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SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Canton helps county keep up with pothole patrols

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Township work crews have fixed nearly 300 potholes this month, helping besieged, cash-strapped Wayne County fight what seems a losing battle amid one of Michigan's worst road seasons, officials said.

Canton Public Works employees have used seven tons of cold patch to repair 280 of

the worst potholes, Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said. The township has spent \$6,900 on labor, materials and equipment on county roadways.

"We're focusing on the bigger potholes," Faas said, citing car-rattling craters that are closest to the path of wheels. "With the harsh winter we're having, there's just not enough

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Canton Township work crews have fixed nearly 300 potholes this month. BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Educators' plan puts more dollars in classrooms

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

A coalition of superintendents, school leaders, parents and other public school advocates is proposing an alternative school funding plan it says will put more money in K-12 classrooms without raising taxes.

The "Classrooms and Kids" budget, as it is called, builds on Gov. Rick Snyder's recent budget proposal by reducing or eliminating \$186.2 million in line-item categorical programs in the School Aid Fund to help provide an additional \$167 per student in base funding.

The categorical items are mostly programs that reward performance and the adoption of cost-effective practices, but also include some special programs.

The proposal would also require an extra \$88 million above Snyder's budget, with \$34 million coming from the budget surplus and \$54 million from the general fund.

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Seven-year-old Reese Maddock hopes to sell 5,000 boxes of cookies. PHOTOS BY BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DAISY DOOZY

Canton Girl Scout has monster cookie season

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Reese Maddock really wants an iPad. And instead of hoping someone would buy her one or waiting until Christmas to see if Santa brings her one, the Canton Girl Scout went out and did something about getting one.

After the 7-year-old's efforts this weekend, the iPad is in the mail.

Going into the weekend, Reese, a second-year Daisy out of Troop 40129 based at Erikson Elementary School in Canton, was only a couple of hundred boxes short of reaching her Girl Scout cookie goal. Assuming she made it (and history is on her side), Reese reached the amazing total of 5,000 boxes.



Reese Maddock, along with her mom Jennifer, has been out every night since cookie season started Valentine's Day.

"I'm really excited," said Reese, whose troop mates have combined to sell an astonishing 15,000 boxes. "For 5,000 (boxes) you get an iPad and I want an iPad really bad."

The iPad is the highest reward offered by the Girl Scouts as an incentive for selling cookies. Reese approached her mom Jennifer about reaching the goal before cookie-selling season started Valentine's Day. Jennifer, though skeptical whether her 7-year-old would have the stick-to-it-iveness to reach such a lofty goal, figured if her daughter was "100-percent on board," then she would do what she could to help.

Since Valentine's Day, Jennifer and Reese have made

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Child porn defendant pleads guilty

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Wayne man who has described himself as "remorseful" pleaded guilty Friday to charges he sent texts of child pornographic images to a Canton man by mistake.

Joel Donald Dummman, 44, could face penalties ranging up to seven years in prison after he pleaded guilty to Dummman one of three counts of using a computer to commit a crime. He could be imprisoned up to four years for one of three counts of possession of child sexually abusive material.

Dummman, who has remained jailed since his arrest in mid-December, faces sentencing April 2 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Callahan.

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said Dummman was arrested after a Canton man went to police to report he had mistakenly received texts of child pornographic images while shoveling

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POTHoles

Continued from Page A1

money (in Wayne County) to maintain the roads, let alone fix them. So Canton is helping the county. The effort comes as state lawmakers have allocated new money to fix potholes, but Canton and other communities already have acted swiftly to try to reduce the risk of accidents and major vehicle damage.

"We'll certainly go out and do what we can in those instances just for the safety of the residents," Supervisor Bill LaJoy said. Canton Public Safety and other township departments have received numerous complaints about potholes, which technically are the responsibility of Wayne County to fix. Local authorities have urged residents to report problems by calling 888-ROAD-CREW or 888-762-3273.

Still, Faas said Canton has responded to severe problems reported by Public Works Division supervisors and residents. He said a three-employee crew has been busy patching potholes.

Canton has made repairs in the following that hit areas:

- » Geddes between Denton and the county line.
- » There are some

really large potholes out there," Faas said, citing reports of "up to three dozen vehicles that have damaged rims or suspensions."

- » Morton Taylor south of Joy.
- » Beck between Warren and Joy — an area that is expected to undergo a major reconstruction and widening next year.
- » Lilley between Warren and Joy, an area also slated for future repairs.

"The rest of the areas have been more scattered," Faas said. Despite efforts to repair the worst potholes, officials say Canton and Wayne County working together still cannot keep up with this season's problems. And while the county's finances are deeper than the township's, Canton has faced its own challenges.

"We, too, have limited resources," Faas said. "Should we be doing this is kind of the big question."

But local officials say it's a matter of public safety and welfare.

- » "We're not getting them all," Faas said. "We're getting the ones that are the major safety hazards. We know that the county just does not have the resources. It's a major problem."

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PORN

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Baugh has said the Canton man was "distracted" after he received images of nude children in sexual positions. Police searched Dummans' home to obtain evidence.

Dummans had described himself as remorseful and willing to face the charges when he was arraigned in December by 35th District Judge Michael Gerou.

Defense attorney Ronald Weitzman declined to comment Friday when reached by telephone.

Dummans remains jailed after failing to post \$25,000 toward a \$250,000/10-percent bond.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Meghan Mathews had said in 35th District Court that the man who received the lewd texts was "more than willing" to testify in court.

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Auto shops see increase in pothole business

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton tire and auto repair shops are noticing an increase in business from frustrated motorists whose vehicles are suffering pothole damage caused by Michigan's crumbling roads.

"That's the topic of conversation around here the last few weeks," said Keith Belt, manager of Discount Tire Co. on Ford Road west of Haggerty.

Discount Tire has seen a sharp increase in business from motorists who can't avoid car-damaging potholes.

"We've actually had a dramatic increase because of the pothole situation," Belt said. "It has created a lot of tire damage and a lot of wheel damage. We're seeing steel wheels that

are bent pretty badly and aluminum wheels that have actually broken."

Discount Tire has referred some customers to other shops for problems they don't fix, such as tie-rod repairs and wheel alignments.

"Not far away on Ford Road, Midas Auto Service manager Ken Saylor said he also has noticed an increase in business.

"I actually have to say we've seen a slight increase," he said. "We've had bent rims. In some cases, the rims had to be replaced."

That can cost a vehicle owner \$300 to \$400, Saylor said.

Not far away on Ford Road, Midas Auto Service also has seen an increase in damage to belts inside

tires — a problem that can cause a tire to shift or get a bubble in it.

Meanwhile, the Michigan Department of Transportation has issued tips for pothole-season driving:

- » Drive extra cautiously and don't tailgate another driver. That allows more time to spot and react to potholes.
- » Properly inflated tires that are in good condition handle potholes better than worn tires that are over- or under-inflated.
- » It's best to slow down then release the brakes before hitting a pothole. This eases the impact.
- » Potholes on state roads — those typically starting with the letters I, M or U.S. — may be reported by calling 888-296-4546.

State Transportation

Director Kirk Steudie has released a statement about this season's pothole situation.

"Our aging roads, a history of under-investment and an unusually harsh winter will bring what we expect to be an absolutely horrendous pothole season," Steudie said. "Potholes form so quickly that crews can't get all of them right away and they're showing up nearby everywhere on state and local roads. If you leave your driveway, you're almost certainly going to cross some awful potholes this spring."

MDOT spent roughly \$8.8 million on pothole repairs last year and expects to spend 50-100 percent more this year.

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Trio gets probation for Canton party robbery

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Three young men have now been placed on probation for robbing two Westland teens who police say had gone to a Canton party to buy drugs, a Wayne County Circuit Court clerk confirmed Thursday.

A fourth defendant, 17-year-old Muhedin Danny Turkovic of Canton, hasn't yet been sentenced.

The latest developments came after police say one victim, 18, was punched and kicked while the other, also 18, was struck in the face during a robbery that occurred Nov. 2 inside an apartment at The Crossings, a sprawling complex near Joy Road and

I-275.

Alexander James Shippey, 27, of Livonia has been placed on probation for 18 months by Wayne County Circuit Judge Margaret Braxton after he pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery, the clerk said Thursday.

Joseph Charles Holland, 18, of Canton has received a two-year probation sentence for the same charge.

Their sentences came after Clary DeJuan Scott Jr., 17, of Detroit already had been placed on probation for three years for his role in the robbery, according to the court.

The three defendants who had faced 15 years in prison for unarmed robbery, but authorities have said they



Turkovic, Shippey, Scott and Holland

accepted a plea deal that included probation and certain court costs and fines. However, they could be imprisoned if they get into further trouble or fail to obey a laundry list of court orders.

Turkovic, still facing sentencing, also has pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery.

Canton Detective Erik Kaleadas has said the Westland teens were robbed of money and a cellphone after they

arrived at the Canton party, allegedly to buy drugs.

All four defendants had initially faced armed robbery charges, which carry penalties ranging up to life in prison. However, those charges had been dismissed during a preliminary hearing in 35th District Court due to a lack of evidence linking the men to a gun.

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SCOUT

Continued from Page A1

the rounds of sporting goods stores, grocery stores and anywhere else they could find potential customers.

Jennifer said the pair puts in at least two hours a night during the week and another seven to eight hours both Sat-

urday and Sunday.

"She's fully into this," Jennifer said. "Every night I say, 'Reese, are we going out tonight?' and she says yes. She has surprised me with her tenacity and how hard she's been working for this goal. It's been really impressive."

Jennifer doesn't get involved in the actual selling, allowing Reese to be the salesperson.

Jennifer's job is simply driver and money-counter. It's Reese who makes the pitch.

"I say, 'Excuse me, would you like to buy some Girl Scout cookies?'" said Reese, a first-grader at Eriksson. "It's kind of hard (to go out every night). I would (rather) do some stuff at home if I wasn't selling these cookies. We want to reach our goal and there's only a few days left."

Jennifer and Reese have left dad Eric and 9-year-old brother Cameron out of the equation. Jennifer said she usually puts gas in her car "maybe once every seven days," normally. However, that has climbed to about every three days since February while putting hundreds of

miles on her car.

The pair hustles around the Plymouth-Canton area — where places like Sky Zone, High Velocity, Arctic Edge and the Plymouth Cultural Center have been hotbeds of sales — and even go to the Wixom area to find more customers.

Lots of people say "no, thank you," but Jennifer said that doesn't deter Reese one little bit.

"People see us and say, 'You asked us last week,'" Jennifer said. "She's the one who keeps getting told 'no' night after night. But she doesn't let that stop her. She just goes to the next person. She's been amazing."

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FALLING

People will remember this winter as ferocious: record low temperatures and days, one after another, with wind chills below -10 degrees. Michigan physicians would describe this winter as brutal. The number of patients who fell, breaking shins, forearms, hips, knee caps and ankles would have set a record if Guinness kept such statistics.

All of us have heard the admonishment: "don't have a fall." Unfortunately, no one giving that advice knows how to avoid one. If a person needs a cane, crutch or walker for ordinary walking, how can he or she maneuver over icy walks or slippery streets? Or if a person has swollen hands or painful wrists, how can that person expect to put on winter boots?

For people with arthritis, the most practical approach to winter is to not go out, but that common sense approach has limited value. The more arthritis one has, the more important it is to keep moving. For the person with arthritis, staying indoors is a good counsel only if there happens to be a gym in the house.

The best advice may be that if one is going out, even as short a distance as the front walk, be sure to wear rubber boots, even galoshes. The ice this winter means no walk is so insignificant as to wade off caution or good shoes.

In physicians' experience, the worse problem facing a person after the fall is not the pain, nor heavy casts. It's the fear of another fall. That concern causes a paralysis for which the only antidote is courage

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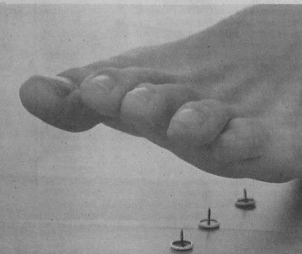
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— Dr. Sol L. Cogan, DC

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NHS leaders mentor Bentley students

By Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

Bentley Elementary School teacher Cheryl Zuzzo believes empowering kids is one of the greatest gifts in teaching. And since 2003, the Bentley Care Club has been proving her right.

This year, with the addition of some guidance from National Honor Society students at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Care Club and other programs at Bentley are going even farther in helping students and others outside the school.

The Care Club, a philanthropic school-wide service club with the lofty goal of urging students to take ownership and help change the world, generates service ideas, creates posters and makes announcements on the Bentley live broadcast. They've collected for organizations ranging from the American Red Cross (hurricane relief for both Katrina and Sandy) to the Plymouth-Canton Clothing Bank, the Michigan Humane Society and relief for earthquake victims in India.

"The club's motto is 'Kids Can Make a Difference,'" Zuzzo said. "It's so wonderful to see our little ones giving back and truly making a difference in our world."

'Honor'-able boost

This year, the club is getting a boost from NHS students Alyson Weeda and Taylor McArdle, Canton High School seniors who are helping the Bentley Care Club connect with the Ronald McDonald House. As part of their individual service project, the NHS students, working closely with Bentley kids, focused on getting donations for the Ronald McDonald House. As part of their individual service project, the NHS students, working closely with Bentley kids, focused on getting donations for the Ronald McDonald House. As part of their individual service project, the NHS students, working closely with Bentley kids, focused on getting donations for the Ronald McDonald House.

Students, headed by Weeda, collected donation items and pop-can tabs at the high school

and all of the district elementaries, made posters, created and set up collection boxes, collected all of the pop-can tabs and donations and delivered them to the Ronald McDonald House.

Weeda, whose mother teaches at Bentley, said the club exceeded the program goals, collecting eight large boxes of donations and more than 1,000 pop-can tabs, which Ronald McDonald House converts to cash to help provide supplies.

"I knew the Care Club would be a stepping stone for me to get involved with an organization, like the Ronald McDonald House, to make a difference," said Weeda, who lives in Canton with her parents Jim and Jill Weeda. "I wanted to take on a project that would give me an opportunity to make a difference and show my leadership skills. I feel a sense of pride knowing that families at the RMH will benefit from the supplies that were donated by caring citizens."

Weeda believes the RMH project will inspire the kids to "pursue a personal interest that will make a meaningful impact on the community."

Making a difference

"The Care Club shows young students there are families in other communities that are less fortunate than themselves," Weeda said. "It is important to be compassionate toward others' needs by giving time or donations that would make a difference in young lives."

While the Care Club reaches outside Bentley's walls to help others, two other programs are providing assistance to kids inside the school and both are getting help from NHS students.

The RAZ Afternoon Reading Club, formed in 2010, is an online leveled computerized reading support program that runs four days a week for students after school.

NHS student Archana Sondor organizes junior NHS students to support Bentley stu-



Amber Mekled works with Bentley Elementary students.

dents. The older students monitor, assist with the program and have the Bentley students reading to them.

And Bentley's mentoring/tutoring program goes a step further, providing after-school mentoring with NHS high school students. Twice a week, they help Bentley students in third, fourth and fifth grades. The Bentley kids are matched with 13 NHS mentors, including 18 junior and two senior NHS members.

The students keep the same mentors all year, allowing them to develop the kind of relationship that's conducive to learning.

"We make sure the students are getting academic help, as well as forming a positive relationship with the mentors," said NHS student Lauren Bedro, who organizes the Bentley mentoring program with fellow NHS member Sahsa Cucuz. "The mentors want to build a trusting relationship with and



NHS members, including Kelsey Cheaney, work with Bentley Elementary School students in an after-school mentoring program.

become role models for the elementary students."

Valuable lessons

Bedro, a Canton High School senior who lives in Plymouth with her parents Ron and Mary

Bedro, chose Bentley after deciding she wanted to work with elementary school children.

"I have always loved work-

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South Canton Charter Academy student Amaan Rahman challenges himself with a pair of after-school academic clubs.

Student competes in Science Olympiad

Students in South Canton Scholars Charter Academy's Science Olympiad spent Saturday competing in regionals at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Each student on the 15-member team worked on three fields of science, ranging from chemistry to mechanical engineering. Eighth-grade student Amaan Rahman was looking forward to the opportunity to compete in his events, which include building a self-propelled wheeled vehicle, studying a solar system and studying anatomy.

"I received two awards at my first tournament and it was incredibly exciting!" Rahman said. "I work on my science events in a small team of two, but each of the 23 events counts toward our total Science Olympiad school standing so you really feel the team spirit."

This is Rahman's sec-

ond year participating in Science Olympiad, which is team-oriented, but he also challenges himself individually by participating in South Canton's MATHCOUNTS team, as well. MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school competitive mathematics program.

"MATHCOUNTS makes me think numerically at a completely different level versus my regular math class. The homework can sometimes be time-consuming given the amount of other school work I have, but overall it has been a good experience the last two years," he said.

Parent volunteer coach Surjeet Gill said the goal of the program is to create awareness about mathematics and teach students to apply what they have learned to solve challenging problems and at the same time develop independent thinking.

"It has been very eye-

opening for students to participate in competitions like MATHCOUNTS," Gill said. "I want students to succeed and achieve above and beyond by learning these mathematics skills."

Rahman is not the only student participating in both after school clubs; four other students are challenging themselves in both fields of study as well. With so much interest in science and math, it's no wonder Rahman has a lot of ideas about what career path he may follow.

"My grandpa was a surgeon, so medicine looks interesting. I like studying foreign languages and traveling. I love public speaking and enjoy making presentations. I am also really into sports. I play competitive soccer and I am a certified soccer referee, so sports business is also interesting to me," Rahman said.

Canton family 'honored' bridge named for son

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Amy Bonneau believes her son James Bonneau was a low-key, unpretentious young man who wouldn't necessarily be all that comfortable in the spotlight.

Still, the Canton woman believes, her late son would have been proud – and maybe a bit humbled – after watching Gov. Rick Snyder sign a bill Tuesday designating a Jackson County bridge as the Officer James Bonneau Memorial Bridge.

Snyder signed the bill, introduced by state Rep. Earl Poleski, R-Jackson, at a ceremony Bonneau's parents, Amy and Marc, attended Tuesday in Lansing. Also present was James' former fiancée,

Rachael Maloney.

Amy Bonneau called the bridge-naming "an honor to Jim" and said the family "really appreciated" Poleski introducing it.

"Jim liked to keep a low profile ... I think he might feel kind of funny with all the attention, but I know he'd appreciate it," Amy said. "He was always very down-to-earth. He'd be very overwhelmed to think people might actually think of him, even if it's just for a second, when they go over that bridge."

James Bonneau, a Jackson police officer, was killed while responding to a domestic violence incident in 2010. He was just 26 years old.

Bonneau was previously awarded the Law

Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery, which honors exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal, state and local law enforcement officers.

Amy said the bridge, on West Avenue in Jackson, is surrounded by "the people Jim served and protected." She hopes they'll think of him when they cross the bridge.

"I'd want people to remember Jim was such a good person and so selfless," she said. "He had such a good heart."

"He sacrificed so much for Jackson. I want them to remember, from time to time, what was given up."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



State Rep. Mike Shirkey (from left), state Rep. Earl Poleski (who introduced the bill), state Sen. Mike Nofs, Marc Bonneau, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, Amy Bonneau and state Rep. Dian Slaven attended the ceremony during which Gov. Rick Snyder signed House Bill 4089 designating a Jackson County bridge as the Officer James Bonneau Memorial Bridge.

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Long-awaited Cantoro's Market opening this week



The long-awaited opening of Cantoro's Italian Market is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Specialty store will feature dining and drinking options as well as shopping

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Putting in long hours prepping a business opening can be taxing. But for Cantoro's Italian Market grocery manager Van Karibian, it's just part of the excitement.

"We're just anxious to get everything going," the Shelby Township resident said. "We have all the product up and all the neat stuff we brought up from Italy. It's going to be a destination; it's not just going to be shopping."

Karibian is one of 150 employees ready to work at the new Cantoro's Italian Market opening Wednesday at 15550 Haggerty, just north of Five Mile in Northville Township, though it has a Plymouth mailing address. The location is the second Cantoro's Market and is significantly larger than the current store, located on Middlebelt in Livonia, which will remain open.

At the new market, patrons are invited to come in and not only shop, but spend time perusing the various goods available, as well as perhaps sit down and enjoy a fine meal or glass of wine.

"We have a different outlook than most (shops) do," said Mike Larranaga, the sommelier at the new Cantoro's Market. "We want to be a gathering place like in Italy. The markets there, they're gathering places. I just want them to come and hang out. I want this to be a comfortable place."

Visitors to Cantoro's can come beginning Wednesday and browse aisles full of imported Italian groceries, cheeses, wines and other items. Sausage and pasta will be made on-site using fresh ingredients. A wide selection of wines, specialty liquors and Michigan craft beer is also available.

For those interested in staying a while, Cantoro's Market will also have several tables set up for meals and a bar. The upstairs overlooking the market is large enough to

host wedding receptions, which Larranaga said the shop has already started booking; it will begin to take place later this summer.

Downstairs, the market holds its wine cellar, a place where tasters, enthusiasts and businesses can hold events complete with wine-makers. There will be several clubs that will meet in the wine cellar, including wine clubs, a cheese club and a dinner club. Larranaga said he's already had some wine-makers visit, including former University of Michigan football player Charles Woodson, who owns a winery in California.

The wine cellar was originally not planned with the market, Larranaga said. One of the two brothers who own the market made a comment regarding a wine cellar and, shortly afterward, contractors were out digging out a cellar, located under the parking lot.

"We do beautiful dinners down here," Larranaga said.

The market is unique to southeast Michigan, Larranaga said. Other cities in the United States, such as New York and Chicago, have markets similar to Cantoro's, but nothing in metro Detroit compares, he said, a movement ushered in by the shop's owners, the Fallone family.

That's one reason the shop has delayed its opening until March, he said. Many times, the delay came from the shop employees looking to make improvements to the market, which can take time. Those improvements, Larranaga said, should be worth the wait to patrons.

"This blows everything away," he said. "I've done lectures in Napa. I've done them all over California, this is unlike anything that I've done."

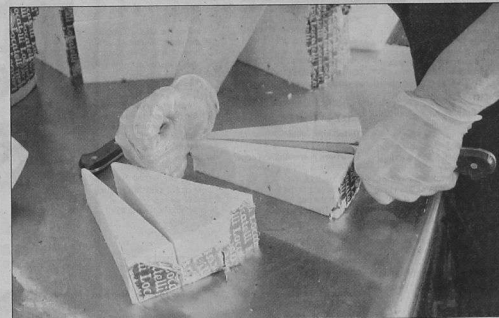
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The owners' Ducati sits above the main floor.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Win a bike

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Max & Erma's of Canton, 2240 N. Canton, Center
Details: Diners can join Max & Erma's each Tuesday through April 22 for "Kids Eat Free" and enter to win a bicycle and helmet. The drawing will take place 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. Donors can help Max & Erma's give bikes to everyone by dropping off used bikes April 5. Donors will get a coupon for a free hamburger, redeemable during May, which is National Hamburger Month.
Contact: For more information, call 734-981-3370.



Pom success

The Salem JV Rockettes' last competition of the season was held Sunday, March 9, at Crisler Center in Ann Arbor. The Rockettes took first place in the pom division and second in hip hop at the 11th annual University of Michigan Dance Team Competition. Pictured are (front, from left) Sarah O'Donnell, Morgan Poulos, captain Becky DeWater, coach Jes Wilhoite, captain Erica Garczynski and Keilce Rocheleau; and (back, from left) Basia Bokuniewicz, Maddie Martinsky, Emily Bates, Alyssa Marshall, Tiffany Giotte, Hannah Parent and Kara Rocheleau.

furniture and larger play equipment. Related local business vendors. Strollers welcome. Admission is \$1.

Contact: For more information, including table rental information, call Carrie at 313-520-5626 or email cpollaccia1975@yahoo.com.

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: April 9, 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 MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) 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: Heather Pinage at 734-727-2063 to schedule an appointment. For MMAP information, visit www.mmapp-inc.org/pages/about.html

Night of Hope

Date/Time: March 21, 6:30-11:45 p.m.

Location: The Dearborn Inn, 20201 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn

Details: Canton-based Our Hope Holds The Cure is hosting its second annual "A Night Of Hope" formal charity gala, featuring a silent auction, dinner, live entertainment and cake auction officiated by Vic Faust of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7). Individual tickets are \$150 and families are \$1,500. Proceeds go directly to the national HHT Foundation.
Contact: Register for tickets or sponsorships at ourhopeholdsthecure.org.

Jazz @ The Elks

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

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

Details: Jazz @ The Elks happens on the last Tuesday of the month. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. On Tuesday, March 25, the Dave Bennett Quartet returns with Dave on clarinet, Doug Cobb on drums, Jeff Kessler on piano and Jeff Pedraz on bass.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

United Way meeting

Date/Time: Friday, April 4, 7:30-9 a.m.

Location: Comcast, 4112 Concept Drive, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community United Way holds its 2014 annual Meeting and Awards Presentation sponsored by Comcast. The public is welcome. The morning begins with networking and a continental breakfast followed by the meeting at 8 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new board members and officers and includes reports on the organization's 2013 finances and programs.

Contact: To RSVP, call Cindy Bungardner at 734-453-6879, ext. 2, or send email to cindy.bungardner@pcpw.org by Monday, March 17.

Agent Orange town hall

Date/Time: Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (registration 8-9 a.m.)

Location: Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 sponsors an Agent Orange Town Hall to inform and register veterans, their families and community, that have been affected by Agent Orange and

other dioxins used during the Vietnam War up to the present. The effects of these dioxins are carried in the DNA of the affected person for up to seven generations. The National Academy of Sciences and Veterans Administration has connected Agent Orange and other dioxin exposure during this period, to include 12 diseases, 38 cancers and 20 birth defects. Reservations are required for this event.

Contact: To RSVP or for more information, go to www.VVA528.org.

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations:

Sunday, March 23, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Hagberry, Plymouth
 Monday, March 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main

Tuesday, March 25, 130-7-15 p.m., St. Michael's Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
 Friday, March 28, 3:30-8 p.m., Dodson Elementary School, 205 Beck, Canton

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors the above blood drives. All donors will be entered into a weekly raffle for a \$125 gas card. Walk-ins are welcome.
Contact: Donors can call Diane Risko at 313-549-7050 or email at Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

Building bridges

Date/Time: Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: The Muslim Community of Western Suburbs (Canton Mosque), 40440 Palmer, Canton

Details: The Muslim Community of Western Suburbs hosts the annual "Building Bridges - A Family Fun Day," a free open house event, with the goal of meeting neighbors and fellow citizens to foster communication and build relationships. There will be fun activities, henna, calligraphy, information on Islam around the world and a variety of ethnic food.
Contact: For more information, contact mccwso@mccwso.org and RSVP at mccwso.org/outreach.

Community conversation

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

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The Center for Michigan will hold a Community Conversation at which the public is invited to provide their input regarding education, jobs and prosperity, 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.lamanein@gmail.com

Hospice support

Date/Time: Third Saturday of each month, 10:10-11:30 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 journaling writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Amy Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at 888-983-9050 or email amy.christensen@ccch.net.

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Spelling bee

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m.

Location: Canton High School Allen Dubois Little Theater

Details: The Community Literacy Council hosts its 2014 spelling bee, a night of what organizers call "spirited spelling competition" that supports the local literacy program. Businesses, groups and organizations can sponsor a team, make a donation, be a speller or be part of the cheering section. The event is designed to "make a difference for many adults in our community who are not proficient in English."

Contact: For more information, call chairperson Carol Saunders at 734-455-4940, email doanand4@comcast.net or visit www.plymouthcantonliteracy.org

Heise coffee

Date/Time: Friday, March 21, 7:30-9 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread, 400 S. Main (at Ann Arbor Trail), Plymouth

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise is hosting coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally and discuss state or local issues. No appointment is necessary. 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-REKURT or e-mail kurt@heise.house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

Plymouth Relay kickoff

Date/Time: Thursday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. (registration)

Location: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Relay for Life committee kicks off its 2014 relay season with a ceremony designed to inspire and motivate Relayees to finish the fight. The committee shares the work the American Cancer Society can do and the progress we have made because of Relayees, hear a story of hope from a cancer survivor, celebrate the efforts of last year's relay and get pumped for the season ahead. Anyone interested in learning how to make a difference in the fight against cancer in Plymouth should attend the kickoff.

Prom dress sale

Date/Time: Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to noon.

Location: Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road, Canton

Details: The Annual Prom Dress Sale features what organizers call "a wonderful collection" of new and used dresses, both long and short dresses, as well as some formal shoes and jewelry. No dress is priced over \$20. Dress donations are greatly appreciated and being accepted in the office at Plymouth High School.

Contact: For more information, contact Lisa Benages at lpccs@mail.net

Northville luncheon

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 6, noon to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Meadowbrook Country Club, 40941 W. Eight Mile, Northville

Details: The Northville Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual State of the Community Luncheon, sponsored by St. Mary Medical Center. Featuring speakers include state Rep. Kurt Heise, Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix, city of Northville Mayor Chris Johnson and school district Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. Tickets are \$40 per person.

Contact: Reservations may be made by contacting the Northville Chamber of Commerce at 248-349-7640 or by email at tracincrock@northville.org

Newcomers Mom2Mom

Date/Time: Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

Details: The Newcomers and Neighbors invite the public to their charity 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 expects 40-plus tables selling new and gently used maternity, baby and child items including

'The Park' named top school station

The Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation named WSDP-FM (88.1) "The Park" the High School Station of the Year. The MABF presented the award Wednesday, March 12, during the Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference and Expo in Lansing.

Fifteen students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools received 14 of the 24 awards presented in the high school radio category. The students received six first-place awards in the eight categories. The students also swept all three awards in the Sports Play-by-Play competition.

"Our students made a commitment to submit their very best work," station manager Bill Keith said. "They wanted to have our best showing ever and win back the Station of the Year Award. I'm so proud of them."

The MABF received more than 300 high school entries from 19 schools in the radio and television competition. This is the sixth year in the past 14 that WSDP has been honored with the Station of the Year Award.

Other awards won by P-CEP students:
 » Aircheck - First place, Dallas Haselhuhn, Canton senior, and Kalley deWeever, Plymouth senior; second place, Canton seniors Elena Bongiovanni and Jack Spencer.

» Newscast - Second place, Kathryn Flucht, Canton senior, Lauren Jones, Plymouth senior, and Clay Martin, Plymouth freshman.

» Talk Show - First place, Canton junior Eddie Eadeh; honorable mention, Canton junior Alyce Krumm.
 » Public Service Announcement - First place, Bongiovanni and Plymouth junior Annie Wellman; second place, Plymouth senior Lauren Jones.

» MHSAA Sports PSA - First place, Plymouth sophomore Michael Adzima and Canton senior Adam Duxter.
 » Sports play-by-play - First place, Plymouth senior Joe Zylka and Salem senior



WSDP-FM staffers (from left) Eddie Eadeh, Christian Alvarado, Elena Bongiovanni, Michael Adzima and Annie Wellman at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation ceremony, where "The Park" was named the top high school station.

Logan Lazorka; second place, Zylka and Salem sophomore Christian Alvarado; honorable mention, Duxter and Lazorka.

» Promo announcement - Second place, Bongiovanni; honorable mention, Haselhuhn and deWeever.
 » Current events program - First place, Krumm.

The MAB Foundation is dedicated to promote, support and enhance the broadcast industry for the good of all Michigan citizens, through education, research, public service, historical preservation, information dissemination and a commitment to diversity in all aspects of the broadcast industry.

WSDP is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools serve as staff members. "The Park" is celebrating 42 years of serving the Plymouth and Canton Communities.



WSDP staffer Archana Sondor with Dr. Michael Meissen, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

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Amy Finger (left) with Lady and Kalia Turri with Oakley talk to students at Kennedy about the function and training of service dogs.

Kennedy students go to the dogs

Students at Kennedy Elementary School in Livonia were given the opportunity Thursday to see a demonstration on how service dogs assist diabetics in monitoring their blood sugar levels.

Kalia Turri and Amy Finger from Michigan Dog Training in Plymouth brought poodles Oakley and Lady to Kennedy for the interactive presentation. Six volunteers from the audience were selected to sit up front and hold jars containing cotton balls. One of the jars held cotton balls with a sample of saliva from a person with low blood sugar. Turri led Oakley down the line of students and

Oakley pawed the leg of the student holding the sample from the person with diabetes.

Turri then explained that Lady was a puppy in training. The dogs are trained for one year and live full time with trainers like Turri. After their training, the dogs are placed in their new homes by Michigan Dog Training.

"It's really rewarding work," Turri said of training the dogs. "You develop such a close bond with the dogs, so it's hard when their training is completed. But it's a great feeling knowing that they will be helping people who need them."

Business owner scammed in DTE Energy case

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia police and DTE Energy officials are warning residents and business owners to be careful after a local merchant was scammed out of more than \$1,600.

The business owner, a 46-year-old man from Westland, came into the police station Thursday afternoon to report he had been targeted in a fraud at his business in the 37600 block of Five Mile. He told police he received a phone call earlier in the week from someone posing as a DTE Energy employee.

The suspect told the business owner he would have his power shut off if he did not pay some bills that totaled more than \$840.

The suspect told the man to go to the Rite Aid at Eight Mile and Newburgh and purchase two MoneyPak prepaid cards. He was then instructed to call a phone number and leave the cards' numbers to pay the supposed outstanding bill.

The next day, the man received another phone call from the suspect, saying there was a problem processing the payment and instructed him

to go back to the same Rite Aid and purchase two more money cards and call back with the pertinent information to make the payment. The man purchased the cards and called back, giving the cards' data to the suspect.

The total amount the business owner was out was more than \$1,670. He later called DTE Energy, who told him it does not make payments over the phone and was forwarded to the company's fraud department.

Scott Simons, spokesman for DTE Energy, said the company will not call customers and

threaten to turn off their power with only hours notice.

"We don't ask for payment through Green Dot cards," he said. "We also don't call customers and tell them we're going to shut off power in an hour if they don't provide payment."

Those who believe they have been the victim of a similar scam are encouraged to contact their local police department, as well as call DTE Energy at 800-477-4747 and inform the company.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

W-W counts down to Kindergarten Roundup

The countdown is on to Wayne-Westland's annual Kindergarten Roundup. Blast-off will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the district's 11 elementary schools.

With a theme of "Learning that Is Out of This World," the program will provide parents with the opportunity to tour their child's school, meet the principal and teachers, receive registration information

and explore the various programs available to kindergartners.

Every incoming kindergartner will receive a free T-shirt for the class of 2027 and a backpack filled with items to help them prepare for their first day of school.

Parents who can't make the morning roundup can stop by their school office 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, to register. Parents also can make an appoint-

ment to register their child.

To register a youngster, parents will need the child's original birth certificate and an up-to-date immunization record, as well as proof of residency, including a driver's license, a signed lease and/or mortgage document and two pieces of business mail that are not more than 30 days old.

The district offers all-day kindergarten at

every school, a Talented and Gifted program, foreign language and before- and after-school care.

W-W elementary schools include Roosevelt-McGrath, Hoover and Taft-Galloway in Wayne; Wildwood, Elliott, Edison, Hamilton, P.D. Graham and Schweitzer in Westland; Walker-Winter in Canton; and Hicks in Inkster.

For more information, call 734-419-2083.

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'Classrooms and Kids' proposal called 'simple and doable'

Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa, who is vice president of the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education and on the legislative council of the Michigan Association of School Administrators representing metro Detroit districts, answered the following questions about the "Classrooms and Kids" school funding proposal:

How can taxpayers be assured the additional money translates into more learning?

One key point, we are not asking for additional funding from taxpayers or new revenue streams. The proposal is based on the governor's budget and available state funds. Second, as most school districts have experienced declining revenues in recent years, they have implemented tough budget reductions. This proposed increase in the foundation allowance will allow them to maintain and return staff positions and provide other direct resources that will go directly to students, which impacts student learning.

What kind of things can the additional money be spent on?

One of the benefits of the proposal is that it provides flexibility for local districts to utilize the funds as they see their highest priorities, leaving these important decisions to local school decision makers. In one district, they may need to upgrade their science curriculum, while another district may want to reduce class size. Every district has different needs and this proposal keeps the decisions

where they need to be, at the local level so these specific needs can be met.

Does the \$250 to \$291 per-pupil increase bring districts back up to where they were before the state-inflicted cuts with the new administration?

No, but it is a move in the right direction. School leaders appreciate the governor's budget proposal, which begins to move in the direction of restoring this funding, and our proposal takes it one step further.

Is this a band-aid solution to help get districts through the next year or the basis for a more comprehensive school funding plan for the future?

It is an improvement on the current funding system for next year, based on the governor's proposed budget. There is not time for a comprehensive overhaul of the school funding system prior to this year's budget being finalized. It is based on the governor's budget as the starting point, utilizing existing available funding to provide the first significant improvement in school funding in some time.

Does the MEA support this plan? If not, why not?

The MEA would rather see a comprehensive school reform plan. While we respect their thoughts, this will not occur by May when the state budgets are typically finalized. Our plan can be accomplished by then as it is based on the governor's budget proposal and it provides the first real increase in discretionary funding in some

time, which we believe teachers across the state will welcome.

What are the chances this proposal will be approved?

We believe it makes great sense, so we feel there is a very good chance it will be successful. It provides lawmakers with an opportunity to increase funding for local schools for the first time in a significant way in several years. It does so without increasing taxes or finding an alternative revenue stream. It provides local school districts with more flexibility in utilizing their funds and more stability by reallocating funds from categorical funding areas, which aren't always stable. It meets the request of Michigan citizens, who have said K-12 funding is a priority (EPIC-MRA poll within last month says Michigan citizens want to see state budget surplus utilized for schools No. 1, well ahead of tax cuts). It is simple and doable. It is a win-win on many fronts.

What kind of response have you gotten from local legislators?

It is just being laid out for them, but there are so many positive aspects to the plan, we expect that it will be well-received. We also believe that legislators will appreciate a proactive proposal from the school community and it will have even more credibility based on the wide range of school organizations that support the proposal from across the entire state, a coalition not seen for a school funding proposal directly related to an upcoming budget.

Book talk



Zach Holmes of Plymouth Township peruses copies of "Before You Know Kindness" by author Chris Bohjalian at the Plymouth District Library. That book will be discussed at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at Contemporary Books, held at the library, 223 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month and is open to all. For details, call librarian Sue Patterson at 734-453-0750. JULIE BROWN

PLAN

Continued from Page A1

This is the first time in years a large segment of the educational community has come together to proactively offer an alternative to the governor's proposal.

It is supported by the Michigan Association of School Boards, the Michigan Association of School Administrators, the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education.

"The 'Classrooms and Kids' budget recognizes that districts have various needs they need to address to support their students," Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa said. "This is a budget for our schools that is supported by virtually everyone in education because it was created by those of us on the front lines of education who see the needs of our children."

Brodie Killian, the deputy superintendent for finance and operations for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, said the district favors the Classrooms for Kids proposal over what the governor has proposed because, very simply, it means more money for Plymouth-Canton.

P-CCS would see an additional \$200,000 under the Classrooms for Kids proposal. Under the governor's current proposal, Plymouth-Canton's foundation allowance would be \$7,422, under the Classrooms for Kids proposal, it nudges up to \$7,433.

"Any attempt to give more money to schools is worthwhile, no matter the amount," Killian said. "This would allow us to get more money into our classrooms and that's always a good thing."

The plan was announced Feb. 27 during

a press conference at the state capital. State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, speaker pro tem, said he plans to meet with Liepa the first week in April to learn the details of the plan. He said while he likes the governor's budget proposal, he also likes the concept of using categorical. "I think we can definitely do something there," he said.

Flexibility, stability

Liepa said the "Classrooms and Kids" budget proposal would provide an infusion of additional dollars into local schools, while also giving districts the flexibility to use the money to best meet their needs and providing stability to maintain programs from year to year.

Here's how it would work: Snyder proposed a per-pupil increase of \$111 for minimum foundation districts and an \$83 increase for districts above the minimum foundation. The "Classrooms and Kids" budget would add an additional \$167 per pupil for all districts, plus an additional \$13 per pupil equity payment for minimum foundation districts.

That would bring the total per-pupil increase up to between \$250 and \$291.

That increase would be off-set in some districts by a loss of revenue in categorical. For example, Killian said, Plymouth-Canton would lose some \$2.1 million in the categorical for student performance and best practices.

But the "Classrooms and Kids" proposal would put an additional \$200,000 into the district's coffers next school year over and above the money Snyder's budget would provide.

Not a 'windfall' for districts

The proposal is not a complete redo of the state's school funding model, which would take a lot more time than the

approximate two months left before the state adopts its budget for fiscal year 2015, which begins Oct. 1.

"But it's a great start to get back into reinvesting dollars into the educational system," Liepa said.

The proposal would bump Plymouth-Canton's foundation allowance up a little. Back in 2011, the district's per-pupil spending was at \$7,604; after cuts the following year, it had dropped below \$7,134. Under the "Classrooms and Kids" proposal, it's back up to \$7,433.

Categoricals that would be reduced or eliminated include grants for best practices in management, \$80 million; grants for high academic achievement, \$46.4 million; and the Michigan Virtual University, \$38 million. Plymouth-Canton would lose about \$100 per student in student performance and another \$52 for best practices.

Killian said he doesn't necessarily see a downside to the "Classrooms for Kids" proposal.

"I suppose if you believe the funding should be tied to categorical, like student performance and best practices, you could see a downside," Killian said. "(But) this would get more money into our schools and I don't see the downside to that."

The reception to the plan has been good so far, Liepa said. A recent EPIC-MRA poll showed 38 percent of 600 Michigan residents supporting having the state budget surplus go to K-12 schools, compared with 36 percent for roads and 11 percent for an income tax cut.

"People want to see more money put back into education," he said. "It really addresses what citizens are asking for."

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Sunshine Week

Access to information should be a common goal for better government, better lives

If you've been watching what goes on in Washington and some statehouses across the country, you might wonder if there's any issue that everyone should be able to agree on whether they are conservative or liberal or libertarian, Democrat or Republican, pro-this or anti-that.

There is. It's the need for transparency in all levels of government.

As we observe Sunshine Week in Michigan and around the country to encourage openness in government, the Michigan Coalition for Open Government is urging citizens and public officials to seek transparency in the operations of their local and state governments, their schools and universities, their federal government and their courts.

You can do this by supporting Michigan legislation that your local and state governments, their schools and universities, their federal government and their courts.

You can do this by supporting Michigan legislation that your local and state governments, their schools and universities, their federal government and their courts.

branch.



Charles Hill
GUEST COLUMNIST

MICOG, a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization open to citizens, journalists and associations concerned with open government and freedom of information, urges passage of that pending legislation.

Make a difference
You also can make a difference by letting your local officials — from the mayor to school board members — know that it's important to you to know how your tax dollars are being spent and how they are making decisions about classrooms or parks or roads or snow removal or trash collection.

It's important for you to know this so you can independently judge the soundness of those decisions; so you can suggest your ideas for improvements in programs or government actions; so you can evaluate government officials' performance; and so you can guard against corruption and conflicts of interest.

You can help by asking questions of your government officials and by encouraging openness.

Politicians and government officials are more likely to take the trouble to create open systems and practices if they know it is important to their constituents.

Tell them that your assessment of their performance includes their record on open government.

Non-partisan

Let them know this should not be a partisan issue and that you want information regardless of which party or group is in power. If you're in New Jersey, you don't have to be a Democrat to want to know more about a big bridge closure in that state.

In Michigan and Louisiana, you don't have to be a Republican to want information surrounding the corruption charges that resulted in convictions of mayors in New Orleans and Detroit.

Michigan has plenty of tough transparency and accountability challenges ahead, including how courts handle public access and fees for electronic records, whether juvenile criminal records should be public or secret and how much secrecy should be allowed in new mental health courts, including convict records and data revealing rates of recidivism for the program.

Remember that you have a stake in Michigan's Freedom of Information laws. How much you are permitted to know about your government directly affects the quality of your government, your schools, your courts, your job, your freedom and your life.

Charles Hill is a member of the board of directors of the Michigan Coalition for Open Government and a former Michigan bureau chief for the Associated Press. To join or find out more about MICOG, go to <http://www.micog.org> or follow MICOG on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MICOGenGov> or Twitter: @micogengov.

Rick's rules for converting traditional IRA to Roth IRA



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Q: Dear Rick: I'm over 72 years old, retired and have a traditional IRA, from which I have been taking required minimum distributions. I read an article in the "Wall Street Journal" about converting to a Roth IRA by taking a distribution from my traditional IRA, paying tax on it and immediately putting the remainder into a Roth IRA. Is this correct? Can you tell me what form I need to convert into an IRA?

A: I read the same article and I think it is a little misleading. The question is whether someone who is over 70½ and taking required minimum distributions is eligible to do a Roth conversion. The answer is yes. However, it comes with a caveat.

If you are over age 70½ and required to take required minimum distributions, you are still eligible to do a Roth conversion. However, you cannot convert the money that you take as your required minimum distribution. You can convert anything above and beyond that number, but your required minimum distribution is not eligible for a Roth IRA.

For example, if your IRA was \$100,000 and your required minimum distribution was \$5,000, then you are eligible to convert your remaining \$95,000 into a Roth IRA. The \$5,000 that was your required minimum distribution is not eligible to be put into a Roth.

Since Roth IRAs came into existence, I have been a strong supporter. The benefits of having money grow tax-free and not subject to the age 70½ minimum required distribution rule is a substantial benefit.

I don't care how old or how young someone is, they should look at taking advantage of Roth IRAs.

To contribute to a Roth IRA, you typically need to have earned income (which is income from your labor). If you are retired, you typically cannot contribute to a Roth IRA. However, you may be eligible to convert existing IRA money into a Roth IRA.

Here are my rules to help people make the right decision regarding converting:

» Without touching the money that you are converting, you must have the cash available to pay the taxes owed.

» By converting the money and recognizing that as additional money income, you are not putting yourself into a higher tax bracket.

» You won't need the money for at least five to seven years.

If you met these criteria, then converting to a Roth IRA makes sense.

A Roth IRA is a great tool for every investor, no matter their age, needs to consider. The money grows tax-free and is not subject to the age 70½ minimum required distribution rule, benefits that more people ought to take advantage of.

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, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

STUDENTS

Continued from Page A4

ing with children," Bedro said. "It is important for these students to be strong in academics and study skills. It is rewarding for the high school mentors to

share their knowledge and help these students. It is always rewarding when you help someone."

Zuzo points to the National Honor Society students — Weeda, McArde, Sondor, Bedro and Cucuz — as "outstanding leaders" who are helping Bentley students learn valuable

lessons. "It's a win-win... the kids are learning and they're helping others," Zuzo said. "These kids have done a fabulous job. These kids have made a difference."

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Square dancers stay in shape

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

Fun, friends and fitness are some of the appeal of a club that meets each Wednesday evening in Redford.

The Star Twirlers Square Dance Club of Redford has been stepping out for 11 years and recently got a new caller, the person who calls the steps in a square dance session.

George Ferguson of Westland, who is a caller for the Shindiggers of Canton, in January became the club caller for Redford. The Star Twirlers meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. each Wednesday at the Redford Community Center.

"Square dancing is the most fun you can have with seven other people that's not illegal and not immoral," Ferguson said.

A bank president, real estate broker, a garbage man and a landscaper can meet for a square dance and "once they square up, everyone is equal. That makes it very comfortable and very enjoyable for everyone," Ferguson said.

About 20 members strong, Redford's club is made up of experienced dancers.

Pat Ulivi of Garden City has been square dancing for more than 30 years.

"The people are great," she said. "Square dancers are friends

forever."

A resident of Garden City for 46 years, Ulivi and her husband were longtime members of Garden City's Li'l Devils square dance club that lasted for 30 years before it folded.

Clubs all over

A lack of interest by young people has caused square dancing's popularity to wane, but Ulivi describes the days of square dancing clubs all over metro Detroit.

"I used to be you could dance seven nights a week if you wanted," she said. Each club had its own color and members went to visit other clubs, she said.

She and her husband used to dance four nights a week and even have 45 matching outfits they used to dance in, she said.

Her husband is no longer physically able to dance, but Ulivi tries to stay active.

"I just truly enjoy it. It's a lot of good exercise," she said.

Joe Spano of Canton has been a member of the Redford club for many years.

"I feel it's entertaining and doing exercise at the same time," he said.

He used to dance two or three times a week, but dances once a week now, he said.

"I like the whole thing," he said.

"It's good exercise mentally and physically," Dave Herman of Livonia said. He started square dancing in 1968 with his wife, but then took a break starting in 1980. He took it up again in 2003 after his wife died, he said.

It's not like it was years ago, when you filled halls with dancers, but it's still fun, he said.

"It's good exercise and I really enjoy it and meet a lot of friends," he said.

Living social

Ferguson, who started calling as an amateur in 1995, also enjoys the social part of square dancing. A retired master electrician, he first joined a square dancing club in 1989 in Van Buren Township. He has now danced in 18 states and Canada.

"Square dancing is an extremely healthy exercise," he said. "And the emotional and social activity that we have is very enriching."

Square dancing not only exercises the body, but the mind, as well.

Square dance is a lot more organized than is apparent on the surface, Ferguson said. There are about 20 clubs in the South East Michigan Association of Square and Round Dance clubs, which is also associated with United Square Dancers of America, a national organization.

There are two types



Mary Belcher of Westland and Dave Herman of Livonia dance to hoedown music doing the left star last week at the Redford Community Center. PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

of square dancing. An earlier style was made popular in this area by Henry Ford when he introduced it to his employees, but another style called modern western square dancing started in the 1950s.

"That's what's popular today," Ferguson said. In the older style, a person didn't need to know how to dance, because callers guided you through it a step at a time, but modern western dancing has 65 calls for dancers to master to learn the routine.

"Dancers need to know the call before the dance starts. It reminds me of a band at a half-time show. You have to learn the formations to put together a show," Ferguson said.

"It's not just for old people," Ulivi said. "I think out west you younger people probably do it more."

"It's the best-kept secret," Ferguson said. "It's still around and it is still fun."



Mary Ann Swango of Garden City promenades with dance partner Ernest Phillip of Canton at the Star Twirlers Square Dance Club held at the Redford Community Center.



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Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, consisting of construction of:

New Cherry Hill Middle School-BD 108 Carpentry and General Trades Bid

will be received at the office of Mr. Brodie Killian, Deputy Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, 454 S. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

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

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:
108: Carpentry / General Trades

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents for a refundable \$75.00 deposit, beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Deposit checks should be payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools. Deposit will be refunded upon return of complete documents in good condition to **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.** no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the bid opening.

- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com free of charge by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is authorized by Plymouth Canton Community School's Board of Education Secretary **Kimberly Crouch**.

END OF SECTION

Published: March 13 and 16, 2014

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Caller George Ferguson of Westland keeps the square dancers moving last week at the Redford Community Center.



Harriet Fowler of Westland and Sandy McIntire of Westland end the dance with a "thank you" as they enjoy square dancing last week in Redford.

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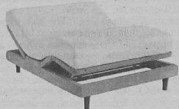
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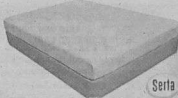
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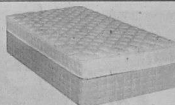
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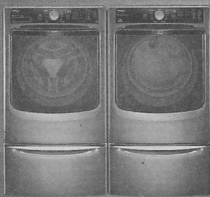
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SECTION B (CP)
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SPORTS

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CLASS A GIRLS BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS

ON THE BRINK

Chiefs grind out low-scoring win over Grand Ledge in Class A semi at Breslin Center



Canton players celebrate their 35-28 win over Grand Ledge in the MHSAA Class A semifinals at the Breslin Center. JARRAD HENDERSON/JANNETT MICHIGAN

By Tim Smith
 Staff Writer

trip to the Class A girls basketball finals (Saturday against Bloomfield Hills Marian).

Canton snapped a 19-19 tie early in the fourth following a steal by senior forward Shannon Perry in the defensive zone. The ball was threaded to senior center Taylor Hunley (12 points, seven rebounds), who nailed a jumper from the top of the key.

That jump-started an 8-0 run that made it 27-19 and put the Chiefs in the driver's seat.

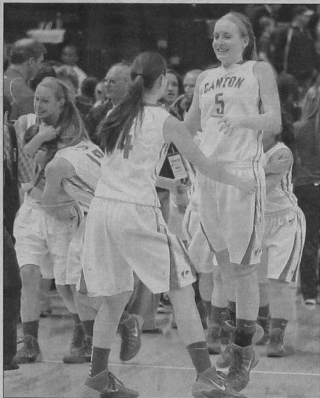
"We've been sort of just trying to grind games out all year," Canton coach Brian Samulski

See CHIEFS, Page B2

During the run of success that began for the Canton Chiefs late in the regular season, the team has adopted a "refuse to lose" mentality.

And now, the Chiefs refuse to leave the Breslin Center. Canton frustrated Grand Ledge at every turn Friday afternoon at the arena on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing.

And once the Chiefs' offense started to click in the fourth quarter, the Comets had no answer as Canton earned a 35-28 victory and first-ever



Rushing out to congratulate Taylor Hunley (No. 5) on the Breslin Center basketball court after the Chiefs defeated Grand Ledge is freshman Erin Hult (No. 4). JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO



The Canton cheering section goes crazy, celebrating the Chiefs' 35-28 victory over Grand Ledge. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO



Plymouth center Zach Lorentz (No. 9) scores in the first period against Erie's Daniel Dekoning. RENA LAVERY/PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Whalers pelted by Erie, 10-1

By Tim Smith
 Staff Writer

Friday was Fan Appreciation Night at Compuware Arena and the Plymouth Whalers' generosity apparently extended to their opponent, the Erie Otters.

Plymouth gave up nine unanswered goals to the hungry Otters — who are driven to keep the No. 3 playoff seed in the Ontario Hockey League Western Conference — and dropped a 10-1 laugher before 2,898 fans.

"They're a good team and when we're not ready to play and they're that good ... granted, it shouldn't have been that bad, but they're a good team," Whalers assistant coach Don Eiland said. "There's no doubt about it."

Plymouth (27-33-0-7) did have to travel from Thursday night's makeup game at Owen Sound, a game the Whalers needed to win in order to entertain thoughts of moving up from eighth seed to seventh as the regular season wraps up this weekend.

The Whalers lost 2-1 to the Attack and Eiland said it was decided to rest some players and play rookie goalie Zack Bowman against Erie.

No excuse

Eiland stressed that the schedule and travel had nothing to do with how Plymouth got waxed by Erie.

"If you want to use excuses you can use that, but there's no reason for our performance tonight," he said. "We just weren't ready to play, for whatever reason."

"We can say we don't have anything to play for, but we're getting ready for the playoffs, so we got to be better."

Bowman ended up making 44 saves, but there was little he could do against a potent offense featuring players such as Connor Brown (125 points) and Dane Fox (62 goals entering Friday's game).

"He (Bowman) made a lot of good stops, he battled hard; it's

See WHALERS, Page B4

Marian gets past Marlins to reach Class A final

By Dan O'Meara
 Staff Writer

Kara Holinski and her Bloomfield Hills Marian teammates didn't let this one get away in their fourth and final meeting with rival Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Mustangs avenged a Feb. 16 loss to their arch rivals Friday with a 67-55 victory in a Class A state semifinal basket-

ball game Friday at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Holinski scored a game-high 20 points as Marian (24-2) advanced to its first championship game since 1998 and was scheduled to play Canton in the final Saturday afternoon.

"We've been looking forward to this game for a long time," Holinski said. "It wasn't in my wildest dreams that we would be able to play Mercy

again after the Catholic League loss."

"I can say for myself and my teammates we were just so determined and focused to beat them, because we love each other so much and wanted to do it for each other."

When the Marlins climbed within two of the Mustangs midway in the fourth quarter, 50-48, Holinski took charge of the game.

She scored the next four points on a putback and a layup and quickly restored the momentum for Marian.

Just do it

Following a trey by Mercy's Candice Leatherwood, Holinski scored again on a drive to the basket to make it a 56-51 game with three minutes remaining.


"I was just focused on how bad our whole team wanted it

and how hard we had worked," Holinski said. "At a certain point, you just stop thinking and start doing."

"If you see the openings, you go. If you have the fast breaks, you just go. It was more of a feeling thing than thinking consciously through it."


Marian was in a good posi-

See MARIAN/MERCY, Page B3



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Registration Monday for annual 'Super Less' 5K run

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's National Honor Society will host its fourth annual "Super Less" 5K run at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 4 on the high school campus.

This event was created in 2011 in honor of 16-year-old P-CEP student Jesse Lindbauer, whose sinus infection turned into an abscess which ruptured, causing a traumatic brain injury. The 5K run was created in order to bring the community support to the family and raise mon-

ey. After a successful event in 2011, the National Honor Society decided to make the SJSK an annual event to honor local families in need.

This year, the race will support one present P-CCS student and one P-CCS alumni: Salem senior Jessica Fitzgerald and Salem alumni Amy Ladenberger.

» Jessica Fitzgerald was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a rare medical condition in which

fluid builds up in the brain. Jessica has undergone more than 30 surgeries and countless nights in the hospital since she was diagnosed in 2009. She attended Smith Elementary and West Middle School. Jessica is now a senior at the Park and is excited to graduate this spring with the rest of her class.

» Amy Ladenberger is a 25-year-old Park graduate who attended Hoben Elementary and Discover Middle School.

She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a disease which causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs, digestive tract and other areas of the body, when she was three months old. Within the last year, Amy underwent a double lung transplant and many other surgeries prior to that.

Please join the NHS to raise money and support for the Fitzgerald and Ladenberger families by participating in the SJSK,

donating funds, or sponsoring the May 4 race. It will begin 8 a.m. at the Canton valley football field.

Registration will begin Monday and continue until race day; registrations received prior to April 16th will include a race shirt.

Registration forms can be found on the SJSK Facebook page, on the P-CEP website or in Canton, Plymouth and Salem main offices. Event fees are \$25 for adults over 18

and \$20 for all others. For questions about the race or volunteering, please contact the student coordinator of this event, Shannon Perry at SJSKcommunity@gmail.com. For questions about becoming a sponsor, contact Chris Kozler at ckozler7@gmail.com. All donations and sponsorships can be made out to "NHS SJSK 2014" and can be mailed to Pam Davis, 46370 Spinning Wheel, Canton, MI 48187.



Salem's Matt Pairitz, shown from a meet earlier this season, had a very respectable showing at the Division 1 boys state meet at Saginaw Valley State University. BILL BREKLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Pairitz leads Rocks at state meet

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There are varying degrees of success in high school sports and Salem boys swimming and diving coach Chuck Olson is tickled about how some of his athletes performed March 7-8 at the Division 1 state meet.

Birmingham Brother Rice topped the field at Saginaw Valley State University over the two-day event with 345 points, well ahead of runner-up Livonia Stevenson (202), Holland West Ottawa (191), Ann Arbor Pioneer (185) and Bloomfield Hills (136).

Salem (nine points) finished 27th, with senior Matt Pairitz instrumental to all of the Rocks' scoring.

Olson cited time improvements "in all three relays and (in) the five individual events" four of the five swam faster."

Pairitz had the best day, finishing 16th in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.38, good for a point on the team scoreboard. He narrowly missed qualifying in the 100 free.

The Rocks collected four points each for the 15th-place 200-yard freestyle relay and 400-yard freestyle relay.

Pairitz, sophomore Charles Liu, freshman Phillip Collingwood and senior Jason Basanese finished the 200 free relay in 1:30.59.

That quartet finished

the 400 free relay with a mark of 3:20.81.

In the 200-yard medley relay preliminaries (the top 16 per event made the Saturday finals), Salem wasn't far off the mark, either.

Juniors Patrick Casey, Brendan Wellman, Liu and Basanese placed 23rd with a time of 1:41.20; the 16th-place team from Grand Blanc clocked in at 1:40.07.

Plymouth also had a team in the 200 medley relay. Finishing 27th (1:42.46) for the Wildcats were juniors Ben Yang, Ryan Heinze, sophomore Garrett Beaupre and freshman Michael Wischer.

In individual prelims, Pairitz's bid to make the finals in the 100 free came up just short. He finished 17th with a time of 48.41, behind 16th-place Matthew Erickson of Ann Arbor Pioneer (48.28).

Meanwhile, three other Salem swimmers competed during prelims in individual events.

Liu's mark of 1:50.40 in the 200 free earned him 32nd overall.

Wellman and Casey both took part in 100-yard backstroke preliminaries. Wellman finished 25th (55.76), with Casey coming in 28th (56.00).

Both were about a second slower than 16th-place Ryan Johnston of Grand Blanc (54.55).

timsmith@hometownlife.com



Canton's Paige Aresco takes the ball to the hoop during Friday's Class A girls basketball semifinal at the Breslin Center. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

said. "We always haven't done a great job of scoring, so we said, 'Hey, if we can hold someone under 30 and we can get to 30, then we'll give ourselves a shot.'"

It wasn't a picnic much of the game for Canton's offense, either.

The first quarter ended with the Comets up 6-5 and it was just a 13-10 game at halftime with Canton (22-4) coming to life when senior forward Paige Aresco (11 points, six rebounds) scored a layup with six seconds to play before the intermission.

Under control

Canton's swarming 'D' had a lot to do with Grand Lodge's abysmal shooting in the first half (3-of-19, 15.8 percent) although the Chiefs did not fare much better (6-of-24, 25 percent).

As a byproduct of how quick the Chiefs were on defense, Grand Lodge senior twins Lind-



One of the ongoing match-ups Friday in the Class A girls basketball semifinal pitted Canton's Taylor Hunley (No. 5) against Grand Lodge's Cori Crocker. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

say and Hannah Orwat managed just nine and four points, respectively, for the day.

"I thought that was the key, Rach (Winters), Nat (Winters), Alanna (Brown), those three did an outstanding job on those kids," Samulski said. "We switched a lot of stuff. But I thought the key to the game was controlling those guys and not letting them get off."

During the post-game interview session, both Grand Lodge head coach David Jones (whose team finished 24-3) and Lindsay Orwat credited the way the Chiefs plugged lanes and forced the Comets to take low-percentage shots.

"Everything I heard about them (Chiefs) on their defensive end really showed up today," Jones said. "They played great team defense and we were just never able to settle into a shot that we wanted to get."

"They're very good on their help defense and they recover quickly."

Lindsay Orwat, meanwhile, said it was difficult to deal with Canton's relentless help-side defense. "Me and my sister love to shoot off a ball screen and they were there in our face."

Making it tough

Another key for Canton was keeping Comets 6-3 center Cori Crocker

able to make it to the final day of the season."

And the style of basketball that might frustrate opponents is exactly how the Chiefs like to play it.

"I think a lot of the great teams are really focused on offense, offense, offense," Aresco said, smiling. "And when they come up against us, we've done a really good job of shutting them down and it's been kind of shocking for them, I think."

Samulski added that this has been a different kind of postseason run than 2010 and 2012, when the Chiefs lost in the semifinals at Breslin.

"It's outstanding, we always talk about playing the last day," he said. "The first two teams, they were ranked in the top three all year around and (there was) a lot of pressure to even get here."

"These guys, they've been really able to enjoy this run that they've put us on because there was no real pressure. No one really talked about how, there wasn't a high ranking."

"So we refuse to lose, we keep plugging away and try to do what we do. We're playing tomorrow."

timsmith@hometownlife.com



Canton junior Alanna Brown made some key contributions Friday, scoring five points and grabbing seven rebounds. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

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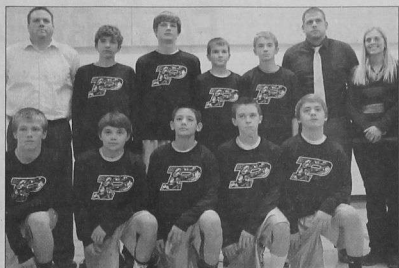
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Members of the 8-0 Pioneer Middle School 'A' basketball team are (bottom, from left) Grant Harrison and Eian Barker and (back, from left) coach Joe Wallen, Jeremy Armstead, Ryan Boy, Trevor Genav, Connor Engel, Cameron Kight, coach John Palmer and coach Andrea Palmer.



Members of the 8-0 Pioneer Middle School 'B' team are (front, from left) Ben Wright, Bennett Austin, Lucas Binquet, Alex Bowser and Sam Zorn and (top, from left) coach Joe Wallen, Brandon Boyd, Jordan Forney, Evan Petersen, John Olson, coach John Palmer and coach Andrea Palmer. Also on the team was Travell Hale.

Pioneer completes stellar hoops season

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The three H's—hustle, heart and height—proved to be key elements for the Pioneer Middle School basketball teams' championship-caliber chemistry this winter.

Both the Panthers' 'A' and 'B' teams each hammered out an 8-0 record during their month-long schedule that included a home and away game against each of the four other Plymouth-Canton middle schools—East, West, Discovery and Central.

The bulk of this season's Pioneer 'A' team also chalked up an unbeaten season for their school's 'B' team last winter.

Central was the unofficial defending 'A' champion from 2013. "It was a great honor to coach Pioneer this season,"

Palmer said. "Through hard work and dedication, the players were able to be competitive in every game."

Palmer praised the efforts of all five middle school programs. "The competition of the

middle school league has been increasing every year," he said. "I see growth in the players from every team. Not only are they developing character, but they are getting fundamentally ready for high school basketball."

evwright@hometownlife.com



Bloomfield Hills Marian forward Brittany Gray (No. 23) and Farmington Hills Mercy guard Maria Wangler (No. 5) both go for a loose ball during the second half Friday.

MARIA/WANGLER

Continued from Page B1

tion with a lead late in the game, and it scored its last 11 points at the foul line to win going away.

The Mustangs, who evened the season series with Mercy at 2-2, led by 11 points in the second half when the teams played in the Catholic League final a month ago and lost by one at the buzzer.

The key to her team's success was very simple, according to Marian coach Mary Cicerone.

"The game plan was we just break their press and we win—and we did," she said. "I thought we did for most part."

"We spread them out and attacked it fairly well and finished most of our layups. I thought that was not going to be the difference if we didn't panic and lose our composure against the two presses they use."

The Mustangs, who had 30-plus turnovers in the first two games with Mercy and were affected by the press in the 55-54 loss on Feb. 16, reduced their turnovers to just 13.

The Mustangs also played excellent defense, limiting the number of transition points by the Marins and making it difficult to penetrate their half-court defense.

After opening the game with six missed shots, the Mustangs played well and shot the ball well after that, both from the field and the foul line.



Mercy junior Sierra Wangler and Marian junior Brittany Gray compete for a loose ball in the state semifinal game in East Lansing. JARRAD HENDERSON/JANNETT MICHIGAN

Marian shot 46 percent overall (19-of-41) and cashed in big time on free throws, going 25-of-35. Mercy made 40 percent of its field goals (20-of-50) but was just 9-of-10 at the line.

The Mustangs overcame the slow start and an early deficit to lead 14-12 after one quarter and 32-26 at halftime.

The six-point difference was a game-long obstacle for the Marins, also got within two late in the third period, 38-36.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Livonia pom clinic

The Livonia Middle School pom team will stage a clinic for girls in grades 5-8 who are Livonia Public Schools district residents from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 22, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia. Included in the \$25 cost is a T-shirt. Participants will learn basics and a pom routine taught by currently Livonia Pom team members. For more information or to obtain a registration form, email Andrea at Livoniapom@gmail.com.

CHS Hall of Fame

The 12th annual Livonia Churchill Athletic Patrons Hall of Fame induction dinner will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at the Italian-American Hall, 39200 Five Mile, Livonia. Dinner starts at 6:45 p.m., followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. Among the inductees will be the 2006 Churchill Division 1 state runner-up cross country team (coached by Sue Tatro), football and baseball player John Stoitsiads (1986) and former Churchill Principal Rod Hosman. Tickets are \$40 per person. For more information, contact Rob Suida at 313-617-5448 or email rsuida@cmsenergy.com.

Livonia pom tryouts

The Livonia Middle School Pom team will stage open tryouts for girls in grades 4-7, who attend Livonia Public Schools, 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 27-28, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia. The tryout fee is \$10 (payable the first day).

For more information, or to obtain a registration form, email Andrea at Livoniapom@gmail.com.

Bucks host games

The Michigan Parks of the Premier Development League will host four top collegiate men's soccer teams, including NCAA Division I champion Notre Dame, in a series of exhibition matches Saturday, March 22, at Pontiac's Ultimate Soccer Arenas, 867 South Boulevard.

One \$8 pass will get ticket holders into any of all four games which features Notre Dame, Michigan, Oakland University and Xavier.

And on Saturday, April 5, at Ultimate Soccer Arenas, women's soccer teams representing Michigan State, Michigan, OU and Northwestern will square off in the Best of the Midwest games. Tickets are also \$8 for an all-day pass if purchased online. (Group rates are also offered for 20 or more for \$7 apiece if purchased by a parent, coach or manager.)

For more information, visit www.bucksoccer.com. You can also call Wayne Pirrman at 248-701-0526 or email wpirrman@bucksoccer.com.

Coach-Pitch, T-Ball

The city of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage late registration for 2014 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and coach-pitch (ages 7-8) for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville school attendance area from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 29, at the LCR, 15000 Hubbard (at Five Mile).

Nonresident registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, March 31, at the LCR's Parks and Recreation office. Late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (nonresident).

Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis through April 30 or until teams are filled. The season runs from May through

July with T-ball scrimmages Monday evenings and coach-pitch scrimmages Thursday evenings.

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

Varsity pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom clinic (grades 3-11) will be from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the high school fieldhouse (courts Nos. 1 and 3).

The cost is \$25 (includes light snack, T-shirt and CD). You must register by Wednesday, April 2, to be guaranteed a T-shirt. Students must wear gym shoes and workout clothes.

For more information, email Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at lyman@livoniapublicschools.org.

Women's golfers

The Livonia Whispering Willows Golf League will be expanded to 18 holes for \$28 per week (includes greens fees and cart) beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, May 1.

Non-residents are encouraged to join the 20-week league.

For more information, call Beth at 248-473-9068 or email tbw4boys@aol.com.

MU cross country

Madonna University will stage its summer cross country base camps for serious high school runners 8:45-9:45 a.m. July 28 through Aug. 1.

The cost is \$75. MU will also hold long runs 7:30-9 a.m. Saturday, July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, at Cass Benton Park. The cost is a \$2 donation each long run.

For more information, email Madonna cross country coach Pat Daugherty at pdaugherty@madonna.edu. He can also be reached evenings at 734-658-0226 (cell) or 734-432-5634 (office).

Sponsor needed

The 11-and-under Livonia Rockets, a travel baseball team which will play six to seven tournaments this summer, is seeking a team sponsor which includes a banner and company name and phone number to advertise.

Any donation is appreciated. For more information, call Steve at 734-716-5194 or coach Ed at 734-670-6768.

Motor City Hoops

The MetroPCS Motor City Hoops Classic, a new 3-on-3 basketball tournament, will be Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8, on the Detroit Riverfront.

The event is a collaboration of some of the area's top organizations, including presenting sponsor Opportunity Detroit, which proceeds benefitting the Detroit Goodfellows and the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy.

The MetroPCS Motor City Hoops Classic will have divisions for all ages and skill levels with both men's and women's teams invited to compete.

Approximately 400 teams from throughout the area are expected to participate. In addition to team competitions, there will also be a 3-point shootout and free throw shooting contest for prizes as well as free youth clinics for participants in the 4-8 grade divisions.

Registration is under way with the deadline for team registration Friday, May 23. Early bird registration ends Tuesday, April 15.

To register, or for more information, visit www.motorcityhoopsclassic.com.

Need tennis coach

Dearborn Heights Annapolis High School is seeking a varsity girls tennis coach for the spring season.

Interested candidates should call Annapolis A.D. Scott Wiemer at 313-278-2610.

FAST-BEAT FESTIVAL

St. Val's youth hoops tourney is a much-anticipated event for young cagers

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Young CYO basketball players look forward to the annual St. Valentine All-Metro Basketball Tournament so much, they'd probably dribble all the way to Redford Township from their home parish if that's what it came down to participate.

The 32nd annual hoops event has unfolded in the St. Val's gym over the past couple of weeks, with 15 teams competing in four divisions.

When the nets were cut down (theoretically) Saturday night, 40 games were efficiently jammed into 10 days of baseline-to-baseline action.

Each of the contests is accompanied by high school-caliber pre-game introductions, heart-pumping music and in-game announcing.

Is it any wonder the event draws teams from as far away as Brighton to the St. Val's gymnasium every March?

"The reason why it's so popular, in my opinion, is because our volunteer staff of

workers go overboard to make it a special event for the kids," St. Val's athletic director Gary Waxler said.

"The atmosphere in our gym when the games are going on is electric."

Just about the only things the NCA's "March Madness" tournament offers that St. Val's doesn't are Jim Nance and Clark Kellogg.

There are Cinderella stories, "heams to beat" and buzzer-beaters galore. And most of the squads bring cheering sections that may not rival Michigan State University's "Izzone" in size, but demonstrate just as much per-person spirit.

Waxler said the tournament has grown exponentially since its inception in the early '80s. "We started out with just two divisions and have expanded to four," he said. "We could probably draw more teams, but it's hard to get any bigger with the time constraints we're under."

The tournament is limited to CYO junior varsity squads,

which are made up of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students.

The event is the second-largest fundraiser for St. Val's athletic department, Waxler said.

Waxler said there have been countless heart-warming moments that have unfolded during tournament — both on the court and off.

"The one that stands out the most is when one of our players, Joey Pogodowski, passed away from a terminal brain tumor while our tournament was going on," he said. "Everybody loved that kid and his number has been retired."

"Joey's funeral was going to take place at our church, so St. Robert Bellarmine (which is also located in Redford) stepped up and let us use their gym so that the tournament could continue."

Although none of the St. Val's teams advanced to the division finals this March, "they all played hard and never gave up," Waxler said.

ewright@hometownlife.com



St. Robert Bellarmine's Alyson Brumm drives hard to the basket during her team's game against St. Valentine. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

a bad situation," Elland said. "We got to rest (Alex Nedeljkovic), we got to get him ready for the playoffs. We were in it until last night when we got the seventh seed, that's why we played Ned last night. We didn't get the win, so now we're stuck in eighth so we got to rest some guys."

"I wasn't on Bowman. We weren't good, we held some players out, we had a full lineup. But we weren't ready to play."

After Andrea Burakovsky scored the first of his two goals at 12:05 of the first period, the Whalers briefly responded when center Zach Lorentz notched his 27th goal of the season less than two minutes



Matt Mistele (No. 22) of the Plymouth Whalers tries to stay a step or two ahead of Erie players during Friday night's game at Compuware Arena. RENA LAVERTY/PLYMOUTH WHALERS

later.

Assisting on the Lorentz goal were Bryce Yetman and Liam Davidson.

But Michael Curtis put Erie

(51-14-20) back in front before

the end of the period and the Otters really went to work in the middle period.

Erie outshot the Whalers

20-14 in the second and scored two in five, including two each by Brendan Gaunce and Connor McDavid.

Bowman tried to hold Erie to seven goals, making a series of splendid saves in the first half of the third period.

Yet he couldn't completely keep the Otters at bay, allowing three goals over a span of less than three minutes.

With 5:43 left, Fox rushed down the left wing and wined a slap shot high over Bowman's trapper that hit 8-1.

Finishing off the scoring were Burakovsky (his 40th of the season) and Jake Evans, both parked in front of the Plymouth goal to finish off perfect centering passes.

Elland said the Whalers will need to shrug off the rout in a hurry with Saturday's regular season finale against Windsor at Compuware followed by

preparations for the first round of the playoffs against top-seeded Guelph.

OWEN SOUND 2, PLYMOUTH 1 The visiting Whalers allowed two goals in the third period Thursday to suffer their Ontario Hockey League setback. The game was rescheduled from Wednesday due to heavy snow.

Mark Mieske put the Whalers on the lead at 14:24 of the first period, with assisters to Nick Malina and Connor Daulton.

That 1-0 lead lasted until 5:57 of the third, when Owen Sound's Kyle Hoge beat Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (31 saves).

Hoge scored his second of the game at 8:29 on the power play, and that proved to be the winning tally.

PLYMOUTH 3, SAGINAW 5 On Sunday afternoon at Compuware Arena, Zach Lorentz broke a 1-1 tie late in the third period and Bryan Hartman tallied his 25th goal of the season into an empty net as the Whalers prevailed in a clash of OHL West Division squads.

Lorentz scored his 26th of the season at 15:26 of the third, with assisters going to Ilianna Vukic, Oscar Hyberg and Carter Sanford. One reboundy netted his 12th in the second period on the power play, from Gustafica, Caron and Hartman. Making 35 saves for Plymouth was Alex Nedeljkovic, while Saginaw goalie Nikita Serebryakov stopped 35 Whalers shots.

The matinee was played before 2,573 fans.

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Food choices change boosts health

Henry Ford Health System has cut 7 tons of fat from food and increased fruit and vegetable purchases by 10 percent annually in an effort to offer patients more healthy food choices.

The hospital system also removed all fryers, committed to removing all deep fried fat products, and advertises only healthy food choice options on cafeteria advertising and menus.

Dr. Kimberleydawn Wisdom, M.D., Henry Ford's chief wellness officer was scheduled to talk about the hospital's nutritional efforts during a Partnership for a Healthier America's Building a Healthier Future Summit, Friday, in Washington, D.C.

"We have a responsibility to provide our communities with a wide variety of affordable,

delicious, healthy food options — making the healthy choice the easy choice," Wisdom says. "Our patients, employees and other customers like what we're doing."

Offering healthy options can be a money-maker, too. After the system implemented healthy food choices, revenue increased 7 percent last year at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

Dietitians and chefs worked together to make healthy foods beautiful and enticing to both patients and cafe customers, according to John Miller, director of Culinary Wellness at Henry Ford Health System.

"Healthy food doesn't need to be expensive or boring," Miller said. "We're excited to see the response as we introduce even more healthy food



Kimberleydawn Wisdom, M.D.

options throughout the hospital system."

Last year, Henry Ford committed to PHA's Hospital Healthy Food Initiative guidelines to improve nutrition of patient meals as well as what is offered at on-site cafes. The three-year, three-month commitment lasts through 2016, with Henry Ford the only hospital system in Michigan joining the initiative.

"A hospital is a center for health, but we know that comfort food is important, too," Wisdom said. "The goal of this initiative is to increase healthy options or make less-healthy choices a little more healthy—

not deprive people of choices." Henry Ford had already met the PHA initiative of increasing fruit and vegetable purchases to 10 percent of total food dollars purchased by 2015. All four Henry Ford Health System hospitals meet the guideline, with two spending more than 20 percent. The hospital system also has committed to:

- » Meeting PHA requirements that call for at least 60 percent of a la carte entrees and side dishes meet healthy guidelines in 2015. Fifty percent must meet the guidelines this year.

- » Remove all fryers and deep fried fat products. The fryers have been removed from all hospitals and at least one hospital has also removed all deep fat fried products with plans to phase them out of the

remaining three facilities.

- » Promote only healthy food options within five feet of cash registers. All Henry Ford Health System have met that goal. Henry Ford Health System also worked with Pepsi to re-wrap all of the café refrigerators with non-branded, healthy images.

- » Offer wellness meals for both adult and children in cafes and to adult and pediatric patients. All Henry Ford hospitals currently offer at least one adult and one children's wellness meal.

"We firmly believe that this commitment will allow us to better fulfill our main goal of providing our patients with the best care possible, while also promoting health throughout the community," Wisdom said. For more, visit www.henryfordlivelwell.com.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

UPCOMING

Bleeding disorders

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan offers a free, informational program and dinner for those with bleeding disorders and their immediate families, 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, at Hotel Renaissance, 2730 Novi Road, Novi. Guest speakers will include Trevor Martin, a high school sophomore who will talk about how he manages his hemophilia, along with Tammueella Singleton, M.D. RSVP by Monday, March 24 to Tanya Roberson at 734-961-3300 or tanya@hmich.org.

Breakfast class

A registered dietitian from Botsford Hospital will show how eating a healthy breakfast can help you stay healthy, 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$5 and includes recipes, food samples, nutritional advice and a \$5 Busch's coupon. Tickets available from Busch's Guest Services

Counter or by phoning 248-427-7400.

Childbirth education

Learn about the stages of labor, managing methods, the partner's role in labor and delivery, medications and anesthesia, C-section and more in classes that meet 7-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 3, 10, 17 and 24 at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Register by calling 248-888-2500 or visit www.botsford.org.

Diabetes yoga fundraiser

A yoga fundraiser will be held to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, March 30, at the Birmingham Temple, 28611 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Adult classes are \$10 and children's class is \$8. A children's class will be held 12:30-1:15 p.m., all levels flow class is 1:30-2:30 p.m.; health backs class is 2:45-3:45 p.m., and intro to yoga is 4-5 p.m. Bring a yoga mat to class. To register or for more information, email karen@yogaherms.com or [\[sant@gmail.com\]\(mailto:sant@gmail.com\)](http://adulreplea-</p>
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Drug series

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

- » "Eating Disorders and Chemical Dependency," 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, will examine the evidence that eating disorders are true psychosocial diseases, similar to chemical dependency.

- » "Grief and Loss in Addiction and Recovery," 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, will describe theories of grief and grief recovery, losses that the chemically dependent individual and his/her family experience throughout the addiction and recovery processes, and how recovery program tools can help. Call 734-485-8725, or email info@dawnfarm.org.

First responder

Huron Valley Ambulance is forming a volunteer medical first responder team and will hold eight-week training classes for participants interested

in volunteering at community events or assisting with community awareness programs and administrative tasks. An informational meeting is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at Emergent Health Partners, 1200 State Circle, Ann Arbor. The free classes run from 6:10-30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, beginning May 6. After completing the course, participants take a state exam for certification. Call 734-477-6331 for more information.

Pelvic health webinars

Paul Makela, M.D., Mary Mercy Hospital medical director of gynecological robotic surgery, will discuss such topics as pelvic pain, bladder leakage, hysterectomies and other pelvic health problems, noon and 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 online. The webinar is free but registration is required. Call 734-655-2987. A member of Makela's staff will explain how to access the webinar. Participants' identities will remain protected and not be revealed to others attending the webinar.

Sweet Dreamzzz benefit

The Michigan Construction Leadership Council and the AGC of Michigan will sponsor a benefit for Sweet Dreamzzz, 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at John Cowley & Sons Irish Pub, 33338 Grand River Ave., in downtown Farmington. Registration fee is \$35 and will include food and beverages. RSVP by Thursday, March 20. Email to nancymax-wel@sweetdreamzzz.org or call 248-478-3242. Sweet Dreamzzz provides sleep education to children and their parents, along with bedtime essentials for economically disadvantaged families.

Walk with a Doc

Marshall Solomon, a board-certified podiatric surgeon, will discuss "Better Shoes for Better Feet" noon Thursday, March 20, at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Walks are held rain or shine. Register by calling 877-477-Doct, option #1.

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ONCE UPON A TIME

Tell me a story!

Storytellers will spin yarns at Livonia Library

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

When Doreen Lawton joined the Detroit Storytelling League nearly 20 years ago, she promised to bake cookies for the group every month in lieu of facing an audience.

"They told me I had to tell a story if I wanted to belong to the League," said Lawton, who has long since gotten over her performance jitters. "I told one story a year. Now I tell a couple times a year if they need me. The group is wonderful." The Plymouth woman will serve as "maestro" at the League's fourth annual Once Upon a Time Children's Story Concert, 2 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the Livonia Civic Center Public Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

The event, designed to celebrate stories and promote reading, is for children 4-10. Admission is \$3 per person. Every child will take home a small prize and refreshments will be served after the event.

Lawton will tell a short story about her teaching experience, before introducing the featured tellers, Jeff Doyle of Ann Arbor, Gwen Lewis of Redford and Loretta Vitek of St. Clair Shores.

Funny, traditional tellers

Judy Sima, League president, describes Doyle as a humorous storyteller who often includes audience participation. Youngsters may be invited on stage to help act out roles or pro-



Gwen Lewis of Redford is a featured teller at "Once Upon a Time" in Livonia.



Jeff Doyle of Ann Arbor will tell some stories that include audience participation at the annual Detroit Story League children's concert.

vide sound effects. "Jeff has a story about his blankie. It's a piece of fiction but he puts himself into the story, which is what a lot of us do," Sima said.

Sima is a guest teller at the annual event. Lewis and Vitek are League members. Lewis will tell traditional African folktales and Vitek will focus on dragons.

Sima said the children's storytelling concert aims to make youngsters aware that the oral tradition exists. "Because of social media, it's important to have events where people can engage face to face and have a common experience together," Sima said. "With storytelling, it's you and the audience. With a play or movie, they can go on whether there is an audience or not."

Joining the League

The Detroit Storytelling League meets at 1 p.m. the third Saturday of the month, from August through June, at



Doreen Lawton



Laura Vitek

er who got up in the night to tend to sheep" when they were ready to give birth or had some other need. When the last of her three children went off to college — and they were unimals — the couple quit farming.

Lawton sought out the Detroit Storytelling League in search of activities after her husband died. Although she didn't plan to tell stories professionally, she enjoyed both hearing and occasionally telling stories with other members.

"Every month we have workshops, so we get tips and pointers on how to be better storytellers. We're all learning. We just enjoy the group so much," she said. "The club members are so supportive and helpful. There are all kinds of opportunities to tell stories. But no pressure."

For more about the League, visit detroit-storytelling.org.



Wedding 'reception' offers cake, gowns, music at Greenmead

Learn about wedding customs and see bridal gowns of the past at Greenmead Historical Park's "Happily Ever After" program, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia.

"Our guest speaker is Carol Brichford. She will be speaking on wedding traditions and customs," said Maureen Casey, recreation specialist, in an email to the Observer. "Food is provided by area caterers and our wedding cake is being prepared by Sue Puster, head pastry chef for the Suburban Collection Showplace."

The evening will

start with Brichford's presentation, along with wedding music, at the historic Newburg Church, in Greenmead's village. A wedding reception will follow at the Alexander Blue House where guests will enjoy hors

d'oeuvres and sparkling beverages, wedding cake and coffee. Vintage wedding gowns and photos also will be on display at the reception. The evening will end with door prizes from local businesses.

Tickets are \$12. Call 248-477-7375 for reservations. All proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of Greenmead.

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A GANNETT COMPANY

Artist talks about icons at Livonia church soup supper

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

ing. It can be read, which is why they call an icon "written," she said. "In the Eastern church, they believe that when you come before an icon to pray, it's a window to the divine. When you're standing there, there's no barrier between you and the holy person on the other side. Praying in front of an icon is like going to a meeting. You go to have a conversation with someone."

Painting process

Crombie sketches the image on a prepared surface and adds layers of acrylic paint. Traditionally, icons were painted in egg tempera.

"When you look at an icon you see a painted image, but that's not all it is. There are layers upon layers upon layers of paint. Everything blends and there are no hard lines," Crombie said. "The paint is thin. The first person I studied with said it's like painting with smoke. The color builds. You get these phenomenal colors."

Crombie, who was raised Catholic, got involved in basket making when her children were young. She took classes, developed her own style, and began creating contemporary art baskets with natural materials, such as tree bark and rattan.

"There was a time in my life God called me out of the art world. I was working at the Detroit Institute of Arts in membership development, but it was clear a job change was coming and he led me to the pro-life movement," she said.

Activism, artistry

Crombie, now a grandmother, took a job with Michigan Right to Life, where she currently is minority outreach director. She felt a "tug" nearly 10 years ago to take up art again.

"God said I didn't give you this talent for nothing. Use it



Kathy Crombie at work in the home studio where she "writes" icons

for my glory."

She took a weeklong icon workshop at St. Michael Sacred Art Institute of Enders Island, Conn., and has never looked back. The first icon, *Corpus Christi*, that Crombie created outside of the workshop is installed in a chapel at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth.

"It's 6-foot-5 (inches) with a 6-foot arm span," Crombie said. "One teacher told me a kid looked at it and said 'It's so big!' The little kid was mesmerized. It's in a great place and helping the children understand what Jesus did for us on the cross."

Her icon, *Lady of Philermos* is on display at Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit and a life-sized icon, *Divine Mercy* is installed at the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township. Representatives from the Divine Mercy Center will be on hand at her presentation to sell replicas of her icons, with proceeds benefiting the center.

For more about Created in His Image, visit www.livoniastmichael.org or call the parish office at 734-261-1455, Ext. 207.



Kathy Crombie created this icon, which is displayed at the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township.

Artist Kathleen Bordo Crombie prays before picking up her paint brush.

She creates religious icons, but won't take on a commission unless she believes it's God's will.

"And when she finishes painting of a sacred image, she gives all of the credit away.

"I truly know that God writes the icons. I am the vessel. I mix the paint and hold the brush."

Crombie will talk about the artistic and spiritual process involved in creating icons in a presentation called "Created in His Image," Tuesday, March 25, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road in Livonia. The Dearborn artist will start her presentation at 7 p.m., following a Lenten soup supper at 6 p.m. The supper costs \$5 per person, payable at the door.

Her talk is one of many Lenten activities at St. Michael's, where the exhibit will culminate in an exhibition of a replica of the Shroud of Turin, April 13-20. The Rev. Todd Lajiness, rector of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will give a brief history of the shroud, an examination of the wounds, along with some contemporary debate points about its authenticity as the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, at 1:15 p.m. April 13.

Crombie, who has been a guest speaker at St. Michael's monthly "Why Be Catholic?" program, will explain the painting process, including symbolism that is written into the image.

"Icons are meant to teach. Everything in an icon means something—the way the head is turned, the position of the hands, the color of the vestments—everything has mean-

Helping women with appliance repairs



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

With a man writing this column about women, he has to be very careful to not use the wrong phrase or make sure his meanings cannot be taken two ways. I am writing about the wires that flow from the heart and see how I can connect women to my world of appliances. I have said it a million times "man can put it together, woman can

take it apart." And so it was repeated several times at the recent Canton Home Improvement show when ladies over shopping came up to me and thanked me for helping them fix their own appliances.

One lady told me she changed the pump on her washing machine all by herself with a phone conversation with the Appliance Doctor. Another told me she changed the stirrer motor on her microwave oven because of me and another told me how I showed her how to change a torn rubber door seal on her refrigerator. I could go on here, but I have to shut off my ego and get to another

thank you. Thanks to all of you who tell me you read this column. That makes me feel really good.

I used to own an appliance parts store where I talked to many people who wanted to do their own repairs and I helped every one of them get the job done. I never made much money, but I sure made a lot of friends and that was all I needed. The majority of customers were men from all walks of life and once in a while a female would come into my store, describe her problem and ask for directions on how to do it herself. There are many stories and one sticks in my mem-

ory like it was yesterday. A very senior citizen came in and told me her gas dryer was not drying clothes anymore. From her description, I knew it was a gas valve problem and so I showed her an old gas valve assembly just like the one in her dryer. And then she told me she was a widow and her husband had died just two years ago and he always fixed anything around the house. His workshop was just like it was the day he died with all the tools hanging so meticulously on the peg board.

I then showed her what tools to use and what direction to turn the coupling nut and

the electrical wires to disconnect. She went home and two hours later came into my workshop with the gas valve in her hand. I changed the defective part for her and sent her on her way. The next day, she came into my shop with a plate of cookies and with tears rolling down her cheeks, couldn't thank me enough. She said that she had never fixed anything in life like this and although she missed her husband terribly she felt a new confidence in herself. I had already spent a lifetime teaching service schools in the appliance industries.

See GAGNON, Page B8

Women 'go red' at annual luncheon for heart health



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

February was the month of the little red dress. The American Heart Association, along with national sponsorship from Macy's, celebrated its 10th year of the Go Red for Women Campaign.

And Go Red they did, when 600-plus women, and a few good men, attended the Detroit Go Red For Women Luncheon at the MGM Grand Detroit. It raised more than \$600,000 for women's heart health. Comedian Rosie O'Donnell, the keynote speaker, talked firsthand about heart disease—the leading cause of death among women. O'Donnell survived a massive heart attack on Aug. 14, 2012, so she's on a prevention education mission. The mother of four teens and a baby plans to be around for a very long time, and we're behind her 100 percent.

Girl Scouts Gala

Even if you gave up sweets for Lent, the Girl Scouts Cookie Gala will give you a special one-day dispensation in honor of charity. At 6 p.m. March 26, guests are invited to the annual Girl Scouts Cookie Gala at DTE Energy headquarters in Detroit, where the area's top culinary bakers and chefs will compete for various awards, using the beloved Girl Scouts cookies as a key ingredient in



Westland Macy's team members Bridgett Bryant, (left) sales manager; Karin Tanti-McLearn, merchandise lead; Sheila Fisher, sales manager; and Lonette Blackburn, vice president, Westland Macy's store manager wear red at the Go Red for Women Luncheon. Macy's is a National Sponsor of the Go Red for Women campaign. Since 2004, Macy's has raised over \$46 million through its Magic of Giving program.

their recipes. The best part of the event, which benefits Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, is the audience gets to taste and vote. Tickets are \$100 each or \$120/pair before March 21 or \$120/individual and \$190/pair after that date; 800-482-6734, Ext. 2281, or visit www.gssem.org/cookiegala.

Contact Julie Yolles, Social Scene columnist, at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES



Bryan Huntley and Katherine Hopman

HOPMAN-HUNTLEY

Katherine Hopman and Bryan Huntley announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Cindy and Terry Hopman of Canton, is a 2008 Plymouth High School graduate. She also graduated from Grand Valley State University with a major in mathematics and minor in elementary education. She teaches in Grand Rapids.

Her fiancé, son of Cathy and Steve Huntley of Grand Rapids, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a major in group social studies and a double minor in mathematics and secondary education. He teaches eighth-grade math at Excel Charter Academy in Grand Rapids.

A July 2014 wedding is planned in Grand Rapids.

MILESTONES

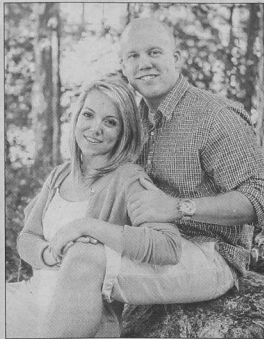
MCLAUGHLIN-BALKUS

Kevin and Laura McLaughlin of Northville, and Beth and Ray Segler of Brighton announce the engagement of their daughter, Meryl McLaughlin, to Timothy Balkus, son of Gary Balkus of Wyandotte. Kevin and Beth both are former Livonia residents.

Meryl is a 2012 graduate of Michigan State University with a master's degree in special education, with an endorsement in autism spectrum disorders. Tim is a 2009 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in criminal justice and sociology.

The couple plans a summer wedding at Kirk of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills.

ENGAGEMENT



Meryl McLaughlin and Timothy Balkus

ENGAGEMENT

Arbor. Her fiancé, son of Terry and Jane Wright of Lowell, graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in biology and Spanish and currently is a student in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

A June 2014 wedding is planned at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Livonia.



Eric Wright and Kelly Snitchler

MILESTONES

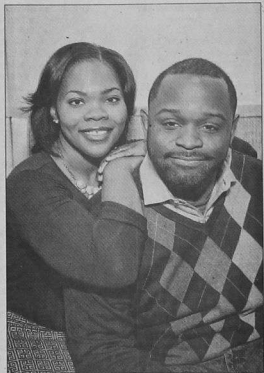
SNITCHLER-WRIGHT

Kelly Snitchler and Eric Wright announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mark and Cherie Snitchler of Livonia, graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in communication studies and Spanish. She currently works at ForeSee in Ann

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES



Rashanna Baker and Shaunton Davis

BAKER-DAVIS

Sheila Baker-Harris of Farmington Hills is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Rashanna Baker, to Shaunton Davis, son of LaDon Davis of Detroit and the late Richard Evans.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University, and a children's advocate for the State of Michigan. The groom studied architecture at Lawrence Tech University and currently works in the automotive industry.

A July 2014 wedding is planned.

RELIGION CALENDAR

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 16 Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 adults, 15-50 children, 2-10 Contact: 374-425-4421

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17 Location: Congregation B'nai Moshe, 6600 Drake, West Bloomfield Details: Violinist Kara Fenyo

Bachall and Pianist Noemi Maczelka will perform works by Hungarian Jewish composer Karoly Goldmark. A kosher dessert reception follows. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$10 for B'nai Moshe members and their guests Contact: 248-788-0600; www.bnaimoshe.org/12-45 p.m.

LENTEN SERVICE Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: Theme is "From Garden to Glory" Contact: 313-532-8655

MILESTONES

CONRAD-GENSINGER

Laurel Marie Conrad and Dan Gensinger announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Adrian and Mary Conrad of Denver, Pa., attended Canton High School. She earned a B.A. degree in audiologic and speech pathology from Michigan State University and a master's degree in speech-

ENGAGEMENT

language pathology from Eastern Michigan University. She works as a clinical manager for Select Rehabilitation in Chicago, Ill.

Her fiancé, son of Chris and Janet Gensinger of Winona Lake, Ind., earned a B.A. degree in biology from Indiana University. He works as a general manager for Aramark in Chicago. An August 2014 wedding is planned in Hinsdale, Ill.



Laurel Conrad and Dan Gensinger

MARCH

BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 29 Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 2345 Schoolcraft, Redford

Details: Bethany Together Dance admission is \$13 and includes beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks. Dance lesson from 7:30-8 p.m. Attire is business casual. Bethany is an organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit. It provides peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths Contact: 248-988-0454

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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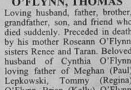
DUPREE, GEORGE CLOYD

Age 95. Of Goshen passed away Thursday, March 13, 2014, surrounded by family and friends. He was born February 25, 1919, in Trafalgar, Indiana to John and Jennie Dupree. He is survived by daughter, Deanna (William Colquhoun) Dupree of Potoczek, Michigan, four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and companion Virginia Miller of Goshen, Indiana. He is preceded in death by parents, daughter Linda, 13 siblings and Deanna and Terry's mother, Gertrude (Todd) Dupree. Visitation will be on Friday, March 21, 2014 from 1-3 p.m. at Rieth-Robert-Clert Funeral Home, 311 S. Main St. Goshen, Indiana 46526 with a service following at 3 p.m. Pastor Harold Knight of Brencman Memorial Missionary Church will officiate. Burial will be at Clinton Union Cemetery. Memorial contributions to VFW National Home for Children, 2157 South Waverly Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Online condolences may be left at www.rreth.com



FISCHER BERNARD D.

Died suddenly January 30, 2014, age 81. Sebastian, Florida. He was a former of Rochester and Bay City, MI. Born in Detroit July 4, 1932, to the late Ronald E. and Helen Fischer. Survived by wife, Shirley, three children, Julie (Neil) Preston and granddaughter Jennie Preston of Rochester. Preceded in death by son Bill and brother Ronald. Grad. Bay City Central 1950, MSU Clark of 1954, member of Phi Tau Delta. First marriage to the late Nan Thomas, Bay City, 1954. After serving as MP at 5th U.S. Army HQ, he was employed at Chevrolet Bay City, transferred 1968 and settled in Rochester. Purchasing agent for Chevrolet/GMC at the Tech Center and later for Highe Mfg. Founded theater Trobe Productions 1973. Sailing was his life-long passion. His adventures, interests, pride as a hobbyist were endless. His infectious enthusiasm, "joie de vivre" and huge presence at a Celebration of Life will be held at a future date.



O'FLYNN, THOMAS

Loving husband, father, brother, grandfather, son, and friend who died suddenly. Preceded in death by his mother Roseann O'Flynn, sisters Renee and Taran. Beloved husband of Cynthia O'Flynn, loving father of Meghan (Paul) Lepkowski, Tommy (Regina) O'Flynn, Brian (Kelly) O'Flynn. Loving grandfather of Brayden and Liam Lepkowski, and Emily O'Flynn. Cherished son of Terrence O'Flynn. Details of family service will be forthcoming.



SALTSMAN VIRGINIA JACKSON

92, died peacefully in her sleep on March 12, 2014 in Holland Michigan. She was a long time resident of Birmingham, MI. Virginia was born in 1921 in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated from Katharine Gibbs secretarial school in New York City, and earned her BA from Oakland University in Rochester, MI. She married the late Robert Saltsman in 1948. Virginia loved working with kids and enjoyed many years as administrative assistant at Pierce Elementary School. She also liked to travel, play bridge, garden, and had a great love for animals. Virginia is predeceased by her daughter, Carol and her son, Michael. Virginia is survived by her two sons, Charles of Santa Cruz, California and Thomas (Tereza) of Grand Haven, MI, two grandchildren, Adam (Rebekah) and David, and two great-grandchildren. She is sadly missed by her companion Robert Sell. A private memorial service is planned. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the Hol. Land at Freedom Village in Holland, MI for their kindness and excellent care. Arrangements are by the Dykstra Funeral Homes Inc., 29 East 9th St. Holland, MI 49423. For more information please visit www.dykstrafuneralhome.com



OTTO, KATHRYN A. "KATE"

March 13, 2014, age 87, of Plymouth. Beloved wife of James for 63 years. Loving mother of Jim (Karen), William "Bill" (Robbin), and Karen (LeRoy) Brooks. Proud grandmother of Luke, Natalie, Jack and Hank. Dear sister of Beverly (Bill) Van Frank and Virginia (David) Karsten. She was a reading teacher at Isabter Elementary, the Principal of East and Hulsing Elementary Schools in Plymouth, and an Adjunct Professor at Madonna University in Livonia. Visitation Monday 2-8 p.m. at Vermelen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, (Bryn Sheridan and Beck) Plymouth. In state Tuesday 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Funeral Service at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road (1 block W of Middlebelt) Livonia, MI 48150. Memorials may be made to Michigan Parkinson Foundation, or to the Church. To share a memory, please visit www.vermelenfuneralhome.com



SNYDER DONNA MARGARET

Age 83. Born July 29, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan to Christopher and Myrtle Gulbansan. Died March 10, 2014. Donna attended Dominican High School and graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1952. She obtained her teaching degree from Wayne State University in 1956. She married Charles ("Chuck") Snyder in 1956. They were married for 22 years before he passed away in 1978. She is survived by children Chris, Steve, Greg (Tracey), Mary Beth (Harrison), and grandchildren, Tess, Grace, Thomas, Andrew, Anne. Donna was an active, long-time member of the Birmingham Village Players. She truly enjoyed performing and being part of the Village Players community. She spent many years volunteering with various organizations, including the Birmingham Community Home, Memorial Hospital of Tampa, and the Henry B. Plant Museum in Tampa. Donna's family and many friends enjoyed her spirited character and sense of humor. She will be missed. Private services for the family are being held. Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children Hospital: http://www.stjude.org/donate or Stray Rescue of St. Louis: http://www.strayrescue.org

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When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages," a directory located in every edition of our Observer or Eccentric newspaper.

Call: 800-579-7355 Fax: 313-496-4968 Email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

IUPPENLATZ, YVONNE

March 12, 2014. Loving wife of John. Dear daughter of Mark and Steve (Lynda). Grandmother of Bode and Kate. Family will receive friends Sunday 1-3 p.m. at A.J. Desmet and Sons (Van, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (Btw 13-14 Miles), 484-549-0500. Memorial Tributes to The Beaumont Foundation, P.O. Box 5802, Troy, MI 48067. Please visit obituary and share memories at: DesmondFuneralHome.com

Advertisement for Desmond Funeral Home with text: "May the memory of your loved one... bring you peace." Includes a photo of a woman and a child.

In Memoriam

BRIAN HINZMAN Thinking of you on your 33rd Birthday, March 16, 1981 Never forgotten and forever in our hearts. Love, Your Family

GAGNON

Continued from Page 87

try and they were mostly men, but I was educating, that I was happening with a female senior citizen just reinforced my resolve to teach any woman willing to listen, how to repair an appliance and I am proud to say they number in the thousands. "Man can put it together, woman can take it apart." And now a reward which is much unexpected. Let me quote. The Northville-Novi branch of the American Association of University Women has sent me this letter: "It is a fact that you have repeatedly supported our organization and its mission by participating in its activities and encouraging your colleagues to assist. Through your work you have sought to educate the public in shopping wisely for appliances and being able to make their own repairs. These actions have supported women, often the primary decision makers for home appliances, to be well informed consumers." Yes, folks, I am receiving the Impact Community Enrichment Award from the AAUW and I will be proudly accepting this honor because in plain English, I JUST LOVE HELPING WOMEN! And to all the guys out there who thought I was a mean hockey player — eat your heart out. Stay tuned. Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAW 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to apd@wmi.rr.com.

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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Tool with jaws
5 Veggie-tray item
6 Cloudy
11 Enjoy the taste
12 Crassias nickname
13 Job-aid letters
14 Defense tactic
15 Price of horror flicks
17 Forum hello
18 Crusty rol
20 A kiss
22 Last degree
23 Important decades
27 Wading barefoot
29 Thoroughly proficient
30 Daft
33 Wading birds
34 Express a view
35 Get all worked up
36 Fill the hull
37 Mexican Mrs.

DOWN

1 Water regulator (morning paper)
4 Estrada or Sale
5 Boat cranes
6 — wolfhound
7 Knotty wood
8 Sandra or Ruby

Answer to Previous Puzzle

19 Devine or Warhol
21 Balkpak events
24 Legal matter
25 Gorrila or chimp
26 Blvds.
28 Impress mightily
29 "Honest" fellow
30 The nearest star
31 Balance-sheet guru
32 Dispose of
33 Cyrus' realm, today
34 Date down
37 Cramp
39 Moon position
40 Type in again
41 Century unit
43 Herr von Bismarck
44 Trail mix
46 Barracks off.
47 Datt letters
48 Diminish
50 Galahad's title

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

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ARITHMETIC WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ABSOLUTE EQUATION
ACCURACY FRACTION
ALGEBRA FUNCTION
ALGORITHM GEOMETRY
ANALYTIC MATRIX
ANGLE MEAN
BASE MEDIAN
BINOMIAL MINIMUM
CALCULUS MULTIPLY
CIRCUMFERENCE NUMERATOR
COEFFICIENT PARALLEL
COMPLEMENT PRIME
COMPOUND RULES
CONJUGATE SEQUENCE
DEGREE SINE
DENOMINATOR SOLUTION
DIFFERENCE SQUARE
DILIT TANGENT

I H M A T R I X T A C A L C U L U S X R
D A O G L S L R N A Y L Q N A I D E M
R N T A L L S E C E L L G N A C E X L R
E G A E M I R P H O N I S P O E C L U R
M O N O I T A U Q E M U F C A I R Y X F
L L C C E E R G E D E M I R B T I X C L
P E D I F F E R E N C E N A F O L T N T
R L N N E O S B C A E B E C C F S U H B
A L R D R O O C I C C G N P E T P M H
C A T X A A L O B C N G U F M X I O L
I R M G U L U T E P M U E N O C O
T A T E O G T R R H E N M L G B N T
Y P A O S E I R E A E T R C I G A C A
L G N M S B O U M C F R T I N M O B N
A A G E E R N E E Y M F Y T I A M S E I
A N E E T L A F N L H U E O O M P O N G M
A F N R U E M C P E C P R N O L I U S O
Q Y T Y R D A E M E R F X U U S Y U N T
D Y A O N A E M O G I H N T H G H G S E
L A I M O N I B C B C D E T I G I D A D

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

Word Search

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

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5 at this price,
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24 month lease
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Buy for **\$20,714+**
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Featuring: Leather, Luxury Package, Sync with my Ford.

5 at this price,
494 available.

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Buy for **\$29,635+**
MSRP \$37,015

Featuring: Leather, SYNC with My Ford Touch, Premium Audio, Keyless Entry, Reverse Sensing.

5 at this price,
103 available.

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24 month lease
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

NEW 2014 Ford Escape SE



Buy for **\$20,953+**
MSRP \$26,520

Featuring: SYNC with My Ford, Power Windows, Locks, Cruise Control.

50 at this price,
416 available.

\$232* with \$750 due at signing

24 month lease
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

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Buy for **\$22,240+**
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Featuring: Sync with My Ford, Reverse Sensing, Satellite Radio, Cruise Control, Power Windows Power Locks.

6 at this price,
168 available.

\$259* with \$750 due at signing

24 month lease
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

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Buy for **\$16,951+**
MSRP \$23,540

Featuring: Leather, Appearance Package, Sync and Sound Package.

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299 available.

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24 month lease
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5 at this price,
168 available.

\$294* with \$750 due at signing

24 month lease
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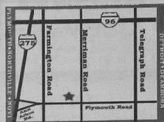
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MSRP \$33,795



\$30,865 A/Z Plan Price

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PER MONTH LEASE

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YEARS**
YEARS
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\$24,299 A/Z Plan Price

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For 24 months.
for A/Z plan customers.

2014 EDGE SE FWD

MSRP \$30,245



\$27,927 A/Z Plan Price

\$261

PER MONTH LEASE

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

\$750 DOWN!
\$1,011 Due at Signing!
For 24 months.
for A/Z plan customers.

2014 TAURUS SEL FWD

MSRP \$30,945



\$28,019 A/Z Plan Price

\$243

PER MONTH LEASE

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

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\$993 Due at Signing!
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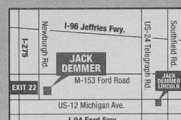
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Houston Guyton and Pat Hawrylak.

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\$29⁹⁵*

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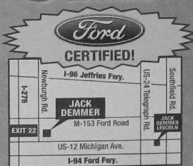
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