

CANTON OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014 • hometownlife.com



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Canton weighs rental inspections

Officials consider new ordinance for 2015

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton is inching toward a plan to inspect thousands of apartments and rental houses to identify unsafe living conditions and force landlords to fix problems.

The effort could cost more than \$400,000 – a price tag Canton officials say they would pass on to property owners who, in turn, would likely increase what they charge for rent.

Supervisor Phil LaJoy said the program likely wouldn't take effect until next year, when inspectors could start examining as many as 7,214 apartments and 2,000 rental houses for dilapidated condi-

tions and problems with plumbing, furnaces, doors and windows, electrical components and other amenities.

"The idea is to make sure the community is staying the vibrant Canton community we want," LaJoy said.

His remarks came Tuesday night as the Canton Township Board of Trustees and rental industry officials held talks that fueled some concerns. Michael Tobin, president of

Group Five Management Co., said the plan could be punitive toward responsible apartment owners and renters.

Unfair policy?

"You're treating anybody who rents like a second-class citizen or kid," Tobin said, adding he transformed Autumn Ridge near Cherry Hill and Lotz from a partially boarded-up complex into an attractive community.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin called Tobin's remarks "a little offensive" and said Canton is merely seeking to ensure proper maintenance of rental properties.

"I think that's a diversion comment," she said of Tobin's statement.

Canton leaders and industry officials appeared to

See RENTAL, Page A2

Olympic excitement



Grace Dai (from left), Sophia Dai, Samantha Blashack, Angela Wang and Nan Feng, all of Canton, watch the Olympic ice dancing competition on television during a viewing party at the Arctic Edge, where six of the dancers train. For more on the viewing and the Olympics, see page B1. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chamber unveils business initiative

Program aimed at all aspects of commerce

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Moving to help companies boost their profits, improve employee morale and enhance customer service, the Canton Chamber of Commerce is sending area business executives back to school.

Building on last year's inaugural four-session Institute of Business Development, chamber President Thomas Paden has announced the debut 200-level course, starting Feb. 25 at the Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center.

Paden touted the initiative as unique in Michigan. It is led by acclaimed business-growth expert John Lankford of Plymouth-based Premiere Development Solutions and customer service specialists from ZingTrain, billed as the brains behind the Ann Arbor-based Zingerman's Community of Businesses.

"Ultimately, what we hope for the attendees to take away is a package of systems and tools they can implement to make their businesses more successful, no matter how big or small they are," Paden said Monday.

The Institute of Business Development kicks off at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, with breakfast and registration, followed by the session from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. titled "The Art of Giving Great Service: How Zingerman's Treats Customers Like Royalty."

Space is limited. Early-bird registration is \$97; otherwise the cost is \$157 for members and \$197 for non-members. To register or for more information, call Paden at 734-453-4040 or visit

See CHAMBER, Page A2

Library patrons coping amid renovation project

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton mom Dawn Petersen hasn't let a major renovation project inside the Canton Public Library disrupt her visits to a place she often uses to home-school her 19-year-old daughter Anna.

Sitting outside the yellow caution tape that cordoned off a section of flooring under construction, Petersen and her daughter spread their books out on a table and

delved into the day's lessons Monday morning.

"I really like this library," Petersen said, "and I think anything they do to improve it is nice."

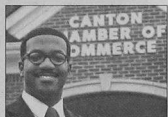
Not far away, Canton resident Semira Adem sat with daughters Danna, 6, and Jana, 5, as they explored a stack of children's books as the girls enjoyed their winter break from school.

Danna didn't seem worried

See LIBRARY, Page A2



Library Director Eva Davis looks over the plans. She is standing in the circular service desk area, which will offer material checkout and reference. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Thomas Paden, Canton Chamber of Commerce president, has announced the latest initiative to help businesses grow and improve their customer base.



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Canton bartender tries for world championship

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Andy Hool—known by his professional nom de plume, Andy Bro—is used to wowing the customers from behind the bar at the Canton TGI Fridays.

Next week, Hool, a seven-year TGI Fridays veteran who has been tending bar nearly six years, hopes to cause an even bigger stir in Dallas, where he'll compete Feb. 17 in the 23rd annual TGI Fridays World Bartending Championship.

A dozen bartenders, including seven from the United States, will be on hand for the annual tournament and will compete in categories including bar knowledge, compulsory and speed performances and a freestyle

showcase. Hool is the only participant with Midwest ties. It's Hool's third trip to the finals, following performances in 2010 and 2012.

"I have a lot more patience, more poise and I've been practicing extra hard," Hool said. "I've done a lot of pour tests, studied my recipes to make sure I can do them as fast as I can and as accurately as possible. I've been cutting fruit and opening bottles of wine. It's been an endless repetition of different moves."

Hool, a former Livonia resident, now lives in Canton with his 5-year-old daughter Dayton. He attended St. Michael School in Livonia and is a graduate of Catholic Cen-

tral, then in Redford but now located in Novi. His parents, Gerald and Elizabeth Hool, still live in Livonia.

Hool uses social media to invite friends and family into the Canton location whenever he's working. Hool's customers marvel at the fact he learns their names, favorite drinks and food orders. He's had his photo taken with patrons and greets many with a high-five or a hug.

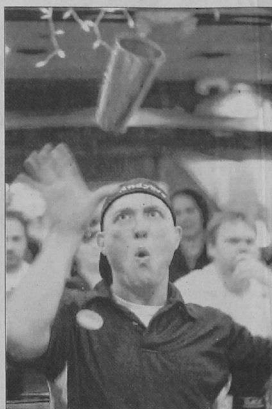
"Every time I visit, we get fun performance and the service is amazing," said Canton resident Jill Engel, a huge Hool fan. "When people say it's like being on the Cheers TV show, where everyone knows everyone and it feels like home, they aren't kidding. (Hool)

tells his patrons how much he appreciates them."

Hool and the other competitors got a chance to meet at a kind of boot camp TGI Fridays conducted for its world finalists in November. Hool said having met most of the competitors (he met nine of the other 11) will benefit him when he gets to Dallas.

"It won't give me an advantage, except that it gives you a sense of calmness, knowing that you're not meeting a bunch of new people," Hool said. "I'm one of 12 great competitors and I'm definitely one of the veterans. I think I have just a good chance as anyone."

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Canton's Andy Hool is headed back to the TGI Fridays World Bartending Championships next week in Dallas. It's Hool's third trip to the finals (2010 and 2012).

CHAMBER

Continued from Page A1

www.cantonchamber.com. The event is in Room W210B of the Schoolcraft College VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

To my knowledge, nowhere else in the state is a chamber offering a collaborative effort of this kind for employees across institutions to gain experience and learn from senior-level curriculum offered by two of the state's leading business development organizations," Paden said in a statement. "It's a chance to go back to business school, so to speak, to brush up on the essentials of business success and we're proud to be offering it."

Paden said three more 200-level courses are expected to be announced in coming weeks. Following that, 300-level courses will be forthcoming. Ideally, Paden said they should try to attend all the sessions to gain the most information and develop what he called "a clear competitive and business advantage in their marketplaces."

"We know business leaders are looking for solutions to improve their customer experience and boost the effectiveness of their management teams," Paden said, "and this is it."

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RENTAL

Continued from Page A1

reach an accord on some key issues, such as potentially having inspectors examine only a portion of an apartment complex rather than every unit if it appears local housing codes are being met.

Canton has 489 apartment buildings with 6,714 units, many of them near the I-75 corridor. Another 500 units are anticipated. The township has an estimated 2,000 single-family rental homes, bringing total rental properties to 9,214.

Program fees

Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said preliminary estimates indicate Canton would need to charge property registration fees of \$100 per rental building and inspection fees of \$60 per unit to cover its costs. Pending state legislation also could affect the numbers.

Faas said the township's cost could range from \$346,646 to \$479,000, depending on the number of inspectors hired and whether they are full time, part time or contractual. Regardless, no more than three inspectors and one clerical employee are anticipated.

By law, Faas said Canton could only charge the amount it

takes to cover costs: "We would align the revenues to match the cost of service."

Trustee Pat Williams said Canton should avoid losing money if it adopts a rental inspection program.

"I'm going to be very frustrated if, in 10 years from now, we've got another bleeder," he said.

Inspectors would cite rental property owners for violations and set a deadline—two weeks on average—to fix problems. Canton's program would be similar to one LaSoy said has worked well in Clinton Township.

Canton officials said properties could potentially be inspected every two to three years, but they appeared receptive to industry leaders who suggested longer periods for properties that pass the initial test. The two sides also discussed the possibility of using data from sources such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Inspection notice

Rental-unit tenants would be given notice prior to inspections.

"These are people's homes. Don't forget that," said Forrest Wall, the Apartment Association of Michigan's vice president of government affairs and industry relations.

Well said Canton should avoid unnecessary costs to property owners such as charging repeat registration fees, saying "it draws resources away from the landlords."

Industry officials didn't quibble over the need to seek out landlords who fail to maintain their properties. But they said the program must be fair and avoid being punitive toward responsible landlords.

Canton officials could choose to adopt the rental inspection program this year, but inspections aren't likely until next year.

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Matthew Foss lays new carpet in the Canton library. He lives in Westland and works for SCI Flooring. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

LIBRARY

Continued from Page A1

the library would change too much. "It will be just a little different, maybe."

Work crews have ripped out sections of the library and started building a new, circular help desk near the front entrance, which remained closed Monday morning as patrons entered through a side door.

Library Director Eva Davis said the number of patrons has fallen off somewhat since the \$361,733 project began early this month. Some customers have used facilities in neighboring communities as they await the second-biggest renovation since the Canton library opened in 1988.

The good news: Davis still expects the project will be largely finished by month's end, though some finishing touches still are likely inside the 53,000-square-foot facility.

"We are on schedule," she said. "We are on budget."

Davis lauded the contractor, Plymouth-based Library Design Associates, for "a really good job" coordinating all the workers who are transforming Canton's information hub.

To be sure, patrons



Dawn Peterson (right) home-schools her daughter Anna.

have encountered hassles such as temporary closings of areas such as the children's department, but Davis said the finished product should appeal to customers. Why?

» Responding to a diverse customer base, the renovation has allowed the library to expand its international language collection of magazines, books and movies.

"That was a big request we had gotten from our patrons," Davis said. "We were able to accommodate that."

» Public computers located in the heart of the library have been rearranged to make the area a little more organized and enclosed.

» Visually impaired patrons will find low-vision computers, magnifying reading devices and large-print materials all in one area.

"We identified that need as part of our strategic plan," Davis said.

» A circular service desk near the front entrance will offer check-out counters, reference help and one-on-one assistance with digital devices—all while making the library more accessible for patrons with physical disabilities.

» Patrons will find new furniture and additional seating in reading areas.

» The business center, featuring copiers, fax machines and printers, will become more accessible, along with self-checkout areas.

» New carpeting and vinyl plank flooring resembling wood will replace some areas that had become worn.

For more on the library's renovation project or its services, go to www.cantonpl.org.

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CARVING A NICHE

Wood workers make time for fun, friends

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Ron Nikolits' eyes moved from the photo of a church in the woods, a country scene, to the wood carving in his hands. The Plymouth Township resident, 77, said, "I've got a lot of wood to take off yet."

He's been working on the church scene for some time at the Plymouth Woodcarvers, an informal group that meets from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. Newcomers of all ages are welcome at the weekly sessions.

"We kind of do it on a casual basis. Everybody's working on their own project," Nikolits said, setting aside his project for a chat. He's been a wood carver since 2000, after retiring as a Ford Motor Co. engineer.

"Most of the people we have are retired," Nikolits said. "Just before Christmas, you'll start doing Christmas ornaments and Santas." They also do Easter-related wood carvings.

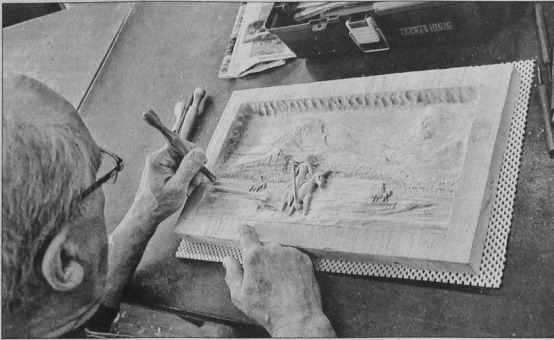
Participants pay \$1.50 for each drop-in session, which goes to the Cultural Center for the room, cleaning and coffee. "So we get our money's worth," Nikolits said. "It's a good deal. Part of my enjoyment is I've got something to do. I enjoy the camaraderie. We teach each other. We help each other."

Instructor was key

On the wall is a plaque with a photo of the group's late instructor, George Hanosh, who died at 79. It reads, "Wood Carver - Teacher Friend / Enjoyed Helping Others."

On a recent Monday, Jerry Valentine, 76, of Livonia was working on a Kachina doll. Valentine is retired as an engineer from Pilot Industries in Dexter and has been a wood carver about 20 years.

"I did some stuff when I was a kid, doing model work," he said. The figure came in line in his



Bob Fogoros works on his current project. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Bill Robjewski, Ron Nikolits and Bob Goodwin work on their projects.

hands is "carving in the round" and he'd progressed well in two weeks.

"To keep busy," Valentine said, noting he's also an artist in oils and acrylics. "I've done watercolor in the past," said Valentine, who also plays the recorder.

Valentine's wife is happy with his projects. "Oh, she loves it. I sometimes think that's why she married me, because

of my artwork," he said. "She's waiting for a painting. I'm finishing right now."

That's of The Last Supper, a biblical scene Valentine has also carved twice, one taking some 100 hours and the other 160. The Kachina doll he was recently working on will have feathers and a head dress when done.

"I've got a lot of detail work to do on it," he said. Bob Goodwin, 66, of

Plymouth is a new retiree who worked for Ford Motor in finance and human resources. He saw a notice in the parks and recreation brochure and dropped in for the first time Feb. 3.

"I had been involved in wood carving years ago," said Goodwin, who put in 35 years at Ford, as well as military service. "A thing called work got in the way."

Goodwin wore gloves



Jerry Valentine carves the neck for a banjo he is building. Prior to the banjo, he built a violin.

and guards on his hands as he relearned. "These are like training wheels on a bicycle," he said with a smile.

The group is mostly male, with Nikolits noting some women have dropped out when arthritis makes the work too difficult. Carol Dodd, 78, of Westland was representing the women.

"My husband," she said of Bill getting her involved. "He carves. I used to go with him and work on a piece." She's

been doing it in earnest about two years and wood burning before that.

Carol Dodd's a homemaker who worked as a medical office assistant as well. "I have made spoons with rope-like handles," she said. "I did a relief carving. That was quite a challenge."

The relief carving had a cabin, trees and fence. "I really enjoyed that," she said. "That was fun to work on. My husband shows me what to do."

Bill Dodd's been carving some 25-30 years and his wife has no problem with sessions with the men. "They help you if you ask them," she said. "I don't really have that much. Some I give away," she said of her projects. "Some I've got in a box. It gives you a reason to get up and get going in the morning."

'Help each other'

Nikolits said. "We kept the club going" after Hanosh died. "We work as a cooperative. We all help each other. Just general interest in wood working. I find it relaxing and challenging at the same time."

He doesn't have power tools. "Basically all of us do everything by hand. You always have more tools than you need. I find it keeps my fingers limber."

The carvers sometimes travel to learn from experts in seminars. "We like to take beginners and help them get started," Nikolits said of the Cultural Center sessions.

He estimated a start-up cost of \$50 and said there are lots of catalogs for ordering tools online. "It's not inexpensive, but it's not overly expensive either," he said.

Carvers find bass the most universal wood and least expensive, he said, adding wood adds to the project cost. Some use walnut; pine doesn't work well.

Carol Dodd summed it up aptly: "There are a lot of nice people. That's why I come."

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH ORDINANCE #2014-03 ZONING AMENDMENT

The City of Plymouth Planning Commission has recommended and approved by the City Commission a change in the City Zoning Map to indicate a Planned Unit Development, in accordance with City Ordinance #78-31 Zoning Maps shall be amended to indicate the change in Zoning to Planned Unit Development.

The City Commission approved to amend a second reading for a change in Zoning for a property commonly known as 333 Plymouth Road that is currently Zoned O-2 to Planned Unit Development.

The City Commission of the City of Plymouth also approved to amend the change in Zoning for two additional parcels that are contiguous to the 333 Plymouth Road property, but front on N. Holbrook, which are currently Zoned B-3 and RT-3 to change them to Planned Unit Development to be incorporated into the overall site and PUD plan for 333 Plymouth Road. The City Commission of the City of Plymouth does approve and adopt the Zoning change on a Planned Unit Development Agreement between the City of Plymouth and Starkweather Development, LLC. The second reading of the approved map change was done on 1/29/2014, Ordinance #2014-03.

The maps can be viewed in the City Clerk's office at 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, during regular business hours.

Introduced: 1/06/2014
Adopted: 1/20/2014
Advertised: 2/20/2014
Effective: 2/21/2014

DANIEL DWYER
MAYOR CITY

LINDA LANGMESSER
CLERK

February 20, 2014

LD000017015 3/4

CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2014 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2014 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 4 2014 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 5 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday, March 10 2014 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 11 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, March 17 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2014 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 17, 2014.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 17, 2014 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 253.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Published: 2/13, 2/16, 2/20

LD000017015 3/4



OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide benefits to senior citizens.
2. To provide benefits directly to persons of low/moderate income and/or areas in which at least 51% of the residents are of low/moderate income.
3. To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG funded programs

PROPOSED YEAR 2014-2015 PROJECTS:

The City anticipates receiving approximately \$62,787.24 in CDBG funds for the contract year 2014-15, and has identified the following potential projects and corresponding estimated allocations for use of these funds:

1. ADA and/or Public Facility Improvements	\$44,578.94
2. Public Services - Senior Transportation	\$11,929.58
3. Administration/Planning	\$6,278.72
TOTAL	\$62,787.24

PUBLIC HEARING:

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects listed above, and to suggest other projects. All projects must meet one of the Federal CDBG objectives.

A public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed uses of 2014-2015 CDBG funds, and additional suggestions for use of said funds, will be held at the Plymouth City Commission Meeting on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: February 20, 2014

Posted at the following locations:

Plymouth Cultural Center- Bulletin Board Main Entrance
Plymouth City Hall- North Entrance and South Entrance
Plymouth Downtown Development Authority Office- Front Window
Observer & Eccentric Newspaper- Published Thursday February 20, 2014

LD000017015 3/4

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

Tuesday, March 4	9am-Noon	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10	2pm-5pm 6pm-9pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 12	9am-Noon 2pm-5pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Thursday, March 13	9am-Noon	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 15	9am-11am	First Come - First Serve

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Friday, March 21, 2014 at 4:30 pm.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Published February 13, 16, and 20, 2014

LD000018040 3/4

MEMORY OF MOM

Canton team raising money to fight lung cancer

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

No one really knew what was wrong with Carol Jackson.

One night she went to bed a completely healthy wife, mother of two and dance studio owner. The next morning, when she woke, she couldn't see, talk or walk.

Doctors at first thought "stroke," but when it turned out not to be that, they couldn't really figure out what it was. Eventually, they started treating it like lung cancer, though no sign of an actual tumor ever developed, because that's what the problem most presented like.

That was December 2010 and it began an 18-month battle against lung cancer that claimed the life of the longtime Dance Connection owner, who devoted her life to teaching young people how to dance, in June 2012. The fight included six rounds of chemotherapy and brachytherapy.

It's her eight daughter, Melissa McParlane of Canton, doesn't want anyone else to have to fight. That's why McParlane and the 98 members of the TDC Dancing Divas are raising money for the Lungevity Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to making an immediate impact on increasing quality-of-life and survivorship of people with lung cancer, by accelerating research into early detection and more effective treatments, "and according to the group's website.

"There's not enough research," said McParlane, Jackson's 35-year-old daughter, who now runs the studio. "There is only a certain amount of chemotherapy available. ... There was nothing else they could do for my mom. For me, to raise money for research for someone else now is very important."

The Divas are doing that in a variety of ways. The team's next fundraiser is Friday, Feb. 21, an all-day event at the Olga's Kitchen on Ford Road in Canton. Olga's is donating a portion of its receipts to the Divas.

The studio then hosts a vendor sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 1, at The Dance Connection, 1672 S. Lilley, in Canton. A variety of vendors will be on hand and



The TDC Dancing Divas are raising money for lung cancer research in honor of Carol Jackson, the longtime owner of The Dance Connection in Canton, who died from lung cancer in June 2012.

FIGHTING LUNG CANCER

What: TDC Dancing Divas fundraisers for the Lungevity Foundation
When: Friday, Feb. 28, at Olga's Kitchen and Saturday, March 1, a vendor fair at The Dance Connection, 1672 S. Lilley, in Canton

What: All money raised in the fundraisers will go to TDC Dancing Divas and lung cancer research through the Lungevity Foundation
How to help: For more information, call The Dance Connection at 734-397-9755 or go to the website www.the-dance-connection.com

they're donating 10 percent of their receipts to the Divas and the Lungevity Foundation.

Plus, the kids are trying to raise \$100 apiece. If they reach the goal, they get a cancer walk T-shirt in which, according to McParlane, they show more pride than "any iWhatever" they might get. More than that, McParlane said, the kids learn just what the power of \$100 is.

"We give them a list of exactly what \$100 can do," McParlane said. "The excitement on their faces when they realize they did it is so exciting. Kids have worn those T-shirts since 2010. For them to be that excited about a simple T-shirt shows kids can be teaching anything. We are teaching them about giving back to others in need."

It's important to McParlane, because lung cancer in particular is so prevalent. According to information on the Lungevity Foundation website, one in 14 people will be diagnosed at some point with lung cancer, a disease the foundation says kills more people than breast, prostate and colon cancers combined.

Yet federal funding is lagging for lung cancer research. Federal funding, according to McParlane, is measured in dollars-per-life lost to the disease. Breast cancer research got \$26.39 per-life lost in 2012; lung cancer, got less than \$1.50.

The problem, according to McParlane, is name recognition. Breast cancer gets the biggest social push, but few know that much about lung cancer. That's why the cancer walk is called according to McParlane.

The TDC Dancing Divas will take part in the Lungevity Foundation's Breathes Deep Michigan walk May 3 at Both Park in Birmingham. They'll be representing Jackson, who owned TDC for 21 years and spent a lot of time with many of the kids in her studio as did their parents.

"Some 600 kids walk through these doors every year and a lot of them spend 16-17 hours a week in here," McParlane said. "My mom was like a second mom to a lot of them. When she got sick, it was a big thing to them."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Heise hours

Date/Time: Friday, Feb. 21, 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Location: Panera Bread, 2040 Haggerty, Northville
Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally. No appointment is necessary. Rep. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll-free 1-855-REKURU or e-mail kurt.heise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

Bowling benefit

Date/Time: Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m.
Location: Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road, Canton

Details: It's a bowling benefit for Ray and Dorn Melick to help support them during Ray's fight against cancer. The \$20 admission includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop. The event, which features raffles and 50/50 drawings.

Contact: Call Super Bowl at 734-459-6070 to reserve a lane.

Church fundraiser

Dates: Feb. 21 through Feb. 22

Location: Abundant Life Church, 2100 Hannan, Canton

Details: The youth department of Abundant Life Church is holding a Little Caesar's fundraiser to raise money for Summer Youth Revival & Community Service Activities. Pizza kits, menu and drawings range in price from \$12 to \$19 and contain all the ingredients to bake pizza, bread, pie and cookies at home in minutes.

Contact: To order items from Abundant Life Church of God, contact Pastor Bob by Curry at 734-249-1801 before March 21.

Briscoe fundraisers

Dates/Times/Locations: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5-8 p.m. at Pot Belly, 29579 Plymouth Road, Livonia; Friday, March 7, 4-8 p.m. at Jungle Java, 6481 Canton Center, Canton

Details: American Cancer Society Relay for Life team Briscoe Family Ties held a pair of fundraisers. Pot Belly will donate 25 percent of all sales to the team; Jungle Java is donating 10 percent of all paid admissions. Participants should mention they're there for the fundraisers.

Community conversation

Date/Time: Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 2235 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Center for Michigan will hold a Community Conversation at which the public is invited to provide their input regarding energy, quality of life and public money priorities, among other state issues. This is an opportunity to engage in meaningful and informative conversations that make a difference to Michigan residents.

Contact: To RSVP, email irene.lamaine@gmail.com

Charity Mom2Mom

Date/Time: Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Location: Summit on the Can in Canton

Details: In anticipation of their Mom2Mom Sale benefiting Big Family of Michigan, which serves the needs of Michigan's foster children and young adults, the Canton Newcomers and Neighbors Club, a social, civic and charitable organization, invites table sales to sell new and gently used maternity, baby and child items including furniture and larger play equipment.

Contact: For more information, call Carrie at 313-520-5526 or email carrie1975@yahoo.com.

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: March 5, 1-3 p.m.

Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste

250, Canton
Details: United Home Health Services offers free individual counseling with a certified MMAR counselor who will help you understand Medicare/Medicaid eligibility, transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare, plan options, assistance programs, drug insurance and Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse identification and reporting. Medicare plan enrollment and subsidy application assistance also provided.

Contact: Call Heather Pinnage at 734-727-2063 to schedule an appointment. For MMAR information, visit www.mmarp.org/pages/about.html

Hospice support

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

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 N. Lilley, Suite A, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at 888-983-9050 or email annchristensen@ccnh.net.

Mom-to-Mom

Date/Time: Saturday, March 8, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Bentley Elementary School, 1100 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Tables are still available for the Bentley Elementary School Mom to Mom Sale. There's a \$1 entry fee and strollers are allowed after 10 a.m.

Contact: Email Christine at rcwegrzyn@gmail.com

Bingo night

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 5, 7-11 p.m.

Location: Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford, Canton

Details: Canton Newcomers and Neighbors' Bingo Night features prizes donated by local businesses, a slice of pizza from Benito's, a raffle to benefit First Step and an opportunity to sign up for activities for the entire family at the next adult general meeting. Bring a complimentary March newsletter at www.cantonnewcomersandneighbors.org.

Contact: To RSVP, donate a small prize or with questions, call Noreen at 734-981-0486 or email nrybar@yahoo.com.

Jazz @ The Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 4700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Jazz @ The Elks happens on the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 admission to the door, which includes hours d'oeuvres. Featured will be Cliff Moner Trio with vocalist Stephanie Moner, Mo-near 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. 26, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Discovery Middle School, 45083 Haoford, 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, nonprofit organization that provides free tutors 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/>. Registration is limited to the first 15 students to register.

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

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations: Sunday, 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., VW 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, crib sheets, blankets, handmade baby clothes up to size 3T, convertible car seats, 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 in the 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

Vendor fair

Date/Time: Saturday, March 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Canton High School cafeteria, 8415 N. Canton Center, Canton

Details: The Project Graduation vendor fair will feature a variety of vendors to address all graduation party needs, including tents, inflatable, photo booths, caterers, bakers and more. There will also be a variety of vendors available for visitors to shop, including Tastefully Simple, Cookie Love Jewelry, Scentry Fragrance Wares, Mary Kay, Velata Chocolate Wafers and more. Proceeds will benefit the Senior All-Night Party. Admission is free.

Toastmasters move

Date/Time: Each Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Cherry Hill, Canton

Details: Canton Communicators Toastmasters Club is changing its meeting place to Rose's Restaurant. Guests are welcome and appreciated. Toastmasters officials say the location is available in a new way to gain communication skills, confidence and leadership training. "More information is available at www.cantoncommunicators.com

Contact: Robert Birch by email at rbirch12002@yahoo.com

VFW craft show

Date/Time: Sunday, April 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: VFW Post 6695, Plymouth

Details: The VFW Plymouth post 6695 Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a craft show. The show is an inexpensive way to gain communication skills, confidence and leadership training. "More information is available at www.cantoncommunicators.com

Contact: Robert Birch by email at rbirch12002@yahoo.com

Crafters needed

Date/Time: Aug. 30-31

Location: Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 5671 Whitcomb, Canton

Details: Crafters are needed for Old St. Patrick's 38th annual Labor Day Weekend Festival, which will now include an Arts & Crafts Show. Artists interested in participating as a vendor can visit the church's website (stpatrickscath.org) and send in the application.

Contact: Carla or Jeanine at ospfestval@gmail.com

ADVERTISING SERVICES by the Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan as Owner, until 2:00 P.M. Official Local Time, on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, at which time said bids will be opened and publicly read.

The Charter Township of Plymouth seeks bids for the following:
Provide Architectural Drawings and Construction Management Services for a 250 - 350 seat amphitheater at Plymouth Township Park.

Instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Clerk, Michigan Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 beginning Thursday, February 20, 2014 or by registering with the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.govbids.com/scripts/mitn/PublicHome.asp.

The Township reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
Plymouth, MI

Signed: Nancy Conzelmann, Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

Published: Thursday, February 20, 2014.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT 6 TO ORDINANCE 1016,
CHAPTER X WATER AND SEWER,
ARTICLE 3 WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM, SECTION I, X-3.055
USE FACTOR SCHEDULE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1016 BY REVISING THE USE FACTOR SCHEDULE, CODIFIED SECTION X-3.055 OF SECTION I, ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER X OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM ORDINANCE, PROVIDING FOR REVISION OF THE USE FACTOR SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS. SECTION I. AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE. Ordinance No. 1016, codified as Section X-3.055 of the Township Code, is hereby amended to read as follows: "The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Use Factor Schedule which establishes the unit factors to be applied to the Fee Schedule for the types of uses under the Zoning Ordinance. **SECTION II. REPEAL.** This section provides that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect. **SECTION III. SEVERABILITY.** This section provides that any unenforceable section can be severed from the rest of the Ordinance. **SECTION IV. SAVINGS CLAUSE.** This section provides that the Ordinance shall not be held invalid because of any provisions that are held invalid, penalties and matured rights and duties in effect before the effective date of this Ordinance. **SECTION V. PUBLICATION.** This section provides that the Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by **SECTION VI. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section provides that this Ordinance, as amended, shall take full force and effect upon publication. Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, during regular business hours and at www.plymouthtp.org.

Man facing trial on charges he hurt two with car

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Barring a plea deal, a Canton man is expected to face trial in April following allegations he backed a car toward a crowd and injured two people during a dispute at the Shell gas station on Michigan Avenue near Lotz.

The defendant, 20-year-old Jesse James Winchester, has maintained his innocence and

indicated he was fearful for himself and a female companion who was with him.

Winchester could face penalties ranging up to four years in prison if he is convicted of two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, failing to stop at the scene of a personal injury accident and assault and battery.



Winchester

His trial has been scheduled for April 2 in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Cynthia Gray Hathaway.

Winchester, who is free on bond, was charged Dec. 26 for an incident police say occurred in early December.

Authorities have said Winchester got into an argument after someone in a crowd of people had a conversation

with a woman who was with him.

Winchester has described the woman as the mother of his child.

After the argument escalated, police said Winchester got into the vehicle and drove in reverse toward a crowd, hitting two people.

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh has described the injuries as minor.

Winchester was ordered to

stand trial during a preliminary examination in early January in 35th District Court.

Police have said Winchester was arrested for the Dec. 1 incident at the Shell station after police went to his residence in Canton on Christmas Eve for an unrelated disturbance.

dclm@hometownlife.com
313-222-38
Twitter: @CantonObserver

Tax scams reported in township

Tax-related fraud and fraud attempts are being reported in Plymouth Township during the filing season for 2013 income tax returns.

A township woman reported Feb. 10 that she had received several phone calls in an apparent scam attempt by people claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. The callers, from different numbers, asked for the woman's bank information, which she did not provide, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

The woman told police she had been called both at home and at work and that one caller told her there was a warrant for her arrest that she could only resolve by providing banking information. She noted the numbers from which she had been called.

Police told the woman not to answer calls from numbers she doesn't recognize and turned the phone numbers she would be scammers had used over to the U.S. Treasury Department.

A township man reported Feb. 10 that a 2013 tax return had been fraudulently filed with his Social Security number. The victim is following up with the IRS.

A police report said the man tried to file his taxes electronically Feb. 8, but received a message that his return was not accepted, as someone had already used that Social Security number. The man told police that at least 12 people at his

workplace in Farmington had reported the same problem.

A township man reported Feb. 6 that someone had fraudulently claimed a \$2,800 refund on his 2012 taxes.

The man told police he hadn't filed the 2012 return until October of last year and called the IRS recently to check on the status of the expected refund. He was told, he reported, that someone with the same name and Social Security number but a different address had claimed the refund. The IRS is investigating but told the man to file a report with his local police department.

Shoplifting

A 24-year-old Wayne man was arrested on a shoplifting charge Feb. 12 after admitting he had stolen a blanket and two air fresheners from the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road in the township.

Police were called to the store just before 2 p.m. A security worker told police the suspect, who was with a woman and a child, had concealed the air fresheners in a stroller with the child, then had taken the tags off the \$16.99 Disney blanket and put it on the child before leaving the store without paying for the items. The employee confronted the man outside and he admitted the theft to police, the report said.

The man was arrested and later released with a court date for a third-degree retail fraud charge.

Larcenies

All four wheels were stolen recently from a new Ford Fusion that was parked outside an apartment on Lillie Road in the township. The value of the stainless steel wheels and the tires on them was put at \$1,500.

The victim told police he had last seen the car intact about 5 p.m. Feb. 9 and discovered the theft the next morning. The Fusion had been left sitting on bricks, police said.

A tonneau cover was stolen recently from a Ford F-150 pickup that was parked at the Woodgate Condominiums, off of Ann Arbor Trail west of Sheldon.

The victim told police the theft occurred Feb. 11 or Feb. 12. The truck's tailgate wasn't locked, which would have secured the cover, police said.

Funny money

A counterfeit \$20 bill was used at the Taco Bell on Ann Arbor Road in the township during the early morning hours of Feb. 8.

The manager told police the bill had been passed by an unknown person between 1-4 a.m. that morning. It was later discovered to be counterfeit.

Police turned the counterfeit over to the Secret Service, which investigates counterfeit cases.

—By Matt Jachman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Head-on crash averted

Two drivers nearly collided head-on Monday morning after a woman driving on Saltz east of Beck said a driver in a black pickup truck crossed over the center line, causing their door mirrors to strike each other, a police report said.

The incident happened around 11 a.m. on Saltz at Kennebec, east of Beck.

The woman told police the pickup truck driver continued eastbound on Saltz without stopping. She said she wasn't even sure if the other driver realized a minor accident had occurred.

Trailer fire

A man and woman escaped a fire that started Saturday afternoon in a home in Wagon Wheel, a mobile home community on Mort Road between Barr and Ridge, a police report said.

The fire started in a gas clothes dryer, prompting the couple to try to douse it before firefighters arrived and put out the fire, a police report said.

The woman told authorities she had been drying clothes and noticed flames coming from under the dryer.

Roadside find

A 45-year-old woman found three purses and other items alongside the road near Hagerty and Ford, a police report

said.

The woman brought the purses to the police department along with other items she found, including a brown sweatshirt, a white dress, a green bag that was ripped and a bag of decorative vase filler, a police report said.

The woman brought the items to the police station shortly after 5 p.m. Sunday. Police placed the items in a property room locker in case someone reported losing them.

Sam's Club fraud

A 59-year-old Redford man notified police after a Sam's Club account he opened was used to make fraudulent purchases totaling \$557, a police report said.

The man received a bill for purchases that had been made on Christmas Eve after he opened an account at the Sam's Club store on Ford Road east of Lotz, the police report said.

Van damaged

A 44-year-old Canton man reported his 2005 Ford van was struck, possibly by a snow plow, while it was parked in the 46400 block of Overhill about 1:20 p.m. Jan. 25.

The man went to the police station to file the report. He said he had contacted a snowplowing company who denied causing the damage.

—By Darrell Clem

Spring Celebration!

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9:00am-4:00pm

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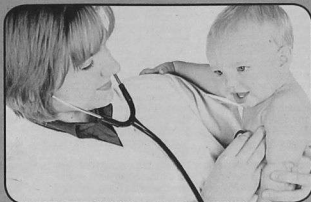
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Lois Pfeiffer (left) of Farmington Hills was among the heart transplant recipients who helped set the record. She had a transplant in 2005. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Heart transplant recipients set Guinness World Record

Valentine's Day was all about celebrating hearts – lots of them.

Late Friday afternoon, 132 heart transplant recipients cheered and tossed confetti as they set a new Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of heart transplant recipients in one place inside the showroom at Art Moran Buick GMC in Southfield.

The event was organized by the Donate Life Coalition of Michigan. Transplant recipients came from transplant centers at the University of Michigan Health System, Henry Ford Health System, Children's Hospital of Michigan, Beaumont Health System, Cleveland Clinic, the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Stanford Hospital (part of the Stanford University Medical Center).

In total, the people on hand were celebrating 1,318 years of additional life, thanks to transplants.

Peggy Burkhard, marketing and public relations director for Donate Life Coalition of Michigan, said the event was one of the five most rewarding days of her career.

"It was the people who truly made this event special," she said. "It was so humbling."

Getting old isn't something Erik Morganroth dreads these days.

In fact, the Birmingham resident cannot wait to celebrate his birthday every year because, as a two-time heart transplant recipient, there were times when he didn't know if he would make the next one.

"I'm in a rush to get older and to see my daughter get married," he said. "Every day, you feel fortunate to have a life."

Berkley resident Mike Roman waited 15 months before he got his new heart in 2009, and five years later, he re-

mains healthy and is an active volunteer with Gift of Life.

"Our donors are the true heroes," he said. "All we did was get sick."

The event, which was highlighted by the record, also was being used to raise awareness and sign up donors.

Business support

Tom Moran, president of Art Moran Buick GMC, in Southfield, has been promoting organ donation at his dealership for more than a year, and is offering a free car wash to anyone who signs up for the donor registry at the dealership.

Moran, a Farmington Hills resident, has supported the Donate Life campaign in part because a former employee, John Schmidt, received a heart transplant.

"We just want to get the word out and educate people on what it means to donate," said Moran.

According to Donate Life Coalition of Michigan, more than 3,200 patients in the state await organ transplants. Approximately 3.3 million individuals are registered donors in Michigan, but according to Gift of Life Michigan, the state's federally designated organ and tissue recovery organization, the supply of organs doesn't meet the demand. Its website notes that on average, 17 Michigan residents have organ transplants every week. Organ donors can save up to eight lives and tissue donors can improve life for up to 50 sick and injured persons.

"People don't realize how many lives can be saved. I think it's real important," said Sherry Johnson, a heart transplant recipient from Farmington Hills.

"It's important that people be educated about it so they can make their own choice. Johnson received a heart



Bob Willett (left), from Waterford, joins Robert Sharon (center), from Westland, who got a new heart in 1989 and again in 2004. With them is Mike Leahy, from Fraser, who got his heart in 1996.

through the University of Michigan Health System in 2006. She had cardiomyopathy, a condition that generally leads to heart failure.

"My mother and brother had it as well. Both also had transplants. My brother lived 10 years. My mom was one of the first ones (transplant patient) and didn't live as long, but paved the way."

"I was very sick and I had two young kids. It's hard to give up your life for an illness. When I got so, so sick I went to my transplant center."

Johnson, the mother of two boys, 11 and 13, said she works at staying healthy by taking her pills on time, eating right and exercising.

Ultimate gift

"I was given the gift of a heart and I treat it well. Without it, my kids wouldn't have their mom. It's not just a gift for me, but for everyone around me."

Johnson also "gives back" to



Asia Woerner (left), 14, from Cincinnati, and Julia Evans, 13, from Novi, do a dance in celebration of the Guinness World Record of 132 heart transplant recipients in Southfield Friday afternoon.

Donate Life Coalition and Gift of Life Michigan by volunteering for the organizations. She helped coordinate all of the paperwork needed for the

Guinness World Record attempt, as well as participating as a transplant recipient.

"Without those organizations, I might not have had a donor. I feel it's important to spread awareness," she said.

"This is an exciting event."

Dr. William Devlin, who specializes in cardiovascular medicine at Beaumont Health System, said it is great for him to see people get a second chance, and encourages more people to become donors.

"It's a wonderful gift to give to someone," he said. "And you never know if you or someone you know might be a recipient."

Individuals can register to become an organ donor by calling 800-482-4881 or by visiting gifttolifemichigan.org.

Staff writers Nathan Mueller and Sharon Dargay contributed to this story. Reach them at nmueller@hometownlife.com | 586-826-7209 | Twitter: @SOKExcentric or sdargay@hometownlife.com.



A record 132 heart transplant recipients gathered Friday afternoon at the Art Moran dealership in Southfield to set a world record.

Ficano touts accomplishments, others less laudatory

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has not officially announced his intention to seek re-election this year.

Unofficially, he sounded a lot like someone doing just that Tuesday night.

Ficano, who has yet to enter the fray of the 2014 campaign, extolled the virtue of the county's accomplishments in his 12th State of the County speech at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn.

Calling the state of the county "improving," Ficano said the county's "future looks bright."

"Like the auto industry, Wayne County has had challenges, but we are roaring back," Ficano said. "We're creating new jobs and investment and leading the way to future growth."

In an upbeat speech that touted what Ficano believes are the county's biggest successes and passed lightly over more significant challenges like the fate of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the troubled jail project, the county executive drew the loudest cheers when he opened by congratulating Olympic champions Charlie White and Meryl Davis on their gold medal in ice dancing at the Sochi Olympics.

White and Davis, along with silver medalists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, train at the Arctic Edge in Canton.

Ficano also drew loud applause when he recognized the men and women "in uniform who serve our community" and talked about the First Responders Memorial the county had built in Hines Park last year.

Then he got down to business, talking about, among other things:

- Challenges created



Audience members crowded into an auditorium at the Automotive Hall of Fame applaud Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano during Tuesday's State of the County address.

by the 2008 recession. Ficano said property tax revenue has declined by "nearly 30 percent," resulting in the loss of some \$106 million in revenue. Since 2008, he said, the county has lost \$353 million in property tax revenue.

However, he said, property values are "on the rebound in Wayne County," with median sales prices rising 45 percent last year. Despite that climb, he said, the revenue stream will "remain flat" because of caps put in place by Proposal A and the Headlee Amendment.

Cost reduction and streamlining of operations. Among the cuts he touted were a 10-percent reduction in salaries, including his own; a reduction in the work force by more than 1,300 positions; and reducing the number of his own at-will employees by 40 percent.

That part didn't necessarily sit well with some employees, who think Ficano is cutting from the bottom.

"He's taking from us at the bottom to pay for all his mistakes at the top," said Wendy Lukia-

noff of Canton, a union leader who works in the Department of Public Services Environmental Group. "Our structure at the top is broken. We've got managers managing nobody. (Ficano) needs to start at the top."

The renovation of Cobo Center and the Aerotropolis, the business enterprise zone now known as Vantage PORT.

The troubled jail project. Ficano said as soon as he was told the project was going to go over budget, "the first thing I did was stop the construction." He said he worked with the team to drive the costs back down to initial projections. Now, the county is working toward moving the justice facility to an existing location on Mound Road, what he called "a win-win-win" because it will bring some 9,000 temporary jobs and 5,500 permanent jobs, along with some \$380 million of economic impact to the area.

But while Ficano trumpeted it as a solution, other commissioners laid the blame for the problem at Ficano's feet.

Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, said Ficano was trying to blame the commission, at least in part.

"I don't think mismanagement of a project is necessarily adversarial," Cox said. "The mismanagement of the jail is all (Ficano's) fault."

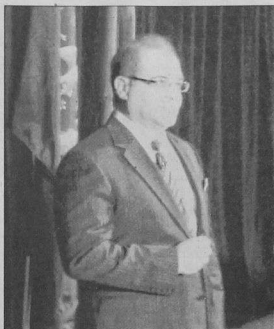
Ficano also breezed over the fate of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, saying only that "a regional authority solution that brings all the interested parties together and works for everyone makes the most sense."

Ficano also listed some positives, including:

- Completion of an \$8 million construction project that improved safety at Belleville and Ecorse roads.

- A new command center at the Central Maintenance Yard in Romulus, one of the first of its kind in the country, that allows the county "to take road hazard calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

- Investment and jobs. According to Ficano, 38 percent of all in-



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano delivered his State of the County address.

vestment in Michigan since 2009 happened in Wayne County, as well as 43 percent of all new jobs.

- More than \$1.3 billion in new investments in Wayne County since 2008, including a \$550 million investment by Ford at its Flat Rock assembly plant and a \$71 million project to build the Gateway Market-place on 36 acres near the old State Fairgrounds.

Among his plans, Ficano said he would "continue to fight to guarantee collective bargaining rights for working men and women and to raise the minimum wage." He said he'd also sign an executive order expanding the county's non-discrimination policies to include protection for sexual orientation and gender identity.

While all of that "sounds good," Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-Canton, said the county's focus

should be on the challenges at hand.

"In order to be on par with Macomb and Oakland (counties), we have a lot of work to do," Price said. "It starts with the deficit elimination plan. We need to remove ourselves from politically charged issues like raising the minimum wage and focus on the job at hand."

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, D-Wayne, who has announced he'll seek the county executive seat in the 2014 election, said he was encouraged to hear Ficano "finally admitting he's going to have to ruffle some feathers to finally fix the problems" the county faces.

"I know the government is broken and I also know it can be fixed," McNamara said. "This is not a six-month fix. We need leadership."

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In guard: Don't fall victim to scams

I have accepted the reality that no matter what anyone does, the number of scams will continue to grow at an epidemic rate.

The Internet has allowed lowlifes from around the world to target us. There is no one who can protect us. That is why we must always stay on guard. We are our own last line of defense.

I can write a column every week and would not be able to keep up with the number of scams that are out there. That being said, it is important to highlight

scams that are affecting consumers in Michigan.

The first deals with your phone. Scam artists are using automatic dialers to contact cellphones. It rings once and then hangs up.

What happens is that people see the number and call back. Unfortunately, when you call the number, you are connected to some sort of premium service and you are automatically charged a connection fee,



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

typically \$20. In addition, you are then automatically charged another \$9 or \$10 a minute for as long as you stay on the line. Although the area codes on these calls appear to be U.S. numbers, these calls typically originate from somewhere in the Caribbean.

The lesson to learn is if you get a call and you do not recognize the number, do not return the call. In addition, if you fall for

the scam and you are hit with these fees, contact your cellphone carrier. There is a chance that it will reverse the charges and, if it won't, you can file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission or the Federal Trade Commission.

Another scam, coming from overseas, deals with funeral notifications. Scammers are stealing the names and logos of legitimate funeral homes and sending out fake emails either notifying you of a memorial service or a loved one or friend or asking you to

sign a remembrance book in someone's memory. The scam here is that once you click on to the link, malware is downloaded onto your computer, allowing the scam artist to obtain all sorts of sensitive information from your computer.

Most people getting an email from a funeral home will open it. Once again, the lesson to be learned is if the email doesn't reference an individual you know, don't open it. If you are not sure if the email is legit, go to the funeral home's website and check

it out. Law enforcement authorities can't stop all scams, so be smart and careful to reduce the risk of being a victim.

In addition, by being aware, even if you do become a victim, you can substantially minimize the 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 questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Movie buffs: Celebrate Oscar™, enter for chance to win prizes

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

» **Grand prize:** Correctly identify the top seven Oscar™ categories and you will 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 Sports 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/hometownlife and click the Oscar™ Contest icon.

The seven contest categories are:

» **Best Picture:** *American Hustle*, *Nebraska*, *Captain Phillips*, *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*, Mattew 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 Breakthrough category is for Best Documentary Feature:** *The Act of Killing*, *Cutie and the Boxer*, *Dirty Wars*, *The Square* and *20 Feet from Stardom*.

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

W-W prepares to find new superintendent

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board likely will hold a special meeting in early March to discuss the search for a new superintendent, according to board President Shawna Walker.

The idea for the meeting resulted from a board workshop last week, where Donna Oser of the Michigan Association of School Boards discussed what board members need to know to conduct a superintendent search.

"The meeting will be to discuss what was brought up at the workshop," Walker said. "There were questions about an interim superintendent and, if we decide to go forward, how we will do it and what search firm we will pick. We need to get the preliminaries out of the way. We as a board need to have a search."

"It's important that we get started," she added. The board has the job of replacing current Superintendent Greg Baracy, who announced his retirement in December. Baracy, the longest serving superintendent in the district's history, plans to retire July 1 at the end of his current contract.



Dave Campbell (left), the president of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, presents Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy with a plaque in recognition of his distinguished service as a MASA member and administrator in public schools. Baracy is one of several school administrators who have served in the organization for more than 20 years. He is the longest-serving superintendent in Wayne-Westland Community district's history and will be retiring June 30.

Delay selection

Trustee John Goci asked the board to consider delaying the selection of a superintendent until after school board elections in November, when seats held by Walker, Goci, Carol Middell and Charles "Trav" Griffin will be filled.

"I feel uncomfortable making a decision for board members who won't be there," Goci said. "I think we would do a huge disservice. Four of us are up for re-election. We make the decision now, but the election may change the board."

Oser, who covered the fine points of hiring a district's top administrator during the workshop, agreed that Goci brought up an important point, but noted that when something ends and the new beginning hasn't started yet, the in between becomes a "neutral zone."

"Employees don't like living in the neutral zone, it's very stressful," she said. "It's a meaningful discussion to have."

There's no sense to starting a search if you're not going to finish it."

Oser recommended the board consider a national search, saying that a school district the size of Wayne-Westland is going to attract a "more sophisticated pool of candidates."

"It never hurts to cast a wide net and see what comes in," she said.

Straightforward process

She recommended an interview process that is straightforward, but where board members can "stick the tires." The board must make its decisions in public and rank candidates for purposes of interviews.

Members can't narrow the field of candidates through a consensus building process in a closed session. The decision on who will be interviewed also must be made at an open meeting.

She added that it is "a risky proposition for a sitting superintendent to pursue a position. To attract the best candidate pool, they must be assured of confidentiality until the interview."

She also said board members should refrain from checking out candidates until they have accepted an interview.

"The board is responsible for hiring one person, the superintendent," she said. "You will be researched as much as you research."

"This isn't about seven people hiring seven superintendents, it's one board hiring one superintendent," she added. "You need to create a shared vision, be as transparent as possible, and attract involvement. The clearer the picture of the type of leader a board is seeking, the easier it is for a search firm to find him or her."

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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 VisiTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

The seminar will allow officials from Zingerman's to discuss their approach to great customer service, which has been applied successful-

ly 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 VisiTaTech Center is located at 18600 Haggerty in Livonia. For more information, call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at 734-453-4040.

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 Fraick, Plymouth. The event will provide members the opportunity to expand their network of professionals from businesses in neighboring communi-

ties. There is no charge for the event.

Scholarship fundraising

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Chamber of Commerce are starting their fundraising for the Student Citizen Scholarships.

The chamber's Education Committee awards scholarships to up to five students based solely on their community service

during their years in high school. Last year, the chambers were able to offer five students \$1,100 each. For information on how to donate, call the Plymouth chamber at 734-453-1540 or the Canton chamber at 734-453-4040.

Brave Ambassadors

On a snowy Feb. 5, 18 of the Chamber Ambassadors braved the elements to attend their monthly meeting.

The Ambassadors are the core volunteer group for the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce who contact new members, attend ribbon cuttings and volunteer for chamber events.

Anyone interested in joining the group that is willing to come out on a snow-covered morning can contact the chamber at 734-453-1540 to learn more about the committee. The group meets at 8 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month.

Environmental group boasts local support

By Sandra Armbruster
Staff Writer

The thin plastic tube threaded into Nancy Goedert's nose dropped down and disappeared into a black strap used for her oxygen.

"I suppose I won't be around for a long time," the Ferndale woman said. "But I suppose my grandchildren will and I hope they have a long time in a friendly environment."

It was that concern about the environment that brought Goedert out to Irene's Myomassology Institute in Southfield last week for a press conference by Beyond Coal, announcing that 120 Oakland County businesses have signed on to protest DTE Energy's use of coal.

The businesses ranged from Wixom and Wayne to Bloomfield Hills and Berkley. They largely represented the service industry, with a few small restaurants as well.

Among them was Katie Reiter, founder of Our Greentopia in Berkley. Reiter's store offers "green" or environmentally friendly products that also support the business community, she said. Reiter told the group



Kathy Gauthier-Skubik, owner of Irene's Myomassology Institute in Southfield, talks with candidate Rudy Serra who put in an appearance at the event hosted by Beyond Coal. SANDRA ARMBRUSTER

of Beyond Coal members the group is an offshoot of the Sierra Club—that the cost of producing coal "is only going to continue to rise. She called the use of coal "dirty energy." She also claimed that for every \$1 invested in alternative energy sources, the economy grows by \$21.

"It's time for DTE to step up and do their part," she said.

That's something DTE says it is doing. Its website claims that the cost of producing energy is dropping for the business and its customers, due in part to decreasing cost and increasing production of its wind energy farms.

"(DTE) is committed to evolving to continue our growth of less-emitting generation and zero-emitting generation. DTE also

is committed to doing it in a way that minimizes the financial impact on our customers and supports Michigan's economy," DTE spokeswoman Randi Berris said.

Kathy Gauthier-Skubik, owner of Irene's Myomassology Institute founded by her mother, talked about what she said is the "ramification of burning dirty coal."

Gauthier-Skubik said it "boggles my mind why DTE doesn't want to jump on the bandwagon," adding that the impact of asthma is "very serious."

As for DTE's alternative energy initiatives, "doing the bare minimum is not enough," she added. "We have to take care of Mother Earth or Mother Earth won't take care of you," Goedert said.

Fifth Third reopens in Plymouth

Fifth Third Bank (Eastern Michigan) recently moved its Canton financial center to a newly constructed, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly facility in Plymouth Township.

The new office is located at 42370 Ann Arbor Road.

Designed and constructed to meet high human and environmental performance standards, the new financial center is pursuing certified recognition under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. The facility's green attributes include:

- » 22-percent energy use reduction;
- » 100-percent green power offsets through wind energy;
- » 100-percent energy star equipment used;
- » 61-percent water use reduction for landscaping;
- » 36-percent water use reduction;
- » Construction materials are user-friendly with low VOC content for paints, adhesives, sealants and carpet; and



Fifth Third Bank has opened a center at 42370 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

» The building allows for users to have control over lighting levels and was designed for optimum thermal comfort and views to the exterior.

In addition to the green technology, the new Plymouth location provides a more open and inviting lobby," said Amy Sobas, financial center manager. "The new design features kiosks staffed by knowledgeable bankers, so no more going through the teller line." Plus our state-of-the-art ATM will feature cash and check scanning deposit technology. All of these enhancements will allow us to provide our customers with a better banking experience so come on out and see us."

Lobby and drive-up

hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. In addition to Sobas and the staff, the following services will be available at the Plymouth location: ATM, night depository, mortgage loan origination, business banking and investment advisers.

"I am so pleased to be able to offer this brand new bank to our loyal customers in Plymouth and Canton," said Patricia Van Pelt, senior vice president and head of retail banking in Eastern Michigan. "Our goal has always been to improve Fifth Third's presence and service to our customers and we think this office helps accomplish that."

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sharing space

Judi Hales of Trust & Obey Pawitive Dog Training and Jill Andra Young Photography will be sharing space.

Hales will be having classes in a studio room which has been cleared for her and, on the days she is not teaching, Andra Young will use the room for studio sittings.

Hales starts her classes at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24. Anyone interested in her class, or any other classes, can contact Hales at 734-718-3541.

Zumba party

The Barwis Methods training center in Canton announced that in promotion of heart health month, it is offering a free Zumba Party in Red class at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. Research has shown that just 40 minutes of moderate to vigorous aerobic exercise, such as Zumba, three to four times a week reduces the risk of heart disease.

Zumba fitness classes merge up-beat Latin, pop and international dance moves to create a unique workout experience. Zumba is perfect for all fitness levels and a great way to begin a heart healthy lifestyle.

The free Zumba Party in Red class will be held at the Barwis Methods training center, located inside the Arctic Edge ice arena at 46615 Michigan Ave., in Canton. Participants are encouraged to wear red, bring a water bottle and wear athletic/dance shoes. For more information, contact Valerie, Barwis Method's certified Zumba instructor, at Valwood2425@gmail.com or call 734-829-0172.

Gone green

Agents of REMAX Classic in Canton recently earned the prestigious Green Designation through the National Association of Realtors. The case was led by Bart Patterson, vice president and general manager of REMAX Classic and certified instructor for the Green Course through the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors. REMAX agents who received the Green Designation include Peggy Collins, Stephanie Harris, Tiffany Larabee and Cindy Mancina.



Collins



Larabee



Mancina



Petree

The Green Designation is the only designation of its kind recognized by the National Association of Realtors. During the program, agents become familiar with green principles and choices in home design. In addition, agents learn the materials, systems and construction methods used in developing or rehabilitating energy-efficient homes. As graduates, the agents can now fully explain the value of living green to their clients.

"Today's consumer is embracing a greener lifestyle. As a result, we see more and more clients requesting green features when they search for a home," Patterson said. "The Green Designation allows our agents to serve as knowledgeable experts on this topic. Our agents can now provide objective information to their clients to help them determine whether a home meets the criteria they desire. This is a perfect example of REMAX's ongoing commitment to the education of our agents."

REMAX Classic of Canton is located at 42078 Ford Road. For more information, call 888-759-0366.

Consulting manager

Plante Moran, PLLC, announced Scott Petree has been named as IT consulting manager in the firm's Southfield office within the IT government group.

Petree has more than 13 years of professional experience working in public accounting, technology consulting, security assurance and forensic accounting services. He assists clients in understanding and identifying enterprise risk assessments, forensic investigations, internal audit support and litigation matters. Prior to joining Plante Moran, he was a senior manager at Deloitte.

Petree earned his bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from Grand Valley State University and has a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting information systems from Eastern Michigan University. He is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants and the ISACA.

He lives in Canton with his wife Sarah and their children.

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OUR VIEWS

Study time

Parents should take advantage of boundary forums

Administrators of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district have begun the process of putting together a boundary study that will determine where students attend schools once the new middle school in Canton opens in September 2015. Boundary studies have long been political hot potatoes in this district, but parents have a chance to avoid all the angst and rancor that have accompanied similar studies in the past by attending one of two remaining public forums on the subject.

Last week, administrators began the process with the first forum at Discovery Middle School. Succeeding forums take place March 20 and April 10 (both at 7 p.m., both at Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford, in Canton). They provide a chance to have questions asked and answered, to receive information directly rather than filtered through other people's eyes or through the media. Parents should take advantage of the opportunity.

The study became a necessity as soon as the district decided to close Central Middle School and build a new middle school at Cherry Hill and Canton Center in Canton. While the vast majority of students now attending Central come from Canton, the addition of the new school will still create something of a seismic shift in attendance boundaries.

And the new middle school isn't the only boundary that needs to be decided. There are schools that are woefully below capacity, as well as schools that have exceeded their designed student limits.

Field Elementary School in Canton, for instance, is only at some 58 percent of capacity, while Gallimore is only at 78 percent. At the other end of the spectrum is Hoben Elementary in Canton, at 101 percent, and Bird Elementary in Plymouth Township, at just over 100 percent.

The Hoben numbers are a bit skewed, officials said, by the fact the school houses half-day kindergarten and the Young 5s program, both of which are only half-day programs. Officials said the district also has "some programming needs," including expanding the preschool program and incorporating some special-education programs into buildings with a general-education population, that could affect the future boundaries for certain schools.

Redistricting is going to happen at the middle school level, with the closure of Central and the opening of a new school in Canton, it has to.

But as numbers dictate, there will likely be some redistricting at the elementary level, too. The extent of any elementary redistricting will be determined, according to administrators, by information gleaned by the committee.

These discussions have typically brought about a politically charged atmosphere, with large crowds of passionate parents advocating for their particular schools. That's a good thing. But it has, on occasion, gotten a little ugly and that's not a good thing.

The Board of Education has, in the past, backed down in the face of overwhelming pressure from parents who rightfully don't want to see their school boundary disrupted. This time, declining enrollment, demographic shifts and the creation of a new school leave the board with little choice. Boundaries are going to be changed. Parents can help the process go more smoothly by getting as much first-hand information as possible.

The boundary study forums are a perfect way to do that.

COMMUNITY VOICE

How long could you get by without a cellphone?

We asked this question at Summit on the Park.



"Forever."
Ty Nadeau
Westland



"I'd like to think forever, but probably no more than a day."
Diane Henderson
Canton



"Three days."
Peggy Robichaud
Canton



"Not long, but I remember back in the day when we had phone booths."
Leonard Domzalski
Canton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who's lying?

I'm writing regarding the letter by Mitch Smith titled, "CBO boosts ACA." Mr. Smith starts his letter by saying about the GOP and conservatives, "If the data doesn't fit the narrative, misrepresent, mislead or even lie about it."

I'm wondering if that was a typo and he meant to insert "Obama" instead of the GOP. I'm sure he didn't miss Obama saying, "If you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it" and "If you like your doctors, you can keep them." Obama said those things after his own advisers told him people would not be able to keep their plans or their doctors. Is that not a lie?

How about Obama and his minions telling the American people for over two weeks after the Benghazi attacks and right before an election that the attack was a spontaneous demonstration by people protesting a video, when Obama knew the day of the attack that it was a well-planned attack by a faction of al-Qaeda. Was that not a lie? Need I go on?

Mr. Smith goes on to say, "Subsequent analysis indicates that the CBO report did not say that jobs would be lost at all. Actually according to the CBO report, the ACA will result in workers choosing not to work..." So people will choose not to work to qualify for subsidies for Obamacare? Is that what this great country is all about? The CBO also states, "Although CBO projects that total employment will increase over the coming decade, the increase will be smaller than it would have been in the absence of the ACA."

The CBO also writes, "CBO and JCT project that, as a result of the ACA, between 6 million and 7 million fewer people will have employment-based insurance coverage each year from 2016 through 2024 than would be the case in the absence of the ACA. That change is the net result of projected increases and decreases in offers of health insurance from employers and changes in enrollment by workers and their families."

As a result of Obama's last-minute change to allow plans that are not compliant with Obamacare to continue into 2014, a "fix" to offset the \$5 million reported plan cancellations, the CBO estimates that 1.5 million non-compliant plans will exist in 2014. Did Obama not "misrepresent" what Obamacare would do?

Penalties paid by employers of 50 or more full time workers who do not offer their employees health coverage are projected to total \$151 billion from 2015-24. The individual mandate tax for those who do not purchase health coverage is expected to cost Americans \$51 billion over this period. What happened to an individual's choice, as liberals like to proclaim regarding abortion? A woman should have a choice whether to end a baby's life, but not a choice about their health insurance?

After spending \$2 trillion to expand insurance coverage, Obamacare is still projected to leave 31 million uninsured in 2024. Mr. Smith concludes, "After all, the facts don't matter now and likely never did. They are opposed because of Obama." The above facts speak for themselves. Unlike liberals, we do not personally attack people when they disagree with us.

Obama's most recent statement was, "That's the good thing about being President, I can do whatever I want." No, Mr. President, you can't do whatever you want. There is something called

the Constitution. I'm not opposed to Obama the man, I'm opposed to Obama's policies, as they are a failure to the American people and to this country.

Dan Timmerman
Canton

ACA a train wreck

Not so fast Mr. Smith. The superficial explanations you used for ACA, while you were taking your little victory lap, lack credibility and are not grounded in reality.

You failed to point out who will benefit from choosing not to work or will no longer be locked into their jobs. One of the studies relied upon by the CBO stated that those who benefit from the end of "job lock" are disproportionately white, single and of work age. It is hardly the utopian society euphoria that you have described it as.

There are times that everyone hates his or her job. Were they freed from the economic consequences of having these jobs; they'd drop out of the workforce. There are already two problems with this strategy: First, someone has to pay for it; second, it is not the recipe for human fulfillment.

The predictions you acclaim and the CBO makes about ACA stimulating the economy or holding premium increases to 15 percent less are nothing more than guesses, and I think we all know how accurate government estimations are when it comes to providing realistic deliverables. The start is misleading because insurance companies did many things to make their plans cheap such as narrowing networks and selling policies with high deductibles.

With regard to your comment on part-time employment and the CBO's conclusion there is no compelling evidence that it has increased as a result of ACA. Isn't it a little early to have any evidence since the law has only been in effect a little over a month? In God we trust, all others please bring data. Come back when you have data, Mr. Smith.

That may also be the case later this year, when the risk corridors that remain in place until 2017 allow the insurance companies to once again low-ball their prices before the 2014 election. What happens to premiums when those risk corridors disappear is impossible to say, but more than likely, costs will soar without a government net below the insurer. If projections of those costs increases appear you can bet on a unilateral extension of the risk corridor provision. It is a risk that will rapidly morph from a profit, to the taxpayer bailout.

The little bit of good news was more than offset by the reality that there will still be 31 million Americans uninsured in 2024 despite almost \$2 trillion in new expenditures. The report also states that "between 6 million and 7 million fewer people will have employment-based insurance coverage each year from 2016 through 2024 than would be the case in the absence of the ACA."

Sorry to rain on your little celebration, Mr. Smith, but with Obamacare implementation blowing up and being delayed on an almost daily basis it is you who are shamelessly and fraudulently attempting to dupe people into believing this administration's health care program is a success. To the contrary, it lives up to being the epitome of a train wreck, and we are all going to have to pay for it.

Gerry Wright
Canton

Where'd the money go?

I see where two Tea Parties took exception to me calling out their beloved organization. While reading these letters, I swear I could hear the national anthem and that old Chevrolet commercial, "baseball, hot dogs, apple pie" playing in the background.

One writer has the audacity to say the \$1.2 billion in 2012, the \$1.2 billion in 2013 (and every year going on) that the poor and middle class paid to the state has nothing to do with the \$1.2 billion surplus. If so, where did that \$2.4 billion go? Fuzzy math and trickle-down economics, the platform of the right wing.

Job creation? Get real. The majority of jobs was due to the comeback of the auto industry. An industry which, by the way, would be nonexistent in this state if it had been left in the hands of the Republican Party in Washington, D.C. The remaining new jobs have mainly been part-time, temporary, low pay with no benefits.

I would ask these two, fine, eloquent writers what did the corporate tycoons do with the \$2 billion, later expanded to \$3 billion, yearly tax break bestowed on them? They certainly didn't create the well-paying jobs promised. No, they just pocketed the money.

So, gentlemen, keep up the propaganda and make the Koch brothers and other multi-billionaires proud.

James Huddleston
Canton

U.S. can learn from Finnish schools

For decades, it has been accepted dogma in educational circles that poverty and socioeconomic factors play a huge role in determining student proficiency in school. Indeed, in 2011, Sean Reardon of Stanford University released a study that concluded family income is, by far, the most significant factor in predicting student success in school. It is simply a fact that parental income and education, parent involvement in student school activities, neighborhood environment, health care, home stability and so on provide the underpinning of student school proficiency. Countless, countless studies concur.

Indeed, according to former Asst. Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch, "American schools, in which fewer than 10 percent of the students were poor, outperformed the schools of Finland, Japan and Korea" on the latest Program of International Student Assessment. Finland, Japan and Korea are top performers. Call it whatever you like: demographics or socioeconomic circumstance. It matters and American schools do wonder why. American schools are considered. Generally, schools found lacking exist in the midst of poverty.

There is much to be learned from Swedish schools, as well. The Swedes have had privatization and corporate schools for 30 years. They do not do well on PISA. They are a depressing poster child for what passes as reform in this country.

Can American schools be improved? You bet! For a start, we might focus on teacher training and development. We might also focus more on thinking skills: creativity and problem solving, critical thinking.

But American schools are pretty good to begin with. Yep, American schools are pretty darn good. Jefferson would be proud.

Al Churchill
Livonia

What do you think?



CVS Caremark Corp. last week announced that its 7,600 stores would stop selling all tobacco products by October, making the company the first U.S. drugstore chain to remove cigarettes from its shelves. It's being called a precedent-setting step that could pressure other stores to follow suit. What do you think? CVS news items tell us in 400 words or fewer. Email your response to bkdick@hometownlife.com by noon Monday and it may appear as a letter to the editor, including your name, address and phone number. (Address and phone number are for verification purposes only.)

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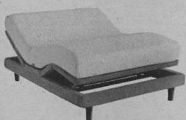
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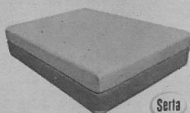


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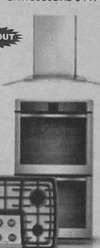


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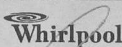
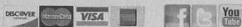


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BOYS BASKETBALL

Rocks
climb
in tourneySalem to host Glenn in
conference finalBy Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The more physical the action got Monday night, the better Salem senior center Michael Hoover liked it.

In fact, it was reminiscent of another sport Hoover played in college — football.

Hoover bumped and got bumped under the boards and parlayed his increased physicality into eight points, 13 rebounds and three steals to key the Rocks' 52-38 win over visiting South Lyon in the third round of the KLAAs varsity boys basketball tournament.

"That's what I thought about when I was playing it," said Hoover, about the hard-nosed game between the Rocks and Lions. "I just tried to use my strength. It's fun when it's like that."

"We knew it was going to be hard but we were more focused this game."

He was referring to a loss to the Lions in the final game of the regular season prior to the KLAAs tourney tipping off. The KLAAs Central Division rivals split two games earlier in the schedule.

Also strong in the paint for Salem (15-2) were junior forwards Allante Wheeler (10 points, seven rebounds, five assists, three steals) and Tyler Brooks (seven rebounds).

Senior forward Alec Winfrey registered 11 points while senior guards Brady Cole (nine points, three steals) and Connor Cole (eight assists) all were instrumental to the

See HOOPS, Page B4



Salem senior center Michael Hoover (No. 42) gets set to go after a rebound Monday night, against South Lyon players Jake Lucius (No. 22) and Antoni Skupin (No. 20). (JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO)

GOLDEN GLOW

Arctic Edge 'skating
family' cheers,
celebrates Meryl Davis,
Charlie WhiteBy Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For months — maybe even years — young figure skaters such as Natalie Fabien and Cathryn McGowan have gotten up close and personal to Meryl Davis and Charlie White as they trained at Arctic Edge.

On Monday, the girls were among those huddling up to the Canton arena's wall-mounted flat screen to see them again. They wouldn't dare miss a rousing viewing party, watching Davis and White do their medal-winning thing from the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia.

There were rock star screams followed by reverential silence as they watched every move the Davis-White team made en route to winning the United States' first-ever gold medal in ice dancing.

"That ... was ...," said 8-year-old Natalie of Plymouth, barely catching her breath after the Americans completed their flawless, stunning routine. "It was amazing."

Livonia resident McGowan, 13, was just as awe-struck by what actually just happened.

"Meryl Davis and Charlie White, it's amazing that they got gold," said McGowan, part of Arctic Edge's figure skating program. "They've been working so hard for this. It's amazing. I've been watching them for the past four years, ever since Vancouver, and it's so amazing to see their progress from there."

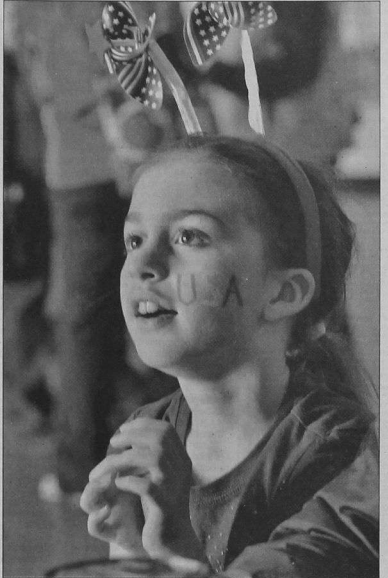
"Each year, they just get better and better, each performance." She had been getting some practice in nearby, while waiting for the U.S. duo to take the Sochi ice. Everything stopped at Arctic Edge when Davis and White did come out to screams from the youthful audience.

And she was still soaking it all in that the most-accomplished skaters of all — who routinely take the time to say hello and offer any advice they can to the young skaters at Arctic Edge — had just reached the Everest of their sport.

"A lot of people their idols are pop stars and stuff like that," McGowan continued. "I'm a skater, I look up to skaters. And like they're one of them."

"It's just amazing to see that. I am ecstatic for them. The event telling my nonskating friends 'Watch them, watch them, they're amazing.'"

See SKATERS, Page B3



Eight-year-old Natalie Fabien watches skaters perform in the Winter Olympics. She is from Plymouth. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Cheering for Charlie White and Meryl Davis are (from left) Samantha Blashack, 13, Angela Wang, 14, and Sophia Dai, 14. All are from Canton.

MOVING UP IN THE RECORD BOOK

Bright lights for Brett

Salem grad de Bear wrapping up
stellar college career at AlbionBy Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Brett de Bear is a scholar and an athlete. She's been off the charts in both during her four-year career at Albion College.

Yet the Salem High School alum remains humble and almost embarrassed about the attention she is receiving for her soon-to-end career as a women's basketball player for the Lady Britons.

She is deserving of the spotlight. Saturday at home against St. Mary's College, de Bear will play the final game of her Albion career. Going into her second-to-last contest (Wednesday night at Hope College), the 5-10 guard/forward had 1,203 career points and needed to score 12 more to jump into third place ahead of Cathy Bachinski.

"I just didn't really expect it to happen. I didn't think coming to Albion that this (notoriety) would happen to me," said de Bear, during a telephone interview last week. "And it's all just kind of crazy, because I see all the updates on the Albion athletics Twitter page."

I mean, they make a big deal about it here, my coach does, the athletic department, everybody does. I didn't expect it to happen and it's all happen-

ing right now. So it's a lot." Wait, there's more.

A total of 17 points in the final two games would give her third place in scoring for a single season, she already has the fourth best mark with 406 tallied in 2012-13. Her scoring average this year is 17.6.

Earlier this month, the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (D-III) named her player of the week for the fourth time in her career.

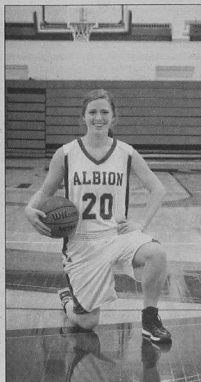
And on Dec. 28, de Bear became the eighth women's basketball player in Albion history to crack the 1,000-point plateau.

The 21-year-old daughter of Bob and Jane de Bear couldn't help but laugh about that. Becoming a collegiate star never was her motivation when finding a place to follow high school, keep playing basketball and pursue a degree in teaching.

"It's cool that it's happening and stuff, but it's not the most important thing to me," she said. "What is? Just being able to play. I guess. I love the game. I love my team. I don't know how, it just wouldn't be worth it without those people."

Her Salem roots

Basketball-wise, the past four years have gone by in the blink of an eye for de Bear. She remembers just looking



Brett de Bear has plenty of reason to smile about her career at Albion College. BOBBY LEE | ALBION ATHLETICS

See DE BEAR, Page B3

PREP BOYS WRESTLING

'Cats gear up
for CC now,
Palace laterPlymouth faces Shamrocks
in D1 quarters; Park teams
sending 11 to PalaceBy Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth knows Friday's Division 1 quarterfinal against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central will be a tough one.

But the Wildcats' varsity wrestling team will go to Battle Creek for the first time in school history with plenty of confidence — not to mention the fact several also qualified to go to the Palace of Auburn Hills Feb. 27-March 1 for the state individual finals.

"They (Shamrocks) are a very talented team top to bottom and don't really have any holes in their lineup," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "We have a similar type of lineup, but on paper their guys are a little better."

"There will be a lot of good

See WRESTLING, Page B2

REGIONAL MAT RESULTS

SALEM'S MITCHELL GROSS FINISHED THIRD AT 189 POUNDS TO QUALIFY FOR THE STATE FINALS. DR. ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

MISMAA REGIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (top 4 qualify for state finals)

DIVISION 1

AT WOODHAVEN

135 pounds: Jordan Marky (Ypsilanti) Unopposed, 10-0; Ben Beal (Salem), 7-4; 3rd: Jonn (Plymouth) dec. Ty Jansen (Canton), 2-0.

145: Alex Partello (Canton) p. Jacob Balogh (Plymouth), 5-0; 3rd: Alex Alcott (Dearborn Heights) Unopposed, dec. Sofia Nelson (Plymouth), 10-0.

152: Blake Martin (Temperance) Bedford dec. Quentin Santos (Wyandotte), 7-5; 3rd: Nick Fraker (Livonia) p. Kenneth Steele (Plymouth), 2-1.

160: Jordan Adams (Franklin) won by major dec. over Ben Beal (Salem), 12-3; 3rd: Jared Ammons (Woodhaven) dec. Connor Harmon (Monroe), 5-3.

175: Stan Powell (Bloomfield Hills) Brandon Rice (J. Hussein Yousef (Plymouth), 5:50; 3rd: Adam Ottman (Bedford) p. Ezekiel Baker (Southfield), 4-50.

190: John Brandon (Westland John Glenn) dec. Lavonte Perdue (Warren) Matt, 7-3; 3rd: John Anderson (Monroe) won by int. over K.J. Wooley (Canton).

225: Aaron Maudlin (Wayne Memorial) dec. Al Wahabi (Crestwood), 7-2; 3rd: Adam Ottman (Bedford) p. Ezekiel Baker (Southfield), 4-50.

285: Mohamed Yousef (Plymouth) won by int. over Nick Borelli (Livonia), 15-3; 3rd: John Kevin (Livonia) Chubb dec. Alex Aji (Dearborn).

313: Kevin Hays (John Glenn) dec. Brad Stewart (Bedford), 5-3; 3rd: Nathan Alena (Franklin) won by major dec. over Austin Koehler (Livonia), 11-1.

350: John Madsen (Ypsilanti) dec. Ben Griffin (Canton), 3-0; 3rd: Hassan Aji (Bedford) won by major dec. over Keith Le (Southfield), 15-5.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

matches and we hope to win enough of them to have a chance at winning."

The Plymouth-CC quarterfinal is slated for 3:35 p.m. at the Kellogg Center. Guernsey's squad earned that trip with a 32-29 win over Bedford at the Feb. 12 team regional final at Westland John Glenn.

"We have had some experience in big tight matches," Guernsey said. "Hartland, Tecumseh, Swan Valley and Bedford were all the type of duals that we hope Friday will be—competitive, intense, and exciting."

"We are not planning on setting with just showing up; we plan to go after whoever we wrestle. This team has had a little bit of a chip on their shoulder all season and even with success they're had they still are hungry for more."

Palace bound

As of individual performances, the Wildcats did not face Saturday at the DI regional at Brownstown Woodhaven with six qualifiers headed to the Palace. The top four in each weight class qualified.

Regional champions for Plymouth were Brandon Harris (112) and Mohamed Yousef (189). Harris earned a 8-2 decision over Southgate's Dante Rivera while Yousef tallied a 15-3 major decision over Livonia Franklin's Nick Robertson.

Also qualifying for the Wildcats are Joey Shaver (second, 160), Jon Conn (third, 140), Hussein Yousef (second, 171) and Sofus Nielson (fourth, 145).

KLAAS DIVISIONAL SWIM MEETS

'Cats again cream of KLAAS South

Plymouth again outright division champs; Salem fourth at KLAAS Central meet

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The encore season for Kenn Forbess and the Plymouth Wildcats has been wet and wonderful.

Plymouth—just like last year, Forbes' debut with the team—won the KLAAS South Division tournament and outright championship (No. 1 in dual meets and division meet).

The Wildcats, featuring plenty of depth and splendid performances throughout the lineup, registered 611 points Saturday at Westland John Glenn for the division meet triumph. In second was Canton, with 406.

"I guess you can say it's been a fun and productive two years," said Forbes, who formerly coached at Redford Union. "We have a lot of depth and talent coupled with youth. Most importantly is we try to stay very focused and humble."

"Nothing is guaranteed and it's not something that we assume will happen. We are very fortunate for our success, but there's a lot more to improve on. Faster bigger teams to go up against."

The team now would like to ride that wave of momentum into their next challenge, this weekend's Kensington Conference meet at South Lyon East.

"The boys and myself are extremely thrilled about what we just accomplished, and they should be," Forbes said. "I know at the same time a few of them, along with my assistant coach Ronson (Webster) and myself, are looking to get those state cuts, especially after being so close at divisions."

Fast times

Although there were many swimmers who excelled at the



Plymouth's boys swim team celebrates winning the KLAAS South Division meet and championship. DONALD FIELDS

division meet, at the top of the list were sophomore Garrett Beauprez and junior Ben Yang.

Beauprez finished first in the 200 IM (2:06.05) and 500 freestyle (5:06.10 for a personal best).

Yang also took the top spot in two events, including the 100 butterfly (57.54) and 100 backstroke (57.37).

One of the other standouts was sophomore Bronson Knowles, who dropped eight seconds in the 200 IM to place second (second to Beauprez) with a 2:10.95 time.

Knowles also shaved five seconds off his previous best in the 100 breaststroke to finish first (1:06.56) and edge out Canton senior Alex Bourdeau (1:07.77).

Several other Plymouth firsts helped make it a foregone conclusion that Forbes and the squad would enjoy a victory lap in the John Glenn pool.

In the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays, the Wildcats finished 1-2 (1:44.47, 1:49.83, 3:26.06, 3:36.65). Plymouth also took the top spot in the 200 free relay (1:34.11).

Taking part in all three winning relays was junior Ryan Heinze. Double winners were Beauprez, Yang, Brandon Burger and Alex Johnson. Freshman Michael Wischer (200 free relay) also contributed.

"As for everyone else, the rest of the team all dropped time in their respective events," Forbes noted. "Last I counted I was up to 41 individual personal records and hadn't looked at relay splits yet."

Gerard Niernmann took second in two events for Canton (200 free, 100 breast).

Salem fourth

At the KLAAS Central Division boys swimming and diving meet at Novi High School, Salem finished fourth with 306 points.

Winning the meet was Northville (655.5 points), followed by Livonia Stevenson (608) and Novi (349.5).

"I'm pretty happy with the meet today, (we) moved up to fourth," Salem head coach Chuck Olson said. "Matt Paitritz, Phil Collingwood, Patrick Casey all had a good day."

The best event for the Rocks 7 was the 100-yard backstroke, with Casey's time of 56.39 good for second place and Brendan Wellman placing fourth (58.58).

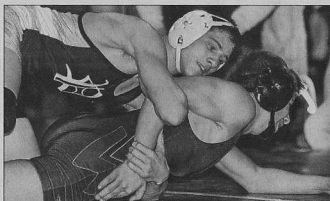
Paitritz took third in the 100 free, with a time of 49.82 and came in fourth in the 50 free (22.67), with teammate Charles Liu ninth (23.90). In the 500 free, Collingwood's finish of 5:04.01 was fifth, but just a little behind Northville's Nick DuFresne (fourth, 5:03.60).

Wellman and Colin Urbaczewski finished sixth and seventh, respectively, in the 100 butterfly (59.28, 59.49) while Collingwood's mark of 2:10.51 in the 200 IM was good for sixth. Urbaczewski was eighth in the 200 IM (2:13.58).

Another top-10 finisher for the Rocks was Brian Kuang (eighth, 100 back, 1:00.45).

The Rocks, like Plymouth and Canton, will take part in the conference meet Friday and Saturday at South Lyon East.

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Plymouth's Mo Yousef (top) won the individual regional title at 119. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

"A lot of guys are wrestling really well right now," Guernsey said. "Brandon Harris is on a roll and has looked stronger than he's been all season. Mo-hamad continues to be a force to reckon with and was in control of all of his matches all day."

"Jon and Sofus both wrestled really well in their consolation semifinal and will hopefully have a good tournament at the Palace. Joey and Hussein both had solid wins in the semifinals but fell just short in the finals against some top notch talent."

Guernsey said all six can take a shot at being up on the podium at the finals. "Having the full team working with them as we get ready for Battle Creek is certainly going to help those individuals be successful next week."

The only other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park champion was Canton senior Adam Palazzo, who pinned Southgate's Jacob Balogh in 5:00 at 145.

Canton's Ben Griffin (second, 130), K.J. Wooley (fourth,

215) and Ty Jansen (fourth, 140) also are set to compete at the Palace. From Salem, Mitchell Gross qualified with his third-place finish at 189.

"Our guys wrestled at a high intensity all day," Chiefs head coach Cory Mancuso said. "We are going to take the next 10 days to get better and fix some things so we can get all four on the podium."

Salem head coach Pete Israel said it was gratifying to see under-the-weather (cold) Gross qualify after coming so close (one match short) in 2013.

"The matches have been close and with Mitchell not feeling well I knew he would have found the motivation and wrestle a full match," Israel said. "Mitchell did just that. He now has some time to recover and train for the state meet."

"I expect if Mitchell shows up and wrestles the way he can, I have no doubt he will place. As long as he is aggressive with his shots he should do well."

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KLAAS SOUTH DIVISION

BOYS SWIM MEET

Feb. 16-15 at John Glenn

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 611 points; 2. Canton, 406; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 374.5; 4. Wayne Memorial, 359; 5. Westland John Glenn, 306; 6. Livonia Franklin, 225.

200-yard medley relay

1. Plymouth (Ben Yang, Garrett Beauprez, Ryan Heinze, Alex Johnson), 1:44.47; 2. Plymouth (Bronson Knowles, Anishah Wiley, Michael Wischer, Matt Weiner), 1:49.83; 3. Canton (Alex Bourdeau, Gerard Niernmann, Travis Maloney, 1:53.1; 4. Churchill, 1:54.51; 5. Canton, 1:56.1; 6. Wayne, 1:56.99; 7. Franklin, 1:59.49; 8. John Glenn, 2:06.5.

200 individual medley

1. Garrett Beauprez (P.), 2:06.05; 2. Knowles (P.), 2:10.95; 3. Kyle Rappaport (C.), 2:19.04; 4. Malbail, 2:19.66; 5. Alex Bourdeau (Canton), 2:22.27; 6. Rappaport (Canton), 2:22.7; 7. Alex Heinze (C.), 2:28.82; 8. Ryan Conn (L.), 2:29.86.

100-yard freestyle

1. Only Hudson (Glen), 50.27; 2. Walter (P.), 52.32; 3. Brandon Burger (P.), 53.7; 4. Heath Karam (W.), 53.95; 5. Malaya (Canton), 54.06; 6. Devin Glavin (M.), 54.29; 7. James Wynn (L.), 54.35; 8. Daniel Salzman (C.), 54.36.

1-meter diving

1. John Madsen (P.), 400.60; 2. Tom O'Dowd (S.), 357.60; 3. Justin Wonnack (W.), 357.60; 4. Justin Wonnack (W.), 357.60; 5. Samson Hargrave (L.), 311.40; 6. Kevin Tera (C.), 272.70; 7. James Wynn (L.), 270.90; 8. Thomas Huang (P.), 203.85.

100-yard freestyle

1. Ben Yang (P.), 57.54; 2. John Madsen (P.), 58.45; 3. Alex Johnson (P.), 1:00.45; 4. Wischer (P.), 1:01.11; 5. Maloney (C.), 1:01.87; 6. Austin Kott (L.), 1:02.72; 7. John Conn (P.), 1:03.24; 8. Michael Gibson (Canton), 1:04.77.

100-yard freestyle

1. Heideg (W.), 50.47; 2. Burger (P.), 52.08; 3. Niernmann (Canton), 53.07; 4. Alex Johnson (P.), 53.12; 5. Williams (W.), 53.75; 6. John Wynn (L.), 54.59; 8. Malaya (Canton), 54.75.

200-yard freestyle

1. Garrett Beauprez (P.), 5:06.10; 2. Knowles (P.), 5:10.95; 3. Malbail, 5:19.66; 4. Alex Bourdeau (Canton), 5:22.27; 5. Rappaport (Canton), 5:22.7; 6. Alex Heinze (C.), 5:28.82; 7. Ryan Conn (L.), 5:29.86.

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Olympians inspire young skaters to go for it

Arctic Edge heroes give South Lyon siblings reason to believe they can do it too

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Who knows, maybe young Aaron Caico can follow the gold medal-winning path of Charlie White someday. "He (Aaron) is a hockey player, too, like Charlie was," said Arctic Edge figure skating coach Maria Lako-Pinkowski, before working with Aaron, 12, and his 10-year-old sister Grace Caico, both of South Lyon.

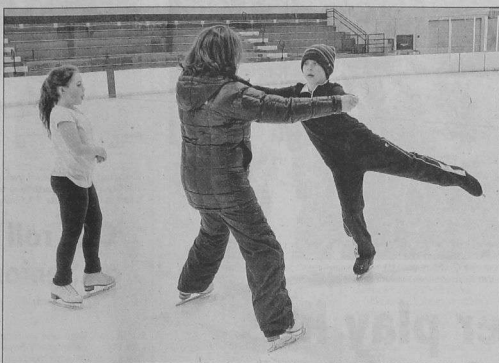
"Charlie was a really good hockey player."

Of course, now look at him. White and his U.S. ice dancing partner (Meryl Davis) Monday won the gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

White and Davis train at Arctic Edge in Canton, where Lako-Pinkowski was helping the Caico siblings sharpen up their singles.

Out in the arena lobby, Arctic Edge skaters, family members and friends at an Olympics viewing party enthusiastically waited for the show to begin.

It wouldn't be long before White and Davis, along with Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir (also from Arctic Edge) per-



Arctic Edge skating coach Maria Lako-Pinkowski works with skaters Aaron Caico (right) and his sister Grace Caico. The siblings live in South Lyon. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

formed their dance routines with gold medals on the line.

"It (figure skating) helps me with my speed and for hockey, I'm a lot stiffer," said Aaron Caico, a hockey player for the Howell Warriors youth team. "I'm really stable on the ice. Figure skating helps with

that."

Grace said she doesn't "care about that hockey stuff."

Tangible proof

Both are truly amazed by how they skate, of course. "They give me a lot of inspiration to get better and get

there one day," noted Grace, who might think about eventually going into pairs if not dance.

Aaron said the success of the now-famous skaters from Arctic Edge "just gives me a lot of hope that I can get better, I can get as good as those

Olympians" and maybe perform from afar on the flat screen at a future viewing party.

"As long as I can skate, yeah, until I get up there," he added.

But Lako-Pinkowski said her skating students, such as the Caicos, are fully aware that wanting something is just the tip of the iceberg.

"There's a lot of hard work, a lot of hours, on the ice, off the ice," Lako-Pinkowski stressed. "A lot of sacrifices from parents, siblings and the kids themselves, because they're here all day training and not necessarily going to prom and after-school activities. That's what they've chosen to do."

The Caicos, though, have chosen to work on their skating skills at the very place Charlie White and Meryl Davis finetuned their ultimate talents.

"We just recently came to this rink, and I think it's really cool," Grace said. "It seems really cool to see them here and think about seeing them at the Olympics and how we can be around them at the same rink."

Many others perhaps are flocking to Arctic Edge for that same reason. Consider there are about 250 people in this season's Learn to Skate program at Arctic Edge.

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SKATERS

Continued from Page B1

What makes them so special?

"The best thing is their chemistry with each other," McGowan continued.

"They're just like one on the ice. With some of the pair teams you can tell they are two individuals."

"But it's like they skate as they're one."

Friends and fans

Natalie had a front-row seat at the viewing party, complete with red-white-and-blue pinwheel-like ribbons in her hair and paint on her face.

She was there with her mom, Trisha Kvasnak. Before the Davis-White

team skated, not to mention the Canadian duo of Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir (2010 gold medalists in ice dancing who also train at Arctic Edge), daughter-and-mom watched other skaters while anticipating The Main Event. "She's excited, we're both excited," Kvasnak said.

"USA, yep, but we're rooting for all the teams though that skate out of here."

In addition to Davis and White (both from Michigan) and Virtue-Moir, the Ann Arbor brother-sister team of Alex and Maia Shibutani also train out of Arctic Edge.

The Canadian team won the silver medal Monday, flip-flopping places on the podium with Davis and White.

"I'm here, one because I skate here and two, because I really want to watch," Nat-

alie said. Asked about why she loves ice skating, she said "it's fun, it gives me a sense of life, almost like I'm flying."

Maybe someday

She had plenty of company at Arctic Edge.

"Everybody is just kind of like one big family and it's a lot of fun," said Canton's Dawn Blashak, whose 13-year-old daughter, Samantha, has skated for a decade at Arctic Edge. "We see the Olympians every day that we're here. And you just feel closer to them when you're here, you just feel this energy."

"So we wanted to come here and watch them with all the skaters."

Samantha smiled about getting inspiration to maybe someday go as far, do as

much as the skaters they call Charlie and Meryl have.

"It's kind of like important for me to watch them because it means a lot that they're (from) here," Samantha said.

Maria Lako-Pinkowski, a figure skating coach who works with all age groups at Arctic Edge, emphasized just how much of a connection the Olympians (from both North American countries) have forged with the Natives, Cathryns and Samanthas.

"They stand at those windows over there and they watch them skate (in training sessions)," Lako-Pinkowski said.

"You can just see it in their eyes that they wish to be like that someday."

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Jenna Shi (left) and Sophie Yang, watch the ice dancing on TV at Arctic Edge. Both are 10-year-olds from Canton. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MHSAA CHEER RESULTS

MHSAA COMPETITIVE

GIRLS CHEER RESULTS

DIVISION 1-DISTRICT 2

Feb. 15 at WYANDOTTE

TEAM STANDINGS (top four qualify for regional): 1. Southfield Anderson, 77.66; 2. Temperance Bedford, 74.28; 3. Wyandotte, 73.42; 4. Dearborn Woodhams, 72.12; 5. Plymouth, 70.82; 6. Livonia Churchill, 69.57; 7. Canton, 68.10.

88.10; 8. Wayne Memorial, 67.50; 9. Saline, 66.64; 10. Lincoln Park, 65.20; 11. Ypsilanti Lincoln, 63.90; 12. Salem, 59.22; 13. Westland John Cramer, 58.72; 14. Monroe, 56.51.

DIVISION 1-DISTRICT 4

Feb. 15 at Troy Athens

TEAM STANDINGS (top four qualify for regional): 1. Troy Athens, 78.38; 2. Rochester Stoney Creek, 77.18; 3. Rochester, 77.14; 4. Livonia Stevenson, 77.08; 5. Utica Eisenhower, 77.28; 6. Rochester Adams, 76.30; 7. Troy, 75.22; 8. Livonia Franklin, 72.72; 9. Livonia Lakewood, 69.80; 10. Utica, 59.22; 11. North Farmington, 618.50; 12. Oak Park, 60.94; 13. Bloomfield Hills, 59.10; 14. Royal Oak, 58.90.

DIVISION 3-DISTRICT 14

Feb. 14 at Flat Rock

TEAM STANDINGS (top four qualify for regional): 1. Grosse Ile, 77.06; 2. Onond, 719.28; 3. Brooklyn Columbia Central, 69.20; 4. Monroe

Jefferson, 68.72; 5. Ida, 67.84; 6. Romulus Summit Academy, 67.87; 7. Livonia Lakewood, 66.96; 8. Livonia Clarenceville, 62.54; 9. Flat Rock, 60.80; 10. Napoleon, 60.80; 11. Harper Woods Chandler Park, 59.20; 12. Allen Park Calum, 52.34.

DIVISION 3-DISTRICT 21

Feb. 15 at Whitmore Lake

TEAM STANDINGS (top four qualify for regional): 1. Whitmore Lake, 68.72; 2. St. Catherine of Siena, 64.16; 3. Sterling Heights

Parkway Christian, 63.10; 4. Memphis, 62.62; 5. Madison Heights Bishop Riley, 61.64; 6. Lutheran High Westland, 60.80; 7. Southfield Christian, 60.73; 8. Clarkston Everest Collegiate, 59.70; 9. New River, 57.40; 10. Brown City, 56.00; 11. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian, 49.40; 12. Madison Heights Madison, 48.10.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS



Canton won the Kensington Conference gymnastics title.

Chiefs win another conference crown

Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team completed a clean sweep of the KLAAs Kensington Conference with Saturday's first-place finish at the conference meet.

The Chiefs (10-0) totaled 145.2 points to win the title.

In Division 1 competition, Jocelyn Moraw and Melissa Green tied for third place in all-around (36.8) with Moraw finishing second on vault (9.4) and floor exercise (9.45). Also in D1, Maddie Loal

contributed three nines while Stephanie Cox medaled in all four events.

Hailey Hodgson was D2 champion on vault (9.225) and floor (9.3).

Helping the cause by bringing home a medal were Ellie Bachman and Jessica Siegler (D2).

Toal dominated the Kensington season average medals. She won on bars (8.803), beam (9.37), floor (9.361) and all-around (36.353).

DE BEAR

Continued from Page B1

for a college to call home while still at Salem, a standout guard for legendary coach Fred Thomann (who passed away in late December).

Although De Bear was unable to attend the mid-January tribute to Thomann, she often thinks about what he meant to her as a player, student and person.

"That was sad, I wanted to be there," she said. "It (Salem career) definitely has a lot to do with my success. Fred was a great coach, he definitely knew the game well and always looked out for his players."

"He honestly deserves a lot of the credit. He was my coach for four years, so he had a lot to do with it."

A scholar-athlete with a 3.67 grade-point average (she was named to the MIAA academic honor roll for 3.5-or-better GPA her first three years and is a good bet to make it four), De Bear would be the perfect candidate for a recently launched memorial scholarship program at Salem honoring her old basketball coach.

The Fred Thomann Scholarship Fund will be awarded each year to a senior student at the Park (regardless of sport) who wants to study to become a teacher — a profession near and dear to Thomann and his family.

"I actually go into student teaching next fall," De Bear said. "So I'll be back here for another semester and then



Salem graduate Brett De Bear (third from left), flanked by parents Bob and Jane De Bear, received the game ball from the Dec. 28 Albion College women's basketball contest after scoring her 1,000th career point that night. At far left is Albion athletic director Matt Arend. At far right is Lady Britons basketball coach Doreen Carden. LOWELL MCGINNIS/ALBION ATHLETICS

after that I guess I'm going to apply for teaching jobs."

She laughed when asked whether she'd also like to become a basketball coach. She still enjoys playing the game, making the shots, helping her team.

She's about team

And for all of her personal milestones, De Bear pointed to a team moment as the best she's had at Albion.

"My sophomore year, it was 'Beat Hope at Hope' and it was like the coolest thing," De Bear said. "I think that's the only time I beat Hope in my four years."

"It was just like the greatest feeling, my team was so excited afterwards."

Yet, perhaps typical for Brett De Bear, she could not remember how many points she scored in that victory.

One gets the feeling she wouldn't know just how much she has accomplished with the Lady Britons without the wave of media attention these days.

With her career winding down and with the chance to move up one more rung in the Albion College record book, De Bear confirmed that she's still taking a "business as usual" approach and not getting caught up in any hoopla.

"I have three games left in my career," she noted. "I'm really trying to enjoy these last games."

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ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



Plymouth Whalers players, including Connor Chatham (No. 11), mob teammate Victor Cris Rydberg after he scored the winning goal Saturday against Kitchener. RENA LAVERITY / PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Power play lifts Whalers in T

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Late goals by Gianluca Curcuruto and Victor Cris Rydberg on Saturday night enabled the Plymouth Whalers to knock off their closest competitor in the race for a playoff spot. Plymouth defeated the Kitchener Rangers 2-1 at Compuware Arena on Cris Rydberg's power-play tally at 3:07 of overtime.

He had the chance to be the hero because Curcuruto's point shot with 8:36 left in the third period evened up the Ontario Hockey League contest.

"Yeah it was," said Cris Rydberg, asked if the goal was his biggest ever as a Whaler. "It was a real important game today so it was nice to see the puck go in there."

With Plymouth on a 4-on-3 power play in the extra frame, the Whalers rookie walked in from the left half-wall into the middle of the ice between the circles and cranked a screamer over the right pad of Kitchener goalie Jordan DeKort.

Setting up his eighth goal of the season were forward Zach

Lorentz and defenseman Mathieu Henderson.

"I tried to look for a seam to Lorentz or just take a shot," Cris Rydberg said. "I just took the shot. I just tried to hit the net."

That goal gave the crowd of 2,929 plenty to be happy about as they left the building. Plymouth improved to 21-28-0-6 (48 points) and strengthened its grip on eighth place in the OHL Western Conference; ninth-place Kitchener now has 43 points (20-32-2-1).

"It's not three points between us, it's five now," Cris Rydberg added. "So yeah, that was a good goal."

For much of the night, the Rangers were looking as though they might win in regulation and close the gap to two points (46-44 points).

After a scoreless period, Kitchener defenseman Dmitrii Sergeev's high point shot sailed past a screened Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (26 saves).

The Whalers applied plenty of offensive pressure on DeKort, who made a number of excellent saves (40 for the night) to help the Rangers take

a 1-0 lead into the third.

Plymouth finally found the range with 8:36 left in regulation.

Forward Danny Vanderviel threaded a pass from the right wing out to Curcuruto, striding in from the point.

Curcuruto then snapped a goal through traffic in front of the Kitchener goalie. The puck then struck through DeKort's pads for the equalizer.

Drawing the second assist was center Vincent Scognamiglio.

Plymouth will play three road games this week (Monday at Guelph, Wednesday at Sault Ste. Marie and Friday at Sarnia) before returning home for Saturday's 7 p.m. game against London.

GUELPH & PLYMOUTH 3: The host Storm scored three goals in each period Monday afternoon to beat the Plymouth Whalers.

GOAL SCORERS FOR PLYMOUTH (21-29-0-6): Ryan Hartman, Carter Sandak and Yannick Rabbitt and Matt Muske (from Ryan Hartman) scored for the Whalers while Jeremy Ludov and Dylan Sedore counted for Sarnia.

LEWISBURG 3, PLYMOUTH 2 (50): On Friday night at Saginaw, the Spirit finally scored in the third period to tie the Whalers (the longest in Whalers history) to edge Plymouth.

Zach Lorentz from Carter Sandak and Yannick Rabbitt and Matt Muske (from Ryan Hartman) scored for the Whalers while Jeremy Ludov and Dylan Sedore counted for Sarnia.

Making 30 saves for Plymouth was Alex Nedeljkovic. The power goalie and Detroit Wings prospect Jake Peterson turned aside 27 of 29 Whalers shots.

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Plymouth junior forward Josh Smith (No. 16) sends a shot toward the Grosje Point North goal on Friday night. Smith scored two goals in the Wildcats' 7-1 Senior Night victory. MICHELLE BAUER

'Cats roll out offense on Senior Night, 7-1

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Senior Night was a winner for Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team, which defeated Grosje Point North, 7-1, on Friday night at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton.

Junior forward Josh Smith opened the night's scoring and finished with two goals for the evening as the Wildcats (11-9-3) built a 7-0 advantage before North scored in the third to ruin junior goalie Erik Vandenberg's shutout bid.

"I was very happy with our effort," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "We moved our feet well and put a lot of pressure on them early and got out to a lead."

"And that's what I think made the difference and made for a great Senior Night."

Also scoring twice for Plymouth was senior forward Charlie Supernois, with single tallies by senior forwards Mike Schultz, Mike Scarpello and John VanDenBergue.

Senior seniors honored Friday were defensemen Zak Fadden, Colin Staub, Kyle Bauer and forwards Anthony

Sloan, Kyle Melnick, Mitchell Lengell, Zach Tavierne and Corey Smith.

The victory gave Plymouth three decisive wins in three nights.

On Wednesday, Feb. 12, the Wildcats were paced by two goals each from Schultz and Scarpello in a 10-3 rout over Walled Lake Western. Registering the first goal of his varsity career was junior defenseman Ben Chafin.

The following night, Josh Smith's hat trick and three assists by sophomore forward Alex Bump keyed Plymouth's 5-1 win over Walled Lake Central.

Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team played three games in three nights, managing to win the middle matchup. The Rocks defeated 5-1 on Tuesday, Feb. 11, against Macomb Dakota, but bounced back the following night with a 7-0 rout of Grand Blanc. Evan Hewitt scored two goals and four other players had one goal each, supporting the shutout performance of Dillon Phillips.

The Rocks ran out of gas late in Thursday's 4-1 loss to Hartland.

We completed hard for the first two periods and outlasted North during that time," Salem head coach Ryan Ousemauer said. "We ran out of steam in the third period. It was our fourth game in five nights."

Salem runs a 9-12-1 record and will host Lodi Central on Saturday at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Plymouth Central.

ACC also will be the site of the pre-seasons the following week. On Monday, Feb. 24, Salem and Eastern will square off at 7:30 p.m., with the winner meeting Plymouth two nights later in a pre-regional semifinal.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Feb. 20
Chubb at Brighton, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Sarnia, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Milford, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 21
Lodi at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Westland at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 22
Macomb at Lodi, Westland, 5:30 p.m.
Calvary at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Custer, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 23
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m. (Kensington Court, Final)

Monday, Feb. 24
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m. (Kensington Court, Final)

Tuesday, Feb. 25
Westland at Huron Valley, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26
Calvary at Huron Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 27
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 28
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 29
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 30
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 1
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 4
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 5
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 6
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 7
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, March 8
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 11
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 12
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 13
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 14
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 15
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 18
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 19
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 20
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 21
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, March 22
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 25
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 26
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 27
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 28
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 29
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 1
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 2
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 3
Chubb at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 4
Lodi at Westland at Lodi, 5:30 p.m.

Late start costly as Salem loses

With energy levels and offense lacking in the first half Tuesday night against Howell, Salem interim girls basketball coach Lindsay Klemmer reminded her team of that at halftime.

The Highlanders had taken a 19-14 halftime advantage, to Klemmer's chagrin.

One intermission chat later, the Rocks did come out with more fire in the third and even caught Howell in the fourth quarter of the KLAAs consolation bracket game.

But a buzzer beater by How-

ell's Tess Weatherly from 15 feet gave the Highlanders a 34-32 win.

"If we had played the entire 32 minutes like we played the last 12," Klemmer noted, "it would have been our game."

Another tough lesson learned the hard way.

Juward guard Jamyra Wilson and junior forward Shara Long led Salem (12-7) in scoring, with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Junior spot player Maranda Armstead chipped in with eight rebounds.

Weatherly paced Howell

with eight points, while Rachael Nelson grabbed eight rebounds.

NOV. 40, PLYMOUTH 35 (OT): In a season of high-scoring slumps, the Plymouth Wildcats nearly topped off all Friday night.

BRIGHTON 38, CANTON 38: In a see-saw KLAAs Association girls basketball tournament.

But then junior point guard Courtney Lavelle put up a deep shot that dropped through the cylinder with just eight seconds left in regulation. That forced overtime to decide which team would take Canton in the KLAAs conference final.

However, junior point guard Kent McManis continued her lead scoring of the second half into the extra frame and the visiting Wildcats were defeated 40-35 to take a 1-4-4 record. Now improved to 1-5-1.

McManis led all scorers with 23 points, including 17 in the second half and overtime.

mark shooting (14-44, 32 percent) kept the Lions from mounting any kind of sustainable offense down the stretch.

With about five minutes to go, Wheeler skied to block a layup try by Luke Wolfe to again send a jolt through the home bleachers.

"They (Hoover and Wheeler) came up big," Brodie said. "They did a nice job inside, rebounding and blocking out and everybody hustled and did what they were supposed to do. I was happy with the contributions by everybody again."

Brodie said playing well during the KLAAs tournament could have a positive carryover effect on the Class A tournament (which begins in early March).

"Hopefully it does, you get your momentum going and you're playing in a tournament," he added. "Just like at the collegiate level, that's what they do. They set those tournaments up so they're prepared for the big tournament and hopefully that does that for us, too."

BOYD AND ALEX, HARTLAND 41: Josh Reynolds and Moudi Akins scored 22 and 15 points, respectively, to lead the Wildcats to this KLAAs consolation bracket win on Monday night. Plymouth (8) met faces Livonia Stevenson on Thursday.

BRIGHTON 38, CANTON 38: In a see-saw KLAAs consolation bracket contest Monday, the Chiefs won their first game in the tournament, 38-32, in overtime.

GOAL SCORERS FOR PLYMOUTH (21-29-0-6): Ryan Hartman, Carter Sandak and Yannick Rabbitt and Matt Muske (from Ryan Hartman) scored for the Whalers while Jeremy Ludov and Dylan Sedore counted for Sarnia.

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HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

victory.

The win advances Salem to the Kensington Conference title game 7 p.m. Saturday against Westland John Glenn (at Salem).

Battle tested

Was physical, it was a battle," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "Both teams were a little bit tight in that first half, we didn't score many points."

"The first time against South Lyon it was 20 points our way and the second time was 20 points their way, so you knew it was going to be a battle and it was until later in the game."

For the Lions (10-7), Tommy Averill posted 13 rebounds along with seven points and three assists. Will Sanders tallied eight points while Carter Dragna and Antoni Skupin each scored seven.

Salem led 13-11 after one quarter and both teams struggled to front their shots in the second. South Lyon outscored the Rocks 12-11 in that frame to trail just 24-23 at halftime.

During the break, Brodie talked to his team about putting the clamps on South Lyon's rollicking transition game.

"We gave a lot of easy baskets up in the first half," Brodie said. "Just putting a little too

much pressure on them, trying to gamble and steal the basketball."

"They had give-and-go cuts and they hunked with us... In the second half we did a better job of shutting that down. And we mixed our defenses up and I think it put them on their heels a little bit."

Still, both teams went back and forth for a while in the third with a putback by Skupin making it 30-29 with 2:30 to play in the stanza.

Hoover went off during the final 90 seconds of the quarter and that directly led to the Rocks going on a 5-0 run to take a 30-29 edge into the fourth.

He snared a defensive rebound in traffic, helping keep the Lions from scoring what would have been a go-ahead bucket. Then he kept an offensive sequence going with a rebound that led to a running bank shot by Wheeler with 1:15 left.

In the final seconds of the third, Hoover intercepted the ball down low in the South Lyon zone and fired a pass out to Brady Cole who was standing a good 9 feet behind the three-point arc.

Cole launched a perfect buzzer beater to pump up the team and home crowd.

FILM STAR, RANCHER

Actress Pam Grier to greet fans at Redford Theatre

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Pam Grier has carried hay bales and cleared brush.

She can jerry-rig a generator in a pinch and she drives a truck — some times with a horse trailer attached.

She has been involved in a therapeutic riding program with her horses and works with ASPCA and Pilots with Paws to aid homeless dogs and cats.

"My grandfather wanted all of us to be curious and do what boys could do. He said boys will respect you if you do something. He set that tone for me," said Grier, during a recent interview with the *Observer*. "He instilled a love of animals. Animals are more intuitive and sensitive than people give them credit for. I've always had that love of animals. When I'm with animals my blood pressure goes down. I focus better."

Confidence, self-sufficiency, strength, critical thinking and a take-no-guff, can-do attitude have served Grier well as a single woman living on her own ranch in Colorado — and as an actress playing tough, street-smart women in action films.

The Redford Theatre will screen three of her works this weekend, beginning with *Coffy* at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, followed by *Foxy Brown* at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, and *Jackie Brown* at 8 p.m., also on Saturday. Tickets are \$6 for each screening. Grier will be on hand on her hour before show times to sign autographs and to meet fans. The theater is located



Actress Pam Grier will sign autographs and greet fans Feb. 21-22 at the Redford Theatre.

ed at 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit.

Dinner with Grier

She'll also make a special presentation at a VIP event, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, at the Old Redford Banquet Center, located on Lahser across from the theater. Tickets for the

event are \$50 and include dinner, a photo autograph by Grier, priority seating at the Jackie Brown screening and Grier's presentation.

It won't be Grier's first visit to Michigan. She attended the Global Automotive Summit, presented by Rainbow PUSH Coalition in Detroit last year and met with women execu-



tives in the automotive field. She suggested that some cars and most trucks include a generator as a vehicle option, to power tools and other equipment while on the road.

"When I was there this past summer, to see the energy of the people there and the rebuilding of Detroit, I was amazed. I wish it well," she said.

"Every state in this country ... we need to support one another whether it's with food, water or in an emergency. That's the fabric of who we are."

Grier received an honorary doctorate degree in 2011 from Langston University in Oklahoma because of her interest in agriculture and her work in community gardening at Fort Worth's National Multicultural Heritage Museum.

"Farmers should be able to grow in greenhouses (year-round)," she said, adding that organic produce should become standard fare at the dinner table. "It should be what we eat. Not toxic. Period. And not just for the affluent."

Avid reader

Grier studied French, German and Spanish on her own

and loves to read.

"Even after *Coffey*, I think I might have gone back to school to get a master's degree, but I had just signed a three-picture deal. And so, in the meantime I still study. My house is filled with books, political authors, Einstein — you name it. I read a lot of books."

She took film classes in college and enjoyed her time behind the camera, working on student crews, and producing "guerrilla" film projects, with the goal of someday becoming part of a documentary team.

Working her way through school, she held down three part-time jobs, including a gig as a disc jockey at a private club and a receptionist at a talent agency. She was reluctant to leave her work even after Roger Corman of New World Pictures tapped her for *The Big Dollhouse*, a 1971 film about five beautiful women who plot to escape a Philippine prison.

Grier had never acted and couldn't afford to lose her jobs.

"He said, 'Read this book (on acting) by Stanislavski. I guarantee you'll be great.' He loved my rawness. I had this truth thing and I wasn't taking any guff from any one."

The film laid the groundwork for Grier's success in film and television. These days she's also busy writing and developing other creative projects.

For more on her appearance at the Redford Theatre, visit redfordtheatre.com.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS**DETROIT ZOO**

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

Location: 696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15 and older, \$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.

Contact: 248-541-5777

ART & CRAFTS**YOUTH GALLERY**

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

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

Details: The fiber artwork of artist Cynthia Bodene is on exhibit

Contact: 248-473-1856

GALLERY'01

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, 1491 Plymouth

Details: "Open Source" exhibit includes works by Gerardo Antunes, Colin McGee, and Scott MacNeil

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.northvillarts.org>

Contact: 248-344-0497; <http://www.northvillarts.org>

DANCE**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 Amaneyne Daye, WSU faculty members Nicholas Leichter, J. M. Rebutal, and Meg Paul, adjunct faculty members Rachael Harbert and Lisa LaMarre, and select WSU student choreographers. Tickets are \$15-\$20

Contact: 313-577-2960; www.bonstelle.com

FILM**FILM FESTIVAL**

Time/Date: March 6-8

Location: Civic Theatre, 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington, Oakland County Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, 27000 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Greater Farmington Film Festival includes screenings at 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m. March 6 at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus,



Blackthorn performs March 7-8 at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills.

7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. March 7-8 at the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington.

The festival will present six "films for a better world," each with a message covering an important contemporary issue, with the goal of inspiring positive changes. *Eleanor's Secret*, an animated children's film, also will be shown, at 10:30 a.m. March 8. Children's film is free; others are \$5 each or all for \$25. 248-231-2158; dwayne.hayes@kickstart-farmington.org

Contact: www.filmfest.com

MARQUIS THEATER

Time/Date: Doors open 6:45 p.m., film starts 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

Location: 135 E. Main, Northville

Details: *When Harry Met Sally*; Feb. 22, 248-349-0345;

www.downtownnorthville.com.

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, and Thursday, Feb. 27, and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 22-23

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, admission \$3

Contact: 248-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 25

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

Details: *The Butler*; free admission but tickets must be reserved in advance through <http://laarp.event.com/TheButler>. Detroit. No tickets at the door

Coming up: *Madman or Marty*, a documentary on the life of John Brown by Detroit Country Day student, Luke Jaden, 7 p.m. meet and greet, 8 p.m. film screening, \$4; *Wait Until Dark*, 8 p.m. Feb. 28 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 1, \$5; *The Lady Eve*, 8 p.m. March 14 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 15, \$5

Contact: 313-537-2560

SENATE THEATER

Time/Date: Doors open at 7 p.m., film screens at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

Location: 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit

Details: *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, with pre-show music on the theater's Wurliator pipe organ, \$5 at the door

Contact: 313-994-4100; www.dtsos.org

WAYNE STATE LAW SCHOOL

Time/Date: 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26

Location: Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium at the law school, 471 W. Palmer, Detroit

Details: *American Promise*, a documentary about two African American boys in Brooklyn, N.Y., who make their way through a prestigious private school spans 13 years in the boys' lives. Event includes a reception, the free screening and a discussion. Parking available for \$6.50 in Structure One across West Palmer from Wayne Law. Register by email

Contact: brlanni.fritz@wayne.edu

MUSIC**CLASSICAL FOLK SOCIETY**

Time/Date: Open mic sign up, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances 7-9 p.m., the third Saturday of the month through May

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Open mic musicians may perform two songs, original or cover. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families

Contact: Scott Ludwig at 85Presents@aol.com for additional information

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 20

Location: On the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: The Haifa Symphony Orchestra performs music by Mozart, Dvorak, and Uri Bracha. Tickets are \$67; \$62 for members

Contact: 248-661-9000

BLUES @THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

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

Details: \$5 donation at the door, doors open at 7:30 p.m.

FARMINGTON PLAYERS BARN

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. March 7-8

Location: 23232 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Blackthorn band performs, with a special appearance by Tim O'Shea. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students. Buy tickets at the Cotick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile,

by calling 248-473-1848 or by visiting rezeff.fhog.com

Contact: 248-473-1856

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

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

Details: \$10 donation at the door, includes hors d'oeuvres. On Tuesday, Feb. 25, the Cliff Moner Trio with vocalist Stephanie Moner will perform. Moner plays keyboard, Joe and Ted will be on bass and Scott Kretzer will be on drums

Contact: 248-453-1780 or email plymouthjazz@rezeff.fhog.com

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9

Location: First Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth

Details: The symphony and Plymouth Oratorio Society perform together in this "The Love of March" concert. They will perform Dvorak's *Te Deum* and the choruses from *Carmina Burana*. Tickets are \$30; seniors, 65 and over, pay \$25

and students with ID pay \$10. Available online at www.michiganphil.org

Contact: 734-451-2112

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

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

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Joel Palmer and the Dr. Swing Band; Feb. 22, Jill Jack, Feb. 28, David Nefesh, John Finn and Bob Young in the Round; March 1, Empty Chair Night, March 2, Drive South; March 7, Krista Detor, March 13, Kitty Donohoe, March 14, The Potters Field, March 15, Khalid Hanifi, March 21, Christopher Mark Jones with Steve D'Angelo, March 22, John Batdorf and James Lee Stanley,

Youth theater offering advanced, beginner classes in area

Inspire School of Theatre Arts will offer two youth classes next month.

Reprise is an advanced class for students who have had previous theater training. This course, which meets at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, beginning March 1, will focus on tapping into emotion, character development, costumes, set designs, lighting, sets, makeup, method acting, immersion, finding truth, and picking the part.

Rookies, which meets at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, beginning March 1, is for beginners. The course will teach the basics of the stage with hands-on fun. Students will receive instruction in stage directions, finding their voice, confidence in

public speaking, interpreting roles, characterization, projection, as well as improvisation.

The final project for both of the 10-week courses will be Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Auditions will held the second week of class and parts will be assigned the following week.

Classes are \$20 each or \$150 for all if paid at registration, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia. Classes also will be held at the church.

For more information, contact: Len Fisher at: inspire@inspiretheatre.com or 734-751-7057.

March 23; Nathan Bell, March 28. Most shows are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.

Contact: 734-464-6302

THEATER**BARREFOOT PRODUCTIONS**

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 21-22, 28-29 and March 1 and 2 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 2

Location: 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: *Twilight of the Gods*, directed by Craig Hane, is a dark comedy that raises questions about morality. An afterglow follows the show on Feb. 22.

Audience discussions will be held after select performances. Topics and facilitators are Genetic Testing and Engineering

and studentwith ID pay \$10. Available online at www.michiganphil.org

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EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 22 and March 1

Location: The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti

Details: The Improv Mix consists of two nights of improvisation. Feb. 28 acts are Hexagonal Knife Fight performing *The Harold*, *Harold of Handsome* with a dating game structure and montage of scenes. Tickets are \$8, available online at emergentarts.org or at the door

Contact: 734-985-0875

Blend different flavors for DELICIOUS RESULTS

Dessert is an indulgence, and when you delight in the taste, texture and aroma of a decadent sweet treat, you savor every bite. It is easy to get lost in the flavor and fragrance of rich chocolate or creamy caramel.

But what happens when chocolate or caramel are paired with different flavors, like salty, sour or savory? Spurred by curiosity, the food scientists in the Wilton Test Kitchen dug deeper into unusual flavor pairings to enhance the taste experience.

While the terms "taste" and "flavor" are often used interchangeably, there is a difference between the two. The taste of a food is what the taste buds perceive, while the flavor of a food is the combination of these tastes, plus the aroma and the other sensations.

There are five basic taste categories the taste buds perceive:

» Sweetness is recognized by the presence of sugar. It is very predominant in desserts, but also creates great contrast with salty and sour.

» Sourness can be added through a variety of acidic foods, such as vinegars and citrus fruits.

» Salt enhances flavor, intensifies sweetness and suppresses bitterness.

» Bitterness may be found in a variety of foods, including chocolate and coffee. When not in balance, bitter can be offensive, but in very small quantities it adds richness and depth.

» Umami is described as a savory, often mouthwatering taste perceived when eating meat, fish, cheeses like parmesan and bleu and certain vegetables such as asparagus.

Look for more taste, flavor and inspiration at <http://treatology.wilton.com>.



COFFEE TOFFEE HEATH CUPCAKES

Makes about 24 cupcakes

- » Coffee increases the bitterness of the chocolate for richer, deeper flavor
- » Toffee adds rich buttery notes and caramelized sugar flavors

Cupcakes:

- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons instant coffee
- 1 package (16.2 ounces) devil's food cake mix
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil

Ganache:

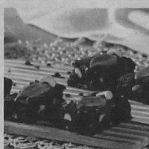
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons instant coffee
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 package (8 ounces) English toffee bits

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line muffin pan with baking cups. In a small bowl, combine water and instant coffee; stir to dissolve. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, coffee, eggs and oil. Beat with electric mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, scraping bowl frequently. Then, beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Fill baking cups ¾ full with batter.

Bake 16 to 18 minutes or until toothpick, inserted into the center, comes out clean. Cool cupcakes in pan 5 minutes. Remove from pan and place on cooling grid to cool completely.

For ganache, combine cream and instant coffee in small saucepan; stir to dissolve. Warm over medium heat until cream begins to steam; do not boil. Remove from heat and add chocolate chips; stir until smooth. Cool slightly.

Place ½ cup ganache in disposable decorating bag. Using the handle of a wooden spoon, create a small hole in the center of each cupcake; pipe in ganache. Dip tops of cupcakes in remaining ganache; lightly shake off excess. Immediately dip cupcake in toffee bits.



SWEET AND SALTY CARAMEL CASHEW BROWNIES

Makes 15 brownies

- » Caramel gets its flavor from brown sugar, butter and cream; it adds a rich, mouth-filling flavor
- » Cashews add nutty, roasted flavor notes
- » Salt reduces sweetness and increases the bitterness of the chocolate and butter in the caramel, creating a richer flavor

- 6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate (squares or chips)
- 12 tablespoons (1-½ sticks) butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 1-½ cups granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ½ cup cashews, chopped plus additional for garnish
- 15 soft caramel candies

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare 9-by-9-inch pan with parchment paper.

In a large saucepan, melt chocolate and butter over low heat, stirring to combine. Cool slightly. In a small bowl, stir together flour, cocoa powder and salt. Add sugar, eggs and vanilla to chocolate mixture. Stir until well combined. Add flour mixture; stir until just incorporated. Stir in cashews. Pour into prepared pan.

Bake 24 to 28 minutes or until toothpick inserted into the center comes out nearly clean. While brownies bake, unwrap caramel candies and roll each one out until it is ½ inch in thickness. Cut with medium sized Leaf Cut-Outs cutter.

Remove brownies from oven and immediately top with caramel cut outs, arranging in 3 rows of five. Position a cashew on each caramel. Return to oven for 1 minute. Remove from oven. Cool on cooling grid until just barely warm. Cut into 1-½ by 3-inch rectangles and serve warm or at room temperature.



PEAR AND BRIE HONEY TARTLETS

Makes about 2 dozen tartlets

- » Brie has creamy texture and is a soft-ripened cheese with mild flavor
- » Honey adds sweetness and balances the cheese flavor
- » Pear also adds sweetness
- » Cardamom adds a slight bitter note

- 1 sheet (¼ of a 17.3-ounce box), puff pastry, thawed
- 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons honey, divided
- 1-½ cups diced, peeled firm ripe pear
- ¼ 6-ounce wheel, brie, cut into ¼-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 400°F. Prepare a 24-cavity mini muffin pan with vegetable pan spray.

On a lightly floured surface, unfold puff pastry; roll out to about 12 by 8 inches. Cut into 24 squares, about 2 by 2 inches. Press each square into a prepared pan cavity. In a small bowl, stir together cardamom, salt and 2 tablespoons of the honey. Add pears; toss to coat. Add 1 heaping teaspoon pear mixture to each pastry tartlet.

Bake 13 to 16 minutes or until puff pastry is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Immediately top with pieces of brie. Cool in pan 5 minutes. Remove to cooling grid. Drizzle remaining honey over tartlets and serve immediately.



FROZEN GREEK YOGURT POPS WITH PISTACHIOS AND RASPBERRIES

Makes 8 pops

- » Greek yogurt adds sour cultured notes and creamy texture
- » Sourness is balanced by the sweet honey, which contributes floral notes
- » Raspberries add fruity flavor, which is also slightly floral

- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
- ¼ cup, plus 4 teaspoons honey, divided
- 1 teaspoon clear imitation vanilla extract
- ¼ cup raspberries
- 3 tablespoons chopped pistachios, divided
- 4 Wilton 8-inch Cookie Sticks, cut in half

In medium bowl, whisk together yogurt, cream, ¼ cup honey and vanilla until smooth.

Place one whole raspberry in the bottom of each Wilton Round Brownie Pops Mold cavity. Cut the remaining raspberries into quarters. To assemble pops, spoon 1-½ teaspoon yogurt mixture over raspberry in mold cavity; lightly tap mold against work surface to level. Sprinkle ½ teaspoon pistachios over yogurt and then ¼ teaspoon honey over pistachios. Repeat, layering yogurt, pistachios and honey, as listed above, lightly tapping mold to level. Add a quartered piece of raspberry; top with remaining yogurt mixture and lightly tap to level. Insert sticks about ½ into pop. Freeze at least 3 hours or overnight.

Taste of California

Livonia — Mitchell's Fish Market will hold the first of six four-course dinner and wine pairings, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6.

A "Taste of California" costs \$54.99 plus sales tax and gratuity per person.

The menu will include Shrimp and Roasted Cauliflower Risotto, Grilled Portabella with Baby Arugula, Dried Cherry Vinaigrette and Shaved

Parmesan, Marinated Grilled Tenderloin Skewer, Smoked Salt and Pepper Ahi Tuna, Baby Potato and Asparagus Sauté, and Chilled Sabayon with Seasonal Fruit and Vanilla Tuile. Each course will be paired with a California wine. Mitchell's is located at 17600 Haggerty; 734-464-3663.

Save the date

Plymouth — Learn about the 2014 Engine 2 Cooking Seminar Texas Firefighter 28

Day Save-Your-Life Plan, 2-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at Metropolitan Adventist Junior Academy gym, 15585 N. Haggerty, one block north of Five Mile, Plymouth.

The program will include talks by doctors, dietitians, and a physical fitness trainer; a kick off for the 28-day Save-Your-Life program; tips on integrating a plant-based diet; a tasting of plant-based recipes; and ideas for meal plans. Cost is \$35 per person or \$45

per couple.

To RSVP, leave a message or send an email with the number of individuals in your party. Registration deadline is March 25. Call 248-446-9176 or email holidaytasting@gmail.com. Payment will be collected at the door — cash or check only.

Gluten-free flavors

Statewide — Hudsonville Ice Cream is sporting new packaging that clearly identifies its gluten-free flavors,

including Michigan Deer Traxx, Mackinac Island Fudge, Vanilla, Triple Peanut Butter Cup, Grand Traverse Bay Cherry Fudge and Toasted Coconut. The Holland-based company also recently introduced a limited edition flavor, Chocolate Craving. The chocolate ice cream is loaded with chocolate brownies, chocolate truffles and a butter fudge swirl. hudsonvilleicecream.com.

CITY BITES

FEBRUARY BLOOD DRIVE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23
Location: Our Lady of Loretto, corner of Six Mile and Beech Dale, Redford
Details: Walk-ins or appointments are welcome
Contact: 313-534-9000 or www.redfordblood.org

JUDAICA ON DVD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Howard Lupovitch delivers a lecture, "The Soviet Archives: The Unknown World of Eastern Europe," on DVD.
Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-373-1931; nancylen@att.net

PURSE AUCTION

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22
Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-man, Livonia
Details: The auction includes purses filled with "mystery" items. Participants will get a chance to look at the purses—but not see their contents—before the bidding begins. Bidders must be over 15 years old. Bidding, open to men and women, starts at \$5. Laura Schroll from Home in Service Ministries is the guest speaker
Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 26
Location: Ward Presbyterian Preschool, 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Meet staff and see the facility during this informational meeting for the 2014-15 school year. Programs for children ages 2-5

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, through March 9
Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburg, Livonia
Details: This weekly bereavement support series is designed to help deal with emotions, loneliness and other issues experienced after the loss of a spouse. Widowed friends is a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit.
Contact: Priscilla at 734-591-7879

ASH WEDNESDAY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 5
Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28860 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Service marks beginning of Lent. The church holds a soup supper at 6 p.m. and singing at 7 p.m. every subsequent Wednesday during Lent
Contact: 734-427-3660

AUCTION

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Saturday, March 8
Location: St. Damian Catholic School, 29891 Joy Road, Westland
Details: Tour the school and

Details: "Totally 80's" auction with dinner served at 7:15 p.m. and the auction at 8:45 p.m. Cash bar includes Jell-O shots and pudding shots. Tickets are \$30, available only in advance from St. Damian parish office at 734-421-6130. St. Theodore at 734-425-4421; Divine Savior at 734-455-3620; and St. Damian School at 734-427-1680
Contact: www.stdamianajunction214.weebly.com

CHILDREN'S CONCERT

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 2
Location: Sacred Heart Banquet and Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, just east of Middlebelt, Livonia
Details: "The Doughnut Man" Ron Evans and his sidekick Duncan will perform original Bible story-songs such as *In the Beginning* and *The Miracle Song*. Families are encouraged to sing along and dance in the aisles. Tickets are \$5 at the door; children under 2 are admitted free

Contact: the Rev. Joseph Mar-cu at 734-522-3166
GRIEF SUPPORT
Time/Date: 7:5 p.m. Wednesday, beginning March 12 for five consecutive weeks
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: "Grieving with Great Hope" is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. It is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization founded by Sister Sandy O'Shaughnessy. Register through the ministry's website or through the church
Contact: 734-261-1455; goodmourningministry.net

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, beginning March 16
Location: Faith Community Church, 14560 Merri-man, Livonia
Details: This 13-week, non-denominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Includes a live seminar featuring grief experts and real-life stories; support group discussion and workbook-based personal study and reflection. Grief-related handouts available Feb. 26, Feb. 27 and includes the workbook
Contact: pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, March 5
Location: St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights
Details: Al Kresta, author and host of the radio show, *Kresta in the Afternoon* on AL 990 WDEO, will talk about "The New Evangelization: Build the Church, Bless the Nation."
Contact: 313-274-4500

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 1:4 p.m. Saturday, March 8
Location: Concordia Lutheran School, 9600 Levee, Redford
Details: Tour the school and

visit the annual spring carnival. Includes carnival games, book fair, food and more. New students can receive a coupon for \$5 in free carnival tickets by calling the campus or visiting online
Contact: 313-937-2233; www.concordials.org
SOLANUS CASEY CENTER
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 11
Location: Trip to the center departs 10. John Neumann parking lot, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Details: Participants will carpool to the Center in Detroit. Cost is \$15 and includes tour and lunch. Deadline to pay and register is Monday, March 3, at the church; 734-455-5910
Contact: cgibbo@wowway.com; stborko@wowway.com

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Nen's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21020 Haggerty, Northville
Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-469-9491
Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Dale, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday
Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar Gary Michuta leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniatmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: 248-374-5920

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawneese, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

FOOD BANK

New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at 248-270-2528

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleazar at 734-658-2463

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Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesday
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

ROOSE, ELAINE MARY (KASHKIN, GINGRICH)

Jan. 15, 1937 - Feb. 3, 2014
 Elaine Mary Rose, 77, of Penntown Michigan and formerly of Dearborn Heights, Livonia and Farmington Hills, Michigan, passed away on Monday evening while at home and in the arms of her husband, to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Her death is attributed to heart disease problems which have plagued her for several years. Elaine was born January 15, 1937 in the City of Detroit, daughter of her immigrant Russian parents, Peter Z. Kashkin and Anna Marie Kashkin. A child prodigy at the piano, Elaine played her first full length concert at the age of eight years, at the Baldwin Concert Auditorium in Detroit, Michigan. She continued to study with several prominent piano teachers in the Detroit area, including Gizi Santo and Mischa Kofler of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. At the age of seventeen, while still attending Fordson High School in Dearborn, Michigan, Elaine received a Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in piano performance, from the Detroit Conservatory of Music. Prior to graduation from high school, Elaine taught privately on Saturdays and on Sundays she played piano and organ at many churches in the Detroit area. After a Magna Cum Laude Graduation from Fordson High School, Elaine attended the University of Michigan where she continued her pursuit of a second Bachelor of Arts Degree in Piano Performance. Following her degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan, she joined several professional piano groups in the Detroit area where she continued to pursue her ambition to reach the concert stage as a concert pianist. After several years, she went back to the University of Michigan to earn a Masters Degree in Music Education. Shortly after the end of the Korean War, she married her high school sweetheart, William T. Gingrich of Dearborn, Michigan. This marriage ended in divorce in 1973 and in 1978 Elaine married her present husband, Stanley V. Roose of Plymouth, Michigan.

May you find comfort in family & friends

Let others know...

When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages", a directory located in every edition of your Observer or Eccentric newspaper.

Call: 800-579-7355

Fax: 313-496-4968
 Email: oeobit@hometownlife.com
 Obituaries & Expressions of Sympathy

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