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Canton expects to drop pit bull label

Township board expected to amend dog ordinance that currently singles out specific breed as 'vicious'

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Pit bull terriers apparently will no longer be singled out in Canton's vicious dogs ordinance after a local couple lobbied township officials to revise the language. Supervisor Phil LaJoy in-

dicated the township board could vote as early as January to amend the ordinance to remove breed-specific language pertaining to pit bulls. Township Attorney Kristin Kolb, who is revising the ordinance, said dog owners still could be held responsible if their pet – regardless of breed

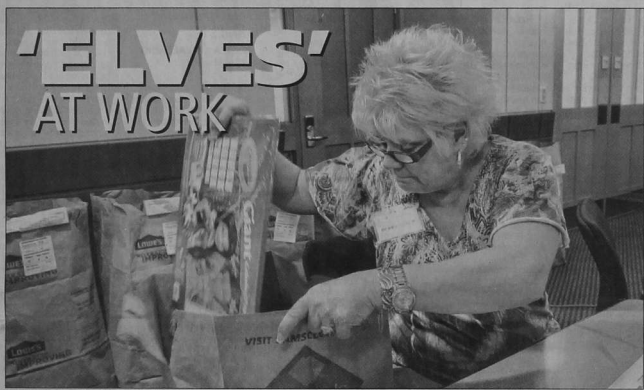
– attacks another pet, child or adult.

Jessica and Marcin Kowalewski had feared the vicious dogs ordinance could place their 4-year-old Loki at greater risk simply because he is a pit bull and American bull dog mix. They said he could be confiscated and destroyed even if another dog attacked him.



Jessica and Marcin Kowalewski are encouraged their dog Loki, a pit bull and American bull dog mix, could no longer be considered vicious. KATE MCGILSKY

See PIT BULL, Page A2



Debbie Leach packs gift bags for larger families. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Goodfellows meet Christmas wishes

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Goodfellows volunteer Kathie Robinson held a child's wish list in her hands as helpers Ginny Garner and Barb Steiner sifted through a gift bag for *The Vampire Diaries* book collection.

"They found it, then began their quest to find winter clothing for the same child. "We're elves," Robinson said, smiling.

It was a scene repeated all week as untiring Goodfellows volunteers bustled around the

lower level of the Canton Administration Building to assemble gift bags for 407 children from 157 families.

Robinson has no children of her own, yet she volunteered her time to help Goodfellows.

"What goes around, comes around," she said. "We've got to help each other." Canton Goodfellows President John Spencer said the organization would finish its work before Saturday, when local families in need arrive



Gloria Cifaldi moves bags that are prepared for children.

See ELVES, Page A3

Board vote clears way for PARC proposal

School officials give tacit approval to rec plan

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Though no one is officially endorsing the plan to turn Central Middle School into a community arts/recreation complex, a vote Tuesday by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education certainly seemed to clear the path for such a project.

The board voted 6-0 (Secretary Adrienne Davis was absent) in favor of a resolution for the disposition of Central Middle School, which the district will close following the 2014-15 school year. The resolution as passed means the board will seek fair market value for the property in a deal that keeps the property as one entity, rather than splitting or dividing it "in any fashion."

Superintendent Michael Meissen said estimates of the fair market value for the property fall between \$3 million and \$4 million. The district will hire a real estate consultant and appraiser to determine the actual value.

"(The resolution) says, 'Let's keep the property together' and expresses an intent to look at fair market value," Meissen said. "The board would be

See BOARD, Page A2

Canton police nab alleged prostitute, client at local motel

Kentucky man was in town to attend hockey tournament with 16-year-old daughter

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A 62-year-old Kentucky man and a female companion half his age have been cited for prostitution after Canton police investigated an incident at the Days Inn near Michigan Avenue and Lotz Road.

The male suspect from Louisville admitted hiring the 31-year-old South Lyon woman Saturday night while he was in Canton with his daughter, 16, who was involved in a hockey tournament, according to police reports. He allegedly told authorities he found the companion through a website,

backpage.com. The female suspect told police the Kentucky man was her second client of the day and that she had earlier smoked crack cocaine, according to the report.

Police said she claimed her clients hire her because they aren't sexually satisfied at home – and she said some of them ask her to dress up like a young girl. Canton Detective Sgt. Chad

Baugh said local authorities have taken a tough stand against prostitution.

"We have taken a very proactive stance," he said. "Our shift lieutenants have engaged our police officers to work undercover. We have prosecuted people for pandering and forfeited their property."

Baugh said Canton police hope to send a message that prostitution and other illegal

behavior associated with it will not be tolerated here.

The case unfolded as Canton police patrolling the area around 9 p.m. Saturday noticed suspicious activity after a silver Dodge Caravan pulled up to a Days Inn room, but no one went inside or came out. The police report indicated there had been crimes such as motor vehicle theft and fuel

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Local drive boosts Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots got a boost Saturday afternoon as volunteers collected an estimated \$1,000 in toys, games, books and gift cards during a campaign inside the Canton Public Library.

Toys for Tots coordinator Rebecca Yarborch stopped by with other volunteers to collect donations from the drive organized by Bob and Natalie Mosher of Canton.

Earlier Saturday, the Toys for Tots organizers collected an estimated \$700 during a drive at Leo's Coney Island in Belleville.

Marine Sgt. Tarek Aljida has a conversation with Toys for Tots organizer Bob Mosher, who also served in the Marines.



"It was a good day," Natalie Mosher said.

The Toys for Tots drive was among others happening across the area to help during the holidays.

Marine Sgt. Tarek Aljida stopped at the Canton site to help out, joining volunteers such as Bob Mosher, who also served in the Marines.

The McDonald's restaurant on Ford Road in Canton donated to the cause and also offered hot chocolate.

Archinson Ford brought donations including footballs and Hot Wheels.



Volunteers pack donations from a Toys for Tots drive at the Canton Public Library.

BOARD

Continued from Page A1

interested in determining the viability of a plan for a community purpose."

The board has considered nine options, none more prominent than the one presented by the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex committee. That PARC group, a coalition of individuals, cultural organizations and athletics groups, is working on purchasing Central Middle School once it closes after the 2014-15 school year and transforming it into a cultural and recreation center.

The PARC facility could include sports fields, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, a fitness center, an auditorium and art studio and meeting space.

While Tuesday's vote wasn't a direct endorsement of the PARC project, PARC steering committee member Don Soenen was pleased with the resolution.

"I want to thank ... all those who've worked with PARC," Soenen told board members at Tuesday's meeting. "The project is coming along extremely well. We've been rather tenacious and we'll be just as passionate about seeing this project through."

The resolution's key points:

- » The property will not be split or divided in any fashion, "but rather it shall be owned, operated and controlled by a single entity."
- » The board "recognizes the desirability of having the CMS property utilized for community or other purposes subsequent to the cessation of its public educational use as a middle school."

The PARC plan already has the endorsement of the Plymouth City Commission, which voted to support it last week.

Board of Education President John Barrett stressed Tuesday's vote doesn't go as far as endorsing the PARC plan and that the board would be willing to listen to other options. He does, however, like the PARC plan.

"The resolution just means we're open to working with (PARC) and hearing their complete plan," Barrett said. "I think the PARC plan is an outstanding design. If they can get the resources for it, it would be a great addition to the community."

PIT BULL

Continued from Page A1

After addressing the township board Tuesday night, Jessica Kowalewski welcomed LaJoy's remarks that changes in the vicious dogs ordinance appear imminent.

"I'm very excited, very happy, ecstatic," she said. "I'm just glad the township is moving forward with this."

An earlier story in the Observer detailing the couple's concerns revealed how divisive the issue has become, with readers posting sharply opposing comments on www.hometownlife.com. Some supported the Kowalewskis, while others said they believe pit bulls are inherently more dangerous than other dogs.

Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said the ordinance was adopted nearly 20 years ago, at a time when some communities had an outright ban on pit bulls. She said the controversy has persisted partly due to "atrocities" such as a

"I'm very excited, very happy, ecstatic. I'm just glad the township is moving forward with this."

JESSICA KOWALEWSKI pit bull owner

dog-fighting conviction against NFL star Michael Vick and others "who do these horrible things to dogs."

McLaughlin also said pit bulls are harder to shake loose, compared to most dogs, during an attack. She said the intent of the ordinance was to become proactive and reduce potential risks associated with pit bulls.

"There's a risk percentage involved there," she said. Marcin Kowalewski has called Loki "a 100-pound puppy" who is more concerned about getting his next treat than attacking another dog or a person. Loki, obtained through the Buster Foundation res-

cue organization, has attended obedience classes and has an implanted microchip to help in locating him if he ever gets lost.

Canton requires owners to place dogs on leashes in public places, though the township has an off-leash dog park.

Jessica Kowalewski said a dog's aggressive behavior is often linked to its owner's actions. Moreover, she said breed-neutral language in dog ordinances is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Kennel Club, the National Animal Control Association and the National Canine Research Council, among other groups.

LaJoy said the township board is expected to act on revisions to Canton's vicious dogs ordinance as early as Jan. 14, after Kolb finishes amending the language. LaJoy confirmed he expects specific references to pit bull terriers will be removed.

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PROSTITUTE

Continued from Page A1

theft at area hotels.

Police approached a 49-year-old Southfield man in the Dodge Caravan, who said he had been staying at the inn and had driven to a gas station even though he admitted he didn't have a driver's license, according to authorities. Police learned he was the boyfriend of the accused prostitute.

While police were talking with him, the

62-year-old suspect walked out of the room and was then questioned, allegedly telling authorities he was in Canton with his teenage daughter for a hockey tournament and had found an advertisement on backpage.com for a massage.

According to the police report, the massage led to the accused prostitute fondling the male suspect. He told police he paid \$100.

Police confiscated the money, took the three suspects into custody and issued citations for them to appear in 35th District

Court. The accused prostitute and the 62-year-old man were cited for misdemeanor charges of prostitution. She also was ticketed for possession of marijuana.

Her alleged boyfriend was cited for not having a driver's license.

All three defendants have been ordered to appear in 35th District Court to answer the charges against them.

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Canton cops seize stolen gift cards, arrest suspect

Man taken into custody after police find \$25,000 worth of American Express cards

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton police seized stolen American Express gift cards worth an estimated \$25,000 and arrested a suspect during a traffic stop early Monday morning, Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said. Police recovered numerous

gift cards after making a traffic stop shortly after midnight along Michigan Avenue near Belleville Road, Baugh said. "As far as we understand, the cards have been suspended by American Express at this

point because of the fraud," he said. Police took a 27-year-old man into custody as the investigation was unfolding. Police stopped the man's car amid reports of "someone acting suspicious" along Michigan

Avenue. A police dog was brought to the scene, but Baugh said no drugs were found. However, police found the stolen American Express cards, which Baugh said apparently had been bundled in packs of eight to 12.

It wasn't immediately known where the cards had been stolen, Baugh said, though Canton authorities were continuing their investigation.
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Keeping it all organized is a big job. Kar Theisen (from left), Natalie Anderson-Theisen and Mary Jo Raack figure it out.



Kristen Berry, a volunteer shopper, searches for the right sizes. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

ELVES

Continued from Page A1

at township hall to learn that they, indeed, will have a Christmas because their community cares.

"We'll have everything ready when they get here," Spencer said. Goodfellows donors gave dolls, games, winter coats, books, boots, toy trucks, bicycles, other gifts and money so volunteers could dash out to

buy last-minute presents they still needed.

Volunteer Ruth Wiles, crocheting a baby's blanket, said she has been a Goodfellows helper since the effort began in the 1940s.

"I feel like it's a whole lot of working together and I like that," she said. "The main reason I do it is because it's such a good cause. There are so many kids who are suffering."

Goodfellows board member Natalie Anderson-Theisen said this

year's campaign, like the others before it, was falling into place.

"I think it's going pretty smoothly," she said.

Families also receive gift cards for food at Holiday Market, Kroger and Meijer. Spencer said dozens of local senior citizens at Canton Place and Summit on the Park also will receive gifts and food.

Paula Kosbe, Canton's volunteer coordinator, said an estimated 150 people volunteer their time for Goodfellows.

She said another 50 or so are involved in a food drive at the Canton-based Holiday Market.

In the end, Goodfellows volunteers can close out another year knowing they — and local donors — fulfilled their mission of No Child Without a Christmas.

"We really get a big turnout from the community," Kosbe said. "It's awesome."

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Fire prevention poster contest winners announced

The Canton Fire Department honored local children Tuesday night during a ceremony honoring the winners of this year's Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

The ceremony at the Canton Administration Building honored local elementary school children who entered the contest sponsored in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week.

The contest is intended to educate children on fire prevention awareness. This year's posters followed the National Fire Prevention Week theme "Stay Fire Smart - Don't Get Burned."

Posters were judged in two categories, first through third grade and fourth through sixth.

This year's winners from the earlier grades are first place, Hiba Ghias, third grade, Achieve Charter Academy; second place, Angelina Horral, third grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; third place, Kayla Joy Powell, third grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; and honorable mention, Ryan McCaig, first



This year's winners (front row, from left) are Kayla Powell, Gloria Ravuri, Arulvel Rajeswaran, Dillon St. Ledger, Isabel Mossel and Angelina Horral. Standing behind them (from left) are Fire Inspector Nichole Hamilton, Fire Chief Josh Meier, Chamber President Thomas Paden and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein. CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

grade, All Saints Catholic School.

Winners from grades four through six are first place, Gloria Ravuri, sixth grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; second place, Dillon St. Ledger, sixth grade, Plymouth Christian Academy; third

place, Arulvel Rajeswaran, fifth grade, Dodson Elementary School; and honorable mention, Isabel Mossel, sixth grade, Plymouth Christian Academy.

This year's event was sponsored by the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Driver cited

An alert witness trailed a hit-and-run driver and then notified Canton police of his whereabouts, resulting in the suspect being cited for leaving the scene of a property damage accident, a police report said.

The incident started around 6 p.m. Dec. 4 near Haggerty and Palmer, when the 40-year-old suspect was seen striking another car and then fleeing the scene, the report said.

The witness, exiting the Meadowoods Townhomes complex, trailed the suspect to another nearby neighborhood, confronted him and asked him why he didn't stop at the accident, the police report said.

The suspect reportedly said he was late for work. Police indicated the driver showed no signs of using alcohol or narcotics. He was issued a citation for leaving the scene.

Felon apprehended

Canton police arrested a 50-year-old man who was wanted for a felony parole violation out of Missouri, a police report said.

Police patrolling on Ford Road near Canton Center noticed the man walk across bustling Ford even though he

wasn't in a crosswalk, the report said. The man proceeded to the Meijer parking lot, where police caught up with him.

It was learned he was wanted for a felony out of Missouri, though the police report didn't indicate what type of crime. Canton police notified Missouri authorities, who asked that he be held until they could seek extradition.

Hit-and-run

A 35-year-old woman from El Paso, Texas, notified Canton police after she said her 2010 Honda Odyssey was struck from behind by a man who fled the scene in a 2007 Chrysler Sebring, a police report said.

The incident happened about 8 p.m. Monday on west-bound Ford at Haggerty - one of Michigan's highest-crash intersections.

The woman had stopped for the traffic light when the incident occurred.

Both drivers got out of their cars, she informed the other driver she was calling the police and the two made arrangements to pull into a gas station, the police report said.

The woman pulled over, the other driver fled.

- By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Level lifted

A man described as a repeat shoplifter stole a laser leveling device, priced at \$199.99, Friday afternoon from the Home Depot on Five Mile at Beck, police said.

The thief eluded a store security worker who tried to confront him, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said, and drove north on Beck in a gray Ford F-150 pickup truck with a plow.

The security worker told police he had seen the man take the anti-theft sensor from the level and conceal the level

in his jacket. He told police the man was suspected of stealing from the store previously and that he had been trying to catch him for months.

Credit-card fraud

A township man reported Dec. 3 that \$3,000 in unauthorized charges had been made in November on two store credit cards belonging to him.

The victim told police he learned of the fraud Nov. 17 when he was contacted by the credit-card department at each store and asked to verify the charges. Both charges, one for \$777.75 and another for

\$2,223.11, had been made at stores in California, a police report said.

The credit accounts were canceled.

Car looted

Cash, credit cards, a cellphone and a lunchbox were reported stolen Saturday from a car parked at Atlas Tube, on Eckles north of Plymouth Road.

The victim, an employee, told police he had left the lunchbox in his Pontiac Firebird in his Pontiac Firebird about 9:30 p.m. Friday and went back to the factory to finish his shift. He returned to

the car about midnight, he said, to find the items missing from the car.

The victim was uncertain if he had locked the Firebird upon leaving it earlier; police found no signs of forced entry.

Vandalism

Garage doors and a house were spray-painted and a car was egged one night last week in an outbreak of vandalism in the area of Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon.

Police responded Friday morning to a report that a Ford Flex parked in the driveway of a house on Turlehead Court

had been egged and the garage door spray-painted with the words "pun-day" in brown paint, a police report said.

While there, officers noticed vandalism at a neighboring house, this one on Turlehead Drive, the report said.

There, the main garage door and a living room window had been spray-painted with words and another garage door had also been painted; the door's windows had been painted over and the door handle was covered with brown paint, police said.

- By Matt Jachman



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House bills begin attack on trafficking

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

State Rep. Kurt Heise has said one of the biggest problems the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking faces is defining the depth and breadth of the problem and figuring out whether "we're inventing a crisis where none really exists."

Now that the commission has produced its 2013 report to the governor and Legislature, commission members have a better idea of the enormity of the problem facing them — and they're pretty sure it's a big one.

"It told us a lot about ourselves as a state," said Heise, R-Plymouth Township. "The problem is real."

According to the report, an estimated 20.9 million men, women and children are trafficked for commercial sex or forced labor worldwide. Approximately 75 percent of the victims are women, while 27 percent

are children.

A 76-city FBI raid in July led to the arrest of 18 pimps in the Detroit area, more than any other city, and recovered 10 children. Only San Francisco (12) had more.

Taking action

"The FBI raid in Detroit confirmed our beliefs," Heise said. "The report is the most comprehensive of the crisis and what to do about it." Now that the Legislature is doing something about it, the Michigan House passed legislation to strengthen protections for human trafficking victims. Taking its cue from the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking, the House included a Safe Harbor provision that will treat children as victims, not criminals.

HB 5012, introduced by Rep. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake, creates a presumption that a minor found engaging in prostitution is a victim of human trafficking and man-



Heise Kowall

dates law enforcement for the minor victims for appropriate treatment within the Department of Human Services. HB 5026, introduced by Heise, provides minor sex trafficking victims Safe Harbor by ensuring the Michigan Department of Human Services has the jurisdiction to treat minors as victims and not delinquents when they are in danger of substantial physical or psychological harm. HB 5026 and HB 5012 were tie-barred together.

The House also passed a resolution to amend the Federal Communications Decency Act to prohibit human traffickers from exploiting victims through online classified ads sites, another recommendation of the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking.

and Kowall believe it's going to take a holistic approach to attack the problem. It can't just be a law-enforcement problem, Heise said. Other agencies — the governor's office, the Legislature and social service organizations — will have to work cooperatively.

Good start

Kowall worked heavily with the Safe Harbor provisions and thinks the House came up with solid legislation.

"This Safe Harbor legislation is nothing short of a sea change as to how we view those caught up in human trafficking," Kowall said. "These bills will provide victims with the tools to begin rebuilding their lives and hope for a brighter future." Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette praised the House for the actions.

"A child forced to have sex is a victim, not a criminal," Schuette said. "This victim-centered Safe Harbor legislation ensures young survivors are treated with care — a key recommendation from the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking."

Despite the arrests in the FBI raid, both Heise

and Kowall believe it's going to take a holistic approach to attack the problem. It can't just be a law-enforcement problem, Heise said. Other agencies — the governor's office, the Legislature and social service organizations — will have to work cooperatively.

Collecting data

According to the report, the FBI in 2011 opened 183 human trafficking investigations, made 187 arrests and got 79 convictions in the United States. In addition, 352 cases were opened by the FBI on matters related to the commercial sexual exploitation of minors — cases that may have also been related to human trafficking. In those 352 cases, the FBI obtained 196 convictions. Those are national numbers; the FBI doesn't have Michigan-specific data.

Better numbers are what the Legislature is going to need going for-

ward. "The problem is obviously very real," Heise said. "But I want to get even better data. I want more accurate numbers so we can get a better handle on it."

While the report was about what they expected, both Heise and Kowall were a little surprised at the breadth of the problem.

"I think during the whole process I was shocked and appalled at how far and wide this problem is, that it's going on right under our noses," Kowall said. "It's like the second-largest organized crime in the world right now."

"Sometimes I ask myself if human beings as a species have evolved one nano-second," she added. "You can get real depressed, but then you realize you have to get out and do something about it."

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P-CEP National Honor Society seeks annual SJ5K nominations

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park National Honor Society host its fourth annual 5K at the beginning of May," said Heise, R-Plymouth Township.

The event was created in 2011 in honor of 16-year-old P-CEP student Jesse Lindlbauer, when a sinus infection turned into an abscess which ruptured, causing a traumatic brain injury. The SJ5K run was created in order to bring the community support to the family and raise money to help defray medical expenses.

After the success of the SJ5K the first year, National Honor Society decided to make the

SJ5K an annual event. Over the last two years, it has continued to provide support for local families. Last year, the event brought the community together to support Salem High School's Max Merget, Plymouth High School's Erinne Williams and Jayden Gohl.

Jayden was born with hydrocephalus, a rare medical condition in which fluid builds up in the brain. He wasn't expected to live past six months, but he beat the odds and is now 4 years old. Jayden has been through seven brain surgeries and countless doctor appointments.

Jayden needs to be watched around the clock and his mother Lauren faces challenges providing for Jayden since she cannot have a full-time job.

Williams is a 15-year-old student who has lived with spinal muscular atrophy, a motor neuron disease similar to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) since before her first birthday. Since her diagnosis, Williams has been through 19 pneumonias, 11 surgeries and 21 hospitalizations. She is confined to a wheelchair and forced to use a breathing machine.

Merget is a senior at Salem who has battled

brain cancer since he was 3. In January 2013, Merget was diagnosed with cancer for the fourth time. The previous three times Merget beat the cancer and he is optimistic about beating the cancer for a fourth time.

Merget has created a nonprofit foundation called mayourbrain in conjunction with the University of Michigan to help raise money for

cancer research.

The group's goal is to select a local family or individual (defined as living within the boundaries of the Plymouth-Canton Community School District) who, as a result of unforeseen life-altering circumstances, finds themselves with a specific need (outside of normal living expenses) which could not be attained without the proceeds of the SJ5K.

Nominations will be considered by the SJ5K Committee. The nomination form and other information regarding the race can be found at SJ5K.org.

The nominations form must be returned by Jan. 21 either to both.savalox@pcssmail.net or mailed to SJ5K Review Committee, c/o Beth Savalox, Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Rd., Canton, MI 48187.

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Jamie Fidler signs the song "Calling All Angels" by Train during Sunday's ceremony. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candle ceremony honors those gone too soon

Compassionate Friends organizes annual local event to remember children who've died

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

They came to mourn, to shed tears and to share laughs over those gone too soon.

The Compassionate Friends' candle-lighting service Sunday evening in Plymouth drew dozens of people to Kellogg Park, where, with poetry, song and a "circle of light" echoed around the world, they remembered relatives and friends who died before their time.

"There are several times a year I try to make it his day," said Kevin Moss, who lost son Wiley Moss, 22, in 2010. Wiley was happy, generous and "the best kid ever," said his father, who attended with a family friend.

"I miss him every day," Kathy Rambo said of her son Jason, who died in 2001 at age 19.

Moss, of Novi, and Rambo, a Canton Township resident who read a poem, *Candles in the Dark*, during the ceremony, were two of those who raised candles and braved bitter cold to honor their loved ones Sunday.

It was The Compassionate Friends' 17th annual worldwide candle lighting and also the 17th event in Plymouth.

'This helps me'

The event included the reading of three poems, recorded music—*Calling All Angels* by the pop group Train, *I Light This Candle* by Alan Pederson and *To Where You Are* by Josh Groban—and the reading of nearly 400 names of the deceased, who were also remembered on ornaments that decorated TCF-sponsored Christmas trees in the park.

"You never get over the loss of a child. This helps me through the grieving process, to help others," said Rambo, a co-leader of the western Wayne County TCF chapter.

There were similar events Sunday, orga-

nizers said, at 7 p.m. local time in every time zone across the globe, adding up to a rotating 24-hour vigil.

Kevin Moss, attending his fourth Kellogg Park TCF ceremony, said it was an opportunity to remember his son and be sad and happy at the same time. His ex-wife, Lisa Moss, had gotten him involved with The Compassionate Friends, he said, and is still involved herself.

Wiley was "crazy in a good way," "awesome" and "looked after everybody," he said.

Moss recalled that when Wiley was on his high school's homecoming court as a sophomore, an overweight girl had also been elected to the court as a prank, but that his son went out of his way to dance with her, make her feel comfortable and help her get the most out of the event. "I got this," Wiley told his father at the time.

Wiley was the life of the party, Moss and his friend agreed. "He's got them laughing up there," Moss said.

Paying forward

Jason Rambo was "energetic" and "full of life," his mother said.

"In those 19 years, he just loved life," she said. Gail Lafferty, an event organizer, agreed with Rambo that reaching out to others who are grieving helps them with their own mourning. Lafferty lost son Max, 18, the day after Christmas in 1995.

"The holidays are hard for us," Lafferty said. "People were there for me. ... This is kind of paying it forward."

The western Wayne County chapter of The Compassionate Friends meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia. The group's phone number is 734-778-0800 and its website is www.tcfivonia.org.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
313-222-2405
Twitter: @matjachman



Sarah Binarzi, holding son Bradley, and Aaron Binarzi at Sunday's vigil in memory of Bradley's twin, Anthony. The family is from Woodhaven. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



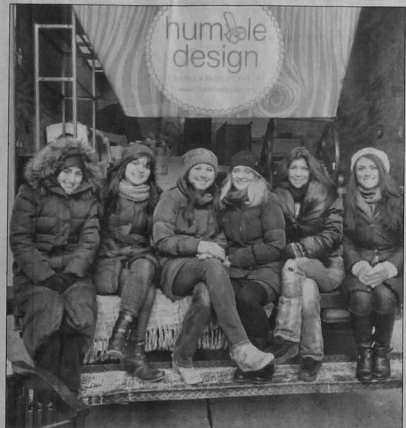
An ornament on a tree in Kellogg Park was dedicated to Andrew Myska. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Antoinette Binarzi attended the ceremony to honor grandson Anthony Binarzi. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

humale design



The Rima Designs team didn't let temperatures in the 20s stop them Saturday from helping Humble Design. Rima volunteers manned their Penning Avenue station to collect pieces of furniture, bed linens, TVs, DVD players and the like for Humble Design, a metro Detroit charity that partners with local homeless and abuse shelters. Pictured are Rima volunteers Batoul Ayoub of Dearborn, Andrea Skupski of Plymouth, Rima Belau of Plymouth, Jurate Barry of Toronto, Ontario, Dawn Gallagher of Northville and Alicia Jonik of Grand Rapids.

Spotlight on youth

Dates/Times: Dec. 12-13, 7 p.m.; Dec. 14-15, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Location: Biltmore Studio in the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Details: Spotlight on Youth Presents *A Wonderful World of Christmas*. The show is approximately an hour in length, plus an intermission, perfect for little ones who can't sit still long. The story involves Billy, who believes in Santa Claus but her sister doesn't. When a mysterious, magical postman shows up to personally deliver Billy's letter to the North Pole, he invites the siblings to go with him -- although he has a few stops along the way in other countries. Tickets are \$10 each and are available by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/villageheater or in person at the Summit on the Park or at the door.

Contact: For more information email soy@msi.com or call 248-719-3637

Living nativity

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 21, 6-8 p.m.
Location: Lake Pointe Bible Church, 42150 Schoolcraft Road in Plymouth.

Details: Lake Pointe Bible Church hosts a living nativity scene. All are welcome.
Contact: 734-420-0515

Holiday in the Islands

Date/Times: Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m.
Location: Canton Public Library

Details: The Canton Public Library hosts The Gratitude Sea Band presenting "A Holiday in the Islands" concert. Visitors will enjoy classics celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza with local writers call "a tropical twist." All ages are welcome; admission is free.
Contact: Call 734-397-0999, ext. 1078 for more information.

Kiwanis Club set for annual bell ringing

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth is once again lending its efforts to the Plymouth Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign, which kicked off last month and runs through Dec. 24.

All monies collected are put to use in the Plymouth community. "The Salvation Army is a fundamental part of our Kiwanis Club because every penny collected goes to meeting the needs of the families requiring assistance in the Plymouth Community," said Frank Sinagra, Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth president.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign is the most visible and most important fundraiser of the year. "It sets the tone for our program efforts for the following year and what we are able to do until October 2014," said Maj. Keith Bailey, the corps officer at the Plymouth Salvation Army. "Our needs are still drastically up. Many in the community have returned to work, but still are in need of assistance, while giving has gone down in recent years."

The Plymouth Salvation Army projects the need will be just as high as last year within the community. Some folks that have helped raise money in the past are now seeking assistance. Bailey hopes those in the Plymouth community who are able to assist will "step up" and give generously when they walk by one of the area kettles. Coins, paper money and checks are welcomed. Bailey urges that people put their donation in the kettles in Plymouth area so the money will be directed to the needs in the local community.

Monies collected during the campaign are used to help families in need with assistance for



The Plymouth Kiwanis clubs are set to ring bells for the Salvation Army at five locations Friday and Saturday.

utility bills, food and clothing. Even in a community as affluent as Plymouth, there are families that been struck with unfortunate circumstances.

The Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth will be out ringing bells Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14, for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign on at five Plymouth locations: Hiller's at Five Mile and Haggerty; Busch's at Sheldon and Five Mile; Kmart at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty; Greek Islands at Penningman and Main; and Kroger at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon.

Bailey said that without the help of the two Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth and the Plymouth Rotary Club the collection efforts would not be as successful. People respond better to giving when they see their local merchants, business people, bankers, attorneys and civil servants

out helping with the collection efforts, he said. Also the students from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Key Club (more than 200 students

this year) help attract other students and their families to the giving efforts.

"Instead of looking away when passing the Red Kettle, people tend to come over to visit with the bell ringer they know and contribute what financial donation they can," Bailey said.

The Plymouth Salvation Army serves the Belleville, Canton, Northville and Plymouth communities. Each community has Red Kettle bell ringers throughout their community until Christmas Eve.

The Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth include the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth and Plymouth Kiwanis Club (Evening), The P-CEP Key Club (The high school equivalent to a Kiwanis Club) will also be participating in this year's bell ringing efforts. In 2012, the friendly contest between the Kiwanis and the Rotary resulted in the Kiwanis raising the most money in the bell ringing effort during their respective two days they each assist with the Red Kettle Campaign.

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: Jan. 8, 2014, 1-3 p.m.
Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, 56250, Canton

Details: United Home Health Services offers free individual counseling with a certified MMAP counselor. The counselor can help you understand your Medicare/Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D Drug Insurance, understand Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse. No appointment necessary.

Contact: United Home Health Services at 734-981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/page/

about.html.

Colbeck breakfast

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 13, 7-9:30 a.m.
Location: George's Senate Conerly Island, 39430 Dum Rogin Drive (near Six Mile and Haggerty) in Northville.

Details: Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, announced that a breakfast with the senator has been scheduled for the 7th Senate District. Constituents will also have the opportunity to meet with the senator or a member of his staff to address issues related to state government. No appointment is necessary.

Contact: For more information or to contact Colbeck, visit www.senatorpatrickcolbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

"Why All the Household Dust?"

I'm Keith Meadows, owner and operator of American Power Vac, Inc. For years, I've been improving our customer's health one family at a time. By now we've all heard the statistics: 50% of all illness is a direct relation to dirty indoor air and our indoor air is up to 50 times more polluted than outdoor air. Yet, 90% of the calls I receive everyday are from desperate people complaining about dust. They tell me they dust the TV on Friday, but by Sunday they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch Dancing with the Stars, and none of them know exactly where it's coming from. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not because you're a bad housekeeper. I tell people that by simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold air returns.

Cold air returns suck in dirty air, and over time it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag. Visit our website at www.americanpowervac.com for an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home.

Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners are experiencing dust. While your drywall was being sanded, your cold air returns sucked all of the dust through the system and it settled on the bottom of the duct lines where a little at a time gets blown back into your home. To prove it, take a walk down into your basement, look up at the ceiling for thin sheets of dirt nailed between your floor joists. These are your cold air returns. Give them a good pounding. You'll see paths of dust seeping out of the edges. That my friends, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problem!



April and Keith Meadows help keep indoor air clean with their best business, American Power Vac.

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For more testimonials visit us @ www.americanpowervac.com

vs. portable or truck mounted equipment at www.americanpowervac.com.

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When asked what sets you apart from your competition Keith says "Honest service is number one, equipment is number two. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile, and respecting people's homes and their belongings. There are a lot of dust cleaners around but rest assured you'll receive the same Quality and Service we expect. American Power Vac is family owned and were here to help by offering a

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Map showing location at the intersection of Ridge Road and Holmes Avenue, near the 1275 marker.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Holiday help

Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth will be donating \$3 of every watch battery sold during the month of December to the Plymouth Salvation Army "doing the most good" for those in need, according to Plymouth Downtown Development Authority officials.

Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth has also extended holiday hours for shopping convenience. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The store will also be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Red Ryder

Visitors can celebrate the holidays at the Plymouth Historical Museum with the new exhibit "A Red Ryder Christmas Story." The exhibit is based on the Christmas movie, *A Christmas Story*, as well as the original story by Jean Shepherd from which the movie is based.

The museum will be filled with vignettes of scenes from the movie, including the infamous leg lamp and Flick's tongue getting stuck to the lamp pole. The movie and stories are nostalgic of the late depression era and early years of World War II, which the exhibit seeks to capture by incorporating items from the time period.

Since Red Ryder BB guns were originally sold by Daisy Manufacturing Co. of Plymouth, the story of Ralphe's quest for this particular BB gun is significant to Plymouth's history. "A Red



The Z Spot Fitness Studio held a ribbon cutting in November at its location at 1472 Sheldon in the CVS plaza. The Z Spot is a fitness center for women of all activity levels and ages that offers more than 14 types of fitness classes and personal training. Cutting the ribbon are business manager Gail Grieger and fitness manager Marsha Krea. They are joined by a multitude of women who have experienced their classes and other supportive community members.

Ryder Christmas Story" runs through Jan. 19.

Also, Santa Claus will be present at the museum for visiting children every Saturday before Christmas. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students 6-17. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street. Visit its website or call 734-458-8940 for more information.

Toys for Tots

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel announce its annual Toys for Tots collection drive has begun. Each of the 16 Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel offices, including the Plymouth-Canton branch, will be a local toy drop-off location.

The Plymouth/Canton branch is located at 177 N. Main in Plymouth. Call 888-819-0691.

The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program collects new, unwrapped toys during November and December each year and distributes these toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children within the community.

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel has a long history of being in-

involved with this program and as the company grows through the years, it is able to provide more physical locations as official drop-off sites.

"Victory Lane Quick Oil Change of Plymouth is supporting the local Toys for Tots chapter this holiday season. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 18, when all will be collected. Victory Lane has consistently been a supporter of local organizations that help strengthen the community.

As a part of the program, Toys for Tots collects new, unwrapped toys during the months of November and December in collection bins throughout the community.

Anyone wishing to support Victory Lane can stop in and drop off an unwrapped toy in the collection bin. Those who would rather support Toys for Tots financially can do so by visiting www.toysfortots.org. For more information on store locations and hours, please visit www.victorylane.net or call 734-667-4304.

Victory Lane Quick Oil Change is located at 903 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.



Rick and Pat Ruhland are opening their second All American Pet Resort in Canton next week. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New 'resort' suite retreat for pooches

Owners open location in Canton as place where pet owners can have peace of mind

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

As Rick Ruhland sees it, if it's good for the east side, it's good for the west side. That's why he and his wife Pat are opening their second All American Pet Resort in Canton next week.

It makes sense for the Garden City couple who also own the All American Pet Resort on Comille Drive in Roseville.

"We live on this side of town," Ruhland said. "Our son runs the one in Roseville, but we said let's put one in closer to home. We decided that if it's good for that side of town, let's do it on this side of town."

The Ruhlands will be holding an open house 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at the new facility, located at 7320 Haggerty, north of Warren Road, in Canton. It will be the only time pet owners will get a chance to see the entire facility. Once it's open, the only view of the accommodations will be through a window on the observation deck.

The 6,000-square-foot facility has suites for 78 dogs, ranging in size from small to extra large. It has a rubber-coated indoor play yard and four artificial turf-covered outdoor exercise areas — one for a group and three for those dogs that "don't play well with others."

Climate-controlled

It is completely cage-free, 100-percent climate-controlled with a complete air exchange every 20 minutes and interiors covered with the same antimicrobial coating used in hospital operating rooms. It also offers 24/7 staffing, check-

ins and checkouts, doggie day care, overnight boarding and grooming. While it's closed to the public on the six national holidays, there is staff on site.

There also will be TVs and classical music, as well as 24-hour webcams with audio and video capability, so clients who can check in with their pooches from any smart device using any browser.

"It's also fully fire protected," Ruhland said. "It wasn't required, but it's just as important for our clients and employees to put in fire protection. The fire marshal was impressed we did that."

The Ruhlands got into the dog boarding business after Rick retired from General Motors in 2009. With a sister involved in the franchise business and dog lovers themselves, they decided to open their first resort in Roseville four years ago. When they decided to add a second resort on the west side, they looked around the area and settled on the Canton location, which has easy access to I-275 and good visibility.

"We didn't want to be a destination, we wanted to be a location," Ruhland said. "We didn't want to have people driving around to find us, we wanted to be a location where you drive by and see us."

The Ruhlands "tore the whole place apart" to transform the industrial building into the resort. The only thing left of the original building is the outside shell. Even the concrete floor was removed to install 78 floor drains.

ALL AMERICAN PET RESORT

Business address: 7320 N. Haggerty, Canton
Your names: Rick and Pat Ruhland, owners
Your hometown: Garden City
Business opening: Dec. 16

Number of employees: 12
Your business specialty: Luxury pet boarding, grooming and daycare
Business contact: 734-455-DOGS (734-455-3647), info@aaprcanton.com, www.aaprcanton.com and www.allamericanpetresorts.com

'Marvelous'

"I know every inch of this place. The contractor, Kemp, did a wonderful job," Ruhland said, adding that Canton Township officials also were "marvelous to work with."

"Chris Thomas in Economic Development has been fantastic in helping us get organized and in bringing a new business to Canton," he added.

Ruhland plans to develop connections with veterinary facilities in the Plymouth-Canton area, but if a dog requires emergency care and the family vet is in the area and available, they will take the animal to there for treatment.

While the resort officially opens Monday, Dec. 16, the Ruhlands have already started taking reservations for the Christmas holidays.

"We've had dogs all our lives, we're dog lovers," Ruhland said. "It made sense to do this."

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Livonia woman, 108, chalked longevity up to 'clean living'

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Mary Motsinger of Livonia celebrated her 108th birthday earlier this month, surrounded by family members and friends.

Wednesday, those family members and friends remembered her sparkling blue eyes, beautiful smile and loving heart as they attended her funeral at Plymouth Church of Christ.

Motsinger died Saturday, three weeks after turning 108.

"We're grateful we had her for so long," said daughter Nancy Banks, 78, of Ashville, Ala.

The family held the birthday party for her two weeks ago at Marywood Nursing Care Center in Livonia, where Motsinger lived for 2½ years.

"She thought it was wonderful; she got to see her old church friends," Banks said.

Her mother will be remembered most for the example she set, Banks said, adding she made an impression on everyone she met: "She was an extraordinary mother and woman."

Banks said the staff at Marywood all knew and adored her mother, who participated in activities at the care center up until the very end.

Banks said her mother attributed her long life to "clean living" – literally.

"She always told us to wash our pretty little hands," Banks said, commenting that frequent hand washing is what health professionals advocate today to keep illness at bay. "She was way ahead of her time." She also brushed her teeth after every meal

and was very proud of the fact that she still had all her teeth, her daughter said.

Motsinger was born Nov. 16, 1905, in Dickson, Tenn., the oldest of three children of Thomas Dallas Sugg, a farmer, and his wife Jessie. She married Harold Motsinger in about 1925. He had lived across the pasture from her childhood home in Lewisburg, Ky., where she moved when she was 6.



Motsinger

The Motsingers were married in Detroit, where Harold had moved to find work. They returned to Kentucky during the Depression, but then moved back again in 1935 to Detroit, where Harold was able to find work as a postman and a salesman selling everything from insurance and cars to real estate.

They raised three daughters. Motsinger worked twice outside the home, in a plant making parts for the military during World War II and later on as a seasonal employee for a department store in Northville.

Harold died in 1964 and Motsinger went to live with her daughter Polly Bradley, 85, of Plymouth and then, later, Martha Bouman, 75, of Canton.

She is survived by seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren. She outlived both her younger sister and her younger brother, who lived to be 96 and about 78, respectively.

Memorial contributions may be made to Church of Christ-Care Center, 23575 15 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035 or to a charity of the giver's choice.

What to do with a maturing annuity

At a recent library talk, I was asked about annuities. One attendee has a fixed annuity that was maturing and asked my advice.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

I have not written about annuities in a while, so I thought it would be a good idea to discuss the topic.

Like all situations regarding one's money and investments, I always start with the basics – goals and objectives. In addition, I also want to know what sort of risk someone is willing to accept.

I do not assume just because someone purchased an annuity in the past that they should automatically buy another annuity. To me, every time you invest money, you should ask the important questions that deal with goals, objectives and risk tolerance.

Typically when an annuity matures, you have a variety of different options. The first is to cash it in. The only issue for those over age 59½ with regard to cashing out would be tax

consequences. If this was not in a qualified account like an IRA, your tax consequence is the difference between what you invested in the annuity and what you receive when you cash it out. The difference is taxable income. Although no one likes to pay taxes, this is not a bad option, particularly for long-term growth investors.

Another option with a maturing annuity is a 1035 exchange, where you transfer money from one annuity to another. There are no tax consequences and the money can continue to grow on a tax-deferred basis.

The downside of this transaction is that since we are in a low interest rate environment, your returns will be low. Also, if you use an annuity that has back-end penalties, you are locking

Like all situations regarding one's money and investments, I always start with the basics – goals and objectives.

your money up for another period of time. One way to avoid this is to use an annuity without any back-end penalties. Companies like Fidelity, Vanguard and Charles Schwab all offer annuities at very low cost with no back-end penalties.

Another option is to convert into an immediate annuity, one that would begin to pay you income on a regular basis throughout your lifetime. The downside of this strategy is that, once you're in an immediate annuity, you cannot reverse the transaction. If four years from now you decide that the immediate annuity is not for you, you have no

options as you cannot cancel the annuity. If you have an annuity that is maturing, don't automatically roll it into another annuity, no matter what the salesperson tells you. The key is to review your goals and objectives, as well as your risk tolerance level, and then make a decision.

The advice I gave the gentlemen at my speech was to cash out the annuity, pay the taxes and use the proceeds to pay off his mortgage. He had a 5-percent non-tax deductible mortgage and the guaranteed interest on the annuity was only a little over 1 percent. Whenever the interest you pay on your debt is more than you're earning on your investments, it certainly looks good to pay off that debt.

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

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Believe in better

Ford Motor Co. volunteers treat area seniors to holiday lunch

Company employees devote community service hours to annual event

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

When Santa asked if she had been good this year, Mary Lamontagne made sure she answered "of course." Usually the guest of honor at the holidays, Santa was playing second fiddle to more than 120 seniors like Lamontagne, who were treated Friday to a holiday lunch at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Community Center.

Seniors from Wayne, Westland, Romulus and Inkster attended the luncheon, prepared and served by 15 Ford Motor Co. employees.

"We do it from start to finish," said team leader Linda Isakson of Canton, who works in the Ford Product Division. "We have one team that chops and preps the food and another sets up the tables. Then we serve them."

As part of their job, salaried employees are required to do 16 hours of community service each year. Employees select where they want to donate their time from a website that maintains a constantly changing list of volunteer opportunities.

On Friday, a Ford Accelerated Action Day, more than 600 Ford employees were cooking and serving meals, sorting food and stocking

shelves and making deliveries to feed adults and children in need. Ford volunteers have teamed with nonprofit partners at food banks, shelters and care centers.

"Ford and its employees are committed to building stronger communities and one of the most important ways we do that is by helping meet some of the most basic needs of our neighbors," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Co. Fund and Community Services. "We are very thankful for all we have and it just comes naturally to share some of our good fortune with the less fortunate in our communities."

"Ford has a culture of caring that spans generations," said Janet Lawson, director, Ford Volunteer Corps. "Go further is not just a slogan. It is how we work together with our partners to meet the challenges of creating a better world."

Holiday luncheon

The Salvation Army has been doing the holiday luncheons for seniors for years. Capt. Joanna Rose did the planning for 120 seniors, while the Ford employees "made it happen."

"Oh my God, this is just wonderful," she said. "They're a huge asset. I couldn't do it without



Linda Isakson of Canton, team leader for the Ford Volunteer Group, distributes drinks to Westland residents Alma Widden (from left), Velda Frale and Elma Newell, as well as Rocky Newell, who is visiting his mother from Dallas, Texas, for the holidays. KATHY HANSEN

them." The Ford employees prepared ham, mostaccioli, potatoes, salads, dessert and rolls for the dinner, although Isakson had to get help from an early arrival on setting up the coffee urn.

"Seniors have a wealth of information that we can use so much," she said. "There are life skills we can learn from older people that you don't learn in school. They have wisdom."

Lisa Adcock, a mobility engineer in Ford's IT operations, helped with the potatoes and cake. Her engineering background came into play with the cake.

"I tried to get them

even, but some are a few centimeters off," the Westland resident said. "There certainly is some assembly required. You have to get it done in the right order so it's all hot at the same time."

Adcock thinks it's great that rather than being just a company, Ford cares about community and helping people. This is her second time volunteering for the senior luncheon.

"I think I'm going to make it a regular thing. I really enjoy my time here," she said. "It's local and I'm helping the community."

Shawn Daniele of Commerce Township worked at the luncheon last year and said it was "awesome." She was at Starfish Family Services in Inkster on Tuesday, helping the center get ready for Christmas. The youngsters were so excited about Christmas and

were "so cute." She's also volunteered with Forgotten Harvest and went to Vista Maria, where she helped paint rooms. Her department also sponsors a family.

"It's a joy to see their faces last year. They had a great time," she said. "I get so much from them." In addition to the meal, seniors were entertained by the Salvation Army Band out of the headquarters in Southfield. Santa Claus also stopped by and pulled names for seniors to get a present. They also received coffee cups and candles.

"We love it, especially the seniors," Rose said. "Often they're forgotten about, especially when they're alone and their family has moved away."

'Wonderful here'

Elma Newell of Westland was at the luncheon with her son Rocky, who

was in from Texas to visit. She lives alone and enjoys going to the center for senior activities.

She helped get the monthly seniors meeting started there several years ago.

"It's wonderful here," she said.

For Lamontagne, the luncheon helped brighten the day and bring up her spirits. She contributes to the Salvation Army "quite a bit" and patronizes its stores.

"They're so kind and helped me when my daughter was a little girl," she said. "They did so much for me that I give back for what they did."

For Rose, the luncheon and other services that the Salvation Army provide at Christmas fit in with what she believes.

"I don't know any other way of celebrating the birth of Christ than serving others," she said.



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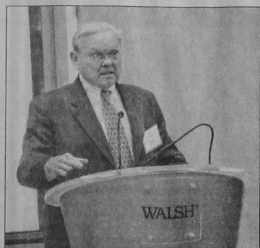


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 SIMON



Louis Schimmel was financial manager for Pontiac.

Accountability takes center stage at Walsh conference

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Walsh College's conference on Fiscal Accountability for Public Sector Leaders on Dec. 5 gave attendees a look into what makes a municipality successful financially and what doesn't.

In the past decade, financial hardship has hit many municipalities around the state, and some have even had to straighten things out with the help of an emergency manager.

The worst-case scenario for public officials has been to have their local government and services go bankrupt. The best-case has been to ride out the economic recession and, in some cases, make things better. Put in place by the voters and using tax dollars, these leaders are held accountable to get it done or changes will come.

This was one of the main points of the half-day session at Walsh's Novi campus. Faculty and government finance experts discussed their experiences and insights under state law, as emergency managers, under municipal bankruptcy, debt financing, as well as those red-flag issues often ignored in municipal budgets.

The goal was to provide attendees — appointed and elected officials, and employees of public entities including state and local governments, school districts, authorities and commissions — resources available to municipalities and critical strategies to help them maintain fiscal strength.

Success story

The city of Novi is a shining example with its multi-year fiscal planning. Novi City Manager Clay Pearson gave basis for what he and other public officials have done to maintain and improve services during challenging times.

"There are many policymakers and staff such as Novi that made adjustments to cut costs during the Great Recession, that reduced employee headcount and

employee benefits," said Pearson, who helped welcome the attendees to the conference.

"Novi also made adjustments to how we delivered services and focused on getting the most long-term benefit from public dollars entrusted to us," he added.

In Novi, a lot of well thought out techniques have been used to maintain accountability, but it's also owed to what Pearson calls the "hard work and focus every day from our great talented staff" that helps make a public organization successful.

Troubled areas

Conference speaker Louis Schimmel said many times labor and legacy costs are the biggest challenges in getting a public budget shaped up. By not addressing the problems immediately, some public officials "kick the can down the road," leading to bigger issues. "Cleaning up your own mess first," is where it starts, Schimmel said. Each situation for him has been different, but there were common problems and solutions, which include making sacrifices.

He said the plan they used in Pontiac was a good one. Consolidating services, privatizing others with Michigan-based contractors, selling property, introducing new economic development, and financial restructuring were some of the tools he employed.

In places like Detroit, emergencies were declared and managers sent in to fix dire financial situations.

Schimmel, who managed financial emergencies in Ecorse, Hamtramck and Pontiac, said much of the blame goes to self-serving politicians who turn a part-time public role into a full-time job with the perks that can come with that.

"What they are doing is serving themselves instead of the community," he said of his experiences over the last decade.

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Special kids enjoy holiday party and visit from Santa

The Livonia and Redford Township Lions Clubs co-sponsored a Christmas party Friday for 242 students with special needs at Cooke School in Northville.

"It was just awesome to see our kids so happy and excited," Dean Malory Carmack said. "They just got a kick out of it."

The students' favorite parts were visiting with Santa and eating lunch, Carmack said. Each of the students, who ranged in age from 3-26, received a gift from Santa, picked out especially for him or her.

Other activities included face painting, caroling and musical entertainment.

This was the first year for the party at Cooke School. Previously, the Lions Clubs held a Christmas party for students of Old Village School at St. Edith Church in Livonia. Also, Cooke School had its own Christmas program, Carmack said. But the two schools



Joshua Sexton of Livonia is all smiles as "L-Moe T. Clown" (Mark Rodemeyer of Livonia) does face and arm painting. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

merged two years ago, so it was decided to start a new tradition and have one large Christmas celebration.

Collins said they served 580 meals to the students, staff, parents and siblings. "It was twice as large as last year's," he said.

The party was co-sponsored by the Daniel C. Lord Council of Knights of Columbus, Alhambra and the Mitsubishi Corp.

"Together we teamed up and threw a great party," Collins said.

Collins said the goal of the party, a Lions tradi-

tion for several decades now, is to give the students a special day. And that goal was achieved once again.

"Anybody that was there witnessed the fact the kids had a great day," he said.

—By Karen Smith

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OUR VIEWS

Think about giving during holiday season

Keep the Christmas spirit alive by donating to help others in need

For many families in Plymouth and Canton, the holidays are a time of celebration — a time of gift-giving, house decorating, parties and fun.

For decades, these nonprofits have been helping those in need. They rely on our support both financially and in donations to help the less fortunate. Instead of dropping \$10 to \$20 on a quick dinner out, use it to help someone in need.

Helping out can be as easy as dropping money into Salvation Army Red Kettles, putting unwrapped toys in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots boxes or answering the call of the Red Kettle bell.

Use a good deal on food at the grocery store to buy a few extra cans and donate them to the local food pantries at the Plymouth Salvation Army, Open Door Ministry in Canton or any of the various churches that collect food

around the holidays.

There are many people who work to help the needy. In Canton, Natalie Mosher and her husband Bob sponsored a Toys for Tots drive over the weekend. Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is also collecting Toys for Tots at its Plymouth-Canton office (177 N. Main in Plymouth), as is Victory Lane Quick Oil Change of Plymouth (903 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth).

The Kiwanis and Rotary clubs always have a friendly rivalry ringing the Red Kettle bells. The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, in fact, will be ringing Friday and Saturday at five Plymouth locations: Hillier's (Five Mile and Haggerty), Busch's (Sheldon and Five Mile), Kmart (Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty), Greek Islands (Penman and Main) and Kroger (Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon).

And it's always a labor of love for the Goodfellows in these communities, who work year-round to ensure that there is No Child without a Christmas. From bowling and dinner benefits to newspa-

per sales, these volunteers work tirelessly to help make the holidays brighter for the less fortunate.

The Plymouth Goodfellows had their annual newspaper drive over the weekend. The Canton Goodfellows are wrapping up their annual giving program this week, ready to distribute toys and gifts to the children and families they've adopted.

And that doesn't count the various church groups and other civic organizations too numerous to mention who are helping others out of the holidays.

That's why, when making your Christmas list this year, be sure to include a line for giving. Whether it's food, clothing, toys, money or time, every donation you give will help brighten the holidays for someone else.

Remember, not everybody in the community can afford Christmas this year. If you're lucky enough to know you have a bountiful holiday coming, find a way to spread that cheer to those less fortunate. After all, that's what Christmas is all about.



Plymouth Goodfellow Cam Miller hit the streets Saturday for the annual Goodfellow's newspaper sale.

OUR VIEWS

Protect yourself during holidays with these tips

Don't become a victim to auto-related crimes

The Plymouth-Canton community isn't plagued by a rash of auto thefts. But that doesn't mean it can't happen.

Help Eliminate Auto Thefts, Michigan's statewide auto theft prevention program, warns that auto theft-related crimes spike during the holiday season.

December marks the busiest time of year for most consumers as they shop and cross items off their to-do lists, but don't let that distract you from keeping your vehicle and possessions safe," said Terri Miller, executive director of H.E.A.T. "The holiday season is always a special time of year, but many consumers become careless and vulnerable to theft and holiday crime. It's important to remain diligent and be aware of your surroundings."

H.E.A.T. offers the following tips to help residents to be more prepared and aware this holiday season:

Be alert. As you approach your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings. Remember where your car is parked and walk directly to it. Avoid talking or texting on cellphones, digging for keys or juggling multiple packages as it can be a distraction and can make you an easy target to criminals.

Park in well-lit, high-traffic areas. Try to avoid shopping alone after dark, but if you must, park in a well-lit area with pedestrian traffic or on a lot with an attendant. If possible, avoid parking near objects that block your view of the surrounding area such as Dumpsters, bushes, large vans or trucks and avoid parking next to cars with dark tinted windows that you cannot see through.

Ask for help. If you are alone and don't feel comfortable walking to your car, don't hesitate to ask retail security personnel for an escort to your vehicle.

Place valuables and purchases in the trunk or out of sight. Do not leave packages on the seat of your car, as it creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in your vehicle, lock it in the trunk or place items out of sight.

Move your car. Move to another area of the parking lot if you return to your car in the middle of a shopping trip, even if it means stepping up a prime spot. This will deter a thief who may have been watching you unload your purchases.

Use common sense. Never leave your car unattended or your vehicle running unattended, even if you are just going into a store for a quick errand.

Unload passengers first when arriving home. Criminals are getting bolder about approaching people in their driveways. Take children and elderly relatives into the house first, then immediately unload all purchases from your car. Never leave vulnerable loved ones alone in a vehicle, even if you will only be gone "for a minute."

If threatened by a carjacker, give up the car. Most carjackings involve a weapon, so don't resist or argue. You are more important than your vehicle, purse, wallet or other valuable. Give them up and get out of harm's way.

If you witness an auto theft, carjacking in progress or anything suspicious, call the police immediately. If you have any information regarding auto theft, insurance fraud or carjackings, call H.E.A.T.'s 24/7 confidential tip reward line at 800-242-H.E.A.T. to register your tip after you have informed local law enforcement.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you expect to spend more, less or about the same this holiday season compared to last year?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"The same." Kalena Dowling, Canton. "Actually we're spending less because we have our 50th (wedding) anniversary and we're taking the whole family on a trip (to the British Virgin Islands) for Christmas."

Carol Theard, Canton



"Less. I don't celebrate Christmas."



"About the same."



Bill Foder, Canton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changing the world

On Sunday, a wonderful thing happened. Families and children gathered at Genitti's restaurant for a very special event.

It started out as a fundraiser for a program called Sprouts Autism K-5, but it turned into so much more. It was the perfect example of what a community can do when we all come together. The restaurant donated its entire restaurant and theater (plus coffee and cocoa and treats), another volunteer, an eighth-grader, Nate Mansfield, played Christmas carols in the vestibule. Other volunteers served as "Elfs" and helped children get their photo with Santa and served cocoa and cookies.

A dynamic youth theater Spotlight on Youth contributed its time and talent to perform a holiday show and Santa Claus himself took photos with children before and after the show.

Another Sprouts parent echoed my feelings (but said it a lot better).

Thank you to the children of Plymouth and Canton in Spotlight on Youth for supporting Sprouts Autism K-5 recently. Please support these great kids—they gave back, so please, community-at-large, give back to them, by supporting them by attending their heart-warming show that opens this Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton called "A Wonderful World of Christmas." There are shows at 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and matinees at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Sprouts' extraordinarily gifted teacher, Kate Colaluca, sent me a text message. It said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." I think that sums it up perfectly.

Laurie Konkod, proud Sprouts parent

Don't pay for study

I have recently become aware of the plan to study the recreational needs of the citizens of Plymouth Township. This proposed study would cost the taxpayers of Plymouth Township

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

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Fax: (313) 223-3318
Email: bkadirch@hometownlife.com

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

\$50,000.

If the township board wants to know what recreation facilities the citizens are interested in, why not do a survey — at no cost to the taxpayers. They could request emails to be sent to the township office or run a survey in the local paper or organize an open town meeting to get input from the citizenry — or try all three approaches.

Perhaps it is because we really need the cost of a separate facility to accomplish that? Most of us go into town all of the time; it is part of our daily lives.

Why can't we share a recreation facility with the people in the city? That would be the logical and more frugal approach.

Everyone I have spoken to in the township is vehemently opposed to the idea of a \$50,000 study. We want our tax dollars spent more wisely than that. If property values have declined in the township during this recent recession, it is not for lack of a recreational facility.

If the township board conducts a free survey, I am sure that the priorities of township residents will become obvious.

Jackie Peters, Plymouth

A lot of coincidences

It was only a little over a year ago that a proposal was on the ballot that Rick Snyder and right-wingers were fighting against. They said the Michigan Constitution should not be altered, as it was "sacrosanct"

(unouchable).

And it was — until it wasn't. After Snyder stood next to his protégé Kevin Orr and told the world that everything was on the table during Detroit's bankruptcy, he threw the retirees into the hopper. Every dollar he could take from them was one less dollar his bond-holding, New York bankers would have to eat.

Rick Snyder not only failed to uphold our Constitution, he argued against it. At the federal level, this would be nothing short of treason.

Now that the judge has ruled in the bankruptcy, I hope the aggrieved parties will petition for a grand jury to investigate Snyder for malfeasance, misfeasance and misconduct in office.

But whom do they petition? A month ago it probably would have been in Ingham County. But our lawmakers have recently stripped that court of hearing cases because they didn't like the rulings being handed down. Coincidence? Maybe our conspiracy theorist friends have a point there.

Sure have been a lot of coincidences since the Tea Party took over our state government.

James Huddleston, Canton

Problem solved

In response to Phil Powers' recent "Dark money" article, I agree. Have no campaign contribution limits whatsoever. Put all the campaign contributions in a single pot, evenly distributed amongst all the Legislators. You do not even need public disclosure. This way donors' free speech rights are not violated and the "retaliator" argument is moot. Problem solved.

Gerard Harbory, Livonia

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SECTION B (CP)

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SPORTS

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BOYS BASKETBALL OPENERS



Randall Atkins of Plymouth drives past Redford Union's Tyler Hathaway during Tuesday's contest. Also shown is Chris Walls (No. 23) of the Wildcats. CHRIS GUDDECK

Pesky Rocks top Skyline

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Ann Arbor Skyline had the tallest players on the basketball court Tuesday night, but Salem's grit and energy brought them down as the Rocks earned a 66-52 victory.

For Salem, sparking the win on opening night was senior forward Alec Winfrey, with 18 points.

Contributing 14 points was junior forward Allante Wheeler while senior guards Connor Cole (11 points, six rebounds, six assists) and Brady Cole (10 points) also had strong showings. Leading the Rocks in rebounds with seven was 6-3 junior forward Tyler Brooks.

For Skyline, Jonathon Muir-Cotton tallied 17 points while 6-8 senior forward Tristan Wilson and 6-5 senior forward Chris Spaly scored 11 and eight points, respectively.

"Skyline, that's a good basketball team," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "They're going to win a lot of games this year. You can see the weapons they have, they're quick and fast."

"They have a 6-foot-8 guy. They're a tough team and I'm happy to come out of there with a victory."

Brodie's squad led 16-15 after one quarter and ratcheted things up in the second with a 19-10 edge to lead 35-25 at halftime.

But Brodie didn't see the second quarter as the turning point. He thought his team played a solid game from start to finish.

"We just played well pretty much the whole game, we didn't falter too much," Brodie said. "We weathered the storm, so to speak. They fired at us and we answered the call."

"We shot the ball extremely well tonight and that was good to see."

See BOYS HOOPS, Page B3

Wildcats crank it up after sluggish start

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Some might argue whether Plymouth and Redford Union started the 2013-14 varsity boys basketball season on time, what with the host Wildcats leading 5-0 after the first quarter.

The Panthers did rally a bit during the second frame, cutting Plymouth's lead to 8-7 at one point. But Plymouth took a 17-12 halftime edge and went on to post a 43-22 non-league victory.

"We were not very good to start and the second half was really key for us," said Plymouth head coach

Mike Soukup, who once was a JV coach at RU. "We came out with a little more energy in the second half, we got a couple of steals to start the second half, deflect a few balls, our defensive energy was certainly better than it was in the first half."

"The first half was kind of a sleepwalk, and I guess that can be expected by two younger teams trying to get acclimated to actually playing at this level."

According to Panthers head coach Randall Taylor, first-grade nerves hurt his team — especially in the first quarter, when RU players missed a number of layups and

open jumpers.

"A little sloppiness, some turnovers, a lot of missed shots, nerves, things of that sort," said Taylor, asked what he saw from his group in the contest. "We had a lot of nerves, we couldn't make shots. A lot of things we went over in the scouting report this week we just couldn't execute in the game."

Sputtering early

Not that the Wildcats did either, at least in the first quarter or so. It was only a 5-0 lead after one, with junior forward Deji Adebayi

See WILDCATS, Page B3



Going up for a rebound Tuesday is Salem junior forward Tyler Brooks (No. 44). CHRIS GUDDECK

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wilson, Cheston spark Rocks, 'Cats

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Led by Jamyra Wilson's 23 points, visiting Salem defeated Dearborn Divine Child 40-29 Monday night in a nonleague varsity girls basketball game.

"She really did a great job of getting to the free throw line," said Rocks head coach Fred Thomann, about Wilson. "She was able to split their defense and get to the basket."

Wilson, a junior guard, sank seven of 11 free throws, augmenting that with eight field goals as Salem improved to 2-1.

The Rocks also received solid performances from senior forward Kelly Whalen (five points, seven rebounds) and junior forward Shara Long (three points, seven boards) as Salem built a 19-15 halftime lead and coasted from there.

"We had some really, really good opportunities to score even more but we couldn't finish," Thomann said. "But we're getting there. The girls played really, really hard tonight." Divine Child's record dipped to 2-1. Meanwhile, Salem was slated to host Brighton on Wednesday night.



Kelly Whalen (No. 25), shown from a recent game, helped Salem win Monday. JOHN KEMSKI/EXRESS PHOTO

Wildcats prevail

Plymouth senior center Shelby Cheston had the best game of her high school career Monday night, scoring 22 points (a career high) and 11 rebounds as the Wildcats earned a 56-47 victory

See GIRLS HOOPS, Page B3

PREP BOWLING PREVIEW

LET'S ROLL!

P-CEP bowling teams gear up

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Spearheaded by Salem's state champion varsity boys bowling team, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park bowlers hit the pocket more often than not in 2012-13.

And hopes are running high that 2013-14 will bring another successful season.

Can the Rocks do it again? Veteran coaches Kathie Hahn and Glenn Clark at least expect another very competitive squad to say the least.

"We have four of our varsity boys returning and some great prospects to replace the two varsity spots (lost to graduation)," noted Hahn, whose team went 13-2 overall and 10-2 in the KLA&A Central Division last season.

Leading the way will be seniors Brandon Allison, Steven Cadwell and juniors Nolan Rusinek and Tyler Snyder.

But a handful of bowlers are making the case to join the varsity and contribute.

Junior Tyler Ridgeway, of Idaho, is "a two-handed bowler and has grown up in a bowling alley. Salem is lucky he pulled the blue chip," noted Hahn.

Another junior, Tony Przytulski, has been working hard to improve and Hahn describes him as a "great prospect."

Sophomore Zach Gonyea, freshmen Mitchell Rusinek and Shane Rusinek round out the roster.

See BOWLING, Page B4

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Toledo-bound Woody shows her D-I stuff

By **Tim Smith**
Staff Writer

Jada Woody knew last year where she wanted to play college basketball. The Plymouth High School senior wing recently made it official, signing her national letter of intent to play for the University of Toledo.

"I had a really good recruiting experience and I'm really excited about Toledo," said the 17-year-old Woody, about her full-ride scholarship at the Division I university.

She'll either play on the wing or at shooting guard with Toledo, said Woody, noting that she also received offers from Western Michigan University and Bradley University (located in Wisconsin).

Ultimately, the fact Toledo could offer her with the major she wanted proved to be the tip-

ping point.

"They have academically the specific major I'm most interested in, which is neurology," Woody noted. "And none of the other schools (she was recruited by) has that specific major."

There is another plus for Woody, who carries a lofty 3.8 grade point average.

"Toledo is just so far away from home, so that was really nice," said Woody, who lives in Canton with mom Julie Tankard and stepdad Ray Tankard. "I wouldn't have to be too far away from home."

Her biological father is Cornelius Woody.

Signing for college seems to have helped Woody get off to a good start in her high school swan song, too.

On Monday against North Farmington, she scored 16 points (10 in the second half) and pulled

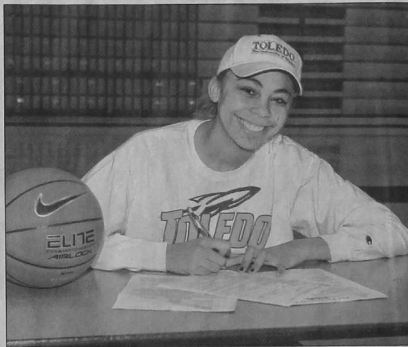
down nine rebounds as the Wildcats earned their second win in two games. "Jada really shined tonight, I thought she was so focused and so ready to play right from the opening tip," said Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon.

"It's probably the best game I have ever seen her play because of the aggressiveness and confidence that she played with."

"I told her all week that she would have a matchup that allowed her to make plays and be outstanding and she did just that. I think this was a super important night for her to show that she is capable of playing at an elite level."

Of course, that's something Toledo coaches already were pretty certain of.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Plymouth senior Jada Woody recently signed her national letter of intent to play women's basketball at the University of Toledo. (JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO)

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 12
Otoe Tech at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
Lincoln Christian at PCA, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
Sales at Canton, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at D.H. Annapolis, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14
Canton vs. Henry Ford at Milan TBA
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 12
G.P. North at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Cedarbrook at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Kettering at Lakewood, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
Canton at Divine Child, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 13
Salem at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
at Edger Arena, 6 p.m.
Canton vs. Farmington/CC at FH, Ice Arena, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 14
Ladysport vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Plymouth at Edger Arena, 7 p.m.
Canton at Birmingham, 8:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 12
Luth. Westland at Memphis, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14
Redford Union Township, 9 a.m.
Huron Hawk Hawk, 9 a.m.
Wayne County Championship at Wyandotte Roosevelt, 9 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
N.D. Prep at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Saturday, Dec. 14
John Glenn Rocket Relays, noon.
EMU Relays/TBA
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Dec. 12
Walled Lake vs. Canton at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOWLING
Saturday, Dec. 14
Bay City Tournament at Monitor Lanes, 9 a.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Dec. 14
CCCAAM Precon Invitational, TBA
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 14
Davenport at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Edson CC at Scholastic, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 14
Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Edson CC at Scholastic, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Dec. 13
Ply. Warriors at Sarnia, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14
Peterborough vs. Ply. Warriors at Compuserve Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA - Time to be announced.

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Winter taxes are due December 1, 2013 and payable through February 28, 2014 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page - www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Tuesday, December 24, 2013 and Wednesday, December 25, 2013 also Tuesday, December 31, 2013 and Wednesday, January 1, 2014. During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be OPEN on Monday, December 23, Thursday, December 26, Friday, December 27 and Monday, December 30, 2013 for our taxpayers' convenience.

Public: December 1, 2013 and December 12, 2013
Teresa Cichocki, MiCPT CPPA
City Treasurer

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Open enrollment for the 2014-2015 academic school year ends on 2/28/2014 at 5:00 pm. Applications are available for the grades indicated and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHAschools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held at the respective school on the following date:

- Achieve - 3/18/2014 at 4:30 PM
- Canton - 3/18/2014 at 4:30 PM
- Plymouth - 3/18/2014 at 12:00 PM
- South Canton - 3/19/2014 at 4:30 PM
- South Pointe - 3/11/2014 at 4:30 PM

Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

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National Heritage Academies admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Public: December 12, 2013

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Hard-shooting Storm pummel Whalers, 5-2

On a night when fans pelted the Compuware Arena ice with teddy bears, the Guelph Storm pelted Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic with pucks — 57 of them.

The remainder hung in there as long as he could, but ultimately four of those shots eluded him and the Whalers fell 5-2 in an Ontario Hockey League contest before just over 2,000 fans.

Nedeljkovic stopped all 17 shots in the first period and faced 26 Guelph attempts in the middle stanza. He stopped all but two of them, with Scott Kosmachuk (at 6:44) and Tyler Bertuzzi (at 11:07) finding the back of the Plymouth cage.

It was 3-0 early in the third when Robby Fabbri scored on the power play.

The Whalers' Josh Wesley finally solved Guelph goalie Matthew Mancina (33 saves) at 1:18, just 15 seconds after Fabbri's marker.

Tallying his 14th of the season at 16:28 was Plymouth's Zach Lorentz to briefly give Compuware fans hope. Setting up the goal were Connor Chatham and Yannick Rathgeb.

But Guelph answered at 17:05 when Zack Mitchell scored. Mitchell then added an empty netter at 18:42.

Plymouth dropped to 11-17-0-3 with the loss while Guelph improved to 22-6-1-1.

Saturday was the Whalers' 14th annual Teddy Bear Toss. Fans threw their stuffed animals onto the ice immediately following Plymouth's first goal. The toys were collected and will be distributed to homes by Plymouth Community United Way.

Hounds nip Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers fell behind 3-0 Friday night against Sault Ste. Marie at Compuware Arena and could



Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (No. 39), shown from earlier this season, turned aside 53 of 57 Guelph shots Saturday. RENA LAVERTY / PLYMOUTH WHALERS

not complete a comeback attempt, dropping a 4-3 Ontario Hockey League contest.

Scoring twice for the Whalers was Zach Lorentz, who netted his 12th and 13th goals of the season in the second period to cut the gap to 3-2 against the West Division leaders.

But Jared McCann tallied a goal on the power play at 4:49 in the third period and that proved to be the eventual winning goal.

Getting the Whalers (11-16-0-3) a bit closer, but to no avail, was Mathieu

Henderson. He scored at 15:16 of the third, from Ryan Hartman (two assists) and Danny Vandervier.

Other Plymouth players to pick up assists include Connor Chatham, Mitch Jones (Rochester Hills) and Yannick Rathgeb.

Stopping 33 of 37 shots was Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic.

For the Greyhounds (20-6-0-3), netminder Brandon Halverson turned aside 36 Plymouth shots. The game was played in front of 2,097 fans.

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Rocks pound Pats in KLAA South tilt

Noah Willer and Nick Danis each tallied a pair of goals Saturday, leading Salem to a 6-1 KLAA South Division win over Livonia Franklin at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Willer scored on a power play from with 4:44 left in the first period from Jack Driscoll and Jake Sealy, but Franklin's Josh Dudek tied it up with an unassisted goal just 12 seconds into the period.

Salem (2-1, 2-1) then scored five unanswered goals including three in the second period — Richie Corso (from Noah Saad at 5:43), Jason Newell on a power play (from Willer and Sealy at 8:57), followed by Danis on a power play (from Corso at 9:58).

The Rocks put it away with two more in the final period — Danis from Nick Smith at 1:19 and Willer on a power play (from Sealy at 8:17).

Salem goaltender Parker Godfrey stopped 24-of-25 shots, while Franklin's Matt Monedo had 24 saves for the Patriots (2-3, 1-2).

CRANBROOK 7, LADYWOOD 1: On Monday, Katie Hayward had the lone goal from Jackie's host Livonia Ladywood (0-5, 0-5) to lift Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (3-0, 3-0) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 game played at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Cranbrook led 2-1 after one period and 5-1 after two periods before scoring twice in the final period.

Sophomore Michaela Wheeler made 32 saves in goal for the Patriots.

P.H. NORTHERN 8, CHURCHILL 2: Clay Wilson and Justin Van Buskirk each tallied three goals and four assists leading host Port Huron Northern (3-3) to a non-conference victory over Livonia Churchill (1-4-1) in a game played Saturday night at McLanahan Arena.

Brendan Sheaigan added two goals for the Huskies, who led 2-0 after one period and 6-1 after two.

Nolan Coach had both goals for the Chargers with Andrew Sparks and Dylan Smith assisting on the first, while his second was a short-handed effort from Jack Birken.

Churchill's David Tard and Chris Adams split time in goal each allowing two while facing a total of 34 shots, while Trevor Mangus made 20 saves for Northern.

"We pride ourselves on a tough schedule and we're going through growing pains and it's going to take time with the new guys," Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said. "We gave them too many odd man rushes and they're a skilled team that's going to take advantage when you make mistakes."

BOYS HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

Winfrey was on target most of the night and also did the job in other facets of the game.

"He (Winfrey) did a nice job," Brodie said. "I like the way he took care of the basketball."

"A couple times he made some mistakes but that's going to happen, especially when you're going as fast as you're going."

Salem will visit Canton 7 p.m. Friday.

CANTON 61, PIONEER 58: Visiting Canton's balanced attack enabled the Chiefs to defeat Ann Arbor Pioneer in Tuesday's season opener.

Leading Canton with 19 points was Davon Taylor, while Jordan Nobles and Logan Ryan



Salem's Connor Cole (No. 32) muscles for position under the basket. In the background for the Rocks is Evan Klenk (No. 22). CHRIS GUDDICK

GIRLS HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

over visiting North Farmington.

Also coming up big for the 2-0 Wildcats were senior wing Jada Woody (16 points, nine boards) and senior point guard Kylie Robb (10 points).

The top scorer for North (2-1) was junior guard Megan Carter, with 16 points.

"Our girls deserve a tremendous amount of credit for an excellent week of preparation," Plymouth head coach Nick Brandon said. "We game-planned for this game very hard and worked a lot in practice on the various ways that North Farmington puts pressure on their opponents defensively."

"North Farmington is a very

chipped in with 16 and 10 points, respectively.

The Chiefs trailed by 10 points with five minutes remaining before staging a gutsy comeback to close out the victory.

"We didn't do a great job of executing tonight," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "But we played hard and did a great job on the boards."

"I am proud of the guys for the way they finished the game, especially since they could have folded being down double digits late in the game."

OUR LADY OF LAKES 59, PCA 50: Plymouth Christian Academy lost Tuesday's opening game to Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes despite 23 points and 12 rebounds from Daniel Jipping.

Chipping in with 11 points and 10 boards was Michael Slater.

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

and Khalil Newell combining for all five points.

"Nailing a try from beyond the top of the arc to open the second quarter was Plymouth's Caden Farrugia as the Wildcats made it an 8-0 advantage.

But the Panthers came to life, with a banker by junior forward Jerrime Koger (six points) finally putting RU on the board with about 6:30 to go in the first half.

RU's 6-5 senior forward Jacob McKiddle followed that up with a three-point play and Koger scored on a putback of his own miss midway through the quarter to slice the Plymouth lead to 8-7.

The Panthers then could have taken the lead for the first time, but could not connect and Plymouth junior guard Josh Reynolds (a game-high 13 points and eight rebounds) gave the home team a bit of breathing room when he nailed a triple from the left corner with 3:30 remaining.

Shortly thereafter, Koger scored on a nifty finger roll to slice the Plymouth lead to 11-9, but the Wildcats answered with back-to-back buckets by Randall Aikins (10 points) and Deji Adebisi (11 points, four rebounds).

A high-glasser at the buzzer by Aikins padded Plymouth's halftime lead to 17-12 and the Wildcats took control of matters with a 10-0 run to open the second half.

Plymouth's lead was down to 29-20 early in the fourth following a basket by McKiddle (seven points, three boards).

Then came Reynolds, draining successive treys from the left wing to open up a 35-20 edge with 5:30 remaining.

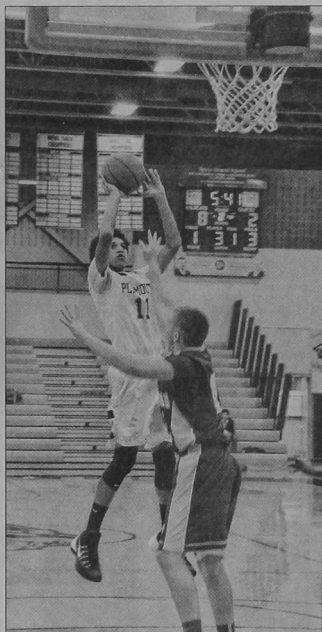
Aikins then came strong to the rack for a layup and the Wildcats were in cruise control.

Soukup pointed to Reynolds, Adebisi and Aikins for making the shots when they were needed. They will have to keep doing that for the Wildcats to compete, he emphasized.

"We'll lean on those three guys heavily," Soukup said. "Those are the three guys who know what it takes to play at this level and they were able to get it done tonight a little bit."

He did cite the hard-nosed defense of Jon Schumaker and Kevin Justice (four rebounds).

"Jonny Shu did some good things, he was a star in his role," Soukup said. "He did a lot of things you probably wouldn't see on the stat sheet."



Sending a shot toward the rim is Plymouth's Josh Reynolds, who scored 13 points Tuesday. CHRIS GUDDICK

He ran the ball well, he defended extremely well and gave us a good lift off the bench."

Not that easy

Soukup blamed inexperience for nearly letting RU up off the mat. "We thought 'This is going to come easy to us' and then we relaxed in the second quarter. That wasn't the case and it's never the case at this level, everyone here is very equal and is going to compete and that's the expectation."

"I think for the most part it was the nerves for the kids," he said. "First game on the road, a pretty inexperienced team for the most part, inexperienced at the guards. Hopefully, we can get some execution going."



Taking the ball inside for Plymouth is Beji Adebisi (No. 5), while Redford Union's Braxton Cannon (No. 31) tries to stop him. CHRIS GUDDICK

PREP WRESTLING

Big opening day for 'Cats, Rocks

The opening weekend of the boys' high school wrestling season couldn't have gone much better for the Plymouth and Salem squads.

Plymouth won all five dual meets at Saturday's Todd Schoenhide Challenge at Northville to capture first place overall.

The highlight of the day for the Wildcats was senior Jon Caron's 100th career win, with a third period fall in his 145-pound bout in the opening dual against Madison Heights Lamphere (won 56-6 by the Wildcats).

The Wildcats were dominant throughout the lineup, losing just 11 matches all day with no weight class ending with a losing record. Undeclared for Plymouth were Conn, junior Brandon Harris (122), Spencer Schifart (125), senior Daniel Ahearn (135), Joey Shaver, Hussein Yousef and Tarek Tamimi.

"We entered the tournament as the returning champs and expected a tough dual in our pool from Lamph-

ere and either Caro or Saline in the finals," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "With it being the first competition of the season it is always hard to determine where your team stands in comparison to (other teams)."

"What was nice over the day was how we won matches. Getting bonus points in matches we win and not giving them up in matches we lose had been a point of emphasis for the team all week."

Plymouth's comfortable margins of victory against all of the opponents indicated that Guernsey's team followed that game plan. The Wildcats followed up the win over Lamphere with lopsided victories of 81-0 over Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 72-4 over Ann Arbor Huron, 56-21 over Lapeer East and (in the final) 47-16 over Caro (No. 3 in Division 3).

"It is a trend we'll need to keep up if we want to beat some of the upcoming teams in our season," he added.

» Salem went 4-1 at the

Walter Mott Duals, also on Saturday. The Rocks dropped to the consolation pool after going 2-1 in the opening portion of the tournament, and wound up fifth overall.

Salem head coach Pete Israel noted that "even though we took fifth, not many teams that go 4-1 place that low."

The Rocks defeated Bloomfield (41-33), Pontiac (40-37), Capex (65-12) and Lakeview (52-24) and only lost to Anse Cruse (25-37).

Undeclared for the Rocks were Russell Gaubatz, Ahmad Abed and Mitchell Gross while Israel cited strong showings by varsity newcomers Akash Rai, Bruce Haslitt and Peter Bushaw.

Other notable performances for Salem, the coach added, were turned in by Connor Thornbury and Roy Foster.

Israel said Thornbury faced "probably the toughest opponents of the day, but kept scores close. Connor wrestled with grit and I was happy to see him take his wrestling to a higher level."

Foster only dropped one bout during the tournament.



Grand Valley State University center back Kayla Kimble helped the Lakers win the NCAA Division II National women's soccer championship. GVSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Kimble goes out in style

Anchor's stingy Grand Valley defense to NCAA Division II title

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

The script couldn't have been written any better for Kayla Kimble.

The 5-foot-3 defensive dynamo for the Grand Valley State University women's soccer team started her career on an NCAA Division II National championship team and ended her career Saturday in the same fashion as the Lakers blanked West Florida, 2-0, for the coveted title in Evans Park, Ga.

As a center back, the 2010 Livonia Stevenson High grad anchored the nation's stingiest defense which recorded 21 shutouts en route to a 24-0 record.

Kimble, the 2013 Daktronics Midwest Region Player of the Year, also learned Monday that she had been a first-team All-America along with Lakers senior goalkeeper Abbey Miller.

All told, Kimble was a part of two national titles and four straight trips to the NCAA National II Final Four while playing for Grand Valley.

"It's been an amazing career," Kimble said. "Honestly, I couldn't ask for a better senior year going undefeated throughout the season and winning the national championship. Overall, I've had a great experience with the program. I met and made a lot of new friends that I now call family. I've learned a lot of new things and overall it's been a really, really great experience to be here at Grand Valley."

All-America

Kimble anchored a defense that allowed just four goals all season.

"This year there was no doubt she was leader our back line," said Grand Valley coach Dave Dilanni, who has guided the Lakers to three national titles in five years. "She's the leader on the field as a player as well as a coach on the field. She's an All-American, no doubt about it."

Dilanni didn't hesitate to put Kimble at the center of the Lakers' defense during her senior season.

"She became a player who was going to give everything she had for her senior year to win a national championship," he said. "Not only for herself - and to end her career on a high note - but also for the team. She became more of a vocal leader, which is not her forte. We needed her to do that."

"What separates her as a center-back... she's a competitor. She has a competitive spirit. She shut out two All-Americans, neither which scored during the Final Four. She's an All-American as well and in my opinion makes her the (NCAA Division II) Player of the Year."

Kimble always accepted the challenge of taking on the opponents' top goal scorers in a one-on-one matchup, but

always within the team concept.

Marking back

Over the last two years, that's been my main role in games, especially when there's a strong forward up top," she said.

Kimble also provided the Lakers some offense of her own when she drilled home a penalty kick in Thursday's national semifinal win over American International. The PK gave Grand Valley a two-goal advantage and eventually a 4-1 victory.

It was her second PK goal of the season.

But the old adage "Defense wins championships" certainly applied to Kimble more than anything else.

"We're the oldest (back) line, but we had a lot of freshman playing a lot of minutes this year and people coming off the bench who were very adept," Kimble said. "We've been playing together so long and I think it played a lot into our success because we know each other inside-and-out. Being the oldest and strongest line back there helped us out a lot. I think overall we played a lot of defense, just not the back line. It was all over the field. I think that played a lot into our success as well."

As a freshman, Kimble played in 21 games (54 minutes) with the start on the Lakers' national championship team.

During her sophomore year, she started 21 games on a defense that allowed just 10 goals and posted 16 shutouts, while earning second-team All-Midwest Region honors.

More experience

After battling an early-season injury in 2012, Kimble returned to start in 16 matches while earning second-team All-Midwest Region and first-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference accolades as the Lakers' defense topped the nation in shutout percentage and a second-place goals-against average (0.429).

"As a player she was instrumental in a lot of things we've done," Dilanni said. "She hooked-ended her career with national championships. She played different roles during those years."

"She was injured quite a bit her freshman year, but played off the bench and played a key part to what we were trying to do as a central midfielder."

Kimble's father Jim, who is also Stevenson grad, is playing soccer at Central Michigan University. He coached the Stevenson girls to back-to-back state titles (1997 and 1998) and was a member of Stevenson's boys state championship teams during the 1980s.

So needless to say, Kayla's fundamentals have been strong from the start with national championships during the 1980s.

Kimble is scheduled to graduate in April with a degree in business/marketing.

benmons@hometownlife.com
313-222-6851

PREP BOWLING

John Glenn girls earn Early Bird Invitational title

Westland John Glenn is off to a fast start in girls bowling. The Lady Rocks earned a first-place finish with a total pin count of 3,939 in Saturday's Early Bird Invitational held at Drakeshire Lanes in Farmington.

Farmington Harrison and Walled Lake Central finished second and third with 3,737 and 3,620, respectively.

Glenn fired a 1,253 during the Baker set, while averaging a 208 for the six games. Harrison and Farmington Hills Mer-

cy placed second and third in the Bakers with totals of 994 and 990, respectively, as the Rockets opened up a 259-pin advantage heading into the regular games.

Leading Glenn was Julia Huren, who posted a 610 series en route to all-tournament honors. She was followed by teammates Olivia Cabildo (552), Jessica Pate (538), Emily Dietz (514) and Ashley Kolb (472).

GIRLS DUAL RESULTS
TAYLOR KENNEDY 28
LIVONIA CLARENVILLE 8
Dec. 9 at Indian Lanes

Top Kennedy scorers: Andrea Clappock, 227; Rob 388; Morgan Akers, 219. **Baker games:** 239-193-386.

Clarencville scorers: Erin Walton, 156-164-340; Anna Greenwald, 117-138-255; Sarah Entrop, 131-120-231; Elizabeth Kerr, 113-125-238. **Bakers:** 137-103-249.

Dual match records: Kennedy, 1-0 overall; Clarencville, 0-1 overall.

BOYS DUAL RESULTS
TAYLOR KENNEDY 28
LIVONIA CLARENVILLE 2
Dec. 9 at Indian Lanes

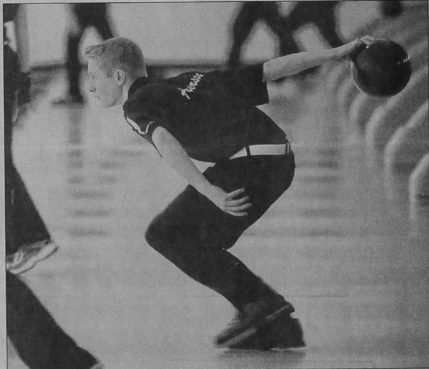
Kennedy leader: Clayton Williams, 200-225-424

Bakers: 189-380.

Top Clarencville scorers: Samuel Moore, 177-213-382; Jerin Kruger, 158-135-293; Kyle Coughlin, 123-152-275; Jeremiah Wright, 95-98-193.

Bakers: 123-101-284.

Dual match records: Kennedy, 1-0 overall; Clarencville, 0-1 overall.



Plymouth returnee Charlie Anderson, shown from a 2012-13 contest, looks to bolster the Wildcats' lineup again this year. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BOWLING

Continued from Page B1

» Canton's boys team also had plenty of success in 2012-13 with a record of 8-4 in the KLA Central (trailing co-champions Salem and Westland John Glenn) and 11-4 overall.

More good things are predicted by Chief's head coach Karl Brubaker.

"This year's team looks to be very competitive with four of the six bowlers that bowled varsity last year coming back," Brubaker noted. "The Canton boys are the only Division I team to make the Elite 8 at the state finals two straight years and will be looking to head back to the finale that will be at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights."

"I know this is a great group of kids that will be in the running for the division and regional titles."

Key returnees include seniors Josh Pozan, Michael Richards, junior Aaron Madson and sophomore Mitchell Zelenak.

The Canton lineup will feature newcomers such as sophomores Kyle Ceci, Andrew Pascualpeny, freshmen Andrew Nosay, Dominic Dimaya, Mat Mondro, Andrew Rizk, David Hess and Brendan Kacic.

Brubaker added that a strong junior varsity team will include bowlers pushing for the varsity lineup.

Those include senior Nick Blain, juniors Jacob Peltz, Trent Montgomery, Josh Crist-icenti, Teddy Lang and sophomore Tyler Pozan.

» After a season in which

Plymouth finished fifth in the division (4-8) and seventh in the regionals, head coach Bamy Thompson is enthusiastic that a solid nucleus can help the boys move up the standings this season.

Key returnees include fourth-year senior Charlie Anderson, junior Jordan Orzech (entering his third season) and sophomores Donald Blevins and Nicholas Ray.

New to the squad are sophomores Steven Hill, Lucas Meiers, Nathan Stockell and freshmen Matthew Armstrong, Bryce Smith, Tyler Schlee and Justin Kapke.

"As you can see with a lot of new players on the roster we are in the process of rebuilding the team," Thompson explained. "We have lost a lot of varsity players in the last two years."

"I am excited about the players that we have picked up. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us."

Girls preview

Salem's varsity girls bowling team is shaping up nicely as far as Hahn is concerned with four returnees.

"Salem girls are going to do amazing things this year," Hahn noted.

Back from 2012-13 — when Salem went 13-2 overall and 10-2 in the KLA Central to win a share of the title — are senior Rachel Boucha and sophomores Katherine Kehoe, Rachel Lopez and Brynna Samu-

Boucha's sister, freshman Leah Boucha, also is showing plenty of promise.

"We only have five girls (on varsity) so the pressure is on



Salem's boys bowling team lost several top performers to graduation, including Kevin Williams (above). BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

for all of them," Hahn said. "But (assistant coach) Crystal Webb and myself know they can do it. They are all strong bowlers."

» At Plymouth, coach Thompson will be looking to fill the void left by the departure of Caitlyn Webb (first at regionals last season and in the top 16 at states).

Veterans who will be called upon include junior Lauryn Vincent and sophomore Jessica Joppick.

New to the squad are sophomores Marissa Holmes, Imani Marable, Zharae Spratt and freshman Elizabeth Nicholson.

"I am expecting a very fun season this year and I think the players will improve tremendously this season," Thompson said.

Last winter, the Wildcats went 6-9 overall and 4-8 in the division.

(Information about Canton's girls team was not available as of press time but will be included in a future edition of the Observer.)

SPORTS BRIEF

Coaching vacancies

The Salem girls track and field team is looking for two assistant coaches for the 2014 season.

Coaches should have a background in sprints, relays, hurdles, high jump or long jump.

If interested, contact the Salem athletics department at 734-416-7774 or head coach Dave Gerlach at 734-416-7708.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER ADVENT SERVICES
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 18
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: The theme for meditations is "Waiting for the Savior."

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

Breakfast
Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne, Westland
Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 210. Santa Claus will visit and there will be live musical entertainment

Contact: 734-425-4421

Candlelight Night
Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Location: Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Reception starts at 5 p.m., followed by evening ceremony at 6 p.m. Potluck dinner after the ceremony. Bring a vegetarian dish with no garlic and no onions.

Contact: RSVP to michigan-temple@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: Late night worship is candlelight service

Contact: 734-427-3660

CONCERT
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Location: St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Christmas Cantata will include secular and religious music and will include handbells. Freewill offering

Contact: 734-464-8844, sttimothyusa.org

FILM
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills

Details: The Muppet Christmas Carol; free and includes potluck dinner

Contact: 248-553-3380

NATIVITY
Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21

Location: Lake Pointe Bible Church, 42150 Schoolcraft, Plymouth

Details: Living Nativity
Contact: 734-420-0515

JANUARY 2014 YOUNG FIVES PROGRAM
Time/Date: Jan. 6, 2014
Location: St. Paul's Preschool and Day Care, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: New Young Fives program begins. Preschool/day care runs 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday for ages 2-5.

Contact: Karen or Robin at 248-474-2488

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible Study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tylee, Belleville
Contact: 734-846-4615

Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday and fourth Thursday

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniaatlantic.org

Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: 248-374-5200

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL
Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawneese, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

FOOD BANK
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

Location: 48115 Cherry Hill, Canton

Contact: Call pastor Rayan Brown to schedule an appointment at 734-270-2528.

MOMS
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethnie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Judy Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first

and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Location: Dunk N' Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER
Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Location: 29877 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.

Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Eric at 734-464-1856, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Gert at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcome.
Contact: 734-459-3333

SINGLES
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; leff@do.org

First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry, cost is \$5
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant
Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.
Contact: 313-534-0399

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances
 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • eoebits@hometownlife.com
 Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BECKER, SUZAN
 Age 86, passed away peacefully December 6, 2013. Loving wife of Walter for 52 beautiful years. Loving mother to Melissa Nowak, Matthew Becker and his wife, Amy. Adored grandmother to Max, Isabel, Simon, Mason and Emily. Suzan enjoyed teaching at the Livonia Senior Center and creating stained glass.



KING, IRENE

Age 93, of Brighton formerly of Westland passed away December 9, 2013. She was born on September 17, 1920 the daughter of Thomas and Alice (Broadbent) Ford. Her first husband Lee Mounsey preceded her in death. On September 26, 1959 she married Francis D. King in Ferndale, Michigan and he preceded her in death on February 9, 2007. Irene enjoyed playing the organ, sewing, painting, knitting, gardening and was also a great cook. She volunteered at several places throughout her life. She worked as a switch board operator for Hanley Dawson for years and then went on to be a secretary at Dodge Main. Irene is survived by her children: Heidi (Jerry) Scott, Ron Mounsey, grandchildren: Brett (Amy) Scott, Matthew (Sarah) Scott, Megan Scott, Steve (Gloria) Mounsey, Brian (Patricia) Mounsey, Paul (Debbie) Mounsey. Great grandchildren: Julia, Joshua and James Scott. She was preceded in death by one son Bruce Alan Mounsey, daughter-in-law Carol Mounsey, 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Memorial contributions in Irene's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association with envelopes available at the funeral home. Please visit Irene's book of memories at www.kechfuneralhome.com



CZERKAS, ELISSA (NEE WITTRY)

of Birmingham, Age 62, passed away on November 20th after long battle with cancer. Survived by loving husband Jan, mother Steven Roberts, brothers David and John Wittry, and nephews Weston, Addison, Spencer and Nathaniel. There is no more pain. May she rest in peace.



GREINER, VALERIE (MAZZA)

Died December 7, 2013 due to a several year battle with peritoneal cancer. She was 55. Valerie was the daughter of Louise and Baptiste Mazza of Washington, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Tony Greiner; her brothers, Louis Mazza and Tony Mazza, both of Washington, PA; and seven nieces and five nephews and their families. Valerie was Director of Finance at Detroit Country Day School for 10 years until 2011. She was Manager of Accounting at St. Joseph Mercy for eight years prior. Valerie also worked at West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh and Anadarko Production Company, Houston, Texas. She was a Certified Public Accountant, a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania and an active member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. A Mass will be held Wednesday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Plymouth, MI 48170.

MORTZ, BETTY J.
 Age 90, December 7, 2013. Beloved mother of Reginald (Yvette), Craig (Doreen), and Bradford (Karell) Mortz. Loving grandmother of Rick, Linda, Craig, and Brian Mortz. Also leaves 4 great-grandchildren in the full of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements entrusted to Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Downtown Farmington www.thayer-rock.com



VANCE, CONNIE M.
 Age 76, December 10, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Onofrio "Bebe" Loving mother of Gerald (Terese), Thomas (Trem), and Vicky (Douglas) Wiley. Dear grandmother of Shary, Taryn, Terla, Shaun, Ryan, Douglas, Valery, Natalie, Olivia and the late Valery. Beloved great-grandmother of Kelsiana, Payton, Stephen, Shaun Jr., Adriana and Heath. Dear sister of Lenny Kaledas, Carol (Howard) Behr, Donna (Al) Spiter, Bill (Diane) Kaledas, Ron (Colleen) Kaledas, and Rick (Donna) Kaledas. She will be dearly missed by many nieces, nephews, family members and friends. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. followed by the 3 p.m. Funeral Service at www.santeulfuneralhome.com

Santeul Funeral Home



ZYREN, NICHOLAS J.
 31, of Farmington, died suddenly December 9, 2013. Nick is survived by his loving parents, Jerry (Barbara) Zyren and Linda (Irene) Szechowicz; loving brother, SFC Nathaniel Charles Zyren; dear grandparents, Marie Zyren and Martha Szechowicz; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Sady, Nick was preceded in death by grandparents, Anthony Zyren, and Charles and Elise Kowalski. Visitation Thursday, Dec. 12, from 2-9 p.m. and 7 pm prayers, at the Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (b/w. 9-10 Mile Rd., just N. of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Funeral Mass Friday, Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m. (in state 9:30 a.m.) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23015 Power Rd., Farmington. Memorial gifts suggested to the Epilepsy Foundation, epilepsyfoundation.org, heeneey-sundquist.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

A loving tribute

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:00 & 10:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration 7:00-8:30 p.m. Macker of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 1:00 P.M. 313-571-5500</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>The Church Worth Driving To! Westminster Church of Detroit 17567 Hazelbriar Circle Drive Detroit, MI 48235 Services at 8:00 and 11:00 (Summer and special Sundays 10:00) 313-341-0297 x200 www.ecodetroit.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40300 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. *Latter music notes from issues by invitation www.wardchurch.org</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30-11:00 a.m. - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 a.m. Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Rev. Dean M. Dauvoست Rev. Robert F. Bayer 734-522-6830</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 4801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 463-1005 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN (LIVING CENTER) (734) 455-3190</p>	<p>Rosedale Gardens PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 8011 Rosedale in Chicago, Livonia (between Meridian & Farmington Rd.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p><i>A Church for Seasoned Saints</i></p> <p>OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm Pastor Jerry Gransky & Music Minister Abe Fazzini 32015 W. 7 Mile Rd. - Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Meridian Church As You Remember It! 248-471-5282</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>
<p>ST. PAUL'S EL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 Farmington Road Livonia (248) 381-1380</p> <p>Worship Services Service: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Eucharist: 8:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsivonia.org</p>	<p>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com</p>		

S'craft musicians jazz up season

Audience encouraged to join in during college performance

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Winter Wonders concert at Schoolcraft College is no place for passive listeners. Ricardo Selva gives audience members permission to snap their fingers, clap to the beat and even shout "go go" or "yeah," in response if the music moves them.

"The nature of a jazz concert is participatory," said Selva, director of the college's jazz studies program. "It comes from the black music tradition ... the preacher says something and the congregation answers back. There's energy and interaction and creativity. You don't just sit and people shush you."

"There is an energy in the room that is fun and creative. It's positive for the performers — when you hear a good response it encourages you — and the audience gets the feel that they are involved. When the audience just sits there unresponsive, it's a different feel."

Jazz arrangements

Selva hopes to leave the audience "wanting more" when he brings the Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble and Schoolcraft College Improvisation Combo together for a free holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, in the Diponio Room at the VistaTech Center, on Schoolcraft College's main campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

The groups will play a variety of traditional, contemporary and holiday jazz arrangements and will feature the music of Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Glenn Miller, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Dave Brubeck and Vince Guaraldi. The audience will hear *Skating and Christmas Time Is Here*,



Musicians jazz up traditional Christmas tunes at a previous holiday concert.

from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Sleigh Ride*, and *Good King Wenceslaus*, among others. The groups also will play a few nonholiday songs, such as *Straighten Up & Fly Right*, and *Fly Me to the Moon*.

"One of my trumpet players, Dave DeClark, has done an arrangement of *Nuttin' For Christmas*. It's a charming arrangement. There's a little narrative of dialogue back and forth. It's cute and funny," Selva said.

Unusual instruments

The Ensemble, the larger of the two groups, plays arranged and written music that "makes use of beautiful instrumentation," Selva explained. The

Combo is smaller and creates music "in the moment."

"I'd love to get a few more unique instruments. I have a couple accordions, which is cool," Selva said. His groups also include piano, vibes, guitar and drums, in addition to brass instruments.

"We'll even have some chimes for the holiday sounds," he added. "We'll have tambourines, sleigh bells, finger symbols — a battalion of percussionists."

For more information about the concert, call the Schoolcraft College Music Department at 734-462-4403 or email Selva at rselva@schoolcraft.edu.



Ricardo Selva, Ph.D., director of the jazz studies program at Schoolcraft College, takes the stage during a concert.

Concert features band, singers, synthesizers

Music students at Schoolcraft College will be busy celebrating the season next week.

In addition to the Winter Wonders Concert by the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo on Monday, Dec. 16, the Wind Ensemble, Synthesizer Ensemble and Choral Union will present Sounds of the Season, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, in the VistaTech Center, located on the main campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

The free concert will include a variety of spirited seasonal selections.

Jonathan Drake will direct the choir, Paul Michalsen will lead the wind ensemble, which consists of brass and woodwind instruments, percussion and keyboard, and Barton Polot is in charge of the synthesizer group.

Patricia Minnick, music activities coordinator at the college, described the synthesizer sound as "electronic" music.

"It's very unique. The electronic instruments can do pretty much anything — horns, percussion parts, lead instruments. The programs are so amazing," she said. "The performances are projected on huge screens, so there's no way you can miss any of the action."

For more about Sounds of the Season, call the Schoolcraft College Music Department at 734-462-4403 or visit schoolcraft.edu/music.



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ART & CRAFTS

GALLERY 0VT
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during public performances, or by appointment, through Dec. 28
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Ohio artist Mary Gaylor exhibits her intricate paper cutters.
Contact: 734-394-5300

NORTHVILLE

ART HOUSE
Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Dec. 14
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: Visit two exhibits, Small Works, an all-media juried exhibit, and Through the Lens: A Northville Camera Club Exhibit. The Small Works show is "cash and carry," meaning buyers may take the art home with them immediately after purchase. The Through the Lens exhibit will feature photos of nature, animals, family, culture and architecture. Many will be for sale.
Contact: 248-344-0497; <http://www.northvillearts.org>

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: View exhibit 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thurs., through Dec. 29
Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: "The Gift of Art" exhibit will include two-dimensional styles from traditional to impressionistic to abstract as well as photography. Most will be for sale.
Contact: Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939

UPPER HALL GALLERY

Time/Date: Through Jan. 31, 2014; pub hours are 3 p.m. to midnight Monday-Thursday, 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, and noon to midnight Sunday
Location: Liberty Street Brew Pub, 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth
Details: The work of photographer Shaavn Salvaggio
Contact: 734-207-9600

AUDITIONS

FARMINGTON HILLS YOUTH THEATRE
Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 25-26, 2014
Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Camp Rock - The Musical, will feature a wide variety of roles, at all performance levels. Auditions are on a drop-in basis. Participants should bring a recent school photo. Preliminary materials will be available for review beginning Jan. 8, 2014, at figov.com
Youth Theatre
Contact: 248-473-1859

COMEDY

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 13-14
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Eddie Ifft performs; \$12 show only or \$22 with dinner on Thursday and \$20 show only or \$32 with dinner Friday-Saturday
Contact: 734-261-0555

'Old world' carols



Celebrate a nostalgic Christmas season with the vocal group, Simply Dickens, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth. The show will highlight Christmas carols from the 18th and 19th centuries. The singers incorporate holiday skits into their performance. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, available at www.plymouthhistory.org. Call 734-455-8940 for more information.

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Kids' tastes in food are one of life's great mysteries. Take green beans, for example. Yesterday they were the only vegetable your son would eat, but today, thanks to his new aversion to green foods, he won't go near them. If this sounds like dinnertime at your house, you're in luck.

Instead of offering vegetables as side dishes, fold them into the main course, like Chicken Broccoli Alfredo. Sneak them into a cranberry sauce-topped, muffin-sized Mini Chicken and Stuffing Cup or hide them under a pot pie crust.

For more kid-friendly recipes and mealtime tips, visit Campbell Soup Company's The Wisest Kid in the Whole World website at www.WisestKid.com, including kid-friendly mealtime tips, recipes and more.



CHICKEN BROCCOLI ALFREDO

- 8 ounces linguine (1/2 of 1-pound package)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen broccoli florets
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 can (10 1/2 ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper



Prepare linguine according to the package directions in 3-quart saucepan. Add broccoli during last 4 minutes of cooking time. Drain linguine mixture well in colander. Heat butter in 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook until well browned and cooked through, stirring often. Stir soup, milk, cheese, black pepper and linguine mixture in skillet and cook until mixture is hot and bubbling, stirring occasionally. Serve with additional Parmesan cheese.

ULTIMATE CHICKEN POT PIE

- 1 package (about 14 ounces) refrigerated pie crust (2 crusts), at room temperature
- 1 can (10 1/2 ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups diced cooked chicken
- 1 package (12 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed (about 2 1/2 cups)
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (about 4 ounces)



Heat the oven to 400°F. Line the bottom of a 9-inch pie plate with 1 pie crust. Trim any excess. Stir the soup, milk, chicken and vegetables in a medium bowl. Spoon the chicken mixture into the pie plate. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup cheese. Place the remaining pie crust over the filling. Trim any excess. Crimp the edges of the top and bottom crusts together. Using a sharp knife, cut several slits in the top crust. Bake for 35 minutes or until the crust is golden brown. Sprinkle the crust with the remaining cheese.

MINI TACO TAMALE PIES

- 12 jumbo-size (3 1/2-inch) foil baking cups
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 can (10 1/2 ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cheddar Cheese Soup
- 1 cup frozen whole kernel corn
- 1 can (about 4 ounces) chopped green chiles, undrained
- 1 envelope (about 1 ounce) taco seasoning mix
- 1 package (8.5 ounces) corn muffin mix
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese



Heat the oven to 350°F. Line 12 (2 1/2-inch) muffin-pan cups with the baking cups. Cook the beef in a 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat until well browned, stirring often to separate meat. Pour off any fat. Remove the skillet from the heat. Stir in the soup, corn, chiles and taco seasoning. Mix the corn muffin mix, egg and milk according to the package directions. Spoon about 1/4 cup beef mixture into each baking cup. Spread about 1 table-spoon corn muffin batter on each. Bake for 20 minutes or until the corn muffin topping is golden brown. Top each with 1 tablespoon cheese. Bake for 5 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

MINI CHICKEN & STUFFING CUPS

- 2 cups diced cooked chicken or turkey
- 1 1/2 cups uncooked Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Stuffing
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
- 1 can (10 1/2 ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup whole berry cranberry sauce



Heat the oven to 350°F. Place paper liners into 12 (2 1/2-inch) muffin-pan cups. Stir the chicken, stuffing, broccoli, soup and cheese in a medium bowl. Spoon about 1/2 cup chicken mixture into each muffin-pan cup. Lightly press the chicken mixture down so it's level. Bake for 25 minutes or until the chicken mixture is lightly browned. Top each with 2 teaspoons cranberry sauce.

CITY BITES

Vegetarian cooking

Farmington Hills — Learn how to make Iranian Lentil Bean Soup and apple pie at Zhong Shu Temple's vegetarian cooking class, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at the temple, 23845 Middlebelt. Dildora Damisch will lead the free cooking class, which gives participants a chance to help prepare the food in the temple's kitchen, and then share in eating it. They also may stay after dinner to learn more about Lao-Zi's words of wisdom. A study session will be held from 9-11 p.m. RSVP for the cooking class and dinner to the temple at 248-579-4791.

Bubbles and reds

Livonia — John Sedstrom from Vintage Wine will lead a tasting of five wines, including reds and sparkling varieties, 7-9 p.m. Thursday,

Dec. 19, at d.vine fine wines, 17386 Hagerty. The wines will be paired with gourmet cheese. Cost is \$25 for Wine Club members and \$30 for nonmembers. For reservations, call 734-432-3800.

Cupcake Day

Southeastern Michigan — Livonia-based Just Baked will recognize National Cupcake Day on Sunday, Dec. 15, by donating more than 1,000 cupcakes to several local charities. Also, the first 50 guests to come into any of the 16 Just Baked locations throughout Metro Detroit that day will receive a free "pay it forward" two-pack of cupcakes. Among the 16 locations are 41747 Ford Road, Canton; 39765 Grand River Ave., Novi; 33309 Seven Mile, Livonia; 25198 Evergreen, Southfield; and 32828 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak.



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