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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 • hometownlife.com



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Teen club shuttered after shooting

By **Darrell Clem**
Staff Writer

A Canton teen club shut down Tuesday as its operator, facing a flurry of misdemeanor charges and civil infractions, cooperates with police after a 16-year-old boy was shot early Sunday during a dispute between two groups of young males.

After Dark Teen Club founder Freddy Hussein, during a telephone interview Tuesday night, issued an apology.

"I never thought it would lead to all this," he said. "I had good intentions for the commu-

nity. I am really sorry that it turned out this way. I am sorry that I put the township, the police department, my community and myself through all this. I live and work in Canton. I love the community."

Hussein said he agreed to shut down the club after he spoke with police. He said his initial intention was to open a place for private teen parties. He said the business evolved after patrons started calling it a club.

'Cooperating'

"I am cooperating with the township and the police and

everybody else," Hussein said.

As police released a surveillance video showing a crowd outside the After Dark Teen Club, local officials said the business has operated illegally since it opened in October because a license was never sought for a nightclub, but rather for a banquet hall.

"They came in and misrepresented what they were going to be about," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Tuesday night during a Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting.



Signs taped to the wall outside the After Dark Teen Club in Canton go over most of the rules.

See **SHOOTING**, Page A2

ON A MISSION

Couple plans trip to Africa to help children affected by AIDS

By **Darrell Clem**
Staff Writer

Bridge and Hilary Riddell will travel more than 8,700 miles to South Africa this spring to work for an orphanage and help children affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Royal Oak residents with strong family ties to Canton, Livonia and Temperance, they have committed two years of their lives to Lily of the Valley, home to 120 children cared for by faith-based workers.

"We have this passion to help people from other cultures different from our own," Hilary said.

Bridge, 27, grew up in Canton and graduated from Plymouth Christian Academy. The spirit of giving back runs deep in his family. His grandfather, Bill Heaton, has long been active in the Livonia Goodfellow, serving as its president.

Hilary, 25, attended Bedford High School in Temperance before she and Bridge

met at Spring Arbor University, where they fell in love and developed a passion for social justice. They married in 2010 and sought a way to serve God.

"After we got married, we felt called to do something overseas," Bridge said.

They found SIM, a 120-year-old faith-based organization that began as the Sudan Interior Mission and evolved worldwide to encompass 1,600 missionaries in 60 countries. SIM accepted the Riddells and helped them with logistics and other details of their journey.

The Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville, had to raise \$25,000 in one-time costs for their two-year mission, but they're still about \$800 a month short on monthly expenses they face at Lily of the Valley, a village in Mophela, 45 miles inland from Durban.

To learn how to help, go to www.bridgeandhilary.com.

The Riddells could have chosen to use their education



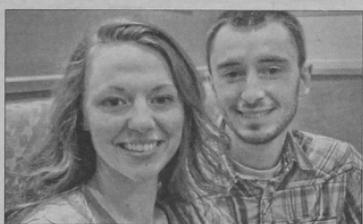
Hilary and Bridge Riddell talk about their plans. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

to simply better themselves.

Yet Bridge, with a degree in art and graphic design, is leaving his job as a digital designer for an advertising agency, while Hilary, who earned her degree in visual communication, is quitting as manager of a cupcake business.

Hilary's sister, Emily Smith of Orlando, Fla., said she is impressed that Hilary and Bridge are using their education and talents to help children who need care.

"To me, it's a very selfless



Hilary and Bridge Riddell are headed to South Africa to help children affected by HIV/AIDS.

See **MISSION**, Page A2

Parents complain about school snow-day choices

By **Brad Kadrich**
Staff Writer

While Mother Nature has repeatedly dumped snow storms and frigid temperatures on the area, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators have been enduring a winter storm of their own.

With near-daily decisions needing to be made about whether to close schools — either because a foot of snow fell or temperatures (and wind chills) were



Thousands of students pass between the three schools at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Parents say the pathways are too often left snow-covered and slippery, as they were when this photo was taken last week.

See **PARENTS**, Page A2

Lilley OK'd for upgrades in Plymouth, Canton

By **Matt Jachman**
Staff Writer

Stretches of Lilley Road in Canton Township and the city of Plymouth, long toward the top of the repair list in each community, will be getting upgrades next year or the year after.

Wayne County officials made the announcement Monday of the more than \$2.3 million project, saying the county will be able to leverage federal road funding. In Plymouth, Lilley between Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail, about seven-tenths of a mile, will be getting the upgrades, while in Canton the project will focus on the stretch from Warren to Joy,

about a mile. "That's great news," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said, adding that the city is already working with the county to coordinate underground utility work — water and sewer line improvements — along that stretch.

"Good to see they're going to put some money toward getting it in better condition," Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said. The stretch of road is filled with cracks and potholes, he said.

Sincock said city officials have been seeking improvements to Lilley for years and that Shannon Price, who represents the city on the Wayne County Board of Commission-

ers, has been pushing it as well. "It's been on the list for a long time," Sincock said.

In both communities, the work will include resurfacing the roadway, improving drainage and adding modern sidewalk ramps. The project is expected to smooth the flow of traffic. The Canton stretch of the project is estimated at \$1.45 million, the Plymouth stretch at \$895,000.

A press release from the county said the work could begin during the 2015 road construction season, but is more likely to be done in 2016.

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Police investigate shooting, unrelated gun incident

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton police ticketed a 32-year-old man for negligent discharge of a firearm Sunday following allegations he accidentally fired a .40-caliber semiautomatic pistol inside a car, injuring his hand and wounding a friend's leg, a police report said.

In yet another gun incident, police reported a 14-year-old boy to Wayne County juvenile authorities after he said he accidentally fired his father's 20-gauge shotgun through a mobile home window on the night of Feb. 4, puncturing a tire on a neighbor's vehicle.

Police cited the 32-year-

old Taylor man for an incident that happened about 4 p.m. Sunday on Nectar, in The Crossings apartment complex, southeast of Joy Road and I-275.

Two men had been to a Livonia gun range and had driven to a friend's apartment in Canton when the shooting occurred, the police report said. The suspect indicated he was showing his friend how to break down a .40-caliber Smith & Wesson when the gun fired, injuring his left hand and striking his friend, a 32-year-old Garden City man, in the leg, the report said.

The bullet also pierced a pop bottle and went through the center console of a Dodge

Charger.

Canton paramedics took the men to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti for injuries police said were not life-threatening.

The other incident happened about 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, inside a mobile home in the 51000 block of Mott Road, when a 14-year-old boy initially claimed someone had shot a pet through a window, a police report said.

The teen said he, his brother and a friend were sitting inside the mobile home when the incident occurred. However, a police investigation revealed the 14-year-old boy caused the damage after he got a shot-

gun from his father's bedroom and it went off, a police report said.

As the investigation unfolded, the teen told police he had been threatened on Facebook and had gotten the shotgun for his own safety. The police report indicated he racked the weapon and accidentally fired a shot through a window, damaging a car tire outside.

The teen had put the shotgun back in its case before police arrived. Authorities indicated the boy has a hearing on the matter in Wayne County Juvenile Court.

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ish thing they're doing," she said.

In all, about 72 percent of children at Lily of the Valley are HIV-positive; others come from families affected by the immune-system disease. The youngsters range in age from infant to 19 years old.

Serving as assistant village managers, Bridget and Hilary expect their duties may include tutoring the children, making sure they take their medications, taking them to doctor visits, accompanying them on field trips and performing maintenance work around the village, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last May.

The couple has traveled abroad, both together and alone, but never have they committed two years of their lives to a mission. They're eager to take their faith to South Africa to help people who, without such efforts, might be forgotten.

"I'm excited to do this," Hilary said, exchanging a smile with Bridget.

They expect to leave as early as April, bidding farewell to their supportive families and friends. They plan to keep in touch with their loved ones and their project supporters through their website and on Facebook.

They shrugged when asked where they might plan to have children of their own. For now, they're focused on the journey ahead.

Right now, we already have 120 children to care for," Hilary said.

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Summit plays host to Camp Fair

From sports to space adventures, you'll find the best camp options available this summer for kids of all ages during Canton Leisure Services annual Camp Fair. The whole family is invited to the free event, scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 8, at the Summit on the Park in Canton.

Canton Leisure Services officials said this "historically well-attended" annual Camp Fair will provide busy parents with valuable information regarding camp availability, daily and weekly activities, cost and more. Whether parents are looking for day camps or camps with

special themes, they'll be able to talk directly with camp organizers and register their children.

Registration for most Canton Leisure Services summer camps begins at the Camp Fair and online at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 8. Some of the summer camps offered this season include Camp Canton; Leisure Services Preschool Camps (Princess Camp, Grosology Mini Camp, Kindergarten Boot Camp); Therapeutic Recreation; special-needs camps for both youth and adults; Canton Sports Center (lacrosse, baseball, volleyball, basketball and tennis); Bricks 4 Kidz; Space Adventures,



Canton Leisure Services hosts its annual camp fair Saturday, March 8.

Minecrafting Camp and Remote Control Mania; arts and crafts for preschool and youth Super Science Camp; Magic Camp; and Engineering of Pirates Camp.

There will also be face painting, a bounce house and other games and activities to keep the kids occupied. Rep-

resentatives from more than 25 different camps will be on-site to answer questions.

For more information on Canton Leisure Services annual Camp Fair, visit www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460. Summit on the Park is located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

SHOOTING

Continued from Page A1

Amid the latest developments Tuesday, police continued their search for a gunman who shot a 16-year-old Westland boy in the thigh shortly after midnight Sunday outside the nightclub. Police have said the shooting occurred in the parking lot after bouncers escorted two opposing groups

from the club.

Hussein said he has lived and worked in Canton for about 18 years. He also operates the Canton Coney Island restaurant in the same Golden Gate shopping center where the popular teen hangout was located, on Lilley south of Joy.

Multiple citations

Without mentioning Hussein by name, Canton Deputy Police Chief Debora Newsome told town-

ship officials Tuesday night the business owner has been cited for 10 ordinance violations for operating an illegal teen club. The citations carry penalties ranging from fines and probation to misdemeanor charges punishable by 90 days in jail and \$500 fines.

"He is cooperating with police," Newsome said outside the meeting room.

The violations center on issues such as not

having a license to operate a teen club and allowing underage teens to stay inside the nightclub past midnight. The club was marketed to patrons ages 13-19, but police have said they encountered some patrons 20 years old on the night of the shooting.

Canton police Sgt. Mike Kennedy has said the shooter is believed to have fled with a group in a van after firing a shot that sent the Westland teen to a hospital.

Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden said police arrived on the scene about two minutes after receiving the call. He said officers locked down the facility to protect patrons from potential harm and to seek out witnesses. He said police escorted the crowd out two at a time.

Newsome said Canton has six detectives and one detective sergeant assigned to the investigation. She said township authorities also have received help from the Western Wayne Criminal Response Team and

Michigan State Police.

'Highest priority'

"Our entire staff is fully committed to bringing the person or persons responsible for this life-threatening crime to justice, as swiftly as possible," Newsome said, saying the shooting "has been given 'the highest priority' within the Canton Police Department's staff operations division. LaJoy, meanwhile, said Canton authorities will continue to monitor the After Dark Teen Club to ensure no further improper activity occurs. He said Canton is continuing to review the situation.

"In reviewing the paperwork that was submitted by the business owner, it appears that the information submitted by him did not accurately reflect the intended use at the address," LaJoy said. "Part of the (township's) review will include an evaluation of what steps the township can take to ensure full compliance by business owners with township

ordinances."

LaJoy said an internal review already has begun to identify ways the process can be improved. He said recommended actions may be brought to the township board for approval.

The shooting happened during a club event called the Blackout Twerk Party, according to After Dark's Facebook page. According to the club's website, pat-downs and searches were routinely conducted to make sure no dangerous or illegal objects were brought into the building. Anyone who had information about the incident is asked to call the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for a tip that leads to the arrest of a suspect.

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PARENTS

Continued from Page A1

dropping below minus-20 degrees — officials are being hammered, both in court and in social media, for the choices they're making.

The crest came Friday, when the wind-chill factor was down near minus-20 degrees and administrators kept schools open anyway. When buses were late and students were left standing bus stops, social media sites like Facebook lit up.

The furor rose to a level that encouraged Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen to post the reasoning in a message on the district's website. At the time the decision had to be made, Meissen explained, the temperature (minus-17 degrees) "had not reached the minus-20 degree threshold for closure."

"The uniqueness of the campus design at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is considered with any weather-related school closure decisions," Meissen wrote. "Student safety is a top priority and the decision process involved is extensive."

While Meissen also told parents they can

"call in an excused absence ... without academic penalty," some parents still wondered why school would be held.

After all, they reasoned, minus-17 isn't a lot different than minus-20.

"My only real complaint is, if they say one minute that the students' safety is a real concern and minus-20 is too cold, then how is today's minus-20 any different?" parent Leah Kanaan said. "These inconsistencies makes me wonder what else the are inconsistent about."

Other concerns have been expressed about the conditions students must endure when passing by building to building on the three-school Plymouth-Canton Educational Park campus. Parents are concerned that the pathways between the buildings are often snow-covered and hazardous and that such conditions should be taken into consideration when decisions are made about school closings.

Parent Debbie Piotrowski has a son at a student at The Park the last six years. She said her children have told her the paths are generally snow-covered, but when she calls district officials, she's told paths "are cleared and salted

to satisfaction."

"(The district says) my kids must be encouraging," Piotrowski said. "I think the administration on down to the custodians who are supposed to be clearing the paths should try walking from building to building in the same conditions (temps, carrying backpacks, thousands of others) the kids do in the allotted time."

Meissen said the uniqueness of the campus design is a factor in the decision whether to close school. His message urged parents to make sure their students are prepared for the winter conditions.

"It is recognized that students need to walk between classes and are exposed to the winter elements," he wrote.

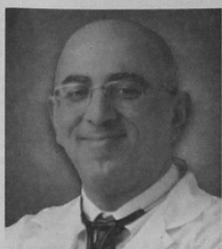
"Based on wind-chill guidelines, exposure over 30 minutes creates health risks and we use this as a gauge for health and safety decisions about our students. We ask that parents continue to encourage their children to take appropriate actions to prepare and dress appropriately for the resiliency required during this stretch of winter weather."

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Olympic viewing

Date/Time: Sunday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton
Details: The Arctic Edge is hosting a viewing party for figure skating fans who want to watch Olympic skaters who train locally compete in the Sochi Games. Three pairs who train at Arctic Edge—Alex and Maia Shibutani, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir and Charlie White and Meryl Davis—are in the 2014 Olympics. The concession stand will be open.
Contact: For more information, call Arctic Edge at 734-487-7777.

Brisco fundraisers

Dates/Times/Locations: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5-8 p.m. at Pot Belly, 25579 Plymouth Road, Livonia; Friday, March 7, 4-8 p.m., Jungle Java, 6481 Canton Center, Canton
Details: American Cancer Society's Relay for Life team Brisco Family Ties holds a pair of fundraisers. Pot Belly will donate 25 percent of all sales to the team; Jungle Java is donating 50 percent of all paid admissions. Participants should mention they're there for the fundraisers.

Night for the Museum

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m.
Location: Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial, Plymouth
Details: This is the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual auction fundraiser. Merchants in Plymouth and surrounding areas have stepped up and donated numerous items for the live auction and raffle. In addition, diners will be entertained with a performance by 12-year-old Makenzie Hyder as well as the Plymouth Fire and Drum Corps.



Cub Scout Pack 743 held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Saturday. Four of the Scouts earned the highest award in Cub Scouting. The entire Webelos II Den—Daniel Paczewitz (from left), Lucas Barretta, Logan Stombaugh and Dimitri Mill—received the Arrow of Light Award. In addition, Dimitri, Daniel and Logan received the Superachiever Award for completing all 20 badges available to the Webelos. Lucas, Dimitri and Daniel participated in a Crossover Ceremony to join Boy Scout Troop 1104. Pack 743 has been chartered to Allen Elementary School in Plymouth for more than 60 years.

The ticket price of \$75 per person includes appetizers, a plated gourmet dinner and dessert, a cash bar will also be available. Tickets can be purchased at the museum during open hours or online at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/A-Night-FOR-the-Museum_ET118.html. Tickets should be purchased by Feb. 7. **Contact:** 734-455-8940.

Winter workshop

Date/Time: Monday, Feb. 17, 7-8:45 p.m.
Location: Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support sponsors an eight-week workshop for people who are grieving after the death of a loved one. The workshops are

offered at no cost to participants and will be presented by New Hope executive director Karen Laing and New Hope's Speaker Team. Each session will begin with an informational presentation about one aspect of grief, followed by small group participation guided by trained facilitators.

Contact: To register for a workshop, call New Hope at 248-348-0115.

Seeger tribute

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 15, 6:15 p.m.
Location: The Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: BaseLine Folk Society presents a "Tribute to Pete Seeger" and a total open mic venue. Open mic performers can sign up 6:15-6:45 p.m. the third

Saturday of each month through the month of May. There will be no featured guests this month, but a tribute to Pete Seeger, Host Darwin Mammassian, songwriter, performer and recording artist, will introduce all the open-mic acts with each performer doing two songs. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Contact: Email BaseLine president Scott Ludwig at BFSPresident@aol.com

Hospice presentation

Date/Time: Friday, Feb. 21, 10-11 a.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 2235 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging will host Arbor Hospice with the presentation topic "Five Wishes Ad-

vanice Directives: Making Your Wishes Known." The presentation will cover the importance of completing an advance directive document to make your medical, personal, emotional and spiritual wishes known.
Contact: For more information or to RSVP, contact Bobbie Pummil at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

Jazz @ the Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7:10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz @ the Elks happens on the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Featured will be Cliff Moner Trio with vocalist Stephanie Moner, Moner on keyboards, Jeff Pedraz on bass and Scott Kretzer on drums.
Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com or visit www.plymouthelks1780.com.

Youth spelling bee

Date/Time: Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford, Canton
Details: The Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council hosts a Youth Spelling Bee featuring local fourth- and fifth-grade students. The Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council is a local, non-profit organization that provides free tutoring to adults with literacy skills below a ninth-grade level. Proceeds from this spelling bee will benefit the group's adult literacy programs. Students interested in participating in the bee must register online <http://www.plymouthcantonliteracy.org/get-involved/fundraising>. Participation is limited to the first 15 students to register.

Contact: Questions may be directed to amy@plymouthcantonliteracy.org.

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations: Monday, Feb. 17, 1:45-4:45 p.m., Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Pkwy., Feb. 23, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church, Plymouth
 Monday, Feb. 24, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth
Details: The American Red Cross sponsors blood drives at the above locations. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.
Contact: Call Diane Risko at 313-549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

Baby shower

Date/Time: Through the month of March
Location: Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth
Details: Plymouth Community United Way is planning a baby shower and everyone is invited. Individuals as well as companies, service clubs, and churches can join in the fun by donating new bottles, formula, bibs, cloth sheets, blankets (handmade accepted), diapers, baby clothes up to size 3T, convertible car seats, cribs, strollers, and monitors. The items will be distributed to low-income mothers in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County. PCUW is offering a range of ways to participate from dropping off items at the office to holding a special event like a baby shower. Donations can be brought to Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170.
Contact: Randi Williams at 734-453-6879, ext. 7, or randi.williams@pcuw.org

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Phone scam

A 45-year-old Canton woman notified police after she received an estimated 20 phone calls from a caller claiming she owed \$10,000 in back taxes, a police report said.
 The woman said the caller claimed to be from the Federal Tax Bureau when he called around 11 a.m. Friday, the report said. The caller confirmed the woman's address and then asked for her Social Security number and date of birth.

The woman told the caller she was current with her taxes and hung up. She told police he called back 20 times before she reported him as harassing her.

Police dialed the caller's number and was told that the man was in a meeting and couldn't talk. He then hung up the phone.

Lying to cops

Canton police arrested a 22-year-old Detroit man for providing false

information to authorities and driving with a suspended driver's license after an officer noticed a car with a defective license plate at Joy and Walton, east of I-75, a police report said.

The incident happened about 11 p.m. Monday. The driver told police he had stopped his car to wait for a friend who was dropping off a cellphone. The friend then walked up to the scene with the phone, the report said.

Police learned the 22-year-old suspect had given a wrong name and that he had several warrants for his arrest out of Detroit for traffic offenses. Police also learned his license was suspended.

Missing purse

A woman notified police to report her purse came up missing while she was shopping at the Marshall's store on Ford east of Livonia.

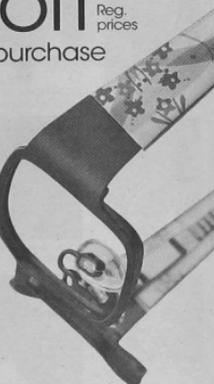
The woman said she was shopping at the store between 1:40 p.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 5 when she noticed her purse was no longer in the bottom of a children's stroller she was pushing.

The woman told police the purse could have fallen out. She said she noticed it was missing when she got to the cash register.

—By Darrell Clem

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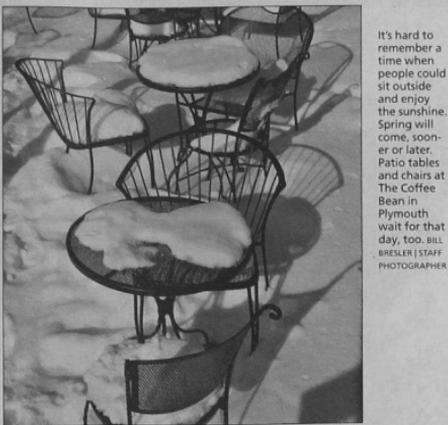
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Just a reminder



It's hard to remember a time when people could sit outside and enjoy the sunshine. Spring will come, sooner or later. Patio tables and chairs at The Coffee Bean in Plymouth wait for that day, too. **BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Celebrate Oscar™, enter for a chance to win

The *Observer & Ec-centric* Media, in cooperation with Emagine Theatres, is offering movie buffs three ways to celebrate and win in our Academy Awards™/Oscar™ Contest.

» **Grand prizes:** Correctly identify the top seven Oscar™ categories and you could win a 12-month pass for two to Emagine Theatres, a \$1,000-plus value. Second-place winner will receive four movie passes. Deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

» **Double play:** Enter by Feb. 14 and select "Double Play" and you will be entered for a chance to win a pass for two to a special showing of the 2013 Best Picture-nominated films at Emagine Novi. First winner will be selected no later than Feb. 14 to see movies playing Feb. 14-20: *American Hustle, Gravity, Captain Phillips, Dallas Buyers Club* and *Her*. The second winner will be selected by Feb. 19 for movies playing Feb. 21-27 (*Wolf of Wall Street, Nebraska, 12 Years a Slave* and *Philomena*).

» **Triple play:** Enter by Feb. 26 and select "Triple Play" and you will be entered for a chance to win an Acad-

emy Awards™ Viewing and Dinner for up to four people at Star Lanes Restaurant and Sport Bar at Emagine Royal Oak. Watch the Academy Awards™ show while you dine. Prize includes a light supper, champagne toast and dessert.

Go to hometownlife.com and select the Oscar™ Contest icon located in the DONT MISS section of the website or go to fb.com/oehtown and click the Oscar™ Contest icon.

The seven contest categories are:

» **Best Picture:** *American Hustle, Nebraska, Captain Jack, Philomena, Dallas Buyers Club, 12 Years a Slave, Gravity and The Wolf of Wall Street.*

» **Best Actor In a Leading Role:** Christian Bale in *American Hustle*, Chiwetel Ejiofor in *12 Years a Slave*, Bruce Dern in *Nebraska*, Matthew McConaughey in *Dallas Buyers Club* and Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Wolf of Wall Street.*

» **Best Actress In a Leading Role:** Amy Adams in *American Hustle*, Judi Dench in *Philomena*, Cate Blanchett in *Blue Jasmine*, Meryl Streep in *August: Osage County* and Sandra Bullock in *Gravity.*

» **Best Actor In a Supporting Role:** Barkhad Abdi in *Captain Phillips*, Jonah Hill in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, Bradley Cooper in *American Hustle*, Jared Leto in *Dallas Buyers Club* and Michael Fassbender in *12 Years a Slave.*

» **Best Actress In a Supporting Role:** Sally Hawkins in *Blue Jasmine*, Julia Roberts in *August: Osage County*, Jennifer Lawrence in *American Hustle*, Lupita Nyong'o in *12 Years a Slave* and June Squibb in *Nebraska.*

» **Best Animated Feature Film:** *The Croods, Frozen, Despicable Me 2, The Wind Rises* and *Ernest & Celestine.*

» **Best Director:** David O. Russell for *American Hustle*, Alfonso Cuarón for *Gravity*, Alexander Payne for *Nebraska*, Steve McQueen for *12 Years a Slave* and Martin Scorsese for *The Wolf of Wall Street.*

» **First tiebreaker category is for Best Documentary Feature:** *The Act of Killing, Cutie and the Boxer, Dirty Wars, The Square and 20 Feet from Stardom.*

» **Second tiebreaker category is for Best Original Score:** *The Book Thief, Gravity, Her, Philomena and Saving Mr. Banks.*

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Don't miss deductions on tax return

Now that the Super Bowl is behind us and spring is nowhere in sight, many people have started to gather tax information to prepare returns.

While there is little taxpayers can do to affect a 2013 return, there are some deductions that may be helpful.

It is not too late to contribute to a tax-deductible Roth IRA. You have until April 15 to make an IRA contribution for 2013. If you're not eligible to contribute to a traditional IRA, you potentially can deduct the contribution off your 2013 return. Even if you're not eligible to make a tax-deductible IRA contribution, you may be eligible to make a Roth IRA contribution.

Remember, Roth IRAs grow tax-free, not tax-deferred. At the same time, they are not subject to minimum required distributions. Few deductions that tend to be forgotten include charitable contributions, job hunting

expenses and refinancing costs.

Most of us know that if we write a check to a charity, we can deduct it. However, people sometimes forget they can deduct out-of-pocket costs incurred in order to support a charity.

For example, you drove your automobile for something like a Meals on Wheels program. You are entitled to deduct the mileage. Typically, you can deduct 14 cents a mile.

Basically, whatever out-of-pocket cost you incur while doing work for a charity is tax-deductible.

In this tough economic climate, many people have incurred expenses in their search for a job. If you itemize deductions, you can deduct job hunting costs as a miscellaneous deduction. These expenses can include such things as transportation costs, room and board if your search is out of town, employment agent fees, the cost to mail and print resumes and even cab fare.

The bottom line — job hunting expenses even if you do not get the job are deductible. The one caveat is that these expenses are not deduct-

ible if you're looking for your first job.

Another deduction that many people miss is the points paid to refinance a mortgage. You cannot deduct all points in one year, however, you can pro-rate them over a course of a mortgage.

For example, if you paid \$4,000 in points to refinance a mortgage last year and it was a 15-year mortgage, you could deduct one-15th of that every year on your tax return.

In addition, if you've refinanced a mortgage, which means you paid off the previous mortgage, if you were deducting that mortgage, you can accelerate all the yet non-deducted points and deduct those.

When it comes to tax returns, every dollar saved works better in your pocket. Take time in doing your tax return and spend a few minutes to refresh yourself on tax laws. You may be surprised how many deductions or opportunities you're missing.

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

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A group of daughters leave the dads behind for a spin around the floor. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAKING MEMORIES



Eric Bacyinski and his daughter Brooke tearing up the dance floor.

Dads, daughters hit the dance floor

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Eric Bacyinski figures his Daddy/Daughter Dance days are numbered as his daughter, Brooke, approaches her ten years.

That's why Bacyinski was particularly happy to be at Friday's Butterfly Ball at the Summit on the Park in Canton. It was the pair's eighth straight year attending the annual Daddy/Daughter Dance and it was, as always, great fun.

"We had a wonderful time," Bacyinski said. "I think our Daddy/Daughter dancing days are numbered as she's getting older, but we've made some memories that will last a lifetime. It's a special evening when I get to take out my daughter and treat her like the princess she is."

The Bacyinskis were among more than 900 fathers and daughters — a record, according to Canton Leisure Services officials — who donned their fancy duds and took advantage of three opportunities over the weekend. The events featured dancing and refreshments, each daughter got a special "Butterfly" souvenir and the dance was capped off, as always, by a dazzling balloon drop.

Canton Leisure Services recreation specialist Jennifer Provenzano called the event a "huge success."

"It's a great chance for fathers and daughters to dress up and enjoy some time together," Provenzano said. "This is one of our favorite events. Everyone had a great time. There were so many smiling faces."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



Mike Chizuk and Amanda Chizuk demonstrate how to "Walk Like An Egyptian" at the Butterfly Ball.



Chris Watton holds daughter Autumn close for a dance.



A conga line snakes through the crowd of dancers.

New service provides security, convenience

By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

Chuck Dierkes sleeps a bit more soundly nowadays. He attributes that to the new security system he had installed at his Milford home.

"I was more comfortable sleeping at night knowing we have something to wake us up," he said.



Chuck Dierkes of Milford said AT&T's Digital Life helps him sleep better at night. HAL GOULD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bahora, area regional sales manager.

Different options

The Dierkeses' setup includes most of the options available through AT&T Digital Life, including home security, an automatic exterior door lock, automatic garage door opener, video cameras and light and temperature controls. All can be accessed on a mobile device or computer.

Other automated tasks can include everything from window blinds to water main shutoff to a fresh brew in the morning.

"My personal favorite thing is the personal coffee maker," Bahora said. "It's set to start at one time every day before work and later on

the weekend."

Bahora said the new service is like "a remote control to your life. It's like the Jetsons-type stuff."

The security system has been the most popular since introducing the program, said Chris Dierkes, an AT&T store manager in Farmington Hills and son of the Milford couple.

"Most people who come in to the store are curious about the program after seeing the commercial," he said. The security system itself is the most popular option, along with the video cameras. Everything available in the service, he added, can be ordered separately, so customers only pay for what they want.

Lighting and appliance controls are hard-wired into the electrical system and installation typically takes about a half of a day.

AT&T is offering a special promotion through the end of February, waiving the equipment and installation fees, which can cost as much as \$750 depending on the plan, Bahora said. Monthly costs start at \$29. Visit an AT&T store or att.com/digitallife for more information. Property owners need not be AT&T customers to order Digital Life.



The Wayne County Department of Public Health Department, 33030 Van Born, Wayne, participated in the annual American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day for Women.

Wayne County employees wear red for women's heart health

The Wayne County Health and Human Services Department participated Friday, Feb. 7, in the annual American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day for Women. February is American Heart Month.

Employees participated in heart health trivia to win prizes and shared healthy refreshments and recipes. They proudly wore red attire and accessories to raise awareness concerning heart disease and support the American Heart Association in its ongoing mission.

For 10 years, women have been fighting heart disease as part of the Go Red for Women movement. Heart disease remains the No. 1 killer of women — and men — responsible for one out of four U.S. deaths annually.

To date, more than 627,000 women's lives have been saved, but the fight is far from over. Individuals need information, education and care, in order to treat, prevent and help put an end to heart disease.

Wayne County has

been observing National Go Red Day to take a stand against heart disease for nearly a decade.

Residents can get information about how to stay "heart healthy" by calling the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services at 313-224-0810 or by contacting the American Heart Association.

You can also learn more about heart health and local "Go Red" events by visiting <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HeartMonth/> and heart.org/semi.

First Step joins in One Billion Rising for Justice

On Friday, Feb. 14, First Step will join with activists around the world for One Billion Rising for Justice.

The campaign will build upon the energy and momentum of Feb. 14, 2013, when 1 billion activists in 207 countries and territories came together to rise, strike and dance in the biggest mass action in human history — all designed to end violence against women and girls.

The campaign is recognition that people cannot end violence against women without looking at the intersection of poverty, racism, war, the plunder of the environment, capitalism, imperialism and patriarchy. Impunity lives at the heart of these interlocking forces.

First Step is hosting an event featuring dancing, speaking out and celebrating the strength of survivors from noon

to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 14 at the First Step Karen Wilson Smithbauer Center at 4400 S. Venoy in Wayne. Activities will include inspirational readings, art, dancing and pledges for actions that participants can all take to end violence against women and girls.

Health coach and former Radio City Rockette Jennifer Flandt will teach the choreography and lead participants in the inspiring dance "Break the Chain." Light refreshments will follow.

Sign up for the event by contacting thizzo@firststep-mi.org or call 734-656-0730 for more information.

This event is part of a tri-county effort with partner organizations from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, including Alternatives for Girls (Wayne County), Turning Point (Macomb County) and Haven (Oakland County). In addition to raising

awareness about this important issue, the partner groups also want to demonstrate to survivors that there are many organizations in the Detroit tri-county area that will support them and help them access the resources they need.

First Step is a non-profit organization in Wayne County whose mission is to eliminate domestic and sexual violence and provide comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by these crimes. First Step provides free services for survivors, including

temporary emergency housing, counseling, advocacy, 24-hour helpline support, transportation, transitional supportive housing, legal information children's services and prevention education.

First Step's vision is for Peaceful Families and Safe Communities. More information about First Step can be found at www.firststep-mi.org.

To learn more about One Billion Rising for Justice First Step, call 734-656-0730 or email info@firststep-mi.org.

WHY BE CATHOLIC?

The popular series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 5th season with an exciting roster of new speakers, sure to intrigue and inspire your own faith, regardless of denomination.

Monday, February 17th at 7 PM



Steven Piskowski

Steven Piskowski, co-founder of Army of Apostles and coordinator of the 1st Annual Midwest Apologetics Conference, shares his unique journey from "cradle Catholic" to Evangelical Protestant and anti-Catholic to devout and grateful revert

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will explain annulments, convalidation and other Catholic teachings on sacramental marriage.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Local market 'passionate' about food

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the products and services you offer.

Holiday Market: We are a full-service grocery market featuring the finest full-service deli, meat, seafood, artisan cheeses, artisan bread baked daily in our wood-burning oven, scratch bakery, smokehouse and full grocery aisles. We have an exceptional beer, wine and spirits department. We focus on quality and world class service.

Observer: How did you decide to open your business?

Holiday Market: We are passionate about food, service, quality and bringing it to the public.

Observer: Why choose Canton for your business?

Holiday Market: Great community, multi-cultural. We felt Canton could support an upscale market.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Holiday Market: Everything. We focus on quality, service and breaking all the rules.

Observer: How has your business changed since it opened?

DETAILS

Business name and address: Holiday Market, 520 S. Lilley, Canton

Your name: John and Lisa Pardington, owners

Hometown: Canton

Business opened: October 1998

Number of employees: 150-plus

Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday

Business specialty: Full-service grocery store, bringing shoppers the best quality foods, wine and spirits from around the world.

Business phone: 734-844-2200

Website: www.holidaymarkets.com

Holiday Market: Our store has changed dramatically over 15 years. We started with a concept and it has evolved to what it is today. We will continue to evolve and change with food trends.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit to share?

Holiday Market: We have enjoyed all our customers over the past 15 years and the stories they share about themselves and their families.



Owners John and Lisa Pardington opened Holiday Market in Canton in 1998.

We are one big family.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Holiday Market: We are a stable business. We believe people are committed to high-quality

food and service.

Observer: Do you have any advice for other small-business owners?

Holiday Market: Work hard, stay passionate, keep studying and learn-

ing about foods, live in the community where you want people to support you.

Observer: What does the future hold for your business?

Holiday Market: Our

vision is to grow, continue to improve our customer service, our food products and our relationship to our community where we live, work and play.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Business development

The Institute of Business Development "The Art of Giving Great Customer Service" seminar is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, at the VistaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

The seminar will allow officials from

Zingerman's to discuss their approach to great customer service, which has been applied successfully in a wide variety of businesses, including retailers, banks, health care providers, manufacturers, schools and libraries.

Regular registration is \$157; non-Canton Chamber of Commerce members pay \$197. The

seminar takes place in Room W201B. The VistaTech Center is located at 18600 Haggerty in Livonia.

For more information, call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at 734-453-4040.

State of the Schools

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Can-

ton Chamber of Commerce partner with officials of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to host the State of the Schools luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Plymouth High School.

Cost is \$15, with all proceeds being used for Student Citizen Scholarships. Dr. Michael

Meissen, Plymouth-Canton's superintendent, will address the latest developments in the school district.

For more information, call 734-453-1540.

Joint after-hours

The Canton Chamber of Commerce partners with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce for a joint-

chamber event 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Stella's Black Dog Tavern (formerly Doyle's), 860 Fralick, Plymouth.

The event will provide members the opportunity to expand their network of professionals from businesses in neighboring communities.

There is no charge for the event.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS



Kramer

Vandenberg

HandyPro top franchise

HandyPro, a national handyman service and senior home modification franchise company headquartered in Plymouth, has recently been named as the No. 1 Handyman Service business in *Entrepreneur* magazine's 35th annual "Franchise 500," which ranked the top franchise companies for 2013.

In addition, *Home Business* magazine also named HandyPro as one of 50 "Trendy" home-based businesses.

This is the second time HandyPro was honored with a "Franchise 500" ranking from *Entrepreneur*, which recognizes growth-oriented franchises.

"We are thrilled to be honored as the top handyman franchise business and one of the trendy home based businesses and I have to thank all our franchisees and our franchise support team for keeping the HandyPro name synonymous with exceptional customer service," said Keith A. Paul, founder and president of HandyPro.

In addition to traditional handyman services, Paul said HandyPro has also expanded its business model to include home modification services to help seniors and the disabled people be safer and live more comfortably in their homes.

Bank of Ann Arbor

Bank of Ann Arbor announced Kevin Kramer has joined its team as vice president and private banking officer as part of its private banking team. Kramer joins the Plymouth office to introduce private

banking services.

Kramer has more than 20 years of experience in financial services. He most recently was employed by PNC Bank in Ann Arbor as vice president and private banking adviser. In his new role at Bank of Ann Arbor, Kramer will be able to meet the business lending and personal banking needs of professional practices in Ann Arbor, Plymouth and surrounding areas.

Kramer holds an MBA in finance from Wayne State University and BA from Michigan State University and recently joined the board of the Michigan Philharmonic.

Kohl's scholarships

The Kohl's Scholarship Program will award nearly \$400,000 in scholarships and prizes this year to more than 2,300 young volunteers who have made a positive impact in their communities. Nominations for kids ages 6-18 will be accepted through March 14 at kohlskids.com.

Kohl's is encouraging parents, teachers, neighbors and friends to nominate outstanding youth, in celebration of their time, energy and passion to helping others.

Two nominees from each of the more than 1,100 Kohl's stores nationwide, including the Canton location, will win a \$50 Kohl's gift card and nearly 200 will win regional scholarships

worth \$1,000 toward higher education. Ten national winners will be awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for higher education and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a nonprofit organization on each national winner's behalf.

Since the Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program began in 2001, Kohl's has recognized more than 19,500 kids with more than \$3.9 million in scholarships and prizes. For more information or a list of past Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program winners, visit kohlskids.com.

ACO promotion

The board of directors of Farmington Hills-based ACO Inc. announced the promotion of Mark Vandenberg from senior vice president and chief financial officer to president.

The news comes just weeks after the company released joined Ace Hardware Corp., as the largest independent member of the Ace cooperative, ACO, Inc. will operate the new Ace Hardware stores under the name Great Lakes Ace Hardware.

As president, Vandenberg will oversee the day-to-day operations of the business and the conversion of current ACO Hardware stores to Great Lakes Ace Hardware stores over the next six months.

An employee of ACO, Inc. for the past 16 years, Vandenberg will provide staff with the direction and stability to help achieve the company's goal of providing a full line hardware store with knowledgeable associates and helpful customer service.

Tipping Point Theatre key part of area community

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

James Kuhl is producing artistic director for the Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville, which opened its doors in 2007. The Farmington resident earned his master of fine arts degree in acting from Wayne State University.

"I think it's a wonderful asset," Kuhl said of the theater on Cady Street, where he oversees the financial/business aspects as well as the artistic side. The community of Northville made a collective decision that arts organizations are key, he said.

"They come out and support what we do," including the partnership with Northville High School drama productions and Tipping Point pros. Kuhl noted the nearby presence of theaters at Genitt's and the Marquis.

TIPPING POINTE THEATRE

Address: 361 E. Cady Street, Northville
Artistic Director: James Kuhl
Latest production: "Murder at the Howard Johnson's"
Web/Phone: www.tippingpointtheatre.com; 248-347-0003

from Ann Arbor, has been president of a community theater group, Pinckney Players, for the past 15 years.

She performs on stage and was just in *Chicago* the musical as Mama Morton. In Pinckney, she also directs. She was the assistant development director at the Purple Rose Theatre Co. for 13 years (working with Jeff Daniels to raise funds). She's had the theater bug since fifth grade and performed throughout middle and high school.

This is Kuhl's fifth season at TPT. "They're very loyal and they're wonderful audiences," he said.

The theater's leadership works with audiences to program plays. "I believe audiences are an important part. I listen to the audiences," he said.

Comedies are big at TPT. "To be able to sit in a dark room and laugh with a group of people is very important," he said. He and the others infuse TPT with a sense of family so people feel at home. "It's been very, very positive," Kuhl said of audience reaction and relationships with patrons.

"The same faces come through and it's lovely to see them again," he said of season ticket holders.

"We want a broader audience to discover this gem."

Word of mouth works best, he's found. Gaidica has helped to raise the TPT profile. "He's still a very strong supporter and a wonderful person to have in the community," Kuhl said.

Artistic risk is based on the strength of relationships with the audience and there's not a huge desire for shows with more sexual content or more raw language. TPT staged *Proof*, an award-winning drama with stronger language.

"The audiences embraced it and they loved it," he said. "The feedback on it was extraordinary."

For more on TPT, visit www.tippingpointtheatre.com or call 248-347-0003.



James Kuhl is producing artistic director for the Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville.

Great support

"The community supports them all for different reasons," he said. That longtime support "really shows the community has a large support for theater and arts in general."

That includes Tipping Point's Sandbox Festival in June, done in conjunction with Arts and Acts. Sandbox organizers seek 10-minute plays, then pick the top four, cast and stage them, often with newcomers.

The one-acts are then staged at Genitt's, said Lynn Wilde Concannon, who handles marketing and development for TPT. "We perform them there because our theater has a show running," the Pinckney resident said. "We use their space. You can get a drink at the bar, which is nice."

TPT offers classic plays, musicals, current off-Broadway shows and regularly new works, Concannon said. The building is now owned by the theater.

"We're very happy because we own our own building," she said.

The theater grew out of parks and recreation offerings, with resident Chuck Gaidica, who's soon leaving his WDIV-TV (Channel 4) weatherman post for the ministry, supporting the venture. Businessman Chuck Lapham also got involved, with the two Chucks the original building owners for about five years.

TPT now has a volunteer board of seven members, along with several staffers. It stages six full productions this year, including the current *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*. TPT brings in more than 12,000 people from metro Detroit and beyond, she said, including Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

"They come far and wide. We have a group coming from Toledo as well. We're really starting to branch out," she said.

Economic asset

The annual budget's around \$450,000, with ticket sales covering some 60 percent and fundraising the rest. "We're putting a lot of money back in Northville," she said, such as lumber bought at Northville Lumber.

The theater seats 100 and shows run for five or six weeks. "People shop before and after," she said. "That's kind of nice." Restaurants benefit, too.

Kuhl's grateful he's no longer commuting from Eastpointe to Northville. "Now we're living in Farmington and loving it," he said. "I cut 60 miles a day off my commute."

He and wife Hallie Bard are parents of Aidan, 9, Vera, 3, and Gavin, 1, and bought their Farmington house just before Gavin was born. Concannon, originally

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OUR VIEWS

Candidates must offer ways to fix problems

Voters want answers from hopefuls

It's only mid-February — little more than three months after the 2013 general election — and candidates are already campaigning for the 2014 election and the state and congressional seats that will open up at year's end. With any luck, this election and the slate of candidates will bring positive and long-lasting change to government.

On one hand, candidates must realize that campaigning successfully for higher office means they need public exposure to capture voter interest and, unfortunately, money to campaign.

On the other hand, it's a good bet voters are recovering from last November's election and will hold off paying much attention until they are ready to face the onslaught of a new slate of people, discussing the same issues as in previous elections.

That's why it's important as this year progresses that candidates offer potential solutions and strategies to the issues they raise. Voters have heard a lot of disagreement from both political camps — on all levels of government. It's one thing for candidates to say they agree or disagree on an issue, such as public education funding, increased road funding and job creation.

But that's just not enough. Voters want and are right to expect more. Voters want answers and solutions.

On the local front, Canton voters are going to have to pick a new state representative to replace the term-limited Dian Slavens, D-Canton, and decide whether they want to keep state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, in office. So far, there are three Democrats and two Republicans who've announced a try for the 21st House District and two Democrats, including Slavens, will compete for the right to face Colbeck in November.

In addition, three seats on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will be up for grabs, though that election will not be until November. Most of the candidates who have announced are familiar names to local residents, but none of these candidates should assume success only because they may be known quantities. Voters want hard-working candidates who go out of their way to communicate and discuss.

What frustrates voters is they want to know what a candidate is going to do about current issues and how much a solution is going to cost them.

For example, instead of a candidate saying they want to see increased funding for public education, it would be a breath of fresh air if a potential strategy was offered to convince the state Legislature — on both sides of the aisle — how it could be accomplished.

Voters are tired of hearing what they already know. Life has been tough for municipalities and school districts. Roads need fixing, bridges need fixing — everyone knows that. The question is what will the slate of candidates suggest as solutions to these problems.

Way too often, voters hear from representatives on all levels of government that nothing can be fully accomplished because of the ideological schism between the Democrats and the Republicans. This conflict has eroded the opportunity for compromise. Politics and governing is all about compromise.

Yet elected officials run the risk of reprimand when they vote against their party's ideology. Political parties too often forget that candidates are elected to represent their constituents — not the political party.

The dire need for compromise and seeking commonalities between the parties must be embraced by the new slate of candidates.

It won't be easy. Any discussion with existing state legislators or county commissioners can give a candidate insight into just how difficult it is to bring ideologies and actions of the two political parties together to create beneficial change for the county and for Michigan.

But it has to be done. The public will be watching the 2014 slate of candidates at all levels of government. It's time to provide voters with the answers and the solutions they deserve to turn the tide and work together.

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"Great. I love it. I like the snow. I take the kids out sledding and making snow forts in the front yard."

Brent Anderson
Canton



"It has been challenging. I always like to look at the glass as half-full instead of half-empty."

Ruth Williams
Canton



"Too cold."

Dave Clark
Canton



"Devastating. Too cold."

Rhonda Lee
Canton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CBO boosts ACA

This week's edition of the ongoing GOP drama, "if the data doesn't fit the narrative, misrepresent, mislead or even lie about it" involves conservatives and Republicans gleefully reacting to what was a premature, inaccurate report by some in the media that the CBO's annual report was a right-wing dream come true: Obamacare was proven to be the "job killer" that they knew it to be all along.

Wrong. Subsequent analysis indicates that the CBO report did not say that jobs will be lost at all. Actually according to the CBO report, the ACA will result in workers choosing not to work the full-time equivalent in hours of 2 million jobs. Hence the equivalent in hours of 2 million full-time jobs will be vacated, not eliminated, and will be available for others to work. According to many economists, this will reduce unemployment and have the effect of putting upward pressure on wages since employers will be left in the lurch and anxious to fill vacancies.

Another plus is that analysis of the report predicts that the ACA will provide stimulus to the stagnant economy by allowing the millions who qualify for subsidies to spend some of those dollars otherwise relegated for health care elsewhere, providing added demand for goods and services further improving the employment forecast.

Other disappointments included in the CBO report for Obamacare detractors include a debunking of the claims of skyrocketing premiums, rampant increases in part-time employment, an exploding deficit and a costly taxpayer bailout for insurers, all topics broached as ACA opponents rushed to microphones to comment. According to the report, rather than skyrocket, premiums will continue to rise but at a rate 15 percent lower than previously predicted.

On part-time employment, the CBO concluded that, "there is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has increased as a result of the ACA." The report goes on to destroy the claim about the ACA exploding the deficit stating that Obamacare policies will instead contribute to lower deficits over the next decade. Last, the creation of risk corridors that politicians like Republican Sen. Marco Rubio warned would constitute a massive taxpayer bailout of insurers is predicted by the report to actually cut \$8 billion from the deficit as money will actually be refunded to the treasury by insurers.

So what most notably appeared to be a victory for those opposed to Obamacare turns out to be yet another devastating defeat, but don't expect them to stop shamelessly making the same fraudulent claims or refrain from inventing new ones. After all, the facts don't matter now and likely never did. They are opposed because of Obama.

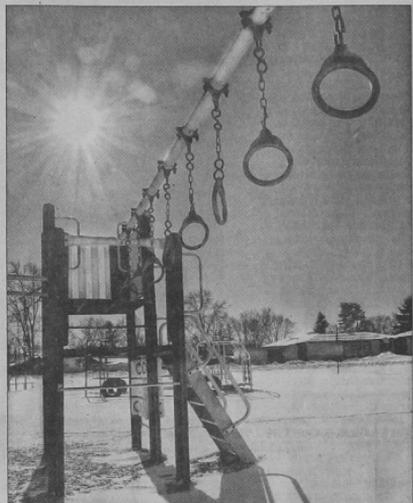
Mitch Smith
Canton

Not surprised

After reading the article by guest columnist Patrick Colbeck (*Observer*, Jan. 14), I was absolutely flabbergasted, but not really surprised.

For Colbeck to write that tax revenue is up \$1.2 billion without raising taxes is mind-boggling. I would ask readers to compare their Michigan tax return from 2011 with the ones from 2012 and 2013. If you are fortunate enough to be in the highest tax bracket, you will probably find no change.

What do you think?



Several school districts, including Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, are already at or near the state limit of six snow days this school year. Do you think the state should "forgive" any snow days above six because of the harsh winter or should the state require school districts to make up the time? Tell us why or why not in 400 words or fewer. Email your response to bkdrich@hometownlife.com by noon Monday and it may appear as a letter to the editor. Include your name, address and phone number. (Address and phone number are for verification purposes only.) BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

But if you are poor or a middle-class homeowner with children and contribute to charities or a retiree, you will see where that \$1.2 billion came from: your pocket.

With the election looming, Colbeck now wants these tax increases reversed (although they were never a tax increase to begin with). He also fails to mention he voted for all the non-existing tax increases.

To show the mind-set of this man, let me refer to a bill recently passed by the Michigan Senate. The bill allows bicyclists to signal a right turn by extending the right arm. The lone no vote was by none other than Patrick Colbeck. According to published reports his no vote was because "we've been doing it one way for years and it just adds to confusion."

I could fill this page with examples of things we have been doing for years that Colbeck and his Tea Party have had no problem voting to change. And the majority of them benefited the rich at the expense of the rest of us.

James Huddleston
Canton

End of an era

It was with great sadness to hear of the passing of Eleanor Breitmeyer Gebert, the great society editor at *The Detroit News*.

The late *Oakland Press* society editor, Sybil Little, was a very dear friend and she and I went to hundreds of social events and fundraisers over the years. We would always run into Eleanor and have a wonderful time.

The era of the true society editor has but almost passed. On a historical note, Eleanor was raised in the old Livonia Township and she graduated as val-

dictorian from Northville High School and won a scholarship to attend the University of Michigan. She studied journalism there and graduated in 1948.

Joe Neussendorfer
Livonia

What happened to 'shared sacrifice'?

So Gov. Snyder now wants to give back some of the funding he cut from schools and some of the taxes he raised on seniors and low-income families. Apparently worried about voter anger, he wants to buy votes the most expensive way by sending out rebate checks instead of reducing or eliminating the tax. He claims he wants to get it in taxpayers' hands as soon as possible (like before this year's election). Does that mean he was wrong to have raised taxes to begin with?

What was the claim when he raised taxes — "shared sacrifice"? If he now feels our state is doing better and can afford to send out rebate checks, what about the huge tax cut for business, where was their sacrifice, aren't they also doing better? He could take some of their cut and restore even more of what he took from our schools.

What about the money he wants for our roads? We don't know yet where he will get that. No doubt that will not be announced until after the election. We should all keep that in mind especially those getting a rebate; you were thrown under the bus by Snyder once there is no reason to think he won't do it again if he is re-elected.

I'm sure I will not be getting any rebate but if I did, I think I would contribute it to the Mark Schauer for Gov. Campaign.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Givens shares family history in Salem Township

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

It took the world 100 years to catch up with sleepy Salem Township when it comes to racial relations, at least in the mind of Ray Givens, a Salem resident and great-grandson of former slave John Lewis.

Givens grew up hearing stories about Lewis and how he came to Salem through the Underground Railroad, an elaborate network of secret routes and safe houses slaves used to move north away from the Southern states, which still allowed slavery.

Givens said Lewis was an educated slave in Kentucky who taught his children and his owner's children how to read and write. Since he was a free slave, he could come and go as he liked. But he was still in jeopardy, Givens said, because kidnapers were known to take black youths and sell them in the South.

Safe and protected
Lewis came north, eventually settling in Salem Township.

"The people here made him feel safe and protected," said Givens, an eight-year football coach at South Lyon East High School. "He promised himself he would return, because this is a very special place. Even though I never met him, I feel I owe him for all the things he has done, how he pushed faith, trust, respect to all his family and friends. He set the bar high for us and God has given us the opportunities to live the way we do with faith, love, trust and respect."

Talking about his family history, Givens sat in a pew at the Salem Baptist Church on Six Mile, a few feet away from the stained glass window honoring John Lewis and his wife Lidabelle, who were among founding



Ray Givens is the great-grandson of a John Lewis, who traveled the Underground Railroad and eventually settled in Salem Township. Lewis and his wife are honored in stained glass among the founders of Salem Bible Church. HAL GOULD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

church members. Givens graduated from South Lyon High School and was inducted in the school's athletic hall of fame. He raised two boys a couple of blocks from where John Lewis lived. At one time, the Lewis family had what Givens calls a "compound" of 14 family houses within blocks of each other in Salem.

Givens, 60, remembers his great-great Uncle Vic sitting on the porch telling stories about his dad to Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan students who would regularly gather to hear how Lewis forged a new life for himself and the descendants who followed.

"Salem was a place like nowhere else in the country," Givens said. "People got along, cared about each other and were family."

Lewis' life story is featured in a chapter of *Northville — the First 100 Years*, by Jack W. Hoffman, who included Lewis' obituary, which ran in the *Northville Record*. Lewis was buried Jan. 18, 1941, and the "whole town turned out for his funeral ... because of this humble man who won its respect, its regard and its admiration in 60 years of being kind, honest, courteous and minding his own business."

seen, but I'm looking at it from a different window." His ancestors would tell stories about how Lewis was welcomed in Salem "and how people are supposed to live together," he said.

But that wasn't true even a few miles away as his mother, Julia Ann Givens, learned when she was denied a request from Michigan State Normal School — now Eastern Michigan University — to room with her best friend, June Hamilton, a Salem resident who was white. Julia Ann, who became a nurse, was reportedly the first African American at EMU.

Lewis and many of his descendants were active in the Salem community. Givens continues that tradition as an usher at Salem Bible Church and volunteers as an announcer for South Lyon East High School basketball games.

"It's about giving back," he said. "I've been blessed so much."

Tastes of bigotry

He was, at times, the target of racism. Like when he was 16 years old and went with his brothers to a school sports game in South Lyon. Some boys had taken the wheels off the car Givens borrowed from his dad, chased them and threatened their lives.

The Givens brothers ran to a nearby home, where they were taken in and comforted while the police were called. Meanwhile, Givens said they could hear the kids smashing their dad's car. The Salem pastor drove Givens' dad daily for more than a month to and from work until he got a

car. During the 1967 Detroit riot, Givens said, Salem neighbors patrolled outside their home during the evenings to make sure the family was safe. It was the typical kind of love and generosity, he said, they gave and received.

"These are our friends," Givens said. "They put their lives on the line for us. They weren't black or white, they were friends."

Lewis' house still stands in Salem, but it's no longer owned by the family. Some of Lewis' belongings, however, were donated by his family to the Salem Historical Society and are displayed in the Jarvis Historical School on North Territorial Road.

Givens recalls listening to his relatives talk about their family members and they "always said, 'Tell your story.'"

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'Cats move on in tourney

Cheston major force with 15 points, 17 rebounds

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson just couldn't find its way out of the forest. The Spartans ran up against perhaps the biggest girls basketball team in the state Tuesday in host Plymouth, building a 20-13 advantage midway through third quarter. But the host Wildcats, who shot a paltry 4-of-32 from the field in the first half, got untracked with a 12-4 run to end the third and then outscored Stevenson 17-8 in the fourth to earn a 42-30 Kensington Lakes Activities Association

playoff victory. "I want to give Stevenson a lot of credit, that's a terrific defensive team, very well coached team, and we knew that coming in," said Plymouth coach Nick Brandon, whose team improved to 14-3 overall and will travel Friday to face Novi in the Kensington Conference semifinals. "I thought the first half was just your basic postseason battle between two teams that really want it. Fortunately for us the second half we got a little rhythm offensively and I thought our press was a big difference." The Wildcats also proved to be

more efficient shooting the ball during the final 16 minutes going 10-of-22 from the floor. One of the catalysts was 6-foot-4 senior center Shelby Cheston, who finished with 15 points and 17 rebounds. "She finished a lot better in the second half," Brandon said. "At half we told her to stick with it and keep doing what she was doing, just stay focused and keep playing with great determination. "Inside players are just like outside shooters. I think they need to see a couple go in to get their confidence up. I think that was huge for us second half. I thought she had a brilliant second



Plymouth senior center Shelby Cheston (No. 34) puts up a shot from the key Tuesday night. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

See HOOPS, Page B3

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY - PART 2



Recently signing to play for women's college soccer teams are Plymouth seniors (from left) Maria Farmer, Jillian Aguirre, Alyssa Dillon, Lauren Babcock, Amber Allen and Emily Burkman. ANN ESPINOZA

Together they sign

Huge season yields college scholarships for six Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last season's abrupt halt to an apparent championship march still stings Plymouth Wildcats varsity girls soccer coach Jeff Neschich and a number of players who are returning for their senior seasons. The Wildcats were ranked No. 1 in the state when they faced Novi for the Division 1 regional championship, only

to fall 3-0 in a shootout to finish 21-1. Yet the team's body of work undoubtedly opened up the eyes of college scouts and coaches, because six current seniors — who all play defense — will be moving on to play collegiate women's soccer. Jillian Aguirre, Amber Allen, Lauren Babcock, Emily Burkman, Alyssa Dillon and Maria Farmer

See WILDCATS, Page B3

SIX FROM PLYMOUTH

On National Signing Day, six members of Plymouth's varsity girls soccer team participated in ceremonies after inking letters of intent with colleges. Here is the breakdown: **Amber Allen:** Spring Arbor University (NAIA), defender, GPA: 3.2; career choice, psychology; parents, Barb Polly and Jim Allen. **Jillian Aguirre:** Central Michigan University (Division I), defender, GPA: 3.5; career choice, TBD; parents, Donna and Tony Aguirre. **Lauren Babcock:** Southeastern Louisiana University (D-I), defender, GPA: 3.5; career choice, criminal justice; parents, Shelby and Mark Babcock. **Emily Burkman:** Siena Heights University (NAIA), defender, GPA: 3.8; career choice, nursing; parents, Bethany and Ken Burkman. **Alyssa Dillon:** University of Michigan (D-I), defender, GPA: 4.0; career choice, kinesiology; parents, Jim and Julie Dillon. **Maria Farmer:** Grand Valley State University (D-II), defender, GPA: 3.8; career choice, physical therapy; parents Judith and Dave Farmer.

D1 INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

Park teams send 13 to regionals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Thirteen from the Park still have a shot at standing on the podium at the Palace on March 1.

That's because they finished in the top four of their respective weight classes at Saturday's Division 1 individual districts at Saline.

All will move on to this Saturday's Woodhaven-hosted D1 individual regionals.

Out of the three high schools from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Plymouth Wildcats will have the largest contingent with seven.

Garnering first-place finishes in four weights were Wildcats. Those were Ben Harris (112), Mohamad Youssef (119), Joey Shaver (160) and Hussein Youssef (171).

Also qualifying for the regionals from Plymouth were runners-up Jon Conn (140), Sofus Nielson (145) and third-place finisher Michael Jordan (heavyweight).

Nielson's shot at an individual district title was stymied by Canton senior Alec Pantaleo, who won by a major decision to remain undefeated this season.

Pantaleo wrestled up one weight class from his usual 152-pound slot.

Another top Canton wrestler is his entire career, senior Ben Griffin, lost a match for the second time in a year. Griffin was pinned in 2:15 by Ypsilanti's Kyle Abdelatif in the championship bout at 130.

Griffin's second-place finish is still good enough for him to wrestle in the regionals.

The Chiefs will be represented at Woodhaven by two other wrestlers.

Senior K.J. Wooley finished third at 215, winning a 13-4 major decision over Belleville's Brandon Underwood.

Canton's other regional qualifier was junior Ty Jasmun, who came in fourth at 140.

Sallem also will have wrestlers competing at the regionals.

Juniors Caleb McCabe and Mitchell Gross came in third at 152 and 189, respectively.

In addition to moving on in the individual tournament, the six Plymouth wrestlers were looking to continue in the team format.

On Wednesday, Plymouth was slated to square off against Westland John Glenn in the team regionals. Results were not available as of press time.

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Antonio's one of 'Selects' few

Plymouth 12-year-old to play at international hockey invitational

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's no denying Antonio Stranges Jr. loves being at Compuware Arena, watching the Plymouth Whalers or skating at skills-sharpening camps.

Not that the 12-year-old Plymouth boy needs too much instruction.

Antonio, a left wing for the Belle Tire 2001 AAA Pee Wee team, is sharp enough to have

been selected by Selects Hockey to play at the program's international spring training development camp and World Selects Invitational in Bolzano, Italy, this April and May.

"It's going to be fun, it's going to be a good experience," said Antonio, selected last month for one of 68 positions out of 300 invited players from across North America. "It feels really good to be selected. All the extra training I do and my hard work helped."

His mom, Anita Stranges, noted another big-time perk of the opportunity: Antonio comes from a "100-percent Italian" family and will get the chance to experience that

country's culture — along with elite youth hockey, too.

"I think it's a great opportunity," Anita said. "I think it's going to give him a chance to play against some of the top players from around the world. I think it's going to be great for as far as — we're Italian, first of all, we're 100-percent Italian. My husband (Antonio Sr.) and I are both first-generation American."

"The fact that he's going to bring him back to Italy, of all places, was really exciting for us. And I think that he's going to learn a lot, I think it's going to make him grow up."

The youngster, who attends

See ANTONIO, Page B2



Antonio Stranges Jr. of Plymouth will soon go to Italy to play at the World Selects Invitational.

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Looking to find a teammate to pass the puck to is Antonio Stranges Jr., of the 2001 Belle Tire AAAA Pee Wee team.

ANTONIO

Continued from Page B1
 sixth grade at the Plymouth Scholars charter academy (K-8), works harder than your typical 12-year-old.
 He trains with Kenny Brandt, skills instructor for the Compuware youth program. His Belle Tire coach is Joe Smaza, described by Anita as a "well-known hockey coach."

And don't forget regular trips to Rejuvenation Fitness in Plymouth for off-ice workouts.

Measuring stick

According to Brandt, the 68 originally chosen for the World Selects Invitational has since been whittled down to 17. Antonio made the cut, one of nine forwards.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected and should be a great experience," said Brandt, who also is skills instructor for the Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League (a team Antonio said he would love to play for someday). "It's too early to tell what the future will hold, but he's definitely on the right track and being included in this group is a great measuring stick as to where he currently stands."

"I have been working with Antonio the past three years and he takes his skill training very seriously and this accomplishment is a good lesson for what hard

work can do."

The fact the youngster loves hockey and seemingly loves to train almost as much, "I'm excited to see what the future brings," Brandt said.

After finishing up at Plymouth Scholars in two years, Antonio would like to go to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (and perhaps play prep hockey for the Shamrocks, who also play at Compuware). But his mom said nothing like that has been determined.

Terrific tryout

According to a press release, WCS coach Shawn Hunwick (a former professional player) said Antonio "was superb at the tryout. He not only showed he has the skill to be a top hockey prospect, but also demonstrated great leadership and passion on the ice."

Hunwick was part of the selection committee, as were NHL Hall of Fame member Mark Howe and Selects Hockey co-founder Travis Howe, among other pro coaches and scouts.

Since 2003, Hockey Selects has worked with top North American and European players between ages 12-16 "to expose them to all avenues of hockey in an effort to facilitate opportunities at the NCAA, junior and professional levels."

For more information about the Selects Hockey program, go to selectssports.com/hockey.

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2014 WINTER OLYMPICS

Canton pair bigger faves after team wins bronze

By Jeff Seidel
 Gannett News Service

Imagine playing your World Series opponent.

Before the World Series event begins.
 Or playing the Final Four.

Only to erase the results and then do it over in a few days.

That's what happened during the figure skating team event at the Winter Olympics.

Meryl Davis and Charlie White, the ice dance team from the Arctic Edge in Canton, faced off against Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, a pair of Canadians who also train in Canton under coach Marina Zoueva.

The match-up created a fascinating preview of the teams expected to battle for the gold medal in ice dancing, an event that started Sunday.

In the big picture, Russia won the gold medal in the team event Sunday with 75 points. Canada took the silver (65 points) and the U.S. earned the bronze with 60 points (20 of which were scored by Davis and White). The U.S. finished eight points ahead of Italy and nine ahead of Japan.

But let's look at the small picture.
 And focus on the ice dance. Because, well, Detroit is the Ice Dance Capital of the universe.

So what happened? In the concise, eloquent words of Moir, "We got smoked."

Davis and White finished with 114.34 points in Sunday's free dance, while Virtue and Moir were in a different neighborhood with 107.56.

"We got beat by eight



Meryl Davis and Charlie White (USA) perform in the team ice dance free dance during the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games at Iceberg Skating Palace. RICHARD MACKSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

points in the free," Moir said. "We weren't even close."

Lingering effects

It was a commanding, decisive, telling, whopper of a victory for the American team. And it followed a big victory in the short dance Saturday.

And, yes, those numbers will be erased when they face off again for real when they fight for individual medals.

But the effects are certain to linger. This victory did several things: It continued Davis' and White's dominance over Virtue and Moir — Davis and White are the defending world champions — and this victory gave them even more momentum.

"I would say it sends a message," said NBC analyst Scott Hamilton, an Olympic gold medalist in 1984. "I don't think Scott and Tessa were at their best. But it shows Charlie and Meryl are prepared and ready to take on anybody here. I think, with Scott and Tessa, skating stronger performances, they will be closer. The fact that the score was so high sends a message that Charlie and Meryl are the favorites to win."

More significant, White and Davis had better scores than their Canadian rivals in all the

component scores: skating skills (9.64-9.50 points), transitions/linking footwork and movement (9.61-9.32), performance/execution (9.96-9.64), choreography (9.89-9.68) and interpretation timing (9.82-9.68).

In basketball terms, that's like dominating your opponent in everything: rebounds, free-throw shooting, turnovers, assists. Everything.

And, yes, those numbers will be erased when they compete for real. And certainly, they will change.

Confidence boost

But this performance sets a tone.

"Of course, it's a confidence boost," Davis said. "As an athlete, you always want to feel secure. You always want to feel stronger than the day before. That's what (Saturday) did for us. We felt strong. We feel ready. And we feel more prepared, possibly, than we ever have for an event."

Translation: Don't try for a second think that they are satisfied. Under those sequined costumes, Davis and White are hungry and fiercely determined.

All season, they have stated their only goal: to win a gold medal. At the 2010 Vancouver Games, White and Davis won

the gold, and Davis and White had to settle for silver.

Now, think about the psychology of this victory for the Americans. Think about how those scores are certain to affect the psyche of both teams.

"We had some really good skaters here," White said. "We will try to top what we have done already in our solo event."

Now, you have to understand Davis and White are extremely polished. They would never, ever create bullet-board material.

But one thing is clear: They aren't satisfied.

Now, consider the fate of Virtue and Moir. "That's the unique thing about this event," Virtue said. "Already, we are thinking about how we can improve our score."

Getting technical

Moir pinpointed the problem. It was the technical scores.

"Usually, that means those are mistakes that we have made and those are easy adjustments," Moir said. "You know, it's not fun to be seven points behind in a free program. We don't plan to be there in a week."

The other subplot during the team event came when a French magazine reported that there was a judging scandal behind the scenes, suggesting that the Russians and Americans were plotting to make sure the Russians would win the team event and Davis and White would win the individual gold.

But the International Olympic Committee has announced that it won't investigate, calling the allegations "groundless."

Finally, there is one more interesting competition to this competition. Both teams have very little time to forget this competition, regroup and get ready for another one.

"It's not as hard as you'd think," Moir said. "It's already kind of behind us. We'll take a night here and celebrate a little with our team. You can kind of see the wheels turning in my head. That's the nature of the beast."

On the other side, White and Davis don't want to anything to change.

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY - PART 2

Colleges reward Salem for perseverance

Kavulich, Stevenson thrilled about continuing running careers

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem senior distance runner Kayla Kavulich and Natasha Stevenson took different paths but wound up together on National Signing Day.

Kavulich pretty much knew from the moment she stepped into Salem High School in 2010 that she wanted to run for a big-time college program.

Not even knee surgery as a sophomore and illness last fall could slow her down. In her quest — realized last week when Michigan State University signed her to a national letter of intent to compete both on the Spartans' women's cross country and track and field teams.

"I always knew I wanted to commit in college," Kavulich said. "Having to get over a few obstacles is just something that comes with running. Just like running itself."

As for Stevenson, who signed for Cleary University (a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school in the Howell area), there once was a time when she wasn't even sure she wanted to run in high school let alone collegiate-level.

"I'm really happy for her (Natasha)," said her mom, Jennifer Stevenson, "because she's worked the last four years, going from somebody who didn't want to run in middle school.

"To be offered a full-ride scholarship is pretty impressive."

Soaking it in

Kavulich's parents (Julie and Mike Kavulich) and grandparents (Jan and Joe Kavulich) soaked in the festivities Feb. 5 at Salem.

"This is really great for the family," Julie Kavulich said. "It's really a tradition for us, we're just proud of what she's accomplished... She really wanted to run in college since she was a freshman, and she's now meeting it."

Kayla Kavulich, owner of a



Salem's Kayla Kavulich (front, left) and Natasha Stevenson signed national letters of intent for their college programs. Standing is their high school coach, Dave Gerlach. (JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO)

3.97 grade-point average, is looking into a career in chemical engineering. She's also looking forward to becoming a Spartan.

"It feels great to finally be able to commit somewhere that I really wanted to go to," Kavulich said. "It's nice to feel I belong somewhere on a team other than Salem and it's just going to be fun continuing to compete."

Natasha Stevenson, a future business major with a 3.6 GPA, is gearing up for a different kind of experience than what Kavulich will face. She's fine with that, too.

"They found me, it's a small school so it's going to be a huge transition," Stevenson said. "But it's a good school and I'm really excited to run for them."

"It's a small team, so that's going to be another transition. But they're so close (as a team) and that's something I'm used to."

He's proud

Salem girls cross country and track coach Dave Gerlach

said Division I colleges such as MSU expect athletes on scholarship to take part in both sports. Kavulich will follow that script.

Cleary only has a cross country program, however, although there could be some track meets down the road.

"I'm very happy for both, they had great four-year careers here at Salem," Gerlach said. "For Natasha, to be able to continue her career in college and help her family out, and being able to do something she enjoys at Cleary by running, is tremendous."

"For Kayla, probably the most-distinguished distance runner ever to come through Salem High School. All kinds of records in track and cross country. Now to be able to run in the Big Ten for Michigan State is going to be great for her as well. I look forward to seeing what she can do at that level."

Gerlach said he felt "like a proud dad."

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Berberet lifts Lady Ocelots

Sophomore Bri Berberet made 6-of-7 three-point shots Saturday en route to a game-high 27 points as the host Scherratt College women's basketball team downed Henry Ford Community College, 78-53.

Berberet, a Salem High grad, also grabbed seven rebounds as the Lady Ocelots improved to 9-13 overall and 5-7 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference.

Tabitha Mann (Salem) added 16 points and nine boards, while Teniece Roberts posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Henry Ford (1-17, 0-11) dressed only five players. Shantel Tolbert led the way with 16 points, while Allison Robinson chipped in with 14 points and 17 boards.

Richarda Gordon also



Schoolcraft's Bri Berberet (No. 2), a Salem alum, takes aim at the basket during a recent game. (JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO)

scored 14 for the Hawks, who were out-rebounded 56-44 and couldn't overcome a 36-25 halftime deficit.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Salem hangs 32 to win KLAAs tourney opener

Rocks will face Canton in second-round tilt

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Having warded off Tuesday's challenge from Westland John Glenn, the Salem varsity girls basketball team can exhale knowing it survived the opening round of the KLAAs tournament.

It wasn't easy, because the host Rockets outscored Salem 17-9 in the final frame to almost catch the Rocks.

Salem (2-5) and interim head coach Layla Klemmer now know another big test awaits with Friday's game against KLAAs South Division champion Canton (7 p.m. at Salem).

After Salem went 24-17 at halftime and 34-25 after three, the Rockets turned up the defensive heat to force turnovers.

With 10 seconds remaining, John Glenn cut the deficit to a single point, but Klemmer said her team "played tough defense and forced them into a tough shot" that did not fall.

"Playoffs are a whole dif-

ferent level of intensity and I made sure the girls were aware of that going in," Klemmer said. "Records can be thrown out the window and it's any given team's night."

Outstanding for Salem during what Klemmer described as a physical contest was junior forward Shara Long, with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Kiara Barnes led John Glenn (7-11) with 19 points. "It was a very physical game and I'm glad we fought through it," Klemmer said. "We are tough, we just need to believe that we are."

"...I love the playoffs because every game, every play, every possession is big." **CANTON 58, SL 27** The host Rockets (14-0) closed out victory after getting off to a 20-2 lead to open Tuesday night's KLAAs opener against South Unit (6-10).

Senior forward Paige Akerlund scored 16 of the field goal line and ended up with 24 points. "We girls worked hard all week of the girls," KLAAs center Brian Samuels said. "They are ready for the challenges, and I think their non-league schedule has prepared them for these challenges." Taylor Huntley were really good during the game tonight. Rach (Winters) did a great job of rebounding. She had 16 points and six rebounds while Winters controlled every assist along with the rebounding. She had 16 points and six rebounds while Samuels also controlled strong rebounding by Akerlund (10 boards, six assists) and senior by Natalie Winters (two steals).

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

Steady throughout the game was senior point-guard Kylie Robb, who added 13 points to go along with five assists.

Her triple with 4:59 left in the fourth quarter proved to be the dagger as the Wildcats went up by double digits, 34-24.

"She is our quarterback," Brandon said. "This team asks so much of Kylie Robb as we have all of her. I thought she did a terrific job with the basketball, made some big shots and really made some smart decisions there at the end. And a lot of people overlook her defense, but she's a pretty good shutdown defender. I thought she really stepped up as well."

Hanging around

Stevenson was down only two at the half, 12-10, despite hitting only 3-of-18 shots from the floor.

The Spartans then came out and went on a 10-1 run to start the third, but couldn't start the momentum. A total of 23 turnovers proved to be the big bugaboo for Stevenson.

"We just lost our heads," said Stevenson coach Jen Knoph, whose team slipped to 10-6 overall. "We had three or four bad passes in a row. The press we were breaking all game long all the way through we decided to put our heads down and not break any more. They (Plymouth) got a couple of transition baskets on us. We just made some bad decisions."

Senior guard Rachel Wilkinson scored a team-best 10 points for the Spartans, who were 10-of-18 from the game (21.2 percent).

Senior center Charlesann Roy, who picked up her third foul at the end of the first half and was forced to march on the third, finished with seven along with Amy Freed. "My guess, about 29 min-



Dribbling down the floor Tuesday in Plymouth Union was Courtney LaVallee. (JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO)

utes of the game we were either dominating or doing a really good job on both ends of the floor," Knoph said. "We probably had eight or nine (turnovers) in that (third quarter) stretch because we were handling the ball pretty well. We didn't turn it over on the press early in the game."

Senior forward Kyra Johnson, despite being underdog team, also did some heavy board work against the tall Plymouth front line which boasted a trio of plus 6-footers. She finished with 11 rebounds.

"In the first half, she (Cheston) was getting a lot of offensive boards," Knoph said. "In the second half, I was telling them that if her or somebody else will come in and get the board. They did that about three times. I saw one clear her and somebody else come in. That's a good team. They've got a lot of experience. Four are seniors, I think three were up on varsity from freshman year. They withstood the run that we gave them. They did a good job."

Meanwhile, the Wildcats were able to take Stevenson out of its comfort zone the second half.

"They (Stevenson) a very rhythmic team — that's what we saw when we scouted them," Brandon said. "When they get in rhythm they're very hard to stop, so we had to do whatever we could. It was a grind. When you play in postseason you've got to play 32 minutes and that's what we preached as we got ready for this game. I thought our kids did a very good job of that."

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

were together as part of the Feb. 5 National Signing Day ceremony in the gymnasium at Plymouth High School.

"Definitely," said Neschich, asked about whether the on-field success last spring paved the way for the national signings. "This group of kids has really put Plymouth soccer on the map."

Neschich emphasized that having the kids sign on the same day "does so much for our program and the younger kids coming into the program to see that these opportunities are out there."

Pumped up

Going to the University of Michigan will be Dillon, where she will be reunited with 2013 Plymouth graduate and scoring sensation Madi Lewis (a forward who Neschich said made the Big Ten all-freshman team).

"I am beyond pumped up. I am so excited," said Dillon, a 4-0 student who also had overtures from Louisville and Miami of Ohio before choosing to become a Wolverine. "...It's just amazing that so many girls can just come from one high school and be all committed to schools all over the state and country."

"It's really just an awesome opportunity to play with my best friends and great players."

Dillon is stoked about joining a highly touted program. "They (Wolverines) did so awesome this last year so I can't even imagine what we're going to accomplish next year," Dillon said. "But the whole elite thing and just the players seem really good and I'm really excited to go into such a competitive and good environment."

Also signing with Division I colleges were Aguirre (Central Michigan University) and Babcock (Southeastern Louisiana University).

"I'm really excited for a new beginning and to be able to play soccer," Aguirre said. "It's been my dream since I was about 5."

Aguirre added that it is just as exciting to be part of a group of teammates simultaneously celebrating signing with colleges. "It's really amazing that so many of us are going from one high school to play college soccer."

Concerning was Babcock, who noted that "it's safe to say that we have a really strong program" at Plymouth due to six teammates unveiling their college plans at once.

Hearing good things

She's also very enthusiastic about what awaits her in Louisiana — including a chance for a soccer reunion with older sister Jennifer Babcock, a Plymouth player who plays on the SLU women's soccer team.

"It's an incredible opportunity to be able to move out of the state and play with different people," Babcock said. "I'm very excited, my sister happens to go there. For one year we get to play together again."

Grand Valley State University (D-II) is where Farmer will play in the back line. Farmer added she is "super excited" to go to a successful college program.

"I haven't heard anything but good things about it and they won national last year," Farmer said. "So I'm really pumped to help them continue that."

She also is looking forward to the 2014 Plymouth season and having another chance to go for a state championship.

"I'm super excited to see what we can do this year," Farmer added. "I know last year was the year to win it, but I still think we have a lot of talent and I think a lot of our players are unfolding and stepping up their game, especially now that they're committed to D-I and really good schools."

Not just soccer

Allen and Burkman signed with National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' schools Spring Arbor and Siena Heights, respectively. "I'm excited to be happier about their choices."

"I'm actually happy that it's only an hour away because I'm

momma's girl," said Allen, noting that the college team liked her versatility. "I'll be home a lot on the weekends."

Soccer and being able to stay close to home weren't the only considerations.

"I could have gone anywhere and just did what a typical college student does, just go to school and live a normal life," Allen said. "But this gives me the opportunity to travel around the country. We have a few games in Alabama, we take mission trips... It gives me the opportunity to become a more well-rounded person."

Allen said the college community was "really welcoming, also my religion matters something to me. They're a Christian university and that was No. 1 on my list."

Likewise, Burkman fell in love with her future home when making a campus visit. "It was a really nice campus and I like that," Burkman said. "...Education is the most important part to me and the classes are really small so the teachers can pay attention to you more. I also like the team and the coach."

Burkman echoed what her teammates and parents talked about, that National Signing Day was a happy culmination of years of hard work and dedication from an early age onward. "I never would have expected this to happen when I was little and now I'm actually achieving it."

With a smile, Burkman added that the busy day for Plymouth soccer players underscores that it's safe to say that we have a really strong program. It's amazing that we have six of us actually going to college for soccer. I think it's really awesome for us."

Actually, the 2013 Wildcats will have nine players playing at the next level.

The recent signees follow a trio of graduates who began their collegiate careers in the fall: Michigan's Lewis, forward Zoe Foster (University of North Dakota, D-I), midfielder Stephanie Dillon (Miami University in Ohio, D-I).

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ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



Whalers forward Matt Mistle (No. 22) circles the back of the net after scoring against North Bay goalie Jake Smith to make it 2-0 Saturday. Linemates Francesco Vilaridi (No. 7) and Connor Chatham (No. 11) assisted on the goal. KEN LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Whalers attack Battalion, 5-1

OHL team also welcomes alum Weiss for practices

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For much of this season, goals have been hard to come by for the Plymouth Whalers.

They entered two weekend games at Compuware Arena dead last out of 20 Ontario Hockey League teams in the scoring department.

Two 5-1 victories later — Friday against Sault Ste. Marie and Saturday against North Bay — the Whalers still bring up the rear. But at least the pucks are going in and players like forward Matt Mistle are enjoying the turnaround.

"Yeah, I mean, as a team (we've) had a little bit of trouble getting goals this year compared to last year. It's good to see that," said Mistle, who tallied his 13th goal of the season and added an assist in the victory over the Battalion. "Now we got some lines going together that seem to have some chemistry and seem to be doing things right."

Saturday night, in the third period, the Whalers scored on their first three shots of the period to turn a 2-1 nail-biter into a blowout. Scoring those goals were Carter Sandlak (his 22nd), Connor Chatham (his 11th) and defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto, who wired a centering pass from winger Danny Vandervliet into the top shelf past North Bay goalie Jake Smith.

"That goal, with 9:34 remaining, chased Smith in favor of backup Brendan O'Neill.

Joining the rush
Plymouth assistant coach Joe Stefan said the team actually has been making strides on offense for a little while, although he acknowledged that it is good for overall team confidence to score

10 goals in two nights. "We've had a tough time scoring goals all year," Stefan said. "But in the last month or so, we've been working on activating our defense a little more, joining the rush and creating a little more offense that way. We seem to get more chances off the rush now."

The three-goal outburst put the game away, but not until after Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (52 saves) had to make a series of clutch stops in the middle period. Plymouth (20-27-0-5) opened the scoring in the first on goals by defenseman Yannick Rathgeb (from Mistle and forward Francesco Vilaridi, who had three assists) and Mistle, who swept in the rebound of Vilaridi's shot.

North Bay (28-19-4-2) cut the lead to 2-1 on a goal by Ben Thomson at 4:11 of the second period and then put plenty of pressure on the Plymouth goalie.

With about six minutes remaining, Nedeljkovic made a sterling pad stop on Alex Henriksson's one-timer from between the circles. Nedeljkovic then dove to his left to rob Henriksson on the rebound.

In the final seconds of the period, a dangerous rush by the Battalion was thwarted when Nedeljkovic got in front of Brenden Miller's bid.

Between periods, Mistle said head coach Mike Vellucci had a simple message to the players.

"It was just to get back to how we were playing in the first period," Mistle said. "We thought we had a really big first period, came up hard and got pucks on net and put pucks in deep."

"The second period, we kind of got away from that and tried to get too offensive instead of playing our game."

North Bay had 16 shots in the third period, but the Whalers were the only ones to find the mark.

"Obviously it was a 2-1 game, they were pushing hard, but you know, the key was we didn't really

panic and Ned was playing well behind them," Stefan said. "The guys fed off him and we played well in our end and it created chances because they (Battalion) had to push for it."

Weiss returns

With the successful weekend behind them, the Whalers (heading on to the eighth and final playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference) now will gear up for games Friday at Saginaw and 7 p.m. Saturday against Kitchener at Compuware.

This week, however, they are welcoming Whalers alum and current Detroit Red Wing Stephen Weiss for practices.

He is rehabbing from sports hernia surgery and ramping up efforts to rejoin the NHL team following the Olympic break.

Weiss played for the Whalers from 1999-2002, scoring 40 goals in the 2000-01 season. His last season at Plymouth was Vellucci's first year as Whalers head coach.

"I just found out about that, it's pretty exciting," Mistle said. "It's always good to have a guy from the NHL come and skate with you. Last year we had (David) Legwand, got pretty close with him and asked him a bunch of stuff. He was a pretty good guy. Hopefully it's the same."

Stefan said it should be a good experience for the current players to practice with Weiss.

"It's one of their own that's made a good career for himself in the NHL," Stefan said. "It's good for our guys to see how guys act professionally, on and off the ice, how they prepare."

LONDON 5, PLYMOUTH 4

On Sunday at London, the Whalers led a 3-1 lead slip away, giving up three goals in the third period.

Finding the mark for Plymouth (20-28-0-5) were Francesco Vilaridi, Ryan Hartman, Victor Crus Rydberg and Connor Chatham.

smith@hometownlife.com

MIHL HOCKEY SHOWCASE

Wildcats bank Flint Powers

Chiefs earn 3-1 victory over Livonia Franklin

Plymouth senior forward Mike Schultz scored the only goal the Wildcats needed Saturday night.

Schultz scored mid-way through the second period and it stood up as the Wildcats earned a 1-0 win over Flint Powers in the team's second and final game at the Trenton-hosted MIHL Hockey Showcase.

Collecting the lone assist on the marker was junior forward Josh Smith.

"They were hard on the forecheck and Josh (Smith) forced a turnover, came around one side of the net and sent Mike a banking pass from post to post," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said.

Stopping all 23 shots he faced for the shutout was Plymouth junior goalie Jared Maddock, and the Wildcats gave up just four shots to Flint Powers in the third to wrap up the victory.

After the Wildcats (8-9-3) gave up four goals in the first period of last Thursday's showcase game against the Grosse Pointe South, they did not allow another goal (other than one in the shootout loss against GPS).

"We had five shutout periods after that first period debacle," Vento said. "They were pretty disappointed, even though they came back

for the tie they were disappointed because they knew with a better start they probably would have won that first game and felt they had something to prove."

Flint Powers dropped to 16-4 with the loss.

Next up for the Wildcats are games Wednesday (against Walled Lake Western), Thursday (against Walled Lake Central) and 5 p.m. Friday at Arctic Edge against Grosse Pointe North for Senior Night.

CANTON: FRANKLIN is Sunny Haddock, Cooper Rice and Christian Fluck scored one goal each Monday night to lift the Chiefs to a 3-0 Senior Showcase win over Livonia Franklin at Eddie Edgar.

Talking single assists for Canton (left) were Kodye Fluck, Connor Whittaker, Connor Ryan, Ryan Estman and Matt Eastman.

Fluck had an assist to Christian Fluck for his second goal of the win as Canton junior goalie Nick Borg took the lead before the end of the first.

Sunday, Canton lost 3-0 to Clarkston at the Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase in Ontario.

CANTON & BLOOMFIELD by Six players scored Tuesday, Feb. 4, to lift the Canton Chiefs to a 4-0 victory over Bloomfield United at the MPHSU Showcase.

Earning a 2-5 shutout in the process was junior goalie Nick Borg. Getting the shutout was the first whaler whaler on the power play, in the first period, was an assist to Christian Fluck (one goal, two assists).

Fluck had an assist to Christian Fluck (one goal, two assists) in the first period to give up four goals in the first period by Canton and Michael Galfrka two.

Fluck, a senior co-captain, registered an assist on the second and the Chiefs followed with three more assists on the power play.

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DISTRICT WRESTLING RESULTS

- MHSAA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (top 4 division to regional) DIVISION 1**
- 103 pounds:** John Senese (Westland) John Jeleni (Dearborn Catholic)
 - 112 pounds:** Brandon Harris (Plymouth) dec. Kevin Fuller (Gainesville), 2-0; Tyler Rogalski (Empire State) dec. Brad Stewart (Bedford), 8-6
 - 125 pounds:** Kevin Hught (John Glenn) dec. Austin Koshler (Belleville), 5-2; Devin McCann (Woodhaven) dec. Brad Stewart (Bedford), 8-6
 - 130 lbs:** Mike Adorf (Plymouth) vs. Ben Griffin (Canton), 2:15; Peyton Bennehan (John Glenn) dec. Kevin Sonnetta (Canton), 7-3
 - 135 lbs:** Jordan Mackey (Plymouth) (Lyon) vs. Brandon Bellant (Belleville) won by napsa dec. over Jamonty Houza (Belleville), 14-3
 - 140:** Robert Frier (Ann Arbor Pioneer)
 - 145:** Alec Portales (Canton) won by toss; dec. over Jake Weston (Plymouth), 3:00; Kendall Freeman (Lincoln) vs. Austin Hunter (Schlagel) dec. Austin Hunter (Woodhaven), 13-7
 - 152:** Blake Monroe (Bedford) dec. Billy Dunton (Woodhaven), 4-1; Caleb McClellan (Canton) vs. Austin Hancock (Wayne), 8-2
 - 160 lbs:** Ryan Skaven (Plymouth) vs. Jared Anderson (Woodhaven), 0:37; Brad Stephens (Gainesville) won by injury default over Connor Hancock (Monroe), 0:42
 - 171:** Hassan Yousef (Plymouth) vs. Tyler Hancock (Monroe), 15:37; Caleb McClellan (Canton) vs. injury default over Clayton Jones (Ann Arbor), 0:00
 - 189:** Derek Hillman (Woodhaven) won by injury dec. over Brad Stewart (Bedford), 3:00; Mike Adams (Wayne) dec. Adam Orman (Bedford), 5-1; Michael Jordan (Plymouth) dec. Nate Krohn (John Glenn), 5-1
 - 215:** Jordan Brandon (John Glenn) won by tech. fall over Tony Biggs (Wayne), 26-2; Jrd. K. Wood (Canton) won by injur dec. over Brandon Underwood (Belleville), 15-4
 - 285:** Mike Adams (Wayne) dec. Adam Orman (Bedford), 5-1; Michael Jordan (Plymouth) dec. Nate Krohn (John Glenn), 5-1

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Wildcats third at Coldwater

Plymouth's gymnastics team lost 142.525-141.000 to Livonia Blue on Monday, despite firsts in two events by Katie Salanga (balance beam, floor exercise).

But the Wildcats are still having a successful season, including finishing third at Saturday's Stick It For The Cure meet in Coldwater. (The team then presented Branch Cancer Center a check for \$430.)

Haley Metz and Rebecca Simu tied their personal bests of 9.225 on floor at the meet.

Simu also tallied a 9.0 on vault to reach the top seven. Placing third and fifth on uneven parallel bars were Metz (8.8) and Molly

McSween (8.75) while Emily Welch tallied a season high of 8.85 on floor.

In all-around scoring, Metz (35.05) and Simu (34.175) finished sixth and ninth, respectively.

"The team continues to improve and looks good for next year," Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey said.

CHIEFS TOP ROCKS: In Friday's makeup meet, Canton remained undefeated with a 144.316.025 win over Riverdale-Sterling.

Canton had strong performances from Stephanie Cox (36.45 all-around), Melissa Green (36.55) and Maddie Wolf (12.75) in every event, including 9.75 on vault and 9.95 on bars.

In Friday's Bluebirds Martinez registered an all-around of 32.0, including 8.5 on beam and 8.45 on vault. The Chiefs' most difficult feat on Thursday to wrap up a perfect record in Okla. On Saturday, they will look to

defend their KJAA conference championship at Walled Lake Central.

DUAL MEET RESULTS LIVONIA BLUE 142.525 PLYMOUTH 141.000 Feb. 10 at Churchill H.S.

Vault: 1. Alex Zubowski (Blue), 8.9; 2. Katie Salanga (P), 8.8; 3. Emily Welch (P), 8.75; 4. Rebecca Simu (P), 8.65; 5. Emily Welch (P), 8.575.

Uneven bars: 1. Bri Rhoad (Blue), 9.2; 2. Zubowski (Blue), 9.0; 3. Jessi Weak (Blue), 8.8; 4. Emily Chatterjee (Blue), 8.8; 5. Mollie McLaughlin (P) and Simu (P), 8.775 each.

Balance beam: 1. Salanga (P), 9.525; 2. Jillian DeFenacio (Blue), 9.275; 3. Brenna Connors (P), 9.275; 5. Katie McDougall (Blue), 9.15; 6. Rhoad (Blue), 8.725.

All-around: 1. Salanga (P), 9.125; 2. DeFenacio (Blue), Rhoad (Blue) and Chatterjee (Blue), 9.0 each; 5. Weak (Blue), 9.0; 6. Metz (P), 8.85; 7. Zubowski (Blue), 8.85; 8. Emily Chatterjee (Blue), 8.85; 9. Metz (P), 8.85; 10. Metz (P), 8.85.

Dual meet records: Livonia Blue, 81 overall, 4-1 Livingston Division; Plymouth, 61 overall, 3-1 Kensington.

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Deadlines: Friday, 8:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper



ASHTON, MARTHA ANN

Age 80, passed away peacefully on February 22 following a long struggle with cancer. Martha was a compassionate woman who had the gift of comforting and caring for her family and friends. She loved cooking, dogs (especially Kuma) and jewelry. A nurse, she worked for many years at Garden City Hospital. She joins her husband, Dick, and sons, Mark and Dale, who left this life before her. A woman of great faith, we take comfort knowing that she is now home with her Father in Heaven. Memorial donations can be made to Angela Hospice Care Center in Livonia.



BEIGHTOL ALLISON SALLY

Born April 25, 1926 in Detroit to Milton A. and Mary B. Bresler. Passed away January 23, 2014 in Rains County, Texas where she had moved to be near family after 30 years residing in Tucson, Arizona. Married to and widowed by Ernest L. Beightol Jr. with whom she had two children, Peter M. of Rochester Hills and Mary Jo Dougherty of Emory, TX. Following the loss of her husband in 1954, Ms. Beightol entered the real estate profession as a leasing agent beginning a successful 40 year career in sales, management and brokerage. She was an avid bridge player earning a life master designation and was director of duplicate bridge clubs and tournaments. She is survived by her children and four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was laid to rest at Acacia Park Cemetery in Beverly Hills. Donations to Hospice or charity of donor's choice.

May you find comfort in family and friends



FAIRCHILD JEAN L. R.N. (NEE OLINGER)

Age 96, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home in Chicago, February 9, 2014. Jean enjoyed a 50+ year career as a nurse at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital. Beloved wife of 48 years to the late Harry Lester Fairchild, devoted grandmother of Derek Fairchild, Hayden (Bernadette) O'Shea, Tyler Fairchild, Miles O'Donnell, and Kyle Kriegsmann, great-grandmother of four. A springtime memorial service is being planned in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the American Diabetes Association, www.diabetes.org. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com



HAMMER, JOHN W. "JACK"

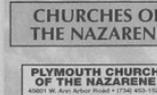
Age 90, February 7, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Betty Jo (nee Pauley) for 53 years. Loving father of Nancy Brewer, Mary Jo (Rick) Halleck, Tim Hammer and the late John Jr. and Jamie (Patti Billaber) Hammer. Cherished grandfather of nine, great-grandfather of four. Dear brother of Virginia Tisdale. Funeral Mass Friday, February 14th, 10 a.m. (in state 9:30 a.m.) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23815 Pewee Road, Farmington, MI 48336. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m., Rosary service 7 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington, www.thayer-rock.com



HARVEY RAYMOND EDWARD

Born on August 4, 1929 in Saginaw, Michigan to Thomas Joseph Harvey and Theresa Mary Devers, deceased at home on Saturday, February 8, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Shirley Ann O'Leary, their five children, Deborah Ann (Randy) Eckerman of Livonia, Michigan, Daniel Francis (Charlene Patosky) Harvey of Farmington Hills, MI, Diane Sue (Phillip) Masick of Cadillac, MI, Mary Kay (Kevin) Naughton of Walled Lake, MI, Patricia Marie (Steve) Atwood of Tobaccoville, North Carolina, and nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his loving sister, Mary Debra Loviska of Livonia-Salem, MI and many nieces and nephews. He retired as a Technical Writer from Lucent Technologies with 34 years service. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in the Korean War. Services were held in Winston-Salem, NC, on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to St. Leo Catholic Church of Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Winston-Salem, NC. Online condolences may be made through: www.salemflh.com

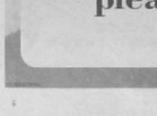
May you find loving comfort in your time of loss.



IRWIN, RONALD W.

Age 78 of Brighton, passed away Sunday, February 9, 2014. Born in Pontiac on August 31, 1935, he was the son of William A. and Sarah M. (Wright) Irwin. A Brighton resident for the past eight months and formerly of Livonia, Bob was a member of the Livonia American Legion and Livonia Moose Lodge. He was a proud Korean War era U.S. Army veteran and retired draftsman for Burroughs. Beloved husband of the late Nancy M. (Bellisle) Irwin who preceded him in death in December 1993. Loving father of Michele (Dave) Chojnowski of Bentonville, Arkansas and Jeanine (Mark) Neuenchwander of Howell. Proud grandfather of Nathan and Miroslaw Chojnowski and Eva, Olivia, Nicholas, John Paul, Dominic and Anthony Neuenchwander. He was preceded in death by his brother Richard. Visitation Thursday 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. (Rosary 7 p.m.) at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800) with funeral mass Friday, February 14, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. (in state 10 a.m.) at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 440 E. Washington St. (at Fenway St.) Howell. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Prevention Helpline. Please visit the family's online guestbook at macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



RUCKHABER, CHARLES J., Ph.D.

Born August 31, 1931 in Gary, Indiana. Died February 11, 2014. Survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Thelma, daughters Catherine and Joan, son Jeremy (Kim), and grandchildren Mitchell, Chase and Jake. Also survived by sisters Judy Patrick and Mary Abgrin and brothers Jim (Sharon) Ashby and Douglas (Sharon) and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He was a long-term resident of Livonia and was employed by Livonia Public Schools as a psychologist and for many years served as chairperson of that department. He was active in the Michigan Association of School Psychologists and served one term as president. He was also an active member of Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington. Chuck was a huge U. of M. fan and attended football games for many years. He breathed maize and blue! He was a caring, loving and generous man, friendly and helpful, and a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He will be missed. Visitation will be held at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI on Thursday, February 13th from 1-8 p.m. Services will be Friday, February 14th at 11 a.m. (visiting starting 10 a.m.) at Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington, MI 48335, or charity of your choice. www.thayer-rock.com

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Observer & Eccentric MEDIA



HAMMER, PATRICIA ANN

Age 92, February 7, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Richard. Loving mother of Patricia (Dr. Arthur) Hillman, Elizabeth Eldridge, Judge Richard Jr. (Patricia), Mark (Diane), Christopher (Debra), Kevin (Koshala), Mary Claire (Michael) Kenney and Margaret Mary Grandtore of 31 great-grandmother of 14. Sister of Louis J. McGuire. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m. and Friday 12-8 p.m. with an evening Rosary at the John N. Santoku & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill), Garden City. In state Saturday 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. Funeral at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 31530 Beechwood (at Merriman Road, 2 blocks north of Ford Rd.). Memorials suggested to U of D Jesuit High School or the Malcolm Carnes Scholarship Fund at Loyola Academy. www.santeisfuneralhome.com



PEARSON, MARK LLOYD

Age 56, of Houghton Lake formerly of Westland and Plymouth, died Feb. 8. Mark was a chemical engineer. He is survived by children, Jennifer of Detroit, Brittan of Minneapolis, MN and Andrew of Livonia; parents, William G. and Eileen H. (Fry) Myers Beach, FL; siblings, William A. (Peggy) of South Lyon and Jean (Moses) Pearson Williams of Huntington, Va.; niece, Michelle (Chris) Costa of Hartland and nephew, Brent (Brittany) of Oak Ridge. The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Friday until services at 11 a.m. at Rosedale Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. Memorials may be made to American Diabetes, Detroit, 648 Monroe Ave. NW, Ste. 004, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or to the church. Arrangements by Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon.

May you find loving comfort in your time of loss.



WILLIAM KAISER

78, of Troy, Ohio, passed away 8 p.m. Saturday, February 8, 2014. He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Julie Thompson of Woodstock, IL, Michael and Kim Thompson of Lorton, VA; four daughters and sons-in-law, Monica and Norm Fortier of Fairfax, VA, Marcia and David Boyce of Louisville, KY, Mary Beth and Nabil Webbe of Bloomfield Hills, MI, and Molly-Sinaitis of West Bloomfield, MI; three sisters, and eighteen grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 13, 2014 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Troy, Ohio with Rev. Fr. James Duell officiating. Visitation will be on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 from 5 - 8 p.m. at Fisher-Cheney Funeral Home, Troy, OH. Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery with a Military Graveside Service performed by the Veterans Memorial Honor Guard of Troy. Contributions may be given to the Memorial Foundation of Dayton Veterans Association if his memory. Condolences may be left for the family at fisher-cheneyfuneralhome.com

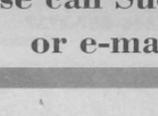
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<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>4001 W. Allen Road • (734) 453-1551</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening - 7:00 p.m. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>NEW HERCULES FOR SUNDAY LIVING CENTER (734) 453-1550</p>	<p>Rosedale Gardens</p> <p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</p> <p>901 Highland St. (at) Oakwood, Livonia, MI (between Hamlin & Farmington Rds.)</p> <p>(734) 422-0494</p> <p>Friends in Faith Services 8:00 a.m. Traditionally 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p><i>A Church for Seasoned Saints</i></p> <p>OPEN ARMS CHURCH</p> <p>Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm</p> <p>Pastor Grady Jensen & Music Minister Ale Trost</p> <p>33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Phone: 734-471-5282 www.openarmschurch.org Amen Room Jan's Produce 248.471.5282 Church As You Remember It!</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road</p> <p>Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>4001 W. Allen Road • (734) 453-1551</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening - 7:00 p.m. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>NEW HERCULES FOR SUNDAY LIVING CENTER (734) 453-1550</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School</p> <p>17810 Farmington Road Livonia, MI 48154</p> <p>Worship Services Sundays - 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p><i>A Church for Seasoned Saints</i></p> <p>OPEN ARMS CHURCH</p> <p>Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm</p> <p>Pastor Grady Jensen & Music Minister Ale Trost</p> <p>33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Phone: 734-471-5282 www.openarmschurch.org Amen Room Jan's Produce 248.471.5282 Church As You Remember It!</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road</p> <p>Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>

For information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Trio plays music from jolly old England at Plymouth concert series

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The three musicians who play together in Trio Fiori have performed extensively in churches.

But their repertoire goes beyond sacred songs and classical music.

"We pride ourselves on our programming. We like to do standard classical pieces but we also like to change things up, add as much pop as we can muster," said violinist Theresa Stacy of Wayne. "For the most part, we try to make it not just classical. We like to include a Latin piece that might be semi-classical. We try to include a real variety to appeal to people."

The trio, which also includes pianist Sharon Sweet of West Bloomfield and flutist Jeffrey Beyer of Oak Park, will play works by British composers, Madeline Dring, and Sir Malcolm Arnold, in addition to a Beatles medley and *Rolling in the Deep* by Adele at its upcoming concert, "From England with Love," at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth. Suggested donation is \$10 for individuals and \$25 for families. The con-

cert is part of the church's Resounding Art in a Sacred Space series.

"We're doing a piece by Handel. Even though he was German, he spent most of his working life in England," Stacy said. "Also, Jeffrey arranged Mars from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst.

"There aren't a ton of things out there that say flute, violin and piano. We have to be creative. Sometimes we use things for two flutes and a piano—a violin can play whatever a flute plays—or two violins and a piano or flute, oboe and piano. We make it work."

Singers, instrumentalists

The trio performs for weddings, holiday events, festivals and concert series. All of the musicians also sing. Sweet, director of music and the organist at Huntington Woods Lutheran Church, teaches vocal lessons from her home and sings with the vocal ensemble I Cantanti.

Beyer also sings with I Cantanti, as well as with the Adult Choir at Huntington Woods Lutheran Church. He performs on flute with the Beyer Trio, the Beyer-Stacy Duo, the Motor City Flute Quartet and the Michigan Flute Orchestra.

Stacy has sung with the Detroit Lutheran Singers, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's Cathedral Choir and Schola Cantorum. Both she and Beyer work for Flute World Co. in Farmington Hills.

Forming a trio

"I had been studying voice with Sharon and she asked me to play something on violin with her choir at church. All three of us did something together and had a great time," Stacy recalled. "She asked if we were interested in forming a trio. That was in 2008. Things snowballed from there."

"Jeff and I sang together at First Methodist Church in Royal Oak for maybe five years. We played instrumentally there as well. This year, we're mainly singing at Sharon's church. That became the home church for the trio."

The trio will perform a coffee-themed concert at the Huntington Woods church in April. Next month, it's among several groups that will play at a Bach marathon at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit. Last year, a Taiwanese composer, Sam Wu, whom Sweet met while on vacation, wrote a piece, *Typhoon Days*, for the group. Trio Fiori played the



Trio Fiori is Theresa Stacy (left), Jeffrey Beyer, and Sharon Sweet.

piece—its world debut—in June 2013 at a Kerrytown Concert House performance in Ann Arbor.

"It was pretty cool," Stacy said.

For more on the trio, visit triofiori.com. For more on St. John's music series, call 734-453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit stjohnsplymouth.org.

Show aims for the heart with romantic songs, scenes

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Friends of Paul's Players Community Theater will make Cupid work overtime this Valentine's Day weekend.

The group plans a show of romantic songs and scenes from plays, movies and musicals to raise money for the Livonia-based theater.

"For Better and/or Worse" is the third annual midwinter fundraiser for the theater and will include a cast of 16 actors in 10 scenes about love. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$10 and include a dessert buffet with sweets from Elite Sweets, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Sorrella's Cakes, Dunia Sweets, and Looney Baker.

"It's a whole bunch of scenes about how people love," said Patricia Hutchison, founder and director of Paul's Players. "I start with middle schoolers and the oldest person in it is 56. It's people of all ages."

"I have two talented middle schoolers doing a scene from *Oliver*. We did *Almost Maine* (last year) and there will be a couple scenes from that.



Max Tromeley and Kat O'Donnell, both of Livonia, will perform a scene from the *Sound of Music* for the Paul's Players fundraiser, Feb. 15-16.

We've got some songs from *Hairspray*."

Amanda Koba of Westland, a middle school teacher at East Middle School in Plymouth—who assists Hutchison with summer theater camp—will perform a scene from *Carousel* with Jon Lenze of Fenton. Max Tromeley and Kat O'Donnell, both of Livonia, will reprise their scene from *The Sound of Music*.

"Our theme this year is couples," Hutchison added. Money raised from the

weekend performances will go toward the summer theater program for youth or will buy much-needed equipment for lighting or sound.

Hutchison also is looking for singers who can act for her next production, "Some Enchanted Evening," an all-music show of Rodgers & Hammerstein songs, set for May 2-4. Call her at 248-347-4134 if interested in singing or to reserve tickets for the upcoming fundraiser.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31

Location: 1696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

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

Love Gone Wild: Tickets are \$85 and include a strolling supper, desserts, a champagne welcome, two drink tickets and a presentation about the "love lives" of animals. The event runs 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, in the Zoo's Ford Education Center. Open to age 21 and older. Advance tickets only from detroitzoo.org/event/love-gone-wild or window #1 at the Zoo. **Contact:** 248-541-5717

ART & CRAFTS

TIFF GALLERY

Time/Date: Through March 14; open during business hours

Location: Cottick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: The fiber artwork of artist Cynthia Bodene is on exhibit **Contact:** 248-473-1856

GALLERY6VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during public performances, or by appointment

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Art & Invention: The Sculpture of Doug Cannell," on display through Feb. 27 **Contact:** 734-394-5300

LIBERTY STREET BREW PUB

Time/Date: Through March 29; open during brew pub hours

Location: In the Upper Hall Gallery at

the pub, 149 Liberty, Plymouth

Details: "Open Source" exhibit includes works by Gerardo Antunez, Colin McGorey and Scott Moelich **Contact:** 734-207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through March 1

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: Eighth annual Member Exhibition **Contact:** 248-344-0497; <http://www.northvillearts.org>

RUSSEL INDUSTRIAL CENTER

Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Feb. 14-15

Location: 1600 Clay Ave., Detroit **Details:** Multimedia artist, Pat Olezko and photographer Naomi Harris, are special guest artists for The Dirty Show, an annual exhibit of erotic art. Tickets are \$25-\$30 **Contact:** dirtydetroit.com

DANCE

DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 14-15, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16

Location: 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Details: Dance Theatre of Harlem performs; tickets range from \$25-\$80 **Contact:** 313-237-5816; 800-745-3000

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27

Location: Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward, Detroit

Details: "Celebrate," the 85th annual Spring Dance Concert, features diverse program of dance works by guest artists Dwight Rhoden and Amanyea Payne, WSU faculty members Nicholas Leichter, J. M. Rebusal, and Meg Paul, adjunct faculty members Rachel Harbert and Lisa LaMarre, and select WSU student choreographers. Tickets are \$15-\$20 **Contact:** 313-577-2960; www.bonstelle.com

Thought-provoking play



Barefoot Productions presents *Twilight of the Gods*, 8 p.m. Feb. 21-22, 28 and March 1 and 2 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 2, at the Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. The plot centers on Suzanne Gold, who discovers through a prenatal test that her unborn baby likely will be "different." The news forces her family to confront issues of bigotry, evolution and love. Tickets are \$20 on Feb. 22, which includes an afterglow party, and \$15 for other performances. Discussions will be held after the Feb. 21, 23 and March 2 shows. Call 734-560-1493 or visit justobarefoot.com. The cast is Samantha Lowry, Livonia; David Alexander, Redford; Christine Steves, Woodhaven; Adam Dib, Dearborn; and Michael Ludlum, Northville.

Give salads a nutritional crunch punch with pecans



AVOCADO, GRAPEFRUIT SALAD WITH TOASTED GEORGIA PECANS

Serves: 4

Salad:
12 heads bibb lettuce, torn into bite-sized pieces
1 bunch arugula, torn into bite-sized pieces
2 Haas avocados, ripe but firm, peeled and cubed
2 ruby red or pink grapefruits, peeled and segmented, reserve excess juice
½ cup toasted Georgia pecan halves (toasted in a sauté pan)
½ cup minced fresh parsley
Grapefruit Vinaigrette:
½ cup extra virgin olive oil
½ cup red wine vinegar
Juice from segmented grapefruit (approx. 3 tablespoons)
Fresh ground salt and black pepper to taste

On large platter arrange the lettuce and arugula. On the bed of greens arrange the avocado and grapefruit segments. Combine the ingredients for the dressing and drizzle over the entire salad. Garnish with toasted Georgia pecans. Add final garnish of minced parsley.

MIXED GREENS WITH CURRIED CAULIFLOWER, CHIVES & GEORGIA PECANS

Serves: 4

The curry seasoning here is quite mild. If you prefer a bolder taste, add an extra 1/2 teaspoon of the curry powder.

3 cups water
1½ teaspoons curry powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon turmeric
3 cups cauliflowerrets
6 cups mixed greens
½ cup toasted Georgia pecan halves
1 plum tomato, seeded and finely diced
½ cup chopped chives or green onion
½ cup plus 2 tablespoons prepared vinaigrette

Combine water, curry powder, salt, and turmeric; heat to boiling. Add cauliflowerrets, reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes. Drain and cool to room temperature. In large mixing bowl, combine salad greens, pecans, tomato, and chives. Toss with ½ cup vinaigrette. Divide salad mixture among serving plates. Toss cauliflower with remaining 2 tablespoons vinaigrette, and arrange on top of each salad. Serve.

Think eating salad is healthy? Not when you add lots of cheese, bacon, croutons and a generous amount of dressing.

Carolyn O'Neil, M.S., R.D., co-author of the book, *The Dish on Eating Healthy and Being Fabulous!* recommends salads that satisfy all the senses. Georgia pecans not only add crunch to a salad, but are a good source of oleic acid, vitamin B1, calcium, potassium and zinc. A one-ounce serving of pecans contains 196 calories, 3 grams of dietary fiber and more than 19 vitamins and minerals including vitamin A, vitamin E, potassium and zinc. And the American Heart Association includes Georgia pecans on its list of heart-healthy foods.

Avocado, Grapefruit Salad with Toasted Georgia pecans adds beauty and interest to your plate with healthful, colorful and crisp ingredients. Avocados are a good substitute for cheese, toasted pecans sub for the crunch of croutons and flavor hit of bacon. The vinaigrette is made with fresh grapefruit juice from the segmented grapefruit and red wine vinegar. Georgia Pecan Confetti Quinoa includes grain, greens and vegetables. Quinoa is a delicious gluten-free grain that becomes soft like rice — but contains more protein — when cooked.

Mixed Greens with Curried Cauliflower, Chives & Georgia Pecans offers curry lovers a mild taste of the spice, combined with inflation-fighting turmeric.

For more recipes using pecans, visit www.georgiapeacans.org.

Courtesy of Family Features



GEORGIA PECAN CONFETTI QUINOA

Serves: 6 half-cup servings

2 teaspoons olive oil
½ cup diced carrots
½ cup diced zucchini squash
½ cup diced yellow squash
1 garlic clove, minced
2 cups cooked quinoa (prepared to package directions)
½ teaspoon finely chopped rosemary leaves
1 cup toasted Georgia pecan halves (reserves 2 tablespoons for garnish)

Heat oil in large skillet and add carrots, zucchini, yellow squash and garlic. Cook until crisp tender. Fold in the cooked quinoa, rosemary and pecans. Season to taste with freshly ground black pepper and sea salt. Present quinoa on a large platter and garnish with additional toasted pecans.

Bite-sized Valentine's Day treats get to the heart of the holiday

Nothing says "I love you" on Valentine's Day more than heart-shaped, homemade treats. This year, try individual treats to make each gift recipient feel extra special. You'll love the fact that they are simple to create.

"Though small in size, mini-treats deliver a big message to all of the Valentines on your list," said Nancy Siler, vice president of consumer affairs at Wilton. "Decorating these treats is quick and easy thanks to Candy Melts Candy — a pantry staple for any decorating project."

With a little help from Wilton, you can bake to your heart's desire this Valentine's Day.

For Valentine's Day recipes, baking tips and gift inspiration, visit www.wilton.com.

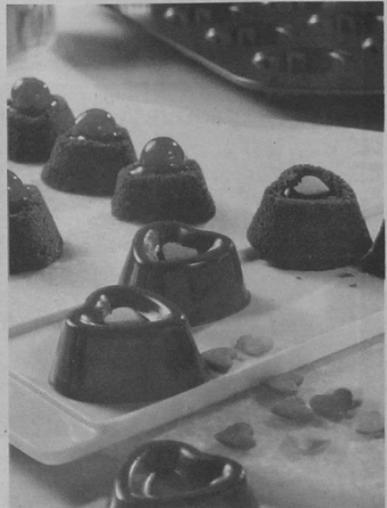
Courtesy of Family Features

CHOCOLATE HEART PETIT FOURS

Makes about 40 mini cakes

1 cup all-purpose flour
½ cup cocoa powder
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons (½ stick) butter, softened
½ cup firmly-packed brown sugar
1 egg
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
½ cup peanut butter, chocolate fudge ice cream topping or cherry pie filling
2 containers (14 ounces each) Chocolate or Vanilla Icing Glaze (optional) Jumbo hearts sprinkles (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare 24 cavity bite-sized heart dessert shell pan with cake release pan coating. In large bowl, combine flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla extract; beat until well combined. Alternately add flour mixture and buttermilk in three additions, beating until just combined. Spoon one tablespoon batter into each pan cavity. Bake 9-11 minutes or until tops of cakes spring back when touched. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Cool completely on cooling grid. To decorate, place cakes on cooling grid with cookie pan below. Pipe ½ teaspoon peanut butter, chocolate fudge or cherry pie filling into shell; fill only to top of cavity. If desired, warm glaze according to package instructions; carefully pour over shell and tap pan to smooth. If desired, add jumbo hearts sprinkles.



Banker shares words of wisdom for grown-ups and kids

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Being a responsible homeowner includes knowing how to manage money. Loree Humphrey-Cruz, community development relationship manager with Fifth Third Bank, knows it's important to get people off to a good start managing money.

The Detroit resident's work, done from a Southfield Fifth Third office, includes the Young Bankers Club of elementary students. Fifth-graders learn the ropes of money management.

"We have a little something for everyone," she said of its community programs, required under the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977. "They do learn a lot in that program," she added of Young Bankers.

Volunteer Fifth Third bankers work with the fifth-graders using a special curriculum for Young Bankers. They meet weekly for either five or 10 weeks, depending on the school. Young Bankers has served more than 2,200 students in this region since 2005, Humphrey-Cruz told a recent Westland Rotary luncheon audience.

The children visit a Junior Achievement Finance Park in Detroit, an interactive financial "mall." Participants get an income and "job" to teach financial literacy, as well as the expenses of adulthood. Many cease complaining to parents, she said, after they realize the costs of living.



Herrington Elementary School students in the Young Bankers Club with their teacher, Michael Mickens, pictured with Phillip Henry (left) of Fifth Third Bank.

"We have a number of programs we take out into the community," the banker said, with those ranging up to senior citizens.

Humphrey-Cruz also oversees a Financial Empowerment Mobile, or e-bus. It visits low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and began as a way to help first-time home buyers with the process.

She changed with the recession and problems in the housing market. For the bus, Fifth Third now partners with other community organizations for homeowner counseling, credit counseling and Project Healthy Living, which includes

blood panels and diabetes screenings.

"We try to meet the neighborhoods where they are," she said. Bankers work with the Heat and Warmth Fund and DTE on utility assistance. "This bus is a good vehicle for program delivery," Humphrey-Cruz said. It also has a Gift of Warmth in which students receive warm coats, hats and gloves.

She also writes and edits a financial section for the *Michigan Chronicle*, a longtime local newspaper serving the black community. She talks to many school and community groups, including for-profits "to try to

bring those resources together to help people. We look for ways to reach out into the community and give back."

Fifth Third also partners with The American Bankers Association Education Foundation on the Teach Children To Save program for eighth-graders. The Foundations in Personal Finance curriculum for high school has the bank work with national finance expert Dave Ramsey.

The high school program is a DVD lecture course and also has an online version.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Review documents to determine your rights

Q: I own a condo in a two-story building; mine is on the first floor. The master bedroom is very cold. When I got it inspected, I was told it had poor insulation. There was water condensation near the window during the recent Arctic blast and my heating bill is extremely expensive. The condo association says that it is the owner's responsibility to take care of insulation and window replacement. I was under the impression that the condo owner owns only inside the wall. What do you advise?

A: I advise that you get legal advice from an experienced condominium lawyer to review the condominium documents to determine whether, in fact, the association has a responsibility for providing insulation and/or window replacement. Sometimes condo associations take a position which is not legally enforceable, either through inadvertence and/or willfully. Unless you have a clear understanding of your responsibilities, vis-à-vis the association, you are subject to potential abuse.

Q: I am a licensed real estate broker and my sales person does market analysis and charges for them. Is that a particular problem?

A: Based on Article 26, Section 2601 (a) (ii) of the Michigan Occupational Code, real estate brokers and associate brokers can charge a fee for performing a market analysis provided the market analysis is in writing and states in bold-face print that it was prepared by a broker or associate broker, not a licensed appraiser. A real estate salesperson, however, is not permitted to charge a fee for preparing a market analysis, which was recently confirmed in an opinion by the Michigan Attorney General. You should be aware that a person who violates the Occupational Code can be charged with a misdemeanor, have his or her license revoked and be subject to civil fines of up to \$10,000, among other things.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$49.95, plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-664-4433 or visit [bmeisnermeisner-law.com](http://www.bmeisnermeisner-law.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

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REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations. RSVP to Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Email Gregory@add-educareality.com or visit FreeForeclosureTours.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 22-27, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

WESTLAND HILLS
15824 Buckingham Ave \$245,000
15618 Kirkshire Ave \$138,000
30312 Lincolnshire Dr \$438,000
32816 Robinhood Dr \$412,000
32463 Sheridan Dr \$205,000
31464 Sheepley Hollow Ln \$425,000
30312 Lincolnshire Dr \$425,000
20090 Village Dr \$410,000
21095 W Rutland St \$177,000

BIRMINGHAM
18310 Lincolnshire Dr \$188,000
513 Bloomfield Ct \$345,000
2765 Buckingham Ave \$250,000
1664 Graefenhof Rd \$128,000
2022 Hazel St \$500,000
519 Lewis St \$275,000
2217 Manchester Rd \$569,000
506 Pierce St \$1,425,000
1136 Pierce St \$775,000
2022 Hazel St \$500,000
1561 S Bates St \$395,000
522 Walling St \$815,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
1716 Lincolnshire Dr \$345,000
1710 Oakleigh Dr \$260,000
4100 Echo Rd \$120,000
2395 Hunt Club Dr \$308,000
546 Lincolnshire Trl \$940,000
3789 Maple Dr \$335,000
3746 W Maple Rd \$355,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
2741 Aldgate Dr \$293,000
2809 Alginate Dr \$240,000
724 Brookwood Walk \$529,000
7370 E Greenwich Dr \$424,000
4057 Lincolnshire Dr \$613,000
1555 Groton Rd \$300,000
4019 Hinden Woods Dr \$455,000
821 Highwood Dr \$425,000
1624 Inwoods Dr \$750,000
4849 Kew Ct \$540,000

3919 Mount Vernon Dr \$1,180,000
1379 N Cranbrook Rd \$1,600,000
714 N Shady Hollow Cir \$1,200,000
1111 Rolling Hills Dr \$96,000
1952 Squirrel Valley Dr \$164,000
619 Windsor Run \$470,000
6024 Weynton Rd \$285,000

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
2810 Augusta Dr \$285,000
2442 Baltusord Dr \$236,000
3204 Belle Terre \$275,000
8795 Buckskin Dr \$255,000
8682 Buffalo Dr \$150,000
9587 Chaumont Dr \$185,000
9598 Chaumont Dr \$233,000
3281 Pickett Hollow Cir \$175,000
5682 Exploration Dr \$325,000
3573 Oak Mdws \$188,000
566 Sherbrooke St \$125,000
2473 Solace Dr \$55,000
9546 Trace Hollow Ct \$25,000
9566 Trace Hollow Ct \$25,000

FARMINGTON
927 Millpond Dr \$150,000
23126 Hawthorne St \$125,000
31749 Leelanau \$139,000
23831 Pickett Hollow Cir \$125,000
36709 Saxony Rd \$203,000
35875 Smithfield Rd \$200,000
32318 Village View Cir \$200,000
FARMINGTON HILLS
2200 Abington Dr \$315,000
29216 Arlington Way Ct \$346,000
21294 Cass St \$156,000
23680 Dorchester Ct \$275,000
39298 Entwined Dr \$251,000
30811 Misty Fields Dr \$229,000
22215 N Brandon St \$99,000
37769 N MarkWain St \$168,000
22287 Cranbrook Ct \$275,000
28349 Parkhill St \$95,000
22000 Parklane St \$220,000
29061 Bramblewood Dr \$185,000
28429 Shiloh Ct \$250,000
21741 Springvale St \$213,000
35586 Valley Crk \$185,000
29850 W 12 Mile Rd # 509 \$45,000
29850 W 12 Mile Rd # 912 \$48,000

28426 W 8 Mile Rd Unit \$16,000
37800 Wendy Lee St \$84,000
28240 Willowood Trl \$181,000
FRANKLIN
4100 Crestwood Dr \$1,200,000
26230 Anthony Dr \$316,000
31420 Lucerne Dr \$400,000
LATHROP VILLAGE
1810 Rainbow Dr \$82,000
19015 Sarentin Dr \$170,000
MILFORD
8795 Buckskin Dr \$255,000
8192 E Fremont Dr \$90,000
3093 Grand Vista Dr \$100,000
1387 Horseshoe Cir \$293,000
2330 Indian garden Ln \$195,000
1171 Riverside St \$280,000
764 S Mill Road \$123,000
NORFOLK
22954 Anthony Dr \$50,000
780 Carpenter St \$170,000
48421 Irving Beam Ct \$300,000
58373 Irving Beam Ct \$83,000
48667 Valleywood Dr \$565,000

SOUTHFIELD
29529 Brentwood St \$69,000
25530 Catalina St \$98,000
2117 Glasgow St \$56,000
18614 Greenwald Dr \$103,000
21252 Harvard Rd \$151,000
22134 Ivanhoe Ln \$150,000
24630 Lois Ln \$125,000
29398 Meadowlane Dr \$170,000
24636 Santa Barbara St \$278,000
20169 Sparkleberry Dr \$400,000
20316 Winchester Dr \$160,000
24045 Woodland Dr \$200,000

WHITE LAKE
9851 Avonlea Ave \$188,000
11101 Coleville Ct \$185,000
11101 Crouty St \$43,000
9386 Mandon Rd \$144,000
307 N Williams Lake Rd \$77,000
379 Pembroke Ct \$25,000
9665 Pontiac Lake Rd \$190,000
8956 Sandy Ridge Dr \$294,000
9621 Steephollow Dr \$229,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 14-18, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON
8435 Alton St \$191,000
84000 Arlington Dr \$193,000
3991 Brighton Ln \$175,000
48625 Geddes Rd \$209,000
50355 York St \$307,000
49060 Hawkbury Rd \$193,000
43200 Keystone Ln \$185,000
19200 Lemont Rd \$180,000
191 Midcraig Ct \$495,000
6856 New Providence \$68,000

28953 Bridge St \$70,000
28915 Florence St \$115,000
120 Gilman St \$67,000
21187 Grandview Dr \$95,000
31541 Leona St \$95,000
28056 Maplewood St \$73,000
29465 Maplewood St \$159,000
31531 Pierce St \$85,000
1171 Ruddick St \$48,000
242 Ross St \$77,000
32349 Warren Rd \$115,000

LIVONIA
35984 Ann Arbor Trl \$65,000
16690 Blue Skies Dr \$210,000
29521 Bolrich St \$57,000
19693 Brimfield Ln \$195,000
18173 Hubbard St \$45,000
35694 Elmira St \$264,000
11710 Farmington Rd \$105,000
18645 Floral St \$78,000
9871 Ganerett St \$95,000
9521 Hartel St \$90,000
35387 Hathaway St \$140,000
15400 Linden Ln \$165,000
31069 Mungler Dr \$110,000
20325 Hugh St \$61,000
9340 Marie St \$145,000
31731 Middleboro St \$169,000
31069 Mungler Dr \$65,000
8843 Norman Ave \$215,000

37983 Northfield Ave \$233,000
39543 Northgate Dr \$158,000
29583 Nottingham Cir \$103,000
29847 Winderham Dr \$138,000
9931 Oporto St \$25,000
9631 Brandy \$45,000
8914 Dale \$76,000
25742 Dover \$163,000
15556 Leona Dr \$85,000
19463 Woodworth \$50,000

WAYNE
4508 Howe Rd \$21,000
WESTLAND
31058 Cooley Blvd \$124,000
7954 Deer Creek Ln \$84,000
7454 Deering St \$65,000
428 Ethan Dr \$85,000
19463 Woodworth \$50,000
WYANDOTA
32664 Havelly St \$120,000
8278 Melvin Ave \$107,000
3484 Mardin Dr \$125,000
8254 Meridian Dr \$67,000
8159 Pickering Pl \$450,000
8159 Pickering Pl \$450,000
PLYMOUTH
28597 Scott Dr \$135,000
33915 Sequoia St \$110,000
34823 University St \$120,000
19524 Northridge Dr \$96,000
13266 Peninsula Way \$625,000
17979 Ridgeway Dr \$132,000
48866 Running Trout Ln \$437,000
45684 Tournament Dr \$67,000
15900 Winding Creek Ct \$50,000
16400 Albert Dr \$164,000
242 Auburn St \$425,000
13872 Eaton Dr \$386,000
31953 Oakland Ct \$346,000
51349 Plymouth Ridge Dr \$400,000

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Range: WGG7555085 \$1799

Cangy Hood: GXW6530DXS \$449

Dishwasher: WDT910SAYM \$699

Gas Cooktop: G7CG3064XS \$1049

Electric Wall Oven: WOD93ECOAS \$2549

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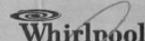


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