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Laloy lauds workers for storm response

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Slammed by broken water pipes flooding homes, cars skidding into ditches, fire hoses freezing and trash piling up due to closed landfills, Canton Township employees faced a sub-zero, perfect storm head on, drawing praise late in the week from their top boss.

Workers got a hearty pat on the back from township Supervisor Phil Laloy, who sent an email to all employees saying he couldn't imagine the obstacles they encountered as they handled "one crisis after

another with expertise and professionalism."

As the week ended, the scope of the storm fallout became better known:

» Public Works Manager Bob Belair said employees worked around the clock after frozen pipes burst in more than 50 homes and caused water to gush until workers rushed to shut it off.

"We've had a ton of water service breaks, more than anyone here has ever seen – and some of the guys have been here 25 years," Belair said.

"We've had water pouring

down from the second floor in several homes. Some of the homes were vacant and neighbors would call to report water pouring out the front door. You go inside and it's like raining from the ceiling."

Employees also have battled two water-related issues at township hall, one that occurred even before temperatures plunged, dousing some departments.

» Public works employees facing a snowstorm and plunging temperatures worked long hours during the week to fix a



After a crippling snowstorm caused widespread problems, Canton Township Supervisor Phil Laloy has commended local employees for their response. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See **STORM**, Page A2

More details for I-96 shutdown emerge during public meeting

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Amy Dowell was happy to see the length of the shutdown of I-96 this year projected to last for about eight months compared to the possible 10 months it could have been closed.

Dowell, who commutes to Farmington Hills using I-96 and I-275, said she plans on finding alternate driving routes to get to work this year after the freeway shuts down March 24 for a seven-mile stretch of the reconstruction work through Livonia and Redford Township.

"It's a small price to pay for an improved driving experience, she said.

"Once I get (to I-275), I've got lots of options," she said. "It'll be well worth it in the long run."

Dowell was one of many area residents who attended the final public meeting on the project Thursday evening at Thurston High School in Redford. After several days of back-and-forth regarding the final shutdown date, the Michigan Department of Transportation announced that Shelby Township-based Dan's Excavating had won the contract for the project and decided the freeway could be shut down later than anticipated.

Original projections showed the freeway, from Telegraph to Newburgh, could have shut down as early as the end of January.

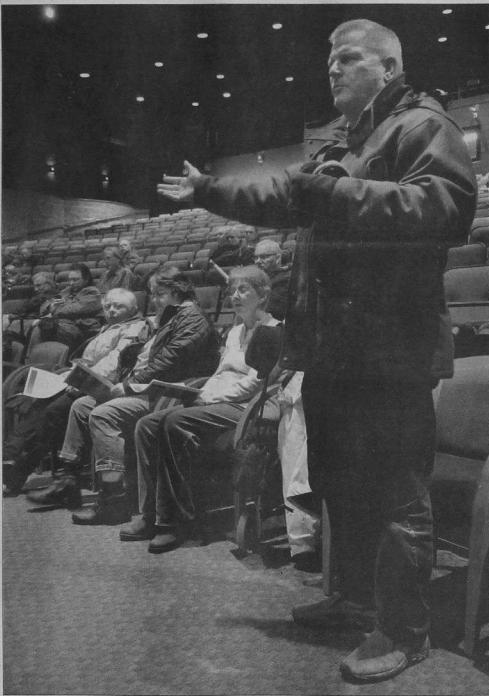
The shutdown is expected to last until sometime in October.

Jeff Horne, a project engineer and communications representative for the project, said there were two prime contractors bidding on the project and Dan's Excavating was not only the most economical choice, but submitted the bid that closed the freeway for the shortest amount of time, a priority for MDT.

"They said they could get it done," he said. "It was still the low bid."

The contract awarded to Dan's Excavating will cost about \$148.4 million for the I-96 reconstruction project that will see 37 bridges repaired and the road reconstructed both eastbound and westbound.

The meeting also had some other area traffic announcements, including one that will affect drivers that come from Ann Arbor and Plymouth. Drivers coming toward I-96 from M-14 in Plymouth Township will have to merge onto I-275 as they approach I-96. Then, those drivers wanting to



Derek Strzelak lives in Grosse Pointe and works on Ford Road in Canton. Traveling I-96 is part of his daily commute. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Livonia resident Tim Reno speaks with MDOT traffic safety engineer Mike Budal about the I-96 rebuilding project. At right, Corrie Roe and Amy Dowell, both of Livonia. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See **I-96**, Page A2

Child porn defendant facing trial

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Child pornography defendant Joel Donald Dummann is facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court – barring a plea deal – following allegations he sent texts of lewd images to a Canton man by mistake.

The latest development came Friday as Dummann, a 44-year-old Wayne resident, gave up his right to a preliminary hearing in front of 35th District Judge Michael Gerou – a decision that averted courtroom testimony for now.

Dummann could face penalties ranging up to seven years in prison if he is convicted of three counts of using a computer to commit a crime. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said Friday. Dummann also faces trial for three counts of possession of child



Dummann

See **PORN**, Page A2

NAIAS chair talks about automobile industry, show details

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Bob Shuman, chairman of the 2014 North American International Auto Show, knows the auto industry will need to reach some lofty numbers to top the nearly 16 million vehicles sold in the U.S. last year.

He thinks it can be done.

"The auto industry in North America had a great year – 16 million cars is a huge number," he said. "Two or three years ago, no one thought we'd be at this. But the auto companies are lean and they're ready. I think we're going to see some really strong sales in 2014."

Shuman, 52, with Shuman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Walled Lake, is a third-generation car guy. His grandfather started out selling used cars on Fort Street. Shuman himself was an attorney for 11 years



Shuman

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STORM

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Water main break at Gallimore Elementary School in Belair said.

During a 12-hour day shift Wednesday, Canton police responded to 32 auto accidents as slick roads sent drivers sliding into ditches, snowbanks and each other.

"I don't know that we've ever had that many accidents on one shift," police Lt. Dave

Schreiner said. "And I didn't have a single police car get into a truck. Our officers have to be able to respond to situations in snow and ice—and they have to get to these locations safely and as fast as they can."

Parks employees braved sub-zero weather to clear local parks, while Canton Waste Recycling had to postpone Monday's trash pickup for one week because landfills had shut down that day. Local officials asked residents for patience.

Fire Chief Joshua Meier said firefighters, responding to a flurry of calls including house fires as the mercury plunged, faced challenges as their breathing apparatus and fire hoses began freezing up—all as the ground beneath them was ice. He called the situation "quite challenging."

It's a scenario LaJoy told the *Observer* he couldn't imagine "when it's 15 below zero. If it's zero, you're fighting a fire, the water is freezing

on you and it's 2 o'clock in the morning."

In his contact to employees, LaJoy commended them for "an excellent job of communicating with our residents and making the best of this challenging situation."

He singled out those who worked outside, including police officers, firefighters, public works employees, facilities maintenance workers and the parks division.

"We greatly appreciate how you handle one

crisis after another with expertise and professionalism," LaJoy wrote. "These are the team members who are outside through all hours of the night—I cannot even imagine the challenges that must be overcome due to the frigid weather, but you are doing a remarkable job of managing it all. I am incredibly grateful to have so many dedicated employees who get the job done no matter what the circumstances."

Schreiner said diffi-

culties often come with township jobs. He said employees \$7 for expenses; he was well-received by workers.

"A simple recognition is appreciated and very well-deserved," he said. "I think it was a good gesture and it does have meaning."

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PORN

Continued from Page A1

sexually abusive material, a four-year felony.

He remained jailed Friday with a \$250,000/10-percent cash bond, meaning it would take \$25,000 for his release. A not guilty plea has been entered in his court file.

Defense attorney Ronald Weitzman declined Friday to comment on the case.

Under questioning from Gerou, Dummann said Friday he hadn't been pressured to waive his preliminary exam. He also said no promises had been made to him if he did.

Dummann was arrested in mid-December after a Canton man told police a report he had mistakenly received texts of child pornographic images while he was shoveling snow. Authorities launched an investigation and searched Dummann's home in Wayne.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Meghan Mathews has said the Canton man who told police he received the texts is "more than willing" to testify in court. He is considered a key witness.

Part of his responsibilities as chairman includes traveling to auto shows around the world. Visiting those other places reinforced the importance of the Detroit car show.

"Sometimes in Detroit, we get a little down on ourselves," he said. "But when you talk to someone in France or China and you say you're with the North American International Auto Show, their eyes will light up and they'll tell you it's one of the best shows in the world."

Earlier in the week, Shuman spoke with the *Birmingham Eccentric* about the auto show:

AUTO

Continued from Page A1

with the Bloomfield Hills law firm of Beier Howell before he switched gears and joined the family business.

"My dad was ready to retire in 1997," he said. "I finally couldn't resist and came back. I grew up here as a kid and the thought of selling the place was too much to bear."

As for 2014, Shuman said now is the perfect time to lease or buy a car.

"We all have heavy inventories at this time of the year," he said. "It's a great time to buy a car and everyone has a good lease these days."

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NEW THIS YEAR

"Studio 25 at NAIAS" is in celebration of the 25th anniversary, the NAIAS is bringing even more glitz and glamour to Charity Preview with "Studio 25 at NAIAS."

From 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Jan. 17, the Grand River Valley Ballroom will be rocking with the sounds of Cheryl Crow, then Fifty Amp Fuse. This will be a party of parties with dancing, food stations, bottle service, private lounge areas and fun to cap off one of the most exciting nights in Detroit. Separate tickets are required (\$150) in addition to Charity Preview tickets (\$375). Buy tickets at 248-643-0250.

Q: How does the North American International Auto Show compare to other major auto shows around the world?

Shuman: NAIAS is one of the top three shows in the world. We pride ourselves on our media coverage.

Over 3,000 media members come from more than 60 countries to cover the best new vehicles being unveiled on the world stage in Detroit.

That is the primary reason the NAIAS is one of the most important venues for worldwide

vehicle reveals. The media come because the intros are here. The auto makers know that the media are here.

There are a lot of other factors that go into that formula, like a hospitable city and a world class convention center, but this is key when it comes to why our show is so critical to both media and auto makers.

Then, of course, these fresh reveals are on display for all to see, including the nearly 800,000 people who will go through Cobo Center in the next couple of weeks.

Q: What are your responsibilities as the show's chairman?

Shuman: I act, along with our executive director, Rod Alberts, and the dealer members of the NAIAS Executive Committee, to keep the show true to its standing as an international auto show, while trying to be as innovative as possible.

Producing the show takes the combined effort of a great many highly talented individuals. We are not burdened by a large, lethargic Board of Directors. We're flexible, quick and decisive and get the work done that leads to the producing the best show in the world.

Q: What cars are in the 2014 show?

Shuman: In terms of vehicle introductions, we know that these brands

will be unveiling worldwide product introductions on the Detroit stage: Acura, Bentley, BMW, Cadillac, Chrysler, Chevrolet, Ford, GMC, Hyundai, Infiniti, Kia, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche, Subaru, Toyota, VW, Volvo.

In addition, there will be more than 500 vehicles on the show floor from virtually all categories, including luxury, SUVs, CUVs, concepts, sports/performance trucks and alternative-fuel vehicles. Remember, the auto show is the best entertainment venue for families and individuals and is the best place on the planet to comparison shop.

Q: Are there activities for the whole family?

Shuman: Yes, always. I like to encourage people to really take their time and look deep into the exhibits to learn about the changing automotive landscape.

There is so much great new technology that goes into new vehicles today and this is really the best place to learn about it all. Because it's here to stay. Same goes for safety and communications. You'll be amazed, entertained and educated.

Q: Where are the best places to purchase tickets?

Shuman: Avoid lines and purchase tickets at NAIAS.com. Also, partic-

ipating Kroger stores will provide tickets for \$1 off. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$7 for seniors; \$7 for children (12 and under); and free for 6 years and under with paid adult.

Q: Can you tell us about this year's Charity Preview?

Shuman: Charity Preview is the crown to an already amazing week in Detroit and one of my favorite nights of the year. It's the night when those connected to the auto industry come together to show their generosity... it's their gift to high-fives and a night to celebrate the rebounding auto industry. Charity Preview is also the largest single night fundraiser for children's charities in North America and we expect to raise over \$4 million on Friday night, Jan. 17, in Detroit. Since 1976, the Charity Preview has raised more than \$91 million for southeast Michigan children's charities—more than \$47 million of which was raised in the last 10 years alone.

And this year, we'll have a special guest and are thrilled to announce "An Evening with Cheryl Crow." When the auto show floor closes at Charity Preview, the party is just beginning in the new Cobo Auditorium.

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I-96

Continued from Page A1

reach Newburgh will be able to get onto the small stretch of I-96 between Newburgh and I-275 that will not be closed and exit at Newburgh from there.

Horne said some ramp widening will also take place on the Redford/Detroit border at Telegraph for vehicles there.

No bridge schedule yet

One detail that was not announced was the schedule of the bridge closings that will take place along the freeway.

"MDOT does not have that information at this time," Horne said. "This is going to be major; you're going to see a lot of construction workers."

The only major road bridges that will be shut down completely during the project include Stark, Merriman and Inkster. All other major roads will have at least one lane open in each direction for the duration of the project. Signs will be posted near the bridges several days before the shut-down to inform drivers.

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AGING AND ARTHRITIS

Often, when a patient over age 65 complains of aching fingers and sore joints, the patient will comment that "it's all part of aging." That comment is only partially true.

Certainly a car that is 12 years old cannot go with the agility and speed of an auto just 12 months on the road: over time even the best materials will lose their original shape and handling defenses.

In humans, aging of the musculoskeletal system occurs in the ligaments and tendons as a loss of flexibility and in the ability to respond quickly to the need to stretch. Where the person feels this change is stiffness in the morning on awaking, or getting up from a chair after sitting through a movie or long television program.

Deconditioning is the reason for stiffness. The public knows this comes from the experience that every adult on growing older becomes shorter. The reason is the disks between vertebrae lose water with age, as result the disk shrinks. The individual sees this change as shorter stature.

The same loss of water happens to aging tendons and ligaments, particularly in the hands, wrists, neck, knees and ankles. A person feels the same loss of water happens to joints cannot respond quickly to the full range of motion one achieved effortlessly over the years.

However, while physicians will not dismiss the patient's explanation that the loss of mobility is old age, the physician will not completely accept it without question. The doctor will examine the knee, wrist or shoulder involved to ascertain if arthritis also plays a role. The doctor will not end the visit without reminding the patient that activity and exercise remain the best joint medicine.

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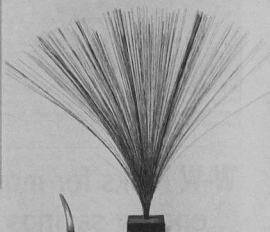
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ESTATE AUCTION ~ JANUARY 17TH-19TH

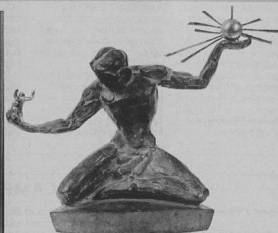
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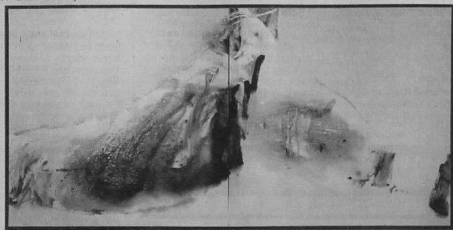
PIERRE BITTAR 43" X 43"



MARSHALL FREDERICKS, H. 10 5/8"



EGON WEINER



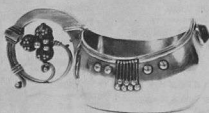
CHUANG CHE, 48" x 96"



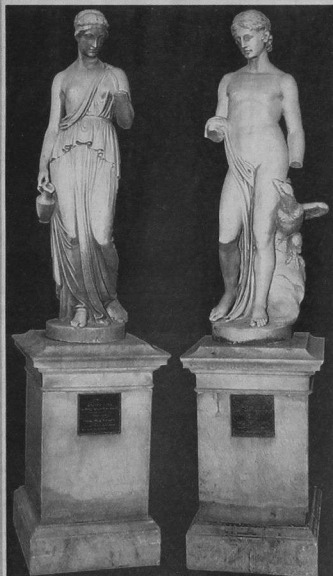
KAREL APPEL, 19.5" X 12"



RUSSIAN SILVER & ENAMEL



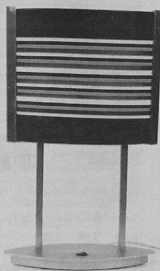
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Plymouth-Canton board will get new leadership

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education is going to have a new look at the top when its organizational meeting is finished Tuesday night.

School board President John Barrett, who has served two years as the head of the board, is not interested in a third term and won't be in the running when trustees vote for 2014 officers at the meeting, set for 7 p.m. Tuesday in the board meeting room at the E.J. McClelland Educational Center on Harvey.

Barrett instead will focus on what he hopes will be an even more hands-on role as a member of board committees.

"Being the board president has been my honor," Barrett said. "But with the new committee structure we have, I'm looking forward to a chance to get more involved in that way. I want more of a chance to roll up my sleeves and get to work."

All four board officer positions will be up for grabs when trustees gather to vote Tuesday. It's possible the new leadership will have

familiar look if current Vice President Judy Mardigian is chosen president. Mardigian, the longest-serving member of the board, has already served a few different terms in more than 16 years on the board.

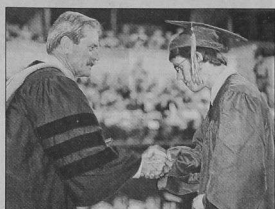
With a new middle school on the horizon and changes coming to the curriculum and state requirements, the board could opt for an experienced leader. Mardigian was unavailable for comment Friday.

Other current officers include Treasurer Sheila Paton and Secretary

Adrienne Davis, after Mardigian the longest-serving board member.

The other trustees include Mark Horvath, Mike Maloney and Kim Crouch. Horvath and Maloney are both former school board presidents who could lead on their experiences from previous tenures with the board. Crouch is the newest board member. She's serving out the term of former Trustee Barry Simescu.

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School board President John Barrett won't seek re-election. Instead, he wants to focus on committee work. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON CAMPUS

Belmont University

Mackenzie Elliott of Plymouth qualified for the fall 2013 Dean's List at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade-point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Approximately 30 percent of Belmont's more than 6,900 students qualified for the fall 2013 Dean's List.

"This achievement for the fall semester indicates that these students have placed a high priority

on their work at Belmont and have invested time and energy in their studies," Belmont Provost Thomas Burns said. "It is our strong belief that consistent application in this manner will reap great benefits, which will equip them for a lifetime of learning and growing."

Beloit College

Junior Andrew Rabe of Plymouth was named to Beloit College's Dean's List for the fall 2013 semester.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must carry a semester GPA of 3.4 or higher and take a minimum of three letter-graded units for the term.

Beloit College is a residential, liberal arts college offering 40 majors to its 1,250 students.

Located 90 miles northwest of Chicago, Beloit is one of the nation's most international colleges, drawing students from 41 nations as well as 48 states.

For more information, visit www.beloit.edu.

W-W looks for more energy savings

By Sue Mason
 Staff Writer

Big savings

Larson-Shidler said the district is looking at a savings of some \$30,000 the first year of the agreement, with those savings increasing each year in the fifth and final year of the contract, the district could save \$466,000. The district will split the savings with Centergic.

Now the district is going to partner with Dallas, Texas-based Centergic Energy Conservation. The school board recently approved a five-year agreement with the firm, which builds customized, comprehensive behavioral-based energy conservation programs that help organizations like Wayne-Westland reduce energy consumption even further.

"We've had I-SAVE (Individuals Save and Vie for Efficiency) for six or seven years and made great strides. It worked with the staff and was well-received," said Jim Larson-Shidler, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services. "We saw a savings of 18 percent, but I believe partnering with Centergic will take us to the next level."

According to Larson-Shidler, Centergic will reimburse the district up to \$60,000 of the salary from Geno Montayne, Wayne-Westland's supervisor of energy management. It also will provide a part-time employee to train with Montayne and Tony Spisak, the executive director of maintenance and operations. Centergic also will provide professional development and training for the district's building and grounds staff.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at www.plymouthmi.gov under Agenda/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Regular Meeting dates in 2014: January 14, February 11, March 18, April 15, May 13, 2014, June 17, July 22, August 19, September 9 & 23, October 7 & 21, November 18 and December 9.

Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
 Township Clerk

Published January 12, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE Annual Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting January 21st at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant
 Plymouth District Library
 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI
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Published January 12, 2014

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Canton to gauge recreation, library needs through resident survey

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

An outside firm will survey Canton residents in coming weeks to help develop a blueprint for improving parks, recreation facilities, walking trails and library services.

ETC Institute of Olathe, Kan., has been hired for \$24,000 to conduct a random sample to help Canton Leisure Services and the Canton Public Library determine what their customers want.

CLIS hired the same firm five years ago for a survey that found residents wanted more walking trails, leading to efforts such as improving and expanding the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail. This year, CLS and the library pooled their resources for a joint survey by phone, mail and online that is expected to have a 95-percent



Shown here during warmer days, the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail is among the ways Canton, responding to residents, improved its trail system. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

level of confidence for what the community wants.

"We're really excited about this opportunity with the library," CLS Director Debbie Bilbrey-Honsowetz said. "We feel that we will have stronger results because of that." The survey is expected to begin by early March, with results produced by late April. The effort also will ask residents to rate their

recreation and library services and programs.

"We are interested in hearing from the entire community about what their wants and needs are from the library," Library Director Eva Davis said. "We have ideas based on our own internal statistics. We're hoping the survey will validate our strategic plan and help ensure we're on the right path. (But) we don't have a preconceived notion of

what the community will tell us."

Canton Leisure Services and the Canton Public Library have routinely garnered high marks from customers, but officials said the survey will help ensure the two organizations remain sharply focused on their paths forward. Canton Township, which needs the survey to qualify for potential state grants, agreed to spend \$14,000 to hire ETC Institute, with the library paying \$10,000.

Canton residents will be randomly selected to participate in the scientific survey, Bilbrey-Honsowetz said.

Local officials are strongly encouraging residents who are contacted to respond to the survey. Once the process has been completed, ETC Institute will share the results during a joint session with CLS and library leaders.

Plymouth bar brawler pleads guilty

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A Virginia man charged in a scuffle with Plymouth police officers after becoming combative at a downtown bar in November was given a year's probation and fined \$725 after a plea deal reached earlier this month.



MacDiarmid

Nicholas I. MacDiarmid, 23, had been charged with assaulting, resisting or interfering with police and pleaded guilty to a lesser charge, according to 35th District Court records. A second charge of assaulting, resisting or interfering with police and a misdemeanor assault charge were dropped, records show.

The deal before Judge James Plakas was reached Jan. 3, the date that had been scheduled

for a preliminary hearing in the case. Plakas levied \$725 in fines and court costs and sentenced MacDiarmid to non-reporting probation. MacDiarmid, who lives in Alexandria, Va., was represented by Robert Mullen, a local attorney. MacDiarmid had been free on a \$500 bond.

The charges stemmed from an incident that began about 1:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day at the Ironwood Grill on Ann Arbor Trail. MacDiarmid was accused of punching an Ironwood bouncer in the face as the bouncer escorted him out for fighting, a police report said.

He then tussled outside with two Plymouth officers, who were at the Ironwood for a bar check, according to the report, and ended up being shocked with a Taser by a third officer. No serious injuries were reported.

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Upscale apartments receive city's approval

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plans for Starkweather Station - 93 upscale apartments on Plymouth's east side - received a preliminary OK Monday from the Plymouth City Commission.

With a voice vote and no dissenters, the commission approved the first reading of a planned-unit development, or PUD, that would allow the project. Final approval is expected at the Monday, Jan. 20, commission meeting.

The \$18.5 million Starkweather Station project is a partnership between DeVMar Development and Burton

Katzman and is planned for the site of the vacant Columbian Mutual Insurance building, also known as Mutual of Detroit, on Plymouth Road east of Holbrook. Proposed are two, four-story apartment buildings totaling 62 two-bedroom apartments and 31 one-bedroom apartments, plus two single-family houses on Holbrook that will later be split from the development and sold individually.

The project also includes green space, new trees on the site of more than six acres, carports and some garages for apartment residents and open parking for

visitors, plus improvements to the adjoining Caster Park that include a pavilion, bench seating and a pathway to the apartment complex.

City amenities
Commission members were enthusiastic about the plans following a brief presentation by developers Monday.

"Lots of creativity went into the design," Commissioner Dan Dalton said.

Mark DeMaria of DeVMar said the apartments should draw young professionals and empty-nesters who want to live near Plymouth's shops, restaurants, community events and other

amenities.

The planned apartments range in size from about 800 to about 1,150 square feet and will have 10-foot ceilings, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, washers and dryers and balconies or patios. DeMaria anticipates monthly rents of between \$1,352 and \$1,945.

DeMaria said Wednesday that he expects the Mutual of Detroit building to be torn down within 60 days and that construction will start in late spring or early summer.

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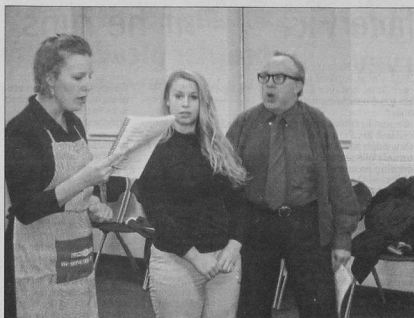
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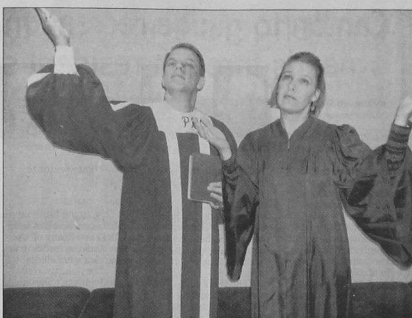
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Meagan Lefebvre (from left), Kimberly Suchyta and Brian Trippel rehearse "Hey There, Single Guy."



David Zolotarchuk (left) and Meagan Lefebvre perform the musical number "Wedding Vows."

Cast, crew ponder a question for the ages

Spotlight Players tackle relationships in latest production

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of time, everyone from Freud to Dr. Ruth has tried to figure out what motivates human behavior, what connects people and what drives men and women in their interpersonal relationships.

The Spotlight Players will be the latest to take on that age-old question this month when they take to the stage at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill with their production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a musical comedy based on the book by Joe DiPietro that takes on the truths and myths about relationships.

With six actors, hailing from West Bloomfield, Ann Arbor, Romulus, Ypsilanti, Canton, Plymouth and Westland, playing all of the roles in some 20 scenes, *I Love You* tackles the face-to-face aspect of relationships.

"If you believe the latest statistics, we are doing this electronically more than face-to-face these days," said director Karen Pritchard of Garden City, a member of the Michigan Educational Theatre Hall of Fame.

"However, this show is all about the face-to-face encounter, the mating game, from first date, through marriage, parenthood and widowhood and back again."

According to Pritchard, DiPietro felt first and foremost the show was about how people try to connect to one another. It reinvestigates the musical revue by taking a "hilarious and tuneful joyride through the dizzying spectrum of modern male-female relationships."

While it's written in the style of a musical comedy revue, Pritchard said theatergoers are bound to recognize something personal in the show.

"There's bound to be

'I LOVE YOU'

What: Spotlight Players' production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a musical adaptation of the Joe DiPietro book that explores relationships.
When: Jan. 31, Feb. 1-2 and Feb. 7-9; Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m., Sunday performances at 2 p.m.
Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.
Tickets: Range from \$12 to \$16.

at least one scene where you say, 'That's about me,'" said Pritchard, who retired in 2012 after 35 years teaching theater at Divine Child High School in Dearborn. "And that may explain why the show lasted through 5,003 performances on Broadway."

The six actors—Timothy Chanko, Kimberly Suchyta, Kate Papachristou, Meagan Lefebvre, David Zolotarchuk and Brian Trippel—each has a number of roles in the revue's 20 scenes. Pritchard pointed out that, while each of the 20 scenes ties in with the show's basic theme, there is no one central character appearing in every scene.

The actors, who play as few as seven and as many as 11 characters, were chosen based on rehearsal availability, voice range and other factors.

Producer Judy Cannizzaro of Canton is responsible for pulling everything together to make sure the show goes on as scheduled. It's been up to Cannizzaro, who has produced some dozen shows for Spotlight Players since 2004, to mind the budget, work with the theater regarding schedule and publicity and find people to do the various tasks such as props, costumes and the set.

Cannizzaro said the show, because it's about adult relationships, will have some adult moments audience members need to be aware of.

"The show is basically

a musical comedy about the relationship between adults from the first date, getting to know one another, marriage and having children," said Cannizzaro, who last produced *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. "We notify the public that it's an adult show, so patrons aren't surprised by the language or the subject matter."

Despite the unique nature of the play, the challenges of putting it on are "not unlike those of other community theaters," according to Pritchard. Spotlight has actors coming in from their "day" jobs, they have to share rehearsal space with other productions and time is limited.

The actors are also diverse in their professions—including two chemical engineers, an electrical engineer, a clinical child sociologist, a geologist and a computer repair technician—which makes juggling schedules a bit of a challenge. Pritchard, the current vice president of the Dearborn Area Theatre Association, said the challenge is allowing the actors to morph into their various characters.

"The fact these six people have decided to share their free time with us in creating this romp through the dating/mating scene is a blessing," she said. "They are all very talented."

The other challenge, she said, is getting everyone into the right costumes at the right times. Some of the actors, she pointed out, walk off the stage as one character and, 15 or 20 seconds later, are back on stage as another.

"Some of the fun is keeping the pacing of the show quick and lively," Pritchard said. "It's because of the creative challenge of so many scenes, so many characters and such a funny script that I wanted to direct this show. We spend a lot of time laughing."

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David Zolotarchuk (from left), Kate Papachristou and Timothy Chanko practice the musical number "He Called Me" as they prepare for the Spotlight Players' production of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."



Six actors—Timothy Chanko, Kimberly Suchyta, Kate Papachristou, Meagan Lefebvre, David Zolotarchuk and Brian Trippel—each has a number of roles in the revue's 20 scenes.

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Challengers lining up to face Ficano — if he runs

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Publicly, Robert Ficano is not saying whether he will seek a fourth term as Wayne County executive. But several potential foes have been working behind the scenes for months now and are just about ready to declare their intentions.

Westland Mayor William Wild, state Rep. Phil Cavanagh and Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara all appear just about ready to get in the race to succeed Ficano, regardless if he runs or not.

McNamara, a 56-year-old Belleville resident and the son of former Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, is scheduled to make a "special announcement" Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Wayne County Community College District's Downriver Campus in Taylor. While he won't say what the announcement will be, indications are he will declare his candidacy for county executive.

Wild, 45, who is in his second full term as mayor of Westland, said his exploratory committee has already raised \$225,000 and he will make an official announcement in the next couple of weeks.

"I've always had an interest in the job," he said.



Cavanagh



McNamara



Wild



Ficano

Cavanagh, the son of former Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh (1962-70) who, like McNamara and Wild, has set up an exploratory committee, said he has been spending considerable time "garnering support" for a run.

"The feedback I'm getting is people are looking for new leadership," the 52-year-old Redford Township resident said. "With the experience I have at the county, state and federal levels, I believe I can make a difference and provide the leadership people are looking for."

Ficano, 61, who was first elected county executive in 2002, said it is too early to make any announcements about his intentions.

"It's premature right now to even talk about it," he said. "The political season is still a ways away. Right now, my focus is on the issues impacting the county. And bringing in jobs is our No. 1 priority."

Ficano pointed to the recent GE research facility Downriver and Ford Motor Co. plant in Wayne as examples of how the county has worked with

the private sector to bring in new jobs.

Early polls

Due to the fact that his administration has been mired in a litany of well-documented issues dragging down his electability, it's not surprising Ficano doesn't want to discuss the race. Among those issues is a failed jail project that has cost county residents nearly \$160 million to date. Several of Ficano's appointees have been sent to prison for crimes including obstruction of justice and taking bribes. Others have walked away with lavish retirement or severance packages that have angered taxpayers. There's also the fact the county is facing a \$225 million budget deficit.

Early polls show him trailing all of the likely candidates in the race. In fact, a MIRS News survey commissioned in December indicated more than 80 percent of Wayne County voters are looking for new leadership. Another poll, conducted in October, showed Ficano coming in tied for last place (with Wild) among five possible candidates, which

included McNamara, Wild, Cavanagh and former Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, who most political observers believe has no interest in running.

Both McNamara and Cavanagh said their internal polls show Ficano earning no more than 18 percent if he were to run. So the question is whether or not Ficano has enough time to repair his image before the August Democratic primary. McNamara, for one, doesn't think so.

"Whatever fix that happens in Wayne County is going to take some state help, not necessarily money. They are going to have to give us the time to let us change the way we operate. As of right now, the state will not work with us. Bob has been damaged enough that they won't even talk to him," said McNamara, who has been a member of the county commission since 2006. "Everyone I've talked to believes the time is now for new leadership."

Ficano, however, says he has been working closely with Gov. Rick Snyder's office to reduce the burdens created by some state regulations that are costing the county money. Other ways he is cutting costs is through layoffs — he said the county workforce has been reduced by 2,000 — and implementing 10-percent budget cuts across the board to all

county departments.

Fixing the problems

Wild said if people are seeking fresh leadership, they should take a closer look at him. He said the county and most municipalities, went through some difficult times during the recession that saw property values and subsequent tax revenues plummet. However, his administration was able to balance the city's budget.

"I believe the skill set I bring to the table would be beneficial at the county level. I think we could replicate what we were able to do in Westland," said Wild, who was re-elected to a new four-year term in November.

"The biggest task at hand is balancing the budget. In Westland, we have had a 40-percent property value loss, but we still have a two-year running balanced budget," Wild said. Both Cavanagh and McNamara believe the key to balancing the county's budget is dealing with the large deficits in public safety (jail, sheriff, prosecutor and courts) and feel tough decisions are going to have to be made.

Cavanagh, 52, said it's no surprise that the prosecutor's office, sheriff's office and circuit court have all sued the county to try to protect their turf — their budgets.

"We really need to change the philosophy in Wayne County. If we are going to solve these problems, we need all the different departments to buy in — everyone should be part of the solution, not if you don't like it, sue us," said Cavanagh, who is serving his second term in the state House after serving four terms as a Wayne County commissioner.

"We need everyone to sit at the same table and hammer out some agreements on how we get the situation fixed. You can't do this piecemeal," he said.

McNamara said he would really focus on the courts, which he said haven't made any cuts in recent years.

"It's time they join the rest of the world," said McNamara, who noted savings could be gained through more video arraignment, cutting bailiffs and outsourcing some services. He also believes overtime needs to be cut in the jails, which he said is costing taxpayers \$20 million annually.

One of the concerns Wild, McNamara and Cavanagh share about this race is that they will divide the vote to such a degree that Ficano might be able to squeak out a victory.

Prospective candidates have until April 22 to file the necessary paperwork to run.

Canton Public Library ratchets up its digital offerings

Canton Public Library patrons can now stream thousands of movies, music albums and audiobooks on their computer or mobile device, thanks to a partnership with hoopla digital.

Content is accessible 24 hours a day, without a visit to the library or worries of overdue fees. "For many years, our

library has served as an important resource for our patrons and we want to provide them with mobile and digital technologies that allow for content viewing on the go," said Ophelia Lo, adult services librarian.

"With hoopla digital, our patrons can access their favorite movies, music and audiobooks where-

ever — for free. There is also no waiting period for popular titles and the service's automatic return means no late fees."

Canton Public Library card holders can download the free hoopla digital mobile app on their Android or iOS device or visit www.hoopladigital.com to enjoy thousands of titles. The ser-

vice has a simple sign-up and easy-to-use interface, making it easy for patrons to access their listening and viewing experience. There's also no waiting to borrow popular movies, albums or audiobooks.

"With hoopla digital, it is our mission to help

public libraries meet the needs of the mobile generation," said Jeff Janowski, founder and owner of hoopla digital.

"We've worked for years to create a best-in-breed service that is fun, fast and reliable. And we continue to secure content deals to expand the

offering of movies, TV shows, music and audiobooks."

The Canton Public Library is encouraging patrons to see what all the hoopla is about. For more information or instructions on how to sign up, visit www.cantonpl.org.

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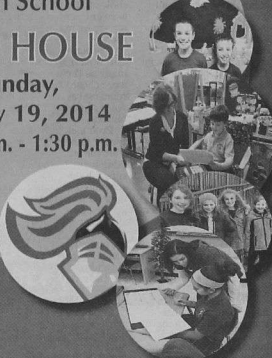
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Attorney should review land contract document

Q: Dear Rick: I've been renting a house for about six years. My landlord, who is generally a good guy, has offered to sell me the home. Because of some bad financial decisions I've made in the past, I'm unable to get a mortgage. The landlord has offered to sell me the home on a land contract. Is a land contract a good thing? How does it differ from a traditional mortgage? The landlord told me I won't need an attorney because he was going to use a fill-in-the-blank land contract form so I could save money on legal fees. What do you think?



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

make all the payments on the land contract and for some reason the deed is not transferred to you? This could result in a long legal proceeding. Of course, this issue can easily be resolved in a well-drafted land contract - for example, by using an escrow agent or something of that nature.

From a buyer's standpoint, other than the issues mentioned here, a land contract pretty much works the same way as a mortgage. With a mortgage, the key is the terms. The same applies to a land contract. Such things as the interest rate, the length of the land contract and the amortization are all key issues. Therefore, in deciding whether you purchase the home using a land contract, the key would be what terms you are able to negotiate.

In your situation, one of the issues will be how long of a land contract the landlord is willing to give you. If you get a three-year land contract, the issue for you is whether at the end of the three-year period you will be able to get a mortgage to pay off the land

contract. If because of your financial situation you won't be able to get a mortgage, then a three-year land contract would be relatively meaningless. One note, most land contracts in this situation are short term, generally three to five years.

As to whether you need a lawyer, my answer is a yes. A home is generally the largest purchase someone will ever make and you can't entrust that to a fill-in-the-blank form. There are so many different issues with regard to a land contract, therefore, you need to make sure that you have someone on your side to represent your interests. It is important to have an attorney review the documents before you sign on the dotted line.

From a buyer's standpoint, a land contract can be a lifeline and allow someone to purchase a home they otherwise could not. However, a bad land contract can turn your dream of owning a home into a nightmare.

Good luck.

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

A: On the whole, land contracts are similar to mortgages. Both are ways to finance the purchase of a home. However, there is an important difference. When you obtain a traditional mortgage, the deed, which signifies ownership of the property, is put into your name and the mortgage lender gets a lien on your property as security. With a land contract, the deed remains in the seller's name and is not transferred to the buyer until the land contract is paid in full.

This may not seem like a big deal, but it could be. For example, what happens if you

Kobylarz to chair Conference of Western Wayne

Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz has been elected chairperson of the Conference of Western Wayne for 2014.

The conference is made up of elected officials of 18 communities

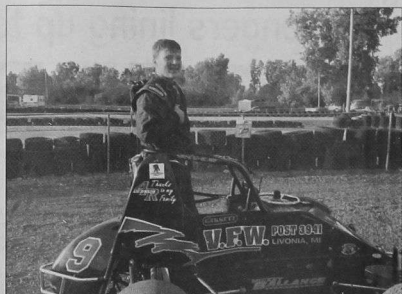


Kobylarz

in western Wayne County. Judge Milton Mack conducted the oath ceremony Fri-

day morning at the conference meeting, held at the Leo Snage Building in Redford.

Kobylarz previously was vice chair of the CWW and also has served as secretary and treasurer for the organization.



Rons, an eighth-grader at Holmes Middle School in Livonia, has been racing since he was in kindergarten. He hopes to move up a division and compete against better racers this year.

Local teen seeks sponsorship money to take sprint car racing career to next level

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Garrett Rons is hoping a local auto parts supplier will help sponsor his racing career. But he needs a little help from the public.

Rons has entered a contest through Southfield-based Federal Mogul and its spark plug brand, Champion, that could provide him up to \$50,000 in sponsorship money to put toward his racing career, which he does in a non-winged sprint car, a small motorized vehicle used to race on dirt or paved tracks.

"It would mainly help us pay for a new car and new trailer so we can travel to different races and different tracks to racing," said the 13-year-old eighth-grader at Holmes Middle School. "Getting the money from the contest would help us go farther in racing and go to bigger tracks."

Rons is asking for support through votes on the contest's website to help reach his goal. Those interested in voting for Rons can do so by visiting alwaysachampion.com and searching for Rons' video to cast a vote. Voters can cast one ballot per day and the contest ends Feb. 2.

Rons has been racing since he was in kindergarten, moving up from go-karts to sprint cars. He currently competes at Jackson Speedway and finished fourth out of 10 drivers in the overall standings in 2013, a major accomplishment, he said.

"It was definitely one of our more successful years," he said. "Placing that high overall in the



Garrett Rons, a 13-year-old Livonia resident, is attempting to win a sponsorship for his racing career through an online contest.

point standings was really good."

If he wins the contest, he and his family hope to purchase a bigger vehicle and move up to the highest sprint car class. There, he would face tougher competition from both older teenagers and adults. He currently competes regularly against people who are much older than he is.

Family support

Audra Rons, Garrett's mother, said the entire family supports his racing dreams and careers and hopes the contest goes well so that her son can compete against stronger competition.

"He actually wanted to move up for 2014, but we can't afford it right now," she said. "All votes are appreciative, because anything he gets as far as sponsorships is just huge for us."

Garrett Rons said it's a great experience working with his family members in his racing endeavor, saying all his accomplishments are a

team effort with his family.

"My dad and my grandpa are big supporters. Every weekend, they're out with me racing. They're also my crew," he said. "My mom and grandma and sister are all there every weekend. Having them support me is really nice."

They've been helping him earn some votes in the contest as well, Garrett Rons said.

His family has been promoting it on social media and asking everyone they know to vote for him.

He even asked his classmates when he returned to school Thursday after an extended winter break because the snowstorm and sub-zero temperatures closed school down the first half of the week.

"Any people that I talk to, I just kind of ask them," Garrett Rons said. "I told almost all my friends."

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turn to the experts



District Judge Laura Mack speaks with defendants during a session of her Mental Health Treatment Court. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Mental Health Treatment Court attorney Charles Clos listens to the proceedings in 29th District Court.

Alternative court offers treatment instead of jail

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

On a recent Thursday afternoon, Wayne 29th District Judge Laura Mack sent a probation violator to jail overnight to have an alcohol tether attached, but more unusually rewarded two defendants for successful efforts with Meijer gift cards.

"Congratulations. You're the first to get a reward," Mack said to a defendant during a session of the Mental Health Treatment Court. "I sentenced you in September. You were actually accepted into the Mental Health Treatment Court today, but you followed the prior recommendations for treatment."

In fact, that particular defendant hadn't been expected to make the hearing as he had only completed his in-patient substance abuse treatment earlier the same day. He's been meeting the conditions set by the court — continuing with outpatient counseling and living with family.

Testing positive for prohibited alcohol use, another defendant saved the punishment side of the program by being jailed short term to have a tether attached.

"You were told not to use alcohol. You're better, but you are still using alcohol," Mack said. "The purpose is to reward you for meeting benchmarks or I could put you in jail."

When the man disrupted his alcohol use, Mack went through the results of a series of blood-alcohol tests starting with 0.09 — above the legal limit for driving in Michigan — at 7 a.m. He was offered 30 days wearing a tether or 30 days in jail.

"I guess I don't have much of a choice," the man said, agreeing to the tether after a long pause to weigh his options.

Once the tether is installed, if the man uses alcohol, Mack said he would be arrested.

"You've made progress, but alcohol is a big part of your problem,"

she said. "We really want you to succeed."

Appropriate services

Mack started the Mental Health Treatment Court in October to provide appropriate services and monitoring for misdemeanor adult defendants suffering from serious mental illnesses, developmental disabilities and/or co-occurring disorders.

"This is an alternative to just sitting in jail. It's a unique partnership between the court and community mental health," said Mack, who saw a need to break the cycle of mentally ill and addict-

ed people not receiving meaningful treatment to keep them from re-offending.

During a recent court session, defendants accepted for the Mental Health Treatment Court were charged with a variety of crimes — shoplifting, drunken driving and disorderly conduct while intoxicated. The defendants were young to middle age, male and female.

For one defendant described as mentally ill, Mack set conditions that included no alcohol use and taking prescribed medications.

Hegira Services, Inc., is the court's community

mental health treatment provider.

"That care can include in-patient and intensive outpatient care and 12-step programs.

Additionally, the court also is connecting the defendants with help in finding employment, housing and transportation.

Having stable housing and transportation is something many people take for granted, but can add to the problems of mentally ill or addicted defendants, said defense attorney Charles Clos, who is participating in the Mental Health Treatment Court.

"I think this is ideal,

anytime you can find alternatives. We see the same people," Clos said. "I'm amazed at the resources that are out there."

Referrals accepted

Referrals to the mental health court will be accepted from other district courts. It's the only mental health court in Wayne County for misdemeanor defendants.

In one case, Mack was allowed to hold warrants from another court in abeyance to be dismissed, if the defendant successfully completes the program.

Inspiration for the

Mental Health Treatment Court came from the felony version of the program operated by Wayne County Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny.

Mack also cites the experiences of her husband Milton Mack Jr., chief judge of the Wayne County Probate Court, who presides over mental commitment hearings. Milton Mack is an outspoken advocate for changes in the law to allow earlier intervention and treatment for those suffering from severe mental illnesses.

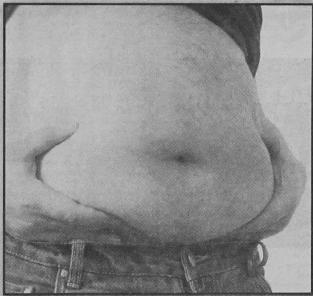
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12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:00

THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES (R)
12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (PG)
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:15, 9:35

AMERICAN HUSTLE (R)
FRI-SAT 11:35, WED 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30

THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG-13)
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:15, 9:35

FRODO (PG)
11:25, 2:00, 4:25, 6:40, 9:05

Tomar, 102, regales friends, family with stories of outsmarting Nazis

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Rie Amberg successfully hid her husband from the Nazis in the attic space of their home in Amsterdam for a couple of days during World War II, worrying all the time he might snore and give himself away.

When the Nazis finally informed him of their working underground as a journalist for the Dutch government, she tricked the guards into thinking she was pregnant by putting a pillow around her belly so they would release him.

At one point, she was limited, too, by the need to feed only bread and water. But the Redford resident has no bitterness, only a positive attitude.

"I'm so happy, I've been through so much, she probably can't cry about things," said her son, Ozzie Amberg of Canton. "She's got just a very positive attitude."

"That positive attitude and some good genes are what Ozzie Amberg believes have allowed his mother to live such a



Rie Amberg used a pillow to look pregnant in order to persuade the Nazi guards in Holland to release her husband from prison during World War II.

long, healthy life. Rie Amberg celebrated her 102nd birthday Jan. 2. She still drives to the hair salon and the grocery store, knits, keeps up on current events, maintains her own home and regales her neighbor, Janet Rayl, with her amazing life stories.

"She tells me about her life in Holland as a young girl during World War I and all about her family there," Rayl said. "She recalls a lot during her very young years, including a time when she almost drown and a soldier pulled her out of the water." "She is still in very

good health and is as pleasant and humorous as she could be. She is truly an inspiration and a rare jewel to me."

Rie Amberg is a little hard of hearing and has some arthritis, but otherwise is in great health. She wasn't interviewed for this story because her family and friends wanted to surprise her with it as a birthday gift.

Rie Amberg was born Anna Marie Helena Symons on Jan. 2, 1912, in Amsterdam, the second oldest of five girls. Her father was a teacher, her mother a homemaker. Rie, a shortened version of Anna Marie, is her nickname.

She graduated high school and married Martin Hans Amberg, a German Jew who had defected to Amsterdam.

They didn't have much money, so she wore a black velvet dress instead of a wedding gown. They had one child, Ozzie, now 68.

She rode through snow on a bicycle with wheelie wheels to the hospital to give birth to him. "There were bombs

all around and she wasn't even supposed to be on the streets," her daughter-in-law, Kathy Amberg, said.

After he was born, she knitted him a pink outfit because that was the only color of yarn she had.

Kathy Amberg is impressed with her mother-in-law's bravery in going up against the Nazis.

"She talked to the guards, playing on their sympathies, asking them if they would want to be imprisoned when their wife or daughter was about to give birth. 'She got (her husband) out.'"

The family came by boat to the United States 66 years ago, when Ozzie was 2. Ozzie Amberg was still wearing his little wooden shoes when they disembarked.

They settled in Redford in the 1950s, where Rie Amberg has lived ever since.

Martin Amberg became vice president of a tool and die shop on the east side of Detroit, while Rie Amberg worked at a knitting shop in Dearborn field, taking young Ozzie

along because they couldn't afford a babysitter.

She is a masterful knitter, who created stunning women's fashions out of yarn, including coats and even a black cocktail dress with white flowers cascading down the side, her daughter-in-law said.

Martin Amberg died at age 80 after 52 years of marriage.

Rie Amberg has outlived all of her sisters except the youngest, who is in her mid-80s and living in California. Their mother died while in her early 90s.

Ozzie Amberg said his mother would attribute her longevity to doing everything in moderation. "She doesn't do anything to excess."

And her positive attitude, despite all the adversity she went through.

"She has the best attitude about life and we are grateful to have her in our lives," Ozzie Amberg said. "She truly is a blessing."

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Lecture series to focus on historical preservation

The care and keeping of historic buildings — from Victorian "painted ladies" to 19th-century kit homes — will be the topic of the Northville Historical Society's 2014 Lecture Series beginning Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The series will open with "An Introduction to Historic Preservation" presented by Daniel Schneider, AIA, a registered architect with a nationally qualified architecture who specializes in projects involving existing and historic buildings.

A project manager and Neumann-Smith Architecture in Detroit, Schneider has taught preservation-related workshops throughout Michigan. A member of the Northville Historical Society board of directors, Schneider is a former board member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

The program will explore the background of the preservation movement in America and explain the criteria used to determine a building's historical significance.

Other topics in the series include: » Wednesday, Feb. 26: New Materials in Historic Districts

» Wednesday, March 26: Restoration of Historic Windows

» Wednesday, April 30: History of Kit Homes

» Wednesday, May 28: Assessing the Condition of Historic Buildings

The series is intended for those who own or are considering purchasing a historic building or home or anyone interested in historic preservation.

All lectures will be held at 7 p.m. in the New School Church at Mill Race Historical Village, 215 Griswold, in Northville. The program is free, though donations will be accepted.

For more information, contact the Northville Historical Society at 248-348-1845 or visit the website at www.mill-racehistorical.org.

Downs asks for thoroughbreds

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Northville Downs hit a bump on the road reshaping its future, but it's one it hopes is remedied in the coming weeks.

Late in 2013, the race track, which has traditionally been used for harness racing, applied to the state of Michigan to host thoroughbred and mixed-breed racing during 2014.

The Michigan Gaming Control Board rejected the application based on a number of concerns, including a failure to "supply a convincing plan to assure sufficient numbers of thoroughbred horses and quarter horses for the proposed meet."

The denial hasn't deterred Downs officials, though. They have appealed the decision and are currently waiting on a final decision in the coming days or weeks.

The original application was sent in after the state's deadline, but Richard S. Kalm, executive director of the Gaming Control Board, stated "in the best interest of racing" Northville Downs could submit an amended application subject to certain conditions.

"We're continuing to work to get the decision reversed," Downs Operations Manager Mike Caprio said Jan. 7, while waiting for the conclusion to its appeal. "We're not sure what the outcome will be, but we're



Mike Carlo, general manager of Northville Downs, wants to add thoroughbred racing in 2014 and is hoping for permission from the state.

JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

hopeful." However, the Gaming Control Board did not think it met the conditions, which included the licensee submitting a business plan detailing how the combination and/or changeover from standard-bred to thoroughbred and mixed breeds would occur, which should also detail the costs, funding and time line involved with converting the track.

The denial read, "Specifically, Northville Downs has failed to demonstrate a definitive specific and detailed plan that could be approved according to the Horse Racing Law of 1995."

One concern stated by the Gaming Control Board was there was no assurance that sufficient simulcast purse pool money will be available for such a race meeting. This aspect is largely based upon a pending account-wagering bill currently in the state's Legislature.

"The submitted plan does not appear to be in the best interest of horse racing in the state of Michigan for 2014," the denial order stated.

Carlo said adding this new style of racing makes sense in the effort to reinvigorate the track's business plan.

The Downs has been looking for new ways to compete for the customers it's lost to the casinos in Detroit over the last decade. The owners feel this is the best route.

"We think this would get us there," Carlo said of reshaping its business model into a more successful one, which remains viable but was even more so in the past.

The track's hope is to host 16 days of thoroughbred racing in 2014 from Oct. 12 through Nov. 16. In addition, it would continue to have harness racing.

Carlo said officials would alter the half-mile track to accommodate the thoroughbred style. It's estimated it would take around \$200,000 to do so. A thoroughbred track is flat, while harness is banked. The Downs would also have to add a race chute.

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The final decision on the appeal should be in soon.

PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170 SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, consisting of Additions and/or Remodeling Projects at:

Discovery Middle School East Middle School
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will be received at the office of Mr. Brodie Killian, Deputy Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClelland Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

All bids will consist of separate sealed bids for the following: Bid Divisions of work.

- 101: Earthwork / Site Utilities
- 103: Selective Demolition
- 105: Interior Concrete Flatwork
- 109: Roofing / Sheetmetal
- 113: Hollow Metal / Wood Doors / Finish Hardware
- 115: Metal Studs / GPDW / EIFS
- 117: Acoustical Treatments
- 120: Painting
- 125: Toilet Partitions
- 130: Window Treatments
- 142: HVAC
- 148: Landscaping
- 102: Asphalt Paving / Site Concrete
- 104: Concrete Foundations
- 106: Masonry
- 108: Carpentry / General Trades
- 112: Caulking
- 114: Aluminum Window / Entrances / Glass / Glazing
- 116: Hard Tile
- 118: Carpet & Resilient Flooring
- 121: Visual Display Boards
- 124: Gymnasium Wood Flooring
- 128: Plastic Laminat Casework
- 140: Plumbing
- 143: Electrical
- 149: Fencing

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Canton, Michigan 48105, the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents for a refundable \$50.00 deposit, beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400. Deposit checks should be payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools and will be returned upon return of complete documents in good condition to McCarthy & Smith, Inc. no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the bid opening.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gridsearch.com free of charge by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. The bid divisions(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 3:00 P.M. at West Middle School, located at 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act (CAMA), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing. Bidders should disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1287 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. If the bidder does not enter a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is authorized by Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Board of Education Secretary Adrienne Davis.

Supplemental food available

The next distribution of emergency food by the Plymouth Community United Way is 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church on Hagerty.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned, non-perishable and perishable food items.

All recipients must preregister at the Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170.

This is a supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to preregister. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC

and general) must provide documentation, including proof of income and residency, before receiving food on distribution days.

Distributions continue 9:30-11 a.m. the third Thursday of each month at St. Kenneth.

For more information, call 734-453-6879, ext. 7, or send an email to randi.williams@pcuw.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Tuesday, January 14, 2014

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that a Public Hearing will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Hagerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170, on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request of Tower Automotive for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for machinery, equipment, furniture, and fixtures located at 43950 Plymouth Oaks Blvd., Plymouth Oaks Business Park, Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan. The public hearing will be for inspections from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2014. The application hearing begins at 7:00 p.m., any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

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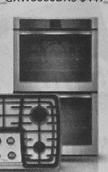


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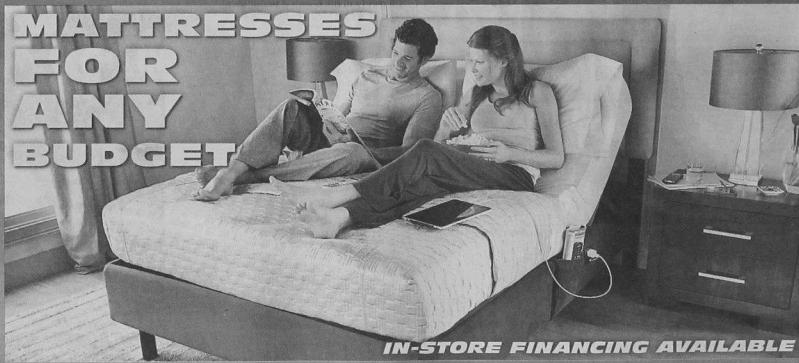
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GIRLS BASKETBALL



Bringing the basketball up the floor Thursday night is Plymouth's Cassidy Lewis. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rockets nip Chiefs in OT

Everette's 22 points leads John Glenn

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

There's a reason why Isaac Everette wears jersey No. 1 for the Westland John Glenn boys basketball team.

The 6-foot-4 senior forward, who sat out Glenn's first six games with a broken left ring finger, returned to the lineup Thursday night and made quite a season debut, scoring a game-high 22 points as the Rockets outlasted KLAA South Division nemesis Canton, 47-42, in overtime.

Everette is also Glenn's most seasoned player.

"I felt great, it felt really good to be out there with my team again," said Everette, who scored 11 of his 22 in the first half as Glenn trailed 19-17. "First time in a long time, so I was really excited."

"It was real difficult because I was still a little bit rusty from my injury, but it still felt good to get out there. I had to get back into flow of things, but I was good."

Glenn, now 3-4 overall and 1-0 in the division, was good enough down the stretch as Everette made two free throws with only 27.45 seconds left to knot the game at 39-39 and send it into OT.

State-ranked Canton (6-1, 0-1), which suffered its first loss of the season, made a pair of costly turnovers during the final minute of regulation and went 0-of-6 from the field in OT.

"No excuses, but I think fatigue set in a little bit on us and we didn't do a good enough job fighting through it," Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. "What we talked about in there (the locker room) after is that that outbounded us — and lot in the second half — because we went in a halftime with a rebounding advantage. And they got way more loose balls."

Canton led 39-37 with only 1:42 left in the final quarter thanks to two of

See CHIEFS, Page B3



Canton senior power forward Jordan Nobles drives past a John Glenn defender Thursday night. DOUGLAS BARGESTOCK

'Cats back on track

Plymouth completely dominates Churchill in 55-13 rout

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For more than a week, players on Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team couldn't wait to get back out on the court and wash out the bitter taste of a lopsided loss to Farmington Hills Mercy.

The wait was even longer because of the three successive snow days. But when the Wildcats finally did play, they took out their frustrations Thursday night against visiting Livonia Churchill — breaking out fast and completely dominating the KLAA South Division opener with a 55-13 victory.

The win gave Plymouth a 6-1 start to the season, while the Chargers dropped to 3-3 overall.

"It was eating away at all of us," Plymouth first-year head coach Nick Brandon said about the Dec. 30 game against Mercy (a 63-26 setback). "We could not wait to get back out and compete after that."

"That was a game that taught us a lot and the thing I like most is that this team learned from it."



Plymouth's Kylie Robb (No. 4) takes aim Thursday night against Churchill's Natalie Spala. Robb hit 50 percent of her shots, finishing with 15 points to lead all scorers. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The Wildcats cranked up the tempo from the opening tip, pushing the pace and delivering crisp, around-

the-horn passes on virtually every trip down the court.

Meanwhile, whenever Churchill players had uncontested shots, they almost always missed badly. It was 13-2 after the first quarter and 28-9 at halftime.

The lone field goal scored by the Chargers in the opening 16 minutes was a try by Molly Pummill early in the second quarter. The other six points came on free throws.

And Churchill got blanked in the fourth quarter, when Plymouth enjoyed a 16-0 advantage.

"We had good looks, it's just we didn't knock them down," Churchill head coach Matt McCowan said. "We haven't practiced since last Saturday, but neither has Plymouth. That's not an excuse."

"We have a long way to go and the girls know that. We're a very young team, but there's some potential there and we're going to grab that real soon."

Many contributors

Further hurting the Chargers was the fact whoever Brandon inserted into the Plymouth lineup made something happen for the Wildcats.

All 12 players saw action and nine of them scored at least two points. The Wildcats connected on nearly

See ON TRACK, Page B3

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rocks start fast, hold off late surge by Cougars

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem varsity boys basketball coach Bob Brodie might not want to put the video of Friday's game against South Lyon East into a time capsule.

But Brodie was happy nonetheless that his team overcame bouts of sloppy play and inconsistent defense to hang on for a 75-65 victory over the visiting Cougars, in the second

of back-to-back KLAA Central Division contests.

On Thursday, Salem returned from the winter break with a 55-50 win over Northville.

"The back-to-back games are kind of fun," Brodie said, smiling. "Kids love to play games, they don't like practice so much."

"It didn't have too big of a bearing on the game. They're in pretty good condition. Fortu-

nately, we came out of it with two wins. So, I'm happy about that."

Senior guard Connor Cole led the Rocks with 17 points, and helped the cause with four steals and four assists.

Also in double figures for the victors were junior forward Tyler Brooks (14 points, six rebounds), senior forward Alec Winfrey (12 points, eight rebounds, six assists, four steals) and junior forward

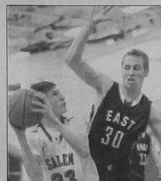
Allante Wheeler (who also had five steals).

"He (Winfrey) had a nice game," Brodie said. "He did some things for us that helped and gave us a little bit of a spurt."

Contributing eight points was senior center Mike Hoover.

Scoring 18 points for the Cougars was junior forward

See ROCKS, Page B2



Salem's Alec Winfrey looks to shoot over South Lyon East's Trent Willenborg. BRIAN QUINTOS



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PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

APPRECIATING THE MILITARY

Whalers to celebrate veterans

Jersey auction, 50/50 raffle, ticket sales to benefit VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System

The Plymouth Whalers are joining forces with VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System to celebrate the contribution of military veterans in a special way.

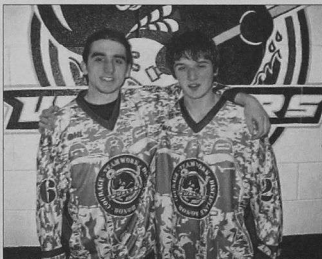
On Friday, Jan. 17 and Saturday, Jan. 18, the Whalers are holding Military Appreciation Weekend, designed to celebrate veterans who served their country. In addition, veterans have an opportunity to receive much-needed information about benefits offered by VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

Game time on both nights is 7 p.m. at Compuware Arena, located at 14900 N. Beck Road in Plymouth Township. The Whalers face Sudbury on Friday and Windsor on Saturday.

On the ice, the Whalers will wear specifically designed camouflaged jerseys in both Ontario Hockey League games. The jerseys will be auctioned off, with proceeds of the jersey auction, Whalers ticket sales over the weekend and 50/50 fundraisers to benefit the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

Emblazoned around the Whalers' logo on the jersey's circular crest are words "Teamwork," "Discipline," "Honor" and "Courage."

Off the ice, veterans can



Modeling camouflage jerseys the Plymouth Whalers will wear in games Jan. 17-18 are (from left) Alex Nedeljkovic and Zack Bowman. PLYMOUTH WHALERS

receive valuable information about services, assistance and benefits earned for any veteran and their family in need from the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and the Whalers' corporate partners have sponsored a dedicated amount of complimentary tickets for Friday's game, with a 5 p.m. welcome reception scheduled. Any veteran who attends the reception to receive information about veterans benefits will then be able to enjoy the game.

Saying thanks

"We're really excited about (the) weekend," said Derek

Atkinson, public affairs officer with the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. "It's an opportunity for us to say 'thank you' to those veterans who are returning from deployment."

"We also wanted to open the weekend up to veterans of all eras, to be able to come together and have a good time, to enjoy some camaraderie and some hockey."

Service members, veterans and their families must reserve their complimentary tickets by calling Mignon Sizemore at 734-845-3429. Tickets are still available, but a limited number remains. During Saturday's game, former POWs from World

War II, the Korean War, Vietnam conflict and from the Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts will be acknowledged.

For many returning veterans, the opportunity to assist other veterans becomes a passion. The bond between veterans often remains strong.

"The VA in Ann Arbor is very unique," Atkinson said. "I served in Afghanistan in the Marine Corps and you see a lot of that here. In Ann Arbor, roughly 30 percent of our employees are veterans."

"And those who aren't veterans typically have some sort of a connection to a veteran — whether it is a father, grandfather, uncle, brother, cousin, sister, mother — whatever it may be."

Ticket info

Contributing sponsors for the Plymouth Whalers Military Appreciation Weekend include: Foundation for American Veterans; Farmers Insurance; Xfinity Comcast; Bill & Rod's Appliances; Diamond Home Care; Sara Lee Food Service; Monroe Dodge Chrysler; DTE Energy; E.G. Nick's; and WYCD-FM (90.5).

Any veteran not attending the "Welcome Home Celebration" can purchase tickets for the Military Appreciation Weekend for \$10 with ID and their respective families will be admitted for \$10 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased by calling Compuware Arena at 734-453-8400 or by going online to www.plymouthwhalers.com/buytickets.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Lacrosse meetings

► A mandatory meeting for the Canton boys lacrosse team is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Canton High School library.

Those with questions about the meeting are asked to contact Maura Topper at 734-454-4864.

► Prospective players for the 2014 Salem boys lacrosse team are invited to attend a registration meeting set for 7 p.m. Monday, in the Salem Presentation Room (No. 2112).

For more information, contact Salemlacrosse@aol.com or call 734-454-4864.

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Jerry Abraham will stage a fundamentals camp 8:30-11:30 a.m. along with a pitching camp (all ages) from noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, and 25 at the MU Activities Center.

The cost is \$25 per session or \$75 for all three. You can register at the door. For more information, email Abraham at jabraham@madonna.edu or call 734-432-5612.

Free-throw contest

The annual Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at St. Thomas a Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the contest is free. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation.

Contestants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For more information, call David Lengel at 734-516-4930.

Coach-Pitch, T-Ball

The city of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage walk-in or fax-in registration for 2014 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and co-ed T-ball (ages 7-8) for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville school attendance area through Feb. 26.

Mail-in registration is through Feb. 14. Enrollment is limited to the first 640 participants in each division is reached. Registration for non-resident youth to schools or can be picked up at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

The seasons run from May through July with T-Ball scrimmages Monday evenings and coach-pitch scrimmages Thursday evenings.

Late registration for Livonia or Clarenceville school district residents will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday, March 29, at the LCRS, 15000 Hubbard Road (at Five Mile Road). Non-resident registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, March 31, at the LCRS's Parks and Recreation office. Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis through April 30 or until teams are filled.

Open registration fees are \$40 per child (resident) and \$50 per child (non-resident). Late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident).

For more information, call 734-466-2410 (use option No. 2).

PREP HOCKEY

Churchill goaltender Turel stops Salem, 4-2

Who knows whether the Salem Rocks were worrying about facing powerhouse Livonia Stevenson on Saturday night.

But the KLAAS South Division leaders could not get over the hump Friday night against Livonia Churchill, falling 4-2 at Eddie Edgar Arena.

The Rocks (5-5, 4-2) were stymied by goalie David Turel, who stopped 30 of 32 shots to lift the Chargers (4-8-2 overall, 3-2-1).

Churchill broke out to a 2-1 lead after one period. Drew Sparks scored at 1:25 from Dylan Smith and Joe Wozniak.

Salem tied the game at 8:05 on a power play goal by senior forward Jack Driscoll, with assists going to Noah Willer and Noah Saad.

That tie didn't last long because Smith found the mark at 13:41, finishing a pass from Nolan Cioch.

Drew Paishes made it 3-1 when he scored an unassisted goal on the power play just 32 seconds into the second period.

Once again, however, the Rocks closed the gap at 14:29 when Evan Newel scored. Setting up the goal were Richie Corson and Taylor Bur-

ris. Icing the win for Churchill just 21 seconds into the third was Nick Mistak, who beat Salem goalie Parker Godfrey (16 saves) on a breakaway.

G.P. NORTH 6, LADYWOOD 3: Freshman Katie Hayward's hat trick was not enough Thursday as Livonia Ladywood (1-7, 1-7) fell to Grosse Pointe North (3-4, 3-4) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 game played at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Senior Rachel Fredette also added an assist in the setback.

LADYWOOD 8, REGINA 3:

On Jan. 4, Katie Hayward racked up four goals and added one assist as Livonia Ladywood (1-6) earned its first victory of the season in a Michigan Metro crossover win over visiting Warren Regina (3-3) at Arctic Pond.

Abby Pelon, Sarah Doyle, Colleen Lynch and Devine Kelly also scored goals for the Blazers, who led 4-1 after one period and 7-2 after two.

Cecilia Warner also chipped in with two assists.

Michaela Warner was the winning goaltender.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wildcats bounce back from loss, rout Chargers

What a difference 24 hours make for Plymouth's varsity boys basketball team.

After losing 47-35 Thursday to Livonia Churchill in what Wildcats' head coach Mike Soukup called a poor effort, Plymouth bounced back to earn a 65-37 home win over KLAAS South Division opponent Livonia Franklin.

The win gave Plymouth a record of 4-3 overall and 1-1 in the division.

"I was much happier with the effort today," Soukup said. Plymouth broke out to a

16-8 led after one frame and took a 29-11 advantage into the intermission.

The Wildcats featured a balanced effort, with six players collecting at least seven points.

Two sophomores who had good games against Churchill continued their fine play Friday. Brent Davis and Chris Walls scored 14 and eight points, respectively.

Josh Reynolds scored nine points while Deji Adebiji chipped in with eight. Scoring seven points each

were Randall Aikins and Khalil Newell.

Meanwhile, Jalen Davis scored 17 points and senior Donte Jackson chipped in with 11 to lead Churchill to Thursday's win over the Wildcats.

Aikins, a junior guard, paced the Wildcats with 14 points. Walls and Davis chipped in with eight and six points, respectively.

"We were just bad," Soukup said. "We had no effort to begin with. If we show up with this kind of effort on a game-by-game basis we won't beat

anybody in the league."

CANTON 49, WAYNE 28: Shawn Taylor scored a game-high 20 points Friday for the Chargers (7-1, 7-1) pulled away in the second half for a 16-point South Division win over Westland (0-5, 0-1).

Jordan Nabbie added 11 for Canton, which led 25-18 at halftime.

Brian Williams and Jackie Muhammad tallied nine points apiece for the Chargers.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 73, CALVARY 42: Four players scored in double figures Thursday at host Lutheran High Westland (1-2, 1-2) rolled past Plymouth Christian in a MAC Red Division game.

Nick Finney led a balanced Warriors' scoring attack with 14 points. The Lake Superior and P.J. Guck added 12 apiece.

Development camp also added 10 points, while Devilsport came up with eight steals and five assists.

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ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

Trent Willenborg. The Rocks charged out to a 20-10 lead and led 40-22 late in the second half following a triple by Connor Cole — on a nice feed from the base line by twin brother Brady Cole.

Earlier in the quarter, it was Connor finding Brady with a pass from the top of the key that resulted in a picture-perfect layup.

"They sure seem to know where each other is out there," joked Brodie, about the Coles.

Getting closer

Things were different after the intermission, and largely due to the miscues forced by South Lyon East's tenacious, pressure defense. Salem committed 19 turnovers

while the Cougars coughed the ball up 23 times.

"For the most part we did a good job," Brodie said. "We got through the front end of that pressure, which is the most important part."

"We just didn't finish very well. We got to the end, we got to the basket and we had some 3-on-2 situations and fumbled the thing away trying to make an extra pass."

It was 56-40 after three frames, but several times in the fourth quarter, the Cougars (1-6, 0-2) sliced Salem's once healthy lead down to seven points.

Leading South Lyon East's belated comeback try were senior Derek Blunden (11 points, nine in the second half) and sophomore Dorian Watson, who tallied all but two of his 10 points in the third and fourth.

Although the final

outcome never really seemed in doubt, the Cougars made things interesting. They opened the fourth on a 12-1 surge, cutting the Salem lead to 59-52 following a pair of Free throws by sophomore Luke Trent.

Hoover was instrumental in a quick four-point response by the Rocks to open up some breathing room at 63-52 midway through the frame.

After Hoover banked in a shot, he blocked an inside field goal try at the other end by senior Ryan Koskko (10 points). That timely defensive play set the stage for Brooks.

The Salem led never shrank to fewer than seven in the rest of the game. On Thursday, Connor Cole and junior forward Jake Lenders scored 13 and 10 points, respectively in the win over Northville.

PREP GYMNASTICS

Back on the beam

Extended hiatus doesn't hamper Plymouth gymnasts in tri-meet

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Driven to excel

Despite a bit of rust collected by her athletes during the winter break — followed by three unexpected days of no practice due to the Arctic blast — Plymouth gymnastics coach Pam Yockey was relatively pleased with Thursday's tri-meet.

The host Wildcats eked out first place with 139.45 points, nipping KLA A non-division opponents Brighton (137.4) and Howell (137.375).

"Most of the girls were a little rusty," Yockey said. "But we hope to do a little bit better getting rid of the falls on beam and putting our bar routines together."

"If we do, we should continue to do well for the season," Yockey added that her team "is strong, we have 26 kids and they're a pretty solid group of kids. They work very, very hard — when we can get in the gym."

She finished that comment with a laugh, because the shutdown of school last Monday through Wednesday delayed girls from sharpening routines following the lengthy holiday hiatus.

Yockey did cite several strong performers Thursday, despite the scheduling woes. She listed Katie Salanga (9.5 on floor, 9.425 on beam, first in both events) and Haley Metz (9.15 on vault, third overall; 9.2 on floor).

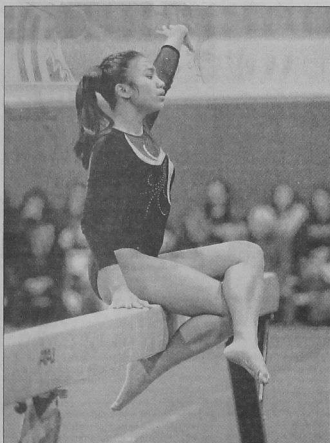
"Katie (Salanga) is very driven and a consistent scorer and really fights through everything," Yockey said. "She did a magnificent job. And our top all-arounder, Haley Metz, today really shined."

"Those are some of the top scorers she's received all season. And to come in with no practice for a week, that's amazing."

Metz had an all-around tally of 34.8, second to Rebecca Simu's 35.325. The latter enjoyed scores of 9.05 on beam and floor.

Yockey said others will continue to increase their scores, including Sam Fontana and Molly McSweet. Fontana's best event Thursday was vault, with 8.8. She finished with an all-around score of 32.0.

"Sam is doing really, really well," Yockey said. "We had an excellent vault out of her. It was a good floor, that was one



Completing her first-place routine on beam Thursday is Plymouth's Katie Salanga. JOHN KEMSKI / EXPRESS PHOTO

of her top scores on floor (8.15).

"She's just one of those hard-working kids that I ex-

pect to slowly move up."

Another key member of the squad is Brenna Connelly, who is sidelined with a broken finger. In order for the Wildcats to make a run at Canton in the KLA A Kensington Division standings, Connelly will need to be healthy.

"Brenna (Connelly) has broken her finger and she's out for a while," Yockey said. "She is really our second best on the team for most every event."

The tight standings Thursday did not surprise Yockey, because of the large number of strong teams this season. "It's close across the whole state," she said. "The whole state seems to be resting some- where between 137 and 139."

Following is the event-by-event breakdown:

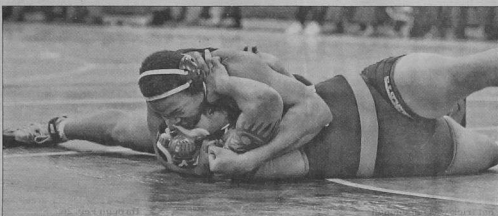
Vault: Margo Mekjian (B), 9.3; Annamarie Martini (B), 9.2; Haley Metz (P), 9.15; Paige Blythe (H), 9.05; 6. (tie) Kayla JANEVSKI (P), Katie Salanga (P), Emily Welch (P), 8.85.

Bars: 1. Martini (B), 8.65; 2. (tie) Rebecca Simu (P), Walker (H) and Blythe (H), 8.6; 6. Metz (P), 8.5.

Beam: 1. Salanga (P), 9.425; 2. Simu (P), 9.075; 3. Marisa DeCamp (H), 9.0; 4. Martini (B), 8.8; 5. Walker (H), 8.55.

Floor: 1. Salanga (P), 9.5; 2. Blythe (H), 9.4; 3. Mekjian (B), 9.3; 4. Metz (P), 9.2; 5. Simu (P), 9.05.

PREP WRESTLING



Plymouth heavyweight Michael Jordan (top) finishes his pin Thursday against nationally ranked Jordan Brandon of Westland John Glenn. ROBERT SHAVER

Another Michael Jordan making name for himself

Cats heavyweight pins Glenn's nationally ranked Brandon

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

the weight they would upset like that happen most often," said Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey, whose team improved to 20-2 overall and 2-0 in the division. "Michael's athletic abilities make him a unique person to have to wrestle and he has worked very hard to get better and to be a more complete wrestler."

"I could tell that (Brandon) wanted to hit a re-throw in that situation and roll Michael through, which against most heavyweights would have probably worked."

"But most heavyweights aren't 6-4 and have their weight distributed like Michael does. He just keeps getting better every match he wrestles."

The Wildcats also posted a 53-18 triumph over Wayne

Memorial in the quad meet, enabling Plymouth to defeat both division rivals for the first time in several seasons.

Going 2-0 for the day for Plymouth were Brandon Harris, Dylan Dwyer, Daniel Ahearn, Jon Conn, Sofus Nielson, Joey Shaver and Hussein Yousef.

"We wrestled really well as a team and were aggressive in both duals," Guernsey said. "The guys continue to work hard to earn bonus points when possible and limit the scoring of the other team."

"Wayne and John Glenn are two teams that no members on the current roster have beaten. It's just a couple more firsts for this year's team."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

GIRLS BASKETBALL WRAPS

CANTON 19, JOHN GLENN 31: On Thursday, the host Chiefs (4-1) jumped out to a 15-0 first-quarter lead and never looked back in a KLA A South Division victory over Westland John Glenn (1-6, 0).

And by the end of the first quarter, the Chiefs had doubled the lead to 28-0 after one stanza and Canton rolled to a 73-26 victory to improve to 5-3 overall and 2-0 in the division.

"Obviously, the girls got off to a great start," Canton head coach Brian Samuels said. "They scored 28 points in the first quarter, holding them to five. We were just able to roll from there."

It was a 48-17 halftime lead for the Chiefs and the lead swelled to 63-17 entering the final quarter.

Balanced scoring helped Canton, with Paige Anco collecting 15 points and Taylor Hueley 13. Other offensive contributions included Jordan Church (10 points) and Dauntea Perry (eight points, along with seven rebounds). The top rebounder for the Chiefs was Freshman Erin Hult, with 11.

For Wayne (0-5, 0), Ashley Brand scored 14 points.

Canton will visit Plymouth 7 p.m. Monday in a game moved from Tuesday to accommodate the tribune at Salem High School to the visiting Wild Cats.

PLYMOUTH 73, FRANKLIN 25: The visiting Wildcats (7-1 overall, 2-0 in the KLA A South Division) seem in command from the start Friday night at Lincoln Park.

It was 31-7 after the first quarter and 58-14 at halftime, and the game was played with a running clock for the entire second half.

Jada Woody (13 points), junior Kendall Rose (16 points), Kyla Nade (10 points) and Fani Begoske (eight points) paced the attack.

Junior point Nadia Lengel scored a basket for her varsity partner.

Senior guard Kiera Barnes paced the Rockets with 15 points, while K'iani Carrut added seven.

Senior coach Ed Salem coached the detail of Lyndy Klemmer Thursday night at the Rocks led to 5-2 overall and 0-1 in the KLA A Central Division opener.

After Salem broke out to an 8-2 lead after one quarter, Northville (0-0) went from 10-0 to open the second and ultimately took a 13-12 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, the Mustangs took control with a 10-4 burst.

Salem did try to rally and cut the lead to two when Hayley Rogers drained a layup with 30 seconds to play, copying off a stretch of strong defense by the desperate Rocks.

Klemmer Salem's intense coach Fred Thomson, said nine missed foul shots hurt the team as did sloppy defense.

Although we came away short, I am very proud of the way the girls played," Klemmer said. "We played hard, copying off a stretch of strong defense, which is what I asked for."

Janmya Wilson led Salem with 10 points while Maura Reynolds (10 points) and Emily Marchess scored 12 for Northville.

ON TRACK

Continued from Page B1

42 percent of their shots from the floor and also scored on defense, registering 17 steals and five blocks.

"We want that ball moving, we want a lot of people touching it, we want to keep the defense guessing and off-balance," Brandon said about his team's constant motion on offense. "And also we really want to get our running game going."

"You can see how up-tempo we play in terms of getting out in the break and running the floor."

Leading the charge was senior point guard Kylie Robb, who had 15 points along with three steals and two assists.

Also in double figures was senior center Shelby Cheston, with 12 points to go along with two blocks and three boards. Chipping in with eight points and five rebounds was senior wing Jada Woody.

Scoring five points for Churchill was Alma Konradt, with Pummil tallying three.

The Wildcats also got it done on the glass, with 40 rebounds (19 on offense). Churchill rebounds were few and far between, although

McCowan did not have the actual statistics available.

"Defensively, as crazy as it sounds, our half-court defense wasn't bad," McCowan said. "We couldn't get back and then it was the second, third and fourth opportunities where we didn't box out. That's what killed us defensively."

Bench boss

Some of Plymouth's bench players were also dangerous. Contributing five points and six rebounds was junior forward Patti Begoske, while junior wing Te'Ahn Horton scored four points — her first at the varsity level.

Also helping the cause for the Wildcats were sophomore point guard Cassidy Lewis (four points) and junior point guard Courtney Lavallee (three points).

That kind of group effort is what Brandon has been preaching from the first day of practice.

"In practice, we get maximum effort from all 12 players and that's what we expect in a game," he said. "I'm really proud of the way some of our bench players came in and played hard."

"Patti Begoske plays hard, she's always on the floor getting loose balls and doing the little things."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Salem wrestlers slam Novi, Stevenson

Salem opened up KLA A Central Division wrestling action Thursday with impressive wins of 48-15 over Novi and 33-30 over Livonia Stevenson in a quad meet at Northville.

The Rocks banged extra points thanks to strong efforts throughout the lineup, head coach Pete Israel said.

"Akash Rai started off the night to set the tone for the Stevenson meet with a pin," Israel said. "Other key matches were Cameron Shaughnessy, Charlie Woody, Bruce Haslitt and Mitchell Gross, who all scored pins."

"I was also happy with wins from Caleb McCabe and senior captain Connor Thornbury."

And in the overtime, Glenn made 4-of-6 free throws and got baskets from Everett (on a rebound) and DeAngelo Kirksey (on a drive) while outscoring the Chiefs, 8-3, to seal the win.

"We weren't crisp down the stretch," Reddy said. "We've had a lot of close games this year and we've done really, really well in them. It's un-

fortunate we didn't do the things we needed to do down the stretch tonight."

In addition to the 6-8 Nobles' 19 points, 6-5 senior Dawood Taylor added 12 for the Chiefs, who shot only 13-of-49 from the floor (26.5 percent).

Because of the recent school closings, neither team had seen the floor in more than five days.

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

Jordan Nobles' team-high 19 points.

Glenn then turned it over with 1:10 to go, but Canton returned the favor with a costly miscue at mid-court.

"We're up two and we got a

chance to win it," Reddy said. "I thought we got a timeout and the official didn't think so. I thought I called it twice when we had possession. We come down here and Everett gets fouled and ties it up."

Following Everett's two free throws, Canton had a chance to win it, but turned the ball over again with only 3.23 seconds left.

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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MU guard combo sinks Wolves

Travis Schuba nearly posted a double...

sier Athletic Conference win.

Schoolcraft falls

Westland John Glenn grad Richard Roberts poured in a game-high 30 points...

PREP BOYS SWIM PREVIEW



Alex Bourdreau, shown from a 2012-13 meet, is one of Canton's seniors expected to lead the squad.

Chiefs look to make splash in KLAASouth

Just looking at the standings last season, one might think Canton's varsity boys swimming and diving team had a rough go of it.

On the contrary, as far as Chiefs head coach Dave Le is concerned.

Yes, Canton had a 2-5 record overall and finished third in the KLAASouth Division with a 2-3 mark in dual meets.

With the new season, the returnees have the chance to pick up where the class of 2013 left off.

"Our team is looking to build on the foundation that was set by last year's seniors," Le said. "Our team goals this year are to qualify for the Wayne County meet and MISCA meet, as well as compete with Plymouth for the division championship."

Moving on from the squad are graduates such as all-star Victor Zhang, Jay Jin and Adrian Simak. Like last year, the Chiefs will rely on senior leadership.

Others who look to keep progressing from a season ago include juniors Noah Adams, John Everett, Grant Kurilil and Anthony Garbarino...

Canton's roster of 35 athletes also features eight freshmen in whom Le sees plenty of potential.

"In the few meets that we have already had, the boys have shown a lot of improvement," Le said. "I am excited by all the hard work everyone has been putting in and am interested to see what they can do at the end of the season."

A big early season test for the Chiefs will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday when Canton faces Plymouth in a meet at the Salem High School natatorium.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Melcher, Williams spark Crusaders' win

Career scoring highs by Rachel Melcher and Chelsea Williams propelled the Madonna University women's basketball team to a come-from-behind 77-68 win Thursday night over visiting University Michigan-Dearborn.

Melcher, a senior from Birmingham, Ala., poured in a game-high 30 points to go along with a career-best 16 rebounds for her third double-double of the season.

Williams, a 5-foot-9 junior from Livonia, Fla., matched her career-best with 22 points, hitting 9-of-19 shots from the floor...

Williams paced the Wolves (2-13, 1-8) with 19 points and 14 rebounds.

Williams added 17 points, while Andrea Collins and Danielle Cowart chipped in with 13 apiece for UMD, which trailed 39-30 at halftime.

Lady Ocelots falter

Tanner McCune scored a game-high 25 points Wednesday as host Oakland Community College (2-11, 1-1) rolled to an 86-67 victory over Schoolcraft College (4-8, 0-2) in Auburn Hills.

The Raiders, who rallied from a 33-30 halftime deficit, also got 20 points from Miranda Fuerst and 12 from Jalisha Nelson.

The Lady Ocelots got a team-high 22 points from Tabitha Mann, while Alexis Smith (Livonia Franklin) added 13.

Brianna Berberet (Salem) and Sara Gammons (chipped in with 11 apiece.

Schoolcraft shot only 35.5 percent from the floor (27-of-76) and 47.4 percent from the free-throw line (9-of-19), while committing 28 turnovers.

OCC had 27 turnovers on the night, but shot 45.5 percent from the floor (30-of-66) and 83.3 percent from the foul line (20-of-24).

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HAIL TO HAGGIS

Annual suppers give nod to Scottish bard

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

It's time to "address the haggis," toast the lads and lassies and say a few kind words about 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Local Scottish social clubs plan Robert Burns suppers and will celebrate the bard with poetry readings, toasts, bag piping, Highland dancing, and food—including haggis, a dish consisting of roasted sheep organ meats, oatmeal, suet and spices in a casing—Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26, in metro Detroit.

"Originally Burns dinners were male only," said Heather McGinty, a South Lyon resident who coordinates the annual Detroit Burns Club dinner in Livonia. "Then a lot of Burns clubs opened them up."

"Everyone has their own version of it. We have a proper dinner dance. We're a little more formal. My husband and all of the Scotsmen will wear dress kilt. I typically wear a long dress. A lot of the people are Scottish and are linked to the club. And then there are people who follow the band (The Rhythm Society Orchestra) who will come to the dance. A lot have no idea who Robert Burns is."

Three events

The club's annual Burns Dinner Dance is set for Saturday, Jan. 25, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 and include a family-style dinner, performances by the Detroit Caledonian Pipe Band & Highland Dancers, along with music for dancing by The Rhythm Society Orchestra. Tickets are available by calling McGinty at 248-486-4903 or 248-760-6143 or by emailing to fhusa8@att.net. She'll take reservations through the morning of the event.

Also on Jan. 25, the St. Andrews Society of Detroit will present a Burns Pub Night at the Kilgour Scottish Castle, 2360 Rochester Road in Troy. Tickets are \$20 and include a cocktail reception, dinner, bag pipes and dancers. Call 248-526-1849 for tickets.

The Scottish American Society of Michigan's Robert Burns Supper runs 3-7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Commonwealth Club, 30088 Dequindre, Warren. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children, 10 and under, and include a Steak Pie dinner with Mushie Peas and chips, the Detroit Royal Scottish Dancers, a Scottish Sing-Along and crafts for children. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check made payable to SASM, Burns Supper, 826 Edgewood Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48067. Visit scottish.org/sasmm.com for more information.



Franklin Dohanyos performs *The Address to a Haggis* by Scottish poet Robert Burns, during the Scottish American Society of Michigan's annual Robert Burns Supper.

"It's a great time and we're kid-friendly," said Franklin Dohanyos of Royal Oak, society founder. "This year we're having a pipe down. One guy will play a couple of tunes and then another guy will play. There will be a vote to see who is piper of the day."

"Guests can address the supper guests with impromptu toasts or readings of Burns' works during the evening. "If anyone wants to get up, take the mic and yell 'to Robert Burns,' they can," he said.

Haggis ritual

Dohanyos will "address the haggis," by performing Burns' poem, *Address to a Haggis* in Scottish dialect.

"The bagpiper lines up first. Then there's a guy bearing the scotch. Everyone in the parade has a scotch, single malt." Dohanyos described the haggis ritual. "Then comes the guy who will read the haggis (poem) and the last guy is holding a haggis, a 5-pounder, on a tray. He's got to be careful. The haggis is steamed and slippery. We almost had one fly off the tray once."

A poetry reading or a toast to the haggis is a tradition at the Livonia and Troy suppers, as well. The Livonia and Warren events also will include a toast to the lads and lassies. A man toasts the women and a woman replies with a toast.



The Scottish American Society of Michigan's annual Robert Burns Supper includes Highland dancing.

"We like to pick a husband and wife team. It can be a serious speech or a funny speech," McGinty said. "Their speeches can feed off each other."

Marjorie Sellers of Farmington Hills will wear the colors of her husband's family clan, along with a sash and rosette of her own clan, when they attend the gathering in Warren.

"It's a lot of fun. Robert Burns wrote some beautiful poetry. The readings are wonderful. You get a feel for what it was like in his era," she said.

For McGinty, the Burns dinner dance is a great way to banish the winter blues.

"You can dress up and really, how often do you get to see a Scotsman in his kilt?"



Lois and David Hedny of the Scottish American Society of Michigan toast the "Lads and Lassies" at a previous Robert Burns Supper.

Film follows veterinarian's campaign to end declawing

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer


Santa Zhurga would stop all cat declawing if she could.

"I am firmly against declawing and would like to help educate others about what it really is," said Zhurga, a local animal rescuer.

She'll present the documentary, *The Paw Project*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at the AMC Star Southfield 20. The 2012 film follows veterinarian Jennifer Conrad's campaign to ban declawing of wild and domestic felines, examining the emotional and physical damage—such as lameness—the surgery can cause. "The procedure amputates a cat's toes at the last joint, removing not only nails, but bone."

"It's not on the forefront of animal cruelty, but it's such an injustice in the fact that it's their doctor doing it to them," Conrad states in the film trailer. "The world is the equivalent of taking these cigar cutters and slipping my finger through and cutting this whole last bone off."

The film has attracted a following among animal rescuers, including Jennifer Fritz of Garden City and Lisa Hill of



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Royal Oak, who runs a cat shelter in Royal Oak.

They've rescued cats that have been injured by declaw surgery.

"Lisa and I have been following the progress of this project for quite some time. We're so excited that they're

having a screening of this by us," Fritz said, in an email. "We are in no way affiliated with this group, but stand behind what they're doing—educating to end the practice of declawing."

Online tickets

Zhurga is presenting the film through Tugg.com, an online program that enables individuals and groups to show films at select theaters. After choosing a film from Tugg's online library, the presenter sets up a screening date and then encourages friends, family, and community members to buy tickets. Each show must draw a minimum number of ticket buyers. If it doesn't, the show and the reserved tickets are canceled without charge. Zhurga attained the minimum number of reservations for *The Paw Project* last week and will sell tickets online until Jan. 16.

"I am a cat (and dog) rescuer and have been involved in helping animals since I was a little kid. Stray cats always found me, so I always took care of them," she said. The Berkley resident has volunteered for Paws for Life, Animal Aid Foundation and Dog Aide. "Now I am no longer a volunteer for any particular organization. But I network and work with many different rescues to place animals in need. I've done plenty of fostering, adoptions and tons else."

Now what I mainly focus on is networking and only take in emergency situations myself if I cannot find a rescue for them."

On screen

The Paw Project will run from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets for the film are \$11, available through Tugg.com. Click on the "events" listing after setting your location. The AMC Star Southfield 20 is at 25333 W. 12 Mile, just west of Telegraph, Southfield.

Other Tugg.com screenings:

• *Why We Ride*, a movie about the motorcycle community, 7:30-9:19 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia. Tickets are \$11.

• *Elemental*, a film about individuals in Canada, Australia and India giving "David and Goliath" struggles to improve the environment, runs 7-8:43 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10.

• *Linsanity* looks at basketball player, Jeremy Lin, 7-8:58 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$11.

Cold can affect your appliances in negative ways

Baby, its cold outside and I bet we will have more cold snaps coming before winter ends.

Extreme cold can cause all sorts of service calls and money spent. Take the many calls that plumbers are getting about frozen water pipes, in particular, the water line going to the outside where the valve sits for your garden hose. It freezes just inside the wall because it doesn't have any insulation wrapped around it, or you didn't shut off the inside valve leading to the outside. It can drip or suddenly burst and you have a big mess and expenses.

Take the washing machine that sits against an outside wall and the transmission oil congeals and feels like thick molasses. You turn on the



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

washer and it sounds different and the next thing you smell is the belt burning because the gears in the transmission won't turn, the belt won't move but the motor pulley is turning and burning the belt. Stop doing the wash and heat up the transmission with your hair dryer or place a small space heater near the back of the washer.

The dishwasher usually is located on an outside wall and if that wall is lacking insulation, the water line can freeze up and cause a no-water condition. Sometimes it's wise to leave the cupboard door open under the sink to prevent this

from happening. The clothes dryer will take much longer to dry clothes during winter if the outside flapper is not closing all the way. The zero degree temperature will crawl from the outside right down the dryer vent line into the drum. Take a little toothbrush and clean the hinges on the flapper door. This also helps any critters from coming inside looking for a fireplace atmosphere.

Move from garage

Now let's go to the refrigerator in your home which can cause thousands of dollars in damage due to these extreme cold temperatures. I get so many inquiries from homeowners who purchase a new refrigerator and put it in a garage for whatever reason. They complain

that the meat is thawing out in the freezer section. That will happen because the control senses the garage temperature and won't let the refrigerator run because the control says that it is cold enough in here. A more serious consequence is the compressor breaks an internal valve because like the washing machine transmission, the oil is as thick as molasses in January. This is not a repair that is covered by the warranty and can exceed \$600 in repair cost. Refrigerators are not designed to operate in temperatures below 50 degrees and that is a fact. Yes, many of the older refrigerators were not affected by temperatures but that is not the way it is now. Simply put, don't purchase a refrigerator and place it in your garage unless it is a heated

garage. Now we come to the part which really irks me when I see the icemaker installation kits for sale in the hardware store. There on the shelf is a plastic package with a plastic water line to install for your icemaker and water dispenser and there may be the beginning of a future and expensive problem. That piece of plastic tubing that you are going to connect to your water supply can freeze if the back wall is susceptible to extreme cold. It can also have a wear spot created by vibration that will pop a hole in it. It can also get very brittle after years of use and cause a leak in that plastic line. Ask yourself one question, "Where will I be when that plastic line begins to pour water all over the floor?" Will you

be home so you can hear the water or step into it or will you be at work or on a weekend vacation? Will you have 50 or 500 gallons of water running through your house, destroying the walls and the floor and everything in the lower level? Just how serious can that little plastic line be in your life? I say to all of you, get rid of that cheap piece of plastic and install the only thing I recommend to so many people who have learned a hard lesson. Use copper tubing and do it soon. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twi.rr.com.

Toasting 25 years with tea

By Julie Yolles
Social Scene Columnist

Interior designer Shirley Maddalena of Birmingham has been sponsoring the annual High Holiday Tea at The Townsend for 25 years. The tea has gotten so popular that, this year, seating expanded out to the main lobby of the hotel.

Besides a chance to ring in the new year, the tea is a fundraiser for Alternatives for Girls, a Detroit-based organization that helps local high-risk girls, young women and the homeless avoid teen pregnancy, violence and exploitation by providing positive choices.



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

AFG supports three programs: AFG Prevention, the AFG Shelter/Transition to Independent Living Program and AFG Outreach.

In addition to the elegance of high tea at The Townsend, guests donate white elephant and new items for a popular silent auction that averages about \$8,000 each year to support Alternatives for Girls. For more information, visit www.alternativesforgirls.org.



Farmington Hills resident Tamara Johnson (left) and Carol Slawsky of Birmingham participate in the High Holiday Tea at the Townsend, sponsored by Maddalena Design.



It was the second time Lisa Fawcett of Farmington Hills (left) attended the tea to benefit Alternatives for Girls and the first time for Beverly Outland of Sterling Heights. PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

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KOUDELKA-ALESTRA

Victoria Koudelka and Peter Alestra announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Ronald and Barbara Fowkes of Milford, is a 1999 graduate of Milford High School. She is em-

ployed by Hewlett Packard. Her fiancé, son of Leann and Malcolm Alestra of Redford, is a 1995 graduate of Thurston High School. He is employed by the Canton Police Department.

A June 2014 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth Township.



Victoria Koudelka and Peter Alestra

WEDDING

Schulz-Mortier

Laura Marie Schulz and Matthew Paul Mortier were married June 22, 2013, at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church in Canton. The Rev. Richard Peretto officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mary Schulz of Canton and the late Marvin Schulz. The groom is the son of Paul and Terry Mortier of Grand Blanc.

A reception at the Dearborn Inn followed the ceremony. Janet Busscher was matron of

honor and Amy Crothers was maid of honor. Mitchell Mortier and John Hicks both served as best man. Other attendants were Jill Fullerton, Alexandria Proke, Madeleine Mortier, Megan Mortier, Emily Kaspor, Alexandra Paz, Daniel Mathis, Matthew Rollins, John Blitschak, Chaz Stewart, Jeff Amadio, Jason, Joseph Paz.

The couple honeymooned in the Dominican Republic before returning to Canton, where they reside.



Laura Marie Schulz and Matthew Paul Mortier

RELIGION CALENDAR

JANUARY

BETHANY

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. Location: Leon's 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. Details: The group meets for breakfast. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit office of youth and family, providing peer support to divorced and separated persons of all Christian faiths.

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 9:11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City. Details: All you can eat, pan-cakes, sausage and beverage, \$6. Contact: 734-427-3660.

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19. Location: St. Theodore social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Details: All-you-can-eat menu includes pan-cake and french toast, scrambled eggs, sausage,

ham, juice, applesauce and coffee. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10. Contact: 734-425-4421.

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25. Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverage, Redford. Details: Performances by Ammunition Band, The Fire Within, The Savior's Army and Lost & Found; free admission, although donations are welcome.

EXERCISE CLASS

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, beginning Jan. 13. Location: St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road, Canton. Details: Six-week class includes aerobic movements, balance and strength training, high repetitions with light hand-weights, abdominal and back exercises, yoga-oriented strength and stretch work, along with cool-down. Joe Mason, certified personal fitness trainer, teaches the class, which costs \$42. A portion of the proceeds goes to the parish. Contact: 734-455-5910.

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CZAJKA, LEON J. "LEE"

Age 88, of Black Lake (Owasco), formerly of Garden City, died at home on Sunday, January 5, 2014. The son of Peter and Anna (Kondzalka) Czajka, Lee was born on February 20, 1925 in Dearborn, Michigan. He married Thelma Lawwers in Detroit on July 19, 1947. Making a career working as a glazier, Lee installed windows in many of the buildings in downtown Detroit and surrounding areas. In 1985 he retired from West Detroit Glass. Lee was an avid gardener. He loved to hunt, fish, and play Yahtzee. Win or lose, Lee was steadfast Detroit Tigers fan. It didn't matter what he was doing, if the Tigers were playing, he was watching or listening. Surviving Lee is his wife of more than 66 years, Thelma Czajka of Black Lake; daughters, Judy (Tredy) Helty of Fremont, Indiana and Carol (Howard) Whitefoot of Livonia, sons, Michael (Linda) of Bloomfield Hills, Patrick (Amy) of Alpena, Eric (Leanne), and Alan, both of Black Lake; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews. Arrangements were care of the Chagnon Funeral Home. Your condolences and memories of Lee may be shared with his family at www.chagnonfun.com.

MEHL, LOIS MARIE (NEE HISHCKE)

Age 91, January 7, 2014. Wife of the late Rev. Carl Mehl. Loving mother of the late Ted Catherine (Thomas), Mary (Bill), and Bill (Jodi) Proud grandmother of Rebecca, Jeff, Amanda, Jason, Scott, and Jackie. Great-grandmother of Christopher, Nicole, Erin, Michael, Alexander, and Samantha. Sister of Thomas and the late Murel. Private Service to be held. Offer condolences at www.harrywillfuneralhome.com

NILSON, ANNA MARIE

Age 85, January 6, 2014. Marie was the loving wife of Robert, dear mother of Christina, David, and Nancy (Richard), proud grandmother, Carmen, Kimber, Maurice, and Kristin, and great grandmother of four. Sister of James, the late Charley, and Priscilla. A long time member of Nativity United Church of Christ, Marie enjoyed singing in the choir. Visitation: Wednesday, January 8 from 6-8pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Five Mile Rd., Livonia. Funeral Service Thursday, January 9 at 12pm with visitation beginning at 10:30am at the funeral home. Further info at www.harrywillfuneralhome.com

ROSSOW, PAUL J.

Age 57, January 8, 2014. Loving son of Joan and the late Richard Rossow. Caring brother of Lawrence (Carol) and Glenn (Gina) (Michael) (Molly) and Michelle (Nephew of Mike Jackoby) and Howard (the late Dorothy). Funeral services will be held at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Rd., Livonia. Friends may visit the church beginning at 3:30pm. Visit www.harrywillfuneralhome.com Harry J Will Funeral Homes

TAGGART, JAMES H.

Age 79, January 8, 2014. Loving husband of Catherine, for 54 years. Beloved father of Ross (Cindy), Glenn, Ken (Jackie), Ron (Kathy), Denise (Tom) (Florian), and Joseph (Michelle) of Colin (Shannon), Heather, Paige, Nick, Mackenzie, Jennie, Sarah, Megan, and Jason. Dear brother of the late Thomas (Priscilla). Memorial Gathering Monday 3 p.m. until time of Memorial Service 6 p.m. at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Five Mile Rd., Livonia.

ARCHER, KENNETH JOSEPH, SR.

Long time Plymouth resident and WWII veteran, age 93, died on January 5, 2014 at his home in Maryland. "Joe" was born in 1920 to Lucinda and Robert Archer of Plymouth. He grew up on Roe Street and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1938. After graduation, he worked at the Detroit Fire Truck Company, and then at the Daisy Air Brake Company in Detroit. When World War II broke out, and with his two older brothers already in the service, Joe was anxious to do his part. He enlisted in the Coast Guard in January, 1942. He served on an icebreaker/boom tender in the Great Lakes protecting the iron ore pipeline, and later saw action in the South Pacific as a radioman, first aboard the USS Du-luth, a Coast Guard manned Ar-menia, and then on an Army supply ship, the FS182. As part of MacArthur's invasion of the Philippines, he came under attack at Hollandia Harbor and Leyte Gulf. His notable memories included serving as general MacArthur's stride past him on the pier at Leyte Gulf and having his ship hit sea bottom twice during a typhoon. One of his shipmates aboard the Du-luth was General MacArthur's aide, a writer, who wrote about their experiences in his memoir, "Son of the Morning Star." After the war, he returned to Plymouth, and in 1947 married Dorothy Smith—literally his next door neighbor. He was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel and spent summers at Burroughs Farms in Brighton. Whenever possible, Joe pursued his passions of traveling and playing golf. He moved the family to California in 1969, returned to Plymouth briefly from 1994-97, and later continued to make frequent visits home to see family and friends. Joe will be remembered as a humble man with a sharp wit and self-deprecating sense of humor. He was self-styled, fiercely patriotic, and believed in the values of frugality and hard work. In his later years, he spent his time gardening, woodworking, and hunting for bargains at yard sales. He was a lifetime member of the Plymouth YW. The last of the immediate family, he was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Lucinda Archer; his sisters Eileen (Archer) Williams and Rita (Archer) Stoltz, and brothers Ernest Archer, Loren "Bud" Archer, and James Archer. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Dorothy Archer; his four children: Ken Archer of Hagerstown, Maryland, and his three children: Ken Archer of Hagerstown, Maryland, Gary Archer of Carlsbad, California, Robert Archer of New York, NY, and five grandsons: Joseph Barrett of Fairfax, Virginia, John Barrett of Honolulu, Hawaii, a Caino Gordon-Somers-Archer, all of New York. Joe will have a military burial in Plymouth at a date to be determined. The Schrader-Howell Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

HERTER, MARCELLA

January 8, 2014. Age 90 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late William "Bill" Herter. Loving Mother of Marcella, Joseph, Gary, Patrick (Cheryl), Michael (Jackie) and Mark (Aosya) Herter, Cheryl Ferguson, Maureen (Tom) Battstone and Kathryn Stemberger. Dear sister of Lorraine (Robert) DeHoute, and George (Mary) Funk. Proud grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of 40. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial Mass to be held at a later date. Please visit www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

ARTURO L. M.D.

January 8, 2014. Age 78. Arturo was born and raised in Lodol, Lipa City, Philippines, son of Constantino and Juana Mojares. He graduated from Far Eastern University Medical School in 1962. He practiced General Surgery at Crittenton Hospital for over 30 years. Arturo loved traveling, fine dining, cooking and gardening. He built beautiful koi ponds and waterfalls at his home. He cherished spending time with his five grandchildren. Beloved husband of 47 years, Martinez-Mojares, M.D. for 47 years. Dear father of Maricel Mojares-Moore (Douglas Moore) and Arthur Mojares (Michele), and grandfather of Brandon, Mirabelle, Mia, Lily and Christian. Brother of Brimio, Armando, Nennis, Purita, Edita and Aurelia. Family will receive friends Saturday 4-8 p.m. and Sunday 8-9 p.m. with Prayer Service Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and Scripture Service Sunday at 6 p.m. at St. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2400 Crooks Rd. (Between Maple and Big Beaver), 248-362-2500. Funeral Mass Monday 11 a.m. at St. Hugo of the Hills Church, 2215 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Visitation at church begins at 10:30 a.m. Memorial tributes to donor's choice. Burial in Lipa City, Philippines. Family will receive friends Memorial at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

May you find comfort in family and friends

OLIN-FOX, DOROTHY J.

Of Ellenton, Florida passed away peacefully on October 14, 2013. The daughter of Charles and Florence Olin, she was born in Pontiac, Michigan on January 14, 1926. She and husband Tom moved to Ellenton in 1982 from Birmingham, Michigan. Dorothy was a past president of Birmingham Jr. Women's Club, a past president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and a Red Cross volunteer for 10 years at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. MI. Dorothy is survived by her daughter Barbara Fox-Fleischer of Richardson, Texas, and son Tom Jr. of Fenton, Michigan; six grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; four nieces and nephews; brothers Charles C. Olin, Jr., of Mikado, MI and Gary M. Olin of Vero Beach, FL. Memorial services will be held on January 18, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. at Grover Funeral Home, at Manston Memorial Park, 1400 36th Ave. E., Ellenton, FL. Services will be conducted by Barbara and Chuck Honold. Nancy Spangler contributions may be made to Good Shepard Rescue, c/o Gail Mitchell, 16086 Deer Park Dr., Dallas, TX 75248.

SCHMIDT, ELIZABETH L.

January 7, 2014, age 72. Beloved wife of the late Lytle J. Schmidt. Dear mother of Donna Schmidt, Paul (Carol) Schmidt and the late David Schmidt. Grandmother of Nicolas B. Schmidt and Tony Madley. Sister of Kenneth (Irene) Campbell, Lois (George) Permiano, Joann (Alex) Pavin, James (Audita) Campbell, Presley (Anne) Campbell and the late Margery Campbell. Memorial Gathering beginning at 12 noon until time of Memorial Service at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at Prairie Baptist Church, 45000 North Territorial Road, Plymouth. Contributions to the church or Hospice Home of Lenawee, 393 Wolf Creek Highway, Adrian, MI 49223 Share your memories at www.schrader-howell.com

TAYLOR, C. PAUL, D.D.S.

Passed away suddenly at his Florida home Friday, January 3, 2014 at 86 years of age. Born and raised in Detroit Michigan. Decorated graduate of Detroit Prep High School, Proud Navy Veteran of WWII, graduate of the University of Michigan. Paul practiced dentistry for many years in Birmingham, Michigan. He was involved with the Birmingham Lions Club, Oakland County Democratic and past member, Stonycroft Golf Club and Missaukee Golf Club after retirement, he spent much of his leisure months on Lake Mitchell in Cadillac, MI. He was an exceptional athlete, enjoying all sports especially tennis, golf and bowling. Paul was a great supporter of Michigan State University Spartan athletics and was so happy to see a Rose Bowl victory. He was a proud Red Cross Blood donor, often bragging about how many gallons of blood he gave. Always known for his gentle smile, easy demeanor, willingness to lend a hand to anyone in need, if you ever met him... you were lucky. Paul was survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Marge; his devoted and proud children: Fred, Steve, and his wife Pam of Columbia Sc, daughter Sandy VanDeVeld, his son-in-law, Bob VanDeVeld D.D.S., Dr. M.L. daughter Paula Taylor, and his granddaughters, Stephanie Carroll (Mike), Kate Orday (Dunny), Brad Debraug (Adriana), Julie Laubert (Olaya), Tracy Dehning (Maddie), Jamie Dolley (Dan) and Kristen VanDyke (Greg). Dear Grandfather of Ella and Ben Carroll, Noah and Molly Orday, and the late Adella, Wannie, Mary and Owen Debraug, and Holly Laubert, Owen Taylor Spangler. Memorial Service Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. at Birmingham Uniting Church, 18651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes can be made to the Union Spangler Memorial Fund, dedicated to community service at Birmingham Unitarian Church or MI WWII Legacy Memorial. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

A loving tribute

May you find peace in this time of sorrow.

SPANGLER, ELSON B.

Age 89, December 30, 2013 of Bloomfield Hills. Beloved husband of Helen (nee: Pecha) for 64 years. Loving father of Craig Spangler, D.D.S. (Terisa Honold), Nancy Spangler Messana, M.D. (Joe Messana, M.D.), and Susan Spangler Jusseub. Eq. Bill Jusseub, Esq. Dear grandfather of Karen, Katie, Liu, John, Michael, Ordway, and Douglas. Loving Nieces Doree and Mary Jo Dulis. Son of the late Edgar and Orpha Spangler. Memorial Service Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. at Birmingham Uniting Church, 18651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes can be made to the Union Spangler Memorial Fund, dedicated to community service at Birmingham Unitarian Church or MI WWII Legacy Memorial. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

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Nation's spending on biomedical research on a decline

The United States is spending less—and Japan and China are spending more—on biomedical research and development, according to an analysis by medical researchers and economists that recently appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The United States has long been a world leader in driving research and development in the biomedical science. It's important to maintain that leadership role because biomedical research has a number of long term downstream economic benefits, especially around job creation," said study author Dr. Reshma Jagsi, M.D., and associate professor of radiation oncology at the University of Michigan Health System.

Biomedical research and development spending in the United States dropped from \$131 billion to \$119 billion, when adjusted for inflation, from 2007-12, while Japan increased spending by \$9 billion and China increased by \$6.4 billion.

Despite reductions in funding from the National Institutes of Health, researchers discovered that the United States' decline was driven almost entirely by reduced investment from industry, not the public sector. This includes support for clinical trials testing potential new therapies.

Jagsi suggested that it may be less expensive to conduct research in Asia. Labor costs less, government may be offering subsidies and the research infrastructure is not as bureaucratic as it is in the United States.



Jagsi

"We were surprised the impact of industry funding was that dramatic, but it's key to note that government funding is equally important to maintain or grow. Research funded through the National Institutes of Health helps scientists understand how diseases work — this will happen slower as NIH funding continues to be cut," says study author Justin Chakma, a venture capital investor with Thomas, Mc Nerney & Partners in La Jolla, Calif.

Historically, about half of drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had some federal government funding during the development.

The authors noted the critical need for increased NIH funding coupled with incentives to industry for investing in biomedical research and development.

UPCOMING

BABY CARE BASICS

Learn about bathing, feeding, developmental stages, immunization schedule, identifying illnesses, choosing a pediatrician, medications, child care options, choosing a baby sitter, safety-proofing your home, and much more, in a three-hour baby care class. 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$35. Call 248-888-2500 to register or visit botsford.org.

BLOOD DRIVE

8 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Jan. 16, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road in Farmington Hills. Giving blood takes approximately one hour. To make an appointment, call 248-473-1800 or register online at www.redcrossblood.org. Enter the sponsor code costick-center and follow the instructions to set up an appointment time.

CELIAC SUPPORT

Steven Fisher, a clinical psychologist, will present "This is harder than I thought — coping with the psychological aspects of eliminating gluten," at the next meeting of Tri County Celiac Support Group. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. Jan. 23, at First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington; tccsg.net

COOKING PROGRAMS

Botsford Hospital and Busch's Fresh Foods Market present these programs:

► Breaking Down Breakfast Workshop, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at Busch's, 33300 W. 14 Mile, West Bloomfield. A Botsford Hospital dietician will talk about making healthful food choices in this interactive session. Cost is \$5. Tickets are available from the Busch's guest services counter or by phoning 248-539-4581.

► Learn how to make healthful, slow-cooked steaks, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, at Busch's, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Chef Rebecca Wauldron will lead the class, offering recipes, samples, cooking tips, and nutritional advice. Cost is \$10. Tickets are available from the Busch's guest services counter or by phoning 734-779-6100.

DRUG SERIES

Dawn Farms-sponsored programs at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti:

- "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," a free, ongoing, two-part workshop series, is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 and 11. The first part will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

substance abuse problems; the second explains what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified.

► Tana Brida, Ph.D., will talk about "Trauma and Chemical Use and Addiction," 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18. She'll explain the impact trauma has on the brain, on coping and subsequent substance use, and how to aid individuals struggling with trauma and addiction.

► Mary Jo Despres, M.A., will provide an overview of the national and local efforts to build recovery support programs on college campuses.

Call 734-485-8725, or email info@damv-farm.com.

FITNESS CLASSES

Farmington Hills Special Services Department offers a variety of exercise classes, including a boot camp, Zumba, 2-Box Core, and cardio boxing, beginning Jan. 13. Register in person, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Or register online at fhsreg.fhgov.com. Contact Fitness Motivators at 248-987-6930 or go to www.fitnessmotivators.com.

HEARING LOSS SUPPORT

Learn about hearing aids at the next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. The meeting also will include an open forum on dealing with the problems associated with hearing loss. Questions? Call Tony at 734-664-3297 or email to atone@comcast.net

ONGOING

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 11-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. To join or for more information, visit www.ymca-detroit.org.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-455-1100 or visit www.stmary-mercy.org.

BLOOD PRESSURE

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (\$5), and lipid panel (\$10) testing, 10 a.m. to noon

the first Tuesday of each month in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, at Wayne Road in Westland; 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City; and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

CHOIR THERAPY

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.therapychoirs.org for additional information.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 15500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

► St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care will be provided. Call Corinne McLutti at 734-895-1426. For more information, authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.

CPR CLASSES

Classes range from basic CPR for people who want to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carl's Drive, Commerce. First aid classes are also available. Classes are offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvt.org/hvt/calendar or call 248-937-3314.

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The excitement and hope of the New Year is often focused around physical health. People make resolutions to cut out junk food, eat more fruits and vegetables, and become more physically active in their everyday lives. While these are all very important to your physical health, what about your mental health?

Join expert psychologist Dr. Phil O'Dwyer, Clinical Director of Garden City Hospital's Center for Counseling, as he offers tips on how to focus on changing the inner you in 2014. Dr. O'Dwyer will discuss the importance of mental health on your well-being, how to improve your approach to life, and why it is important to welcome 2014 with a positive attitude.

This FREE event includes Q&A lecture, lunch, giveaways, and raffle prizes.

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11 ways to help your job search...

By Susan Ricker
CareerBuilder writer

You may not think you have enough time to make progress in your job search. But if you've got five minutes, you can move your search forward with any of these 11 actions:

1. Replace the objective statement

"Replace the objective statement at the top of your résumé with a branded headline that conveys your value to the reader, i.e., "Registered nurse committed to providing safe, effective patient care," says Laurie Berenson, certified master résumé writer and founder of Sterling Career Concepts LLC.

2. Connect with your network

"Connect with one person from your network with whom you haven't spoken in at least one month," Berenson advises. "Pick up the phone, too -- don't rely on emailing."

3. Update social profiles

"Update your LinkedIn profile content for two reasons: First, to keep it current, but also so the activity puts your name in front of every one of your contacts as a network update on their home page," Berenson says.

4. Conduct research

"A lack of basic understanding of the agency's mission and/or philosophy shows a lack of preparation and interest," says Natasha R.W. Eldridge, founding partner and director of human resources for Eldridge Overton Educational Programs.

5. Make your voicemails more professional

"Remove ringtones and silly voicemail recordings from voicemail," Eldridge says. "I am not going to leave a professional message on the voicemail of an applicant that has music blasting as a ringtone. It shows me that job searching is not a priority."

6. Prepare for the interview

"Preparation is everything," says Bruce A. Hurwitz, president and CEO of Hurwitz Strategic Staffing Ltd. "Make up a list of the questions you do not want to be asked; then answer them in the company of a friend. Tell the friend you want honest feedback to make certain that you are giving confident, credible and professional-sounding answers. Once you are comfortable with the difficult questions... you will be more than prepared for the 'easy' questions."

7. Join industry associations

"Contact and join a local professional association," says Raina Kropp, HR talent partner at Vistage International. "Sometimes you can get student or in-transition discounts. Don't be afraid to ask. These are the people you want to network with since they could be your future manager or colleague."

8. Clean up your resume

"Remove irrelevant experience from your résumé," says Katie Nickrass, senior managing director of the recruitment firm Execu-Search. "While the summer after college that you spent scooping ice cream may have been the best [time] of your life, it doesn't really apply to a career in finance. Pick and choose your relevant experience, and tailor it to the job you're applying for."

9. Get your references ready

"Prepare your list of references before the interview," Nickrass says. "Once you have confirmed your two to three references, create a simple reference that lists all the relevant information the employer would need to know about them; name, title, contact info, etc. Bring this document with you to all your interviews, so this way, if the hiring manager asks you for your references, you'll be prepared and look organized."

10. Stay organized

"Create a master list for all the jobs you apply for. The key to a successful job search is organization," Nickrass says. "To do this, create an Excel spreadsheet that contains a row for each job you apply for, and include these columns: the date you applied;

the company; the contact; the position for which you applied; how you applied; if, when and with whom you interviewed; when you should next follow up or what your next steps are; and the current status of the application. Creating this document should only take a few minutes, and updating it as you proactively apply for jobs should only take a few seconds."

11. Proofread your materials

"Read your LinkedIn profile, résumé and other job-search materials backward," says Karen Southall Watts, business consultant, coach and speaker. "That's right -- read from the last sentence to the first sentence. This editing technique forces you to examine each sentence separately and keeps you from skipping over mistakes because you know what you meant to say next. By reading your materials backward, you can avoid those common typos and errors that plague all of us when our brains go faster than our typing skills."

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



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