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Plymouth-Canton board supports common core

Trustees express support for statewide standards

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A state legislative committee studying whether Michigan should abandon the common core curriculum it adopted for public schools three years ago is scheduled to make a recom-

mendation sometime in September.

But Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials aren't waiting to let legislators know what they think.

The P-CCS Board of Education expressed support Tuesday for the common core standards, adopted by the state in 2010 and for which school Superintendent Michael Meissen said the district has already

paid some \$500,000. Meissen had a resolution prepared, but the board took no action on it.

"I think common core is a good thing," said Meissen, who began his tenure July 1. "We as an educational system have to have clear and coherent standards of learning. Having an alignment of curriculum in instruction and assessments to these rigorous international bench-marked standards is

helpful in establishing the direction for a school district."

Michigan's Board of Education adopted common core in 2010. Pushed by a bipartisan group of governors and educators led by Georgia's Sonny Perdue, common core spells out the math and language skills K-12 students need to succeed in college and the global workplace that awaits them after graduation.

More rigor

The common core's language arts standards, for example, assert that, by the end of eighth grade, students should be able to write an essay that includes "a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented."

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Jason Lombardo makes sure the rules are understood. At right, Dave Merry, of Belleville. ALL PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SENIOR SPECTACULAR

Older athletes showcase spirit of Olympic Games

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Dolores Hrlac of Canton is spending her golden years collecting gold—medals, that is.

Hrlac, 83, clinched the gold medal Monday for her basketball shooting skills among women ages 80-89, as Canton hosted the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics hoops contest at Summit on the Park.

"I sent a text to my granddaughter (Angela Klimek) to tell her I won," Hrlac said. Klimek's reply: "You go grandma."

And she did, winning another gold medal Tuesday during a bocce ball competition at the Italian American Club in Livonia.

Many medals

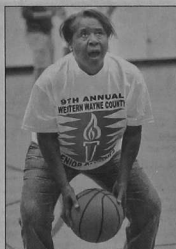
Hrlac, a retired accountant, has won other Senior Olympics medals over the years, proving athleticism knows no age limits.

"You have to stay young," she said. "You have to keep happy."

Seniors ages 50 and up competed across Wayne County communities this week during the ninth Senior Olympics, working their way toward an awards and banquet ceremony set for Friday at Belleville High School. An outdoor opening event was rained out Monday.

Canton hosted the basketball and tennis competitions. Susan Dougherty, Canton Leisure Services senior specialist, said the Senior Olympics and fitness in general are important for seniors.

"It's really important, not only for the fitness aspect of it, but also for the camaraderie of the people and the socializa-



Her style is unorthodox, but Lillie Allen, of Inkster, knows how to sink the ball.

See SENIORS, Page A2

Psychiatric exam ordered for bank suspect

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The suspect in last month's holdup of a bank in Plymouth Township was ordered Friday to undergo a psychological evaluation in order to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

Michael J. Stachowski, 33, of Canton Township, is charged with bank robbery in the holdup of the Bank of America branch at Five Mile and Beck, which occurred



Stachowski

about 1:30 p.m. on July 26. He appeared Friday in 35th District Court, where Judge Mike Gerou ordered the forensic examination. Stachowski is due back in district court for a hearing on Friday, Nov. 22, by which time results of the examination are expected from the state's Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti.

lanti.

Stachowski was arrested in Canton by Plymouth Township police officers just hours after the holdup. Police were aided by tips from the public after information about the holdup, including a photograph of the robber at a teller's window, taken from a bank security camera, was publicized by local media.

In the holdup, a man gave a Bank of America teller a note that demanded cash and her wallet and said no dye packs

should be included.

The teller handed over an undetermined amount of cash, but not her wallet, and the robber left on foot, heading in a westerly direction outside the bank, police said. No getaway vehicle was seen.

Stachowski, who has a bond of \$100,000, was still being held Wednesday in the Wayne County Jail.

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

Insurance exchange

It's something they passed in 2012 with good majorities," Sherstad said. "You only need a simple majority for this to become law."

The ACA, nicknamed Obamacare after President Barack Obama, leaves abortion coverage opt-outs to individual states, and more than 20 states so far have taken that step, Sherstad said. Insurance exchanges under the ACA are scheduled to begin offering plans in 2014.

Mary Beth Hausman of Plymouth Township is involved in the petition drive through her Catholic parish, Resurrection Church in Canton, where people attending Mass last weekend had the chance to sign the petition.

"I really would not want my

See PETITION, Page A2



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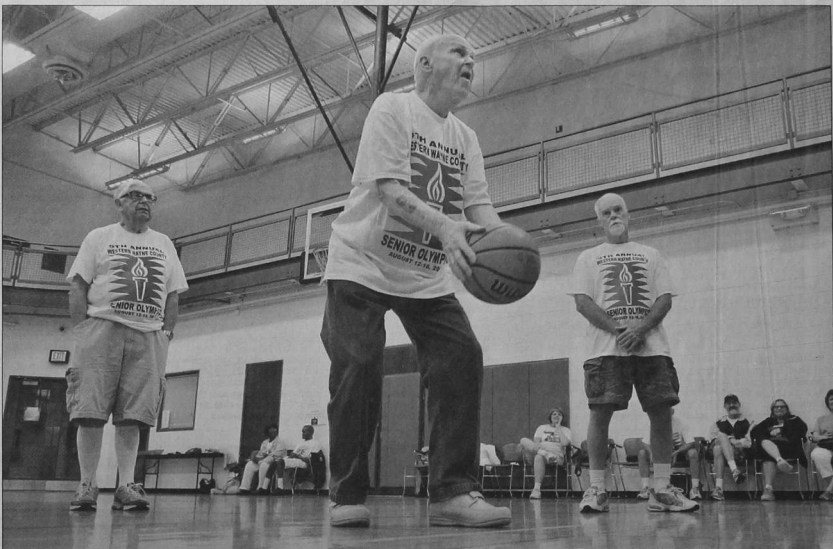
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Richard Koch, the pride of Canton Township, came in third in his age division. Behind him are Frank Yesh and Dave Merry. ALL PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SENIORS

Continued from Page A1

tion," Doughty said. "They have so much fun. They laugh and they bring their own family and friends. They bring their own cheerleaders."

Lots of winners

Here's a closer look at other Monday medal winners in the women's basketball shooting contest:

- » Age 50-59, Patrice Milnek of Northville, gold; Janet Brady of Canton, silver.
- » Age 60-69, Virginia Garner of Canton, gold.
- » Age 70-79, Lillie F. Allen of Inkster, gold; Jean C. Raines of Northville, silver; and Frances Quiney of Sumpter, bronze.

Winners in the men's basketball contest included:

- » Age 50-59, Kevin Friesen of Northville, gold.
- » Age 60-69, Dave Raimor of Garden City, gold; Peter Lot of Canton, silver; Dave Merry of Van Buren Township, bronze.
- » Age 70-79, Henry Browner of Van Buren, gold.
- » Age 80-89, Frederick F. Forsyte of Northville, gold; Frank Yesh of Dearborn, silver; and Richard Koch of Canton, bronze.

Varied events

Wayne County seniors participated in contests such as bike races, baking, photography, softball throw, Frisbee toss, euchre, tennis, horse-shoes, bridge, ballroom dancing, billiards, volleyball, shuffleboard, swimming, football and bowling, among others.

Last year, 99 Canton residents brought home 112 gold, silver and bronze medals.

Doughty said the committee already is talking about next year.

"It's going to be bigger and better," she said.

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

Frank Yesh, of Dearborn, makes it look easy. At right, Dave Merry, of Belleville and Richard Koch, of Canton.



Dolores Hrlc and Carol Bodenmiller, both of Canton, share a laugh during the Senior Olympics.

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Plymouth, MI 48170
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PETITION

Continued from Page A1

tax dollars paying for what I consider a heinous act," Hausman said. "I know that it is legal, but that doesn't mean I have to agree."

The petition will be circulated again at Resurrection during Masses on Saturday, Sept. 14, and Sunday, Sept. 15.

Parishioners at other churches, including Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth Township, have also joined the effort. At St. Kenneth, also in Plymouth Township, the petition is expected

to be available in the near future, said John Dankert, chairman of the church's Christian Service Commission.

Backing the measure

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, and Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, have said they would back the measure if the petition drive is successful.

"I am in full support of the petition drive and will vote in the affirmative once the necessary signatures have been obtained and the bill is on the floor of the Senate," Colbeck said through spokeswoman Jennifer

Murray. "I'm looking forward to casting my yes vote on behalf of the most vulnerable lives in our society."

"Historically Michigan voters have not supported taxpayer-funded abortions, and neither do I," said Heise via e-mail. "I would likely vote yes on the petition measure if it is brought before the full House for a vote."

Heise noted the ACA abortion coverage opt-out measure last year was part of a bill that would have reformed Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan, the state's big public insurer; Sherstad said the legislation called

for in the petition drive is exactly the same. The measure would provide abortion coverage exceptions in certain cases in which the health of the woman is at risk.

Democratic House member Dian Slavens, of Canton, said the absence of an abortion coverage exception in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest concerns her, and that she would "more than likely" vote against the legislation if the petition drive succeeds.

"There are times when women have to make that choice, and I'm sure it's a tough choice," said Slavens.

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Nature Shop



Tom Stevenson of Plymouth Township is surrounded by family at Johns Hopkins Hospital after a successful kidney transplant. From left are son Dillon, wife Jeanne, daughter Carly (on iPad), daughter Sophie and daughter Emilie.

Brothers thankful after successful kidney transplant

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Tom Stevenson doesn't claim any special bravery, but the decision to give a kidney to an ailing brother, he says, was one of the easiest he's ever made.

The long-awaited transplant surgeries took place July 8 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, and five weeks later, Tom and younger brother Dan are gaining strength and enjoying the support of family and friends while marveling at a life-changing event that has drawn them and their close-knit family even closer.

"It was just an incredible experience," Tom Stevenson, 52, said Monday in the kitchen of his Plymouth Township home. "It was an amazing time."

"The whole process is an up," said Dan, in a phone interview, before adding his recovery has "peaks and valleys" and that it's taking time to get his stamina back.

But, Dan said, he noticed immediate results with his new kidney.

"I felt better the day after surgery than I had felt for months, if not years, before surgery," he said. "You don't realize how bad you felt before."

'Instant decision'

Dan Stevenson, 39, of Salisbury, Md., was diagnosed with kidney failure about a decade ago, and, as family members were tested for a possible kidney donation, he and Tom, long close despite their age difference, proved to have compatible blood and tissue types. "It was really an instant decision," Tom said.

The transplant, however, was delayed until Dan's kidney function fell below 20 percent, just prior to surgery, he said. It was already at 60 percent the day after the transplant.

His new kidney should greatly improve his quality of life and keep him from having to undergo

kidney dialysis.

The people on the (hospital) floor were actually calling me the poster boy for kidney transplant recovery at Hopkins," said Dan, who left the hospital July 12, two days after his brother.

Tom Stevenson said it wasn't like him to not be worried about the surgery — he has a strong dislike for a simple blood draw — but that his main concern was that doctors would decide for medical reasons that he shouldn't go through with it.

His faith — fellow churchgoers at Our Lady of Good Counsel were praying for a successful operation — gave him a sense of trust, he said.

"You're in a dark room, but God's there, and he's going to lead us," said Tom's wife, Jeanne Stevenson.

"You don't get the grace until you need it. I understand that now," Tom said later.

"There is no greater love than for a man to lay down his life for his friend," said Jeanne Stevenson, quoting John 15:13 from the Bible, "and that's what Tom did."

Tom and Jeanne Stevenson and their youngest children, Emilie and Dillon, stayed at Tom's sister Kathy Marshall's house in Ocean City, Md., for a few days both before surgery and during Tom's initial recovery. Oldest daughter Sophie, a nurse, joined them for a while; middle daughter Carly was traveling in Europe but visited via the Internet.

Tom should be able to return to most of his normal activities, though, he notes with a smile, with just one kidney, his kickboxing career is over.

"A year from now, I won't know the difference. My body won't know the difference," he said.

'Overwhelming' support

Tom sister's friends helped them out with meals and chores. Once, post-surgery, while

Kathy was traveling for a family wedding in Michigan, Tom called her to ask where they could buy a heating pad, and a stranger showed up a half-hour later with a new heating pad and a gallon of milk.

"We didn't know any of these people," Tom said. "I was really amazed by that." Neighbors in Plymouth Township have also been helpful, he said.

Dan has had similar experiences during his recovery, with family and friends alike babysitting, chauffeuring his children, providing meals and cutting the lawn. The brothers have also had support and encouragement from their two other sisters, Mary French of Plymouth and Jenny Palmer of Salisbury; a brother, Mike, of Canton Township; and parents Tom and Esther, also of Salisbury.

"The support is really kind of overwhelming," Dan said. He and wife Jill have four children: Grace, Lilly, Tommy and Alex.

Neither man is back at his workplace, but Tom, who works in finance at McKesson Corp. in Livonia, started working from home on Monday and plans to return to the office next week.

Dan, facilities manager at The Salisbury School, hopes to work at least part time by the end of the month; he's already popped in a couple of times, with someone else driving him there, to look at the installation of a new gymnasium floor.

Both said their employers have been understanding and supportive.

Neither man can say enough about Johns Hopkins, they described the hospital staff as efficient, thorough and extremely caring. Both are being monitored very closely.

"Hopkins is just fantastic about everything," said Dan, whose insurer is covering the costs. "They're so on top of everything, it's amazing."

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

COMMON

Continued from Page A1

The math standards suggest that students preparing to enter fifth grade should know how to use addition, subtraction, multiplication and division "to solve word problems involving distances, intervals of time, liquid volumes, masses of objects and money."

Plymouth-Canton Board of Education President Dr. John Barrett, a former principal in the Farmington district, said the board supports the common core standards and not just because "we've invested a lot of money into developing curriculum to support common core."

"(Common core) is going to increase the standards and the expectations of our students," Barrett said. "I think it's going to make a difference in the success rate of Plymouth-Canton students and it'll have an impact on teaching and learning across the state."

Budget battle

But the standards, considered by supporters as more rigorous than those currently in place in many Michigan public schools, are under the gun this summer as a subcommittee continues hearings designed to help develop a recommendation to the state Legislature on whether to halt common core here or continue to move forward.

That group was formed after state Rep. Tom McMillin, R-Rochester Hills, successfully added language to a budget bill barring the Michigan Department of Education from spending money to implement common core standards.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, whose district covers both Plymouth-Canton and Northville schools, said the state has to do something legislatively to either fund common core (Northville's Board of Education was scheduled to consider a resolution supporting common core Tuesday night) or "chart a new course."

Heise, noting both Plymouth-Canton and Northville schools have spent some half-million dollars each on implementation, said he supports the goals of common core, but will withhold his final decision until the special committee renders its report in September.

One stanard

"I want to make sure when doors

open in September, teachers know what they're supposed to teach," he said. "I want one national standard so I can see how Michigan students are doing compared to other states."

But state Sen. Pat Colbeck, R-Canton, isn't so sure. He said he hasn't seen anything "other than marketing material" that convinces him common core implements higher standards. He said the movement to fully adopt common core is "just another attempt to set up a new slate of materials people are going to have to pay for."

"I think we need to be taking a look under the hood at common core," Colbeck said. "We've got a standard in there right now and we've got to continue with that until we find something better. I'm not sure common core is it. If they truly are higher standards, I would love higher standards for our kids. If folks can prove it, let's do it. But there's nothing that demonstrates that to me."

Plymouth-Canton school board Trustee Mark Horvath said he'd support the resolution if the board voted on it (it didn't), but felt it was an unnecessary move to provide politicians with cover.

Falling behind

"All (Heise) has to do to see where we stand is read the minutes of our meetings," Horvath said. "I'll support it if you think it's necessary, but we speak out on this issue every day."

Common core supporters point to statistics that indicate only 18 percent of Michigan's high school juniors are deemed college-ready, based on ACT criteria. And Michigan continues to slide behind other states on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a national exam given to a representative sample of students in each state.

"We don't want to sentence any young person to poor preparation for life and work," said John Austin, president of the state Board of Education. "If we walk away ... that's what we would be doing."

McMillin said Michigan's exit would be the "right thing to do."

"I'm very confident that if we have honest debates over these next couple of months and we hear from the grass roots and the people that are affected, the Legislature will decide ... to stop the funding permanently," McMillin said.

Gannett News Service contributed to this report.

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Police seek ID on suspect in indecent exposure cases

Canton Police are investigating a pair of recent incidents in which an unidentified male approached female pedestrians and exposed himself to them.

According to police, both incidents occurred during the evening. Police believe it was the same male in both incidents.

The first took place July 15, in the area of Cherry Hill and Sheldon, while the second took place six days later, July 21, in the area of Hanford and Marshall.

The suspect is described as a white male, approximately 5 feet, 10 inches, between 18 and 25 years old, with brown hair and an unshaven appearance. In both instances the suspect was wearing black shorts.

Police this week released a composite sketch and are asking anyone who may recognize this person to contact the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400. Callers may remain anonymous if desired.



Canton Police are looking for help identifying this suspect in a pair of indecent exposure incidents in the last several weeks.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

SUVs burglarized

Wedding guests were the victims Saturday in two vehicle break-ins at Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, on Ann Arbor Road west of Haggerty, in Plymouth Township.

A Chevrolet Trailblazer and a Chevrolet Equinox in the lodge's parking lot were broken into within about a 15-minute span after 6 p.m. Saturday, as a wedding reception was taking place inside, according to Plymouth Township Police Department reports. A window on each vehicle had been broken and a purse was reported stolen from each, police said.

A purse with debit and credit cards, medicine and identification in it was reported stolen from the Equinox, police said, while a purse with medicine and identification in it was reported stolen from the Trailblazer.

Truck theft

A Ford F-150 pickup was reported stolen last week from a parking lot at AVL North America, an automobile power train engineering and testing company on Halyard west of Beck. The owner told police he parked

the truck when he arrived for work at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 8 and noticed it was missing shortly after 9 p.m. the same day. Police said there was broken glass in the lot where the truck had been parked.

Wheels stolen

The wheels and tires were stolen last week from a 2013 Dodge Charger as it sat in the driveway of a house on Farmbrook Drive, south of Five Mile and west of Haggerty.

The complainant told police the theft occurred between 9 p.m. Aug. 7 and 7 a.m. the next day. A police report said the Charger was left sitting on paving blocks set under the rocker panels and on its front brakes. The lug nuts from the Charger's wheels were found scattered around the yard.

Car 'keyed'

A 2009 Lexus was vandalized Friday as it sat in a parking lot at Robert Bosch LLC, on Haggerty south of Five Mile.

The owner told police he found two long scratches to the car's right rear fender shortly after noon.

— By Matt Jachman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Heroin possession

Canton police officers going to talk to a man about the theft of a charity jar from a Speedway gas station arrested him not only for the theft, but found him in possession of an undisclosed amount of heroin and arrested him for that, too.

The man, who according to police reports has a history of contact with the Canton Police Department, had also recently stolen a charity jar from another gas station.

When police arrived to talk to the man, they found him sitting on the porch of his Pocotello home, smoking. When asked about the theft of the charity jar from the Speedway, he without hesitation, according to the police report, admitted he'd used the money from the jar (some \$30) to pay his cell phone bill.

The suspect, who had three current Canton warrants, was placed into custody. During the arrest, officers searched the suspect and found a cylinder in his pocket they suspected contained heroin (tests later confirmed it).

The suspect became upset, according to reports, at the idea of going to prison for the heroin. He later developed chest pains and had to be taken to a local hospital. He was diagnosed as having suffered a panic attack, treated and returned to custody.

Hit and run

Police responded to a hit-and-run complaint after a woman claimed another driver hit her vehicle and then kept on going.

The woman said she

was headed to the Willow Run Air Show, driving westbound on Geddes, when she came to a stop at the stop sign at Denton. She said a white male driving a silver Ford Fusion pulled past the stop sign on northbound Denton and made a right turn directly at her stopped vehicle.

She said the Fusion clipped the front of her car (police found damage to the driver's side quarter panel), but the driver didn't stop or exchange information. She was able to get the car's license plate number and police traced the car to its owner.

According to the police report, the officers' first attempt to contact the suspect failed because he wasn't home. When they went back two hours later, the man said he wasn't driving the car, that it must have been his daughter. When confronted with the victim's statement it was a white male driving, the man admitted he'd been behind the wheel, but that the woman had pulled out in front of him.

Police, who noticed the smell of toxicants on the man's breath, told him the evidence didn't support that version of the story. The man finally admitted he hit the vehicle and was ticketed for the hit and run. As to the smell of toxicants, the man told police he hadn't been drinking at the time of the accident, but that the stress caused by the accident and led to him drinking part of a 40-ounce alcoholic beverage when he got home.

Lozenge larceny

Canton Police officers were dispatched to the Ford Road Walmart,

where loss prevention officers had a suspect in custody for retail fraud.

The loss-prevention officer told police he'd observed the suspect select a box of anti-smoking lozenges, worth some \$34, from the pharmacy department.

The LPO then followed the suspect to the grocery department, where the suspect placed the box of lozenges on a shelf and removed the individual lozenges from the box and put them in his pocket. The suspect then proceeded past all points of purchase.

The loss-prevention officer apprehended the suspect, who returned the merchandise.

Off-store drilling

Canton Police responded to the Home Depot on Michigan Avenue, where loss-prevention officers had a man in custody for allegedly stealing some drills.

The LPO told police he saw the suspect select four drills from the hardware section of the store and put them in his cart. The suspect then moved to the garden department, where he placed the drills on a flatbed cart and covered them with six bags of mulch.

After the man had trouble balancing the mulch on top of all four drills, the LPO said he left two drills beneath the mulch and put the other two on top. Proceeding to a checkout counter, he handed one drill to a sales associate, then paid for one drill and the six bags of mulch, but not the two drills concealed beneath the mulch.

The loss-prevention officer stopped the man and placed him in custody before calling Canton Police.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Taste Fest

Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 6, 6-8 p.m.
Location: Station 885, 885 Starkweather in Plymouth's Old Village
Details: The Plymouth-Canton Civic Club and Station 885 sponsor Taste Fest, which will offer great food and wine tasting. Participants include Bahama Breeze, Bennigan's, Brann's Sports Grille, Canton Buffalo Wild Wings, Claddagh Pub, Cupcake Station, Elite Catering, Grand Traverse Pie Co., Happy's Pizzeria, LaBiettes Italian Grille, Max & Erma's Plymouth, Mitchell's Fish Market, Noodles & Co., Rocky's of Northville, Rusty Bucket, Scramblers Marie's, Station 885, U.P. Pasties, Vintner's Canton Winery, Zin Wine Bar and Zoup! Soup Salad & Sandwiches. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 10.

Contact: Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Station 885 and at U.P. Pasties on Main Street. There will be a cash bar available.

Lacrosse camp

Date/Time: Aug. 19-21, 9 a.m. to noon
Location: Northville Parks and Recreation
Details: Northville Parks and Recreation is offering a summer lacrosse camp for boys and girls in grades 5-8. Cost is \$125. Camps are offered for boys and girls. Players have a chance to learn from coaches Jake Kenney, Princeton national championship team member, who will lead the boys camp, and Stacy Tardich, an All-America player and Northville High School varsity coach, who will lead the girls camp. Camp includes daily drills, instruction and scrimmages.
Contact: Registration is through Northville Parks and Recreation at www.northvilleparksandrec.org or email kkoupa@northvillemi.us for more information.

Summit open house

Date/Time: Wednesday, Aug. 21, 5-8 p.m.
Location: Summit on the Park, Canton
Details: Heralding in new books, backpacks and beginnings, the Summit on the Park community and fitness center will host a back-to-school open house. During the open house, guests will be welcome to discounted Summit memberships, free swimming (7-9 p.m.), prize drawings, performances by Dancin' Feet Studio, American Okinawan Karate Academy and magician Magic Joe and face-painting courtesy of D&M Art Studio. Crusin' Custom Cones will also be on site serving hot cones with chili.
Contact: For more information, call 734-394-5460.

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: Sept. 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Suite 230, Canton
Details: United Home Health Services offers free counseling with a certified



Chili time

The 18th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off and Motorcycle Show takes place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6. The Chili Cook-off is sanctioned by the International Chili Society and features a traditional Red Chili, a Green Chili and a Salsa competition. People's Choice Chili samples will be available. The GLR Chili Bike Show is a ride-in show with 17 bike categories, including Harley and non-Harley classes. Interested competitors can contact Annette Horn at 734-776-9669.

MMAP: (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor. The counselor can help you understand your Medicare/Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D Drug Insurance, understand Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse and explore long-term care insurance options. No appointment necessary. Call at 734-981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html

Corn roast

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Cady Boyer Barn, Ridge just north of Cherry Hill in Canton
Details: The Canton Lions Club hosts its annual corn roast. For a donation of \$5, visitors get corn roasted to perfection, hot dogs, baked beans, ice cream, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy and watermelon. The club is also selling raffle tickets for \$5 each, which will give the buyer a chance to win \$500 cash first prize. The second prize winner will receive \$200 cash, with the third prize winner receiving a gift certificate from N.A. Mans Lumber for \$100. The Lions Club has invited the Michigan Eye Bank, which will advise members about the Gift of Sight and organ donation. The Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind will be available to reveal how it assists the blind and removes barriers that are impediments to their daily living.
Contact: For more information or to get involved with the Canton Lions, contact Lion Bill Van Winkle at 734-254-9404 or email gobvill@wowway.com.

Perennial exchange

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 7, 9-11 a.m.
Location: East end of Kellogg Park

Details: The Trailwood Garden Club, member of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, is sponsoring a perennial exchange during the Plymouth Fall Festival. Bring perennials to exchange or just stop by and see what is available. Garden club members will be there to answer any questions.
Contact: For more information, contact Darlene at 734-459-7499.

CROP Walk recruiters meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m.
Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, in Canton
Details: All area churches, temples and mosques in Canton and Plymouth are invited to send a representative to this meeting regarding the CROP walk, to be held Sunday, Oct. 13, in Plymouth. CROP hunger walks bring the whole community together in a common mission: helping hungry people at home and around the world.
Contact: For more information, contact Gary or Becky Copenhaver at gcopenhaver@yahoo.com or 734-981-6023.

'Come and See' dinner

Date/Time: Sept. 7, 5-7 p.m.; Sept. 8, 1-3 p.m.; Sept. 14, 5-7 p.m.
Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth Township
Details: Catholics and non-Catholics within the parish boundaries are invited to a free "Come and See" dinner introducing the parish's new Alpha Course starting this fall. Alpha is a 10-week program aimed at answering the call to the New Evangelization. Child care is available on site for dinner participants free of charge.
Contact: The parish at 734-453-0326 or visit the OLCG website at www.olcgp.org. Register for the dinner online at

<https://olcgp.org/wfcom/forms/q7x19/>

Blood drives

Dates/Time/Locations:
 » Friday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Canton Library, 1200 N. Canton Center, Canton.
 » Monday, Aug. 26, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth.
 » Thursday, Aug. 29, 1:45-4:45 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth.

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors several blood drives in the area. Tickets to Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio, will be raffled off at these drives.

Contact: To make an appointment, contact Diane Risko at 313-549-7052.

Crafters wanted

Date/Time: Sept. 6-8, during Fall Festival hours
Location: Plymouth
Details: Organizers say it's not too early to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. There are only a few spaces left in the show. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.
Contact: For more information, contact Colleen Brown, craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com or 734-455-1614.

Vendors wanted

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 9
Location: First United Methodist Church of Northville
Details: Organizers of the sixth annual Bizarre Bazaar are looking for crafters, vendors and entrepreneurs. Indoor spaces available. It's an opportunity to showcase their talents and products to hundreds of local customers. Grow

business and help women in Third World countries start a business with a micro-loan from a Village Bank.
Contact: For details and to reserve your space, go to <http://funccornville.org/mi-missions-and-service>, email bazaar@gmail.com or find it on Facebook.

Bipolar support

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

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

Details: The Depression Bipolar Support Alliance is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group.
Contact: Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

Diabetes support

Date/Time: Second Thursday of each month, 2-3:30 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self-management experiences.
Contact: Call Fern Vining at 734-454-0859.

Support group

Date/Time: Second Monday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland

Details: Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing. Hope 4 Healing will provide a safe place to talk and share with others, a place where you can learn how to cope with all of the new and frightening experiences.

Contact: For questions or more information, contact Bonnie at 734-546-2237 or by email at pretnym-narh@comcast.net.

Calling all crafters

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth Township

Details: Crafters wanted for Delta Kappa Gamma's 29th annual Craft Show. Proceeds from the show will be used to support college scholarships for local students focusing on careers in education.

Contact: Call or email Judy at 734-347-1001 or jpostone16@comcast.net or Alice at 248-348-9610 or dachrenko@hotmail.com.

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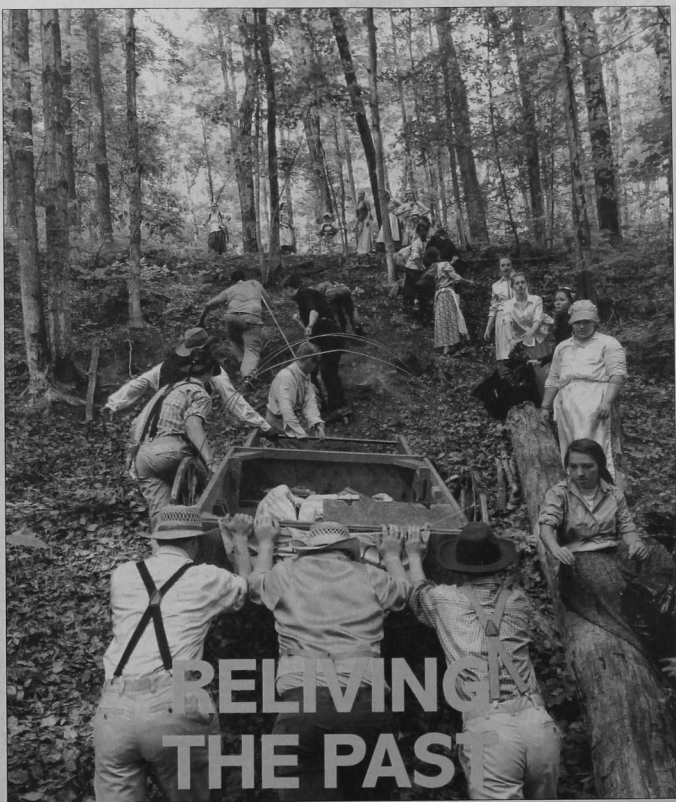
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The teens formed a line to pass the contents of the cart up the hill before family members pushed it to the top.

Teens experience modern-day Mormon handcart journey

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

More than 100 teens from western Wayne County gave up the comforts of home to spend three days walking through the Boy Scouts' Cole Canoe Base in Alger, Mich., on a scaled-down version of a pioneer trek.

The teens wore pioneer garb and pulled handcarts filled with clothes and food to commemorate the 1,300-mile Mormon handcart trek in which members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints journeyed from Iowa City to Salt Lake City in 1847.

"I call it a media detox — no junk food, no electronics," said Dan Hill of Novi, who accompanied the teens. "They had to experience what it was like for the pioneers."



Hill

Once every four years, a three-day re-enactment — a Pioneer Trek — is conducted for teens ages 14-18 in the Westland Stake. The Stake, which includes wards, or congregations, extends from South Lyon on the west side, Livonia and Dearborn through the Downriver communities, Monroe, Romulus, Canton, Plymouth, Garden City and Westland. The trek was held in late June and involved 110 teens and 30-40 adult leaders. The teens were organized into 11 families, each with a "Ma and Pa." They were dressed in pioneer clothes and packed their clothing and food into 3- by 4-foot wagons that they pulled or pushed on their journey.

The handcarts were replicas of

those used by pioneers. They were constructed by local church members, using wheels ordered from the Amish. The carts weighed an estimated 200 pounds; when loaded with the clothing and food for one of the families, the weight was closer to 500 pounds.

Remembrance

The trek is held every four years so that teens age 14-18 get to experience it at least once. According to Susan Mendenhall, of the Detroit Michigan Region Public Affairs for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it is more a tradition of remembrance than an actual historically detailed enactment. It's intended to build faith, rather than merely be camping in pioneer clothes.

"The handcart pioneers and other pioneers who helped establish Salt Lake City have since become a defining part of Mormon history, providing examples of faith, effort and vision for those who came later," she said.

The trek was a series of interconnecting loops laid out in a more remote area of the Cole base. The "pioneers" spent their days pushing and pulling their carts and their nights sleeping under the stars.

"It was pretty rustic — no electricity, no TV, no phones," said Doug Bauss of Novi, who with his wife Kathryn were a Ma and Pa. "My daughter Madeleine said it was actually refreshing."

"We found a lot of other things to do," Madeleine said. "We did a lot of singing."

According to Alyssa Gerard of Dearborn Heights, the pioneer stories shared by her Ma and Pa helped drive home the point about the trek.

"This trek made us depend on each other and rely on each other," she said. "And we started to depend on the Lord. Our ancestors relied on their faith to get through their pain. It was very spiritual."

Symbols of trek

At certain points along the trail, there were markers that were symbolic of the 1847 trek. Crossing the ravine symbolized the pioneers leaving civilization and



Zach Bryan, (from left), 14, Ashley Bryan, 16, and Rachel Lorenc, 15, all of Novi, became modern-day pioneers for the trek.

going into the wilds, Hill said. The teens also encountered a makeshift grave, symbolizing the pioneers lost during the trek. The boys were also pulled away from the carts, representing the battalion of men the Army sought for the Mexican-American War.

"The pioneer women and children were left behind," Bauss said. "That was hard to watch because we wanted to help the girls." According to the Bausses, the adults never put their hands on the carts. The teens had to organize themselves and figure out who would push and who would pull. Faced with traversing the ravine, they were left to figure out how to get their carts down and up the other side.

"Everyone had their own opinion and one of the family members said, 'How about we pray?' Madeleine said, 'We bowed our heads and prayed and sure enough we came up with an idea and sure enough it worked.'"

"We took everything out of the carts and the girls passed the stuff up and down the ravine," said Egypt Byrd of Canton. "The guys brought the cart up and down the ravine, using ropes. It took over two hours."

'Layer of grit'

They also encountered drinking water that was yellow in color and reminded one teen of Gatorade. One referred to it as "bloody nose water," while another recalled having "a layer of grit" on her teeth the first time she drank it.

"They ate lunch meat and cold sandwiches for lunch and chili and stew for dinner. The oatmeal for breakfast was 'interesting,'" according to Byrd.

"It was oats and wet water and a sprinkle of brown sugar," she said. The third day was more of a reflection time for the teens. There was a solo area where they were

given letters from their parents and 45 minutes to themselves.

"They kind of miss their parents by then and what the parents say sinks in more there than at home," Hill said.

Looking back on the three days, Nate Byrd of Canton described it as the "best experience" of his life.

"My friends said why do it, three days with no phone," he said. "They said I was crazy, but I say they said that because they didn't go on it."

"I wasn't excited to go at first, but my mom urged me to go," added Jonny Dalton of Canton. "I'm glad I did."

smason@hometownlife.com
313-222-6751
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason



Megan Wilkerson, 16, of Plymouth (left) and Jessica Farrell, 18, of Canton pull a cart used on the Pioneer Trek.



Family members Jacob Christensen of Canton (from left), Drew Thompson of South Lyon, Ben Yates of Livonia, Spencer Dyal of Canton, Sean Cartwright of Farmington Hills, Suzanne Barluff of Plymouth and Ken Barluff of Plymouth participated in the trek, held in late June.

Youth symphony to hold open auditions

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Young musicians – from first-graders just beginning to play through the more-experienced high schoolers – are invited to try out for the 2013-14 season of the Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony, billed as one of the premier youth orchestras in Michigan.

Open auditions will be held Aug. 24 at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, where students will meet with a conductor from the Detroit MYS's four orchestras and play their instrument. The audition fee is \$30.

Practices are Saturday mornings, September through May. Most are held at NFHS. The 2013-14 season offers public performances at Clarkston High School, Ford Community



Open auditions for Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony are Aug. 24 in Farmington Hills.

and Performing Arts Center and Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

Detroit MYS, a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization, is in its 32nd year.

Judy Darby, who handles auditions and was formerly in charge of promotion and recruitment, said Detroit MYS draws students from through-

out the metropolitan area. Some 250 young musicians make up the four orchestras, which include Junior String, String, Concert and Symphony. Darby's daughter, Rebecca, is beginning her third season with the orchestra as a clarinetist.

Darby said Rebecca heard about MYS from a former

member who has since moved on to college. "We checked it out and, fortunately, she got in," Darby said. "And what really attracted me was how very well-run it is. I was just so impressed – it's very professional."

The organization, she explained, is to supplement rather than replace orchestras or

bands students are involved with at school. "The whole idea is love of music. If a student wants to play music that might be more challenging, look our way," Darby said.

Detroit MYS conductors are John Robertson, Geoffrey Benes, Victoria Halton and Kathleen Grimes. Each makes students feel "very comfortable and are very friendly," so youngsters needn't be intimidated or afraid of auditioning, Darby added.

Students accepted for MYS pay tuition ranging from \$230 to \$280.

Audition packets and more information are available at www.detroitmys.org. Darby also welcomes calls at (248) 664-6058.

awingblad@hometownlife.com
(248) 933-4054 | Twitter: @awingblad

Watkins to lead county's mental health agency

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Northville resident and former state schools Superintendent Tom Watkins has been named president, CEO and executive director of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, the public mental health system serving the county and its largest city. The agency currently provides services for about 72,000 people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, serious emotional disturbance and substance abuse disorders.

Watkins, who is currently the president of his own education consulting business, TDW and Associates, brings much experience to the job, having served as deputy director of administration, chief deputy and director of the state Department of Mental Health under Gov. Jim Blanchard. He also served as state superintendent of education under Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Watkins is looking forward to the job because he will be able to



Watkins

advocate for people who need a helping hand. "This role captures my professional career," Watkins said, "providing a voice for people who are often voiceless in our society."

He said, "It puts me in the middle of the state's and nation's health care reform and taps my administrative, leadership and health care background and political skills in a way that can help people with mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. I cannot think of a higher calling in life." The Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency is currently a Wayne County agency. However, it will be converted Oct. 1 into an authority similar to the Wayne County Airport Authority. The

authority will be run by a 12-member board. Six members will be appointed by the mayor of Detroit (or state-appointed emergency manager) and six will be appointed by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

Watkins said salary negotiations are still taking place. WCCMHA officials say Watkins was chosen because of his administrative experience and political background, but especially his reputation for helping people in need.

"I am looking forward to working with Mr. Watkins and the passion he brings for helping people overcome the obstacles they may face in life," WCCMHA Board Chairman George Gaines said in a news release.

James K. Haveman, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, also praised the decision to hire Watkins.

"We are very pleased with the selection of Tom Watkins to lead this new

authority in Wayne County given his extensive background in health care," he said. "The wealth of knowledge and experience that Tom brings will be valuable as he works to bring better services to residents in Wayne County and to ensure they are receiving the best quality of care possible."

Watkins is a member of the Michigan's Economic Development

Corp. International board of advisers, the University of Michigan Confucius Institute board and has been recognized by the Chinese Association of Greater Detroit and the Detroit Chinese Business Association, among others, for his efforts to help build bridges with China. He is also a prolific freelance writer and has been a regular columnist in this newspaper.

Watkins said he is

excited to get started and work with the new authority board to help people who are mentally ill and developmentally disabled.

"It does not matter what ZIP code you live in – mental illness and developmental disabilities impact all families, directly or indirectly," he said.

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CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



A ribbon-cutting was held Saturday by Phenix Salon Suites to celebrate its grand opening. Family members, employees, chamber members and residents were all among the attendees.

Salon sets up shop in business-friendly Canton

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

Phenix Salon: We are a full-service, high-end beauty salon where our salon professionals are their own bosses.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Phenix Salon: After we closed our food confectionery business in Westland during the 2008 economic downturn, we were looking for the right opportunity to invest in Canton. The beauty industry seemed to make the most sense.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Phenix Salon: Canton is not only a highly progressive, fast-growing, business-friendly community, it is also our hometown.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Phenix Salon: Our clients get undivided attention and care in complete privacy.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Phenix Salon: We are seeing steady growth.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Phenix Salon: We are tracking with the economy.

Observer: Any advice for other (would be) business owners?

Phenix Salon: Do your due diligence, pick something that makes sense to you and put your heart and mind into it.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Phenix Salon: Expansion.

PHENIX SALON

Business name and address:
Phenix Salon Suites, 5826 N. Sheldahl, in Canton.

Your name/ title: Nazimuddin Shirur, president;

Azemuiddin Shirur, vice president.

Your home-town: Business opened: April 2012.

Number of employees: 2

Hours of operation: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Your business specialty: Beauty salon services.

Business phone/website: 734-787-1006; find us on Facebook at Phenix Salon Suites Canton



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CHAMBER CHAT

After-Hours Mixer

Bailey's Pub & Grille hosts the next Canton Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Mixer 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15. Bailey's is located at 1777 N. Canton Center. The event is sponsored by Huntington Bank. RSVP by calling 734-453-4040.

Joint After-Hours Mixer

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a joint After-Hours Mixer with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, at the Box Bar in downtown Plymouth.

Organizers said the event is an evening of "making valuable business contacts from both communities and gearing up for the fall."

These joint events usually draw 80-100 people.

To RSVP, call 734-453-1540 or email terip@plymouth-mich.org.

Golf outing deadline

The registration deadline is nearing for the Canton Chamber of Commerce's annual golf outing, set for Thursday, Sept. 19, at Pleasant Run Golf Course, followed by an awards dinner.

Deadline to register is Friday, Aug. 16.

The chamber is offering the opportunity to promote local businesses by sponsoring this event. Again this year, golfers will participate in a Ryder Cup-style format (16-20 players per team) where golfers will have the opportunity to show off their skills. Chamber officials hail

the event as a "great way to reward employees or invite clients to network with fellow businesses and community leaders."

Find registration forms on the chamber website or call 734-453-4040 to sign up or for more information.

Development workshop

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts its business development workshop, "Prospecting: How to build a plan to hit your goal," 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, in the chamber meeting room at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, in downtown Plymouth.

Organizers said prospecting is "one of those skills everyone needs to expand their client base, but one of the hardest to do." This workshop will show attendees how to build a cookbook approach to prospecting, unlike a typical salesperson. In the end, the steps and tactics presented at this workshop are designed to make prospecting more productive and therefore more enjoyable.

The presenter is Rich Austin, partner at Sandler Training Ann Arbor, who helps business owners change their culture from a passive, reactive model to an active sales model, where salespeople become assertive and comfortable not only prospecting, but learning how to pressure sell skills and building trusted adviser relationships.

RSVP by Aug. 23 to terip@plymouthmich.org or call 734-453-1540.



New business

Michael Burkey, a professional dog trainer and dog behaviorist, has opened Michigan Dog Trainer at 1031 Cherry in Plymouth. Call 734-634-4152 to learn more about their training and class schedule.

Redford jeweler moves store to Plymouth area

Redford Jewelry & Coin, a fixture on Six Mile in Redford Township for nearly 30 years, has moved to a new, larger location within the Haggerty-Five Gateway Shopping Center at the northeast corner of Five Mile and Haggerty.

The new store measures more than 3,600 square feet and features Redford Jewelry & Coin's signature offerings, including diamonds, engagement rings, bracelets, earrings and watches, coupled with investment-grade coins and precious metals.

"We are just ecstatic about our move to the Plymouth-Northville area and are so excited

to be part of this growing community," Redford Jewelry & Coin owner Cathy Scabassi said. "We had many wonderful years in Redford Township and established a well-known reputation for our customer service, quality products and expertise in jewelry and coins. We are looking forward to establishing a long-lasting relationship with the Plymouth-Northville community."

Redford Jewelry & Coin features an expert staff, including a master jeweler with more than 30 years experience in design and repair, and numismatists specializing in coins, precious metals and paper money.

Redford Jewelry & Coin, opened in 1984 in Redford Township, began with a dedication to its community and a commitment to providing the highest quality jewelry and expertise in coins and paper money. Staff members belong to the American Numismatic Association and are life members of the Michigan State Numismatic Society and the Retail Jewelers Organization.

For more information, visit the store at 15386 N. Haggerty Road, (northeast corner of Haggerty and Five Mile) in Plymouth, online at www.redfordjewelryandcoin.com or call 866-341-8617 or locally 734-667-1204.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Plymouth headquarters

Metro Consulting Associates, LLC, a full-service land surveying and civil engineering consultant, has relocated its headquarters from Belleville to Plymouth to accommodate the firm's growth.

The new office, located at 45345 Five Mile, will house approximately 50 employees, as well as a new Ecological Services division. MCA also announced the opening of a northern Michigan office, located at 830 E. Front Street in Traverse City.

According to MCA CEO Jeff Evans, "When we opened our doors in 2009, we were a much smaller workforce dealing with a recession. After several amazing growth years, we felt the time was right to expand our headquarters and open our third Michigan office in Traverse City."

Last year, MCA opened offices in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Westerville, Ohio.

For more information, call 800-525-6016 or visit www.metrocca.net.

Business mixer

The August Business 2 Business Mixer, sponsored by Ribar Floral of Plymouth, takes place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, at the Showroom of Elegance, 6018 N. Canton Center, in Canton.

The mixers are designed as informal, non-structured, non-membership get-togethers of business owners in Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Livonia and surrounding areas. Owners meet monthly over snacks and beverages for informal networking and general socializing.

There are no fees and no groups to join. Attendees should bring business cards for exchanging with fellow business owners.

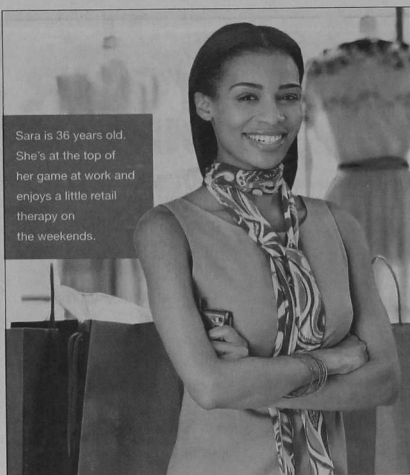
For more information, call 734-455-8722.

Coldwell hire

Kellie Smith and Cheryl Johnson are among new sales associates announced recently by Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel. Smith and Johnson will work in the firm's Plymouth office.

"We are pleased that these exceptional people have chosen Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel," said John North, CBWM COO. "We are always excited to welcome associates who share our core values of integrity, a passion for service, a positive attitude and a drive for results."

Founded in 1950, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is a Troy-based real estate brokerage with 15 offices and more than 400 real estate sales associates. For more information, visit www.cbwm.com.



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MPSC: 'External forces' played part in Franks explosion

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Wayne city officials will most likely express to state lawmakers their disagreement with a Michigan Public Service Commission report that "external forces" played a part in a December 2010 natural gas explosion which leveled the W.C. Franks Furniture Store in Wayne, killing two employees and severely injuring the owner.

"I think the report is one-sided; there's a lot of unanswered questions," Wayne Mayor Al Haidous said.

"I'm not impressed with the report and I don't agree with it, but that doesn't make any difference in what happened. We can't bring those lives back."

The explosion occurred shortly after 9 a.m. Dec. 29, 2010.

The blast killed employees James Zell, 64, and Leslie Macchiniak, 54, both of Westland, and severely injured store owner Paul Franks of Plymouth Township, then 64.

In its report, the MPSC determined that the explosion occurred after natural gas found its way into the building through a sanitary sewer line and got into the building through a non-water-tight sewer trap.



A Michigan Public Service Commission investigation has found that natural gas that caused the explosion Dec. 29, 2010, at the W.C. Franks Furniture store was able to get in through a sewer line. FILE PHOTO

Outside forces

MPSC investigators also concluded that outside forces did damage to the two-inch steel main located in the alleyway behind 35018 Chestnut St. and identified several contributing factors.

The city of Wayne had installed an eight-inch sanitary sewer line parallel to and after construction of the affected gas main. Because of the close proximity, the construction most likely exposed the gas main, according to the report.

A residential chain-link fence was installed after the construction of the affected gas main in multiple locations and exerted downward forces on the main.

The footings for a poured concrete wall built by the city encased the gas main. No sleeve or conduit was used, causing the concrete footing to prevent free movement of the pipe in the soil during the freeze and thaw cycle, according to



Franks

the report.

Haidous bristled at the inference that the city did something wrong, pointing out that city records show the sewer is 70-75 years old and the wall was built 25 years ago to close off an alley. The gas line was installed in the 1940s, he said.

"If the pipe was damaged when the wall was put in, why did it take 25 years to show?" he said. "If that was the case, it would have shown up sooner."

The MPSC also found that Consumers Energy failed to follow regulations in its response before the explosion. If a "complete and thorough investigation" had been conducted by a Consumers Energy employee responding to the first of two citizen calls about gas odors in the area, "immediate actions may have been taken to identify the source and extent of the leak and evacuate the area until conditions were made safe," the report stated.

Will pay fine

Consumers Energy has agreed to pay \$90,000 in fines in regard to the Franks explosion, as well as a \$340,000 fine levied by the MPSC related to an explosion in Royal Oak in February that killed Daniel Malczynski, 58, and damaged 30 homes.

The utility also reached an agreement to use \$1 million to create a Natural Gas Incident Response Fund to help victims of natural gas disasters and to fund improved training and safety practices for utility workers and first

responders in Michigan. State Attorney General Bill Schuette pursued the settlement following the Royal Oak explosion.

"It's not good enough to just respond to victims after the fact. We must do all we can to ensure mistakes of the past are not repeated," Schuette said.

Consumers Energy officials, in a statement, said the utility "fully accepted" the MPSC's findings and the fines announced by both the regulator and Schuette.

"As we've said previously, these incidents failed to meet our standards or the standards expected by our customers across Michigan," the statement read.

The furniture store, founded by William and Betty Franks in 1963, operated out of its warehouse in Wayne after the explosion for almost two years before closing for good in December 2012. In 2011, Franks and the families of Zell and Macchiniak reached a confidential settlement after suing Consumers Energy.

The loss of life, in my opinion, was a big loss and \$90,000 or \$9 million can't replace that," Haidous said.

"The commission should be more sensitive to everybody and be more professional and careful about how they affect people and the city."

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Missing Canton man died of natural causes

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Matthew Morris, a 36-year-old Canton man whose body was found April 1 in a marshy area on Westland's far west side, died of natural causes, a Wayne County Medical Examiner's report concluded.

"There was absolutely no sign of any foul play or trauma to the body,"

Mary Mazur, a Wayne County spokeswoman, said Tuesday.

Morris, who was missing for nearly three months after he disappeared from his Village Square apartment near Ford and Lotz roads, died from heart failure.

"He died of heart disease, specifically from sudden death syndrome," Mazur said. "He had a vascular condition



Morris

due to clogged arteries. He died of natural causes." Friends of Morris, hoping he would be found alive, had circulated fliers with his picture after he had gone missing Jan. 13. His car had been found in the Emagine Theater park-

ing lot in Canton, raising initial concerns he might have become a victim of foul play.

Westland police notified Canton authorities April 1 after a group of surveyors found Morris' body in a marshy area near an industrial building on the north side of Ford Road, east of the Walmart store, Canton police Lt. Dave Schreiner has said.

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OUR VIEW

50 years later, we have yet to fulfill King's dream

Later this month, the nation marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech, a speech that is often credited with pressuring Congress into passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On Aug. 28, 1963, Dr. King stood at a podium in front of the Lincoln Memorial and spoke about his dream.

The speech came at the end of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. More than 250,000 people stood before King and listened to his assessment of the status of blacks in America from the Emancipation Proclamation, issued in January 1863, to the push for civil rights 100 years later.

For King, the Emancipation Proclamation broke the shackles of slavery for millions of Negroes, but the freedom that decree supposedly brought had not materialized. One hundred years later, blacks still did not have their freedom. They remained "crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination."

His speech became known as the *I Have a Dream* speech and in the 50 years since he delivered it, it has become one of the most quoted and most read speeches of modern times. King eloquently painted a verbal picture of a life where color was absent, where all people were equal, and everyone shared in the American dream.

The civil rights movement of the 1960s succeeded in getting the federal government to do more to fight poverty and create opportunities for African Americans to get a college education. The racial equality that it brought to America was short-lived, and 50 years later, the gap between blacks and whites remains.

In his speech, King said that 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, "the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land."

Add on another 50 years. As much as we would like to think that some of King's dream has come true, sadly, the color line remains. It may not be as obvious as in 1863 or even 1963, but it is still there. In a report in *Business Insider* in April 2013, two professors, John Logan and Brian Stults, identified the 21 most segregated cities in the country using 2010 U.S. Census data. The two men determined that "the average black person lives in a neighborhood that is 45 percent black. Without segregation, his neighborhood would be 13 percent black."

Of the 21 cities identified, more than half were north of the Missouri Compromise Line that divided the country prior to the Civil War. In the top 10, according to Logan and Stults, are the northern cities of Boston, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Newark and Milwaukee. No. 1 spot went to Detroit, where they described the inner city as "almost exclusively black."

King's dream 50 years ago was aimed at African Americans who, 100 years after being freed from slavery, were fighting for those unalienable rights spoken about in the Constitution. It is a dream we all need to embrace. The color of a person's skin should not determine whether they are a have or a have not. Not should it limit their ability to live in a nice neighborhood, have a good education and a decent job.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall. It happened two years later. In 2013, we need to commit to tearing down the color barrier that impedes our progress as a people and as a nation. We, too, need to tear down the wall that continues to divide us. We need to walk the walk and talk the talk to secure equal rights for every American. Only then can we preach equality to the world.

Now is the time that we all need to go to that mountain top. "Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood." Securing equal rights is a challenge we must face now not later. We truly can't wait another 50 years.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to deliver his famous speech.

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COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your favorite form of exercise?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"Walking and running."
Voncia Conerly
Canton



"Walking."
Debbie Adler
Canton



"My favorite thing to do is boot camp class."
Rachel Royer
Bellevue



"Lifting weights and playing sports."
Ethan Williams
Canton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIA Detroit centerpiece

A drive down Woodward will give you an interesting picture of what Detroiters value. The tranquil redeveloped riverfront, with its gardens, fountains and public artwork, begins the thoroughfare of the financial district's skyscrapers and trendy office space.

The serene Campus Martius, the cafes, Comerica Park and the historic theaters eventually trail off into the blighted neighborhoods, empty factories and neglected lots we're all accustomed to seeing on the news.

Yet just further north, the cityscape transforms: the cultural spirit of Detroit, the museums, cathedrals, galleries and music halls, the supporting roles of Michigan's greatest cultural treasure for more than a century: the Detroit Institute of Arts.

I remember taking three city buses downtown to take an art class at the DIA on Saturday mornings. At the same time came the decreased support from Lansing, the white flight, Mayor Young's infamous statement "It's our turn now" and riots that led us down the path of de facto segregation, economic inequality, political disintegration and now bankruptcy.

Yet despite all these years and hardships, the DIA has remained the truly unbreakable link between Detroiters and residents of surrounding suburbs. The threats facing the DIA should be our wake-up call to work together.

We tend to look at the city of Detroit's Chapter 9 bankruptcy as another external financial

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

crisis, one in which the arts are yet again the forefront of the sacrifice needed to be made for stability. This is not one of those cases. Our culture is not a bargaining tool for greedy Wall Street creditors that failed to see the risk in Detroit's junk bonds.

We all have an incentive for the economic prosperity of the city of Detroit and the DIA is a major focal point for these shared interests. Thriving urban centers not only support world-class culture and museums, those institutions give life to their communities as well. For well over a century, the DIA has served this purpose, to exist as the cultural beacon of the state of Michigan and linking everyone together — black and white, rich and poor — through art.

From 2001-12, Michigan decreased funding for the arts from \$21 million to \$2.1 million,

which led the nation. We have a shared interest in every Michigan citizen's artistic expression in the rich culture Michigan has to share with the world.

We cannot turn away from Detroit because we live in the suburbs. The division between the city and suburbs has gone on for too long. We all have an incentive for the economic prosperity of the city of Detroit and the DIA is the centerpiece for our shared interests.

Natalie Mosher
Canton

Bleating and blustering

I read Mr. Smith's recent letter with amusement and not a small amount of confusion. Is he attacking a Plymouthite for expressing his First Amendment rights or hoisting the liberal banner of praise for President Obama? I have no problem with Mr. Smith expressing his political beliefs, but I take great issue with his description of a local businessman as lazy, glib and dishonest. These kinds of ad hominem attacks and mudslinging are pathetic.

Mr. Smith has cherry-picked numerous statistics to bolster his argument supporting the president. He has ignored many others. GDP growth in this country hovers around 2 percent, with no signs of improvement.

Buddy, you can support the president all you wish and I applaud you for it. The rest of us should be similarly allowed to express our beliefs and opinions without condemnation and cheap shots.

John Rosenberg
Commerce

STAFF COLUMN

What I've learned from reality TV

A few weeks ago, PBS made a startling announcement: unlike the major networks, it posted an increase in viewers among the elusive 18-49 age group. That's right, the network most clearly associated with the excellent British drama series *Downton Abbey* is gaining viewers, while the likes of ABC, CBS and NBC are wondering where they've gone.

One report linked the resurgence in interest in PBS to its highly touted, Emmy-winning *Abbey* and Mitt Romney's call to end funding for Public TV, which rallied support among the *Sesame Street* generation. The observation was that PBS has attracted viewers without "dumbing down" its programming. It is sticking to its tried-and-true formula of offering viewers quality programs, a novel idea, considering what's out there in TV land.

In 1961, Newton Minow, then chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and the man who coined the phrase, "vast wasteland," described TV as "... a procession of game shows, violence, audience participation shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families, blood and thunder, mayhem, violence, sadism, murder, western bad men, western good men, private eyes, gangsters, more violence and cartoons." Minow described the commercials as "screaming, cajoling and offending," and said "you will see a few things you will enjoy. But they will be very, very few."

Today's reality

Hmm, sounds like TV today, but instead on a few channels there's hundreds and quantity doesn't necessarily translate into quality. We still have some formula comedies, totally unbelievable families and an assortment



Sue Mason

the good guy-bad guy shows, but the biggest glut is in reality TV. Back when Minow was around, reality TV was the nightly news. There was no 24/7 news and not nearly as many talk shows.

Weather was part of the news, not a channel unto itself, and sports was what was happening in your town, although Jim McKay did introduce us to the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" with the *Wide World of Sports*.

But ever since CBS dropped the gauntlet with *Survivor*, its glorified do-nothing-and-everything to win the \$1 million prize show, the networks have been in overdrive coming up with their own new — and not so improved — shows.

Just about every cable channel has reality TV shows to assault your senses. You can go from the heat of the kitchen to the murky swamps of Louisiana, hang out with a group of out-of-control teens who need a major timeout or be reassured that rooms filled with books don't make you a hoarder.

Even newscasts are getting caught up in reality TV. Granted, the major networks have held fast to reporting the news, but some of the local reporters have resorted to theatrics and concocting their own news to entertain viewers. They no longer report the news, they make the news.

Lesson learned

I will admit I have watched some reality TV and have decided to compile a short list of things I have learned from my

channel-surfing, like:

» There is a no good reason whatsoever to go into the wilderness naked. Put on a fig leaf, for God's sake.

» The F-word really can be used as an adjective in talking about cooking.

» Les Gold needs to get Seth and Ashley Gold or fire them into therapy. They're giving sibling rivalry a bad name.

» Shipping containers and storage lockers are not the best place to shop, especially with a guy who says "Yup!"

» You don't need a family intervention because you have a glass of wine at dinner.

» Having a case of toilet paper and 10 boxes of pasta in the pantry doesn't constitute being a prepper.

» Serial killers are really good guys whose hobby just happens to be murder and mayhem.

The sad part of all this is that we watch these shows. We get emotionally involved in people who, if we met them on the street, we'd ignore. And the more we watch these shows, the more the TV folks produce. We have bought into bad TV programming and, until we change our ways, we'll continue to get it.

Network types should heed Minow's words. Television is a vast wasteland and will continue to be one until these shows have run their course. Unfortunately, reality TV will be replaced by another mania idea.

It took more than 10 years to get to this reality. I hope it doesn't take another 10 years to escape it. Until then, I'm sticking with PBS ... and some of Sheldon Cooper's (*The Big Bang Theory*) "Bazinga."

Sue Mason is editor of the Wayne-Westland and Garden City Observers. Let her know what you think by sending her an email at smason@hometownlife.com.

90-year-old dances through busy life

Livonia resident helps at airport

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

Great Scott! She's a busy woman – and she's just turned 90 years old. Flora Murray, a native of Dundee, Scotland, and a resident of Livonia, keeps busier than many people half her age.

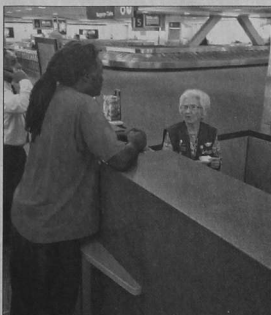
And a big part of what she does is volunteer to help others, including more than 15 years working at Detroit's Metro Airport in Romulus as an Airport Ambassador. As an ambassador, she helps stranded, lost and confused passengers, among many other duties.

"I love it," she said of her job. "I love the idea of helping people." "She's a people person," said Fran Wood, customer service coordinator for the Wayne County Airport Authority. "Here at the airport, you meet people from all over the world." Wood said Murray has been honored three years in a row with the President's Volunteer Services Award. Also, the Livonia City Council will be presenting a proclamation to Murray in honor of her 90th birthday at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 at a city council meeting, according to Wood.

Murray works four or five hours one day a week in the North Terminal at Metro at a job that can often be hectic. "I like it when it's busy," she said. She began working for the Airport Ambassadors in April 1998.

Answer lady

Some of the questions she answers are how to find luggage, where the ticket office is, how to get to the McNamara Terminal. On some occasions, she has even had to



Flora Murray of Livonia helps travelers as an Airport Ambassador at the North Terminal at Detroit's Metro Airport. FRAN WOOD

help people who arrive at Metro and actually have nowhere to go. In some cases, passengers arrive with no transportation, hotel reservations or money.

Murray goes to work trying to find some way to help them. She finds them hotels. Sometimes, she reconnects families who can't find each other in the airport.

She tells the story of a couple she helped who had a lot of luggage and the wife was in a wheelchair. The husband was very agitated and worried they would miss their flight. Murray eventually left her station and took the wife up the elevator to the gate herself, while the husband went on ahead. Then, wouldn't you know it, they came back from their trip on a day she was working, she said with a laugh.

Murray has lots of laughs when she relates the experiences of her life. Like the time when she was in her 80s, when



Flora Murray of Livonia enjoys some fun at Cinco De Mayo at Detroit Metro Airport.

she was asked to come up and dance on stage while vacationing in Cancun. "She likes to have fun," Wood said. In fact, she still takes a trip every year to Cancun with her daughter.

She can dance

Murray says she has always liked to dance and she ended up meeting her first husband at a dance club in Scotland. She became a war bride at the age of 21 after meeting a U.S. merchant marine who was in Scotland as part of his tour of

duty. After they married, he brought her to his home state of Pennsylvania, where they had a son. Eventually, things didn't work out and she ended up divorcing him. She went back to Scotland with her young son, but decided to make a return trip to the U.S. about three years later. As luck would have it, before leaving Scotland, a friend asked her to take a letter to a friend who had been injured and was recovering in a New York hospital.

She thought about mailing it or just dropping it off at the hospital reception desk, but the nurse on duty urged her to visit William Murray, also a native of Scotland, who was hospitalized with extensive injuries after an elevator accident.

"That's how we met," Murray says of her second husband. After they met, her phone rang every day and cards came every day, she said. They ended up being married for 39 years; they lived in New York and had a daughter together. "It was meant to be," she said. "He was such a wonderful, wonderful person." He died in 1986.

Moves to Michigan

After his death, she moved to Plymouth in 1988 to be near her son, who lives in Canton. Later she moved to Livonia, where she enjoys a busy, active life.

From the Senior Olympics, where she has won eight gold medals in bocce ball and hopes to compete in this week, to line dancing to being a member of Singles Over Sixty at the Livonia Senior Center, she hasn't let her age slow her down. She exercises at the senior center, walks in the mall every day and drinks eight glasses of water a day.

Murray also stays active with volunteer work. She volunteers at the senior center and the Livonia Police and Fire departments. "I am also a volunteer with the Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia and an

election inspector for the city of Livonia," she said. She said she loves helping others, like when she sees an older person struggling along at the airport and she tries to help. "It might happen to me someday," she said.

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A tragic gas explosion happened in Royal Oak earlier this year as a result of former employees disobeying procedural requirements and failing to meet our expectations for making safety a top priority. Because of the Royal Oak accident, Consumers Energy has been fined by the Michigan Public Service Commission. We accept responsibility, we accept the fine, and we will move forward.

Consumers Energy is sincerely sorry the Royal Oak accident happened. Our investigation showed some employees did not follow company gas operations policies and procedures. Those individuals no longer work for our company.

We are sorry we let you down and failed to meet your and our expectations. We have reinforced our training and policy education for all employees who work on our natural gas system. We have increased our annual investment to update our gas distribution system by over \$200 million, an investment designed to help protect public health and safety. And we are doing everything we can to avoid a tragic event of this nature from happening again in the future.

In addition, Consumers Energy will contribute \$1 million of its money to create a fund available to victims of natural gas incidents to assist in providing immediate everyday necessities, as well as provide funding for a safety study and safety training.

Consumers Energy has been in the energy business for more than 125 years and the integrity of our gas system makes us one of the top-performing companies in the country. We want to reassure our customers that Consumers Energy puts safety at the heart of everything we do. We know lives depend on it.

Our goal as part of our promise to Michigan is to keep you safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provide safe, reliable gas service at affordable prices. We work every single day to achieve that goal. You deserve nothing less.

Consumers Energy

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SECTION B (CP)

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SPORTS

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Ready to challenge the world

Local baseball players
set for international event

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The term "travel baseball" will take on a whole new meaning for a handful of top-notch Observerland-area athletes beginning this week — with an emphasis on travel.

Beginning Thursday, four Garden City teenagers and one each from Canton and Bloomfield Hills will forge their baseball talents with six other players on the Detroit entry in the International Children's Games, which will be hosted by Windsor-Essex, Ontario.

Also represented in the four-

day sports festival will be baseball teams from Japan, Canada, Pakistan and Merion, Ind.

Rich in tradition, the first International Children's Games took place in Celje, Slovenia, in 1968. The ICG were founded by Yugoslavian professor Metod Klemenc, whose goal was to create an event that fostered a better understanding among children of different cultural backgrounds.

The Games, which are officially recognized by the International Olympics Committee, have attracted more than 35,200 participants representing 74 countries since their inception 45 years ago. They are believed to be the largest gathering of

See BASEBALL, Page B3



Observerland-area travel baseball players (from left) Troy Saruna, Alex Centofanti, Dakota Mahkmetass, Ryan Radwan and Tyler Kelly will be representing Detroit in this week's International Children's Games. © WRIGHT

O&E men's golf signup

The O&E men's golf tournament, a 36-hole, two-day medal play event, will be Sunday, Sept. 1, at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 W. Seven Mile Road, and Monday, Sept. 2, at Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20500 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Fee times start at 8 a.m. both days. The cost is \$95 for two days (power cart extra) with four different flights offered, including championship, first, senior (55-and-over) and junior (17-and-under).

You must have a current USGA Index to participate (maximum handicap of 20).

There will be \$2,500 in guaranteed prizes, including both low gross and net winners.

Entries, open to the first 120, will close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.

To download a registration form, visit www.golf-livonia.com.

For pairings and starting times, call 248-476-4493 (Whispering Willows) or 248-471-3400 (Fox Creek).

Heroes on Hines races

Wayne County Parks will sponsor its first Heroes on Hines half-marathon and 5-kilometer races Saturday, Oct. 5 with proceeds going toward the creation and maintenance of the First Responders Memorial to be erected at Hines Drive and Haggerty.

The half-marathon starts at 8 a.m., followed by the 5K at 8:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by Running Fit and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

The cost is \$49 (half-marathon) and \$29 (5K) if registered by Sept. 5. The cost is \$34 (5K) and \$59 (half) if registering Sept. 6 through Oct. 3.

For more information, visit www.heroesonhines.com.

Wrestling at VFW post

The Midwest Pro Wrestling Alliance will be taping four episodes of its Collision card for WMYD-TV (Channel 20) beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, at the VFW Post No. 6896, 28945 Joy Road, Westland.

Doors open at 2 p.m., and the event is free.

The card is scheduled to air Sunday, Oct. 6.

For more information, visit MPWA.wrestling.com.

Sox's Haeger is armed for the long haul

CC grad bounces back from Tommy John elbow surgery

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Charlie Haeger feels he has a lot of baseball left — even with his recent surgically repaired right arm.

And being a knuckleball pitcher, the shelf life is perhaps greater than a guy throwing 90 mph-plus with the less wear and tear on the arm.

Coming off Tommy John surgery performed in 2012 by famed sports surgeon Dr. James Andrews, the 29-year-old former Detroit Catholic Central High ace has moved back up the ladder to the Boston Red Sox Triple-A affiliate in Pawtucket after a Double-A stint in Portland, Maine.

Tommy John is known in medical practice as ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction. It's a surgical graft procedure in which the ulnar collateral ligament in the medial elbow is replaced with a tendon from elsewhere in the body.

"The surgery was easy and the rehab was really easy," said the 29-year-old Haeger, who sat out the 2012 season. "Surprisingly, I never had any kind of setback, or any kind of soreness really during the rehab process. I was amazed and I was surprised. I thought I was going to get some sort of soreness. So when I started throwing, it just kind of came the way I've always thrown. It was no different arm slot or speed. I was throwing full bullpens after 9½ months."

The 6-foot-1, 210-pound Haeger, who was a 13th-round pick

See HAEGER, Page B3



Vortices, owned by Chris Saxton of Plymouth, had the highest combined point total for the three races on lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior.

Summer of fun

Plymouth's Saxton wins Barthel Trophy as best at the Tri-Lakes Challenge

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

It's been a very busy, but fun, summer for Chris Saxton of Plymouth, whose hobby is competitive sailboat racing. Winning helped make it so.

Saxton and his boat, Vortices, recently captured the Barthel Trophy as the overall points winner in the Tri-Lakes Challenge, involving the three major races on the Great Lakes.

Their victory in the Trans Superior Sailboat Race Aug. 3-7 clinched first place for Saxton and the 10-man crew of the J145 Vortices.

The race is the longest on the Great Lakes, covering 330 nautical miles from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, to the western end of Lake Superior at Duluth, Minn.

"It was our first time in that race, on that lake," Saxton said, adding a lot of people don't enter the race. "It's colder sailing. It certainly can be rougher. A lot of people just don't want to be out on Lake Superior."

"It was cold. We probably looked like a cross between sailors and snowmobilers. We had hats on and on layers of clothing. You have to try to stay warm, because you spend the majority of time out in the



Members of the Vortices crew are (front row, from left) Jim Thompson, Chris Balliet and Marc Russell; (middle row, from left) Rob Linden, Scott Schaeper, Todd Riley, David Skupien and Matt Dennis and (back row, from left) Chris Saxton and John Hayes. All are from the Grosse Pointes, with the exception of Balliet (Holland), Russell (Northville) Linden (Columbus, Ohio) Saxton (Plymouth) and Hayes (San Rafael, Calif.).

elements. We take it pretty seriously."

Vortices also finished second in its class (Shore Course, PHRF D Class) in the July 20-22 Port Huron to Mackinac Island race, and it was previously fourth in class in the Chicago to Mackinac race.

"We did both Macks and the Trans Superior and we had a nice finish in every race," Saxton said. "It was a really nice season for us. It was a good year on the water."

"After you've done two or three of those races, sooner or later, you do have to go to

work."

Saxton, who owns his own business, estimates the boat traveled 2,100 miles for the three events, nearly half of which involved moving the boat into position for the races.

He and Todd Riley, a member of the Vortices crew who is more like a co-captain, according to Saxton, won a double-handed race from Port Huron to Rogers City, while Vortices also placed second this summer in a race on Lake Erie.

"It's a great thing to have

See SAILING, Page B3

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

KLAAC Soccer Classic

High school football isn't the only sport gearing up for another season.

Boys soccer will take center stage all day Saturday at Independence Park in Canton for a KLAAC Soccer Clinic featuring varsity and junior varsity teams from six schools. All of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams are competing, along with those from Brighton, Okemos and Grand Blanc. But according to the event schedule, Canton, Plymouth and Salem are not squaring off for any of the 50-minute, running-time scrimmages.

Games are slated for fields 3, 5 and 8, from 9 a.m. until the final contests begin at 2 p.m. Salem teams (JV and varsity) will compete on Field 3 against Brighton (9 a.m., 10 a.m.), Okemos (11 a.m., noon) and Grand

Blanc (1 p.m., 2 p.m.). On Field 5 will be Canton JV and varsity teams, facing Grand Blanc (9 a.m., 10 a.m.), Brighton (11 a.m., noon) and Okemos (1 p.m., 2 p.m.). Plymouth will go to work on Field 8 against Okemos (9 a.m., 10 a.m.), Grand Blanc (11 a.m., noon) and Brighton (1 p.m., 2 p.m.).

Independence Park is located off Denton Road, south of Cherry Hill Road.

Need tennis coach

Wayne Memorial High School needs a boys varsity tennis coach for the 2013 fall season. Interested candidates should contact Greg Ambrose at 734-419-2124 or email ambrose@wmsc.k12.mi.us.

Franklin girls tennis

Girls interested in playing high school tennis for Livonia Franklin during the 2013-14 school year are asked to contact coach Rick Clack at 734-

945-5762 or email him at clackr@comcast.net.

Potential players are asked to leave their name and contact number in a voice message. There is off-season conditioning and off-season play during the summer and school year before the season.

Learn To Skate

Livonia Parks and Recreation will offer a seven-week Learn To Skate (Session I) on Mondays, Sept. 9 through Oct. 21, at Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile, just west of Farmington Road).

Monday's class schedule includes: 5-5:25 p.m. (new, Snowplow Sam 1, 2 or 3; Basic 1 and intro to synchronized skating); 5:25-5:50 p.m. (Basic 1-8); 6-6:25 p.m. (new, Snowplow Sam 1, 2 or 3; Basic 1-3); 6:25-6:50 p.m. (hockey skills with no sticks or pucks used).

The fee is \$66 (Livonia residents) or \$69 (non-residents). All classes and time slots are on a first-come, first-served basis. Free skate rental is available.

The registration deadline and early enrollment for last year's skaters is Wednesday, Aug. 21, at Livonia Community Rec-

reation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia, MI 48154. (There will be a \$10 late fee beginning Aug. 22.) You can also fax to 734-466-2679.

Registration for new students or missed mail-in will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) Wednesday, Sept. 4, at the LCRC.

Other learn to skate classes offered include Session 2, Oct. 28 to Dec. 16 (pre-registration deadline Oct. 16); and Session 3, Jan. 1 to March 3, 2014 (pre-registration deadline Jan. 1).

Ice show rehearsal will be held March 9-29 with show dates March 28-29. For more information, call 734-266-2412.

Rec soccer openings

The Michigan Hawks under-11 girls recreational soccer team needs a couple of players to complete its roster for the upcoming fall season.

The team plays in the WSSL and practices Monday nights (starting after Labor Day) at Jaycee Park in Livonia. The cost to play is \$75. Players should contact Doug Landefeld at either 660-473-6604 or dbraley1515@sbcglobal.net.

CYO soccer sign-up

The St. Edith athletic program is accepting registrations for its CYO fall soccer teams. Boys and girls entering grades 4-8 are eligible.

The program is open to those who attend St. Edith, St. Colette, St. Aidan and St. Kenneth parishes. For more information, contact Ron Wollenweber at stedithsoccer@gmail.com or visit www.stedithcyo.com.

Soccer officials

The United Federation of Officials is offering a soccer referee training class Monday, Aug. 19, at Cabrini High School, 15305 Wick, Allen Park.

The target audience for the class is high school juniors and seniors, who will then be part of the MHSAA's Officials Legacy Mentoring Program. It is also open for interested adults.

Class fee includes MHSAA registration fees. Those completing the course will be eligible for officiating high school, junior high and CYO games in the fall 2013 season.

For more information, contact Byron Beattie at 734-775-4134.

Train with Tami golf

PGA professional Tami Bealier will offer a series of new summer and fall classes including Get Golf Ready, Get Golf Ready 2, Ladies clinics and golf lessons at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier Road, Superior Township.

The ladies clinics will be 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 15 and 22. (Invite a friend, sister, mother or daughter and receive a \$10 Golfsmith coupon.) The cost is \$25 for each one-hour class. Returning 2013 customers will receive a \$5 Train With Tami coupon for more lessons.

Course management, private one-on-one or small group lessons are also available by appointment. Private one-hour family lessons are also offered. For an appointment and pricing, call 734-731-0238.

Juniors (16-and-under)

can also play golf for free with a paying adult or guardian after 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or after 5 p.m. Saturdays or Sundays. (You must present certificate from www.HickoryCreekGolf.com, to receive discount.)

Also, Try Tami's Tri is a 5-kilometer run-walk, 20k bike and golf scramble beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, at Hickory Creek.

For more information, visit www.TrainWithTami.com.

10U Blue Knights

The 10U Blue Knights will have tryouts for the 2014 summer baseball season at 9:30 a.m. Saturdays, Aug. 17 and 24, at Bedford Woods Park, 29500 Lathrup Boulevard, Southfield.

Eligible players must be 10 years of age prior to May 1, 2014.

Indoor training will begin in January and run through March. Outdoor practice will begin in April. Once the roster is set, there will be approximately four fall practices and possibly some scrimmages.

Contact coach Dennis Paryski at dennisparyski@gmail.com for more information or to confirm your attendance.

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COLLEGE SOCCER PREVIEW

Zathey gives MU men's soccer a makeover

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

First-year coach Mark Zathey's outlook on the 2013 Madonna University men's soccer continues to evolve each and every day.

Practice has already begun, but the roster is far from set with the season opener just around the corner on Friday, Aug. 23 at home against Cleary College.

"It's been a bit of a storm that way as far as figuring out personnel and where they're going to fit," said Zathey, a Livonia native who was named MU's new coach last March after Eric Scott (22-24-7 three-year record) resigned to take the Albion College women's job.

"We're working on the personnel, going to a shape and figuring out a system where every one is getting his play."

If there's one thing that's a for cause of concern, it's that the Crusaders can certainly use some scoring.

According to Zathey, one of the team's leading returning goal scorers, Doug Beason (nine goals, three assists), could not meet eligibility require-



Boudreau

Zathey

ments heading into his senior year.

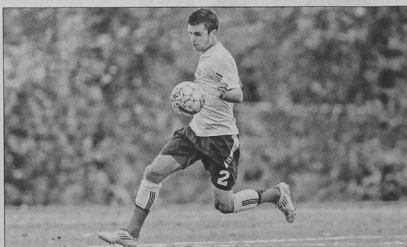
The Crusaders also lost first-team All-WHAC pick Joe Carver, who tallied nine goals, to graduation, along with honorable mention All-WHAC selection Dan Laird (Farmington Harrison), who added with 27 points (six goals, nine assists).

Also lost to graduation was Cayle Lackten from last year's 7-9-2 squad, which finished 3-5-2 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Freshman Amadou Cisse (Willow Run), a native of Guinea, may have to pick up the slack immediately at forward.

"He's young, he's only 17, Zathey said. "He's an attacking player, real raw, good pace and good on the ball, but we're just looking for experience in terms of him moving off the ball, composure in front of the goalie, that type of stuff."

Senior midfielder



Livonia native Brandon Hess, a senior midfielder from Detroit Catholic Central, returns for the Madonna University men's soccer team in 2013. TIM BUSCH | MU SPORTS INFORMATION

forward Brandon Hess, an All-WHAC Academic pick, has been nursing a sore groin in training camp, but could help jump-start the offense.

"We looking at him as an outside back or wide-mid," Zathey said. "He's got great pace, very fit."

Other leading returnees include junior left-back Ryan Williams (Auburn Hills Avondale), who started all 18 games and finished with two goals and three assists; senior left-back Derek Rosiek (Madison Heights

Bishop Foley), who started 16 games; junior defender Nick Pepper (Northville), who started 17 games; sophomore midfielder Matteo Barsalona (Stoney Creek, Ontario), who logged all 18 games; and junior center-back Nichol LaRocca (Clinton Township Chipewala Valley), who appeared in 17 games.

Also in the mix will be sophomore midfielder Colin Wilden (Rochester Stoney Creek); senior midfielder Jake Hodge (Canton/Schoolcraft Col-

lege); sophomore forward Mohammad Albarawi (Dearborn/Al Amal Indian School in Kuwait); and senior forward Gavin Kelly (Schoolcraft College).

Also returning from an injury, which kept him out all last season, is senior red shirt defender Franco Giorgio (Windsor, Ontario).

Meanwhile, the goal-keeping spot is up for grabs between sophomore John Boudreau (Livonia Stevenson), who started 11 games with one

shutout and a 1.25 goals against average, along with Matt Smolinski (Troy), a Vardar Academy member, and 24-year-old German Marcel Schmid.

"He (Boudreau) be in the mix, but Matt and Marcel are very, very good," Zathey said.

Zathey, who will be assisted this season by former Spring Arbor University head coach Eric Rudan, said he hopes to clear a few more players before the start of the season, including one possible addition from Kenya.

There's a lot of different ways we can play based on depth of the roster right now," said Zathey, who was the MU women's coach (2001-05). "We're just trying to get all this eligibility stuff done until we get a little more of a black-and-white picture as to who's in and who's not."

"I think our goalkeeping will be sound. We seem pretty strong on the backline. We got a lot of depth in the midfield. And who is going to be coming in scoring goals — essentially — is the question mark. That's where I'm hoping a Kenyan can come in and help us."

Swish! Kids sharpen their skills at basketball camp

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's one telltale sign that Dominique Washington looks for to make sure his latest youth basketball camp hit the mark.

"When you come to camp, you come as an individual," Washington said. "By week's end, you start becoming a better teammate. That's when you start to see more passing going on, not as much 'Hey, I'm open' stuff the little kids do."

There were more than 30 youngsters between ages 7-14 on tap last week at High Velocity Sports in Canton for five mornings of drills and delight. Instructors included Washington — head boys basketball coach at Plymouth Christian Academy — and former professional players Troy Coleman and Darian Bynum.

All are part of the Triple Threat Training staff, which is based out of High Velocity.

Of course, there has to be some fun-filled moments along with the instruction to make the week worthwhile for campers such as 13-year-old Julia Arapoff of Plymouth.

"I really liked it," Arapoff said. "It was lots of fun and you learned a lot."

Arapoff, who attends and plays girls basketball at West Middle School, sprinted up and down the floor during Friday's late-morning scrimmage trying to get away from the defense of Canton's Davis Smith.

That matchup could be a precursor to the coming season since Smith, also 13, plays at Discovery Middle School.

They were playing in one of three simultaneous cross-court scrimmages going on, loosely divided into age groups.

There were some tweaks to the lineups as coaches got a better bead on who could do what.

In fact, Novi's Allan Watatani was so good in his original group that Washington said he had to "graduate" him.

"He moved up (to the older age group) during the week," Washington noted. "He just dominated the kids over there so we moved him up and he's pretty much dominated the kids over here, too."

The basics count

Scrimmages followed all-important daily lessons learned in various stations from defense to layups.



Basketball camp instructors (standing, from left) Troy Coleman and Dominique Washington talk to youngsters about what they learned from that morning's stations at High Velocity Sports in Canton. ALL PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Plymouth's Julia Arapoff, 13, participates in drills during Friday's High Velocity youth basketball camp.



Bryce Henderson, 13, of Canton, puts everything he can into this running drill on the final day of basketball camp.

"We make sure that when they scrimmage they can put it all together," Washington said. Arapoff said she liked the stations, too. Which was her favorite?

"Probably the dribbling, because everyone needs to know how to dribble well," she said, smiling. "That's how you play basketball."

After the last day of scrimmages, instructors doled out participation certificates and various prizes to those who nailed activities during the week.

"It's teaching the fundamentals to these kids," Washington said. "A lot of these kids are first-time basketball players. So our goal is to get them to like the sport."

"It may not be what I do with my high school team. But again, it's getting the kids' interest by making sure they're having fun, getting on top of learning the fundamentals, things they're going to need to learn if they're going to pursue the game further down the line."

With the camp officially having concluded, 13-year-old Bryce Henderson of Canton walked by and slapped hands with the coach.

Players should bring water, shin guards, cleats and running shoes.

For more information, call coach Jim Gibbs at 313-995-4234.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

True blue: George decides to stay with Madonna baseball

He can't fit Plymouth High School position into busy schedule

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As much as Mike George enjoyed his brief stint as interim baseball coach at Plymouth High School, it wasn't enough to tug enough at his heartstrings.

In fact, the Livonia resident and business owner — who started — Madonna University's baseball program from scratch in the late 1980s — can almost look out his front

window and see MU's pristine Ilitch Ballpark.

"I still have a lot of Madonna blue in me," said George Friday, after deciding not to officially apply for the still-vacant Wildcats post. "I really would have been spreading myself too thin."

Friday was the deadline for coaching hopefuls to turn in their applications.

George continues as a "full-time volunteer assistant" on the coaching staff of veteran Madonna head coach Greg Haeger. He left the Crusaders in 1996 to go into the restaurant business and returned to assist Haeger in 2002.

The owner of Coach's Corner and George Murphy's at the Creek thought long and hard all summer about an invitation from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools co-athletic director Tom Wil-

lette to come back for the 2014 season.

Had he taken the Plymouth job, that would have meant either leaving Haeger's staff or not being with the high school team for a good chunk of April and May due to his duties with MU.

"That was it in a nutshell," said George, about not being able to do both coaching jobs.

"There's a two-week overlap" when Madonna would have been going to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs, possibly followed by the NAIA regionals.

"It would be really hard to ask kids to buy in (to his program) if I'd up and be gone for two weeks or more. I thought the best thing would be not to do it."

George, however, praised the Plymouth players who welcomed him and another MU assistant coach (Stu Rose) to lead the Wildcats following the resignation of head coach Bryan Boyd.

"It's unfortunate they (players) got caught up in a divorce," George noted. "They were awesome, the way they welcomed us into the dugout. They bought in to what we were trying to do the last couple weeks there."

"It speaks volumes to how good those kids are."

And although he won't be back in the Plymouth dugout next spring, George said he is optimistic the Wildcats will be a team to be reckoned with next season.

"It was a great opportunity," he added. "They have a program that I think has a huge upside to it. But the best thing for those kids is to have a full-time coach."

Miracle League still needs 'buddies' for fall season

Saturday marks the opening of another season of the Miracle League of Plymouth, but the organization is still looking for "buddies" to step up to the plate.

There also is a need for umpires and game day helpers for the seven-week MLP fall season, which runs through Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Bilkie Family Field (357 Theodore St., behind Central Middle School).

Buddies are volunteers who are always there for the Miracle League players — children with special needs who have the opportunity to play baseball thanks to the program and those who give their time to it.

According to the MLP website, each buddy is assigned to a player and helps her or she in every situation pertaining to the game. That entails: accompanying a player around the field and in the dugout; pushing a wheelchair or running along side of a player from base to base; assisting with positioning to play the field safely.

Most importantly, according to the website: "A buddy is a friend. A buddy makes an effort to get to know their players as individuals and what they are as a person."

For more information on volunteering, send an email to: info@miracleleagueplymouth.org or contact Debra Madson at: debra@miracleleagueplymouth.org.

YOUTH SPORTS TRYOUTS

9U Bulldogs

Tryouts for the 9-and-under 2014 Michigan Bulldogs will be from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 17 and from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 18 at Livonia's Bicentennial Park (field No. 2), located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

For more information, visit www.michiganbulldogsbasketball.com; or email michiganbulldogsbasketball@gmail.com.

RU boys soccer

Redford Union High School boys soccer tryouts will be

5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Aug. 15-16, at MacGowan Elementary School. Players should bring water, shin guards, cleats and running shoes.

For more information, call coach Jim Gibbs at 313-995-4234.

Livonia church gives backpacks to needy families

By Sharon Dargay

Staff Writer

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia will give away 300 backpacks to the public from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 17.

"Our congregation is recognizing the need to reach out to people in our community in Jesus' name and trying to fit where people's basic needs are. We want to be able to help children and we thought this was one of the best ways to do that," said Linda Hollman, outreach director. "Our parameters are if you are needy, you're welcome."

Hollman encourages parents to bring their children to the event to select a backpack in their favorite color. Each backpack is stuffed with school supplies, including scissors, notebooks, pens, pencils, an eraser, a pencil sharpener, folders, a pencil box, and a bookmark.

The congregation also made beaded bracelets for each backpack recipient. The beads represent Christian concepts such as sin, baptism, and eternal life.

Hollman said parents and their children should enter the church complex through the gym entrance.

In addition to the 300 backpack giveaway Saturday, the church also plans to distribute 50 backpacks to Detroit-area congregations and will send 150 backpacks overseas.

"We are doing this because of our love for Jesus and we want to let his light shine through us," Hollman said.

For more information, visit christoursavior.org or call 734-522-6830.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



ADAMS, FRANCES JEAN

Age 86 of Plymouth, passed away on August 11, 2013. Loving wife of the late John A. Adams Sr. Beloved mother of Jeff (Colleen) Gureynski, Adams and Pamela (Jim) Mason. Preceded in death by daughter Sandra Adams Bessert and by sons John A. Adams Jr. Proud grandmother of 5. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Funeral service Thursday, 10:00am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main St., Plymouth. Visitation Wednesday from 4-8pm-8:00pm. Interment Riverside Cemetery. Memorial may be made to Calvary Baptist Church 43065 Joy Rd. Canton or the Arthritis Foundation.



BLACKWELL, DOROTHY LOU

Died from complications due to congestive heart failure on May 3, 2013 at Friendship Village in Kalamazoo. She was born on Feb. 22, 1922 in Burr Oak, Michigan, to Joseph and Eunice (Hanson) Cowles. Surviving are her three children, Susan Ramsey and Judith Myers of Kalamazoo and Robert Blackwell of Greer, SC, her grandchildren Elizabeth (Matt) Bird of Manhattan, Benjamin Ramsey of Chicago, Katharine (Chris) Okula of Los Angeles, Jessie Myers of Sacramento, and Andrea, Catherine, Rachel, Caroline and Samuel Blackwell of Greer, as well as her great-granddaughter Lily Bird of Manhattan, as well as many nieces and nephews of various degrees. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband of twenty-one years Lester Robert, by her parents, sisters Helen and Thelma and brothers Elmer and Paul. One of two girls to graduate from Burr Oak High School in her year, Dorothy went to Detroit to live with her sister Helen and met Bob roller skating. They became engaged while he was in India during WWII, and lived in Detroit during the first years of their marriage, moving to Livonia in 1962. Left a young widow by her husband's death from pancreatic cancer, Dorothy resolutely worked her way from retail positions to working at Stevensen High School to her ultimate position as an aide at Livonia's Sandburg Library, putting three children through college in the process. She moved to California to live with her daughter Judy in 1998, and for years maintained her interest in reading, gardening, knitting and, always, crossword puzzles. When she fell and broke a hip in 2012 she returned to Kalamazoo, where, after various trials, she passed away the morning of May 3. She will be missed by all. Memorial donations in Dorothy's Memorial donation to the Burr Oak Township Library, Burr Oak, Michigan. A memorial service will be held at the Burr Oak United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, with the interment following.

BROWN, EMILY (NEE HALICKI)

Age 105, August 11, 2013. Dear friend of Tom Kinko. Preceded in death by her husband, Robert M.; siblings, Arthur, Evelyn and Leonard Halicki; Esther Barak and Eleanor Goddard. Arrangements by the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home 734-422-6720.



HOFFMEYER, GLENN 'PETE'

87 departed to meet God and his loved ones on August 7th 2013. He was surrounded by his lovely bride Marge of 56 years, and his loving family. An awesome dad to John (Joyce), Ron (Linda), Karin (Randy), Bryan, Pat (Kim) and Mike (Mary). Dearest son of the late Arthur and Ella, loving brother to the late Jerry, Les, Whitney, and survived by his sister Lorraine. He was a wonderful, loving papa to 21 grand children and 34 great grand children. Pete attended Clarenceville Schools, was a WWII Veteran and was retired from Ford Motor Co. Pete loved spending time with his family fishing, golfing and bowling, he also enjoyed spending time up in Escanaba and winters at their Palm Harbor Florida home. He will be remembered as a kind, respectful, caring person and had touched many lives and they are better for having had the privilege of knowing him.



NICHOLS, DEWEY D.

73, of Farmington Hills, died August 12, 2013. Dewey is the beloved father of Chris, Matt and James; loving grandfather of Sam; and brother of Don, Denver, Danny, Neal and Lloyd Nichols and Sharon Sloan. Sadly he was preceded in death by siblings, Monteen Thompson, Charlie and Clyde Nichols. Funeral service Friday, August 16, 12PM at the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btwn. 910 Mile Rd. and N. of Grand River), downtown Farmington 248-474-5200. Visitation Thursday 2-9 pm. Private interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorial gifts suggested to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

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COLE, ROGER JACK

August 12, 2013, Age 77. Beloved husband of Margaret. Dear father of Nancy (Scott) Arlen, Leslie (Jim) Willoughby and Kelly (Brian) Zahn. Brother of Howard (Linda) Cole, also survived by eight grandchildren. Memorial visitation Saturday at 11 a.m. From the Chapel of L.J. Griffin Funeral Home 42600 Ford Rd. (W. of Lilley) until time of the Memorial Service at 12:30. Memorial contributions to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated. Share a memorial tribute with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com

GRiffin
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HAINLEY, MAGGIE J.

August 9, 2013, age 85 of Westland. Loving mother of Thomas, Joseph (Jennifer) and Kimberly. Proud grandmother of six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Dear sister of Margie Hinkle. Funeral Services were held at Vermeeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road, Westland. Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane Society.

To share a memory, please visit: vermueulenfuneralhome.com

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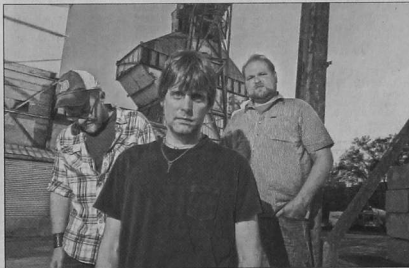
LOCAL BAND MIXES POWER POP,
COUNTRY TWANG IN NEW CDBy Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Jeremy Porter has always played an acoustic set for his gigs at the Plymouth Coffee Bean. But this Friday the hometown singer/songwriter will turn up the juice.

"For the first time we'll do an electric set. We'll tone it back. We won't blow the windows out of the place. We're going to do a restrained version. Usually we're a pretty rowdy, fast band, but it wouldn't be appropriate to do there. It's not that kind of room. We're not going to scare anyone away. It will be at an appropriate volume," Porter said.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman, in downtown Plymouth; (734) 454-0178. Emily Rose opens the show, followed by Jeremy Porter and The Tucos.

"The Coffee Bean is a cool place. It's all ages, it's an earlier show, there's no alcohol and it's an artist-friendly environment. We don't play



Jeremy Porter & The Tucos perform Friday, Aug. 16, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

around Detroit often. We haven't played this part of the state since May. It's always been a tough market for us. We do better outside of Detroit, but we still like to play here."

The band's all-acoustic concert at the Plymouth Coffee Bean in May 2012 yielded a CD of five songs recorded in concert. *Live and Acoustic* at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

Since releasing their new CD, *Partner in Crime*, earlier this year, Porter, bass player Jason Bowes of Livonia and drummer Gabriel Doman of Dearborn, have performed mostly at bars, nightclubs, as well as at a few theaters and summer festivals in and out of Michigan.

"This band has more of that country feel to it mixed in with the power

pop stuff," Porter described their music. "I've always been a fan of country music, Americana and alternative country."

But it was a Christmas song that brought the trio together in late 2011. Porter, who has played with local bands such as SlugBug, the Offramps and Fidrych, over the years, went solo in 2010. After releasing the solo



Jeremy Porter & The Tucos released "Partner in Crime" a mix of pop rock and country twang.

acoustic CD, *Party of One*, he toured nationwide, but began to miss the camaraderie of playing with other musicians.

When Suburban Sprawl Music invited him to participate in its annual compilation of Christmas music, he asked Doman and Bowes to record with him.

Road trips

"I knew I wanted to do it with a band. For me, it was an excuse to get down into the studio in the fall and come up with something and it was a great catalyst to get a band together."

The band recorded a holiday tune for Suburban Sprawl's website

and "three weeks later we were playing our first show," Porter said.

"It was clear we were all on the same page musically. We were having fun. We got off to a good start. I knew I wanted to travel more with this band, so we did road trips."

The band spent most of last year in the studio working on *Partner in Crime*, but has toured extensively since then, promoting the CD.

"We're going to Canada next month and we have shows booked in October and November. I'd love to do something overseas at some point, but we have no concrete plans in place."

Look for a new single, *Plan B*, to be released by the group in September. Like *Partner in Crime*, it will be on the Detroit-based New Fortune Records label.

Visit www.thetucos.com for information.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

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

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sun-

days; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Printmaking by Ellsworth Kelly, through Sept. 8

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

GALLERY @ VT

Time/Dates: Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during public performances and by appointment. Upcoming

exhibit runs through Aug. 28

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

Details: The Canton Historical Society shows photos and artifacts

Contact: www.cantonhistorical.org; 734-394-5300

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Dates: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Aug. 30

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Collaboration and Continuum: The Carnival Photographs of Bill Rauhauser and Carlos Diaz," curated by Mary McMichols, Ph.D.

Contact: 248-344-0497, <http://www.northvillearts.org>

DANCE
STARS OF RUSSIAN
BALLET

Time/Dates: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17

Location: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Details: Dancers from American Ballet Theatre, Berlin Ballet, Het Nationale Ballet, Marinsky Theatre (Kirov Ballet), National Ballet of Ukraine, San Francisco Ballet and other companies perform classical dances and cutting-edge works. Tickets range from \$58-\$82.

Contact: michiganopera.org/ticketmaster.com

FILM
COMPUWARE ARENA
DRIVE-IN

Time/Dates: Gates open at 7:30 p.m., with movies starting around 9:20 p.m., daily, through Sept. 1

Location: 14900 Beck between Five Mile and M-14, Plymouth Township

Details: Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children, 4-12; kids 3 and under are admitted free of charge. Students with proper ID are admitted for \$8 Sunday through Thursday. Patrons listen to the movies on the FM band of their car radio.

Contact: 734-927-3284

PENN THEATRE

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 16-17, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "The Unfinished Song," admission, \$2

Coming up: "Man of Steel," 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 24-25; "Monsters University," 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 31-Sept. 1; "The Internship," 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 6-7, and 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8

Summer Matinee: "The Sound of Music," Aug. 15; "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," Aug. 22; "The Muppet Movie," Aug. 29. Movies run at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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

REDFOOT THEATRE

Time/Dates: 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24

Location: 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Avenue, Detroit

Details: "Jaws," with Richard Dreyfuss and Roy Scheider, \$5

Contact: 313-537-2560



Night Ranger closes out the free music series on the Detroit Riverfront, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16.

HISTORICAL
PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

Time/Dates: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The current exhibit, B4TV, highlights leisure activities that families and individuals engaged in before television. The exhibit runs through Nov. 10. Admission \$5 for adults and \$2 for students 6-17

Contact: www.plymouth-history.org; 734-455-8940

MUSIC
JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Dates: 7-10 p.m. Last day of the month — except December

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans.

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

PLYMOUTH COFFEE BEAN

Time/Dates: 7:30-10 p.m. every Monday

Location: 884 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Open mic for music and poetry

Friday and Saturday featured artist: Jeremy Porter & The Tucos, Friday, Aug. 16; Mike Galbraith and Mike Anton, Saturday, Aug. 24; Sentimental Value, Saturday, Aug. 31. Featured performer concerts start at 8 p.m.

Contact: 734-454-0178

ROCK ON THE RIVERFRONT

Time/Dates: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16

Location: GM Plaza on the Detroit Riverfront

Details: Night Ranger wraps up this free concert series

Contact: www.facebook.com/RockOnTheRiverfront

STARS IN THE PARK

Time/Dates: 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 15

Location: Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10

Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: FCB Big Band performs jazz and swing standards. Rainout site is the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Contact: 248-473-1848

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Dates: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Empty Chair Night, Sept. 8; Singers Sing Seger Songs Tribute with John D. Lamb, Dave Edwards, AJ Jacques, Charlie Springer and Bob Monteleone, Sept. 13; The Yellow Room Gang featuring Mustard's Retreat, Annie Capps, Matt Watroba and Kitty Donohoe, Sept. 14; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, Sept. 20; The Boogie Woogie Kid Matthew Ball, Sept. 21. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted

Contact: 734-464-6302

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Dates: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Sisters Rebecca Timmons and Sarah Hall will appear in a cabaret concert with Rebecca Biber. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5.

Contact: www.canton-mi.org/village-theater; 734-394-5300

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

CARNIVAL

Time/Dates: 5-11 p.m., Thursday-Friday, Aug. 15-16, noon-11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17 and noon-9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18

Location: Founders Park, located on Eight Mile, two miles east of I-275, in Farmington Hills

Details: Family Fun Fest Carnival will have everything from thrill rides to kiddie rides, midway games to food. Admission and parking are free. Ride tickets cost \$1 each or an all-day wristband for unlimited rides is available for \$18. Discount coupons for the wristbands, for \$14 on Thursday or Friday and \$16 on Saturday or Sunday, are available at more

Contact: www.farmingtonhills.org

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SEE GET OUT, Page B7

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Actress from Northville stars in MTV's 'Awkward,' keeps local connections

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Northville native Jillian Rose Reed enjoys playing Tamara in her MTV high school hit *'Awkward.'*

"I love playing Tamara," the 21-year-old Los Angeles area resident said in a recent phone interview. "She's very different from me and she's also similar. She's been so much fun to play."

Reed is the daughter of Lisa Reed-Tucker and Robert Tucker. She was born in Hollywood, Fla., and moved with her family to Northville.

Reed grew up at the Marquis Theatre doing all the plays. "She was about 12 when they moved to California and she came back to Northville for the early part of high school at Northville High."

"I wanted to have the experience," said Reed, whose family has a vacation-type home still in Northville.

Her acting began at age 7 with playing Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web*, followed by dance lessons at a younger age. By 12, Reed had been in some 27 musicals or plays in Michigan.

She also did commercial work, including for the Ford Motor Co. Reed graduated from Options for Youth Charter School in the L.A. area.

Her mom owned Michael's Angel Attic in downtown Northville, selling the business when they relocated.

'No other option'

"As a career, there was really no other option for me," said Reed, who loves TV and film work and didn't want to try New York City. "I chose L.A. to kind of broaden my horizons."

In Michigan, she was

more the big fish in the little pond. "It's so completely different," she said of L.A. "There's a lot to learn and a lot of rejection. I stuck to it and I really enjoyed myself."

Her family is very helpful: "I am so lucky. My family is so supportive." Her mom points out other moms drive kids to soccer and she did that kind of thing in California for acting.

Reed's TV work began with an appearance around age 14 on Nickelodeon's *Zoey 101*.

"They actually cut my lines out," recalled Reed, who'd told many people she knew to watch. "I had to get used to that. Scripts change daily."

'Awkward' has some risqué moments, and Reed will sometimes tell her parents to watch on their own. "They understand it's TV and we're teenagers," she said of her "fun-loving family."

'Awkward' is filmed at a real high school and its creator visits her old school each year, talking to students for research. "It was really easy for her to write those scripts," Reed said.

Reed's family includes brothers, Matthew, 29, and Robbie Tucker, 12, with Robbie an actor. Matthew is in Michigan and got married recently. "And I'm the girl in the middle," she said.

Matthew was diagnosed at age 18 with Type 1 diabetes. His family got a lot of help from the American Diabetes Association and now does charitable work for its Los Angeles chapter.

"It's a really great feeling for me to be able to give back," Jillian Rose Reed said.

'Awkward' is on many Best of 2011 TV lists, including *Variety*, *USA Today*, *Huffington Post*,

The New York Times and *Time*. It'll resume its third season in October with 10 episodes and was just renewed for a fourth season.

Reed recently wrapped up production on an MTV film *My Super Psycho Sweet 16: Part 3* as best friend Sienna. She's been on Showtime's *Weeds* as Shane's friend Simone.

She keeps up with Michigan friends through social media: "I feel like social media is so great in that way. Everyone has been really supportive of me."

Local mentor

At the Marquis in downtown Northville, owner Inge Zayti, who recently died, and her daughter were a big help to Reed.

"She lived a very full-

filled life," Reed said of the late Zayti. "She provided me with a second home and a family." Reed fell in love with acting at the Marquis.

Reed was recently back here for Plymouth's Art in the Park, a family tradition. "We can't really have Christmas without snow," she said of their yuletide visits.

She may be able to get back to Michigan sooner for cider mills, fall leaves, "everything about Michigan that's so wonderful. We'll see, maybe I'll make it back sooner than Christmas."

Leaving friends and school was a challenge when she was younger. "I found that I fell in love with L.A. fast," said Reed, who will stay there to pursue her career.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



Jillian Rose Reed, a Northville native, plays Tamara on MTV's *'Awkward.'* VINCENT SANDOVAL PHOTOGRAPHY



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GET OUT

Continued from Page B6

than 200 merchants in Farmington Hills or at the Costco Center. The sale discounted carmel tickets are also available at www.elliottamusements.com.

Contact: www.fhgove.com or call the carnival hotline at 248-755-0433

CAR CRUISE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25

Location: Hines Drive from Drive Drive to Ann Arbor Trail

Details: Wayne County Parks Cruisin' Hines draws approximately 40,000 classic cars and hot rods. Hines Drive is closed to regular traffic during the Cruise. Cruisers must enter Hines Drive from Merriman. All spectators can enter at Merriman. The graph or the Warrendale picnic area in Dearborn Heights. Food concessions will be available at spectator areas.

Contact: Wayne County Parks, 734-261-1900; www.cruisinlines.com or www.waynecounty.com

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, until 8 p.m. Wednesday during the summer

Location: I-696 service drive for Woodward and Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$12 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$9 for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking.

Zoomance: Designed for the 21-and-older crowd, Summer Zoomance allows grown-ups to relive their fond memories of the Detroit Zoo while creating new ones during a twilight stroll among the animal habitats. The event will feature complimentary carousel rides, train tours, animal enrichment and zookeeper talks. Blues guitarist and vocalist Lath A-Saudi will perform, and food and adult beverages will be available for purchase. The event runs 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, rain or shine. Admission is \$12 in advance and \$14 after Aug. 16. Parking is free for Detroit Zoological Society members and \$5 for nonmembers. Buy advance tickets online at www.detroitzoo.org.

Contact: 248-541-5717

MARSHMALLOW FLY AND FRY

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 20

Location: Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Families can cook hot dogs and s'mores over the campfire, then watch more than 1,000 marshmallows fall from the sky. Also, enjoy the splash pad, play on the bouncer, check out the fire trucks, and more. Hot dogs, s'mores, and drinks will be available for a nominal fee. After dinner, kids line up and retrieve marshmallows dropped from the Fire Department ladder truck and then exchange them for goodies. Free admission. Sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, the Fire Department, LOC Federal Credit Union, and Busch's Fresh Food Market.

Contact: 248-473-1800

THEATER FARMINGTON HILLS YOUTH PLAYERS

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8

Location: The Costick Center, 28620 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Auditions for "Tarzan The Stage Musical," which will be performed Nov. 15, 17 and 22-24 with two casts performing on different dates. Actors cast in the show pay a registration fee and must attend a mandatory parent meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 23 at the Costick Center. Participants may drop in at any time during the audition hours. Auditions are open to both residents and non-residents. No prior preparation is necessary. Participants should bring a recent school photo with them to the auditions. All other materials will be supplied. Some preliminary materials will be available for review beginning Aug. 23 at WWW.fhgov.com/YouthTheatre.

Contact: The Cultural Arts Division at 248-473-1859

HENRY FORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23-24 and Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 29-31

Location: MacKenzie Fine Arts Auditorium, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn

Details: The college's Humanities and Social Science Division and Theatre Arts Department will present Eric Bogosian's "Drinking in America." Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for faculty, students and seniors. Buy them online at theatre.hfc.edu

Contact: 313-845-6478

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GATHER AROUND THE GRILL

Nothing brings family and friends together like great food. Take time to gather everyone around the grill, share some fun and make memories this summer.

One person who knows a lot about feeding a crowd is TV personality and celebrity chef Aaron McCargo Jr., a winner of *The Next Food Network Star* and host of the Food Network's *Big Daddy's House*. Growing up with five siblings and raising three children of his own has taught McCargo about the importance of gathering people together for mealtime.

"Making meals for family and friends is easy, especially when there's a grill involved," McCargo said, "and grilling season is the perfect time to catch up over ketchup."

McCargo has teamed up with grilling staple, Heinz Ketchup, to develop tips and recipes for the ultimate cookout, including:

- » Grill summer fruit such as mango, watermelon and pineapple, with a little salt, pepper and oil. Once off the grill, drizzle with fresh citrus juices, such as lemon or blood orange with a little extra virgin olive oil as an untraditional alternative to fruit salad.

- » Keep hot and cold dishes temperature regulated and discard dishes sitting out for three hours or more.

- » Wait until the last few minutes of grilling to slather on BBQ sauce, or else sugar will burn.

- » Use tongs to turn food on the grill. Don't stick a fork in anything but your mouth.

- » Soak wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes to prevent scorching; for metal, cover with oil to prevent sticking.

- » If you forgot to brush your grill off after the last BBQ event, heat the grill to 450-500 degrees Fahrenheit with the lid closed. Open grill and

brush vigorously with wired grill brush for easy grill cleanup, then season with oil and start grilling.

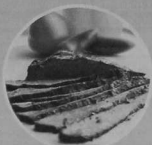
- » Be careful to check the date on your propane tanks before firing up the grill since tanks do expire. You can find the expiration date on the metal collar around the top of the tank. And be sure to always keep a backup when hosting a crowd.

- » Place sweet potatoes, corn and onions directly on the coals and turn often for a roasted inside.

- » Use apple juice to baste your BBQ. It adds flavor and gives meats a shiny glaze.

- » When using wood to smoke, soak chips for three hours so they release the smoky flavor minus bitterness.

For more of Aaron McCargo Jr.'s recipes, tips and tricks for grilling season, visit www.facebook.com/HeinzKetchup.



TASTY EASY BEEF BRISKET

Servings: 1-2

- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons diced shallots
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 pounds beef brisket

For marinade, put all ingredients, except for beef brisket, in a storage container and shake well until mixed. Reserve 1/2 cup of marinade. Pierce brisket with fork on both sides to allow marinade to penetrate meat. Place brisket in a bag with the marinade and make sure meat is well coated. Marinate brisket for 1-3 hours. Preheat grill to 350, or a medium-high heat and preheat oven to 350. Grill brisket for 6-8 minutes each side. Wrap brisket in foil and bake in oven for 1 1/2 hours. Remove brisket and brush with reserved marinade. Let rest for 3-5 minutes before slicing.



HONEY-GARLIC SCALLOP KABOBS

24 large sea scallops (about 2 pounds)

- 12 slices bacon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 12 skewers

Preheat grill to medium-high and grease lightly. Cook bacon in a frying pan until beginning to crisp. Blot on paper towels. Pat scallops dry and season with salt and pepper. Wrap each scallop with a half slice of bacon; thread 2 scallops onto each skewer. Stir ketchup with honey, soy sauce, lemon juice and garlic. Brush half of the sauce mixture over the scallops. Grill kabobs for 3 to 5 minutes per side or until cooked through. Baste with remaining sauce during cooking.



GRILLED PHILLY CHEESESTEAK

- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup shredded American sharp cheese
- 1 pound chipped steak meat chopped and cooked
- 1 cup diced sautéed onions
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons chopped dehydrated onions
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 pieces store-bought naan bread
- 2 tablespoons canola oil

Mix both cheeses and set aside. Mix meat and onions and set aside. Mix ketchup, dehydrated onions, oregano, basil, and black pepper and set aside. Lightly brush naan bread with oil and grill lightly on one side. Spoon equal amounts of ketchup mixture on crunchy side of naan, then spread equal amounts of cheese mixture then equal amounts of meat mixture. Place pizza oil side down on grill on low heat and cooked with lid closed for 2-4 minutes or until cheese is melted and bottom becomes slightly crispy. Remove, cut in desired pieces and serve.



ON THE GRILL JAVA MINI COCKTAIL FRANKS

14 ounce package mini smoked sausage (or smoked beef sausage cut into 1/2 pieces)

- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon instant coffee
- 1 teaspoon cayenne
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Mix all ingredients except the franks in a small grill safe dish. Add franks then wrap dish with aluminum foil and cook on grill for 20-30 minutes or until bubbly hot.

Real estate agents extend market saw to buyers, sellers

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer



Buyers of all ages gain many benefits from working with a real estate professional, according to a recent survey by the National Association of Realtors.

Mary Vellardita bought her Westland condominium in May 2010, working with Realtor Noel Derr-Johnson of Century 21 Dynamic of Westland. "I'd never consider buying a home without going through a licensed realtor," said Vellardita, co-owner of C&M Printing and Imaging in Westland. Derr-Johnson was helpful in pinpointing properties, as well as giving advice on any issues with condo construction. "It was just very helpful," said Vellardita, who had met her Realtor through Westland Rotary and the Westland Chamber of Commerce, and knew of her professional reputation.

Find someone you enjoy working with," added Vellardita, noting your Realtor's personality should be a good fit with yours.

Buyers of all ages gain many benefits from working with a real estate professional, according to a recent survey by the National Association of Realtors. Among the age groups, younger buyers are more likely to want an agent's help understanding the home-buying process, presumably because many are buying a home for the first time. Younger buyers were most often referred to their agent by a friend, neighbor or relative whereas older buyers were increasingly likely to work with the same agent they previously used to buy or sell a home.

When it comes to choosing an agent, reputation was important to buyers of all ages; however, younger buyers more often cited an agent's honesty and trustworthiness as the most important factor compared to older buyers who most often cited the agent's knowledge of the neighborhood — perhaps because older buyers tend to move further distances and may have less familiarity with area.

The trends were noted in the recent NAR Home Buyer and Seller Generation Trends evaluation of generational differences of recent homebuyers and sellers.

The median down payment for Millennials was 5 percent, considerably less than older generations of buyers whose down payment ranged from 8 percent for Gen X buyers to 22 percent for Silent Generation (older) buyers. Younger buyers who financed their home purchase most often relied on savings for their down payment whereas older buyers were more likely to use proceeds from the sale of a primary residence.

"An interesting finding is that Older Boomers and Silent Generation buyers were more likely to request an approval process more difficult than expected compared to younger buyers,"

said Paul Bishop, NAR vice president of research. "This underscores the ongoing challenges that many credit worthy home buyers face with today's tight credit standards."

The largest group of recent home sellers was from Generation X, comprising 30 percent of recent sales, followed by Younger Boomers (21 percent), Older Boomers (21 percent) and the Silent Generation (19 percent). As the age of sellers increased, the share of married and unmarried couples declined and the percentage of single female homebuyers increased, from 4 percent among Millennials to more than 17 percent among Boomer and Silent Generation sellers, perhaps due to death or divorce.

Like buyers, older sellers tend to move greater distances, and are more likely than younger generations to move out of the state or region. While younger buyers typically moved to larger, higher priced homes, the data shows a clear trend of downsizing to smaller, less expensive homes among the Older Boomer and Silent Generations.

Typically the older the seller the longer the tenure in the home, while Millennials had been in their previous home for a median of five years. Gen X-ers stayed eight years. Younger Boomers owned their home for 11 years, Older Boomers stayed for 13 years, and the Silent Generation kept their previous home for 15 years.

The reasons for selling a home also varied among the generations. Younger buyers were more likely to move to accommodate job relocation or desired to upgrade to a larger home. In comparison, older buyers were often looking for a smaller home due to retirement and because upkeep was too difficult due to health or financial limitations, or to be closer to family or friends.

When it comes to negotiating, older sellers are often more willing to reduce their home's asking price but are less

Check out documents to determine your rights

Q: I live in a beautiful subdivision of detached condos but in a recent notice of the upcoming meeting, we were informed that the board has decided that because a few of the exterior light fixtures on some of our neighbors' homes are peeling; they want to replace all the fixtures at each homeowner's expense. A vote will be taken on the matter at the annual meeting. What do you think?

A: It all depends upon your documents. Presumably, the board can make this modification if the documents so allow and pass the costs onto the individual co-owners. On the other hand, it depends upon whether the documents require a vote of the co-owners and sometimes associations request a vote even if it is not required by the documents which may or may not be a good idea. Get your neighbors together and retain an attorney to check your rights.

Q: I heard Sicily, and in particular Palermo, is a great place to retire. Is it affordable in terms of residential housing?

A: As with many big cities, living near the center of Palermo with its parks and boulevards can be very costly. However, the recession and economic downturn in Europe has also affected pricing in Palermo and its suburbs. Real estate offices abound with the showcasing of homes frequently on the Internet. If you are looking for a home near a gorgeous beach town, look up Cefalu which looks like a French Riviera enclave, and is around 75 miles from Palermo and an hour by train or bus.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and BarnesandNoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Side of the Law," second edition. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real Estate Careers

A Free Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, at Keller-Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Leave in about the \$50,000 income guarantee. For information, call Mary Beth Kaljian at 734-459-4700 or mb@marybethk.com.

New associates

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel (CBWM) has recently welcomed a number of new sales associates to the company. They are: Birmingham — Dennis Kozak; Commerce — Dennis Bugeis; Grosse Pointe — Montreux-White; Ionia — Fred Hodge; Macomb — Greg Ciesielski; Paula Gruba, Aaron Lapp, Jo Ann Lappe; Northville — Sarah Goodman, Kathy Manley; Plymouth — Kellie Smith, Jeff Johnson; Rochester — Jeff Hurst, Mary Hoste.

"We are pleased that these exceptional people have chosen Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel," said John North, CBWM CEO. "We are always excited to welcome associates who share our core values of integrity, a passion for service, a positive attitude and a drive for results."

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quan@june.com.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Thursday. Meeting place is Panera Bread at the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Email Georgia@addvalue Realty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTours.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 8-12, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
31115 Pickwick Ln	\$365,000
659 Ann Rd	\$970,000
8448 E. 181st Ave	\$180,000
1570 Northlawn Blvd	\$470,000
825 Norwin St	\$197,000
1700 Pembroke Rd	\$156,000
1915 Elmwood Ave	\$255,000
1668 S Eton St	\$215,000
1051 Woodlea St	\$314,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
4304 Antique Ln	\$280,000
1411 Kensington Rd	\$485,000
2830 Thorndale Dr	\$390,000
1745 Tiverton Rd Unit 24	\$150,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
5916 Blanford Rd	\$202,000
866 Edgemont Run	\$148,000
759 Hill Moon Rd	\$740,000
65 Hillside Rd	\$325,000
1916 Long Pointe Dr	\$715,000
3801 Mystic Valley Dr	\$561,000
620 S Grandbrook Rd	\$186,000
1629 S Hill Blvd	\$88,000
4041 Stony River Dr	\$384,000
6300 Wingo Lake Rd	\$2,090,000
COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP	
14904 1959th Ave	\$452,000
2411 Baltimore Ct	\$282,000
4883 Turtlewood Ct	\$245,000
FARMINGTON	
23119 Cass Ave	\$183,000
HAMPSHIRE HILLS	
29615 Eastfield St	\$160,000
29759 Fox Grove Rd	\$305,000
28660 Grayfield Dr	\$127,000
26105 La Muera St	\$233,000
21427 Randall St	\$75,000
22012 S Brandon	\$58,000

33427 Shawneese Ln	\$150,000
36814 Thawagwood Ln	\$591,000
23158 Tuck Rd	\$55,000
22738 Washington Dr	\$295,000
28567 Wintergreen	\$400,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18466 Middlesex Ave	\$157,000
MORRIS	
520 E Huron St	\$265,000
753 Napa Valley Dr	\$2,850,000
1061 Riverstone Cir	\$170,000
NEWPORT	
100 Ely Dr S	\$255,000
821 Grace St	\$190,000
NOVI	
22282 Edgewater	\$597,000
44575 Elerly Ln	\$180,000
44577 Elerly Ln	\$181,000
44581 Elerly Ln	\$182,000
20212 Oak Creek Crescent Dr	\$150,000
NORTHVILLE	
42282 Edgewater	\$597,000
19148 Fontana Dr	\$180,000
27451 Pierce St	\$181,000
25540 Saint James	\$127,000
WHITE LAKE	
2419 Gage Island St	\$370,000
595 Red Bank Dr	\$302,000
2615 Tackles Dr	\$175,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 29 through May 3, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
43354 Amber Ct	\$160,000
17125 Ardmore Dr	\$310,000
1733 Colocate Ct	\$425,000
3915 Cornestone Dr	\$116,000
46490 Creekside Ct	\$228,000
3455 Elmwood State Dr	\$228,000
43603 Emrick Dr	\$129,000
50601 Federal Blvd	\$78,000
50715 Federal Blvd	\$77,000
43404 Elmwood Blvd	\$77,000
50981 Federal Blvd	\$78,000
51095 Federal Blvd	\$77,000
43370 Forest Ridge Dr	\$200,000
43371 Gyle Rd	\$540,000
7006 Harvard Ln	\$40,000
4464 Hunters Cir E	\$77,000
1069 Kings Ct	\$186,000
354 Kings Ave	\$140,000
44890 Lemont Rd	\$221,000
42420 Majestic Ct	\$187,000
249 N Corvive Blvd	\$170,000
3942 Norridge Dr	\$180,000

45484 Oakland Ct	\$315,000
1980 Paddock Ln	\$186,000
7225 Peachtree Ct	\$228,000
43809 Proctor Rd	\$116,000
44808 Ridgefield Rd	\$180,000
48953 Seabrook Dr	\$262,000
47273 Torrington Dr	\$390,000
1293 W Crystal Ct	\$187,000
2120 Woodmont Ct	\$155,000
GARDEN CITY	
31151 Cambridge St	\$107,000
7006 Helen St	\$63,000
31412 Hennepin St	\$45,000
31763 Hennepin St	\$77,000
6635 Inkster Rd	\$38,000
LIVONIA	
38651 Eight Mile Rd	\$252,000
20118 Angling St	\$35,000
14901 Acropolis St	\$147,000
11035 Arden St	\$167,000
11025 Berwick St	\$105,000
13956 Cardwell St	\$98,000
3333 Eastwind Dr	\$143,000
15158 Fairfield St	\$30,000
11126 Garden St	\$120,000
31290 Grandson St	\$150,000
15551 Ingram St	\$198,000
19714 Ingram St	\$127,000
16815 Inkster Dr	\$27,000
33291 Leon St	\$124,000

37390 Margaretta Dr	\$264,000
3937 Melvin St	\$86,000
30425 Myrna St	\$227,000
14919 Padewski St	\$132,000
34960 Perth St	\$145,000
21972 Pickford St	\$318,000
33134 Scone Dr	\$182,000
19550 Sunbury St	\$182,000
14632 Sussex Ave	\$237,000
36301 Varga St	\$132,000
18999 Bella Vista Ct	\$336,000
17448 Boulder Dr	\$374,000
44451 Broadmoor Dr	\$383,000
15574 Dorchester Ct	\$577,000
16694 Dover Dr	\$145,000
12601 Lake View Cir	\$300,000
13628 Mulberry Way	\$329,000
38473 Springwater Cir	\$166,000
17300 N Northville Trl	\$730,000
36095 Cooley Blvd	\$114,000
19560 Woodside Dr S	\$418,000
PLYMOUTH	
12937 Andover Dr	\$297,000
41427 Crabtree Ln	\$225,000
11228 Greenbriar Ln	\$190,000
41507 Greenbriar Ln	\$179,000
31625 Myrna St	\$151,000
44525 Lynn Dr	\$205,000
46699 Newport Dr	\$64,000
51391 Northview	\$265,000

30291 Pennington Ln	\$345,000
45603 South Lake Dr	\$388,000
23519 Stonehenge Blvd	\$61,000
41658 Vera Ln	\$139,000
39842 Village Wood Cir	\$61,000
41295 W 13 Mile Rd	\$192,000
SOUTH LYON	
120 Dorsey Dr	\$276,000
714 Kestrel Ct	\$132,000
59233 Peters Barn Dr	\$148,000
24753 Purlin Ct	\$83,000
24555 Purlin Ct	\$83,000
24781 Purlin Ct	\$88,000
26690 York Ct	\$236,000
SOUTHFIELD	
28199 Fontana Dr	\$82,000
25873 Greenfield Rd #4	\$40,000
19148 Fontana Dr	\$40,000
27451 Pierce St	\$127,000
25540 Saint James	\$177,000
WHITE LAKE	
2419 Gage Island St	\$370,000
595 Red Bank Dr	\$302,000
2615 Tackles Dr	\$175,000

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FORD RANGER 2007
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NORTH BROS.
888-714-9714

GMC TERRAIN SLT-2 2011
Leather, chrome, full power, only 26,000 miles. \$23,988
NORTH BROS.
888-714-9714

Mini-Vans

FORD FREIGHT 2012
"L-Series", leather, chrome, full power, only 16,000 miles. \$23,988
NORTH BROS.
888-714-9714

Auto Auctions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
City of Plymouth, MI

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to state law 257.232, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at the public sale at: Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Shawanigan Rd, Plymouth, MI 48178 on Thurs, Aug 22, 2013, 10am - 7:30pm. 438-0063

2003 Chevrolet Impala
2G1WV434015103606

2000 Dodge Dakota
1B7LH2697540710

2003 Dodge Ram
1B3LCS2P28125258

1993 Ford Ranger
1F7R1041P0224939

2002 Ford Taurus SE
1VAPPS020378780

1999 Ford Escort LX
1F4PFP10P000201166

2000 Chevrolet Cavalier
1G1JC1447267091

1997 GMC Suburban
1GKFK167P10702181

2003 Ford Windstar
2F4WCA432087478

1994 Oldsmobile Achieva
1GNDL56860005139

2006 27th Travel Trailer
Runk beds in row, full bed in front, side out, bathroom, fridge, microwave, double ducted air, stove, hood vent, kitchen sink, air conditioner, shower, couch that folds out to bed, awning, coin battery. May have not had water yet. Call: 248-719-9639

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Hometown News Classifieds
Just a quick call away...
1-800-579-7355

Sports & Import

HYUNDAI SANTA FEE LTD 2007
3rd row, leather, moon roof, clean Car Fax, 1 owner, 15,000 miles. \$15,988
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

MERCEDES BENZ - 2006
CLX, 500, V-8, auto, moon roof, clean Car Fax, 75k miles, \$18,988
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Antique & Classic Collector

CADILLAC ALLANTE 1990
2nd owner, black on black, new 2 tires, \$12,100, Milford, 248-664-4291

CORVETTE 1991
Silver gray, under 20,000 miles, original owner, \$21,000, Milford, Call after 5pm. 734-421-0500

PLYMOUTH PROWLER 2000
Silver, 6000, moon roof, chrome, 21,000 miles. And add license plates. 248-664-4291

Auto

AUDI A4 2.4 2004
V-6, AWD, moon, leather, black on black, clean Car Fax, \$14,878
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

BUICK

BUICK LUCERNE GL 2009
Silver with light gray leather seats, roof, factory warranty, \$17,888, 15,000 miles, full power. \$17,993
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Chevrolet

CHEVY IMPALA LT 2012
Auto, 4x4, full power, alloy, moon roof, factory warranty, \$17,888, 15,000 miles, full power. \$17,993
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

BMW LT 2011
Line miles, 1 owner, alloy, moon roof, factory warranty, \$17,888, 15,000 miles, full power. \$17,993
R T AUTOMOTIVE
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Auto

BMW LT 2011
Line miles, 1 owner, alloy, moon roof, factory warranty, \$17,888, 15,000 miles, full power. \$17,993
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R T AUTOMOTIVE
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Ford

FORD FUSION 2007
SE, auto, 4x4, full power, fully inspected, over \$7000.
NORTH BROS.
734-261-6200

FUSION SPORT 2010
Moon roof, leather, moon roof, Certified 1.9%
NORTH BROS.
888-714-9714

Taurus 2005 LS Deluxe
Red, V-6, auto, full power, moon roof, alloy wheels, one owner, brake, tune-up & a/c comp. **North Bros** must see! Needs nothing! Reduced \$3850. **North Bros** 313-513-0388

Hyundai

HYUNDAI ELANTRA 2012
Limited, leather seats, moon roof, alloy wheels, one owner, 17k miles, Certified, \$18,688
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Hyundai Elantra GLS 2006
Auto, 4x4, 4 door, only 17k miles, warranty, New Price \$7,876.
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Hyundai Elantra GLS 2006
Auto, 4x4, 4 door, only 17k miles, warranty, New Price \$7,876.
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Hyundai Sonata 2011 GLS
V-6, A/C, P/LP, chrome, moon roof, alloy wheels, one owner, Clean Car Fax, \$26,995
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Hyundai Sonata Ltd 2011
Leather, moon, navigation, alloy, 16,000 miles, \$26,995
NORTH BROS.
888-714-9714

Auto

Hyundai Sonata 2011 GLS
V-6, A/C, P/LP, chrome, moon roof, alloy wheels, one owner, Clean Car Fax, \$26,995
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Hyundai Sonata Ltd 2011
Leather, moon, navigation, alloy, 16,000 miles, \$26,995
NORTH BROS.
888-714-9714

Mazda

MAZDA 3i 2004
4 cyl, 5 speed manual, a/c, alloy wheels, one owner, one owner, Clean Car Fax \$5,987
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

MAZDA 3i TOURING 2012
Full power, heated seats, one owner, Clean Car Fax, Mazda Certified Warranty, New Price \$14,730.
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Mercury

MERCURY MARINER 2010
Premier, V-6, moon, 17k, only 25,000 miles, Ford Certified \$18,988, 15,000 miles.
NORTH BROS.
888-714-9714

MERCURY MONTEREY 2004
Premier, leather, full power, RAC, only 60,000 miles, moon roof, alloy wheels, one owner, \$18,988.
NORTH BROS.
734-261-6200

Mini

MINI COOPER 2005
Convertible, V-6, auto, full power, leather seats, alloy wheels, one owner, Clean Car Fax, \$15,900.
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

NISSAN MAXIMA SE 2003
Leather, moon, navigation, alloy, 16,000 miles, \$26,995
NORTH BROS.
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NISSAN SENTRA SE-R 2005
Stinger Yellow, moon roof, alloy, 16,000 miles, \$26,995
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- Place your ad online at hometownlife.com, and we will double the movie passes to Emagine Theatres

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the purchase of any **LARGE COMBO**
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21720 Allen Road • Woodhaven
EMAGINE ROCHESTER HILLS
200 Barclay Circle • Just N. M-59
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TOYOTA CARRY RILE 2001
Moon roof, leather seats, full power, alloy wheels, one owner, Clean Car Fax \$15,732
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Volkswagen

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2013
Sportswagon, only 4k miles, Certified, auto, a/c, heated seats, \$19,919
R T AUTOMOTIVE
Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Volkswagen

VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 2013
5 speed manual, leather, alloy wheels, certified, one owner, Clean Car Fax \$15,732
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Call Kevin-F if even fit the tank! 248-982-4892

Volkswagen

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TDI 2013
Automatic, 4 cylinder, diesel, heated leather seats, only 5000 miles, factory warranty \$22,400 plus 7 yr/24,000 certified on road.
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