this is where it should be."

The nearly door-to-door approach — "Really, if any group requested a presentation, we would do that," Mardigian said — is similar to efforts to pass previous bonds. The 1997 bond produced Plymouth High School and Dodson Elementary School, and a bond passed in 2005 built Discovery Middle School. Bond proposals failed in 2006 and 2007.

Board members know they've got to reach as many people as possible in a short window, having only made the decision in February to go for the bond.

"We're doing everything we can to have people understand what's in the package in a relatively short period of time," Mardigian said. "I'm hoping voters understand that when a bond passes, there is research that shows home values jump up automatically. We have to work very hard to help people understand what the bond means."

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Foundation appoints interim leader

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the Canton Community Foundation has a new leader.

Albeit on an interim basis, Julie Zajdel has been appointed the executive director by the foundation's



Zajdel

Board of Directors. She replaces long-time executive director Joan Noricks, who retired last month. Zajdel has worked for

the foundation since 2011. Zajdel owns a degree in sociology from the University of Michigan, and she's worked in the nonprofit sector for more than 10 years.

Her background also includes business management experience as co-owner of Rush Delivery, a Plymouth-based company, for 20 years.

In a letter announcing the move, CCF Board Chairman Jerry Grady said the foundation will conduct a search for an executive director who will "encourage community growth and assist in the challenges that faces our area."

"The foundation will continue to serve as a trusted leader and stay true to our vision to serve the community," Grady wrote. "We are your community foundation and we are committed to building a vibrant, compassionate and engaged region."

Grady also took the opportunity to point out some of the foundation's accomplishments over the last year, including:

- Hosting the group's annual Veterans' Summit designed to educate veterans about available benefits and resources.
- Providing assistance to Open Door Food Pantry and Cleaners Food Bank that will provide food for individuals and families struggling financially.
- Collaborating with other community partners to create a Local College Access Network (LCAN) to encourage higher education and increase college enrollment.

The CCF also continued to provide scholarships to high school students and adults returning to college.

Since 1990 CCF has awarded more than \$500,000 to 500 area students. Provided informational workshops designed to educate and strengthen local nonprofits so they can better serve the community.

"The Canton Community Foundation plays an important role in helping improve the lives of Canton residents and surrounding areas through philanthropy," Grady said. "Because of the outstanding community support, great things are happening across our area."



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Firefighter Frank Rehling earned the Ironman Award for responding last year to 717 fires and medical runs — more than any other Canton firefighter medic.

IRONMAN

Continued from page A1

Rehling accepted his Ironman Award after Meier spoke of his accomplishments during the Village Theater ceremony, prompting the crowd to give Rehling a standing ovation.

"Firefighter Rehling has been thorough, conscientious, ambitious, and enthusiastic, thereby encouraging others to become more proficient, motivated and involved," Meier said.

"By his outstanding service, Firefighter Rehling has contributed greatly to the accomplishment of the Canton Fire Department and upheld the finest traditions of the Canton Department of Public Safety."

It's a tradition Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler said has grown stronger over the years. He cited efforts of leaders such as his two predecessors, John Santomuro and Patrick Nemecek, and former Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher — all of whom returned Wednesday for the latest fire department awards.

Rehling won his award on the same evening Canton fire officials honored numerous firefighters, police officers, dispatchers and civilians with a wide array of awards — some of them for saving lives of people who would have faced death without medical help.

Rehling still lives in Redford, where he was a 1992 graduate of Redford Union High School. He lives there with wife Kelly and their two children, Tristan, 13, and Bryn, 8.

Rehling said he was the first in his family to become a firefighter. His influence came from that fire station just a few blocks from his childhood home.

"My son," Rehling said, "hopes to follow in my footsteps."

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MAKING HISTORY

Continued from page A1

preceded by a short stint in firefighting in Flat Rock.

"I would say she very much deserves the Firefighter of the Year award," Fire Chief Joshua Meier told the crowd assembled inside the theater. "She works tirelessly. She never says no to additional responsibilities. She never complains."

One of three

Murphy-Stevens — one of three women in a department of 61 sworn firefighters — is a member of the fire department's training committee. She has been involved in the awards program since it was started in 1999, helping shine the spotlight on others before her colleagues decided it was her turn.

"Firefighter Murphy-Stevens always has a positive attitude and sets an example for the other firefighter paramedics to follow," Meier said during the awards ceremony. "When she is out on a scene with patients, her compassionate side and the love for her work shines through and is a positive reflection on this department. She always goes above and beyond with her responsibilities and willingly accepts additional duties and assignments from the command staff."

"I'm not a woman's libber. It's not a movement for me," she said. "This is what I do. I like the adrenalin of this job. I like the unknown. It's a different job every day."

Big moment

Murphy-Stevens chose her career in her early 20s, after her studies in computer programming left her uninspired. She also opted against being a stay-at-home mom, though she and husband Greg cherish their three children, Ty, 17, Tristan, 9, and Taryn, 4. Her family watched Wednesday night as she strode across the stage for her big moment.

During the ceremony, Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler voiced pride in a department that has become respected among its peers after evolving from a former volunteer organization in once-rural Canton to a top-notch department in a township with over 90,100 people.

It's people like Murphy-Stevens who have made a difference. They put out fires. They save property. They save lives. And sometimes, like Wednesday evening, they earn recognition for a job well done.

"I love firefighting," she said before accepting her award. "And as a paramedic you get to save lives. It's great to go into a house where an asthmatic is not breathing — and you get to help them breathe."

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AROUND CANTON

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Date/Time: Monday, April 8, 6-8:30 p.m.
Location: Canton Coney Island, 8533 N. Lilley in Canton
Details: Guest speaker David Tennes, a Civil War historian, highlights the meeting of

the Canton Women's Connection. Tennes will talk about people and places from Michigan connected to the Civil War.

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



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Plymouth Christian Academy junior Luke Holmes, here with German teacher Emily Carlson, has earned a trip to Germany.

PCA junior gets trip to Germany

Luke Holmes, a junior at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton, has been awarded an all-expense-paid summer study trip to Germany.

Holmes was selected as a national winner after scoring in the 90th percentile or above on the Level 3 2013 National German Exam for High School Students sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of German. Nearly 23,000 students participated in the program. After qualifying with a high score on the National German Exam, he submitted responses to several short essay questions in German and in English and was then interviewed by a committee comprised of high school teachers and college professors of German.

Holmes is one of 44 outstanding German stu-

dents selected from across the U.S. to receive the award. The study trip includes round-trip air transportation to Germany from New York, a home stay in a host family, and excursions to places of cultural and historical significance. The study trip award is made possible through a grant from the Federal Republic of Germany.

"This program gives students the chance to experience Germany firsthand by living with a German family and attending school," said Keith Cothrun, Executive Director of the AATG. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Holmes and the other winners will travel to Germany this summer. He is a student of Emily Carlson, German teacher at Plymouth Christian Academy.

A seventh-grade student from Canton Charter Academy recently won an essay contest that asked the question, "Which U.S. President would you like to have lunch with and why?"

Krupa Patel said it was a tough decision, but when she thought about it deeply the answer became clear: George Washington.

"I realized that George Washington was more than just America's first president," Patel said. "He was the greatest military leader known during the Revolutionary

Canton Charter Academy seventh-grader Krupa Patel said it was a tough decision, but George Washington would be the president with whom she'd most like to have lunch.



War. I wanted to have lunch with someone I could look up to."

This is the second year Community Financial held the President's Day

essay contest. Patel won first place in the middle school division, winning the \$100 prize for herself, \$100 for school supplies, and a free lunch for her classroom.

Four other Canton students earned finalist status for their essays and each won a gift card.

"We have so many strong writers at Canton Charter Academy, and Krupa is one of our top writers," language arts teacher Mary Brown said. "When I read her essay, I knew it had the potential to be the over-

all winner. We are all so proud of her."

Patel said she put a lot of effort into her essay and it was exciting to win the recognition, but she really wants everyone to honor the sacrifices made by the first president of the United States.

"I'm glad that people saw the true importance of George Washington," Patel said. "It's great to be a winner and to know that others will learn more about Washington's story and all that he has done for the United States of America."

Salem State University

Michael Zhang, a resident of Canton, is the recipient of a postgraduate certificate in clinical trial management after completing a seven-week professional certification program taught at Salem State University by experienced faculty of PAREXEL Academy.

The program is a collaborative between Salem State and PAREXEL International, a leading global biopharmaceutical services provider. This collaboration will provide candidates with the education needed to succeed in the growing clinical research management industry.

Northwood University

Two Canton students have been named to the President's List for fall semester at Northwood University. The



Canton resident Michael Zhang earned a postgraduate certificate in clinical trial management at Salem State University.

announcement was made by Keith A. Pretty, president of the university.

To achieve President's List recognition, students must earn a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Canton students making the list were juniors Stanley Klonowski and Lindsey Lipa.

Other area students made Northwood's Dean's List.

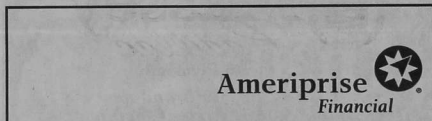
To achieve Dean's List recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Canton students to make the list included

freshmen Faris Abraham and Jacob Leib, sophomore Garrett Bryden, junior Joseph Bellino and senior Amanda McManus.

Plymouth residents making the list included freshmen Emily Bagwell and Jeffrey Coniffiti.

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Campaign seeks to update museum marquee

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Historical Museum's collection includes hundreds of artifacts from a slower, simpler time, but that doesn't mean its own technology can't be up to date.

Prompted by a pledge from a donor who wants to remain anonymous, the museum is in the midst of a campaign to raise money for a digital marquee that could change messages instantly. The electronic marquee would replace the current one, on which letters on a board behind Plexiglas have to be changed by hand.

"Our marquee is our No. 1

advertising method, because people drive by and see what we put up there," said Liz Kerstens, the museum's executive director. "A digital marquee would give us a lot more flexibility."

Kerstens said a digital marquee has long been on her wish list for the museum.

"I've been dreaming about it for a while, and this person (the donor) knew that," she said. The donor approached her last year, she said, pledging to match what the museum raised for a marquee.

An electronic marquee, including installation, runs about \$16,000, and the museum already has raised about \$4,500,

plus a little more than that from the donor, which would add up to the \$8,000, Kerstens said.

The museum has launched a sponsorship incentive aimed at attracting donations from businesses and organizations. Donors of \$1,000 (the gold level) or \$500 (the silver level) will be thanked by name on the new marquee; the name of each sponsor, Kerstens said, would appear on a marquee message for several hours each day, for six months at the gold level and three months at the silver. Donors of lesser amounts would be recognized in other ways.

Plymouth has an ordinance prohibiting the messages on electronic signs from being

changed more than eight times a day, but Kerstens said she would be "thrilled to be able to change it twice a day."

As an example, Kerstens pointed to four museum events scheduled for the next few weeks. With the current marquee, she said, "I can only advertise the first two events coming up," one on each side.

The museum already has a digital marquee picked out; Kerstens said the finished marquee would be of a similar size to the current sign and would be framed by the same two brick pillars that stand there now.

"It would have a similar look, just more modern," she said. So far, Kerstens said, the

campaign has been mentioned at meetings, in the museum's newsletter and in the e-mail blasts she sends to its fans.

"Members have been seeing it, and it's members that have been donating," she said.

Contributions to the museum are tax-deductible and can be made through its website, www.plymouthhistory.org. Click on the "Support Us" link.

The Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 South Main, is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It's closed most holidays. The phone number is (734) 455-8940.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405 | Twitter: @mattjachman

YMCA partners to help seniors

The Plymouth Community YMCA is recognizing the unique needs of older adults in the community by partnering with the nationally recognized Healthways SilverSneakers Fitness Program.

The Plymouth Community YMCA is helping older adults increase their levels of physical activity while motivating them to remain active. SilverSneakers is an exercise program designed exclusively for older adults and is available — at little or no additional cost — through many Medicare health plans, Medicare Supplement carriers and group retiree plans.

"Research points to the significant health benefits of regular exercise for older adults," spokesperson Abigail Sigal said. "In addition to helping our members stay physically healthy, SilverSneakers also offers a great way for them

to socialize, meet new friends and have fun."

Members receive access to a variety of participating locations throughout the country, including Plymouth Community YMCA. The SilverSneakers classes will be offered through the YMCA at The Friendship Station, located at 42375 Schoolcraft in Plymouth Township. Classes will be offered on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30-10:30 a.m., starting in April.

This location offers the signature SilverSneakers Fitness Program classes, designed specifically for older adults and taught by certified instructors. Additional signature classes, including YogaS-tretch, SilverSplash and Cardio Circuit, may be available at select locations.

The YMCA will start registration April 15 at the YMCA office. Additionally, the YMCA will

hold two open house dates for registration and sample classes on Tuesday, April 23, and Friday, April 26, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., at the Friendship Station.

Sage Hegdal, YMCA Executive Director, says, "We are so excited to be able to offer this program in our community since the YMCA is for healthy living." YMCA Executive Director Sage Hegdal said. "We encourage all seniors to come out to the open house events to register and to try out a class — so come prepared to exercise and have fun." The YMCA is working with Plymouth County United Way and Plymouth Township to be able to offer this program at little to no cost for seniors.

To check eligibility, contact health plan providers. To learn more about the Plymouth Community YMCA call (734) 453-2904.

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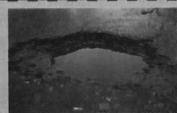
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turn to the experts

Daughter takes the lead in mother-daughter acting combo

By Maureen Paraventi
Correspondent

Canton resident Anne Cloutier got a surprise when she and her daughter, Elise, decided to revive a long-dormant family tradition by performing together in a stage play—the musical “Barnum,” opening at the Village Theatre in Canton April 19.

It seems the student has surpassed the master. This isn't the first time the two have formed an acting combo. Anne and 13-year-old Elise were in several community theatre productions five or six years ago.

“In other shows we did together she was so young that most of the time I had to be ‘Mom’

and watch out for her, and tell her where to be and what to do,” Anne said.

The two continued to do stage shows, but separately, because they weren't able to find one that was right for both of them. Anne acted in “It's a Wonderful Life,” “FONTS,” “Music Man” and “My Fair Lady,” among others.

Then along came “Barnum,” a unique hybrid of musical theatre and circus that contains the expected (song and dance numbers) as well as the unexpected (stilt walkers, unicyclists, jugglers and tumblers). While the show, which is presented by Spotlight Players, won't be performed under a Big Top, audience members may

well forget that they're not at a circus.

Colorful cast

Barnum tells the story of P.T. Barnum and his conclude of circus acts. Spanning 45 years, it reveals how the dynamic relationship Barnum had with his wife, Charity, influenced the colorful cast of characters who would help make him a household name, like General Tom Thumb, Jenny Lind and the man who ultimately became his show biz partner, James Bailey.

The two Cloutiers couldn't resist auditioning for “Barnum,” which has the kind of songs “you just can't get out of your head,” Anne said, who added, “That's a good thing.” They are

both in the ensemble, and Elise is a dancer and trapeze artist as well.

Between “Barnum” and the shows she did previously with her mother, Elise has been compiling a fairly impressive theatrical resume that includes roles in “Camp Rock,” “Aladdin,” “Footloose,” “Annie” and “Little Mermaid.”

With all that experience behind her, along with training in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and lyrical dance, Anne said Elise is now the expert, and has been teaching her mom—helping Anne learn dance steps and songs—instead of the other way around.

“It is so wonderful to be able to see the fine young lady she has become,” Anne said proudly.

She's not the only person impressed by her daughter's stage presence.

“People were amazed that she is only 13—especially her adult male dance partner, whose jaw dropped when he realized he was partnered with, and asking for help from, a seventh-grade kid,” Anne said.

Bug bitten

Elise was bitten by the acting bug early. She was in a production of “Bye, Bye Birdie” when she was only 5 years old—sort of.

Anne was the one who was actually in the show, but Elise was videotaped for a segment that was shown on a screen at the beginning of the second act. Seeing her mother onstage in the first act got no reaction from young Elise, but seeing herself on the screen caused her to jump up in her seat and scream, “That's me! That's me!”

She was a hit with both her fellow audience members and the actors. “I was onstage waiting



Canton resident Anne Cloutier (left) with her daughter, Elise, backstage at the production of “Sound of Music.”

for the lights to come up and we were all just cracking up!” said Anne.

Now that Elise is a teenager, she's not only onstage in her own right, but she's adding trapeze artistry to her list of accomplishments. Anne said her daughter is a little nervous about this role, especially since the director teased her at one rehearsal by asking her if she could hang on by just one toe.

Lessons learned

“She is so excited about this,” said Anne. “She is taking private lessons at the Detroit Flyhouse to help in this. She won't be doing too many daring things, but I thought the lessons would help her to feel more comfortable when she is on the tra-

peze onstage.” “Barnum” is being directed by Wendy Sielaff of Canton, assisted by Music Director Richard Alder of Westland and choreographer Jen Beitzel of Northville.

The cast includes Leo Babcock of Saline as P.T. Barnum; Cathy McDonald of Plymouth as Charity; Rebecca Winder of Livonia as Jenny Lind; Tina Paraventi of Ypsilanti as Jose Heth; Jim Jackson of Westland as General Tom Thumb and Jeff Foust of Canton as James Bailey.

“Barnum” runs April 19-28, with Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$13-\$16.

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Skate plaza a popular spot for teens

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Some teens only need to look to the users of the new Garden City skate plaza to observe role models of good behavior and politeness.

Skate plaza users are good examples of politeness and taking turns.

With no adult supervision or monitoring, the young people wait in line to take their turns.

On a sunny afternoon during Spring Break, many turned out to while away their time and hone their skateboard skills.

A number of children said that they come to the plaza daily or often.

"I come here every day," said Nathan Gillespie, a Garden City resident.

Residents Chase Folger and Ryan Leithhead do likewise.

After months of using the plaza since it opened in November, the teens would like the plaza to become larger.

One young man is hop-



Keith Thering from Canton Township enjoys the Garden City skate plaza during spring break.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Garden City skate plaza which opened last fall is a popular attraction during spring break.

by Jones, a Taylor resident, who works in Garden City.

When the dirt kicks up around the plaza, it gets slippery. "It gets everything real dirty," Jones said.

It gets the wheels and the skateboard dirty which affects performance.

Additions seem to be on everybody's minds.

Y.D. Trapstar, an Inkster resident, would like another transfer, another

miniramp.

The plaza is located in Garden City Park, on Cherry Hill, east of Meridian in Garden City. The skate plaza is located in front of the old pool

parking lot.

The plaza was built with park millage money and was facilitated by former Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb, (D-Dearborn Heights) who

was redistricted.

Webb wanted Garden City kids to have a free source of entertainment.

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Logan Rock from Garden City performs a stunt at the skate plaza during spring break.

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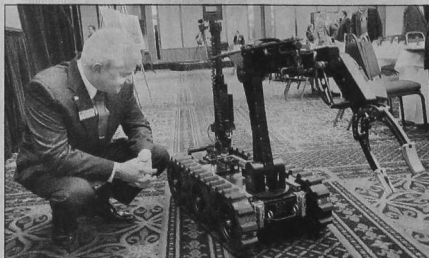
Robot will help on dangerous runs

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Livonia police and fire departments have a new ally in protecting the public in the entire western Wayne County region from dangerous situations.

A new robot has been purchased to assist the fire department with hazardous materials and will help police, and specifically the Western Wayne County SWAT team, in responding to barricaded gunman or hostage situations.

The robot, which cost \$85,000, was purchased through a \$185,000 Urban Area Security Incentive grant secured by Fire Lt. Mike Magda and coordinated through the efforts of the police and fire departments. The remaining funds were used to purchase a portable X-ray machine to examine contents of suspicious containers.



Tom Stroup checks out the robot obtained through a grant.

The public first caught a glimpse of the robot, which drove up onstage with Mayor Jack Kirksey, at the mayor's State of the City last month.

Magda, who coordinates the Western Wayne County Hazmat Team with firefighters from various

departments in the county, said that hazmat team is the only one in the state with a hazmat robot.

Police and fire officials believe the robot, operated by wireless remote, will help keep public safety personnel safe in dangerous or potentially

deadly situations.

"We've had several runs in recent years where we've had to bring in a hazmat technician," Magda said. "This robot can go into harm's way to do what that technician would do. The robot can close valves, relay

information or tell where the hot spot of the fire is located. I can see all of that live."

The robot is equipped with a camera and can take air samples. Magda said the robot can be sent in first at a scene while the western Wayne County Hazmat team assembles to carry out its operation.

"It can run up to a mile away from its base station," Magda said. Deputy Police Chief Ben McDermott said if the western Wayne County SWAT team is called to a potentially dangerous scene, the robot will assist with transporting items into a barricaded situation, without endangering an officer.

"It expands our capability without any hazardous exposure to personnel," McDermott said. "It gives us another set of eyes."

Police Capt. Ron Taig said the robot can deliver equipment, such as a "throw phone." "It also can breach windows and doors," Taig said.

Since the robot can lift over 200 pounds, it can also pull an injured offi-

cer out of a dangerous building and can go up and down stairs.

The robot arrived in February, but it has not been used in a real-life hazmat situation or dangerous police situation. Firefighters conducted training exercises at the end of February, Magda said.

Taig said that in March the SWAT team trained at the old site of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital using the robot.

Officials at each department are pleased that they have the robot to rely on to help in risky, life-threatening runs.

"We're looking forward to using this new technology, because we know it is going to save lives," Taig said.

"It will save time, save infrastructures and let us recover from the incident quicker and more efficiently," Magda said.

Magda said the robot will also be used as a back-up to assist the Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, if necessary.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting April 16, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

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Publish: April 7, 2013

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Habitat Detroit names man 'Volunteer of Year'

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Gary Earnley of Livonia is one of those homeowners who enjoys do-it-yourself projects.

So when he retired in 2008 as a systems analyst for AT&T, he thought it would be fun to volunteer for Habitat of Humanity Detroit — and give back to the city he grew up in.

Last year — and again this year — he was honored by Habitat as Construction Volunteer of the Year. He received the most recent award in February.

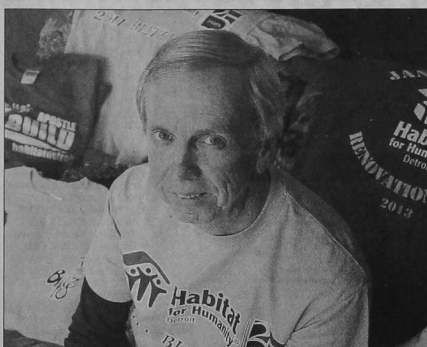
"It's a lot of fun," he said. "When I started, I knew some things, but I've learned a lot. My knowledge has improved dramatically. I now understand about all aspects of constructing a home."

Earnley, 64, was recognized for volunteering for 58 days in 2011 and 67 days in 2012. He shared the 2012 award with the Wednesday crew, a group of about eight volunteers. The 2011 award was an individual award.

"I was surprised to win last year, surprised our team won this year," he said. "When you do volunteer work, you don't do it for rewards."

Humble, passion
Sandra Cobb, chief of community development for Habitat Detroit, said all 2,900 of their volunteers are extraordinary, but Earnley takes his involvement with Habitat to another level that deserves recognition.

"The only thing greater than his humility is his passion," Cobb said, adding that whatever needs



Gary Earnley, surrounded by Habitat T-shirts.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

doing, Earnley is committed to doing. Cobb said Earnley's passion, part of his "faith belief," influences others around him.

Earnley estimates he's worked on about 45 homes on Detroit's far east side, either building new homes or fixing up existing homes. He's done everything but electrical work and plumbing, which licensed contractors are required for.

He's met some of the partner families — Habitat is a hand up, not a hand out, program and requires sweat equity from the families. "I really enjoy those conversations," he said. "It gives you a chance to hear their story. They're always really thankful, and in most cases, very humble. It makes you feel good helping someone that

really needs help." Earnley was familiar with Habitat before retiring. As a member of the mission board at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia, he had volunteered on Habitat projects in other states and in northern Michigan.

International mission trips

He wasn't new to volunteering either. Since 1997, he has been on about 15 international mission

trips to Belize, Ecuador, Mexico, Brazil, Peru and South Korea, where he has worked on Habitat-like projects.

At a leprosy hospital in Ecuador, he helped build a second access door to the women's dormitory and a wheelchair ramp to the men's dorm, and helped install a new gutter system. At a deaf orphanage in South Korea, he helped install smoke alarms with flashing lights so the hearing-impaired children would

awaken in a fire. He also volunteered in disaster relief in the United States, helping with Hurricane Katrina cleanup eight times and assisting with tornado cleanup in Joplin, Mo., and flood cleanup in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

time they left, even some of the most "macho" construction workers would be crying, Earnley said.

Earnley's wife, Terry, said her husband is so humble, he didn't mention two other volunteer organizations he's involved with.

He's heading to the New Jersey coast for a week in May to help with Hurricane Sandy relief efforts there.

Earnley said each mission trip is different, but they all change him in some way. "I would say you get more back than you give," he said.

The trips that touched his heart the most, he said, were the ones to the leprosy hospital. The people there were so shunned by society that many of them stayed living at the hospital even after they were cured. Believing leprosy has some kind of bad spirit, family and friends refuse to visit. If the leprosy workers burn their house down, Earnley and his fellow mission workers would sit on the lepers' beds and visit with them, purchase items they had made, unafraid they would catch the disease. The connection built would be so strong that by the

time they left, even some of the most "macho" construction workers would be crying, Earnley said. Earnley's wife, Terry, said her husband is so humble, he didn't mention two other volunteer organizations he's involved with.

Scouting award

For 40 years, Earnley has taught swimming through the Red Cross to Boy Scouts in Dearborn, she said. He recently was honored with the Scouts' Silver Beaver Award for outstanding service to youth.

He also volunteers as a guide for blind cross country skiers through Ski for Light. Terry Earnley said.

Earnley plans to continue volunteering for at least another 15-20 years. "I do feel blessed," he said, adding he not only has good health, but the resources to pay for traveling and other mission trip and volunteer expenses. "I think it's part of God's plan for me (to give back)," he said. Plus, he still has more to learn about construction. A member of the Habitat Detroit Thursday crew is 84.

"He moves a little slow," Earnley said, "but kids like to learn from someone like that."

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Companies may buy, lease former GM sites

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Officials responsible for the remediation and development of two former GM factory sites in Livonia believe they are close to finding purchasers or tenants.

Four or five parties are expressing interest in purchasing the former GM Powertrain plant on Middlebelt, while two or three others are inquiring about leases there, according to Bruce Rasher, redevelopment manager for Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response Trust.

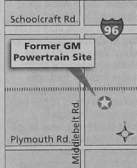
One "serious" buyer has approached RACER Trust about purchasing one of two properties on Eckles, just north of Amrhein, and south of I-96, at the site of the former Spring and Bumper plant. A second prospective buyer has entered into preliminary discussions about purchasing a second separate portion of the site, Rasher said.

Rasher would not identify the companies. "We have nothing to announce today, but we are very excited about the interest in these sites," Rasher said Tuesday.

Vacated factory sites

The former Powertrain plant site at 12200 Middlebelt, south of I-96 and north of Plymouth Road, was built in 1971. After an expansion in 1984, the building now spans 1.2 million square feet on 40 acres of property. Zoned M2 for heavy manufacturing, it once housed machining operations for automotive engines and related components. The

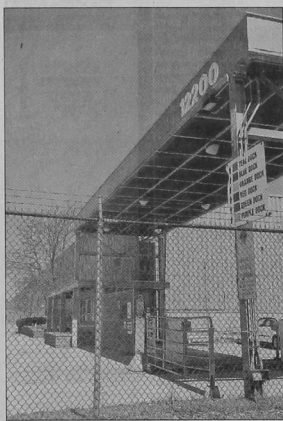
Two former GM properties may be sold or leased soon, according to officials responsible for overseeing the cleanup and redevelopment of sites.



property also includes a warehouse and wastewater treatment plant. At one time, the facility employed more than 1,200 workers. When it closed in June 2010, it had 300 employees.

The site of the former Spring and Bumper Plant (Delco Chassis), at 12950 Eckles, on the northeast corner of Amrhein, once housed 14 buildings comprising 2.1 million square feet. Between 1954 and 1998, this 120-acre site was operated by various divisions of GM.

The property is surrounded by industrial or commercial properties with the exception of a residential neighbor-



The former GM Powertrain plant on Middlebelt Road.

hood, located southeast of the site.

The site at 13000 Eckles is 116 acres. The buildings were removed in 2001, though concrete slabs remain on the property, which is zoned industrial. A 3.5-acre groundwater treatment facility, still operational, is located at 12950 Eckles.

At the plant, GM manufactured vehicle bumpers, leaf springs, coil springs and struts there. Other operations included bumper plating, metal forming, heat-treating, metal plating and finishing and assembly. According to an article in the Observer in September 1970, more than 2,600 employees worked there.

In 1993, GM ceased its bumper operations and, in 1998, sold the coil spring business to an independent company, which leased a portion of the facility through the year 2000.

Structures were demolished in 2001, with the exception of concrete floor slabs and a groundwater collection and treatment system, located at an adjacent, 3.5-acre site at 12950 Eckles and on the southwest corner.

Trust worked with AGS

The Trust is unique because it works with state and federal environmental agencies and discussions involved attorneys general from the 14 states, Rasher said. "The U.S. government, the states and tribes involved in the case recognized that the presence of environmental contamination can in most cases be an impediment," Rasher said. "Their con-

cept was to use some of the funds generated in the bankruptcy proceedings to give to the trust to remove some of these impediments, so communities are not stuck with the properties."

Rasher added that the money was not intended just for the cleanup, that the property can be promoted and marketed to companies for redevelopment.

"We don't just do this on our own," said Grant Trigger, cleanup manager for RACER Trust's Michigan properties. "We work with the communities to clean it up and bring jobs to the site."

Rasher said they have been in discussions with Mayor Jack Kirksey and Mark Taormina, director of planning and economic development.

Remediation is ongoing

Trigger said there was "limited remediation" required at the former GM Powertrain plant. Limited metals and cleaning solutions were found beneath the floor.

According to the RACER Trust website, groundwater collected at select areas of the site was found to contain levels of inorganic compounds above ADEQ's nonresidential drinking water protection criteria. EPA is reviewing the data and additional monitoring is planned.

The Trust will continue working with the EPA on an environmental investigation and remediation plan for the site.

At the Eckles Road property, Trigger said chromium and nickel were found in the southwest corner near where the plating operations were once located. A groundwater collection trench and treatment system was installed to address that impacted groundwater.

A vapor mitigation system was installed in one nearby home after officials found that soil vapors were present

above a narrow groundwater plume containing chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs), including trichloroethylene TCE, that migrated off-site to the southeast.

The site has been subject to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action under EPA oversight since October 2001. Since then, there have been approximately 10 stages of investigation; and several cleanups at the site, including removal of impacted soil from a former fire training area, powerhouse area, historical coal pile area, the former mudhouse area, and a small area under the north portion of the main building slab; and the groundwater collection trench and treatment system.

In addition, a barrier wall was installed to supplement the groundwater monitoring program and institutional controls were implemented. Groundwater will be continued to be monitored related to the collection system; and a groundwater monitoring program and institutional controls were implemented. Groundwater will be continued to be monitored related to the collection system; and a groundwater monitoring program and institutional controls were implemented. Groundwater will be continued to be monitored related to the collection system; and a groundwater monitoring program and institutional controls were implemented.

The Trust will continue to prepare documentation and work with the EPA to finalize the site's status as the RCRA corrective action will include semi-annual reports.

Both Rasher and Trigger believe that creating jobs is the ultimate goal of the Trust and the redevelopment of the properties. They were asked how companies promise and officials know that a large number of jobs would be created with their purchases or leases of the sites.

"My personal goal is to return as many jobs that were lost when the plant shut down," Rasher said. "If there were a thousand jobs in a plant, that is my goal to shoot for."

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Dated: 04/03/2013
Publish: April 7, 2013

4/10/2013 10:42

CITY OF PLYMOUTH ACCURACY TESTING FOR VOTING EQUIPMENT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH, 4:00PM.

The City of Plymouth has scheduled and will be conducting the Accuracy Testing for the Optical Scan Voting Equipment, as well as the Hearing Impaired Equipment, for the General Election to be held on TUESDAY, May 7, 2013. The testing is scheduled for WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 925 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

This is an open testing session and any interested person is encouraged to attend. Election Source will be conducting the testing to assure that the voting equipment has been programmed appropriately.

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: April 7, 2013

4/10/2013 10:42

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Meeting dates in 2013: April 9, May 14 & 28, June 25, July 23, August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and December 10.

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

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

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

Publish: April 7, 2013

4/10/2013 10:42

Don't sign bogus return; file one on your own

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I read one of your columns and it dealt with a wife who got in trouble with the IRS over tax returns. In short, her husband was not reporting income and she was held liable for the taxes. At the time, you gave her some advice. I'm in a similar situation; however, my husband and I have not filed this year's tax return. He earned some money that he doesn't want to report. He says we will never be caught. I don't know if I should sign the return. What if the IRS discovers that we did not report income, can I be held liable? I should add that our marriage is not the strongest and I think that we are headed for a breakup.

A: I remember the column. It dealt with a



Rick Bloom

Money Matters

spouse who was unaware of her husband's failure to report and, as such, she could take advantage of what is known as the innocent spouse rule. Basically, this allows the spouse to avoid liability if they can show that they had no knowledge and were totally innocent with regards to the underreporting of income.

Unfortunately, this would not be the case in your situation. If the IRS did discover the underreporting of income, you could be held liable not

only for the taxes, but also for interest and penalties. You would not be eligible to use the innocent spouse rule because you had knowledge of the underreporting before you signed your return.

When I know this is difficult, my advice is that you do not sign the return and inform your husband that either the income is reported on your joint return or you will file a separate tax return. He won't be happy with either alternative because there are adverse tax consequences when a married couple files separately. Generally, when married couples file returns individually, they end up paying higher taxes. I do not like people to pay more taxes than they have to,

however, I am also a firm believer that you should not file a tax return that you know is inaccurate.

I wish there was another alternative, but I don't know of one. The bottom line is when you sign a tax return, you are stating it is fair and accurate. When that turns out not to be the case, there can be severe consequences.

Many people believe that they won't get caught by the IRS. However, you would be surprised how the IRS can find information. For example, what if the person who gave that money to your husband claimed it as a deduction on his/her tax return and then gets audited by the IRS? The trail could lead back to you and your husband. Or what if the per-

son who gave the money to your husband got in trouble with the IRS and a deal and voluntarily report the information about your husband to the IRS? Once again, it could put you in a difficult position.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for everyone to review their tax return for accuracy before signing. If you know that the return is wrong and the number is substantial, do not sign the return. In your case, since we are so close to the tax filing deadline, my advice is to file for an extension and then discuss the situation with your husband.

Keep in mind penalties can be severe, particularly when it comes

to underreporting of income. In those situations, if it's a substantial underreporting of income, you can have penalties as high as 50 percent. When you add the penalties and the interest to the tax liability, you could be doubling the amount you owe. Never play games with your taxes; do the right thing. It may cost a few extra dollars, but it certainly will allow you to sleep at night.

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 him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

PCAC hosts arts weekend

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is promising "something for everyone," including two exhibits and a classic rock music experience with its April Arts Weekend April 12-14.

On the agenda:

- Friday, April 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. — Spaces and Places artist reception,

the PCAC's fourth annual juried exhibit, a free event open to the public.

- Saturday, April 13, 7-10 p.m. — Benefit concert with D'Art Band, featuring classic rock music and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the PCAC office or at the door.
- Sunday, April 14, 2-4

p.m. — Front Wall exhibit reception for "Sisterhood." Hosted by Cadet Girl Scout Troop 40844. It's a free event, open to the public.

The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. For more information visit the PCAC's website at www.plymoutharts.com or call (734) 416-4278.

Public invited to recital by local piano students

Each year, the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum auditions students in elementary through high school for the Award for Piano Performance Excellence. Winners receive a cash prize and the opportunity to perform in a winners' recital sponsored by the LAPFT.

This year's winners' recital will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14, in The Steinway Gallery, 2700 E. West Maple Road, in Commerce Township. The recital is free, and the public is welcome.

Donations will be accepted for the Sharon Rea Music Scholarship

program, which provides scholarships to students attending summer music programs.

The Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum has more than 100 members from all over the metro Detroit area. For more information, visit www.lapft.org.

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

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

Bieske 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 I-275. 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.

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

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Schoolcraft to start plastics technology program

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Bill Dunbar, dean of occupational programs and economic development at Schoolcraft College, met with engineers and manufacturers over the past several months to discuss changing technologies and how tomorrow's workers can best be educated.

More companies are using an increasing number of plastic parts in products ranging from motor vehicles to medical equipment. Dunbar learned companies want to hire trained employees who know plastics. The college wanted to help students land a job and develop competency levels in technology.

Those discussions led to the development of a plastics technology program. Schoolcraft is expected to offer associate degrees in 2015 and build an academic foundation for plastics engineering.

Starting in May, the college will offer its first plastics class, Characteristics of Plastics.

While that class is noncredit, it will help build in students a foundation of plastics knowledge.

The idea for the program is similar to that of the college's health information technology and nursing programs, which also have strong "industry employer" ties, Dunbar said.

Skill building

The first four classes after the Characteristics of Plastics will be "stackable" credited classes, which will be added to the curriculum as students progress through the program. "These classes will build their skills for a one-year certification," then once they hit 60 to 62 credits in that curriculum, they can obtain their associate's degree in plastics technology."



NYX Cherry Hill Production Manager Gurjit Singh Sidhu explains how plastic parts for Ford and General Motors products are produced at the plant. Listening to the explanation are Dawnne Toppa, vice president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, and Amy Jones, director of business development, Schoolcraft College.

"It gives them an opportunity to build their skill levels and keep building their credentials. Education and those credentials are something that no one can take away from you."

Sassan Tarahomi, president-elect of the Society of Plastics Engineers Detroit Section, will be teaching the class in May. He and other SPE members met with Dunbar to discuss the program. "We are targeting this southeast Michigan region to bring in jobs," Tarahomi said. Companies with representation in the group include NYX, IAC and Q'View.

Tarahomi said companies would like to hire workers, but many of the younger ones don't have experience. Students can learn about plastics materials, processing and design in the class. The class would be geared toward a designer, technician or a high school graduate. "They need to prepare so that they can get experience,

to improve mileage and durability and also lessen the cost of medical equipment. Hospitals are full of equipment comprised of plastics.

"Companies are heavily involved in it," Dunbar said. "The auto industry is big on plastics, but plastics are in every industry."

Students will be able to transfer those credits to Ferris State University, which is the closest university that offers plastics technology and plastics engineering, Dunbar said.

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CELEB DEAD (PG) 12:10, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 9:50 FRISAT LS 12:00

COOL B.I. JOE: RETALIATION (PG-13)
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11:45, 2:20, 7:40 FRISAT LS 11:55

D-BOX ADDS MOTOR SEATING
MAGIC TO MOVIES: D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE: 11:45, 2:20, 7:40 FRISAT LS 11:55

OTYNE WEST (PG) 11:45, 2:20, 7:40

FRI-TUE 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 MON 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:00

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OTYLER PERRY'S TEMPORATION (PG-13) 11:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50

FRISAT LS 11:50

THE CROSS (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15

30 THE CROSS (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15

AS AN ANIMATION FOR AN HOUR 9:30

GET THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) 11:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:25, 9:10 MON 12:30, 5:10, 11:10, 3:30, 6:30

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Dems bring 'Listen Tour' to Garden City

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

House Democrats brought their "Listening Tour" Wednesday to Garden City.

But they listened to few because attendance was low.

Organizers announced the press conference Monday and held it mid-morning Wednesday. Many in the community, as well as the entire state Legislature, were on spring break.

State Reps. David Knezek, D-DeARBorn Heights, Dian Slavens, D-Canton, and Andrew Kandrevas, D-Southgate, came to Garden City to announce Michigan's Middle-Class Plan, the House Democrats' plan for helping families, seniors and kids.

"We cannot continue for two more years with legislation which only benefits a few," Kandrevas said.

Jessica Lumbreras, a community organizer for the Democratic Caucus assigned to western Wayne County and Washtenaw, said that the plan was introduced by the caucus as a whole. "It's a team effort," she said. She expects that bills incorporating the plan will be introduced in two weeks.

The state tour featured many stops from Monroe to Hancock in the Upper Peninsula. The idea was to get input at the different stops.

Knezek said he and his legislative colleagues have seen first-hand how the Republicans have affected middle-class families and seniors.

"We wanted to hear how taxes impact their daily lives," Knezek said. Slavens said that they



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Reps. David Knezek, D-DeARBorn Heights, and Dian Slavens, D-Canton, spoke at a Wednesday press conference at Garden City Hall to talk about the House Democrats' Middle Class Plan.

have heard from seniors about the pension tax, from teachers who complained about classroom sizes and how they have to pay out-of-pocket for school supplies and from women who are concerned about access to health care.

Slavens said at one meeting, a woman named Michelle in Sterling Heights asked "whether this is Michigan or Mississippi?"

"We heard the same concerns from residents over and over again," Slavens said.

Tim Roraback, a 22-year Plymouth resident and member of the Democratic Club, spoke at the Garden City meeting. He is married with two daughters.

"My concern is the increase in taxes on low-income and middle-income people, which I think is very devastating," Roraback said.

He said Republicans have recently cut \$1 billion from local public schools.

"My daughters were both educated in Plymouth-Canton Schools," he said.

Roraback urged strong support of the public school system. "A strong public education system has all kinds of benefits to our economy," he said. Kandrevas said Lansing Republicans have "misguided principles."

He, too, has attended other stops across the state.

Slavens urged people to write letters to the editor. Garden City Schools Superintendent Michelle Cline was concerned about charter schools.

"We have a charter school coming into Garden City," she said. "Charter schools devastate public schools in a community where a charter school opens. While they get taxpayer money, they are not held to the same standard of regulation as the public schools are."

"Charter schools need to be held to the same standards as all public schools," she added.

Kandrevas agreed accountability is a high priority for the Democrats.

"If we are not careful, our public schools will be schools for children of poverty and children

of special needs," Cline said. "It scares me a lot to think that is where we are going because there is such an attack on public education right now."

Cline said Michiganders as a whole don't understand the difference between charter schools and public schools and parochial schools and what their responsibilities are.

The plan

The plan is based on the response Democrats received during their recent statewide Real State of Our State Listening Tour.

"In every corner of the state, residents told us that the policies of the last two years aren't working for them," Knezek said. "We want people

to know that we held this Listening Tour to actually get their input, not as a publicity stunt. Our Middle-Class Plan turns those concerns into action."

Slavens added, "Our job is to make laws that work for the average, hard-working Michigander, not CEOs or special-interest groups. Although the economy is starting to recover, too many families are still struggling. Our plan will address those struggles."

Restoring and protecting funds to public education, eliminating barriers to health care for women and providing solutions for fixing our roads and bridges, Michigan's Middle-Class Plan will:

- Repeat the tax on seniors' retirement

income, restore the per-child tax deduction, restore the Earned Income Tax Credit to 11 percent and restore the Home-SteAD Property Tax Credit.

• Implement a fine for habitually overweight trucks, ensure existing transportation funds are used for road construction and refinance existing infrastructure bonds.

• Make the School Aid Fund only available for use in funding K-12 education and increase per-pupil funding by \$320.

• Improve access to health care for women by removing barriers to health care centers and increasing access to family planning services.

To view the plan in its entirety, visit www.realstateofourstate.com.

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2013 TOUR OF REMODELED HOMES DEBUTS IN PLYMOUTH

If you want to see firsthand the remodeling possibilities for your own home, you'll want to mark Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28 on your calendar.

That's the weekend date of the 2013 Tour of Remodeled Homes in Plymouth, sponsored by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry of Southeast Michigan. Five homes in Plymouth have been added on to the nine homes in Ann Arbor to expand the market area of this popular annual tour — now in its tenth year.

"You can walk through each home and have an opportunity to meet the builders," said Monica Forward, tour event chair. "It will give you some new ideas to use in your own home."

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry of Southeast Michigan is a group of local remodelers, suppliers, trade contractors and other building professionals who promote and support the remodeling industry. "One of the things that is unique about this organization is that they equally recognize members of all professional and trade backgrounds," said Michael Klement, AIA, architect and owner of Architectural Resource, LLC in Ann Arbor.

Remodeled Home #1:

One of his project homes is on the tour, entitled "Addition by Subtraction." "For the first time I can ever remember on any remodeling tour, this project presents a charming 1920s Plymouth bungalow whose square footage was actually reduced by 55 square feet," said Klement. "It represents our firm's view of making every inch count in our client's homes, no matter what the project size."

In this home, Architectural Resource, LLC removed a solarium on the rear of the home that was actually losing more energy than it was gaining. By completely reconfiguring the floor plan, they created a home that functioned much more efficiently than before.

Remodeled Home #2:

Bill Cowdin of Cowdin Design + Build in Plymouth completed a full home remodel entitled "This Small Space" for his project tour home. "We took a small duplex in downtown Plymouth and created a really modern space with an open kitchen, cherry floors and a totally remodeled master bedroom suite," said Cowdin, whose company specializes in middle to upper-range remodeling. "It was very exciting to work in a confined space and make it feel twice as big."

Remodeled Home #3:

Dave Latawiec, owner of DJL Builders in Plymouth, will be presenting "Four-Square Revisited," a whole house remodel plus an addition to a 1925 two-story four-square home. "We totally gutted the original 1500 square feet of space, then added 1400 more square feet," said Latawiec. "What will attract the most attention is the open kitchen



"Upstairs Downstairs" two-story addition and deck by Seghi Renovations.

and family room. We also added a large mudroom and an open sunroom in the existing house space, then the addition which includes a large master suite."

Remodeled Home #4:

Royston Design + Contracting of Northville will show an early

1990s colonial that has been totally rebuilt inside, entitled "Whole House Re-imagined." "It's absolutely gorgeous," said Bob Royston. "The homeowner has spared no expense in the meticulous remodeling of this home."

With a new master bath, guest bath, basement kitchen and bath, and decorative trim work, the house exemplifies Royston's ability in the high-end scale of remodeling. Another plus is its Michigan-made custom cabinetry. The moral of this house's story is: The details truly make the project.

Remodeled Home #5:

A two-story addition and cedar deck define this project by Seghi Renovations in Plymouth, is entitled "Upstairs, Downstairs."

The project includes a stone fireplace and cozy family room on the main floor, added onto the dining room, with a finished lower level below. The winding cedar deck goes down to the lower level, connecting the entire project at the exterior. "The view is gorgeous, overlooking a wooded backyard," said Seghi. "The whole back of the addition is all windows and high cathedral ceilings."

— By Sally Rummel

NARI Home Tours

Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 28 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, available at the door at all homes the day of the tour. For more information about the tour, visit www.narisemich.org

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BOYS BASEBALL PREVIEW PT. 2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Connecting for a double during a 2012 game is Salem's Demetrius Dunlap (No. 11), who is one of the team's top returnees.

Rocks ready to roll

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Longtime Salem baseball coach Dale Rumberger doesn't like to hype something if the facts don't back up his excitement.

Rumberger doesn't mind going to bat for his 2013 team, because the evidence is mounting that the Rocks will be a strong contender both in the KLAAs and possibly the state tournament.

Although Salem went just 16-18 in 2012, the Rocks finished strong (13-7 after April) as young players gained experience, returned to health or both.

Then Salem's summer league team, coached by Rumberger, took a giant step forward with a 35-1 record.

With nine key seniors returning plus a number of emerging players hitting their stride, Rumberger can only think this might be the year where the Rocks add a banner

or two inside the gymnasium. "I'll take talent over experience every day," said Rumberger, with a laugh. "I'll teach them what I need them to know. They're just really smart, they've improved a lot over last season, improved a lot over the summertime. I just think they're going to play well."

Of course, Rumberger — inducted last year into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame — knows a lot about what is and isn't talent.

Now entering his 19th season as Salem's head coach and 27th overall, his teams have collected a total of 22 division, conference, district and regional championships and won the 1991 state championship. During his tenure, the Rocks are 454-340.

"I have all my starters back," he said. "The only starter I lost that played significant time was (catcher) Brett Ramirez, who's playing

over at Madonna now."

Catching on

The Rocks boast solid players all over the diamond. But proverbial strength up the middle is why Salem should, in the least, contend for the KLAAs Central Division.

Taking over from catcher is senior Lucas Salinas. He'll handle a talented staff featuring starters Nick March, Colin Piron (both juniors) and Josh Penn (sophomore) along with senior closer Jeremy St. Laurent.

His double-play combination is junior shortstop Jack Driscoll and senior second baseman Aaron Moore. Senior and Saginaw Valley State-bound center fielder Demetrius Dunlap is the anchor of the outfield.

As catcher, Salinas will be the unofficial captain of the Salem ship. In addition to swinging a good bat (.350s is his projected

Please see ROCKS, B2

TRACK PREVIEW

Chiefs look to heat up fast

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Bob Richardson has seen this movie before: Large group of all-conference athletes graduate from his Canton varsity boys track and field team, followed by an influx of new talent.

At least that's what Richardson hopes will happen in 2013, with the Chiefs set to open the season with a dual meet Tuesday against Livonia Franklin. Because of cold weather this spring, pre-season practices have largely been forced indoors — not the best way for runners to prep for actual competition.

"We've lost some people from last year," said Richardson, starting his 25th season at the helm of the Canton squad. "And, we've had unusually chilly weather. So right now, we've probably got more questions than answers to what to expect out of our guys."

"But, we've got good numbers, with 80 to 90. We'll see how they progress. But our coaching staff will have them as ready as we can have them."

Canton, co-champions of the KLAAs South Division in 2012 with a 4-1 record (6-1 overall), lost standouts such as Miles Felton, Ryan Jones, Sean Krolnicki, Demetre Lopez, Jeff Molchan,

Please see CHIEFS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jamal Dixon will reprise his role as a top long jumper for Canton in 2013.

Reign Junior Academy registration

The Plymouth Reign Soccer Club will begin their Spring Junior Academy on Tuesday, April 16, a six-week program for any player ages 5-9.

Cost is \$60 for once a week, either Tuesdays or Fridays. Those who want to take part on both Tuesdays and Fridays over the course of the program can sign up for \$110.

All sessions (5:30-6:30 p.m.) will be instructed by Plymouth Reign professional coaches and an academy T-shirt will be included with every paid registration.

The academy is set to take place at Allen Elementary school, 1100 N. Haggerty in Plymouth.

For more information or inquiries, visit plymouthsoccer.net or e-mail vice_president@plymouthsoccer.net.

Senior men's golf meeting

The Livonia Senior Men's Golf Association will stage its 2013 registration and business meeting at 3 a.m. Saturday, April 20 at the Livonia Senior Center,

located on the southeast corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads. The meeting is open to golfers 55 years and up, regardless of residency.

The \$30 registration fee also covers the season-ending awards banquet luncheon and gift.

For more information, call Tony Amador at (734) 261-4718.

Siblings revelry

Birneys carry lacrosse torch from Plymouth to UDM

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Lacrosse is the sport of choice in the Birney household, and that's good news for siblings Mike and Kylie Birney — midfielders for University of Detroit Mercy's men's and women's teams, respectively.

It didn't hurt that after Mike Birney, 20, started getting into the sport while in middle school at Our Lady of Good Counsel that his parents and another couple opened up The Michigan Lacrosse and Training Center in Plymouth to

make sure he could get whatever lacrosse equipment he needed.

Soon enough, his sister, Kylie, followed suit, ultimately deciding to ditch soccer for the sport is brother can't get enough of.

"My brother kind of started the whole lacrosse thing in my family," said 19-year-old Kylie Birney, who played varsity lacrosse at Livonia Ladywood and is now a freshman midfielder with the UDM women's team (which plays 1 p.m. Sunday against Howard

Please see BIRNEYS, B3



UDM ATHLETICS
Lacrosse-loving siblings Mike and Kylie Birney of Plymouth are feeling right at home at University of Detroit Mercy.

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers battled rust during the first two periods of Friday's OHL Western Conference semifinal opener against Owen Sound at Cumpua Arena.

Plymouth also had to deal with outstanding Attack goalie Jordan Binnington, who brought his 937 save percentage from Owen Sound's first series into the game.

Owen Sound scored midway through the first period and that held up until the third.

But once the Whalers

were finally free of the last bit of rust — collected during the nine-day hiatus between playoff rounds — they scored four goals in the third period for a 4-1 victory.

Some serious sniping from wingers Garrett Meurs and Sebastian Uvira (two goals) also helped get Plymouth's offense clicking, to the delight of 2978 home fans.

"We had a couple really glorious chances early on and we didn't bury them," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Velucci said. "And they got it."

Please see WHALERS, B2

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ROCKS

Continued from page B1

average), he knows how to handle a pitching staff, block pitches and get throws down to second base for quick tags.

"Lucas has caught a lot, he caught a lot last summer," Rumberger said. "He's a kid that fought hard all the way through freshman and JV and it's his turn to be the catching leader of our team."

Backing up Salinas will be another catcher with promise, sophomore Colin Savage.

"That's a tradition here at Salem," Rumberger, himself a former catcher, said about having strong players behind the dish. "I've had seven all-state catchers since I've been coaching here... So it's always been a point of emphasis to have catchers."

Plethora of arms

As for Salem's pitching staff, Rumberger said he has "more pitchers than I have innings for."

March (1-3, 3.50) is the No. 1 starter and is poised for a breakout season. "Nick was one of our primary starters last year (as a sophomore)," he noted. "He has good experience. He was only 1-3 last year, but opponents only hit .211 against him."

Pietron and Josh Penn will be regulars in Salem's rotation, both having made strides since Northville defeated the Rocks in the 2012 districts. They were pretty good to begin with Penn's first varsity start was a 1-0 shutout over Wayne Memorial.

Other pitchers who could make a big impact are sophomore Ryan Brooks (who throws in the mid-80s), Brandon Gillen and freshman lefthander Alex Nicholson, whose dad played on

Salem's 1991 championship team.

Seniors Dave Proctor and Austin Siletti and junior Andrew Hunt will pitch in middle-relief situations to get the game to the seventh, when hard-throwing St. Laurent can take over.

"Jeremy's a strike-out guy, he has as much velocity as Tyler," Rumberger noted. "The best thing about him now is, we've been working on his breaking ball over the winter and he's made a lot of improvement."

"So now he's got two pitches. The kids have a lot of faith in him because you know what's on his mind when we put him in the game. He throws a lot of strikes. For the most part, when Jeremy's in the game, it's over."

Improved D

Salem pitchers will benefit from improved defense in the infield, with senior third baseman Kyle Penn healthy after missing a chunk of 2012 due to illness.

The double-play combo of Driscoll and Moore (ably backed up by junior Derrick Vergolini) also is a couple notches better than a year ago, simply due to having a lot of varsity experience.

"He (Penn) had pneumonia, then strep throat," Rumberger said. "It was just a battle. And finally, in May he was able to come back and start playing. Once that happened, our infield fell right into place because we had a quality infielder at every position."

Driscoll "has good range and a good arm" and turns the DP well — either with Moore or Vergolini.

The infielders do more than pick it. Driscoll will lead off and Rumberger could envision him improving on last year's .288 average.

Moore displays power, smacking a three-run shot in the districts against Northville while Penn hit .309 last year.

"I have a lot of kids that can really swing the bat," he said.

Splitting first-base duties will be Siletti and Josh Penn, and each brings a different element to the mix. Siletti is a slick fielder while Penn (.417 average) likely will be the cleanup hitter.

High praise

Salem's outfielders also give Rumberger reasons to smile, especially Dunlap — who hit .367 with 21 RBI last year in addition to flagging down anything hit anywhere in his vicinity.

"I don't say this often, but Demetrius is probably the best center fielder I've ever had," Rumberger said. "And I've had three or four all-staters. Sam Ott played center for me."

A player who could take over center after Dunlap graduates is Nicholson, who is the team's lone lefty hitter and thrower. "Alex is a great athlete."

When Gillen isn't pitching, he'll play left. Meanwhile, sharing right field will be junior Justin Sydlovski and senior Alex Starr.

"He (Sydlovski) is another guy I brought up as a sophomore," Rumberger said. "He's a big, strong kid and he can really drive the ball."

Going up and down his roster sheet, he couldn't ignore impressive facts detailing previous successes and current potential. Rumberger and Salem assistant coach Andy Clantier know they have a pretty good team on paper.

Now, it's time to get it done on the diamond.

smith@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128

Stafford blanks Irish in opener

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Cool, wily weather Wednesday did not slow down Canton senior pitcher Mike Stafford one bit in the Chiefs' season opener against Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

Stafford hurled a no-hitter into the fifth inning and struck out 12 batters as host Canton rolled to a 6-0 victory in the opener of a twobill.

"You know, Mike is a senior and is a college-level athlete," said Canton head baseball coach Mark Blomshield, about how little the weather bothered Stafford on the mound. "So that's basically what we expect out of him and what he expects out of himself, too."

The southpaw, who recently signed to pitch at Liberty University (Va.) next year, walked three batters and his pitch count was climbing too high for a first start when Jack Gage slapped a grounder up the middle with two outs in the fifth to spoil the no-hit bid.

"I'm kind of glad they got that hit there," Blomshield said. "Because he was getting up around the 80-pitch mark. Yeah, he had a no-hitter going in the fifth (but) I didn't really want to leave him out there. That (Gage's hit) made the switch easier."

Taking over on the mound for Canton in the sixth was another hard-throwing lefty, junior Nick Hazergian, who finished the final two scoreless innings.

Canton grabbed an early 1-0 lead when Nick Schnur scored on a wild pitch in the first.

The Chiefs then gave Stafford a bit more breathing room with three runs in the fourth, a rally capped off by a two-out RBI single by Weston Price and a two-run single by Jake Boucher.

A line-drive double to right-center by Jake Raymo in the sixth led to another Canton run. Raymo advanced to third and home on two wild pitches, giving the Chiefs a 5-0 edge.

In the sixth, Canton made it a six-run cushion. Leading off with a single to right was James Hall and he eventually scored on Hazergian's RBI hit.

The teams played a second game Wednesday night, using Catholic League rules (each batter stepped into the



Canton's Mike Stafford throws a pitch during Wednesday's game against Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

breathing room with three runs in the fourth, a rally capped off by a two-out RBI single by Weston Price and a two-run single by Jake Boucher.

A line-drive double to right-center by Jake Raymo in the sixth led to another Canton run. Raymo advanced to third and home on two wild pitches, giving the Chiefs a 5-0 edge.

In the sixth, Canton made it a six-run cushion. Leading off with a single to right was James Hall and he eventually scored on Hazergian's RBI hit.

The teams played a second game Wednesday night, using Catholic League rules (each batter stepped into the

with a 1-1 count), and Canton rallied for a 6-3 victory to improve to 2-0 on the season.

Going six innings and striking out 13 while giving up just three hits was winning pitcher Brett Mattson.

Hazergian's two-run double was one of Canton's key hits to bounce back from a 3-1 deficit in the third.

A three-run fifth snapped a 3-3 deadlock.

Stafford doubled and drove in two runs, including the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the fifth.

Also collecting an RBI was Alex Clark.

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WHALERS

Continued from page B1

kind of a fluky goal that that put us on our heels for 10 minutes."

The Whalers turned it up a couple of notches in the middle period, outshooting the Attack 14-6, but still could not answer Owen Sound's early goal scored by Germal Smith at 10:54 of the opening period.

"Noese (Stefan Noesen) hit the post, (Tom) Wilson missed an empty netter, (Ryan) Hartman missed an empty netter," Vellucci said. "That's the way it goes. We've been off for nine days and you could tell early on."

The tables started to turn at the 20-minute mark of the second period.

Owen Sound's Kurtis Gabriel was assessed a double minor for high sticking, stemming from an altercation at the end of the period. That gave Plymouth an excellent chance to finally stop Binnington (who stopped all 26



Plymouth's Sebastian Uvira (No. 17) slips the puck past Owen Sound goalie Jordan Binnington to put the Whalers up 2-1 Friday night. At right is Attack defenseman Cody Ceci (No. 8).

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

shots through two periods).

Vellucci also gave the Whalers a little bit of a pep talk going into the third, trying to keep them from letting any frustration get to them.

"Stay positive, that was it (the message)," he said. "You get one, you'll get a bunch."

On the board

Owen Sound killed off the first of the two penalties to Gabriel to open the third, but then Meurs scored a goal that would have made Gretzky smile.

Rickard Rakell skated up the left half-wall and threaded the puck into the corner to Meurs, who

walked in toward the blue paint. From a sharp angle near the left post, and with only a small opening to shoot at over Binnington's glove hand, Meurs ripped a shot into the top right corner with 17:30 remaining.

With the goal came a collective feeling of relief and — partly thanks to an

Owen Sound line change — it took just two minutes for Uvira to put the Whalers in front for good.

Veteran defenseman Austin Levi (Farmington Hills) hit Uvira with a pass in the neutral zone and the mid-season acquisition did the rest. Uvira skated down the right wing, maneuvered around Owen Sound defenseman Keevin Cutting and cut in on Binnington. After going forehand-backhand forehand, Uvira slipped the puck under Binnington's arm from just above the crease.

"I was kind of yelling for it," Uvira said. "I wanted the puck so bad because I saw everybody was kind of changing. So I used my speed. I wanted the puck to get into the net and I was lucky."

The 6-2, 206-pounder, a solid contributor since being traded to Plymouth in January from Oshawa, padded the lead to 3-1 with 3:12 remaining.

OHL scoring champion Vince Trocheck lofted the puck high into the air out

of Plymouth's zone, merely to ease the pressure on Whalers rookie goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (Ann Arbor).

The puck bounced over the Owen Sound blue line, where Uvira corralled it and skated in for his second of the night. He went top shelf with the shot.

"I saw Trocheck throwing the puck out high and I was like, 'C'mon, I got to get it,'" Uvira said. "Then I saw the puck on the ice and I started wheeling in hard to get to the net."

"He's a big, strong guy," Vellucci said about Uvira. "When you go to the net, it's tough to stop him."

Capping off the win was an empty netter by Rakell with 1:02 left.

Vellucci said he expects another hard-hitting contest in Game 2, which is set for 4 p.m. Sunday at Compuware.

"They're very physical. We knew they were going to be a tough opponent," Vellucci said. "It's going to be a great series."

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Late Registrants Accepted



BIRNEYS

Continued from page B1

University at Titan Field, on the UDM campus). "All four of us play now."

Indeed, younger brothers Sean and Ryan also play the sport and their dad, the elder Mike Birney, coaches it at Plymouth-based Good Counsel. Meanwhile, mom Lisa runs the God-freedom Road business with friends Gen and Sandy Pulice (like the Birneys, from Plymouth). And the fact Mike and Birney followed successful prep careers by playing lacrosse together. "Mike said, 'It's pretty cool that she came to the same school.'"

Also pretty pumped up about the family connection at UDM is Kyle, noting it's a significant factor to school. To be away from home, at the same time he's always here. If I ever need my big brother he's always here for me."

Taking root

The Birneys are there for the Titans, too. Mike Birney through games of April 3 has 11 goals and six assists in eight contests. UDM played Saturday morning against Manhattan College in a game that took place after this issue of the Observer went to press. Meanwhile, Kyle Birney's stats through 10 contests are pretty impressive, too. She has 11 goals entering Sunday's 1 p.m. game against Howard University at Titan Field on the UDM campus, where both



Racing down the field for the University of Detroit Mercy men's lacrosse team is Mike Birney (No. 11) of Plymouth.

teams play home contests).

The men's team is part of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Association (MAAC) while the women play in the Atlantic Sun Conference (A-Sun).

Their college careers are taking root, just six or seven years after the lacrosse seed was planted.

"I got introduced to (during middle school) because of my friend, Gino (Pulice)," Mike explained. "He played soccer his whole life. He really wasn't really into it (lacrosse), but he watched a game on-line one day and got really interested in doing it."

"He bought a mini stick and he had two of them and gave me one and we started playing in his basement. Soon enough, we started liking it more and more."

In order to take the sport up seriously, they needed to get some gear

and find a team.

"We told my mom and dad there wasn't really any place around to go buy equipment around us, so they decided to start up a store (with the Pulices)," Mike continued. "Then, we started playing some summer leagues and stuff out at Total Sports in Wixom. I started playing organized in eighth grade (at the Good Counsel team)."

Following his lead

After that, he carried on with lacrosse at Catholic Central, where he also played football. The similarities of the sports resonated with him.

"I've been playing football my whole life and I really like the high-pace, contact kind of sports," Mike said. "I just like how it's always going, always flowing. Never a stop to it, you always get an opportunity to make a good play."

"You don't have to wait,

stop, reset... The fact the sport is so quick-paced, with hitting and high scoring, was really appealing to me."

Once Kyle saw how much her brother loved lacrosse from the get-go, she had to give it a try.

"In eighth grade, soccer was a fall sport (at Good Counsel) and I finished that up," Kyle recalled. "In the spring, I decided to switch over to lacrosse. That eighth-grade year was in a really small Plymouth rec league that introduced me to the sport."

"It really was my brother kind of getting me into it, because there's not a lot of girl leagues around my area."

Then at Ladywood, "Kyle played for the Blazers' field hockey team (in the fall) and had to decide between soccer, lacrosse and track for the spring season. Her decision wasn't too hard to make. "I'd always done soc-



Plymouth native Kyle Birney competes during a recent game for the University of Detroit Mercy women's lacrosse team. She played high school lacrosse at Livonia Ladywood.

cer and I kind of got burned out on that," Kyle stressed. "So I kind of switched over to lacrosse. It is just one of my favorite things because I'm really into running... I don't know, it was just something new to try initially and then I really got into it as high school went on."

On the rise

According to Kyle, preparation at private high schools definitely helped her and Mike to make the transition to college — both in lacrosse and academically. Both want to pursue degrees in business.

Does that mean running the family lacrosse store is in their future plans? "Like Mike said, if they need us I'll be there," she said, chuckling.

But it's no joke how much the Birneys are working to put lacrosse on the local map. "I think boys, they

get a bigger turnout (for lacrosse) because it seems there's a lot of boys switching over from baseball and things like that," Kyle said. "A lot of hockey players like the whole contact idea so they'll play boys lacrosse."

"With girls, it kind of conflicts with soccer and track because all three are in the spring. So I think they really just need to start the programs at a younger age like sixth grade."

That said, lacrosse is "definitely growing" in Michigan, she added. Over at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, for example, all three high schools have boys and girls programs that are gaining traction.

It seems the Birneys have plenty of company getting hooked on their favorite sport.

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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

Matt Schacht, Stephen Schacht, Zach Smilo and Tony Winningham III.

Richardson knows he has some top-notch returnees, however. One of those is senior sprinter Colby Morris (100, 200 meters) and junior Jamal Dixon, slats for hurdles and jumps.

Other sprinters on the roster include seniors Drake Hogan, Ryan Jimenez, juniors Anthony Tillman, Akil Wade and freshman Alan Jones. In the 400 dash will be seniors Billy Nicholson, Charlie Steslick, Andrew Ste-

phens and sophomores Isaac Pennock and Mitch Morin.

Fast impression

"Probably the one who's impressed us the most is a freshman sprinter, Alan Jones," Richardson said. "He's right up there with Colby Morris, one of our senior leaders."

Dixon will be joined in the hurdles by seniors James Hildreth, Andrew Stephens and sophomore Bryan Eastman. Set for jumps in addition to Dixon are Wade, Stephens, juniors Davon Taylor, Forrest Hall and sophomore Alec Macdonald.

"Some of our dis-

tance runners are mostly underclassmen, but they've had a lot of experience in cross country and have been with us two or three years," continued Richardson, listing juniors Evan Dunkle, Tom Walkinshaw and sophomore Billy Toth.

Others who will compete in the mile and two-mile runs will be seniors Bryant Chen, Josh Joy and Owen Ash.

Throwers include seniors Olamiyi Owagbemi, Matt Halim, Austin Lynn, sophomores Adam Armesto and Guntas Dhandu. In the pole vault will be Hildreth, Jimenez, juniors Kyle Zander and Grant Mast.

Once the weather warms and the team jells, Richardson will have a better idea of what the season might bring.

The Chiefs would like to stay among the division leaders and improve on last year's ninth-place finish at the KLAAC conference meet.

Canton did enjoy a third-place performance at the regional meet.

"Franklin and Churchill will both be tough teams and Plymouth's got a good sound coming back," he noted. "So it should be an interesting South Division race."

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Wildcats could have 'field' day

By Tim Smith

Staff Writer

Despite losing a slew of great runners to graduation, Plymouth varsity track and field

TRACK PREVIEW coach Ricky Styes isn't discouraged about what the Wildcats can do in 2013.

He still has "a lot of great young runners that we think will make a quick and significant impact on the team."

And Styes is banking on plenty of points from field events, as Plymouth looks to follow up on last year's 4-1 record in the KLAAC South Division and second-place finish at the Division 1 regional meet.

For example, Plymouth boasts three of Division 1's best pole vaulters in seniors Jane McCurry, Sarah Uhlman and Taylor Rickhoff.

"We will be strong in the field events this year," Styes said. "This will be the strength of the team, at least early in the season."

"We have three of the top vaulters in the state and a deep stable of talented, young vaulters... I would put the talent that we have in the pole vault against any school in the state."

In addition to the senior pole vaulters, the Wildcats will feature sophomore Kayla Janyevski and freshman Sam Fontana and Haly Metz in that event. Plymouth's throwers (discus, shot put) and high/long jumpers should do their part to add points to the scoreboard, Styes noted.

Juniors Tionne Johnson, Taylor Bickers and Megan Wieloch are returning throwers who consistently eclipsed the 31-foot mark in 2012. They'll be augmented by freshman Elise Wehmer. Rickhoff also will be

among the jumpers, along with sophomore Emily Freyberger and freshman Kat Harris. "Both Taylor and Emily cleared five feet last year and Kat cleared it this winter during the indoor season."

Easing them in

The potential in the field events will help unbracketed freshmen sprinters Bailey Brown and Jewel Davis not feel too much pressure early in the year to make things happen.

"Both Bailey and Jewel have run times in the 400 this early in the season that may have them in the mix come our big meets at the end of the season," Styes emphasized. "Our talent in the field events will take some pressure off of these young runners as they develop."

"By the end of the season, we will be a strong team that will be able to score points both on the track and in the field."

Plymouth has first-year distance runners who also could make a quick impact. Those are freshmen Charlotte Clark and Sophia Stephan.

Plymouth has a number of other returnees ready to keep the Wildcats in contention.

Those include seniors Shannon Shaver (distance/hurdles), Natalie Puckett (hurdles), juniors Marina DeBiasi (distance), Brianna Lax (distance), Ashley MacBrien (sprints), Katie Salunga (sprints), Holly Stark (sprints/hurdles) and sophomore Anna Lukens (sprints).

"We will be returning a strong core of hurdlers," Styes added. "Two (Puckett, Stark) of which will be in the mix come conference and regionals at the end of the year."

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Ex-Glenn track coach starts new chapter

By Brad Emmons

Observer Staff Writer

After resigning last fall following 26 years of coaching boys track and field and cross country teams at Westland John Glenn High, Jess Shough admitted he suffered through coaching withdrawal.

The 68-year-old Shough, who spent 22 seasons as head coach and another four as an assistant with the Rockets, thought he'd stay connected to the sport he loves in a different way.

"I was anything, then I was just feeling, 'I want to coach,'" Shough said. "I went back and got a contact with (athletic director) Sue Heinzman and she said they were looking for an assistant. I had been a great friend for people, so they thought, 'Bob Richardson and coached against him, so I thought it would be a natural fit and it happened.'"

Shough retired from teaching in 2010 from the Wayne-Westland Community schools following 44 years (including 20 with the Cherry Hill Schools), but stayed on coaching at



Jess Shough didn't stay retired very long after coaching boys track 26 seasons at John Glenn. He is now an assistant at Canton.

Glenn where he compiled a 104-84 dual-meet record.

And after Shough ended his brief hiatus, he became reacquainted with track.

"It's been an adjustment," Shough said. "Everybody looks at me and says, 'What's he doing over here?' It's been an adjustment, but up to this point it's been very natural. The coaching staff has really been receptive and the kids have been really receptive."

Shough started coaching at Glenn in 1986 and served as an assistant under Richard Gordon before taking the head coaching reins in 1991.

In 1995, he guided the Rockets to Western Lakes Activities Association and WLA Lakes Division titles. But his best season came in 1997 when Glenn captured the WLAAC, division and regional crowns.

When Glenn moved into the Kensington Lakes Activities Association in 2009, Shough's top finish with the Rockets was fourth in the Kensington Conference meet in 2010.

In the past few years wins had become harder to come by for the Rockets in the KLAAC.

"The biggest thing we've had the last three years is lack of depth," said Shough, who was replaced by Jason Dixon. "We've had some great athletes and state qualifiers. I've coached four of the Midwest Meet of Champions selections. We've had good success in terms of individuals, but that lack of depth was making a difference in terms of being competitive in the (KLAAC South) division."

Shough graduated from Adrian High School and played four years of both basketball and baseball at Eastern Michigan University where he earned a B.S. degree in physical education.

His first coaching job was as an assistant at Garden City East under Clayton Kelly.

Shough then took the head girls track position at Cherry Hill.

"I got hooked on the fact that track was the sport that I really could see myself coaching in," said Shough, who also holds a master's degree in educational administration from EMU. "It was something that I was actually looking for in coaching. I got hooked and I've been coaching it ever since."

Shough has begun a new phase in his life and he's glad he accepted the Canton position.

Area girls eager rise to the occasion

FIRST TEAM

Paige Aresco, Jr., F. Canton: There was little junior team forward didn't do in 2012-13 for the Chiefs, coming up with big offensive performance after big performance all year.

Aresco averaged 16 points per game, shooting 42 percent from the floor and 75 percent from the free-throw line.

On a team that stresses team defense, Aresco reached 10 points or more in 19 of 23 contests, often despite being double teamed.

She also played excellent defense and grabbed five rebounds per contest, helping carry the Chiefs to a 16-7 record and a Class A district crown.

"Paige was outstanding this year," coach Brian Samulski said. "She is a great competitor and gives it everything she has every time she steps out on the floor. She really proved throughout the year that she can score."

Her season netted her all-conference honors, along with numerous all-state accolades.

Andie Anastos, Sr., G. Ladywood: The three-time All-Observer first-team selection, she led to a college on a hockey scholarship, averaged 19.5 points, 9.4 rebounds, 5.8 assists and 2.4 steals per game for the state Class B quarterfinalists.

"Andie is one of those 'one in a lifetime' type athletes that only few people are lucky enough to have come through their programs," Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti said of his senior point-guard. "Not many people can boast of leading her high school to its first regional title in over 20 years and winning a hockey state championship, while being named tournament MVP—all within the same week."

The first-team Class B all-stater and three-time All-Catholic League selection also carries a 3.8 GPA.

"Trying to contain her was the focal point of every team we faced," Coratti said. "Yet, she would always find a way to make a play because of her ability to see the floor, share the ball, along with her overall tough, scrappy nature, which allowed her to play way bigger than her (5-9) height putting up a double-double almost every night."

Raven Bankston, Sr., G. John Glenn: The 5-7 senior guard, a transfer from Detroit Mumford, paced the Class A state semifinalists with 18 points, six rebounds and eight steals per game.

"Raven can take the ball to the basket," Glenn coach Eric Kovach said. "She's very, very strong with the ball."

The first-team Class A all-stater is headed to Delaware State.

"We wouldn't be here if hadn't been for the Bankston twins," Kovach said following a 55-46 state semifinalist setback to eventual champ Grand Haven at Michigan State's Breslin Center.

"They'll be Rockets forever."

ShaKeya Graves, Sr., G. John Glenn: The 5-8 senior guard, rebounded to KLA Association champions in a December win over Novi.

"She's an incredible player," Kovach said. "There's nobody I'd rather have the ball than in her hands."



Paige Aresco Canton



Andie Anastos Ladywood



Raven Bankston John Glenn



ShaKeya Graves John Glenn



Marissa Kendall N. Farmington



Emily Gerulis Plymouth



Raine Bankston John Glenn



Amber Stephens Harrison

field goals. She is second in career three made and percentage, and she is second in career steals.

"Marissa led this team in so many more ways than just on the floor," coach Tim Micklash said. "She has an extremely high basketball IQ, and she has meant so much to our program, starting every game since her sophomore year."

"As the only senior on our team, she led by example and showed the younger players the right way to do things. Marissa will certainly be missed but will continue her basketball career in college."

Gercy Leatherwood, Jr., F. Canton: The junior point-guard led the Marlins to a 19-6 season and a runner-up finish in a Class A regional, losing in double overtime to No. 1-ranked Detroit King.

Leatherwood not only ran the offense, she was a key part of it with a 12-point average. She also produced four assists, three steals and two rebounds per game. On a team with no seniors, she was a captain and two-time, all-Catholic player.

"Defensively, Candice is very smart, reads the passing lanes well and is an excellent on-ball defender," coach Gary Morris said. "Offensively, she plays the point with good vision and smarts, and she has improved her shooting—both from the perimeter and in the paint. For the second straight year, Candice led the team in free throw attempts and shot an excellent 72 percent."

Aaron Howell, Sr., G. Farmington: Howell was a four-year varsity player and an all-round player, too. Though she was a rebounder and had many double-doubles during her career, Howell averaged an impressive 19.3 points per game, as well as 7.8 rebounds, 3.7 steals and two assists.

"Ayanna is also a key player for single-season steals (75), rebounds (196) and points (366), and she also has single-game records for steals (10) and points (34). She was named to the coaches association's all-state first team."

Howell, who is a two-time all-stater in track and field, is a New Balance national champion in the heptathlete and has a scholarship to Michigan in that sport.

"Aaron is a special athlete," coach Dave Browne said. "She's the type of kid who comes through your program one in a lifetime. From her personality, to her work ethic, to her athleticism, I can honestly say while we have had and will have many great basketball players at Farmington High School, we will never have another Aaron Howell."

Ayanna Buckley, Jr., C. Clarenceville: The 6-1 junior center paced the Trojans by averaging a double-double with 19.8 and 11.3 rebounds per game.

"Ayanna is a dominant player," Clarenceville coach Brady Gustafson said. "She played inside and out, and is a defensive presence in the post and at the top of our team."

She averaged 10 points, 5.5 rebounds, 1.5 assists and 1.2 steals for the third-place team in the rugged OAA Red Division. Her career high was 21 points. Kendall is also an outstanding center fielder in softball and will play both sports at Alma College.

"She's been really a rock for us," coach Tim Carruthers said. "We asked her to play different positions last year—down low and the back of our press, because that was where we needed her. We moved her around a lot this year. She was a really good leader for our younger kids. She is so respected by her teammates and the coaching staff."

"Kaitlyn is truly a throwback in terms of being a three-spot athlete (volleyball, too). It's fun coaching someone like Kaitlyn. She brings those experiences from other sports to basketball, and I think it has made her a better player."

Emily Gerulis, Jr., FG, FLY. Christian: It was a great season for Plymouth Christian, finishing 18-7 and winning the Class D districts and regionals before bowing out in the quarterfinals.

And Gerulis was instrumental to the Eagles' big-time success. She was voted PCA's MVP as the third-year varsity starter got the job done—and then some—wherever she was stationed on the floor.

A gritty competitor and leader, she averaged nine points, eight rebounds, five assists, five steals and two blocks per contest.

"At 5-8 she can play any position on the court that is needed," coach Carol Gerulis said. "One of the top defenders on the team, Emily is a competitor from start to finish."

Raine Bankston, Sr., G. John Glenn: The 5-7 senior guard finished the season averaging 12 points and six steals per game.

The Detroit Mumford transfer also earned all-KLAA honors for the Rockets, who were crowned KLAA South, Kensington, KLA Association, district and regional champions.

"Raine's ball-handling is very good, it's probably the best aspect of her game," Kovach said. "She's also got a very nice shot."

Raine will also follow her twin sister Raven to NCAA Division I school Delaware State this fall.

Amber Stephens, Fresh., G. Harrison: The freshman guard led the Hawks in scoring with 14 points per game and steals (4). She also averaged three rebounds and 2.5 assists. The addition of her and fellow frosh Kristen Nelson to the team made Harrison instantly better.

Stephens already is being recruited by Division I schools, according to her coach. She set a single-season



Marissa Cotton Harrison



Candice Leatherwood Mercy



Amber Stephens Harrison



Taylor Jones Mercy

2013 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

F-Paige Aresco, Canton, Jr. G-Andie Anastos, Ladywood, Sr. G-Raven Bankston, John Glenn, Sr. G-ShaKeya Graves, John Glenn, Sr. G-Marissa Cotton, Harrison, Sr. G-Candice Leatherwood, Mercy, Jr. G-Aaron Howell, Farmington, Sr.

SECOND TEAM

C-Ayanna Buckley, Clarenceville, Jr. F-Kaitlyn Kendall, N. Farm., Sr. FG-Emily Gerulis, FLY. Christian, Jr. G-Raine Bankston, John Glenn, Sr. G-Amber Stephens, Harrison, Sr. G-Taylor Jones, Mercy, Soph. G-Shelby Walsh, Ladywood, Sr.

THIRD TEAM

C-Kyla Roland, Harrison, Soph. F-Leanne Beaver, Salem, Sr. F-Arielle Paris, Thurston, Sr. G-Rachel Winters, Canton, Jr. G-Kaira Barnes, John Glenn, Jr. G-Rachel Wilkinson, Stevenson, Jr. G-Brijan Durrough, N. Farm., Jr.

FOURTH TEAM

C-Kaitlyn Hunley, Canton, Jr. F-Chadessan Roy, Stevenson, Jr. F-Jada Woody, Plymouth, Jr. G-Samantha Bauer, Mercy, Jr. G-Nelson, Katie Conrad, Asia Campbell, Mercy, Soph. G-Garden Cry, Soph. G-Katelynn Devers, Franklin, Sr.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Tim Micklash, Farmington Harrison

HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Alanna Brown, Natalie Winters, Shannon Perry, Plymouth: Kylie Robb, Shelby Cheston, Paige Smolinski, Salem: Kayla Kaulich, Janyra Wilson, Kelly Whalen, Plymouth: Christian, Jennifer Malcolm, Jenna Abraham, Rachel Fuller, Farmington: Maria Peurach, Taylor Sturmeier, Amani Echols, Harrison: Kriston Nelson, Katie Conrad, Asia Campbell, Mercy: Allie Gorycka, Tyler Parlor, Sierra LaGrande, North Farmington: Megan Carter, Jessie Carruthers, Clarenceville: Sydney Anderson, Hannah Pummil, Franklin: Sarah Cramton, Stevenson: Mara Murray, Uzoma Nwankwo, Ladywood: Sara Evon, Clarenceville: Ashley Murphy, Lutheran Westland: Aldreaema Fikes, Huron Valley Lutheran: Julie St. John, John Glenn: Kierra Jordan, Wayne: Ashley Bland, Garden City: Julene Punnett, Bedford: Ashley Sandell, Larama Dixon, Thurston: Danielle May, Sommer Lemle.

went on, earning CHSL all-league honors.

"Taylor is a very good on-ball defender and forces turnovers on our press. She has the ability to get to the basket and create scoring opportunities for herself and her teammates."

Shelby Walsh, Sr., G. Ladywood: The 5-7 senior guard was a stabilizing influence for the 17-8 Blazers

with her three-point shooting prowess.

Walsh averaged 12.3 points, 3.1 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game for the Class B district and regional champions.

The captain and All-Catholic league pick also carries a 4.0 GPA.

"Because of key injuries, Shelby was forced into taking more of a scoring role than she had in prior years," Coratti said. "She has an innate ability to put the ball in the basket no matter where she was on the floor scoring over 20 points in several games, while also being a rock of consistency on the defensive end. Shelby exudes toughness in everything she does."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Tim Micklash, Harrison: Micklash guided the Hawks to 23-2 record and their best season in school history. That included winning the OAA White Division, the FPS city title and the first district championship by a Harrison team (girls or boys).

"The Hawks lost to Dexter on a three-point shot at the buzzer in a Class A regional final. Otherwise, Harrison might have been a state semifinalist, as was Dexter."

"It was certainly one of those years I'm always going to remember."

"I would not have a better group of girls to work with. The wins are what made it a lot of fun, but I had just an outstanding group every day in practice and the games. The girls worked extremely hard, and the chemistry was the best of any team I've coached. That was a big part of why we had the success we had."

Furthermore, the Hawks did what they did with one of the youngest teams in the state. Veteran point guard Marissa Cotton was the only senior. Harrison also started two sophomores and two freshmen.

"After we got through the summer, I thought we had a chance to be pretty good—much more than most people thought we were going to be," Micklash said. "But I didn't anticipate finishing the season 23-2, winning the title, which we haven't done in a lot of years, and being seconds away from winning a regional title."

"It was just one of those special years, and things fell into place. I give credit to the girls for how hard they worked and really believed in what we were doing."

Micklash, who has a 56-35 record in four seasons as the girls varsity coach, was a boys freshman and varsity assistant coach at Farmington and North Farmington, a developmental league of Cass City in the Thumb Area and a graduate of Central Michigan. Micklash teaches health and physical education at Farmington High School.

He added the future looks bright for the Hawks, but they will certainly miss Cotton's leadership and talent.

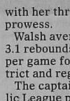
"She was a rock for this program the last four years and helped put the Hawks' title ball back on the map," he said.



Aaron Howell Farmington



Shelby Walsh Ladywood



Tim Micklash Harrison coach

Dressing for prom



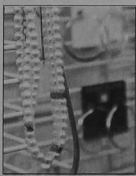
Callie Gross of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church sorts through dresses that will be sold at the 2nd Life Prom Dress Sale on April 13.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teens will find bargains at two local sales

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer



No prom outfit is complete without jewelry, and the church in Livonia will offer plenty for sale Saturday, April 13.

Callie Gross and Lisa Benages hope to make prom more affordable for hundreds of girls this year.

Gross, a member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, has organized the "2nd Life Prom Dress Sale," from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at the church, located on Five Mile, just west of Inkster Road, in Livonia. Doors will open at 8 a.m.

She has approximately 600 dresses, all priced at \$20 each, along with shoes, purses and jewelry that cost \$5 or less.

"The majority are from bridal salons ... brand new dresses, samples, with tags still on

them," Gross said. Benages, a Plymouth High School teacher, started a prom dress sale two years ago at her school. This year's event is set for 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 13, at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, 8400 Beck, in Canton.

She has a few hundred dresses, all priced at or below \$10 each, as well as accessories.

"I advertise for dona-

tions — I get a lot of those — and I send letters to bridal salons," Benages said. "I had one (store) give arm loads of sample dresses."

Both say they decided to offer low-cost dresses because they recognized the need in their communities.

Borrowing an idea
Gross got the idea for a "2nd Life" sale from her former church,

Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church, north of Pittsburgh, Pa. Although she now lives in Michigan, her job is located in Pennsylvania. She travels to Pittsburgh for business each month.

"I'm very close to the people from my church there and they started (a sale) five years ago. When I told them I wanted to do it here, because Detroit right now is rough, they said great

idea and they sent me all the information. It was a good start."

On a recent work trip, Gross collected 200 dresses donated by her former church. She's storing all 600 garments in the youth room at St. Paul's. They hang on hangers donated by Target, on racks lent by J.C. Penney. The dresses, both long and short, range from size 2-22.

Please see DRESSING, B6

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Livonia teen wins store's 'Cinderella' prom contest

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Erin Babcock found "low" prices in the \$400-\$450 range when she shopped for a prom dress at a shopping mall recently.

"I thought I was going to die. I would never be able to afford that," said the Livonia Churchill High School senior.

Luckily, she won't have to. Erin, 17, won a prom dress, accessories, hair styling, make-up session, corsage, boutonniere, and the services of a limousine through Style Trader's first annual "Finding Cinderella" competition. The upscale resale shop in Livonia sponsored the contest as a way of giving back to the community.

Jennifer Fields, store manager, said she received about a dozen nominations.

from the three finalists. Erin won the prom package and two other girls received \$50 Style Trader gift cards.

Erin said her mother, Cindy, nominated her for the honor.

"She described how I am a hard worker. It meant a lot to me," Erin said. "That was so sweet." Erin has been involved in competitive dance since age 4. She also works part time and is on student council at Churchill. She plans to attend Schoolcraft College in the fall.

"I'm not sure what I'll study, probably something to do with special education because my sister is a special needs student and I have lots of experience. I love it."

Fields said Style Trader plans to make "Finding Cinderella" an annual event.

Erin will wear a Jessica McClintock gown for the Churchill prom on May 23.

"They are so nice at Style Trader. I was so thankful to get a free prom dress. When I found out (everything) I won I was shocked. They are so generous. I feel blessed."

To learn more about Style Trader, visit www.StyleTrader.biz.



Erin Babcock, a Churchill High School senior, models a prom dress while showing a certificate of recognition from Style Trader in Livonia.



Just a few dollars will buy a new pair of heels at the gently-used prom dress sale in Livonia.

DRESSING

Continued from page B5

All of the merchandise will move to a large multi-purpose room for the sale, where customers will get a chance to try on clothing before buying.

Bridal dresses

Gross said the event is open to anyone looking for dressy and formal attire. In addition to prom dresses, donations have included a wedding dress and mother of the bride dresses.

"One of our members is looking here because she has a Halloween wedding to go to," Gross said. "A lot of people are saying, where were you when we were in high school. This would have been awesome, because of the cost."

Benages said the Plymouth sale draws teens from throughout the metro area. The event, which includes a table of free dresses, is

open to teens and women in need of inexpensive formal attire.

"We really get every style imaginable," Benages said. "I've had a couple of moms buy a dress for (an event) they had going on. We've had people waiting at the door for the sale. It's always been well-attended."

Fitting rooms are set up in restrooms and a classroom. Benages, who teaches family and consumer science, uses proceeds from the sale to buy adaptive equipment for special education cooking classes.

Gross said planning for the St. Paul sale was underway when she found out about Plymouth High School's event set for the same day.

Both events will keep each other's flyers on hand.

"I said, I'll advertise yours, you advertise mine," Gross said. "It's all about the girls. It doesn't matter where they buy a dress."

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TRIGGER POINTS

Trigger point is the name given to sites on the surface of the body, which when pressed lightly or moderately, elicit a response of sharp pain at the site of the applied pressure.

The best known trigger points are those found in fibromyalgia. In the past, diagnosis of fibromyalgia depended on a doctor finding 12-18 trigger points distributed over the body above and below the waist and present in a symmetrical pattern. Interestingly, the diagnosis of fibromyalgia today does not require the presence of even a single trigger point.

However, trigger points and therapy for them remain a part of daily medicine. Popular sites include the low back, pelvis and lateral or medial knee areas.

It is the cause of trigger point pain remains unclear. Investigations have not uncovered an underlying condition such as diabetes or hypothyroidism, or an unrecognized abnormality in bone and calcium metabolism.

Injecting the trigger point with local anesthetic and methylprednisolone usually is effective therapy. Resolution of pain lasts for weeks to months, and in some instances the trigger point ends forever. However, in many cases the same pain returns indicating that the treatment suppressed the cause but did not remove it. At times, the pain may end spontaneously, leaving as mysteriously as it came on.

Physicians can assure a patient that as annoying as the trigger point is, it is not a sign of cancer or any underlying condition that can cause permanent impairment.

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Back on her feet



PHOTOS BY JULIE VOLLERS
Brenda and David Steuer of Orchard Lake, (left) 2013 JVS Women-to-Work Honoree Jeannie Steuer of Farmington Hills and Brian Steuer of Menlo Park, Calif., enjoy the fifth annual Trade Secrets fundraiser at the Townsend Hotel. Jeannie Steuer was honored at the event. Following a divorce and job layoff, she enrolled in the Women-to-Work program and was provided with the support to help write her resume, prepare for job interviews and re-enter the job force. Today, she works at Jewish Vocational Services, helping seniors remain active and involved with the community.

Birmingham resident Judy Adelman (left) and Farmington Hills resident Barbara Peltz, JVS senior services coordinator, helped raise more than \$120,000 for the JVS Women-to-Work benefit. Crain's Detroit Business Publisher and Vice President of Crain Communications, Mary Kramer, was this year's honorary chair and keynote speaker.



Series teaches finance, energy, home tips

Livonia Cares, a group of Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches, begins a five-week series of educational programs, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. "We believe that these sessions will benefit our whole community," said the Rev. Paul Perez, deacon at Newburg United Methodist Church and one of three Livonia Cares coordinators. "Our hope is to empower participants with crucial information and practical resources to address

real-life issues that affect many in our community." All classes start at 7 p.m. In the session on April 9, participants will learn how to navigate the social service system and learn the ins and outs of popular social service programs. Other classes are: April 16 — Learn how to establish a successful financial plan to accomplish your goals. Topics discussed will include repairing your credit, loans, developing a financial plan for your family, learning to read your credit report, and saving

for the future. April 23 — Learn more about the home buying process, including budgeting, credit and qualifying for a mortgage. May 7 — Get practical information on saving energy, understanding your utility bill and reducing energy costs, along with simple tips to make a home more energy efficient and lower utility bills. May 14 — Learn more about the foreclosure process, your options and rights as a homeowner. In addition, short sales, sheriff sales, modifica-

tions and redemption periods will be explained. Reserve a place at each session by calling Newburg's Church Office at (734) 422-0149. For more information about Livonia Cares, call the Rev. Scott Sessler, pastor at Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, at (248) 422-8822, the Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon at Newburg United Methodist Church at (734) 422-0149, or the Rev. Michelle Warner, Associate Pastor at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at (734) 464-0211.

REUNIONS

Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963
50th reunion will be held Sept. 28. Contact Kathy (Toth) Hay at khay@brenhardrealtors.com or Dianna (Basnav) McDaniel at djmcdaniel45@comcast.net.

DETROIT BURT ELEMENTARY

Classes of 1960-79
A reunion is planned for April 20 at Big Tommy's Parthenon, 40380 Grand River Ave., Novi. A limited number of tickets are available. They will not be sold at the reunion. Presale tickets are \$25; 5-7 p.m. March 15 at Panera at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia. Pattypure@yahoo.com or Burtreunion@yahoo.com for more information.

DETROIT GESU CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1956
A reunion is planned for Aug. 17. Call Jack Sayed at (810) 231-9230.

DETROIT MUMFORD

CLASS OF 1963
A 50-year reunion is set for 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at Somerset Inn, 575 W. Big Beaver, Troy. Tickets are \$85. For more information visit www.mumford63.com.

LIVONIA BENTLEY

CLASS OF 1973
A reunion is set for 6 p.m.-midnight, Sept. 13, at Livonia Marriott, located at Six Mile and Newburgh. Tickets are \$60 for alumni and \$50 for teachers. The event is open to other classes, as well. Contact Marcia Elliott at (248) 327-0657 or e-mail to mickey55@charter.net for more information including purchasing tickets.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963

A 50th class reunion is set for Saturday, Aug. 10 with dinner at Fox Hills Country Club. Other reunion activities will include a mixer on Friday, Aug. 9 at Bennigan's, a tour of the "old school" followed by lunch at a popular "uptown" bar on Saturday, and a picnic on Sunday, Aug. 11 at Plymouth Township Park. For more information call Nancy Richard Earle at (734) 634-8974 or e-mail to nancyearle@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1968

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

SOUTH LYON

CLASS OF 1963
A 50th class reunion is planned for July 20. For more information, contact Barbara Cook at (248) 349-5982.

WAYNE HIGH SCHOOLS

ALL REUNION
The Alumni Association's 29th Annual All Reunion Banquet is 5-10 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m., Friday, May 17, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. For more info contact Sharon Scott at (734) 722-4651 or sscott@wccsd.edu. The class of 1963 will be honored at the event.

WAYNE MEMORIAL

CLASS OF 1973
Reunion May 18 at the VFW, 6440 N.Hix, Westland. For tickets contact Pat Cantrell at user100295@aol.com or call (734) 326-1239. Tickets are \$30, with a cash bar.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1983
6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 26, at Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center, Livonia. For more information, e-mail to Linda Harbison at jghs.1983@gmail.com.

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2013-14 BUDGET
In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Act of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2013-14 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at the Grote Administration Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.
The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.
Glenn Cerny
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Publish: April 4 and 7, 2013

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ReLeaf Michigan, a nonprofit tree education and conservation organization, will accept online orders for trees and shrubs until Monday, April 12. The 23rd annual sale is a fundraiser for the organization's tree planting and educational programs.

Trees are 4 to 6 feet, bare-root, and single or multi-stemmed depending on the species. They cost \$34 each — three or more \$32 each — and include bloodgood plantree, autumn blaze maple, northern red oak, sugar maple, river birch, red spire pear, Valley Forge American elm, Japanese tree lilac, red bud, red flowering crabapple, thundercloud plum, honeycrisp apple, yellowwood, holly pine, and green-spine linden.

Shrubs are 1 to 2 feet, with a bare root. They cost \$18 each; three or more are \$15 each. They include American hazelnut, butterfly bush "Pink Delight" and "Black Knight," sugar plum fairy lilac, summer wine ninebark, "Easy Elegance" rose, pee pee hydrangea, dwarf red stemmed dogwood, vernal white hazel, alfred compact cranberry bush, and blue mufin arrow-wood viburnum.

Evergreens are delivered in one-gallon containers and are 2 feet. They cost \$20 each; three or more are \$18 each. They include Black Hills spruce, Canadian hemlock, Serbian spruce, eastern white pine, and Fraser fir.

Two download an order form, visit www.releafmichigan.org or call (800) 642-7353 or e-mail to info@releafmichigan.org. Check, money orders, or credit cards are accepted. Pick up trees from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in Handy Park in Redford Township, Springfield Oaks Park in Davisburg, Goldenleaf Nursery, Inc., in Pontiac, and Fraleigh's Landscape Nursery in Dexter. Bring a large plastic bag to protect roots during transport.

For more information about ReLeaf Michigan or to request information on organizing a tree planting in your neighborhood, contact ReLeaf Michigan at (800) 642-7353 or info@releafmichigan.org.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

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

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 Ann Arbor garden party weekend includes "Top 10 Garden Tips" by Nancy Szerlag at 3:30 p.m. April 7 in Dearborn Heights; "The Best, Easiest Perennials" by Janet Macunovich, on April 7 at 12:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 3:30 p.m. in West Bloomfield; "New Vegetable Plants from Burpee Home Gardens," by Mason Day, at 12:30 p.m. April 7 in Royal Oak. The presentations all are free of charge.

First-time gardeners can get started in the right direction with a free presentation 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 and 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13.

Learn to garden in containers and raised beds, 10 a.m. Saturday, April 20 at a free in-store presentation. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Cooldige Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-574-7355

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Help Wanted - General

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Carlin's Training is now accepting applications for Firefighter/Medic. Application Deadline: April 12, 2013. Job description includes: fire fighting and driving process is available on the Carlin's Training website. www.carlin-twp.org

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Full Time. Excellent compensation. Apartment community management exp. required. Please fax resume: careers@carston.com Call 734-487-4480

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Help Wanted - Sales

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Help Wanted - Sales

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Help Wanted - Sales

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Program helps pre-diabetics lose weight, get healthy

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Reducing risk for type 2 diabetes takes a commitment to healthy eating, exercise and weight reduction. Leigh Vogelsong of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, says individuals often recognize those needed lifestyle changes, but struggle to make them.

"Some people have tried so many times to lose weight or to exercise, that they are feeling a little hesitant about starting something else. We'd encourage people to try again. We've found we've had success.

Vogelsong says the National Diabetes Prevention Program that she coordinates for the Foundation has all the tools necessary to help keep pre-diabetics stay on track to good health.

The Foundation will offer an informational meeting about the program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Professional Building, classroom 10 on the fourth floor, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. The 16-week program will start at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, with a group of approximately 15-20 participants meeting for an hour each week. After the 16 sessions, they'll meet monthly for additional support in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The program is free, but participants must qualify. They must be overweight and at a high risk for developing diabetes or overweight and diagnosed with pre-diabetes.

"The way people typically are diagnosed is through blood tests," Vogelsong said. "You can take the screening assessment that we have on our website, www.nkfm.org. The assessment would in part qualify a person for the program.

"There are other factors to look at. That would be a body mass index greater or equal to 24."

Participants also must be over age 18.

The Foundation promotes the program in areas where residents are at high risk for diabetes. In addition to Livonia, it has offered the program in Inkster and Chelsea. Vogelsong said Livonia was included because it has a significant number of senior citizens.

"One out of two seniors are at high risk for developing diabetes," she noted. "You absolutely can do something about it. That's our message. We'd like people to know there is something that can help them lower their risk."

Weight loss, healthy eating and exercise are all components of the program. Participants track of everything they eat and drink for a lifestyle coach who comments weekly on their progress. They aim for 150 minutes of physical activity per week, which at the start of the program might include brisk walking and housework.

"We give people a list of all kinds of activities. We encourage them to work up to becoming more active and increasing their heart rate," she said. "We do a weekly weigh-in so that participants are able to track their progress.

"Part of the program is knowing where you are and setting goals for where you want to go. It's a goal-oriented program."

In addition to lowering risk for type 2 diabetes, Vogelsong said the program also can lower cholesterol, lower the risk for heart disease and lower blood pressure.

To register or learn if you qualify, call St. Mary Mercy Hospital at (734) 655-8950. For more information, visit www.nkfm.org/ndpp.

Diabetes educator/nurse stresses meal management, weight control as key factors

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

In 1996, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control identified diabetes as an epidemic. In 2012, some 28 million people in the U.S. were diabetic, with those with tendencies toward diabetes boosting the total to 110 million.

The worldwide total is 350 million, said Fern Vining, a registered nurse and recent Beaumont Hospital retiree who's a diabetes educator.

"The disease has been around for thousands of years," said Vining, noting it wasn't until the mid-1980s that the first major research study was done. Diabetes is now linked to such conditions as new blindness, nontraumatic amputation, and kidney failure often requiring dialysis. It impacts the large blood vessels, she said, which often leads to heart attacks or strokes.

"That's it, major lifestyle changes," Vining agreed with her recent Plymouth A.M. Rotary audience at a breakfast meeting. That's why she runs an Adult Diabetes Support Group with help of the Plymouth Lions. It meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth.

Information on the support group is available from Vining at (734) 454-0839.

"Glucose or sugar to your body is like gasoline to your car," said Vining, who doesn't believe diabetics generally should never have carbohydrates.

She's been in nursing years but is still impressed with the human body. "I still marvel today at what this body can do. Medicine has not cracked a lot of the secrets."

Diabetes was for years described as Type 1, or juvenile onset, and Type 2, adult, but age lines are blurring, she said. The majority of children with diabetes are still Type 1.

Young kids with diabetes are adept with technology and pumps, Vining said. "Insulin is still the safest drug for people with diabetes." Insulin became commercially available in the 1920s and dramatically improved health and life for diabetics, who previously had been put on starvation diets.

Vining is encouraged by good research on the horizon. She touched on gestational diabetes, usually in the third trimester of pregnancy. That tends to run in families, and some of those women will remain diabetic after delivery. Vining emphasizes portion, control and frequency in meal planning. "That way, nobody feels like they're totally denied," she said of the diabetic who has a small slice of birthday cake.

Signs that you may be diabetic include excessive thirst and urination, along with hunger. Some people get blurry vision or sores that don't heal. Vining cautioned against buying expensive eye-glasses before a diabetes visit to the doctor, as your vision will often improve with diabetes treatment.

Meal management remains the No. 1 key to managing diabetes, she told the Rotarians, along with body weight. Vining also showed them some new technology, including a "fountain pen" style of device for giving shots, as well as a small meter for monitoring blood sugar.

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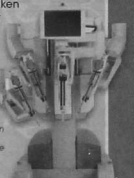
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"I really need a drink, ...is that a problem?"

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. O'Dwyer
Psychologist

In Michigan alone, there are roughly 300 alcohol-related fatalities every year. In recognition of Alcohol Awareness Month, Psychologist, Published Author and Garden City Hospital Health Expert, Dr. Phil O'Dwyer, explains the risks associated with alcohol consumption and touches on the treatment for alcoholism.

Q: Alcoholism has been an issue in our family. I am worried about how this will affect my teenage children, who will surely be exposed to drinking soon, if not already. Is alcoholism passed through genetics and how can I effectively reach my children without coming across as "preachy"?

A: Alcoholism tends to run in families, and genetic factors partially explain this pattern. Researchers are currently looking for the genes that influence vulnerability to alcoholism. A person's environment, such as the influence of friends, stress levels, and the ease of obtaining alcohol, may also influence the development of alcoholism. While a factor such as social support, may help to protect even high-risk people from problems with alcohol.

Risk, however, is not destiny. A child of an alcoholic parent will not automatically develop alcoholism. A person with no family history of alcoholism can become alcohol dependent. It's important to note that, youths who use alcohol before age 15 are five times more likely to become alcohol dependent than adults who begin drinking at age 21. Alcohol use in teens often leads to an increase in risky sexual behavior, poor school performance and injury.

There are a number of great resources available to help you properly educate your children. The most important thing is to stay involved, be diligent and have an open path of communication. Alcoholism is a chronic, often progressive disease that is treatable with professional help and support.

Q: Does treatment for alcoholism work?

A: In many cases, treatment for Alcoholism is effective. However, a minority of alcoholics remain sober one year after treatment, others have periods of sobriety alternating with relapses, while some are unable to stop drinking for any length of time.

Treatment outcomes for alcoholism compare favorably with those of other chronic medical conditions. The longer one abstains from alcohol, the more likely they are to remain sober. It is important to remember that many people relapse once or several times before achieving long-term sobriety. Relapses are common and do not mean a person has failed or cannot eventually recover from alcoholism. If a relapse occurs, it is important to try again and to get help. Eliminate as many drinking "triggers" from your life as possible.

If you or a loved one is having a problem with alcohol dependency or another addiction issue, make a confidential appointment with Garden City Hospital's Center for Counseling. Please call 734.458.3395 or visit GCH.org for more information.

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Are you a good fit for a small company?

Robert Half International

If you're job hunting, one way to potentially increase your chances of success is to look for a position with a small business. Many applicants focus their efforts on large companies, because they either are attracted to the idea of working for a household name or believe these companies have more openings. Yet pursuing employment opportunities with smaller companies can be a wise move.

Before you begin sending your résumé to every small employer with an opening, however, make sure you'd be a good fit for the company. Small businesses often have very defined corporate cultures, and working at a mom-and-pop shop can be different than working at a larger company.

The ideal candidates for roles with small businesses often have these traits:

An entrepreneurial mindset.

By definition, small and mid-size companies have fewer people to tackle projects, oversee initiatives and move things forward. As a result, employees need to be self-starters who can work on their own and think creatively about business solutions.

The ability to collaborate.

It's hard to get any job if you aren't a team player, but in a small business, your ability to work and get along with colleagues is absolutely essential.



The most effective employees can advance their ideas, but not at the expense of working relationships.

In addition, you should possess excellent listening skills and an upbeat personality. When you're working with the same tight-knit group every day, a negative attitude can easily affect the entire team.

A willingness to do it all.

If you're a veteran of a large employer, you're probably accustomed to having someone in IT address your computer issues and asking the depart-

ment's administrative assistant to order more office supplies. At a small company, however, you may not be able to call upon these same resources. Are you comfortable attending to all tasks, both large and small? And are you willing to help others who need a hand?

A focus on customer service.

Every client counts for a small business. You'll need strong interpersonal skills to provide great service and ensure customer satisfaction. A small company may not be a place in which you'd thrive if

you get annoyed by the small or "irrational" demands of clients.

A passion for the job.

Small employers seek employees who don't merely punch the clock. They want people who show a true interest in and commitment to the bigger picture and understand the correlation between individual effort and the company's overall success.

Working for a small business offers many rewards, including autonomy, the opportunity to make large contributions, a chance to assume significant responsibility and often a fam-

ily-type atmosphere that may be hard to find elsewhere. If you possess the right skills and mindset, working for a small business could be an excellent career move.

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REQUIREMENTS:

- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience working with legal issues relating to print and on-line operations, including knowledge of state and federal laws that apply to First Amendment protection, the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, etc.
- Three years experience working with news operations, both in print and digital products.
- Must have a demonstrated proficiency in both PC and Mac-based software: knowledge of Microsoft Office applications are a plus.
- Demonstrated proficiency in using a digital camera and social media tools (Facebook and Twitter)
- Bachelor's degree in Journalism or communications (a four-year degree in another discipline, combined with relevant experience is acceptable) is required.
- Must provide own transportation and be able to work a flexible schedule of days and afternoons. Weekends included!

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- Where heather grows
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- TV band
- Mayberry kid
- To be, to Brutus
- Cal Tech rival
- Plush fabric
- Lyrical
- Health resort
- Oaters' Lash
- Sherlock's lady friend
- Turf warriors
- Cade's org.
- Pester for payment
- Back when
- Quizzer
- Witness's vow (2 wds.)
- Philosopher

DOWN

- Drive the getaway car
- Rabbit dish
- 38 Marine birds
- Sugarloaf locale
- Flour-de-ou
- Mary
- September folk
- 46 Waves
- Peavee
- ECC currency
- Sudden impulse
- Matt beverage
- Faculty head
- Ape studier - Fossey
- Near empty

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PELT	VALE	CAT
AMOR	ONYX	UFO
MICA	LIRE	BAN
ROCK	CLIMBER	
KEA	CPA	
ERR	GNP	TRILL
NOEL	OAT	SOIL
DEB	UG	NANTIB
LAS	PEG	
HOLLY	WEATH	
FAX	OREO	OWED
UKE	SILO	LIAR
REN	HALT	SGTS

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15		16								
18		19		20						
23	27		28	29	30			31		
32		33						34		
35		36					37			
38		39			40					
46	47	48		49				50		
51				52				53		
54				55				56		

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			8		1	5		
6								
8	4	5			6			
		3		3				
9	7	4		6				
		6	3					

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F	S	T	C	V	R	Z	L	R	H	B	S	O	R	E
M	N	P	S	D	T	S	R	X	E	O	V	D	K	A
M	A	A	P	E	X	I	V	H	P	W	O	O	J	A
S	H	V	O	G	G	R	G	M	O	N	O	E	J	T
S	E	E	D	A	M	F	O	B	S	S	C	L	L	E
I	X	T	I	A	C	N	O	N	E	I	F	I		
X	U	N	L	W	F	E	G	E	O	E	N	C	S	
G	O	W	T	O	A	U	E	A	C	F	W	H	Z	
N	A	B	D	F	A	R	D	E	N	S	R	T	X	
L	X	A	M	O	K	I	G	E	X	H	U	B	F	
T	A	X	J	D	R	B	C	U	B	D	Y	Q	T	
T	U	W	G	Z	P	F	T	S	E	L	O	H	D	
R	E	Z	I	L	T	R	E	F	H	C	L	U	M	
B	M	K	J	R	X	R	I	V	T	O	Q	J	Z	

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1	9	8	9	2	5	6
9	6	1	6	5	1	6
2	6	2	9	1	9	6
5	1	6	2	6	9	9
7	2	6	1	6	6	2
6	9	2	9	6	1	1

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Acura launches all-new RDX as spearhead of brand revival



By Dale Buss

Honda is trying to address the woes of its Acura brand with a one-two punch: better vehicles, and better advertising. So far it isn't clear if either is landing with the kind of authority necessary for

about a brand that remains sort of mushy to most of them.

At first glance, Acura would seem to be on a roll already. Sales in 2012 were up by nearly 27 percent over 2011, to more than 156,000 vehicles, keeping the Honda-owned marque ahead of both Audi and Infiniti, which it considers the primary competition for Acura.

But the truth is that the huge year-over-year increase mostly reflected an easy comparison with a disastrous 2011, when deep supply woes resulted from the tsunami and earthquake in Japan in March and flooding in Thailand in the fall. For 2013 through February, Acura sales were up only by about 6 percent over a year ago.

And what's more, the condition of the Acura brand might have been even worse. Many Americans consider Toyotas and Hondas, not Infinitis and Audis, to be Acura's true equivalents. At one point last year, about 21 percent of people who considered an Acura also looked at a Toyota, while fewer than 13 percent of people looking at an Audi also considered Acura, according to Edmunds.com data.

"We have these great, luxurious prod-

ucts, but there's a gap between the customer perception of what Acura is, and the luxury that is in our cars," Mike Accavitti, American Honda's CMO, told Advertising Age.

Robinson said that ILX and the new RDX were meant to be just a start to refreshing the Acura brand and vehicle line, and that this year's saloons — the RLX and MDX introductions, and the new advertising campaign — will do some heavier lifting.

And while the expressed point of the first TV ads is that RLX is so luxurious, it makes the owner forget about other luxury goods — an emotional appeal — the campaign is largely unfolding around boasting about the product itself and particular attributes: "Jewel Eye" LED headlights, the next generation of the AcuraLink connected-car system, and Acura's proprietary Precision All-Wheel Steer system.

Every major competitor to RLX is a rear-wheel-drive sedan or a rear/all-wheel-drive sedan, which traditionally have been associated with luxury performance cars because of handling characteristics that are generally perceived as superior to front-wheel drive. But RLX is going it alone in the sedan segment with front-wheel drive even though the RL it replaces



A prototype of the soon-to-be-launched new MDX.

was all-wheel drive.

Robinson noted the "inherent benefit" of front-wheel drive such as lighter weight and the ability to put together a smaller exterior footprint with greater interior space. "It's roughly the same exterior size even as [RL] was, and as its mid-size competitors, but it has noticeably more interior space."

And while Robinson conceded that conventional wisdom in the upscale market is suspicious of front-wheel drive, he maintained that the new Acura Precision All-Wheel Steering system allows RLX to "handle better in most situations than rear- or all-wheel drive, and in extreme situations as well as them."

The handling-countermeasure system allows the rear wheels to be pointed, independently, up to 2 degrees of toe-angle adjustment in either direction, for 4 degrees of articulation.

"So the wheels can turn together or in different directions," Robinson explained. "And if you're braking, both wheels will turn a bit to create a wedge and slow down in a stable way, or they'll turn together for cornering situations."

Acura to close the sales and perception gaps with U.S. luxury-market leaders in those areas such as a renaissance Lexus and a rising Audi.

Acura demonstrated its two-part strategy during March Madness telecasts on CBS with advertisements for the new 2014 RLX sedan, an important, all-new nameplate taking the lead in an all-new advertising campaign created by an all-year agency relationship for the brand.

"We're refreshing the whole brand, and started with entry-level vehicles last year," Gary Robinson, manager of Acura advertising and brand, told me about the 2012 introductions of the ILX sedan and a new version of the RDX crossover.

"This year, it's all about filling in the prestige market, beginning with the RLX. And a couple of months from now, a new MDX [crossover] comes out. With both of them you're talking about price points in the \$40,000s and into the \$50,000s and all of our newest technology."

Also, as it replaces the old RL model, RLX is getting a boost from a new tag line — "Luxury, taken to a whole new level" — that is the first effort by its new agency, Mullen, part of Interpublic Group. The idea is to get American upscale consumers to take notice of Acura like they haven't before and even to get emotional



Acura is counting on the new RLX sedan in the heart of the luxury market.

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