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6 TIPS FOR PARENTS
USA Weekend

Home sales up, buyers competing

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton homes are selling faster and prices are rising, real estate officials say, citing a low housing inventory that is ramping up competition among potential buyers.

In another market indicator, township officials are anticipating 9,500 building permits this year for houses, businesses and home-improvement projects such as decks and room additions – a spike from last year's 8,100.

"The last real busy year we had was 2005, when we had 10,472 building permits," Municipal Services Director Tim



Canton real estate officials are citing an uptick in home sales and prices, though inventories are low. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Faas said. "We're getting very close to that number."

Jason Borregard, sales manager for Clients First, Realtors,

which has offices in Canton, Westland and Shelby Township, said home sales are rebounding after hitting "rock

bottom" about two years ago.

Selling fast

"Homes are selling a lot better and a lot quicker than they did a year ago – and definitely compared to two years ago," Borregard said.

Citing statistics from Realcomp II Ltd. of Farmington Hills, Borregard said only 220 homes and condominiums are now on the Canton market.

"In the end, it's definitely a good thing that's showing signs of a recovery," he said, though in some cases multiple buyers competing for homes are becoming frustrated. "It's a great time to be a seller – that's for sure."

Bartley Patterson, general manager of REMAX Classic in Canton, said new construction had declined amid the housing market crash, resulting in still-low inventories.

"We used to have 500 homes for sale at any given time," Patterson said, compared to the 200 range. "That's causing the prices to remain a little higher and things are moving a little more quickly."

Competitive market

Some buyers are paying higher-than-appraised prices for homes to thwart their competitors, he said.

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Kyle Davison stands near the spot where he plans to place bird, butterfly and bat houses. COURTESY OF CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

On Eagle's wings

Teen's scouting dream takes flight with project at library

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton teen Kyle Davison has hatched a plan to lure native birds, butterflies and bug-eating bats to a pristine nature area behind the Canton Public Library.

Davison hopes his project gives flight to his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout, the highest rank he can achieve as a leader among Plymouth-based Boy Scout Troop 781.

By mid-October, he expects to install 13 birdhouses and a smaller number of homes for butterflies and bats behind the library, near a wetlands



These birdhouses will eventually find a home behind the Canton Public Library.

area where ducklings already have been known to live.

"I just love nature, I guess," said Davison, 16, the son of Rick and Karen

Davison.

After rising through the ranks since he was a first-grade Cub Scout, he embarked on his Eagle Scout adventure by creating his project, documenting his plans and raising nearly \$400 for supplies. He enlisted 29 children and parents Sunday for a community birdhouse-building project at the library.

Now, the feather-friendly homes need staining before they are placed this fall behind the library, which had to approve the project.

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Cantor's Steve Price, or Sprice, made it all the way to Radio City Music Hall with his Rube Goldberg machine talents. COURTESY OF NBC

'Sprice' says 'no worries' after TV exit

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton teen Steve Price, whose Rube Goldberg machines drew a national following and earned him the title "genius" from the likes of Howard Stern, said fans shouldn't be sad he didn't make the America's Got Talent semifinals.

Price, 19, achieved what the vast majority of talented performers cannot: Using his stage name Sprice, he performed admirably on the stage of Radio City Music Hall in New York City before he was eliminated Wednesday night after falling short among viewer votes.

"No worries," he said on Twitter as @SpriceGMS. "I got to end with a bang and I get to start the school year on time."

Price, a Michigan State University mechanical engineering student, uses dominoes, soccer balls, strings and other household items to set off chain reactions with his Rube Goldberg

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Canton youths, parents tour new B.L.O.C.K. location

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer



Hannah Veal greets her friend Maddie Damron. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton mom Charlene Grant watched her daughter Hannah Veal grow from a shy, withdrawn child into a happier 14-year-old girl who has made lasting friendships.

Grant credits The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, an after-school program where Hannah, since age 11, has gone to socialize, do homework, play games and practice piano.

"It brought her out of her shell," Grant said. "She went from below-average grades to making the honor roll. She has become a social butterfly. I feel like this program was

heaven-sent. I can't say enough good about it."

The mother and daughter were among a crowd Thursday evening who toured the new B.L.O.C.K., which formally opens Sept. 3 on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building.

It ended an eight-year run in June at the former Michigan Avenue site.

Hannah and other youths have adapted quickly. Surrounded by friends, Hannah sat in the music room Thursday, playing *It Had To Be You* and *The Entertainer* on piano.

Good friends

"I met most of my friends at The B.L.O.C.K.," Hannah said.

The new center has the music room, a computer lab, a homework room, a cafeteria, an office and an activities area with televisions, a pool table, a foosball table, board games and other amenities.

Some children and parents visited for the first time during Thursday's open house. Others are returning for yet another school year of supervised activities, often while their parents are working. Stephanie Pavlo, Canton Leisure Services recreation specialist, said The B.L.O.C.K. typically serves 60 youths a day ages 11-17.

"It's awesome," 11-year-old

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SPRICE

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machines. He even incorporated an umbrella, light bulbs, mousetraps, rolling balls, fly swatters and other materials for his fireworks-erupting finale on *America's Got Talent*.

Big fan base

His performance—and his black tie sporting Sprice in white letters—rocked social media and prompted followers across the nation to call him names such as Rube “Pyno” Goldberg.

Perhaps the most low-key personality on *America's Got Talent*, Price had been told by judges that he needed to show more pizzazz, more excitement. He never let it sway him or distract him.

One of his Canton fans, Jon Hicks, said on his @gemuyjon Twitter account that Price

made Canton proud.

“There’s now something more than IKEA to put us on the map,” Hicks tweeted.

Price, a 2012 graduate of Canton High School, had advanced to the New York rounds after surviving earlier competition in Las Vegas amid support from Stern and other judges Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel and Mel B of Spice Girls fame.

“I definitely never expected it to happen,” he told the *Observer*.

Some of his work can be found at www.youtube.com/TheSprice17.

The overall winner of *America's Got Talent* is expected to be named in mid-September. The grand prize: \$1 million.

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B.L.O.C.K.

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Ryan Finley said, accompanied by his mother Kelly Duncan.

Duncan said the program appealed to her because it offers a structured environment where her son can get help with his school work.

New members

Carla Billings brought her son William, 13, for the first time.

“It’s great,” William said. “I like all the activities they have for the

kids.” Billings said The B.L.O.C.K. fulfills a need for supervised, after-school programs, while offering much-needed transportation for children who need it.

“It’s a place where my son can come and connect with other kids,” she said.

“I’m very impressed. I have registered him. He’s now a B.L.O.C.K. member.”

The program has offered everything from field trips to the Detroit Zoo and the Detroit Institute of Arts to canoeing trips and cooking classes. The new location

also provides easy access to Summit on the Park recreation activities, Canton Public Library programs and Heritage Park.

‘Like home’

Angelica Austin, 14, a third-year B.L.O.C.K. member, called the new site “cozy” and said “it feels like home.”

B.L.O.C.K. counselor Lanita Troupe ushered children and their parents through the new center Thursday, showing them the rooms where youngsters will spend many after-school evenings.

“It’s a very nice loca-

tion,” Troupe said. Pavlo said it appeared most who had concerns about the new location “have been won over.” Canton Leisure Services Director Debbie Billrey-Honsowetz agreed and said, “I think this location is going to grow the program.”

Pavlo said The B.L.O.C.K. hours are 2:30-8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2:30-11 p.m. Friday. For more information, call (734) 398-5570.

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SALES

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“They’re coming in with cash offers or they’re waiving the appraised value,” Patterson said, adding that new home construction “is definitely a plus for us. It definitely is a good market right now.”

He predicted the housing market could “settle down” after school resumes and home seekers

return to busier lives.

Faas, meanwhile, said the 9,500 building permits Canton is expecting this year for homes, businesses and home-improvement projects compares to 8,100 last year and fewer than 7,000 in 2011.

Through the end of June, builders this year had pulled permits for 150 new homes spread among five developments, Faas said, and that’s on top of housing reconstruction projects

that already had begun.

“That’s going to mean new homes next year,” he said.

Business uptick

Township officials have seen an uptick in new businesses, too. Work on the National Coney Island is moving ahead at the site of the former Big Boy restaurant on Ford east of Canton Center, while Rainbow Child Care Center has received site plan approval for a new building west of the Kennedy Plaza, which is located on the northwest corner of Ford and Canton Center

roads.

Faas said the daycare center is expected to occupy 11,420 square feet of space.

Faas said new housing, home improvements and commercial growth all point to a long-awaited turnaround, hopefully one that is sustained.

“It’s an indicator that there’s faith in the economy here,” he said. “We’re definitely seeing that on the residential side and, to some extent, on the commercial side.”

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SCOUT

Continued from Page A1

'Great idea'

"We thought it was a great idea," said Laurie Golden, the library's marketing and communications manager. "We've always looked for ways to expand the library's reach beyond the walls of the building."

Davison chose the library for his project because he has attended numerous programs, such as summer reading, over the years. And his mother is a library employee.

"I thought this would be a good way to give back to the library," he said.

He welcomes opportunities to experience nature, too. One of his memories involves canoeing miles with other scouts to the Florida Sea Base, a Boy Scouts of America island off the Florida Keys.

Davison has earned 31 merit badges and his decision to build houses for birds, butterflies and bats came after his 18-year-old brother Scott earned his Eagle Scout rank by building dog and feral cat shelters for the Huron Valley Humane Society.

They inherited their handiwork talents from their father Rick, a General Motors Corp. engineer, who learned his skills from his father, Rick Davison, an advancement coordinator for Troop 781, is proud of his son's accomplishments after watching him develop leadership skills under the umbrella of the Boy Scouts of America Great Lakes Council.

Long-term plan

With help from his scouting friends, Davison said Sunday's birdhouse-building session went well. He had to oversee children ages 5-12 and their parents.

"I think it turned out a



Kyle Davison in his leadership role during his Eagle Scout project.



Children and their guardians help during the birdhouse-building project.

lot better than I thought it would," he said, in a quiet-spoken voice.

Unlike many teens, Davison has had little time to spare this summer as he carried out his Eagle Scout project. He is about to get even busier as he enters his junior year at Salem High School, where he plays mellophone in the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band.

His classroom studies in environmental science have coincided with his interest in nature. Yet long term, he said he hopes to study finance and economics at the University of Chicago.

He has had a few finance lessons from his Eagle Scout project. He received work

from the Lowe's home improvement store on Ford Road and a gift certificate from the Home Depot on Michigan Avenue. He raised nearly \$50 from a returnable bottle drive and he's still organizing a bowling outing.

Early next year, Davison expects to go before a special committee that decides his Eagle Scout rank.

"It feels really kind of weird," he said. "I remember being the young kid looking up to all the older Scouts and now the younger kids are looking up to me."

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Marchers gear up for new season

By Peggy Fenwick
Correspondent

With the sun shining bright on a Saturday afternoon, more than 300 moms, dads, grandparents and band alumni gathered to watch the 2013 Plymouth-Canton Marching Band showcase the opening number of its new program, "Inferno."

The show was a culmination of a week-long band camp hosted at Plymouth High School in Canton. Musicians and color guard members gathered daily for a full week of rehearsals. The preview show is the annual kickoff to a brand-new competition season.

Director of Bands David Armbruster thanked the large audience for coming out to support the program.

"It was a wonderful week, particularly weather-wise," he told the audience before thanking Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen and the Board of Education for supporting the program, including the purchase of eight new sousaphones. "It's wonderful to see a community and our schools embrace music and the arts."

On-field excellence

Jonathan Thomann, director of PCEP Marching Band, took several minutes to share his thoughts on band camp and how a program rich with tradition continues to move toward a new competition season.

"Excellence takes a lot of hard work - something this community knows well," Thomann said. "The unparalleled staff with deep talent is the most impressive team I've seen in my career and they came here to Plymouth-Canton to work with our kids."

Thomann described "Inferno" as a "hot" show and predicted the team of 170 marchers will heat up Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis (site of the nationals) "with great passion." Plymouth-

Canton will compete at four local band competitions, a regional Bands of America event in Toledo and the state championship at Ford Field, before ending its season in mid-November at the Bands of America Grand National Championship in Indianapolis.

"We have a lot of tricks up our sleeve that won't be seen in the public eye until much later in the season," Thomann said. Only part one of three music components were finished and demonstrated Saturday. The students will continue to rehearse a few days each week up to the start of school. Then rehearsals will change to after school and Saturday.

Once all the introductions were complete, the students picked up their instruments and readied themselves for the opening number of the 2013 show, "Inferno." A new musical preshow number was unveiled, which had the strong sound of a vocal choir and quickly grew louder, ending with powerful organ music piping through the speakers.

Different experience

"Camp was good and challenging," said senior drum major Sarah Wohl, who directed the performance. "I'm super proud of how far we've all come as a team."

Plymouth High junior Katie Wolf shares drum major duties with Wohl. "I am so excited for this year," she said. "It's a different experience (being a drum major)."

With the first competition scheduled Sept. 21 at Novi High School, there is still time to join this year's marching band. Wind players are encouraged to contact Thomann in the band room at Plymouth High School. Also, the color guard is actively recruiting additional members to complete the ensemble. Students with dance or theater experience are encouraged to attend a rehearsal.



The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band hopes to end up back in Indianapolis for the Grand National Championship. TERRI WOHL



The 170-member Plymouth-Canton Marching Band opens the season Sept. 21 at Novi High School.

All former Plymouth-Canton Marching Band members should plan to attend the annual Great Lakes Invitational band competition hosted Oct. 19 at Canton High School. Former band director Glen Adsit, who directed the marching band program for eight seasons, winning two national titles, will be working with the concert band students in October and will be at the GLL.



Senior drum major Sarah Wohl directed the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band's season-opening preview show. TERRI WOHL

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East Middle School robotics team members (in orange, from left) Taylor Ufford, Ritika Parikh and Ryan Wu compete in last year's state competition.

Robotics team shares its secret

The East Middle School Robotics Team, known as the RoboRockets, has a secret it wants to share: Teamwork, math and science can be more fun than ever imagined by the typical kid in America.

The RoboRockets recently held an informational meeting to help spread the word about FIRST Robotics to elementary and middle school students in the Plymouth-Canton community. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology.

Under strict rules, limited resources and time, squads of students are challenged to hone teamwork skills and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. Organizers say it's "as close to real-world engineering" as a student can get.

And just like varsity sports, college scholarships are now available to students on robotics teams. With support from three

out of every five Fortune 500 companies and nearly \$16 million in college scholarships, FIRST continues to grow and help kids see that it's actually more fun to design a video game than to play one.

Recently at the Canton Township Hall, these middle school students talked to approximately 150 parents and prospective team members about the program and the different benefits and opportunities available in three different leagues from fifth to 12th grade.

To inspire the participants to join FIRST and form new teams, the RoboRockets demonstrated robots used in previous FTC robotics competitions and asked the Miller Elementary Banana Bots to demonstrate FLL robots. Those who attended were able to watch and even drive the robots.

As a result of this meeting, four new teams are likely to form, based out of East Middle School and Isbister, Miller and Dodson elementary schools.

They are taking advantage of the grants available to rookie teams through support from corporations such as General Motors and Consumers Energy.

The RoboRockets team was a first-year FTC team for the 2012-13 season and the first middle school FTC team in Plymouth-Canton Schools. It finished its first FTC season earning the Motivation Award at the state tournament and members are excited to be back.

New teams are forming now for fall meetings and competition. For information regarding how to form an FLL team, visit http://www.firstmichigan.org/fll/contact_us.html; for an FTC team, visit http://www.firstmichigan.org/ftc/contact_us.html.

RoboRocket team members include Sonia Bhakkad, Connor Flanigan, Taylor Ufford, Manasi Sharma, Nick Huang, Nathan Tseng, Shilpa Pindolia, Ritika Parikh, Chintan Modi, Ryan Wu, Jack Nugent, Varun Kumaravel and Austin Liu.

Newcomers kick off 42nd year

Canton Newcomers & Neighbors is kicking off its 42nd year and club officials are hoping to attract new members.

The kickoff meeting takes place at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4, at the Hanford Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford. Visitors will enjoy a treat from Carrabba's Italian Grill and learn about the season-long theme of "Reaching Out With Helping Hands."

Members of the club are part of an organization that gives back to the community. This year, the club's major fundraising efforts will go to Big Family, an organization that serves the needs of foster children waiting to be adopted.

Along with giving to the community, club members do a lot of socializing and having fun together.

"Having friends to share the enjoyment of all the great things Canton has to offer can really increase the pleasure of living here," club president Noreen Rybar said. In addition to the

monthly general meetings, the club hosts interest groups, including Book Club, Couples Euchre, Chick Flicks, Scrapbooking, Let's Do Lunch, Ladies Bunko and Children's Playgroups.

The club partners with local businesses which would like to meet its 100-plus members. Advertising in the monthly newsletters and/or speaking at monthly meetings gives local businesses great exposure. The returning season sponsor is fine jeweler Showroom of Elegance.

"I love Canton Newcomers & Neighbors for so many reasons, but most importantly for all the great people I have met," member and advertiser Kristina Wittner said.

To learn more, order a complimentary September newsletter or RSVP for the free Sept. 4 meeting, contact Rybar at 734-981-0486, email nrybar@yahoo.com or visit www.cantonnewcomersandneighbors.org.



Newcomers & Neighbors board members for the 2013-2014 season include (back, from left) Cindy Koldys, Kristina Wittner and Amy Boger; and (front, from left) Hollie Arnett, Jan Fezner, Betty Nolan and Noreen Rybar.

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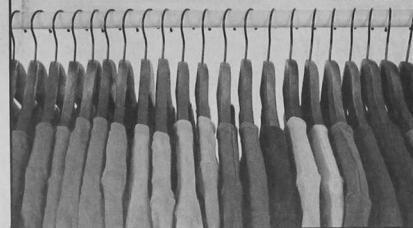


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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Yappy Hour

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: In a tent behind E.G. Nick's on Forest in downtown Plymouth

Details: Bark for Life of Canton is planning for a wofing' good time. E.G. Nick's will be serving food during the event, which features many activities including 12 vendors, a 50/50 raffle, guess jars and a magic performance. Most importantly, this is the event where humans and canines gather together to contribute to the American Cancer Society's mission of helping people stay well, get well, find cures and fight back against cancer.

Look for these businesses at the event: Cookie Lee Jewelry, Three Dog Bakery, Three Dogs LLC, Trust & Obedience Dog Training, Fleece Dog Coats & Beds, Pawisive Pet Massage & Conierge LLC, Midge Purses, Salon Awesome, Gem - Grey-hounds of Eastern MI, Jill Andra Young Photography and Tastefully Simple.

Wildcats clothing drive

Date/Time: Thursday, Aug. 29, 7 p.m.
Location: Varsity football field near Canton High School
Details: Plymouth Wildcats

families will be holding a clothing drive to benefit the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Clothing Bank during the Wildcats' first game. The clothing bank provides clean, gently-worn clothing for families in need and served more than 1,000 clients last year. They accept used clothing that is clean and in current fashion. The goal is that the clothes given to children in need is no different than their peers' at school. They also accept NEW socks and underwear, as well as monetary donations.

Contact: Visit the website at www.plymouthwildcatsfootball.com or like them on Facebook for more information.

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 Civitan Club and Station 885 sponsor Taste Fest, which will offer great food and wine tasting. Participants include Bahama Breeze, Bennigan's, Brian's Sports Wings, Claddaugh Pub, Cupcake Station, Elfe Catering, Grand Traverse Pet Co., Happy's Pizzas & Ribs, LaBisteca Italian Grill, Max & Erma's Plymouth, Mitchell's Fish Mar-

ket, Noodles & Co., Rocky's of Northville, Rusty Bucket, Scramblers Marie's, Station 885, U.P. Pasties, Vintner's Canton Winery, Zin Wine Bar and Zoog 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.

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.

Calling all crafters

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9-11 a.m.
Location: West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth Township

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

Contact: Call or email Debbie at 734-451-1575 or 734-740-1648 or email dkgcrafters@comcast.net

MOPS MEETING

Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 6, 9:15-11:30 a.m.
Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14551 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group announces the beginning of a new year and invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. MOPS meetings feature other moms who are facing the same challenges. The group provides encouragement, nurturing and support. St. Edith/St. Kenneth MOPS typically meets on the first and third Fridays of the month.

Contact: Call Heather at 734-437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail.com, or visit the group's website at www.stekmops.org

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 250, Canton

Details: United Home Health Services offers free counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor. The counselor can help clients understand 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.

Contact: Call 734-981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmap.org/page/about.html

'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. Torontal, Plymouth Township

Details: Catholics and non-Catholics within the parish boundaries are invited to a free "Come and See" dinner including 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 OLGC website at www.olgparish.net. Register for the dinner online at <http://olgpatrialife.wufoo.com/forms/q7x1k5/>

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations:
 » Monday, Aug. 26, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VPM Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth
 » Thursday, Aug. 29, 11-4:45 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. **Contact:** For details and to reserve your space, go to http://funorthville.org/missions-and-service_email_fumbazaar

zaar@gmail.com or find it on Facebook.

Bipolar support

Date/Time: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6:30-7:30 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 OBSA 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 strategies. **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 Protestant 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 Hearts, who 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 734-646-2237 or by email at prettymanorh@comcast.net.

Hospice support

Date/Time: Third Saturday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge. **Contact:** To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email annchristensen@cnh.net.

MOPS meetings

Date/Time: First and third Friday of each month, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14551 Haggerty, Plymouth Township

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides encouragement, nurturing and support and features a schedule of activities that includes speaking, crafts and group discussions. **Contact:** Heather at 734-437-9517 or email stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www.stekmops.org

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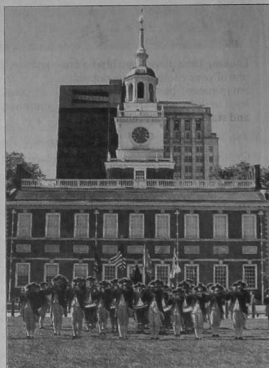
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Corps performance

Fresh off the heels of its Liberty Tour, the Plymouth File & Drum Corps will be performing in its hometown at the Plymouth Fall Festival at noon Saturday, Sept. 7. The group will also be selling roasted almonds, CDs and T-shirts from its Main Street booth. ABC news and many other national news outlets featured the PFC because its tour was during the hottest week of the summer. Members performed in 105-degree weather while wearing historically accurate all-wool colonial uniforms that weigh 10 pounds.

Whalers game this weekend will help support Nehasil Park

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia's police department and area hockey fans are gearing up for the upcoming Plymouth Whalers exhibition game later this week at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

The exhibition game between the Whalers and the Windsor Spitfires will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday at the arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia. All proceeds will go to help fund the Fallen Heroes Monument under construction at Larry Nehasil Park in Livonia. "It's a fun family event," Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid said. "They do a really nice job."

Tickets for the game are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, which opens at 6 p.m. Advance



Nehasil

tickets can be purchased at the Livonia Police Department, Eddie Edgar Ice Arena, Compuware Arena in Plymouth, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

The Whalers, who play in the Ontario Hockey League, have played several exhibition games in surrounding communities in previous years, such as Farmington Hills and Wyandotte. Those games have all supported local hockey associations; this game is the first to give back to a non-youth sports charity.

"We have found going out to the local community really generates the buzz," said Pete Krupsky, spokesman for the Whalers.

The Fallen Heroes Memorial Fund was established shortly after Nehasil's death. Nehasil was a Livonia police officer who died while pursuing a home invasion suspect from

Livonia in Oakland County's Walled Lake. After his death, the idea of a memorial park for all of Livonia's fallen public safety officers was proposed and a fund was established. Ground was broken on the monument next to Livonia City Hall last month. Anyone looking to donate to the project can visit nehasilpark.org for more information.

In addition to the hockey game, fans can also partake in a postgame meet-and-greet, as well as a raffle that will take place throughout the night. The game is not just a treat for area residents. The players enjoy playing the game at local rinks as well, said Denise Royne, director of sales and marketing for the Whalers. "These players, they grew up playing in these rinks," she said. "They love the intimacy of those rinks."

dvseelenak@hometownlife.com

Pretrial rescheduled in embezzlement case

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A Canton man accused of real estate fraud faces a pre-trial hearing next month in Wayne County Circuit Court after being bound over earlier this summer.

Samer Salami, a Redford real estate agent, is charged with two counts of conducting a criminal enterprise, two counts of embezzlement of \$100,000 or more, three counts of using a computer to commit a crime and five counts of false pretenses.

The charges stem from an investigation done by Wayne County that determined Salami was using his position as an agent of Villa Realty in Redford to convince mortgage lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to sell homes to a company he operated on the side. His company would then sell the properties at a higher rate, keeping the profits,

according to prosecutors. Salami allegedly made more than \$265,000 off of the venture, which lasted from August 2007 to April 2010. The charges were announced earlier this spring by Wayne County.

Two of the homes Salami attempted to sell are in Redford: one in the 9500 block of Penton, the other in the 9700 block of Woodbine. The other homes were located in Dearborn Heights and Detroit.

Prosecutors announced the charges against Salami in April after an extensive investigation. He was bound over to circuit court April 23 by 17th District Judge Charles Wirth.

If convicted, Salami faces up to 20 years in prison. He is currently out of jail on a \$750,000 cash or surety bond and is required to wear a GPS tether and not have any involvement with the real estate business.

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Livonia man, 99, still bowling twice a week

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

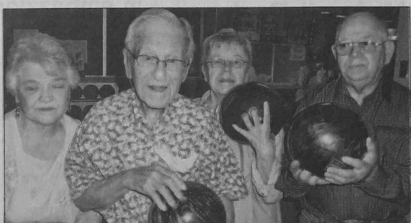
Ed Snyder will spend his 99th birthday Friday at Woodland Lanes in Livonia, where he bowls twice a week.

Snyder is Woodland Lanes' oldest bowler and the owners are throwing him a party. "It's definitely a special birthday," co-owner Gary Winkel said.

Winkel said Woodland Lanes has some senior bowlers in their 80s, a couple in their 90s, but only one just a year away from turning 100.

"He still throws the ball fairly hard and he still hooks the ball," Winkel said of Snyder. "When you watch him bowl, you'd be surprised."

Snyder, a Livonia resident since 1956, has been bowling most of his life. He said it's his favorite pastime. "In my younger days, I was a pretty good bowler," he said, adding



Ed Snyder, 99, with teammates Glenna Holden of Canton (left) and Bev and Bruce Sharrow of Northville (right). Says Bev Sharrow: "Ed's one of the best bowlers."

he used to average 183 a game. Once at age 94, he bowled a 265.

Snyder said he'll continue to bowl "as long as I'm able to and still alive." He tells other bowlers to never give up if they want to improve their score.

Snyder said he started

bowling at around age 12 and on leagues at around age 18. He began bowling at Woodland Lanes about 20 years ago, when he was president of a league and brought a team over to Woodland.

"It's the cleanest and best-kept alley around," he said. "It's a pleasure to

bow here. I'm well-treated."

He bowls three games a day, two days a week, year-round.

Care for bowling, but not bowling

Daughter Janet Hatch, who lives with Snyder, said her father uses a

cane for balance while walking, but he doesn't need it when he bowls. "When he gets up to bowl, all that goes out the door," she said. "He knows how to throw that ball."

She drives him to the bowling alley and to St. Theodore Catholic Church in Westland, where he plays cards every Wednesday.

A World War II veteran, Snyder served 4½ years with the Army's 3rd Armored Division in western Europe.

"He was over there for the (Normandy) invasion," his daughter said.

He worked for 43 years for the former Burroughs Corp., a manufacturer of business equipment, in "the front office" doing technical writing and an assortment of other jobs.

Snyder and his wife Catherine were married 64 years before she died

in 2008. They bowled on leagues together. Snyder still lives in the house they bought in 1956. They had four children, who gave them eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Hatch said her father used to work out with weights and bowling continues to be good exercise for him. But equally beneficial, she said, is the socialization: "He loves to go down and visit with the people."

All of Woodland's league members are invited to Snyder's birthday party. "We hope to have a nice crowd," Winkel said.

Asked what he wants for his birthday, Snyder said: "There isn't anything this world can offer me except feeling good and having a nice day and spending it with friends."

smith@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2098

College grad has job and extra cash: How best to use that money

Q: Dear Rick: I am a new college graduate and just started a new job. The job pays enough to cover my living expenses and more. I need advice about what to do with my extra money — about \$500 a month. I've talked to my parents and a number of different people and they all give me different advice. I owe money on a student loan and the interest rate is approximately 4 percent. I also owe about \$7,500 on a charge card

where the interest is 17 percent. From a goal standpoint, I would like to buy a house in the not so distant future. My company offers a 401(k) Plan that has a Roth option. However, they do not match. My thought is that I should start saving to buy a home so I don't to continue to rent. Can you help me make a decision?

A: Congratulations on your new job and on having the financial maturity to start thinking about your finances. All



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

too often, new college graduates are only concerned about spending money as opposed to saving it.

I recommend using the \$500 a month you are saving to pay off your charge card. By paying off your charge card, you are getting a guaranteed 17-percent return on your money. I don't know any

investment that guarantees a 17-percent rate of return. I have always believed that whether you're saving for your retirement or a new home, for most people paying down their charge cards is one of the best investments they could ever make.

Once your charge card has been paid you, then begin to think about your retirement. Taking advantage of the company's 401(k) Plan, particularly the Roth option, presents a great opportunity for you. The ad-

vantage of the Roth is that money can grow tax free. Just think if you could start investing money now in a Roth how much money would be available to you in the future.

I know this is not what you want to hear, but the last thing you begin to save for is a new home. Renting is actually a better option than owning, from a financial standpoint. Look at the literally millions of people who lost their home in the financial crisis and all the people whose

mortgage is larger than the current value of their home.

I recognize that from a quality of life standpoint, owning is more preferable than renting. However, in your situation, you would be in much better shape by paying off your charge cards and then beginning a retirement plan.

Good luck!

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

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OLIVE DANIELS' THE BUTLER (PG-13)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

KICK-ASS 2 (R)
11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

FRIDAY LS 11:30

JOBS (PG-13)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00

PLACES (PG)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (PG)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35

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WE'RE THE MILLERS (R)
11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55

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Couple hopes story 'rings' a bell after 40 years

Act of kindness not forgotten, now they'd like to return the favor

By Beth Jachman Staff Writer

Mike and Patty LaPradd will be married 40 years in March and they want to give the baker wedding and engagement rings.

No, they are not splitting up — they would just like to give the rings back to the original owners.

The tale begins in 1973 as a story of young love, when Patty was a senior at Livonia's Bentley High School. She met and fell in love with Mike LaPradd, who was 21 at the time and had just moved across the street with his family.

"We met as neighbors," she said. Both families lived on Hoy Street off of Five Mile between Merriman and Middlebelt in Livonia. "His family came from Detroit. I went to school with his brothers," Patty said. The brothers were her age, but Mike was older and out of school.

They decided to marry while she was still finishing high school, against the wishes of their parents. They didn't have much money for rings, but they found an ad in the *Livonia Observer*. It read, "Wedding ring set for sale, 477-1658."

"My mother found the ad in the paper," Mike LaPradd said. "We were young and in love and had no money, obviously. We didn't have two nickels to rub together."

The rings

In answering the ad, Mike and Patty went together to a home in Farmington or Farmington Hills, after all these years, they are not sure which community it was. Patty waited outside in the car, while Mike went in to buy the rings.

It was said that the wife was sick, they think with cancer, and the couple had horses, as the area was more rural at

the time, Patty said. "She was ill and they wanted to feed the horses. The bills were piling up," Patty said. She was the reason they gave for selling the rings. Mike bought them for \$100. That was Feb. 4, 1974.

Fast forward nearly 40 years. After an apartment was newly built in Livonia, they bought their first house in Plymouth, then moved to Westland and later to Garden City, before moving to Howell 17 years ago. They have one son, age 35, who suffered a closed-head injury in an auto accident and is now living in a group home.

Mike retired from the GM Powertrain plant in Ypsilanti after 33 years as a machinist. He now sells cars at a dealership in Brighton. Patty worked as a cashier for Kroger in Hartland for 20 years, but has been sidelined with rheumatoid arthritis in recent months.

Mike had bought her other rings in later years when they could afford it. Then, with their 40th anniversary approaching, they thought back on that couple who sold the rings and wondered if maybe, just maybe, they could track them down. The original rings sit in a jewelry box most of the time now, Patty said.

Search begins

The LaPradds went to the Livonia Civic Center Library and searched through the archive of *Livonia Observers* to find the ad for the rings. They found it in the Jan. 18, 1974, paper. But they called that old phone number and found it is disconnected. They have tried through the phone company to track what address that phone number was attached to, but it had no luck, Patty said.

"It was the Farmington-Farmington Hills area. That's all I can re-



Mike and Patty LaPradd are nearing their 40th wedding anniversary.



Patty LaPradd with the rings bought from a couple 40 years ago.

"They gave me 40 good years. Everyone thought we were crazy then and here we are 40 years later."

PATTY LAPRADD



Patty and Mike LaPradd on their wedding day.

member. I can't remember the name of the street," Mike said.

He thinks the house was on two or three acres with two horses in a fenced off area and that it was a small bungalow-type home. He recalls the husband and wife as older, maybe in their 50s or early 60s. They don't

know the couple's names or if they had children.

Now they are wondering if anyone else might remember the couple. The rings are white gold and one has "AK to RG 91" engraved inside. The year appears to have worn off after the slash, Patty said. They went to a jeweler to have the in-

scription read and that's all that's left, Mike said.

"I remember my husband saying that they wished us the best," Patty said, adding that the couple said they were married 20 years, so that makes the rings about 60 years old.

"After having 40 years of that set, I would love to

give it back to the family," Patty said.

Happy anniversary Meanwhile, they are considering renewing their vows and having a reception for their 40th anniversary. They were married by a justice of the peace in Plymouth March 9, 1974, and never had a wedding, Patty said. They have an anniversary cruise planned for March.

Asked why she would give the rings back now after 40 years with them, she says, "That's just who I am. I don't have nobody to pass it down to."

"It may be funny, but it's just how we felt," Mike said of trying to give the rings back.

"I want to let everyone know how those rings meant to me at the time," he said. "I have a wonderful husband and I'll never forget how I felt when he gave me those rings."

"They gave me 40 good years," she added. "Everyone thought we were crazy then and here we are 40 years later."

"We thought if we could possibly find a family member or something, they would appreciate it," Mike said. "I'm hoping the husband is still alive to give this set back," Patty said. "I would love to have at least one of them alive still."

Anyone with information about that couple from 40 years ago can call Mike's cellphone at 313-300-8201 and leave a message.

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AGE

The saying goes: "You are as young as you feel." The medical community would say: Not quite.

Good eating habits, regular exercise, avoiding cigarettes and improved medical care make it possible for people to reach ages 70, 80 and beyond in full possession of their minds and bodies. The best of this class can undertake marathon activities of biking, jogging, swimming and hiking. However, even in this elite group aging is ongoing.

By now and the foreseeable future, science cannot spot senescence of the immune system, the brain, kidneys or the joints. What each of these body systems have in common is that they depend on cells that cannot reproduce, brain cells and their connections cannot multiply, the kidney glomeruli, the cells that separate urine from blood, die off with age, like leaves in winter, joint cartilage wears with age like tread on a tire.

The immune system is slightly different. We continue to make white blood cells and lymphocytes every day of our normal lives, but the quality of those immune cells lessens. They cannot respond with the appropriate antibodies in the amount and rate that give protection in maturity.

It is the lessened ability of the immune system to respond to an attack that causes physicians to treat older people in a different manner than when the same patients were younger. For instance, prednisone is a marvelous drug, but a physician needs to use it sparingly in people in their 70s and 80s. Prednisone impairs the immune system, making the older person taking it vulnerable to infection. The individual may look healthy and live vigorously, but the immune system is aging and is flawed.

Youth orchestra marks 10th season



The Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra celebrates its 10th season this year.

The Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, under the umbrella of the Michigan Philharmonic, begins this fall by celebrating its 10th season.

Started in 2003 with only 10 string players, the orchestra has grown to more than 85 students in four different ensembles, all under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Nan Washburn.

The MPYO attracts students from age 8-18

from all over the metro area.

For younger string players there are two different levels of string ensembles and for late middle and high school players the full Youth Symphony, which includes strings, winds, brass and percussion. In addition, flute players have the opportunity to be part of the MPYO Flute Choir under the direction of Washburn, a former professional flutist.

The Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra performs 2 major concerts during the season on the stage of the Village Theater in Canton and an outdoor concert in Kellogg Park in June. In addition to studying under an award winning conductor, the two upper ensembles also have the opportunity to perform side-by-side with the Michigan Philharmonic on two concerts each season.

There is also an

MPYO String Fellowship given each year which affords the winner a place in the orchestra on the opening Michigan Philharmonic concert of the season.

Auditions for the MPYO will be held Monday, Aug. 26, at Evola Music in Canton. To schedule an audition call 734-451-2112.

For information on the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra visit the group's website at www.mpyo.org

Library honored for energy efforts

The Canton Public Library has been honored with the 5-Star Energy Rating Achievement Award from the Camfil Farr Group.

Cost Index) air filtration standards to ensure continued energy savings, while maintaining quality indoor air.

"We are very proud to be recognized for this award," said Jim Laffey, the library's building

supervisor. The Camfil Farr Group is a manufacturer and developer of clean air products and air filters, specializing in global filtration with 24 production units and R&D centers.

Perk up: Coffee roasters campaign for Hatch votes

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

A young Wyandotte couple with roots in Garden City is hoping that the community will help them by supporting them in a metropolitan Detroit contest called Hatch Detroit.

The contest, which ends Aug. 28, relies on the number of votes cast on the website Hatch-Detroit.com to determine the winner.

Amy and Jeremy Duncan hope to soon open HenriettaHaus Coffee Roasters, a small batch coffee roaster and café in Hamtramck.

Jeremy is the son of Monica Duncan and the late Earl Duncan, pastor of Morningside Church who died last year. He is a Garden City High School graduate whose first venture into the business world was years ago as a carrier delivering the Garden City Observer, earning the title of Carrier of the Month.

The Duncans are among the four finalists in the Hatch Detroit contest.

One finalist will be selected to receive the



Amy and Jeremy Duncan, who have roots in the Garden City and Northville communities, are hoping that the public will cast votes for them in the Hatch Detroit contest.

\$50,000 prize from Comerica Bank and Hatch Detroit, a nonprofit.

Hatch Detroit narrowed the contestants from about 200 submissions to 10, then four. The winner will be named Aug. 29.

The contest is to help young entrepreneurs with \$50,000 and support services.

"That \$50,000 would go a long way to help us," said Amy Duncan, who grew up in Northville.

The couple purchased the former Kopytko Meat Market at 8609 Joseph Campau in Hamtramck. They plan to both reside and set up a store there.

For more than two years, they have been working out of the Rust

Belt Market at Nine Mile and Woodward in Ferndale every weekend, selling the coffee they roast along with Belgian Liege-style waffles. They look forward to having a store of their own after starting their venture at home many years ago.

Monica Duncan, Jeremy's mother, is busy these days getting the word out in the Garden City community about the successful business efforts of her son and daughter-in-law.

"I can't believe they made the top four," she said.

To cast a ballot for HenriettaHaus Coffee Roasters, visit Hatch-Detroit.com

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Japanese-American school seeks to bridge gap

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Like many other first-graders, George Goonis wakes up every morning singing a song.

The 5-year-old Livonia resident's song might sound a bit unfamiliar to some — because chances are good he is singing in Japanese.

Raised in an English-speaking household by monolingual parents, George started earlier this month his second year as a student at the Hinoki International School in Livonia, a two-way immersion elementary school chartered by Livonia Public Schools.

"I think George has learned over 100 songs in Japanese. He's a happy-go-lucky kid and he loves it," mother Patty Goonis said of the school. "And I love the fact that he is learning another language."

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, her son is getting something even more, according to Goonis, a librarian with the city of Livonia.

Broadened world view

"It has been a wonderful opportunity for my son to get a whole new world view. He is learning to embrace other cultures and those who are different from him," she said.

Although the country of Japan and the city of Livonia are separated by some 6,400 miles, the

school, the first Japanese-American school in the state of Michigan, is seeking to bridge that gap, bringing the rich culture and language of Japan to local elementary school students and their families, said Ted Delphia, the school's principal.

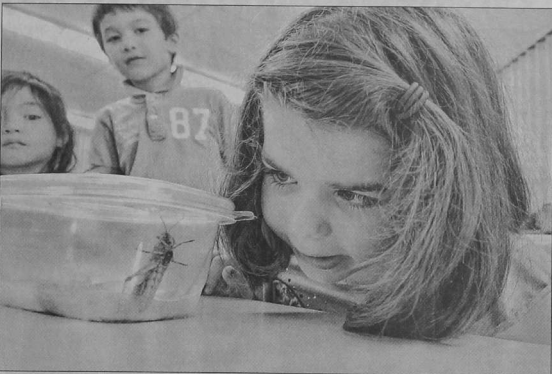
Officially chartered by LPS, the school was founded in 2010 by a group of interested supporters looking to provide a two-way bilingual learning environment for temporary Japanese residents, Japanese-heritage families and American families with an interest in the concept, Delphia said.

Now entering its fourth year, the school takes the best practices of both Japanese and American schools in an effort to create a global learning community, giving students a nurturing, culturally rich learning environment and successful educational experience in both Japanese and English, according to Delphia.

"We are not just teaching the Japanese language, it is a parallel world of understanding," he said. "Students bring their own languages and cultures from home into the classroom and work together to help one another learn."

Only one like it in state

Currently serving approximately 135 students in grades K-3



First-grade student Madeline Lenk brought a big grasshopper to show her class. In background, Zara Lin and Hugu Nakao. ALL PHOTOS BY BILL BRESELER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

throughout the area, including Novi, Plymouth and Canton, the school "is completely different from any other in Michigan," said Delphia, who is a Livonia resident along with his wife Mitsuyo, a teacher at the school.

Students at Hinoki attend school for six hours each day, with an elongated school year allowing for six weeks off for summer vacation, similar to the school calendar followed by students in Japan.

"We wanted to have more contact points with our students and avoid the summer slide," he said.

According to Delphia, the school follows the state of Michigan elementary school curriculum, blended with Japanese content expectations that create a unique two-way setting. Lessons are taught in both English and Japanese, allowing students the opportunity to increase their skills in a new language, while strengthening their skills in their native language.

"It is very different — we are not trying to lead on top of the kids, we are trying to work both sides and provide Japanese and American students with an opportunity to learn from each other and become bilingual, bilateral, bi-cultural and globally-minded individuals," Delphia said.

The Hinoki International School charter is overseen by LPS and

"provides another program we can't offer within the district, at the same time generating added revenue to help support our current programs in the district," LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa wrote in an email.

Opening doors

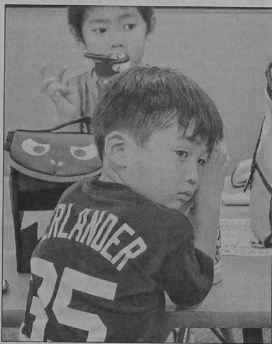
It is exactly the environment that Canton Township parent Rebecca Lenk was seeking for her twin daughters Charlotte and Madeline, age 5, when she enrolled them in the school's kindergarten program last year.

"There are whole sections of the world that are closed off to me because I only speak one language," Lenk said. "I thought it would be great if, through their schools, I could open up these worlds to my own children that I could not access."

Lenk believes that the exposure to another culture will help provide her daughters with a broadened view of the world.

"They have children in their class from Japan, Senegal — all over. They all look different, speak different languages and come from different areas. These are their friends, this is their peer group and they do not know any different. It can't help but influence the way they look at the world," Lenk said.

Located in a former LPS elementary school building on Curtis Road, the school plans to add



Fumiya Niikura's Justin Verlander shirt bridges two cultures. In background, Taro Hirata.

another grade level each year, eventually expanding up to sixth grade, Delphia said.

"We are not only brid-

ging a bridge across the Pacific — these kids will also have an extraordinary view of two cultures," he said.



Principal Ted Delphia plays a matching game with first-grade student Youma Yoneyama.



It's lunch time, and teacher Ai Yumba sings Japanese songs with her kindergarten class. The music acts as a bridge between the class period and the lunch period. Singing in Japanese reinforces language skills.

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Volunteers important to Wayne Metro look

During a time when most government-funded organizations are feeling the squeeze from budget cuts such as federal sequestration, individual gifts slowing down and fundraising event attendance decreasing, one Wayne County service organization has found a treasure trove in human capital as a way to do more with less.

Wayne Metro Community Action Agency is leaning on volunteerism to get the work done.

In recent months individual, community groups and corporate partners have stepped up to accomplish great things. PNC Bank, DTE Energy, AmeriCorps VISTA, the agency's Regional Advisory Council, Board of Directors, concerned parents, civic and political leaders and other service providers have given more than 10,000 hours of time. With an average full-time staff person making an annual salary of \$40,000 per year, the agency believes it has benefited from \$144,230 in donated time and services.

"Our most vulnerable citizens, including seniors and families with children, depend on us and these unpaid man hours fill a gap so that we don't have to turn people away."

In addition to the man hours, Wayne Metro is eliminating large expenses from the organization's budget. Volunteers from DTE's Marketing Department helped to paint an entire early childhood



Loui Piszker (left), CEO of Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, joins members of the marketing department at DTE during a painting project at St. Albert the Great Catholic School, one of Wayne Metro's 10 early childhood centers.

center earlier this month.

Their elbow grease helped to purge a \$10,000 expense the agency would have incurred for a contractor to do the work. The money will instead be used toward the purchase of new technology, events for parents and new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) based program supplies and materials.

The corporate team

PNC Bank - Wayne Metro and PNC Bank recently formed a long-term partnership through the company's Grow Up Great initiative. Through the program, PNC employees can spend up to 40 hours per year during working

hours to support local early learning and literacy projects.

PNC Grow up Great is a \$30 million, multi-year, bilingual initiative dedicated to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. In addition to the 40 hours per employee, PNC also offers grants of up to \$3,000 to the sites the volunteers go to. As an added bonus, PNC executives visit sites monthly to spend time with and reading to children. This includes PNC Chairman and CEO James E. Rohr.

DTE Energy - DTE Energy, also a major sponsor of Wayne Metro's annual Walk for Warmth, has participated in several agency volun-

teer projects. On Friday, Aug. 2, DTE's Marketing Department kicked off a painting project at St. Albert the Great Catholic School, one of Wayne Metro's 10 early childhood centers. The team put in a total of 45 hours of time.

In addition to the hours of volunteer labor, the agency can use those hours toward a federally-mandated in-kind match and are in the running to receive a \$1,500 cash grant from the DTE Foundation.

National groups

AmeriCorps VISTAs - VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) provides opportunities for community organizations to create, develop and strengthen initiatives that focus on economic opportunity, health, futures and/or education.

Wayne Metro has been selected by the Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS) to serve as an intermedi-

ary organization placing service participants with other organizations, referred to as "Host Sites." Wayne Metro utilizes VISTAs in departments throughout the agency, including nutrition, human resources, tax preparation, housing counseling, financial services and Head Start.

Community clients

Regional Advisory Council (RACs) - Wayne Metro Regional Advisory Council members serve as ambassadors of Wayne Metro by advocating for the community while promoting the agency's mission. RAC members come from a variety of backgrounds which include clients, schools, churches and community clubs, members of local businesses and employees or volunteers from other non-profit agencies.

RAC members meet to discuss community

needs, plan events and raise money. They also grant funds to local non-

profit organizations to support their mission. Some examples include a Community Garage Sale, Community Baby Shower and community gardens, which supply fresh produce to area food pantries.

"Even in great times of need, those receiving Wayne Metro services choose to donate their time back to the organization. From parents and school-aged children to skilled out tradesmen and the energy of these extraordinary groups and individuals is contagious and has enriched the culture here at Wayne Metro significantly," Piszker said. "We are thankful to all of them for helping to support us, choosing to live out our mission and enabling our clients to live out their own personal missions."

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency is the Community Action Agency of all Wayne County, including the city of Detroit. Its mission is to empower low-income people and strengthen communities through diverse services, leadership and collaboration. The agency has been serving needs of low-income individuals since 1971 and has grown into an agency with an annual budget of more than \$55 million that delivers more than 50 integrated programs, including educational, housing, financial, health care and basic needs services to individuals, families and children.

Wayne Metro has more than 20 sites throughout Wayne service sites in Wayne County, including Community Service Centers at 32715 Dorsey, Westland, and 5904 Middlebelt, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 246-2280.

LEGAL NOTICE

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Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of Petitions of property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose front footage constitutes more than 50% of the total front footage of the hereinafter described Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plymouth proposes a road paving project in Woodlure South Subdivision and to create a Special Assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by Special Assessment against the properties benefited therein.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth has tentatively declared its intention to make the hereinafter described improvement:

We, the undersigned, representing the record owners of more than fifty one (51%) percent of the frontage and more than fifty one (51%) of the units within the proposed district, hereby petition the board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to construct the hereinafter described project in accordance with the provisions of Public Acts of the State of Michigan, Act 188 of 1954, as amended, and Act 246 of 1931, as amended. It is understood that the proposed project is primarily a road improvement project and therefore any drainage problems existing prior to the project will not be corrected except where said modification is necessary to protect the life of the road pavement. Existing water problems, such as standing water, etc., outside of the roadway will not be resolved by this program. It is further understood that this improvement, if permitted by the County of Wayne, could be subject to special conditions dependent upon the findings of the soils investigation report, existing subsurface conditions, etc. The proposed improvements to the existing two-lane concrete roadway shall consist of complete and/or partial concrete pavement replacement, subbase and subgrade preparation, and miscellaneous driveway and drainage work, which may be needed to facilitate the replacement of the concrete road pavement. The project commences at the east right-of-way line of Timberwood Drive and proceeds eastward on Timberwood Drive approximately 985 to its point of termination at Marisa Court, proceeds eastward on Marisa Court approximately 250 feet where it turns into Woodlure South Drive, proceeds southward and westward along Woodlure South Drive approximately 1,240 feet, and southward on Woodlure South Drive approximately 240 feet to the north right-of-way line of Joy Road. The project also includes Marisa Court commencing the intersection with Timberwood Drive and proceeding westward approximately 750 feet to its point of termination, Corey Court commencing at the intersection with Timberwood Drive and proceeding eastward approximately 190 feet to its point of termination, Woodlure South Drive commencing at the intersection with Marisa Court and Woodlure South Drive and proceeding eastward approximately 275 feet, and Tania Court commencing at the intersection with Woodlure South Drive and proceeding westward approximately 525 feet to its point of termination.

That it has further been tentatively determined that the following described lots and parcels of land will specially benefit from said improvements and will constitute a Special Assessment District against which the cost of said improvement shall be assessed:

The district limit for frontage along Timberwood Dr., Corey Ct., Marisa Ct., Rockledge Dr., Woodlure South Dr., and Tania Ct., consists of Lots 1 through 63 of Woodlure South Subdivision, located in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 33, T1S, R4E, of Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth shall meet on **Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48170**, for the purpose of reviewing said proposed Special Assessment District, and hearing objections to the proposed project, and the assessment thereon. All persons may then and there appear and make any objections they may have to such improvement and assessment. Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of any of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or agent thereof, may appear in person at the hearing, or may file an appearance or protest by letter. All parties or agents appearing in person at the hearing for purposes of protest should request the appearance be entered into the record of the meeting.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the plans, specifications, estimates of cost and recommendations of the engineer for said proposed Special Assessment District have been filed with the Township and are available for public examination at the office of the Township Clerk. The estimate of costs of such construction is in the approximate amount of \$314,000.00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that periodic redetermination of costs for the proposed Special Assessment District may be necessary and may be made without further notice to the record owners or parties in interest in the property.

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

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

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their new office is located on Haggerty Road just north of I-294. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

www.ssdffighter.com

Movie shines the spotlight on local sites, people

By **Laura Colvin**
Staff Writer

Some local talent will take the spotlight next week as *Approaching Midnight* hits the big screen at Imagine Royal Oak for its world premiere screening.

Milford American Legion members and Lyons and Sons participated as extras in the independent film last summer, when Oak Grove Cemetery was used as a backdrop for a scene in the movie.

A portion of proceeds from the premiere event will benefit the Legion.

The plot

The movie is an action crime drama that follows young Army Staff Sgt. Wesley Kent's return to his small town after being wounded in the war in Afghanistan.

Coping with the task of burying his best friend — who died under his command during the war — he must endure the news of the death of his girlfriend, who passed away in a car accident while he was away.

Unanswered questions begin to multiply as he uncovers a web of mysterious circumstances and possible corruption that may lead all the way to his girlfriend's father, the town's mayor, and his run for governor.

There's a small-town political thriller element that develops as he realizes everything is not well," said director-writer-producer-actor Sam Logan Khaleghi, a Detroit native who stars in the film as Wesley Kent. "We follow his path as he utilizes the skill sets he gained in the special forces of the U.S. Army and applies those skill sets to the task at hand. He has one more battle to fight and that's to uncover the truth."

Khaleghi said the film should have a broad appeal.

"Hopefully, it's an exciting, fun movie for audiences," he said. "I think people will be able to escape and enjoy a fun story, but also to identify with certain characters."

Local appeal

When crews came to Milford for filming last summer, Mike Lynch was on site with a Lynch and Sons hearse and casket, while the American Legion lent its help with a motorcycle honor guard and color guard to lead the procession, provide pallbearers, rifle volley, play *Taps* and fold the American flag.

Assistant producer Michelle Lynne Balsler, a 1986 Milford High School graduate, had a lot to do with picking the Oak Grove Cemetery location, Khaleghi said.

The two were visiting her grandmother in town and the group stopped by the cemetery, where a number of her family is buried.

"You picture something in your mind and look for a place that matches that," Balsler said during filming last summer. "We realized this was the perfect location."

The cinematographic aspects and personal connection, along with its location on the Huron River and old headstones, attracted the two. Filming took place in a number of metro Detroit communities as well, including Northville, Canton, Troy, West Bloomfield and Milan, where they filmed the opening combat scene set in Afghanistan. Film crews used a rock quarry to recreate the landscape.

Benefits for Milford-area veterans

American Legion Post 216 member John Robinson was a movie extra and said he hopes the community will come out to support the world premiere event Tuesday in Royal Oak.

"It helps us locally by bringing awareness to

veterans issues," he said, noting the Legion assists the needy, families of deployed veterans, homeless veterans, awards school scholarships and lends a hand to the community in many other ways, as well.

A number of Post 216 members will be at the event in uniform, he added.

"You'll see us just dressed just like we are

in the movie," he said. "It's pretty thrilling. I'm really happy that (Sam Logan Khaleghi) and his company came full-circle to help us out. In the very beginning, he came to me and asked if I could get together the color guard and help us out in the movie. I said I could, as long as he gave something back to the American Legion and he did. He came full-circle."

The film's world premiere takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Imagine Royal Oak, 200 N. Main St.

Tickets are \$15, with half of the proceeds going to the American Legion. Call 888-319-3456 for ticket information or visit www.imagine-entertainment.com/imagine-royal-oak.

colvin@hometownlife.com



Sam Logan Khaleghi (right), as Staff Sgt. Wesley Kent, talks with U.S. Army veteran Matt Szymanski, who plays Capt. Shane Church. COURTESY OF 12 AM PICTURES LLC

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MUSIC AND DANCE SCHOOL EXPANDS TO INCLUDE DANCE, PIANO AND VOICE LESSONS

Now your family can learn to dance, sing and play piano at one convenient Plymouth location

By Sally Rummel, Contributing Writer
 Local families have even more reasons to sign up for classes this fall at Metro Dance Company in Plymouth — Studio Director Kristie Wyler has added additional dance, voice and piano lessons for all ages. "We offer both dance and music at our Plymouth studio, so parents can sign up their families for both in one location," said Wyler. "Parents appreciate knowing they'll just have to make one stop for their family's weekly lessons. It's very convenient for everyone."

Private voice lessons start at age 8 and private piano lessons start at age 5. "In addition to these new classes, younger children can begin taking group music lessons right here at the studio through "Harmony & Me" said Wyler. These new music lessons complement the busy dance schedule that has made Metro Dance Company a destination for dancers of all ages.

The studio is currently registering students for classes in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, contemporary, pointe and ballroom, as well as competitive classes for dancers age six and older. The studio also offers beginning adult classes in ballroom, ballet, pointe and hip hop cardio. Each year, experienced dancers are welcome to audition for the Metro Dance Company Competitive Team.

The team is a positive, fun, team-oriented experience for serious dancers looking for additional performance opportunities. Selected dancers compete

at regional dance competitions as well as one out-of-state national competition each year.

While Metro Dance Company is excited to offer competitive dance, its main focus is sharing the love of dance and learning teamwork, according to Wyler. A variety of classes are recreation-based, without a competitive edge.

For younger dancers, preschool combo classes are available for ages 2 1/2 to 5. These lessons combine ballet, jazz, tap and tumbling and teachers work with the children to foster creativity, freedom of expression in movement and a love for dance. To register for classes, call the studio at (734) 207-8970 or register online at www.MetroDanceandMusic.com.

The 2013-14 dance and music year begins Saturday, Sept. 7 and runs through June. Even if students have never danced or played the piano before, there's a place for them at Metro Dance Company. All the classes at the studio offer beginner levels in each age group, including adults. "Even if a teen has never danced before, they'll be placed in a beginning teen level class, for example," explained Wyler. "They won't be learning to dance with younger kids."

Thanks to the visibility of TV shows like "Dancing with the Stars,"

adult ballroom classes have been more popular than ever. "Dancers don't need a partner to come to class," said Wyler. "It's structured so you can just come in and learn the steps." Adult students learn the basics of ballroom styles such as waltz, foxtrot, cha cha, rumba, tango, swing and salsa. In addition to group ballroom classes, private ballroom lessons are available for all skill levels, centered around the dancer's availability.

Wedding choreography for the bride and groom, bridal party and daddy-daughter dances are also very popular for couples who want to step up their dancing skills for their special day.

Metro Dance Company is located at 541 S. Mill (Lilley) in Plymouth.

They can be reached at 734-207-8970, or visit them online at

www.MetroDanceandMusic.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/metrodance.

Call now to start classes today!

Trying to decide between and few music or dance schools? Ask the following questions when selecting a studio...

What type of dance floor is used?

Dance is a very physical activity that requires a lot of jumping. It can put a lot of stress on bones and joints and most dance footwear does not provide any cushioning or support. Metro Dance Company uses a "floating" hardwood sprung floor in each of its three dance rooms. They absorb the shock of jumping, helping to prevent injuries.

Are beginning students welcome?

Beginning students, no matter their age are welcome for both music and dance classes. The studio offers beginning youth, beginning teen and beginning adult dance classes and private piano and voice lessons are ideal for all skill levels.

Can I get immediate assistance?

In many studios, the teacher or studio owner conducts classes and does the administration. Metro Dance Company has an office staff on hand during all regular class times, so families get immediate assistance.

What is the studio environment?

Metro Dance Company is committed to providing safe and quality instruction to children and adults of all ages and skill levels. The studio has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and offers students a choice of technique-only and recital dance and music classes. Students are taught about teamwork, having a positive attitude and setting goals.

"My daughter's experience with Metro Dance is a great pleasure. She has grown not only as a dancer but also as a team member. It is nice to see her involved in something she enjoys so much and make plenty of close friends along the way."
 -Maribel Schaefer

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SPORTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

THE NICK OF TIME

Brandon takes 'Cats' top coaching job, expects immediate success

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nick Brandon demands excellence of himself.

That will continue for the 33-year-old Canton resident in his new job as varsity girls basketball head coach at Plymouth.

He'll also expect his players to follow his lead — hopefully all the way to the top of the KLA South Division, for starters.

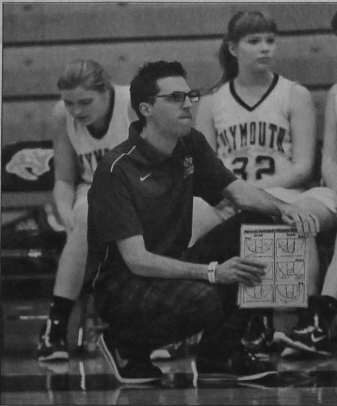
"I feel incredibly fortunate," Brandon said Tuesday night, shortly after district co-athletic director Sue Heinzman announced the hiring. "I just feel tremendous confidence from everyone around me to get this position."

"And I know there's a lot of people out there that believe that I can lead this program into a championship program. I believe we can do that now. I don't believe in transition years. I don't believe in making excuses about why we can't win now."

Brandon, who was JV girls coach and an assistant varsity coach on Bob deBear's staff the past three seasons, added that he will "put all my energy — and I'm going to expect that my players will put all their energy — into working hard every day to be champions."

According to a statement sent Tuesday by Heinzman to players and families in the Plymouth girls basketball program, it was unanimously decided by a committee composed of a parent, teacher, coach and player to select Brandon.

Also hired were Patrick Foley



Nick Brandon will demand accountability, hard work and respect as Plymouth's varsity girls basketball head coach.

and Colleen Flaherty, as the new JV and freshman coach, respectively.

Both Foley and Flaherty joined Brandon to run the girls summer program, doing a job that drew raves and put them over the top.

Now, Brandon will begin looking for varsity assistants to augment Foley and Flaherty (a player from Plymouth's first graduation class in 2006).

"One of the things right off the bat that I need to do to get this program in the right direction is hire the best coaching

staff in the state," Brandon said. "We already have a couple people in place in our lower levels, but it's my job to go out and find a great team of (assistant) coaches."

"You can't have a great team of players without outstanding leaders as coaches."

Brandon was an early favorite to land the job vacated by deBear, who stepped down under apparent duress from players and parents wanting a new voice and direction for the program. Plymouth finished 12-10 in 2012-13.

THE BRANDON FILE

Who: Nick Brandon, 33-year-old Canton resident and eighth-grade teacher at Discovery Middle School. **What:** Named new varsity girls basketball coach at Plymouth, where he had been junior varsity coach and a varsity assistant coach.

Miscellaneous: Brandon also coaches Plymouth's varsity boys golf team. He played high school basketball at Plymouth Christian Academy.

Family: He and his wife Leigh have two children. Ileana will turn 2 in October, while Blake is two months old.

Asked about that situation, Brandon would only mention what he will be demanding from everybody connected with the girls basketball team.

In short, it will be exactly what he expects from those on his varsity boys golf team, which came within an eyelash of capturing the 2013 Division 1 championship.

"I've built my program on a number of principles," Brandon said. "But the ones most important to me are accountability, discipline, respect and, above all, team."

"That's my philosophy, that's what I'll talk about every day. That's what I'll show through my own actions as a leader every day. And that's what I expect everybody associated with our program to buy into and follow 100 percent."

The former prep cage star at Plymouth Christian Academy added that he likely will coach the Wildcats boys golfers for just one more year.

"My intentions are to coach golf one more season," Brandon said. "I want to see those seniors through the program and finish their journey. But as far as anything beyond that, in the end it's really a family decision."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Girls tee off

All three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park girls golf teams were in action Thursday at the Highest Honors Tournament at Huron Meadows Metropolitan in Brighton.

The defending Division 1 state champion Plymouth Wildcats tied with Novi for third place with a team score of 345, trailing first-place Detroit Country Day (331) and Troy (332).

Canton placed sixth with a tally of 356 and had the top individual performer among PCEP teams Kelsey McDougall scored a 74. Finishing the day with a score of 400 was Salem.

Plymouth's top golfer was Sydney Murphy, with a 79, followed by Kayla Whaley (80), Katie Chipman (86), Alaina Strzalka (100) and Ariana Strzalka (103).

For the Chiefs, in addition to McDougall, Chloe Lyuet registered an 84. Others included Madelyn Mans (98), Rachel Picano (100) and Shelby Lobb (104).

Breaking 100 for Salem were Kiley Flynn and Christine Bennett, finishing with a 107.

Look inside today's Observer for girls golf previews.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW — PART 1



One of Salem's top at-net performers again this year will be Kelly Whalen (No. 11). JOHN KEMSA/EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem spikers show promise for 2013 season

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Injuries and a lack of consistency derailed last year's Salem varsity girls volleyball team.

Whether the Rocks can make a big improvement over last season's 3-7 mark in the KLA Central Division is something veteran head coach Amanda Nies can only hope for.

She wouldn't be surprised if they did, given improved health (particularly senior libero Nikki Manser) and a hard-working, enthusiastic bunch.

Manser missed most of 2012 with a knee injury, but Nies said the 5-7 co-captain "is healthy and ready to lead our defense. She has been moving nice-

ly and is really going to anchor us in the back row."

Also instrumental to Salem's chances is 6-0 senior middle hitter and co-captain Kelly Whalen, entering her fourth season with the varsity.

"Kelly is really going to be the lead for us offensively in blocking," Nies said. "She needs to continue to work on her speed, but she is a driving force for us in the middle."

Another co-captain is 5-10 sophomore Tess Ganich, who can handle duties at outside hitter as well as setter.

"Tess is an athlete she is able to play any position on the floor and play it well," Nies said. "I will be looking at

See SALEM, Page B3

BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW — PART 1

Wildcats feel good about their chances

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last season's strong finish by Plymouth's varsity boys soccer team is having a positive carryover effect that veteran head coach Jeff Neschich is thrilled to see.

Plymouth went 14-10-2 in 2012 and upset Salem in the district final for the team's first trip to the regionals.

"I think there's a good, positive vibe coming from the boys," Neschich said. "We know we got a lot of tough teams we got to face. We feel positive coming into this year, but we know it's going to be a tough road."

The Wildcats got the ball rolling with Saturday's always-competitive Gary Balconi Invitational. On the docket for this week are KLA matches Monday at Saline and Wednesday at Northville.

Neschich pointed to a solid cast of 11 returning players for continuing optimism.

At the top of that list is senior midfielder Viet Nguyen, who will join the Plymouth attack on a regular basis.

"Viet, he is just so calm with the ball," Neschich said. "He's a playmaker out there. He's a real smooth player."

Plymouth's front line will feature returning seniors Danny Butes, Alex Decker and Nate Harris and promising sophomore Jayden Huxtable.

"He's a big, strong, fast kid," Neschich said about Huxtable. "He's real aggressive and he's really impressed us in the preseason so far."

Sparking the defense-to-offense transition, along with Nguyen, will be junior returnee Jason Liguori.

Sophomores Mike Blake and Nick Freda also have potential to make an impact at midfield.

Strong 'D'

As is customary for Neschich's teams, strong defense and goalkeeping will be in the mix.

See WILDCATS, Page B3

Whalers' camp, benefit set

The Plymouth Whalers will start the 2013-14 season with the team's annual training camp from Monday through Friday at Compuware Arena.

After several days of off-ice testing, getting fitted for equipment and finalizing schedules, the Whalers hit the ice in scrimmages 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Scrimmages are open to the public. Plymouth plays its first preseason game 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena in Livonia against Ice Arena.

All proceeds will benefit the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the Larry Nehasil Park in Livonia.

Eddie Edgar Arena is located at 33841 Lyndon. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Livonia Police Department (734-466-2470), Compuware Arena (734-453-8400), Eddie Edgar Ice Arena (734-427-1280), Livonia Chamber of Commerce (734-427-2122) and the Livonia Community Recreation Center (734-466-2900).



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Red Wings' top farm team to play game at Compuware

Sept. 28 contest showcases former Whalers Heard, Meurs

Compuware Arena will shift focus from the Plymouth Whalers to the American Hockey League for one night only next month.

Compuware will host an AHL preseason tilt Saturday, Sept. 28 between the Grand Rapids Griffins and Lake Erie Monsters, with puck drop set for 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available by calling 734-453-8400.

"The game should be a lot of fun for our fans," said Mike Vellucci, not only general manager

and head coach of the OHL Whalers but also arena president. "They'll be able to watch players who are a half-step away from the National Hockey League. And they may be able to see Mitchell Heard and Garrett Meurs again, who were very good players here in Plymouth."

The Griffins are the AHL affiliate of the Detroit Red Wings and are defending Calder Cup champions, clinching their first league championship in franchise histo-

ry in June. Many of the Detroit prospects participated in the early part of Red Wings training camp last January at Compuware.

The arena on Beck Road was filled with Red Wings fans during the training camp, which culminated in a sold-out crowd Jan. 15 for the Red-White scrimmage.

In addition, Plymouth fans may see some other familiar names in the game.

OHL alum Petr Mrazek (Ottawa 67s) back-

stopped the Griffins to their championship, posting a 2.31 goals-against average, 91.5 save percentage and 15-9 won-loss record over 24 playoff games.

Grand Rapids was led offensively in their championship run by Tomas Tatar (16-5), Landon Ferraro (5-11) and Riley Sheahan (3-13), among others.

Current Red Wings Danny DeKeyser, Gustav Nyquist and Joakim Andersson also played in the Griffins' championship run after Detroit was eliminated in the

2013 National Hockey League playoffs by Chicago.

Former Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds defenseman Ryan Sproul may also play in the game.

As the AHL affiliate of the Colorado Avalanche, the Monsters could have a definite Whalers flavor in the game.

Plymouth alum Heard was selected by the Avalanche in the second round (41st overall) of the 2012 NHL Draft and played 23 games for the Monsters last season before returning to Ply-

mouth for his over-age season.

Meurs was selected in the fifth round by Colorado (123rd overall) in the 2011 NHL Draft and played from 2009-13 for the Whalers.

Although Meurs could return to play for the Whalers in 2013-14, he will probably begin his professional career this season with the Monsters.

If Heard and Meurs are not with the Avalanche in their training camp, they will be playing for Lake Erie in the contest in Plymouth.

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Fall golf classes

PGA professional Tami Bealert will stage a series of fall golf programs at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier Road, Superior Township. Among the classes

offered include: Short Game Clinic, 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 10-Oct. 1 (cost \$85 for four weeks); Juniors (ages 9-17), 5:30-6:40 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 12-Oct. 3 (cost \$80 for four weeks); Little Linksters ages 5-8, 11-

SPORTS SHORTS

11:50 a.m. Saturdays, Sept. 7-Oct. 5 (cost \$80 for five weeks); Full Swing Clinic, 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by a Fish Fry, 6:30-7:30 p.m., every other Friday, Sept. 6 through Oct. 18, at Green-side Tavern (cost \$35

each); and Glo Golf Putting Challenge and Fish Fry, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11 (cost \$35).

You can also sign up for putting clinics (\$25 each) from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays (Level 1) and Thursdays (level 2) through Oct. 22 and Oct. 24, respectively.

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BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW - PART 1

Rocks have talent, plus experience

New coach Duhl happy with prospects

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

In his first season as head coach of Salem's varsity boys soccer team, Scott Duhl would like nothing better than to pick up where his predecessor, Ed McCarthy, left off.

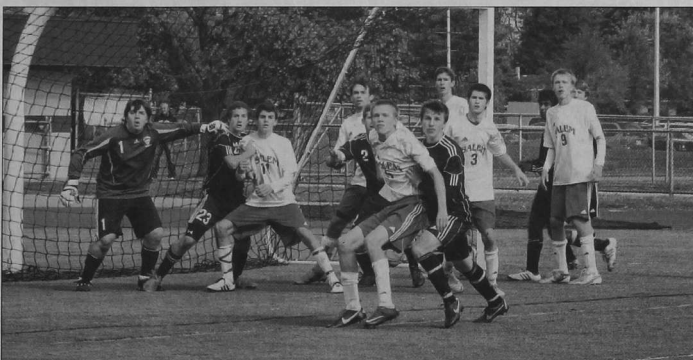
Last season, the Rocks finished 16-3-4 and captured the KLAAs Central Division, Kensington Conference and overall association titles.

Who knows how long of a postseason march they would have enjoyed if not for a heartbreaking 1-0 loss to Plymouth in the district finals.

Not to worry, Duhl, a longtime assistant coach for McCarthy, welcomes a strong cast of returning players from that successful season.

"We have high hopes again of winning our division and showing well in conference," Duhl said. "With that said, we know we have some of the best divisions in the state with Novi, Northville, (Livonia) Stevenson and the South Lyon schools. "It's a marathon of a season and if we are fortunate to stay healthy and come out of league play in decent shape, that's what we're looking for."

It all got under way Saturday with the annual



Plymouth and Salem battle it out during last season's Division 1 district finals. The campus rivals could have an encore in 2013. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Gary Balconi Invitational. KLAAs contests begin Tuesday at Walled Lake Western.

Nucleus is back

All of the ingredients are there for plenty of success again this fall, starting with senior goalkeeper (and co-captain) Collin Hewett.

Other co-captains include senior forwards Brady and Connor Cole (who led the Rocks in scoring in 2012) and senior defender Josh Dillon.

Salem's front line will be fortified by a handful of seniors expected to score plenty of goals and log important minutes.

They include Andriy Pelekh, David Schroeder, Matt DeMoss and Traven Thai.

Augmenting Dillon in the back will be steady seniors Joe Kunnath, Alex Price, Walid Kandah and Will Benintende.

Another reason for Duhl to be optimistic is an influx of eight newcomers, all with potential

to "step up and earn big roles with the group."

Four juniors with promise include midfielders Ryan Morley, Jacob Kunnath, defender Doug Haslitt and goalkeeper Chad Wind.

Sophomore midfielders Jordan Salhani, Max Kummer, Nick Massey and Luke Nolta also are ready to make big contributions.

"Those eight guys all possess different attributes and personality which is great for the

team," Duhl said. "I just hope that we can make all the pieces fit."

Meanwhile, Duhl knows from his own high school career in the 1990s with the Rocks just how much of a soccer hotbed the area is.

That means the Rocks must stay sharp to keep up with Canton and Plymouth — the latter not even in existence when Duhl played — and to hopefully prevail in what promises to be a major battle in the districts.

"We're possibly up against two great teams in the Chiefs and Wildcats in districts and any chance of having a great run in the state playoffs will be predicated on how we do against our campus rivals," Duhl said.

"Every year those schools, like ours, field a very competitive team, but it's going to take hard work and a little luck to have the season our boys want to have."

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GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW - PART 1

New year, new hope for PCA

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last year was "getting to know you" kind of situation for Plymouth Christian Academy's new volleyball coach Katie LeComte and her players.

Things could be different in 2013. A number of players are back after earning key experience last season, as well as during the summer.

Oh, and LeComte was married over the summer and now is Katie Decker.

"Last year, we only

had two returning starters and a lot of girls with no varsity experience," Decker said.

"This year, the girls are more confident and have really increased their skill level, many working hard even in the off-season with club ball."

PCA will bank on several returning players, including senior middle hitter/setter Jen Malcolm, senior outside hitter Rachael Fuller, libero Callie Morby and middle hitter Kelsey Williamson.

The Eagles also have some promising new-

comers in the lineup. Freshman Olivia Mady will start at outside hitter, while freshman Divina Roi is slated to be a defensive specialist.

"We have some great young talent that joined the team this year," Decker said.

Provided the team stays healthy, it could make some noise in the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference.

"This year we are looking to improve both in our conference as well as going deeper into the state tournament," Decker said.

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

The top center defender will be senior captain Vikas Kanneganti, who Neschich said is "such a smart, hard-working player, he's going to be the key

to holding everything together in the back for us."

Junior Calvin McCracken is "really playing impressive for us," said Neschich, adding that seniors Aaron Bergmans and Brian Brown are "looking good" as outside defenders.

Hoping to pick up where 2013 graduate Mario Gruszczynski left off between the pipes will be junior goalkeeper Kevin Gibbs.

Backing up Gibbs will be senior Kevin Favero.

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SALEM

Continued from Page B1

Tess as a big leader for us."

The hard-working trio has set the tone during scrimmages and preseason matches, with their teammates following their example.

Meshing already

In fact, Nies, whose team faced Plymouth in the regular season opener Friday night, pointed to how well the Rocks performed at a recent scrimmage at Novi.

"The girls looked together right from the start," Nies said, "I am excited about this year and the passion the girls have for the game."

Salem features players who are versatile, which should only help give opponents fits when trying to match up.

Orchestrating the offensive attack will be 5-3 senior setter Nicole Jablonski (along with Ganich).

"Last year, Nicole was mostly defense for us and a backup setter behind Nancy Krutty," Nies said. "This year, she will be sharing half the time in the setting position. She has a great court sense and a great touch to the ball."

KLAAs rivals will have to figure out how to contain 5-9 senior outside hitter Taylor Jaska.

"Taylor has really gotten into great shape over the summer," Nies said. "She is our lefty on the team and will most likely be an all-around player for us on the right side."



Salem's Tess Ganich gears up for a play during a 2012-13 match. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The Rocks' front row has plenty of height and athletic ability in 5-11 junior outside hitter Michelle Dierker, 5-9 junior outside hitter Hannah Mote, 5-8 junior outside hitter Kate Leon and 5-6 junior outside hitter Kelly Lidzbarski.

"Any given night there may be a new outside hitter in the front row," the coach said. "They will be competing hard every day in practice for those spots."

Potential spark plugs

Rotating at middle hitter and right side hitter will be 6-0 juniors Madison Fairchild and Audrey Boike.

"I will really be looking for that girl who has speed along the net in the middle and can really draw a middle attack from our opponent," Nies said. "What it comes down to is confidence in that position."

Two players who could

create a spark are 5-3 junior defensive specialists Sydney Ortiz and Megan Davis.

"Sydney comes with great form and speed," Nies said. "Megan has a great passion and intensity to her when she is on the floor."

Rounding out the roster is 5-10 freshman outside hitter Kendall Gilen, a player for whom Nies has a lot of high hopes.

"Kendall as a freshman already has great court sense and brings a lot of athletic ability to the floor," Nies said. "It was not until the last day of tryouts when I put her with the varsity team that it really showed she belonged with us."

"She plays much better with better competition and rises to the occasion. She will be fun to watch grow throughout the season."

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GIRLS GOLF PREVIEW

Park golfers ready to get into the swing

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The 2012 Plymouth Wildcats varsity girls golf team steam-rolled over competition en route to the Division 1 state championship.

This fall, with stalwarts such as Kelsey Murphy and Sarah Thompson having graduated, the playing field among Plymouth-Clanton Educational Park teams might be a bit closer.

Following is a look at how Clanton, Plymouth and Salem stack up entering the season:

Canton Chiefs

For Canton head coach Tom Alles, entering his fourth season, he will feel comfortable knowing senior captain Kelsey McDougall is back for another campaign.

But the coach knows he has a lot more talent at his disposal than the 2012 all-KLAA and first-team all-stater.

Other key seniors include Shelby Lobb, Chloe Luyet and Rachel Pisano.

Rounding out the roster are junior Alyce Krumm and sophomore Madelyn Mans.

"Kelsey McDougall is our most skilled golfer and should be one of the premier players in our conference," said Alles,

whose team finished 6-2 in 2012. "Chloe Luyet and Alyce Krumm have both been scoring consistently in the 40s during early practices, with Lobb, Pisano and Mans not far behind. We should have a solid six-player lineup for dual matches."

Alles added that with such a well-balanced lineup, the Chiefs have potential to make some noise at the Division 1 regionals.

"I think we will have a good shot at making that happen," he said.

Plymouth Wildcats

Second-year head coach Dan Young still has plenty of talent for the Wildcats to enjoy another standout season.

It remains to be seen whether it will approach 2012, when Plymouth went 8-0 in the KLAA South Division and went on to claim the Kensington Conference championship before sweeping to the state title.

Young, however, knows he can bank on senior Kayla Whitley, junior Sydney Murphy and sophomore Katie Chipman to provide outstanding leadership, poise and ability under pressure.

"We haven't played enough to have averages yet," Young

said. "But all three are excellent players with varsity experience. Their leadership for the younger girls will be a plus as the season progresses. We look forward to getting into some of the top early season events and see how we do."

Other returnees are Justine Berry, Genevieve Parkey, Elise Wehmer, Maren Wisniewski, Abby Makelini and Trisha Donnelly and "are much improved," Young said.

Sophomore twins Ariana and Alaina Strzalka move up from the junior varsity and could push for significant playing time.

New to the program are Megan Brace, Simrit Brara, Rachel Kristian and Heather Muir.

Salem Rocks

Except for the standings, last season was one of growth for the young Salem squad, which finished 1-9 in the always-tough KLAA Central Division.

Head coach Ryan Nimmerguth, however, is enthusiastic that the 2013 season will be when the team starts to make strides in the division.

"As always, we play in one of the tougher divisions in the state with Novi, South Lyon, Northville, South Lyon East

and (Livonia) Stevenson," Nimmerguth said. "I look for my girls to be very competitive."

The good thing about the game of golf is on any day, anything can happen, so hopefully we can sneak up on a few of those teams and knock them off because we have taken our lumps the past few seasons."

He cited strong leadership from senior co-captains Christine Li and Amanda Bennett as a big plus going into the year. Both are entering their fourth season on the team.

"Christine is really working hard on her game this year and should be one of our leaders for the team," Nimmerguth said. "Amanda is showing much more confidence this year and, along with Christine, she has shown great leadership so far this season and has been an asset in building chemistry throughout the team."

Both Li and Bennett will be among the top players in the lineup, along with sophomores Kiley Flynn and Hope Warkoczkeski.

post some low scores this year," he said.

Competing for the fifth and sixth spots will be junior Kahlre Koza, sophomore Amy Lawler and freshmen Darby Scott, Keista Elder and Grace Grelak.

Koza, entering her third season with the Rocks "has put some work into her game," the coach said.

Lawler has shown "good improvement" over last fall, while all three freshmen come to the varsity with a lot of promise.

He noted that Scott and Elder "spent a lot of extra time working on their game and it shows. They both will contribute to the varsity lineup at some point this season."

As for Grelak, the coach said that "with practice, she will be a good addition to the team."

"We have good leadership with our two seniors, but otherwise are a very young team, with four of our top six being freshmen and sophomores," Nimmerguth said.

"Hopefully those younger players learn quickly from the experience they get early in the season and it will pay off at the end of the season."

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COLLEGE SOCCER

MU men roll in 'Z's' debut, 8-1

Mark Zathey's debut as Madonna University men's soccer coach went surprisingly well Friday night.

Ryan Williams scored two goals and added two assists, while Amadou Cisse chipped in with three assists as the Crusaders belted visiting Cleary College, 8-1.

"It was interesting because I wasn't sure how we'd start out," said Zathey, who formerly served as MU's women's coach from 2006-08. "I was interested in our (set) pieces. We're certainly not a polished or

finished product, but I'm confident with our guys and they've been working hard. It was nice get out of a training camp and go against an opponent, and start to see what we can really apply. I think we have some good athleticism. We've been working hard and it's nice to get out and show what we can do."

MU, which led 5-1 at halftime, also got goals from Daniel Swanson, Mohammad, Albarawi Abdul Ibrahim, Gavin Kelly and Colin Wilden. David Edmondson also contributed an assist.

Hermes Toska scored in the first half for the Cougars (0-2) against MU starting keeper Marcel Schmid, who was lifted in the second half in favor of John Boudreau and Matt Smolinski.

"We certainly have a lot to work on, but the boys got off to a good start," Zathey said.

TAYLOR 2, MU 0 (1st half) Dwyer scored a pair of goals Friday, including the game-winner 10 seconds into overtime to give host Taylor a season-opening women's soccer victory over Madonna University. Dwyer scored in the 34th minute to give Taylor a 1-0 lead, but MU's Karlyn Krysiak was credited with the game-tying goal in the 35th minute from Juliana Sematos. MU goalkeeper Baire Schmalzberg made five saves while Taylor's Kristiana Griffin had one stop.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL
Thursday, Aug. 29
Salem at Plymouth Varsity Turf, 7 p.m.
West Ottawa at Canton (IV Field), 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER
Monday, Aug. 26
Lodi West at Lodi, Westland, 4:30 p.m.

Plymouth at Salem, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 27
Plymouth at Northville, 7 p.m.
Salem at W. Westland, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28
Novi at Canton, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 29
Powers at Canton, 4 p.m.

Westland at Calvary, 4:30 p.m.
Huron Valley at Macomb, 4:30 p.m.
Salem at DeLaSalle, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Wednesday, Aug. 28
Cassino Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

Ledgested at A.A. Richard, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 30
Balfour Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

DuPont Invitational, 9 a.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY
Tuesday, Aug. 27
Madison Inv. at Cassi-Benton, 4 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Aug. 27
Wayne State Invitational, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28
Lakeland Quad, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Tuesday, Aug. 27
Howell Invitational, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28
Stevenson Invitational, 8 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 29
Skyline at Plymouth, 10 a.m.

GIRLS GOLF
Monday, Aug. 26
Lakeland Invitational at St. John's, 8:30 a.m.

Next tee invite at Forest Lake CC, 12 noon.

Tuesday, Aug. 27
K.L.A.A. Conference Invitational at Whiting-Wilcox, 8 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 29
Kelly Girls Invite at The Fortnes, 8:30 a.m.

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
Tuesday, Aug. 27
Lakewood at Cassi-Benton, 4:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Friday-Saturday, Aug. 30-31
MU at Embury-Riddle (Pa.), TBA.

LU at Salem, Tourney, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Sunday, Aug. 25
We have good leadership with our two seniors, but otherwise are a very young team, with four of our top six being freshmen and sophomores," Nimmerguth said.

"Hopefully those younger players learn quickly from the experience they get early in the season and it will pay off at the end of the season."

tmith@hometownlife.com

Friday, Aug. 30
Shorefront at Acadia (Ind.), 1 p.m.

(Kalamazoo Coll. Tourney)

Madonna vs. Saint College, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 31
(Kalamazoo Coll. Tourney)

Madonna vs. Kalamazoo, 5 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Sunday, Aug. 25
Brook (Ontario) at Madonna 1 p.m.

Scholarship at Lake Michigan, 3 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Saturday, Aug. 31
Windsor Spitfires at Plymouth Whalers (Pre-Season)

at Eddie Edgar Arena in Leoville, 7 p.m.

TBA - some to be announced.

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Walk 4 Water raises funds for wells

Local church hosting event to help pay for well drilling in South Sudan

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Livonia Church of Christ is taking steps to help build a clean water well in South Sudan, Africa.

Members of the congregation will walk one to four miles starting at noon, Saturday, Sept. 14, at Stymelski Veteran's Park, 14275 Stark, in Livonia, to raise awareness and funds for clean water sources abroad.

The Walk 4 Water is open to the public and will culminate in a community picnic with food, games, and an information table from Healing Hands International, a Christian-based organization that leads clean water projects around the world. With its own drilling equipment, Healing Hands has created more than 200 wells in Ethiopia and more than 60 in Haiti. In other countries, such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, India and Honduras it pays commercial companies to dig community wells. It also distributes water filtration systems to communities where wells aren't feasible.

"I worked in Africa for 23 years as a missionary, so I know the importance of clean water," said the Rev. Larry Stephens, pastor of Livonia Church of Christ. "Clean water is the one thing that can make a 100 percent difference in the quality of life of people in rural areas. The needs in Africa are huge."

The congregation raised \$3,670 at its first walk last year and needs to raise another \$1,130 to fund one well, which costs \$4,800. Any money raised in addition to that amount will go toward drilling a second well.

"It's a big need in South Sudan," said Jessica Allen, who suggested the walk to her church last year. She organized the inaugural event, which drew approximately 50 walkers, and is coordinating the second annual walk next month. "South Africa is dangerous. It took them (Healing Hands) a year to try — because of politics — to get into South Sudan. They've gotten in and



Hunter (left) and Tanner Allen show off a sign stationed along the walk last year. Their mom is walk organizer, Jessica Allen.

they've been able to dig wells."

Giving back

Allen, 33, who is married and has two young sons, said she became interested in clean water projects after attending a concert and poetry session at her church. One of the performers was accompanied by a speaker about clean water.

"In third world countries people don't have access to clean water. I started becoming aware of it," Allen said.

She researched clean water advocacy groups and discovered that Healing Hands International offered an annual Walk 4 Water event in Tennessee.

It also encourages others to donate to its cause by creating their own Walk 4 Water fundraiser.

"My husband and I were at a turn-



Clean water gushes from a well.

Participants brave cool, rainy weather during the first annual Walk 4 Water in Livonia.

See WELLS, Page B7

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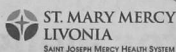
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Recycle electronics at Plymouth Township event

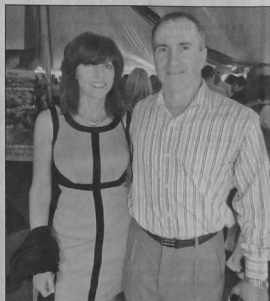
Get rid of electronic waste and donate clothing for the needy all at the same time Saturday, Sept. 7, in Plymouth Township.

The Wayne County's Land Resource Management Division will hold the "e-collection" and clothing drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Computare Arena, parking lot, 14900 Beck.

The clothing and shoe collection is a new component of the electronic recycling event. The Society of St. Vincent DePaul will accept clothing for adults and children, as well as shoes and boots.

For more information, call 734-326-3936 or visit www.waynecounty.com.

Benefiting Forgotten Harvest



Farmington Hills residents Tracy Clark and Ed Flaherty enjoy the Champagne Cruise at Westborn Market in Berkley. The event, held annually the night before the Woodward Dream Cruise, raises funds for Forgotten Harvest, the organization that rescues surplus prepared and perishable food and donates it to emergency food providers. PHOTO BY JULIE YOLLES

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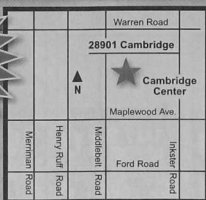
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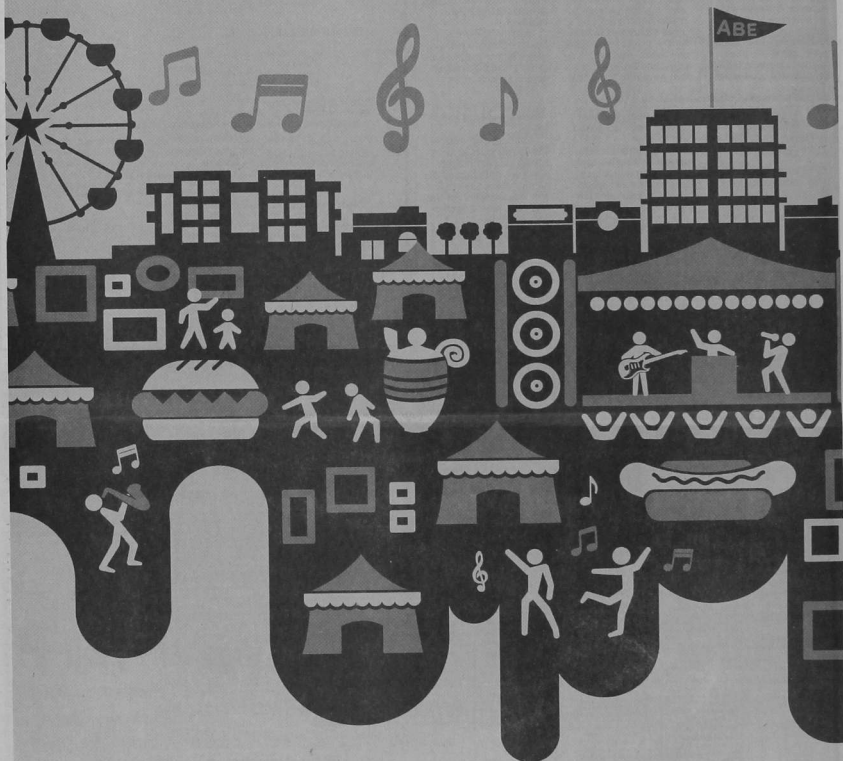
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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

AUGUST COOL BLUE MONDAY

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan will hold its 7th Annual Cool Blue Monday fundraiser from 5:30-9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26, at MGM Grand, 1777 Third Street, Detroit. Attire is stylishly chic and the event will feature a strolling buffet, live entertainment, cocktails and live and silent auctions. All proceeds from the event will support the vital prevention programs and patient services of the NKF-M-Detroit Branch Office. Tickets are \$125 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the NKF-M-Detroit Branch Office at 313-259-1574 or visit www.nkf.org.

SEPTEMBER ADDITION CLASSES

Dawn Farm offers two classes about chemical dependency, starting with "Addiction 101" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, James Balmer, president, Dawn Farm, will examine the dynamics of alcohol and other drug use, review addiction as a brain disease and provide an overview of the process of recovery from addiction. Participants will learn how individuals experience initial and continuing alcohol and other drug use, gain an understanding of the basic process and diagnosis of addiction, gain a basic understanding of how the brain functions in a person with alcohol/other drug addiction, and become familiar with tools used to treat addiction. Charles Gahrke, M.D., will present "How to Support Recovery and Not Support Addiction" at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24. The session is designed to help participants find effective methods to support another person's recovery while maintaining their own health. Both sessions are free and will be held at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, 734-485-8725, www.dawnfarm.org.

CANCER WALK

St. Mary Mercy Hospital presents its 7th Annual Embrace Life 5K run/walk for Cancer, at 9 a.m. Sept. 8, starting at the hospital, located on Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. Registration is \$25 on or before Aug. 30 and \$30 from Aug. 31 through race day. Those who register before Aug. 30 are guaranteed a T-shirt. The USAFT-certified course includes the hospital grounds and nearby residential streets. Awards will be given to the first, second and third place overall male and female winners of each division in the 5K run. Proceeds support cancer services at the hospital.

tal. Register at www.stmarymercy.org/5KforCancer. For more information call 734-655-1590.

JAMBOREE

Dawn Farm will hold its 40th Anniversary Jamboree, a celebration of recovery from chemical dependency, 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, at Dawn Farm, 5633 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. Admission to the family-friendly event is free. It will include live music by Noteworthy, hayrides, pony rides, a children's tent and midway, live and silent auctions, food and beverages, and farm animals. Dawn Farm's gift shop will be open.

UROLOGIC COMPLICATIONS

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a free educational seminar, Urologic Complications of Diabetes, from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11 in the hospital's North Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile. John Harb, MD, a urologist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will discuss frequent bladder and urinary tract infections, urinary incontinence and retention, erectile dysfunction and neurogenic bladder dysfunction. For more information call 734-655-8961.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

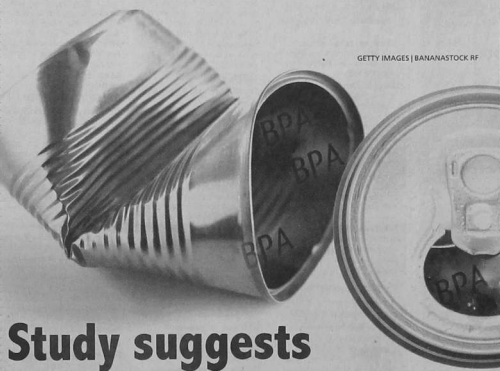
Dr. Paul Makela, M.D., director of gynecological robotic surgery, will present a series on women's health topics 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, in the North Auditorium, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. Bladder dysfunction is the topic this month and pelvic prolapse is next month's topic. Presentations are free but registration is required. Call 734-655-1980.

ONGOING AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 11:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadedetroit.org.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road, Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.



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Study suggests link between BPA and obesity

Children who have higher levels of the chemical, Bisphenol A, have a higher risk of obesity and adverse levels of body fat, according to a new study from University of Michigan researchers.

BPA has been used in manufacturing polycarbonate and epoxy resins used in a variety of products for children, including baby bottles, protective coatings on metal food containers, plastic toys and dental sealants.

The U-M team studied the levels of BPA found in children's urine and then measured body fat, waist circumference and cardiovascular and diabetes risk factors, in a study published in *Pediatrics*.

"Studies in adults had shown an association between high BPA levels and obesity,

BPA and excess body fat," Eng said.

Manufacturers have voluntarily recalled BPA products because of suspicion about the toxic effects on children and other vulnerable consumers. Many countries, including Canada and members of the European Union, as well as several U.S. states, have banned BPA use in products frequently used by infants and young children.

Last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that baby bottles and children's drinking cups could no longer contain BPA. But it did not restrict the use of the chemical in other products.

"We were surprised that our study did not find an association between BPA and measures of cardiovascular and diabetes risk, which has been established among adults," said Joyce Lee, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of pediatrics at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and an investigator in U-M's Child Health Evaluation and Research Unit.

diabetes and cardiovascular disease, but little was known about its effects in children," said Donna Eng, M.D., lead author of the study and recent graduate of the Pediatric Endocrinology Fellowship at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

The study found that higher odds of obesity — defined as a BMI above the 95th percentile on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention growth curves — was associated with higher levels of urinary BPA. Researchers also found that children were more likely to have an abnormal waist circumference-to-height ratio.

"Our study suggests a possible link between BPA exposure and childhood obesity. We therefore need more longitudinal studies to determine if there is a causal link between

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By Carlos Ewers
Contributing Writer
The healthcare industry is rapidly expanding...

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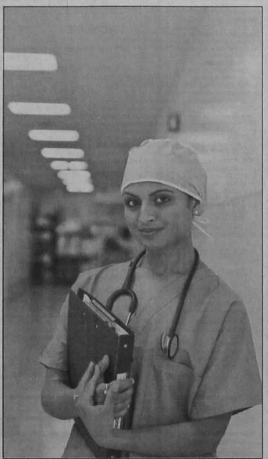
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Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3446	4.375	0.5	3.25	0.375
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Above information available as of 8/16/13 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down and credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rcmreport.com

Key to "Other" column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Observer & Eccentric Media
A Gannett Company

Observer & Eccentric Media specializes in community-based information on a variety of platforms - print, web, mobile and video. O&E Media publishes 13 individually edited newspapers, a website and more than 75 special sections and specialty products annually. The staff includes more than 40 journalists, 25 advertising account executives and other key support personnel in circulation and production. O&E Media - Because local matters. Come join our team.

Observer and Eccentric Media is looking for an Account Executive for the Novi/Warville, MI Territory. This position will work out of the South Lyon, MI location. We are also looking for an Account Executive for the Birmingham, MI Territory. This position will work out of the Sterling Heights, MI location.

RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be serving businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Hometown Weeklies, Observer & Eccentric publications and O&E products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new business. The Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

REQUIREMENTS: An Associate's degree or an equivalent sales experience and/or equivalent Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.

Our Company
Gannett is a media and marketing solutions company with a diverse portfolio of broadcast, digital, mobile and publishing companies. Gannett provides consumers easy access to the things that matter most to them - any way and anywhere.

Gannett's portfolio of trusted brands helps business customers connect with these highly engaged audiences through its industry-leading marketing services, customized solutions and national-to-local-to-personal reach.

The company's 82 U.S. daily newspapers, including USA TODAY, reach 11.6 million readers every weekday and 12 million readers every Sunday, providing important news and information from their customers' neighborhoods and across the globe. USA TODAY, the nation's No. 1 newspaper in print circulation, and USATODAY.com reach a combined 6.6 million readers daily.

The Broadcasting Division's 23 TV stations reach 21 million households, covering 18.2 percent of the U.S. population. Through its Captivate subsidiary, the Broadcasting Division delivers news, information and advertising to a highly desirable audience demographic on 9,500 video screens located in elevators of office towers and select hotel lobbies in 26 major cities across North America.

Newsweek is one of the U.K.'s leading general community news providers and its digital portfolio of newspaper and online-only brands attracts nearly 7.5 million unique users each month. This has a portfolio of 17 daily paid-for newspapers and more than 200 weekly newspapers, magazines and trade publications. Newsweek owns a successful online publisher called s1, which is a leading recruitment site in Scotland. Gannett is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity for all persons.

Email resumes to: gregory.hometownlife.com. Attn: Sales. Please specify the territory you are interested in on the subject line of your email.

EEOC

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Four-footed pals
- Coffee holder
- The Thin Man's pooch
- Fall birthstone
- NASA counterpart
- Astronomer
- Diver's position
- 16 Restricted a horse
- Hot-lub wood
- Japanese port
- Tending to hang down
- Burdened
- Jump crusher
- 28 NYC airport
- 31 Heavy sound
- Say I love you
- 33 Red-tag event
- Parent
- 35 Kentucky Derby film

DOWN

- 1 Fireworks noise
- 2 Monumental
- 3 Capture
- 4 Sild in snow
- 5 Paris subway
- 6 Function
- 7 Thug's heater
- 8 Some handball points
- 9 - Lea cakes

Answer to Previous Puzzle

DOG	CREW	TREE
EEO	HOME	RAVE
GRANULUMS	AMIN	
ELSA	AMPLY	
RABBIT	LIP	
AGAR	BALSAMS	
NUB	JEEPS	PUG
KEYHOLE	SECT	
ASK	FLASKS	
ROGUE	ORAL	
ASAN	WRITEUPS	
FLIT	HEAT	POT
TONS	YORE	CUP

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18							20			
21			22		23					
24	25	26		27			28	29	30	
31			32				33			
34			35				36			
37							38			
39	40	41	42				43			
44							44	45		
46				47	48			49		50
51				52				53		
54				55				56		

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

9		6	5	3				
5	2					8		
3	1		8	2				
5	6	3		8	2	1		
8	7	5	2		3	9		
4			3	3	5			
			3	8	1			
6			7					
4	8	2		9	6		3	

Level: Beginner

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BIG TOP WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

ACROBAT
AERIAL
AMPHIB
ATTRACTION
BARRIER
BUNGEE
CHARACTER
CHARE-VARIE
CIRCUS
ENVOY
FLIGHT
FLOOR
GAG
GIRTH
HEMISPHERE
ILLUSTRIST

JUGGLE
LADDER
MENAGERIE
NOTTO
PARADE
PITCORN
PRIS
REPRISE
RINOS
SPECTACLE
STADIUM
TRAINER
TRAMPOLINE
UNICYCLE
USHER
WIRE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

9	6	5	3	8	2	1		
5	2			8	2	1		
3	1		8	2				
5	6	3		8	2	1		
8	7	5	2		3	9		
4			3	3	5			
			3	8	1			
6			7					
4	8	2		9	6		3	

Sudoku

Word Search

Car Report

Advertising Feature

Nissan aims for pickup relevance with Titan co-branded with Cummins



By Dale Buss

The US pickup-truck market keeps coming back, so brands are looking for every which way to gain an edge. Nissan, for example, has just turned to co-branding a diesel engine with Cummins.

a Cummins logo on the heavy-duty Ram that provides a strong imprimatur for the Chrysler brand.

Cummins uses a stylish chrome capital "C" and black block letter "Turbo Diesel" in its logo that has adorned Ram heavy-duty pickups for nearly a quarter-century.

"It's our logo, not a Ram logo," Cummins spokesman Dave Groggin told the publication. "We worked with Ram on the logo and we'll work with Nissan. Clearly both automakers see value having our logo on the side of their vehicles." Silver Cummins Diesel logos are attached to the fenders of Ram truck models with the Cummins engine.

It's clear that Nissan is trying to take the most direct, least complex route to making Titan more relevant in the segment. Titan sales dropped 21 percent for the year to date through July compared with a year ago, while Nissan's overall US sales rose by nine percent.

But the nameplate hasn't been fully revamped since its introduction in 2013. And while American pickup-truck buyers aren't necessarily style mavens, they do want the latest technology and most improved fuel economy possible in these high-expense vehicles.



The Cummins diesel destined for Titan.



Nissan is expected to launch a new version of Titan in 2015.

"Truck owners told us there's a demand for the performance and torque of a diesel in a capable truck that doesn't require the jump up to a heavy-duty commercial pickup," Fred Diaz, vice president for North American Nissan sales and marketing, said in a statement. "There is no question that the new Titan will turn heads."

Presumably one reason that Nissan took this step is the advice of Diaz. He was president of the Ram brand until recently jumping to Nissan. Diaz presided over Ram at a key time, when it was transitioning away from being part of Chrysler's Dodge marque. He also oversaw the opportunistic revamp of Ram that Chrysler decided to launch last year, and the brand's highly evocative "Farmer" ad during the last Super Bowl run at Diaz's watch.

So if anyone understood the potential for an association with Cummins to goose prospects for the hoary Titan, it was Diaz. And apparently he was able to convince his bosses at Nissan quickly that Cummins could be key to a needed boost for Titan.

Expect Diaz's former colleagues at

Chrysler not to be happy about all of that. Nissan doesn't offer a heavy-duty version of Titan, and Ram uses its Cummins engine only with its heavy-duty versions. But there remains plenty of potential for confusion among American pickup buyers, who often eye diesel power and its ample torque as an important differentiator for their needs — regardless of whether the automaker calls its truck "heavy-duty" or not.

The Ram with a Cummins diesel is rated at 850 pounds-feet of torque and can tow an industry-best 30,000 pounds. Ram spokesman Nick Cappa told the publication that buyers associate the Cummins engine with an ability to tow and haul huge loads.

"People buy heavy-duty trucks for their capability, and that's what we deliver," he said.

Chrysler officials declined to comment to Automotive News on Nissan's deal with Cummins or whether the name on a competitor's truck could hurt Ram's sales or dilute the brand's exclusivity. But you can bet they're concerned about it.

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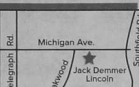
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